

STATE OF TENSION IN JOHANNESBURG TOWNSHIPS.

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Mr. Mayor:

I feel that my fellow Councillors would wish to be given an up-to-date picture of the position in our Townships in the South-Western areas.

This morning I made a tour of the Townships in company with the Manager of the Department. There were no incidents during our inspection, and I am informed by Mr. Carr that the number of people in the streets in the Townships was far less than was the case yesterday. There is no doubt that the difficulty in obtaining transport this morning has meant that there are more people in the Townships than normally.

As far as we could trace, the loss of life was limited to that reported in this morning's newspaper. The damage to the properties we inspected was of a superficial nature.

Position can change at any time Railway line being cleared.

Direct Ref Check
At a time like this statesmanship is called for rather than any attempt to make political capital out of

Mr. Mayor, it is with a grave sense of responsibility that I rise at this Council Meeting. I cannot think of any more critical or crucial state of affairs that has existed in South Africa since the War years.

We are at the crossroads and need to revise our method of approach. This is a time when thinking people of all sections should be prepared to face facts and work in the interests of South Africa, and not in sectional interests. I believe that with good sense and tolerance there is no reason why there should not be a place for black and white in this country to live and work amicably together. But the white man, has to my mind, failed to consult the black man and I am convinced that until proper contact is established with urban Native leaders, and consideration is given to the legitimate aspirations of the Natives, we will have no peace. The Urban Native has come ^{to live to} stay, and until we recognise this we are doomed to failure. I would urge that the Government appoint an all-Party Commission to consider the causes of the unrest among the Non-European population.

an explosive situation. All responsible people condemn violence. While the leaders of the Pan Africanist Congress and the African National Congress have stated that they wish to obtain their objectives without violence, they are not in a position to prevent violence, and it is regretted that there is an element in the population which is only too ready to exploit such situations. It is apparent from the occurrences of yesterday that it was the persons in the age group of from approximately 16 - 25 who were largely the trouble makers.

I am convinced that the majority of our urban population are law abiding people who are not wanting trouble. They are the victims of this lawless element who harrass them on the trains and in the Townships.

Last Wednesday a meeting was held with the Joint Advisory Boards. At that meeting it was apparent that there is an urgent need for contact to be made between the leaders of urban Africans and the Authorities. The Pan Africanist movement know of the hardship imposed on their

people by the Pass Laws and that they would obtain a certain measure of support from the more responsible element if the abolition of the Pass Laws was part of their programme. In the old days Exemption Certificates used to be issued to the more responsible Africans. This was a treasured possession and gave the holder a feeling of status and privilege. Persons with Exemption Certificates in most cases acted responsibly and did anything to avoid losing that exemption, and I understand that at one time there were 40,000 holders of these Certificates. Most of them were responsible people who now feel humiliated at having been deprived of these Certificates.

Mr. Mayor, you are aware that on Thursday afternoon I had an appointment with the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development. It was felt that the Minister should be personally advised of the situation in Johannesburg as we saw it, and the inherent dangers should violence be resorted to in the Sout -Western areas which house 380,000 people. This trip was made necessary by the unrest caused by the unfortunate

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incidents at Sharpeville and Langa which resulted in a large loss of life.

I acquainted the Minister with the position as I saw it and told him of the urgent matters it was necessary to consider to alleviate the position. The discussion with the Minister was frank and friendly and will be followed up by the submission of a Memorandum and further contact.

To me one of the most urgent matters to be considered is a method of establishing contact with Urban African Leaders. Another matter which requires urgent attention is finding methods of usefully employing the 18-25 group. These are not all bad people, but large numbers of them find it extremely difficult to obtain employment.

Tribute to the Police - I appreciate their difficulties.

Correct statement in 'Star'.

Suggestion arose while I was in Cape Town, understand was telexed to the Minister by his Department.

Thanks to our staff.

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