

D I V I N E R I G H T

Strydom, who in April led the Nationalist Party into power in the whites-only general election, is dead. Dr. Verwoerd has stepped into his shoes as Prime Minister. He is the most logical choice as heir to the apostle of Apartheid, one who will carry the herrenvolk policies to their ruthless end. Before Strydom's death, in the no-confidence debate at the opening of the new Parliament, the leader of the United Party vainly pleaded for a coalition between the two parties. He made it clear for all to see that on all fundamental questions there was no difference between them. Faced with the necessity of appointing a new prime minister, the United Party and a section of the Nationalist Party hoped against hope that a less ~~in~~ intractable man would be elected. It was an illogical, even a naive hope; for in the present headlong ~~tempo~~ political tempo in South Africa, with the most fanatical racialists, the Broederbond, in control, it was necessary to have a man who would out-Strydom Strydom.

In his first public pronouncement as Prime Minister, Dr. Verwoerd declared that he would devote all his energies to bringing about the Republic in South Africa. The Broederbond, ably supported by the clergy of the Dutch Reformed Church, are driving the country relentlessly towards the establishment of a Boerenasie Republic, the dream of all herrenvolk racists. As in the days of Kruger, its motto will be: No equality between White and Black ~~in~~ in State ~~and~~ or Church. Only God's Chosen People shall have any political rights of any sort. As their Bible has it: "When the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it....thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them; neither shalt thou make marriages with them." Yes, indeed, no covenant with them. And it even states: "Let them live, but let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water."

Already all the laws that have been hastily rushed through Parliament bear the imprint of the coming Republic. The rulers are driving on under a compulsive obsession, as if haunted by a spectre. All Non-Europeans are being unceremoniously thrown out of the body politic. Bantu Authorities, Bantu and Coloured Education are preparing them for a position of abject slaves to minister to the needs of the Chosen Race. The Non-Europeans are not only being stripped of political rights, but of every means of an independent livelihood. The Indians are being ~~deliberately~~ deliberately impoverished. Through the Group Areas Act, the
wealthier/...

wealthier ones are being robbed of their properties, forcibly removed from their homes and their established business concerns and thrown into the wild veld. From there they will be forced by starvation to crawl back as menials to werve the White masters. The Africans, who have already been reduced to a state of destitution and herded into the overcrowded Reserves, are now being robbed of any rights to own land anywhere. Their title deeds to property are being nullified by regulations. The Coloured people are being uprooted and driven to locations cynically called townships. The whole Non-European population is being bereft of every human right, divested of property and of any status as workers and ringed round with such restrictions and regulations that they can be shunted this way and that, according to the labour requirements. Policemen-chiefs are placed over them as boss-boys, or jail-keepers, who have been permitted by their masters to use the ~~sjak~~ sjambok on the people.

Dr Verwoerd, as Minister of Native Affairs, has not only built on the foundations laid by his predecessors, but has given the edifice the particular Verwoerdian touch. Controlling as he does the lives of the whole African population, dictating how, where and when they shall live and work, he is in a position to dominate industry and commerce. By manipulating ~~labour~~ labour he can intensify the herrenvolk race policies in every sphere. While raising some doubts in the less fanatic, he has called forth resounding adulations from the die-hard racists. For his services the Strong Man has been rewarded with the Premiership. He is in truth the proper man to lead the Volk into the Boerenasie Republic. He is the Strong Man armed with the sense of the Divine Right of Verwoerd. It was God's will (he believes) that removed Strydom; it was God's will that, as he told the nation in his first public pronouncement, "determined who shall ~~assume~~ assume the leadership of the Government in the new period of the life of the people of South Africa."

We shall be excused if ^{we} together with the rest of the Non-European oppressed, ~~we see~~ see in all this, not the hand of God, but that of the Broederbond. We are confronted here, not with God and His will, but with the herrenvolk determined to trample underfoot the human rights of the Non-White people for the ~~mutif~~ satisfaction of their greed. We are not taken by surprise by the election of ^{Dr} Verwoerd. The African people have felt the hand of Dr. Verwoerd on their necks. They know that dark days are ahead. But then night precedes the day. They know that oppression is going to be intensified, but then the fiercest fires burn out soonest. And they know also that out of the fire comes the well-tempered steel.