

THE WRECKERS OF UNITY AT WORK.

The All-AFRICAN CONVENTION COMMITTEE (W.P.) has issued a STATEMENT: "THE WRECKERS OF UNITY AT WORK." This was in reply to an attack on the leadership of the NON-EUROPEAN UNITY MOVEMENT and the ALL-~~AFRICAN~~ CONVENTION, in the form of a lengthy document entitled "What has happened in the ~~Non-European~~ Non-European Unity Movement?" and signed by R.E.Viljeen, S.A.Jayiya, B.M. Kies and C.M. ~~K&B&S~~ Kebus, who styled themselves as foundation members. This document marked the peak of a campaign of vilification that had been going on since the outrageous behaviour of the "fraternal" delegation of the National Anti-C.A.D. at the Conference of the All-African Convention held in Edendale, ~~RES~~ December, 1958, where they had succeeded merely in exposing themselves as a clique that was usurping the name of the Anti-C.A.D. They went so far as to break with the N.E.U.M. ~~THE~~ ~~INXTHEXNAMEXNEXTME~~ in the name of the Anti-C.A.D. Here we give a few extracts from "The Wreckers of Unity at WORK," ~~which expresses the nature of the attack on the Unity Movement and the Convention~~ The full text can be obtained from the Secretary, A.A.C.COM (W.P.), 7 Jarvis St. Cape Town.

It opens by asking the pertinent question: "Who is the National Anti-C.A.D. Committee?" The National Anti-C.A.D. Committee has of late taken decisions and issued statements that have shocked the affiliated organisations. For some time now we have watched with anxiety the growth of a tendency on the part of these at the head to behave as though they were responsible to nobody but themselves.... It began to violate the decisions of national conferences and, with the recklessness of people unused to the arduous task of building organisations, started to undo the work of many years.... A statement issued by the National committee of the Anti-C.A.D. on the 5th May, 1959, reveals the utter irresponsibility of those who are running the affairs of this body. This statement contained a repudiation of an Executive Meeting of the Unity Movement held on the 9th May as well as a public meeting (in Cape Town) on the 10th May under the auspices of the N.E.U.M..... This shocking ^{STATEMENT} is the first announcement by the National Anti-C.A.D. Committee informing the affiliated organisations that it has decided to break with the Unity Movement and withdraw the Coloured sector from it.The circumstances reveal that it was not even the National anti-C.A.D. Comm. that is in control but a clique directed by the head of the Junta.... ~~The question arises: Who has taken it upon himself the right to speak for the Anti-C.A.D.?~~ One thing that stands out clearly is that the two representatives (from the Anti-C.A.D. to the Unity Executive) received no mandate either from the National Anti-C.A.D., which they treated with utter contempt, or from the affiliated organisations, to boycott the Unity meetings or to break on their behalf with the Unity Movement."

TACTICS OF THE CLIQUE.

The article goes on to expose the tactics of the clique after the failure to subvert the All-African Convention and capture the leadership at the Edendale Conference. Conspiracy and vilification reached a climax in the issue of the pamphlet already mentioned: 'What is happening in the Non-European Unity Movement?' "The aim of the document is to provide justification for the Brederbont tactics that have led up to the break with the Unity Movement....The method it adopts is to reiterate unsubstantiated charges in the hope that by dint of repetition these would be accepted as proven facts. Perhaps the most disquieting feature is the unadulterated racialism that drips from every paragraph...It accuses the leadership of the A.A.C. of all the crimes committed by the Junta against the Movement - a very clever ruse of accusing others of the very crimes they themselves are guilty of." It recalls to mind the classic story of a ~~clever~~ thief, who, having pulled off a clever robbery, was the first to shout: 'Thief! Thief!' and succeeded in getting himself appointed as searcher-in-chief. ~~He then had the grand party to which only the rich and wealthy had been invited. Amongst the guests was a professional thief called Jack. As the~~ night advanced and all went merry as a marriage bell, Jack found a way of making it generally known that he had some business to attend to. A few minutes later he emerged from the cloakroom shouting: 'Thief! Thief!' and running towards the dark. There was general consternation. Considerable amounts in cash and precious jewels had disappeared. The mystery thickened when the guards surrounding the house reported that no one had left the grounds and no strange person was to be found anywhere. Finally the guests agreed to a voluntary search. Mr. Jack was appointed searcher-in-chief; for who could have suspected that the man who raised the alarm was the very thief they were looking for?"

SUPER LEADERS.

The self-styled 'foundationists' whiffling at the Convention the accusation of reverting back to the "tribalist cult of the chief or leader", are busy building themselves into super leaders. According to this pamphlet, they conceived the idea of Unity ~~xxxxxxx~~ and built the Movement all on their own. The organisations whose names are down in the records as founders of the N.E.U.M. ~~xxxxx~~ ^{these} would seem to be simply adjuncts to ~~xxxxxx~~ four individuals (who sign the pamphlet.) "All through they talk of THEIR programme, ~~xx~~ THEIR Unity Movement, THEIR struggle, THEIR conception of a nation. It's the old case of the gadfly that sat the whole day on the back of ~~the~~ a ploughing ox and when the day's work was done, flapped its wings and with a deep sigh exclaimed: 'What a lot of work we did to-day!', So steeped are these 'foundationists' in Herrenvolk attitudes that they regard the people in ~~the~~ Convention as some sort of appendage to them Their motto seems to be: 'Thou shalt have no other leaders but us.' "

Rabid Racialism.

The article particularly emphasises how racialism interpenetrates the whole pamphlet. "By far the worst aspect of the pamphlet is the revelation that the authors think in racialistic terms. Their whole approach is that of people steeped in the racialism of the Herrenvolk, their condescending attitude towards the African section, their arrogance and superciliousness. Every mistake, real or imaginary, committed by an African must be due to tribalism, in the same way as a Herrenvolk racist blames the caste system for the crimes of the Indians and shouts 'Ghetto!' whenever a Jewish person is involved.... So steeped are our petit bourgeois critics, our so-called 'foundationists,' in this mode of thinking that they do not even know that they themselves ^{are} peddling Herrenvolk ideas. When the Non-Whites demand equality, De Wet Nel is convinced that they are bluffing. What they want is superiority. When they get the vote, they will use their greater numbers to oppress the Whites. This belief is shared by all the Herrenvolk and the idea is used to unite the 'volk' and galvanise them into action whenever the Non-Whites make a move in the direction of freedom. But what does one say when a group of Non-Europeans uses the same idea to set one section of the oppressed against another? Are there words to describe the enormity of such ~~is~~ treachery? And yet this is precisely what the 'foundationists' have done in this pamphlet."

THE FRAME-UP.

The article goes on to demonstrate how, in pretending that the Convention had left the Movement, the 'foundationists' utilized Mr. Tsotsi's presidential address, delivered at Edendale, 1958, mangled it out of all recognition and juggled with quotations so as to convey the very opposite of what was meant. On such questions as the land, as well as on nationalism, they had to resort to falsification, since they were determined to prove that he rejected the TEN-POINT PROGRAMME.

~~The article concludes by pointing out the effect of ~~the~~ political crisis particularly on the intellectuals in S. Africa. The liberals are trying desperately to re-establish contact with the petit bourgeois leaders of the Non-Europeans and the petit bourgeois is subjected to pressures that steadily undermine his moral fibre~~

The article sums up the significance of the attacks on the Unity Movement, pointing out how acutely the petit-bourgeois intellectual in particular feels the pressure of political crisis. "The revolt against the Unity Movement is an indication that the petit-bourgeois has reached the end of his tether and can no longer stand the strain. The shrieking at the top of the voice as they withdraw... is both an announcement to their 'friends' that they are no longer associated with the Unity Movement/,"

Movement, and an attempt to draw away with them the whole of the Coloured sector of the Non-Europeans.It is ~~impossible~~ far too late now to attempt to withdraw the Coloured people from their place alongside their fellow-oppressed. In these last 16 years the Coloured people, like all other sections of the Non-Europeans, have absorbed all too well the teachings of the N.E.U.M.....The Non-Europeans know they are suffering from the same oppression; they have a common enemy and they have the same aspirations. It is upon this recognition, upon this base, that the N.E.U.M. is built. If individual leaders decide to desert it, they might hamper it a bit, delay its growth, but they cannot kill it. If the weak fall by the wayside, the best elements will step into their place. The Movement will grow with greater vigour precisely because it has survived an attack and has in the process developed these characteristics necessary for survival."