





## THE LIBERAL PARTY AND THE FRANCHISE

The footnotes you insist on appending to Miss Junod's letters about the Liberal Party franchise policy are, quite frankly, discouraging to those of us who are working for a United Front against apartheid.

When she denied that the Party's franchise policy was a "major issue" at the recent Congress, Miss Junod was merely denying what you had stated. To look for a hidden meaning in the word "major" is to quibble. Quite clearly if the franchise had been discussed at all, it would have been a "major issue."

May I make it absolutely clear that the franchise policy was not discussed at all at the Party Congress. There is no "mystery" about this, except that which you have created for reasons that are a mystery to me.

The Party is, and for two years has been, unequivocally committed to the universal franchise. If Mrs. Ballinger did indeed say in Parliament what you report, I have absolutely no hesitation in repudiating her statement, which was not an enunciation of the Party's policy, but presumably merely of her own viewpoint.

You would be doing a service to the cause of multi-racial co-operation in the struggle for a democratic, non-racial South Africa if, instead of looking for dissension where it does not exist, you emphasised, for example:

1. The Party's decision to seek co-operation with other progressive organisations, and its unqualified endorsement of the Bloemfontein Conference call;

2. The growing participation of Liberals in joint activities with Congress members such as the Group Areas Vigilance Committee, the women's anti-pass demonstrations in Maritzburg, the Natal Civil Liberties Defence Committee, public meetings immediately after the treason arrests, and work connected with the bus boycott.

3. The fine work of Leslie Rubin in the Senate recently, where almost alone he has carried the burden of Opposition which Alex Hepple and a handful of others have so magnificently borne in the House of Assembly.

Are we in the fight together or not?

JOHN DIDCOTT  
Durban.

### Mass Arrests In Grahamstown

Several letters of protest have been sent to all leading newspapers in Grahamstown protesting against the high rents in the new Makana's Kop housing scheme. The ANC branch also protested. People must pay £2 10s. and £2 15s. a month rent, whereas almost all African males are earning only £1 10s. a week. The condition of the houses is not good as they are made of cement and have no ceiling.

The police on February 26 used three vans to go from street to street and arrested hundreds of Africans for permits, passes and poll tax receipts. The location pass office was packed to capacity by the poor Africans, young and old, who were rounded up.

We want freedom, not serfdom, in our lifetime.

FRANK MAKANA  
Grahamstown.

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## HUNGARIAN WOMEN'S APPEAL

LONDON.

The National Council of Hungarian Women has appealed to women of the world to assist them in securing the return to Hungary of the thousands of young girls and boys who left the country during the recent disturbances.

"Many Hungarian families and mothers are weeping for their children and would do anything to be able to embrace them once again. A great number of these unthinking and misinformed young people would return to their homes if they knew that there was no reason to flee, and that their family, their friends and the whole country were

waiting for them with affection and understanding."

The appeal concludes: "Help them to learn the truth, to know that we are waiting for them and that they need have no fears... We do not promise them an easy life, for our country has still to overcome many difficulties, but we promise them understanding and affection and we promise to help build up a country which will correspond to the desires of the best among them."

**HELP SELL NEW AGE!**

# GOVT. PLANNING ACTION AGAINST THE A.N.C.

MR. "Blackie" Swart is the most extraordinary Minister of Justice I have ever seen.

When complaints were made about the behaviour of the police at the treason hearings, Mr. Swart not only rushed to the defence of his gallant young men, but virtually encouraged them to keep up their hooligan-like behaviour. What was a policeman to do, asked Mr. Swart indignantly, if a "kaffermeid" spat in his face?

And, now, Mr. Swart is remarking that, if violent action is taken by Africans against the bus boycott leaders in Johannesburg, it must not be "taken amiss."

Have you ever heard anything more provocative? Mr. Swart read out to the Assembly a message stating that Africans in one location had taken action against boycott leaders and burnt their houses, a business and a car. Then Mr. Swart made the astonishing statement that he did not approve of this, but it was only to be expected that Africans who did not want to take part in the boycott and had been intimidated, should take action against those people. One could not take it amiss. It was the natural outcome.

### PROTECTION RACKET

"We will protect the public," said Mr. Swart, "but they must not come and cry now and say that those Natives were interfering with them."

This comes perilously close to encouraging the gang of African boycott-breakers at work on the Rand, to take the law into their own hands.

Look at the situation developing on the Rand: all its moves to smash the boycott having failed, the Nationalist Government has now forced PUTCO to withdraw its buses to eliminate virtually the possibility of settling the boycott by peaceful agreement. Now agents and boycott-breakers are at work in the townships, trying to stir up trouble so that Mr. Swart's gallant-young-men-with-Sten-guns can step in and take action against the boycott leaders and the African National Congress.

Against this background, Mr. Swart's remark that "they must not come and cry now," is remarkably revealing.

### DRIVE AGAINST ANC

Meanwhile, further evidence accumulates that the Government is planning a drive against the ANC. The Minister of Labour, Mr. Schoeman, had this to say last week:

"If the Natives want to walk, they can walk. But a good effect that this Bill will have is already apparent in the Western Native Townships—the Natives will reject these African National Congress leaders; they will be brought into discredit; more and more Natives will say that they have been grievously misled."

The truth is that more and more Africans are turning to the ANC as the organisation which truly represents their interests and fights for their rights. Mr. Schoeman's interest in the ANC is not because it is getting weaker, but because it is getting stronger! The ANC today is reaching wider sections of the African people than ever before—and Mr. Schoeman, Mr. Swart and the rest of them know it. That is why they are trying to break the ANC.

### VERWOERD'S BILL

Proof that the Nationalists are afraid of the growing strength of the African people, led by the ANC, is furnished by the Native Laws Amendment Bill. The main purpose of this Bill is to put an

end to political and other activities by Africans in the towns and cities. The Bill will enable the Minister of Native Affairs to place a total ban on all multi-racial demonstrations in the towns and cities, on all meetings attended by Africans, and on all contact be-

on the South African situation that, at a time when multi-racial co-operation and contact have been firmly and permanently established, Dr. Verwoerd should be trying to thrust the African into the role of a political infant?

This new Nationalist campaign—to break the ANC, reduce African political activity to ashes, and crush the spirit of the African people—cannot possibly succeed. Nevertheless, the Government is in a desperate mood, and everyone must be on their guard against the coming attack.

C.P.E.

## LOOKING AT PARLIAMENT

tween White and African except in the capacities of "guardian" and "ward" (and, of course, employer and employee).

Speaking in the Assembly on February 8, during the debate on Mr. Hepple's plea for an inter-racial national convention, Dr. Verwoerd had this to say about contact between Whites and Africans:

"The idea underlying this convention is a multi-racial gathering which is intended to introduce a new era in which the Non-Whites in South Africa will no longer be in the position of a child towards its father, of a ward towards its guardian, but where the Non-White will be in the position of an equal... The hon. member for Benoni said that they were not asking here for the political franchise for the Non-White. They just want to discuss how democracy can be obtained for all people, and human rights!

"We interpret it (democracy) . . . that the White man should be dominant in his own area, and that he, as the guardian of the Native in his own area, will give him the rights for which he is fitted and which he can develop according to his capacity, in the way in which we have introduced it under the Bantu Authorities system."

So, Mr. African, next time one of Mr. Swart's gallant-young-men-with-a-Sten-gun comes into your township, rush up to him, clasp his hand, and exclaim: "Guardian, which rights have you brought me today for which I am fitted?"

### BE ON GUARD

But isn't it a vivid commentary

### Black Sash Protest

JOHANNESBURG.

Ministers who translate petty vindictiveness into law are not fit to govern, says a leaflet issued by the Black Sash during an impressive series of demonstrations here last week against the Native Law Amendment Bill and the Police Law Amendment Bill.

These two Bills are described as "new links in the chain of slavery."

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