6/1a

I want to speak to you about the recent application for the re-zoning of the old Brewery site.

I am disturbed about it, as I believe we have not been told the whole story. For instance, why the Province are obliged to offer the site to the Breweries, and the price at which it must be bought. I feel that when this matter was being discussed in the Management Committee you should have recused yourself. It was quite clear to me that in the Chair you were ready to dismiss the arguments put up by officials, and you appeared to me not to be considering the interests of the City, but the interests of the Breweries.

You have said that you have retired from Roos & Roos, and this I accept. Your old firm has acted for the Breweries in many cases, and even though you are out of Roos and Roos, your brother certainly is not.

When you were Mayor, and at the time a partner in Roos and Roos, you took the unusual step of appearing at the Works and Traffic Committee to support the recommendation that Fox Street be closed. I agree with you that it was right that Fox Street be closed, but I feel you had an interest in the granting of the right. If, for instance, you had opposed the closing of Fox Street, I think it would have adversely affected your relationship with the Breweries. I feel, too, that in the present application, as owner, or part owner, of the properties in Ameshoff Street opposite the Brewery site, the value of your properties will be affected, and for this reason I again feel you should have recused yourself.

I feel our staff, Loffell, Hall, Reinecke and Carlson were being objective, and putting forward what they believed to be true. I think your criticism of Loffell, whether it was justified or unjustified, should not have been made in the presence of the Breweries delegation. I believe you were trying to impress the Breweries regarding your attitude.

I believe we have not heard the last of this transaction, and if there is an enquiry I believe your position, and that of the Management Committee, will reflect in a very bad light in that we acted quite contrary to the officials' recommendations, without giving sound reasons for disregarding their advice.

I cannot understand why there is all this mystery about the original Deed of Sale, and the rights of the Breweries to re-purchase from the Administrator. If everything is above board, why the secrecy and why cannot the original documents be made public? Why, when the original sale took place, was there no publicity about the donation by the Breweries of R² million.

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