

A MULTIPLE-VOTING SYSTEM TO SATISFY ALL ASPIRANTS

THE way this country's future is being bandied about, in and out of the Codesa talks, must convince even the most ardent New South Africa fans that events are moving too fast for comfort. From what we've seen and heard of the posturings of most delegates, of all colours, is sure proof it'll be a very long time before they're sophisticated enough to successfully run this country of ours.

Worst of all is the position of the helpless public who have no say in the proceedings. They can only stand by and watch in horror as some 300 years of pioneering and hard work rapidly gathers momentum, heading for the maw of Africanisation.

What about the White farmers we saw on TV the other night? There's a big

by Alan Peden

chance they may have their farms taken away from them to be handed back to the Blacks from whom they were supposedly stolen.

Will this be the end of those lush pastures. Will they be overgrazed by disease-ridden cattle and goats and turned into a

dustbowl like so much of Africa?

If you think this is defeatism, take a look to the north. Remember: Never in a thousand years and Over my dead body? Remember the 10-years transition period? What happened?

The man who made those statements is now a nonentity, and the 10-year period went like a flash as another rich and successful African country returned to the begging bowl.

Now there's talk of a 15-year transition period for South Africa. That's OK for today's negotiators who'll be on fat government pensions in AD 2007 if there's any money in the kitty to pay them. But what about today's teenagers who have no say in what is supposedly being done on their behalf.

In 15 years they'll be parents, reaping the sins of their political fathers. Like the angry teenager said when he was called up: Those stupid b... politicians declare the wars, but it's the cream of us youngsters who die, or are maimed, to prove them wrong. How true!

So what can be done? Why can't the whole nation become involved in solving the problems of forming a successful future government? Would it be such a daft idea to hold a national competition on these lines

for the public to air their views.

Competitions have been held in many countries to find a new national anthem, a flag, even a name. So why not a government? Our leaders might even get a few good ideas — if they're big enough to accept them.

Personally, I'd like to suggest a form of multiple voting which Nevil Shute put forward in his book, *In The Wet*. I'm sure this system would satisfy the aspirations of most people in this country.

The system is based on seven possible votes per person. They are:

1. Basic vote for everyone of voting age.

2. Higher education vote for those with a degree. Also includes doctors, solicitors, commissioned officers and people in similar positions.

3. Foreign travel vote for anyone who has earned their living outside South Africa for two years.

4. Family vote (husbands and wives) for a couple who are married by law, have raised two children to the age of 14 and have not been divorced.

5. Achievement vote based on earned income. It's supposed to cater for the man who has no education, has never been out of the country, is divorced, but has built up a big business and pays high taxes.

6. Church vote for recognised officials of specified churches. Can be vicar, minister, church warden. Anyone doing a real job for the church.

7. Honour vote. Given only by the President for bravery or special services to the country.

Well there it is — one-man one-vote included. It's obvious that the most responsible people will have the most votes. That way a better class of politician will emerge to the benefit of the country as a whole.

Over to you!