

To The Editors

Peter Clarke in Sweden

DEAR SIRs,—In your October number you say that Peter Clarke's story "Eleven O'clock: the Wagons, the Shore" is being published for the first time.

In my anthology *Afrika berättar*, 1961, this story was published in Swedish translation, and I also refer to it in my introductory essay. My anthology has also been translated into Finnish, Norwegian and Danish. English is thus the fifth language of the story.

Sixteen non-white writers from the Union are represented in this anthology, among them James Matthews, Richard Moore Rive, Lewis Nkosi, Can Temba, Casey Motsisi, Dennis Brutus, Zeke Mphahlele, Peter Abrahams, Alfred Hutchinson, Arthur Maimane, Todd Matshikiza.

Wishing you the best of luck for the future of paper. PER WASTBERG
Stockholm, Sweden

Direction or Destination

DEAR SIRs,—On reading the earlier portion of Mr. David Evans' article with the above title, I began to suspect that he was not a Liberal at all—as he says he is—but a Socialist, and by the time that I got to the end of the article, I came to suspect that he might be a Communist. What I mean by a Socialist is a person who believes that a Civil Servant can run an industry better than an industrialist, and by a Communist one who desires that all means of production, distribution and exchange shall be in the hands of the state and that all personal liberty be suppressed.

Mr. Evans is out of date. He says "Production must be geared to meet need." Has he not heard of the British Socialist Minister who said in 1946 "One thing Britain will never lack—plenty of cheap coal and an abundance of fish." After a few years of Socialism, it was cheaper to import coal from America than to use the local product of planned production, and as for fish, it was scarce, dear and bad. Nationalisation of industry is thoroughly discredited in Britain except for a small section of the left wing of the Labour party, yet Mr. Evans uses the old Socialist claptrap "The answer is surely planning and control by experts responsible to the State."

Why do I say that Mr. Evans shows leanings towards Communism? Because he speaks with sympathy of land nationalisation and collective farming, and that is just what turns socialism into communism. He forgets that either Socialism or Communism means the death of all liberal ideas (a strange thing for a Liberal to desire) and that Russia after 45 years of "planning and control by experts" has not been able to "gear production to meet the need."

Admittedly, many countries today such as Britain, Sweden, have nationalised some industries without being Socialist, and are sometimes known as Social Democracies because they are still democratic which no Socialist Government can possibly be.

In order to find money for a South African Welfare State, Mr. Evans hints at the nationalisation of the mines, meaning I assume the gold mines. I have myself wondered where the Liberal Party is going to get the money for their reforms, but I do not think they will get it from the gold mines, though many would regard that industry as one which morally ought to belong to the nation. At present the State does not do too badly out of them. Nationalised, I wonder if it would get anything at all, a case of killing the goose which lays the golden egg, with a vengeance.
Somerset West R. LEATHER

Inevitable Freedom

DEAR SIRs,—The African people in this country, like any other part of the human race in the history of the world, are destined inevitably to achieve their freedom. For years it has been held from them and each time the idea has been denied them it has grown a little stronger.

Not long ago, they asked for more money to improve their wretched lot. In their blindness the white people ignored them, and they tested the strength of their idea by striking. The strike failed, but the idea remained.

Imagine that you are an African. If you are really not an African, this is going to call for all the imagination you can muster. Since I am one, maybe I can help you to make the adjustment. As an African you've got a special problem when it comes to advising your youngster on the choice of a career. Should we encourage them to prepare themselves for fields in which the doors have been shut to Africans, in the hope that they will somehow break through the barriers?

The white people in this country, like the white people in so many parts of Africa, have grown to look on the African as something subhuman, without destiny.

Now, the Africans are beginning to see the real truth, that they too are humans with a destiny. It is new for them, not widely accepted yet, but its time is to come, and it will eventually be far stronger than all the armies of repression. There is one thing stronger than armies, an idea whose time is to come.
Pretoria WEBSTER MAKAZA

Afro-Asian and World Affairs

DEAR SIRs,—I am sure you are aware of the existence of the Institute for Afro-Asian and World Affairs, which though

recently set up, has already established its name as an organisation devoted to the spread of knowledge and understanding of the political, economic, social and other developments in the international field.

The Institute carries out its objectives through: (a) publication of periodicals, pamphlets and books in different languages; (b) organisation of seminars, symposia and study-groups; (c) lectures by eminent persons who are expert in different fields; (d) the teaching of foreign languages; (e) assistance and facilities for research work.

The Institute seeks the help and cooperation of other bodies engaged in similar work or with similar objectives.

The Founder President of the Institute is Smt. Rameshwari Nehru. Among the members of the Executive Committee are well-known educationists, specialists in Asian and African affairs, writers, lawyers and public workers.

The membership of the Institute is open to all your readers who agree with the aims and objectives for which the Institute is established. Life Membership fee is Rs. 250/- and Ordinary Membership fee is Rs. 10/- annually. Our address is 14, Theatre Communication Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi—1, India.

Among the first publications which our Institute has printed is a pamphlet by Dr. B. N. Ganguli, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University and former Head of the Delhi School of Economics.

ARUNA ASAF ALI, DIRECTOR
New Delhi, India

New Racial Fallacies

DEAR SIRs,—As a serious essay on the subject, Mr. E. L. Ntloedibe's article on "Race and Nationhood" (October) adds little to existing knowledge. But by substituting a new collection of racial fallacies for the old ones it does show how political mythology is established. In fact all Mr. Ntloedibe tried to do was to give a reason for the Africanist policy of distinguishing between racial groups, other than the real reason—that effective political organisation can be more easily achieved by a simple identification of oppression with colour.

But there are a couple of awkward facts to be faced when the idea is examined from the point of view of truth, not political usefulness. One of these is that not all people behave the same way because they are the same colour. Another is that thousands of people reject oppression even though they could be oppressors if they wanted to be. So a new argument has to be found—that these people benefit from the acts of the oppressors. This sounds good until one realises that a lot of other people benefit too—in the purely material sense (and this, apparently is the sole determinant) even though they do so unequally.
Rondebosch

R. N. NORDAU

