

hib

JAN 16 1959



LIBERAL NEWS

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE TRANSVAAL DIVISION OF
THE LIBERAL PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA.

VOL. I No 2.

DECEMBER, 1958.

CONTENTS

Take the Police off
Pass Raids and put
them on the beat. p2

Basuto land and Mr
Eric Louw.....p 2

PROFESSOR du PLESSIS
ON THE IMPLICATIONS
OF INTEGRATION...p3

Party Activity...p4

Report on the fund-
raising drive...p 5

LIBERAL NEWS SENDS

ITS READERS THE

COMPLIMENTS

OF THE SEASON. MAY

THE LIBERAL PARTY

PROSPER GREATLY IN

THE COMING YEAR.

BAN ON WORSHIP

Perhaps the most iniquitous of the apartheid laws is the "Church clause" which is incorporated in the Native Urban Areas Amendment Act of 1957. This law interferes with the liberty of worship, which is the most fundamental of all the human rights. It is a right that has had to be fought for through centuries of intolerance, and a heavy price in blood has been paid for it.

The banning of services for Africans in the Forest Town area was executed, not technically in pursuance of the "Church clause", but of an earlier Act, passed by the United Party Government of the time. The United Party is not to be excused, in retrospect, for its own contribution to the cause of religious and racial intolerance, but the 1945 Act was not part of the pattern of absolute and rigid separation that apartheid is, and its effects were never intended to be so far-reaching.

This Government is fortunate in being able to apply the principles of the "Church clause" without having to invoke that Act, itself, and furthermore, simply by invoking a United Party Act, it has silenced criticism from the Opposition.

This was the main reason for the silence of the United Party when the Forest Town services were banned. Councillor Lewis, speaking on behalf of the Party in the City Council,

(Continued on page 2)

simply said that they "genuinely believed that the majority of White residents in Forest Town wanted services for native servants to continue." And that was all.

There is another reason for the United Party's silence. The City Council has undertaken not to criticise Dr Verwoerd's policies, and even in so important a matter as this it has silenced itself.

The services are continuing. How long they will be allowed to continue, only time will tell. Two things arise from this issue: there have not been enough vociferous and concerted protests from the churches, and we hope that there will still be. The U.P. MUST REVOKE ITS DECISION NOT TO CRITICISE DR VERWOERD'S POLICIES AND IT MUST DO SO IMMEDIATELY.

(TAKE THE POLICE OFF PASS RAIDS AND PUT THEM)
 (ON THE BEAT)
 ()
 (The LIBERAL PARTY believes that there are far too)
 (many policemen whose time is occupied in tracking)
 (down pass and other petty technical offenders. Not)
 (only do we think that the pass laws make criminals)
 (out of people, but far too much time, money and far)
 (too many policemen are used in doing it. Can we)
 (afford it at any time, and more especially when an)
 (outburst of crime is with us? See also, page 4.)

BASUTOLAND AND MR ERIC LOUW

Mr Eric Louw has said that "the constitutional changes in Basutoland do not seem to go much further than the Union's own Bantu Authorities Act." Mr Louw has not yet claimed to have been misreported, and until he does we are entitled to assume that this was in fact what he said.

There is a world of difference between the Basuto changes and the Bantu Authorities Act. The last is designed to re-inforce tribalism, to emphasise ethnic differences, and to establish the principle of "divide et impera". The chiefs, under this system, are to be nothing but lackeys of the Government, and all pressures will be exerted to bring them to heel. Sekhukuneland and Zeerust are classic examples of the system at work.

Mr Louw is in a tight spot about the Basuto changes, and he is trying, in his own inimitable (but who would care to imitate him) way to talk himself out.

PROFESSOR L.J. du PLESSIS ANSWERS A LIBERAL'S QUESTIONS

Replying to questions put to him by LIBERAL NEWS, Professor L.J. du Plessis of the University of Potchefstroom, has said that "the full implications of integration are equality for all civilised people in one community." Some months ago, before he was effectively silenced by Dr Verwoerd, he said at a meeting of the Afrikanerkring at Melville, that if apartheid failed, we would have to accept the full implications of integration.

Here are the questions put to Professor du Plessis with his answers:-

i. Do you regard the current policy of the Government as an introduction to total apartheid?

Answer: Yes, an introduction which can be carried to a point of racial separation where each potential nation shall have a home for self-determination.

ii. What is your opinion of the Act which makes provision for separate but unequal facilities for White and non-White?

Answer: In due course there must be equality in the facilities.

iii. Are you still of the opinion that SABRA should meet leaders of the A.N.C.?

Answer: Yes, I think that such a meeting can have good results.

iv. Is it your opinion that all the legislation passed by the Government and being part of the apartheid policy, is of advantage to the non-Whites?

Answer: I do not want to defend all the laws or their application in all respects, but I believe that on the whole they lead to the result referred to in my answer to question i.

v. If Native Representation were abolished, is it your opinion that consultation with appointed chiefs would satisfy the requirements of the ideal policy of total apartheid?

Answer: No, I believe that in the course of time each potential nation must have full self-government, with an expanding federal liaison, although for the foreseeable future still under White central control.

vi. What must happen to make you feel that apartheid had failed?

Answer: Apartheid shall have failed if integration continues to grow (groeiend bly) for another generation.

vii. What do you regard as the full implications of integration?

Answer: The full implications of integration are equality for all civilised people in one community.

PARTY ACTIVITYCRIME

The Party received a cutting of a report which recently appeared in a Johannesburg newspaper, through the post. Attached to the cutting was a piece of green paper with an anonymous message. This read: "This may be one of you next. They will know distinction." The report told of an attack on a woman in Melrose, and of her having been caned.

It appears that this cutting was being circulated in Melrose, and the cutting was taken to the newspaper concerned, and information given to the paper about the circulation of the cuttings. The news was prominently published by the newspaper together with a statement of policy by a party spokesman. The statement deplored the inference by "an obvious racialist, from his hideout of anonymity" that crime was the monopoly of a race, and it cited the recent attack on Chief Luthuli for any 'proof that might be needed for the contrary.'

Disturbed by the recent outburst of crime, the party subsequently issued a further statement which was well featured by both Johannesburg dailies. The statement said that the causes of crime were to be seen against the background of the present structure of our society. The Government was breeding a disrespect for law in the manner in which racialistic and oppressive laws were being churned out.

PASSES FOR AFRICAN WOMEN

Continuing its campaign against the issuing of passes to African women the Party contacted the Johannesburg City Council's non-European Affairs Department to ask why they were insisting on the production of passes before work permits were issued to African women. The Acting Manager advised the Party that, although this had been happening, it was not the policy, and instructions had been issued that repetitions were not to occur. The Party then issued a statement, prominently featured in the Press and advising the Public that work permits could be obtained without passes.

A few days later the Secretary for Native Affairs issued a statement saying that the compulsory issue of passes to African women would be hastened. He said that the opportunity was being given to the women to obtain the passes before the carrying of these documents became law.

The Party then issued a statement, again published in the press, that the carrying of passes had not yet been made compulsory because the Government was fully aware of the resentment which passes aroused, because African women would now be made victims of the same treatment as their menfolk. The Government was using every means of pressure to

make women take out passes short of legal compulsion, so that when the time came that it was obligatory for African women to do so, Dr Verwoerd could claim a propaganda victory, saying that women had taken passes voluntarily, and that the opposition had come from agitators.

The Party has written to the Springs Town Council, after receiving reports that women were being required to produce passes before being given work permits. An unsatisfactory reply was received, and the Inter-racial Affairs Committee is taking the matter further.

INCIDENTS IN THE PRISONS

Following reports in the Press about certain incidents, the Party wrote to the Director of Prisons to say that criminal assaults indicated a lack of proper control. We also expressed concern at reports of overcrowding, as this can hardly be conducive to a proper system of penal reform. We called for an investigation of the prisons either by our representatives or representatives of the three Parties with seats in Parliament.

The Director has refused our request. He says that overcrowding is being met by his policy of decentralisation, and he says the crimes are due to the "frailty of human nature". At present there is, he admits, overcrowding only amongst awaiting-trial prisoners. We see this problem in the light of the mass arrests so often taking place, and the arrests of hundreds of thousands of pass offenders. The matter will be raised in Parliament.

BAN ON BLACK SASH MEETING

We have protested vigorously at yet another interference with civil liberties, embodied in the City Council of Johannesburg's refusal of permission to the Black Sash to hold a protest meeting on passes for African women. In a statement we saw this as part and parcel of the Council's surrender to Dr Verwoerd.

FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

The drive for funds for the Party was launched on the 17th November in Johannesburg and Pretoria, with encouraging success.

The brochure was very well received. It is undoubtedly the finest single piece of propaganda issued by the Liberal Party during the five years of its existence. (Continued on page 6)

FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN (Continued)

Canvass teams in Johannesburg met at 18 Jan Smuts Ave on four nights a week, some thirty canvassers being present on each evening. The spirit and enthusiasm of canvassers was magnificent throughout and a very special word of thanks is conveyed to them.

Special mention must be made of the effort of the Pretoria Branch. No more than 12 canvassers managed to approach over three hundred people in two weeks and succeeded in raising over £500.

This drive has only just started but already a considerable sum of money has been donated by members and sympathisers. A number of new members have been enrolled and excellent publicity for the Party was achieved.

It is hoped to continue this drive early next year when it is hoped that those members who were not able to help in November will come forward to do their bit. L.L. Cooper - Chairman.

DECEMBER 16 ATTACKS ON PARTY

Once again December 16 was celebrated by the nationalists as a Party stryddag. This has become the custom in recent years, and by this device the Nationalists seek to identify all Afrikanerdom with themselves. Their enemies are branded as the enemies of the Afrikaner, of the White man and of "White civilisation." This year the Liberal Party was made to bear the brunt of the attack.

A Johannesburg newspaper permitted us to reply to the attacks in its columns and a statement was issued incorporating some of the points mentioned above.

PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

The Conference came at a time of peak party activity, and was reported to readers shortly afterwards. The names of elected members of the new Provincial Committee have not yet been reported to readers. They are, in addition to Mr J. Unterhalter :-

Mr Adam Osman Alli, Mr J.C. Brink, Mr G. Cohn, Mr L.L. Cooper, Mr D.H. Craighead, Mr F.R. Emery, Mrs M.V. Friedmann, Dr C. Lang, Mr J. Lang, Mr J. Lewsen, Mr A.I. O'Dowd, Dr E.R. Roax, Mr E.V. Stone, Mr E.M. Wentzel, Mr Mabuza, Mr Mohl, Mr R.L. Narunsky, Mr Gumbi, Mrs H. Jaff, Mr J.L. Isacowitz, Mr P. Qambela.

CHANGE OF OFFICE ADDRESS

THE OFFICE IS BEING MOVED TO 117/118 ZYGMARSH HOUSE, cnr KNUIS and WAISHALL streets. THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER IS.....22-8637

Collection Number: AD2533

Collection Name: South African Institute of Race Relations, Collection of publications, 1932-1979

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Location: Johannesburg

©2017

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

This collection forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.