

The South African Way of Life . . .

Freedom in Transkei

● *Matatiele is a small "white" village in the Transkeian Territories. Throughout the whole of the Transkei one must get permission from the local Bantu Affairs Commissioner before one can hold a political meeting which might be attended by more than ten Africans.*

The Matatiele Branch of the Liberal Party was granted permission to hold its Annual General Meeting in February on two conditions:

1. *That the Special Branch could attend;*
2. *That neither Bantustans nor the Transkei Territorial Authority were discussed.*

Really!

(P.S.: At the last minute even this permission was withdrawn and it was subsequently refused for the Kokstad A.G.M. in the same area.)

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"Lucky she was not Shot . . ."

● *Late in 1961, Regina Tofile, Liberal Party member in the Transvaal, was charged with resisting arrest. Found guilty of squatting and resisting arrest, she was sentenced to six months' gaol, without the option of a fine, on each count. It was her first offence. In passing sentence the magistrate told her she was lucky that she was not in Russia, because there she would have been shot!*

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"Branch" shows Interest

● *After a meeting had been held in a private home in Newcastle, Northern Natal, for the purpose of getting people interested in the Liberal Party, the house-owner was visited and questioned by the Special Branch. They travelled from Ladysmith, sixty miles away, to do it.*

Law and Order

● *In early February the Minister of Justice announced that in the ten years 1951 to 1960, 3,511,151 Africans were **convicted** of pass and influx control offences. He didn't say how many were **arrested**. The figure for 1960 was 340,958, slightly below average, but still a fantastic figure.*

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"Just put them in a Home . . ."

● *A white woman from Durban married a St. Helena seaman in 1939. It was perfectly legal for her to do so then. But under present South African race classification laws he is regarded as Coloured. The woman had six children and she later divorced her husband. Three children have since married Coloured men. The woman has now remarried a white man. The children live with them—for the moment. Unfortunately husband and wife are classified as white and the three children as Coloured. The Group Areas Act says white and Coloured may not live in the same area. What do the authorities suggest? "Put the children in a home . . ."*

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Immoral Marriage

● *Mr. and Mrs. S. Singh, man and wife legally married in Rhodesia in December, were recently subjected to trial in open court in Durban under the Immorality Act, read together with the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, because their normal conjugal relations were alleged to be "unlawful carnal intercourse" in the opinion of the State, she being white, he being an Indian. The magistrate found them not guilty—because the State could not prove that Mr. Singh was domiciled in South Africa.*