

**R. F. RORKE**

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40, LOVEDAY STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Your Ref.:  
Our Ref.: MR. RORKE/ER. R.463.

50/1 Security Building,  
95, Commissioner Street,  
JOHANNESBURG.

14th May, 1970.



Alan Paton, Esq.,  
P. O. Box 278,  
Hillcrest,  
Natal.

Dear Mr. Paton,

I have just finished reading your book about J.H. Hofmeyr, South African Tragedy. The only complaint about the book is that I found myself unable to put it down at the end of ~~the~~ Chapter, wanting to read on, as I did on several occasions until the early hours of the morning.

I have only myself to blame for not having made myself more politically aware of the South African scene until very recently. My wife is English and has been in this country since 1953 and I have told her to give the book priority as until she has read it I do not believe she will even begin to understand South Africa. My mother's family lived a few houses away from the Hofmeyrs in Pretoria, but despite this and the fact that she has lived in South Africa all her life (she is nearly 70), I do not believe she understands. Perhaps my son and daughter will be able to - their stepfather stood in Constantia for the Progressive Party but was defeated.

Would'nt it be nice if we could allow everyone ~~dal~~ vote, white people a second, those earning more than say R6000.00 a year a third, and additional votes for having passed matric, holding University degrees, owning immovable property worth more than R20,000.00, and so on, thus giving an appearance of democracy and at the same time allowing those who really count to have a large say in the Government of this Country. I am disillusioned when I think that my vote counts for less than that of Koos Appelgryn who works on the roads in Senekal.

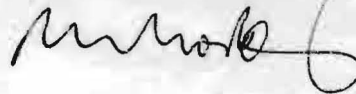
However, the story has its lighter moments. Some two or three years ago I met a man who had stood as a United Party Candidate in Frankfort in an election. He and his family have held the local franchise for General Motors in that area for many years, and he also owns the local General Dealers Store. His father was a Jew and his mother a Christian, so that while he was married to a Jewess he

was / ...

was on the Anglican Church Council. The electorate voted against him because he was a Jew, an Anglican, the local general dealer and the franchise holder. The fact that he stood for the wrong party seemed to be largely irrelevant to the issue.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R.F. RORKE', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

R.F. RORKE.