

passing a resolution condemning General Amin? There is undoubtedly a double standard of judgement in international affairs. We as South Africans have no right to grumble. We deserve the criticisms which are passed upon us. But on what basis is colour differentiation worse in itself than arbitrary executions, the throwing overboard of the rule of law, or the imprisonment of political opponents? This is one of the many assumptions. It may be provable but it should be proved.

Or is it assumed that things which are wrong if done by a white man become noble if done by a black? We all know if we have studied the Africa of the 1890's or 1900's that white men have been responsible for much evil. But has the liberation of Africa made evil good if done by black men? This is another unproved assumption.

It is further assumed that no amount of honest talking in a friendly atmosphere can produce worth-while results. Why not try it? It is assumed that South Africa with its large white population of three centuries' standing must go essentially the same way as Zambia or Tanzania. Is this so?

Quite undoubtedly we cannot heal the ills of our country lightly. A high price must be paid. No window-dressing in

the Transkei or elsewhere will carry conviction. The white man has to learn to be a fellow-servant of the South African community, not its master. Alike as regards the franchise and as regards wages immense changes have to be made. We Liberals must not underestimate the difficulties of our task. But why make those difficulties greater by unproved assumptions and undigested slogans and an attempt to link up our terrific struggle with theoretical leftism?

The writer of this querulous monologue may claim to be a Liberal. Since he has publicly more than once advocated a common roll with no loading of the franchise, he may claim to be a Radical. Though Socialism is a permissible creed for a Liberal he has no ambition to be a Socialist, and nothing in the world will make him a Communist. His Liberalism is deeply rooted in history, and he would make his own those lines of Robert Browning written in reply to the question, "Why are you a Liberal?"

"But little can or do the best of us.
That little is achieved through liberty.
Who dares hold, emancipated thus,
His brother should continue bound? Not I
Who live, love, labour freely, nor discuss
A brother's right to freedom—That is why! □

MEMORANDUM ON THE PASS LAWS AND INFLUX CONTROL

The Black Sash has issued a revised edition of their memorandum. It is a reference book of great value and can be obtained from the Black Sash, 37 Harvard Buildings, Joubert Street, Johannesburg, for 50c.

The following is the introduction to the memorandum:

The pass laws are being evermore rigidly applied and more and more people are being affected by their implementation. Government policy is to reduce the number of Africans residing in the "prescribed areas" and to ensure that as many as possible of the workers needed in the metropolitan areas are migrants. In the year July 1970 to June 1971, 615 075 people were prosecuted for pass law offences; that is, an average of 1 685 prosecutions per day.

We are deeply concerned about the effect these laws are having on the African people, morally, socially and economically. We are concerned about the discrimination, the injustice, the breakup of family life, the increase in crime, the poverty, the insecurity of all urban Africans,

and the breakdown of the whole social fabric of the African community.

The system used to control the use of African labour has dehumanised the official, the employer and the African worker. It has made authority a monster, and the worker a labour unit. *The pass laws are inhuman laws and they cannot be administered humanely.*

This Memorandum is based on the knowledge gained from the work in the Black Sash Advice Offices in Johannesburg and Cape Town. The examples given are factual, from information given to us and they are typical of many similar cases in the files. Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the people concerned. For every person who comes to the Advice Offices for help, there are hundreds more who are in the same predicament.