

in this issue . . .

EDITORIALS The Mxenge Case2
 The Municipal Vote.2
 POLITICAL CENSORSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICA by Christopher Merrett.3
 THE A.N.C. RESURGENCE 1976 – 1981 by Tom Lodge7
 SOME NOTES ON SELBY MSIMANG by Peter Brown10
 STRADDLING REALITIES: THE URBAN FOUNDATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE
 by Peter Wilkinson.11
 A TERRIBLE BEAUTY: **Ah but your land is beautiful** reviewed by Colin Gardner.15
 WORKING FOR BOROKO reviewed by Christopher Saunders.18
 THE KHOIKHOI REBELLION reviewed by J. B. Peires.19
 POEMS by Vortex9, 20
 COVER PHOTOGRAPH by Joe Alfes. Henry Selby Msimang, born December 1886, sole survivor of those who met in Bloemfontein in January 1912 to found the S.A. Native National Congress, later to become the African National Congress.

Articles printed in Reality do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editorial Board.

EDITORIALS

1. THE MXENGE CASE

It is now just over four years since Dr. Rick Turner, banned Natal University lecturer and opponent of apartheid, was shot dead in his Durban home. Nobody saw his attacker and no arrest has yet been made. At the time of writing it is over two months since Mr. Griffiths Mxenge left his Durban office as usual one evening, to go home to Umlazi. He never got there. Next day his body was found near the Umlazi cycle track, horribly mutilated.

Mr. Mxenge was a Durban lawyer. Like Dr. Turner he was totally opposed to apartheid. For that opposition he had served a sentence on Robben Island and been both banned

and detained. In spite of this he continued to provide the defence in political trials and to be deeply involved in campaigning for change in South Africa.

The Turner murder raised the spectre of South Africa lurching towards the kind of South American situation where politically motivated murders are the order of the day and the murderers are hardly ever brought to trial.

If there has not been an arrest in the Mxenge murder by the time this REALITY appears, or is not one soon, that spectre will be raised again. □

2. THE MUNICIPAL VOTE

The Cape Town City Council wants the common municipal franchise, taken away from it by the Nationalist Government, restored to it. A municipal election has been fought in Johannesburg which might, for the first time, produce there a majority committed to a non-racial municipal franchise.

In Pietermaritzburg the City Council wants municipal representation extended to its citizens of all races.

Most remarkable of all, Durban, whose anti-Indian agitation forty years ago led to the legislation on which the present Group Areas Act was based, is now talking about having a common municipal roll.

In the present state of our society even a common roll

would unfortunately not produce an ideal state of affairs. Thirty years of the Group Areas Act have destroyed what multi-racial suburbs there used to be. The Government has eliminated what African freehold title there was in urban areas. The control of black municipal townships has been taken away from the City Councils and given to the central government. All of which means that most wards in any municipal election today would consist very largely, if not entirely, of voters of one race group, and that there might not be any black African voters at all. These are substantial drawbacks but they are no reason for not supporting these new campaigns in the big cities, which are at least one encouraging sign for the future as we enter 1982. □