

file Speeches

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SEERHOSI THE MAYOR, CLR. BOYCE BAGAR, WHEN WELCOMING AT A LUNCHEON IN THE MAYOR'S LUNCHEON ROOM ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 1966, AT 12.45 FOR 1 P.M. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVEN MINING HOUSES OF THE TVL. & O.F.S. CHAMBER OF MINES AT A LUNCHEON IN THEIR HONOUR FOLLOWING THEIR GIFT OF R750,000 TO THE CITY OF JHB. AS A BANTU HOUSING LOAN.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Cooke and Gentlemen:

Just recently I was asked what the highlights were of my year of office.

They were, to date, the Freedom of the City, which I was honoured to confer on the State President, and the Garden Party for Johannesburg's old-timers during the City's 80th Birthday celebrations.

Today, however, I feel I must add one more item to my short list ... this luncheon, this get-together with the Mining House Representatives who have come, like the Wise Men at Christmas time, bearing gifts which emphasize, once again, the active interest which the Mining Industry maintains in this City of Johannesburg, which its forbears established only 80 years ago.

The Mining Industry may have extracted with one hand, but it has always enriched lavishly with the other.

Let me hark back ten years to my first year as a Councillor, when the late Sir Ernest Oppenheimer was so appalled by the shocking conditions he saw when he toured the Moroka squatters camp with the then Chairman of the Non-European Affairs Committee, that he arranged with his mining industry colleagues to lend Johannesburg six million rands at four and seven-eighths per cent annually, repayable over thirty years. This, the first injection into Soweto's fiscal bloodstream, built fourteen thousand houses, so that Moroka and Shantytown were finally written off.

Since then, the Housing Division's impressive record of hostel, house, school, admin. block, communal hall, public library, T.B. centre, clinic, beer hall and garden, plus other minor building, with a total expenditure of twenty-two million rands, indicates the City Council's determination to house and to relax its labour force to the best of its ability and I make bold to say that, had it not been for the munificent contribution of the Mining Industry ten years ago, we could never have caught up with our backlog, in so far as the dire housing needs of our Bantu people were concerned.

The first Council houses in the Western Bantu township built in 1919, cost R240... today that figure has vanished into the mists of time.

Because/...



Because the emphasis has been shifted from Bantu to European and Coloured housing which has been given Government priority, understandably enough because of South Africa's European immigration policy, plus the imperative need for Coloured housing and rehousing, the allocations of one million, three hundred and sixty one thousand rands for European and just over one million rands for Coloured housing, mean that only two-hundred and sixty thousand rands have been allotted to the 1966/67 Bantu housing in Johannesburg. For some time Bantu housing enjoyed priority but, with the alteration in its urgency, the City Council ~~planned~~ faced the unenviable decision of having to close down its Bantu Housing Division, because of the lack of funds.

I said earlier, that the Mining houses had come today bearing gifts. That is my most accurate description of the generosity which, when the Mining Representatives heard of the City Council's reduced Government housing allocation, prompted seven prominent members to contribute a total of three quarters of a million rands. At only six and a <sup>half</sup> ~~quarter~~ per cent annual interest over thirty years - as opposed to the National Housing Commission's six and a <sup>3/4</sup> ~~half~~ per cent, or the outside money market's rate of seven and a quarter per cent - this means that Johannesburg receives a most welcome 80th Birthday gift of three quarters of a per cent of the total amount of seven-hundred and fifty thousand rands and this present, to mark Johannesburg's 80th Anniversary, is <sup>for a period of 30 years</sup> profoundly appreciated.

Let me quote from the modestly-worded letter which you, Mr. Cooke, addressed to me last Friday:-

"The seven Mining Finance Houses - Anglo-American, Anglo-Transvaal, General Mining, Gold Fields, J.C.I., Rand Mines and Union Corporation, have decided to make available to the Johannesburg City Council a seven hundred and fifty thousand, thirty-year Bantu Housing Loan at six and a quarter per cent annual interest, as an 80th Anniversary Birthday gift to the City Council, in the knowledge that, were loans obtained at the public rate of interest of seven and a quarter per cent, Bantu tenants would have to pay an increased rent, which action is undesirable."

Gentlemen, it is these simple words that describe how the Mining Houses of Johannesburg have come to the rescue of the City, having heard that help was needed.

Soweto/...



Soweto can, with ~~this~~ this second gesture by the Mining Industry, be regarded as a monument to their confidence in Johannesburg's future and to their acknowledgement of the opportunities which Johannesburg has provided the Mining Industry, so that it has become one of the world's most renowned purveyors of foreign capital.

I am often asked to define good citizenship and this is it - not to wait to be asked to help but, when on hearing that the need exists, to come forward and give spontaneously and generously.

The Mine's loan will ensure that Pinville Housing will not be interrupted and there will be no curtailment of operations.

This, as an act of faith by the Johannesburg City Council, towards its Bantu population, is beyond assessment in the field of human relations.

The fact is that the Mining Industry keeps its ear to the ground and closely associates itself with the welfare of Johannesburg. This most handsome gesture proves their public-spiritedness and will certainly make Johannesburg's 80th Anniversary year a memorable one for housing.

The/...

The City Council's Housing Division will now be able to continue operating as an essential Municipal service and, for at least another 12 months, be free from financial worry. The further 1,000 houses which the loan will help to build at Pinville will ensure that what has so carefully and successfully been created over ten years by the City Council will not disintegrate because of the lack of funds.

On behalf of my colleagues I pay the highest tribute to the Mining <sup>whose</sup> Houses ~~which~~ representatives are our honoured guests today. I hope that the organisations they represent will appreciate to the full - as this Council does - how great is the gesture they have made and how this particular gift has helped solve a very vexed problem.

Pinville the centre likely to benefit most from the loan is Johannesburg's last remaining major slum. This <sup>62</sup>~~32~~ year old area already boasts its first 1,000 houses built in its immediate vicinity, to rehouse its peoples.

You Mr. Chairman of Non-european Affairs declared, in your recent address at the University of the Witwatersrand,, that the limitation of housing loans was slowing up the move of Pinville's families from the old to the new. Now the houses have ensured that - to use your own words - the co-operation of the inhabitants which was so hardly won, will be retained and that their eagerness to take up new quarters, which replaced their ~~old~~ earlier resistance, will not be rejected.

I look forward to the day when the Pinville houses built with this Mining loan will accommodate the men, women and children - hard working and law abiding, all citizens of Johannesburg, and give them a chance of being a credit to the community in which they live.

Gentlemen I ask you to rise and join me in drinking a toast to the public ~~spirit~~ spiritedness of our guests of honour - the representatives of

"The Anglo ~~Ameri~~ American Corporation of South Africa,

The Anglo Transvaal Consolidated Investment Companies Ltd.,

The General Mining and Finance Corporation Ltd.,

Gold Fields of South Africa Ltd.,

The Johannesburg Consolidated & Investment Co. Ltd.,

Rand Mines Ltd.,

and Union Corporation Ltd.



I give you the toast the Bantu Housing Loan and the seven Mining Finance Houses.

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