

given his side of the story? And why does he appear to have accepted without qualms, the extraordinary decision not to charge former security chief General van den Bergh in a court of law (the only place where he could freely have given his side of the story) for his contemptuous references to the Erasmus Commission?

Neither Dr Mulder nor General van den Bergh were ever ones for giving their opponents the opportunity to state their case in public. They preferred to ban them or detain them. But that they should enjoy the right they denied to others we have no doubt at all and certainly so if we are to get the "clean administration" to which the Prime Minister says he is committed.

The attempts which have been made so far to conceal the full extent and implications of the Information Department scandal have been as sickening as the revelations themselves. But then South Africa is sick, and has been for a long time. The Afrikaner Nationalist's carefully nurtured image of himself as the clear-eyed, incorruptible, modern-day frontiersman lies in pieces. It has shattered along the fault-lines of a thread which has run through the application of his policies ever since he came to power those thirty years ago . . . the doctrine that where the end is the survival of the Afrikaner people any means are justified.

But it is not only the Afrikaner Nationalist who suffers from the sickness which flows inevitably from the acceptance as a basic, if unacknowledged, principle, that the end will justify the means. Long before the Union of 1910, as our recent Anglo-Zulu war issue showed, this was the principle on which men like Sir Bartle Frere were acting. The only difference between now and then, perhaps, is that with the passage of time the application of the principle has become more subtle. Instead of using the gun, one now uses the law. And for more than two generations, since 1910, white South Africans have been using their power to make laws to ensure that they will prosper at the expense of others.

What could be more corrupting than that? That one should use one's power, year after year, to arrogate to oneself, at the expense of people weaker than oneself, all the best things in life? The years of apartheid have simply sharpened an old process.

The Information scandal has only indicated the surface manifestations of our malady. Its roots go much deeper than that. Basically they stem from greed.

White South Africa had better start digging down a good deal deeper into its condition and start doing something about curing it, before it can assure itself an African future. □

A MIRACLE PENDING?

REALITY has viewed with a generally sceptical eye the progress of events in Namibia since the Turnhalle Conference was originally convened, in particular the South African-sponsored elections held last December and the DTA victory which they predictably produced. Some of the reasons for our scepticism about that election are dealt with in articles in this issue.

Nevertheless, what has happened since that election does

give grounds for hope. The agreement of all parties involved in Namibia to take part in UN-supervised elections before the end of the year and the fact that Mr Ahtisaari's January visit passed off without any serious differences appearing to arise between him and the South African authorities, suggest that we may still see a miracle performed there, and an internationally acceptable formula for independence found. Hold thumbs for that! □

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