

# PASS BOOKS FOR WOMEN ISSUED IN WINBURG

## AFRICANS BLUFFED BY VERWOERD'S OFFICIALS

JOHANNESBURG.—WHILE WOMEN IN DURBAN, CAPE TOWN, JOHANNESBURG AND OTHER AREAS WERE STEPPING UP THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PASS LAWS, VERWOERD'S OFFICIALS LAST WEEK LAUNCHED THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE AFRICAN PEOPLE BY STARTING THE ISSUE OF PASS BOOKS FOR WOMEN AT WINBURG, IN THE FREE STATE.

By the beginning of this week 1,429 African women in Winburg had been issued with pass books, and the Native Affairs Department teams and local authorities were patting themselves on the back that they had managed to bluff and bamboozle the women into believing that they were not really passes!

### THE GIRL THEY WENT ON STRIKE FOR



CAPE TOWN.

Four hundred canning workers at Grabouw, Western Cape, came out on a lightning strike last Thursday, because they were under the mistaken impression that Miss Becky Lan, acting general secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, was in jail.

(Miss Lan's appeal against her sentence under the Suppression of Communism Act was dismissed in the Bloemfontein Appellate Division on Monday. Her sentence of 3 months' imprisonment, however, was suspended for 3 years.)

The Grabouw workers refused to take the word of Labour Department officials that Miss Lan was not in jail. They also refused to speak to their union's head office in Capri town, the factory manager's telephone, saying it was a trick to get them into the factory. Instead, they said, they would walk down to the village and telephone their union from there.

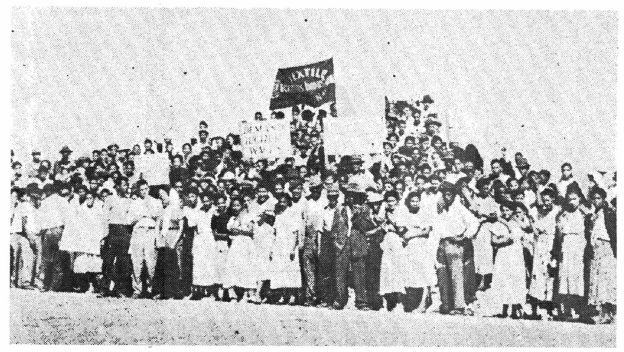
Only when Miss Lan arrived at the factory in person in the afternoon did the workers go back to work. Her arrival was greeted with cheers and clapping.

Mr. B. January, official of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, explained their mistake to the workers at a brief but enthusiastic meeting—Becky Lan being prohibited from addressing the workers in terms of a banning notice under the Suppression of Communism Act.

The next Free State towns marked down for the issue of passes to women are Excelsior and Westminster, both due to be visited this week by N.A.D. teams, which will later return to Winburg again. It is rumoured Ladybrand and Verkeerdelei will be next, but these N.A.D. plans could easily be altered.

The reference book issued to the women is six and a half inches by three and a half inches in size and contains 48 pages within a hard black cover. The women must pay 3/6 for this book and their photograph and also a type of nurse-wallet supplied with a double cord for the women to wear strung from their shoulders or round their necks.

Some of the textile workers who were on strike in Worcester last week.



### 4-Day Strike Wins

# BIG GAINS FOR 1,200 TEXTILE WORKERS

CAPE TOWN.—Twelve hundred Coloured and African workers, men and women, standing firmly together in complete unity, last week staged one of the biggest and most successful strikes in the history of Worcester and the Western Cape.

### Nats. Exploit Coloureds' Opera Triumph —Page 6

The book provides for entries almost identical with those required in the men's pass books. Three of the sections are virtually the same: Those for Labour Bureau efflux and

(Continued on page 8)

## "OPPOSE ALL PASSES!" URGE WOMEN'S LEADERS

All over South Africa last week women of all races were stepping up the campaign of

### Johannesburg

"OPPOSE ALL PASS LAWS!" SAID THE FEDERATION OF WOMEN IN A STATEMENT LAST WEEK WHEN THE FIRST ISSUE OF PASSES FOR WOMEN WAS ANNOUNCED FROM WINBURG.

In the name of the 2,000 men and women who gathered together on March 11 in opposition to the pass laws, the Transvaal Region of the Federation of S.A. Women condemned the action of the Government in imposing passes upon the African women of Winburg.

"The blitz methods employed in putting upon Winburg, the confessed secrecy for fear of organised resistance, confirms the real truth that this Government is aware of the nationwide opposition of the

African women to passes.

"It can achieve its fascist purpose only by creeping like a thief in the night to take women unawares.

"The Federation sees in this despicable action the first step towards the enslavement of the African women, and calls upon women of all races to intensify the campaign against passes for women, and to oppose all pass laws."

### Durban

A deputation of over 200 women, representing the majority of Durban districts, marched to the Native Commissioner last week, without the necessary appointment, to tell him to inform the Minister of Native Affairs, that the African women here do not want passes at

(Continued on page 8)

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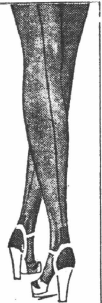
After four days strike action, the workers at Hex River Textile Mills, Worcester, were able, through their trade union, to wrest substantial increases from bosses, who in 18 months of previous negotiation had been prepared to concede only 1s. a week increase for workers with five years service.

- The benefits include:
  - Weekly increases ranging from 1s. 7d. to over 5s., with, in some grades, additional quarterly increases over the next two years. The increases range from 7 1/2% to 10%, and the average increase per worker is 3s. per week.
  - An additional 1s. per week, over and above these increases, for all workers with 5 years and more employment in the factory.
  - Free overalls for all workers.
  - The employers and the union agreed to the establishing of a sick fund.
  - The principle of establishing an Industrial Council for the worsted section of the textile industry in the Cape was also accepted.
  - There was to be no victimisation. All workers were to be re-instated.

(Continued on page 2)

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# .. 'I'M ONLY BUT A LABOURER!'

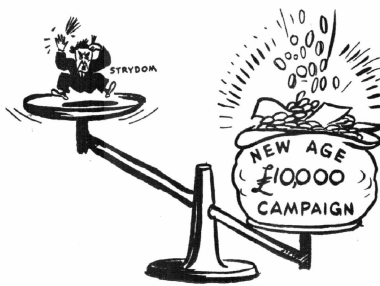
"I'm forwarding you the contribution of mine. I understand what you said, the paper is only living through the people. When I could afford it, I use to give. But now seeing that I'm not in a position to give as I use to give. You must consider that I'm a man of 75 years of age, and I'm only in a labourer. As you know yourself in Africa the Coloured is the worst of any, but when I can afford I will give."

The above is an extract from a letter which accompanied a donation of fourteen shillings sent to us by an old Coloured reader who lives—and still has to work—in a remote village, far from the stimulating currents of the mass political movement in the big cities. For him, the very existence of New Age is a guarantee that future generations will not have to suffer the oppression and hardships which he has had to bear throughout his life.

We thank him from the bottom of our hearts for the outstanding tribute he has paid our paper. We know all our readers will join with us in wishing him long life and a happy old age in a truly People's Democratic South Africa.

In Cape Town, over the weekend, a children's-party-cum-Bring-and-Buy sale raised the useful sum of £18 6s. The unhibited, care-free enjoyment of the kiddies of all races gave the lie direct to Nationalist apartheid nonsense.

Two Johannesburg readers, who normally give us £2 per month, have stepped up their contribu-



tion to £5 per month for the duration of our campaign. What about a few others following their example?

Do you remember our telling you about the shipment of newspaper we had to order in a hurry in order to beat the world-wide shortage? Well, it is due to arrive within the next two or three weeks. We shall be in serious trouble if we do not have enough cash on hand to pay for it promptly when it lands in the docks.

So please, GIVE US YOUR MONEY NOW! Help push our total up to a minimum of £10,000 by the end of the month. Remember that the success or failure of

our campaign is a matter of life or death for our paper.

## THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS

APV £5; Kay 5s.; Old Friends £50; Old Friend £25; Alan £25; Anon £2.10; Anon £5; A.M. £5; H.H. £10; Wellwisher £10; A.T. 9s.; Non 1s.; R.M. 9s.; Mica 21s.; Visitors £50; Anon £5; E.A.R. 5s.; I.O.W. 14s.; N.L. 9s.; L.M.B. £1.17; S.N. 4s.; F.C.-P. £2; Cyprus £2; Bring and Buy £18.6; Nonville £5; Unity £2.2.

Previously Acknowledged — £285 9 8  
Total this week — £276 11 0

TOTAL TO DATE £493 0 8

## ADVISORY BOARD CONFERENCE REJECTS RENT INCREASES

### JOHANNESBURG.

The Johannesburg Joint Advisory Board conference where the slogan was "asina mal"—we have no money for high rents—was too large to be accommodated in the Orlando Communal Hall, so the 700 from all Johannesburg's locations and townships including site and service schemes moved out of the hall to hold the conference in the open air, and there unanimously rejected the increased rents.

The resolutions said the increases were unwarranted and totally un-

acceptable, called on the Advisory Boards to fight the increases using "all legal methods," also rejected all laws restricting the Africans' freedom of movement and deplored the extension of the pass laws to women. They also called for a Wage Board inquiry in all industries to review current wage determinations and agreements.

Johannesburg's manager of the Native Affairs Department sent his apologies and those of the Mayor and said his committee would discuss the conference's decisions, but did not accept his apologies.

Presiding, Mr. P. M. Lengene

said: "This land belongs to us not only as South Africans but also by birth. Yet our rulers are prepared to make us pay high rents."

Mr. G. G. Norrie attacked the new Bill which will prevent Africans having rent increases upset in Court. One after another spokesmen from George Coetz, Moroka, Pirbright, Orlando site and service, Eastern Native Township and Western Native Township spoke against the rent increases.

Mr. Leslie Massina spoke for the organised African workers in their opposition to higher rents. "Let us join our organisations in thousands," urged Western Native Township Board member, P. Q. Vundla.

## GWETSHE ACQUITTED

**MAKING.**—The courtroom crowded with Africans cheered when exiled leader Alcott S. Gwetshe was last week found not guilty of contravening the Governor-General's order of deportation.

Gwetshe was charged with having defied the order of deportation in general that he should stay on the farm Frenchdale in the district of Mafeking, to which centre he was deported after his exile from Bushbuckridge in the Transvaal.

In terms of the deportation order Gwetshe had to live in Mafeking in a place pointed out to him by the Native Commissioner. In court the Native Commissioner Mr. van Rensburg said that on Gwetshe's arrival at Frenchdale he had been taken out two huts for his occupation.

Under cross-examination by Mr. J. Slovo, appearing for Gwetshe, Mr. van Rensburg admitted that three days after Gwetshe's arrival he had complained to him that the huts were not fit for human habitation. He then allowed Gwetshe to stay in the Labour Dept. hut for a few days. He said Gwetshe had also complained about the state of the Depot.

The Native Commissioner told the court under cross-examination that it was improbable, but he could

not deny that he had told Gwetshe that he could stay at any place in the Mafeking district which he could find.

Another deportee who gave evidence for the Crown said under cross-examination that in cold and rainy weather it was impossible for Gwetshe to live in the huts allocated to him by the Native Commissioner. He said that Gwetshe had spent a few nights with him just after his arrival because the deportees had no work, nothing to eat and were starving.

The magistrate found that Gwetshe's evidence to the effect that he had been given permission to stay at Frenchdale was true. He said that Gwetshe could reasonably be true. He found Gwetshe not guilty and discharged him.

(Footnote: Deportees confined to the farm Frenchdale in the Mafeking district include not only Congress leader Gwetshe from East, London, but also men from Wirzieshoek and Kingwilliamstown and a group of Church of Zion followers.)

## BIG GAINS FOR TEXTILE WORKERS

(Continued from page 1)

The strike began on Monday morning of last week when 900 Coloured workers went on strike in support of their union's demands, which the employers had consistently turned down.

At that stage, the 400 African workers in the factory were not on strike—they went to work with the full support of the Coloured workers, who realised that the Africans might face prosecution in terms of the Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act, should they join the strike.

When I visited the strikers on Tuesday they were in high spirits. They had not been intimidated in the slightest by the presence of police at the factory, or by the strike notice on the factory gate, declaring that there were 900 vacancies in the factory, i.e. that all the strikers had been dismissed.

But it was after this notice, threatening the jobs of the 900 Coloured strikers, that the African workers came out the following day. So, on the Wednesday morning, A.L. the workers in the factory were out, and their presence was at a complete standstill.

At midday on Wednesday, 242

## Editorial

### THE WARNING OF WORCESTER

THE Worcester strike of textile workers provides startling evidence of the way in which Nationalist legislation is intended to hamstring the labour movement.

The strike broke out because the management had refused to grant the workers the wage increase they had demanded. Both the management and the trade union had gone through the conciliation procedures laid down in the Industrial Conciliation Act without being able to reach agreement. Thus, when the union called its members out on strike it was perfectly legal for them to do so.

The union, being a registered union, does not include African workers, and consists for the most part of Coloured and European workers. In terms of the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act it is illegal for Africans to go out on strike under any circumstances. Had the African textile workers in Worcester followed the procedures laid down in the Act, they would have been compelled to act as strike-breakers when their fellow-workers went on strike. The law required them to be at work while it was in the interests of their fellow-workers that they should not.

So long as the African workers remained at work, it was possible for the management to defy the union and the other workers who were on strike. It was only when the Africans came out that the bosses were forced to give in and accept the union's conditions for a return to work.

The lessons to be drawn from this are obvious.

● First of all, it is only working-class solidarity that can weld the unity needed to make the bosses see reason.

● Conversely, if workers are split on racial lines, their bargaining power vis a vis the bosses is greatly weakened—and that goes for European workers too.

● Thirdly, the splitting of workers on racial lines, far from leading to harmony as the Nationalists claim, can only lead to mutual suspicion and race hatred. No worker who is on strike can stomach a scab, and if the scab belongs to a different racial group, it is easy to understand that race hatred can be generated.

● The Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act, which makes criminals of African workers who go on strike, no matter what the circumstances, must be repealed.

● Finally, the Industrial Conciliation Bill at present being discussed in Parliament, which provides for the splitting of the trade union movement from top to bottom on racial lines, can only lead to a worsening of the position of all workers, White and Non-White, an intensification of race hatred, and a strengthening of the position of the bosses. The Worcester strike proves why.

The workers of South Africa, White and Non-White, must recognise that the road of racial disunity leads to disaster for all. It is not too late to launch an all-out struggle to prevent the I.C. Bill becoming law, and to fight to the end against the Nationalists' apartheid plans.

As an indispensable weapon in this struggle, all workers must strive to strengthen the only non-colour-bar trade union centre, the South African Congress of Trade Unions, so that it will become the indispensable leader of the South African labour movement, capable of leading the workers in the bitter struggles which undoubtedly lie ahead of them.

workers went back, declaring that they would go out on strike again immediately if no satisfactory agreement was reached.

Negotiations between the union and the employers were then resumed. After the union had turned down the employer's offer of a 5 per cent increase as "not reasonable enough," a final settlement was reached.

"This strike was one of the most successful I have ever experienced," the strikers had me with very good response. Up to the end of last week, 560 had been collected in Worcester alone. Textile factories in other areas have sent in donations, as have other trade unions, and SACTU has promised all possible support of the people of Worcester."

The union's appeal for funds for the strikers has met with very good response. Up to the end of last week, 560 had been collected in Worcester alone. Textile factories in other areas have sent in donations, as have other trade unions, and SACTU has promised all possible support of the people of Worcester."

The Textile Workers' Industrial Union and the African Textile Workers' Industrial Union will be jointly responsible for the defence of those workers arrested in terms of the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act.

On Thursday the employers offered, in writing, to grant reasonable wage increases and at a meeting on Thursday evening the workers agreed to be back on the job at 5 a.m. the following day. But it was not till 9 that the

NAOMI SHAPIRO.

# BY THEE DULLES

NEW DELHI.—Garlands and cheering crowds were conspicuously absent when U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles arrived here last week. He was met at the airport only by Syed Muhumud, Minister of External Affairs, and a few other Government officials.

## SO UNIVERSAL HAS BEEN THE OPPOSITION TO THE S.E.A.T.O. MEETING FROM WHICH HE CAME, THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT SEATO COULD BE AS DISASTROUS FOR THE U.S. IN ASIA, AS THE BAGDAD PACT WAS FOR BRITAIN IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

In a brief speech Dulles said that basically there were no differences between India and the United States. When an Indian pressman asked him to explain in the light of this remark his recent anti-Indian statements on Kashmir and Goa he brushed aside the question and hurriedly entered his car.

Dulles could not have chosen "a more inauspicious time for his visit," the Press Trust of India noted, reporting that Dulles' statement the previous day to SEATO attacking the Indian stance on Kashmir "is strongly resented."

The U.S. Secretary of State could not have taken much comfort from the newspapers he read when he reached his hotel suite.

**HAPPY HUNTING GROUND**  
Dulles "is set upon turning our sub-continent into a happy hunting ground for the cold-war strategists," declared the Hindustan Standard, the Congress newspaper.

The paper added that Dulles had embarked on a "policy of breaking down India's will by direct and indirect means." He was bent on using the SEATO and Bagdad war pact in order to push India into a tight corner.

"The danger lurking behind this policy of encirclement should be carefully weighed by all those who value and take pride in India's present independent status in world affairs," the paper said. "If Dulles thinks that by mounting up pressures and threats around India's borders he can exact a heavy price for our neutral policy, then he must be frankly told what India intends to do."

(The conservative) Times of India wrote: "The consensus of opinion in New Delhi appears to be that Dulles has 'baited' India's feelings by his provocative performance at Karachi and thereby brought Indian-American relations, unassisted as they have been, to crucial cross-roads."

The Standard also carried on its front page a cartoon depicting Dulles clad in steel armour with sharp spikes sticking out marked NATO, SEATO, MEDO, Kashmir, etc., and stretching out both arms to Nehru, with the words: "Let's embrace and be friends."  
In Blitz, Dulles read a message of greeting in the name of peace and freedom to the "coldest of all cold warriors of America."

"You refused to accept the most glorious fact of contemporary Asian history in the emergence of China as a free republic," said Blitz. "You fought two wars against Asian resurgence—one in Korea, the other in Indo-China—to the bitter end of defeat for your arms and disaster for your prestige."

**ASIANS AGAINST ASIANS**  
Not satisfied, you proceeded to push your master plan of making

## INDONESIA'S REACTIONARIES ARE OUT

DIAKARTA.—Following the decision of Indonesia's opposition parties, which now have the support of the overwhelming majority of the population, to boycott parliament (New Age last week), the U.S. puppet Majumud Government has been forced to resign.

President Sukarno has called on all Sastroamidjojo whose National Party won more votes than any other single party, to form a government. During the elections the National Party stood together with the Communist Party in a broad coalition to defeat the Masjumi.

Asked about the foreign policy of the new government, Sastroamidjojo replied: "As I was the one who took the initiative to organise the

Asians fight Asians by organising the war pacts, bringing America's defence perimeter on Asian shores forward from Seoul to Singapore and from Istanbul to Karachi."

In Parliament, replying to the demand of a number of deputies that the SEATO conference be discussed and rejected, Nehru declared that he agreed that the threat to India was a "serious matter."

**SEATO REJECTED**  
Referring to the SEATO conference itself, the Hindustan Times said: "If the general charge against the SEATO pact is that it brings the cold war nearer to the Asian countries, the references to Kashmir and Pakistan would appear to bear it out." The standard now attacks as being "full of implied threats against

# HOW THE AFRICAN WORKERS ARE ROBBED

(By a Special Correspondent)  
**"THE worker is worth only what he can earn; and that is a lesson that I am far from convinced that African trade union leaders have learned . . . In the minds of many of the African trade unionists, the whole purpose of the trade union is to obtain more pay for the same amount of work. This must be broken down, and, in the main by the A.T.U. as being movement itself."**—Sir Roy Welensky, Deputy Prime Minister of the Central African Federation, in a recent B.B.C. broadcast.

The worker is worth only what he can earn! Perhaps this cash criterion is the only basis on which Sir Roy Welensky estimates the value of a worker. But to trade unionists such a basis is unacceptable. Look around you, Sir Roy. Everything you see—houses and factories, bridges and locomotives, cars, ships and planes, the most complicated machines and the most delicate handicrafts—all are created by the hands-of-working men and women.

**NO PRICE**  
There is no price for the working man. He is the most precious capital on earth, for it is his labour, his energy and his intelligence which create all this wealth.

How worth only what they can earn, Sir Roy?

### CONSIDER PROFITS ALONE

Now, let us look at Northern Rhodesia, which is the territory Sir Roy has very much in mind when he made the above statement. But for the purpose of our argument, we won't even take the whole wealth which the worker creates, but only a part of it, the surplus or gross profit, which goes to the employers and shareholders in the form of dividends and to the government in taxes.

Figures of the big copper-producing companies in Northern Rhodesia, together with other information now available, show that the big copper companies control 90 per cent of the production of the Rhodesian Selection Trust and the British-South African controlled Anglo-American Corporation,

## S.E.A.T.O. MEETING FROM WHICH HE CAME, THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT SEATO COULD BE AS DISASTROUS FOR THE U.S. IN ASIA, AS THE BAGDAD PACT WAS FOR BRITAIN IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

India." It declared: "The real face of the so-called 'regional defence alliance' SEATO is clearly seen."  
Said the Times of India: "Everything that has happened during the three-day session of SEATO confirms the suspicion that this ill-conceived organisation is a threat to the peace and stability of South-East Asia."

The Bengali daily, Jugantar, declared that the Western powers "masquerading in the name of peace and democracy have been indirectly threatening India on the Kashmir and Goa issues through regional military alliances. But India will not be perturbed or frightened in this war of nerves."

### NOT INDIA ONLY

The violent outburst of anger at the SEATO pact has not been confined to India. It was echoed in Burma, where the Rangoon Daily declared "The Asian nations will not be shocked by Dulles' talk of a 'communist threat' and an



Indonesia where Herian Rajkat declared editorially, "Peace and security in South-East Asia will never be guaranteed as long as SEATO exists."

After three days in India which could not have been the most pleasant of his many travels, Mr. Dulles was disappointed if he expected a happier welcome in Indonesia. Crowds there at the airport, but they were carrying banners and shouting "Down with Dulles; down with SEATO." The press was as hostile as that in India.

## U.S. Negroes Fight Segregation

JOHANNESBURG.

In the southern states of the U.S.A. law and order have broken down. A public climate has been created in which a Negro's life is worth no more than a white man's whim, writes a Negro contributor in the latest issue of Fighting Talk, magazine, Louis E. Burnham, editor of Paul Robeson's paper "Freedom", and a well-known Negro youth leader, discusses the fight for Negro equality in the States, and the civil rights crisis there.

The March issue of Fighting Talk carries also an article "Time for Outcry" by G. Mbeki, on the Transkei-Uskei famine; an article by E. R. Braverman on the Industrial Conciliation Bill and the need for a struggle of workers of all races; an article on the attainment of independence by the Sudan; an article by an African nurse on the struggles of Africa against Apartheid; the text of Kruschov's speech on foreign policy to the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; and an article on Lobengula, which is the second in a series on personalities in African history.

Fighting Talk is obtainable at 6d. copy from P.O. Box 1355 Johannesburg.

the vast profits which they produce, there is a strong demand to meet the wage demands of African workers throughout the Continent. This is increasingly being understood by African workers and that is why recent strikes in a whole number of African territories have been conducted with such unity and tenacity.

**MINIMUM WAGE**  
That is why the African National Congress recently issued a statement demanding a minimum wage of £1 a day for all workers in South Africa. The White supremacists laughed, called it "unrealistic" and "un-African."

But look at the figures again. Even £1 a day would be less than the African earns for his bosses in profits.

And that is why the Congress of the People incorporated in the Freedom Charter the demand that "The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth." This section of the Charter reads:

"The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people;

"The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;  
"All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people;

"All the wealth of the land shall be equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions."

## India-China Trade

NEW DELHI.

The increase in trade between India and China during the past year has been breathtaking. In the first ten months of 1955 India's exports to China increased more than 50 per cent with the corresponding period in the previous year and her imports increased 37 times.

In the same period China's exports to Burma increased 23 times, and her imports 25 times.

**POLISH ENGINEERS** have been awarded the contract to plan the rehabilitation of the Heilong railway line, which runs for more than 500 miles between Damansuc in Syria and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

They were submitted by fourteen other countries, but Poland's offer was the most competitive.



"By Allah! look at the impertinent foreigners entering OUR territory! Let's punish 'em by not having anything to do with 'em . . . ."  
(Vicky in the New Statesman)



# STALIN COULD READ A MAP

SO frightened do the reactionaries appear to have been by "the atmosphere of strength and self-assurance" (Alsop Brothers) shown at the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party and the signs that "the Soviet Union is now set to outstrip the industrial production of the Western powers" (London Times) that they have now set up an almost unprecedented smoke-screen to hide what actually happened.

## World Stage by Spector

They are putting out bulletins which are capable of being used by a public brought up on a diet of American horror comics. A correspondent in Bonn has "released" an alleged secret speech by Mr. Kruschov, and the Press would have us believe that he said that Stalin could not read a map and conducted the war from a school globe! (If the mighty Nazi armies, which had never before been halted, let alone defeated, were destroyed by a Soviet army under the command of a man who was conducting operations from a school globe, Stalin must indeed have been a military genius.)

**EPILEPTIC FITS!**  
They would have the public believe that the story of Stalin's misdeeds was so horrifying that the hardened Bolsheviks at the Congress fell writhing on the floor in epileptic fits. And they would have us believe—reporting the event 8 days later—that the city of Tiflis, capital of Georgia, had been in revolt! Some feat that to have kept this revolt secret for 8 days. Now it is perfectly true that there was severe criticism of some aspects of the previous work of the Soviet Communist Party levelled by delegates at the Congress. This kind of criticism is a well-known characteristic of discussions in socialist countries which has been commented on time and again in the western press. And the aspect of previous activities which came under the heaviest fire was "the cult of the individual."

**COLLECTIVE LEAD**  
The Congress emphasised strongly that it considered that "collective leadership" and that it was wrong to build up an individual as a kind of superman. Soviet Vice-premier Mikoyan, at we reported two weeks ago, drew attention to the fact that for the past twenty years there had been the cult of the individual instead of collective leadership.

He said:  
"For some 20 years we actually had no collective leadership, and the cult of the individual prevailed. And this naturally could not fail to have an extremely adverse effect

on the situation in the party and on its activities. Now that for the past three years collective leadership has been restored, we feel the increasingly beneficial influence of it."

**STALIN REFERENCE**  
Later in his speech, Mikoyan made his only direct reference to Stalin when he said: "In analysing the economic situation of present-day capitalism it is doubtful whether we get any help from Stalin's thesis in the Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R. or whether it is correct—in relation to the U.S., Britain and France—that, with the break-up of the world market the volume of production in these countries will shrink." This assertion does not explain the complex and contradictory phenomena of present-day capitalism and the fact of the growth of capitalist production in many countries since the war.

Mikoyan also suggested that there should be "a profound study and critical re-examination" of other aspects of his work.  
But, of course, these criticisms leave unaffected the main thesis of the speech. It is clear that he would have us believe that he said that Stalin could not read a map and conducted the war from a school globe! (If the mighty Nazi armies, which had never before been halted, let alone defeated, were destroyed by a Soviet army under the command of a man who was conducting operations from a school globe, Stalin must indeed have been a military genius.)

**EPILEPTIC FITS!**  
They would have the public believe that the story of Stalin's misdeeds was so horrifying that the hardened Bolsheviks at the Congress fell writhing on the floor in epileptic fits. And they would have us believe—reporting the event 8 days later—that the city of Tiflis, capital of Georgia, had been in revolt! Some feat that to have kept this revolt secret for 8 days. Now it is perfectly true that there was severe criticism of some aspects of the previous work of the Soviet Communist Party levelled by delegates at the Congress. This kind of criticism is a well-known characteristic of discussions in socialist countries which has been commented on time and again in the western press. And the aspect of previous activities which came under the heaviest fire was "the cult of the individual."

**INSULT**  
It is an insult to the intelligence of the readers of the capitalist Press for Reuters to foist on them the absurd speech Kruschov is alleged to have made in secret.

Apart from anything else, Reuters' report is rotten with internal contradictions.  
● Reuters says: "A disclosure of the 'terrible secrets' of the Stalin era was considered to be the only way of breaking the magic of the Stalin cult" which has gripped Russian citizens for 30 years. But if that was so, there wouldn't be much point in making the speech in secret.

● Reuters says: "Such was Stalin's faith in Hitler that he informed the Red Army that Hitler's attack (on the Soviet Union) was nothing but 'indiscipline' on the part of certain Hitler units."

It's funny, but compare the way Reuters reported Molotov on behalf of the Soviet Government, at

the time — on the day Hitler attacked:

"Beat back the enemy's invasion and do not allow the enemy's forces to hold the territory of our country. This war has been forced on us, not by the German workers or intelligentsia, whose problems we thoroughly understand, but by a clique of bloodsucking fascist leaders of Germany. . . The Government of the Soviet Union are firmly convinced that our gallant Army and Navy supported by the Soviet air force will honourably fulfill their duty to the Soviet people and will deal a complete blow to the aggressor."

And a complete blow they did deal, where the Nazis had previously carried everything before them. But now the Rand Daily Mail can carry such a headline as "When Germans Attacked, Stalin Gave Order Not to Retain Fire." Does the editor believe it?

### CHURCHILL TESTIMONY

Both Churchill and Truman in their war diaries record how comprehensive a grasp Stalin had of the present situation. Could there be anything more idiotic than the Press "quote": "Stalin controlled operations during the war from a school globe, without really knowing what a proper map was."

● Then there is this classic: "After the war . . . an atmosphere of fear and terror prevailed. Even the members of the Politburo lived in fear. When they were summoned by Stalin they never knew whether they would be Members of the Politburo were well-known men. Reuters has a list of all Politburo members since the war. Perhaps it will print the name of one—just one—who was 'summoned by Stalin' and didn't come back to tell the tale?"

● The sentence that must win the prize: "The reports said that 30 of the delegates fainted or had seizures during or after Mr. Kruschov's speech." That would have been a sight for sore eyes.

**TIFLIS RIOT?**  
● Or take the riots in Tiflis. "Well-informed sources in Vienna" who have produced some wonderful tales in their time, reported that, ten days ago, unknown to anyone except the well-informed sources in Vienna, hundreds of thousands of people in Tiflis, capital of Georgia, staged "a violent demonstration" against the attacks on Stalin.

Now think of that. Tiflis is a city of about 600,000 people. If hundreds of thousands of people there were in revolt, that would be just about everybody out of the cradle. You couldn't find a thing like that very easily. But, "M. Vincenzo Aurilio, former French President, who was also visiting Tiflis, was hurried away before he could see what was going on." (Sapa-Reuters, March 17.) I wonder how they got him through the streets with their hundreds of thousands in violent revolt

Then it came out that the Government is aware of this and a

"before he could see."

Incidentally, "the sensational denunciation of Stalin" which is supposed to have started this revolution was only published ten days after the Tiflis revolution! And then only in Vienna, about ten thousand miles away.

Washington reported that several people had been killed. It would indeed be miraculous for hundreds of thousands to be in violent demonstrations without someone being killed, or at least hurt. But Vienna, which, apparently doesn't like to exaggerate, reported "no bloodshed."

**THE MORAL OF ALL THIS IS: YOU CAN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ IN THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS.**

### SACTU Members Summoned

CAPE TOWN.

Eleven workers have been summoned to appear in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court on April 4 for allegedly holding a demonstration without the permission of the City Council.

The summons arises out of the demonstration organised by the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions outside Parliament on Thursday, February 16, protesting against the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill.

The meeting enthusiastically and

### Group Areas Hearings:

## SPECIAL BILL NEEDED TO LEGALISE LADY SELBORNE GRAB

JOHANNESBURG.—Yet another Bill will have to go through Parliament to ease the way for the Group Areas Board. This Bill will legalise the sacrifice of Lady Selborne, Pretoria's freehold area for Africans, on which the Pretoria City Council has fixed covetous eyes as a suggested White group area.

All along Lady Selborne has been included in the group area schemes advertised and the investigations conducted by the Group Areas Board. Recently before the Board Adv. G. Lowen, appearing for the Indian residents and also some other bodies, dragged the cat out of the bag.

Under the Group Areas Act, he argued, no group area could be declared of any location or village or any area approved for the residence of Africans. In 1936 Lady Selborne was approved for African residence by proclamation of the Governor-General. The Group Areas Board cannot therefore even investigate, let alone recommend, or declare, an area for group area declaration.

Then it came out that the Government is aware of this and a

# 'WE DON'T WANT CAPE TOWN TO BE LIKE PRETORIA'

## Coloureds Campaign to Defend Their Rights

CAPE TOWN.—A campaign for the preservation of civic rights for the Non-European people of Cape Town was launched by SACPO at a mass meeting on the Grand Parade on Tuesday evening of last week.

The campaign is specifically directed against the Nationalist threat to the municipal vote of Coloured women and Indians, and against the introduction of apartheid into municipal affairs.

Speakers from the ANC and COD pledged the support of their organisations to the campaign. "If the people of Cape Town allowed it, the Nationalists would turn Cape Town into another Pretoria," said Mr. R. September. "The diminution of civic rights of the Non-European would help to clear the way for an all-white City Council and make it easier for the Nationalists to introduce apartheid through the City Council."

The plan to diminish the municipal franchise rights of the Coloured people was part and parcel of the vast plot of the Government to reduce the Coloured people to the status of semi-slaves, as has been done with the Africans, warned Mr. A. Mr. la Guma.

"This latest threat is the follow-up of the removal of the Coloured people from the common voters' roll. Without rights in governing or local bodies, the Coloured people will be completely at the mercy of white baaskap."

Mr. la Guma said that the Coloured people were disappointed that not one of the Non-European City Councillors had yet said anything on the issue of removal of the municipal franchise of Coloured women and Indians.

"They are in danger of losing their seats on the City Council and it is their duty to join in the struggle to defend the civic rights of the people," said Mr. la Guma. "It is hoped that they have a very good reason for their silence."

The meeting enthusiastically and

# TWO FOR TRIAL ON "MANGO" MURDER CHARGE



JOHANNESBURG. Two European men were committed for trial on a charge of murdering an African in a Johannesburg street during what has become known here as the "mango incident."

The two men are L. A. Beukes and E. G. Burns. The dead man is Johnson Dube. His stabbing in a Johannesburg street in broad daylight four weeks ago almost touched off a riot in the city as angry Africans who had witnessed the incident and saw Dube dying on the pavement banged and rattled at the doors of a shop in which two Europeans took refuge after the stabbing.

The incident is said to have started when one of the two Europeans took a mango from the basket of an African woman fruit seller sitting on the pavement. DURING A FIGHT WHICH ENSUED LATER DUBE WAS STABBED. CLUTCHING HIS SIDE HE STAGGERED ACROSS THE ROAD AND COLLAPSED ON THE PAVEMENT ROUND THE CORNER BY THE TIME THE AMBULANCE ARRIVED HE WAS DEAD.

A force of police had to be called in. The two Europeans were removed from the shop, placed in a police car and removed to Marshall Square; and then the crowd was ordered back by the police and the traffic jam cleared.

Beukes and Burns were refused bail. They asked to be tried by a judge and assessors.

### Jooma's Death:

## POLICE CONSTABLE ON MURDER ALLEGATION

JOHANNESBURG.

A 24-year-old police constable, Willem Gideon Johannes Visser, appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court last week at an inquiry into an allegation of murder.

The inquiry arose from the death of a 42-year-old commercial traveller Mr. Suluman Jooma, of Bree Street, Fordsburg, who was found in Newtown on the night of January 17 with injuries to his body. He died later.

No evidence was led at last week's hearing, the prosecutor asking for a formal adjournment. This was granted, and Visser was remanded in custody.

Last year Mr. Jooma and two others, Dr. Moosa and Mr. Patel, brought an action against the Minister of Justice and Constable Willem Gideon Johannes Visser for alleged wrongful arrest, assault and malicious prosecution.

Mr. Jooma claimed a total of £1,000 from the Minister and Constable Visser, while the other two claimed a total of £8,000. Dr. Moosa and Mr. Patel accepted a settlement in terms of which they were offered a total of £1,600 by the Minister and Constable Visser. A sum of £2,250 was paid into Mr. Jooma's estate by the Minister and Constable Visser.

FOLLOWING the great success and popularity of our Short Story Competition last year, we have great pleasure in announcing that there will be

## Another New Age Short Story Competition

The system of awards this year will be different from last time. There will be a 1st Prize of £10 2nd Prize of £7 10s. 3rd Prize of £5

Stories which do not win a prize may nevertheless be printed if the judges consider them worthy of publication. All stories should be written in English and should be between 2,000 and 3,000 words long, with a South African background.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS JULY 31.

GET CRACKING NOW!

### THE CROWD WENT WILD



(Above): Stabbed in the street after an incident involving two Europeans, Johnson Dube here lies dying on the pavement.

(Right): A huge crowd of all races gathered on the scene.

(Below): This African woman fruit vendor was also involved in the incident as the mango which touched off the fight was snatched from one of her baskets.



# Nats. Export Groups' Opera Triumph

## CAPE TOWN.

By all accounts, the Eoan Group's production of Verdi's "La Traviata" has been a great success. Following a year's intensive work, the group has been performing at the City Hall last week and this to capacity audiences which have received them with wild enthusiasm and acclamation. The press notices of the performances have been uniformly favourable.

"It's about time they took notice of us," Mr. Sonny Lloyd, one of the organisers of the group, told New Age. The whole of Cape Town is certainly taking notice this time.

The Eoan Group consists entirely of Coloured artists. Founded 25 years ago by Mrs. Selma Hertz, the group has been staging musical, ballet and dramatic performances for many years now, and has ushered many artists into the hall of fame—not only in this country, but also overseas. But never have they scored a success like this one.

**THE CAPE TIMES MUSIC CRITIC** B.M. wrote: "For Helen Southern Holt, whose vision founded it 25 years ago, and for Joseph Manca, who became its untiring musical director in 1943, the Eoan Group's presentation of La Traviata at the City Hall on Saturday night was the culminating peak of many musical successes. . . Sing in authentic Italian by voices some of which could bear comparison with those among the Italian opera companies which have visited Cape Town, the whole undertaking was an unqualified triumph."

**THE CRITIC OF THE CAPE ARGUS** wrote, under the heading "Eoan Groups 'La Traviata' at City Hall" that the performance was an achievement "to lift the hearts of all well-wishers who during the past dozen years have watched the group's musical activities moving from strength to strength."

### A MIRACLE?

The producer of the opera, Alessandro Rota, had described the performance as a "miracle." The Argus commented: "There is no miracle when an abounding talent

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is simply allowed to find its natural expression.

What "astonished" this critic was to find "a Non-European cast performing Italian opera, in Italian, at a level that would put more than one professional company to shame. But even astonishment is to some extent an admission of failure to realise how far, with guidance, these uprooted men and women from factories, shops and domestic jobs can travel in the realms of art?"

Does this begin to sound a bit patronising? One rather wonders at the precise significance of the phrase "with guidance" . . .

For the Eoan Group has always been led by Whites. In this performance of La Traviata, both the producer, Rota and the conductor, Manca are Whites. Does the Argus critic perhaps imply that it is White "guidance" which is needed before Coloured men and women can "travel in the realms of art?"

### WHITE LEADERSHIP

If he doesn't say so, others certainly have no hesitation in coming out with it. And one of them is apparently Mr. Manca himself, who is quoted by Die Burger on February 27 (before La Traviata

was presented) as saying:

"This opera is a notable example of the results which can be achieved by Whites and Coloureds, inspired with the striving for their own cultural education and advancement."

Well, that's plain enough support for the apartheid principle. And Die Burger's critic, Emol, wrote after the performance, under the heading "Cape Coloureds Perform Italian Opera with great success":

"If anyone had told me exactly what I would see and hear on Saturday night, I would not have believed him."

Yes, it must be difficult for a Nationalist to believe that Non-Europeans are capable of high cultural achievements, even under "White leadership"! But Emol was certainly impressed. "The Eoan Group," he wrote, "a group of the Coloured community in Cape Town, made history on Saturday night. The group achieved a success which is unique of its kind in the world. I say that because I believe no other group in the world in the same circumstances and in the same surround-

## A GRAND PERFORMANCE

"The Eoan Group's production of 'La Traviata' is the finest performance of this opera that has been heard in South Africa for many years. In fact, with some improvement in the performance of some of the supporting cast, the production would do credit to any operatic stage anywhere in the world." The outstanding merit of this achievement is the greater since it has been reached by a group of amateur artists who have to work hard for a living and who suffer all the disabilities of an oppressed national group in an "apartheid"-ridden country.

May Abrahamse as "Violetta" was magnificent. Her lovely voice was matched by her ability to act, a quality too often lacking on the operatic stage. During the last tragic scene where "Violetta" is dying of consumption Miss Abrahamse's singing was beautifully controlled and her acting convincing to the end. Her performance would have won her an ovation anywhere, and a shameful indictment of our country that her great talent has not hitherto received the recognition it deserves.

Miss Abrahamse was ably sup-

ported by Ron Thebus as "Alfredo." He has a fine tenor voice and if his range, the same can be said of all but the world's best. He should, however, devote more attention to his acting which was at times somewhat "wooden."

Lionel Fourie, as Alfredo's father, Giorgio Germont, has a difficult part which he sang in excellent fashion. He has a powerful and resonant baritone voice imbued with much dramatic content. His duet with Miss Abrahamse in the country mansion during Act II was one of the highlights of the opera.

The other supporting artists, Dulcie Littlefield as Flora, Arthur Ackerman as the Marchese, Abe Jacobs as the Barone, Leon Dreyer as Gastone and, not least, Linda Rinquest as Violetta's maid, acquitted themselves well and displayed pleasing voices.

The dancing during the ballet interlude was entrancing, especially that of Gwen Michaels who measured up to the high standard of the rest of the production. All in all a grand performance. A.E.T.

## CAPE TOWN.

Members of the South African Coloured People's Organisation distributed the following open letter to the cast of the Eoan Group production of La Traviata just before they were due to perform in the City Hall last Tuesday night before a "Europeans Only" audience of Government and civic notabilities invited by the Commissioner for Coloured Affairs, Dr. I. D. du Plessis:

Dear Friend,  
It has come to our notice that

ings and with the same limitations and so we have ever ventured to produce a full-blooded opera—and that in the original language which is completely unknown for this group.

"I hope that the great success of Saturday night will be a stimulation and encouragement to the group to scale greater heights. It was delight to listen to such a performance."

### NATS. CLAP LOUDEST

Words could not be fairer. But it is already becoming embarrassing that the loudest applause comes from the ranks of the apartheiders. The Man on the Spot, in the Cape Times, shouted: "Bravo! In fact bravissimo!" He raved about "such a high standard of . . . sparkling talent," and added:

"Anyone who has ever thought about, written about, legislated about or even spoken about himself the duty of seeing how Coloured people tackle a problem for themselves . . . it was a first-rate performance by people of whom we must expect much more."

He then goes on to quote a disgusting letter from a Rondebosch lawyer to the Editor: "I would like to say that if the Eoan Group took the trouble to teach these Coloured people domestic work as an Italian opera, they would be doing the Cape Town housewife a great service."

The Man on the Spot, instead of giving this wretched woman a piece of his mind, says: "Well, it is a point."

In other words, both he and his Rondebosch housewife want to make it clear that, even though some Coloured people can sing in grand opera they ought not to forget that the main duty of the Non-Europeans to society is to be good servants.

### AN AXE TO GRIND

It is a pity that what is undoubtedly a fine performance of La Traviata—and the efforts of all those who worked so devotedly to make it possible—should be missed by politically-minded elements who make propaganda for apartheid. Yet that is precisely what is happening, and the Eoan Group players should know all about it.

Last Tuesday night the Commissioner for Coloured Affairs, Dr. I. D. du Plessis, arranged for a special performance of the opera for Europeans only, including Government and civic notabilities. Why? There can be no doubt that Dr. du Plessis intends also to use the achievements of the Eoan Group to bolster the work of his Department and to propagate the idea of apartheid among the Coloured people.

One of those who was invited to attend Dr. du Plessis' special

your group has arranged a special performance of the opera "La Traviata" for "Europeans Only" to take place on Tuesday the 20th inst. at the City Hall. Dr. I. D. du Plessis, the head of the Government's Coloured Affairs Department, has sent out invitations for this special performance. Among those invited are the Cabinet Ministers, and members of Parliament whose attitude towards the Non-European is well-known.

Since its birth, the Group has rendered invaluable service to the cultural well-being and advancement of our community and country, and managed to remain independent of the Government until the Coloured Affairs Department took an interest in its affairs.

In spite of official silence, it was

rumoured for some time, that your Group was financially supported by the Government through the C.A.D. Department. Dr. I. D. du Plessis does not appear to be sufficiently bold as to arrange for the Group to put on a "EUROPEANS ONLY" show, and that in the face of the menacing position of the Coloured people against Apartheid.

People can also conclude therefore that the Eoan Group supports Apartheid. In fact the whole idea of the existence of the show is to ensure when the farmers hired Coloureds to perform for them, the Masters. Today, in the 20th century, we do not recognise the white man as our master. This is the land of our birth and we demand government support for ALL cultural movements, BUT WITHOUT APARTHEID



The first Supreme Court appeal against race classification tests carried out among the Coloured people under the Population Registration Act has been lodged by Mr. Jacob Goliath, Pretoria, cinema-owner and shopkeeper. The appeal has been postponed twice but is expected to be heard in Pretoria this week. Mr. Goliath is appealing against his own classification as an African and also that of his son and daughter.

performance was Mr. L. B. Lee-Warden, M.P., and chairman of the Congress of Democrats in the Western Cape. He declined the invitation because, he wrote du Plessis, "I consider the atmosphere of the opera would be marred by the political implications of securing a special performance for Europeans only."

Mr. Lee-Warden added: "Of course I will attend those performances as an ordinary member of the public where one is not made conscious of the artificial race barrier at such functions."

The South African Coloured People's Organisation also issued a statement calling upon the members of the public to refuse to fall into the apartheid trap by performing to a "Europeans only" audience.

The Eoan Group must not allow themselves to be used for apartheid purposes. They should refuse to tolerate a colour bar either in their own ranks or in the ranks of their audiences. They should refuse to have any truck with du Plessis.

For to co-operate with du Plessis is to co-operate with the Government in its plans to force apartheid on the Coloured people. We are sure no member of the Eoan group really wants to do this, and that once they understand the way in which they are being used by the politicians, they will take steps to free themselves from their control. There must be no colour bar in art or anywhere else, in the free South Africa we are all trying to build.

BRIAN BUNTING.

## "DON'T BE SLAVES", SACPO appeals to Eoan Group

### STRINGS.

The eyes of the world are on you, and we can quite safely say from all advanced and progressive people will bow their heads in shame if you slave in the footsteps of our slave forefathers, and perform for a "EUROPEANS ONLY" audience. We realise that for you to refuse to perform on Tuesday will require great courage and honesty, but that and surely what we—who respect art in art—have a reasonable right to expect. True art, surely belongs to ALL the people of our land.

With best wishes for the fiftie.  
Respectfully yours,  
R. September (Secretary).

# RICH MAN'S BURDEN . . .

With a concealed glance at the public galleries, Mr. Louw picked up the Budget speech lying on his desk and stepped across the aisle to the Speaker's dais. He cleared his throat, adjusted the microphone, and paused. The country waited.

Mr. Louw began his one-and-a-half hour speech. Around him sat wool farmers and company directors, mine kings and captains of industry.

They murmured approvingly when he said that 1955 had been a record year for mining, secondary industry and agriculture.

From the United Party side came ecstatic little squeals as he made the announcement that the gold mines would have to pay less tax.

A happy sigh rippled around the Chamber when Mr. Louw, smiling, said he was lifting the surtax burden.

It did not once was the word "African," or "Coloured" or "Indian" mentioned. Even the White worker was hardly mentioned.

THERE ARE 13,915,000 SOUTH AFRICANS. MR. LOUW IGNORED COMPLETELY THE EXISTENCE OF 11,000,000 OF THEM, AS FAR AS THE IS CONCERNED THE WORKING MASSES MAKE NO CONTRIBUTION TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET RITUAL.

## WHO PAYS FOR WHOM?

How often have we not seen a wealthy, smug Nationalist landbaron get up and complain about the money the Whites have to spend on the Africans? Or point out that, compared with the Whites, the Non-Whites pay very little in taxation?

Yet back in the Karoo, or the Free State, or the Eastern Transvaal, his African workers are looking after his sheep, ploughing his meagre lands, picking his oranges. He pays them a pittance, and even part of that pittance has to be set aside for taxes. They make him rich, however, and he has to pay more in taxes. But, no, the African contributes nothing to the Budget!

Mr. Louw gave some relief to White pensioners. As a result of other concessions, sweets and retreaded tyres will be a little cheaper. For each child, the White taxpayer will be able to deduct an extra £2 from his income tax. But parcels sent in the post will cost more, and so will telegrams and telephones (rentals). The increased postal charges cancel some of the concessions.

## COST OF LIVING

The White worker gets very little out of this. His problem is the cost-of-living, which Mr. Louw calmly ignored. Mr. Louw has the audacity to claim that there was halting inflation while prices and profits rise daily. But when it came to dealing with the rich, Mr. Louw was exceedingly generous.

The concession to super-tax payers is the biggest concession in the Budget because it is spread over so few people. Today a married man, with no children, earning £2,300 a year, pays £293 a year in income tax. Under Mr. Louw's new Budget he will pay only £188—a cut of £105.

Of the 658,000 income tax payers in the Union, 60,000 are in the super-tax class. Mr. Louw's super-tax concession therefore affects less than 10 per cent of the tax-payers.

On the one hand, Mr. Louw warned the country's workers to produce more and to stop asking for more money; on the other, he pleaded in defence of the super-tax payers: "If taxation on this relatively small group of tax-payers were to be continually increased, we would soon arrive at

the stage where our system of taxation would penalise hard work and initiative. It would also discourage saving and investment." Poor rich men!

The program as Mr. Louw sees it, is not to help the worker; either the White worker fighting grimly against the cost-of-living, or the Non-White worker, crowded with his family into a novel, ill-fated, underpaid, trying desperately

## Parliamentary Survey by Peter Meyer

to keep his body and soul together and preserve his human dignity. No, not that.

## PROFITABLE FIELDS

Mr. Louw's worry is how to find new and profitable fields of exploitation for the rich man. There, in a fat arm-chair, sits the fat rich man, floated with the nice things of life. Fat, crude, vicious,

ever on the look-out for new victims. Mr. Louw is concerned about this man's wealth and well-being. The whole Budget is a discussion of this problem: how to make the rich richer.

Years ago, the Nationalists used to pose as the friends of the workers and the enemies of the big business world. They used to speak with anger about "capitalists" and "parasites." Good, working-class vocabulary. But it was a trick. They were the partners of would-be Afrikaner capitalists, and they are the lackeys of international capital now.

The foreign investor is no longer an "uitlander," an enemy across the waters. He is a nice, friendly chap who wants to help the South African economy. Mr. Louw rushes all over the world begging him to send his money to South Africa, where the Nationalist Government will see that he gets more profits than anywhere else. Mr. Strijdom does it always open to him, and he never tires of telling him what a true friend he

is of Western Christian civilization.

## BANKERS' LACKEY

Mr. Louw was particularly abject in this latest Budget speech. Justifying the diversion of £15,000,000 from current revenue to loan account (instead of using it to reduce taxes), he said there could be no excuse for continuing this policy, which, I may add, was highly commended by New York bankers, when I last year discussed with them the prospects of raising a public loan in the United States. Yes, Mr. Louw, you may well add that.

The Opposition Press have been lavish in their praise of Mr. Louw's Budget. The Cape Argus, in particular, has told the country that Mr. Louw is truly a wonderful man. By Cape Argus standards, Mr. Louw is a wonderful man. If only he weren't an Afrikaner, they might even admit him to the club. Meanwhile, they will await future Budget days with calm confidence. The ship of State banks in their hands, riding a high graph of profits.

## Freedom Charter Awards

### CAPE TOWN.

The Cape Western joint constitutional committee of the ANC, SACP, and COD has announced that at the end of the Freedom Charter signature campaign, awards will be made to the collectors of the greatest number of signatures.

At the same time the Committee stresses that the task of drawing in new people and developing local leaders for the Congress movement must not be neglected for the sake of merely collecting signatures.

"In spite of interference and police intimidation, more and more people are accepting the Freedom Charter and we are confident that the campaign for a million signatures will culminate in success," says the Committee.

# . . . POOR MAN'S BURDEN

CAPE TOWN.—THERE IS NOTHING IN THE BUDGET FOR US? WORKING MEN AND WOMEN, HOUSEWIVES AND MOTHERS, TOLD NEW AGE LAST WEEK.

THE £9,000,000 CONCESSION TO THE MINING AND HIGHER INCOME GROUPS COULD MUCH RATHER HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO BUILDING A BETTER SOUTH AFRICA FOR ALL ITS INHABITANTS," THEY SAID.

"The people need houses," said Mrs. Christina Lazarus, mother of 7 children, who lives in a shack in Windermere. "Our houses are something miserable. If the Government has anything to spare, let it spend the money on houses for the people."

The only breadwinner in the family is Mr. Lazarus who earns £3 15s a week as a night watchman. Mrs. Lazarus takes in private sewing—but often her customers are too poor to pay her. Two of the elder children are at school.

"We have been keen to give our children proper education," said Mrs. Lazarus. "But there's very little hope for it these days—where is the money to come from? I can think of lots of ways for the Government to spend money for the benefit of the people."

Mrs. Esther Maphike of Kensington also stressed the need for houses. "People are living like rats in dens around here," she said.

"It is terrible to see the children here, especially in the winter time—cold, ragged, hungry. Many run wild in the streets because there is no school for them and because their mothers and fathers have to work. There should be special institutions to care for these children

—but there is nothing in the budget for people like us.

"Of course, the Nationalists have no time for the Non-Europeans, so you can't expect anything better," her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Magdalene Maphike, added. Magdalene, mother of 5, has been looking around desperately for a home of her own, without success.

"Instead of reducing the taxes for the rich, the Government should do away with the poll tax for the Africans," said Mr. Phylon Cini, factory worker from Retreat. Mr. Cini earns £3 15s a week and has a wife and four children to support in the Transkei. He has to pay £1 a year poll tax, and 10s. a year hut tax.

YEI, IN TERMS OF MR. LOUW'S BUDGET, A EUROPEAN MAN WITH 2 CHILDREN, WHO EARN'S £750 A YEAR, PAYS NO TAX AT ALL! Miss Ida Wentzel, a factory

worker of the Strand, would have liked to see provision in the budget for more and better houses for the Coloured people, and more hospitals.

Mr. B. Turok, gave the trade union point of view: "The budget contains big concessions to the upper income groups, but there are no concessions for the working class," he said. "On the contrary, only a short while ago the price of bread and meat went up—increases which hit the working people hardest."

"Mr. Louw says that 1955 was a record year for every branch of South Africa's economy—the mines, the secondary industry, agriculture, but as far as the workers are concerned, this has been one of the worst years. There have been very few increases in wages, and none have been big enough to meet the ever-growing cost of living."



Miss Ida Wentzel.



Mr. Phylon Cini.

"It is clear that ours is a bosses' Government and serves only to look after the profits of the bosses," said Mr. Turok.



Mr. B. Turok.

## SCHOOL ELECTION FARCE IN ATHLONE

### CAPE TOWN.

A meeting called to elect a school committee at the former Athlone Methodist School (now called the Athlone Bantu Community School) ended in disorder last week with the audience singing Freedom songs to emphasise their total rejection of Bantu Education.

The chairman of the meeting was Mr. Ngo, secretary of the Bantu School Board. Only 70 people attended. The presence of two African members of the C.I.D. was objected to and the chairman, after pressure from the meeting, asked them to leave. They refused to do so.

When nominations for the school committee were called for there was silence for about five minutes. Then two members of the audience, proposing and seconding one another alternately, put forward four names.

The nominees were then declared elected, without the chairman putting the matter to the meeting and without any indication as to whether the nominees had accepted nomination or not.

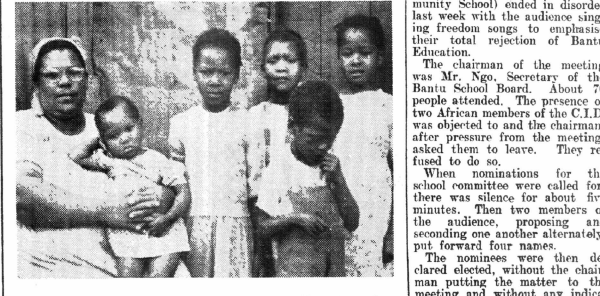
## Langa Teacher Sacked

### CAPE TOWN.

Mr. Victor Swisa, senior history master at Langa High School, has received notice from the Cape Peninsula School Board that his employment is to be terminated as from the end of March, 1956.

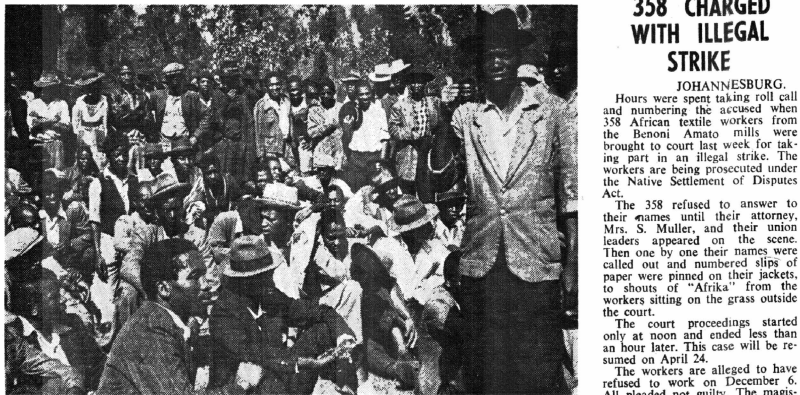
The Board states it is being advised by the Department of Bantu Education that its subsidy in respect of Mr. Swisa is to be withdrawn as from that date, and that if the Board wishes to employ him after that date, it must pay him out of private funds. The Board states it possesses no private funds and therefore "has no alternative but to give you notice."

Mr. Swisa, who has been a teacher for 11 years, 10 of them at Langa High School, is a member of the Cape African Teachers' Association, and has always been a firm opponent of Bantu Education.



Mrs. Lazarus and five of her seven children outside their shack at Windermere.

Send a Donation  
to NEW AGE



Charged with striking illegally these Benoni textile workers from the Amato Mills waited outside the Magistrate's Court for several hours as their names were called one by one, and court officials struggled to sort them out. Here a worker gives the "Afrika" salute as he answers to his name.

Before All Honesty — Above All Justice

## JOHNNY'S SPECIALS 1956 THE WORKERS' REQUEST

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- 2 16-oz. tins Beef Sausages (Spekenham).
- 1 12-oz. tin Corned Beef (Target).
- 3 34-oz. tins Sardines (Best Norwegian).
- 3 16-oz. tins Baked Beans (L.X.L.).
- 3 16-oz. tins Garden Peas (Sunderland).
- 2 16-oz. tins Sweet Corn (K.O.O.).
- 3 tins. Rice.
- 3 tins (Large) Canned Fruit, Peaches, Pears, Guavas (Silverleaf).
- 1 tin (Large) Pineapple Rings (Golden Glory).
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- ‡ lb. Coffee (Koffehuis).
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## 358 CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL STRIKE

JOHANNESBURG.

Hours were spent taking toll call and numbering the workers when 358 African textile workers from the Benoni Amato mills were brought to court last week for taking part in an illegal strike. The workers are being prosecuted under the Native Settlement of Disputes Act.

The 358 refused to answer to their names until their attorney, Mrs. S. Muller, and their union leaders appeared on the scene. Then one by one their names were called out and numbered slips of paper were pinned on their jackets, to shouts of "Afrika" from the workers sitting on the grass outside the court.

The court proceedings started only at noon and ended less than an hour later. This case will be resumed on April 24.

The workers are alleged to have refused to work on December 6. All pleaded not guilty. The magistrate ordered the arrest of seven workers who were not present, and sentenced each to a fine of £10 or 12 months in prison for contempt of court.

## "OPPOSE ALL PASSES!"

(Continued from page 1)

identification papers of any kind. After marching through town, the women crowded the court yard of the Native Affairs Department, settled down comfortably and began shouting forward three members who walked into the Native Commissioner's office. The Commissioner received the memorandum prepared by the Durban Regional Council of the Women's League of the African National Congress. Miss Florence Mkiye and Henriette Ostrich led the delegation.

"We, the women of the African people of the Region of Durban, call upon the Minister of Native Affairs to reverse his decision to issue passes to African women," declared the memorandum.

"The Pass Laws have created extreme suffering and despair for our men."

The memorandum goes on to show that since the provisions of the new law have been applied, countless people in many parts of the country have been ruthlessly persecuted and harassed; men and women removed from their homes in urban areas; homes broken up; workers refused permission to enter urban areas from rural areas; and many more Africans subjected to arrest, imprisonment or forced labour on farms.

Young men leaving school and anxious to enter jobs in industry are refused permission to do so and expelled from the urban areas, or compelled to live the life of the hunted animal, always on the run from the pick-up van.

"Living in the cities has become a nightmare for all Africans of passing bearing ages, as night and day police in plain clothes, stationed on street corners, near the pass offices, outside stations, and constantly searching in locations and suburbs, are busy trapping passing Africans."

"A never-ending manhunt for pass offenders is being conducted in South Africa."

The Native Commissioner, Mr. Slugg, read the memorandum and listened to the women. Then he told them they had given no reasons for not wanting to pass. They must go back, he said, and think about the matter again.

"When the women were told what Mr. Slugg had said they were angry. They said they would go home and think about the matter and return again with a bigger delegation."

## Cape Town

Singing liberatory songs, men and women marched four abreast through the streets of Cape Town

on Sunday afternoon, demonstrating against the deportation of African women and against passes for women.

The march was part of a mass rally on the Grand Parade under the auspices of the A.N.C. and the A.N.C. Women's League, and took place after speakers had condemned the pass laws.

"We have been united in marriage and only death can deport us from our husbands," said one speaker.

"Passes mean slavery. We must unite and speak with one voice. We can only get our freedom by uniting," said another speaker.

After the march, the demonstrators gathered at the Grand Parade once more to pass a resolution strongly condemning the deportation of African women and the breaking up of African family life.

"We will fight this vicious Act tooth and nail, until it is repealed," said the resolution.

The meeting also protested against the Prohibition of Intercity Bill, pledging to fight for equality before the law for everyone.

## PASS BOOKS IN WINBURG

(Continued from page 1)  
influx control entries, those for service contract particulars and those for details in respect of curfew and "Native law and custom."

The men's books have sections for Union and Bantu Authorities tax payment entries and as women are not tax-payers these sections are absent from their books. But the women's books carry an additional section "personal particulars" and entries are required for "district in which ordinarily resident" and marital status, either "married by Christian rites or Native custom or living together." There are spaces also for the names of parent, husband or guardian and their identity numbers.

### CONFUSION

Even the Winburg women who volunteered for these books last week did not do so without anxiety, but the officials confused them. A New Age representative did not find any women who defended these books and now they have realised what they really are, many are very troubled.

On March 12 Municipal police went round Winburg location announcing that women should report the following day to the Magistrate's Court for the issue of the books. That Tuesday morning hundreds went together to the Magistrate to tell him they objected to the passes and did not want to take them out.

## Police Convicted of Crimes of Violence

CAPE TOWN.

No fewer than 283 policemen were convicted of crimes of violence during 1955, the Minister of Justice said in Parliament last week, in reply to a question by Mr. B. Lee-Warder, African representative for Cape Western. Of these, 65 were Europeans and 218 Non-European policemen.

There had been no convictions of policemen for offences against prisoners in their charge: one European and four Non-European policemen had been convicted of perjury; and 177 European policemen and 238 Non-European policemen had been convicted of other offences during the year.

The Minister said 40 European and 242 Non-European policemen had been dismissed from the force in 1955; one Non-European policeman had been reduced in rank; 560 European and 2,905 Non-European policemen had been fined departments; and 36 European and 64 Non-European policemen had been otherwise dealt with departmentally.

## Oscar Mpetha Arrested

CAPE TOWN.

Mr. Oscar Mpetha, general secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, was arrested in his office in Cape Town last Thursday morning on a charge under the Suppression of Communism Act.

He is charged with attending a gathering at St. Helena Bay on 21st February, 1956 in contravention of a banning notice prohibiting him from attending gatherings.

Bail of £100 has been allowed. The case is to go to court on April 3, in the Vredenburg Magistrate's Court.

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The magistrate and N.A.D. officials told them they were going about the matter wrongly. They should have objected via their advisory board, which should have conveyed their objections to the location superintendent. They said they had only known of the passes the day before. The officials retorted that notices had been posted in the Town Hall and Magistrate's Court. Then they got to work to still the women's fears.

Blatantly they told them these books were not passes and since then the daily press reports have taken up this theme. The Winburg women were told they need not carry their books in Winburg but the books would help them to travel about the country. They were told the books would help them find jobs and would help to trace their lost and deserting sons and husbands in these times.

Elderly women were among the first to queue for what they believed to be not passes but books. Many African women working on farms in the district were brought in by their employers for the pass issue.

### SECOND THOUGHTS

The Many women who took the books are today giving their acts second thoughts. Did the officials tell them the truth? Or were they being bluffed into accepting the hated pass?