

South African Church Threatened With Biggest Crisis in History

Racial Struggle Outcome Could Affect Future

By MICHAEL KEATS

Johannesburg, South Africa — (UPI) — South Africa's Dutch Reformed church is threatened with the biggest crisis in its history because of a rift in its ranks over the nation's apartheid racial policies.

The outcome of the struggle could affect the country's future because the church has a strong influence on the government.

Apartheid, the racial segregation dogma of Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd's National party government, advocates separate development of the races. The Bantu (natives) suffer many personal restrictions in "white" areas and have no political rights outside their tribal reserves.

The National party represents the Afrikaans-speaking South African whites politically, just as the Dutch Reformed church is their religious affiliation. The church is divided and sub-divided into seven groups.

The largest, the Gefedereerde Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NG), contains five autonomous churches of the four provinces and south west Africa. There is the Gereformeerde Kerk and finally the smallest and most conservative faction, Nederduitse Hervormde Kerk (NH).

Last fall, the first storm clouds formed over the church when 11 DRC pastors and professors published a book called "Delayed Action"

which rejected apartheid on religious grounds.

It was a bombshell in the Afrikaans community.

The official organ of the NH, "Die Hervormer," denounced the four NH ministers who had contributed chapters to the book. Local church councils condemned

Richard Boone Believes Television To Be Found Suffering The 'Shorts'

Hollywood — (UPI) — Richard Boone, a veteran of two TV series and uncounted live dramas, shot from the hip today in blasting the medium and predicting its doom.

He believes television is on the road to ruin and will find itself suffering the "shorts" just as the movies are.

"There is no question that most television is a waste of time," he said. "The people connected with it realize how bad programming is and go ahead with their shows as cynically as possible."

The strapping star of "Have Gun, Will Travel" indicted video as a sop to mediocrity and more.

"Producers are turning out programs that literally make me sick," he continued. "TV seems to reinfect itself each year, using the same approach to shows and making them worse each season."

Attitude Change Needed

"Unless television changes its attitude, people are going to walk away from it just as they did from motion pictures."

"Another thing, the current television policy is certain to bring federal controls and pay TV."

Boone lays the blame for television's failure at the door of producers who believe bad

the 11 theologians as "liberal and detrimental to the people." To most white South Africans, the term "liberal" is one of abuse.

One irate elder of the NH, D. E. Wolfaardt, declared that "if God planned to create separate races, then I believe he intended the separate

propagation of the races.

"To be a Christian it is not necessary to regard a Bantu as your equal simply because he also was fashioned by God."

Less than two months after the outcry over "Delayed Action" had died down, the NG created a greater future when delegates from the Cape province and the Transvaal gave their support to a world council of churches statement of the South African color issues.

These included:

"Unless this sort of thinking is stopped TV is doomed."

Boone's own Columbia Broadcasting System show is regularly among the top 10 in the ratings, and he thinks it is many cuts above most programming.

Honest Scripts

"Our series is limited to operating in a particular sphere — tainted as a western," he said. "But it has very honest scripts and the production qualities are superior to most movies."

Despite its popularity "Have Gun, Will Travel" will fold after one more season on the air. Boone says it has done all it can do, and he wants to move on to other things.

He's formed his own production company to film television shows and movies.

"We're discontinuing the Paladin character to avoid running into the law of diminishing returns. I don't want to spend another two or three years doing something I'm not interested in."



RICHARD BOONE
Most Television Waste of Time

Every adult, no matter what color, has the right to own land and take part in the government of the country.

There is no scriptural ground for the prohibition of mixed marriages.

There can be no objection to the direct representation of colored (Mulattoes) in parliament.

The majority of the wages paid to non-whites are far too low and the migrant labor system has a disintegrating effect on the black African's way of life.

The NG is not a member of the world council and wasted no time in criticizing its fellow brothers in the NH which is a member.

Session Limiting Measure Defeated

Salem — (UPI) — A bill to limit legislative sessions to 100 days was defeated 32-26 in the Oregon House Wednesday after a sharp floor debate.

Rep. Joe Rogers (R-Independence) said the measure was intended to "set a goal" for the legislature.

Rep. Leon Davis (R-Hillsboro) said such a limit would save \$7,000 a day in legislative costs.

Rep. Clarence Barton (D-Coquille) led opponents of the measure.

"It costs us money and it costs the people of the state money while we're here," Barton said, "but the best we can do is try to work hard and try to accomplish the job we were elected to accomplish."

Wielding heavy budget volumes, the chairman of the ways and means committee added, "I don't think that we should tie our hands and I don't think we should have a pistol at our heads."

The dissension was not confined to the church. The Afrikaans press also became involved in the bitter wrangle.

The Nationalist party mouthpiece in Johannesburg, Die Transvaaler, called for the resignation of the NG from "the liberalist world council of churches." But in the Cape, the pro-government newspaper, Die Burger backed the NG's right to form an independent racial policy.

Back came Die Transvaaler with a warning: "Afrikanerdom's enemies are hoping that a schism in the church will rob the nation of its strength. It would be fatal for any people if a conflict should arise between its religious and political principles."

Finally, Verwoerd injected himself into the controversy.

In a New Years speech, he challenged church leaders to formulate a moral basis for a policy of granting full rights within each racial group.

"The simple fact is that any form of political multi-racialism or so-called partnership would ultimately rob the white man of his rightful heritage," Verwoerd said.

"None of those who so lightly and so often demand moral grounds for a policy of grant-

4-H News

Swine Club

The last meeting of the Central Point Swine club was called to order by President Judy Frink. Donald Herzog gave a report on the tour we took to Gardner's feed lot.

Members decided to prepare a 4-H window. The next meeting will be at the Herzog home and the club has invited the 4-H agent to attend.

Donald Herzog, Reporter

ing, in different ways, full rights within each group, to the white as well as the non-white group, has seen fit to formulate a moral basis for policies which lead to chaos elsewhere, and which ultimately deprive the white man of his rights and his possessions in the country which he has developed."

The premier maintained

that as yet the voice of the combined church as a body had yet to be heard and that, so far, only individual churchmen had provoked the present argument over apartheid.

But there is little doubt that the rumblings now being heard in the church will have a marked political effect on the current parliamentary session that started Jan. 20.

Measures Voted By Oregon House

Salem — (UPI) — Measures approved Wednesday:

By the House —

HB2004-Ways and Means; Oregon museum of science and industry budget.

HB1011-Interim Tax committee; increasing higher education bond limits.

HB1032-State Tax commission; relating to ad valorem taxation.

HB1074-Elections division; election supplies.

HB1207-Department of Agriculture; fireworks for scar-

ing predatory animals.

HR3-Committee on Rules; amending House rules.

SCR2-Committee on Resolutions; form of legislative measures.

SCR5-Sen. Corbett; expressing gratitude to former president Dwight D. Eisenhower.

By the Senate —

None.

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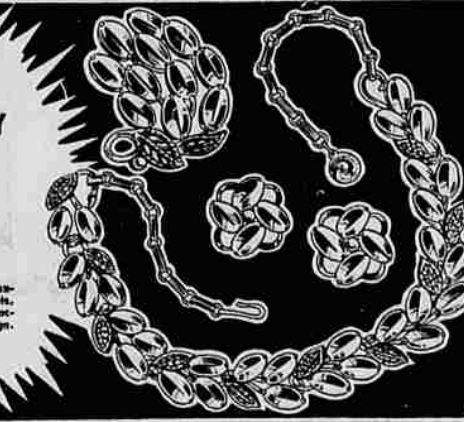
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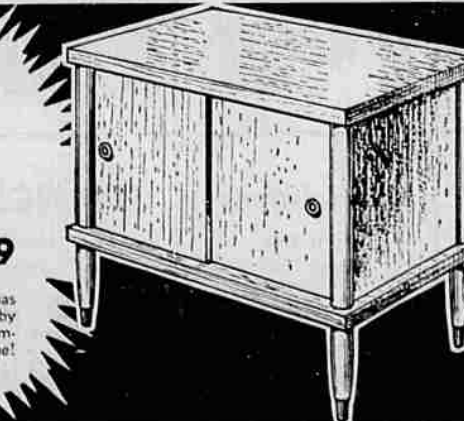
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