

desirable. It is nothing of the sort. It is politically desirable from the Nationalist point of view and that is all. It has nothing to do with the welfare of the children or the interests of their education. It is simply a display of racial bigotry at its worst.

The parents' right to choose the language medium of their children's education — for which they pay as taxpayers — should never be in dispute. It should be as freely granted as religious freedom of choice. Everybody knows that nine times out of ten the best medium from the point of view of the child is the home language, and no parent is going to be so stupid or so cruel as to jeopardise a child's chances in life by wantonly making a wrong decision. But that decision must be the parent's and not the decision of a government official working to regulations born of a political doctrine. This invasion of a traditional parental right is intolerable, and the resultant claiming of the child by the State is in principle as bad as Nazi indoctrination or Communist brain-washing.

The Transvaal has, of course, borne the brunt of this controversy because the Transvaal Nationalists have pushed the matter further than it has been taken in other Provinces. But the whole tragic issue is really a national one and members of the Black Sash throughout the country should be as alert to what is at stake as their colleagues are in the Transvaal. This use of children as pawns in a bitter political struggle and this denial to parents of a fundamental right could easily come to the rest of the Union. Temporarily the Broederbond rules in Transvaal education, but it will not rest content until it has control over the schooling of every child in the country.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Question: Six of the delegates at the National Convention were Boer War Generals. Name them.

Answer: Generals Botha, Smuts, Burger, De la Rey, De Wet, Hertzog.

Reference: F. S. Malan, Convention Diary, page 20.

Die reg van ouers om hulle kinders se voertaal te kies—iets waarop hul as belastingbetalers geregtig is—behoort nooit betwis te word nie. Dit behoort net so vryelik toegestaan te word soos vryheid van Godsdiensoefening. Iedereen weet dat die huistaal in nege gevalle uit tien ook die beste voertaal is, en geen ouer gaan as dom of wreed wees om sy kind se toekoms in gevaar te stel deur onverstandig te beslis nie. Maar die beslissing moet op die ouer rus, en nie op 'n amptenaar wat handel volgens regulasies wat uit 'n politieke ideologie voortspruit nie.

Hierdie inbreukmaking op 'n tradisionele ouerreg, wat tegelykertyd beteken dat die staat op die kind beslag lê, staan gelyk aan Nazi of Kommunistiese metodes.

Die Transvaalse Nasionaliste het hierdie saak natuurlik verder gevoer as hul kollegas in die ander provinsies. Gevolglik het Transvaalse ouers tot dusver die swaarste gely. Dis egter essensiëel 'n landsvraagstuk, en Swart Serp-lede die hele land deur moet besef hoeveel op die spel is. Oor ons kinders se toekoms wou 'n verbete politieke stryd, en die versegging van 'n basiese ouerreg kan maklik oor die hele Unie sprei. Oor opvoeding in die Transvaal voer die Broederbond alreeds heerskappy, maar hul sal nie rus totdat hul die opleiding van elke kind in die land beheer nie.

BLACK SASH A.B.C.

(Continued)

Irksome Iona likes practical jokes,
As long they happen the others to hoax.
Ideal Irene lives up to her name
And works for the peace of the blind and the lame.
Joking Jacoba's the kind of a girl
Whose fun is TODAY and Society's whirl.
Judicious Jasmine's aware that it's wise
To plan for the future, not suffer surprise.
Kimono-ed Katie gets dressed at high noon—
If you wanted her earlier she's probably swoon.
Keen-minded Katharine is always on time
To aid those in trouble or help stop a crime.
Languishing Lulu is always too sweet
To those who come bearing a gift or a treat,
But Lively Lucinda, though feminine too,
Is the first to come forward when there's a to-do.

P.B.