

EDITORIAL

Every parliament of the Herrenvolk that meets has its gaze fanatically fixed on its lode-star, the Boerenasie Republic. It is to be the very heaven of the chosen race where only those will dwell in eternal bliss who have been blessed with the right pigmentation, and who embrace the faith in the trinity: race purity, herrenvolkism and apartheid. All the good members of such a republic must be "soaked and steeped in the spiritual-cultural 'stuff'" of the Boerenasie; they must imbibe the sacred tenets of the police-state that recognises only the Volk as human beings worthy of human rights. For Apartheid is not simply a separation of people into different groups according to skin-colour; it is not even simply a denial of certain rights to people of the wrong pigmentation. It is a demotion, a degrading of people to a status below that of human beings.

Having thus put them in the category of sub-humans, the herrenvolk ceases to apply human norms to them. Those rights taken for granted as inalienable to man are not and cannot be accorded to such creatures. Thus in the paradise of the Boerenasie the Non-Whites will have no rights whatsoever. In preparation for this it is the main task of every parliament to make laws divesting the Non-White population of every manner of rights. They must not only be denied all say in the slightest degree in the Government of the Country, but be excluded from participation in provincial and municipal affairs. Having stripped them of all political rights, the herrenvolk proceed according to their perverted logic to regularise the position by closing every loophole of normal development. They deny them the rights to education, to the trades and professions; job reservation excludes them from skilled or higher paid occupations. They rob them ~~the~~ of the right to ownership of property and deny them the status of workers. With their new laws they have abolished the right of an African to own land with title deeds. He can now only occupy land on a permit granted to him by the Native Affairs Department. He cannot as of right seek employment anywhere in the country. He must seek permission to sell his labour. If he fails to get employment within 14 days he is liable to eviction from the area. As a worker he is denied the right to combine with other workers for bargaining purposes and denied the right to strike.

'The formation of the Bantu Development Corporation and the expelling of independent African traders and professionals from the towns and even the dorps in the Transkei and other "Reserves" has exploded the claim that the African people were to be assisted in "developing in their own areas." The Bantu Corporation financed by the State and controlled by the Native Affairs Department - and providing lucrative posts for the Volk - is going to be used to crush the incipient growth of any independent traders. In this ~~connection~~ connection there is a significant news item: (Cape Times. 18.3.59) announcing that:- "Traders in the Transkei have been officially warned that any trader opposing Government measures or adversely interfering with Bantu Administration there, will forfeit renewal of his general dealer's licence." As store-keepers are not in the habit of opposing the Government measures referred to in the official warning, namely, reclamation, stabilization, fencing and limitation of stock, we can only assume that this means that all shop-keepers in the Transkei must assist the N.A.D. in enforcing Government measures on pain of losing their livelihood. Only quislings will be able to trade in the future.

But there is an even more sinister aspect of this policy. As the President of the All-African Convention in his presidential address at Edendale, last (1958) December pointed out:-

"A quisling type of African teacher and trader will be mass-produced through the Bantustan schools which will be strictly controlled by the Government, through its Native Commissioners, policemen-intellectuals, policemen-chiefs and headmen, etc. ... The ruling-class relies on its economic development programme which holds out attractive plums to the quisling type of intellectuals and aspiring bourgeoisie to entrench disunity in the liberatory movement and so weaken the demand for full equality. Those so-called progressives who stress the fight for economic welfare of the Non-Whites at the expense of the fight for the franchise are playing right into the hands of the Herrenvolk-tribal bureaucracy."

And he went further and warned that "the stage has been set for a vital clash between a Herrenvolk-tribalist bureaucracy on the one hand and representatives and organisations of the people on the other." This is the challenge of a man who is deeply conscious of the responsibilities of the movement, the movement that is called upon to lead the people in the onslaught against herrenvolkism. He re-emphasised that it is because of their lack of political rights that the Non-Europeans are foredoomed to a life of perpetual servitude. "It is for this reason," he reminded us, "that the fight for full equality occupies a central position in the 10-Point Programme of the Non-European Unity Movement."

It is this dynamic conception of the N.E.U.M. programme that lends vigour and vitality to the struggle of the people in the country. The peasantry, faced day by day with the relentless, piecemeal operation of all the herrenvolk laws designed to crush in them the very idea of regarding themselves as human beings, have learnt to make the fight for Rights the very basis of their struggle. Every demand is linked up with the demand for a full franchise. Any other approach to the 10-Point Programme can only bring about confusion and disruption. It leads to sterile ^{argumentation} ~~organisation~~; organisational paralysis and political impotency.

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