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LONG VIEW

I must say that Dr. Verwoerd has put some queer people into his cabinet. This latest speech by Dr. Albert Hertzog at the Strand would have made his father turn in his grave. General Hertzog warned his son not to fool around with the Broederbond, or it would destroy him. The process seems to be well advanced.

In all my 55 years of life in South Africa, I have never read a more disgraceful speech, a compound of hate, insult, and folly. Is this the statesmanship of Afrikaner Nationalism? Is this the way it responds to the challenge of emerging Africa? If it cannot produce something better than this, its end is even now in sight.

Dr. Hertzog did not, like so many of his revered leaders, say that we were fighting a second Blood River. He said the South African war had never ended; however, "the soldier is no longer the British Tommy, but the Native, the Coloured, and the Coolie." He said that hate was "deeply embedded in the minds of non-Europeans". I do not believe this to be so; but if it were so, whose fault would it be? I say categorically it would be the fault of Dr. Albert Hertzog, and all those who think and speak as he does, who accuse non-Europeans of being full of hate, who refer to Indians as coolies, and call on all white men to stand together for the purpose of continuing a war.

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Why isn't this man arrested for racial incitement? The answer is quite simple. It is not racial incitement in South Africa

to insult non-white people. It is racial incitement only when one challenges baasskap.

Why isn't this man accused of blackening the name of South Africa abroad? This answer is quite simple too. The only people who are accused of this crime are opponents of the Government. Dr. Hertzog has listed them - the Communists, the Liberalists, the Capitalists, the United Party. Even the least enthusiastic opponents of the Government do not escape his denunciation.

All decent and reasonable people, no matter to what race they belong, are shocked by this latest outburst. What sort of mind harbours these terrible thoughts? What sort of political philosophy produces them?

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If it is true that hatred of the white man is mounting in South Africa, it constitutes the gravest of challenges to our statesmen, for they after all have the weapons of political power. Such a challenge calls for the exercise of wisdom, courage, honesty, and certainly of love. For what can cast out hate and fear but love.

There are no signs of these qualities in the speech of the Minister. If the situation is bad, he has inflamed it. If the outlook is grave, he has made it graver.

One might justifiably ask, did he want to make the situation worse and the outlook graver? One can hardly believe that he did want to do so, but that is what he has done.

It is time that this irresponsible and dangerous man was removed from his position of power.

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I assume that the speeches and resolutions at Accra have something to do with this latest outburst. But this is the worst possible way in which to react to them. This is the way in which to convince other countries in Africa that the rulers of South Africa believe in eternal conflict between white and black, and that they intend the white man to be the eternal victor. What kind of response will that evoke, except the very kind that Dr. Hertzog fears?

One is compelled to reflect - with no joy, believe me - on the utter barrenness of Afrikaner Nationalist policy, on its utter inability to understand the challenges of today, on its failure to evoke the cooperation of non-white South Africa. Dr. Verwoerd may claim that things are going swimmingly, but here is one of his lieutenants painting a picture as ugly as we have ever seen.

If the Government goes on like this, history will say of Dr. Verwoerd and his Ministers that they betrayed the Afrikaner people and that they offered them survival on terms unacceptable to the great majority of their countrymen.

The Government wants people to like them no matter what is done to them. They expect Africans to like them in spite of the Urban Areas Act. They expect Coloured people to like them in spite of the Voters Act, and they expect Indian people to like them in spite of the Group Areas Act. They expect English-speaking people to like them too, in spite of a score of studied and unstudied insults. But all they can get is the cupboard love of the stooges.

Finally, Dr. Hertzog wants all white people to join in the continuation of the South African War. Well, Doctor, in the words of Sam Goldwyn, you can ~~ex~~ⁱⁿclude me out.