

THE FRAUD OF THE SO-CALLED ECONOMIC REFORMS OF P.W.BOTHA

(Based on a Statement to "The Leader")

INTRODUCTION

The so-called economic reforms announced by P.W. Botha during February 1988 is once again the case of tinkering with a minor rash and ignoring the deadly cancer which is destroying society.

"ECONOMIC REFORMS":

a) Freezing of salaries of Civil Servants:

The real problem with the civil service is its gargantuan size and its notorious inefficiency. Freezing of the salaries is going to resolve nothing. What is called for is drastic surgery, i.e. excising large layers of the civil service and making what remains work for the money given by way of salaries.

b) Abolition of the GST:

This claim is completely misleading. The ultimate consumer is not going to be spared from paying sales tax. Whether it is called VAT or Sales Tax, it makes no difference to the consumer. The so-called abolition of the Sales Tax is in truth a more efficient way to collect the Tax. Its only purpose is to ensure that the middle person does not pocket the Sales Tax. There is no relief for the poor.

c) Privitisation:

This is the latest capitalist buzz-word. It means moving towards unchecked and unbridled capitalism. In the present context, it means the sale of public property or assets to giant monopolies. The government is going to sell assets which have already been paid for by the public through taxes and other charges. Its main purpose is to raise CASH.

The public will now have to pay for the use of assets it once owned. The giant monopolies which exist only for the sake of giant profits will want quick and high returns for their massive investments. And we will have to pay for that.

And the purchase price? The government will do what it has always done — use the money for the costly survival of apartheid.

The economic problems of this country stem mainly from the system of apartheid and the ruthless exploitation of workers made possible by that system. The oppressed are made to pay for their own oppression. Let us give a single example. In South Africa, including the bantustans, there are 14 Ministers of Health. It is estimated that in the health services alone, about ONE THOUSAND MILLION RAND is wasted because of the separate health services.

CONCLUSION:

If the Government is serious about stopping wastage and controlling inflation, then let the politicians take a sizeable cut in their own salaries; abolish the tri-cameral system, dismantle the bantustans, "independent" or otherwise, imprison all those rogues who man the bantustans; make peace with the neighbours and thereby chop the multi-billion military budget.

If all these happen, then we will start believing that the government is serious about economic reform.

But as we all know that it is an impossible IF.

DEFEND THE FIVE TEACHERS

APDUSA salutes the five courageous teachers who have spoken out against the tyrannical practices of the shameless quislings who control Indian Education.

What these fearless five have done is to articulate the frustration and anger felt by the general body of teachers. It would be difficult to deny that the sell outs in the short space of three years have reduced the state of education to a shambles. Morale among the teachers has reached an all-time low; teacher-pupil ratio is unacceptably high; the teaching load has increased; teachers are constantly harassed through supervision by the members of the management staff and panel inspection by teams of subject advisers; students who have completed their degrees and diplomas are without jobs; teacher training institutions have closed and the two that are in operation have drastically reduced their enrolment.

It is therefore ironical that these five brave individuals are charged for "bringing Indian education into disrepute". Such an allegation is indicative of the arrogance of the officials who (mis) manage education. We assert, without fear of contradiction, that it is these quislings and the sellouts who should make amends for their crimes against the teaching profession.

The five teachers, fully aware of the consequences of their action and fully aware of the "jackboot" method that the Department employs to deal with dissension, had the courage of their conviction to stand up and be counted. In so doing we believe they spoke on behalf of the vast majority of oppressed teachers.

It is now incumbent on every member of the public, every teacher, every student, every branch of the Teachers' Association to rally to the aid of the five valiant men and women.

We must, all of us, expose the treacherous and reactionary role of the Indian Department of Education. Those who have knowledge of nepotism, of favouritism, of rule bending and manipulation must disclose such malpractices to the public