

Politieke twis in Goudstad bereik dooie punt

Vaderland 31/7/69

(Munisipale Verslaggewer)

DIE politieke twis wat in die Johannesburgse stadsraad ontstaan het oor die openbaring van die burgemeester, mnr. Patrick Lewis, se poging om die Goudstad se beeld te verbeter, het 'n dooie punt bereik.

Mnr. Lewis het gistermiddag gesê dat dit nou 'n politieke saak geword het en dat hy geen verklaring gaan doen of die korrespondensie wat tussen hom en mnr. Eben Cuyler, LPR, leier van die N.P.-groep in die stadsraad, oor die saak gevoer is, openbaar gaan maak nie.

Mnr. Cuyler het ook vanoggend gesê dat hy geen verdere kommentaar gaan lewer nie en hy hou by wat hy in die raadsaal gesê het.

Hy het namens sy koukus toestemming gegee dat die korrespondensie oor die saak tussen hom en die burgemeester ge-

publiseer mag word en dat die Sappe dit kan doen as hulle wil en bygevoeg dat hy dan daarna sal praat.

Oorsprong

Die bom het Dinsdag op die maandvergadering van die stadsraad gebars en mnr. Cuyler het reageer op 'n vurige politieke toespraak van mnr. J. F. Oberholzer, LPR en waarnemende voorsitter van die bestuurskomitee, waarin hy 'n baie vertroulike poging van die burgemeester om die beeld van die stad te verbeter, sonder mnr. Lewis se toestemming openbaar gemaak het.

Mnr. Oberholzer het die N.P.-

groep in die raad heftig aangeval en onder meer gesê dat die N.P. nie ten gunste van mnr. Lewis se plan is nie.

Mnr. Lewis het laat blyk dat hy nie wil hê dat die saak openbaar gemaak moes word nie. Die saak was dus hoogs vertroulik en mnr. Cuyler het Dinsdag, selfs nadat mnr. Oberholzer daarmee op die lappe gekom het, nie die inhoud van die saak of die korrespondensie openbaar gemaak nie.

Wat nou

Hy het sy vertrouensposisie gehandhaaf en die bal na die V.P.-kant toe geslaan. As hulle nie gaan terugslaan nie, wil dit lyk of dit een storie gaan wees waarvan die slothoofstuk nie geskryf gaan word nie.

R. D. M. 21/7/69

Daily Mail

TOO GOOD TO DROP

THE people of Johannesburg are entitled to feel indignant and bewildered. A brilliant idea of great potential value to the city has been sabotaged by the Nationalist Opposition group in the City Council—and for no discernible reason whatsoever.

The idea, the brain-child of the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, was to bring more than 200 Cabinet Ministers, M.P.s, Senators and heads of Government departments to Johannesburg for comprehensive familiarisation tours with the broad aim of improving relations and understanding between the Government and its Administration, on the one hand, and South Africa's largest and most important city, on the other.

These relations and this understanding have not been all that good in recent years, as is perfectly well known. Clearly such a state of affairs is undesirable and the Mayor is to be commended for his imaginative move to try to improve the position. After all, with Johannesburg the industrial, commercial and financial hub of the country, it is of national and not merely civic importance that co-operation between city and Government should be as close as possible. For, as the stock market setback has shown, when Johannesburg sneezes, South Africa catches cold.

Naturally enough, almost everyone was enthusiastic about the Mayor's scheme, including such bodies as the Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Mines, Chamber of Industries, the Sakekammer, the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society and the Johannesburg Publicity Association. They had no difficulty in perceiving the advantages that could flow from this top-level public relations exercise.

Now, however, the project has almost foundered because the Nationalist minority group, led by the unpredictable Mr. Cuyler, has insisted on obstructing it. And here two

questions arise which need a deal of answering.

The first is that the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, apparently gave his approval to the scheme—providing it had the unanimous backing of the City Council. So one may well ask why, if the scheme was acceptable to the Leader of the National Party it should be opposed at a much lower level by a group of members of the party. Did Mr. Vorster's qualified approval not signal to Mr. Cuyler and his colleagues that they should fall in with the idea and if not why not?

The second point of doubt arises from the "explanation" of his attitude given by Mr. Cuyler. He said that he was greatly worried by the establishment of direct contacts between the city and the Government. From the time of Union, supervisory functions over local authorities had been given to the provinces but now the latter were being increasingly short-circuited, notably in matters relating to planning, community development, Bantu administration, health and transport.

This is perfectly true but who is Mr. Cuyler suddenly to emerge as the champion of the provincial system? Have not the Nationalists been systematically breaking it down as if they had no regard for it at all? And have not the Nationalists constantly been pressing for powers that override those of local authorities at both provincial and municipal level?

Whatever the answers to these puzzles may be, it would be a great pity if the Mayor's scheme were allowed to die. Either the matter should be taken up again with the Government in a way that would ensure the support of Mr. Cuyler's group or else it should be taken over and run independently by a consortium of other well-disposed bodies such as those referred to above. This is too good an idea to drop if it can possibly be saved.

NATS ACCUSED OF HITLER TAKEOVER BID

By CHRIS DAY *Rand Daily Mail*
Municipal Reporter *30th July 1969*

NATIONALIST CITY COUNCILLORS were accused last night of attempting to set up a "super" regional planning body so as to gain control of Johannesburg and force it to obey Government policy.

The accusations followed a motion put to the council by the leader of the National Party group, Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., that the Management Committee ask the Province

or the Government to establish a regional council with executive powers to control planning and development in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging region.

Mr. Cuyler's motion drew heated reaction from United Party councillors who accused Mr. Cuyler of using Hitler-type tactics to gain control of Johannesburg.

Mr. Alf Widman, M.P.C., leader of the United Party in the council, said: "We are afraid of being swallowed up. We are afraid of losing our democratic rights. We are afraid the powers of every municipality will be usurped by these super bodies."

He said the city council welcomed a joint planning committee to control regional development, but what was first needed was to establish what the problems were before

deciding what kind of body should be in control.

Mr. Widman said there was existing legislation for the creation of such bodies, but Mr. Cuyler wanted to "use a hammer to kill a fly."

"This is typical of most Nationalist legislation," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Cuyler said in support of his motion that municipalities had to realise that the time had come when some of their powers would have to be relinquished to make way for regional planning bodies.

Johannesburg, for instance, had got too big for the city council to handle and the time had come for its development to be controlled by a statutory regional body.

He warned that if Johannesburg continued to isolate itself from the Central Government and the Province, it would become an "island in South Africa doomed to chaos."

Mr. Alan Gadd (U.P.) said that of all the cities in Germany, Berlin was the only one which withstood Hitler.

SUICIDE

"And Hitler finally got it by the type of legislation which Mr. Cuyler is trying to introduce here.

"He has been told by the electorate, 'Hands off Johannesburg.' So now he is trying to get control of the city with this sinister motion."

Mr. Horace van Rensburg (U.P.) said Mr. Cuyler's motion was to be viewed with great mistrust because the Government's record of legislation could evoke no other feeling.

Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C., acting chairman of the Management Committee, accused the Nationalist councillors of thwarting an attempt by the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, to organise an extended visit to Johannesburg by more than 200 M.P.s and State officials to improve relations with the Central Government.

"This is the type of attitude we get when we try to take the first step to improve relations with the Government," he said.

"Mr. Cuyler's motion is asking us, and all other local authorities, to commit suicide."

Mr. Cuyler's motion was defeated and an amended one — put forward by Mr. Widman — calling for a joint planning committee to determine how regional problems should be solved, was accepted instead.

Nat veto — Mayor will not issue statement

Rand Daily Mail *4th Aug. 69*
MUNICIPAL REPORTER

THE MAYOR of Johannesburg, Mr. Patrick Lewis, has decided against issuing a statement on the controversy which followed the disclosure last week that Nationalist councillors had last year vetoed his plan to organise a comprehensive tour of the city by more than 200 Members of Parliament, Senators and State officials.

Mr. Lewis said he had decided against issuing a statement because he did not want the mayoral office to be dragged into the political arena.

Last week, the acting chairman of the Management Committee, Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C., revealed at a council meeting that Mr. Lewis's plan had been thwarted by Nationalist councillors. He claimed they had done this because they did not want the Johannesburg City Council to better its relations with the Government.

Mr. Oberholzer said he was making the disclosure without Mr. Lewis's knowledge. Mr. Lewis was not in the council chamber at the time.

Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., leader of the National Party in the Council, then challenged Mr. Oberholzer to release the correspondence between his party in the council and Mr. Lewis on the issue.

Mr. Lewis said yesterday that, although he did not want to comment on the issue, he had no objection to Mr. Cuyler revealing details of the correspondence. Mr. Cuyler was not available for comment last night.

Cuyler refuses to disclose letters

Rand Daily Mail
5th Aug. 69

Municipal Reporter

THE LEADER of the National Party in the Johannesburg City Council, Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., has surprisingly refused to reveal details of the correspondence between himself and the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, over Mr. Lewis's plan to organise an extensive tour of the city by more than 200 M.P.s, senators and State officials.

Nationalist councillors vetoed the plan when it was proposed by Mr. Lewis last year.

This was revealed at a city council meeting last week by the acting chairman of the Management Committee, Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C., who said the Nats did not want the council to better its relations with the Central Government.

CHALLENGE

Mr. Cuyler then challenged Mr. Oberholzer to publish details of the correspondence between himself and Mr. Lewis on the issue.

Mr. Lewis said this week he did not want to comment on the matter because he did not want the mayoral office to be dragged into the political arena.

He said, however, he had no objections to Mr. Cuyler revealing details of the correspondence.

Mr. Cuyler told the "Rand Daily Mail" yesterday: "I will not make the correspondence public and I do not want to comment further on the issue. As far as I am concerned, the matter is closed."

SHOCKING

Mr. Cuyler refused to give reasons for his decisions.

Mr. Oberholzer said last night that Mr. Cuyler had tried to drag the mayor into the political arena.

"He also told us he would give three days to disclose the correspondence or he would come out with shocking revelations.

"He was very boastful, but now the chips are down it is obvious that he has something to hide.

"I believe his own people have realised what an irresponsible leader he is. He turned down a tour that would have included not only perhaps the Prime Minister, but also leading members of his party.

"The only conclusion people can come to is that Mr. Cuyler has come out of this issue very badly indeed." Mr. Oberholzer said.

PLAN FOR VISIT BY M.P.s

Plea to Cuyler: drop opposition

Star 5th Aug, '69.

AN EARNEST PLEA was made today to the leader of Johannesburg's Nationalist city councillors, Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., to drop his opposition to the proposed visit to the city by more than 200 Members of Parliament, senators and heads of Government departments.

The call came from the acting chairman of Johannesburg's Management Committee, Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C., who said that if Mr. Cuyler did not want the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, to arrange the visit, he was sure organizations such as the Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Mines, the Sakekamer and the Stock Exchange would be happy to do so.

The proposed visit, originally mooted by the Mayor, fell through after the Nationalist opposition in the city council had given the thumbs down. Mr. Lewis had earlier asked the Prime Minister about the staging of the visit and Mr. Vorster had been agreeable, provided the city council was unanimous in accepting the idea.

DAMAGING

"I think Mr. Cuyler has done a lot of damage to Johannesburg," Mr. Oberholzer said in an interview today. "I think he is afraid to show people that the city is not the Sodom and Gomorrah he has always made it out to be.

"He was afraid the visitors would see for themselves and would naturally question the accuracy of the statements he had made in the past."

Mr. Oberholzer said that one of the places he and his colleagues especially wanted the visitors to see was Soweto — what the position was there and what it could be like.

"We believe that as a result of the shortage of funds for housing we are reaching a critical stage in Soweto. People are becoming restive. We wanted the Government to see that additional funds are urgently needed."

Soweto was becoming increasingly crowded. Families were sharing houses and "doubling up" all over the township.

"We have an official waiting list for houses of more than 10,000. We believe there are thousands of others who are living with other families and have not yet reported the fact."

PROUD ACHIEVEMENT

Mr. Oberholzer said the Government's contribution to Soweto was enormous and — with the Johannesburg City Council — the State could "surely be proud of its achievements there."

He strongly believed parliamentarians should see the city's achievements.

"After all, Johannesburg's con-

tribution to the national Treasury is enormous. The city is the country's economic generator. It would be in the interests of everyone associated with the legislative and taxation machinery to see this. They would get an excellent perspective of what this city means to South Africa.

"I think Mr. Cuyler has done Johannesburg a disservice with

his bigoted, small-minded attitude.

"In any event, he would have had the opportunity of showing the visitors the bad side of things if he so wished. He would have been a party to the visit—one of the hosts. We would have welcomed his pointing out all the failings of the Johannesburg City Council."

Mr. Cuyler was not available for comment today on Mr. Oberholzer's plea.

CITY FRIENDSHIP BID 'THWARTED'

Star 30th July 1969.

NATIONALIST CITY COUNCILLORS thwarted a serious attempt by the Mayor last year to improve relations between Johannesburg and the Government.

This fact, a secret closely kept for many months, was revealed to the City Council last night by the acting chairman of the Management Committee, Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C.

Speaking, he said, without the approval of the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, he told how the latter's scheme to bring more than 200 Cabinet Ministers, M.P.s, Senators and heads of Government departments to Johannesburg for comprehensive tours in the city had to be abandoned because of the Nationalist city councillors' opposition.

Mr. Lewis was not in the council chamber when Mr. Oberholzer made the disclosure.

His speech followed a surprising plea by Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., for an end to direct contact between the City Council and various Government departments.

Mr. Cuyler was introducing a

motion, later defeated, calling for the establishment of a regional planning council with executive powers for the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging complex.

NECK OUT

Saying that he was "sticking his neck out," Mr. Cuyler said that these direct contacts had worried him a great deal. From the time of Union, the supervisory functions over local authori-

ties had been given to the provinces. But Government departments — such as Planning, Community Development, Bantu Administration, Health and Transport — were now making direct contact with local authorities and not through the provinces.

This led in many respects to confusion. He felt the confusion must be eliminated as soon as possible and a solution found.

UITLAP KAN OOK

TOESMEER

Deur Ons Stadsverslaggewer

G AAN die Sappe die briefwisseling oor die plan om die hele Parlement na Johannesburg te nooi, openbaar maak of nie? Hulle het nog so 'n dag of twee kans om dit te doen voordat die tweede bom oor die saak bars.

Die plan van die burgemeester, mnr. P. R. B. Lewis, om Johannesburg se beeld na buite te verbeter, is maande soos goud bewaar. Eergisteraand is dit op die maandvergadering van die raad uitgelap deur niemand minder nie as mnr. J. F. Oberholzer, LPR en waarnemende voorsitter van die bestuurskomitee.

Die rede was gou duidelik. Mnr. Oberholzer is nie nafief nie en sal beslis nie sonder die toestemming van 'n Sap-kragman soos mnr. Lewis so 'n storie oorvertel nie, al het hy herhaaldelik beklemtoon dat hy nie mnr. Lewis se toestemming het om die geheim uit te lap nie.

Dit is met mnr. Lewis se seën oorvertel, word algemeen aanvaar.

AFGESONDER

Mnr. Lewis was nie in die raadsaal toe mnr. Oberholzer aan die woord was nie.

Die plan was deel van mnr. Lewis se selfopgelegde taak om Johannesburg se beeld te verbeter. Die stad raak afgesonder, niemand hou juis van die Johannesburgers nie en een van die dae is die plek soos 'n een-same eiland in 'n groot see, is geredeneer.

Nooi die hele Parlement — Ministers, Volksraadslede, Senatore — en die hoofde van Staatsdepartemente om Johannesburg te besoek, het die plan toe gekom. Dit sal mense laat sien hoe goed die Goudstad en die Regering saamwerk. Die hoë besoekers sal terselfdertyd sien watter goeie plek Johannesburg is.

'n Vergadering is belê, geld is beloof en mnr. Lewis is Kaap toe om die saak te beklank. Die Premier, mnr. Vorster, het gesê dit is goed so, mits dit 'n eenparige besluit van Johannesburg se stadsraad is.

DWARSBOOM

Toe veto mnr. Eben Cuyler, LPR en leier van die NP-groep in die raad, en sy koukuslede die plan, soos die Sappe nou sê. Dit is omdat hulle nie wil hê die Regering en Johannesburg moet saamwerk en vriende wees nie. Hulle dwarsboom die Sappe se goeie planne om Johannesburg se beeld mooi voor te stel, lui die storie.

Hoekom het mnr. Oberholzer nou die hele saak uitgelap? Dit was vertroulik, die briefwisseling was vertroulik, die ooreenkoms was as iets openbaar gemaak word, word albei partye in die saak geken, en mnr. Lewis het in sy jongste brief nog gesê dit is syns insiens onwenslik dat die saak in die pers ter sprake kom.

Toesmeer is die rede vir mnr. Oberholzer se optrede. Van sy jonger Sappe het in die debat oor mnr. Cuyler se mosie oor 'n streekbeplanningsraad erg voortvarend geraak en minstens een het beslis sy mond verby gepraat. Om daarna 'n digbe-waarde geheim uit te lap en die Nasionaliste as goggas voor te stel, was al manier om te red wat nog te redde is.

Dit is ondenkbaar dat mnr. Lewis nie van dié plan sou weet nie.

Die sondaar was mnr. H. E. Janse van Rensburg, wat vroeër die aand gesê het die soort mentaliteit wat weer dat Suid-Afrika televisie kry, moet tog net nie toegelaat word om Johannesburg te help beplan nie. Johannesburg is trots op wat hy alleen bereik het en sal geen inmenging deur die Nasionale Party duld nie. Die Verenigde Party in die stad hou nie tred met die Regering en die res van die land nie, en hy dank die hemel daarvoor, het mnr. Van Rensburg gesê. Hulle wil niks van die Nasionale Party in Johannesburg hê nie.

Niks behalwe sy geld nie, het dit van NP-kant gekom.

Later die aand het mnr. A. Gadd gesê die Nasionaliste wil Johannesburg oorneem soos Hitler Berlyn oorgeneem het — deur wetgewing.

VERDER VOER

Dat dit darem te erg was vir mense wat sê hulle wil nouer met die Regering en die Provinsie saamwerk oor streeksbeplanning, het tot die Sappe deurgedring. Hulle moes wal-gooi, en mnr. Oberholzer het dit gedoen met die enigste effektiewe storie tot sy beskikking.

Nou kan die klesers sien wie wil nie Johannesburg se beeld verbeter nie, het hy gereken. Toe het mnr. Cuyler opgestaan en die vertroueskending geopenbaar. Hoë mense, onder wie die Premier en die Speaker, mnr. H. J. Klopper, se name is by die saak ingesleep.

Mnr. Cuyler het namens sy koukus toestemming gegee dat die briefwisseling oor die saak gepubliseer word. Die Sappe kan dit doen, het hy gesê, maar daarna gaan hy praat.

Gister was daar nog geen reaksie van Sap-kant nie. Mnr. Cuyler het eergisteraand gesê hy gee hulle 'n paar dae kans, dan sal hy die saak verder voer.

An unexplained "no"

Stas 7/8/69
IT WAS an imaginative plan. Cabinet Ministers, I.M.P.s, Senators and heads of Government departments, more than 200 in all, were to be invited to Johannesburg and shown its workings in detail. For the visitors it would have been an education. For councillors and leading figures in commerce and industry it would have been a valuable opportunity to discuss problems with the men who shape policies and in far too many cases have personal knowledge of Pretoria and Cape Town but very little of the city that is the mainspring of South Africa's economy. Over and above this, the personal contacts that would have been established would undoubtedly have brought about a better understanding in many things.

But the plan has come to nothing. There was no sign of reluctance on the guest side, but a coterie of councillors decided they wanted no part in the friendly gesture — the Nationalist Party councillors led by Mr. Cuyler — and as the Prime Minister naturally enough required the invitation to be unanimous, the idea had to be abandoned. Party politics had unforgivably been allowed to take precedence over the public interest.

Why did Mr. Cuyler impose his veto? He will not say publicly. As far as others can remember (the matter is now more than eight months old) Mr. Cuyler then said there must be better relations before such a visit took place, and there was already too much direct contact — with the Provincial Council being ignored — between the central Government and the city council. One of the main purposes of the get-together was to build goodwill, so Mr. Cuyler's first reason is frivolous. The second one is a procedural matter he can take up at any time.

Since he has chosen not to explain himself, Mr. Cuyler must not be surprised if the public draws the conclusion that Johannesburg's Nationalist councillors do not in fact want better relations between the city and higher levels of Government. It is a distressing thought.

CUYLER UNDER FIRE

Mr. Eben Cuyler, leader of the Nationalist opposition in the city council, came under heavy fire last night for his refusal to agree to the proposed visit of more than 200 V.I.P.s to Johannesburg.

Mr. Harry Schwarz, M.P.C., told a United Party meeting in Saxonwold that if Mr. Cuyler continued to oppose the visit and persisted in refusing to give reasons for his opposition, it could only be assumed that "he wants to oppose because he wants bad relationships between the city of Johannesburg and the central government." It could be assumed too that Mr. Cuyler did not want an improvement in relations for a purely political motive.

Mr. Schwarz, leader of the United Party in the Transvaal Provincial Council, was speaking in support of the United Party candidate in next week's municipal by-election in Ward 8, Brig. J. T. Durrant.

"Mr. Cuyler wants to come along and say: 'Well, you see, if I were in power in Johannesburg, if the Nationalists were in power, then of course you would get on better with the Government'."

Mr. Cuyler would stand in the way of the visit to stop good relations that would be of benefit to the city.

Mr. Schwarz said that when the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, had put his idea to the United Party caucus of inviting more than 200 M.P.s, senators and heads of Government departments to Johannesburg, the caucus agreed and ruled that the visit should be a non-political matter.

ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO CUYLER

MUNICIPAL REPORTER

THE LEADER of the National Party in the Johannesburg City Council, Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., was last night again challenged to make public the correspondence between himself and the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, over the proposed tour of the city by more than 200 M.P.s, Senators and State officials.

U.P. has an overdraft — Schwarz

MUNICIPAL REPORTER

THE UNITED PARTY has an overdraft, says the leader of the party in the Transvaal Provincial Council, Mr. Harry Schwarz.

Mr. Schwarz told a U.P. meeting in Johannesburg last night: "I don't mind admitting the United Party has an overdraft.

"We got the overdraft because we are a good moral risk."

He was commenting on a statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, that the National Party had collected R400,000 from its supporters while the United Party had an overdraft.

"We are not ashamed that we need this to fight the Nats," Mr. Schwarz said.

"If we can't afford all the trimmings of an election we certainly have a solid platform to fight from."

It was obvious that the coffers of the National Party were being filled by industrialists—"you can't raise R400,000 from the working class," said Mr. Schwarz.

The challenge was made by Mr. Harry Schwarz, leader of the United Party in the Provincial Council, at a U.P. meeting at Saxonwold, Johannesburg, last night.

Earlier this month Mr. Cuyler refused a similar challenge to reveal details of the correspondence.

Mr. Schwarz said Mr. Lewis had tried to organise the tour on a non-political basis last year to enable the Central Government to get a greater understanding of the workings of Johannesburg.

"The tour was accepted by all those concerned, including the Speaker of the House, on the condition that it was the unanimous decision of the city council.

Mr. Cuyler had vetoed the tour: "I challenge him to make public the correspondence".

Mr. Schwarz said: "I want to ask Mr. Cuyler why he opposed this non-political tour. Up until now all we've got from him is silence.

"One can only assume he does not want the relations between Johannesburg and the Government to be bettered.

"He wants this for a purely political motive. He wants people to believe that only if he is in power in the council will this relationship be bettered.

"If this is his motive, it should be made public."

Mr. Schwarz said he had an offer to make to Mr. Cuyler on behalf of the United Party.

"If he will be man enough to reverse his opposition to the tour, we promise not to take any political advantage."

Cuyler rapped for vetoing M.P.s' visit

By JACK SACKSE

Sunday Times
10/19/67

BY BRINGING petty politics to the forefront, the leader of the Nationalist minority in the Johannesburg City Council, Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., had "so bedevilled the atmosphere" that there was no chance of reviving a scheme put forward by the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, to bring about better understanding between the Government and Johannesburg: This is the conclusion of Mr. J. F. Oberholzer, M.P.C., chairman of the City Council's Management Committee.

He told me: "I thought at one stage there was still a chance of saving the project. On reconsideration I don't think this is possible now. The harm has been done."

The Mayor's plan grew out of a talk he had with the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Mr. J. H. Klopper towards the end of last year.

Condition

They met at a function, and there the Speaker spoke of the improved relations between the Government and the mining industry. He recalled how the mining industry had invited parliamentarians to see for themselves exactly what was being done.

Mr. Lewis thought it would be a good idea for Johannesburg to do something similar, so he called

led a meeting of representatives of industry, commerce and mining — both English-speaking and Afrikaans-speaking organisations — and there his proposal received a most enthusiastic response.

Mr. Oberholzer said the mayor then went to Cape Town, where he spoke to the Speaker and to the Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster who told him he liked the idea.

But Mr. Vorster made it a condition of acceptance that the invitation to Johannesburg and the scheme generally should have the unanimous approval of all parties in Johannesburg.

Mr. Lewis returned to Johannesburg feeling pleased with the way things had gone, said Mr. Oberholzer.

"It was then that Mr. Cuyler dropped his bombshell. He had been kept in the picture and he now stated categorically that his group was opposed to the scheme.

"That wrecked it."

"In many ways I consider it a calamity for the city that Mr. Cuyler exercised what amounted to a veto, otherwise a great step forward would have been taken in forging a real understanding of our difficulties and problems and hopes in the minds of the Government."

Boundaries

Mr. Oberholzer said he felt very sad about the attitude taken by Mr. Cuyler. Through the acquisition of an area south of the previous boundaries, Johannesburg had overnight more than doubled its size.

It was at a time like this, when one had to plan and think big, that smallmindedness had prevailed, said Mr. Oberholzer. "A great opportunity had been lost which may never occur again."

Tovarich Cuyler

Sunday Times

10th August, 1969.

EVERYONE WHO HAS JOHANNESBURG'S interests at heart would welcome a visit from 200 Parliamentarians.

What a wonderful opportunity it would give our legislators to study the complexities of this great city at first hand — to observe its achievements, to acquaint themselves with its problems, and to note its weaknesses.

Yet, because Mr. Eben Cuyler, a Nationalist city councillor of Johannesburg, possesses a veto, which he has chosen to exercise, the Parliamentary visit is off.

The veto is so obviously unreasonable that it is quite impossible for Mr. Cuyler to give a convincing explanation for his action, and he has wisely chosen to say nothing at all.

Mr. Cuyler possesses this power of veto because the visit depended on the unanimous agreement of the city council — and he will not agree to it.

The Prime Minister, however, was quite prepared to undertake the visit (subject to the proviso mentioned) and we wonder what he thinks about Mr. Cuyler's stubborn objection.

If the Parliamentarians were at all conscientious they might provide Mr. Cuyler and his colleagues with a training course in the art of conquering petulance by the exercise of a little self-discipline.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cuyler remains our own little Molotov cocktail. All he can say is "Nyet."

RAND DAILY MAIL, Tuesday, August 12, 1969.

ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO CUYLER

MUNICIPAL REPORTER

THE LEADER of the National Party in the Johannesburg City Council, Mr. Eben Cuyler, M.P.C., was last night again challenged to make public the correspondence between himself and the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, over the proposed tour of the city by more than 200 M.P.s, Senators and State officials.

The challenge was made by Mr. Harry Schwarz, leader of the United Party in the Provincial Council, at a U.P. meeting at Saxonwold, Johannesburg, last night.

Earlier this month Mr. Cuyler refused a similar challenge to reveal details of the correspondence.

Mr. Schwarz said Mr. Lewis had tried to organise the tour on a non-political basis last year to enable the Central Government to get a greater understanding of the workings of Johannesburg.

"The tour was accepted by all those concerned, including the Speaker of the House, on the condition that it was the unanimous decision of the city council.

Mr. Cuyler had vetoed the tour: "I challenge him to make public the correspondence".

Mr. Schwarz said: "I want to ask Mr. Cuyler why he opposed this non-political tour. Up until now all we've got from him is silence.

"One can only assume he does not want the relations between Johannesburg and the Government to be bettered.

"He wants this for a purely political motive. He wants people to believe that only if he is in power in the council will this relationship be bettered.

"If this is his motive, it should be made public."

Mr. Schwarz said he had an offer to make to Mr. Cuyler on behalf of the United Party.

"If he will be man enough to reverse his opposition to the tour, we promise not to take any political advantage."

CUYLER UNDER FIRE

Star
12/8/69

Mr. Eben Cuyler, leader of the Nationalist opposition in the city council, came under heavy fire last night for his refusal to agree to the proposed visit of more than 200 V.I.P.s to Johannesburg.

Mr. Harry Schwarz, M.P.C., told a United Party meeting in Saxonwold that if Mr. Cuyler continued to oppose the visit and persisted in refusing to give reasons for his opposition, it could only be assumed that "he wants to oppose because he wants bad relationships between the city of Johannesburg and the central government." It could be assumed too that Mr. Cuyler did not want an improvement in relations for a purely political motive.

Mr. Schwarz, leader of the United Party in the Transvaal Provincial Council, was speaking in support of the United Party candidate in next week's municipal by-election in Ward 8, Brig. J. T. Durrant.

"Mr. Cuyler wants to come along and say: 'Well, you see, if I were in power in Johannesburg, if the Nationalists were in power, then of course you would get on better with the Government.'"

Mr. Cuyler would stand in the way of the visit to stop good relations that would be of benefit to the city.

Mr. Schwarz said that when the Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, had put his idea to the United Party caucus of inviting more than 200 M.P.s, senators and heads of Government departments to Johannesburg, the caucus agreed and ruled that the visit should be a non-political matter.

Prog hits
R.D.M. 13/8/69

at U.P.
over
city tour

Staff Reporter

MR. PETER HENRY, Progressive Party candidate for the Johannesburg municipal by-election in Ward 8, yesterday lashed out at United Party challenges to Mr. Eben Cuyler to publish correspondence on Johannesburg's invitation to 200 dignitaries to visit the city.

The Mayor, Mr. Patrick Lewis, last year proposed a plan to organise an extensive tour of the city by more than 200 M.P.s, senators, and State officials. Nationalist councillors vetoed the plan and their leader, Mr. Cuyler, has repeatedly refused to publish details of correspondence on the issue.

"It is time the farce over this correspondence was brought to a halt," said Mr. Henry in a Press statement.

"The United Party has made a great outcry over it and, if it is so serious, let them stop using it to score political debating points," he said.

SIDESTEPPED

Mr. Henry said citizens of Johannesburg should be allowed to judge on the matter themselves. They should demand that the correspondence be made public without any further delay.

He felt the council had side-stepped its responsibilities by not taking the citizens of Johannesburg into its confidence.

Mr. Henry said he had serious reservations about the usefulness of a "glorified package tour" of Johannesburg by 200 people.

"A smaller, more intimate, visit by a few key people would be far more effective. Nevertheless, having embarked on such a venture, the council should tell the citizens why it misfired."

Die Sappe knor vir mekaar

SOOS Johannesburg se Sappe darem deesdae mekaar se hare trek, is iets wat 'n mens moet sien voor jy dit kan glo. Ook nie meer in die geheim nie, sommer oop en bloot in die raadsaal.

Dinsdag op die maandvergadering van die stadsraad was dit weer so. En dit onderwyl geskryf word die Verenigde Party is bankrot en gespekuleer word oor sy opvolger. Johannesburg is omtrent die laaste Sap-vesting en nou moet 'n bankrot party dié vesting met verdeelde magte probeer hou.

Daar is glo darem twee Sappe wat soos een man saam staan en dié span se doel is blykbaar om 'n paar van die ander kaf te loop. Die spanlede is mnr. P. R. B. Lewis, die burgemeester, en mnr. J. F. Oberholzer, LPR die waarnemende voorsitter van die bestuurskomitee. Mens se hulle is nie baie lief vir mnr. A. B. Widman, LPR, leier van die VP en die raad en lid van die bestuurskomitee, nie.

Daar is van die ander Sappe wat dit glo ook nie sal kan waag om teen die span te wees nie.

Dinsdag was daar 'n aanbeveling van die bestuurskomitee voor die raad oor 'n verbindingspad tussen Craighallpark en Parkhurst deur Vierde Laan te verleng. Mnr. Horace van Rensburg en dr. C. J. Ross-Spencer, albei VP-lede, was teen die aanbeveling en het 'n petisie met 2,700 handtekeninge ingelewer om hul standpunt te steun.

Die aanbeveling is na die komitee terugverwys, want, het mnr. Oberholzer gesê, hulle wil nie met voetbalkoene aan oor die mense se gevoelens stap nie.



UIT DIE RAADSAAL
deur
Ignia Wessels

Hoekom nou só maak met 'n aanbeveling van die bestuurskomitee? Soos mnr. Eben Cuyler, LPR, leier van die NP-groep in die raad, tereg gevra het, hoekom nie die saak in die kookus onder mekaar uitmaak nie?

Sulke optrede getuig tog nie van eensgesindheid en broederlike liefde nie, of wil die Sappe wys hoe goed hulle vir mense met besware is? Daar is tog seker ander maniere?

Bekamp

DIT is tyd dat die Johannesburgse stadsraad iets doen om die stof van mynhope af, wat veral in die suidelike voorstede 'n verpesting is, te bekamp. Die stof is 'n onnodige irritasie en deskundiges het al gesê die getal longsektegevalle in die suide is abnormaal, het mnr. S. P. Barnard, LPR, Dinsdag gesê.

Die raad moet nou opdrag gee dat die mynhope beplant word. Die myne het miljoene rande in Johannesburg gemaak en hulle sit bitter min terug. Die mynhooftof rig groot skade aan en in dele soos Robertsham en Turffontein lê die stof ná 'n jaar tot 'n duim dik op huise se plafonne. Dakteëls kan die stof nie uithou nie.

Masjinerie wat naby die mynhope gebruik word, slyt in só 'n mate dat selfs bykomende van die inkomstebelasting afgetrek kan word om vir die skade te vergoed. Geen wol-produk kan daar naby vervaardig word nie, want dit slaag nie.

Dit is 'n saak dié waaraan nou aandag gee moet word, se mnr. Barnard.

Beswaar

MNR. A. J. Reichel het namens die NP-groep beswaar gemaak ten die bou van 'n verpleeginrigting vir Asië in Fordsburg, waartoe die bestuurskomitee ingestem het. Hy het gesê die Nasionale Party wil die Asië nie hul regte ontsê nie, maar waarom kan die inrigting nie in Lenasia gebou word nie? Daar is nog baie plek, en wanneer Fordsburg 'n blanke gebied word, kan die inrigting dalk as wit olifant daar bly staan.

Die hoofswep van die groep, mnr. C. P. Venter, het gesê die raad mislei die aansoekers. Hulle moet eers 'n permit van die Departement van Gemeenskapsbou hê voordat hulle daar mag bou en dit sal beter wees om hulle eers die permit te laat kry. Dit sal verhinder dat hulle koste aangaan en dalk later nie 'n permit kry nie.

Die siekes sal in Fordsburg verpleeg moet word en gesinslede wat in Lenasia woon, sal heen en weer moet ry om hulle te besoek. Dit sal beter wees as die kliniek in Lenasia gebou word het NP-sprekers gesê. Die raad het juis aansoek gedoen dat Lenasia by sy regsgebied ingelyf word.

Kruistog

IN die groot kruistog om nywerhede te kry om kwynende goudmyne te vervang, moes Springs aan die Oos-rand seker die beste daarvan afgekomp het. In 1960 was die dorp se totale bates R27 milj. en vanjaar is dit R47 milj. Geboue van miljoene rande is in aanbou.

Daar word gesê 'n mens kan jou hande blou bid, maar as jy nie self uitspring nie, sal jy nie vorder nie. Springs maak van elke geteentheid gebruik om sy voordele en sy vooruitstrewende gees aan invloedrykes buite sy grense te wys.

Met die wedstryd verlede week tussen die Gaselle en die Wallabies het Springs die kans waargeneem om vooraanstaande gaste te nooi en hulle op so 'n wyse te onthaal dat hulle nie anders kan as om as wakker en ondernemend beskryf te word nie, verneem ek. Springs se reklame is nie op die gaste se brood gesmeer nie; die doeltreffende en hartlike wyse waarop die onthaal gereël is, het eerder gespreek.

Die sukses is behaal ondanks die groot trekpleister op Loftus waar die Noord-Transvalers en Westelike Provinsie kragte gemeet het; en ondanks 'n nare ondervinding 'n paar jaar gelede toe verkeerschaos ontstaan het na 'n rugbytoets wat op Springs aangebied is.

Springs het nie in die as van dié effense fiasko gaan lê nie, maar blykbaar lesse geleer wat met vrug toegepas word.

Sappe se skokgeheim op die lappe

Transvaler 30/8/69 Deur Ignia Wessels

'N DIGBEWAARDE geheim van die Sap-beheerde Johannesburgse stadsraad het gisteraand dramaties uitgelek.

'n Plan wat die Sappe gehad het om „die beeld van Johannesburg na buite” te verbeter, het op die lappe gekom. Die naam van die Eerste Minister, mnr. Vorster, die Speaker van die Volksraad, mnr. H. J. Klopfer, en ander is genoem.

'n Senior Verenigde Partylid en Provinsiale Raadslid het die plan geopenbaar wat as 'n hoogs vertroulike saak tussen die burgemeester, mnr. P. M. Lewis, en die leier van die Nasionale Party in die raad, mnr. Eben Cuyler, beskou is.

Hy is mnr. J. F. Oberholzer, waarnemende voorsitter van die bestuurskomitee, wat gepraat het in die afwesigheid van mnr. Lewis.

WARM

Die Sap-plan het uitgelek in 'n warm debat oor 'n mosie van die Nasionale Party dat 'n streekbeplanningsraad met uitvoerende magte vir die Witwatersrandse gebied noodsaaklik is.

Mnr. Cuyler het, toe hy die mosie ingelei het, o.m. gesê dit kwel hom dat die provinsie by skakeling met plaaslike besture oor die hoof gesien word.

Hy het gesê dit lei tot verarring waarvoor 'n oplossing gevind behoort te word. Dit is een van die redes waarom 'n streekbeplanningsraad noodsaaklik is.

Nadat mnr. Cuyler al die voordele aan so 'n raad geskets het, het verskeie sprekers aan Nasionale kant daarvoor en Sappe daarteen gepraat.

AFGESLUIT

Mnr. Oberholzer het die debat afgesluit. Hy het gesê hy weet nou waarom mnr. Cuyler begaan is oor regstreekse skakeling tussen Johannesburg en

die Sentrale Regering.

Dit verplig hom om 'n „gru-verhaal” te vertel waarvoor hy nie die toestemming van die

burgemeester het nie. Die burgemeester was nie in die raadsaal nie.

● Vervolg op bl. 6, kol 6

Mnr. Oberholzer het gesê die burgemeester het verlede jaar met die Speaker gepraat oor 'n plan om 'n beter verstand- en die Sentrale Regering te bring. Die Speaker was die plan houding tussen Johannesburg glo goedgesind.

Daarop het die burgemeester 'n vergadering belê waar o.m. die Kamer van Mynwese, die Kamer van Koophandel, die Kamer van Landbou, die Witwatersrandse Landbougo-nootskap teenwoordig was.

Hulle wou 'n plan uitwerk om al die parlementslede en hoofde van staatsdepartemente na Johannesburg te nooi. Altesaam sowat 200 mense sou kom en die organisasies het geld-steun beloof.

Mnr. Lewis is toe Kaapstad toe waar hy gepraat het met die Speaker, een van die swepe van die Nasionale Party, die leier van die Opposisie, sir De Villiers Graaff en die Eerste Minister.

Die Premier het sy goedkeuring daaraan geheg, mits dit 'n eenparige besluit van die Johannesburgse stadsraad sou wees.

Mnr. Oberholzer het gesê die Nasionale Party in die raad was nie ten gunste van die plan nie, o.m. op grond daarvan dat een besoek nie die beeld van die stad kan regstel nie.

SKAKEL

„Tot vanaand het ek nie die rede geweet vir die Nasionale Party se optrede nie. Nou weet ek dit is omdat hulle nie wil hê Johannesburg moet regstreeks met die Regering skakel nie.”

Mnr. Cuyler het onmiddellik ná mnr. Oberholzer aan die woord gekom. Hy het gesê as die burgemeester hom daarin skuldig gemaak het om vertroulike korrespondensie en sake met mnr. Oberholzer te bespreek, bejeën hy hom met min-agting.

Mnr. Oberholzer het mnr. Cuyler in die rede geval en gesê die burgemeester kan nie 'n saak van die aard van hom af weghou nie.

Mnr. Cuyler het geantwoord dat mnr. Oberholzer sy posisie misbruik het om die burgemeester gruwelik en grof in die verleentheid te stel.

Die korrespondensie oor die saak tussen hom en mnr. Lewis is deurgaans as hoogs vertroulik behandel en mnr. Lewis het in sy jongste brief gesê hy ag dit as ongewens dat die saak in die openbaar ter sprake kom.

Mnr. Cuyler het gesê hy gee namens sy kookus toestemming dat al die korrespondensie van A tot Z gepubliseer word. „Die Sappe kan dit doen as hulle wil, maar daarna sal ek praat.”

Aan die begin het hy aan mnr. Lewis gesê dit klink nie na 'n slegte plan nie, maar net die Premier kan daaroor besluit. As die Premier dit goedkeur, is dit vir hom om iets meer daaroor te sê nie.

Hy het gesê in die debat oor die mosie het die Verenigde Party die Nasionale uitge-maak as skurke en die skuim van die aarde.

Nou soek hulle skielik egter samewerking, en oor so 'n beleid sal hy sy kop in skaamte laat sak. As dit is wat hulle van die Nasionale Party sê, is die publiek van Suid-Afrika verrot, onbetroubaar en skurk-agtig.

Die Nasionale Party regeer al 21 jaar en die grootste voor-spoed heers in Suid-Afrika. By die volgende verkiesing gaan die Nasionale Party sy krag nog versterk en hy sal voortgaan op die pad van breë nasio-nalisme.

GOUDSTAD SE V.P. IN PEKEL OOR „GEHEIM”

(Munisipale Verslaggewer)

JOHANNESBURG se burgemeester, mnr. Patrick Lewis, is deur die waarnemende voorsitter van die Sap-beheerde stadsraad se bestuurskomitee, mnr. J. F. Oberholzer, LPR, in 'n poli tieke twis gesleep wat die beeld van die Goudstad baie gaan skaad en vertroebel.

'n Baie vertroulike poging van die burgemeester om juis dié beeld te verbeter en die verhoudinge tussen die stadsraad en die owerheid op 'n hoër vlak te bring, is gisteraand op die maandvergadering van die stadsraad deur mnr. Oberholzer in 'n vurige politieke toespraak uitgelap — en dit sonder mnr. Lewis se toestemming.

Mnr. Lewis was nie in die raadsaal teenwoordig toe mnr. Oberholzer gepraat het nie en hy wou nie vanoggend oor die aangeleentheid kommentaar lewer of enigiets openbaar maak nie. Al wat hy gesê het is dat hy nie weer in 'n „politieke ding” wil beland nie.

Vuurwarm

Mnr. Eben Cuyler, LPR, leier van die N.P.-groep in die stadsraad, het gisteraand kort na agtuur 'n mosie ingedien waarin hy om 'n streekbeplanningsraad met uitvoerende magte vir die Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging-gebied gevra het.

Die mosie het 'n vuurwarm debat ontken en mnr. Cuyler het onder meer in sy inleiding gesê dat die regstreekse skakeling tussen die Sentrale Regering en die plaaslike bestuur hom pla en dat die provinsie oor die hoof gesien word.

Mnr. Oberholzer het die debat aan V.P.-kant gesluit en gesê dat hy nou weet waarom mnr. Cuyler so bevrees is vir regstreekse skakeling tussen die stadsraad en die Regering.

Mnr. Oberholzer het toe die dramatiese verhaal vertel van mnr. Lewis se plan om 'n beter verstandhouding tussen die Regering en die stadsraad te bewerkstellig. Mnr. Lewis het die saak verlede jaar met die Speaker van die Volksraad bespreek en dié was die plan goedgesind.

Daar is toe 'n vergadering belê waarop onder meer die Kamer van Mynwese, die Kamer van Koophandel en die Witwatersrandse Landbougo-nootskap teenwoordig was. Hulle wou 'n plan uitwerk om al die parlementslede en hoofde van staatsdepartementen na Johannesburg te bring.

Mnr. Lewis is toe Kaapstad toe waar hy die saak met die Speaker, een van die N.P. se swepe, die leier van die Opposisie, sir De Villiers Graaff, en die Eerste Minister bespreek het.

Mnr. Vorster het die plan goedgekeur op voorwaarde dat Johannesburg se stadsraad eenparig oor die saak moet wees. Volgens mnr. Oberholzer was die N.P. in die raad nie ten gunste van die plan nie.

Verleentheid

Volgens hom het hy nie die rede geweet vir die N.P.-groep in die raad se optrede nie, maar nou weet hy. „Dit is omdat hulle nie wil hê dat Johannesburg regstreeks met die Regering moet onderhandel nie.” Mnr. Oberholzer het gesê dat hy die verhaal sonder die burgemeester se toestemming vertel.

Mnr. Cuyler het geantwoord dat mnr. Oberholzer sy posisie misbruik het om die burgemeester gruwelik in die verleentheid te stel. Die saak tussen hom en mnr. Lewis is as hoogs vertroulik beskou en laasgenoemde het dit ook laat blyk dat dit nie openbaar gemaak moet word nie.

Hy het namens sy kookus toestemming gegee dat die saak gepubliseer mag word en dat die Sappe dit kan doen as hulle wil en gesê dat hy daarna sal praat.

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