

true that a new mine labour policy might not lose many voters (because white miners traditionally vote Nationalist), but there would be serious industrial troubles.

Would the Party seriously start to implement its race federation policy, and prepare and pass the massive legislation required for it, on the strength of a majority that would certainly be slender? It seems improbable. What makes it worse is that the policy is not only vague, but has already been repudiated by leaders and future leaders of the black territorial authorities created by the Nationalists. It seems unlikely to get support from any influential black people. And still worse, the policy of having black people represented in Parliament by white people, though endorsed by the Nationalists of 1936, was later totally repudiated by the Nationalists of 1948. What was destroyed once after having been endorsed by a tremendous majority in Parliament could hardly be recreated in the 'seventies by a party with a slender majority. What black person would have the slightest confidence in it?

NO MANDATE

If the United Party came to power because of economic dissatisfaction, it could hardly take this as a mandate to make drastic changes in race policy. Yet its only hope seems to be to come out with a new federation policy in which at least the race groups would be represented by members of their own groups. And would the Myburghs and the Douglas Mitchells support such a policy? Would the new United

Party members support it, after having won back their seats on a totally unrelated issue? It seems doubtful.

One concludes that if the United Party were returned to power it would be tempted to watch its step very carefully. It would require courage to govern boldly and imaginatively, and one must remember also that its definitions of boldness and imaginativeness would be very different from our own.

If these prognostications are true, then a change from Nationalist to United Party government would hardly affect the urgent issue of our time – will white South Africa produce a race policy, or a non-race policy, which will arrest our slide towards catastrophe? This conclusion is sombre.

There is only one creative choice that the United Party can make, but if self-interest and self-maintenance are its main concerns, it will not make it. That would be to revise radically its federation policy, to bring back hope to millions of people who have so little, to fix a minimum wage based on the estimates of what is required for a family to live a decent and law-abiding life and to announce that it will repeal or amend those apartheid laws which weigh down so heavily on voiceless people.

We say to Sir de Villiers Graaff: in these days when electoral opinion seems to be swinging in your favour, your responsibility can only be described as tremendous. We hope that you will be ready to shoulder it.□

DOCTOR NKOMO

The death of Dr. W.F. Nkomo less than four months after his election as President of the South African Institute of Race Relations will be mourned by many South Africans of all races. The Institute has had more than one African serving as Vice-President in the past, but Dr. Nkomo was the first African President and his loss is the more to be regretted.

A kind, just and moderate man, Dr. Nkomo was widely known as a leading figure in the Moral Rearmament movement. Not all the readers of "Reality" are Christians, and probably very few are supporters of Moral Rearmament, but most of us will agree that one of the hopes for a better South Africa is that spiritual and moral change in individuals for which M.R.A. works.

Pledged though he was to this personal persuasion, Dr. Nkomo did not hesitate to raise his voice on political issues when the need arose, and he was heart and soul committed to those hopes and ideals which "Reality" cherishes. We therefore join in commemorating his unselfish public service, and offer our condolences to his family and his wide circle of friends.□

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- Jan. 1972 (Vol 3 No. 6): Norman Middleton – on C.P.C., Jonathan Crewe on Camus.
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