

Lectures (published as *The Colonial Reckoning*), one of the reasons for imposing the Federation on British Central Africa was the fear in Whitehall that Northern Rhodesia would inevitably be drawn into Afrikanerdom, especially as Afrikaans mine workers on the copperbelt were becoming politically strong enough to control the destinies of the Protectorate. That danger (which surely could have been avoided merely by widening the franchise and without going through the expensive operations of Federal establishment and demolition) has now passed, as has the fear of political domination by the White settlers of Southern Rhodesia, but the stranglehold which South African-based concerns have on the economy of the country presents a problem whose solution will not be found in following Tanganyika and Kenya into a total boycott of South Africa.

The economy of Northern Rhodesia at present comprises little more than the copper mines and a scattering of light industry around them and in Lusaka and Livingstone. Half the mines are controlled by Anglo-American, based in Johannesburg, the rest by Rhodesian Selection Trust, a close relation of the mighty American Metal Climax group. Anglo-American is busy turning itself into as close an approximation to a local product as possible (RST has been doing this for some time), proclaiming its nonracialism, and its desire to employ local people of whatever colour at all levels, with a fervour that must be rather disconcerting to members of the Mynwerkersvakbond (or its equivalent) busy in the gold mines of the Free State.

What everybody knows is that Northern Rhodesia, in its transition to Zambia, will be the first independent African state in which a vital part of the economy is owned by South Africans: not the only part, for Zambians will probably go on drinking Castle beer and smoking Dr. Rupert's cigarettes. How the government will balance the needs of the country, in terms of investment and production (at present largely South African), with demands, and doubtless heartfelt desire, to aid in the liberation of South Africa, will face the leadership with one of its first and severest diplomatic tests.

Add to the South African grip on the economy the Portuguese control over the two rail routes which serve the country—the Benguela Railway through Angola and the line through Moçambique—over which the copper exports roll on their way to Europe and America and along which enter the country's requirements in oil and machinery, and one has a situation in which the powers of White supremacy in Southern Africa could strangle the infant Zambia at birth. It is these factors which will dictate the country's policy for some years—at least until the agricultural revolution which is getting under way provides food for the whole country, until diversification makes the treasury less reliant on copper, and until the Tanganyika railway (from the copperbelt to Dar es Salaam) is built. This project, planned before Federation and shelved, promises to solve a number of problems at once: it will eliminate Portuguese pressure, it will provide work for thousands of unemployed, it will open up a great tract of unproductive land to development, and will give the country its hallmark of independence like the Volta Dam in Ghana and Aswan in Egypt.

## THE FUTURE

DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, UNIP leaders and candidates were at pains not to court votes by promising any immediate startling improvement in the voters' standard of living: instead they preached the necessity of hard work by everyone. If, Dr. Kaunda declared, everyone followed this exhortation, every foot in Zambia would have a shoe on it in ten years time. People voted for a government which was prepared to face publicly the difficulties ahead, and perhaps to push people on to solve them. The new ministers will not have an easy time.

SOME OF THE PROBLEMS arise from the nature of the country itself, the result of being in the tropics, with their plethora of disease and uncontrolled soil erosion; social problems are largely the result of the uprooting of rural people in consequence of industrialization; but there can be no doubt that the country would have been in far better shape had not enormous revenues from the mines been exported, for the sole benefit of stockholders in South Africa, Europe and America, and latterly, for the benefit of Southern Rhodesia, which sucked £70,000,000 from Northern Rhodesia during the ten years of Federation. If that money had remained in the North, Dr. Kaunda would have been the Prime Minister of a country with as complex and developed an economy as his southern neighbour.

It is therefore with some justification that the new government speaks of the years ahead as a period of Reconstruction, and with revenues flowing into the treasury at a higher rate than ever before, with a popular, stable, capable and dynamic government, with an air of confidence in the future, this generation of voters will see the transformation of their country into a prosperous egalitarian state. But it will mean heavy toil. ●

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## The Ballad of The Headless Men

I walked along the beach one night  
With Chaka and Dingaani;  
In front a thousand headless men  
Ten thousand more behind.

The pebbles and the stones were red  
The sea was foaming blood;  
The crested waves upreached the sky  
We walked along the flood.

Under each left arm a gay head  
And each right hand was speared  
Upon the circle of a neck  
A scarlet cobra reared.

The headless men need have no heads  
For they are those who follow  
And only those who lead need think  
And those who follow, follow.

HOWARD  
LAWRENCE

## Jazz Epistle—2

THE "FREEDOM"  
JAZZ MOVEMENT

WHEN THE FIRST avant-garde discs were released some years ago the reaction of most jazz followers varied from intense excitement to rejection and even scorn. Now it cannot be so lightly dismissed because although the music of the 'freedom' jazz movement is still an experiment, it has developed some very interesting and intriguing things that seem to promise a radical change of the whole form and body of jazz.

Currently the centre of a major con-

HOWARD LAWRENCE, a Cape Town journalist, was recently detained under the '90-day' clause of the General Laws Amendment Act.

troversy that has raged unabated for about three years the 'freedom' jazz movement has gathered quite a substantial international following and their influence can be felt even in the work of some of South Africa's most promising young musicians, such as Dudu Pukwana, Nick Moyake and Ronnie Beer.

What exactly is this 'freedom' movement and who is responsible for it? Its chief disciples, among others, are Ornette Coleman, Eric Dolphy, Jackie Maclean (The Connection), Jimmy Woods, John Coltrane and Cecil Taylor.

Basically the movement is a revolt against the limitations placed on musicians by (a) conventional chord patterns and it is also (b) rejection of conventional melodic/harmonic usage. This has resulted in the melody determining the harmony in much of the 'freedom' schools music.

The 'freedom' school believe that these conventions rob the jazz musician of the complete expression of his emotions — and believing as they do that jazz should be an aggressive social protest their attitude is understandable. They have now given us a whole new range of tonal coloration and rhythm that often does not, in my opinion, come off.

No doubt, much of the new music is exciting but the fact that it is essentially the music of 'introverts' does not

make it easy for the listener to dig it. The sound is often not pleasing. The work of Ornette Coleman and Eric Dolphy is particularly demonstrative of this with its high-low-pitched, screeching, groaning sounds that often sound as if they were trying to speak the sounds out instead of blowing it.

Nevertheless, although near-violent controversy rages round it the new music is here to stay — the first major jazz revolution since Bop of the early 'thirties. Naturally the 'old guard' of today are kicking against it just as they were kicked against by the old guard of the thirties but frankly I don't think they are going to influence the avant-garde to give up their experiment.

What do the 'old guard' think of the 'freedom' movement? Kenny Clarke, one of the Bop revolutionaries who now lives in Paris says the new music is 'formless, empty and meaningless'. André Previn says 'I find that kind of jazz to a greater extent than it should be to be a self-indulgence' . . . 'I don't think that kind of experimentation should be public'.

Dollar Brand says 'it's rubbish', and Kippie Moeketsi thinks it's 'an escape from musical incapability'.

Still, they said all these things of Charlie Parker, Charlie Christian, Miles Davis and Monk.

That was a long time ago—thirty years, to be exact. ●

The headless men need have no heads  
For all who lead are ghosts  
And those who follow living dead  
And all who live are lost.

So I cut off Chaka's head  
And Chaka cut off mine;  
And if we even thought we thought  
Our thoughts were those of swine.

Under my left arm a bloody head  
My right hand too was speared;  
Upon the circle of my neck  
A scarlet cobra reared.

The poison of its soul flowed down  
And coursed in every vein  
In my heart a hate arose;  
I screamed in shame and pain.

We marched along, we sang no song  
We all were grim for battle;  
Our hands were speared, our hearts were speared  
Our cobras played the rattle.

Our hands were speared our hearts were speared  
We slaughtered every ghost;  
The sands were red with men twice dead  
We fought for freedom lost.

Still many a night we walk the shore  
As cobras play the rattle  
Still many a night in pain once more  
We wage our phantom battle.

For all who live are headless men  
And all who lead are ghosts  
And those who hate shall have no life  
And those who love are lost.