

NKOMO William Frederick

1. Nkomo was born in 1915 in Makapanstad near Pretoria. He studied at St. Peter's, Rosettenville, and matriculated at Healdtown. He taught for several years, till in 1941 he was given a government bursary and studied for six years at the University of the Witwatersrand, qualifying as a doctor. He turned to politics, and angered the leaders of the A.N.C. by speaking of bloodshed and violence as possible solutions of SouthAfrica's problems.

Cartoon: I can only think of an impassioned speech by Nkomo

2. But things change. In 1953 he joined the Moral Rearmament movement, and again angered the leaders of the A.N.C. by criticising them from the opposite point of view. Nelson Mandela announced his expulsion in that year. Nkomo had become the apostle of peace, but never minced his words about social and political justice. In this same year he joined the Executive of the Institute of Race Relations. In 1971 he became the first blackpresident of the Institute.

Cartoon: Nkomo presiding over the Annual Conference

3. Nkomo was a man of great honesty. He was held in great respect by both blacks and whites, but he gave his support to the Black Consciousness movement and the Black People's Convention. In Atteridgeville the people instituted an annual Nkomo Day in recognition of his life of service. He died of a stroke in March 1972.

Cartoon: Nkomo looking modest and pleased at a gathering on Nkomo Day.