

In our letter to President Reagan, we also said that Prof Brutus is not guilty of any infringement of United States Law that would warrant his expulsion. The oppressed people of South Africa will be deeply grateful should he make it possible for Prof Brutus to remain in the USA.

National Executive Committee

The National Executive Committee of the Party had met on three occasions; one of which being a special meeting where Minister Chris Heunis addressed us and supposedly given us highly confidential information on the Government's constitutional proposals. The recommendations were so "highly confidential" that it all appeared on the very next day in the Sunday Times. In fact that newspaper carried far more information than what he had given us.

The Bloemfontein meeting on 29th May our discussions were mainly on the President's Council Constitutional Committee's first report and the report on local government.

On the 9th October the Committee met at Upington where the Government's guidelines on constitutional changes received priority on the agenda.

Although we were under heavy pressure from all groups, black and white, including the Government as well, we were at no stage prepared to commit ourselves. We also refused to give evidence to the President's Council because we as a Party did not approve of those who were appointed and that Blacks were excluded. These who were appointed were all Government supporters. The other reason being that we had submitted to the Government our own proposals when the CPRC Committee on Constitutional Proposals had been appointed.

We stated that we will act in faith and will not respond out of fear. We would make our own decisions without giving cognisance of threats from certain sections of Blacks and Whites. We said that we support the spirit of reform and will participate fully in the reform process. Our Party's standpoint is quite clear in that power must be shared by all South Africans if democracy, peace and stability are to be achieved.

In order to create full Party involvement Regional constitutional committees were appointed who would discuss the Government's proposals and submit their recommendations to leadership. These recommendations would be tabled when we meet with the Minister.

Head Office also undertook a national opinion survey in which both members of the party and non-members were approached for their opinion.

Return to the 1969 Style.

The Government has come up again as it did during the "Tom Swartz era", using lavish means in order to get from the coloured and Indian communities their full support for their, the Government's, proposals. Proposals which would perpetuate the policy of brasskap. Cocktail parties and other types of functions had been arranged where gullible persons were invited. Even the Department of Information and Foreign Affairs became involved by the publishing at no cost to the reader, a newspaper known as The Carrot - in fact it should be called the "Carrot".

Mr Chairman, there are many people who have never, in the past, shown any interest in this Party and then there are others who after the Government through our pressure, abandoned the nominated Coloured Persons Council had hoped to be among the nominated, became "dead-wood" members. Then there are others who are "sitting on the fence" waiting eagerly what decision this Party will take. What I'm trying to say, is that should we decided to "go in" we can expect a big inflow of members - the dead-wood, the fence-sitter and the uninterested. All hoping to become or be considered as likeable candidates.

I would thus recommend, that we should include a clause in our constitution that should a member of this Party be elected on our "ticket" for any Government institution, and where an increment is received, should he or she resign from this Party because they are no longer prepared to abide by certain decisions, they should also resign from such institution. Members should not be allowed to ride on the backs of this Party and the people in order for personal gain and aggrandisement.

We have...../

DARZ

We have had so much experience in the past where persons having joined this Party merely so that they could be elected on an "easy ticket", and thereafter says: "to hell with the Labour Party."

Dissolving of the Worcester Branch

Of the many decisions taken by the Finance and Administration Committee was that the Worcester branch be dissolved and approved by the National Executive Committee of the Party. It was a serious step which had to be taken against one of our most popular branches, but a wise one, knowing full well how certain officials of the branch were found to be "moles."

Certain newspapers which were not favourable towards our Party and which supported the pseudo-radicals, made headlines of the dissolving and accepted without question the untruths issued by certain "officials" of the branch. These newspapers made capital and said that this was the start of the finish of the Labour Party, and was not even prepared to print my reply.

For the information of those who wish the demise of this Party let me say to them that the branch was dissolved not only because of certain irregularities but that the "officers" were using the branch for other ends and would result that the branch members would have become involved without them knowing. Secondly, Mr David Petersen and his officers including the youth group they established were never elected constitutionally. They said to the press that they were never officially notified of their suspension, yet the letters were sent under registered post and on inquiry at the Post Office it was found that they have all signed for receipt of these letters. And finally, because not having received satisfactory replies to our correspondence we were forced to freeze the banking account as we found there is an overdraft and that large sums of money have been drawn without proper explanation.

It would be recommended sir, that this Conference recommend to N E C the expulsion of Mr David Petersen and his "officers".

With the dissolving of the branch, out of the ashes two new branches have arisen at Worcester - the Victoria Park and Breckriver branches.

Organisation

The good news to this Conference is that during the course of last year - 1982 - the Party has grown quite considerably, both in branches and members. And what is most surprising is that branches in the Cape Peninsula that have recently been established are from the areas where the affluent and where the radicals claim they are well organised in the townships. Most of those who are living in the townships and supported the radicals have come to realise that they were being used by these groups.

One of my disappointments is the lack of co-operation received from most Regional Secretaries. If only I can receive this that is lacking much of my illc and temper will be cured.

To Branch Secretaries I must express my thanks for the manner in which they have been keeping Head Office well informed, and a special thanks to the Stellenbosch and Chatty branches for having sent each month copies of their minutes. May this co-operation continue.

We must realise that the entire structure of our Party organisation should provide a continuous channel of communication from individual Party members through branch, constituency, Regional and National levels to the Leader of the Party.

Through this channel there will be a constant two-way flow of ideas, information and advice forming a unifying link between all members of the Party at every level.

With the increase in branches it has now become necessary to re-establish Regions such as Western Cape, Boland, Eastern Cape and Border so that should there be any delimitations and certain constituencies decrease in size we will be able to be prepared as our lines of communication will have been shortened.

Textile Workers

I would recommend sir, that this Conference make its views known as regards the increase..../

increase in unemployment, particularly in the textile industry.

Because of the Government's deal with Taiwan that South African maize is being exported to that country on a large scale, Taiwan's knitwear products are being allowed in this country without customs duties being charged. Resulting in that that country's knitwear and other goods as well can be sold more cheaply in South Africa. Our workers in turn are being retrenched on a very large scale and is also a way out for the Government to say why influx control is necessary and the Black worker must be returned to the homelands to live in further poverty.

Conclusion

As I hinted earlier on in my report, that another crucial stage has been reached in this Party. Whatever decisions we may reach today, whatever road we decide to take we should be seen walking together hand-in-hand on that road. We are a political party and we must face the fact that a political decision must be taken.

We must also remember that whatever decisions are taken it must not be seen as condoning government actions and policy, and to be seen as agreeing to Minister Chris Heunis' request. Remember it is only fools that will rush in where angels fear to tread. Time is on our side.

So I appeal to us all not to be party to the destruction of this Party because no matter what the boycotters or the radicals might say, we are still the Party of our people. We do not represent the elites and highbracket-income groups we represent the "man - in - the - street."

It is said that a good general never goes into battle without planning his campaign, and so should we by creating a more efficient organisation. We have the material and we have the tools so let us start from this day on make use of that which are at our disposal.

War and oppression will remain the greatest blot in the history of mankind, but examine the situation in this country how well organised is oppression here. Yet we in this Party fight shy of proper organisation. We are always seen to be waiting until we reach that bridge.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere appreciation to those members, regardless of rank, and units of this Party whose co-operation I enjoyed during the past year.

I am, sir, supremely confident that our Party will be instrumental in bringing about the necessary changes and reform in South Africa, with other groups working to this end.

Thank you for your patience.

F E Peters  
National Secretary

13.

GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS. To evaluate and discuss,

Most delegates participated in the debate and most of the views expressed were:-

- a. The Government's proposals are still based on colour;
- b. Discussions with the "man-in-the-street" who all agreed that the Party should participate;
- c. The Government should be given a chance to prove its sincerity as regards reform;
- d. The Proposals does not comply to our policy and should be rejected;
- e. Should not decide now whether to go in or not, but await for further details;
- f. We should not discard our constitution to suit the White man.
- g. We should use the Leader's guide-lines for debate and decide thereon;
- h. For a number of reasons the proposals cannot be accepted. We demand full citizenship;

i. We are.../

- i. We owe the white press nothing we owe our allegiance to the Party, the Leader, the people and to ourselves;
- j. The Party has a different role to play in this new situation. We should accept the proposals;
- k. We are committed to our recommendation submitted to the de Proen Constitutional Committee. But it appears that those who have signed the document are now speaking differently.
- l. The Government's mandate is apartheid and they have won many elections on that platform. They are now under pressure and seeking support presenting a "new" face.

The National Secretary read report on the national opinion survey which was conducted by Head Office.

- a. He thanked both Party members and supporters who gave financial help towards the cost of the survey.
- b. A total of 1600 questionnaires were posted to persons throughout the Republic of South Africa, which included a self-addressed and postage paid envelope.
- c. In the Cape Province: 1300 were sent. 50 persons in 26 constituencies (Bethelsdorp and Gelvendale was not included) of which 35 were non members and 15 were Party members.  
 In the Transvaal : 150 were sent. 25 persons in 6 constituencies of which 15 were non members and 10 Party members.  
 In the Free State : 75 were sent in 3 constituencies of which 15 were non members and 10 Party members.  
 In Natal : 75 were sent in 3 constituencies of which 15 were non members and 10 Party members.

The present "coloured" voters' lists for 1982 were used from which the non members names were taken at random.

- d. Of the 1041 replies received were from: Ministers of Religion, Businessmen, Attornies, Artisans, Teachers, Housewives, Clerks, General workers and Pensioners.  
 The ages varied between 23 and 73 and the lowest standard of education was Std I. 55 percent home language was Afrikaans and 45 percent were English speaking.
- e. Of the 1600 sent.... 1041(100%) completed and returned their forms  
 25 were returned address unknown or moved and  
 4 returned by relatives stating that the persons had died.

1070

- f. 20 questions were put of which 9 were strictly for Party information only. Their consents were also requested after answering each question.

The results are as follows:-

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Do you support the policy of separate development (Apartheid)?	5,7%	94,3%
2. Do you support the Labour Party's policy of one-man-one-vote in a unitary state?	82,7%	17,3%
3. Should the Labour Party continue its negotiations with the Government?	87,1%	12,9%
4. Do you see the Government's new constitutional proposals as moving away from apartheid?	28,9%	71,1%
5. Do you see the Government's proposals as a useful beginning towards reform?	75,0%	25%
6. Should the Labour Party change its policy to conform to the Government's new proposals?	17,3%	82,7%

7. Do you..../

- 7. Do you see violence as the only solution towards solving South Africa's problems? 11,5% : 88,5%
- 8. Would it be wise for the so-called coloured people to allow other "coloured" groups or persons, who support the Government's policy and new proposals, to represent the "coloured" people in the "new" parliament? 20,3% : 79,7%
- 9. Should the Labour Party participate in the elections for a "coloured" chamber? 68,4% : 31,6%
- 10. Should the Labour Party decide to participate in the "new" system, should every possible means to press for the full participation of Africans as well? 76,9% : 23,1%
- 11. Should the Labour Party withdraw from working within the system and become a protest group with no negotiation powers? 21,3% : 78,7%

The National Treasurer, National Vice-Chairman and finally the National Chairman also participated in the debate.

Conference adjourned for 20 minutes to await the report from the Resolution Committee.

Committee

The resolution as submitted to Conference by the Resolution Committee was read by the Leader of the Party, Rev H J Hendrickse:-

"The Labour Party of South Africa believes in the effective participation of all South Africans irrespective of race, colour or creed, in the nation at all levels.

The Party does not see the proposals of the Government as being the political answer to the constitutional demands of the people, because:

- (a) of the exclusion of the greatest number of South Africans;
- (b) it does not answer the constitutional demands of the Party and our time;
- (c) it is based on and entrenches ethnicity.

We reiterate our demand for and belief in a one man one vote in a unitary system, the latter being negotiable.

However, the Labour Party believes that our participation within the tri-casual arrangement and consequent standing committees, commissions and councils, can assist us in the achievement of our goals and constitutional objectives, and further instructs it's leaders to continue on the road of negotiation with the Government of the day."

The resolution was put to the vote.

Of the total number of 224 official delegates who were eligible to vote:-  
 259 voted in favour of the resolution  
 10 voted against and  
 25 abstained.

Conference adjourned at 19h30 and to resume at 09h00 on the next day.

WEDNESDAY 5 JANUARY 1983 at 09h15.

14.

PRAYERS

Proceedings commenced with prayer by Mr H B Savahl.

15.

DISCUSSION ON THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

a. Housing: Mr Savahl said that the Housing Committee as recommended at the previous...../

previous conference, which was to be on a Regional basis never came off the ground. Because of its importance we should at this conference place more emphasis on such committees as housing is a very serious problem. - Discussion.

b. Witrand-Hilloek: Mr Daniels of Kakamas report on the area that was first declared coloured and has recently been repleclaimed for white occupation.

The Leader of the Party said that the men responsible for the declaring of the area are a daminee and the town clerk of Kakamas. - Discussion.

c. Education: The National Chairman spoke about teachers that were transferred.

The Leader made mention of the low percentage pass in matric. We should, he said, ask the Government to appoint an independent commission of inquiry into the low pass mark for 1982. - Discussion.

d. Unemployment: During the discussion on the increase in unemployment in the textile industry, the Leader said that this issue should be treated on a national basis and not be confined to a certain area. - Discussion.

The Leader of the Party proposed a vote of thanks to the National Secretary for his work and devotion to the Party. The vote was unanimous.

CONFERENCE "Went into Committee"

16. FINANCE

- a. The National Treasurer delivered his annual financial report.
- b. The Annual Financial Statement and Balance Sheet was tabled, copies of which were made available to Officers and delegates for scrutiny and comment. During the discussion the National Chairman said that all outstanding pledges must be paid before a member could stand for election. The Leader moved that the pledges of the Regions remain the same for the ensuing year. After further discussion the Treasurer's Report and Financial statement was unanimously accepted.

REGIONAL AND OTHER REPORTS

Reports were received from and read by the various delegates from each Region, the Womens' Councils and Labour Youth Movement.

Open Conference

At this stage Mr Norman Middleton announced his resignation from the Party.

16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were unanimously re-elected to office:-

Rev E J Hendrickse	Leader of the Party
Mr Ismail Richards	Deputy Leader of the Party
Mr David M Curry	National Chairman
Mr Charles Redcliffe	National Vice-Chairman
Mr Fred E Peters	National Secretary
Mr Errol Gerden	Asst. National Secretary
Mr Arthur Stanley	National Treasurer
Mr Richard Lackay	National Trustee

19. HOSTING NEXT PARTY CONFERENCE

The Eastern Province Region extended the invitation to host the Eighteenth Annual Conference in Port Elizabeth.

20. RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions as drafted by the Resolution Committee were tabled and after having being fully discussed were unanimously adopted:

Unemployment

"Although this conference of the Labour Party of S A is fully aware of the reciprocal principle in trade relations between countries, it nevertheless views with particular concern the extent to which the flooding of the domestic market with cheap goods free of customs duty from Taiwan is affecting employment in South Africa; therefore, this conference resolves that a concerted campaign should be launched against the purchase of such goods, because are retrenched on a large scale thus giving the Government reason that the African worker should be returned to the homelands to live in further poverty. Conference further instructs the National Executive Committee of the Party to go into the whole matter of escalating unemployment".

Education

i.

"This conference resolves that the Government appoint a commission of enquiry independent of the Coloured Administration, to investigate and report on the disturbing failure rate in Senior Certificate results in 1982".

ii.

"This conference resolves that compulsory education up to the age of 16 years or with a minimum school-leaving certificate be introduced with immediate effect, and that the formula for this be based on the De Lange Commission's recommendation, viz. six years of formal education, followed by three years of non-formal or three years of academic education, as a solution to the alarming drop-out rate and for speedier socio-economic upliftment of our people".

Group Areas (Reproclamation)

That the Government must favourably consider the return of Witrand-Hillock (Kakamas) to the original owners and that leadership enter into urgent negotiation with the Minister of Community Development on this matter".

Transport (Railways)

"That representation be made to the Minister of Transport that in the event where no sufficient travelling facilities are made available to those persons who are not white, travelling facilities reserved for Whites be shared with those who are not white."

Housing Committee

"That whereas the Party decided at its 1981 conference empowering the F and A Committee to constitute a national housing committee, and whereas this decision was not implemented, and whereas in view of the acute housing shortage and related problems and failure of the Government to prevent the escalating housing shortage, conference (i) elect a convener who together with the F and A Committee constitute a housing committee, with powers to co-opt where necessary and  
(ii) that the convener report-back at the next conference.

Communication

"In order to improve Party communication, in addition to top leadership all Regional chairmen become members of the negotiating team."

21. VOTES OF THANKS

The Leader of the Party expressed thanks to Mr Middleton for the part he played whilst a member of the Party.

He also...../

DA 123

He also thanked; The delegates,  
 The staff of the Sunnydale Hostel,  
 Mr & Mrs Lewis,  
 The Mayor of Eshove,  
 The businesses of Eshove for their donations,  
 Little Flower Convent  
 Management and staff of the George Hotel,  
 The Press and SABC TV and  
 to the Lucas and Dunn families for the role they had played  
 in making this conference a success.

22. CLOSURE

The National Chairman, Mr D H Curry in closing the seventeenth annual conference thanked the Leader of the Party, Rev E J Hendrickse for all that he has done for the Party.

Conference closed with a prayer.

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Representation at Conference:-

Party national Officers	8
F and A Officers	2
Regions (5)	18
Branches (71)	224
Missions (5)	15
Womens Groups (2)	8
Youth Movement (4)	16
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	294 delegates.

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NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

dated:.....



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