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POLITICAL FILE + POLITICAL FILE +

By PETER MANN
Political Correspondent

THERE are only 10 days left in the Edenvale by-election — and all three parties have launched an assault on the big undecided vote which could swing the election on November 7.

The parties — the National Party, Progressive Federal Party and New Republic Party — are still claiming that they will win Edenvale.

This week the PFP and the NRP released details of their canvass figures to the SUNDAY TRIBUNE to back their victory claims.

PFP figures show 5 422 voters who have promised support to the party. In second place is the National Party with 2 969 votes. PFP figures put the NRP in a dismal third place with only 1 020 votes. The PFP found 2 590 voters who were doubtful while there were 639 voters who said they would not vote.

But the NRP say the PFP figure is "patently ridiculous." They claim to have canvassed 4 042 voters who are definite NRP supporters. The NRP puts the Nats second with 2 843 votes (a figure which is very similar to the amount of support the PFP have found for the Nats).

Their figures show the PFP trailing with 2 095 votes. The NRP found 2 021 voters who said they were doubtful.

The National Party, which has not yet finished its first canvass in Edenvale, was unable to give figures. However, they claim that on their canvass to date they will draw about 37 percent of the vote.

The Nats put the PFP second with 28 percent of the vote and the NRP third with 20 percent.

They have found that about 10 percent of the voters are doubtful while 4 percent say they will not vote or are "non-effective" voters who are unable to vote although their names are on the roll.

Although the National Party candidate, Senator Lawrie Poorter, still claims he will win, the National Party appears to have been written off by its own supporters and Press.

The Afrikaans newspaper Rapport quoted Senator Jack Steyl, the secretary of the Transvaal National Party, as saying the National Party should never have won Edenvale in the 1977 general election.

EDENVALE

IF YOU BELIEVE THE NATS, THE PFP
AND THE NRP ...

THEY ALL HAVE ENOUGH VOTES TO WIN

FIGURE THIS OUT!

"It's a Prog-seat,"
Senator Steyl said.

This week in an amazing editorial on Senator Steyl's remarks The Transvaal, the official mouthpiece of the National Party in the Transvaal, basically admitted that the National Party had lost Edenvale.

Senator Steyl had told The Transvaal that the 18 months since the National Party won Edenvale has not been enough time to make it solidly Nationalist, because a good organisation could not be built up overnight.

"We ask whether everything possible has been done in the past 18 months to build an organisation in Edenvale and similar constituencies?

"By this time, could things not have looked better in Edenvale?

"If Senator Lawrie Poorter's claim that the National Party will hold Edenvale are to be true there will have to be purposeful inspired and professional work to prevent

a repetition of the problems of this by-election."

This week Senator Poorter claimed his campaign was rapidly catching up on his opponents'.

"By the weekend we will have done 75 percent of our canvass", he said.

The Nats were also set this week to pass the NRP's postal and special vote figures. They and the NRP have about 350 postal and special votes to the PFP's 1 017.

He classified the election as being a test of the new direction of the Prime Minister. "A National Party win will be a mandate for the constellation states. I have firmly pinned my campaign on the Prime Minister.

"My opponents keep trying to link me with Dr Treurnicht. It is overstated to say that Dr Treurnicht is running my campaign. He has only been here twice," said Senator Poorter.

The PFP is supremely confident of winning Edenvale and most political observers believe they will.

Their campaign is being run by the party's national director, Mr Neil Ross, a man who is reputed to be deadly accurate with his estimates of support.

The battle for the doubtful voters seems to be largely a struggle between the NRP and the PFP.

Edenvale voters, disillusioned with the Government, are still

trying to make up their minds for which of the opposition parties to vote.

PRP candidate Brian Goodall emphasises that the election is a battle between the PFP and Dr Treurnicht.

"Ironically, if we win it can be construed as a victory for the Prime Minister."

"He is advocating change and we are the party who most clearly stands for change," said Goodall.

But NRP candidate Peter Rose says voters should support a party which can beat the Nats in their own seats which the NRP did when they won the south coast provincial by-election.

(Report by Peter Mann, 35 Field Street, Durban.)



ROSE (above)
NRP has proved
they can win

GOODALL (centre)
A battle between us
and Dr No

POORTER (right)
my campaign is pinned
on P. W.



TAC TO FORM RESEARCH BODY

By ZWELAKHE
SISULU

THE Soweto Teachers' Action Committee (TAC) is to form a Council for Black Education and Research, it was revealed this week.

It is envisaged that the council will be an all-embracing planning and research education unit that will also initiate community learning programmes.

The TAC plans to have an inaugural meeting of the council at the beginning of November.

Although a brainchild of the TAC, the council will ultimately become an independent unit which will address itself to black education and research nationally.

The steering committee of the council includes



Mr Curtis Nkondo

Mr T W Kambule, Mr Fanyana Mazibuko, Mr Curtis Nkondo, Professor Es'kie Mphahlele, Mr Nathan Molpe and Mr Nick Mogatsu.

A document prepared by the steering committee states: "Education

has become a subject of the gravest concern among blacks in South Africa since June 1976."

Black professional people, the document said, had in the past been engaged in the sheer effort of survival and had not made themselves heard in matters which required expert opinion.

"We have been a subject for research among white scholars who have invariably discovered in us a mine willing to be excavated and to yield treasures of information."

Whites had produced text books for study at black schools, some of which "have been loaded or tinged with a sense of superiority, even with racism".

The objectives of the council will be:

- To collect information concerning education in South Africa and to document such information.
- To evaluate existing educational theories and practices in South Africa.
- To conduct research into other areas of black education and to evaluate existing textbooks and prescribed books.

One of the council's major tasks will be to initiate programmes for informal education in the community and seminars for teacher upgradings.

"This whole programme should help us build up a resource centre that will enable us to speak with authority on education from which point black researchers will be trained in cycle after cycle."

By **PETER FABRICIUS**

THE NGK's scriptural justification of apartheid has been systematically demolished in a major new Presbyterian publication which rejects NGK theology as "false" and "schizophrenic".

Theologian Douglas S. Baz accuses the NGK of distorting the Biblical texts in order to justify a race theology which is influenced by Nazism.

The NGK's central view that the Will of God can be revealed in the history of a nation (particularly the Afrikaner nation) contradicts Calvin's view that God's Will is expressed solely through the Scriptures.

Yet the NGK claims to be founded on Calvin's theology.

Bax's book — *A Different Gospel, a Critique of the Theology Behind Apartheid* — focuses on the official report on race relations that the white NGK published in 1975 — *Ras, Volk en Nasie en Volkeverhoudinge in die Lig van die Skrif* — published in English as *Human Relations and the South African Scene in the Light of Scripture*.

"Although the report refers to a large number of texts (nearly 50) it cites most of them incidentally, and those on which it tries to build its essential argument are really only a few.

"These are the same texts to which the NGK for years has traditionally appealed in support of apartheid. All of them the report basically misinterprets."

Bax says the NGK report bases its conclusion that "ethnic diversity is, in its very origin, in accordance with the will of God" on God's command in Genesis 1,28 to multiply and fill the Earth.

That's Nazism not the Bible!

Theology expert accuses NGK of misusing texts



Dr J. D. Vorster

But "to multiply and fill the Earth by no means necessarily presupposed ethnic diversity, let alone keeping the peoples and their different cultures apart," Bax says.

"On the contrary it is stressed that all men are fundamentally united because all belong to one family, that of Adam and then that of Noah."

The NGK report interprets the scattering of the people of Babel (Genesis 11) as a sign that God was angry with them for living in unity, in defiance of his plan that they should replenish the Earth.

Against this view Bax argues that God scattered the people of Babel, not because they sought unity but to punish them because — like the Afrikaner — they tried to achieve a separate cultural identity, fame and greatness. They tried to seek security in that which was their own (die eie) instead of in God alone.

Bax argues that not only does the report misinterpret Scripture, it also overlooks much, especially in the New Testament, that is centrally concerned with the tremendous struggle of the Gospel against the apartheid of its

time" — between Jew and Gentile.

Bax refers to two texts, Eph 2:11-22, "which emphasises that before Christ came the Gentiles were separated from Israel, but now they are no longer 'excluded from citizenship in Israel', and no longer 'foreigners' to the covenants' made with the nation of Israel."

The second text (Gal 3:28) reports "how Peter as a Jew regularly shared the same table (for the Holy Communion) with the Gentile Christians in Antioch".

Then Jewish Christians from Jerusalem tried to pressure him to "separate himself". "This separation Paul denounces as hypocrisy and a fundamental betrayal of the Gospel and of Christ himself.

"This test is particularly important because it was over the whole issue of the shared table that apartheid began to be accepted into the NGK.

Until 1829 the NGK was still faithful to Scripture and to John Calvin's interpretation of the texts in Scripture on the unity of the Church — it clearly recognised that for Christians apartheid was contrary to the Word of God.

"For in that year its synod declared that the administration of holy communion simul-

taneously to all members 'without distinction of colour or origin' was 'an unshakeable principle based on the infallible Word of God'."

Bax argues that: "Besides being guilty of perverting Scripture the 1975 report fundamentally perverts the theology of the Reformation."

He shows how differently the reformers have interpreted some of the texts which the NGK report uses to support apartheid.

For instance Calvin saw in Gen 1:28 a sign that God's will was that all men should come from "One fountain, in order that our desire of mutual accord might be

the greater".

"Any inequality which is contrary to this arrangement is nothing else than a corruption of nature."

Bax asks: "If the NGK's interpretation of Scripture not only so basically 'perverts its natural meaning' but also contradicts the reformers' interpretation, 'where then do its ideas come from?' His answer — "from ideology."

He traces the formation of the NGK's race theology from the French philosopher Rousseau through to the Nazi philosophy of culture, volk and race, which he says "penetrated into and perverted reformed political theology among Afrikaners".

"This perverted political theology expressly accepted natural revelation — the revelation of God's Will in the history of the volk for instance — as a basis, in contrast to Calvin's principle of 'sola scriptura' (the Scriptures only).

"It was this idea of God's revelation in the history of the volk that had come also to form the basis for the whole theology of the Day of the Covenant, with its idea that God made a pact with the Afrikaner volk at the Battle of Blood River, a pact that placed them in a special relation with him."

This is "schizophrenic" because the NGK also professes belief in Calvin's idea that only the Bible reveals the Will of God — and it doesn't mention Afrikaners. He traces the influences of such men as Dr J. D. Vorster (brother of the former Prime Minister and ex-Moderator of the Cape Synod) in the NGK.

In the 1930s and 40s several NGK ministers — especially Dr Vorster — expressed "open admiration for the National Socialists and their ideas".

"Fatefully, ever since the 1930s and 1940s, with few exceptions, the NGK has tended to choose men of this stripe to be its leaders. All these men have been members of the Broederbond who could be relied on not to depart too far from its policies.

"It is therefore significant that the commission that drew up the 1975 report includes such men as Gericke (Dr J.S.) and Vorster (and Beukes).

"All this explains why the NGK's theology of race in some ways for so long clearly resembled the pseudo-theology of the Deutsche Christen, who sought to combine the ideology of National Socialism with Christianity in Germany."

Nothing could be more alien to John Calvin, Bax says.