

# Treurnicht hits at 'slap pap'

By IVOR WILKINS  
Political Correspondent

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DR ANDRIES Treurnicht, the man who was at the centre of the language row after the 1976 riots, said this week it would be ridiculous to try to force English speakers to use Afrikaans as the only official language in South Africa.

In a fiery attack on the Herstigte Nasionale Party's policy of Afrikaans only as the official language, Dr Treurnicht, the Minister of State Administration, said of the HNP at an election meeting in his Waterberg constituency: "They are trying to do exactly what Afrikaners fought against in Lord Alfred Milner and Lord Charles Somerset."

"The Afrikaners who struggled for the freedom of our own language will not do that to another nation," he declared.

He described the notion of enforcing Afrikaans as the only official language as "stupid".

This was "explosive stuff", but while it might sound good to some, the HNP should not expect to be able to "catch Afrikaners with such soft porridge (slap pap)".



DR ANDRIES TREURNICHT  
"Explosive stuff"

In an exchange with a questioner at the end of the meeting Dr Treurnicht continued to declare that you could not force a language down another man's throat.

He was asked why it was ridiculous to expect English speakers to give up their language in South Africa, when they had already been expected to give up all their other connections with Britain.



DR ALEX BORAINÉ  
"Treurnicht's stance is ironic"

"Because," replied Dr Treurnicht, "you are asking them to sacrifice the kernel of their culture."

In 1976, when Dr Treurnicht was Deputy Minister of Bantu Administration and Education, the Government's policy of enforcing black pupils to take half of their subjects in Afrikaans came under heavy fire.

At the time, Dr Treurnicht said in an interview that if the

Government supplied the school buildings, gave subsidies and paid teachers, it surely had the right to determine what the language in schools ought to be.

Opposition spokesmen were outraged and accused Dr Treurnicht of being the "Lord Milner of Afrikanerdom" — the accusation he this week laid at the door of the HNP.

In 1980 the Cillie Commission, which investigated the 1976 unrest, reported that the issue which sparked the unrest was the language medium grievance of black pupils.

This week, Dr Alex Boraine, the Progressive Federal Party's chief education spokesman, said: "I find it ironic that Dr Treurnicht should say this now after his statement that because the Government paid for the schools it had the right to choose the language medium used."

## Blaze

The blaze of violence that followed after the language issue had ignited the "accumulated resentment and anger in Soweto and other townships" had been due to the stubbornness and callousness of Dr Treurnicht, he said.

"His response to the HNP this week is yet another example of the double standards used by the NP and by Cabinet Ministers in particular."

Mr Rene de Villiers, president of the Institute of Race Relations, commented: "Either Dr Treurnicht has mellowed since 1976, or he then learnt the very valuable lesson that you cannot force culture down anyone's throat."

"It is ironic that Dr Treurnicht is now having to apply his dearly-learned lesson to the HNP."

(Report by I Wilkins, 171 Main St. Johannesburg.)



# This senseless harassment

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THE Bishop Desmond Tutu who left South Africa recently was a determined spokesman for the anti-apartheid constituency.

The Bishop Tutu who has returned to this country is a leader and it would be folly if the Government did not recognise it. The transformation occurred when the Prime Minister threatened in the glare of international publicity to deprive him of his passport.

His stature has grown immensely within black South Africa as a consequence, and he was not slow to exploit the situation abroad.

The Nationalists have a curiously suicidal habit of creating black martyrs. Further official hamhand-

edness in the Tutu affair might just provide them with another opportunity to do so.

The removal of his passport, in a petulant display of pre-election kragdadigheid, would be counter-productive.

In terms of today's black politics, the bishop is a moderate. If the Government is unable to come to terms with that moderation, its attitude bodes ill for the future.

Bishop Tutu is a mature man with a mission and a mandate. The angry young black leaders waiting in the wings are less likely to be hampered by Christian disciplines and restraints.



# Election speeches anger black councillors

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NATIONALIST parliamentary candidates, including the Prime Minister, have upset many members of the President's Council by their verkrampte campaigning speeches.

There are grumbings of discontent and many members are threatening to follow Durban attorney Pat Poovilingam, who has said he would resign if the council did not make a breakthrough by the end of the year.

"Several people associated with the President's Council have asked me if I was serious. Watch how serious I am when the December 31 deadline dawns," he said this week.

"If there are no African members by then, I will quit."

There is a growing despondency among council members that Mr Poovilingam might as well write out his resignation now.

They fear that electioneering outbursts by Nationalist candidates have scuttled the President's Council before it had a chance to get going.

Privately, both black and white members of the council are talking gloomily of diminishing morale and a sense of disillusionment within the ranks.

Disillusioned black members say they are beginning to feel

By NORMAN WEST

like dummies in a shop window.

Privately, the Indian and coloured members are warning that Nationalist election speeches, fraught with scare tactics, might boomerang seriously on the men who created the council.

Among the election fusillades which worry council members are:

● Mr P W Botha's assurance to the electorate that coloureds and Indians would not be included in a common voters' roll — despite his headline-grabbing "coloureds are not lepers" speech in which he said: "You could not ask people to die for their country on the border and at the same time refuse to play rugby against them."

● The Prime Minister's repetition of National Party policy — that no black has a right to power-sharing in a future South Africa, not even in separate

political institutions in South Africa.

● Transport Minister Mr Hendrik Schoeman's assurance to the white electorate that parliamentary power-sharing with coloureds was out of the question and "non-negotiable".

President's Council members said this week they felt "embarrassingly compromised" by the verkrampte speeches of Nationalists during the election campaign.

They are no longer sure the Government is serious about even minor changes of policy, let alone engaging in genuine negotiation about the country's future.

Dr Ghosesain Mohamed, a member of the President's Council's science committee, headed by Dr E J Marais, said:

"I said in my maiden speech that without Africans on the council, it is inadequate.

"Now we seem to have it from the horse's mouth that we are wasting our time on the President's Council.

"I have no time to waste and may even make use of the Poovilingam option before Pat Poovilingam does."

Mr Lofty Adams, a member of the planning committee, said:

"One must grant that the Nationalists are electioneering. But they must realise that they are also speaking to the coloured community, not just their own supporters.

"I want to make an appeal at this late hour to everybody contesting this election to realise that they must not play at semantics — say something today, then somersault tomorrow and claim they did not mean what they said the day before.

"By then the damage has been done and the world informed."

Report by Norman West, 77 Burg Street, Cape Town.



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# Theron hits back at PW Botha

By Tony Spencer-Smith

TOP Afrikaner academic Dr Erika Theron stood firm this week in her call for the repeal of the Group Areas Act, following vicious attacks on her by the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, and the Minister of Community Development, Mr Pen Kotze.

She said yesterday that her telephone had hardly stopped ringing after newspaper reports of Mr Botha's remarks had appeared.

People were upset and angry and had expressed support for her stand, she said.

She said the Prime Minister's attack was amusing.

Speaking at a huge National Party election meeting in Cape Town, Mr Botha had said Dr Theron had helped implement the Group Areas Act in Government service and he was sick of her nonsense.

"She has no right to carry on in this way and to say all these things.

"After all she was silent when taking her cheques from us," he said.

Dr Theron — who was chairman of the Theron Commission on the coloured people — said she did

not want to react to a personal attack of this nature, but she saw it as symptomatic of the sort of treatment meted out to Afrikaners who did not toe the National Party line.

She said she still considered herself a Nationalist, but refused to say whether she would vote for the party in the coming general election.

She said there were many Nats who felt like her, and many of them were not going to vote.

She rejected the implication made by Mr Kotze at an election meeting in Boksburg that she had been acting "with the Progs" in condemning the act.

"I am acting quite on my own out of my bitter experience in working with the Act."

She admitted that at one stage she had "probably naively" believed in the Act, thinking it would give the coloured people new opportunities.

"I got my first shock in Stellenbosch many years ago when, as town councillor, I chaired a committee that had to work out the implementation of the Act there.

"I can't give all the information about what happened then, I'd land in court."

She said that when she had served on the Group Areas Board in the seventies, she already had serious reservations about the Act, but had felt that she could play a role in softening the impact.

"At that stage they did not appoint non-whites to the board and I was considered a mouthpiece of the coloured people."

When the then Nationalist minister, Mr Jan-nie Loots, had appointed her to the board, he had told her he felt the Act could not be changed, but its implementation could be made less harsh.

"I think I had some success in this regard with areas like the large coloured settlement on Sir Lowry's Pass, which had been declared white and was subsequently made Coloured again."

She accused Mr Kotze of not reading the Theron Commission report when he said it had praised the Group Areas act and she was now repudiating her own report.

"We did mention the

credit side — that some bad areas had been cleared up — but we also mentioned the debit side and recommended ways the Act could be softened."

She said everyone was entitled to change their opinions and even politicians sometimes improved their thinking.

"I now call unequivocally for the Act, and indeed all discriminatory legislation, including the Mixed Marriages Act, to be scrapped. The Group Areas Act is one of the cruellest of the lot.

"Yet, while we have assurances from top sources that discriminatory laws will be removed or at least looked into, we see that thousands are still to be resettled.

"The Act has already done irreparable damage, caused considerable bitterness and hardship.

"Cape Town had the country's highest crime rate and there is a strong relationship between removal of coloured people from one area to another, and the development of criminals."

Report by T. Spencer-Smith, 122 St. Georges Street, Cape Town.