

have offered their predecessors. As they begin to share the exclusivities (through necessity) they will realise that none of the promises, nor any of the predictions of chaos that will follow on "normalisation" have come true.

The final transition to a new political order may therefore be facilitated by events outside the political/constitutional debate. By this I am not saying that history must run its course but indeed that it is essential that a White Parliamentary opposition must be right there in the midst of events.

It has a major task in keeping the constitutional debate alive in order that the economic and social progress of Blacks does not get too far out of step with political advancement, since that would be a sure-fire way to industrial unrest and instability which can only make the transition more traumatic.

It has a major task in demonstrating to Blacks that not all Whites are only interested in buying off Black political aspirations with middle class trappings in the cities and the kind of compromise independence that is given in the "homelands" for reasons of expediency. (As if that is possible!).

It has a major task in providing information which would otherwise be missing and also correcting information which

has been deliberately distorted. (How can a young Afrikaner from a Nationalist home make rational decisions about "the Black man in the homelands" or the "Black man in the urban areas" if he was brought up on a diet of Christian National Education, Die Burger and S.A.T.V.?) Few Whites have any conception of conditions and aspirations in Black Townships, let alone the rural heartland of Kwazulu or the Ciskei.

In the transition to a new order, I recognise that other forces too are at play; external pressure from "friendly" powers; the East-West conflict; the North-South conflict; events in Namibia and Zimbabwe; Black political and militant action and any of these may put a new dimension to the timescale and the other qualities of the transition.

Important also are the ceaseless efforts of individuals and groups not using the party political platform in its opposition to this Government. Together with the white opposition in Parliament they form an opposing force with a "total strategy".

While there is a bumpy road ahead, I believe that there are enough men and women of courage and conviction in this land not to let the prejudice, power and privilege of one side or the impatience of the other side, get us into a conflict of such a scale that all will be losers. □

THE HOMELAND SCHEME

by Vortex

Come praise the Government's homeland scheme
come praise it all you can:
it's the cleverest bit of subterfuge
ever designed by man.

It allows us whites to keep our power
without the pleasure's going sour.

The aim of the plan is entirely clear,
that cannot be denied:
to split the blacks in land and in mind,
to take them for a ride;
to keep a tight grip on what we've got
while going through the motions of giving a lot.

If that were all our plan entailed
it mightn't amount to much,
but the growth of additional benefits shows
a really professional touch:
it all pans out in such a way
that our righteousness grows by the day.

We choose our homeland leaders well,
and give them petty power:
we give them the impression that
this is their glorious hour.
They're cooked so neatly in our fires
that they think they're pushed by their own desires.

Then once they take their seats of power,
in our well-financed scheme,
they throw their weight about like mad:
it's a National Party dream.

They show their grateful loyalty
by mimicking our tyranny.

Nor is that all they offer us:
it's no mere imitation.
They have a way of pressing their point
to the glory of our nation:
they act with such a bullying glee
that they prove the truth of our policy.

They prove that we were right to say
you can't have an open plan:
how could we share our Christian peace
with such a kind of man?
They ride upon their fellows' backs:
we were **right** in our prejudice against the blacks!

There's a final benefit they bring:
a sore all full of pus.
They torture and bully and fume and shout
to astonish even us.
So at last we've heard the awaited call:
"Pretoria's not so bad after all."

Footnote:

I hope I don't really need to explain,
my sisters and my brothers,
that I aim at certain homeland leaders
rather than at others.