

it would be in the interests of education if such destructive elements were excluded from the profession.'

### Transfer of the Schools

The Nationalist Party came to power in the Cape Provincial Council in August 1954, and thereafter provincial and governmental policy were completely aligned. The fight against the transfer of the schools to the central government was bitter and hard. But the attack on the teachers and their related organisations came from both sides. Victimisation and intimidation, dismissals, bannings and banishments followed in the wake of the report. And in the end, education was ignominiously transferred, by the Coloured Persons Education Act on 1 January 1964, to the Coloured Affairs Department, against whose very existence the teachers had fought so valiantly for 20 years since the days when Harry Lawrence called them 'a noisy coterie.' The Department was now to control and regiment every facet of the lives of the people classified as 'Coloured.'

### Conclusion

Sixteen years have elapsed since that auspicious event. One thing is very clear. It was during this period, more than any other, that the concept of 'Coloured Edu-

cation,' first revealing itself clearly at the turn of the century, was given its final shape and form: of schools restricted to 'Coloured' pupils taught by 'Coloured' teachers, financed in a special way, following curricula and syllabuses specially devised and adapted to meet their 'special needs,' and administered by a separate Department of State. Its political purpose was very clear: ideologically and administratively so to control their education that they would fit without difficulty into the social and political pattern devised by their masters.

The boycott of the schools effectively illustrates how it has all boomeranged; and presents the surest signal of the abject failure of 'Coloured education' to achieve its objective. It is all very sensitively epitomised in the plaintive little refrain sung by the pupils in their heroic demonstrations on the school grounds:

*What did you learn in school today  
dear little friend of mine?  
We learnt that West is always best  
and white is usually right,  
That rich and poor will always be  
and that's what makes us free.*

With acknowledgement to the CAPE ARGUS which published a shortened version on 5 June 1980.

## Obituary

### Kathleen Bobbias

**I**T was a great shock to me to hear, on my return after being away for four months, that Kathleen Bobbias had died on September 4 1980.

Kathleen became Treasurer of Somerset West Branch in 1959, Treasurer and Secretary in 1964, and she carried on with both offices until two years ago.

Even then she carried on being Treasurer.

It was said of Kathleen in the weeks of March 1969 that without her the Branch would cease to exist. This has continued to be the case ever since. The Branch has been, and will be, very lost without her.

**MARY SCHURR**