

NOTES JOTTED DOWN DURING THE WHITES-ONLY ELECTION

(These notes, written before April 24th, reveal a mood of almost complete disenchantment. The reason for this may be that Vortex lives in Natal.)

by VORTEX

1. It must surely be an indication of the peculiar superiority of many white people that they are able both to speak and to accept such unwise things in their defence of what they regard as wisdom, such barbaric things in their support of what they call civilization, such unChristian things in their determination to enforce their own notion of Christianity.
2. The main business of the election is fear. Indeed different fears are the main candidates for election. Fears argue with one another, jockey for position, claim to be more impressive than their fellows. And the most eloquent fear, the most eligible, is elected.
3. And yet most white people have not learned to fear intelligently. They are conservative and timid in their fearing as in all other matters. They feel happy with the fears handed down to them by their parents. The new fears, the real fears, they cannot comprehend; so they disregard them.
4. Proper and healthy conflict has a bracing effect. In real elections, where the whole population is involved, the open clash of forces and interests and interpretations keeps people on their toes and makes it necessary for most politicians to be intelligent. In a bogus restricted "election", the real issues are either seen distortedly or not seen at all, and there is no genuine debate. This is why idiocy is idolized.
5. When the average white politician addresses his white audience he is deceiving them - and they are deceiving themselves - into believing that they are deceived by their own self-deceit. But deep down they aren't.
6. In most countries, ignorance, mindlessness, prejudice, greed and a tendency to brutality are at least frowned upon. In South Africa these qualities are indications that one is a true-blue member of the élite.
7. It would be untrue to say that most white South Africans are incapable of shame. Some of them repent quite openly of their occasional moments of inadvertent generosity to black people.
8. An H.N.P. candidate accused his Nationalist opponent of loving his black neighbours. Nearly all the local whites, particularly no doubt the Christians, were scandalised. But of course it was just another piece of election-time libel.
9. After one of the candidates had compared his opponent to a sheep there was an action for defamation. The sheep won the case.
10. In its tussles with the United Party, the Progressive Party has had the advantage of a fairly coherent policy. But the United Party has had the greater advantage of an incoherent policy.
11. One of the fascinating things about the "election" is the way the whites conduct it all in public. All the slogans of the N.P., the H.N.P. and the U.P., all the little arousings of fear and the paltry appeals to the baser instincts, are displayed shamelessly for people of every race to view. Still, presumably it **does** all serve to encourage the blacks.
12. "Whatever the outside world may say,
Though arms alarm and threats dismay,
You may wipe your fears and tears away:
In the end we're bound to win the day,
For we've found an ally - Paraguay."
13. "The boat is safe,
It cannot sink:
No need to fear,
No need to think.
Just jump aboard,
Obey our call,
As we drift towards
The waterfall."□