

in this issue . . .

EDITORIALS	1. THE SUCCESSION	2
	2. GRAFT	3
	3. THE DEMOCRATS	3
A TRULY EXTRAORDINARY CHAP by Creina Alcock		3
SUGGESTIONS FOR AN ECONOMIC POLICY FOR THE FUTURE by Gavin Maasdorp		4
CIVIL LIBERTIES by Douglas Irvine		8
THE RULE OF LAW AND BASIC FREEDOMS by Tony Mathews		9
LIBERALISM AND A BILL OF RIGHTS by Michael Cowling		10
THE STORY OF AN AFRICAN <i>FEMME</i> — a review of Daphne Rooke's <i>MITTEE</i> by Tony Voss		13
A CONVERSATION WITH A PILGRIM — a review of Guy Butler's <i>PILGRIMAGE TO DIAS CROSS</i> : a Narrative Poem by Colin Gardner		14
GOD IN SOUTH AFRICA: THE CHALLENGE OF THE GOSPEL — a review of Albert Nolan's book by Edmund Hill		17
RE-EMERGENCY — a review of Richard Rive's Book <i>Emergency</i> by M. J. Daymond		19

Cover picture: Paul Weinberg, AFRAPIX.

Articles printed in **Reality** do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editorial Board

EDITORIALS

1. The Succession

The Nationalist Party has a long tradition of electing to the highest office the person most of the rest of us have regarded as the worst possible choice. Strijdom followed Malan, Verwoerd followed Strijdom, and Vorster followed Verwoerd.

When P. W. Botha became Prime Minister, with his long association with the military, it seemed that the same had happened again, but we were wrong. We know now that Connie Mulder would have been worse.

Mr Botha when he finally decides to do it, will leave behind him a South Africa very different from the one he inherited. Some of the changes have been good. The abolition of influx control was very important, as has been the growth of the trade unions. He had the courage to face up to Dr Treurnicht and his Conservatives and force them out of the Nationalist Party. His constitutional reform proposals have been a disaster in themselves, but they have produced some quite unintended consequences. The most significant of these has been the change in the mood of the country.

The tri-cameral system provided a focus point for black resistance which had not existed before. On that was built an opposition to apartheid so widespread and deep-seated amongst black people that, however long it may take it to

collapse, they are now convinced that apartheid is in its terminal stage. They have a confidence in this perception that would have been unthinkable ten years ago.

If the black mood has changed, so has the Afrikaner mood. The granite is disintegrating, and the old certainties are gone. Eugene Terreblanche may be on the rampage and the Conservatives may be the official opposition, but other Afrikaners are increasingly taking the lead in initiatives designed to help lay the foundations for a new, non-racial society.

All this leaves the Nationalist Party in a state of increasing confusion, since added to tenfold by the President's stubborn and arrogant refusal to retire gracefully and make way for Mr F. W. de Klerk. As for the rest of us, there is a tragic sense that a moment of opportunity may be slipping by. For Mr de Klerk, despite his conservative reputation, does not carry with him into any new office the albatross of a long association with the security people or the military which his two immediate predecessors brought with them. His first few public pronouncements as Leader of the Nationalist Party even suggest that he may have an unexpectedly open mind about the future. For the sake of all South Africa we need to know just how open his mind is soon. P. W. Botha is making it impossible for us to find out. □