

W.P/022/0125/15

## CANVASSERS NOTES

Success or failure in an Election Campaign depends, 99 times out of 100, on the thoroughness with which the voters are canvassed. The Canvasser is in the forefront of the struggle. His is the task of taking our policy to the people and convincing them of its correctness. Upon the canvasser depends the efficiency or otherwise of our Election Day organisation.

The following brief notes are intended as a guide. Your own experience during canvassing will soon enable you to add many more telling points to your arguments.

GENERAL : Polling Day is THURSDAY, APRIL 3RD.

Polling Hours are between 7 A.M. and 8 P.M.

Polling Stations will probably be at the following points

Cape Town: - Old Drill Hall.

Athlone: Gleemoor Town Hall.

WYNBERG: - Townhall.

Salt River: Salt River Institute Hall (Next Market).

Simonstown: Magistrate's Office.

Voters in the Cape Peninsula Division may vote at any of the above polling booths, either by straight vote or by Declaration.

THE CANDIDATES: Present indications are that there will be three candidates in the field -- Piet Beyleveld, Abe Bloomberg and Louis Kellner.

YOUR CANDIDATE is PIET BEYLEVELD. His is the name that will appear on the ballot paper (first on the list), and it is important that you keep it before the voter. Make sure you mention his name repeatedly to the person you are interviewing.

HIS RECORD: Mention particularly that Piet is on Trial for Treason; that he was arrested and gaoled for fighting for the rights of the people. He is the man the government hates and fears -- he is the man for us. We must support those who stand with us in the struggle for freedom. WE MUST STAND BY OUR LEADERS !

BEYLEVELD is the only one of the three candidates FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE CONGRESS MOVEMENT -- the South African Coloured People's Organisation (stress this), the African National Congress and the S.A. Indian Congress. He is National Chairman of the Congress of Democrats, which is also part and parcel of the Congress Movement.

Piet was Chairman at the historic Congress of the People which adopted the Freedom Charter, together with other leaders of the Congress Movement.

HIS POLICY AND OUR POLICY is the only policy capable of bringing peace, freedom and equality for all in our country. Read the Election Manifesto and other material for full details, but mention, in particular, the following.

FIRST OF ALL we stand for complete freedom and equality in every sphere and an end to the colour-bar in every respect.

THE VOTE : We condemn separate voters' rolls and DEMAND the right



of all South Africans, men and women, black and white, to have exactly the same votes on the same roll. We demand that everyone have the right to stand for an be elected to Parliament and all other public bodies. We want to see a multi-racial government in our country, with a multi-racial parliament.

GROUP AREAS: We demand that every South African have the right to live where he pleases ; that there should be no segregation of any kind whatsoever.

JOB RESERVATION: We demand the immediate repeal of the Industrial Conciliation Act and THAT ALL JOBS, WHETHER PRIVATE OR GOVERNMENT, BE THROWN OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE OR COLOUR. We further demand that all South Africans have the right to bear arms and join the armed forces on an equal basis. We want to see African, Coloured and Indian officers and Generals side by side with the Whites.

(Mention here the magnificent contribution of the Coloured soldiers in the two World Wars -- and the way they have been betrayed.)

EDUCATION: Mention the question of Education and the threat to give the Coloured people the same kind of inferior "Ja Baas" education now being forced on the African people.

OUR DEMAND, supported by the Archbishop but opposed by the United Party is that every child enjoy exactly the same education and facilities. In the case of the Coloured children, who speak either English or Afrikaans, WE DEMAND MIXED SCHOOLS, THE RIGHT OF COLOURED CHILDREN TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES AS THE WHITES.

WE STAND FOR FULL EQUALITY AND AN END TO APARTHEID  
and all discriminatory laws.

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OUR OPPONENTS: Our main opponent will be Bloomberg, so let's have a look at him.

Although a member of the United Party he is standing as an Independent. Why ? Is he ashamed of his true colours ? Is he ashamed of the United Party ? HE HAS EVERY REASON TO BE . For what has he or the United Party done in all the years they have been sitting in Parliament, except betray the Coloured people by passing or supporting innumerable measures against them and the other non-white people.

- \* The United Party (Bloomberg's Party) introduced the Segregation Bill in 1939 and only dropped it because of the war. They passed the Indian Ghetto Act when they were in power. These were all the fore-runners of the present hated Group Areas Act. THE UNITED PARTY STILL STANDS FOR "SEGREGATION" which is just APARTHEID under another name.
- \* The United Party supported and still supports the Immorality Act and the mixed Marriages Act, both calculated insults to the non-White peoples, stamping them with the mark of inferiority.
- \* The United Party supported the Hanging Act, the Suppression of Communism Act, the removal of the Mamatola Tribe, the Public Safety Act and a host of other reactionary and discriminatory laws.
- \* The United Party when it was in power (with Bloomberg sitting in Parliament) made it much more difficult for Coloured Voters to be registered on the Common Roll, and flatly



REFUSED TO EXTEND THE VOTES TO COLOURED WOMEN.

It feared the Coloured people more than it feared the Nats, and thereby laid the basis for the subsequent Nationalist election victory. For if every Coloured and every other non-White had had the vote neither the Nats nor the U.P. would get a single seat.

\* Bloomberg himself has been sitting as a United Party member in Parliament for many years. He has had his chance to fight for the Coloured and Non-Europeans and HAS FAILED MISERABLY. HE DID NOT EVEN HAVE THE COURAGE TO RESIGN FROM THE UNITED PARTY WHEN STRAUSS REFUSED TO GUARANTEE THAT HE WOULD RESTORE THE COLOURED PEOPLE TO THE COMMON ROLL.

Now this same man has the cheek to ask Coloured voters to vote for him !

\* HOW CAN ANY COLOURED VOTER, WHO VALUES HIS DIGNITY AND SELF-RESPECT, VOTE FOR A PARTY OR A CANDIDATE WHO CONSIDER HIM INFERIOR AND REFUSE TO TREAT HIM AS AN EQUAL?

Do the Coloured people want a party or an representative who will vote for such measures as the Immorality Act and Mixed Marriages Act, or do they want a candidate who will fight for full equality without any reservations?

A simple question which demands a straight-forward answer.

THE CONGRESS ORGANISATIONS are the only political organisations on which the Coloured People can rely. It is time for the Coloured people to break away from the all-white, discriminatory political parties and take their place, side by side with the Africans and Indians, in the struggle against all forms of Apartheid, for full freedom for everyone.

THE AFRICANS AND INDIANS, non-White people everywhere, are asking : Where do the Coloured people stand ? Are they with us in the struggle for equality or will they continue to support white political parties which stand for white supremacy ?

THIS ELECTION GIVES THE COLOURED PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY OF SHOWING THE WHOLE COUNTRY -- AND, INDEED, THE WHOLE WORLD -- THAT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO FIGHT TO THE END FOR THEIR FREEDOM, THAT THEY REFUSE TO ACCEPT AN INFERIOR STATUS.

Stress that the days of so-called "white supremacy" are over. The non-White nations are winning freedom everywhere. Mention the Chinese and Indian people ; the struggle of the Egyptian, Syrian, Algerian and Tunisian people. Mention Ghana.

ISN'T IT HIGH TIME THE COLOURED PEOPLE CHALLENGED WHITE SUPREMACY TOO ??

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KELLNER was, right up until a few weeks ago, also a member of the United Party. He only decided to resign from that Party when he decided to stand in these elections. He is politically an opportunist, and the same remarks apply to him as to Bloomberg and the United Party.

Kellner has never allied himself with the Congress Movement in any way, nor has he ever identified himself with the struggles of the non-white people. Let him prove himself in struggle, as Piet has, before he asks for our support.

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THE BOYCOTTERS: Dont be frightened by them. Their influence is much less than you think it is. You will find that most of the people who have gone to the trouble to register as voters intend to use their vote and are interested in doing so. In any case, who are the boycotters ? The Unity Movement. They are certainly experts at boycotting ; they boycotted and tried to sabotage the Defiance Campaign; they sabotaged the Train Apartheid Resistance movement; they opposed and tried to sabotage the Congress of the People. They opposed and tried to sabotage the June 26th strikes. In fact, they have been conspicuous by their absence in every genuine struggle of the people.

All they ever do is shout "boycott" because they are scared of any direct political mass action. They fight everyone except the government.

YOU WILL, HOWEVER, meet with some "abstentionist" feeling, the man who says, in effect: "To hell with it. We're on the separate roll now. It doesn't matter whether we vote or not. What can only one man do in Parliament ? I'm not going to bother to vote."

TO SUCH VOTERS point out that it is our duty - his duty - to use every single right he has, however small it may be, to hit at our enemies. That, on election day, he can do so by sending to Parliament a man the Nationalists would like to hang. That by voting for Piet he will be declaring his determination to will full freedom.

What can only one man do in Parliament ? Well, just point to the splendid job done by Sam Kahn in Parliament. True, his one vote there counted for nothing against the Nationalist steamroller, but then neither did all the votes of the United Party.

What Sam did Piet will do -- carry the voice of the people right into the den of reactionaries ; use Parliament as a platform for educating, not the parliamentarians (they are beyond hope!), but hundreds of thousands of South Africans of all races outside Parliament. And it is the struggle outside parliament that really matters.

Ask the abstentionists whom will it hurt if you stay at home on election day ? Certainly not the Nationalists, who would rather see Bloomberg or Kellner in Parliament than a fighter like Piet. Certainly not Bloomberg, or Kellner, or the United Party or George Golding. It can only hurt the cause of the people, the cause of Congress and the struggle against apartheid.

If you stay at home you will in fact be voting for Bloomberg and Kellner .

#### VOTE FOR PIET AND FULL EQUALITY

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#### REMEMBER:

- (a) To be polite at all times.
- (b) To fill in the canvassing card properly.
- (c) Mark whether the voter is "For", "Against" or "Doubtful". If there are any other remarks you wish to add, write them on the back of the card.
- (d) Mark the time when the voter wants to be picked up, and where he wants to be picked up on Election Day.
- (e) If the voter says he "Will Walk" ask him when he usually comes home of an evening and make a note of that too.
- (f) If the voter has moved, ask the new tenant if he knows the voter's new address, or where he works, or the name of someone who might be able to tell you.



If the other person is next door or on your round, pop in and enquire. But don't waste too much time. If you can't find out, mark the card "Moved" and move on yourself. The office will try to deal with it after that.

(f) Don't hang on to your canvassing cards. Return all of them, both canvassed and uncanvassed, to the Election Room promptly.

KEEP THE ELECTION ROOM AND COMMITTEE informed of any information you may come across during your canvass. We are vitally interested in what the people are saying and thinking, in what interests them most. We are also interested in what our opponents are doing and saying.

Keep an eye open for likely helpers and canvassers among the voters and people you meet. Hand in their names and addresses to the Election Room.

FINALLY: Please canvass as often and for as long as possible. There are only a very few weeks to Election Day, and every voter we can contact will count.

Our job in this campaign is to wean the Coloured people from the United Party once and for all ; to win them for a policy of active struggle for freedom; for close co-operation with the African and Indian peoples and the Congress Movement; for a policy of uncompromising, effective, united mass struggle against Apartheid.

That is what our candidate stands for, and our job is to get the voters to

VOTE FOR PIET BEYLEVELD !