

INSTITUTE for
SOCIAL
RESEARCH

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 3
AUGUST 1966

UNIVERSITY
OF NATAL

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INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

** NEWSLETTER **

Number 3.
August, 1966.

Not for
publication.

Editor: Hilstan Watts
Secretary: Nancy Pratt
News Reporters: Ulla Bulteel
Gustav Fouche

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UNIVERSITY OF NATAL
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
KING GEORGE V AVENUE - DURBAN

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editorial

One of the contributions submitted for this current issue is an evaluation of the Institute by a past member. His ideas set my own in motion, and I found myself thinking about what a research institute is. Basically, to my mind a research organisation consists of people - of individual researchers who contribute to the whole. Years ago, the director of an organisation said to me that the only way to build a research institute was first of all to find the right people, and then to give them the opportunity to undertake research in which they were interested. Here, at the University of Natal, our members consist both of academic staff, research fellows, and staff specifically appointed to undertake research. We have the unique advantage of combining both salaried research workers who undertake investigations on a full-time basis, and academic members who can combine the experience gained through teaching with part-time research. During his recent address to the Institute, Professor Kennedy of Washington State College, stated that he thought that one of the prime requirements of a good research worker was an active imagination. Some people have far greater imagination than others, and nothing one can do will ever alter the position relative to their basic ability. Nevertheless, I believe that it is possible to stimulate research workers' imagination, so that they develop more ideas and insight than they might otherwise do. If this is so, then a successful research organisation depends not only on the individuals, but also on creating an environment which is stimulating and demands imaginative response. Consequently, if my assumption is correct, then one of the functions of

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the Institute should be to challenge people, by encouraging the inter-change of ideas, to stimulate people, and to cross-fertilise imaginations. Are we doing this, and if so, adequately? Your views on this, and ways and means of achieving it, if you feel that we are not doing it adequately, are welcome. Nay, they are more than welcome - I would say they are essential, so put pen to paper please! It does take time, if people are to thrash out ideas, question their assumptions, and practice using their imagination. Time in the sense both of a period for development, and time in a sense of enough hours per week to do this, are required. Alas, time seems one of our scarcest commodities. Any schemes we have must therefore be realistic in terms of the demands they make on the time of members.

One way of stimulating the ideas and the imagination of individuals is by giving them an opportunity to publish. It is encouraging that recently several members of the Institute have submitted manuscripts to be considered by the Institute for publication. One or two others are working on research which they have to submit by the end of the year. This is a healthy sign, and we hope it will continue. However, what of other ways and means of making better use of the members of the Institute - of tapping their ideas, and of nourishing imaginations? Don't leave the suggestions to only a few, but come up with your own - don't be shy in writing in with your suggestions.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S to

Dr. Hamish Dickie-Clark, who has been appointed Professor in Sociology at the University of Natal as from the 1st of January, 1967.

Dr. Dickie-Clark's thesis on "The Marginal Situation : A Sociological Study of a Coloured Group" was recently published.

Start and Finish or on the Circuit with
the Members -

FAREWELL: At the end of June the Institute lost a long-standing member, Mr. L. Douwes Dekker, who will be taking up an appointment from the 1st of September as Assistant General Secretary of TUCSA in Johannesburg. In the intervening period before going to Johannesburg, he is working on his thesis. We wish him success and happiness in his new surroundings.

FAREWELL: (for the time being - perhaps) to cockroaches and fishmoths. We hope we do not see them again!

TEA CLUB: Relations are always a bit strained when the 10c are mentioned!

SABBATICAL: Professor Albino is currently overseas on his sabbatical leave. He left at the end of June, and will be away until the end of the year.

WELCOME: Mr. Geoffrey Waters joined us on the 8th June as a research assistant in connection with the Durban Transportation Consultants' Project, and we are happy to extend our welcome: Glad to know that he has settled down again in Durban after a spell in the Cape.

Welcome also to N.D. 51071 Cortina. We are glad to have your reliable and efficient service.
(May it stay that way - Ed.)

VISITING AMERICAN SOCIOLOGIST: Professor T. H. Kennedy is visiting South Africa under the American Educational Exchange Programme, as a Hayes-Fulbright lecturer. He addressed members of the Institute on Wednesday, 10th August, at 2.30 p.m. on "Research Methods and Support in Sociology". We hope that Professor Kennedy will enjoy his stay in our country.

JULY VACATION: Has again proved to be a relief time for the I.S.R., as many students have been employed to assist with the interviewing and the "groundwork" on the various projects. We thank them all for their most helpful contributions at a busy time.

UNUSAL REMEDY FOR HARASSED LECTURERS: The first step has now been taken to improve students' concentration abilities during lectures. YOGA classes have started this term and are held at 4.30 - 5.30 p.m. in the Kennedy Room on Wednesdays. No audience, only participants welcome.

LECTURE WITH A DIFFERENCE: A most successful "dress-rehearsal" was held by Mrs. Fatima Meer at the Howard Hall on the 27th May, on "Aspects of Indian Culture - Costume, Music, Dancing and Ceremonial". The lecture was accompanied by tableaux of preparation for marriage, naming ceremony, dancing, and a display of costumes and jewellery worn by Hindu and Moslem brides. The evening ended with music played on instruments called Veena and Miridungam. Everyone in the crowded hall had an enjoyable evening.

- * To fill the hour - that is happiness. (Emerson).

- * Work expands to fill the time available for it. (Parkinson).

- * I hate quotations - also by Emerson.

Coding is not all MILKAMACKNESHIER!!

It was impossible to emerge from the "Milk" study phlegmatically indifferent. The children's responses made me successively despair, wonder, smile and - interested.

Share some unusual responses with me:-

Spelling is a fascinating game at this age. Incidentally I am the unfortunate co-player. An expert at the game momentarily puzzled me with this attempt at spelling, "I hate milk, it's like milkamackneshier!"

There can be something very expressive about incorrect spelling: "Milk gives me PIMPILS".

The following lad in response to an enquiry about his father's occupation had me despairing "KWANTERYASNAYA". Judging that the boy's father was South African (by virtue of his name - J. van der Merwe), and being aware of public and legal sanctions governing Red matters, I had my doubts about the legality of this occupation. The Russian - English dictionary, however, did little to assist me. (I eventually coded it as quantity surveyor!)

It is said that women learn to scheme at an early age. Later it becomes automatic. A young female schemer wrote: "I love milk. I like it so much that when my mother calls my sister and me to come and drink our glasses of milk, I pull a long face and say I don't want any. Then my sister says she doesn't want any either. When she goes out to play I quickly drink both glasses!"

Theorists also tend to display their characteristic qualities at a young age. Often there is very little quantitative data to support their hypothesis. For example, "when the grass is very green the milk is white and frothy and the butter creamy white, but when it doesn't rain and the grass gets brown, the milk becomes thinner and the butter goes yellow" - I suppose a lively imagination is better than none at all.

A few children do not like milk. Reasons range from "I don't like milk because you never know how much grass there is in one cup of milk" to "I don't like cow's milk. I only drink milk that comes from bottles".

There is a limit to the qualities we attribute to our respective sexes. I think this is it! "I don't like milk from cows but only from oxen." It seems that loyalty has conquered logic.

There are a hardy few who insist on their milk right from the source. Fortunately it is only a minority. There could be complications.

A final highlight almost had me wondering - "We get our milk from bottles. The dairy gets it from the cow, but where does the cow get it from"?

* * * * *

REMARKS ON THE QUESTION:

How's work?

Fortune favours the brave!

Facinating, no time, here at 7 o'clock every
b-----y morning!

OH, don't let us even think about it!

God!! Can you work at the computer centre
over the weekend?

Well, I wish it was at the beginning of July,
but then of course I would have to do all the
cooking. (Brave lecturer's remark, who
housed her husband's research staff).

Questionnaires are bewitching, bothering and
bewildering us, we better return to them.

We also heard somebody ask:

Why are you never in your office?

the reply was -

Because I am always in other people's
offices.

I like work: it facinates me. I can sit and look at it
for hours. I love to keep it by me: the idea of getting
rid of it nearly breaks my heart. (Our friend J.K. Jerome
said that, not an ISR idea!)

A Social Researcher stood at the Golden Gate,
His head was bent and low,
He merely asked the Man of Fate
Which way he had to go.

"What have you done", St. Peter said,
"To gain admittance here?"
"I worked in a Research Institute on Earth
For many and many a year".

St. Peter opened wide the Gate,
And gently pushed the bell.
"Come in and choose your berth", said he,
"You've HAD your share of HELL!"

Anon.

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UNIVERSITY OF NATAL INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH KING GEORGE V AVENUE - DURBAN

The following genuine advertisement by certain ISR members seeking a lodger is quoted as an interesting socio-psychological case document:

ARE YOU ?

D
I
G
S

Anti-Anthropomorphic

Tolerant

Good at Figures

Culinarily competent

Liberal (with a small or large "l")

Mobile

Able to give instructions in Zulu

Heterosexual (if male)

Independent (if female)

In possession of a dependable alarm-clock

Appreciative of functional disorder

Mindful of higher educational needs

Not other-directed

? ? ? ?

If you can satisfy any 7 (seven) of these criteria, then you may be the man (or woman) whom we are seeking to fill an impending vacancy for a senior partner in an unusual non-profit co-operative enterprise.

Applicants must be willing to live-in. Spacious apartments (with respect for privacy) to the right person, Modern facilities (including electricity, telephone and occasional postal deliveries) also provided (subject to extent of monthly losses and the enterprise's ability to maintain payments to the responsible authority).

Ability to supply own furniture a recommendation. Inability to provide good references from previous landlords also a recommendation.

For further details contact:- Etc.

RESEARCH NEWS
=====

AND VIEWS
=====

. . . . OR MORE SERIOUS THINGS.

THE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH -- AN EVALUATION,
 =====

Anon.

As I am no longer on the staff of the Institute, a contribution in the form of a brief assessment of the Institute is permissible.

It is known that the Institute was conceived of and brought into being after World War II through the foresight of Dr. E.G. Malherbe, past principal of the University. But it may well go on record that the impetus given by Dr. Malherbe has been translated and carried through into a crystallised function during the last three years. All the hopes and ideals of the Institute were kept sustained and nourished during the intervening years. But these expectations were given the correct catalyst for their realisation under the present Director and, as he will be the first to recognise, the Senior Research Fellow as well as the full-time and part-time staff.

It might be argued that the moment was opportune in that it has recently become accepted in South Africa, albeit somewhat late, that social research is essential. But it is to the credit of the staff of the Institute that this opportunity is being grasped, even at the cost of continual late nights and week-end work.

Because of this the Institute is becoming one of the prime pillars in the foundation of the concept of social research in South Africa. It is legitimate to talk of con-

cepts of research in that each country develops its own definition of research as an activity. The members of the Institute are able to carry the responsibility of aiding in the foundation of social research in South Africa. But for this to take place certain factors are required. This leads me to my last point.

If at present the past ideals with regard to the Institute are being answered, then one fundamental point should be reiterated, namely the necessity of basic research. It should never be forgotten that basic research as an activity embodies the legitimate expectation of the Institute and its members.

This implies on the one hand financial aid. The important work of the Institute and its essential role should be given far greater publicity. Also a concerted effort should be made to make the possibility of endowments to the Institute a reality.

On the other hand it should be remembered that research is primarily a process of reflection. Those trained in the social sciences enter a vocation which has emerged from the increasing complexity of our society. The hallmark of this vocation is reflection, not the organisation of data-collecting surveys only. But how is one to incorporate periods of reflection in a continual commitment to surveys? It would miss the mark to give a research worker a month a year of reflection. But what would be possible and highly desirable, is to allow the research worker to lecture on methodology and research. This type of activity would allow for the reflection process to emerge more fully.

EXPERIENCES FROM FIELD WORK AMONGST INDIANSIN THE RURAL AREASON THE NATAL NORTH COAST.

J.J.C. Greyling &
R.J. Davies.

Research Object:

Farming conditions in South Africa have deteriorated considerably over the past 10-15 years. This is mainly due to rising production costs and successive droughts during the past few years. Farmers of all races are complaining about various aspects of farming and are pressing for improvements. Indian farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to earn a living on their farms. Apart from handicaps to farming in general, subdivisions tend to get progressively smaller and more numerous owing to the testamentary custom of Indian land owners providing land for members of the family by proportionately dividing their holdings.

The Town and Regional Planning Commission authorities are interested in the extent of these problems in order to consider which steps will be practically necessary and effective in order to improve the existing conditions. The commission therefore, has established a research fellowship to enquire into the scope and extent of the fragmentation of the land between various owners and occupiers. This will be related at a later stage to the productive and economic use of land. It was generally agreed that this survey should be confined to the Natal North Coast where according to the

1960 population census 57.4% of the total Indian rural population of the Republic, or 64% for that of Natal, is resident.

In the Magisterial districts of Inanda and Lower Tugela a survey showed that there were 2,698 Indian owned farms with a total area of approximately 110 square miles. These farms ranged from less than one acre to 1,800 acres in extent. Between June and December 1965, 2,569 of the Indian owned farms were visited with the aid of a number of Indian students as interviewers, while questionnaires were completed on 2,444 farms.

This Article Describes some Fieldwork Experiences:

It is however, not the intention of this article to report on the results of the survey. Apart from filling in questionnaires, personal observation was also used in order to obtain a more comprehensive overall picture of the situation in general. It became evident how little we as Europeans know about the Indians regarding their way of life and culture. Generally speaking, all the different racial groups of the Republic live in ignorance of each others' way of life. There are numerous aspects about the Indian areas and Indian culture which must be witnessed or "experienced" at first hand in order to appreciate them.

Difficulty in Tracing Farm Owners:

It was extremely difficult to trace the owners whose names appeared on the maps. The Indian farmers are known under names completely different from those in which the farms were registered. It was therefore a matter of an

official name and a common name or nickname. A fairly large number of the farmers did not even know the official names of their neighbours. If a farmer was requested to furnish particulars as to the whereabouts of another individual required in the survey, he usually replied by pure guesswork. Field investigators inexperienced in map orientation were often sent completely out of the area they were covering, and had a long way to go in order to trace a particular person. Moving around in a transport vehicle was hindered either by bad roads or a complete lack of them. This can be attributed to the fact that occupiers do not own transport vehicles of their own, and frequently walk across country to points from which transport is available. The maze of apparently identical sugar plantation roads frequently caused serious problems. Even with the greatest care it was possible to get lost, especially at night.

Interviewers Aroused Suspicion:

The appropriate approach to Indian farmers in order to obtain the desired information was, in itself, a useful experience. As could be expected the farmers were very suspicious, and the more so when they noticed a European amongst the students. It required a great deal of patience and endless explanation at the outset of the survey to obtain the desired information. While a covering letter was attached to the interview schedule it was necessary to obtain the co-operation of a few more influential Indian farmers, who kindly agreed to undertake public relations work on behalf of the survey.

Indian Housing:

While travelling through the area it was interesting to note the variation in house types regarding design, size, and building materials. On a large number of the smaller farms housing conditions are generally poor. Dwellings are little more than little one or two roomed shacks serving as sleeping quarters for families, while cooking is undertaken in small detached shelters. On the other hand, wealthier farmers occupy houses ranging from average to excellent in terms of European standards. Some houses are designed by architects and are tastefully furnished in the European tradition. In the case where a group of farms were share-owned, it was noticed that the homes of share-owners are usually clustered together on one of the share-owned farms, giving the impression of a small rural village. On some of these farms it was noticed that each family, while occupying a separate dwelling, shared a communal kitchen. In other cases all share-owners and their families were resident in one house only. The level of occupancy of most dwellings was very high, and overcrowding is quite obviously a serious problem. Quite often all the rooms in the houses serve as bedrooms. Many a questionnaire was completed, or a hospitable lunch was taken, while sitting on a bed. The reason for this is more of an economic than romantic nature, since it is impossible for these people to provide for diningrooms or lounges because of the lack of money and the size of the family units living together. One person remarked jokingly that the high number of social workers active amongst Indian farmers was probably necessary to settle the frequent disputes which are likely to arise from the association of a large number of people living together in single houses.

Little Education Amongst the Population:

An astonishingly large number of the occupiers had not attended any school at all. The result of this state of affairs is quite obvious. Interviewers had to explain the objectives of the interview in detail and in as simple terms as possible. Frequent probing in order to obtain information was necessary.

Language Difficulties During Fieldwork:

In addition to the lack of formal education, problems were also encountered in the linguistic sphere. Some farmers could only speak an Indian language or Zulu. In those cases where interviewers knew only an Indian language they either spoke Urdu, Hindi, Telegu, Gujurati or Tamil to mention the most common ones only. Only a limited number of the student fieldworkers could speak only one of these particular languages. It was therefore necessary to interview some occupiers in Zulu.

Land Use:

As regards land use, Indian farms are usually wholly utilized for farming, with the exception of a few small farms and portions of the very large farms, which were left lying fallow. Slopes which would normally be classified as unsuitable for cultivation on white farms in the sugar belt are utilized for agricultural purposes. Sugar cane is the dominant crop. Market gardening and orchards are mainly confined to small farms around or near urban areas. The yields are usually low due to a lack both of technical "know-how" and also of funds necessary for purchasing fertilizers and essential equipment.

Some Other Fieldwork Problems:

A few additional problems which were encountered during the course of the survey and which may interest students intending to carry out any similar investigations in Indian areas are noted as follows:-

a) A fairly large number of the occupiers of farms were employed or resident elsewhere. These people proved in most cases impossible to contact. The occupiers employed elsewhere could only be interviewed during the evening or over weekends. Their wives were able to furnish some of the information required, but were obviously uncertain or hesitant about personal information regarding their husbands' ages, educational status, and income.

b) Only a few of the owners were able to supply the correct designations of their farms, while lessees occupying these farms were unable to give the correct or official names of the owners.

c) Perhaps the most difficult problems encountered were in the cases of share-owned farms. There were large numbers of individuals who share the ownership of farms within homogenous or heterogenous groups. Hours were wasted in attempting to calculate the total number of bits and pieces farmed by each person individually.

d) It was impossible to determine from the Deeds Registry the acreage belonging to each member of share groups, and it proved equally difficult to determine the number of farms owned by a single owner. In the case of the latter this was due to the fact that all farms owned singly by any particular person were not always registered in the same name. In the case of the share-owned farms, the fractions owned by different owners were in some cases not a reflection of

acreage but of the monetary value of the total farm unit, including buildings and improvements.

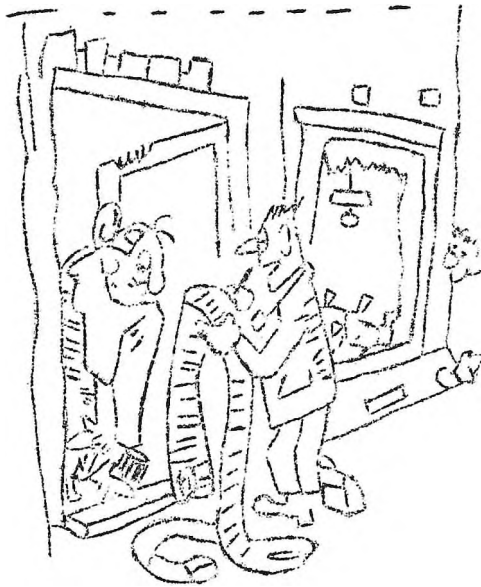
Cuisine !

To the majority of Natalians curry and rice is a popular dish. Although the curry and rice served in restaurants, grill rooms, and hotels is usually prepared by Indians, it differs considerably from that prepared for themselves with regards to the strength and ingredients. Ingredients and the strength of the curry varied noticeably with language, religion and standards of living. But in all cases the curry and rice appeared to be a basic element of the diet. It was necessary for the white project director to adjust to different eating habits. Indians do not use cutlery when eating - soap and water for handwashing are always provided before meals are served. In the case of some houses built recently for well-to-do farmers, a wash basin was actually fitted in the diningroom. Poori or roti is usually served with curry dishes. Both are quite similar to pan-cake (but are served without sugar, cinnamon or syrup) and are substitutes for bread. Roti, which is prepared from more elementary ingredients, appears to be a staple food and is cheaper than the richer poori. It was the frequent pleasure of the project director and interviewers to enjoy a curry and rice lunch with the Indian farmers.

Although these lunches were welcome and preferred to sandwiches, they were on at least one occasion a cause of embarrassment. On one particular occasion, lunches were offered in succession at three different houses. We were interviewing in a region of fairly poor farmers, who took a

refusal to lunch with them as an insult. The only way out in order to avoid a refusal of information was the quite obvious one of eating three meals! (Breathing was no doubt difficult after the third meal - Ed.) It was also the dubious pleasure of white members of the research team to be initiated to the chewing of betel leaves. The various grimaces and flushed faces (much to the enjoyment of the Indian youngsters who were looking on) indicated that it would take considerable time in order to become accustomed to this rather exotic taste. The betel leaves are served with betel nuts (imported from India) and a smear of lime wrapped up in the leaves. It is customary to Indian women to take this delicacy after meals.

PUBLIC OPINION POLLS



JUST ONE MORE
QUESTION -----

Richard

POLITICS AND SOCIAL RESEARCH.

Political Science is by far the oldest of the social sciences. It is still an indispensable requirement for a serious student of political science to have read the great works of Plato, Aristotle and Aquinas. Yet antiquity does not infer senility. Political science is necessarily related through its philosophical content to the arts subjects, but it is being increasingly drawn into the orbit of the semi-exact sciences.

The latest and newest section of the subject is political behaviour which studies the conduct of the electorate the effect of social structure on politics and the psychological attitudes of groups within society. Much of the material used is collected by surveys and interviews and involves the use of computers and the application of statistical techniques to political data.

I would be inclined to divide political behavioural research into two broad categories. The first we might call 'psephology', or the study of voting habits, and the second is group theory and the study of interest groups. The unlovely term 'psephology' was coined at Nuffield College, Oxford, reputedly by Dr. David Butler. Its origin is the Greek 'psepho', meaning pebble and refers to the Greek practice of dropping pebbles into a container as a means of casting a vote. Voting is an academic study now of growing complexity and precision which has attracted many writers in the field of political science.

Example of the concepts handled may give some indication of the scope of psephology. A study of the reasons why people vote for a given party will often show that a person is usually "issue-orientated" or "party-orientated" rather than "candidate-orientated". This means that people will tend to support a given party either because it approves of its handling of issues or because it has traditionally supported a party - rarely does the personality of a candidate in Britain, for example, influence a given electoral contest. In Great Britain, it has been shown that only one per cent of voters asked mentioned the candidate as a factor in determining their choice. A notable exception to this rule in South Africa lies in the personality of Mrs. Suzman, M.P. for Houghton, who was returned as an individual while her party was (as a party) unsuccessful at the 1966 election.

This piece of information provides us with a clue to the reason why people vote. We might find ourselves asking what attracts people to a certain party. Most people support a given political party because (to use the jargon of advertising), they feel that the party "image" is their "image". Irrespective of the policy made by the party, many voters exhibit a remarkable loyalty towards a particular group, unrelated to reason. The whole idea was put most succinctly by Graham Wallas, who, in a book called "Human Nature in Politics" written 50 years ago, said ... "Something is required, simpler and more permanent, something which can be loved and trusted and which can be recognised at successive elections as being the same thing that was loved and trusted before and a party is such a thing". Devotion to a party is almost like devotion to a Church,

as the American Clinton Rossiter pointed out. Hence party allegiance has become habitual as Hume suggested it would become, something like going to Church. People tend to cast their votes in accordance with "major social identifications, associations and membership". In a recent survey in the U.S.A., it was shown that only 6 per cent of voters had not made up their minds before polling day.

In South Africa, there is no systematic study of voting behaviour which could compare with the outpourings on the subject in Britain and the United States. Indeed, the "syndrome" of attitudes in South Africa has produced a line-up between language, origins, nationalistic fervour and resultant political persuasion which may be, (in the case of the Free State for example), boringly predictable. An election result merely confirms that a social situation has been given political significance. Yet it would be wrong to assume that a given political condition can subsist for ever - for as society is changing so its political form must respond to these changes.

One of the remarkable discoveries of psephology is the distinction which exists between voting and supporting. Many people may vote for a party though not wholeheartedly giving support to all, or even to a substantial part of the official party beliefs. Many people who vote Nationalist may, in fact, disagree with the party's official view over television, lotteries or even bantustans. Some Nationalist voters support the Government in spite of and not because of "separate development". It could be argued that the distinction between voting and supporting has dealt a cruel blow to

the United Party, for many people who support that party have yet not voted for it.

In the studies of British General Elections emanating from Nuffield College, Oxford, it has been shown in great statistical detail that an election is won or lost long before the campaign begins. The whole battery of canvassers, party bureaucrats and constituency organisers have only a marginal effect upon the result of the election as studies abroad have shown. Organising transport on the day, arranging registration beforehand, getting postal voters to do their duty, all these things are useful but not absolutely necessary to the result. Canvassing in particular, may well be, as one investigator put it, "a snare and a delusion for candidates and agents". Where canvassers are right they are lucky, for a promise to vote means nothing if the voter fails to turn out in a low poll area.

Another myth which psephology has destroyed is the power of the party manifesto to influence the electorate. In Britain it has been shown that the election manifesto has almost no influence on the electorate, and there is no reason why South African politics should be unlike other politics in this respect. (I once asked a prospective Labour M.P. what was the Labour party's policy regarding the future of the House of Lords, as there was nothing on this subject in the Labour Party manifesto. The M.P. did not know himself what was in the manifesto).

The coming of political public opinion polls has done much to make our knowledge of political life more precise. Take the question of social class and political

affiliation in Britain, for example. In 1964, according to National Opinion Polls, 74.7 per cent of the upper-middle classes (managers, executives, professionals, etc.) voted Conservative. In the lower-middle classes the proportion fell to 60.7 per cent. Among the skilled and unskilled workers the figures were 33.9 per cent and 30.9. One is not surprised to see how the more affluent groups support the Conservatives, but it is interesting and, indeed, surprising to discover that one manual worker in three supports the Conservatives. Labour may indeed be the support of Capital. Public opinion polls are an accepted pattern of social research in Britain and in America. South Africa is almost completely outside this trend, and, in the field of psephological studies, is an underdeveloped country. Polling is, of course, very expensive, but it could be made to pay if polling services could be "sold" to industry. Market research could pay for political polls.

Psephology has its detractors. Some people have asserted that this new discipline has made politics go the way of economics - dealing only with "safe" abstractions, with respectable and parochial trivia and with a mumbo-jumboism useless in the solving of 'real' problems. They say that Chi-squares and scatter diagrams are far removed from the disturbing problems of our times. They point to other dangers also. Politicians can "use" polls and polls can give false impressions. The convictions of people about the rightness or wrongness of given issues will not count in the future. Politics will be concerned, they argue, with discovering the degree of prejudice or gullibility of electors. Political leaders will abandon leading and merely follow the crowd.

There is some truth in these criticisms, but they are based on the romantic assumption that all was well before polls and that we are only suffering in political science from lost innocence. To the extent that polls lower the political temperature, they are valuable, and in the South African context, they would be invaluable.

As to the second category, the study of political groups in South Africa, (a study well advanced abroad), almost nothing exists. As long ago as 1908, an American political scientist Arthur Bentley, asked that we should turn our attention away from political institutions to the study of the political process. Political process studies look beyond questions of parliamentary procedure and Cabinet decisions - making away from the newsman's glare, into the shadows behind, where "interested parties" come to compromise arrangements about the way that government should act. According to Bentley, it is of fundamental importance to know what the underlying groups and the underlying interests are, as the precondition for understanding ideas, government, and the other more superficial and pretentious groups and group activities.

Since 1908, studies on political process have multiplied and the powers of groups have been copiously analysed abroad until the point where one writer could say that we are indeed "ruled" by an "invisible government". My own researches into pressure groups in South Africa would suggest that there is more than a grain of truth in this assertion in the Republic. Only further social research can show indeed how we are governed, and this will surely not be through the old hallowed constitutional instruments.

Decisions are made before they ever reach the floor of the House of Assembly.

Traditionalists in the political science field are unable to accept these two new approaches. Their fundamental commitment is to the ideological and to the dramatic. There is no substitute for patient research and painstaking scholarship. Out of the happy alliance between social research and political science will emerge a constructive and fruitful discipline.

P.B. HARRIS.

July 23, 1966.

A GUIDE TO OFFICIALS IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES

THE RESULT OF A SCIENTIFIC SOCIAL STUDY!



THE CUNNING
MAYOR

THE TOWN ENGINEER
IN A RARE JOVIAL
MOOD

THE
OFFICE BOY

THE OFFICE
"ROMEO" AND
FILING CLERK

THE LOCAL
OFFICE
"DISH"

Scott.

Urban Research being Conducted
 by the Institute
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In view of the fact that the Institute is currently undertaking far more urban research than before, the Director has decided to recognise this by grouping the research under the heading of an "Urban Research Section". With the limited staff of the Institute, it is not possible at the moment to have a special research head in charge of the section. Several members of the Institute represent a type of group leadership of the section. These are Dr. R. J. Davies, Head of the Department of Geography in Durban (and a keen enthusiastic urban geographer), the Senior Research Fellow, Mr. L. Schlemmer, and the Director. Consultative advice is being provided by interested members of the Institute, including Professor P. Connell, who is very interested in planning and its aspects in relation to urban development. Once the Institute grows sufficiently, it might be possible to appoint a special head to this section, but at present the group leadership is working very well, and has the advantage of providing an opportunity for the interplay of ideas, and a multi-disciplinary approach to the problems involved.

Research being undertaken by the Section includes the following studies:

The Urban Geography of South Africa (a project which is aiming at determining the patterns of development, location, internal structure, and dominance of urban areas in South Africa.)

A Sociological Study of the White Population of East London (this is essentially a study into the White population of a particular town, with a special emphasis on migratory behaviour).

- An Investigation into the Prestige Assigned by Whites to Occupations. (Only the urban population of South Africa is being investigated, and it is hoped that a picture will be obtained of the urban class structure of the Republic).
- A Socio-Ecological Analysis of Grahamstown. (This particular study was undertaken during the 1950's by one of the members of the Institute, and is currently being re-written for submission to the Institute as a possible publication).
- The Prediction of the Distribution of the Residential Population of Greater Durban in 1976 and 1986. (This project, being undertaken for the Traffic Consultant to the Durban Corporation, is aimed at indicating the possible future distribution. Its findings, which at best can be described as "guesstimates" will be used by the Traffic Consultants in planning the future road system for metropolitan Durban).
- The Prediction of the Future Probable Distribution of the Day-time Working Population of Greater Durban. (This study is also being undertaken on behalf of the Traffic Consultants of the Durban Corporation, for the same purposes as the previous study).
- A Study of the Retail Shopping Facilities in Durban and Pinetown, with a view to indicating the Probable Future Patterns of Shopping Decentralisation. (This study is being undertaken on behalf of the Planning Consultants to the Durban Corporation, and has a bearing on the changing patterns of demand for land in the central business district and other areas of Durban and Pinetown).
- A Study of the Housing Preferences, Rent-Paying Capacity and Living Patterns of Urban Africans. (This study is essentially a housing survey being undertaken for the National Building Research Institute, and will cover most of the largest urban areas in the Republic.)

Several studies are being undertaken by Senior Geography Students in Durban. (These include a study of the Central Indian Business District in Durban, and the Analysis of Towns along the Main Railway Line from Durban to the Interior).

It will be seen that the research relating to urban matters covers a very wide field, ranging from planning problems and population projections, to ecological and geographical analyses of towns. Several of the studies dovetail together, dealing with a common broad theme, while other of the studies form independent investigations into particular aspects of urban development and patterns of living. At the time of writing, over one dozen research workers are engaged on the various projects, and when several of them (which are in the planning stage at present) reach fieldwork, the number of investigators will temporarily double. In fact, the investigations in the urban field form the largest single broad category of research currently being undertaken by the Institute.

Situated in Durban, the Institute for Social Research is very well placed for undertaking urban investigations. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that Durban is close to important rural areas, and provides excellent opportunities for undertaking research into a variety of rural problems. Indeed, at least two of the research projects currently being undertaken involve rural peoples. There is scope for much greater research in this field, so that it would be a pity if we concentrated on urban investigations to the neglect of the rural counterparts.



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