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Peter Brown 13.8.69
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Dublin

Of all those of us who have come here to protest against the imposition of a second 5-year ban on Mr. Peter Brown, not one knows the reasons why he has been banned again. I myself do not know, yet I was more intimately associated with him in politics than anyone else. I was the ^{first} National Chairman of the Liberal Party, but I ~~was~~ received what is known as upstairs promotion, & was succeeded by Peter Brown. I think it fair to say that I knew every political thought, ~~and~~ every political plan, that he ever had in his mind. He never concealed any action from me. He never lied. He never intrigued. Any kind of underground dealing was foreign - and still is foreign - and always will be foreign - to his nature. Does the Minister of Justice possess information that is not known to those ^{of us who know him so intimately?} I do not believe it. ~~I do not believe it.~~

Why ~~that~~ was he banned? He was banned because

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in the opinion of the Minister, he was a danger to the security of the State. If that means that he would, if he were freed, ^{have} made plans to overthrow the government by violence, or incite others to do, or behave violently, or stir up racial hatred, then it is an absurd & nonsensical allegation that cannot be substantiated by any proof.

It is monstrous, is it not, that a Minister of State can ban a man for five years on the basis of an allegation that cannot be substantiated? It is monstrous, is it not, that ~~such~~ the Minister ^{of Justice} should be called ~~the~~ ~~Minister of Justice~~?

Peter Brown on the ground that he is furthering the aims of Communism.

I should like to say something about Peter Brown and his attitude towards Communism. No one was more earnest than he in his desire to bring an end to poverty and deprivation, and to give to every man ~~and woman~~ a

just share of the results of ~~their~~^{his} labour, and to abolish gross inequalities of ~~status~~^{opportunity} & wealth, and to abolish that cruel social system which make a man's future & destiny dependent on the accident of his birth and the colour of his skin. But if these noble ~~means~~^{ends} could only be achieved by ~~cruel means, by the exaltation of the State to the status of a cruel means, by the separation of husbands from wives and children,~~^{cruel means,} by the abrogation of the rule of law, ~~and~~ by the silencing of all opposition, then Peter Brown would have had none of it fought such a doctrine with all the strength of his stubborn & independent soul. These particular aims of Communism are not furthered in South Africa by people like ~~the~~ ^{Brown,} they are furthered by the Government that hates ~~parents to hate~~ Communism with a deadly hatred.

The South African Government is not the only anti-Communist Government that uses the devices of Stalin & Hitler, Franco & Salazar. [QUOTE COT P. 188] [QUOTE Cable sent by the US Study Team to President Nixon]

[QUOTE the absurd position of Mr. & Mrs. Jean Hill]. The Suppression of Communism Act is a semantic atrocity. It enables the Minister to deal with Pan-Africanists, African Nationalists, Indians anti-Apartheid, protesters against the destruction of District 6, hikers. One may derive a secret pleasure from the fact that the arch-anti-Communists, the Verbramptes, are howling with rage over the BOSS Act, which they fear might be used against them. Would they not love to get hold of the Suppression of Communism Act? They would, under the leadership of that smiling anachronism Albert Heitzog, use it against mini-students & editors & ~~non~~ non-Calvinists & protesting students, & ~~then~~ some university principals, and anyone who grumbles because he couldn't see the Moon landing on TV.

And we can confidently predict, ladies & gentlemen, that if he used the Act against ^{anyone who} grumbles ^{because he can't have} ~~about not having~~ TV, then lots of people would stop grumbling about not having TV. And instead of grumbling, they would begin saying "the Government

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he won't let anyone say "Yes, BOSS" to him. He knows that the official policy of the Government is racial separation, and separate development, and separate freedoms, and separate budgets for all those who don't believe in it. But he doesn't see why he has to believe in it, or why he should refrain from saying he doesn't believe in it. He doesn't see why he should refrain from making common cause with any South African who believes in the same things that he believes in. I must admit that he's stubborn,

~~and the Big Boss doesn't like stubbornness~~

that he believes in. There are some people who think that if he ^{would only} sign an affidavit saying that he was against Communism & violence, that the Minister would let him go free, but unfortunately he doesn't sign that kind of affidavit. One must admit he's stubborn, and the Big Boss doesn't like stubbornness.

affidavit; not because he isn't against Communism & violence,

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but because he has an odd belief that free men don't sign that kind of affidavit. While we may grieve over the consequences of his beliefs, we can also be grateful that he has them, & we can be grateful that quite a lot of other people have them too, though not enough to change the course of events. One thing one has to learn in South Africa, and that is that there are some things that one must do & some consequences that one must suffer, even if they don't seem to change the course of events. One does those things & suffers those consequences because that is what it means to be oneself, & there is a much worse fate than banning, and that is to cease to be oneself, & to have to lie & perjure & deceive, oneself as well as others, & to have honourable principles & also honourable reasons why one shouldn't stick to them, so that in the end one's children, some of them, become

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alienated by all this hypocrisy, & go out & get themselves into trouble. [Say something about young people if enough are there].

Robert Dickey, quoting from some classical source that I cannot remember, and wanting to encourage his South African audiences, would say there is a time for sowing and a time for reaping, and one must not be disheartened when there is nothing to reap, because obviously that is a time for sowing. Well this is a time for sowing, and there are even signs that the seed is sprouting, and this is encouraging even though we know that the tender shoots will have to survive drought & locusts & big BOSS himself, who may plough them all under in the belief that they are weeds. A book is going to be published this month in Cape Town, called "Beweging Uitwaards" which is "Movement Outwards." And in this book Prof. Dr. J. J. Degenaar, professor of political philosophy at the University of Stellenbosch, questions the need for

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"nationalism" in a world which is becoming smaller & in which a larger form of solidarity has now become necessary." Dr. Degenaar says, "personally, I think man should start endeavoring individually & collectively to think & to act in terms of loyalty to the race." He says that the new age demands ~~the~~ new values, "humanity rather than nationality, reasonableness rather than emotionality, ~~reasonableness~~ truth rather than ideology, justice rather than self-preservation, civilisation rather than purity of race, co-responsibility rather than maintenance of one's own at all costs." Dr. Degenaar goes one step further, & distinguishes between the open & the closed society. In the ~~closed~~ ^{open} society the freedom of the individual is respected; in the closed society, order is maintained with an iron hand. And this, ladies & gentlemen, is from the professor of political philosophy at Stellenbosch. It's worth while sowing seeds after all, even if one sows it ~~at~~ by

holding protest meetings.

but we say in conclusion that the ~~main~~ responsibility for making South Africa a land of hope and courage does not ~~rest~~^{rest} on Peter Brown alone. It rests on all of us. It rests on any one of us who loves South Africa, & wants to see her right not wrong, just not cruel, so confident in her cause that she does not need to ~~silence~~ deprive one of her best citizens of his freedom to try to make her cause better still.

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