

Botha's empire to crumble

By JAMES KADYAMPAKANI

THE HIGH POINT REACHED by the violence today can be traced back through South Africa's history. In the early 50's the African National Congress (ANC) was transformed into a mass movement encompassing all classes among the oppressed African majority; the defiance campaign pushed membership from 7,000 to around 100,000. In the 50's, too, the Congress Alliance was put together, uniting White, Indian and Coloured democrats. In 1955, midway through a decade of campaigning, came the promulgation of the freedom charter. The freedom charter was not drawn in racial isolation as the supporters of Apartheid tend to argue. The liberation struggle in South Africa has never been against the white population. It is against an oppressive regime and its supporters.

In 1960 after the pass laws campaign and the Sharpsville massacre, the ANC was banned. As a result, the ANC was forced to go underground. From the 1970's the tide began swinging against South Africa's repressive regime; working class actions, the victories in Mozambique, Angola and then Zimbabwe in the early 80's and the Soweto uprising, all created a flood of confidence among Africans in the liberation struggle.

For the last ten months we have seen demonstrations by all races in South Africa society. Prominent businessmen have observed that talking to the ANC is the only way peace can be achieved. It seems business has decided it had better try to negotiate its future in case the white regime decides to hold on until it crashes in revolutionary flames. The violence in South Africa is staged primarily by blacks but supported by a minority of whites who would like to see a future for their children in a country shared more equitably by all those who live in it. Indeed from a time when they divided the ANC's effectiveness, South African officials now give it almost preternatural attributes. The South African police have accused the liberation fighters of organizing "a unique type of rioting, not encountered anywhere in the world". The township rebellions and the attacks on military installations are driving the regime's armed forces into a corner. The South African defence forces have been openly called in to support police units in the urban heartland.

Despite all the rioting and violence in South Africa, the regime still believes that it can maintain apartheid by using force. Decaying and collapsing social systems have been known throughout history to turn their operations and defenders blind. In fact, the refusal or inability of leaders to see the crisis in their system is often the first indication that the end of the system, together with the incumbent leaders, may be approaching. This historical axiom is being demonstrated in the pronouncements of the South African apartheid leader Pieter

Botha.

Botha has boasted that not only will black majority rule not be possible in his life time but, also that the apartheid system itself will survive another 300 years. Botha talks like Ian Smith of Rhodesia on the eve of his defeat. This apparently arrogant pronouncement is coming at a time when thousands of black South African youths are up in arms against the regime, when hundreds of whites, Indians and Coloureds are agitating for the end of the inhuman system, when leading South African businessmen and white opposition parties are meeting with the banned ANC, when the weight of the world opinion is heavily against the regime and when the economy of the enclave is collapsing. In short, when the apartheid's eve of defeat is near. Botha is fiddling while his citadel burns.

South Africa's apartheid is in its last stage of existence. It can neither evolve any new form nor can it continue in this present one. All so-called "reforms" introduced in the last two years by the regime have collapsed as soon as they were announced, each having been idly rejected, at home and abroad. Meanwhile, not only are the black masses becoming more resolute in their armed struggle, the privileged whites are also becoming increasingly impatient with the regime's failure to read the handwriting on the wall and negotiate future security.

Experience elsewhere in Africa has demonstrated that the greater

the degree of violence which is necessary to achieve liberation, the more radical and Marxist-oriented and the more committed to social equity the succeeding black government has been. If the axiom holds good for South Africa, then Botha is assuring a future of the bleakest kind for his people. If the succeeding black government is totally committed to social equity at the expense of economic efficiency, then the white race has immense sacrifices ahead. The whites in South Africa enjoy a standard of living unequalled in the modern world. If they hope to maintain even a fraction of it, they had better begin negotiating in earnest now. The life span of Botha's empire may in his deranged mind continue to increase as its final collapse approaches. This is an expression of his fears just as it is the signal of the approaching triumph of the revolution.

Student subsidies

By ANDREW SIMMS

THERE IS A LARGE GAP between the actual financial cost (A.F.C.) borne by university students per academic year and the amount they receive in subsidies.

Due to society's vested interest in producing skilled labour for its work force, students should and could be further subsidized to close this gap between their A.F.C. and the present government subsidies.

Thus Jane's GAP, \$3,964.00, is a large capital drain, a disincen-

tive to completing university and is in many cases the reason for

Canada is a highly technological society, one of the most advanced in the world, and therefore requires an increasing number of skilled workers to maintain its world standing, and our present standard of living.

A person entering this work force must be equipped with the necessary skills to fill these positions.

Learning these skills, by such means as attending university, is therefore a benefit to both the individual and society.

A university student may be defined as a person who is being trained to assume a skilled job, and therefore a higher paying job.

At this point, a number of basic assumptions are necessary to facilitate a clear argument. Jane, a fictional Dalhousie Arts and Science student, lives away from home during both the school term and the remainder of the year.

Room and board costs are not included in the A.F.C. calculations, as these costs would still be incurred if Jane was in the work-force full-time.

Jane receives no parental contribution or any other form of financial assistance, except available subsidies of which she accepts maximum entitlement.

It is now possible to determine Jane's A.F.C., as well as her GAP.

Jane's A.F.C. subtotal is \$1,798.00. Her foregone earnings add up to \$7,436.00. Therefore her total A.F.C. is equal to \$9,234.00. When the maximum subsidy is subtracted from the total A.F.C., the total GAP is equal to \$3,964.00.

financial hardships.

Since society has a vested interest in Jane completing university and then assuming a skilled job, the GAP should be subsidized by society, preferably in the form of a grant.

If the proposed subsidy increases were in the form of a loan, the result would be a capital drain after graduation that could raise Jane's costs to a point that her returns after expenses would not be high enough to make the option of university a feasible one.

If you go to a bank for a car loan, you make a down payment and are financed for the remainder of the purchase price. The loan is then repaid in installments to the bank which receives a return on its investment by way of interest charges.

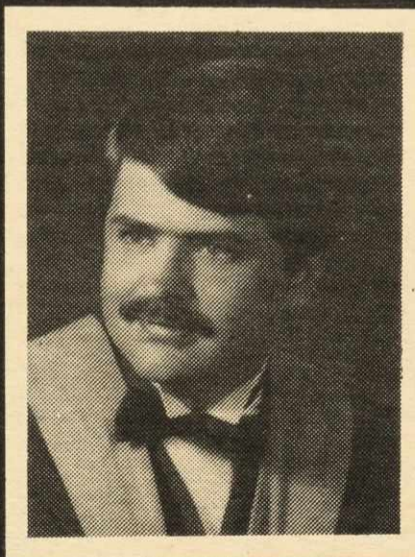
Jane has made a down payment on her schooling, just as the car buyer has on his or her new car. The car buyer is then financed for the balance of the purchase price, so should the student be subsidized for his GAP.

The bank regains its money, plus interest.

Society would regain its total financial cost after Jane graduates, enters the work force, and pays higher taxes than she would have without an education due to the salary difference between skilled and unskilled labour.

If the government were to adopt a GAP type subsidy for university students it would end the capital drain and financial hardship now experienced by the majority of students, and GAP subsidies would be of very little, if any, financial cost to society, in the long run.

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