

PC16/n/3/1/49

P.O. Box 71,



Hilton, 3245.

16th July, 1979.

The Editor,
The Natal Witness,
P.O. Box 362,
Pietermaritzburg.

Sir,

If Mr. Smith has the qualities Mr. Payne says he has he will one day have to concede that his UDI was disastrous.

For if, instead of declaring independence, he had at that time entered into serious negotiations about majority rule, he would have found himself dealing with a Mr. Nkomo far less intractable than the one he has to deal with today, and the Rev. Sithole, with whom he seemed to work quite easily in the recent interim government. Rhodesia (or Zimbabwe) might by now be a reasonably stable non-racial democracy an example and a reassurance to the rest of the sub-continent, making it just that much more possible for it to change sensibly. And a lot of people who are now dead might not be.

If Mr. Smith were to come to Michaelhouse to tell his young audience about such lessons from his past my objections to his being there would fall away, and even the black opinion which your correspondent dismisses so lightly might be somewhat mollified.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Brown.