

Extract from Donald Woods, *Biko*, Paddington Press, 1978, page 40. Woods was an anti-apartheid journalist. Here he is discussing his lack of success in persuading whites to abandon apartheid. The Federal Party was a political party which opposed apartheid.

The Federal party nominated me ... for election in a parliamentary constituency, but

the white electorate was horrified at the idea of a non-racial franchise, which would lead in time to black majority rule, and I lost the election utterly, polling fewer than a thousand votes. Being twenty-three and resilient, I was undismayed. Concluding that it would be a long time before white voters could be persuaded to scrap apartheid, I quit the white political party and went into journalism. If I couldn't convert my fellow whites with oratory I would try to do so with the pen! That at least was the intention ... Today, twenty years later, and having written an estimated million words or more against apartheid, I acknowledge the effort has not been crowned with success. People are reluctant to abandon their prejudices, especially a minority of whites fearful of an overwhelming majority of blacks, and although there has been an increase in the number of whites rejecting apartheid, the majority of South Africans remain committed to it.
