

Pc111/7/10/65



The first Saturday after the 1948 elections Rene saw HOFFIE at the Union Buildings. R. said to him, "Mr. Hofmeyr, this is a vote for apartheid." H. replied, "Of course it is, of course it is." H. then started working out figures in connection with election results. R. got the impression that his defence mechanism had begun to work, and that after this H. was very much on the defensive. R. thought H. was shattered by election results and the last months of his life he tended to explain himself. R. said both Colin Steyn and Laurence blamed H. for U.P. defeat. C.S. thought H. was a political fool and let the Nats bluff him. L. wanted the U.P. to get rid of H.

R. remembers H. getting the news that Balliol Boys' Club was to be divided into four houses one of which was to be called Hofmeyr. He was very pleased about this and asked R. if he could get the news put into one of the Argus papers - one of the rare occasions H. asked for any sort of publicity. This was in 1947 Session.

During the short session everybody wanted H. to talk. H. said, "Nobody is going to tell me when to talk. I'll choose my own moment!" During this session there was talk of getting rid of H. R. asked him if he knew what was being said. H. said, "Of course", but he appeared anxious to find out the source of all the talk. R. said he thought the talk must be humiliating. H. replied, "It might give us the chance to do something we have never been able to do before."

R. was at the fatal cricket match. He said H. looked dreadful. Jack had driven him over from Pretoria. They all told H. he should not play. He said, "I think I'll go out to the wicket." His side was batting and he couldn't put on his pads. He said he'd like to shake hands with the team, but couldn't go to the wicket. Shook hands at boundary. Sat for a short while. John Martin took him home

cf Mrs Martin

Once at the weekly FORUM conferences they were discussing the suggestion of increasing the Cabinet from 12 to 15. They asked H. what he thought of the idea. He replied, "Eleven colleagues are quite enough. I couldn't cope with 14."

H. insisted that the Erfdeel (?) investigations should go on and that the matter was not hushed up in any way.

H. wrote a chapter of a book to be published in Sweden on "The Role Religion Played in the South African World."

H. typed the articles he sent to the FORUM ~~XXXX~~ on a decrepit typewriter and refused to get a new ribbon for it.

He would not ride five yards in an official car unless he was on official business.

cf de Bracy

RENE de VILLIERS: contd:



Rene and Cope used to try to get H. to criticise Smuts, but H. would never be drawn.

R. thought H. first realised things were going wrong with the general election when Kensington results were announced with much smaller majority. (Bertha Solomon's seat). He made a great point of saying it was a political revolution, that there'd been no real change since 1924. At - session, instead of sitting in front row, H. sat behind Smuts so as to be in continual communication with him.

The day H. had to reply to Budget Debate 1947 session, he was too ill and was ordered by Doctor not to go to the House. (Werth informed the House).

R. had great difficulty once in getting accommodation at Parliamentary Flats - mentioned the fact to H. H. said his complaint must come through ordinary channels. H. and R. always spoke English to each other, but R. wrote H. letters for his birthday in Afrikaans and H. replied in Afrikaans. R. said H. and his mother spoke a great deal in Afrikaans. H. had great sympathy for the poor and underdog and once said to R., "If you had once been poor, you would always have sympathy for the poor."