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Dave Marks

I MUST say I found Mr Owen Coetzer's interview with Dave Marks most interesting and 100% true and correct.

I am producing some of the talent here in Cape Town using my own funds and have found myself in the same boat as Dave Marks and I am sinking fast.

The S.A. record companies are destroying the soul of the cream of S.A.'s talent, and boy we've got plenty. Something has got to be done and fast!

Maybe some record company executive will read of the dissatisfaction via your great magazine and wake up.

Richard H. Fowler — Cape Town

I WOULD like to thank Owen Coetzer for bringing us some of the views of Dave Marks. It is patently clear that the interview was cooked between Owen and Dave, and there's nothing wrong with that. Dave's views should have been aired a long time ago, and I hope that those who run our record companies read *Variety*.

What got my shackles up, though, was the way in which Owen led the interview. I would have preferred a monologue, because the questions kept on intruding on what Dave was saying, distracting and annoying.

Example: Dave Marks says, 'They should tell

the managements to get stuffed and the groups should not be employed by agents unless fifty per cent of the music has local content or is original', and instead of pursuing this fascinating idea further, Owen asks 'What about groups who write just to be recorded?', and we go on to the next subject.

Another example: Dave talks about an awakening of South Africanism — Herman Bosman and all that, and Owen goes on to how bad the SABC is!

Just one more: Marks: This just proves my point that nothing short of violent means is going to get rid of the people at the top.

Coetzer: And what about a workshop?

What about the *weather*, dammit! That's just about the most provocative statement I've heard from a musician in this country — sounds like he's ready to take a sawn-off shotgun to the record company heads — and you get urgently interested in workshops!

Do yourself a favour, Owen — add up Marks' remarks on unions, the stranglehold of big business, exploitation of the little man and ... hey, *Castrol*!

As it is, either you missed the innuendo altogether, or you were nervous scared of all those pink concepts. Either way, rather than some straight talk from Marks, the two of you reminded me of disgruntled old spinsters crying on each other's shoulder, hatching a plot to murder rich uncle Charlie ...

But after all that grumbling, thanks anyway. Owen deserves credit for bringing us the real, consciousness-raising issues, and I hope that he will continue to do so — if it's the only way I can get it, I'll take it any way Owen dishes it up, and I thank *Variety* for publishing it.

Grateful — Durban