

19 FEB 1959

DATE.....

RAND DAILY MAIL

HUMILITY

THERE are some comments that can be made on the report yesterday concerning an apology made by a Transvaal judge to the Bantu nation for an attitude of haughtiness he had at one time adopted towards African people.

First, his official position as a judge was in any way involved, and if any consideration is given at all to his title, it can only be that the Bench is fortunate in having the services of a man of such high moral principles, such sensitivity of mind and such Christian humility. Secondly, he was addressing an informal gathering in an atmosphere of religious discussion and his words were such as come from a man without personal feelings. Finally, although he referred to himself as an Affrikaner, his statement of having been indifferent and superior towards Black people could as well have applied to almost every White person in this country.

Cultural and educational advantages, administrative and technical skills are possessed, on average, in very different degrees by White people and Black people. But there is no justification for such advantages being so commonly expressed in superior or inconsiderate attitudes. True quality of spirit is essentially humble and reveals itself in this guise.