

PARLIAMENT

ONLY 2 MPS OPPOSED AFRICAN TAX PLAN

THIS was an excruciatingly dull week in Parliament. Attendances were low, for the most part barely above the level of a quorum. Members put their faces through the door and then hurried off to drink coffee. One new member after another was given the chance of making his maiden speech to an empty House: and if there's anything duller than a maiden speech I would like to hear it.

What were they talking about? Details of the Budget mostly. And the Railway Budget. And a few minor Bills. Out of the welter of words, however, a few issues stood out.

The Proposed Increase in African Taxation

In his reply to the Budget debate on Monday of last week, the Minister of Finance pointed out that, out of a house of 163 members, only two had opposed his plan to increase African taxation by a minimum of 75 per cent. and to extend taxation to African women. The two were Mrs. Balingier and Mr. Stanford, who between them took up all the time allotted to the Africans' Representatives.

Only one United Party member mentioned the African taxation plan—Mr. Marais Steyn. And he, complained the Minister, had "without a blush or a blink of the eyelid simply stated that the United Party was neither for nor against."

Nothing could more convincingly demonstrate the complete unrepresentative character of this Parliament—that a proposal to burden the poorest section of the people with higher taxes when the income taxes of the Whites were being left unaltered could be accepted by an all-White Parliament almost without opposition.

When the Africans' representatives are finally expelled from the House, the "Native problem" will probably never be discussed in Parliament. The Government will do what it likes, while the United Party opposition will concentrate on "safe" issues like flags and anthems and official envelopes.

The Vocational Education Amendment Bill

Three Coloured "representatives"—Messrs. Bloomberg, Barnett and le Roux—voted for the transfer of

Coloured vocational education to the Coloured Affairs Department. The United Party, the African's Representatives and the fourth Coloured representatives, Holland (who is a member of the United Party caucus), opposed the measure.

Speaking for his team, Mr. Bloomberg justified their action by saying the Minister of Education, Mr. de Wet Nel, had given the assurance that vocational training for the Coloured people, which had been seriously neglected in the past, would be more readily obtained under the C.A.D., which had been specially set up to cater for the needs of the Coloured people.

Like a jail is specially set up to cater for the needs of prisoners! When he was a member of the United Party, Mr. Bloomberg refused to accept the assurances of the Government about Bantu Education and opposed the transfer of African education to the Native Affairs Department. Why has he changed his mind now that he is a Coloured representative? The Bill itself makes no provision for extra facilities; it is purely a Bill to hand over control to the C.A.D.

The C.A.D. is the Government's weapon to force apartheid on the Coloured people. Anything that strengthens the C.A.D. helps to kraal off the Coloured people and deny them the right to equal treatment. We will then have a "Coloured problem" side by side with the "Native problem" and the "Indian problem." (Nobody in Parliament seems to think there is a "White problem.")

Mr. Bloomberg claimed he had consulted Coloured educationalists and ascertained they supported the transfer. We would like to have their names, Mr. Bloomberg. If there are such people, they won't be very popular with the Coloured people.

The Press Commission

Now nearing the end of its eighth year, the Press Commission has already cost the country nearly £70,000, not to mention the cost by way of intimidation and fear. The United Party concentrated some fire on the Commission, suggesting it was deliberately holding a sword of Damocles over the Press, but withdrew hastily when the Government hit back.

Mr. Cope said it was rumoured that there was a considerable measure of disagreement among members of the Commission and that this was holding up the com-

pilation of the report. In reply, Mr. Louw threatened Mr. Cope with the Official Secrets Act, which governs the work of commissions, and said:

"I know of no disagreements within the Commission... It would be most improper if I did... I discussed with the chairman staff matters and matters of procedure. I never discussed anything relating to the proceedings or the deliberations."

But the Minister of Finance, Mr. Naude, seemed to know more than Mr. Louw. Defending the members of the Press Commission, he had said the previous day that the Commission was a very important one. It had obtained information from all over the world and was doing its work very thoroughly and exhaustively.

"They are doing a first-rate job," he said. If, as Mr. Louw says, it is improper to discuss such things with them, how does Mr. Naude know they are doing a first-rate job?

And Mr. Martins, the Nat. member for Wakkerstroom, said the Opposition was afraid of the report because it would show that some of their newspapers had blackened the name of South Africa.

Now either Mr. Martins knows for a fact that the Commission has already come to such a conclusion (and according to Mr. Louw it is improper to know what the Commission is doing), or he is confident, not even knowing the nature of the evidence, that the Commission will come to such a conclusion (which can be a reflection on the independence and impartiality of the Commission). Take your choice.

One thing is clear from all that has been said so far—the anti-Government press need not look forward with pleasure to the Press Commission's report.

The Middle East

Considering his outlook, Mr. Louw made quite a fair statement last week, strongly urging the holding of talks between the leaders of the countries involved in the Middle East crisis.

"I am fully aware of the propaganda factor inherent in the Kruschov proposal" for summit talks, he said. "On the other hand, the pressing need to prevent a world conflict is far greater and more important than a desire to counteract or to discount probable propaganda gains.

"I would appeal to the governments concerned not to insist on conditions which might militate against the holding of the proposed meeting... The main thing is to get the leaders together. Past diplomatic history has shown that too great an insistence on often restrictive conditions, and too much concern about probable propaganda gains, have wrecked attempts to settle differences round a conference table."

Hear that, Mr. Dulles? And, Mr. Louw, what about applying those principles to talks with India and Pakistan about your "Indian problem" in South Africa?

More Self-Rule in Basutoland

This was the subject not on the Parliamentary order paper which was discussed furiously by one and all in the lobby and lounge last week. The Nats. don't like what they hear from Maseru. Rumour has it that Verwoerd is furious and may register a strong protest on behalf of the South African Government.

By C.P.E.



SPORTLIGHT

by

"DULEEP"



Empire Games and Non-Europeans

The meeting convened in Cardiff, just prior to the opening of the Empire Games, protesting against the discrimination against non-Whites of this country, was not a "flop" as reported in the daily papers here.

Mr. Len Forbes, organiser of this meeting, in championing the cause of our sportsmen, reports that almost 600 people attended to make it a huge success, supported by representatives of many churches, trade unions and political parties.

By forming the British Empire and Commonwealth Games 1958—South African Team—Colour Bar Protest Organisation, Mr. Forbes is not discouraged by the detrimental remarks of the press, but is more determined in his campaign, and will continue agitating against South Africa's discrimination until they adopt the policy of selecting teams to participate in world events on a non-racial basis.

When the resolution condemning S.A.'s racial policy was put to the vote, it was unanimously accepted, with not a single dissident, and forwarded to the British Empire and Commonwealth Games Federation, and other S.A. White organisations.

To Mr. Forbes and company we, the Non-European sportsmen of this country, are indeed grateful. We fully appreciate the good work he is putting in for the recognition of Non-White athletes.

S.A. Cricket Team—Replacement

Now that Basil Witten has officially withdrawn, the S.A. team at present in Kenya have only one keeper, andn speculation is rife as to whether another player in this key position should be sent, or an all-rounder.

I for one, would choose a player in the latter category, for "Lobo" Abed, No. 1 wicket-keeper, is quite capable of playing in most matches, with a rest in some of the one-day games.

In this case the problem is who to send over as a good all-rounder, especially since the performance of our boys has not been so encouraging in the first match.

To the National Selectors, I would say that there is none other than Y. "Timmie" Lakay, dashing left-handed batsman of the W.P., who in addition is one of the finest fielders in the country and a good spin-bowler.

Only a batsman of Lakay's calibre could solve the immediate, problems of the touring team and I am confident that he will be just

the man S.A. needs. His style of play, primarily an attacking batsman, is what they require at present, and being left-handed makes it more likely that he would fit the bill perfectly.

I emphasise again, send Lakay for he is a player bubbling with cricket and an answer to our prayer.

We Hear It Said

That the S.A. Indians creditable 4-4 draw against the S.A. Coloureds in Johannesburg can be attributed to the able coaching of Barry Nieuwenhuys, ex Liverpool professional.

That Indonesia, will not allow Nationalist China, South Korea and Israel to participate in the Asian Games to be held in Jakarta in 1962, because of the political tension between Communist China and Formosa, and the Arab States strained relationship with the Israelis.

That the S.A. Lightweight Champion, Johnny Linda, is the biggest boxing draw-card today, especially after his successful defence of the title against Makone. He meets Kangaroo Maoto on the 22nd, in Durban, in a title fight.

That the S.A. Cricket Union at its 10th Biennial Meeting unanimously deleted the racial bar clause from its constitution.

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