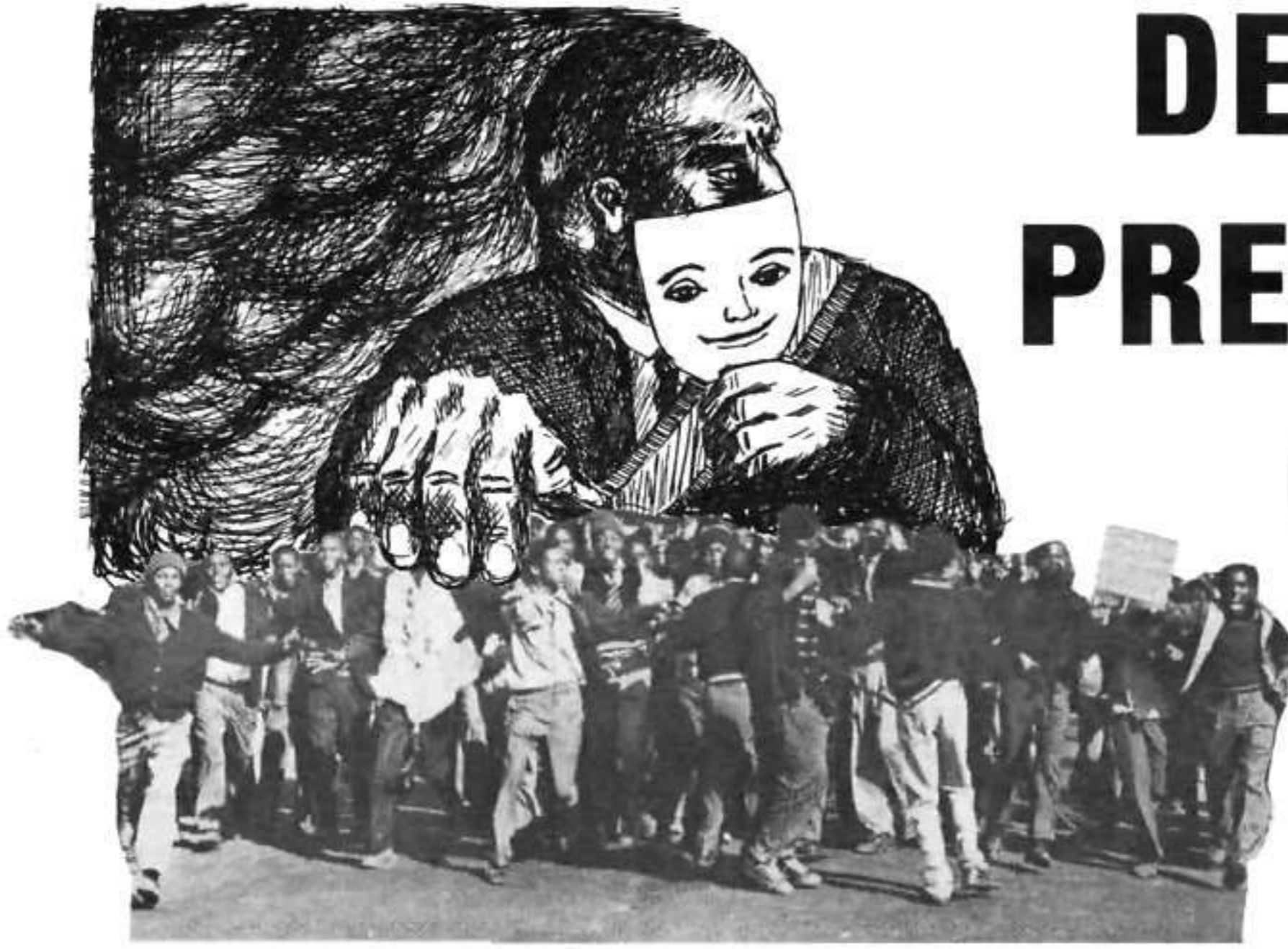


DEAR MR PRESIDENT

(Who ever
you are)



PC will break our unity

IN the last issue of Grassroots, we looked at the changes that the President's Council wants at a local level. Here we will briefly explain what changes the PC plans at a government level.

Over the years, the most important body in this country has been parliament. It is here that the laws are made and decisions taken

which affect our daily lives. Only Whites have been allowed to vote and to stand for this parliament.

The government is now considering giving this right to Coloureds and Indians so that we can be drawn closer to Whites. They want to do this because they are worried about the unity between Coloureds, Indians and Africans.

While they want to give us more say in parliament, they are at the same time considering creating another body above parliament. This will be an executive headed by a president.

- Parliament will elect the State President who will hold office for seven years.
- He will appoint a Prime Minister and together, they will appoint an Executive Cabinet.
- The President and his Cabinet will be in charge of day to day government.

Voting

- Whites, Coloureds and Indians will have the right to vote for parliament. Those people who own property will have two votes and those with companies, three.
- The four provincial councils will be scrapped and replaced by eight regional bodies. Each of these bodies will be elected by Coloureds, Whites and Indians, who would be on separate voters rolls. It is still unclear how this will be determined.

THE President's Council recommends that an executive president be elected who will stand above parliament for seven years. What will these seven years hold in store for us? What will the powers of this one man be? Manenberg resident, Mr Peter Johnson, has some idea and decided to write this letter.

Sir,

Apartheid is alive and will live on. The PC wants to put you in charge of our country for seven years to make sure that this happens.

The different colour faces in parliament will mean very little. Power will be firmly in your hand. You will have the right to dismiss the prime minister, parliament and the executive, if they make you unhappy. Why then does the PC talk of power-sharing?

How will power be shared if you have all the right over it? It will not matter to you if Coloureds, Indians or even Africans are included in parliament, because you know you will have the final say.

In this way, the government will be able to fool some of our people. But all of us will not fall for this.

We do not want Apartheid, Mr President. South Africa belongs to all who live in it. We should all have an equal say in the running of our country.

It is through our

sweat that this country has been built. Our reward? Low wages, bad housing and poor education.

Instead of improving our life, the government is passing more terrible laws which will help you to keep us down. Some of these laws, Mr President, will make it possible for you to put me into jail if I fight against low wages and poor housing, if I fight for a country where we all have the right to live decently.

Break

You will use these laws to try and break our organisations, where we have the power. By standing together we have learnt that we have strength. You do not and will not like this and will have seven years in which to put a stop to it. Is this what power-sharing will mean?

Mr President, think again.

We will not accept this.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Peter Johnson.



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