

"Dark Age Seems to be Dawning" Race Institute Told

TALKS IN CITY

"THERE seems to be dawning a dark age," a member of the executive committee of the South African Institute of Race Relations, Dr. W. F. Nkomo, said in Port Elizabeth yesterday, at the Council meeting of the Institute.

Dr. Nkomo was among members who commented on a report by the Director of the Institute, Mr. Quintin Whyte, on recent legislation.

The chairman, Dr. E. H. Brookes, said the silence which followed the report was not due to "apathy or fear" but a feeling of great responsibility.

Dr. Nkomo said he hoped that one day non-Europeans could also sing, sincerely and heartily "Ons Vir Jou, Suid-Afrika". "I am doubtful if the majority of voters in South Africa are aware of the conditions under which non-Europeans live, and the con-

sequences of legislation passed," he said.

South Africa was being "hurriedly piloted" towards a police state, away from democracy, he said.

Domination

It was no use replacing White domination with Black domination—something different must be envisaged, said Dr. Nkomo. "I sometimes wonder if the 'White man boss' is not breaking the foundations of his own civilisation," he said.

"We have exhibited patience, and if to-day, the Black mass is rising in a way which is frightening other people, causing alarm, and making them wonder if they are safe in the company of a Black man, I feel we must go back to the foundations of civilisation," he said.

The Rev. J. Reynecke, of the Groote Kerk, Pretoria, said that from his personal knowledge of Dr. Malan and other Cabinet Ministers, many of whom belonged to his church, he could not believe that the idea behind the legislation was to oppress, to exploit or be unjust.

"Not Vindictive"

"These may be the consequences, but I cannot bring myself to believe that the Government is introducing all that legislation in an evil and vindictive spirit," he said.

The Institute should point out where the legislation "chafed" and see what could be done to lessen the impact. The Government might be unwise or precipitate, but not evil—they were trying to implement a policy, he said.

He was not "holding a brief" for the Government, he said. "I feel if we understand, we can forgive."

Another delegate said Africans were governed by a party under which "might is right." "The present legislation is hitting us hardest with regard to education," he said. Their education policy was designed to keep Natives "polishing stoeps forever." "Never has a Government had less respect from the African than the present one."

Whipping

The Rev. H. P. Junod said that under the legislation which called for a penalty of whipping, 50,000 to 100,000 strokes had been meted out during the past year. "This would never have been possible if the Government had pictured what they meant in practice to the House of Assembly," he said.

The meetings of the Institute, which are being held in the Technical College this week, are open to the public.