

THE Progressive Fed-

eral Party Natal congress at the weekend broke away from the traditional mud-slinging at Government policy and jamboree politics in a search for realism. -

The congress, attended by about 300 delegates, concerned itself mainly with thrashing out provincial policy and with looking at the economic problems of the country.

Gone were the lengthy agendas condemning the Government at every turn and congratulating party leaders on wonderful performances.

Instead the congress concentrated on finding alternatives it could offer to the voter, particularly the voter of Natal.

The most significant part of the congress came on the first day when it dealt with the problems of the province and KwaZulu.

There was no sign of division within the party ranks. Even the leadership struggle between Mr Graham McIntosh and Mr Ray Swart, MP, for Natal

chairmanship of the party {

did not cause much of a ripple. | ;

Talk that the leadership election could be based on old United Party and Progressive Party lines was dispelled when a former Progressive Party stalwart, Mr Julian von Klemperer, nominated Mr McIntosh.

Dealing with provincial policy, the congress unanimously rejected the partition of Natal by the consolidation of KwaZulu

and threw out a draft that suggested that KwaZulu could choose to be a separate state within the PFP-proposed federation.

Instead it opted for a solution proposed by Mr Oliver Hart from Pietermaritzburg that all the people of Natal had common interests and should take the initiative in negotiating a common future as a matter of urgency. >

They saw the area as one region and the division of Natal as totally unacceptable.

This policy, which must still be ratified by the PFP Federal Council: was endorsed by the party's leader, Dr F. van-Zyl Slabbert. He said constitutional solutions should not only be sorted at the top of the scale but should also come from the bottom on a regional basis.

With only one public representative in Natal the congress expressed its op-

timism that after the next

general election it would have a firm foothold in

- Natal.

There was no talk from the floor this year of continuing to find a united front . with the New Republic Party. Mr McIntosh said the party would be prepared to reach ad hoc agreements only on provincial seats.

MP slams .
magistrates' conduct code

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FORMER Judge Kowie Marais, the PFP spokesman on justice, has called on the Minister of Justice, Mr Alwyn Schlebusch, to react to a report that magistrates

have been urged not to criticise Government officials

in open court. 3

The PFP MP for Johannesburg North was referr-

ing to a report in The Daily News that disclosed the existence of a 'secret' code of conduct prepared by the Department of Justice.

Mr Marais said the report, if true, showed the existence of a highly irregular and undesirable state of affairs.

'I would welcome it if the Minister of Justice would react to this report, or if it is not true, to say that there is no such code of conduct,' Mr Marais said.

Later, during question time for MPs attending the congress, Dr Alex Boraine, who holds the shadow portfolio of national education, said, nothing short of a presidential commission of inquiry examining Coloured Indian, black and white education, could avert the continuing crisis in education. .

Dr Boraine, MP for Pinelands, said part of the crisis resulted from the Government's fragmented educational system.

There would have to be a withdrawal: from the Verwoerdian philosophy of education based on separate departments for the different race groups in South Africa. ?

'We must move towards one Department of Education and we must not discriminate education ' into racial groupings,' he said.

An envisaged presidential commission with interim reports, should try to solve the short-term and long-term problems in the country's educational crisis_

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Rory Lynsky report.on the

BLACKS FORCED

BRUCE CAMERON, Political Correspondent, and

Tide has

turned,
says |
Ray Swart

MR Ray Swart's election as Natal leader of the Progressive Federal Party adds another string to his political bow.

The PFP Natal leader is MP for Musgrave (which will disappear under . the

new delimitation
posals) and is also na-
tional vice-chairman of the
party.
He succeeds Mr Graham

. McIntosh who was Natal

leader for two years 'in

succession. Mr McIntosh
was elected as deputy
chairman by the congress.
Mrs Elsie Schreiner was
elected as provincial vice-
chairman.

After his election Mr
Swart told delegates the
tide had turned 'for the
Natal PFP and they would
now go out into the consti-
tuencies to win seats.

â\200\234This is going to be our
task,â\200\235 he said. :

Mr Swart pledged
himself to working closely
with Mr Maontosh- and the
Natal executive.

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ism

PFP congress

INTO RADICALSÂ®
CAMP â\200\224 SLABBERT

THE Government, by leav-
ing blacks out of the
Presidentâ\200\231s Council, had
forced moderate blacks in-
,to the same camp as
radical blacks; Dr F. van
Zyl Slabbert said at the
weekend.

Dr Slabbert said that by
doggedly going ahead with
its plans to keep blacks off
the council the Govern-
ment â\200\234is undercutting
sensible constitutional
development.â\200\235

It was precisely because
the PFP wanted to avoid
the polarisation that was

taking place and the increasing radicalisation in South Africa that his party had refused to serve on the President's Council.

He said it should be remembered that it was not only the PFP that was opposed to the President's Council and - refused to serve on it.

The black homeland leaders, the Urban Council Associations, the Coloured Labour B3 the Ipdia Reform

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Committee of Ten, Azapo, the African National Congress and black radical groups had also rejected it.

Dr Slabbert said, however, that there was development taking place in the country's constitutional development with regional constitutional/ changes being recommended.

Examples of this from the 'bottom-up' debate were the Qumil Commission report on Ciskei, the Lombard plan for Natal and the 'Schreiner Commission into Natal and KwaZulu appointed by Chief Buthelezi.

He said this approach to constitutional change was very important as often problems that appear insoluble on a national level are much easier to cope with on a regional level.

Mr Harry Selwary M.P.,

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ty's economic commission, said one of the faults of

the whole debate in South

Africa today was that
there was a plethora \ of
ideas on constitutional

development while' there
was a dearth of people ap-
plying themselves - to
economic problems. {

One cannot advance fa
people politically while
leaving them in poverty. !

He said economics and
freedom went hand-in-
hand and where develop-:
ment of the two did not go
together there would be
revolution. i

Economics expert Pro-
fessor Jill Nattrass said |
that the Government's
total strategy? policy
package had failed to
come to grips with - the
problems of rural develop-
ment in South Africa.

If economic conditions
in these areas do not im-
prove, these regions are

highly likely to become