

Way of Life . . .

Next time more luck

● *Players and officials of a Natal multi-racial professional soccer team were charged for contravention of the Group Areas Act, but were acquitted on a technical detail.*



A Welkom verdict

● *A man from Welkom, Orange Free State, was fined R10 (£5) for forcing three young African girls to undress, and beating them badly with a length of hose.*



Ping Pong in, Coloureds out

● *When it was announced that for a table tennis match in Bloemfontein in which a touring team were to compete, facilities had been made available to Coloured people, such a fuss was made (not by the authorities) that the local chairman declared he had no option but to cancel the arrangements for Coloured spectators. Only a few Chinese will be allowed in.*

N.B.: Table tennis is so far the only sport in S.A. where it is the nonracial "non-European" body which is internationally recognised. This apparently does not prevent international top-players from being a party to race discrimination.



Buy at Oom Hendrik's

● *It has been established that the Government has used taxpayers' money to purchase 250,000 copies of "Bona", an African-language magazine, owned by Dr. Verwoerd, for distribution to Bantu Education schools.*



Confined to township

● *Two African women, one in Johannesburg, the other in Port Elizabeth, have been confined to their township areas for the next five years.*

LIBERALS' ROLE IN TRANSKEI

"The Morning After"

"I, A.B., do solemnly swear to be faithful to the Government of the Transkei and the Republic of South Africa and solemnly promise to perform my duties to the best of my ability. So help me God."

THUS will every member swear on taking his seat for future sessions of the Umtata Bunga, once "self-government" has been granted to the Transkei by the Government of the Republic.

Such "faithfulness to the Republic of South Africa" will continue to oblige the Transkei's future M.L.A.'s and their electors to carry "reference books", the hated passes which annually bring about the jailing of over 300,000 Africans. They will probably also have to continue to suffer under the iniquities of the Native Administration Act, and to observe the provisions of its offspring, Proclamation R400 of 1960, the post-Pondoland "emergency regulations", which for the past eighteen months have effectively suspended *habeas corpus* and put out the last flickerings of liberty in the entire Transkeian Territories. The Transkei will remain the Republic's greatest labour reservoir, bled white by the migratory system now nearly a century old.

Cap in hand before Government

In spite of these things, the great majority of the 109 members of the proposed Transkei Legislative Assembly will, at any rate for a time, stand cap in hand before the Republican Government. How their attitude will alter towards the "self-government" Dr. Verwoerd has given to them will be largely determined by the reactions of the ordinary people of the Transkei, their electors and tribesmen.

What the people themselves will feel about this faithfulness to the Government of the Trans-

kei and the Republic of South Africa is more difficult to predict. Part of its heavy price to them is the continuation of their chief hardship — pauperism, made almost incurable by their lack of land and of freedom of movement.

Those, and they are certainly the majority, who distrust “self-government” as a new form of white-backed chiefs’ rule, will be hardened in their hostility to the Government and the chiefs, as the tyranny of indirect rule intensifies, without relieving their poverty.

Soul-destroying subservience

Those, and their number may include the leading pro-Government man, Chief Kaiser Matanzima, who consciously or unconsciously seek, by collaborating with Dr. Verwoerd, to escape from the soul-destruction of perpetual subservience in the land of their birth, will learn too late that this “self-government” affords no such escape.

Genuine independence in African states has brought many post-uhuru “morning afters”, often gleefully highlighted by the white press in South Africa. They will appear as nothing to the “morning after” that awaits the Transkeians when they find that they still have acute land-hunger, police rule, passes, Bantu Education, “influx control” and the industrial colour-bar; and that the self-government that was to take the sting out of all these evils, is no uhuru at all.

Conjuring trick for world to see

Yet so intense has the Government’s concentration been on producing the rabbit out of the hat, that Liberal Party observers have gained the impression that the Afrikaner Nationalist politicians are not particularly concerned about the effect on the Transkei, even about the risk of open revolt, when the Transkeians find that this was a conjuring trick and not the arrival of freedom.

For the conjuring trick was for the world to see. The expertise with which it was carried out will keep pro-apartheid propagandists busy at home and abroad for some time to come. The

near-miss of the October 1961 anti-apartheid sanctions motion at the United Nations called for a dramatic display of the good intentions of apartheid, renamed “separate development”, and this has been performed with some success. Time has been bought, in fact, at the immediate cost only of heavier Transkei police and prison estimates. . . .

Liberal role of catalyst

But that time will run out fast. It is essential that in the difficult period ahead in the Transkei, the Liberal Party continue its role of catalyst among the anti-Government forces and as the sower of the ideals of liberalism and nonracialism. It must also continue to try and supply a clear South African national perspective and a world link-up to the Transkeians, as the time of their hardening and disillusionment comes.

Swinging Right

WE KNOW from everything that has happened in the electoral field since the General Election in October last year, that South Africa’s voters have turned sharp right. The Nationalist Party has gained votes from the United Party and the Progressives have lost ground to the U.P. Only Dr. Verwoerd can draw consolation from what has happened in the past nine months. The United Party is winning no converts from him. Its only cause for satisfaction is that it has been able to turn the drift to the Progressives and win back some of the votes it lost to them in October.

Progressives’ dilemma

The Progressive Party is in a dilemma. It clearly has substantial support in a number of urban seats but it has not got enough support to win them. It is quite possible that even Helen Suzman’s magnificent work in the Assembly this year would not keep her seat for her if there was to be another election in Houghton now.

But apart from the way elections are going, Dr. Verwoerd has further reason to be satisfied.