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THE LONG VIEW

By Peter Brown

Pogo is a Product of White Racialism

MORE THAN six months ago Minister of Justice B. J. Vorster initiated a smear campaign against the Liberal Party which has been carried on with systematic venom and complete disregard for the facts ever since.

In the early stages the technique used was to identify Liberalism with Communism. Although the campaign was intense, there was nothing new in it. Anyone of whom the Government disapproves it calls a Communist sooner or later.

In the middle of the Paarl Riots Inquiry, however, things suddenly took a different and more sinister turn. It was implied in cross-examination of Chief Kaizer Matanzima that there was some link between the Party and the Pogo movement, particularly that there was some connection between it and the Bashee Bridge murders. Government supporters have been gleefully echoing these allegations ever since but their factual basis remains as obscure as ever.

Nobody who has ever had anything to do with the Liberal Party has been charged with being involved in the Bashee murders. As far as its known, no member of the Party has even been arrested. The challenge to the government to produce in court any Liberal whom it alleges is connected with this or any other act of violence remains unanswered.

The jump from accusing the Liberal Party from being "communist" to accusing it of being connected with Pogo is a curious feat of gymnastics. The government insists that Pogo is an extension of the banned PAC. But everyone knows that the PAC was virulently anti-Communist—and for "communist-inclined Liberals to be in league with communist-hating Pan-Africanists would be quite fantastic.

NO CONNECTION

Liberals have no connection and never have had any with Pogo. No organisation, except perhaps the Nationalist Party, holds views more opposed to Liberal views than does Pogo. Pogo is narrow, exclusive and violent, as far removed from the Liberal Party as it could possibly be. The last thing which Pogo would want to do would be to associate with an organisation holding the non-racial and non-violent views which

the Liberal Party holds.

The campaign of the government, whether it attempts to link Liberals illogically with Communists or whether it attempts to link them with even less logic with Pogo, should be seen clearly for what it is.

It is an attempt to discredit and intimidate its most vocal and outspoken legal political opponents. It is an attempt to justify in the eyes of White South Africans the banning of people like Peter Hjul and Randolph Vigne. It is an attempt to frighten the Party out of its legitimate and, for the government, embarrassing role in the Transkei. It is designed to soften up White opinion in case it should be considered desirable to take further action against individual Party members.

But most of all this campaign should be seen as a frantic attempt by the government to cover up the failure of its own policies. It hopes that its own supporters will be blinded by its present campaign of insinuation and unsubstantiated allegation against the Liberal Party, and so fail to see Pogo for what it really is—the natural child of apartheid. For let there be no mistake about it, that is what Pogo is.

Racially exclusive apartheid has produced racially exclusive Pogo. Nationalist insistence on "each to his



With this article, Mr. Peter Brown, National Chairman of the Liberal Party of South Africa, starts a regular column in Contact giving the liberal, non-racial view of politics in South Africa.

own" has produced Pogo. Nationalist insistence that there must be the minimum of contact across the colour line and that everyone across the line is not only "different" but a potential threat, has produced a situation in which some Africans, not surprisingly, have come to regard everyone on the other side of the line as an enemy. Nationalist refusal to grant effective constitutional rights to African people has turned them inevitably to seek their aims through violence and terror.

Mr. Vorster accuses Liberals and Communists of creating Pogo. He will find its creators arrayed beside him in the ranks of his own Party.

As for the Liberal Party, it will continue to speak out and to work for what it believes to be right no matter what unsubstantiated allegations are made against it—and the last methods it will use will be Pogo methods.

POLICE ACTION HELPS TSOTSIS

From "Contact" Correspondent
PRETORIA: Africans here, particularly in Lady Selborne, are complaining of treatment by the police. Since the end of 1962 vans on "pass raids" in the townships have carried police dressed very shabbily, often in overalls, among the uniformed men.

These "plain clothes" police make arrests for pass "offences" and actually accompany the prisoners to the vans and back to the police stations. The residents' complaints arise from the results of this type of police action.

The "Tsotsi element" in Lady

Selborne are using their knowledge of these arrests to line their own pockets. They walk up to ignorant or strange Africans and ask for their passes and when the victims stop to show their passes they are robbed.

Sometimes these people are "arrested" by the Tsotsis and taken away, as if to a police van, and then robbed.

Recently, on separate occasions, two members of the Liberal Party were arrested by "plain clothes" police; one policeman was dressed very poorly and dirtily, and the other wore torn overalls.