

Longview⁷ by

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It looks as though Mr S.E.D. Brown, the editor of that nauseating paper the South African Observer, has at last come unstuck. He can't grumble, for he has had a good run. As an example of pathological athleticism he can't be beaten. Not even Mississippi has ever produced his peer.

Mr Brown held the view that there was a perennial struggle between the forces of good and evil. This view has been held by much clearer and better minds than his, and it is not the point at issue. The point at issue is Mr Brown's idea of evil, which indicates a mind morbidly obsessed, for Mr Brown's idea bears little relation to the thought of the greatest and deepest thinkers of the human race.

Mr Brown is not concerned with the evils of cruelty, injustice, mercilessness, arrogance. To him racial mixture and racial mixing is the greatest evil. Criticism of laws to prevent racial mixing is to him a far grea-

ter evil than the cruelty of the law which forbids it. Indeed any criticism of the status quo is vicious, and should at all costs be punished, no matter how vicious the punishment.

Mr Brown's great weapon in the war which he declared on racial mixing and the disturbing of the status quo was character-assassination, parading, as it often does, as loyalty to South Africa, devotion to law and order, and love of Christian civilisation. He tried to topple others into the slime, Liberals, Progressives, churchmen, race relationers, and the rest of this sickly brood. His nemesis was that he toppled none of them; it was not they who fell into the slime. It is a just irony that this should be so, just as it is a mark of an Infinite Compassion that the polecat is revolted by the smells of other creatures.

Mr Brown was doing fine, enjoying the support of some of the most virulent Nationalist reactionaries. Yet

his success went to his head, as it had done thirty years earlier to the head of Adolph Hitler. Hitler committed the unbelievable folly of turning on Russia, and Mr Brown the unbelievable folly of turning on Dr Dönges, Mr Anton Rupert, Dr H.J. van Eck, and Dr Thom, Principal of the University of Stellenbosch. If he had been given time, he might in his obsession have turned on Mr Vorster himself. But before he fell he was awarded the shining accolade of the Afrikaanse Studentebond, than which one can go no higher or lower.

It was then that the students of Stellenbosch, clad in the snow-white armour of the very pure, came out in revolt, and denounced Mr Brown as a danger to Afrikanerdom. It happens so seldom that Stellenbosch denounces anything or anybody on the right that many one-time believers in liberty, their senses dulled by years of captivity, felt new hopes stirring in their breasts, and tapped message to one another in their dungeons, "Youth is all right, die jeug is O.K.". Alas, my view is otherwise, and the cowardly part of my self wishes it need not be, so that for once I could give praise to those whose views I have condemned so often.

But I am not able to do so. The students of Stellenbosch have turned on Mr Brown, not because he has done anything mean or wrong, but because he has threatened the unity of Afrikanerdom. When he attacked others in his unbridled and bitter way, and in a manner which exceeded the bounds of decent and responsible criticism, the students of Stellenbosch had nothing to say. They have no views on character-assassination as such, only on character-assassination of their own people. Not in them the spirit of Voltaire who said, "I disagree with what you say, but I will fight to the death for your right to say it."

There is only one comfort to be drawn from this unedifying chapter, and that is the character-assassination of Mr Brown. Or rather it was a suicide, for he did it himself. And of all such jobs he has done, this one is most to be praised.

Alan Paton

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ting others to blow up a railway bridge at Middelburg and the municipal offices at Middelburg.

A State witness said that he went from Steynsburg to Middelburg with Mr Silwana to attend a meeting of the organisation.

He said that at this meeting Mr Silwana handed over seven cartridges and R7.75 to Mr Phiti.

He said Mr Phiti was described as the leader of the Middelburg group. He said the cartridges and the money handed over to Mr Phiti were the contribution from the Steynsburg cell.

The witness said that the blowing up of the railway bridge at Middelburg and the municipal offices at Middelburg were discussed at the meeting.

The court found that the three accused had plotted to blow up a railway bridge near Middelburg, the municipal offices in the location, and the local power station.

The court also found that bombs and dynamite had been produced at a meeting held in Mr Phiti's house and that all present had agreed to the acts of sabotage.

(14)

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Fifteen Middelburg men and two from Steynsburg were

found guilty in the Port Elizabeth Regional Court recently of being members of the banned Pan-Africanist Congress or Poqo and furthering its activities.

Fifteen of the men were sentenced to four years' imprisonment; Mr Siphio September was sentenced to six years' imprisonment; and Mr Dinisile Jaxa to three years' imprisonment.

The men were found guilty of attending meetings at the houses of Messrs Phiti and Henge in Middelburg during February and March. (See above.)

The magistrate said he had treated the evidence of the five State witnesses with caution, as three were accomplices.

They had proved to be reliable and truthful, and he accepted their evidence which was corroborated in detail.

The witnesses had admitted being members of Poqo.

"In 1966 I do not think that any man is likely to claim membership of Poqo," said the magistrate.

"These men do - it takes a fairly stout heart to make such an admission."

The magistrate rejected the defence evidence that none of the men had attended the meetings.

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Sentences totalling 63 years' imprisonment were imposed in the Regional Court, Goodwood recently on 17 convicts found guilty on Poqo charges.

Mr Martin Masilo, who was convicted on charges of belonging to an unlawful organisation, Poqo or the Pan-Africanist Congress, and of participating in activities to further its interests while in jail at Robben Island and Bellville, was sentenced to a total of six years' imprisonment, three years on each count.

Three other men were convicted on both counts and each sentenced to three years for each count. The court ordered that in the case of two of them, Messrs Justice Malsui and Simon Kondi, part of the sentences should run concurrently so that only five years of the term was served.

Part of the sentence of Mr Mlandeli Tshomane was ordered to run concurrently so that he serves only four of the six years imposed on him.

The 13 who were convicted only on the charge of belonging to an unlawful organisation were each sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

They are: Messrs Douglas Dladla, Kleinbooi Mwali,

Albert Mhlongo, James Matabeza, Boy Olifant, Bennet Sosibo, Isaac Mkhizi, Dick Faro Kumalo, Wilson Vena, Robert Mbokazi, Kaifas Ngobo, Zitulele Neti and Ben Ntlantzana.

In the case of the last six mentioned, the court ordered that one third of the sentence should be suspended for three years on the condition that during this time they are not convicted of contravening the Suppression of Communism Act.

Thirteen other men and Mr Alfred Makabana, who escaped during the trial and has not been recaptured, were found not guilty and were acquitted.

They are: Messrs Alfred Phontoma, Stanley Mbambi, Camleko Mzuzo, Fanyana Cele, Tami Temba, Fanyana Sikakane, Livingstone Gumuza, Siphiwo Zuma, Johnny Vuso, Amos Martiniani, Alson Mbata, Alfred Cele, and Joseph Ncwanga.

The court found that allegations of homosexuality on the part of State witnesses had rendered evidence unsatisfactory in certain cases and, in others, there was insufficient evidence to allow a conviction.

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Mr Zepth Mothopeng, a