

Wie reken dit?--Die Stadsraad. Hul wil die mense nie toelaat nie om hul eie huise te bou.

Die Council reken hul wil liever hul eie huise verhuur?--Ja, want dan maak hul meer geld daaruit.

Daar is baie mense op Bantule wat hul eie huise gebou het?--Ja, voordat hierdie Superintendent gekom het. Nou kan hul dit nie meer doen nie.

Is dit werklik die geval dat op Bantule die natuurlik bang is om sy huis te bou?--Ja, daar is mense wat bang is om vir hul self te bou. 'n Man weet dat as hy gehuur het dan het hy net 'n bondel kwitansies vir al die tyd wat hy daar gebly het in die huurhuis, maar as hy bou, al moet hy afbetaal, dan weet hy hy kry sy eie huis. Daar is firmas wat op 'n deposit vir hom sal bou -- op huurkoop.

Maar waarom het hul liever huise wat van hout en sink gebou is as steen huise?--Dit is omdat hul sien dat die Superintendent wil hul nie toestaan nie om anders te doen.

Maar kan die Superintendent dan vir hul se waarmee moet hul bou?-- Hy se vir die mense hoe groot moet hul bou. Hy sal vir hul se "jy kan drie of vier kamers bou en nie meer nie.

Hy staan nie vir jou toe om net so'n groot huis te bou as jy wil?--Nee. Daar is die geval gewees van 'n vrou vir wie hy gese het sy moet haar huis afbreek omdat sy te groot gebou het en te veel opgeset.

Maar weet jy van gevalle waar hy geweier het om verlof te gee om met steen te bou?--Ek kan nie op die oomblik se nie, maar as ek soek sal daar seker baie wees. Ek weet van gevalle van mense wat weggetrek het van Bantule en wat na Lady Selborn getrek het en wat daar gebou het. Ek weet op Marabastad laat hul nie toe nie om met steen te bou,

Is dit omdat hul later die plek sal wegvat van Marabastad weg?--Ja. Ek se dat solang as 'n man kan betaal dan is dit reg, maar wanneer hy nie kan betaal nie, dan moet iemand anders die plek kry.

Wat maak die Stadsraad as 'n man nie kan betaalniet?--Die Stadsraad---- ons meen hierdie kerel wat ons die Superintendent noem, hy het al die krag en al die mag. Hy doen net soos hy lyk.

Die Stadsraad se vir ons hul gaan nou een van die lede voorsitter maak van die Advisory Board. Sal die mense in die lokasies daarvan hou?--Ek weet nie. Ek verstaan die Advisory Council ook nie. Hul het 'n saak voor die Hof gevat en nie voor die Council nie.

Hul is nie al te sterk nie?--Hul loop ook al na die Prokureurs toe.

En jy meen dit is verkeerd?--Ek meen hul behoort dit nie te doen nie .

Is dit die enige punte wat jy voor die Kommissie wil bring?--Ja, dankie, Meneer, dit is al.

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- (i) Frank Bruyn,
- (ii) Ishmail Bertie Moroe,
- (iii) Peter Ramutle,
- (iv) Elias Hendrik Chake.

THE CHAIRMAN : I have a statement here from Moroe and Ramutle, and one from Frank Bruyn. I don't think you have put in anything in writing, Chake ?--- (Chake): No, sir, nothing in writing. I only wish to make remarks.

There are certain points you wish to speak to ?---Yes.

As we have these other things in writing, but not yours, first tell us what you wish to say ?--- (Chake): It is in connection with the tribal system, No. 2, sir; as to whether in my opinion the tribal system has any disadvantages or otherwise; is the system breaking down; if so, what are the factors causing such breakdown. I was going to say, sir, that the tribal system -- there is actually no more a thing like the tribal system, so far as I now know. There may be in some parts, such as in Sekukuniland, to a certain extent -- if by tribal system it is inferred the government of the people, the administration of the people, locally by their chief. I expect that is what is meant, sir.

Yes, that is so ?--- If that is what is meant, it is dying; it is breaking down.

DR ROBERTS : I think, sir, much more than that was meant.

THE CHAIRMAN : There is a good deal more in the tribal system than just government by the chief; tribal land, native customs ?--- Call it so, sir, it is in three sections. Customs, if we go on customs, that is quite different. There are native customs. With some the customs start just with the native school. They have got thrown to the University, I believe. You know the University ?

You mean the circumcision school ?--- That is so. They have got their age limit from there as a man; they pass through, as a man. They can go. That is as far as the

custom is concerned. But I say the system, sir, is breaking down. This tribal system is breaking down by itself. The influence of the missionaries is breaking it down; the coming into contact with civilisation is breaking it down, too. The two are doing the work in conjunction in breaking down the tribal system. I don't know whether Mr Chairman wants anything more on that.

No: as a matter of fact on that point we have taken a good deal of evidence. It is not necessary to give any further evidence on that point. On these general questions I don't know whether much purpose is served by your saying very much about them now. We have been right through the country, right in the tribal areas and all over. But you are people who live in Pretoria, and you know what happens in Pretoria ?--- (Chake): I do, sir.

You can speak much better, all of you, about the conditions here than about conditions in the tribal areas ?--- (Chake): I was in Pretoria before he (indicating Ramutle) was born.

And before I was born, too ?--- I don't know about that, sir. I was here when it was President Kruger.

DR ROBERTS : That is not so long ago.

THE CHAIRMAN : Dr. Roberts says he can remember much longer back than that ?--- (Chake): Yes, I know that.

Will you carry on then: what are the things the natives are satisfied with, and what are the things they are not satisfied with in Pretoria ?--- (Chake): The local management is totally bad, as far as I can understand, sir.

What do you mean by "the local management" - the management of the location superintendent ?--- That is so. I would not say the superintendent: we cannot say who is the management. The Board would recommend, and the superintendent

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would dis-recommend, and it will abide by the decision of the superintendent, because the superintendent holds both positions. He is the Chairman of the Board and at the same time superintendent of the locations. He is supposed to be the eye of the Council. The Board would not go to the Council, at least cannot appear in the Council. When the Council meets, he appears there for the Board. The Board, with its chairman, does not frequently meet the people, the inhabitants; so that to say that they know the grievances of the people would be incorrect. Otherwise if they do frequently meet the people, we will see it by their minute books, what is causing this. Then while we are on that, I go back again to that question of the houses; wood and iron houses. The houses are built; they build houses and on the building permit is written, "Not liable for compensation when removed." And on the other hand, if he gets into arrears with his rent, he is taken to court civilly, and he loses the house. I think, Mr Chairman, you will follow what I say.

On this form "not liable for compensation when removed" ... ?--- That very brand new tin house costs about £200.

Are you speaking now of Marabasstad ?--- I am speaking of Marabasstad.

Not of Bantule ?--- No, not of Bantule.

They don't write that on the Bantule houses ?--- No, sir. I am talking about these new houses that you spoke about - the wood and iron. I see even there there is something, because on the building permit is written, "Not liable for compensation when removed." And yet he is liable for his arrears.

He is liable for his rent ?--- He is liable for his rent and sued, and his house is confiscated. Then, sir, it

(Bruyn, Moroe, Ramutle, Chake)

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is only two months, because if he is in arrears for a month, the second month they have got him.

MR LUCAS : Do they sell the house after a court case, to somebody else ?--- After the court case ?

When the man has got into arrear with his rent and has been sued in court, do they then seize the house; do they sell it to somebody else, or do they let it to somebody else ?--- Public auction.

And if it fetches more than the amount of the debt, isn't the difference given to the former tenant, the man who was in arrear ?--- I do not understand.

Supposing he owed £3, and the house fetches £7, would the £4 difference be paid to the man who rented the house ?--- Not that I know of.

DR ROBERTS : How much would the house cost to build ?--- (Chake): A wood and iron house ?

Yes ?--- (Chake): Some cost about £100, some £120.

THE CHAIRMAN : Do the natives build them themselves or do they get white labour ?--- They build them themselves.

Are there many cases where they have sold houses, where the municipality has sold houses because people have got into arrear ? Do you know of any cases ?--- (Chake): I cannot point to them now. There were; the reports were there.

You live in the location, don't you ?---(Chake) Yes.

Surely you must know of the cases where houses are sold ?--- (Chake) Not lately. Before, yes.

MAJOR ANDERSON : The rents are always paid now, are they ?--- (Chake): Yes. Then on the question of building with bricks, they are not allowed to build with bricks in the location.

Not in Marabasstad ?--- (Chake) Not in Marabasstad.

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And Bantule: are they allowed to build with bricks in Bantule ?--- In Bantule they are not allowed to build at all. The municipality build.

But in the upper part of Bantule ?--- (Chake): That upper part - I was the secretary there -- that upper part was part of ground that was sold by Maré to the people when the locations were removed; it was sold to the people. As its name was Hove's ground, the people bought under that name. It was the ground bought there.

THE CHAIRMAN : Yes, I remember that. And then what happened ?--- (Chake): Well, sir, they fell in. They were done down by the sellers, or the agents - I don't know. Then I was at the time secretary of the Board, of the local board, the location board. I then asked the very same Mr Nicholson, not to pull those people down, after they had taken the whole ground. I said, "No, don't pull them down. Let them fall under the location." That arrangement was agreed to. That is Hove's ground. Those houses were built before the others.

Before Bantule ?--- (Chake) Before Bantule.

But now the whole place is called Bantule ?--- (Chake)  
The whole place is called Bantule.

Those houses in Hove's ground - does the ground still belong to the natives who bought ?--- (Chake) No, to the municipality, sir.

How did the municipality get hold of the ground ?---  
(Chake) They must have bought it.

From the natives ?--- (Chake) No.

But did not the natives buy from Maré ?---(Chake) How it got to the municipality is something I cannot find out, even myself, sir. It is within the municipal area. When they bought it was outside the municipal area, but afterwards

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subsequently it fell inside the municipal area. Then, sir, on the other question of these people coming into the town to seek work: it is not always these sources that bring these people here. Boss Hans and Boss Oppermann, they come in with their boys from the farms. They stayed here; they got their people to come and work for them here. Others come from the farms, from the masters outside. If the Commission was to go to the municipality there, you would find out now that the people who are now actually residing there do not belong to this place.

MR LUCAS : Residing, where ?--- (Chake): In the location.

MAJOR ANDERSON : Marabasstad ?--- Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN : You mean they are people who have come from outside ?--- (Chake) Yes .

And the people who were born here, where do they live ?--- (Chake): Here they are. (Ramutle): We have to pay rent, sir.

Where do you pay rent ?--- (Ramutle): We have to pay it to somebody else, because we cannot get a stand.

You mean there are not enough stands for you ?--- (Ramutle): There have been stands, but by the time the stands were allotted, the children of the place couldn't get them. A man would come from the farms and stay one year in Pretoria; he goes to the superintendent and makes an application there, and gets a stand. I know a case where I made four applications, one for myself including another three. These other three were passed and mine was refused.

You made the application for all of them ?--- For all of them. The other three were passed, but mine was refused.

Were the other three also boys who were born here ?--- (Ramutle): No, all men from other places.



You were born here ?--- (Ramutle): I am born here, and brought up here.

And you could not get a place ?--- No, sir.

Were you two born here too ?--- (Moroe): I am not born here, but I am grown up here.

How old were you when you came to Pretoria ?---/I (Moroe)  
am in Pretoria about twenty years. I am now 36 years of age.

And Bruyn ?--- (Bruyn): I am twelve years in Pretoria, but I am born in the district of Rustenburg, Bethanie.

Have you heard this difficulty that boys born here cannot get stands ?--- (Chake): I heard that, many times. In our organisation many of them have reported to me that we must try to make a step to take against the Town Council so that those people who are buying stands in urban areas must get a place, because they have got nowhere to go. I reported to the Advisory Board, but they told me they have also failed.

The Town Clerk said this morning that the locations were pretty well full. In Bantule there are fifty stands left, but the Town Council has not agreed that those stands may be given out. May not that be the reason why boys who were born here and who applied later, could not get them ?--- (Moroe): No, sir. We applied at the very beginning, and every time that we make an application there are no stands, but after two or three days you see a man getting a stand.

Why do you think the municipality should give preference to boys from outside ?---/Well, I will put my contention this way. We had a superintendent once upon a time by the name of Gilbert. I was still a young boy at the time. You did not hear of these things. But since the new superintendent came out here we are having a great difficulty.

You go to the superintendent now and speak to the superintendent: well, naturally he finds out that you are grown up in the place. He says to me, "I cannot give you a stand. There are no stands. The Town Council don't give any more stands." This man comes along. He finds out that that man is from outside: all right, he can give him a stand.

DR ROBERTS : Do you worry the superintendent ?---

I think we are a great worry to him since we live in Marabasstad. (Moroe): But the question, sir, is like a compound manager. All these men are like a nuisance. They want the dull natives. I have applied four times, two letters to the Town Council, about this: why don't they sell the vacant stands ? But still they don't want to give it. There are four stands in the location, but they don't want to give it.

THE CHAIRMAN : Four stands in which location ?---

(Moroe): Marabasstad.

DR ROBERTS : But do you go nicely to him, sweetly ?--- (Moroe): I make application with the letter. That is how they like the application; they say the application must be in writing. (Chake): You can only get so far as the Superintendent, sir. Or if you get beyond the superintendent, he sends it to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk refuses and sends it back to the superintendent. That is as far as you can go.

THE CHAIRMAN : You said just now, Chake, that the members of the Advisory Board don't know what the people of the location want. But do they live in the location themselves ?--- (Chake): I said the members of the Board. No, sir: from what Mr Lowe said, they are not connected with the people. They never called a meeting all this time with the people.

You mean they hold no meetings, so the people cannot

tell them what they think ?--- They cannot know the people's grievances unless you call a meeting.

But don't you ever speak to them privately ? You know them all, don't you ?--- I do.

And everybody else knows them ?--- Yes.

DR ROBERTS : You elected three of them ?--- Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN : Cannot you elect men in whom you have confidence ?--- (Chake): But what would that help, sir ?

Why wouldn't it help ?--- (Chake): Even there at the meetings of the Board, it will simply go against them.

Why would it go against them ?--- (Chake): The other side will vote against them; they will go along with the superintendent - the nominees .

They always vote with the Town Council ?--- No doubt. (Ramutle): The people staying in Marabasstad, although they are on the Board, and they have got grievances to bring to the superintendent, they will say it as long as they don't see his face; but once they see his face they won't say it.

They are afraid of him ?--- (Ramutle): Yes, they are afraid of him. Then two or three weeks later their house will be condemned and they will be chased out of Marabasstad. (Chake): It is very funny, that all those members of the Board, they all got s\_tands of their own.

DR ROBERTS : Who are the men who elect these three? Leave the others - who are the three ? Did you people vote against them ?--- (Moroe): I will explain that. We who don't pay direct rent to the municipality have no right to vote. It is only those who pay rent direct to the municipality who can vote.

Those who have got stands ?--- (Moroe): Those who have got stands.

And you think you are kept out so that you shall never

vote ?--- (Moroe): Yes. And even then if you are one month in arrear, you have no right to vote.

THE CHAIRMAN : Do you think that is why the superintendent chooses the people to whom he will give stands ?--- (Moroe): That is so. The system of the superintendent is like a compound manager: he wants those natives, those downward natives who are unable to take notice of whether a mistake is made or not. That is why they have the best choice of the stand, because having a stand you have the right to vote.

The Town Council has now decided that instead of the superintendent of the location as Chairman of the Advisory Board, they are going to put one of the members of the Town Council there ?--- (Moroe): We would prefer one of the Native Affairs Department to take charge of the matter.

DR ROBERTS : Such as ?--- (Moroe): Anyone of the Native Affairs Department, because the Native Affairs Department understand the native more than the Town Council; they know more about natives, how to handle them.

Whom would you have: would you have the Commissioner ?--- The Commissioner would do the same; I won't actually choose the Commissioner, or his assistant.

THE CHAIRMAN : Don't you think there is an advantage in having one of the members of the Town Council in the chair ? You can tell him what you people think, or your elected members can, and he can go and speak, as a member, to the Town Council; whereas if you had the Native Commissioner, or any man from the Native Affairs Department, he is not a member of the Town Council and therefore he cannot go and take your case to the Town Council and defend it there ?--- (Moroe): That is the point. We want an outside man to defend our case. It will sound better than a man who

is inside the Council. A man who is inside the Council is simply there to see that he must not go against the law or regulations; if one of the Town Council be in the chair he will favour the regulations which the Town Council has made. The whole regulations controlling locations have been made before there was a board.

Don't you think if you have a good member of the Town Council who takes an interest in you, and he sees there is a bad regulation, that he will try and get the regulation changed inside the Town Council where he is a member ?---

(Moroe): I understand that point too, but it would sound to me better if you take an outside man.

MAJOR ANDERSON : That is more difficult: he has to go to the Town Council and explain your point of view to them, and that is not nearly as good as your being in touch with the Town Council yourself.

MR LUCAS : If you try to make this work, I think you will find it will be a good thing.

MAJOR ANDERSON : When you get the new chairman, don't assume he is going to be an enemy of yours, but assume he is going to be a friend ?--- That is so. I am not actually against that. The minds are so filled up that they don't see anything good at all. I am looking for the good of the public in general. Since there has been trouble with cases against the Council, they won't have confidence in the Council, although they will have a good man there.

THE CHAIRMAN : Don't you think this arrangement of the Town Councillor is better than having the superintendent as chairman of the Advisory Board ?--- (Moroe): It is much better.

I think you had better give it a fair trial. The Town Council has decided to try whether that would not work

better. They have made regulations now. As soon as the regulations are approved, then one of the members of the Town Council will come to the Advisory Board. It is up to you people to do the best you can with that Town Councillor, because he is the man who can speak for you inside the Town Council. They cannot tell him to keep quiet; he is not an official of theirs; he is a member who can say whatever he likes. I think you must do your best to make that work ?--- (Moroe): Yes.

Now are there any further points apart from those you have already put in in writing, that you wish to bring forward ?--- (Moroe): In the location the question of the stand permit. This permit is paid monthly. They can give you notice at any time to quit, even if they sub-let the place to you; I mean by the end of the month they can let you go, even if you have built a house there.

But do they actually do that ?--- They have not done so in a case I know, but that is how the regulations stand.

They have the right to give you a month's notice, but is that actually done ?--- (No: I know nothing about such a case. A case I know is in Bantule. They also give you a month's notice to quit the place.

They can, but do they ?--- In Bantule there is actually one case which I know.

Why did they do it there, do you know ?--- Well, as far as the superintendent explains, the owner of the house was not there, although he left his child behind. They let him go.

Did he pay his rent ?--- (Moroe): Everything was paid up to date.

The child that he left to look after the place, was that a grown-up child ?--- Yes, a grown-up child. He was

working at the time. He was there at night-time, but during the day he was at work.

Are there any further points you want to raise ?---

(Bruyn): I want to point to the natives from rural parts who are now in the towns seeking work. What drives all the natives into the towns is the taxes, and some of the taxes which they pay to the chief. Owing to the drought they get nothing on the market from what they have produced - kaffir corn and mealies. This drives them from their homes to seek work in the town. They have to pay the Government tax. They want clothing; their wives and children have also to be clothed. Some of them are now using European dresses. If their lands were under irrigation so that they could produce as Europeans are farming, this influx into the towns should disappear. Most of them should stay there at home as farmers. But natives where they have sufficient land, owing to lack of funds they are forced to come to town to help themselves. And if the kaffir corn and mealies could get a price on the market, there would not be such a slump on the market. With these bad prices what can they get to pay the Government tax? And they have their families to support and children to send to school, which costs sometimes 2s/- a month and sometimes 1s/6d a month. Also the chiefs themselves take no opportunity of helping their people, or to do what they can do to help the people, so as to prevent them from coming into the towns. Actually we have got enough trained natives - carpenters and masons who can do the job there, but owing to lack of funds they are forced to come to town to seek work where they can earn something themselves, because at home there is nothing. But if the co-operative societies can help, they should do something.

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Have more natives come into town since the prices of agricultural produce have been so bad ?--- Most of them.

Say two years ago the price of mealies was not so low, were there fewer natives coming into town then ?--- Coming into town then ?

Than there are now ?--- There were fewer then than there are now.

This morning the Town Clerk put in some figures which showed that after 1925 a very large number of natives came into town; that before 1925 natives came in, but not so many. Why do you think that so many people started coming in after 1925 ?--- After 1925 ? There was a changing of the soil; the ground itself does not give so much as it was giving before. Also the lower prices.

Prices fell only later ?--- But the soil itself was not bearing so much as it was bearing before. About twenty-five years ago they used to get 300 bags, but now it is hard to get even fifty bags, owing to the soil.

The soil is getting poorer ?--- The soil is getting poorer.

And now they cannot get so much mealies and kaffir corn as they did before, out of the same ground ?--- Out of the same ground. And also the farmers themselves plough every year, and every now and then they put manure into the ground to refresh the ground, but the natives do not do that. They lack men of experience to show them this; but if there is one educated one who can show them this, he wants to be paid for giving that advice. But if you give the Europeans only that advice, it will create hostility.

You mean the Government ought to teach the natives how to work the ground too, in the same way as they teach the Europeans ?--- Yes.

Are there any other points ?--- (Bruyn): Then the



domestic servants: we get a lot of domestic servants in Pretoria like waiters and cooks and house-boys, bedroom boys and garden boys. It is a grievance among the waiters themselves, and the cooks -- I am a general waiter myself -- we are not so much paid as the Indian waiters are paid. And we are badly treated. If you are employed as a waiter, you must lay your tables; after you have done that you have to see that your crockery and cutlery are well washed and clean. The Indian waiter does not have to do that: he has to lay the table and then he clears off until the time you put the bread and butter on the table. Some of us must clean the floors, washing knives and forks, as well as laying the tables, and we have to do the teas when the tea time arrives, while the Indian waiter is not asked to do that. There must be another one to be employed to support the Indian in cleaning all these things. He only comes and lays the table and clears off.

The Indians are only head waiters ?--- The Indians are head waiters. But in some parts there might be six Indians; they only lay the tables and then clear off. But the native has to do all the cleaning up work that remains behind. In a boarding house the natives must do all this work and must arrange among themselves: such a one must do this, and that. If you are a waiter you are expected to be the cleanest one.

Why do you think they treat the Indian so much better than they treat you ?--- I have already asked that. They tell me the Indian is being respected more than the natives. I have pointed out in Pretoria there are about two or three hotels where they have Indian waiters and European waiters, but the majority are all native waiters and native cooks.

DR ROBERTS : Any one of you can answer this question.

Some two or three years ago I had a meeting here with regard to servants, and I put the question why it was that there were no female servants serving in the houses as house-maids and nurses. Now there are about 2,000 women in the location that could do work of that kind. Could any of you give the Commission your views upon that, why it is in Pretoria as well as one or two other towns, but especially Pretoria, that women are so disinclined to take domestic service ?---

(Ramutle): I will answer that question. It is because in Pretoria men are more preferable. In this case the man works in the house; he can move heavy things and also at the same time he is employed in the garden. And at the same time you will find some of them are motorists; after taking the missus or the baas out, they will come back and do the garden job and the kitchen job. He does the job of four for one. And so people find out it is very much cheaper to pay one boy instead of getting four people. Instead of having two girls working in the house, and a garden boy, and a motorist, they only have one.

You put the blame on the one employing, not on the girls ?--- (Ramutle): On the one employing.

Would the girls come out to work if they got work ?--- (Ramutle): Oh yes. There are certain places like the De Luxe Laundry and the Transvaal Steam Laundry, and some hotels, where we have got girls working out there, in the laundries, and working in houses. The same as nurses. But then after all, what do they get ? There comes along a boy. He wants a job. The missus says, "How much do you want ?" "£1.10.0., £2, a month." Naturally they take the boy and let the girl go.

Why ?--- Because the boy can do more jobs, and she pays less.

Has the fact of the girl not getting a proper bedroom

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