

ADDRESS : TRANSVAAL SCHOOLS' SPEECH CONTEST - 1/9/74.

798/5

At the outset I must confess that I enjoyed a thought-provoking day. The keen and friendly spirit of competition and the excellent atmosphere of harmony between the participants is further proof that our South-Africa is ready and eager to progress on the multiracial path of harmony, interdependence and co-operation. The fears of inter-racial flare-ups and colour friction has been given positive proof that people, and in this case youth, are eager for contact and friendship. In separation we develop unsubstantiated fears and valid reasons for unjustified discrimination. Through reconciliation and opportunities we can annihilate the dread of inter-racial conflagration. Treat each human with the respect of his worth and do unto him, as you would unto yourself and the alarm that we daily anticipate will be seen, for what it is worth - a figment of our imagination. In a country in which the elder generation have become fossilised in their parochial and prejudiced dogma, our salvation lies in the attitudes and capabilities of our youth - thus it is not only courageous but immensely gratifying to see that the Transvaal School

Speech Association has created this platform for contact between the various schools and involved their parents in contact and dialogue - it is at the inter-personal level that we must adjust our standing which help to reap a rich reward in the harmonious relationship between people - power, panic and frustration is the ember from which the flame of conflict and human destruction blazes. That the organisation of this contest should come from the discriminated sectors - is ample proof of the goodwill and desire for a peaceful solution that we yearn for. That they have sallied forth to breakdown the artificial barriers of race consideration and promote accord between our youth, may yet be the people that will help to restore sanity and engender friendship between people, whose fate and future are inseparable. I hope from gatherings such as these people will react positively and contribute meaningfully to a new dawn in the darkness of our political wilderness. So I pray that new acquaintances made and contacts established here will bloom into the nucleus of trust and fruitful expectations. No matter what the name of the game it is vital to realise that South-Africa is one and we owe an unquestionable loyalty to its soil and to its people - black, brown or white. To train our youth, in these formative years of their lives, we are investing in an anti-inflationary climate, with rich dividends in terms of human values and human dignity. Is it not strange that moral standards and ethical norms dictate kinship within each group, but once we cross this boundary, then our model of man becomes unnaturally prejudiced and our standards are judged on different levels - a most unhealthy and destructive metamorphosis. This is even true between those that are collectively termed Blacks - Coloured, African and Indian. This split personality, a Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde situation, is created by the situation in our Country - through different levels of opportunities, differing standards of respect for different groups and the variable interpretation of citizenship. It has also given rise to the divergent structure of black treatment. This divisive separation has failed to cement the common disadvantages suffered by the Blacks - fear, mistrust, prejudice and anger has restrained the propulsion forward towards a mutually dependant existence - where acceptance of individual worth, charitable tolerance and acknowledgement of the rights of others, regardless of colour, class, social position or ethnic departmentalisation, is a point of debate, instead of

an act of faith. ~~Point of debate~~

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The present situation of suspicion and fear is based on the anger and frustrations within the black groups - this is not imagined, but compounded by a system of discrimination, a natural reaction to the indignities heaped and the insults perpetrated. The fear and the desire to insulate themselves in a cauldron of power is a selfish creation of the power structure. Which must of necessity create bitterness between blacks and whites. Only when these obstructive and destructive practices, enshrined in law, will the basis of a peaceful solution be planted. Allow society to find its own planes of adjustment and development within a totally antidemocratic state. Only then will much of our present disparities and confusion evaporate and be replaced by love and understanding. If we want the fragrant flower of unity, harmony and co-operation to bloom then a shared society is essential - this will give S.A. the security which present trends militates against. If we fail, then the future safety and survival of our youth and children is threatened. Our mistakesThe heavy hand of retribution will fall on the innocent, spiritual and material well-being of those that had no part in creating the present situation - black and white. That the youth are aware of the change necessary is undeniable - the rebellion of youths of all groups to find alternatives to present-day situations is in clear evidence, but by our examples we have failed to give them positive direction and meaningful participation in the problems of society, as a result of which discipline is at a low-ebb. The fault is society's, because it is too engrossed in the pursuit of materialism, and there is gaping divergence in the balance between moral values and material exploitation. It has been shown that the whole gestational phase of development is identical, but the parting of the ways come when we replace behavioural patterns and ethical standards by selfish motives of privileges, enforcement of power and the defilement of the human personality, then the cracks and confrontation between people is encouraged. Finally, if the breach in human alienation is checked, as no doubt today's contest has attempted to do, then we will find that there is more in common between us, than there is differences. Equalise these differences and the inherent capacity of common human response, common reliance and common reactions will flower. The saying that love is blind is a fact - in love one sees beauty in ugliness, it embraces diversity into a common personality, it is unaware of colour but reaches deep into the spiritual values of men and appreciates the inner elegance of all God's creation - regardless of outside appearance, it is prepared to forget and forgive the vilest of acts and nurture the succulence of honesty, respect and dignity. It is this love we must seek and savour its excellence, in order to extract and put into practice the noble values, which is the proud heritage of our human identity. It is my fervent hope that the parents and guests present will do some soul-searching and it is also my prayer that the children and the youth - present as participants and audience, will look at S.A. Values as untenable with the word of God, and with your innocent wisdom and clarity of purpose, put into practice, by association, the deeds necessary for a saner, safer and secure South-Africa. I hope too, that the organisers will continue to pursue its objectives, which are of inestimable value in the promotion of peaceful change, new visions of achievements and a great South-Africa.