

# Incoming

DAILY NEWS

# Natal

2 NOV. 1984

# captain

# will try

# to get

# troubled

# NRP

# ship off

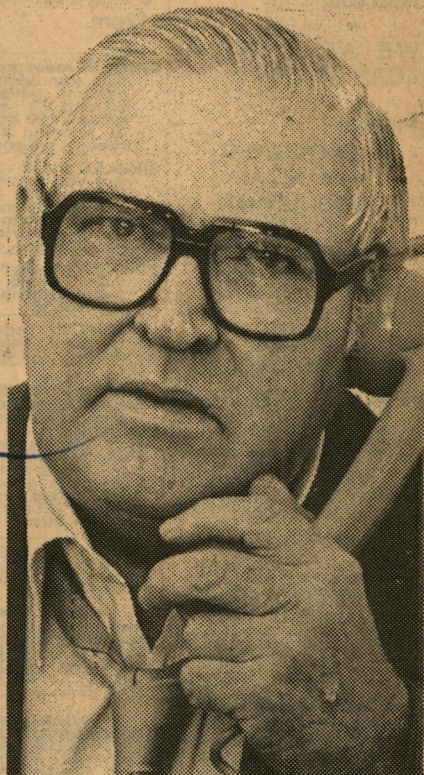
# the rocks



**BILL SUTTON**  
is set to take over  
the controls of  
the New  
Republic Party  
ship tomorrow at  
a time when it is  
being buffeted  
more than ever  
before in a  
turbulent  
political sea.

Daily News  
Political  
Correspondent  
**BRUCE**

● **CAMERON**  
looks at the  
record of  
outgoing leader  
Mr Vause Raw,  
as well as Mr  
Sutton and the  
other new and  
important Natal  
leader of the  
party, Mr  
Derrick  
Watterson





THE DAILY NEWS - 2 NOV. 84

## Sutton is typical post-war United Party-style politician

FORMER gentleman farmer, one-time and would-be academic, conservative politician and grandson of a Natal Prime Minister, Mr Bill Sutton, is in many ways typical of the post-war United Party politicians — talented and well-educated with sound family ties.

Mr Sutton is probably best remembered for his signature on the Schlebusch Commission report that led to mass bannings of people and organisations in 1973, a signature labelled as one of the major nails in the coffin of the now defunct United Party.

Mr Sutton has always proudly stated that he is "conservative with a lower-case c", and in many ways it is surprising that he has not joined many of his former colleagues with whom he sided during the break-up with Mr Harry Schwarz's reformists who are now members of the National Party.

He was once described by Mr Schwarz as a "latter-day Doctor Livingstone" who did not appreciate he was living in the 19th century and believed he had to bring religion and civilisation to the indigenous people.

But Mr Sutton is not as simple as that. He says he is not an ideologue but it was Mr Sutton who made a major contribution to the NRP's Federal/Confederal policy.

He created a stir in Parliament with his tinker-toy model and balls to show how Indians, Coloureds, whites and non-homeland blacks would form a federal government which in turn would slot into a confederation with the homelands.

And it was Mr Sutton who was the main plaintiff for NRP policy in the old President's Council. There are many similarities between the NRP federal policy and the new constitution.

He is definitely not conservative in the South African sense of "keeping the black man in his place" but rather in the pace of change and the need for a lengthy transition.

The main difference between Mr Sutton and Mr Raw will probably be in style and presentation rather than in content. There is little doubt that he will follow Mr Raw's firm attitude on defence and security needs.

With a MA in modern history, having studied at the University of Natal and Oxford, Mr Sutton's approach is likely to be more academic and less tub-thumping.

Apart from leading a party which many of its opponents have all but written off, he will have the additional problem of being leader while sitting in the more politically rarified atmosphere of the President's Council and not in Parliament.



## Watterson in key position

THE Natal leadership of the New Republic Party is a key and influential position being the only province in which the party has any real sway.

And from this position Mr Derrick Watterson, MP of Umbilo since 1981 and formerly MPC for the constituency from 1962, can be expected to have a very strong influence on the future performance of the party.

He has come in at a difficult time, taking over from Mr Ron Miller, who defected to the Nats, and with the party's fortunes — even in Natal — on the wane.

But Mr Watterson is a fighter, who when a member of the Natal Executive Committee showed that he wasn't afraid of taking on anyone no matter how senior in Government.

Born in Jersey, Channel Islands, 63 years ago, Mr Watterson came to South Africa in 1946. Starting from scratch he built up a successful business, at the same time taking an active role in politics. He started at local government level and was deputy Mayor of Durban for two years.

He has held many senior posts in the United Party and the NRP but mainly in the power-behind-the-throne-type capacity.

He probably has not achieved a more high-profile position in the party for two reasons. One is his inability to speak Afrikaans and secondly because he tends to rub people up the wrong way with his forthright personality.

Having served as a naval officer during World War 2 and as an active citizen force officer in the South African Navy, combined with his authoritarian manner, he is known to his colleagues as "the Admiral".

Mr Watterson gives the impression of being what is known in some other countries as a "political manager", concerned more with the strategies of winning elections rather than ideologies.

But he has made a significant contribution to NRP policies, particularly at local government level.

While he was MEC in charge of local government he initiated talks with members of the Indian and Coloured communities, some of whom are now associated with the United Democratic Front and are no longer interested in compromise solutions, to give them a more effective say at local government level.

After protracted negotiations, including several hard tussles with members of his own party, agreement

was eventually reached but the scheme was frozen by the Government which refused to permit enabling legislation that would have put the agreement into effect. Much of the scheme now appears set to be incorporated in the Government's proposals for municipal government.

Since going to Parliament, Mr Watterson has changed his style of debate. In the Provincial Council Nationalists trod wearily when it came to taking him on in debate and he hardly ever held back from going in at full tilt.

In Parliament he has tended to look for points of agreement with the Government as he says his objective is to encourage change rather than be in a no-win confrontation situation.

In Provincial Council he was in government and was not seeking to influence the government of another party.

He has, however, still made some of the more strongly condemnatory speeches from the NRP benches, particularly in protecting the provincial system on which NRP bases its power in Natal.

Whether he succeeds in changing the fortunes of the NRP in Natal or not, it is very unlikely that his efforts will go unnoticed or that he will throw in the towel easily.

## Raw hands over the helm

"TAKE me warts and all" Mr Vause Raw told the New Republic Party when he was elected its leader.

And virtually from the day he was elected seven years ago, members of the party have complained about what they perceived as the warts.

His lack of popularity and public appeal led to his being challenged unsuccessfully by Mr Ron Miller, but because of the party leadership election system Mr Raw remained firmly ensconced.

The election of the leader is done by the Federal Council of the party, which is dominated by the old United Party faithful, and it is unlikely that he would have been dumped even if he had not decided to go voluntarily.

If it had been left to the general membership to decide on the leader, the NRP may well have ceased to exist this year and it was this very fear that Mr Raw says was one of his main reasons for hanging on to the job and not letting Mr Miller take control.

Over the years Mr Raw has shown that he is not a political opportunist out to seek his own advancement, but put his loyalty to his cause, party and country above all else.

Even now when after his lengthy in-nings, being the second-longest serving parliamentarian, Mr Raw has said he will not retire altogether from politics because the NRP may find contesting his Durban Point seat difficult.

In doing so he turned down the chance at the age of 63 to retire from politics, receiving a golden handshake of about R120 000 and a full parliamentary pension.

There is little doubt that Mr Raw is an able politician who will go to almost any length to fight the cause of his party but his leadership probably came too late — it came with television politics and it was his public image on television which probably did more than anything else to diminish the chances of his party.

He became leader not so much because of his leadership qualities but because he was one of the few people

with sufficient experience available at a time when the NRP saw its seats, including that of its leader, Mr Radclyffe Cadman, falling in the 1977 general election to the NP and the PFP.

Only months before his election as leader he was defeated by Mr Warwick Webber in a contest for the Natal leadership.

Mr Raw has seen in his long political career some of the more interesting times of Natal politics in particular. He was in the forefront of the battle to reject a Republic only to find himself on the other side of the fence in last year's referendum, making a major contribution to the overwhelming Yes vote.

There are two ways in which most politicians are judged — one in their public performance and the other in how they look after their constituencies.

Mr Raw is acknowledged as a good constituency MP.

And without question, he must be one of the favourite characters of cartoonists and will be missed.



## Letters to the Editor

# AZASO blamed for student unrest

DAILY NEWS  
2 NOV. 1984

Sir, — It has been established beyond any reasonable doubt that AZASO (The Azanian Students Organization) is responsible for the disruption of academic activities at the University of Zululand.

Members of this organization involved themselves in matters of a non-academic nature that have no direct relationship with student affairs.

They systematically manipulate students by fabricating grievances such as complaints about food.

Their tactics are to use anonymous notices, force and intimidation to persuade all students to espouse their cause which is often represented as the will of the student body.

Members of this organization also arranged surreptitiously to dissolve the Students' Crisis Committee which was democratically elected by students to act as a link between the themselves and the administration. The AZASO members made it clear that they did not want this committee because its chairman wanted to follow recognized channels of communication with the University Administration while they wanted to resort to violence which would lead in turn to the disruption of academic work and thus force the rector to meet their demands.

They have thus broken down all communication channels between the students and the administration. They fail to represent the students to the administration and they keep on telling students that they are oppressed.

I am also a student of this university and have noted that most of the members of AZASO are students with poor academic records.

These people are responsible for the nationwide boycott of classes at black schools. They and their counterparts (COSAS) intimidate those students who want to proceed with their studies without interruption.

The parents of students and the general public note with great appreciation that the vast majority of students want to proceed with their studies without interruptions and so I want to appeal to all parents and the general public to condemn the activities of these AZASO political opportunists and cooperate with the university authorities in the elimination of this bad element.

The university should be sympathetic to the parents' requests for the resumption of academic activities this year.

STUDENT

South Coast



# Buthelezi opposes breakaway

THE KWAZULU government is set to oppose the Ingwavuma tribe of Chief Mzimba Mthembe breaking away from KwaZulu to form a self-governing Tonga Homeland.

KwaZulu Chief Minister Chief Gatsha Buthelezi warned at a Cabinet meeting in Ulundi on Wednesday the threatened move could cause bloodshed.

He emphasised there was no way the KwaZulu government could accept such a breakaway.

He said steps would be taken to meet the crisis, including consultation with lawyers and communication with Chief Mthembe.

Earlier this year Chief Buthelezi refused to believe statements imply-

ing the South African Government had abandoned its plans to cede Ingwavuma to Swaziland, and on Wednesday he said he saw the attempt to establish a Tonga homeland as part of the Government's intention to rush ahead with its schemes.

"The agents of BOSS (The National Intelligence Service) are trying

to influence the Mthembe's that they are Swazis and not Zulus, to make it appear they do not want to be part of KwaZulu," he said.

A sworn affidavit by an Ingwavuma man, Mr Julius Mbuyisa, produced at Wednesday's meeting, referred to discussions held this year in Ermelo and Piet Retief between Chief

Mthembe or his representatives and delegations from Swaziland.

At the last meeting on August 8, it was agreed to revoke a pledge made by Chief Mthembe in about 1980, that his land should be amalgamated with Swaziland.

While rumours of a Tonga split have abounded in Ulundi since earlier this year,

matters only came to a head on Wednesday.

Ingwavuma magistrate Mr M Mkhize told the cabinet and King Goodwill Zwelithini, king of the Zulus, that a "furious" Chief Mthembe had refused to attend a pre-arranged meeting with them as a local meeting had decided nobody should go to Ulundi any more.



**BUTHELEZI . . . against move.**



# COMMENT

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A LONG line of businessmen and assorted educationists have often made attempts to pump sense into the Government's perspectives of current events. Countless times these views have been ignored and instead the State has worked on information it receives from its own people.

For a long time too, whenever an intellectual or businessman of stature made certain significant remarks about our lives, their responses looked good and many people, perhaps mistakenly, hoped they would result in effective change.

The situation has become so bad that even if these people shout from the rooftops, and even if they say some of the most sensible things about what should or should not be done, it is almost as if they were crying Wolf!

The latest among this stellar line of speakers was the Chancellor of Witwatersrand University, Dr Mike Rosholt. Speaking at the University's Alumni Lunch Club, Dr Rosholt said the Government must adopt a system of genuine negotiation and consultation with its people, if the country is to solve its political problems. The Government could no longer impose solutions on South Africa.

"This point is well illustrated by the current rejection by black school children of the new representative councils. There is a feeling of distrust by many blacks for the Government in regard to political moves. Trust might be achieved if the Government were to make a statement of general intent accompanied by the first steps in an ongoing process of reform," Dr Rosholt said.

Like all respected leaders before him Dr Rosholt was preaching to the deaf. Various people have in the past raised similar sentiments, and newspapers such as this one, have in different ways, tried to show that the Government's reform policies were completely off target.

The problem is that the Government has surrounded itself with a lot of sycophants who will tell their leaders just what they wish to know. From the various tiers of power in local and national politics there are men and women who are constantly informing the Government that things are coming on perfectly well. The only trouble, they say, is that certain elements have to be removed to make the people content and happy. What an utter illusion this is!

When people like Dr Rosholt and even Mr Harry Oppenheimer speak there is a tendency to relegate their views to their liberal musings of a basically academic type. But some of these people have no self interest in articulating such sentiments, and the power that they wield makes them accessible to information that never seems to reach the Government.

It is all so tragically simple. The Government has a lot of people it can depend on for information. Most of this information comes from people who would obviously like to impress their listeners. Very few black councillors would for instance put the blame exactly where it is — poor working and living conditions — instead of creating monsters that are held responsible for the unrest country-wide.