

Struggle for Power Looms in Ranks of South African Ruling Party

By NEIL J. SMITH
United Press International
JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (UPI)—A bitter behind-the-scenes struggle for power may be going on within the seemingly monolithic ranks of South Africa's ruling National Party. Racial policies are among the issues.

Political observers say the two chief protagonists are tough, determined Justice Minister John Balthazar Vorster, and Defense Minister Jim Fouché.

At stake, according to political sources, is the No. 2 place in the National Party and possible succession to the Premiership.

Vorster, at 47 one of the youngest men in the cabinet, is the architect of most of the country's much-criticized security legislation. Among the measures which he inspired and piloted through parliament are the house arrest regulations (described as "civil death" by opposition leader Sir De Villiers Graaff), the extension of the death sentence to certain "sabotage" offenses and the ninety-day "jail without trial" law which enables police to hold sabotage suspects indefinitely for questioning.

He has the reputation of being the iron man in the cabinet of

Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd. During World War II he was imprisoned for security reasons by the wartime government of General Jan Smuts. Now he directs South Africa's internal security in a new type war: the struggle against hostile non-white forces within South Africa.

Vorster's recent public pronouncements present a consistent picture of a hard, tough-minded man, seemingly impervious to criticism.

In recent weeks he has:—Hinted at plans to try political refugees in absentia.

—Threatened to take even more drastic steps against subversive elements "regardless of criticism, no matter from what source."

People Who Send Lies

—Said there should be a law to bring before the courts "people who send lies about South Africa into the world."

—Told the multi-racial Progressive Party's sole member of Parliament, Mrs. Helen Suzman, "I am reluctant to give you information on security matters as it may end up in the wrong hands."

Many political observers see Vorster as the natural successor to Premier Verwoerd, although his iron-fisted approach to the

country's problems has not endeared him to moderate South Africans.

Has Milder Attitude

Defense Minister Jim Fouché, on the other hand, has the milder, paternalistic attitudes of the old-time Nationalists. He believes racial separation must be tempered with the white man's justice. He came to the cabinet after a highly successful term as administrator (governor) of the overwhelmingly Afrikaans-speaking Orange Free State province. During his term he became a popular figure with the English-speaking minority.

Political circles believe that if there were a political realignment among South Africa's whites, Fouché could become the leader of a new grouping commanding widespread support among conservatives of both language groups.

Fouché has added to his reputation through his handling of the difficult defense portfolio. Under his guidance the South African armed forces have been put into top fighting trim until they are now the best equipped and most effective fighting force in Africa south of the Sahara.

He has also managed to eliminate the political influences that in earlier years resulted in

many English-speaking officers resigning after they were overlooked for promotion.

But it is unexpected trouble in the defense department, informed sources say, that has given a clue to the internal strife in the National Party.

Police (who fall under Justice Minister Vorster's department) are currently investigating an arms purchasing scandal involving high-ranking army officers and civilian employees of the defense department. The scandal, said to have "tremendous" ramifications, reportedly relates to huge bribes offered by munitions manufacturers in West Germany, Britain, Belgium, France and Italy to secure lucrative South African defense contracts.

Recently two pro-government newspapers "Die Burger" of Capetown and "Die Transvaler"

of Johannesburg published sensational details of the case. They said a certain high-ranking officer had received 100,000 rands (\$148,400) "commission" from agents of an unnamed European firm in return for key arms contracts.

Quote Senior Detective

They quoted senior detectives as saying this represents only a tiny part of the scandal. Neither newspaper gave a source of the stories.

The following day, in an almost unprecedented move, Defense Minister Fouché issued an angry statement accusing the two newspapers of "sensational mongering." He said neither paper had approached him for details, and had they done so he could have told them that the police investigations followed a recent corruption case heard in open court. Their reports were

merely a repetition of stale news, he said.

Long-time political commentators said it was the first occasion they could recall when a National cabinet minister publicly attacked the party press.

Had Been Leaked

He speculated that the "disclosures" had been deliberately leaked to the newspapers by top police sources, or higher. In any event, it was obvious they had caused great embarrassment to the Ministry of Defense.

Within three weeks Fouché was in the news again. Interviewed by the Afrikaans Sunday newspaper Die Stem, he disagreed that the white man is in any way superior to the African. Education and historical development account for differences between the races, he said.

Fouché went on to urge South Africans of opposing views to

stop snide attacks in each other's racial policies. He said all political parties are trying to solve the racial problem, and that the non-whites, too, are striving for a solution. National unity had been proved possible between Afrikaans and English-speaking white South Africans. Through mutual trust in future the same might be possible between white and black South Africans.

Moderate and Liberal

Fouché's interview was one of the most moderate and liberal utterances to come from a cabinet minister in many years.

The Progressive Party stated bluntly that he was favoring a multi-racial solution of South Africa's problems.

The Fouché interview was published on a Sunday. On the Monday night Justice Minister Vorster addressed a National

Party youth meeting in Pretoria. His subject was equality between the races.

"The greatest danger for South Africa is that liberalism, preaching that everyone is equal, is busy gaining ground in the world," he said. "This can only make us soft and break our

spirit. We must stand fast against it."

The timing of the speech may have been coincidental. But some observers saw it as a public rebuke to a cabinet colleague showing "soft" tendencies toward the racial problem in South Africa.

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Non-Voting Citizen Subject Of Study by Federal Group

By NEIL A. MARTIN
United Press International
WASHINGTON (UPI)—Was it apathy, economics, out-dated voting laws or just plain laziness that kept 37.5 million Americans away from the polls in the 1960 presidential elections?

A report being drafted by the President's commission on registration and voting participation hopes to answer this question next month.

The commission has been studying the phenomenon of the non-voting citizen for the past seven months. It will present its findings to President Kennedy Nov. 30. It has discovered, among other things, that the greatest percentage of non-voters is in the 21-to-30 year age bracket and that Sundays or holidays, when the average voter is free, might be the best days to hold elections.

Concern Is Expressed

Mr. Kennedy, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower and many national leaders were deeply concerned by the fact that only 65 per cent of the electorate voted in 1960 and only 48 per cent went to the polls in the congressional tests last year.

Although slightly better than the 1956 presidential election turnout, political experts said the voting percentages seemed to indicate that indifference has permeated the electorate over the past few decades.

Only recently, Eisenhower urged that state election laws be modernized. He said that what was needed was "a less complicated, more streamlined" voting system that would attract more voters to the polls and end one-party (Democratic) domination in southern states.

Decreases Are Recorded

Between 1940 and 1960, eleven states recorded decreases in the number of eligible voters who actually went to the polls.

In some western states, such as Nevada and Colorado, the drop has been as much as 5 to 10 per cent. In 1920, Kentucky had a 71.2 per cent active electorate, compared with its 59.2 per cent voting record in 1960.

In contrast to the U.S. voting record, there was a 90 per cent voting turnout in the Italian elections this year and better than 80 per cent averages in Great Britain, Austria and West Germany. And even the one-party Soviet Union reported a record 99.95 per cent turnout in its 1962 election for deputies to the Supreme Soviet (Parliament).

Should Do Better

"Naturally, no free nation could ever hope to compete with the record of a totalitarian country," Donald G. Herzberg, staff director of Mr. Kennedy's commission, told UPI. "But in a nation, such as the United States, where the principles of democracy can only be sustained by an active and interested electorate, we should be able to do a lot better."

When the President established the commission last March, he requested that special emphasis be placed on four areas: laws which handicap registration and voting on the basis of economic status, residence and other factors; state registration procedures; absentee voting regulations; and, other reasons why qualified people fail to vote.

The commission has received countless letters, suggestions and complaints from citi-

zens who have found voting impediments in their states. Unsolicited suggestions have ranged from giving away "green stamps" to distributing "I-Have-Voted" buttons in an attempt to woo the American voter from his shell of indifference.

Variety of Handicaps

The commission's initial studies have revealed a variety of technical and procedural handicaps faced by voters in many states.

In New York, a resident who takes a vacation during an election, cannot vote by absentee ballot. In Texas, a person has to register nine months before an election in order to vote. In New Jersey, a resident moved across the street during an election period and found himself disqualified because he unknowingly had changed districts. More than 15 states still require some form of literacy test which is applied arbitrarily in some areas.

Herzberg argued that many state election and registration laws are out-dated.

Mobility Increases

"Our country has increased its mobility greatly," he said. "We fly from New York to California, ocean to ocean in no time at all. We don't grow up and live in the same area we started in. Yet, our election laws are not taking this into account."

In a review of state laws, the commission has found that one-third of the states require voters to register more than a month before a national election. Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas and Texas still have poll taxes which must be paid anywhere from six months to two years before an election. Alabama, South Carolina and Mississippi require two years of residency before a person can vote.

Richard M. Scammon, director of the Bureau of Census and commission chairman, said many state registration laws were vestiges of days when "buggy whips were a

big industry and high button shoes the latest style.

"With modern methods of printing and record keeping," he added, "it is unreasonable to close registrations months before election day."

Scammon noted that Iowa, which has consistently had the nation's highest voter turnout, permits its citizens to register up to two days before an election.

Absentee voting regulations in many states, the commission has found, are a major voting hindrance for millions of businessmen, civil service employees, servicemen, college students and others who are out-of-state during an election.

Have Absentee Laws

All states except New Mexico and South Carolina have absentee voting laws but in many states, the commission said, compliance exceeds the patience and desire of the average voter. Also, many voters cannot afford to or do not want to pay the various registration fees or the few remaining state poll taxes.

Proposals to eliminate several of these barriers are now before Congress. In addition, a constitutional amendment to outlaw the poll tax is only two votes shy of the 38-state majority needed for ratification.

School Drop-Out Grants Received

SALEM (UPI)—Portland School District No. 1, and Milwaukee District No. 5 have received Federal grants to plan projects to combat the high school drop-out problem.

R. R. Wipfel, director of vocational rehabilitation in the State Department of Education, said the Portland district received \$8,000 and the Milwaukee district \$4,900.

The grants were made by the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Administration.

Both districts will conduct a three-month study.

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