

(1) 615 143
last Meeting of the L.P. at Nambook, ~~April 20~~, 1968.

May 4

Fellow-members of the bilateral Party of SA -

We assemble here today on what cannot be a happy occasion for any of us. This is the last meeting of ~~the L.P.~~ ^{our Party} at Nambook. It is the last meeting of ~~the L.P.~~ ^{our Party} in the Northern Districts of Natal. ~~What~~ All what time in the future the laws of the country will ^{again} permit the ~~various~~ coming together in one political organisation of ~~any~~ South Africans of different colours & races, no one here can say. But what we can say is that ~~surely~~ a time is coming. It may come after much waiting & suffering, but it is coming. The reason why it is coming is ~~because~~ this country belongs to us all, its ~~gold~~ ^{riches} belongs to us all, its rivers belong to us all, its cities belong to us all. And because this country belongs to us all, it must

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be governed by those who are chosen by us all. Such a time is coming. The only thing we cannot tell is when it will come.

There are powerful people - the same people who will allow us to continue - the people who have made a law to prevent us from continuing - these powerful people say the day will never come when the whole country will belong to us all. One of the reasons they have made this law is to prevent that day from coming. They say that no one really wants that day, only misguided people like ourselves. I tell you that the majority of the people of this country want the day to come when all of South Africa belongs to us all. And all of them would say so also, except that it is dangerous to say it. Some of us are brave

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Some of us have been splendidly brave. But most of us cannot afford to pay the heavy price of saying what we think, and acting as we think right. Some of us cannot afford to be banned. Some of us cannot afford to go fruitlessly from employer to employer looking for a job. Some of us are teachers and cannot afford to be banned from all schools, as others are workers, & cannot afford to be banned from all factories.

These powerful people I told you about say it is impossible for different races to ~~live~~ work together, unless one of them you & I have worked together for 15 years. Our committees, from the lowest to the highest, were made up of people from all races. Never once in 15 years were we unable to work together. Never once in 15 years was

There a single division in the Party along racial lines. Friendships were made that defied the racial barriers of our country, friendships that endured ~~through~~ in spite of imprisonment & banning & intimidation, friendships that will endure until death, perhaps beyond it, who knows? Never once did a banned African member go to a white member, and say 'you got me into this'. No he held up his head and said 'I got myself into it because I was trying to conduct myself as a man.'

Some people say we are foolish to believe in the possibility of non-racism. How can we not believe in it? Hasn't it worked in our own Party? Hasn't it worked in our lives too, enriching them beyond measure, conquering our prejudices & our fears?

What of the future? What is it going to be? There is no doubt that separations ^{of the races} will remain!

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the Government's policy, but Africans will continue to man
our farms and our industries. They will have homelands
which many, — if not most — of them will never see. As
for development of these homelands, I predict that little
will be done. How can you ever develop the rags
& tatters of the black areas in Zululand? How can you
ever develop the countless other rags and tatters scattered
throughout South Africa? How even will the Transkei
ever parallel the great development & the riches
of the Cape, Johannesburg, and Durban. This development
of these riches belong to us all, & justice will only be
done when we can all enjoy them. Apartheid is
a great myth, & it is going to stay a great myth.
It is an idea, in the mind, pleasant to white
supremacists ^{and their puppets,} with no relation to reality at all,
except in exact & trivial ways.

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Why have we been dealt with in this way? Why has a law been passed to make it impossible for us to continue? Why, long before that law was passed, were so many of our leaders restricted, & so many of our members intimidated? Why did one of our members have to be arrested at a funeral? Why did a train have to be stopped in the middle of the wild, & one of our members have to be arrested in this way, when he had been seen openly moving about on the platform of the previous station? Why did an old mother have to be visited & warned to stop her son being a member of 'the hideous Party'?

I'll tell you why. The Party was small & not powerful. But it was formed to give expression to ~~the~~ ideas that were not small;

and were full of power. ⁽²⁾ ~~The~~ ^{of these} One idea is that man is not born to go down on his belly before the State. Another is that a man should live where he wishes to live, & work where he wishes to work. Another is that he should be free to move about his country, and free to take any employment for which he is fitted. Another is that if men & women of different races wish to associate together & to pursue a common purpose, it is their right as human beings to do so.

The Party was small & not powerful, but these ideas were great & powerful, & the Government was afraid of them. Therefore ~~they~~ it took merciless steps against those who held them. ~~They~~ It set aside the rule of law. ~~They~~ gave ~~themselves~~ itself the power to punish, & to punish severely,

Because of the strength & power of these ideas

without any recourse to a court of law.

~~we do not~~ ^{we} do not abandon hope or courage. The cause you took & the principles you affirmed were altogether good & honorable. The ideas you embodied in the policies of the Party are beyond the power of any Government to destroy. Throughout history men have tried to destroy them, but they have never succeeded. They are as powerful & immortal here in this ^{this afternoon} room as they have ever been in any place at any time in history. We give thanks also today for the courage of all those people who upheld these principles in spite of all consequences. We give thanks for the enrichment that the Party brought into our lives. This is not a time to mention persons, but I shall mention one to be the representative of them all, ^{the name of} Peter Brown.

~~Let the Government this day take notice that we shall ^{not} shake our belief in the principles & policies of the CP, & that we shall continue to believe in them in association with one another, an assocⁿ that no law can ever destroy.~~

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It is sometimes loosely said that the L.P. is about to disband. That is not true. It is not we who will disband, it is the Government that will disband us. When the State President signs this Bill it becomes a law, and at that moment we shall cease to exist. There was only one way in which a liberal Party, or indeed several liberal Parties could continue to exist, and that would be if the white members of the Party set up a white L.P. & the black members set up a black L.P., on the understanding that neither Party would have anything to do with the other. How could we do a thing like that? How could we, who found the value of working together, decide to work separately? How could we, who rejected totally the policy of racial separation, decide to adopt that policy in our own organisation? It was an impossible thing to ~~do~~ ^{contemplate,} and therefore we did

not do it. Therefore it would not be accurate to say that we disbanded. It would be accurate to say that we were disbanded, and that we refused to re-form and to reconstitute ourselves along the lines of separate development.

There is one last thing to say. We can no longer associate with one another in an organisation. But we shall not abate one whit of our belief in the principles & policies of the CP. We shall continue to believe in them in association with one another, an association that no law can touch or destroy.

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