



*You must keep them out at all costs—how do we know they aren't UN Ethiopian troops in disguise?*

## To the Editors

### *Caneville not Progressive*

SIR—John Clare, in his review of *Caneville—The Social Structure of a South African Town* by Pierre L. van den Berghe, in your issue of June 6th, 1964, makes a startling and completely unfounded statement that what the Company has done in Caneville “they have done [it] adhering strictly to Progressive Party policy”.

How ludicrous this statement is, would appear from the following few extracts taken at random from the book:

“The Caneville political system can best be described as paternalistic, or . . . a benevolent dictatorship.” (p. 66).

“Government by consultation with appointed representation by racial group is the political side of the theory . . .” (p. 76).

“The Company’s power structure is typical of a modern business bureaucracy, with the added element of the rigid South African colour-bar in employment . . . the system is intended to maintain White supremacy.” (pp. 79, 80).

“Opportunities are largely determined by skin colour, not by merit.” (p. 138).

“Facilities are not only segregated but they are markedly unequal.” (pp. 197, 198).

For the benefit of Mr. John Clare and readers who were possibly misled by his statements, I want to point out that Progressive Party policy is very clear and very definite on all these matters.

**Franchise:** It offers the franchise on an equal basis to members of *all* races, voters being registered on a *common* roll for the purpose of *electing* members of Parliament, and Parliament being open to *all* races.

**Economic Policy:** The Party would repeal all artificial racial restrictions on the buying or

hiring of land and premises in the interest of allowing free play to individual initiative and enterprise; it would repeal pass laws and influx control; it would scrap the industrial colour-bar which excludes individuals from skilled or semi-skilled occupations on racial grounds. **Social Policy:** Under Party policy the authorities will see to it that adequate facilities are available to all race groups, both on a separate and an “open” basis. These would be provided on the basis of scrupulous fairness to all groups concerned and equality in meeting their respective needs.

**Education:** The Progressive Party’s objective is compulsory education for *all* up to Standard VI as soon as possible, no distinction being made in the type of education available for the different racial groups.

Under Progressive Party policy the political, economic and social situation as described in *Caneville*, can most definitely *not* exist.

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