

Jackson visit

IT won't be a comfortable time for the Government and its supporters when the US's Rev Jesse Jackson visits South Africa next month, especially when even staunchly conservative Reaganites are finding it politic-

ally expedient to condemn continuing apartheid. It would have been far more uncomfortable if the Government had persisted in its previous decision not to give him a visa. Wisely good sense prevailed.

Jubilation in Alice as Stofile is released

By Peter Aul Heyde

THOUSANDS of cheering Ciskeian residents on Saturday lined the streets of Alice to welcome border United Democratic Front (UDF) secretary Reverend Arnold Stofile after his release from prison.

Stofile and Sakhumzi Somyo were due to be released at 10am on Saturday

morning, but security police dropped them at their rural homes shortly after nine in the morning. This was apparently an attempt to prevent people from showing support for the released prisoners outside Middledrift prison which has been their home for the last two years.

Stofile was sentenced to 11 years in

jail in 1987 after being convicted of terrorism, while Somyo received a four year sentence after refusing to testify against Stofile and three others.

After greeting several hundred people at his home in a small village outside Alice, Stofile drove into Alice.

Several thousand people had gath-

ered outside Stofile's home. The crowd, many of whom were wearing political T-shirts, sang freedom songs and toyi-toyed.

The two released prisoners then went to Nelson Mandela's old college, Lovedale College, where a thanks-giving service was held.

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Stofile release

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Stofile said he felt both glad and sad about his release.

'Obviously I am glad, as prison is no virtue, and I am glad to be free. But at the same time, I am sad because I left behind seven others who had been sentenced for similar offences.'

He said he had not yet made any plans for the future, but would wait to see what programme had been drawn up for him. Embracing his wife and three children, Stofile said he was happy to be re-united with his family.

THE BLACK PRESS IN THE LAND OF GO

JUNE 16 — 1 papers sho

CITY Press and the Sowetan Sunday Mirror went to town trying to outdo each other in coverage of the June 16 events last weekend — City Press, it seemed, trying to make up for its rather poor build-up to the anniversary of the 1976 bloodshed.

The Mirror devoted almost its entire front page to the happenings, with the blow-up headline "Violence erupts" giving notice of what was to follow. It carried a stark picture — a bit too small in my opinion — of a police sneeze machine being put into operation outside Regina Mundi Church in Soweto, while a man, enveloped in clouds of the gas, vainly raises his hand in an effort to stop the police action.

The Mirror's report, however, was badly written and jumped all over

the place. The only thing in the report's favour was that it was long and if the reader persisted a good overall picture of what had happened in Soweto on Saturday could be gleaned.

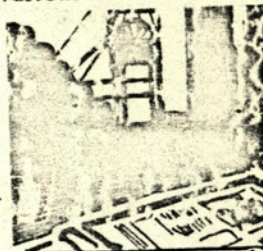
On Page 3 the newspaper carried more reports and pictures — including a photograph of Hector Peterson's mother laying a wreath at his grave (Hector was the first one to stop a police bullet on June 16, 1976).

In an editorial the Mirror launched an attack on those who had distributed pamphlets — purported to be authorised by Azapo — at Regina Mundi.

The pamphlets used, according to the editorial, "highly insulting language against Mr Archie Gumede, the UDF and Indians".

It went on: "Despite the obvious intent

behind these ugly prints, the spirit of June 16 was upheld by scores of thousands with the dignity due to it. The people at the various services



refused to be intimidated or even swayed by them (the pamphlets), and the heavy presence of the police."

City Press, too, devoted its entire front page to the anniversary, headlining on the fact that police ordered the Regina Mundi service stopped — "Stop this service" — with photographs of fist-waving youths confronting the police and their sneeze machines.

The CP report was clear and both well

by Intshebe yaseGol

Jobs for pals?

THE practice of newly appointed government Ministers hiring outside experts and former associates as advisers and administrators is common in many countries, including South Africa. Few would quibble about special expertise being brought to key positions in order to allow political leaders to do their jobs well. However, the ANC's move in bringing contract workers into the public service appears to go beyond such an accommodation.

The categories of posts the ANC wants opened up to outside candidates include typists, clerks and messengers — hardly critical positions. Could a Minister's effectiveness, and the country's interests, hinge on a particular individual being given a messenger's job?

It is difficult to escape the thought that the move is linked to the party's concurrent restructuring operation. ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa has emerged as the chief defender of the plan, although he is not in government and not directly affected by the proposed changes. Ramaphosa has mentioned that the ANC will have to reduce the number of drivers it employs from about 40 to four. Is it mere coincidence that drivers are among those the party wants government to hire?

The issue creating the most fuss is the way the ANC has tried to implement the arrangement. Eleven public service associations have been completely bypassed. This is

by a party that champions consultation with interested parties on all issues and is fierce in its defence of worker rights. Even close ally Cosata has expressed its disquiet.

Ramaphosa's criticism of the Public Servants' Association for daring to defend the interests of its members, instead of identifying with something he calls "the broad South African public", is rich coming from someone with his trade union background. And his use of derogatory rhetoric to imply senior public servants should be stripped of their rights is frankly surprising.

The secretary-general's threat that the ANC might change its mind on job guarantees for public servants if it does not get its way is intimidatory and ominous and will lead to speculation on the ANC's commitment to all provisions of the interim constitution. It will also fuel fears that the party is not strong on adhering to principles or keeping promises.

When the ANC adopts bullying tactics and invokes "national interests" to defend a scheme that has dubious motives, it echoes the old National Party government at its most arrogant and disingenuous.

There can be no argument that the public service must, and will, change rapidly. But, in accordance with ANC policy, there needs to be thorough consultation, an appreciation of individual rights and consideration for the new order's spirit of reconciliation.

The slaughter must just be stopped

THERE is clearly a huge problem in the Ndwendwe area near Durban.

Last week seven members of a family whose sympathies apparently lay with the Inkatha Freedom Party were massacred there. Early yesterday morning a family of eight, once again with IFP links, was slaughtered in the area.

This is the kind of thing that went on in the old South Africa.

It is obviously simplistic to say the ancient hatreds and divisions in this area of what used to be KwaZulu would simply have died with the passing of the old political order. What should have died however is the notion that such deeds remain mysterious and that the killers cannot be found.

That was the style in the old days which led to the appalling suspicions and allegations about a so-called third force.

What the new SA Police Service should do now is make these killings the subject of their most intensive

investigation since the elections. Nothing less will do.

Most South Africans have the most bitter memories of the violence which nearly tore our country in two. The feeling then, and not so long ago after all, was that the violence would eventually overwhelm us all.

And that was due, in large part, to the fact that the police were apparently unable to solve most

of the crimes.

If the new SA is to mean anything at all in the field of violent crime, it must be that mass slayings like this are solved, the guilty brought to court and punished with all the force of the law.

If that does not happen then hundreds of thousands of rural people will continue to live in old-style terror. That is not good enough.

The police know what they have to do.



*We must see to it that the rest of labour does not be pushed as high
★ Productivity has to rise accordingly!*

Jay Naidoo's economic kick-start plan

BRIAN KING
Weekend Argus Reporter

WITHIN nine months a public works programme aimed at job-creation and temporarily kick-starting South Africa's beleaguered economy should be in place, says Cosatu secretary-general Mr Jay Naidoo.

Mr Naidoo said there was "general agreement" between business, organised labour and the major political parties regarding such a start.

Asked where the money would come from for such a programme, particularly when Cosatu was also saying individuals' tax should be frozen, Mr Naidoo said the golden handshakes would have to stop, "leakages" in tax collection eliminated and the "tax collection methods improved", eliminating the "scandalous mismanagement" of resources by government and homeland adminis-

trations, and a "major re-direction of state expenditure".

"The homelands are very corrupt. Elimination of the wastage in the delivery of services could finance the reconstruction programme," claimed Mr Naidoo.

He added: "We're demanding an independent audit of every state department. Unless we do something urgently to build efficient government where employment practices are related to the development of effective services to all South Africans, we're going to be leading our people up the garden path."

Mr Naidoo said economic restructuring and a short-term public works programme (focusing on the provision of housing, electricity, sewerage, roads, schools) was important to build the confidence necessary to un-

derpin the process of political transition.

Response from the civil engineering industry to the proposed public works programme has been positive, if guarded.

South African Federation of Civil Engineers and Contractors (SAFCEC) spokesman Mr Des King said:

"It's an excellent idea. People desperately need sewerage disposal, provision of fresh water, serviced sites and so on in this country but where does the money come from?"

One reputedly major problem in the National Economic Forum (NEF) is that "should", "if" and "could" dominate, but nobody comes up and says "how".

Furthermore, while industry sources agree that the increased usage of labour is more economic in the sense of benefiting the country

overall, despite being more immediately costly, a moratorium on retrenchments, though, presents problems when looking at an economic restructuring programme.

Meanwhile, a report presented this week by Frankel Max Pollak Vinderine, Sanlam, Ernst and Young and the HSRC, says there's enough money sloshing around on the capital market to finance most, if not all, of South Africa's development capital needs.

South Africa has a highly developed and sophisticated capital market, says the report, but so far this has been used to finance government consumption rather than investment.

An investment of R10.4 billion in infrastructure and in the development of small and informal businesses would create 460 000 jobs a year the report estimates.

James probe says Rajbansi abused power

MR Amichand Rajbansi's meddling in the administration of departments run by other ministers had hampered sound administration in the Department of Education and of the budget in the House of Delegates, and his constant interference amounted to irregular exercise of power, the James Commission found.

Mr Justice James said he had heard a constant stream of fully justified complaints by fellow ministers about his interference in the working of their departments and the posting and reposting of personnel.

He had displayed personal malice in trying to block the promotion of a senior educationist, Mr A K Singh, and had acted irregularly in arranging for the premature promotion of a teacher, Mr C Panday.

Mr Rajbansi's hostility towards Mr Singh, who became chief executive director of the Department of Education and Culture, had been demonstrated on many occasions during the hearing of evidence by the commission.

"I am satisfied that it was motivated by a desire to prevent someone being appointed to an important post because he had indicated quite strongly that he would not act as Mr Rajbansi's stooge," said the judge.

Mr Rajbansi had ordered that Mr Panday's name be added to a list of teachers due for promotion, suggesting that a political party should promote those who assisted it.

Mr Panday, as acting principal of a school at Reservoir Hills, later featured in Sunday newspaper reports, with photographs, which said he had taken part in a striptease act.

When the Minister of Education, Mr Kassie Ramduth, decided he should be suspended pen-

ding the outcome of a disciplinary inquiry, Mr Rajbansi had intervened and ordered the person in charge of delivering Mr Ramduth's letter of suspension not to proceed. He had then telephoned Mr Ramduth and insisted it not be sent.

When Mr Ramduth resisted, Mr Rajbansi had made veiled threats that he would not remain in office if he did not comply, and Mr Ramduth finally gave in.

Mr Justice James said he had no doubt that Mr Rajbansi acted as he did because Mr Panday was one of his most important political supporters.

There was no doubt that a deliberate attempt had been made to forge Mr Panday's assessment to improve his chances of promotion.

"The evidence does not however show conclusively that any minister was at the back of this manoeuvre but the evidence

points strongly to the fact that Mr Mahomed (Mr A K Mahomed, assistant director in the Department of Budgetary and Auxiliary Services) was deeply involved, and the conduct of this man and others who might be involved requires further departmental investigation.

"There is however no doubt in my mind that Mr Panday was an active supporter of Mr Rajbansi and because of this Mr Rajbansi put the full weight of his formidable personality behind his attempt to rescue Mr Panday from the consequences of his stupidity."

Mr Mahomed had been one of three personnel directors in the administration whose promotion had been blocked for some time. However he had let it be known that he was a completely loyal and faithful supporter of Mr Rajbansi and the NPP and his promotion was approved. — Sapa.

Report tells of conflict

CAPE TOWN. — A substantial conflict of views on the proper administration of departments falling under the House of Delegates existed between the former Cabinet Minister and Chairman of the Ministers' Council Mr Amichand Rajbansi, and the Administration's director-general, Mr R P Wronsley, the James Commission found yesterday.

The report, on alleged irregularities in the administration of the House of Delegates, was released yesterday by the Acting State President, Mr Chris Heunis.

Dealing with the conflict between Mr Rajbansi and Mr Wronsley, Mr Justice Neville James also found there was a difference between the two as to what the extent of Ministers' powers was.

Sunday Tribune

Dec 15 HL

PS

Judgment in weapons case 'a step forward for peace'

JUDGMENT in a landmark case in Durban this week on the carrying of traditional weapons was a big step towards eliminating the conditions creating a climate of violence, it has been claimed.

In an important judgment, Mr Justice Didcott ruled a provision in the amended Natal Code of Zulu Law allowing blacks to carry dangerous weapons "in accordance with traditional Zulu usages, customs or religions" to be void for vagueness.

The ruling, applicable to Natal, effectively tightens regulations pertaining to the carrying of dangerous weapons.

Lechesa Tsenoli, a prominent civic worker who brought the action, said "the challenge of creating a climate conducive to peace still remains".

ANC southern Natal chairman Jeff Radebe called the court ruling "a victory for our people", but KwaZulu Legislative Assembly MP for Elandskop, David Ntombela, said it was "a challenge to the Zulu".

"It's a different matter if these weapons are carried to a political meeting, but I don't think anyone can say that shields, knobkerries and spears cannot be carried when the amakosi (chiefs) call an imbizo (meeting) or if the Chief Minister calls an imbizo," Mr Ntombela said.

"That's the same as saying that the Zulus mustn't have their own

Brian King

king," he said. "People must be fair — what about the AK47s that are being carried?"

On Friday, the State applied for leave to appeal against the ruling.

A broad overview of the carrying of dangerous weapons in Natal goes back more than 100 years:

■ Mr Justice Didcott indicated in his judgment that for almost a century nobody had been at liberty to carry a dangerous weapon in terms of the Natal Code.

The judge accepted the evidence of Mary de Haas, a lecturer in the department of social anthropology at the University of Natal, who said there was little evidence of traditional use of weapons for ceremonial purposes as a general rule in Natal before 1891.

■ In 1891, the code contained in the Natal Colony Act of that year sought to reduce the level of fighting among blacks by placing stringent restrictions on the carrying of "assegais, axes, other dangerous weapons or knobkerries".

■ Then came the amendment of August 31, 1990, signed by State President FW de Klerk, which effectively widened the conditions under which dangerous weapons could be carried.

Blacks could now carry dangerous weapons "in accordance with traditional Zulu usages, customs or

religions".

■ In December 1990, lawyers, human rights activists, and unrest monitors embarked on a campaign to have "cultural weapons" banned.

■ On January 31 this year, Lechesa Tsenoli, a Mosotho who has also worked as a freelance journalist covering unrest incidents, filed an application against the State President saying the amendments were discriminatory and an obstacle to peace.

There were no grounds, he said, for the State President to believe that with respect to the carrying of weapons, Zulus were "more responsible and restrained in their conduct than any other tribe".

■ On 10 May 1991, Zulu chiefs decided to defy any ban the government might impose on the carrying of "traditional weapons" and Nelson Mandela put the peace process on hold with an ultimatum to President De Klerk to address the issue of carrying spears in public.

■ On May 22, the government banned the carrying of spears in public in designated unrest areas on the Witwatersrand.

■ In October 1991, the National Peace Accord was signed with a clause stating that dangerous weapons and firearms might not be carried or displayed by members of the public at political gatherings or processions.

■ December 13 saw the landmark judgment by Mr Justice Didcott. The offending sub-clause was declared "void for vagueness".

SENIOR NP-supporting journalists, so long accustomed to riding on the crest of a triumphant political wave, can no longer disguise their disillusionment as the story of governmental corruption, abuse and incompetence unfolds.

In one of the most outspoken comments on recent developments, the journal *Insig* said: "Long ago Afrikaners experienced their century of wrong. To this must now be added their decade of shame. And not even their worst enemies could have inflicted on them a greater wrong than they have brought on themselves."

"Corruption, abuse of power and worse have erupted like malignant sores on the recent political history of the NP government. And, almost equally dreadful, a few examples of what can only be called totally incompetent administration of the country."

In the same issue, Piet Muller, a leading political commentator, said it looked as though "our hour of disgrace and revilement" would never end.

Coming close to the most sensitive aspect of his topic, De Muller said President De Klerk's decision, after initial reluctance, to abolish the State Security Council and return the government of the country squarely to the hands of politicians, had not prevented one revelation after another from putting him in an extremely uncomfortable position — nor sheltered him from accusations that as a senior cabinet minister he must have been aware of some of these sinister incidents.

Lapping closer to F W

IT was, strangely perhaps, left to the fiercely independent and critical *Vrye Weekblad* to say aloud what must surely be in many minds as the tide of accusations laps closer to Mr De Klerk personally.

"There can be no doubt," wrote Du Preez in his personal column, "that the sins and scandals of corruption and the misdeeds of the security forces should be thoroughly investigated. We must cleanse the stables before we get a new government, otherwise we shall exchange one corrupt regime with a contempt for the law for another of the same kind."

"On the other hand, South Africa cannot afford to let the De Klerk Government be weakened to such an extent that it will not be able to negotiate properly. The Government represents a bloc of interests and power that could become dangerous if it began to feel that others were riding roughshod over it."

Curiouser, and curiouser

THE plans of a group of Dr H F Verwoerd's Pretoria admirers to erect a statue of him in Church Street are again causing ripples in the Afrikaans press.

His definition of an optimist, said Beeld columnist Lood, was someone who, in this day and age, still cherished a plan like that.

Journalists deplore Afrikaners' 'decade of shame'



— Fred Mouton of Die Burger.

Lood's opposite number in *Vrye Weekblad*, Brolloks Bittergal, compared the idea with that of erecting a statue of Hitler in Berlin, of Stalin in Moscow or of Ceausescu in Bucharest. If the plan come to fruition, he said, it would prove to be "the statue with the shortest life".

Federation zeal

HOW far will the Government and the NP take their newly found zeal for a federal constitution?

Rapport's political correspondent, Karin Brynard, said the NP had quietly written the idea of a federation into its official policy — and so simultaneously dug in its heels for the sharp constitutional clashes with the ANC that lay ahead.

Beeld's endorsement of this change in strategy was no more than lukewarm. It de-

Sayings of the Week

□ I am delighted ... Bloemfontein has now entered the league of big cities. — Die Volksblad columnist Johan van Wyk on Bloemfontein's first traffic jam.

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□ The ANC's attempt to humanise and justify detention without trial is pathetic and in fact smacks of complicity. — Brian Currin, director of Lawyers for Human Rights, as quoted in Weekly Mail.

□ □ □

□ It is the one tragedy of Codesa that at least a million whites with a big interest in South Africa's future are not represented. — Transvaler.

scribed federation as "the right road", but warned the "pro-federation camp" against wrecking a good cause by pushing it too hard. "They must remember that South Africa already has behind it one failed attempt at an arbitrary division of its territory."

"That attempt, nationally and internationally known as grand apartheid, came to grief because it took no account whatever of economic forces and economic reality."

The federalist in Codesa would have to convince the ANC alliance that their model was not aimed at preventing a more equitable distribution of the country's economic potential.

Duty to analyse

THE statesmanlike role that is being played at Codesa by Colin Eglin of the DP has drawn more than one press tribute to a man whose long political career has scarcely been steered with roses.

One of the ANC's key negotiators told *Vrye Weekblad* columnist Hennie Serfontein of the deep impression made on him by one of Mr Eglin's speeches, in which he rebuked both main parties for their unwillingness to see their own faults.

"Eglin's words made my and my colleagues think deeply," said the ANC man. "Irrespective of what double agenda the Government might harbour, we also have a duty to analyse our own approach, even though we may think we are right."