

leading CPP member, Dr. Kofi Baako, Minister of Defence and Speaker of the Ghanaian Parliament, for his view of the matter. Dr. Kofi Baako referred me to a lecture of his, in which I read: "There is a great temptation to conclude that the relative prosperity of the economically advanced countries is due to their high rate of industrialisation, and to proceed to push industrialisation at a fearful

pace, at the expense of agricultural development. In African countries which are mainly agricultural, therefore, agriculture should receive emphasis in all development programmes. And there are good reasons for this view, too. First, without an efficient agriculture the manpower that would be required by industry on an increasing scale could not be made available, since the traditional method

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THE CURRENT ISSUE of *Historia* contains a sharp article by Dr. Anna Böeseken of the Cape Archives on the thesis for which Miss Merle Babrow was awarded an M.A. in the University of Cape Town in 1962. Miss Babrow's thesis, which exposes the historian Theal's large-scale partisanship, trod heavily and deliberately on the toe of South Africa's most treasured national myth—the history of South Africa as told in ten tedious volumes by the race-obsessed Theal. Professor J. S. Marais is also attacked by Dr. Böeseken for his documented castigation of Theal in his brilliant monograph *Maynier and the First Boer Republic*. Miss Babrow's reply is awaited. Meanwhile her thesis has not gone unnoticed: students in the Education Faculty in the University of Cape Town are being advised to read it and to avoid the school histories based on Theal. We may expect further enraged kick-backs from upholders of the national myth.

MYTH-MAKING HAS GONE much further among the historians of our allies the Portuguese. Professor C. R. Boxer of London University, who lectured at Witwatersrand University in 1960, has trodden on that particular toe with his *Race Relations in the Portuguese Colonial Empire 1415-1825* (Oxford University Press, R2.05). He is likely to be out of favour with the Portuguese Government as long as the Salazar dictatorship lasts. His book has provoked reactions of hysterical rage at Lisbon and frenzied per-

sonal attacks on Boxer himself in the leading Portuguese newspapers.

A correspondent from London writes: "The latest pamphlet by Anti-Apartheid *The Collaborators*, which indicts British business for its apartheid links should be distributed round the world by the South African Information Service. It is quite awful. It is written by dedicated communists who write as though to be a successful business man was as shameful as to be a successful sex pervert. It will repel thousands who read it. It is full of contemptible malapropisms that will bring a curl to the lips of all but the indoctrinated. And Anthony Sampson in *The Observer* called it "excellent". Someone should ask him if he really read it. We are really cursed by our friends. The more I think of it the more I believe that the communists are the greatest single threat to our cause. They have a way of disgusting even those who generally approve of some of their objectives.

"Look at the way they have ruined CND. If ever there were a legitimate cause for direct action it is, in my view, the atom bomb. The ordinary man cannot stop others from building doomsday weapons and aiming them at his own home. He should be allowed to march on Washington and Moscow, to sit down in the streets and to wave banners. CND grew in Britain on this obvious truth. Then the communists climbed in and in no time CND was being "used" for general social protest. Why? Because the communists are against all the things against which they demonstrated. Just as the South African communists tried to "use" African nationalism for their own purposes.

"The result? CND has collapsed. At Oxford in one term its numbers are down from 1,000 to 200. There was no Aldermaston march for the first year for seven years. When I see the grip the communists have on the anti-apartheid lobby here I fear that it may collapse the

way CND has collapsed." Of course, he is probably misusing the term communists, which is to say that there are communists and non-communists involved in what he describes. Other views will be welcome, and will be printed with suitable anonymity.

IT IS OFTEN THE LITTLE, seemingly inconsequential phrases in the newspapers that ought to know better that make me want to throw the whole issue on the carpet and dance on it with rage. South Africa's not rich in newspapers that ought to know better, but I would have classed the new *Sunday Chronicle*, Johannesburg, as such. In its opening issue, a Sapa report from Umtata discusses the opening of the new Transkeian Legislative Assembly on 5th May: "This will be the first time the Transkei's 1,500,000 people have seen the 'White man's politics' in action." Apart from the fact that only a tiny fraction will see it in action, this will not be the first time what Sapa calls the "White man's politics" has been seen in action by Transkeians. Africans were on a common roll with whites from 1853 to 1936, Tembuland was a constituency of the Union Parliament until Hertzog and Smuts disfranchised qualified Africans as voters 28 years ago, and a broadly similar political system has operated as the "council system" since the 1890's.

A far greater transgression, however, is the Sapaman's seeming unawareness of the rich and sturdy hybrid culture of the majority of South Africa's African community to whom politics is no more the "White man's" than is the wheel, the alphabet or the horse. The thought of brandy and gin still being "the White man's liquor" was crazy enough, when the newspapers played that phrase to death during last year's Liquor Act. The phrase the "White man's politics" is more lamentable for its reminder of the blind ignorance of the ways of darker-skinned South Africa even on the part of journalists who supply the middle-brow *Sunday Chronicle* with copy.