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THE **BLACK SASH****DIE SWART SERP**

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## WAAROM HULLE GEHAAT WORD

IN 'n onlangse uitgawe van „Punch” is daar 'n bytende verwysing na mnr. J. G. Strydom. Met die oog op die ondersoek wat tans ingestel word na beskuldigings van verraad, sou dit onbehoorlik wees om die sinsnede in sy geheel aan te haal; dit is egter genoeg om te sê dat dit die woord „kapstewel” insluit. Wat egter so betekenisvol is, is die feit dat die sin voorkom as 'n terloopse opmerking in 'n artikel wat niks met Suid-Afrika te doen het nie, en dat die redakteur van „Punch” met vertroue kan aanvaar dat sy lesers weet wie mnr. Strydom is en wat sy beleid is sonder enige besondere verduideliking. Dit is 'n aanduiding van die gerugtheid wat die nasionaliste vir hulleself en vir die land—altans in Brittanje—verwerf het. Min lesers van „Punch” kan uit die vuis sê wie die Eerste Minister van b.v. Nu Seeland is maar hulle het al almal gehoor van mnr. Strijdom en wat sy regering verteenwoordig.

Dit kan met sekerheid geraai word dat dit nie groot beleidsake is wat die naam van die nasionaliste oorsee verdoem het nie, maar wel die reeks nietige gemeenhede en grofhede waaraan hulle skuldig is. Hoe belangrik die Senaatwetkrisis vir ons in Suid-Afrika ook was, is dit twyfelagtig of een persoon uit 'n duisend in Brittanje, selfs in breë trekke die verloop van die groot konstitusionele dispuut kan aandui. Die verwoestende implikasies van ons „anti-kommunistiese” wetgewing is heelwaarskynlik Grieks vir die man-in-die-straat in

## WHY THEY ARE HATED

IN a recent issue of „Punch” there is a scathing reference to Mr. J. G. Strijdom. In view of the current inquiry into charges of treason it would be improper to quote the phrase in full; it is sufficient to say that it included the word „jackboot”. But what is chiefly significant about the sentence is that it occurs as a casual, passing remark in an article that has nothing to do with South Africa, and that the Editor of „Punch” can confidently assume that his readers know who Mr. Strijdom is and what his policies are without any special explanation being necessary. That is an indication of the notoriety which the Nationalists have succeeded in winning for themselves and their country, at least in Britain. Few readers of „Punch” could name off-hand the Prime Minister of, say, New Zealand, but they have all heard of Mr. Strijdom and what his Government stands for.

Now it is a safe guess that what has damned the name of the Nationalists overseas is, not the big issues of policy, but the series of petty meannesses and crudities of which they have been guilty. Vital as the Senate Act crisis was to us in South Africa, it is doubtful whether one person in a thousand in Britain could outline, even roughly, the course of that great constitutional dispute. The devastating implications of our „anti-Communist” legislation are probably Greek to the man-in-the-street in England, but what he does remember are the little

Engeland, maar wat hy wel onthou is die menslike kleinighede wat die hooflyne van die populêre nuusblaaie tref. Wat hy teen die nasionaliste het is sulke dinge soos byvoorbeeld die feit dat 'n jong naturel wat 'n beurs vir studie in Amerika verwerf het 'n paspoort geweier is, dat registrasie nommers ge-eis word voordat 'n paartjie in die huwelik kan tree, die prent van mnr. Swart wat met uitdrukkinge van goedkeuring 'n sjambok omhoog hou, die gebruik van minagtende woorde soos „Hotnots” en „Koelies,” die plaery van gekleurdes om hulle ras te bewys, die ontkenning, in werklikheid, van universiteitsopleiding aan nie-blankes, die weiering om gemengde gehore toe te laat vir besoekende groot kunstenaars. Dit is eenvoudige dinge wat die gewone man kan verstaan. Hy kan 'n bullebak in enige taal uitken. Hy mag nie geneig wees om die ingewikkelde wetsargumente in 'n konstitusionele geding te volg nie, maar hy weet wanneer 'n regering mense gemeen en wreed behandel, vernaamlik wanneer die betrokke mense nie in staat is om terug te slaan deur middel van die stembus nie.

Dit is 'n geliefkoosde klagte van die Regering dat oorsee mense nie die probleme van Suid-Afrika verstaan nie en dat hulle gevloglik altyd wanvoorgestel word. Maar daar is niks wat besonder moeilik is om te verstaan in die voorbeelde wat ons aangehaal het nie. 'n Mens hoef nie 'n diepdenkende student van Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedenis te wees om te besef dat die ontworteling en verbanning van langbestaande Indiergemeenskappe en die verwoesting van hulle lewensbestaan 'n kras en tiranniese optrede is. 'n Mens hoef nie 'n deskundige op die gebied van Kleurskeidslynwetgewing te wees om te besef dat die gedwonge bestempeling van naturelle bloed as „swart” vir oortappingsdoeleindes nie alleen wetenskaplik dwaas is nie, maar ook rassebeledigend.

Dit is merkwaardig—en ietswat vreesaanjaend—dat die nasionale leiers dit nie kan besef nie. Oorsee word hulle as geringe tiranne beskou nie omdat hulle tiranniese wette maak nie (alhoewel dit waar genoeg is) maar omdat hulle gemene en onchristelike dade aan hulle medemens doen. Die Eerste Minister kan die teensin waarmee hy nou beskou word aansienlik verminder as hy sy ministers sal maan om beleefd en so nou en dan welwillend te wees.

human things that make the headlines in the popular newspapers. What he holds against the Nationalists, for instance, are such things as the refusal of a passport to a Native youngster who had been awarded a bursary to study in America, the demand for registration numbers before a couple can get married, the picture of Mr. Swart holding up a sjambok with expressions of approval, the use of contemptuous words like “Hotnots” and “Coolies”, the harrying of Coloured people to prove their race, the denial, in effect, of university education to non-Europeans, the refusal to allow mixed audiences for great visiting artists. These are simple things that the ordinary man can understand. He can recognise a bully in any language. He may not be inclined to follow the intricate legal arguments in a constitutional trial, but he does know when a government is mean and cruel in its handling of people, especially when the people concerned have no means of getting their own back through the ballot box.

It is a favourite complaint of the Government that people overseas do not “understand” the problems of South Africa and that consequently the Nationalists are always being misrepresented. But there is nothing particularly difficult to understand in the instances that we have quoted. You do not have to be a profound student of South African history to realise that the up-rooting and banishment of long-established Indian communities and the destruction of their livelihood is a harsh and tyrannical proceeding. You do not have to be an expert on Colour Bar legislation to know that the enforced labelling of Native blood as “Black” for transfusion purposes is not only scientifically fatuous, but racially insulting.

It is extraordinary—and rather frightening—that the Nationalist leaders cannot see this. They are regarded as petty tyrants overseas, not because they pass tyrannical laws (although that is true enough), but because they do mean and unChristian things to fellow human beings. The Prime Minister would avoid half the odium which he now enjoys with the common man in Britain, if he would only tell his Ministers to keep civil tongues in their heads and show a little human kindness occasionally.

# Rising Prices—Their Cause And Cure

By L. H. SAMUELS

(Senior lecturer, Department of Economics and Economic History, Witwatersrand University)

**R**ISING prices are no new phenomenon in South Africa. Yet there is nothing comparable in this century to the speed and magnitude of the rise in prices, which has taken place in the Union since the outbreak of the war. Since this period retail prices have, on the average, more than doubled. At this rate the Pound has lost more than half its purchasing power since 1939.

Such a violent disturbance of the standard of value cannot fail to produce the most insidious and far-reaching changes in the social and economic fabric of our society. By striking at all fixed money claims, a depreciating currency plays havoc with all monetary contracts, charitable bequests, pensions, life insurance policies, savings balances and mortgages entered into or acquired at pre-war or wartime pounds. Even those classes who stand to gain most from a prolonged rise in prices may not, in the end, be immune from its damaging effects.

All price rises are not, of course, evil. Changing price levels are in any case inescapable, if adjustments are to be made in a progressive economy. There can be little doubt, for example, that price movements in South Africa since 1940 have played a major rôle in encouraging an expansion in the national output and the real standards of the nation. The increase in output is a benefit, though the rise in prices of itself is a social evil, and a serious one when the price rise is widespread and rapid.

## GROWTH IN DEMAND

Violent changes in prices and the value of money do not just happen. They are caused by a growth in demand (as expressed in money incomes) greater than the flow of goods and services available for purchase with such incomes at prevailing prices. This excessive expansion of money incomes is what is commonly referred to as "inflation."

It needs no special insight to perceive the source of the excessive demand for consumer goods, transport and other services, raw materials, machinery, equipment and labour during the war and post-war years over the supply of these goods. Since the end of the war particularly, the South African economy has undergone the greatest expansion in its economic history. Two major goldfields have been developed in the Orange Free State and the Far West Rand, and a new mining area is in process of being opened up on the Far East Rand. During the same period there has been immense industrial, agricultural, transport and power expansion, while building and other constructional activity have been on an unprecedented scale. Government, provincial and other public expenditures are still reaching new peaks; at the same time, the consumption standards of both white and non-white have been steadily improving.

All these demands were impossible of simultaneous fulfilment with the resources of nature, invention and industry at our command. The result was an overblown economy, bursting at its seams. The signs of strain were—and still are—evident in the shortage of workers, in the steady rise in gold mining costs, in the incapacity of the railways to cope with the growing volume of traffic, and in our preoccupation with our declining gold and other foreign exchange reserves.

Only an insane type of mind can erect the State into a god, and make of it a fetish to swallow up the individual's right of thinking, feeling, and the pursuit of happiness.

—Lin Yutang.

## RISING COST OF LIVING

The only way in which the economic mechanism can reduce the excess of demand over supply is by a rise in prices. Prices are put up until enough people are cheated of their expectation of wealth and income to make ends meet. The plain fact is that in conditions of full employment continuous increases in demand have to be curbed. If the scale of building and other investment activities is high in relation to existing consumption standards, the average man's standard of living has to be reduced to free the labour and materials required for industrial, mining, agricultural and constructional development. No-one has yet discovered how to extract a quart out of a pint bottle.

People who are cheated because of the declining value of their money become angry, resentful and frustrated. They react in the only way they know. The servants of the State, the trade unions, indeed, all recipients of income, attempt to keep up with the rising cost of living through increased wage and other demands. They do so in the deep conviction that, if they do not, their living standards will decline and their position relative to other groups will deteriorate.

The result is a persistent and progressive growth in money incomes competing for a volume of physical goods and services, which is growing at a slower rate. Since the outbreak of the war in 1939, for example, the nation's income has expanded from about £365 million to about £1,457 million, that is, by some 300 per cent. During the same period the output of goods and services has not quite doubled. This growth in incomes, unaccompanied by a corresponding expansion in output is the real source

of the price rises in South Africa. How can prices fail to rise when there is an excess of demand over supply?

### ANTI-INFLATIONARY MEASURES

How is this situation to be met? Against an excessive growth in spendable incomes, the measures taken to restrict imports and to subsidise and control prices are useless. They simply divert the excess demands to uncontrolled imports and/or increase the total demands for locally produced goods. Indeed, these measures to repress inflation often only produce further distortions, which give rise to demands for further official action. **Their logic is a world of controls, central coercion, and inflation without end.** The failure of these measures to cure the inflation should now be obvious. The pound still has dropsy and prices continue to rise.

There are two, and only two, genuine remedies for this situation, though each of these remedies will require a variety of measures. The first is to increase the national output; the other is to reduce the pressure of inflated money incomes, that is, to reduce expenditures.

Production is now at, or very near, its practical peak, given present resources, techniques and the existing institutional framework. Thus, a further expansion in national output will be a slow business under present conditions. Yet, it need not be an insuperable task, if there is the will and the mind to improve our productive powers. There is still vast scope for increasing production through more efficient management, the active encouragement of immigration, and the more intelligent use of our non-white and white workers. At the same time, the abolition of import restrictions could fairly quickly add to the supply of goods available for sale, help relieve manpower shortages, stimulate efficiency, and damp down rises in the cost of living. Whatever further declines take place in our gold and foreign exchange resources as a result will quickly bring about its own cure.

### THE FUTURE?

Nevertheless, it is foolish to expect too great an expansion in the national output in the immediate future. If a reduction in prices is to be brought about soon, the remedies must be sought mainly on the side of the flow of monetary expenditures of the Government, business and the consuming public. The broad features of an appropriate fiscal, monetary and economic policy are, however, a large matter not to be embarked upon here.

Essential ingredients include a positive policy of credit restraint, not one simply dependent on the vagaries of the Union's balance of payments. Failing such measures, attempts to restrain wage and other income increases by exhortation or cajolery are bound to fail.

It may, of course, be that a tight rein on credit expansion will produce further difficulties for some industrial and commercial enterprises, and even lead to pockets of unemployment. Yet, in the interests

of flexibility and efficiency in the economy, these unpleasant possibilities may be unavoidable, unless we wish to live with our national frame buttoned up with import and exchange controls and an extending apparatus of restrictions.

Judged simply by the present behaviour of prices such a policy of restraint in our public and private activities has still to be introduced. It might, of course, be asked why our authorities have failed to check the rise in the cost of living. There are, however, powerful reasons for a policy of "too little and too late." No important section of the public has openly supported any anti-inflationary steps, which would affect unfavourably its own economic position. **It is one of the myths of democracy that Governments can rise far above the level of their electorates.** It is, perhaps, another myth that, if a government should do so, it would survive politically.

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## Black Sash Summer School

A Summer School will be held in Johannesburg February 18th—20th, inclusive. The subjects of the course will be:

Parliamentary Government  
Pressure Groups  
Elections

and the sessions will be conducted by Professor G. le May, of the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor G. H. Durrant, of the University of Natal, and one other speaker.

There will be three lectures each day, two in the morning and a public lecture in the evening. Discussions will be held directly after each lecture. There will be a charge of 10s. 6d. for the course, including the evening lectures. Members of the public attending the evening classes only will be charged 2s. 6d. per lecture.

Will all those wishing to attend the Summer School fill in the form below and return it immediately to Mrs. R. H. Pilcher, c/o 13, Knox Street, Waverley, Johannesburg. Arrangements are now almost complete.

(Note:—Non-members are also eligible for enrolment for this course).

.....  
I wish to enrol for the Black Sash Summer School and enclose my cheque/Postal Order/Money Order for 10s. 6d. I shall/shall not require hospitality during my stay in Johannesburg. (Strike out whichever is not applicable).

Name .....

Address .....

.....  
.....

# FROM OUR POSTBAG

To the Editor, Black Sash.

**W**E are all responsible, directly or indirectly, for the deterioration of race relations in this country, but the lion's share of the responsibility must lie at the door of the police.

I am not the only one, I am sure, who has heard of the booting and beating of native prisoners, the third degree methods practised on innocent and guilty alike, in order to extort a confession so that a case may be laid before the magistrate and the arrest justified. There are very fine men in the Police Service, but there are also thugs, men who should not be allowed to wear the uniform. One of these thugs was recently sentenced for manslaughter. The reaction of his colleagues of the same ilk, will, I fear, be one of irritation rather than sympathy, that the man should have been so stupid as to have broken the eleventh commandment. They themselves will carry on as usual but take good care not to be found out.

The laws passed in the past few years in themselves spell tragedy. But the immediate danger is bigger boots and thicker sticks. As a nurse who spent most of her career on the non-European side I can honestly say that the response to good treatment and fair dealing was co-operation, courtesy and respect.

I would suggest that the Hon. the Minister of Justice be approached for his serious consideration of the appointment of a body of men and women in all towns, who would be allowed access to all parts of the gaol at all times of the night or day. Their duties would be to report any ill treatment of native prisoners to the senior officer of the gaol, and, failing his co-operation, to the nearest magistrate.

In this connection I think of the Prisoner's Friend Society, not a Commission of Enquiry, as that would be valueless and a waste of public money. A white skin is not a sign of superiority; it is what lies beneath which matters.

ENID WHITAKER.

East London.

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To the Editor, Black Sash.

**D**URING our stand outside the Carlton Hotel recently, two of my native girls were standing on the opposite pavement watching us, when a native from the Transkei asked the girls in Kosa why the ladies were standing there. Before they could answer him a policeman who was standing nearby, answered the boy in his own language, saying, "those are the people who want to shoot you natives and chase you out of the country."

E. DE KOCK,

East London.

To the Editor, Black Sash.

**I**N the "Dedication" there occurs the word "diminishment." I do not think this is really a word at all. Surely what is intended is "diminution?" Could this word not be substituted for the present conglomeration of letters?

This minor point was brought up at a Bloemfontein Conference last November and was "to be seen to", but I feel sure there has not been time to attend to it, owing to more urgent matters being in the fore.

Thanking you for the excellent publication,

JOAN N. SIMPSON,

Harrismith.

**Editor's Comment:** The Shorter Oxford Dictionary gives as a definition of "diminishment"—"The action of diminishing." Although this word is now rarely used, it seemed to us to convey our meaning more accurately than the less forceful "diminution," defined as "the process of becoming less; reduction in magnitude or degree."

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To the Editor, Black Sash.

**T**HE Senate Act has been accepted as legal by a ten to one majority.

The courts have agreed that it is legally right and proper for Parliament to enlarge the Senate if they wish to do so.

The courts are not interested in the **purpose** for which 49 new Senators were added to the Senate. But South African people are interested in the reasons for enlarging the Senate.

And the citizens of South Africa say that the reasons were immoral reasons and that the people of South Africa, the Government **and** the Nationalist Party have been disgraced in the eyes of the world.

The citizens of South Africa are a moral people. They believe in keeping faith with the dead. They believe in honesty and fair dealings. The burden of their present shame is very great. The highest power in the land—Parliament—has got its way by a legal trick and has not hesitated to use that trick openly, so that all can see how we despise the good faith and honest belief of our founders!

The Nationalist Party has been dragged down to this level and shares the same disgrace.

If we do not oppose this; if we do not expose this, we deserve what we now face—we, the citizens of South Africa, are no longer free, we are no longer safeguarded. The door is wide open to the tyranny of a group. We have seen tyranny in Germany.

Are we now to watch, without rising in anger and strength, the establishment of tyranny in South Africa?

Make no mistake about this. If we do not **now** rise to defend our freedoms and throw off the creeping paralysis of apathy, indifference or fear, we shall become enslaved.

In what way do we differ from the peoples of other nations, that were engulfed in the tide of totalitarianism?

\* \* \* ON GUARD.

To the Editor, Black Sash.

**I**T was with great interest that I read the September issue of "The Black Sash" and I would herewith express my appreciation of the excellent work you and your organisation are doing by arousing the interest of our women and, through them, of their families and friends in the most important political topics of our Day and Country.

Of the many interesting and informative articles I consider one—namely "Fact and Fiction," signed by M.E.F.—to be of special importance, as a vast number of South Africans of both Sections are of opinion that the Vierkleur before Union had the allegiance of **all** Afrikaans and of many British Citizens resident in Afrikaans territory.

The fact that this is not so should be emphatically impressed upon them by publicising it in every British and Afrikaans newspaper in the Union that is prepared to assist in enlightening its readers as to the value—true or false—of this and other similar assertions, promulgated by our Nationalist Government.

May I therefore suggest that you induce M.E.F. to take the necessary steps, or permit you to do so, to give the widest possible publicity to this excellent article?

AGATHA REIMINGER.

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To the Editor, Black Sash.

**MR.** W. P. STANFORD said in the House of Assembly last session that the country is in a "punch-drunk" stage. I would suggest that it is in an "arm chair" stage.

This letter is directed to all those who profess to love South Africa, but who:

- (a) sit in armchairs and criticise the Government;
- (b) sit in armchairs and criticise the Opposition;
- (c) sit in armchairs.

In the sciences of both mathematics and grammar, the truth evolves that a double negative makes a positive. Therefore a woman wearing a black sash is able to say (positively), "I am not doing nothing."

How many of those who fall into categories (a), (b) or (c), are able to state a double positive: "I am doing something?"

Let us take comfort from the fact that there are many South Africans who are neither "punch-drunk" nor "armchair sitters," but who have a positive policy.

P. M. HODGSON,  
Claremont.



**All these wild stories about shanty-towns, slums and terror in the townships. Why don't these people make the best of life as we all have to do?**

## POSTBAG (Continued)

To the Editor, Black Sash.

**OWING** to an injury during the war years (when serving in the Air Force) I am unable to take an active part in the work of the Black Sash, but I do all in my power, in the very limited time at my disposal, to make various articles for sale, so as to raise a little cash to help our funds.

I am proud to have been privileged to meet Mrs. Foley and Mrs. Taylor when they addressed our Branch last year and earlier on in the year of meeting Mrs. Green. They are splendid women, and we are truly proud of them. May they be greatly blessed for all they do, and may they soon reap a rich reward by seeing the fulfilment of their hopes and desires, and receiving the answers to all their prayers.

Thank you very much for the wonderful part you are playing in this struggle for Right against Wrong.

I am always most interested in our Magazine, and look forward to receiving my next copy. What very, very interesting and informative articles are written therein.

God be merciful and bless our cause.

E.M.H.

# I COULDN'T CARE LESS

A LONG time ago a ship which carried a cargo of wool was wrecked somewhere near Milnerton, and long stretches of the beach, and all the rocks, were covered with the wool which had been washed up. It was a most curious sight.

Many people went down and collected the wool, but, for some unknown reason, this was stopped. People wondered why it was forbidden, and a wag replied that the South African Government wanted the wool to pull over people's eyes. He little knew how his prophesy was to be fulfilled, and that a future government would be amazingly successful in pulling wool over a large number of South African eyes.

Perhaps the most distressing feature of the present time is the appalling apathy which one meets, even among the young. The "I couldn't care less" attitude. And one's dismay increases as one considers the serious nature of the matters about which they "couldn't care less."

It is to these people that I appeal.

## GROUP AREAS ACT

Do you realise that under the iniquitous Group Areas Act twenty two thousand Indians are to be removed from areas in which they have been working in a perfectly legitimate way, to places where it will be impossible for them to make a living?

Most of these Indians were born in South Africa. Some of them belong to families which have lived in South Africa for two or three generations. They were brought here for the convenience of white South Africans, who wanted their labour. They have as much right to call themselves South Africans as you or I! But they are to be ruined, and you "couldn't care less."

Take the Bantu Education Act (and remember I am only mentioning a very small part of the evil these Acts are creating). Under this Act various private schools of the highest value have been closed, on grounds so mysterious that no adequate reason has been given to the public. Now Adams College is doomed, a place of high educational standing, and well over a hundred years old. I have also just been told that since Lovedale has been taken over by the government, the school library—the finest school library in the country, and used by every class every day as a matter of routine—is now not used by the school at all, and is to be closed at the end of the year. Do you care at all?

## PASSES FOR AFRICAN WOMEN

Africans have always had the deepest repugnance to the thought of their women carrying passes, and with good reason, for such procedure would place African women at the mercy of the police. Now African women are to be required to carry passes,

delicately called "Reference Books", though I have yet to find anyone who knows the difference.

Thousands of African women, and a number of white women (I am deeply thankful to say) marched to the Union Buildings to present a protest to the Prime Minister. Only five were allowed to take it inside, and no Cabinet Minister received them—but perhaps you couldn't care less?

It may be that you can only think in terms of colour, and, as the peoples to which I have referred are not white, you think these things do not matter, but please make note of this. You may be as white as the driven snow, but that fact will not necessarily protect your liberty.

## FIVE PERTINENT QUESTIONS

(a) Are you content as a parent that the Government should decide the kind of education your children should receive? Because it can do this.

(b) Are you indifferent to the fact that the C.I.D. may be and usually is, present at any public meeting with which the Government is not in sympathy, takes notes of what is said, and, if they choose, may take your name and address and even your photograph?

If you are someone not "persona grata" with the Government, and you are speaking, even to a meeting of children, the C.I.D. may be there, as has already happened. Do you still say "I couldn't care less?"

(c) Do you realise that your correspondence is not safe? Your letters may be opened? No answer that would convince any reasonable person was given in Parliament when it was proved that letters **had in fact** been opened.

(d) Do you realise that your own house can be entered and searched by a policeman without a warrant, by day or night, as has been done several times?

**Knowing all this, can you still say "I couldn't mind less?"**

Perhaps you can, if so I pity you.

The writing is on the wall. Perhaps one day you will not say "I couldn't care less" because you will be reaping the bitter harvest which the people who didn't care have sown.

C.R.L.

## DO YOU KNOW?

QUESTION: What is the difference between a by-law, an ordinance and a statute?

ANSWER. A by-law is a law passed by a municipal council; an ordinance by a provincial council; a statute is an Act of Parliament.



## UNITED PARTY

IT is an established principle of modern democratic government that every adult citizen has a right to take part in the governance of the country. This was not always so, but free compulsory education is said to have resulted in more levelling out, and Jack has consequently come to be considered as good as his master.

In South Africa, where there are races just emerging from the primitive, the United Party believes that political levelling out is most remote. Nevertheless, it is clear that a reasonable measure of political and economic opportunity cannot in perpetuity be withheld from those capable of carrying out the corresponding duties of citizenship. Primitive races cannot, however, demand the vote as a right. Democratic government is after all a European invention and has never been developed by a non-white race; not even by those which developed civilized societies thousands of years ago.

The United Party therefore stands by the 1936 settlement in regard to the Native franchise, believing that no material change can or should be made without substantial agreement among all sections of the European community. The Party does believe, however, that the system should be re-examined, and will therefore on its return to power appoint a representative joint select committee to investigate and report.

An announcement has recently been made that the Government intends to alter the Electoral Act to enable 18-year-olds to become registered as voters. It is claimed that those who are old enough to fight (or at least to undergo compulsory training) for their country, are old enough to have a vote. Whatever the pros and cons may be, and they are many, it is to be hoped that the matter will be dealt with outside the heat of the party political arena.

Many will nevertheless remember that women were considered by the Nationalists to be unfitted to have the vote in 1930!

The various political parties continue to set out their respective policies for our readers. This month the subject is

## THE FRANCHISE

### LABOUR PARTY

THE irresponsibility of the Government to the people of South Africa and their future, is once more shown by the announcement by the Minister of the Interior, Dr. T. E. Donges, that the Cabinet had decided to introduce legislation to extend the franchise to European 18-year-olds. It was later stated that it was not the Government's intention to facilitate the voting of these minors until after the 1958 general election, but it was not explained why the Cabinet found it necessary to announce in 1956 what it was going to do after 1958, in time for the 1963 general election.

Was it intended to poke yet another finger in the eye of the non-Europeans, or was it just folly—stupid dangerous folly?

While the vote will be given to white minors, because the government believes, in the words of Dr. Donges in "learning through doing," there is no intention whatsoever of giving the majors and the mature amongst the non-whites the opportunity to learn through doing. The institution of trustees and "wards" is to remain unchanged, and there is to be no growing up for the wards.

However, to argue the case of youths getting the vote, will only divert from the real issue, since even the Nationalists have admitted that this new political move is to give them two score of thousands, or so, additional votes.

What is required is to face the issues of the franchise for the non-European, and only the S.A. Labour Party has so far done this. It did not indulge in mere affirmation of high principles, but placed before the

(Continued in col. 4)

## SOUTH AFRICAN BOND

FRANCHISE and representation under a democracy based on the concept of the western way of life are interdependent. Due regard must be given to this factor in order to ensure justice and equity to all social groups within the Union.

The Bond favours the retention of the present voting qualifications but opposes the practice of "loading," which was originally introduced because of the vast and sparsely populated rural constituencies, and inadequate transport and communication facilities. These conditions no longer apply, and the Bond maintains that the time has arrived for enforcing the principle of "one vote one value." This will ensure a really democratic representative parliament expressing the "Volkswil" instead of a fictitious parliamentary majority elected by a minority. Within practical limits voting should be compulsory.

The extension of the franchise to eighteen-year-olds must be viewed objectively without party political considerations. This matter should form the subject of study by a suitable representative commission in view of the many pros and cons involved.

### The Coloured Community

As the Coloured community is the natural ally of the European, the Coloured vote must be exercised on the Common Roll with the franchise qualification as heretofore.

### General Considerations

The considerable numerical superiority of non-whites to whites, causing a fear complex among Europeans, prevents the consideration of the franchise on a basis of justice and equity for all.

The Bond's radical Economic Policy will stimulate economic development and immigration. This will increase the numerical strength of the European population substantially and eliminate the obstacles to the viewing of Franchise and Representation in a perspective where each

(Continued on page 10)





## NATIONALIST PARTY

### LABOUR PARTY (Contd.)

country the ways and means how these principles can be realised.

Briefly stated, these are our proposals.

The Labour Party accepts as a matter of principle universal franchise for all adult literate inhabitants. It recognises, however, as far as the African is concerned, that this can be achieved in stages, and made the following proposals to give the voteless direct representation on which an eventual common citizenship could be built.

- (1) Coloureds and Chinese in all provinces to be on the common roll, as well as Indians in all provinces except Natal.
- (2) In Natal the Indians to have three direct Indian M.P.s, three M.P.C.s, and two senators.
- (3) The African people to have ten direct representatives in Parliament, ten in the Provincial Councils, and eight in the Senate.
- (4) In municipalities Africans would elect 10 per cent. of town councillors with similar civic representation for the Indians of Natal.

These proposals, though arbitrary, should not be regarded as "a qualified franchise," but as a beginning to end the present deadlock. It is practical because it answers those who totally oppose giving the franchise to non-Europeans, and those who advocate an immediate and equal franchise. Our policy will be subject to such revision as the progress of the non-European in the cultural and industrial spheres justifies.

This is a balanced and possible programme. It does not represent a threat to the European, as the dominant minority, yet it gives the non-European something definite now.

## UNION FEDERAL PARTY

WE are a young party, called into existence to meet the needs of the present day. Just as in the constitutional field, we have made a complete breakaway from the policies of all other political parties in advocacy of federalism to ensure harmony and justice in a multi-racial society, so in franchise policy we are untrammelled by the past, howbeit we are removed from left extremism.

In other words, instead of attempting to square the circle by finding that mythical point of compromise between Nationalism and Liberalism, which it is fondly hoped will unite the country, we have broken new ground and are attempting to lift problems to a plane where they can be solved.

Hitherto, our official franchise policy has been:

### I. European.

- (a) Removal of the loaded vote (relic of an era of rather primitive communications and transport), now the lynchpin of dictatorship.
- (b) Restoration of the franchise rights of Commonwealth immigrants.
- (c) Opposition to the lowering of the voting age to 18 years, which we regard as a device of Nationalists to maintain themselves in power in perpetuity by means of the indoctrinated product of the schools, which indoctrination is safeguarded by the policy of separate schools. It also further increases the injustice towards the non-Europeans.

### II. Non-European.

- (a) Immediately: Direct group representation in Provincial Councils.
- (b) Long Term: (by stages) placing of suitably qualified non-Europeans on the common roll for Parliament.

However, at the Natal Provincial Congress on 13th October, it was decided to set up a Committee "to investigate various franchise methods,

(Continued on page 10)

## LIBERAL PARTY

FRANCHISE is the key policy of any South African political party. It is not enough to advocate compulsory education, trade union rights, freehold tenure, etc., for persons at present denied them: it is a fact that none of these things will ever be granted to people who are not adequately represented in the law-making bodies—municipal, provincial, national—of the land. Remember, compulsory education in England followed the 19th century extensions of the Franchise: it did not precede them.

Again, all persons who disapprove of dictatorship in any form do so, one imagines, because they believe that government should be based—and stable government can only be based—on the consent of the governed. Four-fifths of South Africa's population is governed without consent.

The Liberal Party endorses Article 21 of the Declaration of Human Rights, of which two sections read:

"(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely-chosen representatives."

"(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting process."

The Liberal Party realises that it may well be impracticable to quintuple the electorate overnight, as it were, and recognises that there may have to be transition stages towards the goal of universal adult suffrage. It is useless, however, to attempt to blueprint details of these transition stages; neither the Liberal Party nor anyone else knows what conditions—economic, educational, social—will be like when the time comes to extend the franchise.

The limited scope of this article precludes adequate discussion of the franchise. We add, therefore, a few brief observations for your consideration:

(Continued on page 10)

# Those Freedoms—III.

## THE SANCTITY OF THE HOME AND FAMILY

**M**OST people to-day read "thrillers", Bishops and butchers, seamstresses and schoolmasters, pilots and poultry farmers, and even, in their weaker moments, Black Sash women. And Mr. Eric Louw. Political thrillers are favourites. Scotland Yard or M.I.5, Gestapo, OGPU—the procedure is the same, the ominous knock on the door, the victim disappears. It's all very exciting, but it's always "something in a book." Something to entertain and distract, never something that might happen to YOU!

Most people never consciously think what "home" means to them, because their home is so much part of them. House or hovel, cottage or castle, palace or "prefab.", home is the place where you can be at peace. You shut your front door and relax. You are free.

But are you free? Do you realise what has been done to that freedom, here in your country, by Acts of Parliament? Do you realise that under the **Suppression of Communism Act of 1950** you may be suspected of furthering the objects of Communism and that an investigating officer may enter your home at any time, seize your papers or your person, and that you may even be deported from the area in which you have made your home?

Under the **Population Registration Act of 1950** a register is to be compiled by the Director of Census to include the name of every person permanently and temporarily resident in the Union. The population is to be classified into white, coloured and native, and every person over 16 is to carry an identity card which will bear a photograph and will give particulars of colour, ethnic group and nationality, plus an identity number.

The effect on the sanctity of the home and family can be disastrous. A person who has always been accepted as Coloured, for instance, may find himself classified as a Native. Families have been broken up and marriages destroyed because of this Act, which was intended as the foundation of the **Group Areas Act of 1950**. Without the Population Registration Act the Group Areas Act could not be administered. With the combination of the two the homes of many South Africans to-day have ceased to be a place of peace and refuge.

The **Group Areas Act** also divides the population into a white, a coloured and a native group, as defined in the Population Registration Act, with a fourth class of native or coloured peoples. But it goes further. It proclaims areas in which each group must reside and carry on its business, and from a fixed date no member of any other group may reside or own property in that area, except by permit issued at the discretion of the Minister of the Interior.

The Land Tenure Advisory Board is responsible for enquiries and investigations, and reports to the Minister. Members of the Board are authorised to enter and inspect land or premises at all reasonable times, but Inspectors appointed by the Minister have power to enter any premises without notice and at any time during the day or night.

Your home may be your own, purchased by dint of hard work and savings. It may be violated by officials, or you may have to vacate it and sell it at a loss, for there is no provision under the Group Areas Act for any compensation for financial loss. You and your family may suffer great hardships, but all this is in the name of the law.

Not as thrilling as the "thriller", is it? But it can, and does, happen here. **M.E.F.**

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## THIS IS YOUR PARTY (Continued)

### S.A. BOND (Continued)

racial group could be represented by its own people if so desired, on a basis commensurate with their development and compliance with our western way of life.

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### UNION FEDERAL PARTY (Continued)

including the multiple vote system, which would both preserve white civilisation in South Africa and recognise the elementary rights of all sections." As Mr. Heaton Nicholls indicated in his address, the Executive had decided there must be a complete breakaway from the policies of other political parties and a new approach made to the non-European question.

It is intended that public sittings shall be held to take evidence from experts and representatives of various points of view.

Is this the lead for which we have been waiting?

### LIBERAL PARTY (Continued)

Government without consent, besides being immoral, cannot last—

A man who can express his desires through the ballot-box does not need to resort to less peaceful means of expression. The old antitheses hold good: ballots or bullets? The cross or the kris?—

A man who does not have the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship cannot be expected to behave like a responsible citizen—

There is no evidence whatever that a "cultured" person votes more responsibly than an "uncultured" one. The most cultured nation in Western Europe—Germany—voted into power and maintained there the barbarous Nazi regime—

We see no good reason for lowering the voting age to eighteen.

# MEET THE BLACK SASH

## *More Office-bearers of the Cape Western Region*

**MRS. JULIA MARGARET GRIEVE** was born at Naini Tal, India, in 1914. Her father is a Britisher and was in the Indian Civil Service, and her mother an Afrikaner. She has a boy and a girl. Mrs. Grieve was educated at D.S.G., Pretoria and St. Anne's College, Natal, and trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, London. She was married in 1934 and after the war ran a lampshade factory in Johannesburg with considerable success. She now lives in Wellington, Cape.

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**MRS. N. T. LE FEUVRE.** Born in Kimberley and was educated in that city and also in George. She taught in Cape Town until her marriage. She has two sons.



**MRS. LE FEUVRE**



**MRS. GRIEVE**

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**MRS. MARGARET WILSON.** Settled in South Africa after World War I, under the 1820 Settlers' Association. Hons. in History at Somerville College, Oxford. Has two daughters. Worked for the S.A.W.A.S. in Grahamstown during the war, and did part-time visiting for eight years for the Municipal Housing Department of the Cape Town City Council.

\* \* \*

**MRS C. VAN SELM.** Born in Windhoek in 1919. Has lived in every province in the Union except the Orange Free State. She finished her schooling at Rustenburg Girls' High School, Cape Town. Studied Social Science at University of Cape Town. Interested in Child Welfare and the Red Cross. Her elder daughter is studying medicine at the University of Cape Town. She has a son of nine and another daughter of three. She was the first Chairman of the Cape Western Region (Black Sash) and one of the original five members in Cape Town.



**MRS. WILSON**



**MRS. VAN SELM**

\* \* \*

**MRS. H. STRUBEN.** Educated in England, Cairo and at Roedeian School, Johannesburg. Afterwards studied art in London, Brussels and Port Elizabeth. Obtained National Art Teachers' certificate with distinction in painting, modelling and design. Won the silver medal two years running at the Port Elizabeth School of Art., where she subsequently held the post of senior lecturer in modelling and design. Later she specialised in illuminating and design, and executed illuminated addresses for Their Majesties King George VI, and Queen Elizabeth, and also for Queen Elizabeth II.

Has a son and a daughter aged 12 and 14. Still does commissions in writing and illuminating, and is also on the Council of the Heraldry Society and the local committee of the United Party. Has travelled extensively and speaks French and Italian, and is a member of the French and Italian circles. Interested in all the arts particularly ballet and music, besides the fine arts.



**MRS. STRUBEN**



**MRS. ROBB**

## Meet The BLACK SASH (Cont.)

**MRS. N. ROBB.** Born Christmas day, 1913. Educated at St. Swithun's School, Winchester, England. B.Sc. London University (Physics, Chemistry and Physiology.) Came to South Africa in 1936 to teach science and mathematics at St. Cyprian's School, Cape Town. Married 1939 and has five children, four girls and a boy. Member of the council of St. Cyprian's School and serves on the General Purposes, Finance, House and Development sub-committees.

Chairwoman of Marion Institute (coloured social centre in District Six). One of first five members of Executive Committee, all of whom sashed Mr. Louw the very first time sashes were worn in Cape Town. Attended first conference in Johannesburg in October 1955. Took part in all night stand during Convoy. She is the Country Representative and Sash Contact.

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**MRS. PETERSEN**



**MISS WINDHAM**

**MRS. NORMAN PETERSEN** lives in a lovely home close to the National Botanical Gardens at Kirstenbosch, and has three children of school going age. She has many interests and takes an active part in the work of the National Council of Women, World Goodwill, and the New Education Fellowship. She is an enthusiastic tennis, golf and bridge player and also takes a keen interest in gardening. Her main difficulty always is to find sufficient time to do all that she would like to do.

\* \* \*

**MISS A. WINDHAM.** Born Pietermaritzburg. Educated D.S.G., Pretoria, The Down School, Seaford, Sussex, St. Hugh's College, Oxford. B.A. Joined the F.A.N.Y. Corps in 1935 and during the war served seven years in the A.T.S. in England and in India. Was awarded an O.B.E. while in A.A. Command. Joined the Black Sash in November last year. Her particular job is Demonstrations. She ran the Cape Town end of the Convoy in February. Before the war was interested in emigration in England. She took a party of Barnado children as emigrants to Australia, and afterwards visited New Zealand. She worked in connection with the Society for the Overseas Settlement for British Women, and

conducted parties of schoolgirls, organised under the auspices of this society to Canada and South Africa. On her return to South Africa she joined the committee of the Settlers' Club in Cape Town.

\* \* \*

**MRS. WILLIS.** Born in Johannesburg of British Parents. Educated at Roedean School (matriculated at 15) and University of the Witwatersrand (failed B.A.!!). Thereafter office work until marriage. Has two sons—one at university and one still at school. Taught voluntary classes out of school hours at Ekutuleni in Sophiatown for six years, was Chairman of "Thabong," the first native nursery school in Sophiatown, until the war. During the war in S.A.W.A.S. Did Red Cross work, ran a canteen for Air Sea Rescue Base at Gordon's Bay, and organised Make-and-Mend Sewing Party for R.A.F. stationed there. After the war back in Johannesburg, worked as Blood Transfusion Operator and served on committee of, and as assistant bookkeeper to, Disabled Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund until moved to Simonstown in 1953. Was representative for Houghton Division at first National Torch Congress in Pretoria. Organised signing of Black Sash Petition in Simonstown, was Country Districts Secretary and is now Treasurer of the Cape Western Region.

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## ***This South Africa***

(Readers are invited to submit contributions to this feature. A prize of 5s. will be awarded each month to the reader submitting the first-mentioned contribution.)

*"I agree that the Native should know the word of God, but it is not exactly necessary to be educated to be able to read the Bible."*—Letter to "Die Vaderland" 25/10/56 printed in the "Rand Daily Mail" 6/11/1956.

*"Can we blame the modern teenager for finding an outlet to his emotions in 'rock 'n roll'? After all, man's actions and way of thinking arise from his standards of living or environment. The more civilised man becomes, the more barbaric are his relaxations . . ."*—From a letter to the "Rand Daily Mail" 10/11/1956.

*"The Union spends £135,000 a year on UNO. But this amount is not significant. It is less than the Union spends on the skiet commandos and less than half the annual bill for the State Information Office."*—"The Star," 20/11/1956.

*"But for a new nation in genesis just to ape the little mannerisms of the British in the minutest detail will be only an expression of an inferiority complex. Afrikaans can be just as efficient a vehicle for moulding polite, elegant beings as any language."*—Jan Burger in "The Star," 16/11/56.

## THREADS FROM THE SASH

A LETTER received from TUINPLAATS, Transvaal, says: "I do congratulate you on the really magnificent job you are doing in producing this paper. It is a very vital contact to us all, in the country especially."

BEAUFORT WEST saw the Sashers for the first time, when they met Mr. Strydom's train, bringing him up to the Reef after his trip overseas. My correspondent writes, "We created quite a sensation. There was a crowd there, among them a group of the Jeugbond dressed in long frocks and kappies, and the men wearing bow ties. They crowded round Mr. Strydom's compartment window, and sang Volksliedere. The only sign of life was the appearance of a Private Secretary, who asked them to go away! Not even the indefatigable Mr. Eric Louw appeared to wave to his supporters. MOST surprising!"

A BLACK SASH member recently entered a shop where she was totally unknown, and ordered several articles. Imagine her consternation when she opened her purse and had to admit that she had come without money. However, the owner of the shop said that it was quite all right, the lady could take the goods and pay whenever convenient—because the Black Sash badge was a sufficient introduction!

CAPE EASTERN writes: When Mr. Schoeman visited Port Alfred, forty-five members of the Black Sash met him. They came from Port Elizabeth, Salem, Grahamstown, Bathurst, Alexandria and, of course, Port Alfred. Salem has a 90 per cent. active membership and they all came. Congratulations, Cape Eastern, on the magnificent turn-out, and a salute to Salem.

AT WHITE RIVER when the Black Sash met Mr. Serfontein, the children of the Junior High School turned out in force and were arranged in front of the Sash women. But the Black Sash women could still be seen, so the big boys from the High School were put there instead. One master was heard to say to the boys that they must push and elbow the women out if necessary, and this was done enthusiastically. We hear, but cannot confirm, that the scholars were congratulated on their return to school by the master concerned. No, the Minister was **not** opening a new school, he was opening a new post office.

IN BARBERTON Dr. Albert Hertzog addressed a gathering composed mostly of children of an impressionable age, on Kruger Day. Loud speakers were in use and Dr. Hertzog devoted the greater part of his discourse to describing in lurid detail the alleged ill-treatment of Boer women in the concentration camps. Then the children were marched to the graves of some Boer women who had died in the concentration camp at Barberton in those tragic far-off days and were told to "Avenge this dust." Is this what we want for our children? Hate, fear, revenge? We hear that many Nationalist parents "deplore" this sort of thing, but that party loyalty and fear seal their lips.

## ONE WOMAN'S REASON

THEY said: "What will it all achieve?  
"What can you gain?" they said.  
"Derisive laughter splinters on the air,  
You bring down mockery upon your head,  
For what?" they said.

AND then I asked a wearer of the sash,  
"What do you feel, so silent, standing there?"  
"I pray," she said.

INDEED we need thee, Lord!  
Need mercy, wisdom, courage and good faith,  
Which in their fear our rulers cast away.

"I PRAY," this is a revelation,  
This I can understand and so  
I think it not too much to do,  
To stand a while, beloved land,  
And pray for you.

M.L.S.

—Re-printed from the first issue of "The Black Sash".

## SPOTTED BLOOD

(The Union Government intends to bring in legislation to ensure that all blood handled by the Blood Transfusion Service for fresh-blood transfusions shall, in future, be stored in separate bottles with distinctive labels—black for non-European blood. The labels are small spots the size of an aspirin).

On matters to do with transfusions  
There seem to be several confusions.  
What the doctors affirm  
Makes the Ministers squirm  
For they suffer from certain delusions.

If the donors come from a location  
The blood that they give to the nation  
Must bear a "black spot";  
For the Government says "What  
Comes from Blacks is no White man's salvation."

When the Angel of Death gives a knock,  
And "black" blood's the sort that's in stock,  
They think you should wait,  
Though it may be too late,  
For "white" blood Life's gate to unlock.

The medicos say that this notion,  
Engendered by racial emotion,  
Can do naught but cause  
Our new-fangled laws  
To be broken through doctors' devotion.

We all think our own blood is best,  
But when men are put to the test  
They take the first flask  
Of blood, and don't ask  
Who gave it—white, black or the rest.

P.B.

## FACT AND FICTION

### FICTION:

(According to "Die Transvaler", 11th January, 1957): Parallel medium schools, for which "Die Vaderland" pleads so ardently, will result in the Afrikaner watering the wine of his Afrikanerdom by fraternising with his English-speaking arch-enemy.

### FACT:

How tragic a state have we reached in our beloved country when such statements can be written—and believed! "Fiction" is too pleasant a word for statements written with a pen dipped in the gall of Nationalist bitterness, hatred and fear.

The facts are simple. A parallel medium school fought for its existence and won. How did it win? Because the parents, Afrikaans- and English-speaking citizens of South Africa—not politicians or newspaper editors—parents who preferred to see their children "fraternising" at school, those parents united in a firm determination to keep that school as it had always been.

They won their battle and all of us who love our country and like our neighbours, whatever language they may speak, wished them well in their success.

"Die Vaderland" approved and said so. All true South Africans rejoice when "fraternisation" of this kind takes place. "Frater" is the Latin word for brother, and what better omen can there be for the future of South Africa than for young South Africans indeed to be brothers? Have their fathers not for many years been brothers-in-arms in time of war, and friends on the sportsfield?

"Die Vaderland" recognises what we all know. The Afrikaner need no longer be afraid in his own country and therefore he can afford to fraternise with his English-speaking countryman. It will not water the wine of his Afrikanerdom.

He still unhappily has an arch-enemy, who seeks to instil fear into him and fear is at best a poor material with which to build a nation. That arch-enemy is not his English-speaking brother, but "Die Transvaler" itself, which, not content with a policy of black apartheid, is now fighting for apartheid between white and white. Well may it hate and fear "fusion", because true fusion would mean the birth of a true South African nation.

**M.E.F.**

The modern citizen must be INFORMED first—and then CONSULTED.

Until a man has EDUCATION a vote is a useless and dangerous thing for him to possess.

The ideal community is a community of KNOWLEDGE and WILL.

—H. G. Wells.

## FANTASIE EN FEIT

### FANTASIE:

(Volgens „Die Transvaler", 11 Januarie 1957): Parallelmediumskole, waarvoor „Die Vaderland" so vurig pleit, sal as gevolg hê dat die Afrikaner water by die wyn van sy Afrikanerdom doen deur met sy Engelssprekende aartsvyand te verbroeder.

### FEIT:

Hoe tragies is die toestand tog waarin ons tans in ons geliefde land verkeer, wanneer sulke bewerings geskrywe—en geglo!—kan word. „Fantasie" is 'n alte mooi woord vir bewerings geskrywe met 'n pen wat in die gal van Nasionalistiese bitterheid, haat en vrees gedoop is.

Die feite is eenvoudig. 'n Parallelmediumskool het vir sy bestaan geveg, en geseëvier. Hoe het die oorwinning gekom? Omdat die ouers, Afrikaans- en Engelssprekende burgers van Suid-Afrika—nóg politici nóg redakteurs van koerante—ouers wat verkies het om hulle kinders op skool te sien „verbroeder", daardie ouers het pal gestaan in 'n vaste besluit om daardie skool soos dit altyd was te behou.

Hulle het die oorwinning behaal en ons almal wat ons land liefhet en van ons bure hou, watter taal hul ook al mag praat, het hulle met hulle sukses gelukwens.

„Die Vaderland" het sy goedkeuring uitgespreek. Alle ware Suid-Afrikane verheug hulle wanneer „fraternisasie" of verbroedering van hierdie aard plaasvind. „Frater" is die Latynse woord vir broer, en wat kan vir Suid-Afrika 'n beter voorteken wees dan dat jong Suid-Afrikane inderdaad broers sal wees? Is hulle vaders nie lankal wapenbroeders in oorlogstyd gewees en maats op die sportterrein nie?

„Die Vaderland" besef wat ons almal weet. Die Afrikaner hoef inderdaad nie langer in sy eie land bevrees te wees nie, en daarom durf hy nou met sy Engelssprekende landgenoot verbroeder. Dit sal nie water in die wyn van sy Afrikanerdom doen nie.

Ongelukkig het hy nog 'n aartsvyand wat deurentyd probeer om hom vrees in te boesem en vrees was maar altyd powere materiaal om 'n nasie mee te bou. Daardie aartsvyand is nie sy Engelssprekende broer nie, maar „Die Transvaler" self, wat, nie tevrede met 'n beleid van swart apartheid nie, hom nou besighou met apartheid tussen wit en wit. Wel mag hy die „smelter" vrees, want egte smelting sal beteken die geboorte van 'n ware Suid-Afrikaanse nasie.

**M.E.F.**

“Organisation with freedom, however untidy, is in every way superior to organisation by tyranny however benevolent.”

# REGIONAL AND BRANCH REPORTS

## Highway Branch

At a public meeting of the Highway Branch held at Hillcrest on Friday, 30th November, the large and enthusiastic audience heard informative speeches on three aspects of South Africa's problems. Miss Junod, lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Natal, dealt with the aims and implications of the Group Areas Act, with particular reference to its devastating effects on the economic life of the Indians and Coloureds in areas near Johannesburg.

Mr. Robert Ventress, lecturer in Engineering at the University of Natal, traced the origins and ideals of universities through the ages and showed, from the scientist's point of view, how contrary to all university principles would be the implementation of the Government's apartheid policy in South African universities. Finally Mrs. Nell Green, of the Black Sash Central Executive Committee, outlined the cancers which threatened to destroy South Africa from within. Every South African would have to fight hard and honestly if diseases such as disunity, the enforced separation of the two major language groups and amoral political action were not to lead to disintegration.

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## Lowveld Region

Unfortunately it was not possible to organise vigils in all branches in this area when the demonstrations against the failure of the Senate Act Appeal were held in November, but members of all branches wearing their sashes, did distribute pamphlets and arranged for the display of posters. In Elands Valley, Nelspruit, Sabie and White River this activity was linked with a vigil of an hour. In White River, two cars, bearing posters, drove slowly up and down the main streets throughout the vigil. One carload of members from this branch also drove to Pretoria to take part in the all-night vigil.

Elands Valley, Nelspruit and White River branches recently held their Annual General Meetings. At the White River meeting it was decided that a second Afrikaans class is to be started and that informal tea parties at which Afrikaans only will be spoken, will be arranged. Non-members and certain members of the Nationalist Party will be invited to attend these, which will be social and not political meetings.

All branches in this Region have expressed appreciation of Mr. Cope's letter, which they have found invaluable in answering questions and criticisms.

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## Graaff-Reinet Branch

NOVEMBER for the Graaff-Reinet branch was marked by an unusual amount of Black Sash activity. On the 16th we held our Annual General Meeting (the branch came into being on 11th November last year). The Chairman was able to report a year of steady progress both in membership and interest.

The branch had recently been divided into "study groups", each under a separate leader, and literature and lectures were being circulated in an attempt to get information across to members in isolated areas. The existing committee was re-elected en bloc, and it was also decided to increase the size of the committee by including group leaders, which, it was thought, would co-ordinate the work of the branch more effectively.

We also participated in the nation-wide protest against the immorality of the Senate Act by holding a vigil outside the Government Offices on Saturday, 10th November. This vigil was well supported by members. Posters were displayed and leaflets distributed.

On 29th November our first opportunity of Sashing a Minister occurred, when a small contingent was able to travel to Jansenville to haunt Dr. Dönges, who was addressing a meeting there. Our arrival on the scene took the local Nationalists quite by surprise, and created chaos outside the hall. The local school children, complete in school uniform, had apparently been organised to form a guard of honour at one of the two front entrance gates to the hall, and it took a considerable amount of re-organisation on the part of the school staff, prefects and others to manoeuvre the children into a position where they could "shield" the Minister from our sashes. Unfortunately for them we had decided to split our force (small though it was), when their tactics became obvious, and when the Minister's car drove up it was forced, by the size of the crowd which was "hiding" us, to stop right next to the other gate where half our number were standing.

The really disturbing feature of the whole evening was, however, the fact that **all** the school children (and some could not have been more than 10 or 11 years) solemnly filed into the hall behind the Minister and apparently remained there for the duration of the meeting.

Before returning home we put Black Sash pamphlets into every car parked near the hall. In some were occupants who obviously thought we were distributing Nationalist handouts, and were only too eager to accept the "literature". We could only hope they studied the contents with equal eagerness.

H.S.

\* \* \*

**Nelspruit:** Nelspruit is disturbed over the question of a new English-medium school being built—which will mean the end of the present parallel-medium high-school education there. They also report that the children are being instructed by teachers not to deal with or even enter Indian stores. A letter has been sent to the headmaster from the Regional Executive asking whether these instructions are in accordance with school policy, or given on the initiative of individual teachers. No reply has yet been received.

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