

Speech in Council 26/9/60 Stephen
Durr

I am one of those who regard it as a tragedy that South Africa is convulsed by the ever present tensions between its peoples. To my mind these tensions could be lessened and, if the Politicians would allow it, a great sense of unity could be built up. I believe that amongst the vast majority of the population there is a yearning for greater co-operation. We all look back on the days of the coalition between General Hertzog and General Smuts as the golden days in South Africa. Unity took place then without a Republic because there was a genuine attempt to work together.

Ed 16

But on what basis can this co-operation be built? Only on a basis of mutual trust and goodwill and integrity in State affairs. The dictionary meaning of

TRUST is Firm belief in the honesty, veracity, justice, strength, etc., of a person or thing.

Reliance on truth of statement, etc., without examination.

GOODWILL Kindly feeling to person, favour; cheerful acquiescence, heartiness, zeal.

INTEGRITY: Wholeness; soundness; uprightness; honesty.

A
A
A
A

These are the things that we required for unity

not nitage
in the
form
of fault

Now we are asked to resolve that we are in favour of a Republic which is Christian. To me the essence of Christianity is to be found in the 13th Chapter of Corinthians. I will quote from Moffatt's translation:

"I may speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but if I have no love,

I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal;

I may prophesy, fathom all mysteries and secret lore,

I may have such absolute faith that I can move hills from their place,

but if I have no love,

I count for nothing;

I may distribute all I possess in charity,

I may give up my body to be burnt,

but if I have no love,

I make nothing of it.

Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; Love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears."

When Cllr. Cuyler talks about Christianity is that what he means?

In the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 7, verses 15 - 20, it says:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. By their fruit ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but the corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Therefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

What are some of the fruits picked from the Nationalist tree? Let me deal with some of the aspects which have come within my ken: *Small act High Court of Palestine*

- (1) The Group Areas Act. How can Cllr. Cuyler's christian conscience be reconciled with the way in which the Indian Community in Johannesburg have been treated. As yet no ground within the City has been set aside for their occupation. They have been knocked from pillar to post, and no pleadings from this Council have as yet resulted in a square inch of ground being allocated.
- (2) Take the difficulty of getting sites for native housing. Cllr. Cuyler has fought tooth and nail against Pimville being retained as a native area, although natives have lived there since 1904, and any whites that are in the neighbourhood moved

there knowing the existence of Pimville, but Cllr. Cuyler says the blacks must go. How different was his attitude towards the European plot-holders in the Doornkop area!

(3) Take the Council's experience under the housing loans, where losses were to be shared between the Council and the Government. I gave you details of these transactions in my Address under Stand Order 5 in July. These agreements were unilaterally interpreted and to rectify illegal Acts legislation was later passed. Where do trust and integrity come in in transactions such as this?

By their fruits ye shall know them. /

No Mr Mayor, before unity can come about we must establish mutual trust & understanding. That the majority of ordinary people yearn for such understanding I do not doubt but we need to plant trees that bring forth good fruit and the trees that bring not forth good fruit must be hewn down & cast into the fire. I trust that the day is not far away when by the too broad

JOHANNESBURG:

September 27, 1960.

well of the people we can agree on our form of fruit, not suitable but the motives & actions of the fruit bringer - this makes forward at this stage and it is all one to me not because of a done beauty but yield to the extremes neither their ranks.

Can the buyer guarantee that the
S.A. would remain in the
Commonwealth ^{which was} while the policies
of the Nationalist fact are unacceptable.
to other Commonwealth countries.

Why should we be asked to like the
risk? for the sake of National unity?
which depends not on the form of
foot. but the stability of mutual
trust, goodwill & integrity in State
affairs.

I am one of those who regard it as a tragedy that South Africa is convulsed by the ever present tensions between its peoples. To my mind these tensions could be lessened and, if the Politicians would allow it, a great sense of unity could be built up. I believe that amongst the vast majority of the population there is a yearning for greater co-operation. We all look back on the days of the coalition between General Hertzog and General Smuts as the golden days in South Africa. Unity took place then without a Republic because there was a genuine attempt to work together.

But on what basis can this co-operation be built? Only on a basis of mutual trust and goodwill and integrity in State affairs. The dictionary meaning of

TRUST is Firm belief in the honesty, veracity, justice, strength, etc., of a person or thing.

Reliance on truth of statement, etc., without examination.

GOODWILL Kindly feeling to person, favour; cheerful acquiescence, heartiness, zeal.

INTEGRITY: Wholeness; soundness; uprightness; honesty.

Now we are asked to resolve that we are in favour of a Republic which is Christian. To me the essence of Christianity is to be found in the 13th Chapter of Corinthians. I will quote from Moffatt's translation:

"I may speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but if I have no love,

I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal;

I may prophesy, fathom all mysteries and secret lore,

I may have such absolute faith that I can move hills from their place,

but if I have no love,

I count for nothing;

I may distribute all I possess in charity,

I may give up my body to be burnt,

but if I have no love,

I make nothing of it.

Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; Love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears."

When Cllr. Cuyler talks about Christianity is that what he means?

In the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 7, verses 15 - 20, it says:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. By their fruit ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but the corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Therefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

What are some of the fruits picked from the Nationalist tree? Let me deal with some of the aspects which have come within my ken:

- (1) The Group Areas Act. How can Cllr. Cuyler's christian conscience be reconciled with the way in which the Indian Community in Johannesburg have been treated. As yet no ground within the City has been set aside for their occupation. They have been knocked from pillar to post, and no pleadings from this Council have as yet resulted in a square inch of ground being allocated.
- (2) Take the difficulty of getting sites for native housing. Cllr. Cuyler has fought tooth and nail against Pimville being retained as a native area, although natives have lived there since 1904, and any whites that are in the neighbourhood moved

there knowing the existence of Pimville, but Cllr. Cuyler says the blacks must go. How different was his attitude towards the European plot-holders in the Doornkop area!

(3) Take the Council's experience under the housing loans, where losses were to be shared between the Council and the Government. I gave you details of these transactions in my Address under Stand Order 5 in July. These agreements were unilaterally interpreted and to rectify illegal Acts legislation was later passed. Where do trust and integrity come in in transactions such as this?

By their fruits ye shall know them.

JOHANNESBURG:

September 27, 1960.

S. MATTHEW: Chap. 7, v. 15 - 20

15. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.
16. By their fruit ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
17. Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but the corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
18. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
19. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
20. Therefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

S. JOHN: Chap. 13, v. 34 and 35

34. A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; even as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
35. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

CORINTHIANS 13:

I may speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but if I have no love,

I am a noisy gongor a clanging cymbal;

I may prophesy, fathom all mysteries and secret lore,

I may have such absolute faith that I can move hills from their place,

but if I have no love,

I count for nothing;

I may distribute all I possess in charity,

I may give up my body to be burnt,

but if I have no love,

I make nothing of it.

Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; Love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the

best, always hopeful, always patient. Love never disappears.

OXFORD DICTIONARY:

INTEGRITY: Wholeness; soundness; uprightness; honesty (f. L integritas wholeness, purity, -)

TRUST: Firm belief in the honesty, veracity, justice, strength, etc., of a person or thing.

Reliance on truth of statement, etc., without examination.

Goodwill.

Collection Number: A1132

Collection Name: Patrick LEWIS Papers, 1949-1987

PUBLISHER:

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

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

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 a collection, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.