

ADDRESS TO BE GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR P.R.B. LEWIS AT THE 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL OF ADULT EDUCATION ON THE 8TH AUGUST 1968. AT 8.00 P.M.

Title of Address : "JOHANNESBURG AS A METROPOLITAN CENTRE"

It is indeed a very great privilege for me to be with you this evening, for it is a very special occasion being your twenty-first Annual General Meeting.

From small beginnings you have great achievements to your credit. Your work has proved of immense value and worth to the citizens of Johannesburg. When one looks at the list of your affiliated societies and clubs, and one sees the wide range of activities which are represented by these organizations, one realizes the interests of our citizens, and the facilities that are made available. By bringing these organizations together, and publicising their activities, you are indeed fulfilling a very valuable function to the great benefit of the people of the Witwatersrand.

In Johannesburg we are a pretty hard-headed crowd, and things must be practical - they must work. Is this not because Johannesburg was not a particularly interesting place when gold was first found? A bleak highveld with not much natural beauty, with no rivers, no natural water supply; an area in which agriculture was difficult owing to the vagaries of the weather; where there were innumerable pests, and a variable and uncertain rainfall, where there was no easy recreation such as would have been found at the coast, no good resorts or particularly pleasant country near the city, where minerals had to be won the hard way, where man's ingenuity and downright hard work and preparedness to take a risk were the criteria for success; where gardens had to be established, trees planted, where in the winter months there was dust everywhere, especially if one lived anywhere near the mines.

Johannesburg has changed from the Johannesburg of the early days, and the organizations which are represented on your Council have materially contributed to this change.

We in Johannesburg are often noted for our quest for wealth and our regard for the material things of life. These targets give us

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heart attacks and thromboses. We who are here tonight are, I am sure, setting ourselves targets more balanced and satisfying. I believe that it is in the creation of new things, in the acceptance of challenges, in the acquisition of knowledge, that one obtains the greater satisfaction.

When one takes a look into the future, I would suggest that the work of your Council is only just beginning, and will require terrific expansion. You have all heard of the population explosion. If you add to this the urban drift of persons from the small towns and dorps to Johannesburg, the growing number of immigrants, the forecast of shorter working hours, and perhaps a four-day working week, the intensification of the tourist traffic to this country you will appreciate the necessity for your Council to be in the forefront of catering for the gainful use of leisure time, and the training of our citizens to permit the development of their potential.

What is all this fuss about the population explosion? The following figures are the projections :

POPULATION FIGURES AND PROJECTIONS

Area & Year	Whites	Coloureds	Asiatics	Bantu	Total
<u>Republic</u>					
1960	3,088,492	1,509,258	477,125	10,927,922	15,002,797
1965	3,398,000	1,751,000	533,000	12,186,000	17,868,000
1985	5,203,000	3,383,000	849,000	19,583,000	29,018,000
2000	7,033,000	5,831,000	1,159,000	27,949,000	41,972,000
<u>Transvaal</u>					
1960	1,468,305	108,007	63,787	4,633,378	6,273,477
1965	1,617,000	125,000	71,000	5,167,000	6,980,000
1985	2,476,000	242,000	113,000	8,097,000	10,928,000
2000	3,343,000	417,000	156,000	11,556,000	15,472,000
<u>Witwatersrand</u>					
1960	766,379	78,134	39,915	1,296,486	2,180,914
1965	845,000	91,000	44,000	1,446,000	2,426,000
1985	1,294,000	176,000	71,000	2,266,000	3,807,000
2000	1,750,000	304,000	97,000	3,233,000	5,384,000
<u>Johannesburg Metropolitan</u>					
1960	413,153	59,467	28,993	650,912	1,152,525
1965	456,000	69,000	32,000	726,000	1,283,000
1985	698,000	133,000	52,000	1,137,000	2,020,000
2000	943,000	230,000	71,000	1,623,000	2,867,000

The title of my talk this evening is JOHANNESBURG AS A METROPOLITAN CENTRE. What is it that makes a city or town a metropolis? Is it size, or what is it? I want to emphasise two aspects which, to my mind, are the essence of a metropolitan area. One is that it should have a marked influence in respect of its amenities on a catchment area beyond its boundaries. The second is that it exercises a strong magnetic influence, and is thus subject to intense attraction from people from outside its boundaries.

Firstly let us see to what extent Johannesburg does create an influence on a catchment area beyond its boundaries. I really think that this is so obvious that it does not need elaboration. Johannesburg is the centre of the Witwatersrand complex, the pivot of the Pretoria/Johannesburg/Vaal triangle, the area in which 40% of the wholesale trade of South Africa is conducted, 18% of the retail trade, whose Municipal produce market caters for 40% of the produce sold in the whole of South Africa, where 20% of the national industrial income is produced, where 35% of the financial and banking business is done, and where 13% of the white population resides. Yes - Johannesburg can truly claim to be a metropolitan area if the criteria is influence on a large catchment area beyond its boundaries.

The second criteria I mentioned for a metropolitan area was a magnetic influence, the draw of people from outside. Why do people come to Johannesburg? What is the attraction? I would suggest work opportunity, better educational facilities, a more varied life - the very diversification of interests as exemplified by the activities of your Council. For immigrants it is often the point of first arrival, and it is often there that people settle, the fact that for immigrants there are settlements of people from the country of their origin, the variety in community life, the attraction of people with specialist skills who, because of the very size and sophistication of enterprise, are able to find outlets for their talents and abilities. All these and many other factors draw people to a city such as Johannesburg, so Johannesburg meets the needs of my definition of a metropolitan city in that its influence spreads beyond its boundaries and acts as a magnet, and will thus tend to grow. Johannesburg is, in fact, one of the vital metropolitan areas, not only in South Africa, but with world significance.

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What are the world trends in the development of metropolitan areas and can we learn from the experiences of the other cities? The first form of metropolitan government in North America was started in Toronto in 1953. The City of Toronto occupied an area of 35.1 sq. miles. Nine other local authorities formed an inner ring around Toronto and occupied 23 sq. miles. Three towns occupied an outer ring of 182 sq. miles. The 13 local authorities agreed to co-operate and create a metropolitan government. The main function of metropolitan government was to control the levying of rates, the borrowing of money and the provision of major arterial roads. It was also the wholesaler in such matters as water supply, sewage disposal and similar activities. The metropolitan government was also designated to serve as the central works agency for the entire metropolitan area. At the beginning the metropolitan council experienced many difficulties but the necessity to plan and co-ordinate the development of this large area soon became very apparent. The population of the Greater Toronto Council has extended very rapidly. Now, however, after the experimental period, it has been decided to reduce the number of boroughs from 13 to 6. It was because of this unique experience regarding the establishment of a metropolitan area that the Bureau of Metropolitan Research in Toronto convened a conference last year which coincided with the Centennial celebrations in Canada. Forty metropolitan cities scattered throughout the world with populations of over 1 million people were asked to send delegates to this conference and Johannesburg was fortunate to be one of the cities selected.

Last year a conference was held in Stockholm organized by the International Union of Local Authorities, the subject of the conference being "Amalgamation or Co-operation".

Because of the need for co-ordinated planning the world trend is for metropolitan regions to become large and larger. Ninety local authorities formed the London County Council covering an area of 117 sq. miles. This has not been changed. The area of the Greater London Council has now been extended to 620 sq. miles. At the same time the number of local authorities has been reduced from 90 to 32. In Sweden in 1949 there were 2,400 communes, these were later reduced to 800 and now the 800 are being reduced to 280 by amalgamation or merger. The same sort of thing has been happening in France.

The dominant thoughts in my mind after attending these conferences are, firstly, the need for long-term planning, and, secondly, the need for all tiers of local government to co-operate to find a solution to the situations which arise from the congregation of such large numbers of people in the urban areas.

Johannesburg has formed a Forward Planning Division in the City Engineer's Department. In the late 1950's the Council employed as a Research Officer, a Dr. L.P. Green, and he studied and reported on Johannesburg in its regional and metropolitan setting. There were three reports, the first on the social structure, the second on the economic structure and the third on the administrative structure of the Witwatersrand Metropolitan Region. These reports provided a sound source of reference, and have been further developed by reports published by the Forward Planning Department dealing with the busway system, with European housing, with metropolitan Johannesburg in its relation to the Pretoria:Witwatersrand:Vereeniging region, with future housing needs for the Bantu population, and a report on the development of the central area of Johannesburg. Further studies are being made regarding the development of parks in Johannesburg, and on transportation.

I would like to ask a question. What is our position in South Africa? Are we following world trends? Are we benefiting from the experience of others? I suggest that we are not, and assert that we are damaging the national economy by not heeding the experience of other countries. As the population of the Republic becomes more and more concentrated in the cities, the fate of the cities has a substantial bearing on the fate of the nation, and unless, for one thing, the cities can solve their transport and traffic problems, they will choke to death. This is not a local problem, but a national one, yet what is the position? You all know of the announcement made that local authorities cannot expect further subsidies from the Province, or the State, in regard to the construction of expressways and major roads. Where do the State and Province collect the largest portion of their revenue? I would suggest that Johannesburg makes a very large contribution, and is entitled from this contribution, to assistance in the construction of roads and expressways. In South Africa our Parliament is so dominated by rural constituencies that the welfare of the cities and towns is not receiving sufficient attention from the State.

Everyone realizes the dominant part played by finance in determining what can and what cannot be done. This was recognised some years ago when the Borckenhagen Commission was appointed to examine the financial relationship between the State, the Provinces and Local Authorities. That Commission was appointed in August 1956, twelve years ago. It is understood that the report has at last been presented to the Minister of Finance, but the report has not yet been published, and it is not yet known what the recommendations are, or whether they will be implemented. At a recent conference of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants held in Bulawayo, it was suggested that we may have to regard the Borckenhagen Report in the same light as the mythical Flying Dutchman, the wandering Jew and the vanishing Indian.

I have told you of Johannesburg's endeavour to plan for the future, but there is need for a regional plan, for co-ordinated planning of the areas around Johannesburg, and around every large metropolitan area, yet ad hoc planning in the areas to the south and north of Johannesburg is the order of the day. Areas of ground are laid out as townships without thought to the road systems to carry the traffic generated by such townships, and with inadequate provision for parks or public amenities, or for the provision of public transport. Recent articles have highlighted the 'no man's land' where no provision is made for ambulances, and there are large areas with inadequate fire services. This lack of planning can only lead to chaos. More and more power is being taken by the Central and Provincial Governments to control local authorities, instead of extending a helping hand to solve the many problems. More and more circulars are being issued, and helpful as many officials try to be, the very volume of work they have to do tends to slow up the whole administration. Can you believe that the Johannesburg City Council is not able to lease any premises without the prior approval of the Provincial Authorities? That no lease to rent a house to an employee in a power station can be entered into prior to that lease being approved by the Administrator?

It has been very apparent to me during my period of office in the City Council that Johannesburg has never outlived the attitude of higher authorities when the "uitlander" was regarded with suspicion, and the development of this city was regarded with jealousy and antagonism. Let me be the first to say, however, that there have been faults on both sides.

To me one of the greatest needs is for all tiers of government to co-operate and plan and learn from the experience of overseas cities who, years ago, ran into the problems we are now experiencing. I sincerely trust that we can stop a lot of the sniping that takes place, and that we can get to grips with the issues at stake.

What of the future? Will the movement of the voters from the rural areas to the cities give Parliament and the Provincial Council's a different emphasis by having more urban representatives? Will the problems of the urban areas receive the constructive attention that they need? Will the establishment of the Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit assist the attitude towards Johannesburg by objective research into the problems of the city by the students and staff. It is hoped that the contacts made here will result in the students identifying themselves with the problems of metropolitan areas.

And what of the future of your Council? I can only hold out the hope of greater activity, of greater variety and challenge in trying to cope with the problems of tomorrow, the tomorrow in which technical change will play a significant role in the leisure time available to our citizens, which we must help them to gainfully employ.

May I conclude by congratulating your Council on the work it has done, and wish it well for the future.

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