

1948

Pc/1/17/10/74



FORUM CORRESPONDENCE

Box 9

On 22 July, 1948 the SATURDAY POST, Port Elizabeth wrote to JHH.:-
"At the request of Mr. Cope I am enclosing a share application form to enable you to take up a nominal amount of shares in the Company.....I take the opportunity to express my keen satisfaction at the fact that you are now taking an interest in the POST and in the shaping of its destiny.

Extracts from Memo prepared by Cope.

...It is clear that a unique opportunity has arisen both for the extension of the Press controlled by you and for an attractive commercial investment.

The P.E. proposal is important for three main reasons.

- (a) It would create an alliance between you and your supporters here on the one hand and a group of highly influential men in the rapidly expanding Eastern Province.
- (b) It would provide a Press circulating in more than ten political constituencies.
- (c) It would constitute one of a group of journals with the advantages that the group system brings to any Press organisation.....You have at present the FORUM constituted as an independent company and controlled by you.

.....

I have, on your instruction and with the approval of Mr. H.F. Oppenheimer been exploring the possibility of the purchase of the SUNDAY EXPRESS in Johannesburg. The position at the moment is that the Board of the SUNDAY EXPRESS has been considering the possibility of disposing of the EXPRESS under certain conditions.....A group consisting of the FORUM, SUNDAY EXPRESS, and SATURDAY POST would constitute a strong Press influence in South Africa.

(Suggested that HOFFIE bought the c shares of the POST which would give him policy control as in the case of the FORUM, and the H. was also given policy control if EXPRESS was purchased. Mentioned possibility of acquiring NATAL WITNESS as well).

Points from Memo prepared by duPreez

duP had been down to P.E. at request of SATURDAY POST to review position. He had met Board of S.P. (Chairman Neil Boss).

"These Directors, I have ascertained from independent sources form a group of leading industrialists and are all men with honesty of purpose, great influence and with a fairly useful capital They felt there was scope for a vigorous paper with a policy of broad South Africanism in contrast to a policy of narrow colonial

atmosphere of the EASTERN PROVINCE HERALD".



SATURDAY POST was printed by Unievolkspers who used to print ONS LAND. Unievolkspers sold their Rotary plant to the HERALD, who then expanded and owned both daily papers. Their policy was objectionable to leaders of opinion in Port Elizabeth. The SATURDAY POST was dissatisfied with the HERALD terms for printing their paper, so had decided to make SATURDAY POST independent of opposition group. duP suggested that a solution to the printing problem would be either to purchase a Rotary as soon as possible for the production of POST or to buy a commercial printing plant as well, as the POST was only a weekly paper. He concluded his memo with a financial details of scheme. (Dated 18.5.48)

Oppenheimer showed interest in ROSTRA.