

PC16/5/3/3/6

P.O. Box 71,



Hilton, 3245.

25th January, 1981.

The Editor,  
The Natal Witness,  
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Sir,

Congratulations to Mr. L.L.Botha on his resignation from the Royal Agricultural Society over its decision to play a major part in the Natal Republican celebrations. I hope if I had been a member I would have done the same.

This would have had nothing to do with being an opponent of a republican form of government, which I am not, but everything to do with being an opponent of the kind of republican government we have and the way in which it imposed itself on South Africa.

Surely only a convinced Nationalist should find something to celebrate in the fact that the republican constitution was foisted on us twenty years ago without the vast majority of our people even being consulted on the matter, and that, twenty years later, it continues to be imposed upon them without their consent ?

Are we being asked to celebrate the fact that this state of affairs can only persist because it is backed up by an ever-growing armoury of security laws of which we should all be thoroughly ashamed ? And that the worst of these laws have been passed in the last twenty years ?

Or are we being asked to celebrate the fact that, in spite of all this, our internal and external security situation is today a great deal worse even than it was twenty years ago ?

The time for celebrations will be when we have a constitution, republican or otherwise, based on the consent and support of most South Africans. <sup>in contrast with</sup> This year's event <sup>with which</sup> most black South Africans have quite rightly decided to have nothing to do ~~with~~