

POLIT FILE DATE

I should say after 1936 -
Probably after his speech to
Society of
Clay 13, 1936.

~~Dept of~~ ~~Native~~ ~~Studies~~

PC 11/7/8-45

It would appear that Mr. Nicholls has only abbreviated reports of my speeches.

He appears to think that I have advocated

- (a) assimilation
- (b) miscegenation
- (c) the restoration of the Cape native franchise on a common roll.

With regard to (c) I made it absolutely clear that I regarded this as an issue which has been adjudicated and that I had no intention of raising it again, and I took special steps to ask the press to insert this in their reports.

With regard to (b) I indicated in very clear language my strong feeling against anything of this kind.

With regard to (a) I made it perfectly clear that I rejected the policy of identity no less than that of repression, and that I considered that we must take as our starting-point the facts of difference between black and white. I urged the policy of distinctive native development to the full extent to which it is still possible, but contended that it cannot be completely carried out

(a) because we cannot in fact provide enough land to create homes for all natives now on the white man's land and the white man's farms, and

(b) because we already have a class of educated detribalized native whose path we cannot reverse. I therefore urged two things :-

- (a) distinctive native development in native areas, and
- (b) the recognition of the detribalized native as a factor in our economic life and the stimulation of his capacity/....

capacity to contribute to our common economic welfare.

In this connection I acclaimed the Native Trust and Land Act as a piece of constructive statesmanship, and also strongly commended what is being done to-day by the Native Affairs Department in the work of native development.

Generally I would say that the main conclusions which I sought to emphasize were those to which the Native Economic Commission came a few years ago.

Apparently Mr. Nicholls interprets my reference to "white man and black man dwelling side by side in peace and harmony as citizens of a common country" as meaning that they should have a common citizenship, i.e. that they should vote on a common roll. That certainly was not in my mind. Surely Mr. Nicholls does not mean either that the natives are not citizens of South Africa or that South Africa is not also their country as it is ours. That is all that my words conveyed (in any case the words to be emphasized in my remarks are the words in peace and harmony), and, seeing that I specifically repudiated any intention of raising the question of the old Cape native franchise, that is all that they should have conveyed.

With regard to Mr. Nicholls's quotation commencing "(3) To conceive" I can only say that it is not my language, and I find it as difficult to understand these particular words which have been put into my mouth as apparently he does.

I need hardly say that if Mr. Nicholls had asked me for a copy of the whole of the address which I delivered at Johannesburg, in which my views were fully set out, I would gladly have supplied it.