

No-confidence debate

PW

denies

NP

division

by Brian Pottinger

CAPE TOWN — The Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, has begun his reply to the no-confidence motion submitted by the official Opposition by laying heavy emphasis on party unity.

His address continues when Parliament convenes again this afternoon with speculation that he will concentrate heavily on the alleged failure of the PFP to involve themselves in the constitutional debate through the President's Council.

In the few minutes before the Parliament adjourned last night Mr Botha said attempts by the Opposition and its newspapers to create a split within the National Party would be futile.

He claimed there were

no differences in principle within his party although there might be differences of opinion about the methods of applying policy, the procedural and administrative issues.

Mr Botha characterised the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition towards himself as "he loves me, he loves me not. It is difficult to know if he is satisfied with me as Prime Minister or not."

In reply to two questions raised by the Opposition Leader, Dr F. van Zyl Slabbert, Mr Botha said:

"The referendum mentioned by him at a recent speech in Ladysmith would only be called if there was a suggestion from the President's Council radically different from the policy endorsed by the National Party.

"Such a referendum would be held if the congresses of the National Party had had a chance to discuss the issue and had accepted the change of principle implied.

"The official Opposition, and not himself, should be answering the question of whom was 'stalking' him with a dagger waiting to wound him in the back, as he recently claimed at a speech in Ladysmith.

Mr Botha said Mr Slabbert and his "friends" meaning the Rand Daily Mail newspaper, knew whom it was that had given completely false information to the newspaper about his alleged involvement in altering the Erasmus Commission's findings.

He charged the Rand Daily Mail with having made a fool of itself by publishing the story without ascertaining the facts and without doing him the courtesy of first trying to get his statement.

In reply to questions from the Opposition he re-affirmed that the person responsible was not a member of the National Party but would not reply if he was a former member.

"The framework of the agreement reached had been achieved through the patient efforts of the Western members of the Security Council while in the administration of the elections the General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council and the Council for Namibia had no assigned role.

"For Mr Mudge to ask Mr Urquhart to repudiate at Geneva the General Assembly's 1976 resolution on the status of Swapo was simply to force a negative reaction," Mr de Villiers said.

Mr de Villiers also challenged the arguments that an anticipated danger of the elections would be the installation of a terrorist regime in Windhoek.

(News by B. Pottinger, Press Gallery, House of Assembly, Cape Town.)

PFP raises doubts about value of UN's Swapo bias

Own Correspondent

THE Progressive Federal Party has raised doubts about the importance of the impartiality of the United Nations General Assembly in the negotiations over SWA/Namibia.

In the fullest Opposition statement yet on the Geneva talks, Mr Derrick de Villiers, chief spokesman on foreign affairs, said that if impartiality of the

General Assembly were to be a pre-condition to settlement in SWA/Namibia all the efforts gone into past negotiations were fruitless.

Speaking during the no-confidence debate in Parliament last night Mr de Villiers said there was little prospect of the General Assembly's attitude changing in the foreseeable future.

"In the two years of discussion preceding Geneva the sensible course was taken to by-pass it or neutralise it and try to transact a just settlement of the Namibean dispute in other bodies and places."

"The bias of the General Assembly could not be the determining factor in negotiations. That would give to the Assembly a dominant authority it neither has nor deserves.

Non-Nats not put off by Botha's reply on Council

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Non-Nationalist members of the President's Council yesterday re-affirmed their determination to continue membership of the body despite the categorical statement by the Prime Minister that Blacks would not serve on it.

Mr Japie Basson — who was expelled from the PFP for agreeing to serve on the council — said yesterday the Government's stand on the issue had been known for a long time.

"There is nothing new in what the Prime Minister said yesterday and it does not change my mind in any way about the importance of the body."

Mr Bill Sutton, the New Republic Party's nomination for the council said he did not believe the Prime Minister's statement was any reflection on the council.

He said the Government was making clear that the council would only be dealing with the White, Coloured and Indian groups.

"But once this group has been able to reach agreement around the table it will be able to reach out to homeland Blacks and discuss means of reconciling differences."

He said it was inevitable that once the groups in common South Africa found consensus there would have to be some sort of agreement reached with

Blacks living in urban areas.

One of the council's first tasks would be to determine exactly who were the "urban" Blacks.

Mr Lofty Adams, a member of the council's Scientific Committee and a former Labour Party member, denied the statement in any way altered his stand.

Although he personally would fight for the inclusion of Blacks in the deliberations of the council, he did not think the Prime Minister's statement detracted from the significance of the body.

"When the door is opened even only a crack, one must take the opportunity to open it wider."

At the same time Mr Adams charged the PFP with hypocrisy by accepting nomination in the enlarged Assembly while refusing nomination to the council.

The comments of the councillors followed an exchange during the no-confidence debate on Monday in which Mr Botha confirmed he would oppose any recommendation from the President's Council that Blacks be included.

Mr Botha also confirmed by way of reply that he believed in a separate constitutional dispensation for Whites, Coloureds and Indians from that of Blacks.

*The Natal Witness reported
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Slabbert's

race

plan

attacked

Teacher
crisis
blamed

on Govt

CAPE TOWN — The whole crisis in the teaching profession should be laid at the door of the National Party, Mr Andrew Pyper (NRP Durban Central), said yesterday.

Speaking in the no-confidence debate, he said teachers were worse off now than in 1970 and for this the Government deserved a motion of no-confidence.

Mr Pyper said there would always be a wage gap between the private and Government sectors, but it should be a tolerable gap.

There should be no more promises. Even if the promised April increases were reasonable, the Government should consider a lump-sum payment to teachers to compensate them for their losses in pay over the years. — Sapa.

port Affairs, said South Africa could not follow the road taken by the rest of Africa.

The cry for one man, one vote was fading in Africa as it was becoming evident that such a system could not succeed, he said.

Mr Louis Nel (NP, Pretoria Central) said the National Party and the Government placed a high premium on the freedom of the Press, but such freedom was relative to the many other interests of the community. — Sapa.

CAPE TOWN. — The sort of declaration of intent that the Leader of the Opposition yesterday called on the Government to make would mean the end of group security and protection of the rights of minorities, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr F. W. de Klerk, said yesterday.

Resuming debate on Dr F. van Zyl Slabbert's motion of no confidence, Mr de Klerk said it appeared the Leader of the Opposition was looking for ways to avoid conflict in South Africa's multi-racial community.

Dr Slabbert called on the Government to declare its intention to involve all population groups in negotiating a system in which there would be equal citizenship and no racial discrimination.

Mr de Klerk said this raised the question of what security and guarantees the Progressive Federal Party model gave to minority groups.

Also speaking during debate Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Trans-

NRP call to drop petrol price

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The New Republic Party yesterday pledged itself to reducing the price of petrol to 40 cents a litre and making petrol selling hours for seven days a week.

Mr Nigel Wood, NRP for Berea and the party's chief spokesman on energy, accused the Government of misinforming the public about the true state of affairs as regards the country's petrol supplies.

Speaking during the no-confidence debate, Mr Wood said inflated petrol prices were one of the major factors causing high inflation rates and claimed there was no petrol shortage in South Africa.