

2 'IN DEFEAT, DEFIANCE'

"Gentlemen, you are today what you were yesterday" is one of the great phrases of the French Revolution. We Liberals must make it our own, despite the two wicked and indefensible Acts of Parliament rushed through by steam-roller methods in the dying days of a dying Legislature.

These Acts aim at ruining certain organisations by depriving them of overseas contribution and by abolishing the right of private meeting. (The right of public meeting went long ago.)

The hope of the Government is that these measures will eliminate all effective opposition to its policy of racial separation. We patriotic South Africans who wish to keep open channels of communication between the races and save our beloved country from the ruin and revolution to which Government policy is leading us wish to serve notice on the Government that we are today what we were yesterday, that our views have not altered and will not alter, that we shall continue to work, under every disadvantage, for racial goodwill, for freedom and for the rule of law in our country, that in short our motto is Winston Churchill's motto: "In defeat, defiance."

If we are precluded from obtaining money from the outside world (and much of this money is given for pure research) we shall try to raise it, as we already have done, from within our own borders. There is much wealth in South Africa. We shall make our motto not only "Cry, the beloved country", but "Pay, the beloved country".

But what of the right of private meeting? The Government's proposals amount to giving the Security Police control over

all our personal contacts. We need not waste printer's ink in demonstrating the wickedness of this, but we hope that our courage and resource may demonstrate its impracticability.

No Government in the world, no secret police anywhere, can eliminate all personal contacts. To advise people to defy orders issued under this law, indefensible as it is, is no part of our present programme. What we must and shall and do decide is not to do the Government's dirty work for it. "We are today what we were yesterday", only with more ingenious resource and more dauntless courage. Even if we have to obey immoral orders under this Act, do not let us forecast these orders and refrain from arranging a gathering for fear that it may be prohibited. If it is prohibited and we feel it our duty as citizens to accept the prohibition, let us accept all that is in it but no more than is in it. Do not let us help the forces of reaction by trying to avoid the issue of an official Order. Let us go on, with prudence yes, but also with undiminished courage. This is a life-long struggle and the forces of democracy and justice, though sorely wounded, may never surrender.

"Gentlemen, you are today what you were yesterday". On, then, into the conflict. Generations to come will honour you for your courage. But even if this should not be so, we must still fight on for we can do no other. Duty is duty, true patriotism must oppose false patriotism and true zeal for justice must stand up to legal rules forced on us against all the true principles of justice and right.

On then for the beloved country and for the yet more beloved ideals of equity and liberty.□

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