

Oppenheimer view on new president attacked

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Tygerberg Bureau h!

THE chairman of the constitution committee of the President's Council, Dr Sehalk van der Merwe, said last night he .Could. not understand how an intelligent man like Mr Harry Oppenheimer had reservations about the powers of the president in the new constitution. He was addressing about 80 people at a referendum meeting in Kuils River.

?W'YI

The new president, he said, ;Could never be a dictator. He had to be re-elected every five years. could be removed after a vote 0! no confidence and had no veto right.

He could exert influence. like any strong president could.

The President's Council had studied constitutions from 13 countries and found that "own" and "general" affairs were not foreign to many of them. An By implication Dr Treurnicht had damned (ithet die banvloek uitgespreek oor") everyone voting Yes.

He also said that whites, coloured people and Indians would not be intimidated by the leader of a political party (Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert) who called in the help of the blacks in a matter not concerning them. but which would eventually not exclude them.

The MP for De Kuilen. Mr Myburgh Streicher. said earlier that he thought Mr Oppenheimer's silence has "too good to be true".

He was always committed to an integrated society and his political thinking was always in line with that of Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP Houghton).

"He will never forsake his far-left friends. I am grateful that he says the constitution is 1 example was Russia before 1939. i

Turning to Dr Treurnicht, Dr van der Merwe said he could not talk himself out of the fact that he had referred to fellow-Afrikaners when speaking about part of the "volk" rejecting and holding with contempt the supremacy of Chis;

"Who would have thought that he (Mr Oppenheimer) would have vote with us in any case," he said. 1

He respected Mr Oppenheimer as a businessman - ubut

the CPs can have him with pleasure. We never counted him with us".

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English) Otes

AS a confessing Christian mmmnersm ear 1

an Airikaner who has the oppor- these same principles and val-
tuntlt of regularly seeing the "99 "9.811 a massive English-
real 3iace ot the average Afri- speaking NO VON W sustain the
kaner Nationalist, I fear, with a Drum"! .hattle for love, mercy
sense of saddening certainty. and justice and the coming to
that the Government does not South Africa of real moral and
desire even the rather pathetic Chnstian chance -' reached by
- co tained painstaking and selfless negoti-
\$35.??? to ?&tutlion. ation and made acceptable to
the majority.

Voters who believe this to be

a "point of departure" to mean-i The REV H J D 3m d

ingfui reform stemming from a (Minister, St StegleIen 8 Ne
change of heart will most prob- ref Kerk)

ably find themselves gravely 253 Upper Buitengracht Street,
disillusioned. Not, I fear, is a TSMI'SHWL
beautiful new love of English- a '

-speaking voters burgeoning in
the Government's heart. but
rather a desperate wish to ob-
tain as many Yes votes as
possible.

The new constitution, I firmly
believe, is nothing but a facade
behind which Atrikaner domi- i
nance is to be maintained at all t
costs, which is quite clearly in-
defensible from a generally i
moral and specifically Christian
viewpoint.

Of equal importance is the
fact that the new constitution
would constitute a highly super-
ficial attempt to bring justice to
this country. The "small peo-
ple", the millions of men, wom-
en and children classified as
second-class citizens - or not
as citizens at all - would con-
tinue to tread the well-worn
path of deprivation, despair and
\$Climate', X

ANTAGONISTS of evolut oh-
ary chan e make much of the
danger o a Nationalist dicta-
tor. This holds true only if
one cares to ignore the con-
siderable changes that are to
take place in the pro osed
Parliamentary and pomcal
make-up of the country.

One must take into account
canno

that baasskap

and social climate. The teen
iranchisement oi the pre
t continue. Only the le t
and right wing radicals per-
sist With the misconception
can be re-en-

trenched in today's political

Asked about this statement

during question time, Dr van

der. Merwe said he meant that

in the "broad constitutional dis-

pensation the people outside a the national states would still have to receive attention . . . that is in the broad political dispensation, but they will not be included in Parliament".

a step ahead,

"It is difficult to understand that he who was born here and knows that country does not understand that there is a specific problem of peoples relationships ("volkereverhoudings") which cannot be changed."

: (News by C du Plessis, 122 St George's StreethCape Town).

Yes vote. iitgf

of aparthei _.

I Staff Reporter

ft A VOTE in favour of the it new constitution in the X'November referendum

- could be said to be a vote;

, in favour of the Group

i- Areas Act and the Population Registration Act.

Mr George Bartlett, NRP

MP for Amanzimtoti,

said in Pinelands last

"18th P9 gut r 1.11;

During question time

i at the meeting attended

by about 50 people, Mr i

Bartlett was asked it he

agreed that a vote in ta-

. vour of the new constitu-

tion was also a vote in

favour of the Group

Areas Act and the Popu-

lation Registration Act),

vour 1

ctsi

character, traditions and

pride.

m- e. g;

The membef of the au-

dience asked again: "Do

you agree that given the

general circumstances in

South Africa now, one

cannot vote tyes' in the

referendum without ac-

cepting these two Acts?"

Mr Bartlett said: "Yes,

I suppose . . . but

there..."

"MORE FLEXIBLE"

The member of the au-

dience asked again: ttDo

you agree that this is the

case?"

Mr Bartlett said: "Yes,

well I suppose you could

be correct there."

PLURALISM

Mr Bartlett said at this

point that a "yes" vote

was not for racism but

pluralism. which was ac-

ceptable because it al-

Mr Bartlett went on to
say that the New Repub-
lic Party's attitude was
more "flexible" than the
National Party's.
(News by M Morris. 122 St
George's Street. Cape Town.)
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I 11/ - 1/. : ' .
4 Some benefit
WHATEVER the referendum
results may be, one positive fea-
ture emerges from the battle of
- - . has awakened
ti th have been ' 1 disenfranchised e0- heated words It _ _
93:53:23 3.10:: msgmyust by precedent ead tilie tanplghfroim their nitiong
we "redecorms" m . to many ms: aagaexng 1.3; have zosisaze trite
prominent sign "under new acts of goodwn . (or fore and this has created more
hardly the climate
management", the Government .
dictatorship.
would actually be pursuing a
policy of "business as usual".
A realisation of the enormity
of their responsibility will, I ter-
vently hope and pray, come to v
would make 'them'
En lish-s akin voters before ease. and go what alterna-
thegreiergdum twouldbeim- 1 five? White baasskap or
mensely saddening were they to ' black baasskap ?
CHRIS JOUBER 'I'
381 Main Road
Sea Point
endorse the new constitution
and thus deny the moral princi-
ples they have been known to
stand for and the Christian val-
ues many
For those who say No to
' titution and who
this cons start
I ask: At whose ex-
awareness and caution.
(Rabbi) N L MARCUS
5 Rugley Road
Vredehoek
Mus iLisiO-et 3
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