

2. Graft

All shapes, colours and sizes they come in, our practitioners of graft. From Cabinet Ministers downwards, you find them everywhere. Their activities provide about the only growth sector, apart from the security business, that our economy can now boast of.

What is the Government going to do about them?

Mr P. W. Botha came to office assuring us that he was going to root out corruption. Ten years later it proliferates, the tri-cameral system providing a whole new field of rich pickings for anyone who hasn't been able to make them in or out of the homelands.

Is P.W.'s successor, whoever he may be, likely to try harder and do better than he did? Unless there is a fundamental change in policy we doubt it. Most of the grafters have made their money out of apartheid. Apartheid was

expressly designed to keep the best pickings from our society in white hands. In order to make sure that they would stay there it was necessary to ensure that power remained in white hands. To that end anything was justified. From the day that the first step was taken to remove Coloured voters from the Common Roll our Government's actions have been governed by one simple rule — apartheid's ends are justified, no matter what the means. Small wonder that the corrupting influence of that philosophy of the end justifying the means should have seeped through into almost every level of our society.

Until apartheid goes and our actions are inspired by some higher motivation than it has provided we are unlikely to make any significant impact on the massive scale of the graft we live with now. And even then, the habits which have been formed in the last 40 years will take some watching if they are not to subvert the integrity of the society which comes after it. □

3. The Democrats

It now seems virtually certain that a new political party, the Democratic Party, will be launched in April, bringing together the Progressive Federal Party, the National Democratic Movement, the Independent Party and prominent former Afrikaner Nationalists.

The new Party will be committed to work for a full non-racial democracy, it will attempt to establish a strong working relationship with extra-parliamentary organisations, and it will have a strong Afrikaner component at the leadership level.

It is the most hopeful thing to happen in white politics for years. □

by Creina Alcock

A TRULY EXTRAORDINARY CHAP

I am a writer and a writer is at ease with words, so why can't I find any words at all about Elliot?

Ever since the message that told of his death, I have had this great silence of heart. He was . . . Elliot was . . . This man was. . . I struggle to say something of my grief to those who never knew him, but the words peter out.

Years ago some Afrikaans political journalists were visiting for a weekend, on a tour of the unknown Natal, and we were talking politics when Elliot dropped in unexpectedly.

"Ah, here's one of them," said Neil, enjoying himself. "Meet a dangerous black politician."

"Oh," said Elliot beaming, "and who are you?" and in moments everyone was on dangerous ground. Or

what used to be dangerous ground in those days. The politics were straight and hard, argued without compromise — and yet the afternoon was full of laughter, as it always was when Elliot was around.

When Elliot left at last, the journalists were altered, transformed by laughter. "What a disarming man," they said.

To disarm is to make you put down your weapons. Elliot made people put down their weapons.

If I have struggled to find words for Elliot — so did that great writer Alan Paton.

"Elliot Mngadi dropped in for a visit," Alan wrote in a letter last year. ". . . What a truly extraordinary chap."

The world is crowded, full of people, but when I heard Elliot had died it seemed an empty place. □