

Subject: Filling me in

Date: Wed, 19 Apr 2000 23:59:58 -0400

From: nrubin <nrubin@compuserve.com>

To: gunther <magnus@intranet.ca>

Dear Mag,

I saw Turck lat night, briefly before a constituency report-back meeting in the Muizenberg pavilion - on Crime, where he came across as something between M.L. King and Rudolpg Giuliani; and twice referred to the Constitution, when pointing out the relevant provision on the functions of the police, as being "liberal".

Sadly, he didn't seem to know who you are; nor that he has a trustee of Baruch's papers. I didn't want to compromise your pitch, so left it that you'd contact him directly by email if you wish: bturck@anc.org.za.

Two glosses on the union business and the new-NUSASers: both very much a source of disillusionment as far as I'm concerned, and both sadly indicative of current political dilemmas (not to mention future disarray):

1. My run-in while an ILO official (1989) with the NUM on trying to get AIDS and the hostel system on the mines killed off. After getting a promise of an initial \$500,000 from the Norwegians (the chap who is now the foreign minister, Knut Vollebaeck) and the agreement of Bill Hoffenberg, this was given the thumbs-down, first by Kate Phillip (daughter of publisher, David) with the argument that it any campaign would be regarded as "reflecting on the sexualit of the miners". Footnote 1: yesterday it was reported that 10% of all S.Africans have HIV (with the largest number of pregant women, 25%, in Natal). Footnote 2. Ms.Phillip, at the 1990 meeting burying NUSAS, was reported as saying of her Presidency, "first we set about destroying the Liberals, then th Government."
2. Last week, in refusing again to intervene to saave the jobs of the 1300 miners sacked by Volkswagen over an illegal strike directed at the NUMSA shopstewards who had bucked the central directorate, a NUMSA spokesman declined to use ILO principles and instruments, because (a) they were merely ideals, (b) were not applicable in SA, and (c) doing so would make them a laughing stock among multinational employers. Wrong on all three, but decomratic centralism rules while unemployment figures are good for demonstrations!

Must dash.

Yrs,

Neville