

# Don't give up, Govt urges the farmers

Star 2/1/80  
③

## Farming Correspondent

The Eastern Transvaal highveld was developing so rapidly that land values would rise fast, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, has told farmers.

At a recent meeting he urged hail-stricken farmers in the districts of Standerton, Morgenzon and Bethal not to throw in the towel after two extremely bad seasons and the devastation of fields by the worst hailstorm in living memory.

Mr Schoeman pointed out that economic development in the Eastern Transvaal highveld was accelerating.

Escom was to build a giant new power station near Standerton at a cost of R1-billion, a third Sasol had already been announced, and heavy industry would soon follow.

Farmers should think twice before selling out, he said.

Strengthening its policy of keeping farmers on the land, the State had to take another look at the present scheme for comprehensive crop insurance, said Mr Schoeman.

### SUBSIDY

A quarter of the 12 percent premium was now paid by a subsidy, but still few farmers could afford to insure.

Of the 28 farmers whose fields had been totally devastated in the hail disaster, only one had taken out adequate insurance cover.

The State share would come under review.

Farmers could not be expected to be the only people to carry the economic risks inherent in South Africa's climate, the Minister said.

In a successful rescue operation, the Eastern Transvaal Co-operative, partly financed by the State and the Land Bank, reploughed and replanted half of the 7 000 ha where hail damage had been to-

	W		A		C		B	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0,02	0,03	0,20	0,21	0,06	0,16	0,06	0,06
1-4	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,00	0,02	0,04	0,01	0,01
5-24	0,00	0,00	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01
25-44	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,00	0,01	0,01	0,01
45-64	0,02	0,02	0,03	0,03	0,06	0,04	0,01	0,03



Maize plants torn to shreds by the hail. From left to right: Mr Louis Rothmann, Eastern Transvaal Co-Op director (Morgenzon), Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr M J S Boshoff, of the farm Zwartfontein. Mr Boshoff carried trailer-loads of dead guinea fowl off his lands.

# Hail-hit farmers begin again

*Now 7/180 Gen*

	W		A		C		B	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
45-64	0,07	0,07	0,21	0,11	0,36	0,13	0,26	0,07
65+	0,18	0,13	0,00	0,15	0,47	0,18	0,44	0,15
ALL	0,06	0,04	0,07	0,06	0,25	0,14	0,17	0,12
NO.	128	85	26	23	289	164	366	187

	W		A		C		B	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0,51	0,33	1,10	0,21	1,80	1,59	0,13	0,10
1-4	0,05	0,06	0,02	0,10	0,15	0,17	0,02	0,04
5-24	0,07	0,06	0,09	0,10	0,14	0,17	0,11	0,13
25-44	1,09	0,44	1,31	0,70	1,54	1,27	0,73	0,78

**By Hannes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent**  
 One for all and all for one is still the underlying philosophy of farmers' co-ops — even if some of them have developed into giant business organisations.

In this spirit before Christmas, the Eastern Transvaal Co-Op or OTK, which has 81 branches and depots, carried out a rescue operation over a wide area hit by the worst hailstorm in living memory.

The storm brought destruction to fields, houses, trees and livestock through the districts of Standerton, Morgenzon, Bethal and Middelburg.

A total of 28 000 ha of fields were affected, 7 000 of which were totally destroyed. Strips of hide were torn from the backs of milk cows in a kraal, sheep that had just been shorn were seriously injured.

A farmer who had spent years establishing large flocks of guinea-fowl to provide ecological insect control — Mr M J S Boshoff of the farm Zwartfontein — had to cart trailer-loads of dead guinea-fowl out of his devastated fields.

Trees were defoliated, windows and roofs damaged. It was not only the size of the hailstones that wrought havoc, but also the density in which they fell.

The worst was that it

hit an area that had already experienced two extremely bad seasons. Last year it was drought, the year before that floods and waterlogged fields.

The Eastern Transvaal Co-Op, came to the farmers' rescue. Nobody could compensate them, but their fields could be re-ploughed and re-planted to provide some income from crops later this year.

The idea was simple, but it took a complex organisation, working against time, to carry it out.

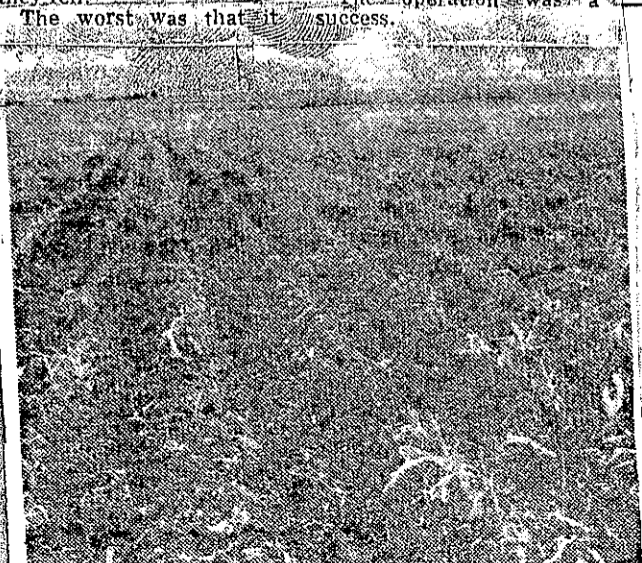
The Co-Op's director for Morgenzon, Mr Louis Rothmann, took the initiative, enlisting the help of his chairman, Mr Gert Schoombie, who in turn gained the ear of the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman.

While emergency financing was being arranged, the rescue operation went into effect. The damage was assessed; half of the 7 000 ha totally lost could be re-worked by the farmers themselves and by helpful neighbours, provided the co-op could supply seed, fertiliser and fuel. This was done.

The other half was re-ploughed and replanted by the co-op which supplied tractors and manpower. Field staff worked around the clock to get the whole operation completed in nine working days.

The operation was a success.

	W		A		C		B	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5-24	0,05	0,06	0,17	0,11	0,21	0,22	0,66	0,52
25-44	0,20	0,12	0,37	0,33	0,94	0,72	2,75	1,72
45-64	1,46	0,92	3,33	1,85	4,88	2,14	9,32	6,19
65+	11,52	7,89	16,51	13,42	20,07	10,49	1,37	1,24
ALL	1,12	0,97	1,22	0,79	2,87	2,22	2858	1951
NO.	2336	2019	430	282	3270	2588		



DEVASTATION . . . this was a maizefield until the hailstorm had ripped through it.

# When money didn't solve the problems

R.D.M.  
10/1/80  
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By ROB TAYLOR

**ZEEURUST.** — Farmers in the north-western Transvaal border areas are more worried about the consolidation of the homelands than the Government's offer of financial aid.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr Sarel Hayward, arrived in Zeerust yesterday on the first leg of a three-day visit to the Transvaal border areas to inform farmers about financial assistance the Government is offering in a bid to halt the depopulation of the platteland at strategic points.

Hundreds of farmers from the Marico area packed the Zeerust town hall to listen to the deputy minister's address. But judging by the questions raised Mr Hayward had come with the wrong information.

The farmers wanted to know exactly where they stood in regard to the consolidation of Bophutha-Tswana — a question the deputy minister could not answer.

He told farmers he was there to help them with their financial problems and was unable to answer questions on the issue of consolidation.

The areas where the financial scheme — which comes into operation on April 1 — will be applied, extend about 50km inland from the common boundaries of the Transvaal with Rhodesia and with Botswana in the Northern and Western Transvaal; and about 30km inland from the common boundary of the Transvaal and Mo-

zambique in the Eastern Transvaal (south of the Kruger National Park and north of Kangwane).

The Minister told farmers that loans for the purchase of land would be granted to farmers who wished to farm full-time in the areas in question, but he said that farmers would also need initial capital. This raised angry comment from a number of young farmers.

"The whole meeting was a waste of time," said Mr Piet Naude, a farmer from Grootpan, who travelled 160km to listen to the deputy Minister. "We were led to believe that the Government was going to help young farmers like myself to establish farms in the border areas."

"But all they are really doing is giving financial aid to farmers who are already established in the area."

Mr Naude added that not all the farmers along the Botswana border were in financial trouble. "Some of them own 10 to 20 farms," he said.

A prominent farmer in the Marico area, Senator Henry du Toit, asked the Government to pay special attention to the north-western Transvaal areas.

He said parts of it bordered on Bophutha-Tswana, which in turn bordered on Botswana, making it easy for infiltration.

Mr Hayward, who described yesterday's meeting in Zeerust as "positive" will address farmers in Messina this evening.

Somerset West.

Ngubani! Ufatis & Montis? Ufatis & Montis yefe  
Record Self Raising Flour, Record Cake Flour,  
Record Unsifted Flour, Record Wheatie Treat Fl  
Millie pack Mealie Meal; Fatis & Montis Icecrea  
Fatis and Montis Macaroni, spagetti, shells, r  
Princess macaroni, spagetti, shells, rings, r  
Checkers, Poto' Gold, Pick 'n Pay macaroni, sp  
Wrench Town Bakery, Observatory; Good Hope Be

Ufatis & Montis uphakele ukuthi akukho ngingaban  
ungumphati wem le uThi, ukhathazeki le xa kus  
ngabamnyama njengoko inkxaso enkulu, live lo kwab  
abasebenzi abangabanye ukuba basebenze endawen  
imveliso, kodwa imveliso yehle.

Umbutho oyi! Western Province Traders Associatio  
ukuba angayithengi imveliso yalefektiri de bavum  
Umbutho oyi! South African Council of Sports - SAC  
ziko ezinyonixibe kwane kunye nabo ukuba zixit  
bageshwe. Yaye akutuneki bayithenge imveliso ye

Abafundi base U.C.T. bayenzile eyabo intlangan  
Bacele ukuba imveliso zakwa Fatis & Montis zin  
Umbutho oyi! Women for Peace Movement, uku  
kunye nabasebenzili.

Abafundi bache abasebenzi mabaphinde bageshwe k  
Ayanda amanani abantu abazibandakanyileyo nabase  
abafundi base-university nakwano kolégi abangapli  
zikolo u.W.C., Hewat, Peninsula Training College  
Abafundi bache abasebenzi mabaphinde bageshwe k

Umbutho oyi! Food and Canning Workers Union, bathi  
amaphapha anika Union igunya lokuba benze nitheth  
thi, kusetyenzwe phantsi kwazo. I-fektiri leyo i-bath  
l-fektiri! balula into yokuba omatshini ekusetyenziz  
lento kunyanzeleke ukuba kuphunzwe abasebenzi.

Abafundi base-university nakwano kolégi abangapli  
zikolo u.W.C., Hewat, Peninsula Training College  
Abafundi bache abasebenzi mabaphinde bageshwe k

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bageshwe. Yaye akutuneki bayithenge imveliso ye

# Govt talks to those border 'men of steel'

RDM 14/1/80

36a

By ROB TAYLOR and CHRIS MARRAIS

FROM the grizzled old cattle farmers in the west, to the high-pace young sugar farmers of the east, they all came to meet the Government last week.

The Government, in the form of Agriculture Deputy Minister Mr Sarel Hayward, visited the Transvaal's border lands bearing financial gifts for some — but left with an unlucky packet of urgent complaints.

Briefed by the SA Defence Force on the strategic importance of Transvaal areas sharing borders with Botswana, Rhodesia and Mozambique, the Department of Agriculture has come up with a special financial assistance scheme for local farmers — favouring the established, high-potential producers.

At every community hall Mr Hayward's speech was the same:

"We need men of steel to stay and farm our strategic border areas. It will serve no purpose to establish people who do not have the ability to make a go of things."

The Department announced loans would be made to farmers in the areas to extend their farms and build them up into more economic units.

The scheme is designed as an incentive to stem the exodus of hard-hit border farmers to the Transvaal interior.

"That's fine, but what about our immediate problems?" was the general reaction to news of the financial handout.

Because, as the chunky, sun-burnt rural men commented, you can kill a terrorist with a bullet but there are some more



MR SAREL HAYWARD border promises

pressing issues that cannot be dealt with so "cleanly"

Like the lingering homelands consolidation issue, which has farmers around Bophutha-Tswana catwalking and uncertain. Many have not spent a cent on farm improvements in recent years because they feel they will not be compensated when and if their farms are thrown into the Mangopé melting pot.

When hundreds of Marico men packed the Zeerust town hall last week to listen to Mr Hayward, the mood was clear. Their questions had Mr Hayward against the ropes because he could not shed any more light on the consolidation issue.

Like the rural electricity problem in the far northern Transvaal. Farmers have to rely on diesel fuel to provide irrigation power. They realise Escorp would lose heavily by providing Messina farmers with electricity, but the expense is a necessity, they say.

A local farmer, Mr Louis Heyn, said their reliance on diesel virtually doubled expenditure on irrigation.

"Give a good farmer five

paid-off irrigated farms, but if he is using diesel he will never make it," another farmer told the Deputy Minister.

Like the ethanol issue in the lush, rich ground of the Eastern Transvaal areas bordering on Mozambique.

At the Railways Hall in Komatipoort, a packed gathering of young men quizzed Mr Hayward on a promised Government report on the potential of ethanol as a fuel source.

Most of the farmers there have sunk their assets into the production of sugar, which can be processed into ethanol. And they want the Government to tell them where they stand. Will they be rich soon or will they be caught with yet another surplus, glutting product?

Mr Hayward, who at that stage had heard the problems of most of the Transvaal border areas — and had launched a vigorous attack on Press reports of his intentions and visit — promised the Government was treating the ethanol report as a priority.

Also, many farmers felt it was unfair to give so much preference in loans to the established men in the border areas.

"We were led to believe that the Government was going to help young farmers like myself to establish farms on the border, but all they are doing is giving financial aid to farmers that are already established," a Western Transvaal farmer said.

Mr Hayward had explained that young men who wanted to establish farms in the border lands would have to have a certain amount of their own capital before being considered for Government aid.

inyanga ngoku sele izakuphela abasebenzi abangama... 88 bakwa Fatis & Monis efektri... into ebanjale ukuba bagwayimbe kukuqothwa kwabasebenzi... Bathi unobangele a wokugxothwa kwaba basebenzi bahlanu.

Ngubani ufatis & Monis? Ufatis... Record Self Raising Flour, Record... Record Unsifted Flour, Record... Mille pack Mealie Meal; Fatis... Fatis and Monis Macaroni, spag... Princess macaroni, spagetti, s... Checkers, Poto Gold, Pick n... Wrench Town Bakery, Observator... Somerset West.

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# Labour crisis warning

EAST LONDON — The inclusion of the pineapple production area at Kidd's Beach into the Ciskei could destroy the biggest labour employer in the East London area, the secretary of the East London Western Districts Farmers' Association, Mr J. R. Hempstead, warned here yesterday.

If the Ciskei border is extended any closer to East London, it could also mean the end of East London, said Mr Hempstead.

"Nobody wants to be a border farmer. If the border keeps creeping up to East London, it will have a ripple effect and be the end of all the local industries supporting pineapple production."

Mr Hempstead was commenting on discussions a farmers' association delegation had with the deputy Minister for Co-operation and Development, Mr J. J.

Wentzel, this week.

Mr Hempstead said the association was divided on the land issue, but the general consensus appeared to be that the Ciskei border should not be extended.

Mr Hempstead said he was an "unwilling seller" like the majority of Kidd's Beach farmers who were not on the Ciskei border.

The chairman of the farmers' association, Mr Neville Hewson, said Mr Wentzel had requested a memorandum from the association for the information of a commission investigating land sales in the Kidd's Beach area before the end of the month.

The MPC for East London City, Mr Petro de Pontes, who led a delegation of farmers in a meeting with Mr Wentzel this week, was not prepared to comment.

# Famine looming says Booi

UMTATA — Transkei Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr E. Z. Booi, said a threat of widespread famine looms in the country if rains did not fall this month.

He expressed great concern about the prolonging drought and said the season for growing maize had passed and advised farmers to resort to crops

like potatoes, wheat, peas and beans as alternatives.

Mr Booi said if they experienced a bad crop they would have to rely on food to be imported from South Africa.

He warned pastoral farmers to move their stock to better grazing areas, or into camps that were closed for grazing, to fatten their stock in case

they needed to sell to avoid heavy losses.

He feared disaster in Transkei and said people who accepted rehabilitation were in a better position because there were camps closed in preparation for such emergency and farmers on the Transkei coast would not suffer heavy stock losses.

Mr Booi said small stock should also be looked after and when fattened in better grazing areas should be sold immediately. Those farmers with no grazing areas would have to buy lucerne to feed their stock. He advised them to add salt to the feed to provide resistance and strength to the stock. — DDR.

continued on page 591

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# How green WAS my valley



By **MAUREEN GRIFFIN**

**THIS FALLOW LAND WAS ONCE THE MOST PRODUCTIVE FARMLAND IN THE COUNTRY**



Andrew Joubert . . . must move but is waiting for a Government offer he can accept

AT Ongeluksnek Valley 36 000 hectares of prime, fertile soil, lovingly tended by generations of South African farmers, lies fallow.

Of the 45 landowners who lived there until two years ago, only four are left. The rest have moved away — bought out by the Government, who gave their land to Transkei.

The valley lies at the foot of the craggy Drakensberg, hemmed in by Lesotho and Transkei, in a far corner of East Griqualand.

Its people are now scattered far and wide. A few who hadn't the heart — and in some cases the means — to move too far away from their beloved valley have settled in Matatiele, the nearest town.

Of the remaining four, three have accepted Government offers for their land, while a lone dissident still stubbornly holds out for something better.

They're bitter, but they'd rather not discuss it. Born on the land to parents who lived here most of their lives, they're clannishly closed-mouthed. Two refused to be interviewed.

The dissident, Andrew Joubert, promises he'll talk one day . . . but not yet.

"I've said too much in the past, and I'm being victimised for it now. The others all got better prices for their land, if you work it out per hectare.

"But I put the valuator's backs up by running them down to the Press and to their faces for their primitive methods of valuating my land, and they didn't like it.

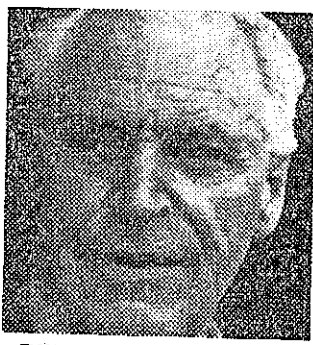
## Lives alone

"They based their valuation of my 'erf plaas' on prices fetched by 'swarf plaas' in the Kokstad district. Surely they know that a swarf plaas — my word for farms that have itinerant owners — never fetched a good price, and that an erf plaas — always in the family — is never for sale."

Andrew lives alone on the 3 350 hectare farm he inherited from his father. He still employs a few labourers, but no longer works the land he grew up

## QUOTE

**We and the land have been sacrificed on the altar of apartheid. But what can you do against a Nationalist Government who put their ideology before anything else? — CLIFF KIRK, farmer**



Bill Pike . . . "lies and broken promises"

on and which he cultivated all this married years before he and his wife parted.

Now he waits idly for the Government to make him an offer he can accept. So far he's refused two.

The fourth landowner is Bill Pike, who owns a trading store on land he bought from his father. A widower, he also lives alone.

"Yes, I'm bitter. Just

plain bitter about the whole affair. Right through I've had nothing but lies and broken promises from the officials I've dealt with.

"This store has been in my family since 1913. I was born here. We were notified about five years ago that this area would go black.

"It was at a meeting in town. We were all reeling with shock, and each one of us swore we would never give up our land. But we were told to forget sentiment and to be prepared to hand over our ground.

"Then we were just left to stew for about two-and-a-half years, after which two officials arrived with the news that we were to be offered compensation for our land and property.

"If we refused the offers made us — and we were fully entitled to, they said — further offers would be made a year later, and again a year later if these were rejected. But if we refused the third offer, expropriation would follow. However, we were assured that we would be adequately compensated.

"The first offer they made me was laughable.

I'd had the shop and my house and the land privately valued, so I travelled to Pretoria with the necessary documents as evidence of what my property was really worth, to see an official who told me 'our doors are always open'.

"But he was not prepared to divulge how they'd arrived at the figure of R92 000, which was the lump sum they offered me on property I'd had valued at R163 000. A year later they offered me R115 000.

## Offer

"This second offer came exactly a year after I'd had a meeting in Durban in December 1978 with two officials who promised me that it would be made not later than March 1979, as my wife and I already owned a smallholding in another town and we were keen to move as quickly as possible to start building our new home.

"Despite numerous calls to Pretoria, nothing materialised. Then in June or July I again met two officials in Durban.

"By then my wife had

been killed in an accident, and they promised to treat my case with special consideration. An offer would be made soon, they said, so that I could move away.

"I left Durban that night with the firm promise that a letter would reach me within a week confirming what we'd arranged. I'm still waiting.

## Accepted

"In September the same two valuers, who originally looked over my property, came to re-assess it. In December 1979 I was offered R115 000, which I've accepted.

"I can't fight any more. Who can fight the Government? They're all-powerful. I just want to hand over the keys to this place and go."

Bill Pike was the only one of the Valley's people who was prepared to speak out. Those who have settled in Matatiele, many of whom accepted the first offer made them, say their reticence is due to the fact that negotiations between those still in the Valley and the Government have not been "completely finalised".

"The situation is delicate," they murmur. "What can we gain by complaining. The Government, you know . . . one has to be so careful."

One of them, Cliff Kirk, who was president of the now disbanded Ongeluksnek Farmers' Association for 29 years, says a letter he wrote was

forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture, Hendrik Schoeman, to set the record straight.

"Referring to bitter dissatisfaction among Valley farmers, the Minister had remarked that it was strange that out of 45 landowners, 41 were satisfied with their offers.

"I wrote in my letter that this was far from the case. I said only one was satisfied. The other 40 were coerced into accepting the figures offered them.

"We accepted because we saw no future whatsoever in instituting litigation. We were in fact told by a Pietermaritzburg advocate that the cost of court action could amount to R25 000 and we had no guarantee that we would win our case. We could well have ended up having to accept the offers and still having to foot the bill as well.

## Unprolific

"So we left a high rainfall grassland area — among the most productive soil in the country — and for two years it has been completely unprolific.

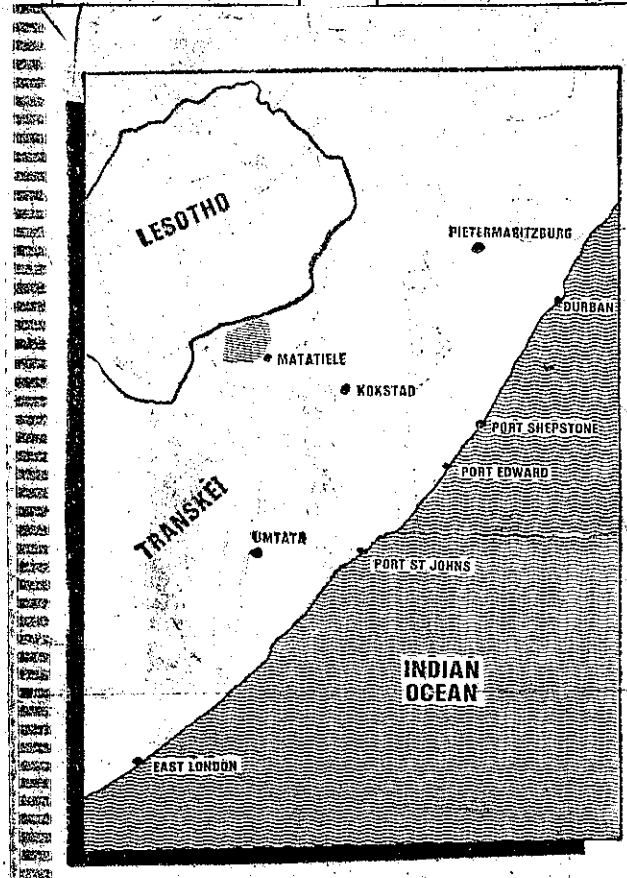
"We and the land have been sacrificed on the altar of apartheid. The Valley people have been thrown out to perpetuate Government policy. It was never my policy.

"But what can you do against a Nationalist Government who put their ideology before everything else?"

TABLE 11

FACTORS WHICH PROMOTE OR INHIBIT CARE-GROUP ACTIVITY

FACTORS	PROMOTING	DETRIMENTAL
Size of settlement	small	large
		indifferent or opposing
		absent
		tensions, big class differences
		withdrawn or slow imposing its own ideas
		prolonged absence, unreliable



The shaded area on the map gives an indication of the situation of the On-geluksnek Valley where once productive farms are now untilled

TABLE I

HEALTH PRIORITIES EXPRESSED BY 78 CARE-GROUPS

Disease	P r i o r i t i e s			TOTAL
	1st n <sub>1</sub>	2nd n <sub>2</sub>	3rd n <sub>3</sub>	
Typhoid	20	25	11	78
Blindness	23	14	18	78
Nutrition	10	17	13	78
Tuberculosis	9	9	5	78
Measles	6	7	16	78
Diarrhoea, vomiting	6	3	2	78
Other	4	3	13	78
TOTAL	78	78	78	78

\* Nutrition (Incl. Pellagra)  $\frac{3}{3n_1 + 2n_2 + n_3} \times 100$   
 Index =  $\frac{3n_1 + 2n_2 + n_3}{3n_1 + 2n_2 + n_3} \times 100$

The value and effectiveness of Village Health Workers or Primary Health workers elsewhere in the world has been generally proved. The unique aspect of our Care-Groups is that they work in a group as a team. It will be interesting to see how effective they turn out to be and whether the concept is sufficiently viable to take root elsewhere in South Africa.

YEAR	B A S A N I		C H A B A N E		N K U Z A N A	
	No. pupils examined	SSA Index	No. pupils examined	SSA Index	No. pupils examined	SSA Index
1976	79	14,7	166	4,6	127	12,0
1977	102	7,5	135	2,5	98	12,2
1978	143	7,5	232	4,0	105	3,2

SSA-Index =  $\frac{\text{Sum of individual intensities within SSA}}{\text{Sum of maximum possible intensities within SSA}} \times 100$   
 Intensity = degree of upper tarsal follicles and papillary hypertrophy graded 0-3 (WHO)

AFRICAN SHIP-  
 (part I)  
 Certificate or Suitable Ex  
 IN SHIPPING AND  
 ADMINISTRATION  
 Business Economics I  
 Accounting I  
 and Forwarding Administra-  
 tion Management

**THE AFRICAN DUTCH CARPET GROUP**  
**OF S.A. (NATAL) (Pty) Ltd.**  
 Your entire home fully carpeted  
 including underfelt, as per  
 example below  
**CASH:** **TERMS:**

22nd Jan  
 All Summer  
 prices slashed



# Defence of the border falls on an ageing Dad's Army

By PETER FABRICIUS

QUOTE

My eldest son earns more than I do. How can I bluff him into coming back to the farm? The boys love the farm... being close to nature. But you cannot eat these things.

"THAT'S Bechuanaland just there — the second line of trees," says Piet Pretorius, standing on his front lawn.

"At night the terrorists could sit safely on their side and shoot me through my front window."

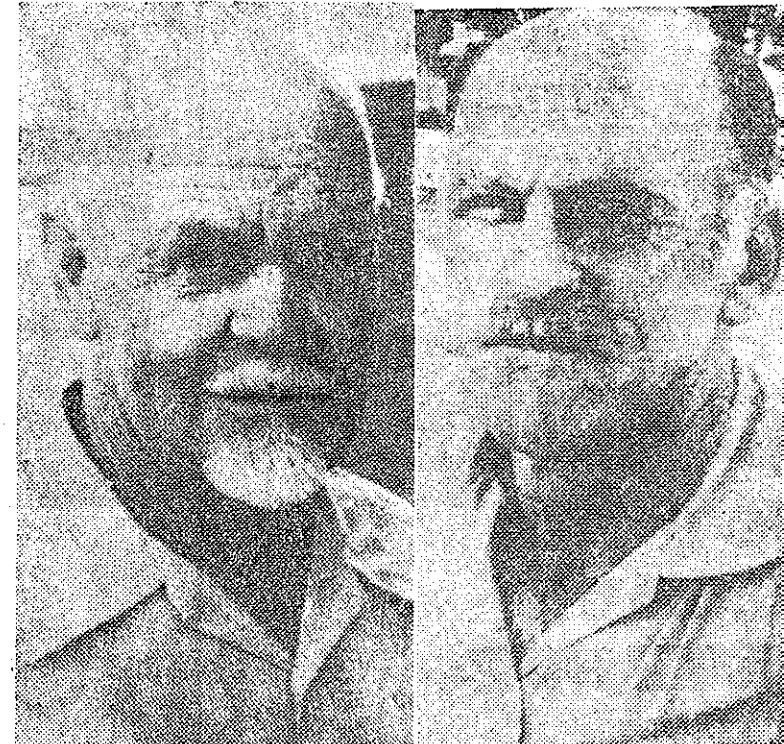
Piet Pretorius — he turns 70 this year — is right on the front line. His farm runs down to the Limpopo opposite the Tuli Block. In fact he has a dam there so his interests extend beyond the mid-point in the river which is the international boundary.

He does not reveal too much concern as he points out how close his farmhouse is to the border. Like all the other farmers in this frontier district of Ellis-ras he is anxious not to seem anxious.

"The townspeople come here expecting to find a terrorist behind every bush," he says as the bakkie bounces along through the dense forest along the river.

"But we have not even lost a single cow here. I am very good friends with the chief across the river.

"Across the river my neighbours are black. Behind me they are black. To the south, they are black. Only to the north there is Buks van Tonder."



FLIP COETZEE

LEON STEYN

# SA'S FRONT LINE DWINDLES

...as the border farmers get fewer and fewer

...ation  
and probably all the  
border districts.

It is difficult to find two white-occupied farms in a row. One white ranch manager told me he did not have a white neighbour for 20 kilometres.

The official count at the Department of Agriculture office in Ellisras is that 136 farms are unoccupied of the approximately 590 Ellisras farms which fall within the 50 km border zone designated by the Government. This is a conservative count. More are leaving all the time.

There are many reasons why they are leaving and fear is probably not paramount after all. And the consequences are also many — but here the security aspect looms larger.

For the exodus from the farmlands of places like Ellisras is leaving large holes in the Republic's line of first defence, as the Government sees it.

It has tabled legislation to try to reverse the trek, including provisions which would make it punishable not to occupy a farm, under certain conditions.

But it is the economics of farming here which is mainly responsible for the depopulation. It is a "bit-ter, hard" country to farm.

Rain is too scarce for the farmer who wants to cultivate. Irrigation has become too expensive because there is no electricity and water has to be pumped by diesel motor. Cattle ranching is the safest bet but for that you need at least 2 500 hectare and only about 20 percent of the farms are that big. And ranching has its problems too.

The result is that the small farmers are folding rapidly. Their farms are being absorbed by bigger farmers but even this is happening less often now. Most are selling to out-of-towners — doctors and businessmen from the cities — who game-fence the farms and use them for occasional trophy hunting.

This has left vast tracts of land empty most of the year. And the process is self-perpetuating. The popularity of the area among game farmers has pushed up the price of farmland beyond its farming value making it difficult for the genuine farmer to start up here or to extend his farm.

"The main problem here is that the market value of land is way above the farming value," says Mr



**Gawie Jacobs with his prize Afrikaners on the Limpopo River. On the other side of the river is Botswana.**

Willem Lewis, chairman of the Ellisras District Farming Union.

"About one third of the farms here are game farms. The land is selling at R90 per hectare. Its farming value is only R40. (The TRIBUNE discovered that game farms can cost R130 a hectare.)

"If the tendency to sell farms to people not living here, continues, we will have to put pressure on the Government to implement the provisions of the new Act which stipulate that the farmer must occupy his land."

Mr Lewis farms cattle and peanuts.

"I work for peanuts," he says, repeating the district's favourite joke.

He is one of the more prosperous farmers — as evidenced by his position in the farmers' union — but even he does not have electricity in his house.

The diesel to run a lighting plant would be too expensive. The fuel-cost spiral has hit Ellisras hard — situated as it is so far from town markets and provisions and beyond the last railway station at Vaalwater.

For many this has proved the last straw and scores of farmers have left their land to work at the Iscor coal mine being built in the district.

Many of them are still hanging onto their farms by a shoestring. They work at the mine but farm in the evenings and at the weekends.

Mr Ernestus Seegers, (42), is one who was forced to find work at Iscor. He is one of the luckier ones. He had a trade — electro-mechanics. Most work in unskilled positions. But even this is an improvement on their farm salaries.

"I know one chap who has only Std 6 education and who left his farm to work as a foreman at Iscor. He gets R500 — far more than he earned on the farm," one of the town-folk - cum - farmers told me.

Old Flip Coetzee is one of the born farmers whose farm on the banks of the Mogol, is about to be sold.

"I have tried everything," the 65-year-old Boer says with sad eyes. "But the spirit comes from above," he adds, pointing heavenwards. "If it does not come, you can not make it."

The farmers' sons almost invariably go off to town to get professional qualifications.

Mr Leon Steyn's oldest son is a civil engineer, his second intends studying management when he finishes army training.

"My eldest-son earns more than I do. How can I bluff him into coming back to the farm" he says.

Mr Seeger's experience does not bode well for the Government's plan to encourage new farmers to come to the border areas. He left the city in 1967 to try cattle-ranching in the district. "At Steenbokpan there were only two of us who had bought our farms. The rest all inherited."

Mr Seeger found it was impossible to make ranching profitable enough to repay the interest on his Land Bank loan and the interests on other capital investments such as the cattle themselves.

The way things are going it seems the defence of Ellisras — and beyond — is increasingly being entrusted to a rapidly dwindling, aging dad's army.

I asked Piet Pretorius whether it really mattered that whites were spread so thin in the land. Wouldn't terrorists get through anyway, if they were determined? The answer had to do with intelligence, in the military sense of the word.

"The farmers do look after the border," he said. "Everyone who has come across the border illegally we have caught."

# East Griqualand farmers fight 'blackmail'

By Maureen Griffin

IF TRANSKEI succeeds in getting East Griqualand, other homeland leaders will regard blackmail as an effective means of manipulating the Government.

This is the opinion of members of the East Griqualand Regional Development Association who, in a memorandum to the Central Consolidation Committee, enumerate several factors which they claim would make the incorporation of East Griqualand into Transkei "both undesirable and unwise".

They point out that since 1936 about 180 000 hectare (or 30 percent) of land from the Matatiele and Umzimkulu magisterial districts has been ceded to Transkei "and the question arises as to what other area in the Republic has made comparable sacrifices."

In 1879 East Griqualand was annexed to the

Cape Province after which white farmers bought extensively in the area.

"At that time labour was virtually non-existent and had to be recruited, in many cases from beyond Matatiele in what is now the Mount Fletcher district of Transkei.

"Gradually permanent labour settled on the farms, mostly members of the Baca and Hlubi tribes, who had no homes and were the remnants of tribes driven south by Chaka.

"It must be emphasised that no blacks were displaced by the Griquas, or later by white settlers. It was the stability created by white occupation that has developed the area into what it is today.

"The only ethnic group that might have a claim to the area would be the Bushmen. As so clearly proved by the Steyn Committee's report, the Xhosa and Mpondo have no historic claim to East Griqualand."

According to the memorandum, Kokstad (rateable value R39 490 320) and Matatiele (rateable value R15 800 000), the region's principal towns, are thriving commercial centres that also serve Lesotho and Transkei.

Consisting of 392 560 hectare, worth about R50 000 000, of which 17 percent is arable, the area is made up of 475 farming units with 377 farmers.

"East Griqualand is one of the highest producers of food per hectare in South Africa. However, it is important to view this in the following context: (Quote from Steyn Committee report, page 12).

"The region has a high farming potential. It is, however, a potential which cannot be realised by primitive farming methods and must, in fact, be wrested from the soil by advanced methods and by concentrated and sustained efforts."

• The dairy industry in East Griqualand con-

tributes about R11 000 000 to the gross national product of the area;

• During 1978/79 1 946 000 kilograms of wool, worth over R3.5-million was produced in the area, while sales of 24 000 sheep and lamb realised about R330 000 at controlled markets.

• During the last financial year when beef prices were depressed, the Stockowners' Co-Operative realised R6.88-million at sales in East Griqualand, while the turnover of all Farmers' Association sales there was R5.04-million.

• The highest ever maize yield under experimental conditions obtained at an official Government research station was obtained at Kokstad. Sales of maize and wheat through official channels amount to R570 000 (maize) and R80 000 (wheat). An estimated R750 000 of seed and eating potatoes were sold in the last season.

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## 2. FORMATION AND FUNCTION OF THE CARE-GROUPS

It follows that health education, directed at improving hygiene, and treatment of actual cases and their families must be implemented at household level. We have found that members of the local community are usually readily accepted in the houses and are most effective in initiating changes in attitude towards the disease. Hence we have attempted to involve the villagers themselves in the control of trachoma.

A hospital based team, the Care-Group motivators, consisting of a male social worker and a female nursing assistant, have been entrusted with the task of motivating and training groups of village health workers, known as Care-Groups.

Initially, after having contacted the village authorities and key persons, the team presented the problem of trachoma to the community and together they discussed ways of solving it. Members of the community were then motivated to come forward as volunteers. These villagers, mainly women, subsequently organised themselves into groups and elected their chair-lady. It was made clear from the outset that the work is purely voluntary, their reward being good health for themselves and their community. In most cases, this is well accepted.

At a later stage, communities which had heard about Care-Groups often requested help to establish their own group. In these cases, initial priority was given to the health needs expressed by the community concerned.

The training of the Care-Group is a continuous process and takes place each time the motivators visit the group. In places where there is a clinic, the clinic staff works together with the group, advising and continuing the education.

In the Northern Transvaal, trachoma is considered to be a suitable means of introducing primary health care into a community. It is a condition which is well known to all, its relation to hygiene is easily understood, treatment can be given by the Care-Group and is seen to be effective. We therefore concentrated the initial training on trachoma with special emphasis on the role of hygiene in the prevention of the disease. The

Various explanations or rationalisations are given these days for the relatively low agricultural production in Ciskei and Transkei.

They range from over-population of both people and cattle to the ability, or rather the alleged inability, of the black peasant to adjust to modern-day agriculture.

Liberal historians have stressed the destructive impact of white rule, the disruption of the traditional African economy and, particularly, the devastating blow of the shortage of land, as being the root causes of the apparent failure of black agriculture.

The Rhodes University economist, Prof Hobart Houghton, argued that black people failed to adapt the tribal economy to the new condition of land scarcity, to market-orientated agriculture, and to new methods of farming.

Although there are, sadly, more racist views about the low-productivity in black rural areas, the interpretation of the liberal historians and economists seems to be pretty prevalent today.

But, in truth, there is a very different story behind the "failure of black agriculture."

The Ciskei's Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Gary Godden, cited one factor last year when he pointed out how credit had been a vital element in the development of white agriculture from mere survival farming to a modern business.

# Black farming top priority

Millions and millions have been lent by the Land Bank, a government-owned institution, to white farmers to enable them to own their land, buy equipment and, in many cases, get rich.

With this capital, not to mention the security of

land tenure, white agriculture took off.

For the majority of farmers, no such system existed because the Land Bank was for whites. For the black farmer, there was no credit.

Gary Godden and the Ciskei Marketing Board



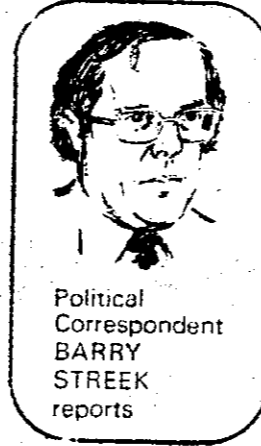
Ciskei's Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Gary Godden.

are now trying to reverse this process in the Ciskei by making credit available, but the resources they have are really peanuts. If the South African Government wants to make black agriculture viable, even within the homelands, it should ensure that institutions like the Ciskei Marketing Board had enough funds to offer any serious farmer sufficient capital to farm effectively and compare with the white farmers.

But it is not only lack of credit that destroyed black agriculture. It is now becoming clear that blatant discrimination and coercion after the discovery of gold and diamonds, and culminating in the 1913 Land Act, were used by whites against black farmers and that an economy based on cheap labour, was created in the early part of this century to suit the people with money.

The last thing the developers of South Africa's capitalist economy considered, if they considered it at all, was the black farmer in the rural areas. Indeed, they needed his labour so badly that taxes were used to force him into the mines and industry.

More than that, it is quite clear that white farmers used every method in the book to minimise and, if possible,



eliminate competition from black farmers.

What is less well known is that before this process of destroying black agriculture, the black farmer competed very easily and effectively.

In the Ciskei, Transkei and the Eastern Cape, black farmers soon adapted to the needs of the market economy after the initial impact with the settler society had begun to change their life style.

This has been brought out in a recent article by an Oxford University academic, Colin Bundy.

For example, he quotes from a traveller in the Glen Grey district in 1880 who wrote: "Man for man, the kaffirs of these parts are better farmers than the Europeans, more careful of their stock,

cultivating a larger area of land, and working themselves more assiduously."

The same traveller, V. Sampson, was told by a magistrate from a neighbouring district that "taking man for man and acre for acre, the native produces more than the European."

In one district of 7 000 people, an official told Sampson, black farmers had produced 250 820 pounds of wool of superior quality, besides 7 484 muids of corn and operated 77 wagons.

Bundy writes: "Throughout the Ciskei, north-eastern Cape and western Transkei, peasants gained a foothold as land-holders and cultivators, selling grain, forage, stock and animal products. They won prizes at agricultural shows in competition with white farmers, and a statistician noted in 1870 that 'taking everything into consideration, the native district of Peddie surpasses the European district of Albany in its productive powers'.

"The Wittebergen reserve raised such quantities of wheat, maize and millet that the area served as the granary of both the northern districts and the Free State too!"

Hundreds of black people bought land and many more leased land from white owners, especially

in the Peddie, Victoria East, Queenstown and King William's Town districts. From these districts, as well as others, there was a surplus of agricultural production which was sold.

For example, in 1864 a total of 17 000 pounds of wool was sold from the Peddie district. In 1870 it was estimated that blacks sold produce worth R300 000 while at the same time white farmers sold produce worth R1 164 000.

With the discovery of diamonds, new markets developed and black farmers responded immediately. Five thousand wagons of mealies were sold by Fingoland farmers in 1873, as well as a wool crop worth R120 000 in Gaikaland, Gealekaland, Tembuland and East Griqualand. It was reported that the people were selling cattle to buy sheep.

Bundy cites other incidences and figures to show that given the chance to compete with the white farmers, the black farmers and peasants were able to do so.

But when the mines demanded labour (one remembers they had to resort to Chinese "coolies", so desperate were they), and when the white farmers demanded labour (it was so bad in Natal that they had to bring in Indian workers

for the sugar estates), the pattern changed from one of competition to one of subjugation.

And the black farmer has been at a great disadvantage ever since. Having gained an unfair advantage, the white farmer interests apparently want to keep it that way: witness the Ciskei's problem with selling its tobacco.

It is about time that black agriculture was given a chance, a real chance, to recover. That means a massive financial injection — into low-interest credit schemes, into irrigation schemes, into housing settlements and into resources.

With the phenomenal profits from gold, the South African Government has been given a chance. And it would be terrible if that chance to revive black agriculture were lost.

For every million rands made out of the gold price, at least ten per cent should be set aside for black rural development.

That is where the future stability of South Africa lies, whatever government is in power; and the problems of urbanisation, influx control and housing will continue unless something drastic is done now in the rural areas.

The problem can be ignored, as it has been for many years, but in the 1980s South Africa does so at its peril. One rand out of every ten in the gold price profits would be a small price to pay.

## Minister gives <sup>rom</sup> advice to farmers <sup>24.1.80 (3)</sup>

### Pretoria Bureau

FARMING had become an integral part of South Africa's business world and for the farmer to protect his status, greater emphasis would have to be laid on specialised and integrated agriculture.

So said the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, when he officially opened the two-day Agricultural Outlook Conference 1980 (Agrocon) at the University of Pretoria yesterday.

More than 300 delegates, representing dairy products, meat boards, poultry, crops, livestock, and controlled marketing and price formulation organisations, from all parts of the country attended the conference.

Mr Schoeman said he believed it essential that farmers

looked at integrated agriculture as a top priority as farming now incorporated the same risks, faced rising inflation costs and technological advancement.

"Balanced technology and economic planning in agriculture has become a greater urgency than ever before," Mr Schoeman said.

"In the times in which we live there is on occasion a tendency to over-simplify complicated problems.

"This applies not only at the political level, where we have become wary of the 'philosophers' of the world, but also in agriculture which receives regularly its quotas of 'wise counsel' from sources which do not reveal an intimate knowledge of the problems of agriculture," Mr Schoeman said.

NM 25/1/80 3-General

# Keep it

## Dairyman wants to hide price hike

Mercury Correspondent

**PRETORIA — A South African dairy industry executive yesterday called for a gag on the Press to prevent consumers getting information about planned price increases.**

Stringent censorship of reports dealing with food price hikes, particularly of sensitive staple commodities, was of vital importance, said the general manager, operations, of the National Co-operative Dairies, Dr Mattheus Hermann, during a session on Government price increases held at the 1980 Agricultural Outlook conference here yesterday.

'We should not give the Press anything. They should not be informed at all that price hikes or increases in various products are under way. They should just be given a Press release when it happens,' Dr Hermann said.

Newspapers merely publicised articles which were derogatory when marketing boards were reviewing prices.

When it came to popular consumer commodities such as milk, cheese and eggs, publication of information on proposed price increases led to consumer councils agitating against marketing boards and the Price Controller.

'Prices should be increased and these increases should only be 2 or 3 percent each time. Then the public will not be shocked by a large annual increase,' he said.

### Essential

He believed it essential the Department of National Co-operative Dairies be given a budget by Minister of Agriculture Mr Hendrik Schoeman, to allow control boards to determine price hikes in advance and without official consultation.

'When the consumer councils start agitating against us this leads to boycott actions and this kind of Press criticism only leads to an artificial climate of the product involved,' he said.

### Suspicious

'The Press is always attacking the agricultural industry and does not worry about other price fields. But Government action should be taken to stop this kind of bad publicity which only ends up with the man in the street becoming suspicious of price rises,' Dr Hermann said.

The chairman of the Pietermaritzburg Housewives League, Mrs Mercia Watkins, said last night she was horrified by the proposal.

'As consumers we are entitled to have adequate warning of any intended increases in food prices. We have a right to know what

plans from housewives

# dairy!

3-General  
Mercury Correspondent  
NM 25/1/80

## Call to gag Press on food-price increases

★ FROM PAGE 1

is going on.  
Former Durban chairman of the organisation, Mrs Margaret Cooke,

said the suggestion was unacceptable. 'It is hilarious that they can even dream up such a proposal.'

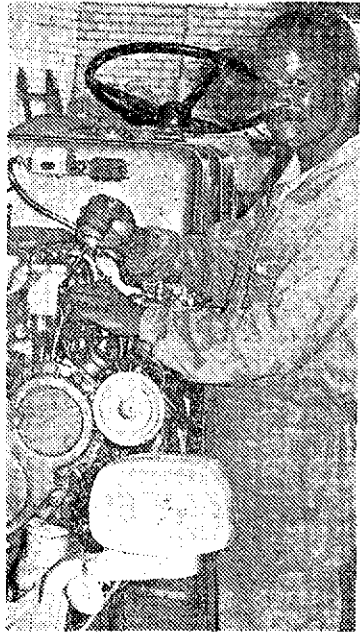
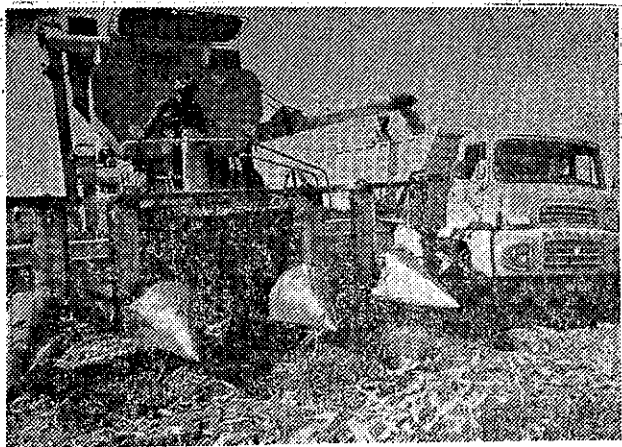
The director of the Consumer Council in Pretoria, Mr Johan Verheem, said he did not believe the Press should be muzzled.

He said the Press only published what people told them and asked spokesmen for their views.

Mr Verheem said all information about possible food price increases should be published for the information of consumers.

★ TURN TO PAGE 2

AFRICA which does not appear to be poisoning by motor vehicles

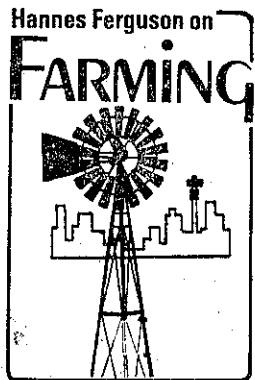


The combine harvester above, busily ejecting a stream of maize into a farm tipper, epitomises the productivity lead established in South Africa by agriculture over industry (see worker at left) and mining.

# The stats prove it: agriculture leads way

While South African agriculture has been leaping ahead in volume of production and efficiency, the same cannot be said of industry and mining. This emerges from a comparison of figures issued by the Department of Statistics, and only confirms what many economists have known all along.

Every few years the Department of Statistics presents us with a new census photograph of what our national economy looks like. Unfortunately, the industrial and agricultural



domestic product for each person employed in the sector. Then we have productivity of capital...

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censuses seldom coincide. Financial statistics, from various official sources, are also not as regularly available as one would like.

So, the latest convenient year for comparing agriculture with the rest of the economic sector was 1975, giving us a colour print of the decade 1965 to 1975.

Next year, when the agricultural census of 1980 has been digested by our faithful statisticians and their computers, we shall have an idea of the overlapping decade of the seventies.

We keep writing history, but it remains recent enough to give us a lot of clues to what is happening today.

## Increases

In this way, the decade 1965 to 1975 has much to tell us. But it can do so only if we convert all data to 1970 prices, in order to give constant 1970 values.

Thus we learn that between 1965 and 1975, the contribution of agriculture to the total value of what South Africa produced (gross domestic product) has gone up — at 1970 prices — from R874-million to R1 110-million, industry from R2 830-million and mining's contribution from R1 004-million to R1 207-million.

Total employment of the three sectors also changed to 890 000 (corrected figures) in agriculture, from 929 500 to 1 348 400 in industry, and 607 100 to 623 800 in mining.

In the same way, fixed investments in agriculture, except land and stock and again in 1970 values, have risen from R2 010-million to R2 647-million. The same figures for industry were R1 979-million and R4 186-million; for mining R1 762-million and R2 362-million.

Now we have all the ingredients for our productivity comparison.

Productivity in terms of manpower, for our purpose, is the contribution of agriculture, industry, mining, etc, to the gross

tion to GDP for every rand of fixed investments:

TABLE 1

Manpower productivity: GDP for each employee in the sector — constant prices of 1970.

	1965	1975	Change %
Agri	795	1 233	+55
Ind	2 272	2 556	+12
Min	1 690	1 849	+9

TABLE 2

Capital productivity: GDP per rand invested in fixed capital — constant prices of 1970.

	1965	1975	Change %
Agri	0,43	0,40	-7
Ind	1,07	0,82	-23
Min	0,56	0,49	-13

Agriculture has been growing by leaps and bounds, not only in volume of production, but also in efficiency. The productivity of every person in agriculture has increased in the decade with 55 percent. Part is due to the increase in capital invested, but part also to sound management.

## Decline

By the same token, industry has improved its manpower productivity by 12 percent. Capital productivity in industry has, however, declined by as much as 23 percent.

This may have several causes. One would be the naturally declining rise in value generated by each successive addition to capital.

The massive rise in capital invested in industry in the decade, which more than doubled — even faster than industry's contribution to the national product — points to a large increase in mechanisation. Industry has become more capital intensive.

The low increase in manpower productivity, however, points in the opposite direction.

A reasonable interpretation would be that many large high-technology and high-mechanisation projects have been undertaken, but that at the same time many industries have remained labour-intensive, or have even become more so as they have grown.

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5%

2%

0%

6%

9%

male

# Wine profits 'helped subsidise beer war'

Star 30/1/80

3-General

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em," seems to have been the philosophy that led to the recent formation of the beer and wine monopolies.

The two-year-old beer war between Intercontinental Breweries (Rembrandt) and the South African Breweries is estimated to have cost the industry R30-million.

"Profits of the vine were being used to help subsidise the beer war, to the cost of South Africa's 6 000 wine farmers," said Dr Andre du Toit, chairman of the Ko-Operatiewe Wijnbouwers Vereniging (KWV).

"The wine farmer was virtually in the hands of two monopolies. When the opportunity provided itself to have a say in our own affairs, we grabbed it with both hands."

The KWV took a 30 percent share in the newly formed Cape Wine and Distillers company. Its bedfellows, are former arch enemies — of each other and the KWV — the SAB (30 percent and Rembrandt (30 percent).

## Strangest

The new company came about when SAB handed over its major wine interests, including Stellenbosch Farmer's Wineries, to Rembrandt in return for Intercontinental Breweries.

Dr du Toit and the KWV make the strangest partners of the new wine monopoly. For years, Dr du Toit, as head of the farmers' organisation, strongly condemned the monopolistic situation in the liquor industry.

In his chairman's annual report in 1976 a large portion was devoted to an attack on the lack of "free enterprise" in the industry.

He questioned "whether certain conditions and principles were reconcilable with the principles and ideals of a system of free enterprise."

As examples, he asked:

- "Is it free trade and free competition when only two groups (now one) with wholesale liquor interests are responsible for the purchase of more than 80 percent of all wines and spirits that wine growers produce (and 90 percent of wine exports)?"

- "Is it free competition when brewery interests and wine interests are combined?"

- "... when prices are fixed collectively and not separately?"

- "... when takeovers and amalgamations and the formation of large interest groups result in the restriction instead of the expansion of distribution and marketing?"

## Socialism

Dr du Toit said it was difficult to comment on the report in the light of recent developments, but the new system should stabilise the wine industry.

A member of the former Board of Trade and Industries said the system in the wine industry "smacked of creeping socialism."

In response, Dr du Toit asked: "What is wrong with a group of farmers coming together and forming a business undertaking to protect their interests?"

One of the clauses introduced by the Government was that SAB and Rembrandt dispose of all but five of their retail outlets.

Charlene Beltramo of Starline

## MONOPOLIES v THE CONSUMER



A three-part investigation

However, the market is not likely to be flooded with liquor stores. The two groups have 12 years in which to dispose of their retail interests.

Retail liquor barons have criticised this, saying leading retailers would be tied to SAB and Rembrandt for many years still. "As a result certain products that do not find favour are unlikely to appear in these bottle stores (a total of 430) for a long time," an industry spokesman said.

## Benefit

But to the beer-loving masses of South Africa the problems that could arise in the wine industry are of little importance.

When SAB concluded the agreements, they promised not to put up the wholesale price of beer until 1981.

At the time of the mergers, Dr F du Plessis of Sanlam — apparent architect of the scheme — said the consumer was likely to benefit because the two liquor giants should be able to shave costs, which in turn should keep a brake on liquor prices.

"SAB has kept its promise to the consumer and has shaved costs.

Its first move was to retrench 200 employees. It then withdrew its wide range of discounts and special offers to retailers.

Beer prices went up from seven to 55 percent

— depending on the brand and type (eg dumpies), and the retailer.

However, Mr I van der Watt, head of the beer division at SAB, said that over Christmas, SAB had discounted Sportsman, Culemborg, Kronenbrau (in the Transvaal only) and Heidelberg beers by as much as 15 percent to 20 percent.

All are bottom-of-the-market beers. Kronenbrau has a seven percent share of the market while the other three account for less than eight percent of beer sales.

Mr van der Watt denied that SAB had given large discounts in the past — contrary to what retailers insist — and said discounts had only been five or 10 percent of the list price.

In addition, he said, the price war was confined to a maximum of 10 percent of volume.

When asked how much SAB had saved by stopping discounts, Mr Van der Watt said: "No comment. It has nothing to do with you or the public." Informers sources believe that these moves will save SAB millions.

## Battle

Mr Brian Joseph of Premier Milling who have large bottle store interests, said that when the breweries gave discounts to retailers these had been passed on to the public.

## Down, down, down!

South Africa should be a nation of pot-bellied drinkers — per capita beer consumption is a frothy 30 litres a year.

Wine lovers, it would seem, have a lesser thirst. Per capita consumption of the fruit of the vine in SA in 1978 was 8.80 litres.

Higher-priced spirits obviously fall at the bottom of the consumption scale — a mere 1.02 litres a head were downed in 1978.

"Now we can't keep prices down, and retailers are battling to keep the market competitive," he said.

At the time of the mergers, the Government assured the public that the moves were being made in the best interests of industry and the economy.

Retailers are already complaining about confusion and inefficiency within the market, but those may be teething troubles.

Consumers have yet to feel the benefits of "the promised rationalisation of the industry" and some gloom prophets are saying they never will.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE

The Star Wednesday January 30 1980

Star

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 3 Personal Services

**MERCHANDISE AND FOR SA**

Star 30/1/80  
 (3) General

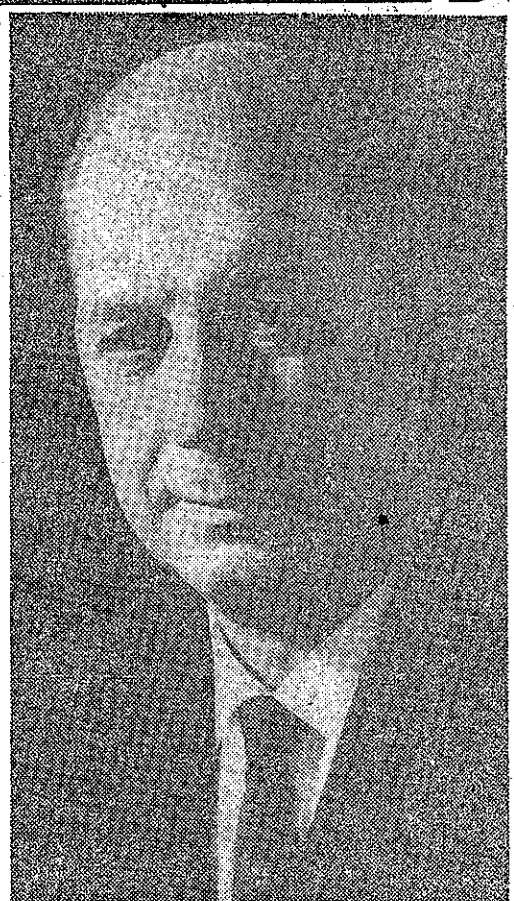


"The Government does not rubber stamp monopolies, but it often allows them, in the public interest," says a senior member of the Competition Board. The board — until recently the Board of Trade and Industries — had been formed to investigate and if necessary, curb or prevent, monopolistic conditions. However, its findings could be overruled by the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs or the Minister of Finance, said the spokesman. In December last year, two major monopolistic moves were made, arousing barely a flicker of interest from the Government and even indirect approval.

- The first was the gaining of control of all brewery interests by South African Breweries in a deal that gave the Rembrandt group a major slice of the local and export wine market.
- The other saw Fedmis and the chemical giant, Sentrachem, merged, giving more clout to the already powerful fertiliser giants.
- During the same month another monopolistic situation — in the production and marketing of eggs — began crumbling when Premier Milling withdrew from the controversial National Egg Producers Co-operative.



# BRIEFING



Dr Andre du Toit: "What is wrong with a group of farmers coming together and forming a business undertaking to protect their interests?"

**SAUCE WITH WHITE WINE**  
 (For White Meats and Sea Foods)

1 cup hot cream  
 1/4 cup dry white wine  
 3 T butter

Melt butter in saucepan. Add flour; cook till and wine. Whip very well. Boil for 5 minutes to taste and chopped parsley.

---000---

**SHERRY SAUCE** (For Steamed Puddings) K.U.V. Paarl

Warm sherry (1/4 pt) and add 2 egg yolks and whisk in a basin over a pot of nearly boiling water until thick and frothy. Serve at once, adding sugar to taste.

---000---

id fine  
 3/4 cup water  
 1/4 t pepper  
 1 t chilli powder  
 3/4 cup tomato sauce

Mix all ingredients together. Simmer for 45 minutes.

---000---

Peggy Brown, Halseton

(For Ice-Cream)

2 T honey  
 1/4 cup van der Hum

9 cherries finely chopped  
 4 walnuts finely chopped

Heat in a double boiler until very hot. Serve over ice-cream.

---000---

## 16 Pets For Sale

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**BARGAIN**. Set of Livingston mint civil and military miniature medals, in beautiful show.

# The Star

Thursday January 31 1980

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE

## BRIEFING

# A 90% grip on the market

**A price rise in fertiliser ripples strongly throughout the entire agricultural sector, affecting all basic foodstuffs, including margarine, cooking oil, maize meal, bread, dairy products, meat and poultry, eggs and soya.**

Two major groups, Fedmis-Sentrachem and Triomf-AECI control more than 90 percent of the fertiliser market.

To strengthen their position further, combat new entrants to the market and control prices, the two have a decade-old market-sharing agreement.

In 1975, Triomf tried to back out of the agreement and appealed to the Government for assistance.

A Board of Trade and Industries investigation was ordered.

Triomf claimed the agreement was stifling free enterprise: "If there is no free competition, service becomes poor, because a company assured its share in the market finds it no longer necessary to offer improved service.

"To remain viable, a company must be competitive — to the advantage of the consumer.

"The marketing agreement is suppressing initiative and innovation, because under a share limitation, the company cannot effectively use these to improve its position on the market.

"In the absence of incentive, improvements and progress will remain dormant, to the detriment of the consumer."

### Steps

Triomf added that "the agreement has resulted in manufacturers not being able to lower their unit production costs by purposefully expanding capacity and turnover."

In terms of the agreement the two parties would have discussions whether to combat a new manufacturer or distributor and how to go about it.

Similarly, they agreed to take steps against any manufacturer or vendor of fertiliser jeopardising the interests of either of the two parties or other organisations linked to them.

Such steps were designed effectively to crush any opposition that

appeared threatening to the Triomf-Fedmis monopoly.

The Board found "the absence of adequate competition led to complaints by consumers (farmers) that they had little power to negotiate prices with suppliers and had to accept one-sided conditions of sale."

The Board recommended that the agreement be discontinued and suggested a further investigation into the fertiliser industry. Their first suggestion was not accepted, but in May 1977 a further investigation into the industry was initiated.

The date given for the possible termination of the agreement was December 31 last year. Both parties have refused to comment on whether it will be ended, but it seems unlikely.

### Input

Fertiliser accounts for 19 percent, or R294-million of the total agricultural input costs.

A price rise in fertiliser ripples strongly throughout the entire agricultural sector, af-

fecting all basic foodstuffs, including margarine, cooking oil, maize meal, bread, dairy products, meat and poultry, eggs and soya.

The recently announced 17,3 percent price increase for fertiliser, as an example, will push up food prices by an average of five to seven percent.

Dr P Gouws, director of the SA Maize Producers' Institute, said the increased fertiliser price meant farmers would have to find an additional R130-million, when planting crops this year.

Three-quarters of the fertiliser produced in this country is sold to the maize farmers. It forms 33 percent of their production costs.

Last year's 14,1 percent price increase in fertiliser will be a major factor in maize farmers asking for a 27 percent price rise this year.

Next year an even higher price rise can be expected for maize. The depressed international grain price, brought about by America cancelling its 14-million ton con-

Charlene Beltramo of Starline

## MONOPOLIES v THE CONSUMER



### A three-part investigation

#### PART 2: The fertiliser giants

tract with Russia, will play a large part in this.

Agricultural exports are second only to gold as major source of export potential. Maize forms the largest agricultural export, so can be considered as second only to gold in the SA export market.

#### Income

A depressed international market will mean lower export prices, which would probably mean the money would have to be recouped locally.

But higher prices don't necessarily mean richer farmers.

South Africa's 60 000 farmers had a combined income of R3 166-million in 1978. Their debt for the same period amounted to R2 878-million.

Mr J Willemse, economist for the SAAU, pointed out that in January 1979, while farmers were receiving R84 a ton for maize meal, consumers were paying R212.

"If the local fertiliser industry can't compete with imported fertiliser,

they should not be over-protected," Dr Gouws said.

"Six months ago we could have imported nitrogenous fertiliser 50 percent cheaper than the local product. However, government controls prevent this."

Mr Chris von Solms, chairman of the Fertiliser Society admitted this was often true. "But much of the imported ammonia (used to make nitrogenous fertiliser) is from natural gas fields in Russia, Rumania and Arab countries.

"Even if farmers could import, it's doubtful if these countries would guarantee supplies."

Nitrogen is the most vital element in fertiliser and the costliest.

Previously most of SA's nitrogen supplies were obtained from oil-based ammonia. Advances within the Sasol programme and considerable research by AE & CI have led to coal-based ammonia, which is far cheaper.

However, fertiliser spokesmen refuse to give figures of exactly how much cheaper.

At present 65 percent of local nitrogen needs are obtained from coal-based ammonia.

According to Mr von Solms, "when Sasol Two and Three are on the line, the fertiliser industry will obtain three-quarters of its ammonia needs from coal."

#### Ammonia

One of the reasons put forward for the most recent price rise was the massive cost escalation of oil — a factor that should have declined in significance with the increasing use of coal.

About 90 percent of the distribution and selling of fertiliser is done through agricultural co-operatives — a system the Board of Trade and Industries frowned on in its investigation.

Farmers have alleged it is often difficult to ob-

tain fertiliser supplies shortly before price increases and that co-ops often favour one supplier.

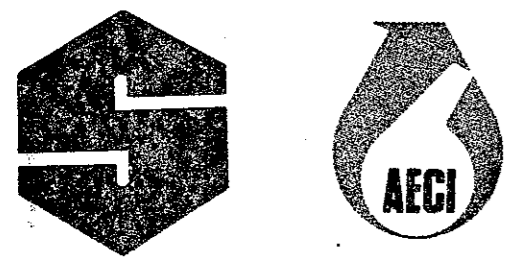
#### Shares

As a result farmers are often forced to buy from company A even though company B may market a cheaper or better (in the farmers' opinion) product. Most of the co-ops have shares in either Triomf-AECI or Fedmis-Sentrachem.

Farmers have called for Government intervention in the fertiliser industry to break the pricing and distribution cartel. They are also demanding a say in the pricing of fertiliser in the future.

Last word comes from a prominent economist who pointed out that "while the majority of the population is spending 60 percent of its income on food, and more than 2,5-million people are unemployed, urgent steps should be taken to keep food prices at a minimum."

**TOMORROW: The egg fiasco.**



Consumer organisations are good only for issuing Press statements, and even that ability is in doubt, some people say.

Star Line talked to some of the most active and potentially significant consumer protection bodies: The Housewives League, Consumer Union, SA Co-Ordinating Consumer Council and the Trade Practices Advisory Committee, TPAC.

Formed in 1976 as a direct offshoot of the Trade Practices Advisory Act, the TPAC was intended to monitor and stop or alter unethical business practices.

Since then there have been six meetings of the main committee and 12 meetings of the agenda group.

### Capable

Mr U Kotzenburg, secretary of the 19-member committee, said recommendations were rarely made to the Minister and investigators have never yet been sent out to investigate complaints.

"Instead we circulate a questionnaire and the general committee is quite capable of judging from that.

"It is the policy of the chairman and committee to appoint a sub-committee to visit businessmen and encourage self-regulation.

"Unfortunately, unethical people tend to ignore this. The only remedy then is in general law," Mr Kotzenburg said.

However, in terms of the Act the committee has a wide range of remedies open to it, from powers of inspection, seizure of goods and documents, interrogation, disclosure of information and the prosecution of offenders or prohibition of unethical trade practices.

However, Mr Mike Hawkins, the liaison officer, says the council is not a "complaints bureau, we are a co-ordinating body."

Its most significant achievements in the past three years, Mr Hawkins said, were: the development of a complaints office; next year's launch of a consumer education programme in all schools; and the launching of SA Consumer (circulation 15 000).

### Members

The SA Consumer Union, formed 20 years ago is the mother of the Co-Ordinating Council.

It claims a grassroots membership of two million. Members include the Automobile Association of SA, the SA Bureau of Standards, the Public Servants' Association of SA and other organisations.

Associated members include: Unilever, Coca-Cola Export Corporation, Tupperware SA and 13 other business and agricultural organisations.

It is the Consumer Union which nominates members to serve on the Consumer Council. It also votes for members of the control boards.

The union's most significant achievements over the last three years include: a large consumer conference in Consumer Year (1978); a feed-the-nation symposium ("to draw attention to the fact that it is possible to feed a family cheaply and nutritiously") and an anti-waste campaign.

"We don't want over-legislation. The consumer can't be put in a glass cage. It is up to the consumer to spend foolishly or not, we're a free

society," said Mrs Margaret Lessing, a founder member of the union.

The Housewives League, formed in 1935, is the oldest, probably most militant and hardest working of the consumer organisations, with about 5 000 members.

Members pay a subscription fee and do their own fund-raising — "to be funded by someone else means you can be held in check," says Mrs Joy Hurwitz, national president.

The league's achievements would fill pages. A few include: a successful boycott of milk and dairy products when prices were raised during a glut,

South Africa does not lack in consumer organisations — they just need the occasional nudge of encouragement from the public to prove themselves, writes CHARLENE BELTRAMO.

campaigns for cheaper school uniforms and a current campaign to raise the quality of bread.

Last year the league successfully appealed against the raising of the bread price. It rece-

completed a 400-page investigation into the high cost of being buried.

The league opposed the formation of the National Egg Producers Co-operative and asked the government to imple-

ment anti-monopolistic legislation against the group.

It opposed General Sales Tax on foodstuffs and basics such as candles and paraffin.

"GST put our inflation rate up 3,5 percent. The housewife and man-in-the-street are becoming desperate as the food index soars above all others to its current peak of 18,4 percent.

"We can't afford this,

coupled with widespread unemployment," Mrs Hurwitz says.

Eugene Roelofse, ombudsman for the South African Council of Churches started his career as director of the Consumer Council. He was offered his post at the SACC after attacking corruption within the commercial world.

He concentrates on the injustices facing blacks.

"His tireless work for the past two years alone has included:

• Piecing together evidence for the prosecution of the three doctors involved in the Biko case;

• Successfully appealing against the implementation of the Credit Agreements Bill in 1977 by submitting a detailed analysis of the Bill and recommended alterations.

### Complaints

The committee could be particularly important in that the Minister is only allowed to implement the empowering provisions after the matter has been referred to the committee. The Minister may not act against the committee's recommendation.

There has never been a prosecution in terms of the Act. Most of the members represent business and industry.

The SA Co-Ordinating Consumer Council was the brainchild of the SA Consumer Union and still relies heavily on it.

It is funded by the Government — R220 000 this year — and receives about 500 complaints a month.

Hansard No 1 Col 10  
1/2/80

State President's Address

3 (general)

The rural areas are in many respects vital to our survival, and the sound economic position of farmers is consequently of cardinal importance. Everything possible should therefore be done to ensure the viability and economic survival of the various agricultural industries and to prevent the drift of producers from agriculture.

With this in view, the Government appointed a representative committee under the chairmanship of Dr. A. S. Jacobs last year to inquire into the economic position of farmers and agricultural financing in general, with special reference, *inter alia*, to the effect of steadily rising production costs, farmers' increasing burden of debt, and the extent to which existing sources of finance are meeting their credit requirements. The Committee has since been converted into a Standing Commission. This means that constant attention will now be given to financial and other problems in agriculture.

†The judicious utilization of the water

# Farmers

3 Group  
hit at

183  
Luyt's

210  
700 pc

profits

NATAL

MERCURY

2/2/80

## Agricultural Correspondent

FARMERS are indignant and horrified by the announcement that Triomf's profits increased by 700 percent while they had to pay up to 21 percent more for fertiliser.

Asked to comment on the news that Triomf's fertiliser profits for 1979 had increased from R3 000 000 to R24 million, Mr Donald Sinclair, president of the Natal Agricultural Union, said: 'They are unprintable'.

He said the announcement by Mr Louis Luyt, who heads the giant company, earlier this week confirmed the suspicions of the farming community that something was wrong with the fertiliser industry.

Mr Sinclair said the NAU council had recently passed a resolution calling for an inquiry into the price of fertiliser in South Africa.

Farmers warned that the recent increase in fertiliser prices would push up the cost of food. Many said they were on the verge of bankruptcy because of con-

tinually rising production costs.

Mr Luyt defended the price increase and said his company's profits were derived from the export market.

'We are virtually subsidising the sale of fertiliser locally,' he said.

No one had shown any sympathy when his company had suffered massive losses before.

Mr Luyt said Triomf had invested R231 million in factories and was only now getting a return on its investment.

Meanwhile, the Consumer Council in Pretoria has called for a subsidy on basic foodstuffs such as maize and wheat products.

The urgent appeal was made yesterday by council director Johann Verhaem who said that the price of food had increased by almost 15 percent in 1979 and there was every indication that it could rise by even more this year.

He said the crisis faced by consumers warranted exceptional action in the light of prevailing circumstances.

# Retreat from the Limpopo

Farmer Frikkie: You only live once



An old man tells why he's giving up his farm. It's not the terrorists. It's the diabetes.

Special report by JACK BLADES and COLLEEN HENDRIKS

**FRIKKIE** stands in the mud at the Limpopo's edge, pointing across to the Rhodesian side where, one night a few months ago, rival terrorist armies fought out a battle.

He says he has decided to give up farming at the end of the year.

But is he not running away because of any prospect of danger if the Rhodesian elections don't work out or because of terrorist excursions across the river for food?

Frikkie chuckles and says: "You can only live once, and I'm rising 72.

"No, man, I've got diabetes and I hurt my hip when a truck rolled me four times under water. You can't go on forever, can you?"

Until he finally decides to quit, he is growing gooseberries by the ton for the canners... "no fluctuating market prices, no arguments about grasping farmers".

Frikkie Redelinghuys is one of the four resident farmers still left in a narrow strip of South African territory which runs between Vendaland and the south bank of the Limpopo.

There used to be 20 a few years ago. Now, if Frikkie goes, there will be three.

## Too old

Like two neighbours, Mr H J Visser and Mr M van Zyl, he carved his farm out of the wilderness a quarter of a century ago. They are staying, regardless.

"We're too old to start again," they said, "and where would we go, anyway?"

Mr Visser added: "We can't blame the Government. We came here 24 years ago. How

could anyone know what would happen?"

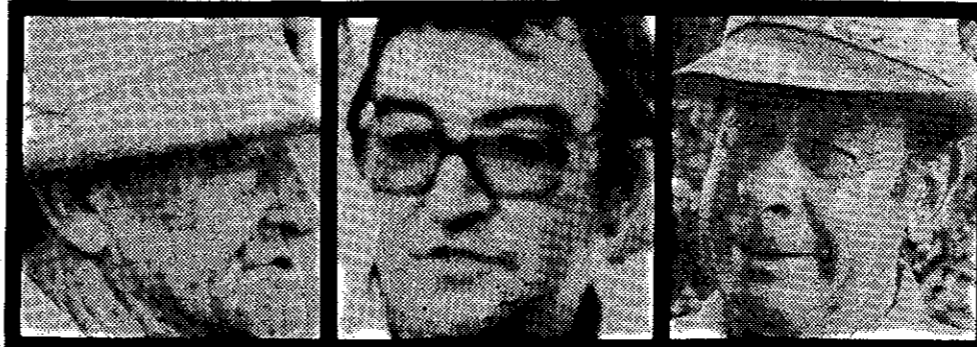
But he never leaves his wife alone in their two-storey house. He or his son are always there.

The fourth farmer, Hermando Bernadotte, went to the Limpopo 12 years ago.

He was an Italian prisoner of war in South Africa, a stonemason before taking up farming.

He answers: "Will you stay?" with a Latin shrug. He is concerned with lack of transport for his vegetables, the high price of diesel.

Farmers have been driven from the Limpopo by the practical difficulties of farming: the comparatively poor soil, the cost of running their own transport — rather than any danger



**M. VAN ZYL**  
He's staying put

**HANNES VAN DER WALT**  
"No trouble"

**HERMANDO BERNADETTI**  
Former PoW

from the warring Rhodesians. About half the farms there are owned by "absentee landlords" who live in Johannesburg and Pretoria and are African-run, say some of the residents.

The exodus has been caused by old age, bankruptcy and in some cases "because the womenfolk see and hear what happens across the river, and it upsets them," said one farmer.

Further along the Rhodesian border and also on the Botswana border, there's a similar picture — unoccupied land and empty farmhouses.

In the Soutpansberg 40 per cent of the farms are virtually deserted.

"We need able-bodied men

on the border — not sleeping partners," said Hennie Smit, chairman of the Thabazimbi Agricultural Union.

"Experience in Rhodesia has shown us that terrorists infiltrate the local population and set up bases when there are no white farmers around," said Koeks Terblanche, chairman of the Soutpansberg Agricultural Union.

"While black labourers generally co-operate with their employers, they refuse to assist the police or army."

Mr Terblanche is a strong proponent of a co-ordinated resettlement scheme.

Back on the Limpopo, Mr Redelinghuys and Mr Visser remember the battle between

Zapu and Mozambique bands on the opposite bank when the shots could be heard at Tshipise, about 18 km away, and they counted 42 dead terrorist bodies in the morning.

One farmer tells of an occasion when a terrorist died at the hands of his own men while he was halfway across the river — "with a bullet in his back and my tobacco in his pocket".

That was a wry comment on the excursion of Rhodesian blacks into South Africa. Mr Redelinghuys said: "The Vendas have been to-and-froing across the river since Paul Kruger's day."

They and the farmers were good neighbours and Mr Redelinghuys and Mr van Zyl were

among the first to open stores to catch the cross-river trade.

Until the ceasefire, Rhodesian terrorists could be seen almost any day on the other bank, say farmers. They could not drink from the sealed Rhodesian farm wells so they were forced to the river, which is now about waist high and will be bone dry by April.

The terrorists — and Venda civilians — would steal across at night to feed and rest up among the local blacks.

Four were caught this week (again with a farmer's tobacco) and handed over by patrolling South Africa forces to the Rhodesians at Beit Bridge. That's the usual procedure for Rhodesians found on the South African side.

Mr Van Zyl went to the Limpopo 24 years ago "bringing my wife from a six-roomed house, buying the farm unseen because there was a store which turned over R1000 a day.

"Everything you see here I've carved out with my own hands," he says.

He closed his store after the door was twice burned by a crook who was raiding stores

and passing the goods across the river.

Thirteen kilometres away, at Cross, near Tshipise, is a farmer who doesn't want to go but reckons he will have to — if the price is right.

The Vendas call him Moloi, the witchdoctor.

But 47-year-old Hannes van der Walt, who arrived from Botswana three years ago, has enough magic to provide the good life for his wife Stella, their six daughters and three year old son Phillip.

"We're happy, we make money" he says, drinking tea under the trees outside his house. "We sit here at night, there's never any trouble."

"But the Venda Government wants to consolidate 26 irrigation farms and two cattle farms here into its territory. And that includes us."

The Government valuers have been along, and it seems to be all over bar the haggling.

Along the Limpopo, the few remaining farmers will hang on and see what happens.

"Where can we go, anyway?" they ask.

work - R40 a week. The union was dismissed. The workers say they have been on strike. They were dismissed a month ago.

## Fatis

# Great Trek 1980 is from the platteland

RANDS and cents — that's the main reason why farmers are deserting the land. Many have left to take jobs in the cities.

After reports of houses being sold for a song in a small Karoo village to help boost its declining population, the Sunday Times conducted a random survey in the platteland to establish the extent and the effects of the massive population drain.

The areas worst affected were found to be in the northern and northwestern Transvaal, the eastern and southern Free State and the Karoo.

Philipstown was recently overrun with prospective house hunters when it announced that 200 houses were for sale in the little Karoo town at prices ranging from R150.

"The response has been tremendous," said the overworked town clerk, Mr Billy Herbert.

## A R5 house

One house in the town went for as little as R5.

"But the new owner will probably have to spend a bit to make it livable, said Mr Herbert.

Many pensioners, like Colin Coquell, have settled in platteland towns where houses are often considerably cheaper than in the cities.

Mr Coquell moved to Fouriesburg, in the eastern Free

By COLLEEN HENDRIKS

State, when he retired from the mines.

"Here one can still buy a two or three bedroomed house for R9 000," he told the Sunday Times.

The situation, however, differs from town to town, and often between the town and the surrounding farming area.

## 300 empty

In Thabazimbi, near the Botswana border, houses are hard to come by; but in the district 300 houses are standing empty.

Messina, on the other hand, is fast becoming a ghost town.

In 1972 there were more than 600 pupils in the local primary school.

Last year the total had shrunk to 469.

And in the high school, the number of pupils dropped from 376 to 231 in six years.

However, it is the little farm schools which are suffering most.

To keep the schools going at Dwaalboom and Sentrum, in

the Thabazimbi district, children from other parts of the country are being accommodated free in the hostel.

"This was arranged," explained Mr Hennie Smit, chairman of the Thabazimbi Agricultural Union, "by the school committee in conjunction with the education department."

The 300 empty farms in Thabazimbi belong mainly to "people who are not dependent on farming for their livelihood... like doctors and dominees," Mr Smit said.

In other areas, like the eastern Free State, the dwindling farming population is also having to contend with cattle rustling by Lesotho tribesmen.

## Benefits

Some towns have, however, benefitted from the independence of Venda, BophuthaTswana and Transkei.

In Louis Trichardt there is hardly an empty house to be found.

Many public servants working in Venda prefer to live in Louis Trichardt and commute daily.

The SA Agricultural Union's deputy director, Mr Piet Swart, says the precise number of farmers in the country is not known.

The number of farming units, however, has dropped dramatically over the past 30 years — from 112 000 in 1950 to 75 000 in 1978.

The estimated number of remaining units is fewer than 70 000.

The number of whites on the platteland (towns included) plunged from 696 000 in 1936 to 499 000 in 1970 when the last census was held.

The authorities have time and again promised to assist the farmers — particularly in the border areas.

But little has actually been done.

Some are angry, some are despondent, but some also say 'let's try again'.

# Minister pledges to 'go all out' to save farmers

CAPE TIMES 6/2/80

3 General

Staff Reporter

THE Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, yesterday promised to "go all out" in an effort to help the drought-stricken north-west Karoo farmers in their fight for survival.

"We must keep the farmers on the land," he told the Cape Times yesterday. "We cannot afford to lose them."

Large areas of the north-west Karoo, and long-suffering Namaqualand, face depopulation as the worst drought in a century grinds into its third destructive year.

As a start, Mr Schoeman said, he had held discussions with a delegation representing the farmers. The drought problem had been spelt out and he would have further talks with top officials next week after their return from a fact-finding tour of the area.

Mr Schoeman said he was unable to predict whether the present subsidy would be affected. He would await the report of the officials and then make recommendations to the cabinet. Under the government's present aid scheme the farmers receive a subsidy of R1 a sheep every month and may borrow R1 a sheep to a maximum of R1 000.

Emphasizing that his department was treating the farmers' plight as a matter of urgency, Mr Schoeman said the district could not be allowed to be depopulated.

Farmers in the affected areas yesterday painted a grim picture of astronomical fodder costs, dying stock, bone-dry soil and bankruptcy. Farms have been sold and families forced to uproot themselves from homes and lifestyles that are as natural to them as breathing.

"But there is nowhere to go," says Mr Jack Strauss, a farmer in the Calvinia district and for many years and chairman of the local farmers' union. "This is a land of extremes and we know it well,

but we are fighting for survival now. This is a natural disaster, and we don't know how to handle it."

Stock had to be kept alive, but after literally years without rain, the struggle was becoming impossible.

"We're battling to get fodder and when we do get it we pay huge sums. Sometimes we have to go as far as Upington."

ewes abandon them.

A doctor practising in one of the worst-affected districts said yesterday that records had been kept of rainfall there for the past 101 years and it had been found that the figures for the last two years were the lowest in a century.

The wife of Calvinia farmer Neels van Niekerk described

A Brandvlei farmer who doesn't want his name used commented: "I've been fighting all my life. Now I'm tired."

This time there was no question that the farmers should or could be blamed, said Mr Strauss.

And the only way they can be helped is through a larger state subsidy. Farmers say they desperately need some government money, and they need it soon. The alternative, they fear, is bankruptcy and even depopulation of a large slice of the territory.

More loans wouldn't solve the problem either. Farmers say they are already so badly in debt that it will take them a lifetime to recover.

Mr Strauss said: "We are in debt up to our necks. But what are the alternatives? We have to feed the sheep."

The chairman of the Wool Board, Mr Pieter van Rooyen, and officials from the Cape National Wool Workers' Union met the Minister of Agriculture on Monday for talks on the crisis. The meeting followed their tour of the worst-affected area stretching hundreds of kilometres from Sutherland to Vanwyksvlei and including Calvinia, Brandvlei and Carnarvon.

Another fact-finding tour will begin later this week involving Mr Jan Retief, chairman of the Agricultural Credit Board, and Dr A S Jacobs, general manager of the Reserve Bank and chairman of the Jacobs committee of inquiry into the economic position of farmers.

● A long-term forecast from the climatic research unit at the University of the Witwatersrand hardly relieves the pessimism. A senior scientist attached to the unit says South Africa faces even drier weather. Records going back to 1910 indicate that this year will be the second in a seven-year cycle of diminished rainfall — and the middle eighties will be "the bottom of the trough".

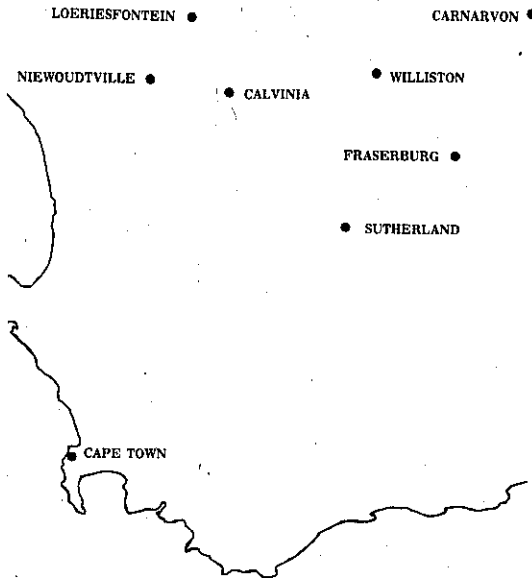
The map shows the areas worst affected by the three-year-old drought in the north-west Karoo. The towns were visited by Wool Board and other farming officials, who reported back to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, earlier this week.

Some farmers have been forced to buy fodder in tablet form, which sends their bills rocketing. In some areas there has been virtually no rain for three years, with the result that lands are parched and crops stunted or non-existent.

Dams throughout the north-west Karoo are either empty or small muddy pools and the water table is so low as to make boreholes useless. Farmers have been known to cut the throats of lambs because the

their feelings: "We are a hard people; we have to be. But we are also philosophical about it, and there is no question of us leaving."

For some, though, it is too late. Flocks of sheep have been wiped out or sold for a pittance. The choice is simple — either spend a fortune on hand-feeding your stock, or quit and seek work in the cities. The good old days in which sheep grazed on fields of green lucerne are over.





# Minister pledges to 'go all out' to save farmers

Staff Reporter

THE Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, yesterday promised to "go all out" in an effort to help the drought-stricken north-west Karoo farmers in their fight for survival.

"We must keep the farmers on the land," he told the Cape Times yesterday. "We cannot afford to lose them."

Large areas of the north-west Karoo, and long-suffering Namaqualand, face depopulation as the worst drought in a century grinds into its third destructive year.

As a start, Mr Schoeman said, he had held discussions with a delegation representing the farmers. The drought problem had been spelt out and he would have further talks with top officials next week after their return from a fact-finding tour of the area.

Mr Schoeman said he was unable to predict whether the present subsidy would be affected. He would await the report of the officials and then make recommendations to the cabinet. Under the government's present aid scheme the farmers receive a subsidy of R1 a sheep every month and may borrow R1 a sheep to a maximum of R1 000.

Emphasizing that his department was treating the farmers' plight as a matter of urgency, Mr Schoeman said the district could not be allowed to be depopulated.

Farmers in the affected areas yesterday painted a grim picture of astronomical fodder costs, dying stock, bone-dry soil and bankruptcy. Farms have been sold and families forced to uproot themselves from homes and lifestyles that are as natural to them as breathing.

"But there is nowhere to go," says Mr Jack Strauss, a farmer in the Calvinia district and for many years and chairman of the local farmers' union. "This is a land of extremes and we know it well,

but we are fighting for survival now. This is a natural disaster, and we don't know how to handle it."

Stock had to be kept alive, but after literally years without rain, the struggle was becoming impossible.

"We're battling to get fodder and when we do get it we pay huge sums. Sometimes we have to go as far as Upington."

ewes abandon them.

A doctor practising in one of the worst-affected districts said yesterday that records had been kept of rainfall there for the past 101 years and it had been found that the figures for the last two years were the lowest in a century.

The wife of Calvinia farmer Neels van Niekerk described

A Brandvlei farmer who doesn't want his name used commented: "I've been fighting all my life. Now I'm tired."

This time there was no question that the farmers should or could be blamed, said Mr Strauss.

And the only way they can be helped is through a larger state subsidy. Farmers say they desperately need some government money, and they need it soon. The alternative, they fear, is bankruptcy and even depopulation of a large slice of the territory.

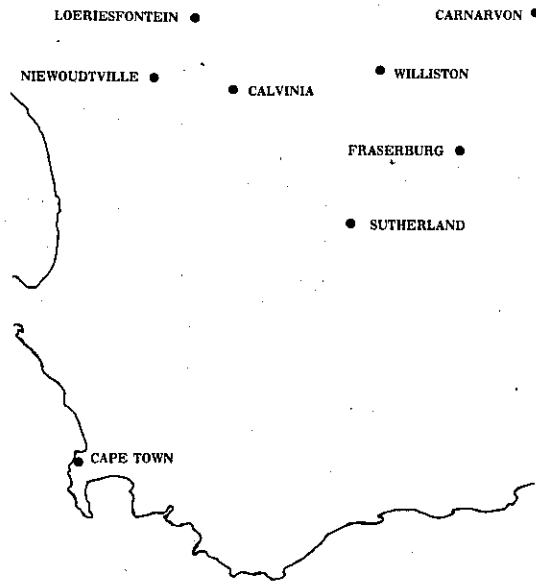
More loans wouldn't solve the problem either. Farmers say they are already so badly in debt that it will take them a lifetime to recover.

Mr Strauss said: "We are in debt up to our necks. But what are the alternatives? We have to feed the sheep."

The chairman of the Wool Board, Mr Pieter van Rooyen, and officials from the Cape National Wool Workers' Union met the Minister of Agriculture on Monday for talks on the crisis. The meeting followed their tour of the worst-affected area stretching hundreds of kilometres from Sutherland to Vanwyksvlei and including Calvinia, Brandvlei and Carnarvon.

Another fact-finding tour will begin later this week involving Mr Jan Retief, chairman of the Agricultural Credit Board, and Dr A S Jacobs, general manager of the Reserve Bank and chairman of the Jacobs committee of inquiry into the economic position of farmers.

● A long-term forecast from the climatic research unit at the University of the Witwatersrand hardly relieves the pessimism. A senior scientist attached to the unit says South Africa faces even drier weather. Records going back to 1910 indicate that this year will be the second in a seven-year cycle of diminished rainfall and the middle eighties will be "the bottom of the trough".



The map shows the areas worst affected by the three-year-old drought in the north-west Karoo. The towns were visited by Wool Board and other farming officials, who reported back to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, earlier this week.

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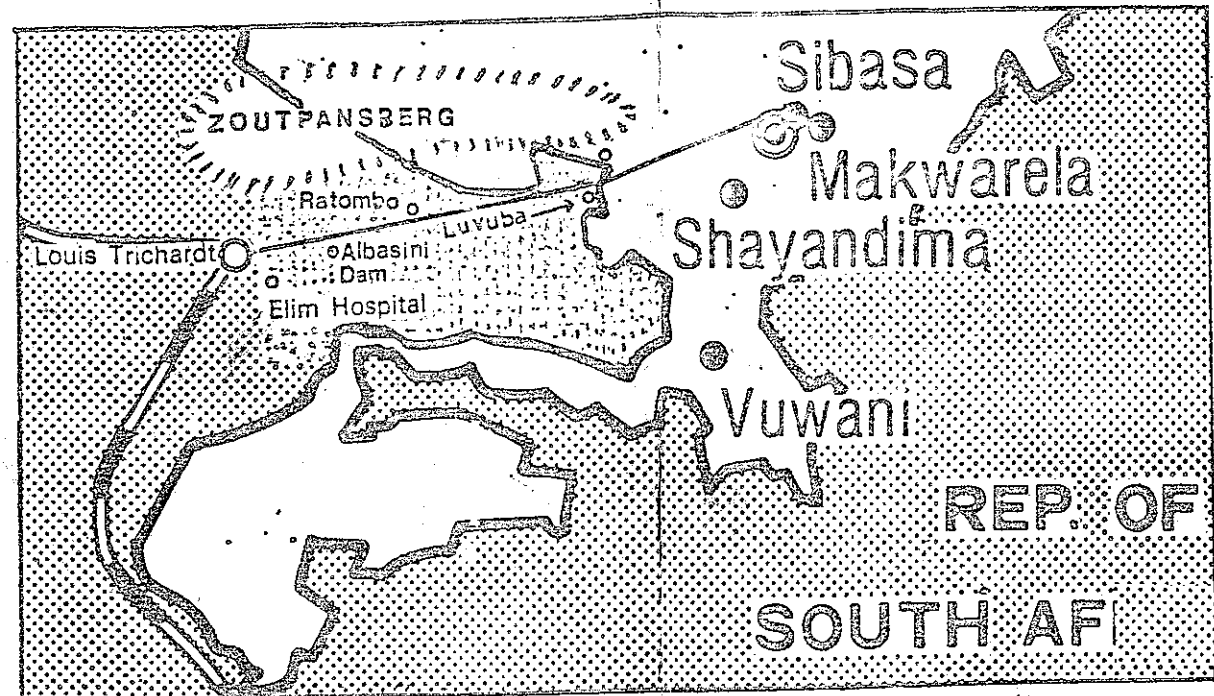
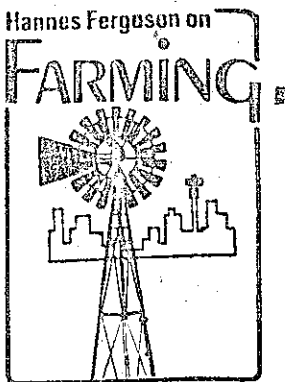
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Race	in South	
	Male	Female
WHITE	49 2.1%	56 2.9%
ASIAN	173 .4%	212 11.0%
COLOURED	48 .2%	66 3.4%
BLACK	72 .3%	749 39.0%
	90 0%	1921 100%
	32 .1%	59 18.2%
	6 .1%	11 3.4%
	16 .1%	89 27.5%
	368 100%	324 100%

# Levubu's Garden of Eden faces a triple threat



Levubu, among the eastern foothills of the Zoutpansberg Range, could well have been the site of the Garden of Eden. Green hills, with luxurious bushveld vegetation, are everywhere. Giant wild fig trees almost rival the famous Wonderboom. Abundant rain. Fertile, well drained soil to build dreams upon.

Here, in the '30s, the State started an irrigation scheme supplied

with winter water by a dam named after the Portuguese pioneer Jaoao Albasini.

After the war, 167 returning soldiers, were settled on the prepared plots of about 20 ha each.

Including about 80 farms not listed under the Albasini Dam, the area totals 33 000 ha of which 3 900 are irrigated. Half of these are irrigated by rivers, farm dams and boreholes.

Conditions at Levubu were ideal. Once at Louis Trichardt cheap railrage brought the Johannesburg market at its doorstep. Water

rates were low, Venda labour plentiful. Bananas became the main crop, as large and healthy as Natal and Mozambique could produce them.

## Co-op

Gradually, production diversified. Citrus, avocados, liches, guava, mangoes, pineapples, macademai nuts, potatoes, tomatoes — you name it, Levubu grows it. And now they are adding tea and coffee, to be produced on large estates. The total production of the area is now estimated to be in excess of R7-million.

In 1956, Levubu

established its own co-op, now a most efficient organisation. It handles 500 000 out of South Africa's 3.8-million cases of bananas, most of the area's pineapples, guavas, liches and mangoes. Export avocados, flown to Europe by air, have become big business.

Unfortunately, however, Levubu's problems have grown as well. The infrastructure has become expensive, foremost railrage and electricity.

## Headache

A bag of potatoes realising R1,50 to R2 at the Johannesburg Market has to carry 40 or 50 cents of railrage. Following increased fuel prices, road transport has lost its competitive edge. It is still preferred by many farmers because it is quicker and involves less handling, but it may hit other snags. If you buy a six-ton lorry to cut transport costs, you risk killing your own market if you off-load all six tons of sweet potatoes, or whatever other crop at one market.

Exorbitant railrage, cutting into the farmers' usually meagre profit, has caused a switch from bananas to less bulky products, such as spices. But the latter are not regarded as vegetables by the Railways, and are carried at still higher rates.

Electricity tariffs are another serious headache, for which the Transvaal Agricultural Union blames

both Escom and Lous Trichardt Municipality, who retail the power to farmers.

Between 1975 and 1977 the price of electricity sold to Louis Trichardt by Escom has increased by 85 percent, against 44 percent in the case of farm power supplied directly by Escom. Since then, tariffs have increased further.

The municipality is severely criticised for not having tried modern time and load tariffs. For December 1979, one prominent farmer had to pay 4.5c per unit for bulk electricity, which is even lower for the area.

Farmers are now trying to save electricity, some by mini-irrigation systems, some by switching away to less power-consuming crops, such as pineapples.

## Salient

Labour costs increase as well. To increase its income, Venda now charges wages which tend to price its labour out of the market. Farmers are virtually compelled to use all types of labour-saving equipment and chemicals. This increases production costs and capital outlay.

To this, homeland troubles must be added. Globally, relations with Venda are excellent. But the way South Africa has drawn the boundaries, has created practical problems.

Goedeverwachting Farm, which belonged to the Lutheran Mis-

sion Society, forms a Venda salient into the white orchards, leading to theft problems. Adjoining farmers, whose crops when ripe tended to disappear overnight, tried all precautions, but failed.

One farmer, who spent R18 000 on a security fence, found that the wire was being clipped at one end while he was still busy erecting the "thief-proof" fence at the other end. A serious situation may develop when farmers, shooting at anything that moves in the dark, might actually kill Venda banana or avocado "rustlers."

Nearby, a once productive white farm, added to Venda, where all sorts of crops could be grown on beautifully terraced land, is laying idle.

After much headscratching, a land-swap was proposed, whereby the Department of Forestry would give up a valuable tract of land north of the tarred road, in exchange for the part of Goedeverwachting that lies south of it.

Levubu confidently expected the swap to be accepted by Venda, but it was turned down reportedly because the ancestral spirits disapproved of the deal. Inter-kraal rivalry may also have played a part.

Last week more than 500 students from Peninsula Training College and B... be re-employed and for a boycott

The Western Province Traders Ass... sell the factory's products unles

The South African Council of Sp... schools affiliated to SACOS to s... a boycott of the factory's prod

More than 400 students from the... called for a boycott of all Fatt

The Women for Peace movement has workers.

The Cape branch of Nafcoc - the has issued a statement in suppor

Fattis and Monis insist that the firm says he is worried about ca by blacks because much of the fa kept production going by employ workers. However production has

Who are Fattis and Monis? Fatti following products: The followi Bread flour, Sifted flour, Unsif Philadelphia flour; Koeberg Mil Fattis & Monis brand name. These macaroni, spagetti, large and sr and green, pain rings, dilatines. Fattis and Monis also pack their pasta products under the following brand names; Princess, Pot o' Gold, Pick 'n Pay no

name brand, Ckeckers and Roma. Fattis & Monis also control a number of bakeries in the Cape Town area. These include the Good Hope Bakery in Elsies River, Wrench Town Bakery in Observatory and the Ultra Bakery in Somerset West.

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# Rain falls, but no relief for farmers in Karoo

31 (General) Argus 11/2/80

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RAIN fell over most parts of the west and southern coasts yesterday, but there was no relief for farmers in the drought disaster areas of the north-western Karoo.

The frontal system which brought rain to an area stretching from Vredendal in the west to Port Elizabeth in the east has already moved through the Peninsula and no further rain is expected.

But it will still be cloudy for the rest of the day. The wind altered overnight from a northerly direction to the south-west.

The greatest amount of rain was recorded in Newlands, where 46,5 mm fell in the 24 hours ending at 8 am today. Stellenbosch and D. F. Malan had 12,5 and 12,9 mm respectively.

Rain also fell at Cape Point (5,5 mm); Cape Agulhas (3 mm); Caledon (8,6 mm); Darling (7 mm); Paarl (6 mm); Vredendal (2 mm); Cape Columbine (2,5 mm).

Except for intermittent showers the possibility of further rain today is remote.

The situation in the Karoo areas is slowly worsening.

Hansard 2 Col 683 →

11/2/80

For full text of debate

See Hansard

3 (S. J. ...)

† In view of the foregoing, the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee for the Protection of Man against Poisonous Substances requested the Department of Agricultural Technical Services to implement control measures in respect of the application of agricultural remedies for compensation as soon as possible. To achieve this aim, minor adjustments to the Act are therefore necessary.

Provision is also made for the registration of sterilizing plants and the renewal of registrations under this Act.

The proposals contained in the Bill enjoy the support of the South African Agricultural Union and are being welcomed by all concerned.

\*Mr. P. A. MYBURGH: Mr. Speaker, in this amending Bill there are two new concepts in particular that have to be debated. The one is the registration of a pest control operator and the other is the registration of sterilizing plants. All the other amendments are actually of a consequential nature.

We are living in an era today in which increasing use is being made of highly poisonous and dangerous remedies to bring about better and cheaper production of food. When these remedies are correctly used, they are to the advantage of the community, but when these remedies or fertilizers are used the wrong way, it can easily cause death, pollute the environment to such an extent that it poses a threat to vegetation as well as man.

The provision that pest control operators who comply with certain requirements may be appointed and registered is acceptable to us in principle and we agree with it. However, the legislation does not specify what the requirements are that have to be complied with. I should like to ask the hon. the Minister to give us more information about the requirements that will have to be met.

There are a few questions I should like to ask him in this connection. Firstly, does every operator have to be trained, and if so, where will he receive such training? Will these training facilities be made available to all citizens of South Africa, so that all citizens may be appointed to these positions?

Furthermore, we notice that the operators to be registered must only be people who administer fertilizers for a reward. I therefore take it, and I should like the hon. the Minister

FERTILIZERS, FARM FEEDS, AGRICULTURAL REMEDIES AND STOCK REMEDIES AMENDMENT BILL

(Second Reading)

\*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Mr. Speaker, I move—

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

The Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947, provides for the registration of agricultural remedies and aspects related to the examination, labelling and sale of such remedies. With the exception of the application of cyanogen gas, however, there is no control over the commercial application of a great many poisonous agricultural remedies which are dangerous to the person who applies them as well as for the general public and the environment.

The necessary care is not always taken by the commercial pest controllers in applying agricultural remedies. Therefore, it is deemed essential that such operators be registered, so that their activities may be controlled, and requirements may be laid down with which they have to comply.

to confirm this, that the farmer who administers fertilizers himself will not have to be registered. The question that arises is: What about the man's employees? Do they have to be registered? In terms of clause 6, no person may administer an agricultural remedy for reward unless he has been registered as a pest control operator or unless it is applied in the presence and under the supervision of a pest control operator. If the farmer applying the fertilizer is not registered, what is then the position of his employees? Will those people have to be trained or will the farmer have to be trained? What is the situation?

The provision that pest control operators have to be registered is certainly not an arbitrary one. There is a reason for this provision in the Bill. In his Second Reading speech the hon. the Minister made no reference to the background of or reasons for this new provision which is being inserted into the Act. I should like the hon. the Minister to elaborate on the reasons why the amendment is necessary. Have certain incidents taken place or is the industry experiencing certain problems? If so, it would help me to know what these incidents or problems are.

One wonders whether the reason is perhaps that great losses have been caused by incorrect application of fertilizer. Can it be that people have in the past been killed accidentally either because of ignorance because of the fact that the people under whose control they worked did not have sufficient knowledge?

I do not know whether the matter is *sub judice*, but the hon. the Minister can tell me if this is so. I am referring to the problem in the Franschhoek valley, when a fertilizer was incorrectly used a few years ago, and this led to great losses. Could this be the reason why this amendment is being proposed? I should like the hon. the Minister to reply to this.

The other new provision in this Bill deals with the registration of sterilizing plants. It seems to me that the question of sterilizing plants obviously does not belong in this Bill. After all, it has nothing to do with fertilizers, nor with farm feeds, agricultural remedies or stock remedies. In fact—so I understand or believe—it is concerned with the meat industry, specifically with the situation at all or at certain abattoirs. However, I am not quite sure about this. If this is so, I should like the hon. the Minister to elaborate on this as well,

so that we may understand why this clause of the Bill is providing for this.

I know that there are certain problems in the meat industry. I also know that the Minister intends to introduce legislation in this connection at a later stage. Nevertheless, I should like to know what these sterilizing plants would refer to. I should appreciate it, therefore, if the hon. the Minister could shed some more light on the matter.

Mr. G. F. MALAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Wynberg put certain questions to the hon. the Minister, questions to which he will definitely be given replies. I should like, however, to comment on the question of the requirements for pest control operators. I assume that these requirements will be stipulated in regulations. I cannot imagine that we could stipulate precisely what will be required under all circumstances at this early stage. I assume that this will differ from one operation to the other. As you know, there are so many different operations and methods, as well as new developments in this sphere, that I believe one should rather leave it for the future so that the hon. the Minister can have the right to promulgate regulations in regard to this type of operation.

Then the hon. member for Wynberg also referred to clause 6, in terms of which section 7 of the principal Act is to be amended. This clause refers to people who do this type of work for reward. I simply cannot conceive that it could possibly apply to farm labourers. I think it definitely applies to business undertakings and people who do this type of work for farmers for reward.

In general I just want to say that, to my mind, effective agricultural production today involves the use of a large variety of chemicals and other remedies. New remedies are also being added to the list practically every day. Methods of application, for instance by means of aircraft etc., are changing all the time too. Moreover, the trend abroad is to make increasing use of large contractors to do this type of work. Aircraft and other machinery which apply these remedies on a large scale, are extremely expensive. I feel that this trend should also be encouraged here in our country so that farmers do not have to expend large amounts of capital on apparatus which will simply stand idle on the lands, under a tree or in the farmyard and ultimately

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3 (general).

**Coloured Farmers Assistance Act**

52. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Coloured Relations:

- (1) Whether any Coloured farmers received financial assistance during 1979 to purchase farms in terms of the Coloured Farmers Assistance Act passed by the Coloured Persons Representative Council; if so, (a) how many and (b) what was (i) the size of

the farm purchased and (ii) the amount of the financial assistance in each case;

- (2) what funds are available in respect of 1980 for rendering financial assistance to Coloured farmers?

The MINISTER OF COLOURED RELATIONS:

- (1) Yes.
  - (a) Two
  - (b) (i) 271,3331 hectare  
47,7014 hectare
  - (ii) R 32 500,00  
R116 000,00

- (2) The funds available for the financial year ending 31 March 1980 amount to R889 900,00. The allocation for 1980/81 is not yet known.

That this House—

(1) affirms its confidence in the system of free and fair economic competition in agriculture; and

(2) takes note of especially the problems arising from—

(a) vertical integration in the agricultural industry; and

(b) the resultant frustration of the objects of the Marketing Act.

I am very glad of this opportunity to raise a matter here today which is of the utmost importance to every citizen of this country. I believe that this subject which we are going to discuss today is a non-political subject and that the debate we shall have on this subject will be held in a good spirit to the benefit of the country.

One of the 12 points of the now well-known 12-point plan of the hon. the Prime Minister concerns the economy of the country and states that the system of free enterprise must continue to be preserved as the basis of our economic and financial policy. No one can find fault with this statement, which is in the interests of this country at heart. I do not think there is any member of this House, and therefore no member on the Opposition benches either, who will find fault with it. The fact that the Republic of South Africa has a free capitalistic system and that we wish to preserve it, can never be sufficiently emphasized. This image of the Republic of South Africa must continue to be presented clearly and emphatically to the world, not only for the sake of financial gain, but because we really believe in it, because it forms part of our culture, it forms part of our history and forms part of the kind of democracy we are practising.

Because the agricultural industry throughout the world is experiencing problems in maintaining itself as the provider of food, which consequently gives it strategic importance—it remains a fact that there is no country in the world in which this industry is not supported by the State in one way or another. As a result the agricultural industry can very easily be steered in a

direction, even in a democratic and free capitalistic system.\* Therefore it is necessary to be constantly on guard against such a tendency. It will therefore be fitting if this House re-affirms its confidence today in a system of free and fair economic competition in agriculture. Justified and constructive criticism of the agricultural policy of the Government must always be welcomed, and we do so. This can assist in keeping our ideal of free competition pure so that the agricultural industry in South Africa will continue to remain in the hands of the greatest possible number of independent producers and so that there can be constant renewal in the form of new practitioners entering the industry, for if there are no new practitioners entering an industry, such an industry stagnates.

Today there are thousands of young men in our cities in South Africa who long for their own piece of land and who wish to make farming their profession because it is deeply rooted in their cultural background. They are people who are prepared to accept the challenges of the industry and the risks involved in it. However, they do not have the means with which to make a start. I wish that we could help many more of them to populate the rural areas and our border areas, because a country without a widely distributed farming community is a poor country.

Every economic system develops its own problems, and the same applies to capitalism. In this way restraints may be imposed on the operation of free competition, for example by the development of monopolies, or the formation of so-called cartels or agreements which disrupt the market mechanism. If that happens, the State must intervene to protect the system, as the USA had to do as long ago as 1890 by means of the Antitrust laws, and we had to do by passing legislation here a year, viz. the Competition Act.

This brings me to the second part of my speech, viz. that this House takes note of the problems arising from vertical integration in the agricultural industry. I want to sketch briefly what I mean by vertical integration. I would like to do so on the basis of a definition of this concept by the late Dr. A. S. At the same time I should also like to refer on record here that this man, Dr. [unclear], made a tremendous contribution to the rural economy in South Africa. He was

formerly a member of the Viljoen Commission on the Protection of Industries, of the Reynders Commission of Inquiry into Cost and Profit Margins on Agricultural Implements and of the Theron Commission of Inquiry into the Coloured Population. He was a pre-eminent agricultural economist. He said—

Vertikale integrasie is die samevoeging by of same-smelting met dieselfde produksie-eenheid van al die handelinge, strekkende vanaf die verkryging van die grondstowwe tot en insluitende die vervaardiging van die afgewerkte produk.

That is his definition of vertical integration. He could also have added the marketing of the end product. By vertical integration, therefore, we understand an agglomeration of production processes where the end product of the one process forms the raw material of the next process. This is upward vertical integration. A good example of this would be where a fruit-farming concern has its own canning factory and marketing organization. Downward integration, on the other hand, is where a marketing organization or a supermarket chain acquires its own canning factory and eventually begins its own farming enterprise to deliver the fruit or vegetables to its own factory. These processes, of course, take place entirely in accordance with the principle of free competition, with the emphasis on competition. In fact, it happens precisely as a result of competition. Thus the canning factory will argue that it can make a bigger profit if it produces its own fruit and is therefore able to acquire its raw material at a lower price than its competitors. On the surface there is no fault to find with this. But what problems result from such a situation? I should like to illustrate these problems in this House today on the basis of the history and the present position of the poultry industry in the Western Cape. I am choosing the poultry industry as an example because the vertical integration process in this industry was so dramatic that it brought about a structural change in the agricultural sector in the Western Cape.

\*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: In the entire country.

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For full text of debate  
see Hansard

~~(3 Controversial)~~  
245

COMPETITION AND VERTICAL INTEGRATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

(Motion)

\*Mr. G. J. KOTZÉ: Mr. Speaker, I move—

3 (general)

By Keith Kiewiet

**IN the pitiless glare a woman in tatters lifts her arms to a sky that seems on fire and wails: 'God has left us, God has left us.'**

Her two pathetic children are frightened by the outburst. But she is just one more victim of the Great Karoo drought. For three years now, no rain has fallen on this wide and empty land and the old people who live on these desolate farms are talking sombrely about the big depression of the '30s and the migration of hungry and homeless people to towns and cities.

In the first year, those familiar Karoo bushes changed in colour from a dusty brown and green to a light shade of brown. Then they became a dirty white. And still no rain fell.

Now the bushes are black. If you put your foot on one of them it collapses.

If you grind the bush with your foot, all that remains is a dirty powder.

Boreholes that functioned well for years have stopped supplying water. Vleis and dams have dried up. What used to be fairly large rivers are now beds of dust as fine as talcum powder.

In the hotel at Calvinia the manager apologetically asks one of his customers not to pour a deep bath — if indeed he must have one at all.

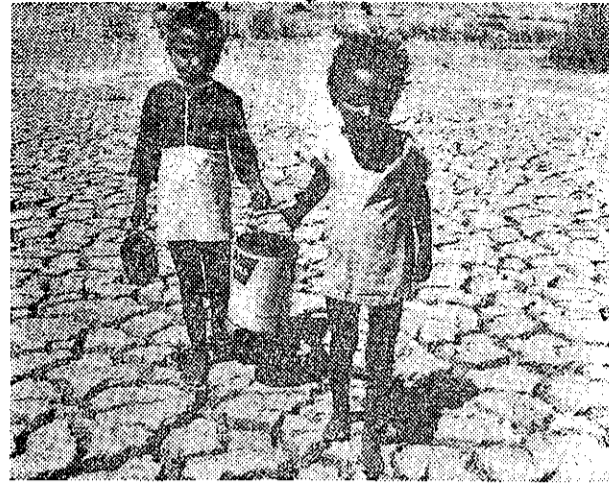
# LAND OF DUST

Karoo has had three years with no rain

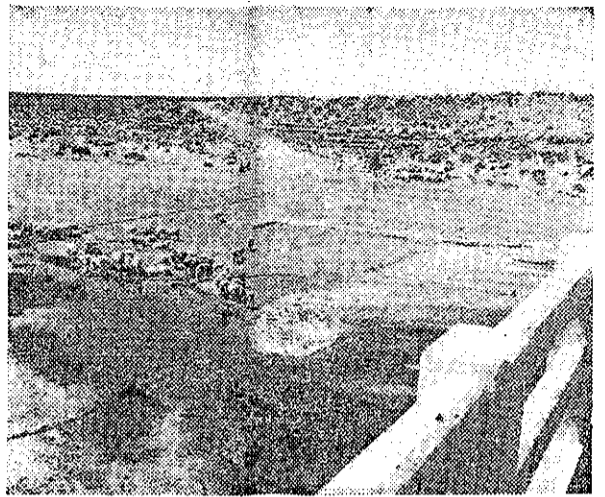
In the bar gloomy farmers talk about those who have left the Karoo for cities and those who have decided to remain talk worriedly about mounting debts they owe the Government, the local co-operative and perhaps even the grocery shop.

They are not drinking with happiness.

They listen carefully to a man who claims he can



CRACKED GROUND: The bottom of a large and full dam only eight months ago.



THE Riet River, near Williston, should be full at this time of the year. Instead — pools of stagnant water.

divine the presence of water. After hearing him, the hotel owner requests his services. The next morning, early, the two take part in a mysterious operation in which a band of metal, held correctly, is supposed to indicate the

presence of water. Later that day the hotel owner has already telephoned the man with the borehole machine.

Next month is the start of the lambing season and farmers are cursing the fact.

As they did last year, farmers will have to butcher lambs soon after birth because the ewes are not strong enough to provide milk.

Not many sheep are dying because farmers are still managing to feed

them. But, although they are saving their sheep from death, they are running themselves into debt. They collectively owe the State R11-million for animal feed alone.

Because they are in debt they have had to cut down their flocks and because of that they've cut down on their labour force.

Now many coloured workers are trekking across the Karoo looking for work elsewhere, but seldom finding it.

### Lucky

Some are lucky. Their employers have stopped paying them but they are still allowed to stay on the farm and do odd jobs in exchange for spartan food — mainly mealie meal and offal.

Most of the displaced labourers are moving into those drab and dreary 'locations' on the outskirts of Karoo towns.

There is overcrowding. Poverty is worse than ever. And there is no machinery to deal with it.

The whites in the towns say they know things are bad but they shrug their shoulders. What can they do?

Many farmers say they have no choice but to dismiss workers.

### Better times

Once-fertile farms that supported a number of families are now supporting only one family, they say. The rest have left for the cities and are waiting for better times before returning.

Older farmers who have lived their whole life in the Karoo seem to be the ones who are simply sticking it out, but many of the younger ones, with less capital and with the chance of another life in the city, have packed it in.

Meanwhile the sun burns down daily without pity and there is never even a promising cloud in the sky.

# Victims of the great drought

**MRS Katrina Sakoe, a woman with a wizened and prematurely aged face who says she does not know her age, is one of the many victims of the Great Karoo drought.**

'The farmers complain and I must admit things are bad for them but things are much worse for us. Much worse,' she said.

Mrs Snel is a well-spoken woman who has worked for eight years with her present employer.

Meanwhile, farmers in the summer rainfall area daily look at the sky for a sign of cloud but there is none. They are uncomfortably aware that the mornings are getting cooler and that the 'dry' season is on its way.

Williston's magistrate, Mr M V Roos, has received 250 applications from farmers seeking money from the State so they can feed their animals.

And 20 farmers are getting State money just to be able to feed their families.

'Each adult member of the family gets R80 a month through this scheme and each minor gets R20,' Mr Roos said.

'It is really very bad,' says Mr Roos, 'and the situation is the same all over the place... Calvinia, Sutherland, Frasersburg. The whole north-western Karoo is in the grips of one of the worst droughts I have ever come across.'

Oom Chris Smit is 72 and he has spent his whole life in the Great Karoo.

He says the present



drought in the Great Karoo is the worst he has experienced.

'I am a water diviner and there is nothing anybody can tell me about the water that runs underground here in the Karoo. This is without doubt the worst drought since I have been here.'

'Oh, it was bad in the '60s. But then it was not as widespread as now. It comes after seven good years, you know.'

Mrs A Pretorius, a farmer's wife, says there are young children in the

A SHEEP'S skeleton: Stark testimony to the ravages of the drought.

Karoo who have never seen rain.

'Imagine being three years old and being able to talk and yet not know what rain is,' she says.

It looks as if these children might be quite a bit older before they do see rain. Many areas of the Karoo are meant to have summer rainfall and right height of the rainy now it is meant to be the season.

One day this week after 'many years of service' (baie, baie jare) with one employer, she, her husband and her two children were told by 'baas Steenkamp' that he could no longer afford to keep them on.

So, on Tuesday night the farmer loaded these people on to the back of his lorry and deposited them on the nearest main road.

His advice to them was to 'go to one of the towns and find work' and his parting gift was some of-fal wrapped in a piece of newspaper.

A Weekend Argus team found Mrs Sakoe making breakfast with the offal on the side of the road.

'My husband is looking for work and he told us to stay here,' she said.

Mrs Anna Snel, the mother of three children, has also lost her job, but her employer has let her stay on in a humble shack on the farm.

'My husband is lucky and still has work but we are only getting R40 a month and with that we have to keep our eldest son in high school.'

# Space-age plan for agriculture

5  
 (3) *News Business*  
 17/2/80  
 [Handwritten signature]

**SENTRACHEM'S** imminent multi-million-rand leap into a flora-based alternative fuel programme is now supported by an arresting model of exactly what may transpire.

The model was released to Business Times this week by senior general manager, Dr Robbie Robinson.

Dr Robinson goes so far as to admit that the potential size of the embryonic ethanol business borders on science fiction.

He has even coined a word — agrochemurgy — for an industry he predicts is capable of creating 800 000 new jobs and turning over R625-million annually.

Sentrachem has done a lot of homework since the energy crisis began to produce figures which, if anywhere near correct, justify its 1978 announce-

ment committing R135-million to manufacture ethanol.

How much it now intends to spend on process plants is being kept secret until management works out exactly how far Energy Minister F W de Klerk intends to go in encouraging output to supplement fuel needs.

Dr Robinson estimates that ethanol made from plants — mainly maize, although sugarcane, sorghum and eventually Latin American cassava are also usable — could soak up 20% of present liquid fuel requirements.

## Concessions

Lead time for the proposed plant-power industry — from sowing seed to topping up fuel tanks with ethanol — is a minimum two years with a crash programme.

Until Minister De Klerk spells out concessions to aspi-

By **BILL CAIN**

rant producers, however, no one is allowed to add alcohol to fuels without Government consent.

Dr Robinson's model for the industry requires careful digestion:

- Production modules each producing 100 000 tons of ethanol would be centred on up to 150 000 ha supplying 300 000 tons of maize.

- About 3 000 farmers contracted to grow the crop would share an estimated R30-million annually with another 200-300 workers paid by the processing plant.

- High-protein by-products would go for animal feed capable of supporting 150 000 head of cattle and create another 2 000 jobs in red meat apart from dairy products.

- Waste carbon dioxide

would be utilised to cultivate algae on which an estimated 100 000 tons of fish worth R20-million could be raised by another 200-300 workers.

- Supporting personnel — traders, teachers, mechanics and public servants — for each agrochemurgy complex would take the total within the ethanol process to 40 000 families.

## Impact

Imagine the impact if these agrochemurgy concepts could be replicated 20 times in different parts of the country to produce 2 000 million tons of ethanol annually.

They would create job opportunities for approximately 800 000 people and probably mean the end of malnutrition, Dr Robinson says.

He adds: "The total value of ethanol would be R625-million — let alone the value of animal

feeds and other products.

An enormous market for secondary goods would also be created with an even greater catalytic effect on the economy."

Right or wrong, prospects for the new industry boil down to how much the motorist and transport industry will be asked to pay for ethanol.

Minister De Klerk is faced with an emotive as well as economic equation when putting a price on litres of mixed fuel containing varying parts of ethanol.

Unleaded 93 octane petrol containing 20% ethanol, for example, might be rated at 97 octane and suppliers would save on the lead.

With a commercial venture everyone down the line right back to the farmer has to be paid.

Sentrachem and many others are anxious to see if government gets the formula right first time.

The 1944 Gluckman Commission into the National Health Services (30/44) reported that 47,6% of white schoolboys in the Transvaal were nourished and that 31,5% of white schoolboys in the Cape and 43,6% the Orange Free State were malnourished. Subsequent to these findings, national resources were then devoted to combating not merely the physical effects of malnutrition but the whole complex web of causes behind it. It was recognised that such malnutrition was merely one part of the wider web of the so-called 'poor white problem' — and that it was necessary to deal with this wider problem by creating employment opportunities, by easing transition of poor whites from the rural areas into the towns, by providing more effective political participation and by generally improving the social circumstances of this community if one was to eliminate, as now been done, malnutrition amongst white schoolchildren. Initially, thus, health was purchased for this group not by buying more or medical services but by instituting a coordinated response to a problem involving a conscious programme of community development in which the health services played only one part. Implicitly, thus, the answer to malnutrition amongst white schoolchildren involved the notion of the idea that the health care system should be separated from other factors known to have an important effect on malnutrition.

Early, South Africa could purchase higher health levels for the black nation and could decide to close the gap between black and white health standards. However, to do this, it would have to act on the notion that the primary determinants of health and illness are political and political phenomena. Social policies in South Africa which leave men from their families, which have excluded the bulk of the population from effective political participation, which disrupt communities which are associated with widespread poverty, malnutrition and a failure to create employment opportunities in rural areas cannot be compared to a healthy society. If medicine is to be effective, it must promote a stable family life, adequate wages, promote educational and employment opportunities, better agriculture and more effective participation by citizens in decision-making processes. As Montemayor has put it:

'As long as social injustice is not reduced, no amount of medicine or medical work can stem the ever-increasing tide of illness. For no amount of drugs or antibiotics can take the place of three square meals a day, and the normal means of getting three square meals a day is a just wage'. (Wells, 1974:24).



# Spogplaas

# kry

# bruin base

*klappert*  
*17/2/80*  
*3*  
*generaal*

Van BOKKIE GERBER

MOSELBAAI

'N SINDIKAAT van bruin sakemanne het een van Suid-Kaapland se uitsoekplase, Schoemanshoek, gekoop. Hulle het glo R350 000 daarvoor betaal. Sommige van die boere langs die Gourits-rivier is daaroor suur. Een van hulle dreig om te trek as hy 'n bruin buurman kry, maar ander blanke boere in die omgewing het geen beswaar nie.

*Mnr. Eric van Zyl, wie se plaas, Roggeland, aan Schoemanshoek grens, het aan RAPPORT gesê as die Regering nie ingryp nie, is sy plaas in die mark. Daar is glo ook by die LV vir Mosselbaai, dr. Helgard van Rensburg, oor die verkoop van Schoemanshoek gekla.*

Die sindikaat, wat uit tien bruin sakemanne bestaan, het die plaas Schoemanshoek van 1 260 ha van mnr. Neels Jonker gekoop.

Mnr. Jonker sê die boere het g'n rede om te kla nie. Hy sê hy sal nie aan hom laat voorskryf aan wie hy sy plaas mag verkoop nie.

„Ek het die boere op die buurplase eerste 'n kans gegee om Schoemanshoek te koop. Hulle wou nie. Toe ek 'n koper kry, het ek na hulle teruggegaan. Ek het hulle weer gevra of hulle in die plaas belang stel. Hulle het gesê ek vra te veel,” het mnr. Jonker aan RAPPORT gesê.

Na verneem word, het mnr.

Jonker die plaas vir R350 000 aan die sindikaat verkoop.

Mnr. Van Zyl sê die bruin boer word voorgetrek. „Daar word teen ons blanke boere gediskrimineer. Die bruin boer kry 'n 100 persent-lening teen 5 persent rente. Die blanke boer kan by die Landbank net 'n 80 persent-lening kry — en die rente is 9 persent.

„Ek sou graag Schoemanshoek wou koop omdat dit teenaan my plaas lê, maar waar gaan ek daardie soort van geld vandaan kry?” het mnr. Van Zyl dié week aan RAPPORT gesê.

Roggeland is al vyf geslagte in die besit van die Van Zyl's. Nou wil mnr. Van Zyl verkoop.

„Ek is glad nie meer gelukkig op die plaas nie. Voor ons ons oë kan uitvee, het bruin boere die hele distrik ingeneem,” sê hy.

Volgens mnr. Van Zyl oorweeg heelparty van die boere langs die Gouritsrivier nou om hul plase te verkoop.

Lede van die sindikaat met wie RAPPORT dié week gepraat het, wou niks sê nie.

Hulle het egter bevestig dat die koopbrief reeds onderteken is.

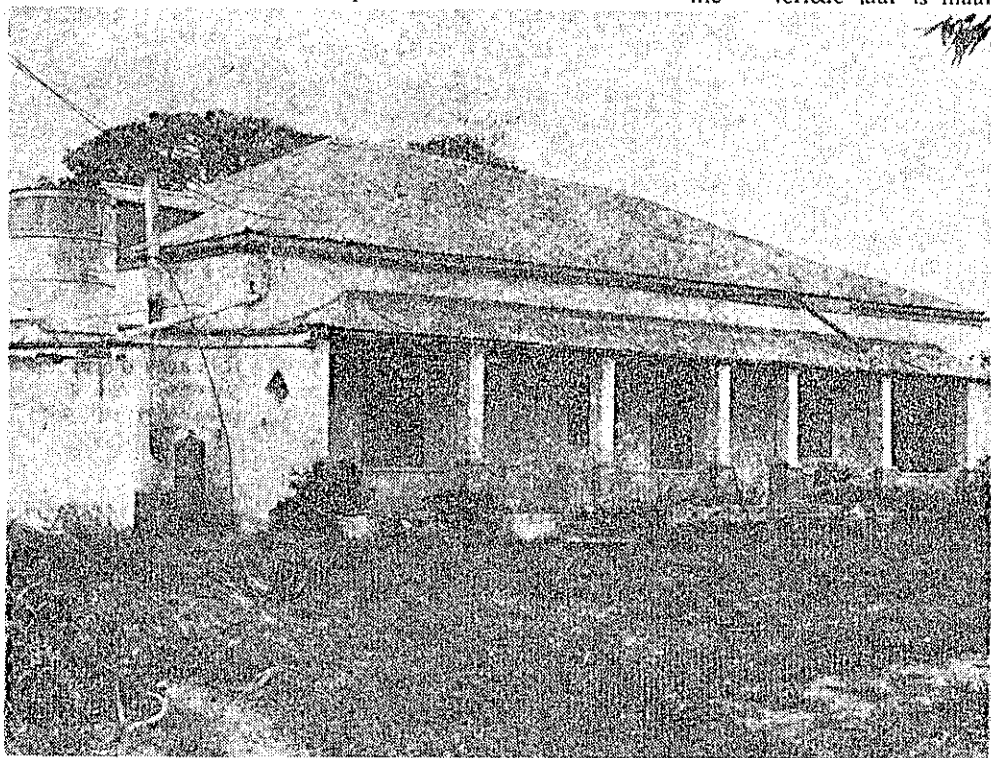
Mnr. Jonker sê dis darem nie al die bure wat ontevrede is nie. Daar's 'n paar wat glad nie omgee dat 'n bruin boer op Schoemanshoek sal boer nie.

„Ek kan nie eintlik verstaan waaroor die boere kla nie, want die laaste drie jaar het net bruin werkers op Schoemanshoek gebly. Wat is nou die verskil as 'n bruin man daar boer.

„Die bure is net suur dat hulle nie Schoemanshoek kon koop nie. Dis al waaroor die boerei gaan,” het mnr. Jonker gesê.

RAPPORT het vasgestel dat die sindikaat by die landbouafdeling van die Departement van Kleurlingsake om hulp aangeklop het. Die gewone aansoekvorm is aan die sindikaat gestuur, maar teen gister was dit nog nie terug ontvang nie.

\*Aan RAPPORT is gesê dat die departement bruin boere met lenings teen 5 persent rente help. Bruin boere word nie hierdeur voorgetrek nie — verlede jaar is maar



SCHOEMANSHOEK se plaasopstal. Dit is al drie jaar dat net die bruin arbeiders op die plaas woon. Die huis staan leeg.

2 (General)  
Farmers  
C.C. 9/2/50  
to meet

Staff Reporter

FARMERS from all over the Western Cape will gather at Worcester on Monday to consider the formation of a new association called the Western Cape Agricultural Union.

The congress will be opened by the chairman of the present Cape Province Agricultural Union (CPAU), Mr G J van Zyl, and a welcoming address will be delivered by the Mayor of Worcester, Mr M Smit.

It is understood that the emergence of the new body, which will combine the CPAU, the Boland Agricultural Union and the Southern Cape Agricultural Union, is not in doubt, and in fact the last item on the agenda consists of the first meeting of the WCAU's acting executive committee.

The CPAU aims to draw into one "united agricultural front" the agricultural population, as well as the farmers' co-operatives, and the draft constitution aims "to consider all matters on merit alone and without party-political bias".

Hansard 3 (Q 127) 20/2/80

3 (gen)  
~~268~~ 56

**Black veterinarians**

\*7. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister of National Education:

How many Black veterinarians are at present being trained in the Republic of South Africa?

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

None at the universities administered by me.

Hansard Q 3 (26/27)

20/2/80

**Black veterinarians**

\*6. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister of Agriculture:

How many Black veterinarians are at present in service in the Republic of South Africa?

3 (gen)

127

WEDNESDAY, 21

**The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:**

There are at present no Black veterinarians in service in the Republic of South Africa.

Hans. 3 Question 61 14<sup>③</sup> 28/2/80

**Surplus agricultural foodstuffs**

131. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether any surplus agricultural foodstuffs grown or produced in the Republic were distributed to (a) the underprivileged and (b) charitable organizations during the latest year for which figures are available; if so, (i) what foodstuffs, (ii) what quantity of each foodstuff, (iii) what was the estimated total value and (iv) at what cost to his Department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (a) No
- (b) No
- (i) - (iv) Fall away.

3(gen)

Hansard 3 Question Col 141/142

20/2/80

3(gen)

**Subsidy on agricultural produce**

162. Mr. T. ARONSON asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) What agricultural products which are sold to the consumer (a) were subsidized in 1979 and (b) will be subsidized in 1980.

(2) (a) what was the actual amount of such subsidy in 1979 and (b) what is the estimated amount for 1980?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) (a) Maize, wheat products and dairy products;

(b) Maize, wheat products and dairy products;

(2) (a)

	1979/80 (estimates)
Maize .....	R45 000 000
Wheat products	R117 000 000
Dairy products ..	R4 750 000

(2) (b) The amount will only be known when the budget for 1980/81 is published.

Hansard 3 (Questions 145/146)

3 (Gen)

20/2/80

145

WEDNESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 1980

146

berries and destroys the seed of this weed. This insect has been imported from Mexico.

#### Surpluses of agricultural products

186. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether any surpluses of agricultural products exist or are expected during 1980; if so, of which products;
- (2) what in each case are (a) the reasons for such surpluses and (b) the price implications;
- (3) what steps have been taken or are contemplated in each case to (a) counter the effect of such surpluses and (b) avoid such surpluses in future?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes. Eggs, wheat, barley, maize, grain sorghum, buckwheat, tobacco and cotton lint.
- (2) (a) Favourable production conditions.  
(b) The price implications mainly depend on the prices realized in foreign markets for the exportable surpluses.
- (3) (a) and (b)

#### Eggs

Export of surpluses and application of the regulations in terms of the Egg Production Control Act, 1970 (Act 61 of 1970).

#### Wheat and barley

No special steps are taken as the surpluses are a temporary phenomenon and shortages may even be experienced in future due to the growth of population.

*Maize, grain sorghum and buckwheat*  
No special steps are taken in view of the strategic importance of these products and the currency earnings through exports.

#### Tobacco

A production quota system is being applied by the relevant co-operatives.

#### Cotton lint

Purchase of surplus stocks by the Cotton Board. The Board is also considering publicity in order to promote the consumption of cotton.

20/2/80

Hansard 3 Quest Col 146/147

3 (gin)

20/1/80 3/146  
Shortages of agricultural products

187. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether any shortages of agricultural products exist or are expected during 1980; if so, of which products;
- (2) what in each case are (a) the reasons for such shortages and (b) the price implications;
- (3) what steps have been taken or are contemplated in each case to (a) counter the effect of such shortages and (b) avoid such shortages in future?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes. Rooibos tea, rye and lucerne.
- (2) (a) *Rooibos tea*  
Unfavourable climatic conditions and an increase in consumption.

*Rye*  
Low yield per hectare.

*Lucerne*  
Drought conditions.

- (2) (b) *Rooibos tea*  
With a view to compensating producers for increased production costs and to encourage production, prices were increased by approximately 20 percent during the current season.

*Rye*  
None at this stage.

147

WEDNESDAY 23

*Lucerne*  
Prices in the free market increased considerably in certain areas.

- (3) (a) *Rooibos tea*  
The Rooibos Tea Control Board allocates current stocks to producers by means of quotas and exports are restricted to a minimum.

*Rye*  
No special steps.

*Lucerne*  
The Lucerne Action Committee of the South African Agricultural Union is giving attention to the matter.

- (3) (b) *Rooibos tea and rye:*  
Producer prices are adjusted from time to time with a view to encouraging production.

*Lucerne*  
Price control was abolished in 1979 in order to encourage increased plantings.



Hansard 3 Quest 15/1/52

3(yr)

**Value of agricultural production/exports**

304. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

20/2/80

FEBRUARY 1980

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What was the value of the Republic's agricultural (a) production and (b) exports in 1979?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (a) R4 575 million (estimated)
- (b) R1 423 million (estimated).

Hansard 3 Questions Col 147/148

20/2/80

**Price increases of agricultural products**

188. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked  
the Minister of Agriculture:

- 3, 147, 20/2/80
- (1) Whether any applications for price increases of any agricultural products have been received by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing during 1980; if so, from what organizations;
  - (2) what in each case (a) was the increase requested, (b) were the reasons given for the application and (c) was the response of the Department;
  - (3) whether any increases have been or are to be granted; if so, what is the increase in each case;
  - (4) whether any representations were made against such price increases; if so, (a) by which organizations and

3 (gen).

FEBRUARY 1980

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what in each case (i) were the reasons for the representations and (ii) was the response of the Department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) No.
- (2), (3) and (4) Fall away.

Hansard 3 Quest C. 152

20/2/80

**Production of sunflower seed**

31000  
31150  
321. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What was the total production of sunflower seed in the Republic for each of the last five years for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

	Ton
1973/74	253 000
1974/75	209 300
1975/76	254 700
1976/77	469 900
1977/78	453 400
1978/79	320 000 (estimated)

3 (year)

Hansard 3 Quest Col 156

2/2/80

3(qen)

FEBRUARY 1980

2/1/80 X 156

**Land and Agricultural Bank: loans**

297. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Finance:

- (a) What was the total amount of loans to farmers by the Land and Agricultural Bank as at 31 December 1979 and (b) to how many farmers had these loans been granted?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (a) R584 167 147  
(b) 23 201

## Council calls for aid for drought areas

Staff Reporter

THE Provincial Council yesterday unanimously adopted a motion asking the administrator-in-executive committee to grant aid to those suffering under the Cape's worst drought in a century.

In the motion, proposed by the Leader of the House and MPC for Prieska, Mr F A Loots, MEC, the council expressed sympathy with those affected and asked for aid.

MPCs from affected areas in the north-west Cape and Namaqualand told of the suffering of those involved.

Mr Loots said that the attention of the government to the problem was appreciated, but that the province also had a role to play.

He proposed that action include a temporary lowering and subsidizing of boarding houses fees in towns within the disaster areas.

Special help could be given to municipalities forced to increase water and light tariffs. The economies of towns were affected by the fortunes of the farming community.

Mr J T Nel, NP Ceres, said that the rainfall in the Calvinia district in 1978 had been the lowest in 109 years. In 1979 it had been the second lowest in 110 years.

In two years of the drought farmers had lost R20 million directly and indirectly. It was doubted whether the losses would be overcome in the next 10 years.

The Administrator, Mr Gene Louw, said that the drought was seen as as serious as the drought of the 1880's.

In 27 affected areas, about 1 600 farmers were taking advantage of State help. R3,2 million had been provided.

# MPCs call for drought relief

③ General  
22/2/80

CAPE TOWN — The Provincial Council yesterday unanimously adopted a motion asking the administrator in executive committee to grant aid to those suffering under the Cape's worst drought in a century.

Mr. Robyn Hobbs (NRP, East London North), asked that drought-stricken farmers in the Border areas not be forgotten.

In the motion, proposed by the leader of the house and MPC for Prieska, Mr F. A. Loots, MEC, the council expressed sincere sympathy with those affected and asked for aid in so far as it was within the province's means.

Moving his motion, Mr. Loots said that the

attention of the government to the problem was appreciated, but that the province also had a role to play.

Action he proposed included that there be a temporary lowering of boarding fees in boarding houses in towns within the disaster areas and subsidising fees.

Special help could be given to municipalities forced to increase water and light tariffs. The economics of towns were affected by the fortunes of the farming community.

The Administrator, Mr Gene Louw, said the drought was seen as serious as the drought of the 1880s. — DDC.

esburg at this time.

University.

ething.

11. What do you see?
12. Good morning young man!
13. Are you sick/ill ?
14. Snow melts but dew shines.
15. Glucose also melts in the mouth.
16. Please try again.
17. I dont like to drive on long trips.
18. Death is the leveller of all.
19. The man is complaining.
20. Those (cl.2) who work will never regret.
21. Hurry ! Time is against us.
22. Mr Mbabane, a telephone for you.
23. Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down.
24. "What is the value of education?" A student once asked.
25. I can see you understand ( plural )

1.  
ukuqhuba  
ixhesha  
ngamany'amaxesha  
ni/ntoni?  
ikhephu  
Sabelo.

2.  
linga  
iyakhalaza  
niyaqonda  
musa  
uyagula ?  
uSabani

3.  
iyanyibilika  
abo  
ixabiso  
linenekazi  
molo  
kakhulu

4.  
ukufa  
mmumzana  
wesihlangu  
phi?  
uthetha  
zikaBawo

③ *Journal*

**Water costs bite**

*pr 22/1/80*

By industrial standards, SA farmers get their irrigation water cheaply. Even so, they are unhappy over what they have to pay.

They buy about 2 m<sup>3</sup> out of every three supplied by the Department of Water Affairs. Yet their water rates contribute only 10% of the revenues that the department claws back from its customers.

Domestic and industrial users pay the full price for their 33% share. But the losses which the department incurs on behalf of agriculture have to be recouped from the taxpayer via the Treasury as "irrecoverable expenditure"; it is rolled over in the department's books.

Currently, faced with higher charges, many farmers are still dissatisfied. Rates on some irrigation schemes, especially the newer ones, have been rising faster than on others. Widening differentials are said to be putting certain of them at a comparative disadvantage as water bills climb towards an unprecedented 20% of total costs.

Trouble began after the 1970 commission of enquiry into water matters recommended a new basis for tariffs. The commission recognised that the majority of farmers could never be expected to meet all the capital costs of interest and redemption that the department incurred. But it divided them into two categories.

Farmers on "new" irrigation schemes (completed after March 1970) were to pay for the full operating costs plus a percentage of the interest and redemption costs. Meanwhile, the rates on schemes complet-

ed before 1970 were to be raised gradually to 10% as is consistent with socio-economic conditions to cover at least the operating costs.

Each scheme is dealt with separately, and liaison with the Department of Agriculture ensures that rates are, indeed, consistent with socio-economic conditions. If Riet River farmers, for instance, were to be asked to pay their full share, even of their scheme's operating costs, few of them would survive to pay anything at all. On the other hand, farmers ask, why should some irrigators be charged on a different basis just because their scheme was established in the wrong year?

A delegation from the SAAF has been promised a meeting with Water Affairs Minister Abe Raubenheimer, at which they intend asking him for a more uniform system of calculating charges.

1970, this figure had decreased to 15,7%, indicating that the whites had lived disproportionately to the 'coloureds'. Similarly, for children 4 years of age, during the period 1941 to 1970, the white mortality rate as a percentage of the 'coloureds' had decreased from 15,2% to 10,2%. It should be noted that the 0 year age specific death rates are lower than the corresponding IMRs. This is because the denominator for former is the number of live births whilst for the latter it is the number of deaths per year of age.

Table 4 provides an indication of the proportional contribution of selected causes of death to the overall mortality experience of the white, 'coloured' and African communities.

During the period 1929 to 1970, the whites have shown a changing spectrum of mortality which is classically associated with an improving health status. Various diseases have become less important and the major causes of death increasingly related to Cardiovascular and Neoplastic diseases. The 'coloureds' and Africans, however, have a persistently high proportion of deaths caused by infectious diseases. The Africans exhibit a spectrum of mortality which is characteristically associated with developing communities, whilst the 'coloureds' appear to occupy an intermediate position between the whites and Africans, although it is clearly much more similar to the whites than it is to the Africans.

It is of particular concern about the 'coloureds' is that it would appear to be developing and the developing experience. Table II which provides a more detailed contribution to the overall mortality of the 'coloureds' shows specific mortality rates for various cardiovascular diseases and a high proportion of the overall mortality rate for both whites and 'coloureds' since 1941.

Table III, the broad diagnostic categories used in this analysis conceal a great deal of information. However, because of the changes in disease classification which have taken place since 1960, it is not possible to compare the temporal changes of mortality rates in greater detail. Disease categories with rates greater than 5/1000 appear in italics in Table II. It will be noted that the mortality experiences of the 'coloureds'

- (iv) Proportional Mortality, accounted for by specific conditions.
- (v) Expectation of Life. This was calculated both at birth ( $e_0$ ) and at 45 years of age ( $e_{45}$ ) for both males and females. It expresses the average number of additional years an individual would be expected to live beyond birth and 45 years.

For Africans, the proportional mortality was the only index calculated.

**RESULTS**

The infant mortality rates (IMR) and standardised mortality rates (SMR) for whites and 'coloureds' are presented in Table I. The whites have experienced a steady decline in mortality since 1929, the 'coloureds' after a static IMR since 1950 and an increase from 1941 to 1970, the white IMR has improved by 57,6%. During this period the SMR for 'coloureds' decreased from 104,8/1000 to 132,4/1000. This is of particular concern when compared with the whites.

Mr Wilkens was addressing delegates at the foundation congress of the North Western Cape Agricultural Union at Upington yesterday. Mr Wilkens said independence was always one of the trademarks of the farmer, and this should be preserved. He said it was the duty of every farmer to contribute to positive changes in a democratic manner.

**CO-OPERATION**

"I want to give all farmers of South Africa the assurance that the union would look after their interests. The farmers of this country cannot afford division on grounds of economic, political, social or any other reason. Our wellbeing lies in unity and co-operation."

He said the union was continuously working to ensure that the farmer received a fair price for his produce; that marketing was carried out on a co-ordinated and fair basis, and to ensure that stability was maintained throughout agriculture.

The congress was one of three similar congresses at which three unions with full provincial status were elected. The three unions will be directly affiliated to the SAAU.

*Arms 20/1/30*  
**Farm union**  
*3-General*  
**invites all**  
**aces to join**

**THE president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr J Wilkens, has invited farmers of all races to join the union.**

... rates were also increasing between 1950 and 1970 for 'coloureds' in the 25-44 and 45-64 years age groups.

The imbalance between the age specific mortality rates of whites and 'coloureds' has improved or remained constant for persons between the ages of 5 and 64. However, for children less than 5 years of age, the gap between whites and 'coloureds' is widening. In 1941, white children under one year old experienced 28/1000 of the mortality of 'coloured' children;



Frontline farmers in northern Natal found themselves in a new war zone this week when terrorists rocketed a supply store. But it was a strike that was long-expected.

As SADF and police units mounted follow-up operations in the dense frontier bush between South Africa and Mozambique, the farmers said they would not be scared off by the terrorists.

They are linked by radio and wherever they go, they take their weapons

# We're ready

Sun Times 24/2/80 (364) (DIA)

## Frontline farmers on stand-by in the new terror strip

Report by WYNTER MURDOCH  
Pictures: Barry Comber

THEY are ready for war, the frontier farmers of Natal.

So this week's hit-and-run terror strike across the Mozambique border came as no surprise.

"It had to happen... this is just the start," said the men who live in the shadow of Mozambique.

Almost on top of the frontline is war-weary ex-Rhodesian Thys Smit.

He is project manager of a cotton farm at Ndumo, a trading settlement within sight of South Africa's border with Mozambique.

After Sunday's rocket strike on the isolated supply store 20 km to the south, Thys takes his R1 rifle whenever he leaves his security-fenced and floodlit farmhouse.

"We have always been careful here, but now we are going to have to be even more vigilant. It is inevitable that there will be another attack.

"What happened on Sunday was the beginning. I would like to regard it as a single, isolated incident that will blow over. But I don't think that will be the case."

### Attitude

Thys and his wife, Kate, have had previous experience of terror and bush war.

They farmed in Rhodesia until four years ago and can see parallels between the developing situation in South Africa's "terror strip" and their former home.

However, there is a difference: "In Rhodesia there was a marked change in attitude among the locals when the first terror attacks took place.

"They became unco-operative and sullen. Here it is different. The local people are still as friendly and helpful as they ever were. I find that heartening."

Like most whites in the area, the Smits said they had always believed that an attack would take place.

"It came as no surprise,



Storekeeper Nicolas Ndlovu was asleep when terrorists attacked his shop and left it a pile of rubble

really. It had been expected, but it was the suddenness that shocked us. Now we wonder who, or what, is next."

The Smits have radio links with a neighbouring farmhouse where section manager Roy Bruce lives with his wife, Olive, and baby daughter Tracey-Lee, and also with a farm a few kilometres south.

Said Thys: "We can be in contact with other people within seconds. We also have the

telephone. Though we are the only farmers who are in the buffer-zone nearest the border, we are not at all cut off.

"Help is just a button switch away."

Whenever he travels the lonely dirt road to the nearest town, Mkuze, about 80 km away, he carries the R1 with him.

"It is no secret. Everyone here has some kind of armament. We don't travel with-

out a weapon. A breakdown on the road, especially at night, can only spell trouble," he said.

Mr Smit's view is shared by newcomer Roy Bruce, who moved to Ndumo from Durban about eight months ago.

He said: "The road to Mkuze is an ideal place for an ambush. It is lonely, isolated and the bush offers lots of cover. We try not to travel during darkness."

Both Mr Bruce and his wife said they too had been "sort of expecting" a terror incident in the area.

"It had to happen sometime. Everyone in the area knew it was on the cards. But it is not going to alter our plans to stay here. This is beautiful country. I couldn't face living anywhere else," said Mr Bruce.

As military patrols swept the area this week, Brigadier Charles Lloyd, officer commanding Natal Command, advised northern Natal residents to join forces to protect each other in the face of the approaching terrorist threat in the area.



Roy Bruce with wife Olive and baby Tracey-Lee... weapons never far away

## Terror victim led through bush with sack over his head

STOREKEEPER Nicolas Ndlovu has spoken for the first time of his night of fear at the hands of the heavily armed terrorists who attacked his shop.

"I thought I was going to die," he said.

"From the moment I heard them cock their rifles to the time they released me, I did not think that I would see the sun rise. It was terrifying."

Business went on as usual last Saturday at the Phelindaba trading store about 35 km from the Mozambique border.

Mr Ndlovu, a former waiter at a hotel at Mkuze 100 km away, locked up at his normal time and prepared for bed in a room which he shared with a young shop assistant at the back of the store.

Next to him was a .22 pistol, which store-owner David Rutherford had issued to his staff for protection against robbers.

"At two o'clock he leapt from bed to the sound of firing.

"People outside were shooting at the shop. I got my gun and started shooting back."

The young shop assistant was hiding under the counter.

Then the terrorists fired a rocket at the store and broke down the door.

As they were taken outside, the young boy — who was "shaking with fear" — made a dash for freedom and

escaped into the bush.

A sack was put over Mr Ndlovu's head and he was slapped about the head by the terrorists.

"I don't know how many people there were. It could have been eight or 10. There were a lot of different voices," he said.

After looting the store and setting it alight, the gang made Mr Ndlovu walk with them through the bush, leading him by a cord tied around his neck.

"I couldn't see where we were going, but I think we walked around in a circle.

"They told me that they were going

to recruit me, but they didn't say where they were taking me and I didn't ask."

After walking for about an hour, a gang member told Mr Ndlovu that they were no longer interested in recruiting him.

"They said I should rather go back to my boss and tell him that they would be returning for another attack. "They tied me to a tree, but still did not remove the hood."

After freeing himself, Mr Ndlovu ran back through the bush to the store.

There he called for the night watch-

man and counter assistant, who came out of hiding.

Ordering them to stay there, he ran about 5 km through the bush to the main Ndumo road, where he caught a bus into Maputa, a village about 20 km south of the store.

Said his employer, Mr Rutherford: "He arrived about six o'clock and told me the story. Though we had been expecting something like this I couldn't believe it had happened."

Within half an hour of the report, Mr Rutherford, police and SADF units had converged on the still-smouldering ruins of the store.



Ex-Rhodesian Thys Smit... "the beginning"

Hansard 4 (1358)

25/2/80

3(gen)

EMERGENCY AID TO FARMERS IN THE  
NORTH-WESTERN CAPE

There are another two or three matters of which I should like to inform this House. The first concerns farmers in the drought-stricken North-Western Cape. Normally any new relief measures would have had to stand over until the main budget in a few weeks' time, but owing to their urgent nature it has been decided, in co-operation with the hon. the Minister of Agriculture, to act at this early juncture.

In certain regions in the North-Western Cape no general rains have fallen since 1977. Although emergency aid has already been rendered in the past, the position is deteriorating rapidly. The Jacobs Committee was consequently requested to evaluate the position as a matter of urgency, to consider representations for increased assistance and submit recommendations on these matters to the hon. the Minister of Agriculture and myself. After careful consideration and because of the disastrous drought conditions prevailing at present, the committee made a number of important recommendations for increased financial assistance to small-stock farmers in this area. All these recommendations were accepted by the Minister of Agriculture and myself.

Furthermore, in certain other drought-stricken large-stock areas that have already been declared to be emergency grazing areas and where the situation is also beginning to become acute, drought assistance will also

1359

MONDAY, 25 F.

have to be rendered to large-stock farmers now. The Minister of Agriculture will announce full particulars of the various aid measures, which come into operation on 1 March 1980.

To make assistance to farmers in those areas possible, I shall request an additional amount of R17,5 million in the main estimates.

from part of appropriation debate  
for full text see Hansard

1507

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1508

1509

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fighting the Tommies. There were people at that time who held the Tommies' horses behind the lines. Thank heaven that the Lord put a sign on those people. Surely hon. members know what that sign was. If one shook hands with them, one felt a limp hand and a cold arm. It was like touching an eel. We in South Africa must guard against our hand being as cold as an eel.

In the recent no-confidence debate they had the audacity to tell the hon. the Prime Minister that he must do away with discrimination and that, like Dr. Malan, he should say: "If I perish, I perish." However, do they know the history of Dr. Malan? We do not want the words of Dr. Malan to be bandied about by an hon. member by the PFP. Dr. Malan was one of the ideal figures of South Africa. He left the ministry and, in his farewell sermon which he delivered on 6 June 1913, he used those words. He quoted the words of Esther and said: "If I perish, I perish." They said that Dr. Malan left the ministry after the war because there was controversy among the Afrikaner leaders. There was no such controversy among the Afrikaner leaders. Dr. Malan did so because he realized that the Afrikaners in South Africa were in a terrible predicament. It must not be forgotten that this occurred only 11 years after a bloody war had been waged, a war of annexation in which the Afrikaner was shot to pieces. When the Boers returned from the battlefield, all they found were burnt-out homes. There were no women to welcome them. There were no childrens' voices. All they found were the graves of 26 000 women and children. It was under those circumstances that Dr. Malan said what he said: I hear the call of my people; I am now going to become editor of *Die Burger*; and if I perish, I perish.

Dr. Malan, together with General Hertzog, Strydom and all the other great leaders of our nation, carried on the struggle. Then, in 1948, he became Prime Minister. Then he was crowned, not with a Marxist crown, but he received the crown of his nation, the Afrikaner crown, with love and confidence. How that man fought! Was he negative? No, he fought. First of all, he fought for us to be allowed to speak our own language in this country. After that he fought for South Africa's own flag. The struggle for independence followed. He also laid for South Africa

the foundations on which the Republic was built. It was in that context that Dr. Malan said: "If I perish, I perish." Today we are once again engaged in a war. Our sons are engaged in a war once again. Do hon. members know how many of our sons are fighting on the borders today for the survival of our White civilization? It is not the sons of any Tom, Dick or Harry who are fighting there. It is our children who are fighting there. It is my child and your child who are dying there on the border. What contribution does the PFP make towards supporting those boys there on the border? Do those hon. members not know that it is a struggle between the Christian ideology and the Marxist view of life? Let some of those hon. members rise to their feet and tell me that they accept the Christian national view of life. Surely the hon. the Leader of the Opposition himself knows how divided they are. Just take a look at your own party. Just look how divided your own party is. Look how few members there are in your party who accept the Christian national view of life.

\*Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member may not address the hon. the Leader of the Opposition as "you" and "yours". He must address the Chair when he speaks to hon. members opposite.

\*Mr. S. P. POTGIETER: Mr. Speaker, I defer to your decision. I have always referred to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition with respect and deference. What I now want to say about the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, is that he must be positive for once. He must tell the leftist Press that they must stop besmirching, besmearing and befouling South Africa. He must tell the world how much money the NP Government and the Afrikaner nation are spending on the upliftment of the non-Whites here in South Africa. Surely we cannot always be negative. He must tell the world how much money we are spending on primary and secondary education, and even on Universities. He must also tell the world what we are doing for non-Whites in the economic sphere. He must talk about the provision of employment, and also tell the world how many millions of rands we are spending on housing. Surely he would then be contributing something too. Why does the

PFP allow the leftist Press to extol the hon. the Leader of the Opposition as a superman, while they sit still and do not want to do anything positive for the sake of the country and its people. I ask the hon. the Leader of the Opposition this afternoon to extricate himself, to free himself from the things that bind him, that he should come forward, come back to his nation and do his share for his nation. He does not have to show the hon. the Prime Minister what to do. We have had great Prime Ministers in South Africa. We have had one great Prime Minister after another in South Africa. Each one had a job to do, a task to accomplish in his time, and the present hon. the Prime Minister, who is sitting here today, has an even greater, more serious task to accomplish, and we are confident that he will do so. He has the support of those of us who stand behind him. We on this side of the House, we Nationalists, are on our knees to the Lord to thank him for a leader like the one that we have in our hon. Prime Minister today, a leader whom we are proud of and we pray that the Lord will give him the strength to tread the path of South Africa, and that he will not have to call in the aid of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

\*Mr. P. B. B. HUGO: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is a particular privilege for any new member to make his first contribution in this House. I know that each new member is affected in one way or the other by the firm traditions and the dignified atmosphere of this House, and I should like to commence by thanking all those hon. members whose friendliness and thoughtfulness during this induction period have made life tolerable for me. I appreciate their friendliness and thoughtfulness.

I do also believe though that on an occasion such as this most new members speak from the heart on matters which are of great concern to them. To my mind, therefore, it is only natural that I should speak on this occasion of Ceres and agriculture. It is significant that Ceres is really synonymous with agriculture, because Ceres was named after the goddess of agriculture and fertility. I want to start by presenting the inhabitants of Ceres to you as people who are steadfast and have a balanced view of life. I think that their view of life has grown from their ties

with the land. In the course of more than 31 years Ceres has sent four Government members to this House, men who have rendered valuable service with great distinction in this House and have been active in a wide sphere of our national life. I want to express grateful acknowledgement to them today and pay tribute to those four leaders—each was a leader in his own right—on behalf of the people of Ceres.

I want to make Ceres known to the House as a constituency of extremes and contrasts. I want to mention just two extremes. The first is rainfall. In the south, in the vicinity of Ceres and Gydo, there is an average rainfall of 830 mm a year. North of Ceres, near Calvinia, the rainfall drops to between 100 and 200 mm a year. The second extreme is the population density. It has been estimated that the productive area of the Hex River Valley consists of approximately 9 500 ha. This region is divided into 153 farming units each of which measures about 62 ha. Approximately 40 people live on each farming unit. That makes the Hex River Valley probably one of the most densely populated agricultural areas in our country. When we go further, to the Karoo region of this constituency, we find numerous stock farms in excess of 9 500 ha. On each of these farms there are only one White family and three or four Brown families.

These extremes confirm, in my view, a very old but also a very basic truth of agriculture, viz. that agriculture is tied to place and nature. Nature determines the risk element in agriculture, and the climate and the soil determine what branch of agriculture can be carried on in a particular region. I should like to ask now that when decisions are taken or criticisms expressed regarding agricultural planning and agricultural price determinations, we bear these limitations of agriculture in mind.

Thirdly, I should like to present Ceres to the House as an agricultural region, a constituency which is totally motivated on an agricultural basis. I want to dwell on just two agricultural industries. The first is sheep-farming, the wool and meat industries in the north in the vicinity of Calvinia, Niewoudtville, Sutherland and Touws River. Under normal circumstances in the past this region made a very important contribution to our meat and wool production. The sheep of that

# Aid plan for <sup>3</sup> general drought areas

CT 26/2/80.

Staff Reporter

A MASSIVE relief programme — a last-ditch bid to avert the total ruin and depopulation of stock farmers in the drought-stricken north-west Cape — was announced by the government yesterday.

As the worst drought in a century continues in more than half of the Cape Province, the additional relief measures and R17,5 million in financial aid will give a massive boost to the farmers' fight for survival.

The relief programme goes into operation on Saturday.

Interviewed by the Cape Times last night, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said that the situa-

tion was so critical in some areas that farmers "could still lose faith".

"The aid will not resolve the crisis but will, we hope, enable them to hold on", he said, renewing his appeal to farmers to "stay on the land".

He praised steps taken by the farmers themselves, such as using their entire savings in buying feed. "We should all admire them," he said.

The government move followed a series of urgent discussions between Mr Schoeman, the Minister of Finance, Senator Owen Horwood, and representatives of various agricultural bodies, as well as a fact-finding tour of the disaster

areas by members of the Jobs Committee.

Senator Horwood announced in Parliament yesterday that the government had decided to vote an additional R17,5 million, with effect from March 1, for financial assistance to farmers.

Listed disaster areas include Calvinia, Carnarvon, Fraserburg, Namaqualand, Sutherland, Williston and Clanwilliam, while surrounding regions such as Gordonia, Prieska, Beaufort West and Willomere are considered to be seriously affected.

According to the MPC for Ceres, Mr J T Nel, farmers had lost R20 million directly and indirectly during the past two years.

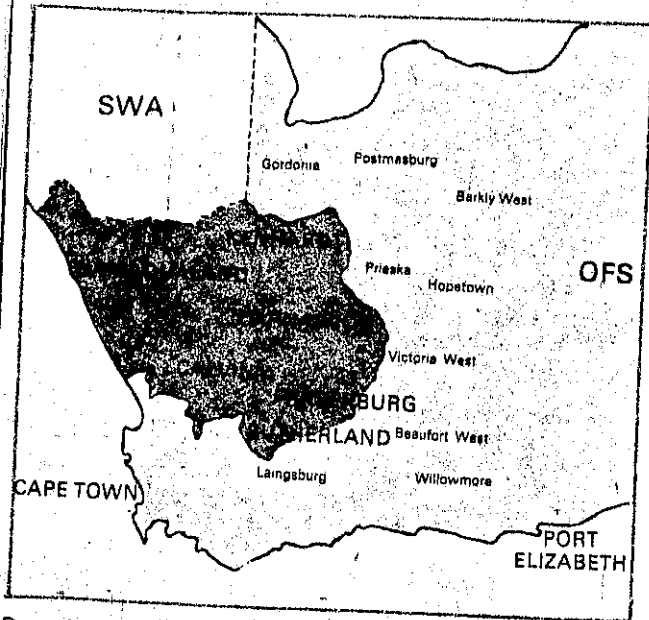
## Additional measures

The survival of the sheep farmer was of primary importance, Mr Schoeman said. Additional measures to be introduced on March 1 are:

- The continuation of the payment of a 75 percent rebate on transport costs of stock feeds.

- Subject to the means test, the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure has granted an increase of the stock feed loan from R2 to R3 per sheep per month. As in the past, 50 percent of the loan will be subsidized. The loans will apply to a maximum of 100 sheep per farming unit per month. This will result in a subsidy of R1,50, plus a feed loan of R1,50 per sheep per month.

- The transportation rebate, feed loans and subsidy will now apply too to molasses and registered stock licks.



Drought-stricken areas of the north-western Cape, indicated in red on the map, are to receive R17,5 million in aid. Areas less seriously affected are shaded yellow.

Hansard

4(185)

26/2/80

3 gen

**Surplus agricultural foodstuffs**

4(185) 26/2/80  
132. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister of Agriculture:

3 gen  
Whether any surplus agricultural foodstuffs grown or produced in the Republic were destroyed during the latest year for which figures are available; if so, (a) what foodstuffs, (b) what quantity of each foodstuff and (c) what was the estimated total value?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

No. (a), (b) and (c) Fall away.

with selected major categories of disease. Clearly, this is an entirely hypothetical situation. However, these competing risks life tables not only provide an indication of the relative importance of various disease categories to both the overall mortality experience and also to expectation of life of the three communities, but also, since there is an approximately linear relationship between the reduction of mortality and the percentage increase in life expectancy, any improvement will give rise to a proportional improvement in the expectation of life. Thus, if the mortality associated with any of the diseases included in Fig. 6 are reduced by 50%, then the increase in the expectation of life will be 50% of the improvements indicated.

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# Drought — *Angus* 26/2/80 R17,5-m aid 3. General for Cape

**DROUGHT-STRICKEN** areas of the Cape would receive an additional R17,5-m, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, disclosed yesterday.

In a Press statement in Cape Town he gave details of the drought assistance to farmers which was announced by the Minister of Finance, Senator Owen Horwood, in the part Appropriation Bill in the House of Assembly.

Mr Schoeman said it had been found that the conditions in parts of the magisterial districts of Beaufort West, Calvinia, Carnarvon, Clanwilliam, Fraserburg, Namaqualand, Pofadder, Sutherland, Vanrhynsdorp, Victoria West and Williston had become critical.

#### SURVIVAL

In view of this it is the Government's approach that the survival of the sheep farmer in these areas had become of primary importance and the following assistance, with effect from March 1, 1980, had been decided on:

The payment of a 75 percent rebate on the transport costs of stock feeds would be continued. Whereas the rebate was previously applicable only on rail and road transport of the railways, it had now been extended to the transportation of stock feeds by authorised and licensed private transport contractors.

The stock feed loan would be increased from R2 to R3 a sheep a month — subject to the means test.

#### SUBSIDY

As in the past, 50 percent of the loan granted by the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure would be subsidised.

The loans would apply to the maximum of 1000 sheep a farming unit a month giving a subsidy of R1.50 plus a feed loan of R1.50 a sheep a month.

Sheep farmers in the areas concerned who did not make use of the loan schemes would qualify on an equal basis for the increased subsidy.

The Minister said that henceforth, the transportation rebate, feed loans and subsidy would also apply to molasses and registered stock licks. Sapa

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The writers wish to thank the Board of Assurance Society for their generous

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Daily Star 27/2/80 (3 Gen)

# Farmers ask: have we been fooled?

Hell let loose would be a mild description of the agitated state of mind of Border farmers who now realise they have been fooled, or deceived, over the removal of illegal squatters in the white corridor.

After legislation had been passed empowering the Government to apply Chapter IV of the Native Trust and Land Act, which would have made it impossible for the position to deteriorate, the Secretary for Bantu Affairs pleaded for the acceptance of certain recommendations. This was agreed to.

These were that the recommendations of the Pike Commission be accepted and that the position be pegged as at the time of the report; and that squatters on farms be drafted and absorbed in Swelitshe. No new licences were to be granted and the law was to be changed to prevent any further encroachment in the corridor.

At that time (1943) the squatter position was: Cathcart, 986; Stutterheim, 4 475; Komga, 6 518; East London, 8 555. The total of 8 534 in 1943 could be multiplied tenfold in 1980 — and that would be a very

conservative estimate of the number of illegal squatters still in the corridor.

As time dragged on, with nothing being done, the Minister of Bantu Affairs made an approach to the farmers with a view to land being found — compensation land as it were — to accommodate all the people displaced from their illegal squatter lands. A series of meetings was held, the first at Kei Road under the Eastern Agricultural Union and others at Frankfort, Braunschweig, Izeli, Potsdam and Hanover. These meetings were addressed by a senior representative of the Department of Bantu Affairs, Mr Koos de Wet.

I quote from records in my possession and from minutes of associations and boards, of Mr De Wet's address:

"I have been sent here by the minister to plead with you to make land available as compensation land on which to settle all the people displaced from the white area. The land we are asking for is neither released, schedul-



**Mr C. Miles Warren, the writer of this article, was MPC for Cathcart, 1937-1940, and MP for King William's Town, 1940-1966. He lives now at Stutterheim.**

ed nor quota land, but it is impossible to free you of this menace unless you are prepared to give us land."

Asked by questioners at every meeting how long it would be before the transfer could be completed, Mr De Wet replied: "Within two years." And this statement was confirmed by the then Minister of Bantu Affairs, Mr De Wet Nel, in the House of Assembly on numerous occasions.

It was ultimately agreed that land should be made available and the following areas were then taken up by the government on the express understanding that the land was to accommodate displaced persons from the white corridor:

Frankfort, Braunschweig, Izeli, Hanover, Potsdam, all farms west of the national road above and below Berlin, including Amalinda outspan; eight farms in the Mount Coke area down to Fort Pato, and a number of farms in the upper Punzane area. This was a very substantial area of country that was not scheduled or released.

At a later stage the Select Committee on Bantu Affairs was called together to consider the purchase of the whole of the German settlement area of Keiskammahoe for the express purpose of accommodating displaced persons from Mgwali, Wartburg, Cenyu-Umlungisi and lower Kubusie.

At that meeting it was specifically stated that if the farmers agreed to this, the farm, Fort Merriman, would revert to white territory.

A brief look at what has been done in the past 35 years will be of great interest and justify the hard feelings that are rampant.

The illegal squatters in the following places are still there and in great numbers: Mooiplaas, Kwenxurha, Tainton Village, Kwelerha, Newlands, Mgwali, Wartburg, upper Kubusie, lower Kubusie, and on black-owned plots throughout the four districts, with some white plots still being used as squatter haunts.

What of the land

specifically set aside for accommodating these people? Well, it is gradually being filled up with people being displaced from Cape Town, Uitenhage, and other far-flung areas.

Would we be justified in asking: Have we just been fooled and deceived? We have been led to believe over the years that when a government gives a solemn promise it will keep it.

That is not the end of the tragic position. The government has mounted the escarpment and bought the unscheduled and unreleased land adjacent to Gazella and Amabele, plus the farms Glen Avon, Stanhope, Farm Union and all land west of the Frankfort road to the national road, plus portions of farms in the upper Kubusie area.

Now the last straw to break the camel's back: The government wants that so-called finger of land known as Woodlands and Clifton Hill to be incorporated into the black state. One wonders what the adjacent farmers would have to say if their farms were brought into

immediate contact with densely populated squatter country, with only the railway line or the national road as the buffer zone.

We have been advised that the Van der Walt commission or the Greeff commission are to visit the area this month and that we had to prepare memoranda to submit to them. It is nearing the end of the month and there is no sign of any commission coming. Nor has there been any intimation whether or not the bodies that have submitted memoranda will be allowed to put their cases in person, with support by oral evidence.

One might reasonably write at the end of this: pro pudor (for shame). For the future the three feet six inches of railway line will be the buffer between the black and white territories. The national road, all power lines, all main telecommunication lines, will run through black territory.

Wonderful architecture for the defence of our country.

\* The Van der Walt and the Greeff commissions are concerned with the boundaries of, and land for, the Ciskel.

### ③ General 'Blight' of border farms <sup>27/2/80</sup>

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. —

The government was failing to repopulate farming areas on the country's borders, Mr Bill Sutton (NRP Mooi River) said.

"Everything was going wrong in those strategically important areas which were suffering 'rural blight', he said in the debate on the second reading of the Part Appropriation Bill.

"The question is how do you stimulate the economy in a way which will get people to go to the border areas and stay there and farm economically?"

Mr Sutton said greater subsidies should be given to entice people to farm in border areas.

"The government's policy is for subsidization at the consumer end, but surely it will be of advantage to the country and the consumer if subsidies are used to reduce input costs."

Until there was a greater upsurge in the economy and people could absorb increased agricultural production, the border areas would need special help.

"Farmers in border areas are very important to the country's defence." — Sapa



# Farmers get boost in fight for survival

(3) General

RDM  
27/2/80

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — Additional relief measures and R17 500 000 in financial aid will be distributed among Cape farmers from Saturday.

The aid, announced by the Government this week, will give a massive boost to the farmers' fight for survival in the worst drought in a century.

The relief programme is a last-ditch bid to avert total ruin and depopulation of stock farmers in the drought-stricken north-west Cape.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said in an interview that the situation was so critical in some areas that farmers "could still lose faith.

"The aid will not resolve the crisis but will, we hope, enable them to hold on," he said.

Disaster areas include Calvinia, Carnarvon, Fraserburg, Namaqualand, Sutherland, Williston and Clanwilliam. Surrounding regions such as Gor-

donia, Prieska, Beaufort West and Willomere are considered serious.

The survival of the sheep farmer was of primary importance, Mr Schoeman said. Additional measures to be introduced on March 1 are:

- The continuation of a 75% rebate on transport costs of stock feeds. The rebate, previously applicable only on rail and road transport by the South African Railways, has been extended to transportation by authorised and licenced private contractors.

- Subject to the means test, the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure has granted an increase of the stock feed loan from R2 to R3 per sheep per month. As in the past, 50% of the loan will be subsidised. The loans will apply to a maximum of 1 000 sheep per farming unit per month.

The stock feed loan and subsidy will apply to all sheep whereas it was previously

limited to breeding ewes.

Sheep farmers in the areas concerned who do not make use of the loan schemes, will qualify on an equal basis for the increased subsidy.

- The transportation rebate, feed loans and subsidy will now also apply to molasses and registered stock licks.

In other distress areas not yet critical, existing relief measures will remain in force but will apply to a maximum of 1 000 sheep per farming unit, instead of being limited to 1 000 breeding ewes.

Relief measures were also justified in cattle-grazing areas such as Vryburg and Kimberley where drought conditions had reached "alarming" proportions, Mr Schoeman said.

In addition to the 75% rebate on the transportation of stock, feed loans amounting to R10 per cattle unit per month to a maximum of 250 livestock units will be granted to farmers by the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure.

3 (General)

Hansard 4 (Col 1543 →)

that the Government has, as in so many other things, made a complete mess of and has botched the whole affair because of a paralysis on the part of that hon. Minister.

I hope the hon. the Minister is not going to reply with one of his typical speeches. I must say that the hon. the Minister has a most likeable personality. Everybody likes him. He is an outgoing and friendly Minister of Agriculture. He tells funny stories and we all laugh, and the result of that is that he gets away with it. However, this time I must ask him to be serious. Both the farmer and the consumer are losing while he sits in indecision, doing nothing worthwhile.

\*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Mr. Speaker, I shall begin by replying to the speech by the hon. member for Orange Grove and then I should like to deal with the speeches by the hon. members for Moirivier and Wynberg who also took part in this debate yesterday. I want to remain calm. I promise hon. members that I shall not become angry and that I shall reply to all the matters raised.

Firstly I want to say that the hon. member for Orange Grove is forgetting one thing. We are battling with an inflation rate of 14% plus. The hon. member for Yeoville said that I was misleading the public. However, the argument I want to advance is that the South African farmer, using an imported tractor, imported implements and imported fuel, is producing more cheaply than farmers in the rest of the world, while our consumer price index is lower than that in the rest of the world, precisely because we have a system of control. The hon. member for Wynberg asked me what products in South Africa were not subject to control and I told him that 24,2% of the products were not controlled. However, the farmer's share of that cake is 35%. Because the rest is not controlled, it has passed into the hands of the middleman and the distributor. However, where we implement control, the gap is far narrower. This is one of the reasons why we in South Africa have cheap food. The hon. member put a number of questions to me.

†He said that the farmer was getting less while the consumer was paying more and asked in respect of which product the far-

mer's slice of the cake was getting smaller. Can he mention me one?

Mr. R. J. LORIMER: Yes, meat.

The MINISTER: The net profit of the meat farmer has gone up. The farmers all want control over the floor price. It is increased annually.

Mr. R. J. LORIMER: You know that the floor price does not affect the meat price.

The MINISTER: The problem is that the hon. member does not know that there is no one commodity in respect of which the farmer's slice of the cake has become smaller. However, why is the consumer paying more?

\*The processing costs of the raw product already amount to 50% of the total cost. Surely one cannot expect that that expensive abattoir that we have to build can be paid off in a jiffy, because heavy expenses have to be incurred with regard to cooling, transport, the cutting up of the carcasses, salaries of blockmen and electricity. 50% of the cost of the end product has already been incurred before it appears on the housewife's table. The costs are steadily increasing. If the cost of electricity, etc., increases, the general cost increase as well. But South Africa is better than the rest of the world and I keep saying that. However hon. members of the Opposition do not want to hear it. The hon. member says: "This problem was created because of control."

†Does the hon. member want us to abolish control?

Mr. R. J. LORIMER: I am not against control. I am against inefficiency.

The MINISTER: The hon. member says he is not against control. I am for free enterprise all the way. But as soon as business is handed over to free enterprise, the price gap becomes greater and greater in certain instances.

With reference to alleged corruption in the Meat Board, South Africa's Meat Board has nothing to do with South West Africa and the tragedies happened in South West Africa.

Part appropriation debate

\*As soon as I can get finished I want to reach the hon. the Minister of Finance in regard to the request for food subsidies. As soon as the Government comes forward with a subsidy I become very afraid when I consider how it is to be applied and how it is going to reach the consumer. What happened in South West Africa? The Administrator General granted R12 per head of cattle. Right from the outset I said that there was going to be trouble. How would that R12 be administered so that it would benefit the right people? Subsequently, one tragedy after another occurred. This has nothing to do with South Africa. The hon. member read about a meat scandal in the *Sunday Tribune*. It is always a "meat scandal". I cannot say that everything in the industry was as it should be at the time, but what I have to ascertain for myself is whether there are problems here, as well. And I went out of my way to do so throughout the mess. What happened there had nothing to do with us. The gossip began when the farmers of South Africa said that they wanted to enter the controlled market. The permit is granted and the quota holder is the agent. The other day I spelt it out to hon. members. That agent who is a businessman—and there is a R1 000 million turnover in the meat industry—has access to the market, but I as a farmer cannot enter the market. Now the farmer goes to the auction, to the auctions which are not under control, and there the agent purchases that farmer's cattle, but because he has the permit, he has access to the market. He makes his commission at the auction and he also makes commission on the controlled market. Give us a 100% permit system. To whom am I to listen? The hon. member also said: "The farmer will be jeopardized." If he gets letters, why do I not get letters as well? Why do no letters get written to me? The hon. member quotes a letter in which the writer says: "All is not well in the Meat Board," and then he refers to Vleissentraal. I admit that the eight producer members of the Meat Board are for the most part members of Vleissentraal. Is the hon. member against that?

Mr. R. J. LORIMER: Yes.

\*The MINISTER: When we introduce the co-operative Act this year, I want to see what the hon. member's standpoint is going to be.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition must bear one thing in mind. A farmer in his senses could never even consider voting for that party. They would rather exterminate them; they would take them apart. That hon. member is opposed to co-operatives. However, what is my standpoint? If my farmers tell me that they want to unite in a strong co-operative organization . . .

\*Is the hon. member against having the producers in the majority in the Meat Board? Is he for it or against it?

Mr. R. J. LORIMER: I am quite for having the producers in a majority.

The MINISTER: The producers being in a majority?

Mr. R. J. LORIMER: Yes.

The MINISTER: You are for it?

Mr. R. J. LORIMER: Yes.

\*The MINISTER: Now those farmers come together and organize themselves into a co-operative.

Mr. R. J. LORIMER: The hon. the Minister knows that Vleissentraal does not represent the farmers.

\*The MINISTER: Now the hon. member is condemning Vleissentraal. The Meat Board is wrong, the control board system is wrong and Vleissentraal is wrong. I wonder whether he is satisfied with his own church. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to be angry. South Africa's abattoirs were built according to EEC standards. The hon. member requested a commission of inquiry to investigate the circumstances surrounding City Deep. We appointed Mr. Prins, the magistrate of Pretoria—a judicial commission of inquiry. To do what? To do what? To cost us a lot of money and cause unrest in this industry. The hon. member for Orange Grove testified and the question was put to him: "Why did you make these allegations?" and he replied: "For political gain." That is in black and white in the minutes.

Mr. R. J. LORIMER: That is not true.

For full text see Hansard

# The despair of workers forced off farms

P. M. BROWN

28/2/80

SIR, — The Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA) has been formed recently to investigate, among other things, the removal of African families from their homes in Natal. We have therefore read with concern Press reports that the Drakensberg Administration Board is pressing for the establishment of labour control boards in all the rural areas of Natal

These boards, consisting of the local commissioner and representatives of farmers, are empowered to limit the number of black families living on white farms in the magisterial districts in which they operate.

The Press reports say that these boards will help eliminate exploitation of black workers where the 'labour-tenant system' persists. Under this system a black family, often living on a 'labour farm', is expected to provide labour for the farm owner on a six-monthly basis, usually for a nominal wage, in return for the right to graze cattle and cultivate land.

## Abused

That the labour-tenant system persists and is often abused there is little doubt. However, we very much doubt if the proposed creation of more labour control boards will do anything to alleviate the lot of the farm workers concerned. Our experience suggests that it will make it worse.

In Weenen, one area in which such a board operates, its activities have caused misery and upheaval to many black families. In some cases farmers have had to give notice to families they would have been happy to keep on their farms. In others, families now regarded as 'superfluous' are being forced to leave their homes no matter how long they have lived there or how loyal the service they have given.

## Is it fine?

The Chief Bantu Commissioner is reported to have said that people removed from farms by labour control boards can apply for accommodation in KwaZulu or on trust land. This sounds fine, but is it? People being forced to move by Weenen's control board invariably own cattle.

These are their one substantial asset, their one insurance against a rainy day. Experience shows that it is almost impossible for them to find a place to go to where they can take those cattle with them.

Those parts of KwaZulu

adjoining Weenen are grossly over-grazed, and some black families which have moved there from farms in the Weenen area are now engaged in a bitter conflict with their white neighbours because their cattle keep straying back to where they have come from.

## Threatened

As for accommodation on trust land, we know of no such land which offers accommodation for the stock of ejected farm workers, certainly not Nondweni, to which people from Weenen are being told to go. There they are condemned to become migrant workers, if indeed they can find any way of making a living at all.

Faced with the activities of the Weenen control board many threatened black families have sunk into despair. Unable to find anywhere to move their stock and unable to face the prospect of life without them, they sit and wait, hoping for a miracle. The miracle doesn't happen. Instead, an official arrives and orders them to appear in court, a prosecution ensues, a sentence is imposed, and when the fine has somehow been raised, or the prison sentence served, there is still nowhere to go with the cattle.

## Priority

Where else in the world do you give people notice to leave their homes and then make it all but impossible for them to take their most important assets with them?

We suggest that, if there are to be labour control boards, the first charge on them should be to find alternative and similar accommodation for the family and possessions of any farm worker they deem to be superfluous.

As for the Drakensberg Administration Board, it surely should insist on this — for is not its first charge to protect the interests of the black people who fall within its jurisdiction?

P M BROWN

Chairman,

Association for Rural Advancement

P O Box 2517

Pietermaritzburg.

N. MERCURY 28/2/80 3 General

# Natal farmers reel under drought

Mercury Reporter

THE water supply in some areas of Natal is so low because of the drought that water is being carried in tankers and water restrictions are being implemented.

The Greytown area is the worst hit with springs drying up and dams and rivers at their lowest for years.

The tanning extract factory at Hermansburg is transporting water in tankers to keep up production.

Water restrictions will begin in Greytown this week.

A spokesman for Cedara Agricultural College and Research Station said there was a water shortage in many parts of the province and crops were being badly affected.

'Most black labourers on the farms in the Greytown area did not even bother to try to plant maize because we have had a drought the whole season. This winter they will definitely be in very bad straits,' he said.

The veld and crops in the areas of Kranskop, Rietvlei and Muden are in poor condition because the water supply is virtually 'non-existent'.

The spokesman said about 250mm of rain would be needed for the domestic water supply in Greytown to get back to normal.

Middelrus, Howick, Rosetta and Mooi River are all very dry.

Farmers in the Kamburg and Nottingham Road areas are battling to find sufficient feed for their stock. There are also poor maize crops in these areas.

Black subsistence farmers at Tugela Ferry, Loskop and Weenen have been forced to buy staple foods from trading stores.

Although some rain has fallen and relieved KwaZulu, parts are still dry.

Hansard 4 (229)

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28 FEBRUARY 1980

230

poisoning by poisons used for agricultural purposes during the last 12 months for which figures are available;

(2) in respect of what dates are these figures given?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

(1) (a) 103.

(b) 72.

(2) 1 January until 31 December 1979.

THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 1980

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Persons poisoned by poisons used for agricultural purposes

3(gen) 4(229) 28.2.80  
8. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister of Health:

(1) How many persons (a) died and (b) were admitted to hospital as a result of

Hansard 4 col 271

29/2/80

3gen

*Nasella trichotoma*

327. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (a) What was the approximate area of land in the Republic infested by *nasella trichotoma* at the end of 1979,
- (b) what amount was spent by his Departments in 1979 in combating the spread of this weed and (c) how many hectares were cleared during that year?

4(271)

29/2/80

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (a) 66 196 ha. Further infestations were discovered since 1978.
- (b) R306 451.
- (c) 33 250 ha. Reinfestation of this area may occur as the seed of *nasella trichotoma* can remain dormant for a period of up to 20 years.

3gen

S H E A R E R S

C A S H

K I N D

Origin of team	Number of Shearers	Daysmanne	Weeks on farm	Sheep shorn per week	Payment:	Shearers	Daysmanne	Shearers	Daysmanne
Beaufort West	4*	3-4	5	1 000	10c a sheep		R2 a day	½ a sheep a week at R3.	
Aberdeen	7-8	0	1	1 000	10c a sheep		-	0	
Victoria West	12	3	4	2 000	15c (to agent)		75c-R1,25 a day (to agent)	Provided by agent ...	
Rietbron	12	9	2½	2 000	10c a sheep		R2 a day	1 sheep per 1 000 shared	

**Meat, fish, dairy items to cost more**

**Political Staff**  
 CAPE TOWN — Wide-ranging increases in the price of meat, fish, chickens and dairy products could be expected, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Agriculture, said today.

Opening the agricultural show at Middelburg in the Transvaal Mr Schoeman said that the price of fish would rise as a result of the increased cost of diesel fuel and the drop in the fish population.

At the same time mielie farmers were having to contend with rising production costs, and this would result in an upward swing in the price of mielies.

This would make chickens and dairy products more expensive.

**YIELDS**

Mr Schoeman said that farmers would have to give attention to getting greater yields from their land to meet the demands of a growing population.

At the same time the consumption of red meat per head was increasing. Last year consumption went up by 6,4 percent compared with 1978 with a consumption of beef increasing by 11 percent.

One of the reasons for the increase in consumption was the increase in wages, particularly for blacks.

Aberdeen (1)	7	2	2½	1 000	15c a sheep		R3 a day	1 per 1000 shared	
Marrsville	6	2	2	1 000	8c a sheep (going to 10c)		R1,50 a day	1 per 1 000 shared	
Beaufort West	6	2	1-1½	1 000	11c a sheep		R2,50 - R3,50 a day	1 per 1 000 ½ per 1 000	
Aberdeen	12-15	4	6	2 000	15c a sheep		R2,50 - R3,50 a day	1 per 1 000 ½ per 1 000	
Beaufort West	6	3	2	900	10c a sheep (going to 15c)		R2 - R2,50 a day	1 per 1 000 shared	
?	8	4	2	1 000	15c a sheep		R1,50 - R4 a day	1 per 1 000 ½ per week	

# Border farmers told to ignore rumours

By JAC VAN WYK

KOMGA — The Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, at the weekend told farmers in the "white

corridor" not to heed rumours on the future of the region but to keep at their agricultural efforts.

Opening the Komga Agricultural Show, Dr Koornhof said he had come to give the farmers of the area confidence in the future. He asked farmers not to grow pessimistic over rumours they heard as they would find that 90 per cent of these were unfounded.

Although he would not enlarge on government plans for the corridor as the "matter is very delicate", Dr Koornhof said the role of the farmers as frontiersmen in the future would be great.

He said the government was in the process of negotiating with a neighbouring black state and good progress was being made. With consolidation it would be necessary to move both black and white people but these resettlements would be carried out with great care.

Agricultural needs and potentials would also be considered when this occurred.

Introducing Dr Koornhof at the show, the president of the Komga Agricultural Society, Mr D. H. Lloyd, said farmers wanted to know what was in store for them.

"We are not interested in commissions in the area — we want this corridor to stay white." The crowd applauded loudly in support of his stand.

Dr Koornhof said an announcement would be made soon after negotiations with the black state had been completed.

The role of the farmers as frontiersmen was vitally important. Many of them were descendants of the 1820 Settlers and the border farmers who had tamed the area. The characteristics of those pioneers — perseverance, a trust in the future and their ability to live with their black neighbours — not only lived forth in their descendants but had influenced the whole area and those

who arrived afterwards.

"Those characteristics are just as important today as they were centuries ago because we live in a period of total onslaught against our country," he said.

"Living and working on the border of an independent state places on the individual and the community a far greater responsibility than is the case where mere neighbourship among compatriots is involved. The relationship between independent states at government level is to a large extent determined by the relationships which exist on the borders between subjects of the relevant states.

Personally, I have no doubt the basic attitude of goodwill is present in the community of Komga. Proof of this is that since the Republic of Transkei became independent in 1976, no major incidents have occurred."

Turning to the agricultural potential of the region, Dr Koornhof said food had become a major source of concern to demographers.

Black states were on the threshold of a "green revolution", he said. The Ciskei had shown progressive development with its Tyefu and Keiskammahoek irrigation projects.

Picture, page 2.

Editorial opinion, page 6.

3/3/80  
DB  
3 (General)



# ③ General Farmers' earnings C.T. well up 7/3/80

## Political Staff

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. —

South African farmers reaped a rich harvest in the 1978/79 financial year with their total earnings jumping to R4 014 million, about R442m more than the previous year.

In his annual report the Secretary for Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Mr S A D van Schalkwyk, ascribes the increase chiefly to the fact that 72 percent of the 1979 maize crop was supplied in the second quarter compared with 60 percent in the corresponding quarter in 1978. Gross income from field crops yielded R1 762m, nearly R200m more than the previous year.

But Mr Van Schalkwyk cautioned that this increase should be seen in light of the big maize-price rise in May, 1979.

Farmers' net income for the year was estimated at R1 693m, compared with R1 536m the previous year. Gross earnings were up in all sectors.

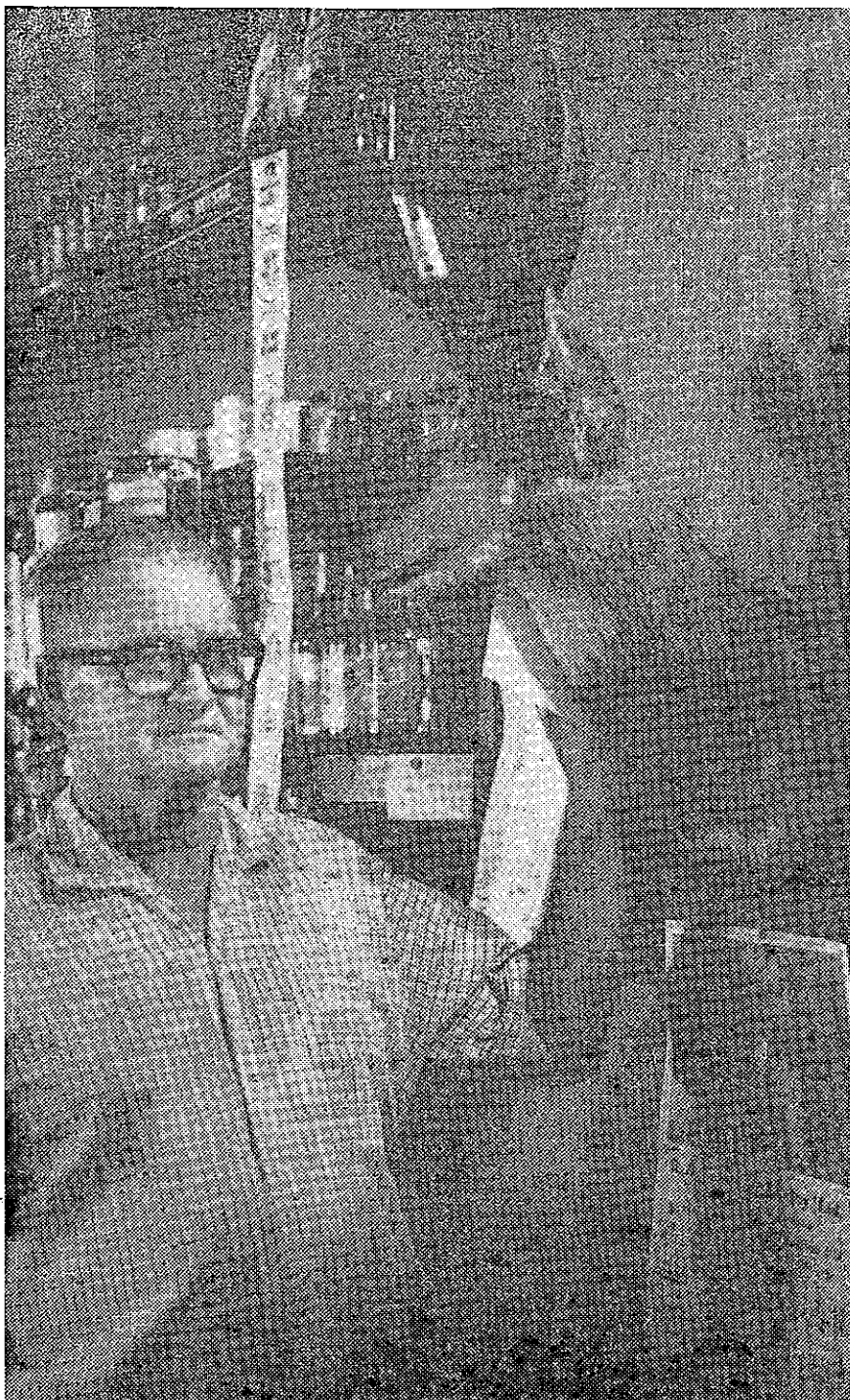
Horticultural products increased from R614m to R696m, export payments for citrus rose R4m to R83m and deciduous fruit farmers' gross earnings climbed by R95m. The price of oranges on the local market was about 4 percent higher than the previous year.

Wool prices were about 9 percent higher with earnings totalling R162m. The prices of cattle slaughtered were about 4 percent higher than in 1977-78 with the value of commercial cattle and calf slaughterings rising to R408m.

# EXPRESSSCOPE PROBES THE SCANDAL OF THE 250km

## The empty can simply

3 Genend  
Express 16/3/80



● Frikkie van Deventer: "The government must get the young men back to the farms to act as a line of defence against invaders. Unless they do, we'll be the next to go — as surely as Mozambique and Angola went before us."



By  
**MARSHALL  
WILSON**



● Minister of Agriculture, Hendrik Schoeman. "He must tell us why the Government has changed its mind about helping us," say the border farmers.

**THE Government was this week accused of turning a 250km long stretch of prime ranchland, reaching from Messina in the north to Zeerust in the south and bordering on both Zimbabwe and Botswana, into an expendable no-man's land which could be forfeited in the event of hostilities against the South Africa.**

The accusation comes from the Member of the Provincial Council for Von Brandis, Robin Carlisle, who called on Minister of Agriculture Hendrik Schoeman to explain the blundering which had allowed the designated remote areas of the Transvaal to become so badly depopulated.

In an extensive tour of the area which represents the country's finest red meat ranches, the Sunday Express found:

● The Transvaal Agricultural Union estimates that more than 1 000 farms between Zeerust in the south and Messina in the north are unoccupied.

● The union estimates there are at least a further 1 000 "part-time" farmers in the province who tend more than one farm and therefore can only occupy one farm at any time.

● Absentee landlords pose an alarming threat to border security since hundreds of game farms and retreats — in size

anything up to 3 000ha — are being managed by Black foremen while the owners live elsewhere and only use the farm for occasional hunting excursions.

□ □ □

● Widespread disenchantment among farmers who feel that this week's rail, road and air transport increases will finally drive them from the land. It already costs them more than farmers in areas closer to major centres to get their livestock to market, and they say the added burden will cripple them.

● Dismay in areas such as Messina, Thabazimbi and Ellisras that the vital infrastructure is crumbling with the loss of population density due to farmers being forced off the land. Hundreds of orphans from the Reef have already been settled into schools in areas such as Roedtan, near Potgietersrus, and in the Messina, Swartkrugens district in a bid to keep schools operating.

● A growing resentment at the Government's decision not to implement the Promotion of

the Density of Population in Designated Areas Act 87 of 1979, passed by Parliament last year. The Act would have provided financial backing to hundreds of farmers in the designated remote areas, but was not invoked.

Mr Carlisle said yesterday: "The absentee landlord situation and the massive depopulation of the remote areas is a result, not a cause. The Government has chosen to ignore the situation there — but it does so at its peril.

"The border farmer is traditionally the first line of defence, and to ignore his plight and so force him off the land because it is not economically viable to stay there is lunacy.

"The way I see it by not implementing the Promotion of the Density of Population in Designated Areas Act of 1979 the Government has traded off the strategic areas of the Transvaal against all other considerations, whatever they may be. I think Mr Schoeman should tell us what they may be.

"If we want to maintain the stability necessary for any or-

## Magtig! Minister makes a promise

AGRICULTURE Minister Hendrik Schoeman has agreed to implement "immediately if necessary" the Promotion of the Density of Population in Designated Areas Act which will cost the Government an estimated R32-million to assist border area farmers.

Speaking from Cape Town, the Minister sounded genuinely alarmed when told of the Sunday Express investigation which showed more than 1 000 farms unoccupied in the 250km long ranching area from Messina to Zeerust.

"I won't disagree with you," Mr Schoeman said when I read to him my findings after a week-long investigation in the area.

He said the Act passed in Parliament during the last session was not invoked because of financial considerations — but assured me it was still law and could be implemented at any time if the situation warranted it.

Told that more than 1 000 farms were unoccupied on the borders between Rhodesia and Botswana, the Minister replied: "Magtig! Yes, I suppose in view of recent developments in Rhodesia we should have a fresh look at the situation."

He promised to investigate the Sunday Express claims and take appropriate action.

At the time the Density Act was passed, Mr Schoeman came out strongly in favour of it. In the second reading debate he said:

"The White depopulation of certain rural areas has given rise to concern for a number of years now and it has reached the stage where measures to fight this can no longer be delayed.

"For reasons known to honourable members it is necessary for a strong farming community to remain in the outlying rural areas," he told Parliament.

Mr Schoeman said while the Bill did not deal directly with terrorism, "that phenomenon of necessity becomes involved in this case. That is why all the parties are supporting this Bill".

He said an earlier speaker had debated the fact "that a terrorist could walk unhindered from the Limpopo into Pietersburg without

having to cross one farm over which there is proper supervision.

"Therefore I am pleased that the Opposition are showing their patriotism by supporting this Bill," he told Parliament.

And in a back-up motion the National Party MP for Marico, Mr L M Theunissen, spelt out in no uncertain terms the need for the urgent implication of the Act in what he termed "emergency areas".

Said Mr Theunissen: "Actually, the emergency there developed as a result of two causes. In the first place it developed as a result of the continual droughts which have prevailed there for many years. Owing to the oppressive drought conditions many farmers in those areas are no longer able to farm there.

"But it is also an emergency area owing to the onslaught being launched on our country from the bordering areas, from which as we all know, terrorists are infiltrating our country. That is why it is essential that those areas should also be populated more densely."

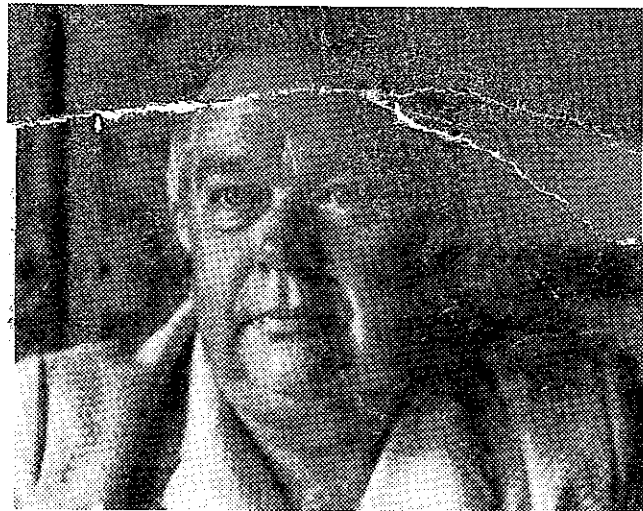
Mr Theunissen said also that the Act would impose certain restrictions on farmers who were at the same time professional people — for instance attorneys and doctors — who had invested money in agriculture.

"It is as well that they should take cognisance of the fact that we are grateful for the investments they have made in those areas over the years. However . . . they must also understand why measures are in fact being taken by which they will also perhaps be restricted to an extent. However, it will be to their advantage. In addition it is also . . . in the national interest that the legislation under discussion should in fact be passed."

In reply Gerrie de Jong, then the New Republic Party spokesman on agriculture, urged the Minister of Agriculture to properly define the word "occupy" — to prevent wealthy businessmen living in cities to buy farms and place "some youngster or some old man in charge there".

STRIP THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS IGNORING

# land where terrorists walk in our back door



● C E "Koeks" Terblanche, chairman of the Soutpansberg Agricultural Union. "It is easier to control the terrorist threat if White farmers stay on the land."

derly change to a more equitable system, as the National Party claims, is criminal folly to allow the infrastructure in these rural areas to collapse as they have done."

This week I spoke to Mr C E "Koeks" Terblanche, chairman of the Soutpansberg Agricultural Union which represents about 600 farmers in the Messina area.

□ □ □

"We have learnt from Rhodesia that it is easier to control the terrorist threat if the White farmer stays on the land. As soon as he moves off it the terrorists move through, and the situation rapidly develops into chaos. Because of that we feel the Government should alter the norm to get farmers settled into these areas which are so sparsely populated," Mr Terblanche told me in Messina.

He estimated that in the Messina-Soutpansberg area up to 45% of the farms were unoccupied.

"That brings us to another problem — the absentee landlord," Mr Terblanche said. "Because of the richness of the grazing up here and the availability of game, rich professional men from the Free State and beyond have invested in land. They either use it as a private game reserve or as a place to retire to.

"In the long term, however, it's not good for the country as

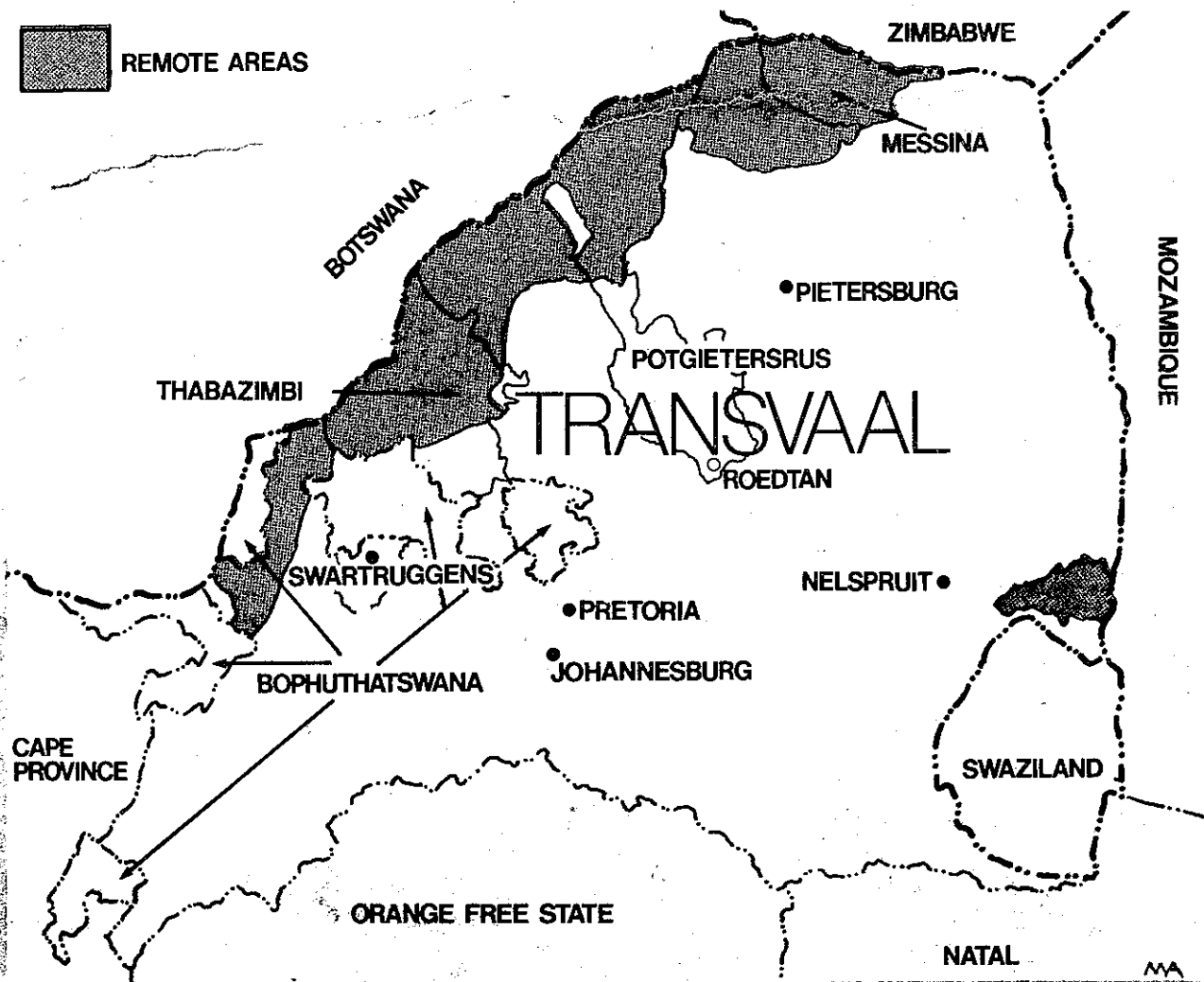
a whole because with no resident Whites, only a Black farmhand to run the place, it's not conducive to good security."

SA Agricultural Union president Jaap Wilkens agreed that border areas were rapidly losing farmers. He said urgent talks would be held with the Minister of Agriculture in a bid to prompt a review of the situation.

Yet while he accepted the Government had shelved the proposed Act 87 of 1979 for financial reasons, it was perhaps a premature decision in view of recent events in Rhodesia. An investment to keep White farmers on the land was undoubtedly in the national interest.

Transvaal Agricultural Union secretary Flip du Plooy said talks at ministerial level had already taken place to draw the Government's attention to the rapidly deteriorating situation in the border areas.

The TAU's estimate of 1 000 deserted farms from Zeerust to



● This map shows the areas of the Transvaal bordering Rhodesia and Botswana, which could soon become a "no-man's land". Farmers in the area produce most of South Africa's red meat, but now that the Government has decided not to implement an Act passed last year to give them financial help, they say it is not worth their while to stay on,

Messina was not an exaggeration — it may well be far more — and the union's viewpoint was that money invested in returning farmers to the land was an integral part of South Africa's overall defence strategy.

**'There are about  
1 000 farms with  
nobody on them'**

# Farmers demand hands off Magalies

*(3) general*  
*RDM 17/3/80*

BY ALISON GILLWALD

FARMERS in the Magaliesberg area are outraged at a suggestion that parts of the mountain range be "bought up" by the Government to protect it from devastation by the public.

Professor Revil Mason, of the archaeology department of the University of the Witwatersrand, has called for the urgent nationalisation of "certain parts" of the Magaliesberg until scientific research work there is completed.

He was speaking at a seminar which focused on environmental threats to the Magaliesberg and ways of combating them. The seminar was held at the Rand Afrikaans University.

Mr Hugh Roberts, representing local farmers at the seminar, said they were furious at Prof Mason's suggestion.

"We've already given up pieces of land for homelands, for mineral surveys and for highways, and now we are told we have to give up more areas off which many of us live," he said.

Farmers were limiting public access to the Magaliesberg, fighting veld fires, and generally caring for the area — all this at no cost to the Government, he said.

Prof Mason made his call to protect "one of the world's most outstanding collections of prehistoric art and architecture".

Most speakers said they felt man was the worst threat to the Magaliesberg.

Mr Paul Fatti, chairman of the Magaliesberg Protection

Association, said the easy access to the mountain range was a danger in itself.

Legislation passed during 1977 prevented any industrial or recreational development as "counter to the spirit of the area".

But the many visitors to the range were still causing large-scale devastation, he said.

Another speaker, Mr Johan Billman, said a major threat to the area would be the planned highway routes which would cut through the range.

Other dangers were from the "indiscreet" establishment of electricity pylons, radio masts and water pipes in various parts of the Magaliesberg.

Dr John Ledger, of the Endangered Wild Life Trust, said the Cape vulture, indigenous to the Magaliesberg, had become an endangered species because of drastic changes to the environment and serious invasion of its breeding areas.

Hundreds of vulture chicks died each season from a shortage of calcium in their diet, Dr Ledger said.

The old type of electricity pylon also posed a major threat to the vulture population.

Dr Ledger praised ESCOM for the time they had put into fitting perches on pylons to prevent this.

He put the main blame on people frightening them away by trying to get at their nests, "or just unsettling their breeding pattern by being around constantly".

Other speakers were Mr Kevin Gill, Mr James Watson and Mr James Clarke.

NM 18/3/80 3-General

# Tractor men plan withdrawal

The South African Tractor Manufacturers' Association has announced that it will not take part in any major agricultural events this year. These include two Natal events - Sugarmech and Timbermech.

Among other annual shows from which the Association will withdraw are the Maize Harvest Days of Samsco and Sampi, the Wheat Harvest Days in the Eastern Free State and Northern Transvaal and Pomech in the Western Cape.

Mr W.F. Rautenbach, chairman of the Association, says that these annual shows are costly exercises to the Association's members. In addition, they are inappropriate in the current inflationary and energy environment.

### Significance

The Association's announcement has special significance for the Sampi Harvest Day, which is scheduled for the end of April at Bothaville in the Free State. Instead of direct participation by tractor manufacturers, only

local retail dealers are likely to take part.

Harvest mechanisation days of all specialist agricultural associations have been suspended, following the Association's decision.

Mr Rautenbach said that some manufacturers have calculated their costs at between R20 000 and R30 000 an event.

### Central venue

The Association has advocated the establishment of one national mechanisation day from 1981 onwards to be held at a central venue under the auspices of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services.

A spokesman for the South African Sugar Association in Durban said that the Satma announcement had been a bit of a disappointment for his Association and particularly for the Sugar Journal.

### EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACUL

STUD13-9 YEAR B.A./LL.B.

STUD NO SURNAME FIRST NAMES

154230K ARP HANS-EWIN

157795R BARRETT MICHAEL COLURAN

1535620 BUCHINSKY GLENN-ARUGE

156581X COHEN PETER DAVID

155002E COUZOU INOJAN

157855R DE KOCK RODNEY JAMES

154395W DE VEEVER RABINE

155823Y FISHER MICHAEL ALEX

150191G GHYBALA DEBESKA

156114F GOYOUN STEPHEN MICHAEL

158503L HARRISCASLE JUSTIN ERANK

058176W HARRIES ROGER EZRA PAUL

115449M HEDDICKS ROBIN ARTHUR JUSTI

159727R KANE-BERMAN DIANA LOUISE STUART

162529M KEAY EDWARD WALLACE

161080M LEWIN MERVYN BERNARD CHARLES

157638W MAHALEY NAZEEM

155155X MCGUEN STEPHEN

156583Z MEIRING WAYNE-BRADLEY

153752X MCFRIS WAYNE MILES LUTHER

156337E MEYMAN ILSE

154745R POTTS MOHAMED FAIQ

156056H RUSIN JONATHAN GRANT

154272M SHALALA EDWARD BADOR PETER

154033F SMITICHER LAUREN-RENEE

117101	POLITICAL SCIENCE I	U	( 50 )
117101	POLITICAL SCIENCE I	F	( 47 )
105105	LATIN ELEMENTARY	APS	1
105105	LATIN ELEMENTARY	UP	( 51 )
105105	LATIN ELEMENTARY	ABS	1
102101	AFRIKAANS	F	1
102101	AFRIKAANS	UP	( 50 )
003202	ROMAN LAW & JURISPRUDENCE I	F	( 49 )
105104	LATIN I	F	( 34 )
102101	AFRIKAANS	UP	( 50 )
105104	LATIN I	UP	( 50 )
105104	LATIN I	UP	( 50 )

156056H  
154272M  
154033F  
154933E

58  
60  
62  
64  
66

UET

# Indian farm aid backed

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY — A bill extending assistance to the Indian farming community was taken through all its stages with opposition support.

Introducing the second reading of the Agricultural Credit Amendment Bill, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr Sarel Hayward, said the legislation also provided for the enlargement of the Agricultural Credit Board from nine to a maximum of 12 members.

This would allow for the appointment of experts who could assist in the consideration of applications for assistance received from Indian farmers.

Each application will be considered on its merit and in accordance with policy to be formulated in conjunction with the board and subject to the availability of funds. Mr Hayward said. — Sapa

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	PAGE
152337J	WAGGOLA		114120	FRANCA I	ARS	1
1523660	POGQUUD	JENNIFER SOLANGE	115101	FRENCH I	F	1
* TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS						2

REGISTRAR (ACADEMIC)

UCT

# Be understanding, consumers told

**BLOEMFONTEIN.** — It was essential that the consumer should have a better understanding of the difficult task that faced the farming community in having to provide sufficient quantities of food and fibre for 28-million people.

This was said by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, at the weekend when he opened the annual Central Agricultural Show in Bloemfontein.

There were four factors that would determine whether agriculture would succeed in the task demanded of it. These were the country's agricultural resources, the farmer himself, the South African public and the prices which farmers received for their products.

The consumer was the one who was often not only indifferent towards the farmer, but ill-disposed because it was felt that the farmer was responsible for the high prices of consumer commodities, he said.

"We know that the consumer has to spend more on food today than was the case 10 years ago (in fact, almost 150%

more), but then you must bear in mind that the price of all farming requisites has increased by more than 250% during the same period. It is necessary for the consumer to be made aware of this fact too," he said.

Referring to agricultural resources available, Mr Schoeman said continued intensification of agricultural methods would have to be applied.

"It is important to keep in mind that intensification can only take place through higher inputs and therefore at higher risks, which cannot take place unless the producer is remunerated for it by means of higher prices for the products.

"The South African consumer forms such an important link in the circuit of effective agricultural production.

"The farmer will no doubt succeed to conjure continuously increasing production volumes from our scarce and relatively poor agricultural resources, but then he will accordingly have to be remunerated for his increased inputs." — Sapa.

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	MARKS	STATUS	MARKS
13010	BACHELOR OF ARTS							
159454V	MCCARTHY	MELISSA JANE	911102	MATHEMATICS IA	3 (50)	1	1	159454V
152965R	MEHL	ANNETTE ELISABETH INGRID	108102 905102 916103	GERMAN INTENSIVE CHEMISTRY IB ANIMAL BIOLOGY (HALF COURSE)	ABS (27) F (59)	7	1	152965R
157093D	MERCURIO	GIANCARLO	110101	HISTORY I	ABS (50)	1	1	157093D
155747D	MICHAELS	KAREN	005101 004101 107101	SOCIOLOGY I PSYCHOLOGY I ENGLISH I (PRE-1980)	ABS (59) UP (50) SNX (48)	1	1	155747D
156469Z	MITCHELL	JANE	118101	CULTURAL HISTORY OF W.E. I	UP (50)	1	1	156469Z
157815N	MONRIS	CATHERINE MARIA	004101 107101 115103	PSYCHOLOGY I ENGLISH I (PRE-1980) ITALIAN INTENSIVE	UP (59) SNX (48)	1	1	157815N
150180P	MORT	MELISSA RUTH PRINCE	114101	RELIGIOUS STUDIES I	UP (62)	1	1	150180P
150783V	MULLER	SUSAN FLORENCE	110101	HISTORY I	UP (50)	1	1	150783V
157521U	MURRAY	ESTELLE	116120 107101	DYNAMA I ENGLISH I (PRE-1980)	ABS (50) SNX (47)	1	7	157521U
004101			115102	PSYCHOLOGY I	F (61)	1	1	157560L
117101			117101	POLITICAL SCIENCE I	UP (52)	1	1	157913V
004101			004101	PSYCHOLOGY I	3 (52)	7	1	162116N
107101			107101	HISTORY I (PRE-1980)	SNX (40)	1	1	154187V
102103			102103	AFRIKAANS EN NEDERLANDS I	UP (50)	1	1	154286C
905104			905104	CHEMISTRY IM	F (49)	1	1	156134L
110101			110101	HISTORY I (PRE-1980)	SNX (50)	1	1	150154L
115102			115102	FRENCH INTENSIVE	F (40)	1	1	133406G
115103			115103	ITALIAN INTENSIVE	UP (54)	1	1	133406G

UET

DM 2A/3/80  
General  
3

EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS  
YEAR : 1

AS AT 29 02 80

PAGE 5

**Drought**  
*N. M. K. 7*  
**in Natal** *26/3/80*  
*3 Group*  
**tightens**  
*1007*  
**its grip**

**Mercury Correspondent**

FEARS of wide-spread starvation in KwaZulu for the coming winter have again been expressed as the drought in Natal tightens its grip.

Reports from Zululand indicate that the harvest for black farmers has been very poor this season.

An Eshowe sugar cane grower, Mr Leif Dahl, who is closely associated with the Africa Co-operative Action Trust, said yesterday the drought was 'very serious'.

He said late plantings had wilted and died and only those farmers who had followed the advice of Acat had reaped crops.

Mr Dahl said streams had virtually dried up and the position was worse than in winter.

He said cane farmers also had been badly hit with some growers in the Ntumeni district having their yields cut by 50 percent.

A spokesman for the South African Cane Growers' Association said in Durban yesterday that the association's board would be meeting later this week to discuss the cane estimate for the coming season. The sugar harvest is expected to be well below previous estimates.

A spokesman for the Natal Parks Board said yesterday that grazing in game reserves had improved.

EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS		AS AT 29 02 80		PAGE 1	
LEOUS ARTS	YEAR : N/A			10000	
SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	
MEYNE	BARBARA LOUISE	91101	MATHEMATICS I-M102	F	(37)
* TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS		1		152327	
----- REGISTRAR (ACADEMIC) -----					
2	4	6	8	10	12
14	16	18	20	22	24
26	28	30	32	34	36
38	40	42	44	46	48
50	52	54	56	58	60
62	64	66	68	70	72

UGET



# That's what Acat is teaching

## —black homeland farmers

NATAL 27/3/80  
MERCURY

AN AGRARIAN revolution has begun in Zululand and is likely to have far reaching consequences not only for Natal but for the whole of South Africa's impoverished black homelands.

The seeds of the revolution were sown last year when an organisation calling itself the Africa Co-operative Action Trust (Acat) first became active in Zululand and set about teaching black peasant farmers not only to feed themselves but to produce a surplus of food to feed others.

Acat's purpose is to promote peace and prosperity in Africa through a process of rural development based on food production coupled with Christian teachings. It was founded last year by a group of 12 professional and business men who are all committed Christians and have set about their task with missionary zeal.

The organisation has established its headquarters in Pietermaritzburg and is already actively promoting rural development in several areas of KwaZulu. The aim of Acat is to train rural farmers to increase their food production and to develop other local services such as water supplies, home improvement, arts and crafts, literacy and other programmes.

### Savings

The cutting edge of Acat's programme is the formation of savings clubs among peasant communities. The concept was first introduced some years ago in Rhodesia where it was tremendously successful until disrupted by terrorist activities.

Acat gives no money and takes no money from the people it serves. What it aims to do is to mobilise existing resources of land, money, know-how and effort that would otherwise be dissipated unproductively.

The organisation believes that when people put their own money in the ground in the form of improved cultivation techniques, fertiliser and seed, they are far more likely to look after it than if these are supplied free.

Acat field officers work within the community and encourage its members to form savings clubs. What money they have available is saved by buying savings stamps and certificates. Each club is run by a committee selected by members.

In one community near Pietermaritzburg villagers had to walk long distances to fetch water. The community appealed to Acat for help. The problem was investigated and a water reticulation scheme designed.

### Own money

The cost of the scheme ran into thousands of rands but so desperate was their plight that the community agreed to contribute their own money and raised the cash for a pump, piping and storage tanks. Under the guidance of Acat the project was built and the community shown how to administer the scheme. The village now has a water supply.

Acat's training director, agriculturalist Dr John Hill who emigrated to Canada some years ago but returned to South Africa last year to dedicate his life to the organisation, said there are hundreds of thousands of hectares in KwaZulu on which crops could be grown. He scoffed at prophets of doom who claimed that the territory could not feed itself.

Since new techniques were introduced last year the increase in yields has been dramatic. In some areas they have risen from a paltry few bags a hectare to 40 bags or more. Results with beans and vegetables have been equally encouraging.

### Response

The response to the example shown by Acat has been overwhelming. In only a few months about 3 000 people have been shown how to improve crop production, and requests for help are pouring in from South West Africa, Transkei, Swaziland and other black States. Acat, however, says it will first consolidate itself in KwaZulu before expanding further.

Acat is dependent for its funds on donations from people and organisations who support its objectives. The organisation's current budget runs at about R10 000 a month and it is hoped that this will increase to R60 000 a month in a few years time.

Acat was founded by Mr Von van der Linde, a farm mechanisation specialist. Other trustees of the organisation are Mr L H Dahl (sugarcane farmer), Mr K J Fourie (agricultural engineer), Mr R T Mazibuko (organic farming specialist), Dr Lawrence McCrystal (consulting economist), Mr J P Schroeder (financial planning consultant), Dr R N Stephenson (medical doctor and farmer) and the Rt Rev L Zulu, Bishop of Zululand.

Peter Sutton

Agricultural

Correspondent

### Targets

The object is to save for some specific objective: either the planting of a crop such as maize or beans, or a community development project. Members can then collectively or individually buy all the materials needed. Purchases are co-ordinated by the club to simplify distribution and to take advantage of quantity discounts.

A trained demonstrator assists the club throughout the growing season with all aspects of production from soil preparation to harvesting and storage or marketing. In the case of specialised projects, such as water supplies, a trained agricultural engineer will give technical advice.

ST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL	PAGE
1	911141	MATHEMATICS I-M102	F (37)	1
				10000
				1523277

EXAMINATION RESULTS IN FACULTY ARTS  
YEAR : 2

AS AT 29 02 80

PAGE 1

STU13-9 15026 B.A./LL.B. 15026

STUD NO	SURNAME	FIRST NAMES	COURSE	DESCRIPTION	SYMBOL
111062V	BARKER	MARY ANN	105104	LATIN I	3 (-52)
116983F	DAMERELL	DAVID ASHLEY	604201	ROMAN DUTCH LAW I	1
137001P	ELME	DERRICK NIGEL	103201 603202 604201	COMP AFR GOVT AND LAW I ROMAN LAW & JURISPRUDENCE I ROMAN DUTCH	1 1 1
137345N	GADD	DIANA ALICIA	105104	LATIN I	3
133987N	GORE	DAVID GEORGE	105104	LATIN I	1
110335F	GRIESEL	PAUL PRIAICH	105104	LATIN I	1
132210G	GRUSS	MARC ALAIN	107101	ENGLISH I (	1
139014J	HAUDUW	PETER BRIAN	603202	ROMAN LAW &	1
139814X	ISMAIL	ANWAR	103201 604201	AFRIKAANS E ROMAN DUTCH	1
110281W	JANSEN	COLLEEN GENITA	602101 604201	PUBLIC INIE ROMAN DUTCH	1
1398308	JAY	EDWIN ANDREW	604201	ROMAN DUTCH	1
1305399	KIRKPATRICK	JOHN RUUCE	105201 603202 604201	COMP AFR GO ROMAN LAW & ROMAN DUTCH	1
137806P	KOEN	STEPHEN JOHN	603202	ROMAN LAW &	1
137243C	MCMAIS	MELANIE	105104 604201	LATIN I ROMAN DUTCH	1
117171K	MORTAKIS	MARIANNA	201405	STRUCY & IN	1
1355700	MUNRO	LYNNE CATHERINE	105104 107101 603202 604201	LATIN I ENGLISH II ROMAN LAW & ROMAN DUTCH	1
133096V	MURRAY	DOUGLAS ANDREW	603202	ROMAN LAW & JURISPRUDENCE IUP	1 (52)
134345W	MCARY	SARLIVA	105201	COMP AFR GOVT AND LAW I	3 (-56)
131836A	SAMSODICA	SADIJA	103201	COMP AFR GOVT AND LAW I	3 (52)
133044C	SCHWEITZER	ANTONY GIBSON	603202	ROMAN LAW & JURISPRUDENCE IF	1 (-49)

# Relief to farmers welcomed by SAAU

STAR 27/3/80

All the factors responsible for inflation were as hard at work as ever, although the Minister of Finance had said his Budget was combatting inflation, said Mr Chris Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union.

But it was a "very good" Budget, to be welcomed from all sides — and therefore also by farmers.

All requests from the SAAU had been met to some extent, Mr Cilliers said.

The biggest relief to the farmers had come through the abolition of surtax, the changes to the income tax structure, and concessions regarding estate and transfer duties.

Organised agriculture also welcomed the R89-million for consolidation — now approaching the R100-million a year requested; the concession relating to in-service training; the intention to provide relief for tobacco farmers; and possible encouragement of labour-intensive industries including agriculture.

The SAAU was not very happy that no conclusion had been reached on the accumulation of a tax-free reserve.

It also regretted that the packing allowance for exporters had not been re-introduced, and that food subsidies had been increased for the rich as well as the poor.

UCT

# R800 000 <sup>ARGUS</sup> damages <sup>3 General</sup> 1/4/80 for farmers

By Moegsien Williams

THE South African Railways has paid more than R800 000 in compensation to 24 farmers in the Franschoek valley after a weedkiller used along a railway line permeated the soil and killed their crops.

The exact amount paid to the farmers is confidential as a result of an out-of-court settlement, but is substantially less than the R5,4-million originally claimed.

Farmers in the lush valley, who dubbed the poisonous residue the 'creeping menace', were faced with financial ruin.

The weedkiller, Tandex, was first used along the railway line in the spring of 1975.

The first reports of poisoned plants were received in January 1976 and all plant life in the area was affected, including oak and pine trees.

## LA PROVENCE

The most seriously affected farms were those between the forestry and the railway siding in Franschoek and included the historical La Provence estate.

Other farms affected were those of Rhodes Fruit farms which belong to the Anglo American Corporation, and La Motte, which belongs to the Distillers Corporation of Dr Anton-Rupert.

'On June 11, 1975, the weedkiller was sprayed on undergrowth along the railway line where it adjoined the farms, by Union Weedkiller Services and the railways.

It penetrated the soil and was carried to vineyards and fruit trees by underground water.

In January 1977 further damage to plant life was noticed.

Only after an investigation and a report was published in Weekend Argus did the farmers realise that the railways had used the weedkiller again in June 1977.

## SUPREME COURT

At a hearing in the Supreme Court, Cape Town, in 1978 the farmers said the railways permitted and actively participated in the further spraying, fully knowing that further damage was inevitable.

The railways were described as 'grossly negligent and irresponsible in the extreme' for failing to tell the farmers about the second spraying.

The man who led the farmers in their fight for compensation was the former Consul-General for South Africa in Sweden, Mr Leonard Parkfelt, whose beautiful farm, La Chataigne, was badly contaminated.

## FARMERS SILENT

Most farmers in the valley were not prepared to comment on the matter.

The manager of the railways, Dr Kobus Loubser, was not available for comment.

A spokesman at the Johannesburg head office of the Railways confirmed that there had been an out-of-court settlement with farmers but declined to divulge any details.

● An investigation and a report by Weekend Argus in 1978 and additional information passed to the farmers helped them to substantially increase their claims and realise the full extent of the damage to their farms.

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# Stock thefts cost R6,5m

397  
3 General  
DD  
11/3/80

boat (which is the same as assume the boat is cost) charges a fee of 2.8 fish per to be on board. With an average of which each pays 2.8 and persons will want to be on rent (social gain) goes to distributed however the government would appear that the on this and the private-property who gets the 14-fish gain seeking personal profits, a minimum social output.

However, if our government is easier and doesn't charge he lose? The loss is important whole. But who in the public an incentive as strong as detect opportunism or duty? In contrast to the private authority suffers less loss wealth in being less attentive gains. And if there is uncertainty catch on board, he will be able on board if that made enhanced his hold on political his personal life easier, then

too few on board because that permits shorter working hours for him (like closing on holidays and earlier in the afternoons) and not operating the boat as fully as would maximize profits. Soon we shall see how incentives and uncertainty about future potential production are critical influences on methods for coordinating and controlling joint production activity.

But when has a government agency been supposed to maximize profits? It is usually, or al-

PRETORIA — Stock theft cost South African farmers R6 500 000 annually, Major General C. F. Zietsman, deputy chief of the CID, said here yesterday.

He was speaking at a press conference after discussions between the police and officials of the South African Agricultural Union on the problem.

He said that during 1979 police:

- Investigated 27 000 cases of stock theft involving 130 000 animals;
- Recovered 31 000 animals valued at R2 million; and
- Started 8 000 prosecutions involving 12 000 people.

Stock theft by organised criminals was in control, but the main, and most dif-

ficult, problem was theft for the pot.

"By the time the farmer discovers the loss of stock, the evidence has already been eaten," he said.

The police needed closer co-operation with the public, especially information on suspicious people and vehicles noticed around their farms.

The police would pay rewards to informants.

General Zietsman said farmers could also help the police by maintaining farm fencing and not employing suspicious persons who might be spying out the lie of the land.

A spokesman for the SAAU said: "There is a strong feeling parole is granted too easily to stock thieves and that often they are convicted of stock theft shortly after being released." — DDC.

public welfare and bene- a nonprofit corporation (the post office.) How is " interpreted? In our number on board? Or e boat? Or the social on board would, as marginal products on n shore, thereby reduc- cial waste.

maximum public benefit and widespread, because authorities wide latitude ce of measuring perfor- andated for government access to the television tic spectrum, air space vice, highways, national ices, airports, harbors, d to federal forests, off- nd. Zoning commissions and (such as how con- larly instructed to maxi- But hardly any govern- ed to maximize profits: water, electricity, gas, instructed to "serve the

public," or "break even"—with consequences that are now more explainable.

### Imperfect Predictability of Performance: Risk Bearing

For two reasons the actual productivity of any group cannot be predicted perfectly. First, natural

# Rain has come too late in Natal

<sup>10/1</sup>  
<sup>3</sup> <sup>General</sup> <sup>10/4/80</sup>  
DURBAN. — Although rainfall is expected to continue over the weekend, the much-needed wet weather is still too late to stave off the severe drought that has caused the failure of the sugar crop and killed thousands of livestock in Natal.

Farmers — many of whom have lost entire crops in the worst Natal drought in a decade — believe that with winter just around the corner late rainfall will do little to alleviate the situation.

Already water restrictions have been imposed in many agricultural towns, and at Kranskop, one of the worst affected areas, there is only about 30mm left in the main dam.

Mr. Peter Sale, general manager of the South African Sugar Association, said in a recent

interview that the drought was the worst in the history of the sugar industry.

The association has estimated this year's crop at an all-time low of 1 500 000 tons, compared to 2 080 000 tons last year.

Black farmers, particularly in the Tugela River basin, have been hard hit by the drought with massive livestock losses.

Others, who rely on subsistence agriculture, have been forced off the land in many cases.

A spokesman for the Weather Bureau at Louis Botha Airport said rain was expected to continue falling over the weekend in most parts of the province.

He said the "wet" season — which was a non-event this year — was almost over. — Sapa.

# Ignore rumours farmers told

3 General  
24/80

**CATHCART** — The Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, urged farmers here to continue their farming operations in a normal manner and to ignore rumours about areas which were either going to be excluded or included into black homelands.

Number of Men on Board	Total Catch (on board)
0	0
1	6
2	16
3	24
4	30
5	34
6	36
7	36
8	32
9	27
10	21

\* Anyone fishing from shore

Addressing a subdued crowd of about 300 people, mostly farmers, Dr Koornhof emphasised that the Van der Walt Commission was currently only conducting an investigation into the question of consolidation, along the guide lines laid down by the government.

Persons concerned would be given the opportunity to testify before the commission. He appealed to everyone to give the commission a chance to complete its investigation in a responsible manner.

"I can sense that people in this area are uncertain of the future but that is only because they listen to rumours and rumours only lead to uncertainty.

Dr Koornhof urged English and Afrikaans South Africans to cooperate with each other and said it was vitally important especially in this part of the world to have faith in each other. It was important he said that problems between all races be solved in order that the quality of life could be improved for everyone living in Southern Africa. — DDR.

board \*

Net Social Marginal Product	Social Total (Shore plus boat)
0	4000 + 0 = 4000
2	3396 + 6 = 4002
6	3392 + 16 = 4008
4	3388 + 24 = 4012
2	3384 + 30 = 4014
0	3380 + 34 = 4014
-2	3376 + 36 = 4012
-4	3372 + 36 = 4008
-8	3368 + 32 = 4000
-9	3364 + 27 = 3991
-10	3360 + 21 = 3981

0 people.

six fish, two more than had he fished like any of the others. The *social* larger. But if another person joins the boat, the pair can catch a total of 16 fish. So, with two crew members, the *marginal product on board* is 10 fish. Marginal product is graphed in Figure 9-1. Since the fisherman forsakes the four fish he would have caught fishing from shore, the *social total* increases by four fish with a second person. That is, with two on board the *social marginal* product is six fish; the *social total* is eight more than without the boat. Who gets the eight fish?

If the two people apportion the fish equally between themselves, each has four more fish than each shore fisherman. No one else is affected. Or the gain of eight fish could be divided among all 1000 people so everyone could have

fish. But whatever is done, at least a third of the people could profitably switch to the boat, as indicated by Figure 9-1. That would increase the *social total* by eight fish to 24 fish (the *marginal product on board* with three crewmen is eight fish) while catching only four more fish from the shore. The *social total* increases by four—the difference between the *marginal product* on the boat and the forsaken four-fish shore-marginal-product. A

fourth crewman could transfer to the boat, since the *marginal product on the boat*, six, with four members is greater than the forsaken *marginal product* on shore, four—a net *social marginal product* of two. With four boatmen the total product on the boat is 30 (= 6 + 10 + 8 + 6), which, subtracting 16 forsaken fish from the shore (four from each person who shifted to the boat) yields a *social gain* of 14 fish. How the net social gain

# Plan to help <sup>NM</sup> 14/4/80 farmers fight <sup>3-General</sup> drought

Mercury Reporter

LAST week's rain brought little relief to Natal's drought-stricken areas and the National Agricultural Union has asked farmers' associations to make a communal effort to help in the worst-hit areas.

The president of the NAU, Mr Donald Sinclair, said in Howick yesterday: 'The recent rains have brought little relief to most areas but some are better off than others.

'The NAU has sent circulars to all the province's farmers' associations asking them to sum up the drought situation in their areas.

## Assistance

'This will enable us to get a clear picture of exactly which areas are most in need of assistance.'

An example of the type of inter-area help would be to harvest the large quantities of maize damaged by the drought in the Bergville district and to supply it as fodder to areas in need.

There were two problems connected with the scheme.

'One is to persuade the farmers' associations to join the campaign, and the other is to find money to carry out the project,' Mr Sinclair said.

## Farmers face stock culling

*B. G. ...*  
Mercury Reporter

*15/4/80*

FARMERS in drought-stricken areas may have to cull their stock and abandon some of their crops in order to have enough water to meet their needs, the secretary of the National Agricultural Union, Mr Alwyn Bisschoff, said in Pietermaritzburg yesterday.

The NAU and the Department of Agricultural Technical Services met last week and decided that their immediate task was to establish the extent and gravity of the drought.

They sent circulars yesterday to all farmers' associations in Natal, asking them to sum up the situation in their areas.

'Once we have a clear picture we will be able to take the necessary action,' Mr Bisschoff said. 'It may be necessary for rivers to be monitored and water rationed and some farmers might have to cull their stock to have enough water to go round.'



# A blooming success

It is somehow appropriate that one of the biggest cut flower operations in SA was taken out of judicial management on St Valentine's day. For agricultural consultants, Measured Farming SA, called in to rescue the operation in 1975, the discharging of the judicial management order against Florarcadia on February 14, 1980, represents something of a triumph.

Measured Farming MD Clive Henderson points out that restoring an agricultural operation to liquidity is a medium- to long-term operation, and banks are more often than not unwilling to take the risk in such cases. "A hotel business, for instance, can more easily be salvaged. New management, a few coats of paint to brighten the image, and it's back on the road to profitability," he says.

Metrust judicial manager Hendry Gunn asked Measured Farming to step in when it became apparent that liquidation of the operation, which, with 15 ha under roof and producing and marketing 11m carnation and rose blooms a year, is one of the biggest cut flower growers in the southern hemisphere, was imminent. Concurrent creditors were owed about R500 000, while an overdraft in the order of R1,5m also hung over the operation's head.

"The farm was valued at R750 000, but wouldn't have realised R450 000 on a forced sale," says Peter Cunningham, Measured Farming director at Florarcadia near Heidelberg, Transvaal. Creditors knew they'd get virtually nothing, so it was decided to mount a rescue campaign. A six year schedule was drawn up with the objective of liquidating debts and returning to profitability, and this was accepted by Standard Bank.

Problem on the flower farm, which "had been a good business with, for its time, good production ideas," was management, which was so structured it left a lot to be desired where relationships with workers were concerned. "For an essentially labour intensive operation, this was fatal," says Cunningham. Previous management installed, at considerable cost, a sophisticated closed circuit television set-up to monitor activities in the greenhouses.

Workers, it appears, resented this, and coupled with ridiculously low wages (20c

to 35c a day in some cases) and long hours, it caused productivity to plummet.

"We've pruned our labour force by about 15% and increased wages," says Henderson. "Production, which is now up by 40%, has tended to keep pace with these increases." Efforts are also being made to employ complete family units thereby raising the earning capability and standard of living of all workers.

Worker distrust was further aggravated by bugging devices installed throughout the administrative offices, while capital was needlessly expended on sophisticated



Flower farming . . . not like salvaging an hotel

equipment.

For example, an integrated system designed to regulate temperature, and interrelate humidity with sunlight and light intensity in each of the greenhouses was used to only 30% of its potential. "Basically a good idea, and used extensively in places like Holland," says Cunningham. "But the problem was that it is too sophisticated for workers here, who weren't trained."

Other unnecessary equipment included four rose sorting machines with photoelectric cells, for regulating stalk lengths, worth R14 000 each, while there were seven bundle strapping and tying machines worth about R49 000. Only one each of these is in use now — "the volume throughput just didn't warrant this type of capital expenditure."

Earthmoving equipment, with a replacement value of R250 000, was also standing idle, and its sale realised over R100 000.

Against this background, the operation to take control of Florarcadia had to be mounted with the precision of a military exercise. "We were well aware of the ill-will with which the previous manager regarded us, and the vulnerability of the farm, so had to move carefully," says Henderson.

In utmost secrecy therefore, and armed with a court order, Measured Farming staff flew up from their Pietermaritzburg HQ to take possession of the 360 ha farm, and seal off buildings.

Security measures included patrolling the property with guards and dogs. Says chairman Pat Mills: "We were actually scared stiff . . . mainly because we knew little about flowers and this type of farming enterprise, although we had, at that stage already, realised that the financial problems were related to the lack of a management structure."



Mills . . . we were scared stiff



Cunningham . . . equipment too sophisticated for workers

The 12-man emergency team worked round the clock to salvage the flower operation, with main priority being to save the growing stock — virtually the only asset — which was literally withering away through lack of care. Mills in the meantime went to the US and contacted sources which could be relied upon to provide professional flower growing expertise.

#### Streamlined marketing

An initial problem was that 20% of the production area was under quarantine, and flowers originating there could only be exported. This had arisen because the original stock had been cleared from air-freight without regard to quarantine regulations, and the Department of Agriculture insisted that no subsequent produce be introduced to the local market.

Marketing, on local and export levels, had to be streamlined. "Previously, flowers were sold to 95 individual buyers, but this was costly in terms of transport, packaging and time," says Henderson. It was decided to market locally solely through Multiflora, the wholesale flower market. "We made mistakes," he says. One was putting a consignment of carnations, which later turned out to have stalk defects that inhibited moisture absorption, on the market.

"We should have discarded the lot. Within a day they had wilted, and this gave our product a bad name. Initially, therefore, there was some buyer resistance, but we were able to overcome this," says Henderson. Another priority was to get into the lucrative export market, especially Europe (the German flower market, for instance, is worth R600m annually), and Florarcadia expanded its market base to include the UK, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, and Norway.

"Once again, we had to overcome arcadia's poor image. Previous pluses were dumped on to exports affecting prices, which was obviously appreciated by buyers," explains

"We concentrated on building for ourselves centred around reliability, continuity of supply throughout the season, and quality. We are in contact with overseas buyers, and their markets regularly, as well as bringing clients to SA often," adds Cunningham.

Looking back, he says Florarcadia's previous management had succeeded in alienating a lot of people, right across the spectrum of its operation. Buyers local and overseas, were hit by inefficiencies in marketing policies; the Department of Agriculture was affected by quarantine regulations weren't caught up with; and even SAA, of prime importance because of its role in exporting Florida's produce, was rubbed up the wrong way.

"We worked hard to change this," says Cunningham, "and can now claim to receive all the co-operation we need from all parties. Most important we got the creditors, the judicial management of the bank. Let's face it, if they wanted they could have sunk the whole operation at the drop of a hat."

But the future looks rosy. Creditors have accepted 70c in the pound (at a total cost of R240 000), and Florarcadia has reduced the R1,25m plus in charges owing to the Standard Bank to R500 000. Cunningham predicts profits this year of R250 000 on a turnover of R800 000, and says dividends could resume in about three years.

For Measured Farming, which has bought a 50% stake in the farm, represents a remarkable achievement



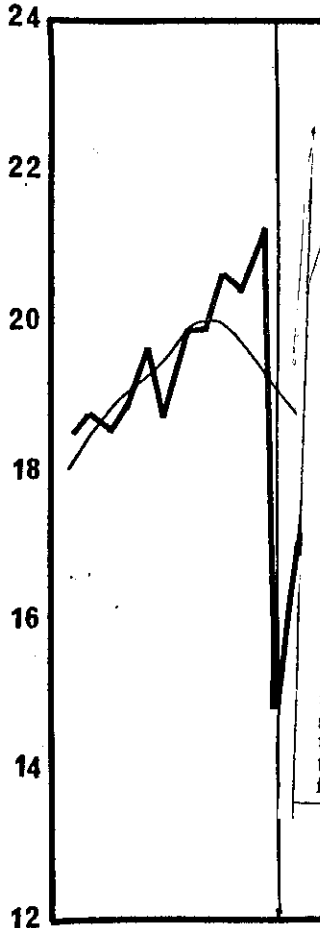
Henderson . . . initially some buyer resistance

# New vehicle

25/4/80 @ 3' General (2) (246)

Cars '00 units S Adj

## Consumers are spoilt says agriculture chief



CAPE TOWN — White South Africans had little cause to complain and have been spoilt as far as food prices were concerned.

This was the response yesterday of Mr Chris Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union, to attempts by the South African Consumer Council to interview the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, in connection with escalating prices of consumer goods.

Mr Botha refused the interview and told the council to address themselves to the Cabinet Ministers concerned.

In an interview yesterday Mr Cilliers said he was unhappy the council had singled out food prices, thereby placing blame for the high cost of living on farmers, whose real nett

income had decreased by 36 per cent.

He said a scientific study by the Union Bank of Switzerland had shown that in only seven cities of the world was a comparable grocery basket cheaper than in Johannesburg.

The same survey demonstrated that in only 18 cities — and they were in the highly industrialised regions of North America and Europe — did people in comparable professions work shorter hours than in Johannesburg to earn the money to buy similar "grocery baskets."

South Africans should therefore not complain about food prices but rather about wage structures.

Mr Cilliers said: "The agricultural union agrees with the Consumer Coun-

cil that inflation is an evil which should be seriously combated, but we object to the council's singling out of food prices and the producers, the farmers, for causing the high cost of living."

Farmers, whose real nett income had decreased over the past five years, were worse victims of inflation than ordinary wage earners, whose income had decreased by 6 per cent over the same period.

Sight had been lost of the fact that consumer prices were inflated by manufacturers and "middle men". Meanwhile farmers' "input" expenditure on producing food, on for instance fuel and fertilisers, had risen far more rapidly than the price they could obtain for their products in the market place.

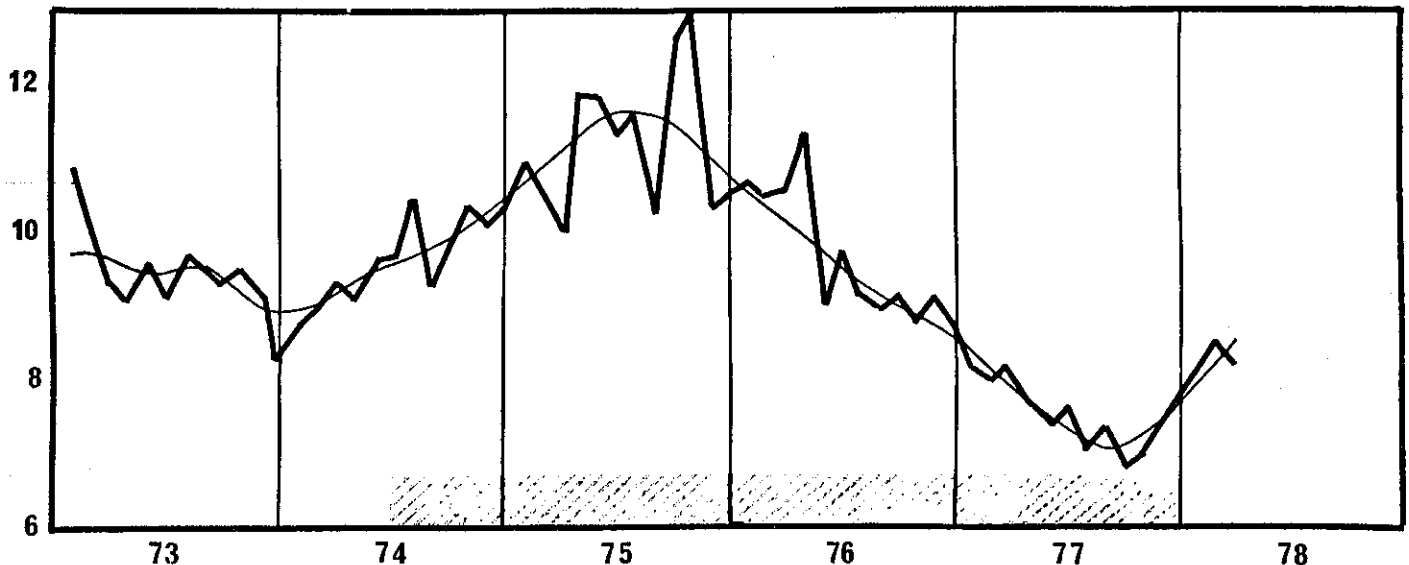
"We are prepared to place (before the government) a detailed memorandum to show how spoilt South Africa's population is as regards food prices," Mr Cilliers said. — DDC.

Latest month Mar 15246  
Seasonally adjusted 14,267

% Changes Latest 3 months 13.8  
Year to date 13.8

Compared to same period one year ago

## Commercial vehicles '00 units S Adj



Latest month Mar 8654  
Seasonally adjusted 8223

% Changes Latest 3 months 2.8  
Year to date 2.8

Compared to same period one year ago

# SA 'spoilt' by food prices

CT 25/4/80  
Staff Reporter

WHITE South Africans had little cause to complain and had been spoilt as far as food prices were concerned. Mr Chris Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union, said yesterday.

This was his reaction to attempts by the South African Consumer Council to interview the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, in connection with escalating prices of consumer goods.

Mr Botha refused the interview and has told the Consumer Council to address itself to the cabinet ministers concerned.

In an interview yesterday, Mr Cilliers said he was unhappy that the Consumer Council had singled out food prices, thereby placing blame for the high cost of living on farmers, whose real net income had decreased by 36 percent over the past five years.

He said a scientific study by the Union Bank of Switzerland had shown that in only seven cities of the world was a comparable grocery basket cheaper than in Johannesburg.

The same survey demonstrated that in only 18 cities — and they were in the highly-industrialized regions of North America and Europe — did people in

comparable professions work shorter hours than in Johannesburg to earn the money to buy similar "grocery baskets".

South Africans should therefore not complain about food prices, but rather about wage structures.

Mr Cilliers said: "The Agricultural Union agrees with the Consumer Council that inflation is an evil which should be seriously combated, but we object to the council's singling out food prices and the producers, the farmers, for causing the high cost of living."

Farmers, whose real net income had decreased over the past five years,

were greater victims of inflation than ordinary wage-earners.

Sight had been lost of the fact that consumer prices were inflated by manufacturers and "middle men". Meanwhile the farmers' "input" expenditure on producing food, for instance on fuel and fertilizers, had risen far more rapidly than the price they could obtain for their products in the market place.

"We are prepared to place (before the government) a detailed memorandum to show how spoilt South Africa's population is as regards food prices," Mr Cilliers said.

# Farmers' income decreases

STAR  
26/12/80

3 Genal

## Own Correspondent

The economist for the SA Agricultural Union, Mr Johan Willemse, said in Pretoria today that farmers receive less than half the price paid by consumers for food products.

From 1974 to 1979 the farmers' real net income had fallen by 28 percent, which showed that they had absorbed a large percentage of cost increases.

"If the producer's share in the food basket is examined it will be found that the producer only receives 47 percent of the price paid by the consumer.

"This underlines the fact that the agricultural producer is not alone responsible for the increase," said Mr Willemse.

Mr Willemse said the SAAU was investigating the causes and implications of the sharp rise in production costs.

He said if the 1972 price index for agriculture was taken as 100, the present level was 200 points, more than double.

While other countries had allowed producer price increases to keep pace with production cost rises, South Africa had not, and the South African farmer had been forced to stand and watch as his producer price fell further and further behind.

Mr Willemse said the agricultural sector provided employment to 125-million workers, who should be allowed to achieve a higher standard of living.

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to be offered

- (b) Manual labour is hired locally from week to week.
- (d) All the plant needed for Southampton has been owned for some years. £1,6000 is the year's depreciation (straight-line) in the financial accounts. If the Hull job is taken, less plant will be required, and the surplus items will be hired out for the year on similar work at a rental of £750. Interest is based on a memorandum entry, at 5% of original cost, in the cost records.
- (f) Office and general expenses amount to about £1,800 every year.

RAPPORT  
27/4/80  
3 ebb's

# Eierprobleem nou baie kleiner

**Deur FRANZ ALBRECHT**  
**DIE drastiese vermindering in die enorme eiersurplus in die afgelope paar maande, wat deur groter stabiliteit in die bedryf teweeggebring is, het die onrealistiese lae vloerprys onnodig gemaak.**

Produksiekapasiteit is reeds 'n geruime tyd onder beheer, en die bedryf het sy eie huis in orde gebring nadat daar teen Junie verlede jaar 'n onhanteerbare surplus geheers het. Dit het tot groot finansiële verliese op eieruitvoere gelei.

Die Eierbeheerraad het sy vloerprys waarteen surplus eiers uit die plaaslike mark aangekoop word, vroeër vandeemaand tot 43c per kilogram herstel. In die eerste helfte van verlede jaar is dit tot 39c per kilogram verlaag.

Die Noordelike Pluim-

veeprodusentevereniging het vandeeweek aangekondig dat die prys van eiers in Transvaal vanaf môre met 4c per dosyn verhoog sal word.

Maar hierdie afsonderlike prysverhogings hou geen verband met mekaar nie. Die eerste — die aanpassing van die vloerprys — is gedoen vanweë die stabiliteit wat in die Suid-Afrikaanse eierbedryf in die afgelope paar maande teweeggebring is, en die tweede — die styging in die kleinhandelsprys van eiers — is 'n regstreekse gevolg van die onlangse styging in produksiekoste van die pluimveeboer.

Die Eierbeheerraad het sy vloerprys in die eerste helfte van verlede jaar slegs verlaag om sy boeke te klop. Weens die onhanteerbare eier-surplus in daardie tyd, en die feit dat die raad verplig is om die eieroorskot op te koop en

teen 'n verlies uit te voer, was sy uitgawe groter as sy inkomste.

Noudat die eier-surplus weer vir 'n geruime tyd tot 'n hanteerbare grootte verminder is, is die Raad in staat om sy boeke te balanseer / en bestaan daar geen meer rede vir die verlaagde vloerprys nie. Dit is in oorleg met die Minister van Landbou weer tot 43c per kilogram herstel.

Dieselfde tyd toe die vloerprys verlede jaar verlaag is, het die Raad die Produksiebeheerwet toegepas om die surplus te verminder. Pluimveeboere met meer as 20 000 lêhenne was verplig om hul produksie in te kort. Ongeveer 1,4 miljoen lêhenne is sedertdien landwyd verminder.

Vermoedens dat die herstel van die vloerprys vir surplus eiers weer tot 'n onhanteerbare surplus kan lei, is vandeeweek

deur die Raad die nek ingeslaan. Die vloerprys was en is nog altyd verbene die koste van produksie en pluimveeboere sal nie baat vind deur produksie te vermeerder en sodoende 'n oorskot teen hierdie onekonomiese prys aan die Raad te verkoop nie.

Buitendien is daar streng beheer in die eierbedryf. Permithouers — pluimveeboere met 2 000 of meer lêhenne — moet toestemming van die Raad kry om hul produksie te kan vermeerder.

'n Hanteerbare surplus is in die belang van die verbruiker, sê die Raad. Deurdat daar altyd 'n aanvaarbare oorskot van alle grootte eiers is, sal die verbruiker nie tekorte met tye van sekere grootte eiers ondervind nie.

Indien daar ooit 'n tekort van sekere grootte eiers in Suid-Afrika ondervind sou moes word,

sal die eiers ten duurste uit die buiteland moet ingevoer word om aan die vraag te kan voorsien, sê die Raad.

Die voorsitter van die Noordelike Pluimveeprodusentevereniging, mnr. Ian Bartlett, het vandeeweek gesê die verhoging van die eierprys is noodsaak deur die onlangse stygings in die produksiekoste van pluimveeboere.

Die vorige drie prysstygings in eiers sedert Desember verlede jaar — wat altesame 8c per dosyn beloop het — was maar net 'n aanpassing van die prys nadat daar in die middel van verlede jaar besluit is om nie die prys met 8c per dosyn te verhoog nie onderwyl daar 'n geweldige oorskot geheers het.

Individuele produsente is nog altyd vry om teen enige prys op die mark mee te ding. Die aankondiging van die Vereniging oor die verhoogde prys is net gemaak om sy lede in kennis te stel wat hulle van hul produkte op die mark kan verwag om stygende produksiekoste te bowe te kan kom.

Die Vereniging verwag verdere prysstygings in produksiekoste, veral van voer, in die nabye toekoms.

# Hoendervleis duurder

DIE verbruiker gaan binnekort tussen 8c en 9c per kilogram meer vir hoendervleis betaal weens die styging van sowat 20 persent in die mielieprys.

In 'n onderhoud met Sake-Rapport het die voorsitter van County Fair, mnr. Desmond Lurie, in Kaapstad gesê die maatskappy se produksiekoste gaan met tussen 8c en 9c styg ná die verhoging in die mielieprys. Die styging sal noodgedwonge deur die verbruiker geabsorbeer moet word.

Die verwagting is nie dat die prysverhoging 'n groot nadelige invloed op die mark vir hoendervleis gaan hê nie, aangesien die vraag na dié produkte tans baie sterk is.

Volgens mnr. Lurie is sy maatskappy se afset tans 15 persent hoër as in die ooreenstemmende tydperk verlede jaar. Die mielieprys het egter 'n

groot invloed op die produksiekoste van die hoenderbedryf, aangesien dit vir sowat 70 persent van die voerkoste verantwoordelik is.

'n Paar jaar gelede sou so 'n verhoging die hoenderbedryf op sy knieë gehad het, maar intussen het die bedryf aansienlik verbeter. Veral uitvoerkontrakte speel hier 'n groot rol.

Die uitvoerkontrakte het baie gehelp om die bedryf weer op die been te bring. Sowat vyf jaar gelede moes hoenderbemarkers hul produkte teen verliese verkoop weens die destydse groot oorskot.

In daardie jare was die windsrempel in die omgewing van 85c per kilogram. Vandag is dit veroor die R1 per kilogram weens die skerp styging in produksiekoste, maar die verhoogde vraag het hiervoor vergoed.

3) 27/4/80 RAPPORT

# Food problems as population grows

(3) General  
RDM 30/4/80

DURBAN. — The agricultural sector had scarcely been able to feed South Africa's population during the past decade, during which time the number of mouths had grown by more than 2%.

The Director-General (Finance), Dr J H de Loor, gave this information in Durban yesterday when he addressed the congress of the Natal and East Griqualand Wool Growers' Association.

He said that during the decade, the total value of agricultural production rose from R1 300-million to R4 200-million. The volume index of agricultural production increased by 30%.

"This continued increase is, in my opinion, proof that the agricultural industry is still market orientated, and that the farmer is still in a competitive position. However, with an average population growth rate of more than 2%, we have scarcely managed to feed the country's growing population."

Dr De Loor said that the past decade had seen a dramatic reduction in the agricultural output of southern Africa as a whole.

"We in South Africa should be extremely careful that our level of agricultural output does not become adversely affected in the process of consoli-

dating our homelands, particularly when these accept independence.

"Apart from the obvious reason of maintaining at least our output per head of population, we have on numerous occasions been able to save large sections of the populations of neighbouring states from starvation.

"But there is a certain anomaly in this situation which we have to face up to squarely. Maize is a good example. Because of relatively low export prices, the maize farmer has to carry a heavy financing burden on the exporting of surpluses, particularly if they are to be marketed outside southern

Africa.

"If the surpluses and the proportion of white to yellow maize production are permanent structural features, then we will have to take another, closer look at the pricing structure of the industry. We cannot afford to produce any commodity that can only be exported at a loss over the longer term.

"However, international marketing of maize, as well as that of most other agricultural products, are subject to wide price fluctuations, and provided full costs are recovered, we should continue to fill our granaries and market surpluses abroad." — Sapa.



# When fiery ostrich farmers fetched

*3-General*  
BD 1/5/80

## R2 000 a bird

The attention of South Africans and tourists alike is drawn to the premier position of Oudtshoorn in respect to the ostrich but that district is neither the home of the bird nor were the best feathers always produced there.

The earliest reference to domesticated ostriches appears to be that of John E. Rex of Deep Walls, Main Forest, Knysna, who wrote to his brother in Graaff-Reinet to the effect that he had come across a letter dated 1832 from their Uncle Duthie (Captain Duthie who married Miss Caroline Rex) to their grandmother, in which the following sentence occurs: "Oh! I did so enjoy the ostrich egg at breakfast this morning before I left Melkhout Kraal."

John went on to say that his Uncle George's excuse, when coming home from his courting late, was that he had been out looking for ostriches!

Other records refer to 557lbs of feathers being exported in 1838. By 1861 the export figure had reached 3 425lbs and the next year had doubled to 7 061 lbs.

Credit for being the father of the industry was given to Mr I. Booysen, of Klipdrift, Graaff-Reinet, who in 1862, caught a batch of four wild chicks. The following year he caught another 12 and all were kept in enclosures. Two years later he began breeding the domesticated birds and selling their feathers on the open market, establishing a new industry.

Eventually the ostriches were responsible for the large-scale fencing of farms on the Karoo and in the Eastern Cape because it was the only way the birds could be contained. Otherwise when they were chased, even on horseback, they would run for miles.

This information and a great deal more I culled from a press cutting book belonging to the late Mr Oscar Evans who was

type feather was its strong dense quality and the pedigree of the birds which produced them was for a long time a mystery to officials of the Department of Agriculture and was the subject of most of the debate that took place over the years.

According to Oscar Evans II, his grandfather's prize bird with which he did most of his breeding, was one named Mogador.

**Ostrich farming in the Eastern Cape once rivalled that of Oudtshoorn. ERIC TURPIN describes the heyday of the industry, the part played by Oscar Evans, of Bedford, and a secret mission to West Africa to secure new breeding stock.**

On the world's markets at the time were the Mogador (or Barbary) feathers of remarkable beauty and named after a small seaport in Morocco. The distinctive feature of this feather was its long dense flue and stem. When held at the end of the stem the feather never remained still but bobbed its head and wobbled at the slightest tremor of the hand.

A Mr W. Howarth who had been in the country for six years and had before that spent ten years in the wholesale feather trade in Manchester, England, joined in the fray by stating that the Barbary-type feathers fetched from 25 per cent to fifty per cent more than those from South African birds.

The Evans feather had characteristics similar to the Moga feathers, and from this stemmed most of the disputes.

Oscar Evans I, although

his former employer's breeding stock at Melrose. There was mention also made of Red Leg and Ellen, Jacob and Old China and of Dutches.

Other Eastern Province breeders whose now familiar names also featured in the prize lists were J.O. Gardner, H.A. Holme J.E. Biggs, Joseph Lovemore, P.P. Rabie, W.J. Edwards, W.C. Ho T.W. Swart, H. Frank, C.J.

Watermeyer, A. Douglass and A. Dugmore.

It was an accepted fact in the eighties, that the advent of the ostrich feather boom was more valuable to South Africa than the discovery of the diamond fields, for when it came, it not only rescued many Eastern Province districts that were on the verge of bankruptcy but also paid off the mortgages on hundreds of farms, boosted the price of land and stimulated the development of long neglected opportunities, such as irrigation.

However, there were several false prophets whose claims were subsequently proved unfounded. For instance, ostrich farming was described as a far more reliable and sound paying concern than all the gold mining companies on the Rand.

By the turn of the century, perhaps to allay fears, Government of-

In 1887 Oscar I and his brother Edgar left their home Rietfontein in the Aberdeen district to go to the gold mines. When they had had enough of that, they bought the farm Melrose, near Eastpoort in the Bedford district, from the estate of John Pringle. There, beside going in for ostrich feather farming, with no standard work to guide them, they pioneered also the growing of lucerne in the district.

In Oscar Evans' scrapbook the Thornton expedition was frequently referred to, and the cuttings on this subject interested me because I had interviewed the late Mr R.W. Thornton in July 1960 at his retirement home in Bathurst when he and Mr J.M. Bowker were the only living survivors of the expedition which had travelled "to Fort Zinder, north of Timbuc-too."

At the time of the expedition, Mr Thornton was the principal of the Grootfontein College of Agriculture.

The ideal feather as envisaged by officials of the Department of Agriculture was a cross between the so-called Oudtshoorn feather which had length and breadth and the Evans type with its density and strength.

Because it was thought that the introduction of the Barbary bird would produce these qualities, Thornton set out with Jack Bowker and F.C. Smith in the greatest secrecy in August, 1911 to acquire these birds by fair means or foul.

They travelled six days up the Niger River, then as far as they could go by train and then on foot for the remainder of their journey to Kano, their headquarters from where they carried out their negotiations with the Arabs. Arab scouts were sent out in all directions to collect feathers and by this means Thornton was able to decide from where the desired birds were to be obtained. But, it

breeder of the finest double-fluff feathers in the country during the height of the ostrich feather boom.

The book is now in the possession of Mr Oscar Evans II, of Melrose, Bedford, who is also going in for ostriches, but not for the same reason as his grandfather. His object is to keep poachers and stock thieves off his farm, for woe betide the man who falls foul of an angry cock ostrich land they are quick with anger) and to keep down jointed cactus, a scourge to the farmer but a delicacy to the birds.

The boom-time farmers were a temperamental lot and fiercely resisted everything they considered false claims to fae fame. Controversies were conducted through the press for months at a time.

The greatest arguments arose over the merits of the Bar bary ostrich: whether or not the strain had been introduced into the Cape colony, and if so into whose birds and whether the Thornton expedition to West Africa to obtain this type of bird to improve the local product was worth while

It was only natural that in these controversies Oscar Evans I, as the recognised producer of the best feathers in the country, would take a prominent part and that his cuttings book should be of monumental proportions.

A feature of the Evans

Mogador, claimed he had reared his birds up to their present fine state through long and careful selection and breeding and had never introduced the strains of others for this purpose.

Mr J.H. Lovemore of Preston Park, Alexandria said: "No, Mr Evans's birds were reared from chicks Evans had bought from him in 1896 and which were descendant from birds he had purchased from Jack van der Riet and Hilton Barber." Thus the Evans type were the result of his, Mr Lovemore's breeding.

This was the commencement of a gentlemanly argument between those who sided with Mr Evans and those who supported Mr Lovemore. Evans featured prominently in the correspondence, maybe with an eye, too, on all the publici his birds were getting for the best cocks were fetching R2 000 and good couples R600 a pair.

Frequent references were made to the birds whose progeny were to give South Africa almost a monopoly in the world's ostrich feather trade. There were Kitty and Jack, belonging to Mr W. Weeks of Reed Valley, who produced Punch and Swartland, the latter being the father of Champion.

Champion and Punch, according to Mr S.G. Pringle, who once worked for Mr Evans, were among

"as long as there are women in the world, things of beauty like ostrich feathers and diamonds are not likely to go begging." In fact feathers, being perishable, had the advantage over diamonds.

In 1865 a census revealed that there were only 12 domesticated birds in the Cape Colony. In 1885 only eight districts in the Eastern Province had a thousand birds. By 1911 there were 746 736 ostriches distributed in 153 district of which only 25 had more than 10 000 birds each.

Oudtshoorn headed the list with 110 000 birds. Albany came second with 40 432, Uitenhage third with 20 203, Somerset East 35 578 and then Ladismith, Graaff-Reinet, Aberdeen, Jansenville and Middleburg in that order.

The value of exports in 1870 totalled R182 458 and by 1913 had risen to R5 771 496; but the decline of the ostrich feather was not due entirely to the advent of the motor car as so many people came to believe.

The first set back was caused by the Paris fashion designers who decreed against the use of feathers for a time. The second was the outbreak of World War I when all the countries who bought South African feathers were involved. The motor-car was only the last feather which brok the ostrich's back and plunged many farmers back in to insolvency.

Oscar Evans I was one of the few to anticipate the ostrich feather slump in time and while the industry was on the wane he was slowly building up a herd of Friesland cattle for which he eventually became equally well known.

Who was Oscar Evans? He was born in Graaff-Reinet in October, 1862, and died in August, 1917. He was a son of John Brown Evans who emigrated to the Cape in 1850 in time to join Currie's Horse in the frontier war of 1850. Twenty years later John Brown Evans journeyed into Asia Minor to import South Africa's first champion Angora rams.

To secure 30 of the best rams that money could buy, he travelled 1 200 miles to Angora and brought his little flock out on the backs of mules, each mule bearing two goats. He arrived home in 1880 and although his rams were the third lot to be imported to this coun they were the only ones of any use because the two previous lots were found on arrival, to have been castrated!

Government refused permission for the birds to be taken out of the country. With the aid of the Amir of Katsma the South Africans were able to get birds and chicks from the two walled towns of Damerghu and Adar and smuggle them down to Lagos and back to South Africa by sea in the S.S. Ethiopia.

They brought also two stallions, 20 marabouts and two goats; but when the cost of the Barbary Expedition as it was now being referred to, was learned to have been more than R17 000 the criticism was severe. But worse was to come.

The birds, which had been plucked bare, and the chic numbered at first 158. Six were presented to Nigeria for its aid to the expedition, two died before leaving Kano, three more died on the overland journey to the coast and seven died on the voyage from Lagos to Cape Town.

The loss continued: on the train from Cape Town to Middleburg five broke their legs and had to be destroyed. On arrival at Middleburg the birds stampeded and another three died as a result — so only 132 arrived at the Grootfontein College.

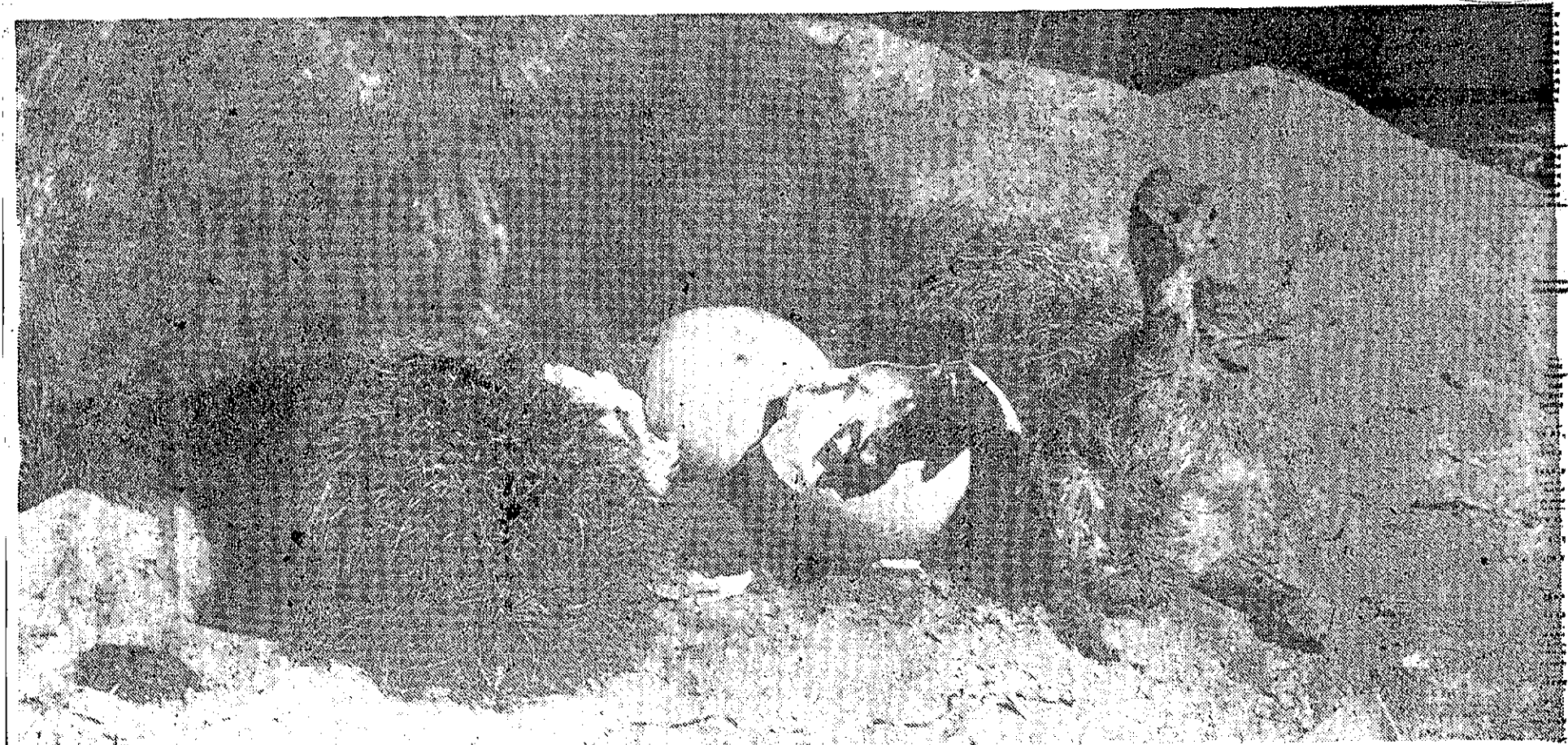
Grahamstown farmers who went to see the birds described them as rubbish and others complained that while the Government had spent all this money on the importation of birds, it had not spent a penny on some kind of ostrich bureau to assist the farmers.

Mr Thornton himself told me that his labours had been in vain because six months after his return to South Africa, war broke out and that was the end of the ostrich feather boom and the demand for birds of any kind.

The answer to the controversy about the strains was probably that everyone was right.

In 1876, Mr J.E. Cuyler, of Cuyler Manor, Uitenhage imported two pairs of Barbary birds through N. Adler and Company of Port Elizabeth. At one time a magnificent bird of his was stolen and never found again. Then, when he trekked to the Transvaal, he sold all his birds and their progeny to his brothers-in-law Mr Malcolm Stewart and Mr Hally Hudson and to Mr James Lamb.

The dispersal of Mr Cuyler's flock could well have resulted in the Barbary strain being introduced into many other areas without being recorded.



**Newly-hatched ostrich chicks, which, 80 years ago, would have been worth R600 when they were a few months older.**

*J. C. Leonard*

## Farming Page JAC VAN WYK

# Pat Cloete goes well with good grazing

Any experienced stock farmer knows that the two most important assets on a farm are good grazing and an ample fodder bank. You cannot buy grazing for your farm and to buy stockfeed is too costly.

That is how Mr G. P. (Pat) Cloete, of the farm Vaalhoek, Barkly East, sums up his approach towards successful stock farming.

"Natural veld is one of the most important and valuable resources on my farms," he said.

"For that reason I apply a meticulous grazing programme throughout the year. To do it correctly you have to know your veld as grass growth varies from one area to another.

"My aim with proper veld management is not only to protect my veld, but also to encourage natural plant growth for optimum results without disturbing the natural balance.

"My experience has taught me that no single factor is exclusively responsible for optimum production and that there is no universal system or

recipe for successful veld management.

"My veld control is based on the principle of rotation grazing from camp to camp with realistic stock loads.

Mr Cloete said he started farming in 1940 with a main interest in wool (merino) and industrial milk production (Friesians). In later years the farming pattern changed when Mr Cloete started to buy sheep on stock sales for fattening purposes. Wool production, however, remained the main interest.

"When I started to speculate with the sheep buying, my activities were

somewhat handicapped because of limited land," he said.

"After purchasing two farms at Elliot and another at Barkly East, I could plan on a much bigger scale for wool and beef production," Mr Cloete said.

Since then, with the Barkly East and Elliot farms, and the many camps ranging between 40 to 80 ha, Mr Cloete is in a position to move his stock at specific times from one farm to another. After the August lambing on the Barkly East farms the weaned lambs are moved to the Elliot farms where all lamels are

fattened for slaughtering.

Mr Cloete said he used to buy rams from "outside" breeders but for a number of years breeders in the Barkly East and Elliot districts "fulfilled" all his requirements.

"We have some of the top ram breeders in the country in these two districts and for any farmer here to buy rams from outside is quite unnecessary," he said.

Mr Cloete does not believe in regular veld burning.

"If, after three and more years, I find areas with too much dead grass, I will burn as the dead grass retards new

growth."

An important asset at the Barkly East farms is the ample supply of water from two rivers to irrigate a large area of land for lucerne and other fodder crops. Lucerne is also grown without irrigation.

"I believe in having a large supply of fodder, particularly for winter needs and dry periods. For this reason I do not sell lucerne. But, Mr Cloete added, with proper veld management there should be sufficient grazing even during lean periods.

"Although my stock numbers have nearly doubled since I started on

my present system, my camps could probably provide grazing for another 50 per cent increase. Experience, however, has taught me to be aware of the unexpected.

"Overgrazing veld cannot recover during dry periods, even with total reduction, and will take longer than one good season to recover its natural growth and spread. How do you feed animals during such periods and how do you find solutions for the resulting problems?"

"I am glad to say not many farmers have this negative approach of quantity in preference to quality."

Mr Cloete said he was tempted to start a merino stud but with existing demands he would leave it until son Stanley takes over responsibilities.

Horse breeding forms a minor interest at Vaalhoek — horses for everyday use on a farm. His one horse, Max, recently received the best farm horse (plaspard) award at the Barkly East show.



Mr Cloete and his horse Max

Vervaardig in Suid-Afrika

answer book is to be torn out. Books must be handed to the compiler an invigilator before leaving the examination room. Pieces of paper or other material must be put into the examination room with any person except the invigilator. Candidates are so instructed.

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# Springbook Sponsorship costs you 0,0008c per lb

THE cost of the springbook sponsorship programme for the year 1953-54 has been estimated at £1,000,000. This figure is based on the assumption that the average yield of the springbook will be 100 lb per acre and that the average cost of the programme will be £10 per acre. The programme is expected to benefit 100,000 acres of land.

Mr. J. D. Keir, Minister of Agriculture, said that the programme was a very important one and that it was essential that it should be carried out as far as possible. He said that the programme would be carried out on a voluntary basis and that farmers would be asked to contribute towards the cost of the programme.

Mr. Keir said that the programme would be carried out in the form of a grant-in-aid scheme. He said that the Government would contribute 75 per cent of the cost of the programme and that farmers would contribute the remaining 25 per cent. He said that the programme would be carried out on a regional basis and that the Government would contribute 75 per cent of the cost of the programme in each region.

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3/3/54

DA 6/5/80 (3-Gen.)

## Farm aid reinstated

**THE ASSEMBLY** — The government assistance scheme for farmland purchases had been reinstated and would be extended, Mr Sas Hayward, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, announced yesterday.

The scheme, scrapped in 1976, would extend this year to farmers on hired land, farm managers and share-croppers who had proven farming records.

Farmers who had abandoned agriculture through force of circumstances would also be helped to return to farming.

Mr Hayward said during the debate on the agriculture vote that the government would increase aid for workers' housing. — SAPA.

# 'Sour' bank named

3  
9/15/80

## Political Staff

THE ASSEMBLY. — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, this week confirmed that it was the Rand Bank in which the Wool Board invested more than R3-million and lost more than R500 000 in interest.

The bank was placed under curatorship on January 31, 1977 and the two investments — one of R2-million and one of R1 070 000 — were made only weeks before.

The first was on November 2, 1976 and the second on December 21.

Replying to a question by Mr Philip Myburgh, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, Mr Schoeman said "financial specialists" had been consulted beforehand.

They had been consulted "in regard to the rate of interest, period of investment, risk and preference of financial institutions".

The transaction had been negotiated by the board's financial controller and the Rand Bank manager in Port Elizabeth.

Em 9/5/80  
**Sowing and owing**

The sad thing about globular figures is that they are invariably calculated by statisticians who don't understand politics, and used by politicians who don't understand statistics. Hence the advocacy of inappropriate solutions to problems that are seen out of perspective.

The perennial debate about the indebtedness of agriculture illustrates this point.

As each new set of farm debt statistics is published, showing that agriculture has gone further into the red, politicians of all hues gasp with horror and advocate new measures to aggravate the problem. The favourite cries are for higher producer prices (which encourage farmers to borrow for expansion) and for cheaper credit (which can be guaranteed to lure them further into debt).

The agricultural unions argue that the R3 billion owed by farmers is alarmingly

high in relation to agricultural output, which is expected to be in the vicinity of R4.5 billion this year. Others have pointed out that the figure doesn't appear at all high when viewed alongside the value of the capital assets employed in agriculture - calculated at about R22.5 billion in 1978.

With two years of inflation, a substantial build-up in stock numbers, and some fixed improvements made since then, an updated balance sheet might be expected to show about R28 billion as collateral. Add in a few hundred millions for growing crops, consumable stores and reserves held by control boards and it looks, at first sight, as though the farmers have only borrowed against 10% of their collateral.

But, as usual, the comfortable average

glosses over the uncomfortable extremes.

At one end of the scale are the ultra-cautious landowners in whose family annals the Thirties still loom large. In the better extensive grazing regions, in particular, there is still a healthy regard for the old maxim "neither a borrower nor a lender be . . . ." For other reasons there are also a lot of sugar, timber, mohair, fruit, and even maize farmers without a debt on their books.

Then too, there are the farms owned by city investors, part-timers and publicly quoted companies. Their assets and production figures are globulated with the rest in the agricultural totals. But their owners, if they have debts at all, will often have good reason to keep them in

associated or holding companies, which can make better use of the interest commitments to reduce group taxation. Such financial aceties presumably result in a certain amount of agricultural debt being hidden elsewhere.

So the rest of the agricultural community is much deeper into debt than the averages would at first suggest.

Both the 1977 committee of inquiry into rural reform and, more recently, the Jacobs Commission, which investigated farm finance, made some progress in analysing what was owed by whom, and where. Briefly, the small farmers are in worse trouble than the big ones, the irrigation and crop farmers are more heavily geared than the livestock ones and there

are certain (fairly well-defined) problem areas in which the farms are too small to support an economic extensive livestock operation and too poorly endowed to compete with anything else. And not surprisingly, there is a tendency for young farmers to be more highly geared than older ones.

So what?

Unfortunately, neither of the inquiries has really thrown much light on why farmers get into debt, or why they shouldn't. For this reason they have, to date, contributed few ideas of any real or lasting value to agricultural policy makers.

It is perhaps early days to criticise the Jacobs team which has been asked to

continue its work as a permanent commission. But whether it turns into a stimulating think-tank or degenerates into a sop to the pressure groups will depend upon its ability to ask searching questions beginning with the word "why".

A lot of these answers are likely to prove unpalatable to the banker and farmer representatives who sit on the committee.

Why do farmers get into debt? Some, no doubt, are peasants who can't help accumulating red ink, either because they farm badly or because they don't understand what they are doing. But the majority, one must assume, are fully conscious of what they are up to. Like all other businessmen, they borrow most heavily when the future looks brightest, when interest rates are too low, when tax considerations induce them to expand, and when willing lenders establish to their own satisfaction that they constitute good credit risks.

Some 47 000 white farms have vanished from the globulated statistics during the last 30 years. The majority of them have been absorbed into one or other of the 70 000 that remain. In the meantime, agricultural land prices have multiplied eight-fold.

Those figures hardly tell a tale of distress or forced selling. They could, however, indicate that the lion's share of the R3 billion line of credit has been invested in the logical expansion of profitable businesses or, more worryingly, into the aggrandizement of existing landholdings to take advantage of the capital gains which result when too much money is sent chasing too few hectares.



**LOCUSTS** *Fm 9/5/80 3/94*  
**Spray those swarms**

At the latest count, 23 magisterial districts had been affected by the locusts which are currently plaguing the Northern Cape, far Western Transvaal and North Western Free State. The locusts are too late to do any damage to this year's summer grains, but they are tucking into the newly planted winter wheat and barley just emerging from the ground.

Isak Venter, assistant director of the division of plant protection, says the attack is the worst of its kind since 1934, but with effective spraying he expects to have it under control within weeks.

Once the wheat has developed its second set of roots it should recover from a defoliation, and there is no reason to believe that yields will be affected unduly. But younger plants can be killed off although their first shoots are eaten before a proper rooting system has been

...w, why, and where this particular swarm started is still something of a mystery. The species concerned is not the grasshopper-based "brown locust", which is under constant surveillance in case of an outbreak. This one is the so-called "migratory locust" which seldom occurs unless a swarm is blown south. ...the swarms seem to have surprised everyone by gathering locally.

The other species which sometimes threatens us is the red locust from Central and East Africa.

Inter-governmental co-operation through the International Red Locust Con-

trol Service (IRLCS) brought the problem under control during the Fifties. With few outbreaks during the following decade, and with a deteriorating political climate, the IRLCS folded in 1970.

The problem soon began to get worse again. So a second line of defence was set up under the auspices of Sarcus (the Southern Africa Research Commission for the Conservation and Utilization of the Soil). Membership includes Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South West Africa and the LBS countries (Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland).

Dr Dick Browne, who runs the Sarcus red locust control operations from Pretoria, says that poorly equipped control measures in East and Central Africa have resulted in an increased risk of outbreaks up there. But with help from SA, Sarcus should experience no difficulty in containing the problem further south. Even so, he says, swarm sitings have increased during the 1970s.

3-Generals

The chief director crops and pastures of the Department of Agriculture Technical Services, Professor S.A. Hulme, says crop production in the years ahead will demand "tremendous and purposeful scientific inputs."

He said effective dissemination and applica-

## JAC VAN WYK'S FARMING PAGE

tion of scientific know-how would be required. The university had an important role to play through training at the

highest level, in depth research and original thinking.

Fertilisers alone accounted for 30 to 35 per cent of the production costs of maize. It was essential therefore that the emphasis fell firstly on cultivars that used plant nutrient elements more efficiently, were more tolerant to soil acidity and the accompanying aspects of trace-element deficiencies and toxicity, as well as those which were more resistant to pests and disease.

He also stressed more attention would have to be given to the promotion of biological plant nutrient supply and the uptake of nutrients by plant.

Since cultivation costs were now becoming exorbitant, the relation between increased yields through improved

## Why more science will be needed on land

cultivars would also have to be borne in mind.

Professor Hulme said we had come to the crossroad where multidisciplinary inputs were essential for an agricultural breakthrough. Greater scientific inputs were necessary to promote crop production and such a breakthrough was a prerequisite to further development.

The wealth of unused, available technology, and the need for new technology were of primary concern.

There was, Professor Hulme said, the need for an urgent quest to be initiated for new, additional technology which could be used during the latter half of the present decade if crop production were to meet these challenges.

3/2/80 (104)  
NDM 12/5/80

# Mangope pledge on white farms

By SIMON WILSON

Reporter

THE BophuthaTswana government has announced a new deal for white farmers in the consolidation of the newly-independent state.

The president, Chief Lucas Mangope, said at the weekend that his government would draw up a new formula for the incorporation of white farmlands into BophuthaTswana, which would be submitted to the South African Government for consideration.

He said that, "in sharpest contra-distinction to South African practice", his government could not condone the notion of forcing every farmer affected by consolidation to sell his land.

"We do not only want the farmer to stay on the farm, we also want him to remain the owner. In fact, it is only as an owner that he can remain on the farm.

"On account of the pressures among my over-crowded people to acquire any available land," Chief Mangope said, leasing farms to former owners would be unrealistic and "a political absurdity".

The new formula involves paying out farmers 30% of the farm's official valuation before incorporation. Another 80% of it would be guaranteed if the farmer sold out within five years.

Farmers could remain South African citizens, while qualifying for all financial and technical aid offered by BophuthaTswana.

Other incentives would be the absence of general sales tax and BophuthaTswana's lower income tax rates.

Chief Mangope said, however, he eventually wanted to see BophuthaTswanan citizens acquiring a much greater stake — and ultimately the majority stake — in the state's economy.

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BOOK

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

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Examiners' Initials		

Subject ECONOMICS IA  
(to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

Paper No. IA  
(to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

**NOTE CAREFULLY**

1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.
4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

**WARNING**

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

**Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University**

purchased as they are used.

The alternative is to approach Escom directly. When Escom erects the line, the farmer is not even given the opportunity of paying for it outright. Instead he must commit himself and his successors to pay a monthly line charge (registered against the property) in perpetuity. The monthly charge, which can now run into hundreds of rands a month, is often exorbitant for a farmer who may need power only for his farmhouse and workshop.

Hence the number of farmers who still use oil-guzzling lighting plants and diesel or petrol powered stationary engines when electricity could have been cheaper. Hence, also, the angry resolutions at agricultural congresses.

### Comforts of life

Until quite recently the domestic and national inconvenience of farms without mains power could be laughed off by the government and tolerated by the individuals concerned. But times have changed. The absence of electricity in remote rural areas is now undoubtedly a significant contributory cause of rural depopulation. Farm managers, and more especially their wives, are refusing to accept jobs where they can't have the normal comforts of life. Some farmers, who haven't got electricity and who can't afford diesel at today's prices, have stopped irrigating and opted for more extensive farming systems. And now there is the problem of security and the fear of terrorism. All farmers know that in Rhodesia it was the unlit farms and the ones with (switch-offable) lighting plants that were attacked. If terrorism escalates it will be the farms without mains electricity that will be abandoned first.

Four things need to be done before it is too late:

Firstly, Escom needs to be relieved of its monopoly powers in rural areas. At present it is illegal for a farmer to generate more than 15 kW of electricity on his own property and illegal for him to sell power to a neighbour. This rule deprives many individuals of electricity altogether, it deprives the rural areas of employment and it means that a lot of fossil fuels are wasted where small scale hydro-electric power would be very much cheaper.

Secondly, Escom must allow rural co-operatives and private concerns the right to buy electricity in bulk and retail it on whatever terms the local communities find acceptable. This is how electricity is supplied to hundreds of thousands of American farmers.

Thirdly, if the act stands in the way, the act must be changed.

Fourthly, to compensate for the damage it has done in the past, the government should be prepared to subsidise rural electricity supplies in the interest of security, national fuel economy and rural re-population. Whatever it decides, government must act soon.

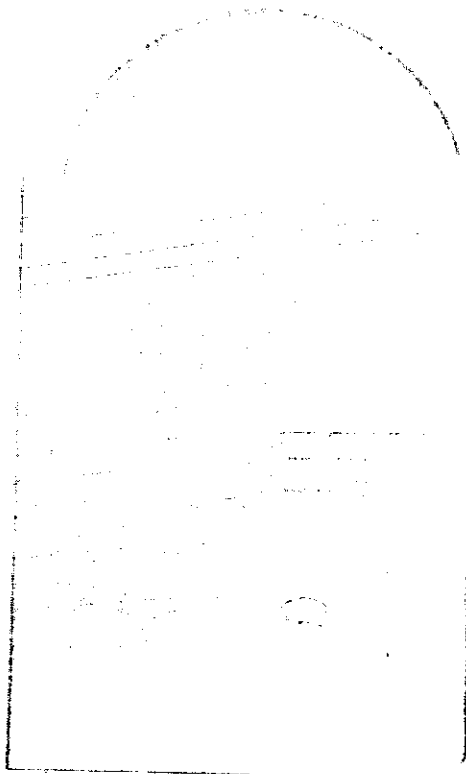
Fm 11/3/80

## FARM ELECTRICITY

### Escom's unfairness

The majority of farmers believe that they are the victims of Escom discrimination. Year after year the topic is aired at agricultural congresses. Though the wording of their complaints changes annually, the response they get is always the same.

Escom doesn't discriminate against or in favour of anybody, they are told. The



Escom . . . too big for farmers

Electricity Act of 1958 stipulates that no consumer should be subsidized at the expense of any other consumer, and that Escom must stick rigidly to the rules that were laid down for it.

Then why are farm electricity bills so high? And why do farmers have to commit themselves to hefty line charges that will continue into perpetuity when urban consumers can be connected to mains electricity without making a similar commitment?

The immediate reply is that farmers are expensive to serve because they need miles of line and use precious little power when it is installed. Each farm must pay for its own supply, and the only way to guarantee that is to make farm customers pay for the line and the current separately.

That sounds fair enough in principle and might indeed be genuinely fair if only Escom was a straightforward commercial organisation, subject to competition and all the normal commercial disciplines. But it isn't: Escom is a statutory body with monopoly powers. And because it has geared itself up to wholesale electricity to large urban, mining and industrial consumers rather than small, widely dispersed rural ones, the farmers still have a case when they complain of discrimination.

### Cumbersome

With two dozen enormous power stations and an investment of R6 billion, Escom is simply too big and cumbersome to provide an economic retail service to every potential rural customer in need of a sporadic five kilowatts at the nether end of a dusty track. Over 90% of Escom's sales are accounted for by 120 huge consumers. By comparison, all 40 000 farm users already connected buy little more electricity in a year than a big mine uses in a month.

In urban areas Escom has recognised that it is better equipped to be a wholesaler than a retailer. It therefore sells electricity in bulk to the municipal authorities which, in turn, finance and operate their own retail distribution networks. The municipalities charge their customers however the local rate payers see fit. Cross subsidisation, which is forbidden to Escom and therefore to its farmer clients, is perhaps the rule rather than the exception in town.

This gives rise to a number of anomalies. Some lucky farmers, living close to willing municipalities, buy their electricity through them at prices and on terms which are no different from those levied in the high street. Others, living further out, enter into individual agreements with their local town suppliers. This usually involves the payment of a flat sum (which can extend to five or even six figures) or instalments to be paid off over a fixed period of years, to finance the construction of the line. Thereafter, units are

SNUM(JJ) \* (C)  
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# How Land Consolidation Hits the Young Farmers

THE SENATE. — It was a disturbing fact that 38% of South African farmers were older than 55 years of age, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Herman Oelrich, said yesterday.

Speaking to a motion that the Senate go into committee on

Estimates of Expenditure, he said young men were no longer interested in becoming farmers as they could find more remunerative employment in the cities.

One of the largest contributing factors to this tendency was the uncertainty created through consolidation of land for the black homelands.

Young farmers simply were not prepared to build up farms while the fear existed that they could be expropriated for consolidation.

Dr. A. J. Visser (NP) said the farming sector of South Africa was not creating riches but was a very important source of labour opportunities.

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77 COM1
78 EOL
79 WR1
80 C
81 C START A
82 C
83 REA
84 WR1
85 C
86 COM1
87 KJF1
88 KSI
89 TRU
90 TNE
91 C
92 C CHECK T
93 C
94 COM1
95 IF
96 COM1
97 GO
98 C
99 C WRITE T
100 C
101 COM1
102 PRE
103 PRE
104 PRE
105 WR1
106 PRE
107 PRE
108 PRE
109 PRE
110 PRE
111 PRINT 255
112 TOTPDS=0
113 TOTARS=0
114 C
115 C READ PRIMING RECORD FOR FIRST TEST
116 C
117 READ(15,15,DIR=45) INEW
118 FORMAT(15)
119 CLOSE, FALSE

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81,57 30

FM 23/5/80

FARM TAX

Is it fair?

3 general

3



# UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN EXAMINATION ANSWER

Although several economic studies have demonstrated that big farms are less efficient than medium-sized ones, SA's tax

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(3) blank.

policies still encourage the former to continue growing, and to expand beyond their managerial capabilities. Meanwhile, in bidding against each other for a limited supply of land, they combine to shut newcomers out of the industry altogether, and raise farm prices beyond the reach of their neighbours who have yet to exhaust the economies of scale.

Contrary to popular belief, farmers do pay taxes. Although it is true that they have been allowed wide loopholes, they still have to content themselves with a humble annual income or go through the most amazing gyrations if they want to clamber through the net unscathed.

But therein lies a difference between town and country. For one reason or another the proverbial "disincentive to industry" seems to come into operation earlier and manifest itself more acutely in the farm business. So a lot of farmers do go through these gyrations or learn to take things easy. Whereas an industrialist will yield a third or even half of his income in taxes without being deflected from his industry, the farmer tends to opt out or take off in a new direction instead. He can either sit back and take things easy or expand his way out of the Receiver's reach.

Consider first the ease of sitting back. With house, milk, meat, vegetables, motor cars and domestic servants thrown in with the job, the typical family farmer has no need for heavy cash drawings. The rustic doesn't have to commute expensively to work or display himself in natty clothes when he gets there.

Look next, and more critically, at the alternative of expansion. For every squire content to rest upon his economic laurels, South Africa can probably boast two or three who want their family fortunes to grow as fast as their fertilised crops and best fed animals.

Most of the tax concessions and loop-

holes which are purposely left open for farmers, are meant to encourage this latter group to expand by stabilising their incomes and helping them to recycle profits back into their farms.

By pretending that he thinks they are worth only R40 instead of R200, the Receiver allows the stock farmer to hide R250 every time he adds another cow to his breeding herd.

By averting his eyes when a farmer fails to attach any value to growing crops, consumable stores and inventories of raw materials, the Receiver aids and abets the bloke who plants more crops each year, the one who establishes new orchards or forest plantations, the one who builds up a fodder bank and the one who buys his fertiliser a year in advance.

### Avoiding disclosure

By allowing a farmer to write off the total cost of new machinery in the year of purchase, he is most generous to the big crop farmer who wants to replace hand labour and accelerate into the 21st Century. By treating capital expenditure on fixed improvements as though it was a running cost, he eggs on the livestock farmer who wants to emulate Rainbow Chickens.

But each of these concessions is of only temporary value in sheltering the farmer who doesn't continue to expand. One can't accumulate fodder banks and stocks of fertiliser indefinitely. There is a limit to the number of animals that can be held on one farm. Nobody wants to replace all his equipment two years running. So the tax avoider soon reaches a stage where he must purchase more land to avoid disclosing the procrastinated profits that lie hidden beneath the paper work.

Already overcapitalised in stock, stores and machinery, he has little difficulty in finding the wherewithal to stock and operate a second farm. His existing one pro-

vides ideal collateral. And the agreeable Receiver, who would pounce on any income paid in partial compensation for the declining value of a positive bank balance, is ever eager to allow outflowing interest as a deductible expense.

Thus the prudent and successful farmer is encouraged to borrow depreciating money to acquire more appreciating land. And since high output farming is a management intensive business, he generally becomes a less efficient farmer to boot.

The fact that 47 000 independent farms have been absorbed into larger units in the last 30 years is not entirely due to the errors and omissions of successive Ministers of Finance. But tax policies and inflation deserve a large share of the blame. It is almost entirely due to these that the land in question has gravitated into the hands of a few thousand big and ageing landholders when, for the benefit and security of the country as a whole, it would have been better if more of it had been occupied by smaller fry.

Unfortunately these are not problems that can be solved by changes in the provisions for income tax alone. A higher rate of income tax or a closing of loopholes would destroy incentive and deflect a lot of farmers from labour intensive enterprises which are only just worth the candle at the moment. Lower taxes, in an inflationary world, would put more funds into the acquisitive hands of the largest landholders.

It is for this reason that some of our agricultural economists have been taking a fresh look at property taxes. A land or site value, tax, levied on the rental value of agricultural property, would seem to offer several advantages if it could be substituted for, or partially replace, income tax for farmers. By hitting every landowner, it would stop the idle from resting on their laurels and tying up a good deal of our agricultural potential in the process. It would ensure that only the genuinely efficient could continue to expand. It would shake unproductive land out of the hands of the idle rich into those of the industrious poor and encourage the former to lease productive land to the latter to recoup the taxes through rent. It would help to keep property prices within reach of the young agricultural graduates who ought to be populating the platteland. It would help alleviate rural unemployment by dissuading farmers from buying expensive new machinery that they really don't need. What's more, it would be easier to collect and impossible to avoid.



nd to possible exclusion from the

General

# 'Red' chicory after surplus

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — Chicory is being imported — much of it from behind the Iron Curtain — only two years after 1 200 000kg of surplus South African chicory lay unsold in America.

Chairman of the Chicory Control Board, Mr A Bakkes, said about 6 000 tons would be imported from brokers in France and Germany this season to compensate for the crop shortage expected because of drought in the Alexandria area, which produces 98% of South Africa's chicory.

Imported chicory, which was grown largely behind the Iron Curtain, would supplement this year's demand for about 17 500 000kg, needed in increasingly popular coffee blends and substitutes, Mr Bakkes said.

Rain was essential during the current planting season. Late rainfall would delay crop production by months or limit the yield severely, Mr Bakkes said.

Farmers in the area say rain in the past six months had been inadequate.

An executive member of the Chicory Producers' Association, Mr Paul Howarth, of the farm Richmond, near Alexan-

dia, told of the turbulent history of chicory production.

"After 1977, when surpluses were unsuccessfully shipped to the United States, chicory farmers were discouraged by over-production and many turned to wheat production as an alternative.

"Only now are we getting 'agterskot' payments for the giant 1977 crop.

"And although prices have now increased tremendously, drought is hampering us from meeting high demands."

The general manager of the board, Mr B F Weich, said it was difficult to gauge chicory demand until world coffee production was established, because chicory was used as a coffee blend.

However, the recent boom in chicory as a health beverage had created a new sales record, Mr Weich said.

He said that after its boost on agricultural shows, including the Rand Show, a new all-chicory coffee substitute was selling well throughout the country. "People have realised that chicory is not a poison and are buying coffee blends with higher chicory content," Mr Weich said.

first attempted to stem it in the 1940s.

The underlying reason is that individual farmers are operating in a legal and economic environment which divorces

their own interests from those of the community at large.

The optimum stocking rate, in terms of the long run productivity of the veld, is

much lower than the best stocking rate from the short run view of each of the graziers who occupies it.

Within limits, overstocking improves

## HOMELAND FARMING <sup>FM 30/5/80</sup> **Drought disaster** ~~FOR~~ <sup>3 general</sup>

Individual estimates suggest that as many as 150 000 cattle will die in KwaZulu this winter as a result of the drought. That represents more than one beast in 10 out of a total count put at 1,43m. Comparable numbers of animals could be doomed in other homelands and independent states.

In trying to keep their legs pointing in the right direction, roughly 3,5m head of cattle, 3,5m sheep and 3m goats compete for a sparse supply of grazing in those parts of SA and its erstwhile homelands that are farmed by blacks. Almost the

whole of that area is overstocked and overgrazed. Moreover, this is not a one year phenomenon which can be forgotten as soon as the drought is broken.

In the short-term, the owners of the animals will lose valued assets and some will be forced to move with the remnants of their herds to find enough drinking water and dry roughage to keep them alive. Yet in the longer run, the ecological consequences of soil erosion are more disturbing. Scientists have calculated that as many as 400m tons of soil are washed down our rivers in an average year. When heavy rains follow a prolonged drought, the loss is even greater.

Anyone who flies over the patchwork of black and white farmed areas in the eastern half of southern Africa can see for himself that, although white landowners are not blameless, the homelands and reserves are the worst affected.

Studies show that different rivers can transport anything from 100 to 600 tons of soil a year per square kilometre of catchment area. The Umkomaas River, for example, is estimated to carry away no less than 7,5 t of soil each day during the rainy months of February and March from every square kilometre of its badly overgrazed catchment area.

Downstream the same eroded soil adds to a second ecological nightmare. River estuaries and dams are being silted up at an alarming rate, to the detriment of fish (which forfeit their breeding grounds) and the Department of Water Affairs (which loses storage capacity). Silting is such a problem on the Caledon River, for instance, that one third of the capacity of the Welgedacht Dam was lost only three years after it had been built.

Stock farmers, and particularly black stock farmers, ought to keep fewer animals. Everybody knows that. Yet, in spite of half a century's worth of exhortation, subsidies, prosecutions and cajoling, the majority are in no better mood for de-stocking than they were when the agricultural scientists first took notice of the problem in the 1920s and the authorities



# More relief for sheep farmers in drought area

*Cape Times 5/6/80 3 Genl*

ADDITIONAL relief measures for sheep farmers in drought stricken areas of the Cape Province were announced yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman.

"The assistance is aimed at enabling small stock farmers to retain a greater percentage of young breeding stock in their flocks and also places greater emphasis on the recovery and conservation of the veld," he said in a press release.

Existing relief measures were being extended and adapted from June 1.

"It has been decided to apply the scheme in all the listed pasturage distress areas, to breeding stock only, instead of on all stock units, but to increase the maximum number which thus qualifies from 1 000 to 1 200 breeding stock units.

In addition, it has been de-

ecided to increase the subsidy by 60 percent or R1,80 per head per month in the declared disaster areas which at present comprise the magisterial districts of Beaufort-West, Calvinia, Carnarvon, Clanwilliam, Fraserburg, Kenhardt (including Pofadder), Laingsburg (wards 3 and 4), Namaqualand, Prince Albert (wards 3, 4 and 5), Sutherland, Vanrhynsdorp, Vredendal (wards 3, 7, 8 and 9), Victoria West and Williston.

Farmers in the abovementioned disaster areas, who do not avail themselves of the loan scheme also qualify for the higher subsidy.

"It is hoped that the additional relief measures will place sheep farmers in the drought-stricken areas in a better position to recover financially after the drought conditions have come to an end."

— Sapa

# Wool clip <sup>(3) General</sup> up despite ~~3/10/80~~ drought <sup>100M</sup> 6/6/80

SOUTH AFRICAN wool production in the 1979-80 marketing season — September to June — rose 700 000 kg to 99 500 000 kg from 98 800 000 kg in 1978-79 in spite of the effects of one of the most devastating droughts this century in wool-growing areas, says the Wool Board's marketing director, Mr Jan van Wyk.

The drought continues in large parts of the principal production areas.

All districts to the west of the Cape Town-Johannesburg railway line last had good rains in April 1977. Major growing areas in this region are Calvinia, Sutherland, Fraserburg and Beaufort West.

Indications are that drought is also spreading to districts east of the railway line, the eastern parts of the Karoo, Cape Midlands and along the coast from Plettenberg Bay to Natal, he says.

Last month, a Wool Board spokesman said the effects of the drought would only become fully apparent next season.

Mr Van Wyk says that at this stage the best that can be hoped for is unchanged output in 1980-81, but much depends on whether rain falls in the coming months.

The 1979-80 season's production was down from an estimate of 100 600 000 kg in April, and this was mainly attributable to the drought.

The 1979-80 season ended last week with a total 93 900 000 kg of producers' wool sold at auctions compared with 91 400 000 kg in the previous season. Average clean sale price was 22.5c a kg — 11.1% up from 20.2c a kg in 1978-79.

Mr Van Wyk says demand, the strengthening of the rand and an increase in the forward dollar discount rate were some of the most important factors, which particularly in the latter part of the season, exerted an adverse influence on the market trend.

However, the value of the clip should exceed R200-million against R181 400 000 in the previous year. The final figure will be available shortly.

Carryover stocks at the end of the season totalled 54 700 bales — down from 68 764 bales the previous season.

Compulsory sheep dipping significantly affected the shearing pattern in the 1979-80 season.

The average percentage of wool sold at auction in 1979-80 rose to 97.89% from 94.97% in 1978-79.

The first sale of the 1980-81 season will be held in Port Elizabeth on September 4, and the last in Durban on June 4 next year. — Reuter.

SOUTH African consumers — among the most pampered in the Western world — are unaware of, or are indifferent to, the massive problems confronting farmers.

This, according to the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr. Jaap Wilkens, is the view of probably the vast majority of South African farmers.

Mr Wilkens says the problems which include disastrous, unpredictable droughts, a cost spiral unmatched in any other sector of the economy, and a risk factor which would be unacceptable in commerce and industry, will run the country into food shortages before the end of the century unless farmers are paid prices which encourage production.

Mainly because of the shrinking profits from farming the number of farmers has decreased from an estimated 106 000 in 1960 to about 70 000 today, according to agricultural economists.

If the trend continues a large percentage of the expected 50-million people who will be living in South Africa in the year 2 000 will be hungry.

To double food production — because this is what 50-million people will mean — by the end of the century new methods of production and cultivars will have to be exploited.

Economists point out that South Africa has exhausted its potential to expand agricultural land. In fact the total area available is shrinking.

Expansion of urban areas, mining development, the construction of new highways and, particularly, the purchase of land to consolidate the black homelands is eroding the land available for food production.

Agricultural expansion, the economists say, must be vertical.

The country has run out of land for horizontal development.

And the advice of a top US State Department economist, Dr J Meissner, is: "If you want to raise more food, raise food prices."

Speaking recently to the Society for International Development, Dr Meissner said this had been shown in Argentina, Taiwan, Korea, Kenya and even in China.

All found that when prices rise, production rises follow.

Low prices or small profit margins for farmers had the opposite effect, Dr Meissner stresses.

The chairman of the Government's standing committee on agriculture, Dr A S Jacobs, said the problem boiled down to finding ways and means of keeping the farmers on their farms.

He warns that the public will have to accept if food is to continue to be available in quantities which will exclude the risk of hunger among the lower income groups farmers will have to be fully compensated for inflation — not only production cost inflation but the inflation of their own living costs.

The difficulties confronting farmers, it is claimed, are reflected in the steady decline in

# The farmer's lot is not a happy one in South Africa

③ General  
RDM 13/6/80.

The idea that the South African farmer has a licence to grow currency along with his crops is mistaken these days. GERALD REILLY of the Rand Daily Mail's Pretoria Bureau examines the dilemma facing the agriculture industry in general and the farmer in particular.

their numbers.

Dr Jacobs says the small farmer is gradually disappearing. To survive under current conditions of spiralling input costs, farmers have to go for larger turnovers because of the small profit margins.

A common criticism from consumer organisations is that there is a lack of proper planning in agriculture, and that large surpluses could be avoided with greater co-ordination of effort.

Dr Jacobs points out, however, that farmers are individuals with strong ideas of their own on how to use their land, and would kick against any system aimed at large production planning.

There were also almost insurmountable problems, including financial, associated with switching to alternative crops and in many parts of South Africa's farming areas there were virtually no options.

Agricultural economists point out, too, that because of South Africa's unpredictable climate it was impossible to trim down plantings to a level which would neatly meet the demand.

This was why in some years huge surpluses were produced, and in others barely enough to meet the local demand.

Dr Jacobs says the Department of Agriculture has estimated that the average income of the country's cattle farmers is about R4 000. It is obvious therefore that a large section of the farming community is struggling to make ends meet.

The Minister of Agriculture has emphasised the strategic importance of South Africa being able to continue to produce food surpluses.

Dr Jacobs says it should be part of the overall security strategy that the country's farming industry be in a position to supplement food production in neighbouring countries.

The vital importance of the industry's being able to produce sufficient food at reasonable prices for South Africa's own population is obvious.

There are strong socio-political reasons for unrest in South Africa which would be seriously aggravated by hunger.

There was virtually no unexploited farmland left, and with the consolidation of the homelands the amount of land available for farming would continue to shrink.

Higher production would, therefore, depend on the use of new cultivars, new production techniques and generally greater efficiency on farms.

Dr Jacobs says by any standards South Africa is a poor agricultural country with often disastrous variations in climate. This year, for instance, vast areas in northern Natal, the far Western Transvaal, North West Cape and parts of the Free State suffered heavy crop losses because of drought.

Dr Jacobs points out that this is why when prices are fixed the ability of the lowest paid consumer to pay is taken into account.

Like the losses on exported surpluses, which are paid for by production levies, this further minimises farmers' incomes.

These are some of the factors contributing to the financial plight of farmers, and to the move away from the farming industry.

Dr Jacobs says if the industry is to be in a position to feed the country's population of between 40-million and 50-million by the end of the century, production will have to be intensified on the limited land area which can be farmed economically in South Africa.

The risk factor in agriculture in South Africa, always great, has been intensified in recent years by the explosive price inflation of essential input ma-

terials — fertilizers, fuel, wages and the costs of farm machinery and vehicles.

Typical, according to Dr Jacobs, is what happened in the Eastern Transvaal last year. Maize yields there fell to two bags a hectare because of drought compared with 18 bags in a year of more normal rainfall.

This, and similar drought losses in other areas of agriculture, are crippling many farmers whose resources have been stretched to the limit.

Vegetable farms in the Lowveld have become potential disaster areas. The rapid increase in transport and other costs has wiped out profit margins, and the incentive to produce has virtually disappeared.

Dr Jacobs says this is one of the country's gravest farming problems.

"But although vegetable farmers are in a particularly serious position many other farmers are surviving on the brink of disaster.

"A bad drought or serious crop disease could push them over the edge."

The South Africa Agricultural Union says if an effort made to limit surpluses in a planned production programme, consumers and the Government would have to carry the risk of paying inflated prices for food imports if, because of drought, the planned crop fell below local demand.

For instance, the SAAU's economist, Mr B J Willemsse, points out imported grains would cost South Africa up to 40% more than the local price.

Only dairy products can be imported at prices lower than the local price because of the 50% subsidy by European Economic Community countries for dairy product exports.

Imported sirloin, for instance, would cost R7 a kg against a local price of about R2,80, deboned meat from New

Zealand would cost R7,47 a kg compared with R2,69 a kg locally.

According to the Department of Agriculture's price index, farming costs increased by 25% last last season.

"The farmer is helpless to compensate for these price rises. For instance, 43% of the estimated production cost of R17 a ton for maize is for fuel. Another 17% is for fertilizers.

"Last year fuel increased by more than 140%."

Mr Willemsse says farmers incomes declined 18,4% in 1975, in 1976 by 6,6%, in 1977 it rose by 2,2%, in 1978 it fell again by 4,3% and last year the decline was 7,1%.

Between 1972 and 1979 farmers outstanding debts increased from R1 521-million to R2 904-million. In the same period farmers indebtedness to agricultural co-ops increased by 34,1%.

In 1979 farmers cut from the consumer price of grain was 35,7%, from meat 53,5%, fats and oils 32,3%, dairy products and eggs 62,7%, vegetables 34% and fruit 36%.

"The farmer's situation is therefore patently precious. His income is more often than not too small to pay for the next season's plantings and he has to go hat in the hand to borrow from the co-ops.

"And if his creditworthiness has run out there he is virtually dependent on Government charity."

Mr Willemsse said it was important that consumers should realise that if they wanted assured supplies of basic foods, they would have to be prepared to make it profitable for farmers to produce.

"As things are at the moment, there are large numbers of farmers on the verge of selling out. If the trend continues it can have disastrous consequences for South Africa," Mr Willemsse warns.

EMBARGO: 17H00 OP WOENSDAG 25 JUNIE 1980

Let op tyd en datum van  
STRENG EMBARGO

3

GESAMENTLIKE PERSVERKLARING DEUR SY EDELE  
HENDRIK SCHOEMAN, MINISTER VAN LANDBOU EN VISSERIE  
EN SY EDELE SENATOR O.P.F. HORWOOD,  
MINISTER VAN FINANSIES

#### BYSTANDSPROGRAM AAN GRAANBOERE IN DIE SOMERREËNVALGEBIED

As gevolg van die voortgesette droogte wat gedurende die 1979/80-seisoen in sekere dele van die Wes-Transvaal, die Suidwestelike en Noordwes-Vrystaat, Noord-Kaapland en Noord-Natal ondervind is, het die Regering, ná vertoë deur die georganiseerde landbou, en op aanbeveling van die Jacobskomitee, besluit om aan boere in daardie gebiede, wat as gevolg van die droogte misoeste gehad het, finansiële bystand te verleen ten einde hulle in staat te stel om hul produksie gedurende die 1980/81-plantseisoen voort te sit.

Die maatreëls behels die volgende:

1. Die rentesubsidie van  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$  per jaar wat van toepassing is op die boere se oorlaatskulde by hul koöperasies ten opsigte van produksiekrediet aan hul toegestaan vir die 1978/79-seisoen, word vir 'n verdere jaar, dit wil sê tot aan die einde van Augustus 1981 verleng.
2. Die gemelde rentesubsidie word uitgebrei na oorlaatskulde van boere by hul koöperasies soos op 31 Augustus 1980, ten opsigte van produksiekrediet toegestaan vir die 1979/80-seisoen. Dié subsidie is betaalbaar vanaf 1 September 1980 en geld tot 31 Augustus 1981.
3. Produksiekrediet, insluitende voerlenings, deur koöperasies aan hul lede vir die 1980/81-seisoen, wat oor 'n maksimum termyn van 4 jaar terugbetaalbaar sal wees.

Die voorgaande reëlins sal van toepassing wees in die volgende landdrosdistrikte:

/2.....

# Eastern Cape farming boost

An agricultural resource unit has been established in the Eastern Cape with the aim of promoting resource and area development in the region.

The task of the unit which is based at the Dohne Research Station involves the development of farming systems through optimum resource planning systems.

In fulfilling these objectives the section is responsible for:

The direction, co-ordination, control and carrying out of resource surveys by regional personnel.

Lending support to the extension services to enlighten the farming community about the latest developments in resource classification and farm planning.

Collecting and storing all available resource

data. Co-ordinating and controlling the collection of production and technique norm data.

Compiling suitable systems of resources classification, in co-operation with research and extension personnel for the dominant farming systems and enterprises in the region. This section will take the initiative in applying these principles to farm planning.

Initially this policy is being implemented on a target area basis only, the key area being selected so as to be representative of the natural resources and farming enterprises practised in the region. A key is being defined for each of the four sub-regions, and work has already started on the first of these, Dohne-Bolo target area, situated in the Stutterheim district. This area, the boundaries of which have been defined

in terms of the land-type concept, is composed of 53 farms covering an area of 25 602 ha.

Within this area soil, vegetation, slope and water resource surveys are to be carried out at farm level with data being recorded of farm mosaics of 1:10 000.

When these surveys have been completed, resource units (ecotypes) will be described and mapped and these will serve as reference units for the collection of production and technique norms. The norm and ecotype data will serve as a basis for the compilation of systems of resource-use classification for the dominant farming enterprises and systems practised in that area.

The recommendations as stated here are to be implemented on individual farms in the target area and the results monitored

from time to time. In this way a system of farming planning will be propagated that will take the maximum possible cognisance of the natural resources of the area.

01/2/48  
2/2/48

# Aid for farmers?

QUEENSTOWN — The government is to consider giving assistance to farmers on the borders of homelands.

This emerged after a meeting between the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, the Minister of Transport, Mr Chris Heunis, and 500 farmers of the Queenstown district here yesterday.

Mr Heunis said the meeting had put forward certain proposals for state assistance for border farmers and these would be considered by the Ministers concerned. They in turn would formulate recommendations to Parliament concerning these matters. — DDC.

— 56

costs of farming production soared by 26% in 1979, while farmers' net income rose only 6% — the fifth year in a row that production costs have outpaced income.

Despite an average annual increase of 2.5% in output, says the SAAU, farmers' net real income has declined by an average 6.8% in each of the last five years. Return on capital employed in agriculture was only 7.3% in 1979 (7.3% was also the average for the five years to end-1979) as compared with 13.5% in industry and commerce. And from December 1972 to June 1979, agricultural debt almost doubled — from R1 521.6m to R2 994.1m.

The result of declining agricultural profitability will be reduced potential for increases in food output, says SAAU's economist, Johan Willemse. He argues that as more farmers leave the land and the soaring cost of fuel and fertiliser discourages the use of these inputs, production inevitably will be affected.

A further possible consequence, Willemse warns, is that there could be a fall-off in exports in the Eighties as the high cost structure of agriculture prices SA goods out of world markets. With agriculture accounting for 16% of total exports in 1979 (excluding gold), the effect on the balance of payments could be considerable. And in the longer term, with the population projected to reach 50m by the year 2000, SA could become a net importer of food if output fails to keep pace with growing demand.

How, therefore, is agriculture to cope with the strains of a high cost structure? Organised agriculture has long called for the provision of more short-term credit, priced at "reasonable" rates of interest, say 7%.

Willemse indicates that the main problem in agricultural financing at present is the farmer's short-term cash flow. Farmers have to borrow at high interest rates on the strength of next season's crop to finance costs of production. The Land

Bank, whose total lending rose just 53% from 1972 to 1979, as against a rise in outstanding credit over the same period of 341% by the co-operatives and 129% by the commercial banks, could play a much greater role in short-term lendings, some economists propose.

But an effective long-term remedy, suggests the SAAU, lies in restraining rises in production costs. The SAAU naturally insists that the burden of higher costs of food production should not be borne by the farmer alone, as it claims is happening at present. A slackening in cost increases in the near term appears unlikely, however, in view of the inflationary cycle into which the country seems to be locked.

The alternative, therefore, is sharp and possibly sustained rises in the prices of food-stuffs. This will place farming on a sounder footing and will avert the possibility of shortfalls in local food supplies, imports of which would trigger sharp price rises anyway.

Of course, it can be argued, the agricultural sector can itself become more efficient. But cost imperatives are already weeding out the inefficient. Moreover, greater productivity can be a two-edged sword as it often means fewer, larger-sized farming units, more highly mechanised and employing less labour as farmers go for higher yields to maximise production and capital investment.

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association director Rob Brink (formerly agricultural adviser to Barclays) quotes figures showing the average investment of R43 500 per farming unit in 1959 had risen to R317 000 by last year, while the number of workers in agricultural employment has fallen 100 000 over the last 10 years to a present day level of 700 000 people. In SA, a better development strategy — as Syncom, the high powered research group of prominent businessmen and academics has suggested — would be greater use of the plentiful supply of labour on smaller farming units. And given the price of fuel, less emphasis on mechanical equipment would be desirable.

## FARMING

### Spiralling costs

A memorandum prepared recently by the SA Agricultural Union paints a gloomy picture of South African agriculture. Total

EM  
2/1/80  
②

③ General  
Inflation  
EDM  
hitting 16/7/80  
farmers

CAPE TOWN. — The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said in Cape Town that inflation was unquestionably one of the biggest problems facing farmers today. And it was hitting them hard.

He was opening the first annual congress of the Western Cape Agricultural Union.

"The prices of farming requisites as a group were, in 1979, on an average 39% higher than two years before."

While the total gross income of farmers last year, compared with 1978, was 14%, the net income was 4%, he said.

The future demanded bold, imaginative thinking in agriculture, Mr Schoeman said.

It also demanded a South African agricultural industry which was financially sound.

He emphasised the Government's standpoint that the agricultural industry should be put in a position to feed the Republic's fast growing population and also retain its important role as a foreign exchange earner.

"A viable, stable agricultural sector remains essential for a sound economy." — Sapa.



3) 18/7/80 RR493

# Increase in demand for milk expected



Mr H Schoeman

THE electrification of Soweto and similar projects would create a demand for fresh milk which, if action was not taken now, would cause a severe milk shortage within 10 years, Mr D J van Wyk of the Riversdale Farmers' Union said yesterday.

Proposing a motion that the congress requests the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to investigate ways to bring more stability in the dairy industry, Mr van Wyk said the buying patterns were likely to change due to the increase in black spending power and facilities.

He said at the moment, whites bought 54 percent of the fresh milk supply and blacks 32 percent; 41 percent of powdered milk compared with 52 percent; and 74 percent of cheese compared with 10 percent.

However, with refrigeration, the increase in the use of fresh milk by blacks would create shortages.

## OVERPRODUCTION

The Minister, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said it was not possible to stimulate the industry too much at present lest there be overproduction. In the Cape, for instance, there was an

18 percent surplus when the desired surplus was 10 percent.

Mr Jan van Vuuren, chairman of the Milk Board, said the use of fresh milk products was on the decline until their current advertising campaign started.

He added that the R65 000 spent sponsoring the Springboks during their current series against the Lions had resulted in nearly R1-m worth of TV time alone, let alone the Press and radio space it had got the board.

In fact, in November, when the French side came to South Africa, he intended asking the Minister to allow him to sponsor the Springboks again.

# Fewer SA farmers — but rise in production

IN the past 10 years the number of farmers in South Africa has dropped by 38,8 percent from 122 000 to 77 000, yet production increased by 60 percent, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said yesterday.

Speaking at the Western Province Agricultural Union Congress in Sea Point to a motion asking for State assistance to expedite and streamline farmers' credit, Mr Schoeman said this would be the trend for the future.

The farmer who got production through using modern scientific and economic methods would be the man who got support. Replying to a point made by the proposer, he said that if Landbank and Agricultural Credit loan applications were made properly they were granted within a month.

'But some farmers will not take no for an answer. If a man who owes R37 a sheep comes to me for a loan and I tell him he has got no chance, he complains that the banks are giving him problems. Then what am I supposed to do?'

'He is not a member of a union. He does not get

involved with other farmers learning from them and the department's agricultural officers.'

## INCREASES

He said that since 1970/71 diesel oil had increased from 4,9c to 38,6c a litre — an increase of 739 percent. Fertiliser increased 419 percent in the same period while the price of tractors was up 239 percent.

In the same period, the farmers' price of milk had climbed 243 percent, sunflower seed 247 percent, maize 177 percent, and sheep 251 percent.

The reason for maize's smaller increase was a glut on the world market. South Africa was exporting maize at R93 a ton loss, he said.

## OVERPRODUCTION

Mr Schoeman said there was a tendency to overproduce on productive land and disturb the delicate balance of nature. This, he said, must be curbed.

Overfarming of certain areas in the country had resulted in a weakening of the soil, and, consequently, the farmer's welfare.

The Government's attitude to farmers was that the agricultural industry must be put in the position to provide the country's fast-growing population with food and to maintain its important role as an earner of foreign currency.

And it was important from an agricultural and strategic point of view that farmers were kept happy and on their farms.

246 57 3 General  
RD 19/7/80  
**Cape farmers consider  
cheap bulk electricity**

CAPE TOWN. — Co-operatives could buy electricity in bulk from Escom, but before doing so, must ensure that everyone in the district would be prepared to buy from them, an Escom spokesman said yesterday.

He told delegates at the Western Cape Agricultural Congress in Cape Town that Escom's experience with small communities was that provision was seldom made for future maintenance and capital expenditure to keep costs down.

"When they get into trouble, they call on Escom to take over

the system for them."

He was referring to a motion in which the congress was asked to discuss the possibilities of electricity being bought from Escom by co-operatives and resold to members at a possibly lower cost.

The motion also asked that farmers be allowed to build their own power lines to Escom specifications.

Speaking to another motion, several speakers said that it was impossible for young farmers, who were alone, to leave their farms for three months at a time for border duty. — Sana.



## NATAL DROUGHT

### In a critical state

1m 18/2/50 3 (gen) (10/11)

Natal agriculture has not yet been reduced to a critical state by the drought, but it could be heading towards disaster and carrying the fortunes of 8 000 white farmers and countless black subsistence farmers with it.

Sugar's misfortunes are well known and the crop may be down by as much as 500 000 t this season, but production of milk, maize, meat and vegetables has been affected too. In KwaZulu, Chief Buthelezi has suggested stock be disposed of while the going is good, a reasonable but quite remarkable suggestion in the circumstances, indicating just how bad things are.

KwaZulu's annual cattle losses of between 80 000 and 100 000 out of 1,3m are likely to be exceeded this year. The KwaZulu Department of Agriculture has no figures for losses to date, but expects the worst from now onwards, due to shortage of grazing and water.

Professor Lawrence Schlemmer, head of the centre for applied social science at Natal University, lists human starvation and malnutrition, lawlessness and harsh reprisals for theft of food and stock, disease, overcrowding, and ever longer walks to fetch water among the effects of the drought in KwaZulu.

Although the general picture is bleak,

there are surprising exceptions. The Department of Agricultural Technical Services at Cedara notes that maize yields at Dundee and Bergville are 20% better than last year's good crop, but at Greytown, they are down 50%, with some highly localised exceptions where yields are actually up.

The drought actually began last summer, says Natal Agricultural Union secretary Alwyn Bischoff. "Natal is well served by 41 rivers and streams which allow water to be drawn off for irrigation, but at the end of summer, the flow was only 8% of normal for the time of the year. In other words, they were as dry as they would normally be at the end of winter.

"There is also a livestock drinking problem and many villages and towns relying on the rivers are in trouble. Some farmers have had to buy large water tankers, such as the poultry farmer at Richmond, who is trying to keep 60 000 birds alive.

"There are stock farmers who believe it is too expensive to augment fodder supplies and that it is better to depopulate stock. This premature marketing merely creates shortages later on.

"Drought has increased the debt burden. Farmers have had to borrow to buy winter feed and where their crops have been lost, it means the money they have spent on fertiliser has also gone down the drain. Then there is the exceptionally high fire hazard. In present conditions, normal firebreaks would probably be ineffective.

"The biggest problem area which could become a real disaster would be for the early summer rains to arrive late again."

Rain cannot reasonably be expected before September or October and as the water table is already low, an unusually hard, dry winter lies ahead.

A spokesman for the Department of Agricultural Technical Services in Natal considers the drought to be worse than that of 1967.

22/7/60  
Skw  
3

## Drought emergency in Karoo

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Large areas of the drought-stricken South Western Cape had been declared emergency grazing areas, and Ladismith and Oudtshoorn have applied to be declared disaster areas.

Dams are dry and farmers are transporting water bought from Oudtshoorn municipality to their farms for labourers and animals.

Some have cut their ostrich herds to a half and even a quarter, keeping just enough breeding stock to restart should the drought break.

An official of the local agricultural technical services office said today the situation was deteriorating in the Ladismith, Calitzdorp and Oudtshoorn areas.

Farmers in Uniondale, Touws River and George were also seriously affected. "The whole of the Little Karoo is affected," he said.

## Peasants now face starvation

187  
Skw 22/7/60

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Desolation and despair met two North Coast families, who are organising a food relief scheme, when they travelled to famine-struck Msinga in kwaZulu at the weekend.

On foot, kilometres beyond the nearest road-head, with donkeys carrying panniers of mealie-meal and other essential foods, they met peasants who were at starvation point.

"We gave out some of the food on the spot to desperate cases," Mrs Bev Getkate, one of the co-founders of the private distribution project, revealed today.

Mr and Mrs Len Waller, accompanied by Mrs Getkate and her husband, Miles, all Tongaat sugar farmers, took a truckload of foodstuffs to Mr Neil Alcock's experimental farming project in the Msinga area of the Tugela valley on Saturday.

The two couples intend

to return to Msinga in a fortnight's time with another truckload of food.

They hope to act independently of the drought relief fund set up by the Red Cross and the Sunday Tribune.

The news that farmers are starting to build small dams to capture the hoped-for spring rains is part of the overall pattern in kwaZulu.

At Msinga the church agricultural project is undertaking a new irrigation scheme, diverting the Tugela River to smallholdings.

Mrs Creina Alcock said that men, women and children were working together, using sledgehammers, picks and shovels to chip a furrow out of rock to lay pipelines and build a reservoir dam.

"The people are working without payment but CAP is trying to raise funds to provide workers with a bag of mealie meal for 30 days' work," Mrs Alcock said.

~1/180 ARMS

# Farmers in SW Cape <sup>(3)</sup> hard hit by drought

LARGE parts of drought-stricken South Western Cape have been declared emergency grazing areas and two — Ladismith and Oudtshoorn — have applied to be declared disaster areas.

Irrigation dams in the areas are dry and if the current weather pattern

continues, the situation could become desperate.

Farmers are buying water from the Oudtshoorn municipality and transporting it to their farms for their labourers and livestock. Some claim they have cut their ostrich herds to half keeping just enough breeding stock to start should the drought break.

An official of the local Agricultural Technical Services office said yesterday that the situation was deteriorating in the Ladismith, Calitzdorp and Oudtshoorn areas.

## EMPTY

Farmers in the Uniondale, Touws River and George areas are also seriously affected. 'In fact, the whole of the Little Karoo is affected,' the spokesman said.

Of 11 irrigation dams in the Little Karoo, 10 were empty.

The Prince River dam was 80 percent full, the official said.

In areas where farmers were due to sow next season's crops there had been a drastic reduction in the amount of sowing that could be done and this would affect the grazing production for the summer, he said.

There had been a severe loss of autumn lambs in the Ladismith area, and, because of the ewes' condition, the spring lamb crop was expected to be very poor.

## VISIT

The Minister of Water Affairs, Mr A J Raubenheimer, is expected to visit the area at the end of this month to discuss the water supply situation with the local farmers.

In terms of the emergency grazing laws, farmers are able to get a 75 percent subsidy for the transportation of feed for their animals from outside sources.

The area's normal winter rainfall should be in the region of 110 to 120 mm. They have had less than half that amount so far.

This, combined with equally poor summer rains, has caused the present situation which ostrich farmers say will cost the country a fortune in foreign currency next season.

# Ravages of Cape drought take a firmer hold

By PADDY ATFWELL

AS the ravages of drought take a firmer hold on the Cape, eight districts this month will have been officially proclaimed drought-stricken areas in the province.

Proclamations affecting parts of another two districts come into effect today, and proclamations affecting another two will come into effect at the end of the month.

This will bring the total number of districts affected by proclamations this month to 12.

Most of the new proclamations are in the Eastern Cape, bringing the number of districts affected by proclamations in the province this year to 23.

This shows a marked escalation in drought conditions in the Cape since most of the Clanwilliam district was proclaimed drought-stricken in July 1978.

The most severely ravaged of the Cape's three agricultural regions is the Karoo region, parts of which have now seen four years of drought described as the worst in a century.

Mr Johan van der Vyver, chief extension officer at Middelburg's Grootfontein Agricultural College, indicated that nearly 80 percent of the region was proclaimed a drought area or drought-stricken.

He expected the rest of the 23-million hectare region to be proclaimed before the end of October.

Seventeen percent of the region was regarded as a "catastrophe

area". Eleven "really bad" districts included Carnarvon, Williston, Prieska, Transkei, Laingsburg, Beaufort West and Prince Albert.

The Karoo last had good rains in 1977. Areas served by the Fish River Scheme on the Orange River had water, but dams were generally dry. The Grand-Rainier dam, serving 1500ha of irrigated land, was 15cm deep.

Mr Van der Vyver knew of one case where a truck that could carry a capacity of 800 sheep had travelled 100 000 kilometres in that period carrying slaughter stock to the main centres.

The government's main drought relief measures were subsidies and loans to cover the cost of feed, mostly maize. He said that in certain badly hit areas in the region, this would cost the government roughly R9½-million this year.

Farmers were bearing up well and not more than five percent had left their farms. However, for many the situation had become irredeemable.

In the winter rainfall region, losses were "fortunately not very much", according to the region's deputy-director of agricultural technical services, Mr A Viljoen.

The major reason was because farmers had continued feeding stock, mainly with feed they bought from local co-operatives. In the Northern Cape, especially in Bushmanland, farmers had been feeding stock this way for three years.

The region's three most badly affected areas were Bushman-

land and Lediwath and Oudshoorn in the Little Karoo. Most dams were empty in the Oudshoorn district. Not much rain was expected.

In the Lediwath and Oudshoorn districts, some stock had been lost, mainly lambs. In the Swartland, farmers were very concerned about the wheat crop. "Some of the wheat is disappearing from the land", Mr Viljoen said.

The Western Cape had not been affected by drought thus far and most dams were "quite" full, but winter rains had not been normal. Mr Schoeman believed that up to 35 percent of the region had been hit by drought.

Government relief measures had mainly been discounts on the costs on transporting feed.

The situation had not become as bad as that in the Karoo region where loans and subsidies had to be granted to cover the costs of feed itself.

In the Eastern Cape agricultural region, drought conditions appear to have cleared on the Tankstad district, which officially became a drought-stricken area on Monday.

The region's deputy director of the department of agricultural technical services, Mr Aubrey Venter, said it had had heavy rains in August last year, but it had not rained normally since then.

He said that areas already proclaimed as drought-stricken and those likely to apply for proclamations would probably amount to more than 50 percent of the region.

# Fears over land pay

Political Reporter

BANANA farmers on the lower South Coast fear they will be paid inadequate compensation by the Province for land expropriated for the new casino highway from Southbroom to the Transkei border at Port Edward.

One farmer who claimed compensation of R900 for an estimated 50 tons of sugar cane cut down by the surveyors received an offer from the Province on Monday of R342 with no explanation of why his claim was not met in full.

About six farmers will be seriously affected by the new road, and it is feared that a valuator

with little experience of estimating the worth of specialist banana farms will be appointed by the Province.

Feelings ran high at a meeting between farmers, officials of the Natal Roads Department and the surveyors at Marina Beach on Tuesday.

Dr Mike Skellern, chairman of the Lower South Coast Banana Association, acted as spokesman for farmers.

He told the Mercury yesterday the farmers accepted that the road was necessary, but felt they should not be left worse off after expropriation.

Farmers who had used land expropriated 30 years

ago as a road reserve agreed they had no claim for compensation. The new road would incorporate land in the reserve.

Dr Skellern said provincial officials at the meeting this week told farmers that officials from the expropriation section would visit the area in the next few weeks.

Mr Peter Miller, MPC for South Coast, said it was a principle of the Compensation Act that farmers should not be worse off after their land had been expropriated.

Work would start on the road in 1983, a date set before it was known a casino would be built over the border.



# Severe drought destroys crops in many areas

*2 (gen)*  
*Star Sep 2/52*

By Hannes Ferguson,  
Farming Correspondent

Severe drought in many areas has ruined production of staple products such as sugar, wheat, dairy products, wool and mutton.

The drought has struck five main regions including parts of the winter rainfall area of the Western Cape which has only two months of rainy season left.

Part of the prime wheat-growing area of the Western Cape around Piketberg and Porterville has little prospect of any wheat crop this year.

Recent rain has compacted the earth, preventing the young wheat plants from emerging.

Too little rain coming too late in this area could reduce the wheat crop by 10 percent, and further crop reductions could occur in other wheat-growing areas less affected by the drought.

Severe drought threatens to ruin sugar farmers in Northern Natal, including kwaZulu.

Farmers have to cart drinking water over long distances and a spokesman for the kwaZulu Government in Durban

said that black farmers were especially hard hit.

Special auctions of cattle will be held to enable black farmers to sell cattle before they die, said Chief Biyeza, of Eshowe.

The kwaZulu Government has allocated R3,2-million for emergency drought projects.

The drought has also affected dairy farmers in the Natal Midlands: the Greytown, Kranskop and Mooi River districts.

Rivers have dried up in the normally lush Midlands. Even the Exopo River is now running at only 15 litres a second — a negligible flow.

Wool and mutton farmers in the central and eastern parts of Namaqualand have been severely hit as has the production of karakul pelts. This area last had rain two years ago.

The Southern Cape and Little Karoo area around Oudtshoorn, Ladismith and Calitzdorp is in the throes of severe drought which has ruined lucern and fruit crops as well as sheep flocks.

DD. 26/7/50

# Cape's drought tightens grip

CAPE TOWN — As the ravages of drought take a firmer hold on the Cape, eight districts this month will have been proclaimed officially drought-stricken areas in the province.

Proclamations affecting parts of two districts come into effect today and proclamations affecting another two will come into effect at the end of the month.

This will bring the total number of districts affected by proclamations this month to 12.

Most of the proclamations are in the Eastern Cape, bringing the number of districts affected by proclamations in the province this year to 13.

In the Border agricultural region drought conditions appear to have centred on the Ficksburg district, which became a drought-stricken area on 11th of Monday.

The region's deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Technical Services, Mr. Andrew Venter, said it had had heavy rains in August last year, but it had not rained normally since then.

Areas already proclaimed as drought-stricken and those likely to apply for proclamations would probably amount to more than 10 per cent of the region he said.

The most severely ravaged region of the Cape is the Karoo.

Dr. Johan van der Merwe, director of the office at Middelburg, said that the Agricultural College, which is the centre of the Karoo, had proclaimed drought-stricken before the end of October — B.P.A.

2/17/80  
**Drought**  
SUN (TRB)  
**bites** (PTN)  
**into** (3)  
**business**

By JACK BRICKHILL

THE drought in Zululand is playing havoc with balance sheets as businesses in the area suffer a sharp drop in turnover.

The destitute population, swelled by thousands of unemployed from drought-stricken farms, is buying only essential foodstuffs and businessmen in general report a drop in turnover between 20 and 30 percent.

Senator Achilles Bozas, secretary of the Zululand Chamber of Commerce, says the position is worsening by the day and commercial life in Empangeni — the hardest hit commercial area — is almost at a standstill.

Assistance to hard hit Zululand is aimed at preventing hunger and starvation but there is little respite in view for the business community.

Cane cutting will stop early and will start later than usual next year because of severely dry conditions.

An influx of construction workers at Richards Bay for new coal export projects will help a little.

The drought will be felt for many years because farmers have arranged short-term finance to tide them over. These loans will have to be repaid in the next seven years. This will reduce the amount available to spend in the commercial sector.

# Cane burns as fire rips Eshowe

35/7/80 ARGUS  
③ sugar

**Argus Correspondent**  
**DURBAN.** — Massive runaway fires ripped through large sections of farmlands in the Eshowe district at the weekend, destroying hundreds of tons of young cane and laying flat several hectares of wattle plantation.

Firefighters baffled to contain the fire, but within minutes of the first alert flames leaping several metres high and fanned by a strong north-west wind had devastated an entire canefield.

Manager of the farms, Mr. B. Hilarious, said that in all his years as a farmer, he had not seen flames travel so fast.

It is always a terrifying experience to see a fire out of control. One is never sure where it is going next, especially in critical drought times such as now.

The firefighters, several of whom were overcome by fumes, managed to contain the fire before it could leap the main road to Eshowe.

## LAI D BARE

'If we hadn't I shudder to think what could have happened,' said Mr. Hilarious. 'It would certainly have laid bare thousands of hectares of sugar cane.'

However, no sooner had the team of 30 firefighters stamped out the last smouldering cinders, than another fire started in a nearby wattle plantation.

'There was just nothing we could do to stop it,' said Mr. Hilarious.

'The whole place is tinder-dry.'

## UNDER CONTROL

A smaller fire broke out in the same area later, but this was soon brought under control.

Farmers in the drought-stricken areas of Amatikulu, Gingindhlovu and Eshowe expressed fears that the windy season, which has just started, could develop into the worst fire hazard time this century.

'We are all very jittery right now,' said one farmer. 'Nobody will be leaving their farms in the next few weeks.'

The situation has been made worse by the rivers, which once formed natural firebreaks, but are now mere trickles.

## APPLICATIONS

A spokesman for the Cane Growers' Association said they had received a flood of applications for fire insurance from farmers in the drought-plagued Zululand areas.

'It is an extremely worrying time for these farmers,' he said. 'Their biggest fear is that they could get fires after the mills shut down in October.'

'Even if it is in mature cane, there will be no hope of having it processed. I really don't know what they are going to do.'

# Drought has strangleshold on most of Cape

By BILL CODDARD

NEARLY two-thirds of the Cape Province is in the grip of the worst drought in memory — a drought which has laid waste thousands of hectares of farm land, killed untold numbers of livestock and which, it is estimated, will cost organised agriculture more than R100-million.

According to agricultural authorities, 46 magisterial districts have already been declared drought stricken and are officially listed as 'distress zones'.

Officials of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing said the drought was spreading like the tentacles of an octopus and another 10 areas were soon to be added to the list.

Farmers in these areas are eligible for Government loans and subsidies to buy fodder to keep their dying flocks of sheep alive and also entitled to a 75 per cent rebate on the rillage costs of getting the feed to their farms.

The only areas of the Cape Province that are not in the strangleshold of the drought are the Western Cape and a section of the Southern Cape coastal belt.

Records show that the Karoo, Bushmanland and Namaqualand areas, which carry about 10-million sheep, are probably the worst hit.

Dams have dried up and river beds cut across the parched landscape like ugly scars.

## JUST A TRICKLE

Agricultural extension officers in many of the areas say that boreholes have dried up for the first time in history and many farmers are being forced to cart water from neighbouring districts in an attempt to keep their stock alive.

The level of water in the mighty Orange River — a mere trickle in some areas and 10 districts in the

neighbouring Free State have been listed as 'distress zones'.

Mr Kobus Jooste, vice chairman of the South African Agricultural Union, said in a telephone interview from his farm near Uptington that many of the drought-hit areas had their last rain two years ago and that the situation could now be described as critical.

The situation in many districts is as bad, if not worse, than the drought of 1933 which wrought havoc and brought the South African farming industry to its knees, he said.

Mr Jooste, who is also chairman of the North Western Cape Agricultural Union, said that stock and production losses would cost farmers an estimated R100-million.

The secretary of the Cape Agricultural Union, Mr Gert Bosch, said the drought was having a tremendous financial impact on the province's mutton and wool farmers.

Rooibos tea farmers in the Clanwilliam district have already lost 50 percent of their annual production and say they must have rain in the next three weeks if they hope to save anything.

The public relations officer of the Rooibos Tea Control Board, Mr James van Putten, said the 300-odd farmers would be lucky if they harvested 1.5-million kg this year.

## SOME RELIEF?

Widespread rains which fell over most of the Western Cape during the night and early today may bring some relief.

In Namaqualand the promise of rain hangs in the form of low cloud.

In Cape Town the rain which began in the early hours of the morning continued throughout the morning and early afternoon, breaking the long spell of sunny weather.

# Shoot stock thieves' demand

**Farmers want drastic anti-crime measure**

Mercury Reporter

LADYSMITH—Stock theft should be declared an act of terrorism and farmers should be empowered to shoot thieves — whether black or white — caught red-handed stealing stock, said Mr. Oscar Hartung, a prominent Northern Natal farmer, yesterday.

Drastic measures were imperative to curb this crime which was now reaching epidemic proportions in many parts of Northern Natal, he said.

Mr Hartung was a victim of stock thieves who stole 20 of his sheep recently. He estimates his loss at R1,000 because the stolen stock included several stud ewes which he had bought only recently in Bloemfontein at R100 each. The culprits were not caught. He farms 20 km from KwaZulu.

Thieves cut fences on farms or undid droppers and used motor vehicles to load the stolen stock. Mr Hartung also lost two bleibox within a week which he had purchased for R150. First the ewe was hunted down by dogs, and days later the ram was also killed.

These are just a few among many cases. White farmers are looked upon to provide the food for the nation as well as black nations in Africa but they are being crippled financially by stock theft.

When we face such a loss we receive no subsidy from the Government to compensate us. We still have to face the escalating costs of diesel fuel and other agricultural essentials. It is high time that stock theft should be considered as serious a crime as any other act of terrorism against the country.

'Only in this way will stock thieves be deterred. Farmers must band together and demand action from the Government,' he said.

Mr Hartung will be a delegate from the Swart Umfolosi Farmers' Association at the Natal Agricultural Union congress in September and he intends to raise the stock theft issue there.

# Two-thirds of Cape in grip of drought

3 11 7/80  
31/7/80  
(3)

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — About two-thirds of the Cape Province is in the grip of the worst drought in memory — a drought that has laid waste thousands of hectares of farmland, killed livestock and which will cost organised agriculture more than R100-million.

## Subsidies, loans for affected farmers

Own Correspondent

Hundreds of thousands of rands of aid, in the form of subsidies and loans, has been given to farmers in drought-stricken areas.

A spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union said there were three types of aid given, although special aid was being considered for the areas of Kimberley and Vryburg in the Cape. These would only take the form of loans and not subsidies, but had not yet been finally decided.

In disaster areas in the Cape which include Beaufort West, Calvinia, Clanwilliam, parts of Gordonia, Prince Albert and Namaqualand, the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure is granting loans of R3 a small stock unit up to a maximum of 1 200 units of breeding stock, 60 percent of which is subsidised by the Government.

A rebate of 75 percent on the transport of fodder for livestock has been granted in large areas of the Cape, Orange Free State and Mount Currie in Natal, where areas are suffering seasonal drought.

### APPLICATION

These include Ceres, Fort Beaufort, East London, Prieska, Worcester and parts of Oudtshoorn and George in the Cape — and in the Free State, Bloemfontein, Brandfort, Bultfontein, Excelsior and Fauresmith.

In some areas, such as Sillowmore, Lynsburg and Britstown, farmers qualified not only for a rebate on transport, but a loan of R2 a small stock unit which is subsidised up to 50 percent by the Government.

The spokesman said more districts in the Cape and Orange Free State had asked to be declared drought stricken, and applications for aid had also come from Mooiriver in Natal.

A spokesman for the Weather Bureau said Natal had less than 80 percent of its normal rainfall over the last year and many of the drought-stricken areas had less than 60 percent.

In the Transvaal, however, some areas had 120 percent of normal rainfall.

The seed maize crop in Natal has not been badly affected because the rain that did fall came at the right time for crops, but heavy frosts, together with hail and the drought, have taken their toll of the sugar cane.

Agricultural authorities said that 46 magisterial districts had been declared drought-stricken and officially listed as "stress zones." Officials of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing said the drought was spreading rapidly and another 10 areas would be added to the list soon.

Farmers are eligible for Government loans and subsidies to buy fodder to keep dwindling stocks of sheep alive. They are also entitled to a 75 percent rebate on the railage costs of getting feed to their farms.

The only areas of the Cape Province not in the stranglehold of the drought are the Western Cape and a section of the southern Cape coastal belt.

Records show that the Karoo, Bushmanland and Namaqualand areas, which have about 10-million sheep, are probably the worst hit.

Dams are dry and river beds cut across the parched landscape like ugly scars.

Agricultural extension officers in many areas say that boreholes have dried up for the first time in history and farmers are being forced to cart water from neighbouring districts to keep their stock alive.

### HAVOC

The water level in the Orange River — lifeline of the arid Northern Cape — is a mere trickle in some areas and 10 districts in the neighbouring Free State have been listed as "disaster zones."

Vice-chairman of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Kobus Jooste, said in a telephone interview from his farm near Upington that many drought-hit areas had their last rain two years ago and the position was critical.

"The situation in many districts is as bad, if not worse, than the drought of 1933 which caused havoc and brought the South African farming industry to its knees," he said.

Stock and production losses would cost farmers about R100-million, Mr Jooste said.

The secretary of the Cape Agricultural Union, Mr Gert Bosch, said the drought was having a tremendous financial impact on the province's mutton and wool farmers.

"Reports indicate that it is by far the most serious drought we've had in the past few decades. It will spell ruin for many farmers," he said.

Rooibos tea farmers in the Clanwilliam district have already lost 50 percent of their annual production and say they must have rain within the next three weeks if they are to save anything.

- (a) available time (time available for an individual to devote to social, cultural and recreational activities after basic needs have been taken care of; particularly allow for time at work, time taken getting to and from work, and time taken shopping for basic needs);
- (b) available income (surplus income available for these activities after basic needs - food, health, clothing, housing, transport - have been taken care of); (c) consumer goods (availability of consumer goods, both perishable and durable, through accessible shopping facilities);
- (d) personal communication (availability of postal and telephone services

and so on; however for many purposes it would not be useful to have so fine a classification.

Having chosen the set of aspects one wishes to evaluate in the scheme, one would then aim, in general, to evaluate each of them in terms of the quantity available to the group, the quality of what is available, and the distribution of this 'good' within the group, and relative to other groups in the society. In particular cases - e.g. money - one might not be able to make the quality/quantity distinction.

# NAU to discuss land consolidation and Natal scheme

DIM 3/1/78  
3

## Pietermaritzburg Bureau

THE Natal Agricultural Union starts its annual two-day congress in Durban in September against a background of a hold new plan designed to scrap apartheid for a more autonomous method of governing Natal and Kwazulu.

The Government's present land consolidation Act has long been one of contention among Natal farmers and once again members have asked for congress to discuss consolidation and its implications for farmers.

The plan, further details of which should be available in mid-August, to free Natal, Zululand and Kwazulu from apartheid could prove very contentious.

The congress will call on the Government to formulate and implement a policy to end problems faced by border farmers.

Members also want the public to be educated to the fact that they must pay more for their food because farmers must be reasonably compensated for farm produce.

The congress will urge an amendment to the Electricity Act of 1958 to provide more economical electricity rates for farmers.

There will be a move for the call-up system for farmers, after basic training, to be reviewed.

A further call will be that the Minister of Agriculture should consider the initiation of a compulsory national public liability third party insurance against fire spreading

from one farm to another. The congress also wants the Department of Veterinary Services to grant a licence to the Abattoir Corporation to allow meat to be exported from the Cato Ridge abattoir.

• See also Page 6

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which are actually harmful. Clearly particular evaluative assumptions go into choosing this function, which states how 'good' different values of the indicator are; these assumptions would have to be agreed on by the users of the scheme, through some combination of opinions from 'experts' and 'clients' (that is, the people at the receiving end of the policy), see e.g. [9], [10], [21] and [22] for further discussion.

(11) Community development. Use of resources particularly to facilitate and strengthen communal life: (a) expenditures on personal entertainment (food, drink, parties); (b) community facilities: use of resources to provide community centres, meeting halls, creches, playgrounds; old age homes; hotels, restaurants; pubs; facilities catering for particular needs, e.g. handicapped or mentally retarded people; welfare expenditure; (c) sports facilities: availability of sports fields, changing rooms, specialised facilities (golf courses, squash courts, and so on); swimming pools; public (stadium) sports clubs. (11) Self-affirmation. Community morale and esteem depend particularly both on individual self-affirmation, and on the ability to present the group culture and viewpoint to itself and to the general public. (a) Individual affirmation: assertion of individual identity through consumption - self-beautification (cosmetics, haircare, clothes, etc.), decoration, luxury expenditure. (b) Group affirmation: availability to the group of local radio, television, newspapers and magazines, and other forums where they may present their viewpoint to



# Drastic drop in farmer incomes

Pretoria Bureau

A LEADING South African agriculturalist said yesterday that, taking inflation into account, South African farmers' real incomes had dropped 35% between 1955 and 1979.

Mr J. Wilkens, president of the South African Agricultural Union, complained that policymakers and academics regarded farmers merely as providers of inexpensive food for the people.

Addressing the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union congress, which began yesterday in Port Elizabeth, Mr Wilkens said the position of the agricultural sector in South Africa was declining as a result of a more rapid growth of the industrial and other sectors of the economy.

While the contributions of agriculture to the country's Gross National Product had increased 24 times from R1,5-million in 1910 to R3,6-billion in 1979, the contribution of the manufacturing industry had increased 83 times in the same period to stand at R10,055-million in 1979.

Accompanying the relative decline of the agricultural sector was an ever-increasing economic and consumer pressure on farmers to supply cheaper food, he said.

This was despite an 81% price increase in farming requisites for the five years to 1979, while farmers' prices for their products increased by only 47% and food prices by 54%, he said.

Predicting further pressures on agriculture, Mr Wilkens said farmers had managed to keep their heads above water only because they could rely on excellent supportive research and technological services.

The chairman of the East Cape Agricultural Union, Mr M. H. Louw, said that for every rand spent by the consumer on food, only 50c ended in the farmer's pocket.

In his address to the first annual congress of the union, Mr Louw said that both consumer and farmer should work together to discover where the 50c difference was going.

3 (gen)

Hansards 1980

- (iii) Burning of fire breaks;
- (iv) Maintenance of roads; and
- (v) Clearing of culverts and waterways.

Further, feeding programmes and feeding schemes for cattle are being undertaken. The aim will be to safeguard the breeding nucleus of the national herd by selecting the young breeding animals and arranging that these animals be provided with supplementary fodder at selected points on a fully subsidized basis. This programme is also in full operation. Representations are being made to the Treasury for the provision of the necessary funds. I have acquainted myself of the situation in the Ciskei during a visit to the area on 9 May 1980. My Department is investigating the possibility of making available (1) enriched maize on resale to people in the Ciskei and (2) enriched food to children and the aged.

**Ciskei: drought relief measures**

\*16. Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development: *3 (C) (V) S*  
*Mem. 17 Q.C. 871 11/6/80*

- (1) Whether he has received representations from the Ciskei Government in regard to the application of drought relief measures in Ciskei;
- (2) whether such measures are to be applied; if so, (a) when and (b) what form will the measures take; if not, why not?

†The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) An investigation was carried out by the Department of Co-operation and Development and a works-committee consisting of Ciskei Government officials and an official of the Department of Co-operation and Development is since 22 May 1980 attending to the execution of a relief programme.
- (b) Fresh drinking water is being supplied to people and animals where necessary and mobile tankers are being used. Employment opportunities are being created to undertake the following works:
  - (i) Eradication of noxious weeds;
  - (ii) Preparation of land for afforestation;

9/6/80

3(gen)

Debate -

Water Amendment Bill

See

Gansard

17

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8418 - 8431

Hon. 16 Drought relief measures ③ 160  
Quis Lot 832  
\*2. Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the  
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- 4/6/80
- (1) Whether drought relief measures are to be applied in (a) the coastal area from Bushman's River to the Kei River, (b) the Ciskei and (c) the inland areas of the Border; if not, why not; if so,
  - (2) (a) what form will the measures take and (b) when will they be put into operation?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (1) (a) and (c) All representations from organized agriculture for the introduction of drought relief measures in specific areas are considered on merit. Resulting from representations by the Berlin and Kei Road Farmers' Unions, the magisterial district of King William's Town was listed as a

pasturage distress area as from 3 June 1980. No other representations in this regard have been received from the areas in question.

- (b) This is being dealt with by the Minister of Co-operation and Development.
- (2) (a) The first phase of such drought relief measures is a rebate of 75 per cent on the cost of transport of fodder by the S.A. Railways. Depending on the duration and severity of the drought conditions and with due regard to the financial position of stock farmers in a listed pasturage distress area, the Government may, as a second phase, introduce a loan scheme for the purchase of fodder, which may be followed, as a third phase, by a scheme for the payment of a subsidy on the cost of fodder purchases.
- (b) consideration of representations for the listing of pasturage distress areas enjoys the highest priority on a continuous basis.

20/5/80.

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Estimate of Expenditure - 'Agriculture +  
Fisheries'

See S Hansard 9 cols 1739-1800

Plight of farmers on Northern Transvaal  
border (3)  
9(572) Mr. 16/5/80  
10. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

Whether agricultural unions recently  
made representations to him in regard to

16 APRIL 1980

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the plight of farmers on the Northern  
Transvaal border; if so, (a) which unions,  
(b) when and (c) what was the nature of (i)  
the representations and (ii) his reply?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FISHERIES:

No.

**Agricultural Credit Act: applications for loans**

91584) 17/4/80 (3)  
532. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) How many of the applications received in 1979 for loans in respect of section 10 of the Agricultural Credit Act were (a) granted, (b) refused and (c) are still under consideration;
- (2) what was the total amount involved in the applications granted?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (1) (a) 3 530.  
(b) 1 201.  
(c) 20.
- (2) R44 503 730.



*9567* **Squatters on White-owned farms (3)**  
*15/4/60*  
538. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked  
the Minister of Co-operation and Develop-  
ment:

What is the estimated number of squat-  
ters on White-owned farms in the Republic  
of South Africa?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT:

The information required is not readily  
available and can only be obtained at  
unwarranted expense.

~~27/6/80~~ 27/3/80

(3)

Agricultural Cadet Amendment Bill

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Second Reading

See Senate Hansard 4 Cols 999-1004

Apr 26/3/80

3

Land Bank Amendment

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2nd Reading

See S. Hansard 4

Cols 981 - 985

LAND BANK AMENDMENT BILL

(Second Reading)

Answers 8 Col. 3375

\*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE: Mr. Speaker, I move—

24/3/80

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

3 (yeoville)

In 1959, the Land Bank Act was amended to empower the Land Bank Board to raise funds in the open market by issuing Land Bank debentures to supplement its own funds. Although the State has, since then, made capital appropriations to the bank from time to time for certain specific projects, the bank

3375

MONDAY, 24 MARCH 1980

MONDAY, 24

for financing on the part of farmers. That is true. The fact of the matter is that, as a result of public enemy No. 1 in South Africa, inflation, the inputs of the farmers are increasing tremendously. It increases the riskiness of their undertaking and it also implies that they have to re-utilize the profits they have to make in financing the inputs for the following year. That causes the farmers to begin to experience liquidity problems. Therefore we regard the Land Bank as one of the instruments to satisfy in that need. The Land Bank, via the co-operatives, is the greatest single provider of credit to the agricultural sector. On this aspect I can tell the hon. member for Yeoville that it is our policy that co-operatives should not be lacking in production credit. The best method of growth in South Africa is to ensure that the entrepreneurs in South Africa, in this case the farmers, have the necessary inputs and the necessary means of production to enhance their production.

†Mr. Speaker, the hon. member also raised the question of what would happen if there should be a ready market for the Land Bank's stock. In this regard I want to say that the present Act already makes provision for the buying and selling of Land Bank debentures issued by the bank. This provision was introduced in 1959, when the bank first obtained the power to issue debentures in order to augment its loan funds in the capital and money markets. The purpose of this provision is not to empower the bank to deal as a matter of course in the buying and selling of debentures, but to do so only if it should happen to be in the direct interest of the bank in the particular circumstances. The new proposed paragraph (e) therefore merely brings Land Bank stock, which is now inserted in the Act, into line with the already existing debentures in this respect.

\*As regards the interest rates at which the stock would be raised, I wish to tell the hon. member for Yeoville that one may assume that the bank will pay more for stock than for debentures, owing to the fact that Land Bank stock has a currency of more than three years and does not qualify as liquid assets, but only as a prescribed investment. In the case of Land Bank debentures, which qualify as a prescribed investment as well as a liquid

asset, it is of course a field of investment for financial institutions, whereas stock does not qualify as liquid assets and would not be readily because financial institutions probably insist on a higher interest rate on stock as a result of its longer currency. hon. members know, the idea is to finance activities of co-operatives from the funds raised by means of the stock, which is actually not within the traditional province of agriculture, and furthermore, that for the particular funds for co-operatives, the interest rates will be charged than would be the case with stock.

I just wish to refer to the fact that the legislation is one of the consequences of the recommendations of the Jacobs Committee. This particular recommendation was made as a result of the inquiry initiated by the Jacobs Committee. The hon. member for Griqualand East made an excellent speech and made it clear that the Land Bank would perhaps be able to obtain more funds now. I agree with him that the possibilities for obtaining funds are being improved and that the Land Bank will now be better able to finance another type of activity in which agricultural co-operatives are engaged.

I wish to thank the hon. member for Umhlanga for his support of the Bill. We on this side of the House appreciate his support.

The hon. member for Winburg said that the Free Staters stood by their Church, their Parliament and their Land Bank. I, in turn, wish to tell the hon. member that I shall see to it that the Land Bank will stand by the Free Staters. [Interjections.] The hon. member made an important contribution by pointing out the liquidity problem of the farmers. The hon. member for Yeoville also said that the increase in inputs eroded the profits which the farmer had made the previous year, the profit he had to utilize to finance the inputs for the next crop. This causes the liquidity problem of the farmers. The hon. member for Winburg referred to a case in the Free State about which he felt concerned, and requested that the Land Bank should be more accommodating, particularly in cases where a severe drought was prevailing. I can assure the hon. member that in areas where there are serious drought the Land Bank is inclined to be more accommodating because they appreciate that when the elements turn against one, there is no other way out. In this regard, the Land

follows a far more accommodating policy. The hon. member quoted a particular case and if he is not quite happy about the case, I invite him to come and see me and I shall look into it and I shall also request the Land Bank Board to re-consider the

The hon. member for Walmer asked a very important question. He asked whether there were deserving applications which were rejected as a result of a shortage of funds. The Managing Director of the Land Bank has informed me that no applications are turned down as a result of a paucity of funds. When

there is not granted this is, as a rule, not attributable to a lack of the necessary security. After all, we have to bear in mind that the Land Bank has a limited field in which it can operate. The Land Bank cannot supply agriculture with unlimited financing. There is a group of farmers in the country who are financially so sound that they have to obtain their financing in the private market, in the private sector. Then, again, there is another category of farmers who do not fall into that category and who have to obtain their finance from the Land Bank. Then, there is yet another category of farmer whom one wishes to help in a cheaper and easier way, and these

people are assisted by the Department of Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure at a very low interest rate, lower than that of the Land Bank, and normally with more reasonable terms of repayment.

The Land Bank cannot and dare not ever take over the total financing of agriculture in South Africa, because then it would be encroaching on the domain of the private sector. There is a balance between the share which the Land Bank and the private sector and the State as such should have in the financing of our farming community, having due regard to the fact that it is the policy of the State to finance our farmers on a fundamentally sound basis, in the interests of the consumer and of the producer, so as to ensure long-term stability for all of us in South Africa.

- Question agreed to.
- Bill read a Second Time.
- Bill not committed.
- Bill read a Third Time.

3(gen)

Hansard 7 col 3185 →

20/3/80

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Hansard  
fail part of debate see

**AGRICULTURAL CREDIT AMENDMENT BILL**

(Second Reading)

\*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Mr. Speaker, I move—

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

The Agricultural Credit Act of 1966 provides for financial assistance to be rendered to persons who practise farming or undertake to practise it. With the exception of loans for certain purposes, however, this assistance can only be rendered to persons who are Whites. The loans which may be applied for by any person who is a land-owner are in respect of the erection of dwellings for farm labourers, soil conservation or waterworks and the establishment or management of a private forest.

As far as Coloured farmers are concerned, the position is that Government assistance is available in terms of the Coloured Farmers Assistance Law of 1973. No problems are

experienced in this connection. How-  
representations have been made to the  
to the effect that the Government  
provide for financial aid to Indian  
in respect of the farming industry.  
matter was investigated and it was  
that the aid which at present is  
to White farmers in terms of the  
Agricultural Credit Act of 1966 should also  
be available to Indian farmers. The Bill  
is now before the House, therefore, is  
to remove the legal impediments to  
implementation of the decision.

It is also proposed to increase the mem-  
bership of the Agricultural Credit Board from  
members to a maximum of 12 members.  
The reason for the proposed increase is firstly  
the provision has to be made for the  
appointment of knowledgeable persons who  
to assist the board in the consideration of  
applications received from Indian farmers.  
Compared to the number of White farmers in  
the Republic, the Indian farming community  
is relatively small and a limited number of  
applications are expected. Each application  
will, however, be considered on its own merit  
and in accordance with policy to be formu-  
lated in conjunction with the board and  
subject to the availability of funds.

Secondly, as a result of the relief measures  
which were introduced to assist farmers in the  
drought-stricken areas of the Karoo and  
North-Western Cape, as well as the imple-  
mentation of a special scheme which was  
announced during December 1979 to assist  
farmers in certain strategically situated areas  
in the Transvaal, the board finds it increas-  
ingly difficult to cope with the large number  
of applications for assistance under the Act.  
In order to put the board in the position to  
deal with applications in the most effective  
way, its membership will have to be in-  
creased.

As it will be unnecessary to appoint all of  
the proposed additional members on a full-  
time basis, provision has also been made that  
the remuneration of members of the board  
may differ according to whether they serve  
full time or part time.

\*Mr. P. A. MYBURGH: Mr. Speaker, we  
on this side of the House naturally welcome  
this amending Bill and we support it with  
great enthusiasm. At the moment, the Act

provides that only White farmers may receive  
certain financial aid through the Agricultural  
Credit Board. Of course, this excludes all  
those aspects to which the hon. the Deputy  
Minister referred, such as houses for Col-  
oured people, as well as other possibilities in  
terms of which Coloured or Indian farmers  
can apply for aid. It is true that for the last  
two or three years, or even longer, there has  
been a tendency among sensible South Afri-  
cans to believe that facilities made available  
by the State should be shared by all citizens  
of South Africa, on an equal basis, of course.

We on this side of the House feel the same  
way about this matter, as does the hon. the  
Deputy Minister and, I believe, most hon.  
members on the Government side. Therefore  
it is a great pleasure to us to support this  
amending Bill, a Bill in which farmers of  
colour are also enabled to obtain credit  
facilities in terms of the same legislation and  
from the same department. The hon. the  
Deputy Minister explained that other provi-  
sion had been made with regard to Coloured  
farmers and that things were going smoothly  
at the moment. Of course, one hopes that in  
time, they may also be able to obtain credit  
facilities in terms of this legislation.

The second important aspect of this amend-  
ing Bill is the increase in the number of board  
members from 9 to 12. We understand that  
because of climatic conditions during the past  
two or three years, the amount of work that  
has to be done has increased enormously, and  
that for this reason, the board has hardly been  
able to give proper attention to the number of  
applications that are received. Consequently  
we shall be glad to support the legislation  
with regard to that aspect as well.

I want to ask the hon. the Deputy Minister  
how serious the problem with the backlog of  
applications really is. I believe that he will be  
able to tell me this. It is in the interests of  
this House that we should know. How serious is  
the backlog? With the new increase in the  
number of board members, how soon, in the  
opinion of the hon. the Deputy Minister, can  
this work be completed? Of course, we all  
know that there are many farmers—in the  
drought-stricken areas, as well as in the  
border areas, to which the hon. the Deputy  
Minister referred—who are waiting anxiously  
for decisions on applications submitted by  
them. When the hon. the Deputy Minister  
replies to this question, it would also be

Hansard 7 Quest Col 402

17/3/80

3(gen)

Foot and mouth disease  
7/402 17/3/80 3(gen)  
450. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister  
of Agriculture:

- (1) How many outbreaks of foot and mouth disease were reported in (a) the Republic and (b) the Black states during 1979;
- (2) what was the number of (a) cattle and (b) small stock affected?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) (a) One.  
(b) Seven.
- (2) (a) 103 118 cattle.  
(b) None.

Hansard 7 Quest Col. 393

17.380

3(agen).

71383) 17-3-80 31.02.81  
Agricultural Credit Act  
341. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) How many applications for loans in terms of section 10 of the Agricultural Credit Act were received in 1979;
- (2) how many of the applications were from persons (a) already farming and (b) undertaking to farm within 50 kilometres of the land borders of the Republic?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) 4731 applications
- (2) (a) and (b) Statistics in this regard are not available.

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3 (Copy)

agriculture in the Republic will be advanced. The Bill is fully supported by the South African Agricultural Union, the South African Plant Breeders' Association and other interested bodies.

\*Senator H. F. B. OELRICH: Mr. President, just as in the case of the amending Bill that preceded this one, we on this side of the House will support this measure. Due to the fact that it is essential that we try to produce more food in future and the fact that that can mainly be done by means of further research and the adoption of the new methods, we are quite satisfied that the hon. the Minister needs this Bill so as to make it easier for himself and his department to take the necessary steps by means of regulation.

\*Senator W. GROENEWALD: Mr. President, I want to express my appreciation to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition for supporting this Bill because this is a very important Bill to us as farmers. Not only does it open the door for us but it will also enable us not only to improve the quality of our products, something which is very essential, but it will also promote higher yields per morgen of the various varieties. Greater demands are continually being made of the farming community and production costs are continually rising, so much so that it has become extremely difficult to farm economically in certain areas. For that reason we welcome this legislation and it gives me pleasure to support it.

It is stated clearly in this Bill how progress can be made. In co-operation with Upov better relations can be established with affiliated countries. We as farmers have on occasion trebled and quadrupled our harvests and that was mainly due to new cultivars. For all these reasons it is essential today that the provisions of this Bill are put into proper effect.

Something else which is important today is that we are no longer regionally bound to the same extent these days. I remember that when I was a young boy, what was only grown in the winter rainfall areas. Today with the new varieties, we get wonderful results in Bethal, for example, with A-I wheat, i.e. in a summer rainfall area. That is as a result of the research that has been done. Perhaps the hon. the Minister can tell us what results have

been obtained in Bethlehem with winter rainfall products, for example, wheat which is now being grown successfully on the Highveld, in other words, in the summer rainfall area.

I can mention another few examples. I think of lupin seed three of our varieties of which have already been registered in Germany while we are growing two German varieties of lupins in the Republic of South Africa. Then there is the virus-free strain on which certain varieties are grafted and which can easily increase our fruit crops eight times. In the past we used to graft infected shoots on to infected trunks but today, as a result of the research done at Stellenbosch, we are guaranteed against any diseases and we can get wonderful results.

Reference is made in the Bill to the particular red apple which is so popular overseas. Because of registration in countries abroad we are now able to grow that variety very successfully in co-operation with those countries.

I also think of the processing industry that will be protected as a result of this legislation. As far as peas and beans are concerned, great progress has been made by using varieties from Europe.

Mr. President, in conclusion I want to point out that Europe is already very interested in our improved indigenous ornamental plants. Because our indigenous plants are protected locally and in Europe, it is anticipated that in the long run the Republic of South Africa will benefit greatly from the export of those indigenous plants. Just think of the chinkerinchee, that beautiful little flower, lachanalias, and the different varieties of proteas whose strains we can improve. Because we are affiliated with Upov we can establish an economic industry and we can cultivate land which was not used previously because it was either too marshy, too brackish or too high up the mountains and could not even be used for grazing purposes. In terms of this legislation that land can in future be put to economic use and we can develop a limitless export market provided we succeed in improving our plants to such an extent that they are acceptable overseas. For all these reasons I am pleased to support this Bill.

\*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Mr. President, I want to thank the hon.

**PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS AMENDMENT BILL**

(Second Reading)

\*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Mr. President, I move—

That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

The Plant Breeders' Rights Act is based on the principles contained in the convention of the International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (Upov). The Republic is a member of Upov and as such it is bound to accommodate any adjustments made to the Upov convention in its legislation.

†In 1978 Upov approved certain amendments to its convention with the result that corresponding amendments have to be effected to the Act. It appears that matters concerning plant breeders' rights will continually be reviewed and amended by Upov according to prevailing circumstances. In order not to burden Parliament unnecessarily with trivial amendments to the Act, it is considered expedient to remove from the Act those stipulations, especially those dealing with procedural matters, which are subject to change, and to make provision to prescribe these matters by regulation under the Act.

\*The only other appreciable amendment to the Act results from the important concession which Upov added to its convention, to the effect that plant breeders' rights are being extended to include the yield from plants, for example the fruits of certain apple varieties. Breeders are in fact entitled not only to recover their costs but also to make a profit out of their efforts to improve plant productivity. This will have the effect that breeders will be encouraged to market their best varieties in the Republic. Larger and better yields can flow from this with the result that

Senator Oelrich for supporting this Bill. The hon. Senator Groenewald is quite correct when he says that this is one of the reasons why our production has more than kept pace with our population growth and that we are one of the seven food exporting countries in the world. That is as a result of this kind of legislation. The hon. Senator also referred to the research that was being done in connection with the growing of wheat in the Bethlehem district. New varieties are being developed with the result that the Orange Free State will no longer produce 52% of the country's wheat but possibly 60% and 70%. These varieties have been adapted so as to withstand rust, they lend themselves less to louse infestation and can withstand drought conditions better. Good results have already been obtained with plant material in the deciduous fruit regions where there has been an increase in the apple production of 30% per hectare, simply as a result of using the correct root-stock and the right plant material. I am also told that it is possible to increase fruit production in the winter rainfall areas, in the Western Cape, by 50%. So that is the direction in which we have to develop Sir. As I have already said, the good Lord has decreed that babies be born every day but He is not creating more land every day. Available agricultural land is growing less and less and the solution therefore is to improve production, without overcropping, by way of legislation of this nature, and for that reason I welcome the attitude adopted by hon. Senators.

Question agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time.

Bill not committed.

Bill read a Third Time.



breeder of the finest double-fluff feathers in the country during the height of the ostrich feather boom.

The book is now in the possession of Mr Oscar Evans II, of Melrose, Bedford, who is also going in for ostriches, but not for the same reason as his grandfather. His object is to keep poachers and stock thieves off his farm, for woe betide the man who falls foul of an angry cock ostrich land they are quick with anger) and to keep down jointed cactus, a scourge to the farmer but a delicacy to the birds.

The boom-time farmers were a temperamental lot and fiercely resisted everything they considered false claims to fae fame. Controversies were conducted through the press for months at a time.

The greatest arguments arose over the merits of the Bar bary ostrich: whether or not the strain had been introduced into the Cape colony, and if so into whose birds and whether the Thornton expedition to West Africa to obtain this type of bird to improve the local product was worth while

It was only natural that in these controversies Oscar Evans I, as the recognised producer of the best feathers in the country, would take a prominent part and that his cuttings book should be of monumental proportions.

A feature of the Evans

Mogador, claimed he had reared his birds up to their present fine state through long and careful selection and breeding and had never introduced the strains of others for this purpose.

Mr J.H. Lovemore of Preston Park, Alexandria said: "No, Mr Evans's birds were reared from chicks Evans had bought from him in 1896 and which were descendant from birds he had purchased from Jack van der Riet and Hilton Barber." Thus the Evans type were the result of his, Mr Lovemore's breeding.

This was the commencement of a gentlemanly argument between those who sided with Mr Evans and those who supported Mr Lovemore. Evans featured prominently in the correspondence, maybe with an eye, too, on all the publici his birds were getting for the best cocks were fetching R2 000 and good couples R600 a pair.

Frequent references were made to the birds whose progeny were to give South Africa almost a monopoly in the world's ostrich feather trade. There were Kitty and Jack, belonging to Mr W. Weeks of Reed Valley, who produced Punch and Swartland, the latter being the father of Champion.

Champion and Punch, according to Mr S.G. Pringle, who once worked for Mr Evans, were among

"as long as there are women in the world, things of beauty like ostrich feathers and diamonds are not likely to go begging." In fact feathers, being perishable, had the advantage over diamonds.

In 1865 a census revealed that there were only 12 domesticated birds in the Cape Colony. In 1885 only eight districts in the Eastern Province had a thousand birds. By 1911 there were 746 736 ostriches distributed in 153 district of which only 25 had more than 10 000 birds each.

Oudtshoorn headed the list with 110 000 birds. Albany came second with 40 432, Uitenhage third with 20 203, Somerset East 35 578 and then Ladismith, Graaff-Reinet, Aberdeen, Jansenville and Middleburg in that order.

The value of exports in 1870 totalled R182 458 and by 1913 had risen to R5 771 496; but the decline of the ostrich feather was not due entirely to the advent of the motor car as so many people came to believe.

The first set back was caused by the Paris fashion designers who decreed against the use of feathers for a time. The second was the outbreak of World War I when all the countries who bought South African feathers were involved. The motor-car was only the last feather which brok the ostrich's back and plunged many farmers back in to insolvency.

Oscar Evans I was one of the few to anticipate the ostrich feather slump in time and while the industry was on the wane he was slowly building up a herd of Friesland cattle for which he eventually became equally well known.

Who was Oscar Evans? He was born in Graaff-Reinet in October, 1862, and died in August, 1917. He was a son of John Brown Evans who emigrated to the Cape in 1850 in time to join Currie's Horse in the frontier war of 1850. Twenty years later John Brown Evans journeyed into Asia Minor to import South Africa's first champion Angora rams.

To secure 30 of the best rams that money could buy, he travelled 1 200 miles to Angora and brought his little flock out on the backs of mules, each mule bearing two goats. He arrived home in 1880 and although his rams were the third lot to be imported to this coun they were the only ones of any use because the two previous lots were found on arrival, to have been castrated!

Government refused permission for the birds to be taken out of the country. With the aid of the Amir of Katsma the South Africans were able to get birds and chicks from the two walled towns of Damerghu and Adar and smuggle them down to Lagos and back to South Africa by sea in the S.S. Ethiopia.

They brought also two stallions, 20 marabouts and two goats; but when the cost of the Barbary Expedition as it was now being referred to, was learned to have been more than R17 000 the criticism was severe. But worse was to come.

The birds, which had been plucked bare, and the chic numbered at first 158. Six were presented to Nigeria for its aid to the expedition, two died before leaving Kano, three more died on the overland journey to the coast and seven died on the voyage from Lagos to Cape Town.

The loss continued: on the train from Cape Town to Middleburg five broke their legs and had to be destroyed. On arrival at Middleburg the birds stampeded and another three died as a result — so only 132 arrived at the Grootfontein College.

Grahamstown farmers who went to see the birds described them as rubbish and others complained that while the Government had spent all this money on the importation of birds, it had not spent a penny on some kind of ostrich bureau to assist the farmers.

Mr Thornton himself told me that his labours had been in vain because six months after his return to South Africa, war broke out and that was the end of the ostrich feather boom and the demand for birds of any kind.

The answer to the controversy about the strains was probably that everyone was right.

In 1876, Mr J.E. Cuyler, of Cuyler Manor, Uitenhage imported two pairs of Barbary birds through N. Adler and Company of Port Elizabeth. At one time a magnificent bird of his was stolen and never found again. Then, when he trekked to the Transvaal, he sold all his birds and their progeny to his brothers-in-law Mr Malcolm Stewart and Mr Hally Hudson and to Mr James Lamb.

The dispersal of Mr Cuyler's flock could well have resulted in the Barbary strain being introduced into many other areas without being recorded.

Hansard 6

Question Col. 347

3 Gen

12.3.80

Agricultural colleges: cost to State per student

\*16. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What is the cost to the State per student for the two-year diploma course at agricultural colleges for the financial year 1979-'80?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Cost to the State per student for the two-year diploma course at agricultural colleges for the 1979-'80 financial year is not available at this stage. The figures will only be available towards the end of 1980.

The average cost to the State per student at the various agricultural colleges for the 1977-'78 financial year was R555,00.

Hansard

**Desert encroachment**

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE replied to Question \*5 by Mr. N. B. Wood:

5(314) 7-3-80 (26) 3(gen)

- (a) What progress has been made in combating desert encroachment into South Africa's farming lands in the last 12 months and (b) what is the estimated amount spent during this period on work in this respect?

**Reply:**

- (a) Reasonable success has been obtained in the Karoo, Eastern Cape, Orange Free State and affected parts of the Winter Rainfall Region.
- (b) R2 775 595 on financial aid under the Soil Conservation Act was paid to farmers.

# Drought cripples farming in Natal

*General* *MDM 1/8/50*  
DURBAN. — The drought situation in Natal is deteriorating daily with large areas of the province having had little or no rain for four months.

A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at Maritzburg said yesterday that in the Port Shepstone area farmers had been forced to cart water for their stock.

The water supply for the town of Darnall had dried up and boreholes had been sunk in an attempt to find water.

The department said that from reports received, levels of permanent streams and rivers in Natal were the lowest on record.

In East Griqualand, little ir-

rigation was possible as the whole area was dry, with Kokstad, Franklin and Matatiele worst hit.

In the Alfred district, the Umzimkulwana River was barely flowing and at its lowest level in living memory. Not more than 50mm of rain had fallen in the area since last January.

At Pinetown, the recorded rainfall since March was 60% to 80% below average. Severe frost in some low lying cane areas had damaged the crop and water was being carted for human and stock consumption.

Eshowe had only a few days' supply of water left and the

situation was critical throughout the district, with some rivers having completely dried up.

No effective rain had fallen at Pongola in four months and the Pongola Irrigation Scheme had cut supplies to farmers by two-thirds.

Greytown had also been without rain for four months and maize deliveries confirmed that on average, a 50% drop in crops had resulted from the drought.

Richmond dairy farmers had been particularly hard hit with water supplies low and grazing critically short and non-existent in many areas.

The spokesman said that in general terms the dairy indus-

try in the province was in a difficult financial position as feed was running out fast. In many cases there was only enough left to last until the middle of August.

Cane farmers had been paying off labourers as there was no work for them. Cane crops were dying and those that had survived were stunted or damaged by frost.

Vegetable farmers who had water were still producing, but all had doubts as to how much longer water supplies would last.

"Farmers agree that this is the worst drought in living memory," the spokesman said.

— Sapa.

11/11/80

# Farmers unhappy with Escom

1/8/80

PORT ELIZABETH — Resolutions passed at the East Cape Agricultural Union congress here yesterday, reflected farmers' dissatisfaction with tariffs and services rendered by Escom in rural areas.

The congress asked the national union to try to get the government to hasten rural electrification and to provide farmers with financial aid.

Delegates said rural electrification was a priority because of the fuel crisis, but stressed that Escom's extension line and availability charges were far too high.

Mr J. D. Human, of Paterson, said he paid Escom R222 a month in availability charges, besides the unit tariff for power.

Mr F. W. Pettit, of Queenstown said Escom was unsympathetic towards farmers.

Farmers had approached Escom to allow them to build their own extension lines to Escom links but this had been refused, he said.

Mr W. D. Mayer, of Humansdorp said farmers in Vredefort had built their own line at half the cost quoted by Escom.

Mr G. F. Bekker suggested that farmers build lines on their properties and then sell them to Escom at 75 per cent of Escom's estimated cost.

The congress will also ask the government to investigate the three-month army call-ups for farmers and how exemptions are granted.

Mr J. H. Hattingh, of Lady Grey, said that while all farmers accepted their military responsibilities, it was an impossible financial sacrifice for a farmer to do three months' border duty yearly. — DDC.

## Termites now add to problem

Own Correspondent

**KIMBERLEY** — Drought-stricken Northern Cape farms have been hit by another problem — a termite plague. In some cases it is a worse problem than the drought itself.

Agricultural experts say the termites are taking over the dry veld in large areas — devouring the remaining grass tufts and burrowing up to three metres underground.

The chairman of the Kimberley North Agricultural Society, Mr Dirk Vorster, who farms near Windsorton, said yesterday the problem started about two years ago, and farmers had so far had no real success in fighting the menace.

# OFS farmers facing disaster over drought

SAW 11/8/80  
3

Own Correspondent  
**BLOEMFONTEIN** — Free State farmers face disaster if seasonal rains expected this month do not materialise and the drought gripping much of the province is not broken, say farmers and agricultural experts.

Thousands of hectares of farmland have already been laid waste and farmers are selling some livestock to keep other animals alive.

Agricultural authorities have declared 10 magisterial districts in the province drought-stricken. They are listed as "distress zones."

Officials of the Department

of Agricultural Economics and Marketing said the drought was spreading rapidly and another four districts would shortly be added to the list.

This means farmers are eligible for Government loans and subsidies to buy fodder to keep animals alive and are also entitled to a 75 percent rebate on the railage costs of getting feed to their farms.

The listed areas are Bloemfontein, Brandfort, Bultfontein, Dealsville, Excelsior, Fauresmith, Hertzogville, Koffiefontein, Philippolis and Trompsburg.

Others in the pipeline are Boshof, Dewetsdorp, Jagersfontein and Jacobsdal, a Department spokesman said.

The Chief Professional Officer of the Department of Agriculture in the Free State, Mr R van Schalkwyk, said yesterday that rainfall in the province was lower than usual and that water tables were down.

"Although we are only a month from the traditional rainy season it must be realised that farmers face a serious situation. If it rains, the veld will only be ready in October," said Mr van Schalkwyk.

At present, the veld reserves were depleted, the land was bare and there was no green feed for livestock, he said.

Most dams in the province are less than 30 percent full and the Orange River is only a trickle in some areas.

The Kalkfontein Dam is 6,49 percent full, Krugersdrift 8,21, Allemanskraal 7,58, Erfenis 24,70 and Rusfontein 34,42.

Farmers in the Riet and Kaffir River areas who depend on dams for irrigation of their crops, had been worst hit, officials said.



This kwaZulu child is one of thousands in the homeland suffering from malnutrition. He was lucky. They were able to get him to hospital. Others die of marasmus (starvation).

## Your chance to help kwaZulu

By Josie Brouard

Readers of The Star who wish to help the starving people of kwaZulu can now do so through the SA Red Cross Society, which has come forward to co-ordinate all relief work in the homeland.

Mr Kelsey Stuart, president of the SA Red Cross, and Mrs Inka Mars, vice-chairman of the organisation's Natal region

have voiced their support for the relief of the people of kwaZulu.

The society's Natal branch has already transported hundreds of tons of food to the homeland. Today, another 16 tons leave for the Mhlabathini region.

Large companies have also joined in to do their bit for kwaZulu.

• Murray and Roberts

have donated the use of their trucks.

• Premier Milling are offloading food far beyond their depots.

• Attack Trust has donated R30 000.

Mrs Mars said the Red Cross would be working hand-in-hand with the kwaZulu government as it had been doing for the past months.

Those who would like to help should deliver goods to 77 de Villiers Street, Johannesburg, or contact Mr W A Tasker at the Red Cross, Southern Transvaal Region, telephone 29-2441.

Readers can also contact Mrs Inka Mars, chief liaison officer, at Durban 31-1231 or post donations to PO Box 1680, Durban 4000.

# Minister dashes irrigation hopes of Little Karoo

## Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN—The Minister of Water Affairs, Mr A J Raubenheimer, brought bad news to the drought-stricken Little Karoo yesterday, when he dashed the hopes of farmers for a scheme to irrigate the region with water from the Orange River.

Addressing farmers in the Oudtshoorn district, The Minister said the findings of a departmental investigation showed that the "astronomical" cost of such a scheme would be prohibitive.

The Star's Farming Correspondent reports that rains in parts of the Western Cape have brought some drought relief, but the Little Karoo and Natal are still in the grip of a critical drought.

Copious rains in Namaqualand during the last two days have eliminated the northernmost of the drought areas in the Cape.

Okiep, where it last rained some two years ago, received as much as 27 mm.

East and south of Okiep, the desert will

blossom again. Karakul farmers will be able to stop feeding their sheep expensive lucerne.

The wheat plains around Piketberg and Porterville were less fortunate. They did get their rain, but it came too late to save the late-sown crops. This remains a hard hit area, where only some farmers nearer the mountains managed to plant their wheat in time.

Even worse off is the Little Karoo, around Oudtshoorn, Ladismith and Calitzdorp. Lucerne farmers cannot water

their crops, apricot trees and vineyards suffer from lack of water, dams are empty, sheep are dying.

Prospects for early rains are dim.

Natal has been the most seriously hit this season. One drought area is the Natal midlands. Within a wide arc water has become a problem.

In northern Natal the drought crisis has been accentuated by the warmer weather.

In order to examine the internal forces in a bar with arbitrary loading, consider the bar shown in Fig 2.41, which is subjected to a distributed load  $p(x)$  per unit length, as well as concentrated loads and/or reactions at its ends A and B. Referred to the local axes of the bar, the load is given by

$$\underline{p}(x) = p_x \underline{i} + p_y \underline{j} + p_z \underline{k} \quad (2.92)$$

The forces and moments at the ends are

$$\underline{P}_A = H_A \underline{i} + V_A \underline{j} + R_A \underline{k} \quad (2.93)$$

$$\underline{C}_A = T_A \underline{i} + L_A \underline{j} + M_A \underline{k} \quad (2.94)$$

with similar expressions for the forces and moments at end B. We assume that  $\underline{p}(x)$ ,  $\underline{P}_A$ ,  $\underline{P}_B$ ,  $\underline{C}_A$  and  $\underline{C}_B$  form an equilibrium set, that is, that the reactions have been found by the method discussed earlier in this Section.

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# When testing of chemicals goes awry

5/5/80  
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In his second article on poisonous agricultural chemicals, HANNES FERGUSON, Farming Correspondent of The Star, poses the question: Must damage to crops or human health be done before a farm chemical can be held responsible?

**A high margin of error makes the testing of poisonous farm chemicals an inaccurate gamble in some cases.**

One of the commonest weedkillers is a compound by the name of 2,4-D.

It was first marketed in 1942. No herbicide has been more exhaustively researched, but according to Professor P C Nel of Pretoria University, even in 1980 we do not know exactly how it works.

Technology marches on, largely on the basis of experiments followed by some theory. And as it moves forward, it leaves large blanks in our knowledge.

## Unforeseen

Manufacturers of a compound must test their product to acceptable standards.

They must also make practical field tests in South Africa to satisfy the Registrar of Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural and Stock Remedies.

But thousands of unforeseen conditions might cause problems, commented Dr A J Pienaar, Director of Crops and Pastures in the Department of Agriculture.

This points to an uncertain situation in a field where facts should be clear and undisputed, farmers feel.

Must damage to crops or human health be done before a farm chemical can be held responsible?

## Serious

Or should a manufacturer prove beyond reasonable doubt that his product will not turn agriculture or the public into guinea pigs and the environment into a laboratory?

The recent Tordon controversy in the Springbok Flats in Northern Transvaal has raised serious doubts about the adequacy of present controls.

A Silverton-based chemical firm sprayed ten farms in the area with Tordon. This is a 2,4,5-T-containing mixture. It was applied on patches of bush encroachment in valuable sweetveld grazing.

The spraying was done by helicopter between February 5 and February 14.

Wind and helicopter turbulence blew a part of the spray across adjoining farms, where beans, maize and large sunflower fields had been planted.

## Caution

Perhaps this was unavoidable. But as it happened, the spraying was done just as the sunflower fields were coming into seed — their most sensitive stage.

It may be assumed that the spraying was done in accordance with the official label drawn up by the office of the Registrar.

Directions on the label cautioned against broad-leaved crop plants in general terms, mentioning also grain crops at their sensitive stages.

An earlier official publication, "Weed control critical for sunflower" by Mr W J Engelbrecht, Mr T Duvenage and Mr E G Birch — experts of the Department of Agriculture — had drawn attention, very specifically, to the effect of 2,4,5-T spray on sunflower.

The warning went unheeded when the label was worded. There was nothing to cause the user of Tordon to avoid spraying it when adjoining sunflower fields were coming into seed.

The combination of unexpected circumstances was disastrous.

Irrigated beans and maize fields on one neighbour's farm were killed off completely.

Sunflower plants within a radius of one kilometre were hit by a sudden disease causing empty seeds and leaf and stem ab-

normalities. Yield was down by 75 percent.

Farmers filed complaints and summonses, said to total about R8-million.

Then somebody noted a similarity between the new Springbok Flats sunflower "disease" and abnormalities that had been observed on sunflower elsewhere. On this ground, the Tordon manufacturer could deny responsibility for the Springbok Flats damage.

The similarity was subsequently hotly disputed, and the Northern Transvaal Co-op together with the Department of Agriculture, had to embark upon an extensive sunflower and 2,4,5-T experiment in a frost-free part of the Soutpansberg district.

## Furious

Until this experiment is concluded — and this may take months — there will be no legal responsibility and no compensation for aggrieved farmers, many of whom are finding it difficult to finance next year's crop.

Farmers are furious. Through their co-op they have to pay for the Soutpansberg experiment, and suffer not only by the damage to their crops, but also through the delay.

If there was any uncertainty about the effect of Tordon on sunflower, they say, the manufacturer should have conducted tests before submitting the product for registration.

Failing such tests, the Registrar should, after the warning by Messrs Engelbrecht, Duvenage and Birch, have insisted on such tests to be done before registration.

A parallel case occurred in the Western Transvaal, where a weedkiller had been used on maize weeds but proved to be dangerous to maize as well.

It was later established that the weedkiller had been tested on a number of maize varieties, but not on the specific variety the farmer had planted.

The directions for use, as worded on the label, did not mention the maize

varieties on which the product had been tested.

Consternation among farmers followed.

Professor Nel agreed with them. Responsibilities of manufacturers should be sorted out, he felt. The State should see to it that field testing in South Africa covered more crops, more varieties and more stages of growth.

Another bone of contention is the scope of the Registrar's functions. His powers are at present completely divorced from economic aspects of the farm chemical industry.

## Profit

Theirs is a highly monopolistic market where choice between basic ingredients is limited.

The farmer, who is the consumer, and indirectly the public, have little defence against profiteering.

Whatever steps could or should be taken rest with the Department of Commerce.

When the State seeks to

encourage local production of pesticides and herbicides by slapping on an import duty, it is also the Department of Commerce's business — even when the local production does not materialise but the duty and the higher price remain.

There are more serious questions involved as well. South Africa spends annually some R100-million on imported farm chemicals. Much of this amount represents salaries for highly trained laboratory staff in the manufacturing country overseas.

In South Africa, said Professor Nel, there were only 10 herbicide scientists employed in the private sector and six at the universities.

When importing know-how-intensive products like farm chemicals, we promote unemployment of highly qualified manpower and underdevelopment of human potential, said Dr Pienaar.

Local private laboratories employing local highly trained staff could be established if countries exporting their lucrative pesticides and herbicides to South Africa could be persuaded to farm out a small portion of their laboratory work.

Here, as in all economic matters relating to this industry, the Registrar has some leverage.

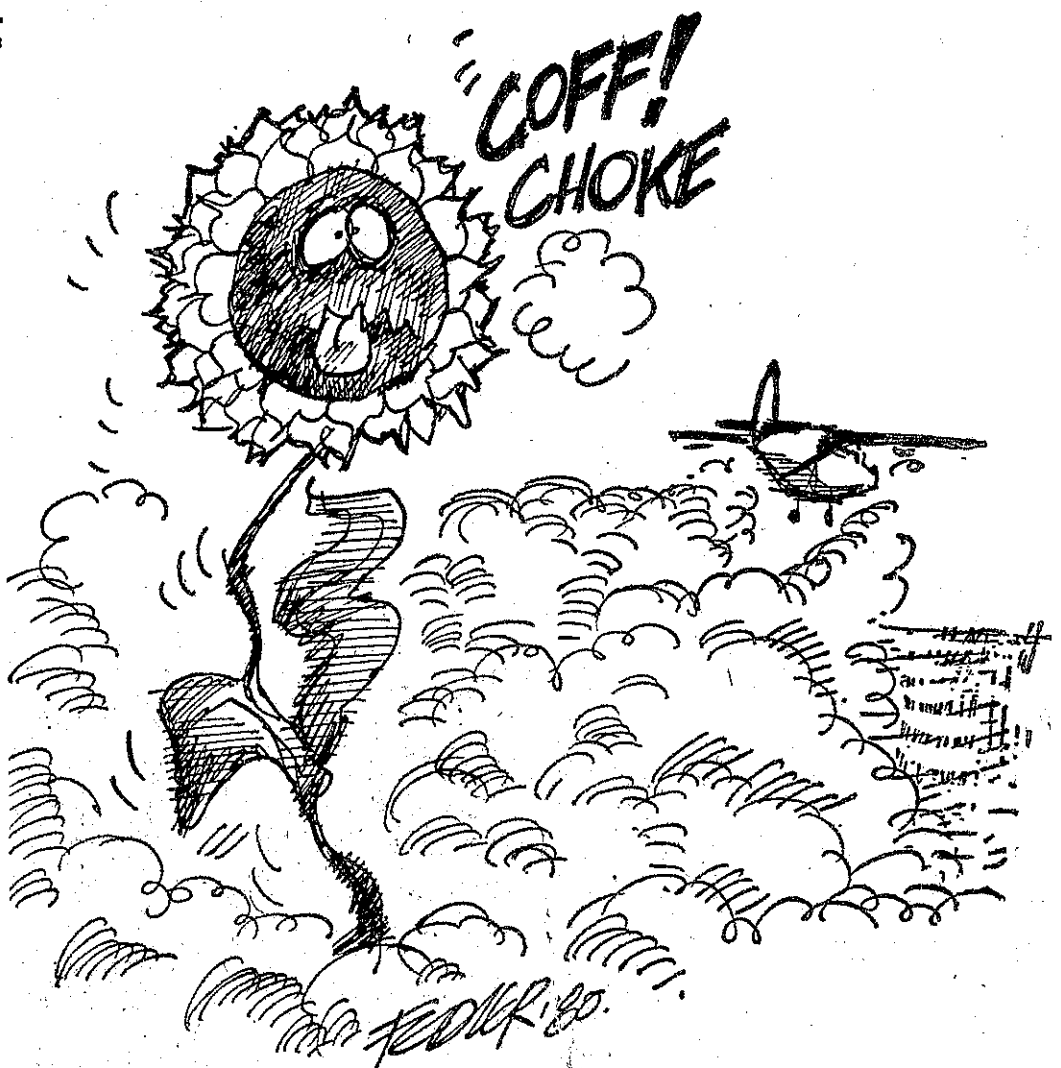
By using it judiciously, he might be able to bring about some change.

**TOMORROW: South Africans must learn to live with modern farm chemicals, says the SA Agricultural Union.**

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## BRIEFING



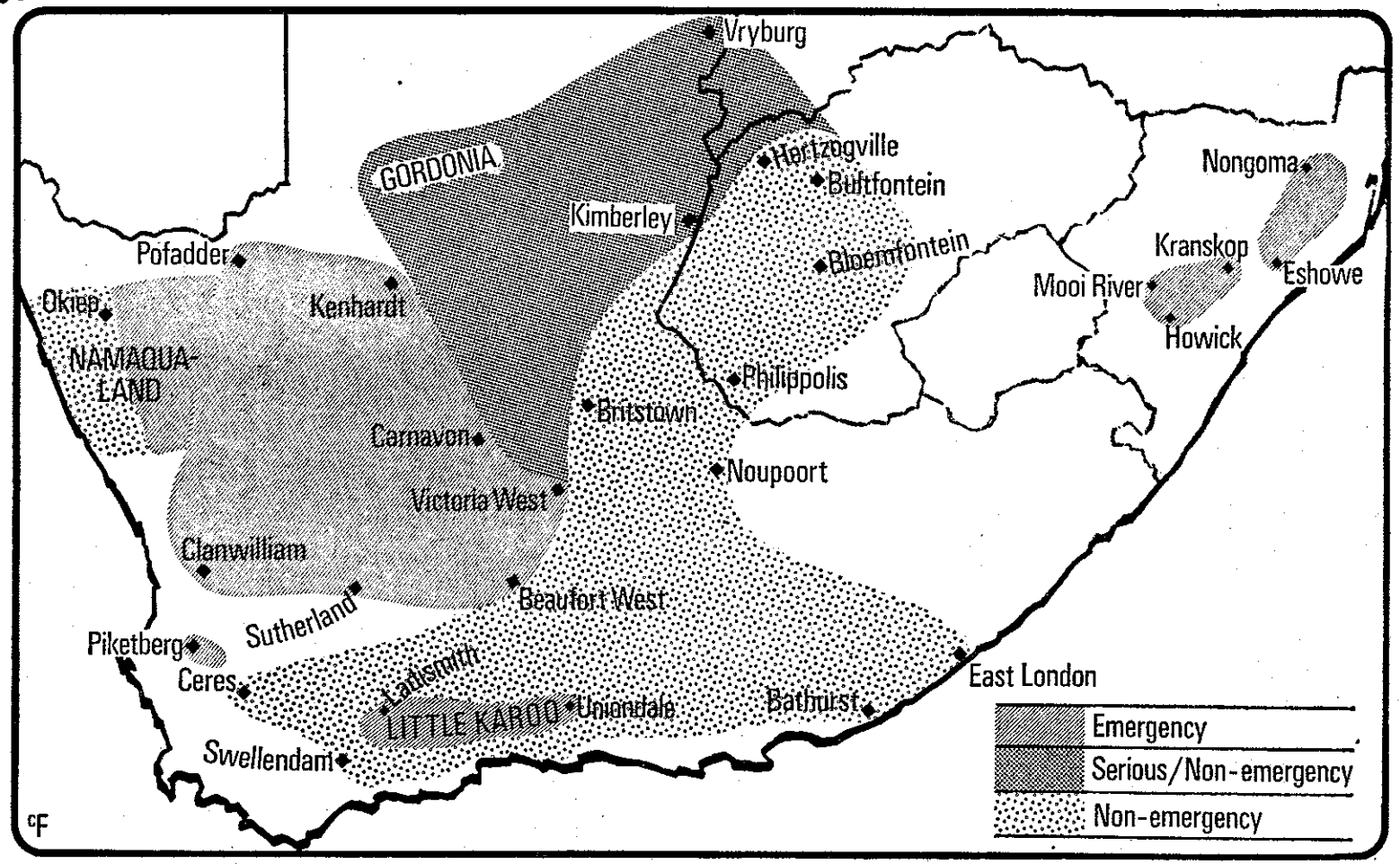


# Worst of drought still ahead

3 Jan 68/80.

Iron hand wrings life out of dry, thirsty land

Farming Correspondent  
 The drought will get much worse before conditions improve.  
 This is the message from all parts of the Cape Province, the Free State and Natal, where drought is extending its iron grip.  
 In the Cape, where Namaqualand had had some relief, almost the whole of the Karoo suffers badly.  
 Conditions are critical in the north-western Cape as well as the intensively farmed Little Karoo.  
 The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr S Hayward, has requested the SA Agricultural Union to make urgent recommendations on long-term drought relief measures for the whole Karoo.  
 He said grazing in the area was deteriorating rapidly and the seriousness of the situation was not generally realised.  
 Subsidies on transport and loans on stock feed in emergency grazing areas enable farmers to feed their sheep, but hay is scarce.  
 Irrigation dams in the Little Karoo are empty. In Uniondale even boreholes are dry.  
 The main grain areas in the Western Cape are still managing, but they need more rain urgently to yield a



reasonable crop.

In the plains of Piketberg and Porterville, however, most of the crop has already been lost.

The Eastern Cape, Southern Free State and the Northern Cape cattle country report a general drought, fast

deteriorating veld and more and more districts being listed as emergency grazing areas.

The main disaster area is still Natal, where in the midlands even drinking water has become a problem.

The area around

Kranskop, Greytown, Mooi River and Howick experiences its worst drought in living memory.

Feed reserves for dairy cattle are low because of last season's poor crop.

Surface water has dried up and water is

often carted over long distances.

Northern Natal and kwaZulu are other critical areas. Boreholes are drying up everywhere.

Although light rain fell in parts of kwaZulu and northern Natal last night it was not

enough to break the drought, save the sugar crop or fill reservoirs.

The sugar industry is hard hit, and sugar production is falling off.

Abnormal frost has killed low-lying sugar cane, and the drought is doing the rest.

In his final article on poisonous agricultural chemicals, HANNES FERGUSON, The Star's Farming Correspondent, discusses ways of resolving the various interests involved

## Striking a balance

(3)

South Africans must learn to live with modern poisonous farm chemicals, according to the SA Agricultural Union.

Agriculture would be hard put to maintain its present productivity if pesticides and herbicides were dropped.

The American Congress Office of Technology Assessment has estimated that if all farmers gave up pesticides completely, commercial production of apples, lettuce, cotton and some speciality crops would cease.

Grain production would be sufficiently disrupted to boost prices by 60 per cent.

The Congress office recommends a combination of biological control, pest-resistant plants and restrained spraying.

Biological control means introducing bacteria and other organisms to destroy harmful pests. Use of chemicals could be reduced by about three-quarters by this method.

### Plainer

Dr David Pimentel, an entomologist at Cornell University, says that by using only a minimum of chemicals and relying more on biological control of pests food supplies could possibly fall by about nine per cent.

It would make our diet plainer but not poorer, he said. Prices might rise about 12 per cent.

The Natal Parks Board says that pesticides, es-

pecially those that do not break up easily, have been shown to do a great deal of harm to game. Birds are particularly vulnerable.

Where chemicals do not kill birds, they lead to a decline in reproduction.

Mr Terry Oatley, the board's bird expert, said there appeared to be a Natal-wide decline in wild birds. Although this was partly due to more intensive farming, it was probably also due to the use of pesticides.

A number of reported cases of pesticide poisoning of birds has been found to be deliberate: people have used pesticides to poison game birds such as guinea fowl.

### Game

Culprits know they can eat the carcasses of poisoned birds quite safely after the removal of the entrails, stomach and crop.

In the Caprivi there have been reported cases of game poisoning by labourers from the maize-growing scheme of the Corporation for Economic Development.

Two buck carcasses were baited with a systemic maize pesticide known as carbofuran. Lions, jackals and many rare vultures died.

Dr Eddie Young, Assistant Director of the Transvaal Nature Conservation Division, said that pesticides posed an increasing threat to wildlife.

His division would support any legislation aimed at advance investigation of the

ecological effects on soil, water and wildlife of any new pesticide or herbicide before it was released for use.

He deplored the fact that nature conservation bodies were not represented on the advisory committee set up to assist the Registrar of Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies.

Dr Young called for much wider and more co-ordinated research into the effects of pesticides and herbicides on game and nature generally.

### Antidote

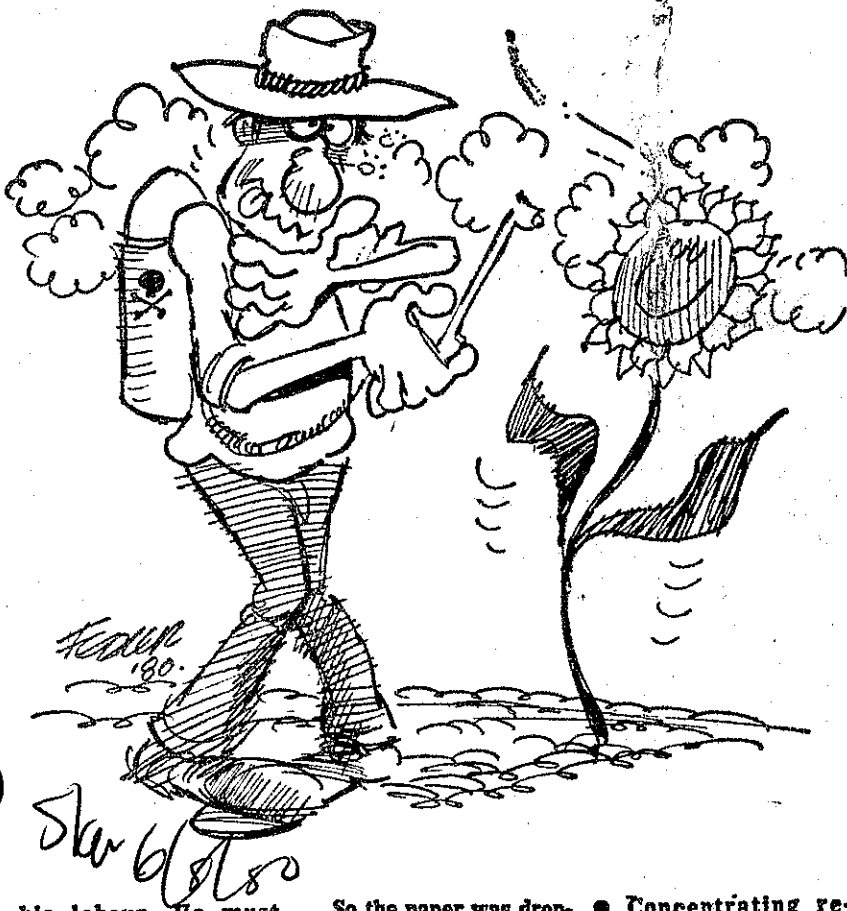
Does ecology include protecting man?

If so, then it also includes labourers on farms and estates. To protect their health and to protect the environment against theft or misuse of poisonous farm chemicals, directions for use printed on container labels may be very useful but can hardly be sufficient.

What if the user is in too much of a hurry to notice that the label tells him to mix the compound in a certain way, to use protective clothing, or to use this or that antidote in case of accidents? What if the user cannot read?

And what about the farmer? He has very specific duties. He must take utmost care to use poisonous farm chemicals strictly according to the all-important label instructions.

He must further ensure adequate supervision of



his labour. He must provide proper storage in a weather-proof and theft-proof shed or building. He must keep a record of incoming and outgoing stores. He must arrange first-aid facilities.

But having done all this, he is entitled to protection against mishaps for which the manufacturer of the compound may be held responsible or partly responsible.

But how is the farmer to exercise his right in disputed cases?

### Dispute

When a lawsuit to prove the liability of a chemical firm may cost the farmer easily R100 000 — which he cannot afford but which is "peanuts" to the manufacturer — is he adequately protected by the law as it stands?

With the Springbok Flats sunflower dispute fresh in their minds, farmers are concerned.

Now there is a problem in the Western Transvaal as well.

A farmer in the Sannieshof district who had applied herbicide strictly according to its label, nevertheless suffered extensive damage to his maize.

He intended to include the subject in a paper on weed control he was to read at a technical conference organised by his district agricultural union. But he was faced with an open threat by the firm making the herbicide: talk and we shall sue you and your union.

So the paper was dropped, said a spokesman for the union.

To avoid a head-on collision between the farmers and the manufacturers of pesticides and herbicides, the SA Agricultural Union and the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association have come together to talk things over.

A joint committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr Andries Scholtz, general manager of North-Western Co-op at Lichtenburg.

This committee has held two meetings described by Dr Scholtz as "very useful." Certain suggestions are to be carried to Ministerial level.

Some of the committees members are known to be in favour of clearly divided responsibilities. The manufacturers would look to specific aspects and agree to be responsible for them. The farmers would hold themselves responsible for others.

Others think in terms of a system of compulsory or agreed arbitration. An impartial body would decide disputes out of court.

Four main approaches have been advocated:

- Using less chemicals but more biological controls and concentrating plant breeding on creating pest-resistant varieties.

- Much better and more accurate testing of chemicals before registration.

- Concentrating research on less poisonous substances.

- Concentrating on educating the user and alternatively, introducing legislation modelled on laws applying to the handling and use of explosives.

# Huge Umgeni dam

## Need for additional water for Durban

(3) NM 8/8/80

### Property Editor

A MASSIVE new dam, twice as big as Nagel Dam, is to be built in the Umgeni Valley at Inanda near Hillcrest only 20 km from Durban.

The dam, which the Department of Water Affairs proposes to build in a steep-sided gorge near the Kloof nature reserve, will flood some of the Province's most picturesque scenery in the the Valley of a Thousand Hills.

It will also mean that thousands of blacks living in the basin of tribal trust lands along the banks of the river that form part of KwaZulu will have to be relocated.

At present that Department of Water Affairs is involved in delicate negotiations with the KwaZulu Government over the acquisition of the land and compensation.

A spokesman for the department said yesterday: 'At this stage we do not know how many people are involved. We have done a hut count, which is only a rough esti-

mated, but our early assessment is that the region is quite densely populated.'

He added that negotiations with the KwaZulu Government were far from finalised and further protracted negotiations could mean that the building of the dam could be delayed.

The new dam, 25 km downstream of Nagel Dam, is needed to provide additional water for Durban and its adjacent low-lying areas. Simultaneously with the dam building project the Umgeni Water Board is planning to build a 20 km pipeline to carry water from the dam to a new purification works at Cato Manor.

The cost of the two projects is estimated at R60 million. The dam will be financed by the Department of Water Affairs and the R30 million pipeline will be paid for by the Umgeni Water Board.

The pipeline contract will involve 16 km of concrete-lined tunnel which will pass through sheer rock

in the hilly terrain of the Umgeni Valley en route to Durban.

Pre-qualification tenders have already been called for and test drilling has already begun. The only major structure along the route is the University of Durban-Westville so tunnelling operations should not be excessively difficult.

The board hopes to make a start on the pipeline early next year and the completion date for the project, including the purification works at Cato Manor, is scheduled for mid-1984.

Apparently the tunnel project has been on the cards for some time. It was first mooted by the Durban Corporation but planning was taken over by the Umgeni Water Board earlier this year when the board increased its responsibility for regional water supply.

Mr Alan Barnes, the board's chief engineer, said: 'The Inanda/Wiggins pipeline is needed to supply the low-level areas around Durban so we can release

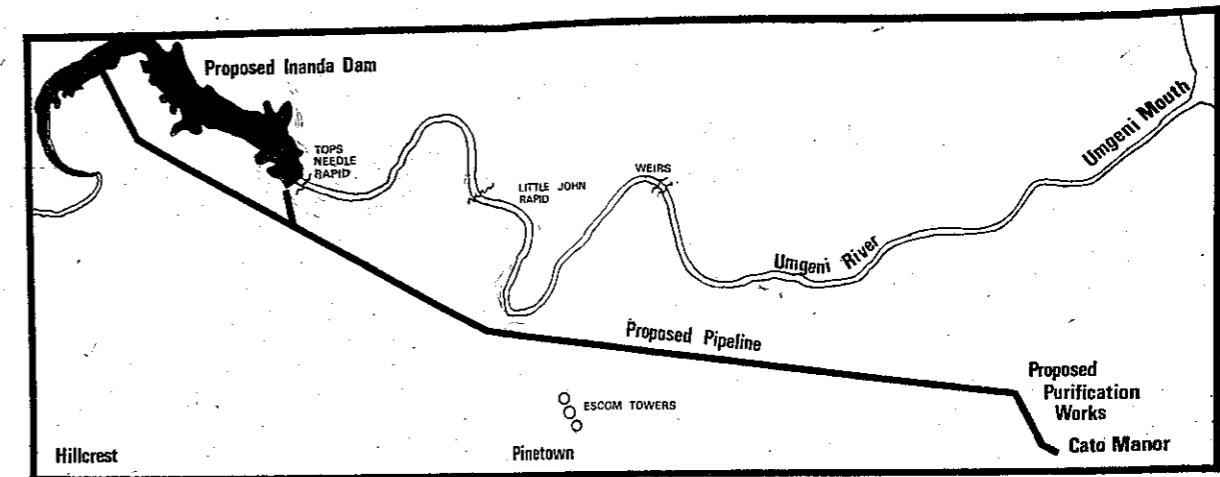
more water from the existing Durban Heights purification plant for supply to the higher regions beyond Durban.'

The new purification works at Wiggins, in Cato Manor, will be built in two phases — each with a storage capacity of 175 000 m<sup>3</sup> of water.

The dam will also be built in two phases. The first structure will be a mammoth concrete weir with earth embankments at the two sides. The dam wall will later be raised to its full height giving a storage capacity of 60 000 000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Although planning on the tunnel project seems to be further advanced, the dam is being considered as a priority by the department.

'We are trying to get it built as quickly as possible,' said a spokesman for the department. 'We hope to submit a White Paper on our proposals during the next parliamentary session.'



# Lowveld <sup>SMC</sup> farmers <sup>(3)</sup> in for <sup>9/18/50</sup> a boom

Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — While most farmers face the worst drought in 47 years, Lowveld growers are looking forward to one of their best seasons.

Record harvests, that will earn farmers millions of rand, have been predicted for the region's three major products — tobacco, citrus fruits and sugar.

Although an estimated 300 000 kg of tobacco was damaged by hail, farmers still expect a 10-million kg harvest. At current prices this will mean an extra R2-million for producers.

As far as the sugar industry is concerned, 1 604 000 tons of sugar cane are expected to be milled at Malelane this year, representing an increase of 101 000 tons over last year's figures.

The Citrus Exchange reports an expected increase of 10 percent in citrus exports this season. A spokesman pointed out that last year's 28-million cartons of citrus — a large proportion of which comes from the lowveld — will be exceeded by 2-million cartons. In terms of foreign exchange this represents R143-million.

# Give us cash, beg border migrants from Zimbabwe

By MARSHALL WILSON

THE Government has been urged to provide a R25-million injection to the border areas in a bid to help re-settle dozens of Rhodesian farmers crippled financially by Zimbabwe independence.

On a trip to the Messina area this week I was told the R10-million allocated by the Government to redevelop the thinly-populated border areas had already dried up — and that dozens of former wealthy Rhodesian cattle ranchers applying for loans had been turned away because they do not have the deposits to secure the land.

"What is happening here is a tragedy," said one prominent Messina estate agent who asked not to be named. "I have had dozens of former Rhodesians — wealthy men in their own right across the Limpopo — asking to buy farms but without the necessary cash to justify the large loans they need to make a go of it.

"The Government is bending over backwards to help them, that's for sure, but even then you must sell them economic units and in this area that means a farm of about 3 000ha or so. At the going rate of R75 a hectare that's upwards of

R200 000 for a going concern, and then they have to stock it.

"Even if the Government drops the price to a giveaway R40 to R45 a hectare you're talking about a figure of R135 000, without stock, and most of the blokes who have come through can only raise about R5 000 even though theoretically they may be millionaires on the other side."

Another developer agreed that with more cash to help resettle the many Rhodesians wanting farms, the Far North could be the best farming area in the country.

"We have all the water we need, we have the equipment, we have the stock. More money would bring in more people, and that's all that's lacking."

Mr C E "Koeke" Terblanche, chairman of the Southansberg Agricultural Union and spokesman for about 600 farmers in the area, told me that several former Rhodesians had been able to buy irrigation farms on smallholdings along the Limpopo.

"The R10-million made available by the Government for the border areas was used up about four months ago. I agree that more money is needed to help these people, but then again you cannot have two norms,

one for the locals and one for the immigrant farmers," Mr Terblanche said.

"Any man who wants to start farming here must first have sufficient land to make it economically viable. He must be able to meet his loan repayments and support his family as well.

"It's a tall order, especially when you consider people leaving Zimbabwe are severely restricted in the amount of cash they can bring out."

Other farmers agreed that a massive financial injection from the Government would undoubtedly help the unhealthy density of population around Messina.

The tiny border town itself is currently experiencing boom conditions, with a flood of ex-Rhodesians, mainly White, headed south in increasingly large numbers.

But as one hotelier warned: "It can't last. My lease is due for renewal in October and I'll have to think hard about renewing it. They want to put the rental up, and one must try to work out when the surge south will dry up.

"When that happens it's tickets. Hoteliers will go broke with no passing trade."

5 Express  
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105 RDM 14/8/80. 3 year

# A total failure of crops

THE CISKEI, almost totally dependent on agriculture, has been devastated by a year-long drought that has led to a total crop failure and has raised fears of the possible loss of thousands of cattle.

Not even the R7 500 000 emergency relief granted by the South African Government in June can now avert the disaster that faces the territory's 1 250 000 people.

To reduce the danger of famine, half the money has been allocated to an emergency employment scheme — but even this will benefit only about 11 000 people.

"There has been a total crop failure in all districts," says the Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Gary Godden.

Now he fears that the lack of grazing could lead to a loss of stock comparable to the 1949-50 drought when hundreds of thousands of stock perished.

A tour of the Ciskei last week revealed the enormity of the problem.

Army trucks ferrying hay into the rural areas and distributing water at badly hit communities are a common sight. Everywhere people report their cattle dying.

We stopped to talk to Mr Mkangeli Kondile, of the Kulile location near Middledrift, one of a group of villagers cleaning out a bone-dry dam.

"I lost a cow today. This is the third. Now I have six left and they are thin," he told us through an interpreter.

He is one of thousands of Ciskeians running small herds who are watching their cattle drop dead before their eyes.

"There is just nothing left in the veld that an animal can eat," said a cattle owner.

The Ciskeian Government, using some of the R7 500 000 relief grant, rails in hay from the Transvaal and distributes it to the headmen at tribal authorities.

But still the cattle die. The territory is too far-flung,

the individual herds of the pastoral farmers often too remote for emergency feed rations to reach them. And there is just not enough hay for everybody.

The money the Ciskeian Government has set aside for the employment programme has been allocated to the tribal authorities in all areas in proportion to the population each represents.

The headmen then pay workers anything between R1 and R2 a day for specially created jobs like cleaning silt from dried-up dams or repairing roads.

But because of the limited money available, not everybody can be employed every month. To spread the benefit, groups of Ciskeians are employed on a roster basis in most communities.

Even so, there will be jobs for only six months.

The pastoral farmers rely heavily on home-grown maize for their subsistence. Few

areas have raised a mealie in 18 months.

Everything they eat must now be bought and few have any income because of the crop failure.

"Faced with conditions we are now experiencing, R7-million is a drop in the ocean, thankful though we are for it," says Mr Godden.

But to the people drawing the paltry wage, it is everything.

"It is all that many of us can earn," says Mr Mandomdili Mtsamana. "Some draw disability grants or pensions, but many people are hungry."

He has been employed for two months. Now it will be the turn of another villager.

"It is in times like this that only the owners of trading stores can make any money."

This year the Department of Agriculture launched its agricultural credit scheme and provided seed worth R27 000 to about 200 farmers.

No one could even plant a seed.

# Cape drought areas get rain relief

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — Rain has fallen in some parts of the drought-ravaged areas of the northern and southern Cape and the Karoo, but a lot more is needed to relieve the crisis conditions.

Rain has fallen in parts of the Karoo region, the most severely affected of the three agricultural areas in the Cape province.

In all, 32 districts or 80% of the region, have been or are in the process of being declared drought-stricken areas.

The chief extension officer at the Grootfontein Agricultural College in Middelburg, Mr Johan van der Vyver, said yesterday that 31mm had been recorded in the Kenhardt district, the second biggest district in the region. "Whether this proves sufficient to break the drought remains to be seen. But the weather is still promising," he said.

Mr Van der Vyver said that even good rainfall would have to be followed by more rain if the veld was to recover in the near future.

"A week ago 20mms of rain fell in one area, but this did not prevent it from being recommended as a drought-stricken area.

"If we have more rain like this it might be taken off the list," he said.

"But the drought has definitely not been broken."

A spokesman for the extension office in Springbok said that rain had fallen in most parts of Namaqualand.

"The drought has been broken in some of the winter rainfall areas. In some places it is very green," he said.

He added that the situation was still "very bad indeed" in Bushmanland.

Rain was reported in the Little Karoo where Ladismith and Oudtshoorn were worst affected.

A spokesman for the Agricultural Technical Services in Oudtshoorn said that "very little" rain had fallen and that a lot more was needed in the area.

More than 14mms of rain was measured yesterday morning in Mooresburg.

Mr W W Burger, technical services officer, said that rain had fallen in many parts of the Swartland.

"At this stage we don't know how much has fallen, but it's

# R300-m to transform Ciskei

A CAPITAL injection of R300-million — less than this year's tax rebates for South Africans — could turn Ciskei into a prosperous and thriving agricultural wonderland.

The Ciskei that is today crippled by drought, its people facing famine and heavily dependent on a R7 500 000 drought relief grant from the South African Government, could be turned into a major food exporter providing sorely needed jobs for tens of thousands of its people.

Ciskei's Secretary for Agriculture, Mr Gary Godden, said in an interview that to bring irrigation to now arid land and build up a water supply network would cost about R300-million.

"Everybody speaks of the Border region being underdeveloped and of the vital need to generate development.

"Yet we have a Ciskei today that has 1 000 000 hectares of underdeveloped land. With the right capital injection and the prosperity that would come with it every Ciskeian could enjoy the same standard of living as middle-class South Africans."

Today Ciskei has only three irrigation schemes — Tyefu, on the Fish River, Sada, in the Whittlesea area and Keiskamma-

hoek. Together these three schemes have a potential of 4 900ha of irrigable land, yet only 1 800ha have so far been developed.

"The Keiskamma River basin alone has a potential of 10 000ha which could provide employment for 20 000 people," Mr Godden said.

Ciskei had identifiable water reserves capable of building up an irrigation network that could become the pride of Southern Africa.

To become a food exporter, Ciskei would need to develop the secondary industries vital to agriculture — canning and food processing plants.

"They can only be attracted if we make a start and develop our land," Mr Godden said.

The drought now crippling Ciskei had underlined the importance of irrigation, developing water reserves and maintaining a fodder reserve.

"In Ciskei you cannot depend on dry land farming. It is out of the question. This is a pastoral country but we do not have the climate for consistent food production without irrigation."



# Drought: More mis

3-General 14/8/80

Several areas of South Africa have been hit by drought in the last few months. In some places the drought has been described as the worst in living memory, leading some officials to believe that the spectre of famine looms in many areas. But the drought is not the only culprit. Poverty, unemployment, poor farming methods, and lack of education have aggravated the situation. While immediate relief is the most pressing need, to avoid a repetition of a similar situation developing in the future it is necessary that the contributory factors are attended to as soon as the situation is under control. CHRIS FREIMOND of the Rand Daily Mail Southern Africa Bureau reviews the situation in KwaZulu, one of the worst-hit areas, while ROB NUTTALL reports on how Ciskei has been afflicted.



## Endless vistas of bare veld

PARCHED earth and poverty have combined to cripple KwaZulu and highlight the pitiful conditions in South Africa's black rural areas.

The drought that destroyed the sugar cane crop has also withered the meagre maize patches on which 2 500 000 Zulus depend for their subsistence.

Along the coast the unaccustomed eye is deceived by the relative greenness of the stunted cane fields. But inland, endless vistas of bare brown veld where scrawny cattle nibble listlessly at dry stubble leave no doubt that the land is dying.

The area near Tugela Ferry, barely 100km from Maritzburg, is said to be the worst hit in KwaZulu with wasted cattle dying in cloying mud pools that no longer contain enough water to drink.

Even hardy goats, able to withstand lengthy droughts, are little more than bags of bones eating the bark of thorn trees to survive.

The drought has been described as the worst in living memory. Traditional water sources on which tribesfolk have relied for generations are dry.

The mighty Tugela and Umfolozi rivers are reduced to sluggish streams churned muddy brown by hundreds of cattle that trek there to slake their burning thirst and tear hungrily at the sparse grass patches on the banks.

For the Zulus, the failure of their crops, loss of water sources and deterioration of their cattle are disasters of the worst kind.

The KwaZulu Secretary for Agriculture, Mr J P Ferreira, said as many as 150 000 cattle — 10% of the national herd — may die this winter. But he

pointed out that about 100 000 die annually in KwaZulu through disease, old age and other related causes.

"Things are very bad in some areas but it's not a case of people and animals dropping dead all over the place from famine. We haven't heard of a single case of anyone actually dying of starvation.

"The Government and tribal authorities are doing all they can to help the people and assistance is coming from outside," Mr Ferreira said.

Only relief aid — first from the KwaZulu Government and then from the South African Sugar Association, the Red

Buthelezi said that poorer people were in "dire straits" as a result of the drought and many had been unable to produce enough food to subsist.

"But it isn't as if everyone is on the verge of starvation. Remember we don't only have a subsistence economy. There is also a cash economy and a flow of cash from outside KwaZulu," he said.

The drought conditions were expected to push up the incidence of malnutrition, but it had always been a problem in the region.

The acting  
the Charles

Amatikulu rely on neighbouring white sugar cane farmers to supply them with water for cooking and drinking

Picture: VITA PALESTRANT

Only relief aid — first from the KwaZulu Government and then from the South African Sugar Association, the Red Cross and major business concerns — has prevented more suffering.

Millions of rand in cash and kind are pouring into the region. The sugar association has arranged for cane farmers to cart water into villages surrounding their estates. In more remote areas, bulk tankers under the auspices of the KwaZulu administration's "Operation Water" serve the needs of thirsty peasants.

In the words of the sugar association's water distribution co-ordinator, Mr Neville Polkinghorne, who farms near Amatikulu: "This time it's for real. The dams of many white farmers are drying up fast. The water table has never been so low."

The cane crop was expected to be only 30% to 40% of normal. This would aggravate the situation for tribesmen who relied on jobs during the cutting season which would now be much shorter, Mr Polkinghorne said.

Mrs Inka Mars, the vice-chairman of the Natal Red Cross Society, which is co-ordinating the distribution of emergency food supplies, said the response to the crisis by businessmen had been overwhelming.

Hundreds of tons of maize meal, soup, powdered milk and glucose sweets had been channelled into KwaZulu.

The drought had emphasised the poverty existing in the region where people struggled at the best of times, Mrs Mars said.

The Red Cross would continue relief work while it was needed and as long as businesses continued to support the call for emergency supplies.

The KwaZulu Government has provided R3 200 000 to pay men and women who will work in the community on roads, erosion prevention and other maintenance projects.

KwaZulu's Chief Minister, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, is anxious that his people do not become totally reliant on outside help. The R1,25 daily wage will allow them to retain their dignity and also buy some essential food.

Opening an agricultural show at Nongoma recently he said: "We believe that the black man's dignity which has been assailed for so many generations demands that we should enable them to keep their chins up even in the midst of our present adversities."

In an interview later, Chief

The drought conditions were expected to push up the incidence of malnutrition, but it had always been a problem in the region.

The acting superintendent at the Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital at Nqutu, Dr Bill Forster, said it was too early to say how the drought would affect the malnutrition problem. The symptoms would take three to six months to manifest themselves.

But he agreed with Chief Buthelezi that malnutrition was nothing new to KwaZulu.

"It's a complex problem. Drought is not the only factor. Poverty, unemployment, lack of education and poor land all contribute and are aggravated by drought and crop failure," he said.

But while all attention is focused on immediate relief, the Institute of Natural Resources in Maritzburg has warned that it is "vitally necessary" to look ahead to prevent mass hunger and an ecological collapse in KwaZulu.

"The rate at which soil is being lost in the Natal region has reached alarming proportions and when the inevitable torrential rains come later this year the presently baked plains and hills of KwaZulu will be further stripped of valuable top soil," a spokesman for the institute said.

The "misery" in the region could not be blamed solely on the drought. Proper planning, years ago, could have avoided the "spectre of famine" which loomed over the land.

Over-population and over-grazing of land that should, in the first place, have never supported people or cattle had ravaged areas many of which were now beyond reclamation, the spokesman said.

And in Johannesburg, the startling news from KwaZulu and other drought stricken regions has prompted the formation of a nation-wide hunger relief drive.

The Institute of Race Relations yesterday launched "Operation Hunger", which is an extension of the Hunger Concern Programme started last year by Johannesburg City Councillor, Dr Selma Browde and Dr Nthato Motlana, chairman of the Soweto Committee of 10.

The institute believes there is a need to fight malnutrition throughout the country, particularly in black rural areas.

Emergency aid will be channelled into crisis areas when it is needed, but the long-term aim of "Operation Hunger" will be to promote self-reliance and seek solutions to the massive problems causing poverty in South Africa.

# Conservationists demand ban on killer insecticide

Staff Reporter

AN AGRICULTURAL insecticide which has caused havoc with wildlife in the Caprivi area has evoked strong reaction among conservationists who have called on the Government to ban it.

In the latest bulletin of Endangered Wildlife Trust, Dr John Ledger, chairman of the trust's vulture study group, called for the insecticide to be banned.

The source of the insecticide, known as Curaterr, appears to be the Economic Development Corporation's agricultural project, which has bought large quantities of it.

"Information has been received about ducks and other waterfowl being poisoned by the insecticide in the East Caprivi.

"The birds presumably dig up the maize seed after planting. Hundreds of paralysed birds are found in the mealie lands and the locals collect them. It is only a matter of time before people get poisoned," he warned.

"The information about the paralysed waterfowl seems to indicate Curaterr should not be used at all, even if adequate supervision could be assured. What happens if rain washes away a maize field just after

planting and the Curaterr gets into our rivers?

"It is ridiculous that the Endangered Wildlife Trust should be spending thousands of rands on research to conserve vultures and then one or two misguided individuals can destroy more than 250 of the birds with the greatest of ease because they have access to a deadly poison," he said.

Dr Ledger is chairman of the vulture sub-committee of the International Council for Bird Preservation.

Conservation authorities throughout all maize-growing areas in Africa should be warned about the danger of Curaterr, he said.

In two separate incidents the insecticide has been used to poison carcasses that were then eaten by scavengers.

Near the Kwando River, members of the South African Defence Force found a dead impala which had traces of a blue crystalline substance on it.

Around the impala were a dead lion, dead warthog and about 100 dead vultures. The blue crystals were identified as Curaterr.

In the second poisoning, Curaterr was applied to a dead elephant near Katima Mulilo. Six lions and about 150 vultures were found dead around the carcass.

# Parasites to beat citrus pests

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## Farming Correspondent

The citrus industry is discarding pesticides.

Biological control of citrus pests is taking over from insecticides, said Dr M Samway of the Citrus and Subtropical Research Institute in Nelspruit today.

Red scale, an insect pest on citrus trees, had at Letaba Estate become so resistant to insecticides that trees became defoliated and fruit was lost.

Alternative control, by using natural parasites of red scale proved immensely successful.

Mr Frank Honiball, the estate's insect expert, is confident that the phasing out of insecticides will actually improve pest control.

During the 1979/80 season 115 000 trees at the estate received no spray at all, and next season no insecticides would be used against red scale.

Professor A Carman, from the University of California who last week visited the institute at Nelspruit, said that control by red scale parasites should be established before resistance against pesticide developed.

Then the pesticide would be still at hand in case of an emergency.

Against lesser pests, such as thrips and psylla, natural parasites were not as effective as against red scale. More research had to be done. Insecticides had still to be used against them.

FOOD — the crisis that is not due to drought's fell hand alone but also to structural economic factors

FAMINE and starvation stalk KwaZulu and the Ciskei. Malnutrition is widespread and chronic elsewhere too. And this in a country which exports large quantities of food, and where the rich eat well enough to suffer from the diseases of obesity.

The food crisis cannot simply be attributed to the drought. It has persisted through good seasons and bad since before World War One.

Nor is it the result of ignorance, either in matters relating to production or nutrition, for in earlier years the peasants of Southern Africa fed themselves and their families and also produced for the market.

### Reforms

It is not the result of an overall failure of productive capacity, for agricultural production has soared since World War Two.

The crisis is directly the result of structural tendencies in the political economy of the region, tendencies which the State either supports or is ineffective in counteracting.

It is, above all, the effect of a policy which concentrates rural populations on land which cannot sustain them without massive reforms and assistance.

### Landless

This policy was developed hand in hand with the migrant labour system. Landless men were forced to work on the mines at wages below subsistence level.

By the 1930s, 30 000 family heads in the Transkei had no land. In turn, the migrant labour system had a deleterious effect on agricultural production and on the health of the people. Women were unable to carry out all the functions of agricultural production, and entered the wage market. They became increasingly reliant on trading stores for their food.

In the absence of agricultural co-operatives, they sold their maize to the traders.

The children suffered — malnutrition is most clearly evident in children after they have been weaned and their mothers enter the labour market. A study conducted in what is now Botswana during the 1940s showed a direct relation between malnutrition and the migrant labour system.

### Wild plants

The State encouraged sheep-raising from early in the century. Yet contradictorily it pursued a policy of cattle-culling. Sheep denuded vegetation. The wild plants which went to making up the nutritious collation called mfino in Transkei became harder to find. Traditionally, maize and sorghum had been eaten as supplements to meat. On their own, they lacked vital nutrients necessary for a balanced diet.

The main local beneficiaries of developments in rural areas were a small minority

# IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY

By ALF STADLER

Professor and head of the Department of Political Studies, University of the Witwatersrand. He is currently studying the politics of food, housing and transport

ty who came to control most of the stock and access to land. By 1935 0.3 percent of stockholders held 70 percent of sheep and 50 percent of cattle in Transkei.

By the 1940s, people without stock amounted to 23 percent of the population in Natal, 35 percent in the Ciskei and nearly half in Transkei. By the middle 1950s, the "homelands", long in a state of serious decline, were in a state of collapse. Yet State regulation of influx to the cities forces increasing numbers of people to live in areas which have become little more than dormitories.

### Model

Undoubtedly the land could support more people in these areas if appropriate reforms and measures were introduced. But the model of agricultural development which the state encourages is large-scale "industrialised" production.

In the white areas, agriculture is heavily concentrated in the hands of small numbers of large-scale farmers, who receive lavish State assistance in the form of loans, subsidies, marketing networks and magnificent technical assistance.

### Tractor

Technical advice hardly comprehends the problems of the small-scale producer — when, a few years ago, I asked an official about equipment for small producers, he replied that if they could afford a small tractor, they could afford a big one. But the real problem is the producer who cannot afford a tractor, and the bigger problem is the would-be producer who has no land. There is little initiative towards land reforms even on the limited scale practised in countries like Mexico.

The main lines of the country's agricultural policy were laid in the 1930s. In effect it encouraged the production of exports and held local prices high by withdrawing "surplus" production from local markets. It encouraged the upgrading of production for international markets while

local consumers and small producers.

A distinguished British food expert called it a "policy of scarcity".

Food production and distribution is monopolised by the giants. The market gardens which once surrounded the major cities have been obliterated under suburban sprawl. Municipal regulations prohibit livestock in urban areas for health reasons, an assumption which deserves critical attention as family pets (inedible) also carry disease.

The major part of our food is produced in areas remote from most consumers. Food prices have escalated, partly because of costs of transportation and packaging.

### Turbulence

There is a direct link between political power and control over food supplies. There is also a direct relationship between the cost of food and the levels of wages and wage demands, a relationship which unites a diverse array of interests on this issue, though the present system probably works to depress wages.

There is also a link, though sometimes complex and indirect, between food supplies and prices and political turbulence.

The miners' strikes of 1920 and 1946 were preceded by food riots and influenced by conditions in the reserves. Protracted struggles on the land have taken place for much of this century where the State has imposed controls over access to land or intervened in production.



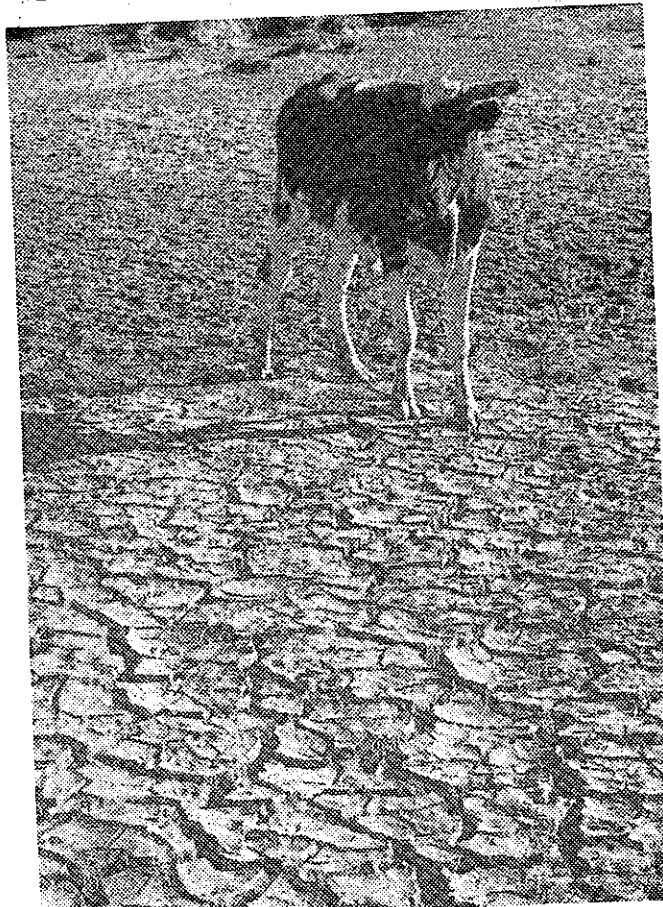
The swollen tummy and loose skin tissue tells the story of yet another kwashiorkor victim

Sunday  
EXPRESS

# Business



Edited by  
**DEREK  
TAYLOR**



Victim of South Africa's worst drought for 15 years — thousands of cattle have already died and there is little sign of the drought easing.

## Drought now a national disaster

(3) S.E. van 24/8/80

**SOUTH AFRICA'S** share of the continent's worst drought for 15 years has now reached the proportions of a national disaster — with recovery for some areas at least a season away.

Economists from the commercial banks and the Department of Agriculture are trying desperately to estimate the eventual total cost of the damage — while new reports of drought-stricken and threatened areas continue to pour in.

The Transvaal is the only significant agricultural area to have escaped the disaster.

Many areas cannot now be saved even by immediate and ample rains — their veld is stripped bare and, according to the department, will take a long time and good management to recover. In fact, heavy rains could now increase the damage to unprotected grazing lands.

In Natal, battling through its second year of drought in a row, some officials believe that the situation is now so bad that the Government's normal procedures for districts to be proclaimed disaster areas are insufficient.

A more sweeping approach should be taken, it is felt, to follow-up the joint pledge of aid <sup>en</sup> Hendrik Schoeman.

The legal recognition of regional disaster areas, rather than districts, could free Provincial administrations from treasury inhibitions against dispensing significant emergency aid from current budgets.

One senior provincial official told the Sunday Express: "The farmers and all the country people are really hurt now.

"We are giving as much aid as we can, but until Government takes a lead in freeing us from legal constrictions, much

of what we are giving has to be organised by bending the rules."

The time-honoured procedure for declaring a disaster area begins with organised agricultural institutions, such as the Agricultural Union.

They have to make representations to district magistrates in each district affected.

The magistrates then initiate investigation by officials of the Department of Agriculture, who submit reports to the Minister.

If the Minister agrees to proclaim a disaster area, aid is made available. In the case of stock farmers, the aid comes in four stages. First, a 75% rebate on the cost of transporting fodder is given: next survival loans may be given: next comes, in the case of sheep, assistance at R2 a head half being a subsidy and the balance a loan: finally aid is stepped up to R3 a head with R1,60 as a

subsidy, R1,40 as a loan.

• Financial aid to farmers recommended by the Jacobs Committee includes:

Extension for another year — until the end of August 1981 — of the interest subsidy of 3,5% on the carryover debts of farmers on production credit granted by their cooperatives.

Extension of the subsidy to carryover debts of farmers on production credit for the 1979-1980 season as at August 31, 1980. The subsidy is payable from September 1, this year and is effective up to August 31, 1980.

Production credit, including stockfeed loans, by cooperatives to their members for the 1980-1981 season, repayable over a maximum of four years.

Farmers in difficulties have been officially urged to apply to the Land Bank or Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure for consolidation of debts and emergency production credit.

# Anglo American

23/8/80 not buying (3)  
Umfolozi mill (23/8/80)

NM Financial Editor

ANGLO American was yesterday revealed as the mystery buyer behind the purchases of at least 27 farms in the Umfolozi area at a cost of R20 million.

But Anglo American is not talking with the Umfolozi mill board on buying the mill and a spokesman for the co-operative said that the question of appointing Anglo directors to the board would have to be decided by the members.

The Umfolozi Co-op's board is to meet with Anglo representatives 'in the near future'. There are about 144 white growers attached to the mill.

Umfolozi has appointed Finansbank as professional advisers and last Friday met with the unnamed 'party' which has expressed an interest in buying the mill.

## Discussions

'Constructive discussions were held and these are continuing,' the co-op said. It has started talks with the relevant Government departments on the issue.

Finansbank said that Anglo American had confirmed to them that they

were behind Jeremy Timbers, which has been 'actively' buying sugar farms in the Umfolozi area.

Anglo said it had no sinister motives, that it planned to continue with sugar farming and 'it wished to co-operate in a positive manner with Umfolozi and its members.'

## Tongaat?

Finansbank would not reveal the identity of the potential mill buyer but it is quite possible that Tongaat is acting in the deal.

Mr Chris Griffiths, an executive director of Anglo American, has been in Natal this week and returned to Johannesburg last night.

He is a director of Hulett's and Tongaat and chairman of SA Forest Investments.

Speculation has been rife in the area for several months as rumours of large land sales swept the north coast from Hluhluwe down to Empangeni.

The mill was the subject of a R22.5m bid from Hulett's last year, following reported dissatisfaction from farmer members of the co-op.

# Stock theft sentences too lenient, say farmers

STAMP  
25/8/80

By Hannes Ferguson  
Farming Correspondent

South Africa has about 12 000 hardened stock rustlers, according to police sources. And they say the laws against rustling are not tough enough.

Major-General C F Zietsman, Chief of the CID, said that police statistics showed a slight decrease in stock thefts. The total number of cases reported fell from 14 165 in the first half of 1979 to 13 460 in the second half.

The number of animals involved decreased from 74 993 to 63 466; prosecutions from 6 500 to 6 246.

But, he said, the law against stock theft did not achieve its purpose, because fines and prison sentences were too lenient.

## SENTENCES

In terms of the Stock Theft Act of 1959, first offenders could be fined not more than R1 000 or sent to prison for up to two years. Subsequent convictions carried a maximum sentence of three years.

At the present prices of livestock, this was not much of a deterrent.

Only a small percentage of reported cases led to conviction. The evidence had usually been eaten by the time the culprits were caught, he said.

Regular release of prisoners on parole was another problem. Stock thieves, once out of prison, soon returned to rustling.

General Zietsman put the annual loss to farmers through stock theft at R6-million.

Rustling across South Africa's borders was

reasonably under control, he said. Border patrols along the Limpopo were effective.

In the Free State, special border stock theft units operated from Wri-zieshoek, Fouriesburg, Ficksburg, Ladybrand, Wepener and Thaba Nenu.

These units had obtained excellent co-operation from the Lesotho and Bophuthatswana authorities, said Major Gerrie Smit at Ladybrand.

If there was an upsurge in rustling somewhere, a strong horse commando was immediately mounted, assisted by police on motorcycles. Such patrols remained in the saddle for long hours, being away from base for weeks on end. They were very successful.

The SA Agricultural Union, concerned about the trend in stock thefts, has repeatedly urged the Government to do something about it.

Recently, a SAAU delegation saw the Minister of Justice, Mr Alwyn Schiebusch. It was brought to the Minister's notice that fines and jail terms as provided for by the Stock Theft Act were inadequate.

Provincial legislation on game theft was much tougher and included the confiscation of vehicles used in the crime, the delegation pointed out.

The Minister said he would look into the matter, but could not promise anything.

The SAAU delegation also suggested a review of the parole system but Mr Schiebusch replied that it would be difficult to isolate one type of offence for special parole treatment.



# Transport costs hit Lowveld farmers

Stuk  
3  
28/8/60

Farming Correspondent

The new Minister of Agriculture, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said yesterday the transport problems of the Transvaal Lowveld deserved special attention.

The Minister declined to comment on his new department's policy before taking over the reins from Mr Schoeman.

As Member of Parliament for Lydenburg, however, he said the Lowveld part of his constituency suffered because of high railway tariffs for the products of Lowveld farms. This was strangling the Lowveld's development.

Speaking as Deputy-Minister of Finance, he endorsed the opinion of the Jacobs Committee that little could be done to lower farm costs, such as the cost of pesticides, fuel and implements.

On this issue, the SA Agricultural Union has recently expressed strong views. The prices of farm requisites just had to be kept in check, the SAAU said, contrary to Mr du Plessis' view.

# Cape, northern Natal drought has broken

Star 30/8/60 (3)

Farming Correspondent

The drought has almost been broken in the Cape and part of northern Natal.

A spokesman for the weather bureau said in Pretoria today that widespread rains had fallen in most of the Karoo.

The drought-stricken north-western Cape had had some relief, O'Okiep getting 6 mm and other places somewhat more.

The little Karoo also benefited, averaging about 9 mm, but more rain is needed.

Canarvon with 16 mm,

Matroosberg (Ceres) (31 mm), Piketberg (20 mm), and the Fraserburg-Sutherland area all shared in the welcome rains.

With the warmer weather, the veld will start improving.

Wheat farmers in the Swartland - Morreesburg, Malmesbury — may even

look forward to a bumper crop. In Piketberg and Porterville, those farmers where some seed wheat managed to germinate at the start of the season, can expect a modest crop after all.

In Natal, Melmoth got 17 mm, which points to relief in a desperate situation in the southern part

of the northern Natal-kwaZulu drought belt.

The northern part and the coastal strip, as well as the Natal Midlands will still remain parched, waiting for their turn.

The weather is clearing now, and it will be some time before rains can be expected again.

In the Free State, the Riemland area — Frankfort, Tweeling, Reitz — got spring rains that will greatly benefit wheat farmers.

In Potchefstroom (with 24 mm of rain) and Bethal (18 mm) districts in the Transvaal, farmers will be able to start ploughing.

3

STAT  
Farming  
costs up  
by 26 pc

MARITZBURG — Agriculture in South Africa, a high risk industry, is faltering because the return on capital is half that of commerce and industry. says the report of the council of the Natal Agricultural Union.

Farm production costs soared by 26 percent, while net farm income rose by six percent in 1979. Last year was the fifth consecutive year in which costs outpaced income.

Cost increases exceeded income last year, even though output rose by 2,5 percent.

The return on capital used in agriculture was 7,3 percent, compared to 13,5 percent in commerce and industry.

From December 1972 to June 1979 the farm debt almost doubled from R1 521, 6-million to R2 994-million.

The drought had affected nearly all sectors of farming in a manner in which no man-made remedy held any hope.

# 'End KwaZulu consolidation'

NATAL Mercury 5/9/80 (3 Gen) ~~100~~

## Natal farmers discuss Government's plans for Natal

Mercury Reporter

THE Natal Agricultural Union congress in Durban yesterday passed a resolution opposing further consolidation of KwaZulu and calling on the Government to consider alternative plans for Natal.

The resolution, moved by Mr Gerrie de Jong, MP for Maritzburg South and a member of the Lions River Agricultural Society, was withdrawn after a heated debate from the floor.

The congress also passed a resolution by Mr Peter Miller, MPC for South Coast and a member of the East Griqualand Farmers' Association, instructing the council of the NAU to

convene a special congress to investigate the effects and implications of the proposed consolidation of KwaZulu on agriculture in Natal.

Experts including representatives of the Government, the Province, KwaZulu and agricultural economists had to address the congress before general debate.

The subject of consolidation was not discussed at previous congresses because it was a political issue but yesterday the president, Mr Donald Sinclair, ruled that it was of such importance to farmers that it could not be ignored at this year's congress.

'After all it is our land that is involved,' he said.

In a fiery speech Mr de Jong told the congress that he rejected the concept of creating an independent KwaZulu and

asked the congress to call on the Government to stop 'chopping up' Natal.

Mr de Jong said that if farmers supported the philosophy of an independent homeland then they must support 'meaningful consolidation', but if they opposed further consolidation they must reject the whole idea of a divided Natal.

His resolution stated that KwaZulu in its present fragmented form was not viable and no amount of consolidation could make it viable.

Mr de Jong said the Government had rejected alternative plans for Natal, and he requested in his resolution that other dispensations for the province should be considered.

Mr de Jong agreed to withdraw the resolution after an assurance from the president that the special congress would be convened without delay.

## Abandon 'cheap food policy' plea at Agricultural Union congress

Mercury Reporter

A RESOLUTION calling on the Government to abandon its cheap food policy was passed at the annual congress of the Natal Agricultural Union in Durban yesterday.

The resolution said farmers must be adequately compensated for their farm produce and the public must be educated to pay a reasonable price for food.

Speakers from the floor said some companies were allowed profit margins of 300 percent, but there was an outcry when the

price of red meat was raised by a percentage that was lower than the inflation rate.

The president, Mr Donald Sinclair, said if farmers were not allowed a return on their capital they would be forced to leave their farms. He said over the past 20 years the number of farmers had dropped from 124 000 to 70 000.

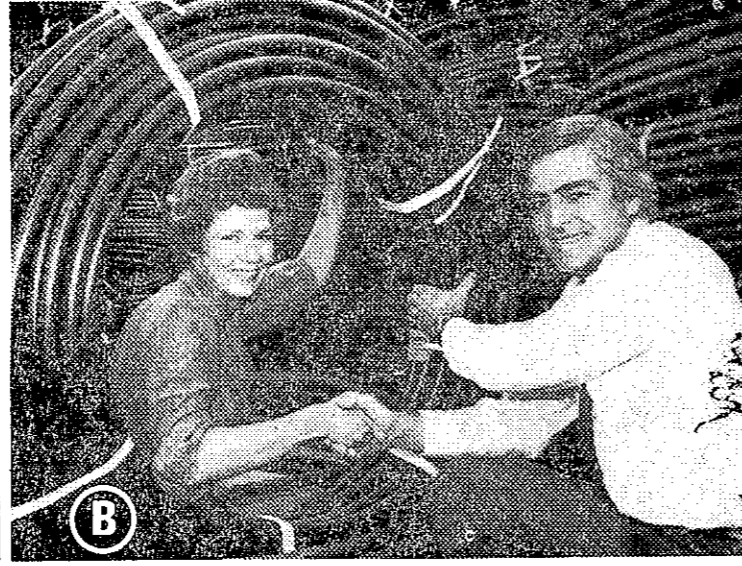
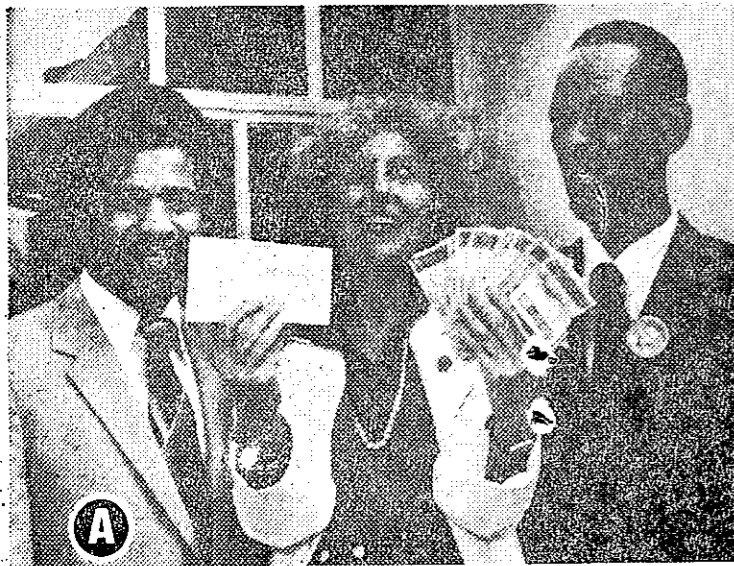
'Farmers do not leave their farms because they want to, but because they are forced to,' he said.



De Jong ... not viable

that a discount factor equal (er than) the interest rate on ould be used for this term. lter than the stream in Term 2 equires to have a taxable income w. is flow is likely to be equal to the same discount factor is litate a fair comparison with pid method of depreciation allowed Revenue should be used. Further- n this context includes the invest- lowances. his flow is likely to be equal thus the same discount factor is tream is the tax shield arising tibility of the interest on an splaced) loan. be applied to the problem in MAN.

# Still the money pours in for drought-stricken KwaZulu



Children watch in awe as one of the Msinga hammer mills grinds thorn branches into cattle fodder

By Deon du Plessis

THERE'S a new sound in desolate Msinga these days: the ripping roar of hammer mills grinding thorn-studded acacia branches into cattle fodder.

The amazing scheme, first revealed in the Sunday Tribune some weeks ago, is in full grind today.

Its pioneer is Neil Alcock, director of Church Agricultural Project (CAP) on the Tugela River's banks.

As the KwaZulu drought, which still has not broken, killed off food and lucerne crops, cattle began to die of hunger.

All that survives in parts of KwaZulu are the acacia thorn trees and Alcock was aware of their nutritional potential.

## Good hay

Ground acacia branches make good hay while pods and seeds contain 17 per cent crude protein: better than lucerne.

Cattle and goats know this, too, and eat acacia pods wherever they find them. But unless the pods are ground, they complete their digestive journey intact and fall out again with the dung droppings.

A University of Cape Town biologist, Miss Sue Milton, joined Mr Alcock to make an intensive study.

Her investigations so far show an average of 2 500 acacia trees per hectare in KwaZulu. Intensive pruning of the trees can yield seven tons of hay per hectare but less than that is the norm.

# POP

THAT'S THE SOUND  
THAT BRINGS RELIEF  
TO ZULU LIVESTOCK  
AS THOUSANDS OF  
ACACIA PODS  
GO UNDER THE HAMMER

About 10 kilograms of the hay a day is enough to sustain a cow: and in these desperate times that is enough.

While cattle are falling dead all over KwaZulu, Alcock's are healthy.

BP Southern Africa, local branch of the international oil giant, heard of the scheme and presented three hammer mills for a pilot study.

Mr Alcock rustled up tractors, needed to tow and power the mills, and sent out the word that he was in the market for acacia branches and bags of seed pods.

Zulus, their own livelihood imperilled by the drought, streamed in with bags of pods balanced on their heads from as far as 30 kilometres away.

Neil Alcock's task now is to overcome traditional resistance to things new and to involve as many peasant farmers as he can.

Judging from the effect at a demonstration in sun-scorched Msinga this week, when cows and goats streamed in from the rocky hills around to sample the acacia fodder, he won't have too much trouble.

At left is Andrew Mathe, public relations officer in Natal of Ford Motor Company South Africa which this week donated R5 000 to the Sunday Tribune/Red Cross Drought Relief Fund. At right is Joseph Shangase, chairman of the KwaMashu Men's Hostel, who donated R300 raised in his community. In the centre is Inka Mars, vice-chairman of the Red Cross in Natal.

Danna Flack and Ted Maybury of Duropenta, of New Germany getting together to co-ordinate the Amanzi Crisis Committee and Duropenta's efforts in providing water to the people of the Umgeni Valley. Duropenta is donating piping worth R20 000 to the committee.

Ninety-seven children pre-primary to Standard 2 at Convent High took part in a sponsored walk to raise funds for the drought relief fund. Representatives Orlando Caires (pre-primary), Juliet Caires (Class 2) and Kathryn Smart (class 1) brought the Sunday Tribune a cheque for R640,04

## YOUR DONATIONS

- Gritten Ann and Michael in memory of Wm Robson R100
- SA Institute of Race Relations R2 000
- Mattinson MR & Mrs. D. Western Australia R200
- Anon R500
- Chrystal Mrs B. I. R10
- Byrne Mr/Mrs G. R20
- Anon R50
- Yates Mrs A. W. R5
- Le Roux P. A. K. R50
- Wilson Mr/Mrs and Miss R20
- Royal Durban Golf Club, Ladies Section R450
- Brockbank J. & M. Trwin R16
- St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Newcastle R200
- Anon R50
- B. E. Hagart Trust R2 000
- Chris J. Botha Coloured High School R316
- Anonymous, Port Shepstone R10
- Spring, Miss Gladys R50
- Pedlar, Mrs V. R5
- Rogers, M.A. R10
- Harrison, B. R10
- Fowie, Miss N.J. and E.T. R400
- Johnson, Miss A.B. R50
- Bowman, Mrs S.G. R10
- Van Zijl, Mrs J.R. R10
- "K.G." Umontweni R10
- Saunderson, D.W. and Partners Inc. R250
- Stewart, R.R., Kirstenhof R25
- Volhuter Mr & Mrs H. J. R10 00
- Beckett P. Amatikulu R75 00
- Evans Mrs F. A. R5100
- Mitchell High School pupils R150 00
- West Miss E. R10 00
- Kroeger Mrs A. E. R1 000 00
- Rotary Club Umhlatuzana, Durban R7 00
- Sandra Naidoo Coedmore School Durban R10 00
- Mrs Caroline Clark, Durban R10 00
- Carl and Shaim Clark's pocket money R2 00
- Umbilo Congregational Church, Durban R304 00
- Umbilo Congregational Sunday School, Durban R10 00
- D. D. Craig, Durban R10 00
- Mr E. C. Barth, Durban R10 00
- Proceeds from Des and Dawn Lindberg Show R742 14
- C. Shuttle Durban R100 00
- Mrs A. E. Browne, Durban R2 00
- The Pupils of Montclair Junior Primary School R112 75
- B. I. Russell Durban R10 00
- J. M. Hurley, Durban R20 00
- Miss H. P. Heyne, Durban R25 00
- Baxter and Marriott, Pietermaritzburg R50 00
- Marpet (Pty) Ltd, Durban R100 00
- Krantz Kloof Lodge, Kloof R250 00
- The childrens art collection Northdene Pre-Primary School R11 00
- H. J. Cook, Amanzimtoti R5 00
- Mr N. Bowden St Charles College R100 00
- Mrs Jennie Clark, Pietermaritzburg R10 00
- J. G. Lorenzo, Durban R10 00
- Youth group at Our Lady of Fatima, Durban North R20 00
- Queensburgh Methodist Womens Auxiliary R14 00
- Mr and Mrs John Stewart, Escombe R10 00
- T. & D. Wing Platoon 5, Bungalow 185 First SAI Battalion, Tempe R54 00
- Mr & Mrs Bell Durban R10 00
- Two wellwishers who have received many blessings from the Lord, Pietermaritzburg R40 00
- Lebanese Ladies Sewing Club Durban R25 00
- Durban Holiday Inns housekeeping staff R15 00
- Anonymous Durban R10 00
- Mrs K. G. Dwarkadass, Durban R20 00
- Bill Stevens, Durban R30 00
- Anonymous Durban R50 00
- S. G. Clark, Durban R25 00
- Anonymous Durban R2 00
- E. J. Loerincz R50
- F. A. Corbett R200
- C. J. Klette R25
- Muslim Women's Voluntary Organisation, Pretoria R406
- Men's Hostel, KwaMashu R500
- Ford Motor Co. P.E. R5 000
- B. Shnier R25
- Southlands Primary School R1 8
- Mandene Morning Tea Group R20
- M. Somam R150
- Esrowe Assembly of God R10
- Fairvale High School RB11
- The Owls R 5
- Anonymous R100
- AELI Paints R500
- Ashley School R100
- Lodge of Israel, Durban R200
- Children of Convent High Pre-Primary to Std. 2 R640
- N. Boyd R 25
- P. Soker R 10
- C. R. Phillips R 10
- Buckingham Road residents R 4
- Std 8 E M. L. Sultan School, Stanger R 6
- Sesifike J. S. School R 20
- N. Babulal R 5

## Finger-lickin good

COLONEL Harland Sanders, that southern gentleman who made a fortune with his finger-lickin'-good fried chicken, is 90 on Tuesday. Thousands of less privileged South Africans will share in his birthday feast.

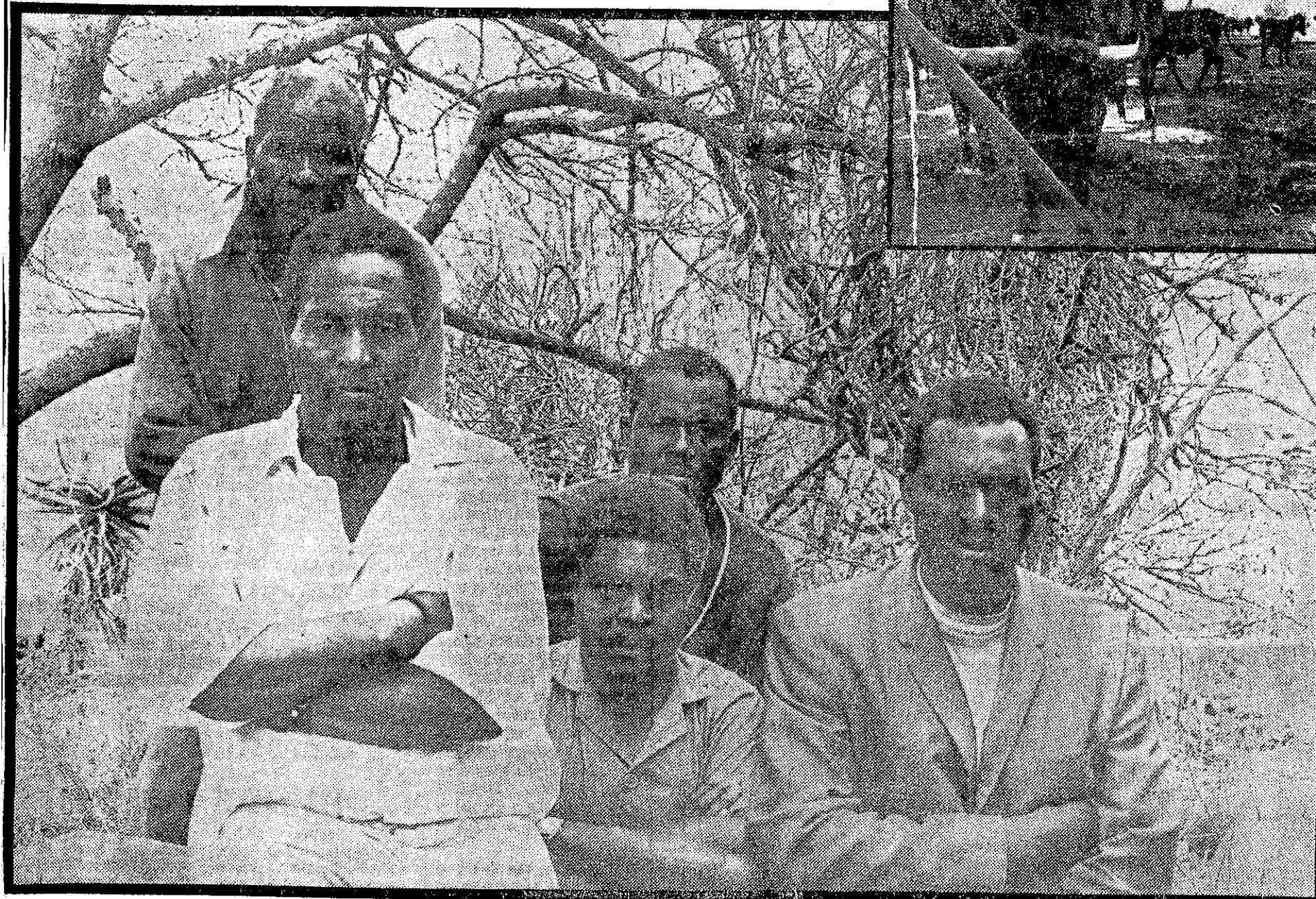
Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets in South Africa will mark the day with special lunch boxes for the needy.

About 1500 people will share in this bounty in

*... as a result of the change in the distribution of income...*

# THE BORDER

..and the Zulu farmers don't



From Page 14

has only heard one such appeal in over 20 months.

Usually the Zulu farmers are too poor to engage and brief legal counsel.

Mr Alcock's Church Agricultural Project provides a measure of relief. It has lent farmers about R4 500 to release their impounded cattle and now holds some of the herds as security. But CAP's funds are also severely restricted. As long as the murderous drought continues, it seems, cattle will continue to stray over the frontier.

Everybody agrees that the situation is an explosive one.

There are a number of allegations of assault on the Zulus. They say shots have been fired at them and their cattle. There are dark hints of retaliation.

The white farmers say they know of roadblocks which have been set up to trap them. They know some of their names are marked.

Mr Gill says: "At the moment the tension has eased, for me anyway, but that's because I'm policing my fence and the blacks think it's not worth the risks for them to come in anymore. But I don't know how long this will last."

**ANGRY** Zulu farmers in the Msinga area this week. Mzhitheni Mdluli, the man whose cattle were impounded this week, is in the white shirt at front left. Extreme right, Mshisene Malembe, the storekeeper who came to the rescue of a fellow-Zulu.

# EXTENSION

## White farmers still have some grazing land...

2/9/80 SUN TRIB 27 3

By DEON DU PLESSIS and ROD JACKSON-SMITH

In 1898 Weenen's then magistrate Maynard Mathews said in his annual report: "I should like to draw the attention of the government to the iniquitous operation of the Pound Law as it at present stands. The owner of the smallest patch of cultivated ground can seize his neighbour's stock straying one foot upon his land and so one-sided is the law in favour of the cultivator that shameful cases have actually occurred in the village in which small strips of unfenced land beside roadways have been planted with grain for the express purpose of trapping cattle with the object of deriving the proceeds of Pound Fees and damages allowed by law."

The situation today, as Weenen's tough white far-

mers are quick to point out, is rather more complex than his worthy Victorian view.

Nevertheless its effects have led the territory into a bitter spiral of violence and resentment.

Peter Gill, Weenen stock farmer and late of Angola and Rhodesia, when he started living on his farm last November he had death threats. He was told by Zulus across the border he would be run off his farm.

"But this is my third time round and I will not be chased away," he declared.

Cattle are the basis of the problem. Under the Natal Found Ordinance, just as it was back in 1898, a farmer may seize any livestock straying on his

property.

Under the ordinance he may impound the animals and, within 96 hours, have the amount of damage caused to his property assessed by two "disinterested" people.

The former may also have the trespassing animals sent from his farm to the nearest municipal pound — in this case at Weenen — where they are held until the owner comes to bail them out.

As the drought has withered their pastures as well, some Weenen farmers have begun applying the Pound Law vigorously. The Zulus say too vigorously.

Mr Gill said that in some cases damages for illegal grazing in soil erosion areas have been assessed at as much as R35 per beast. He says that he returns all bona fide strays without taking action. The assessment for damages, which includes compensation for all the trespassing cattle not caught, is done on the basis of destruction of pasture in relation to the entire area of available grazing (which is fast dwindling) and the needs of the particular farmer.

The Zulus say this is far too much, but Mr Gill says: "What happens when my farm is flattened? Where am I going to get grass of my own?"

The white farmers say Zulu herdsmen cut their fences at night, driving in "illegal" herds and driving them back to Zululand again before dawn.

### Crippling

Zulu farmers say it is virtually impossible to keep their cattle off the greener "white" lands, especially where no cattle fencing exists.

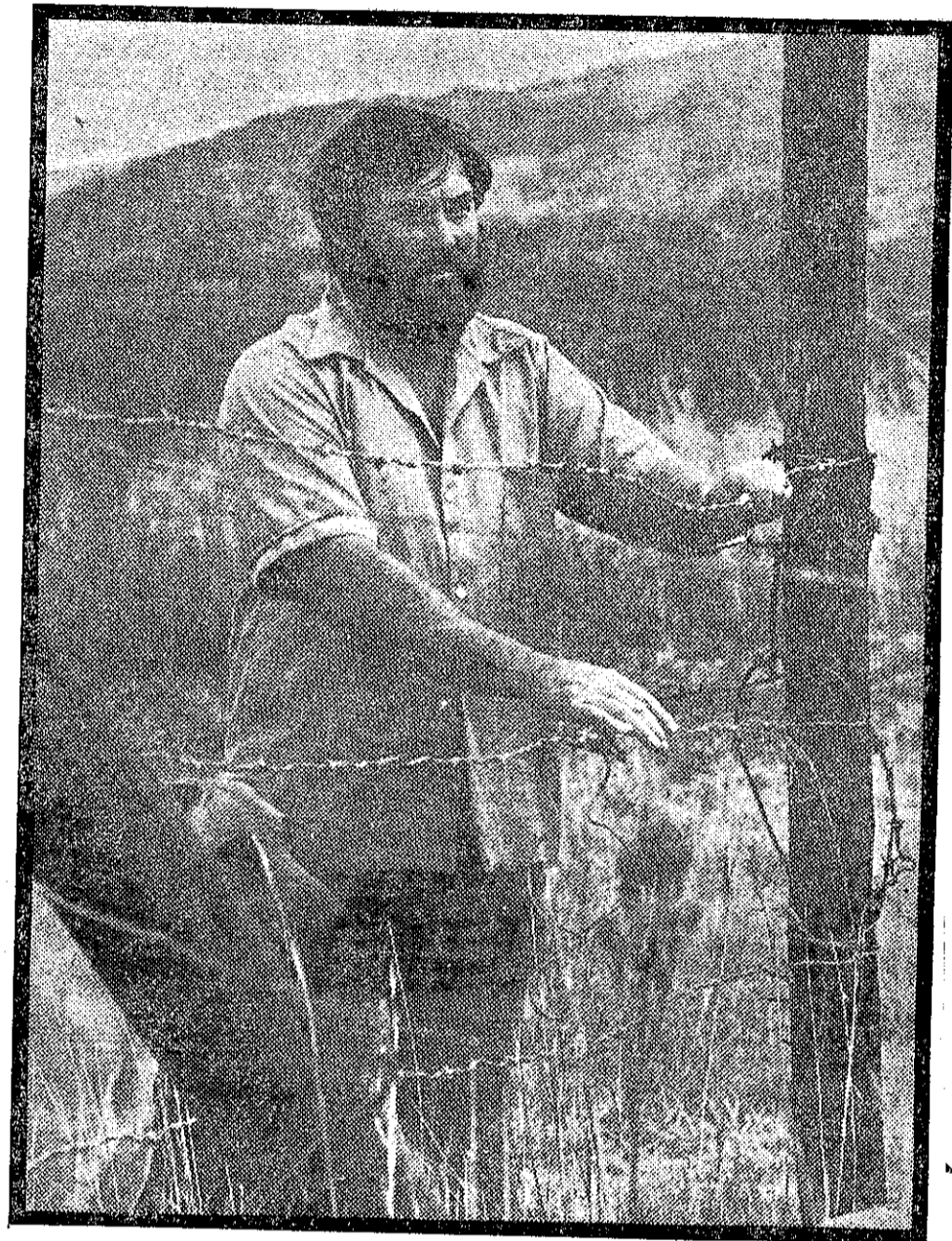
Some farmers have made considerable sums. Mr Gill, for instance, has claimed R6 314 over the past 12 months. The Zulus say this sort of claim is crippling them, that they are impoverished to begin with. But Mr Gill says: "The claims don't meet the actual damage caused."

Whether that is so or not, the burden is a crushing one for Zulu peasant farmers.

Mzitheni Mdluli told the Sunday Tribune this week: "Last Saturday I brought my cattle, 26 of them, to my kraal. On Sunday morning I found they had strayed away. I hunted for them all Sunday.

"On Monday morning I heard they had been arrested and I found them locked up in the kraal of Mr Burger on the farm Klipkop.

"Mr Burger said he had arrested my cattle because they had broken his fence. To release them he wanted £130,10 (R260) I did not have the money. I asked to see the damage they had caused and he said he was not going to show me anything. I went back to Mr Burger and asked if I could appoint one damage assessor (as the owner is entitled to do by law). He said he would have



PETER GILL: "I can't let them take over on my land."

nothing to do with evaluators.

"I appealed to Mr Alcock (Neil Alcock, director of Church Agricultural Project in the area) for a loan. I got the money from him but the cattle had already been moved to Weenen," Mr Mdluli said.

Mr Mdluli was also charged under the Criminal Procedure Act (section 57 of Act 51 of 1977) and had to pay admission of guilt costs.

The total he had to pay, including damages to Mr Burger of R10 a head, was R419,70. Had Mr Alcock not helped, says Mr Mdluli, he would probably have lost his herd.

Mr Burger, approached for comment, said: "You must come and see me, I do not have time to talk nonsense over the phone," and then replaced the receiver.

Men like Mr Mdluli with their cattle in the pound are in a desperately vulnerable position. They say "vultures" gather at the pound offering them ludicrous rates for their stock. Sometimes, they say, they have to accept the offers just to save some of their herd.

Mshisene Malembe is a local storekeeper. He says he was stopped while driving through Weenen

recently by a man whose 30-strong herd had been impounded. Around "650 pounds" (R1 300) was needed to free them. The owner had been offered exactly that amount by local "vultures." He would have paid the money to the pound, they would have released his cattle, he would have handed them to the new owners and he would have been left with nothing but a receipt.

### Investment

Mr Malembe agreed to advance the money. In repayment he took only nine of the man's cattle. That, he considers, "is full repayment for my financial investment." Had Mr Malembe not chanced upon the scene the original owner would not have a single head of cattle today. Instead he has 21.

Mr Gill presents another side of the picture. "They come in at night when the moon is up, cut the fence and let in herds of up to 200 animals. The animals are chased back when the moon goes down and the next day all one can see is the animal tracks and grazing that has been trampled.

"If your are lucky you

may be able to catch them the following night. But how can one round up 200 head? They have sentries posted to warn if you approach. If you are lucky you may round up a few head.

"But the damage has been done. Already a quarter of my farm has been damaged in this way.

"Let's face it, the grazing in KwaZulu is finished. I feel sorry for the blacks, but I cannot let them take over on my land."

The Sunday Tribune, is in possession of many receipts from the Weenen pound.

Sample trespass fees and damages are:

- For two cattle released on August 11: R70
- For five head released on August 14: R175
- For eight goats released on August 13: R80.

Stock owners are allowed to appeal against these damage assessments. The presiding official is usually the local magistrate.

But Weenen's magistrate, Louis Radyn, says he

YOUR critic, John Madlennan, has on several occasions made derogatory remarks about the television programme. He failed to interpret the form and mores of the society that it depicts? Is the dialogue stilted, unnatural, and its idiomat-

Journalist and... in

# 850 held in crime swoop

Staff Reporter

8/9/80  
rom  
3

THE massive crime swoop which led to the arrest of more than 850 people on various charges in Johannesburg this weekend will continue for "some time", according to Brigadier "Rooi Rus" Swanepoel, who is in charge of the operation.

"We have about 200 men operating roadblocks throughout the Reef areas. We won't be doing this every day, but this type of operation will continue for some time," Brig Swanepoel said yesterday.

Although the operation is not the biggest of its kind in South Africa, the force included members of the Defence Force equipped with Hippo anti-landmine vehicles and members of the dog squad.

Brig Swanepoel said his men were involved in "a general crime swoop" and were checking everything from pass offences to people wanted on criminal charges. The three units operate on a mobile basis — setting up and manning a roadblock in one area for a few hours and then moving on to another area.

Thousands of motorists have been checked at the roadblocks and people wanted for armed robbery, housebreaking, possession of stolen property, and possession of explosives and dagga had been arrested.



10/9/80  
Food (3)  
Rom

# shortages endanger stability'

By GERALD REILLY  
Pretoria Bureau

THE Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, emphasised the critical shortage of food in Africa when he opened the annual congress of the Transvaal Agricultural Union in Pretoria last night.

South Africa, he said, was the only country in Africa which was self-supporting and was still able to export large quantities of food.

The Minister said latest statistics indicated the seriousness of the situation.

With 1970 equal to 100 the index for food production in Africa in 1978 was 92.

During the same period the index for food exports declined by 20%, while the index for food imports increased by as much as 92%.

"We live in a time when the attention of the entire world is increasingly taken up by the problem surrounding the feeding of ever-growing numbers of people.

"Just about every African state, irrespective of level of development, is burdened with food shortages," the Minister said.

The World Health Organisation, the International Red Cross and other organisations were engaged practically every day in doling out food in African states.

The International Food Policy Research Institute had forecast that Africa's food shortages would assume alarming proportions in the approaching two decades and that many people would not merely be undernourished, but would die of starvation.

The inability to provide "food freedom" put economic and political stability in any country in grave danger.

There were some with a great potential for higher agricultural production. The problem was, however, they did not have the necessary human material to exploit the potential.

South Africa had repeatedly offered its expertise in the field of agriculture to those countries which wanted to help themselves.

The offer still stood, the Minister said.

(3) ST MR  
10/9/60  
Decrease in white farmers a 'danger'

By The Farming Correspondent

The decrease in the number of white farmers was a dangerous trend, the president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Jaap Wilkens, said yesterday at the union's annual congress in Pretoria.

Mr Wilkens deplored the attitude of the Government in not implementing last year's Act on Closer Settlement in Designated Areas.

He said the Government should give immediate and serious attention to the improvement of infrastructures and public services in the

threatened border areas.

If it did not, this would cost South Africa many more millions of rands to get these areas repopulated in the interest of the country's security.

Consolidation was another cause of depletion in the ranks of farmers.

If farms were being earmarked to be included in black homelands, the owners should be compensated as soon as possible.

The Prime Minister had made specific pledges to a delegation of the South African Agricultural Union on August 22. Mr Wilkens said he trusted these pledges would be honoured.

12/9/50  
Farmers <sup>Stone</sup>

# differ <sup>(3)</sup> with State on policy

By the Farming  
Correspondent

The farmers are on a collision course with the Government's economic policy.

The new vice-president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Dr J W van Aswegen, yesterday read a paper to the TAU congress in Pretoria on the repopulation of all South African country districts.

He asked that the flow of people to the large urban centres should be stopped and reversed by an acceptable decentralisation policy.

The first cause of depopulation was the bad economic position of agriculture generally.

## NOT SHARING

Agriculture, with the prices of its more important products fixed by the Government just did not share in the country's prosperity.

Secondly, the infrastructure on the platteland was deteriorating and public services were neglected or curtailed.

## KEY POLICY

Better prices and better public services were part of the answer, but the key policy would be to decentralise industry to the smaller places.

Bring the development to the people, don't drive the people out of their homes to share in the development, Dr van Aswegen said.

Delegates to the congress commented that this indeed was the only way but it conflicted with Government planning, which wanted no growth on the platteland.

# Schoeman

strikes

back

Star  
3 12/1960  
244

Own Correspondent

PIETERSBURG — Mr Schoeman, the Minister of Agriculture, has hit back at housewives protesting about the rising meat price.

Opening the Pietersburg Show, he took a dig at people who were complaining about high meat prices but spent large amounts of money on luxury motor cars.

He appealed to city consumers to show more sympathy and understanding for the farmer. "Droughts and economic recession and other factors have hit farmers hard and many of them have great losses and debts to cover," he said.

● See Page 4.

# R14-m budget brings only 28 new border farmers

## Pretoria Bureau

With about 4 000 Transvaal bushveld farms vacated by white farmers, the Government has so far this year helped only 28 new farmers to establish themselves in the bushveld.

The Government budgeted this year for R14.6-million to assist farmers in the bushveld as well as to attract new farmers.

This amount has been spent on bringing

28 new farmers into the area, assisting 52 tenant farmers, helping 33 farmers with small farms to expand their holdings and helping 69 farmers to pay off their debts.

So, in all, 202 farmers who are either already established in the area or who have moved in from outside have been helped.

In comparison, Agricultural unions in the north-western Transvaal report that a total of about 4 000 bush-

veld farms have been vacated by white farmers over a number of years.

This depopulation has caused concern in the government and farming community alike as the bushveld forms a vital security buffer between the densely populated Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging complex and possible guerilla incursions from Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

3 START 16/9/80

TRANSKEI traders believe they will suffer financially if East Griqualand whites lose confidence and leave in the event of the area being

## 'Whites m



MR Elliot Majola — better prices from whites.

consolidated.

A survey in Kokstad this week of black businessmen — who converge on the town regularly to buy supplies for their stores in Transkei — showed that all those questioned could see no problem in the actual incorporation of East Griqualand, but they foresaw economic problems if there was a white exodus.

The delicacy of the issue was illustrated by the refusal of several people, including a group of clergymen, to comment on what they judged to



MR G Nojikela, Transkei MP — whites won't leave.

## st stay'

'political' matter. Com- was given by other peo- after careful con- sideration of the implica- and possible repercus- s. Transkei severed matic ties with South a for several years over issue but recently re- ed consulates in this ry.

survey was carried out the renewed call by George Matanzima, Minister of Transkei, East Griqualand be d to the homeland.

Mr G Nojikela, a Transkei MP from Flagstaff, said he did not believe whites would leave if the area was incorporated 'because even now, the whites in Transkei don't feel as if they are foreigners'.

He said his people believed that East Griqualand belonged to Transkei and that the Griquas and Bushmen had no claim to the territory.

Mr Anthony Gebashe, a trading store owner from the Umzimkulu district, said blacks and whites worked well together in East



MR Anthony Gebashe — we work well with the whites in Kokstad.

Griqualand business circles. 'We would suffer business-wise if the whites leave. It is God's will that we must work

together.'

Mr Albert Seku, who travels about 150km from his store at Qumbe to buy supplies in Kokstad, said the economy of the area would collapse if the whites left.

'But I don't think the whites will go. The attitude of the Transkei government is to encourage whites to stay.'

Mr Elliot Majola, a Transkei citizen who works as a vehicle sales manager in Kokstad, pointed to Umtata as an example of where whites retained business confidence after the town became part of a black state.

Most of his business was with Transkei people wanting to buy trucks, vans and cars from him.

# In the balance

That's the future of East Griqualand

Political Reporter  
Blake Wilkins reports

## Farm exodus

would hit Natal hard

Natal Mercury 18/9/80

3 General

AN EXODUS of white farmers would follow the incorporation of East Griqualand into Transkei, leading to the loss of one of the most productive agricultural areas in South Africa.

Mr Peter Miller, MPC for South Coast, said that Natal would lose an important supplier of milk and meat, as would Transkei itself.

A Kokstad businessman who is a protagonist of the retention of the status quo, Mr Miller has put East Griqualand's case before the Van der Walt Commission into consolidation and lobbied numerous cabinet ministers.

He believes that incorporation 'will, without doubt, lead to a loss of confidence among working men'.

Major companies, with head offices outside the area, would continue their operations in the area.

'But the private entrepreneur would have little to continue his investment and expansion here.'

Mr Miller said firms would have difficulty keeping and recruiting recruiting white and Coloured staff.

He believed few farmers would respond to suggestions by both the South African and homeland governments that they remain on their farms and lose their original citizenship.

'Farmers here would need more than the assurances and guarantees of the Transkei Government to be convinced that their property rights and security of tenure would be respected. They would need a guarantee from the South African Government that they would be bought out.'

He said farmers would leave if the area was incorporated because of the many unknown factors they would face, such as the fear of a breakdown of law and order and the threats of nationalisation and compulsory citizenship.

Mr Miller stressed that if the government's concept of a constellation of states was to work, it was necessary to have viable, economically-active border areas and towns

which supplied goods and services to homelands.

'It is essential for sound economic co-operation that confidence be maintained, and this will not be possible if step by step, the white-occupied areas adjoining homelands are absorbed. In the long term such a policy will be disastrous for the whole of South Africa.'

'Highly-productive farming land, properly cared for, is the only resource that the nation has which will last forever. Long after reserves of coal, gold and other minerals have been exhausted, properly conserved farmland will still be there to feed the millions.'

To illustrate the feelings of some farmers, Mr Miller quoted a majority decision of the Mount Currie Farmers' Association which, if implemented, would enable blacks to buy farms in East Griqualand.

The association called a meeting to discuss the KwaZulu consolidation issue. The meeting decided, subject to certain rules, that it was preferable to have a free market system than radical consolidation which might force farmers to sell out and lose control of their farms.

The rules under which the free market system could be implemented included the rigid enforcement of soil conservation legislation and labour laws which would allow only bona fide farmers and not squatters to live on farms, and the free market system had ultimately to extend both ways. This would mean black farmers could buy in white areas, and white farmers could buy in black areas.

The people of East



MR Peter Miller MPC

Griqualand also had no objection to bona fide Coloured people buying farms in the area.

'East Griqualand and Transkei are economically independent. Things will not improve if we are incorporated. Let us retain the status quo.'

Statistics compiled in the area showed that the cost of buying all the farms in East Griqualand would total R58,6 million. This figure could top R73 million taking into account replacement values and costs of moving.

A report drawn up by a defunct organisation in the region showed that the dairy industry alone contributed R11 million to the gross national product.

The report said the potential of the area could not be realised through primitive farming methods but needed to update techniques.

# We will fight say E G's Griquas

THE 6 000 Griquas in East Griqualand are ready to fight for their land if the South African Government handed the area to Transkei. Mr Tom Poulson, chairman of the Coloured Local Affairs Committee at Kokstad, said this week.

'We have seen what our people did in the Cape when they tired of the school problem. We are prepared to swallow a lot from the white man, but be careful when we let rip (bars los).'

There are over 400 000 Griquas in South Africa. The consolidation of East Griqualand — which is our land historically — will be a death blow to the trust which the brown man holds for the whites,' Mr Poulson said.

'The Griquas will never live under a black man. We are racists. Few people know what difficulties we as leaders face in trying to defuse this situation among Griqua people.'

Mr Poulson said the Griquas had accepted the invitation of East Griqualand whites to work with them. A Coloured had bought a farm for R50 000 in the area recently and four others had ap-



MR Tom Poulson.

plied to the government for permits to buy farms in the white area.

He said that the Griquas felt about the handing of East Griqualand to Transkei as the Afrikaner would feel if Pretoria and the Voortrekker Monument were handed to Bophutswana.

The Griquas lay claim to the territory on the grounds that the Griqua people, under Adam Kok were offered East Griqualand as a settlement area in exchange for territory they held around Phillipolis. The Griquas arrived in 1863 after trekking across the

Drakensberg to find the area uninhabited.

Kok administered the area until the convention of 1874, when Sir Henry Barkly took over.

The Griquas regard the incorporation of various parts of East Griqualand, such as Umzimkulu and Ongeluks Nek, as unconstitutional and invalid at law in terms of the 1874 convention.

Mr Poulson said his people feared they would be victims of racial prejudice and harassment.

His people could not hold weddings and dances at Umzimkulu now because 'certain elements' gatecrashed and disrupted the functions.

Two farms — Dawn and Lower Eastlands — the titles of which had been ceded to the Griqua people, had been incorporated into Transkei but no compensation had been paid by the government.

'All our people are adamant that we will fight for our land. We have spoken to the Minister (of Coloured Affairs) but there has been no action. There are thousands of people waiting to see what will happen in East Griqualand.'

Win with  
~~the~~ RDM  
a boere  
22/9/80.  
plan, says  
③ General  
Schoeman

Political Staff

DURBAN. — Whites whose farms bordered on black areas should take advantage of the situation, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, the Minister of Agriculture said in Durban yesterday.

Giving farmers at the Natal congress of the National Party a lesson in how to make a "boere plan", Mr Schoeman said his own farm had a 12km border with Lebowa. He grew crops which could not be stolen easily and sold them for cash to the blacks across the border fence.

"I am not an enemy of the black man. The situation is ideal, I can't think of better."

Replying to motions expressing concern over the depopulation of rural areas and the plight of the border farmer, Mr Schoeman said the Government had paid out R14-million in loans to border farmers. Loan conditions had been made easier for them.

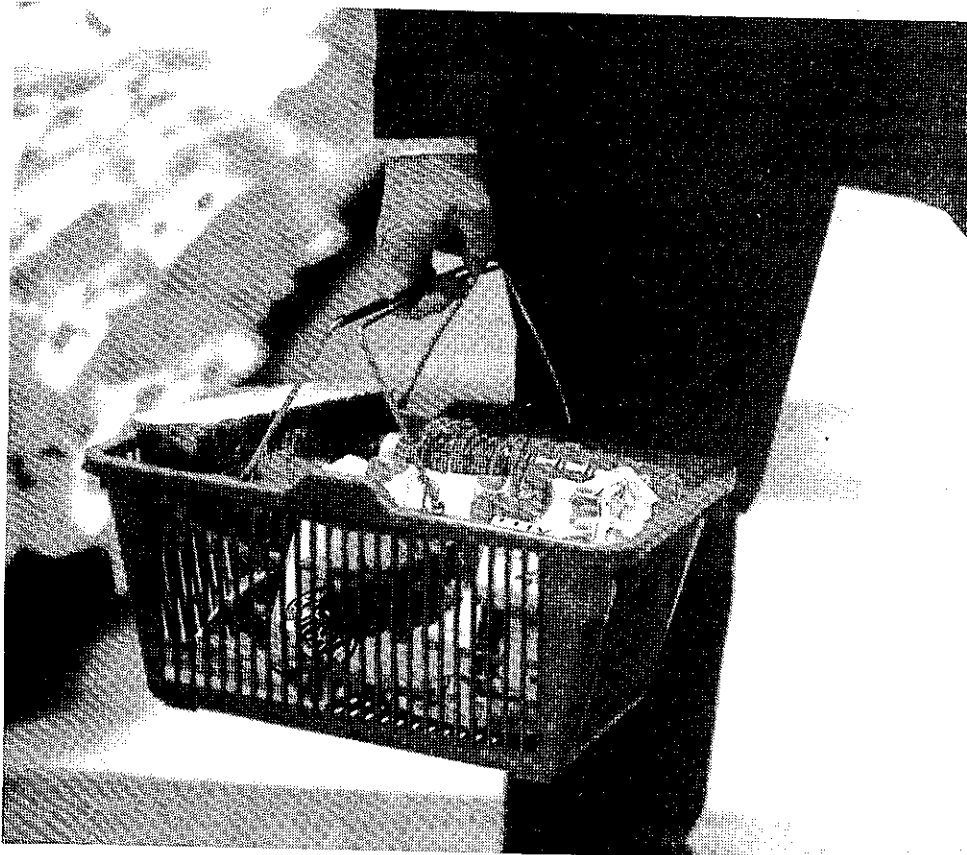
He said that the depopulation of rural areas was not caused by fear of terrorism but because of high production costs. The present total of 70 000 farmers would not drop.

Mr Schoeman said he was not being racist when he stated that land productivity fell off when blacks took over. South Africa used to import beef from Rhodesia. But the South African Government had recently received an inquiry from Zimbabwe to buy beef.

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# Portfolio of problems

3 general FM 26/9/80



When Pietie du Plessis takes over as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on Wednesday, he will inherit a seething portfolio of problems. The consumer price index for food has risen 15,7% during the past 12 months, according to the July figures published by the Department of Statistics. The producer price index for agricultural products leapt by 16,4% during the same period. And none of those statistics yet reflects the full impact of the rocketing meat prices, which have launched the housewives into aggressive action during the last three weeks.

The ripple effect of higher beef prices has already spilt over into the markets for chicken and pork. It is now only a matter of time before it spreads further to bacon, cheese, butter, milk and eggs. Since cereal prices have already been fixed for the year, there will not be any immediate effect upon them, but the levels at which they have been set will henceforth determine the break-even points below which livestock farmers cannot consider expansion.

Vegetable prices, which are unseasonably high at the moment, could roll back a little during coming months. They provide the only bright spot on a cloudy horizon.

Burgeoning wage packets and the associated return of consumer confidence have

combined to cause shortages which cannot be alleviated quickly. Although administered prices have played their part, it is mainly unanticipated demand that has forced this latest twist in the price spiral. Between July and December last year the food price index was crawling upwards at an annualised rate of about 11%. Since then it has accelerated and now promises to advance at almost double that pace during the latter half of the current year.

As each set of figures is released to reveal a more disturbing picture than its predecessor, the newspapers and consum-

er (tance) are pumped into the agricultural sector with similar ends in view. Whether they are billed as consumer subsidies or producer ones, their effect and ultimate justification have always been the same. They have allowed the government to transfer funds to the producers, processors and handlers of food without making it immediately apparent to the consumer that she and her husband are paying.

But, in the long run, it is no easier to pull wool over the taxpayer's eyes than it is over those of the spouse in the supermarket. Today's buoyant gold income leaves room for a little sleight of hand because the Exchequer is flush and the Minister of Finance keen to encourage consumer-led growth. But what of next year when the balance of payment surplus deteriorates, and the curtailment of inflation and public expenditure resume their rightful places at the top of Senator Horwood's agenda?

When that happens, the unfortunate Du Plessis will reap the whirlwind that his predecessor has so nimbly avoided. Or will he?

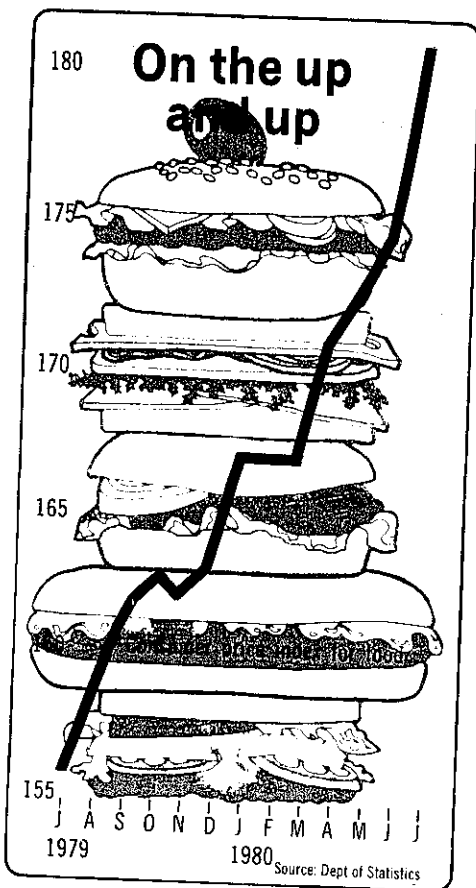
He still has one escape route. Fortunately for him, the housewives and smaller farmers are already learning to liaise at grassroots level and compare notes. With a bit of luck the new Minister should be able to swing their combined wrath upon the flabby and inefficient centre which Schoeman could never bring himself to tackle.

Between the farmer's gate and the retail shelf there exists, for nearly every product, an uncompetitive wedge of agents, handlers, processors and bureaucratic heffalumps who are insulated from the pressures of a free market by the unwise application of various unnecessary forms of control and intervention.

For over 40 years the co-operative movement has deliberately been fostering the development of a system of "single channel" (read "uncompetitive") marketing schemes for agricultural produce. In pursuit of this objective, it has had the support of the SAAU and the blessing of successive ministers who have been over anxious not to give offence.

With each commodity the co-ops have had to rely on some form of statutory intervention to thwart more agile competitors who would otherwise have offered cheaper or better services. The irony is that these self-same controls and single channel systems have served to reduce competition further down the line as well.

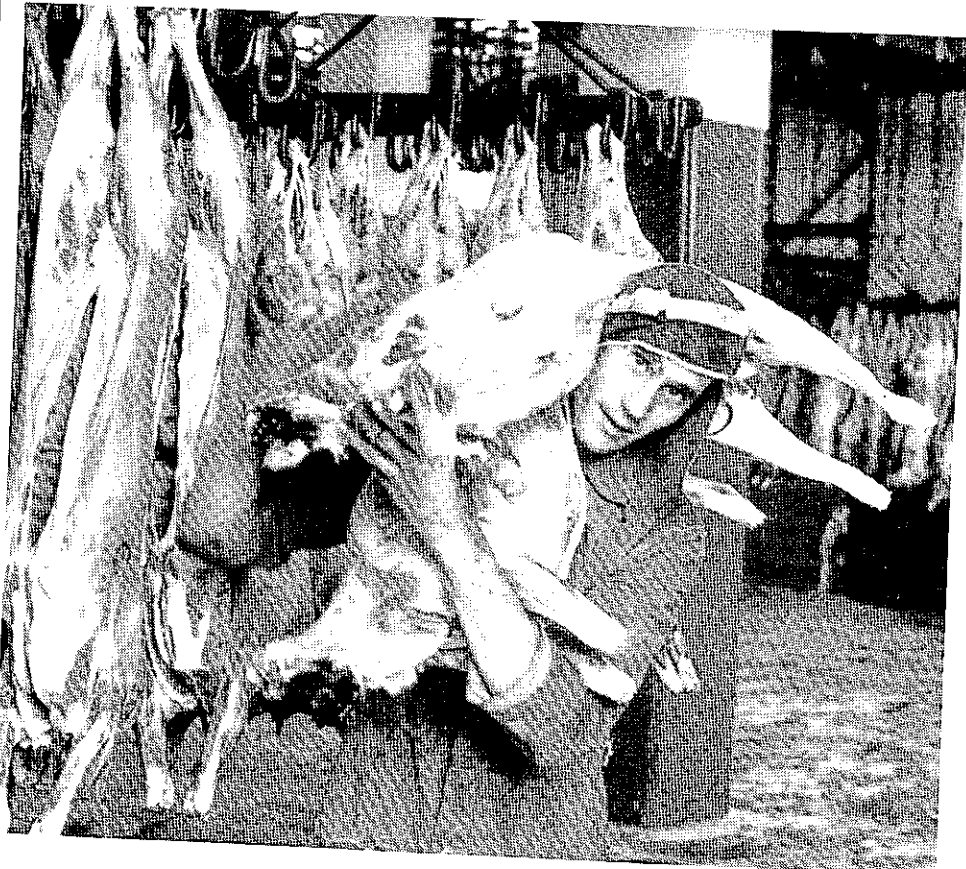
Far from breaking the power of the middlemen, which is what the co-operatives and agricultural unions originally set out to do, they have successfully nurtured a handful of parasitic giants in the milling, cold storage, processing, wholesaling and food distribution industries. Many farmers and not a few of the militant housewives have already identified their mistake. Is it too much to hope that the new Minister will see it too?



er unions are bound to scream louder for someone's blood and someone else's subsidy.

Subsidies were the usual palliative while Hendrik Schoeman was in charge. In April, after he had decided to give himself and his fellow mealie farmers about R8 t more for maize than the Maize Board could afford to pay, he raided the Exchequer for a R75m standby loan to fill the yawning gap in the board's overdrawn stabilisation fund. A fortnight ago he went to the Minister of Finance again and collected a whacking R145m on the pretext of subsidising bread. Without that help he would have had to pass on the real cost of a 16% rise in the price of wheat.

Several smaller infusions (in the form of fertiliser subsidies, transport rebates, crop subsidies, improvements grants, cheap credit and drought relief assis-



Meat . . . carrying the burden of those rising prices



MEAT  
(3) general  
Fowl prices  
FM 26/9/80

High prices for beef and mutton seldom take long to spill over into the markets for poultry meat and pigs.

Broiler farmers, who can expand or contract production at fairly short notice, are having a heyday. During the past couple of weeks the major producers, who set the pace in the industry, have raised their selling prices again.

Wholesalers are now quoting their smaller customers as much as R1,70/kg. roughly half as much again as they were asking during the post-Christmas lull eight months ago. When margins are as wide as they are at present it pays the bigger producers to switch to a more highly concentrated ration which will accelerate their birds through to market weight and thus generate more meat from the same facilities.

Shortening the rest periods between successive batches in the same house can also result in a marginal increase in productivity. Measures of that kind are used regularly to help cater for increase in demand at Christmas and Easter but they are both essentially short-term policies. A sustainable increase in production calls for the building of new houses and an expansion of the breeding flocks of "parent" and "grandparent" stock from whose eggs the hybrid chicks must hatch.

This is a process which takes months rather than weeks. But since the majority of producers have been anticipating the upsurge for some while it is a process which is already well under way. With the market as lucrative as it is at the moment, there will be no shortage of either capital or confidence to thwart a rapid expansion. Poultry meat is therefore well set to carve itself a bigger slice of the national meat market.

Over the last two decades consumption of beef and mutton has dwindled from 38 kg to about 31 kg per person. Meanwhile, our intake of poultry meat has expanded more than fourfold to take up the slack. As a result total meat consumption has remained more or less static at around 41 kg or 42 kg a head.

The big question now is whether other sorts of flesh will come into their own. By European and North American standards we eat very little fish and at only 3,3 kg a person, hardly any pig meat. Although bacon and bangers have both featured on the edge of his menu for decades, the SA consumer has never taken to pork in a big way. But now that beef is wholesaling for between 12 and 15 times the price of the concentrated feedstuffs that pigs are made of, there should be room for the latter to make some headway.

Since they convert cereals and vegetable proteins to meat so much more efficiently, pig farmers can make handsome

profits at prices well below the R1,20 kg to R1,70 kg they are currently receiving. But with pigs expansion takes longer. At least a year lapses between the day a farmer decided to start building new sties and that on which he can expect to send more baconers to the factory. This is the root cause of the well documented pig cycle, which is just approaching its regular four-yearly peak. The nation's pig herd is well set to expand but consumers are unlikely to feel the benefit much before 1982.

# 'Give farmers time'

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — Every effort must be made to ensure that white farmers whose properties were expropriated during consolidation, did not evacuate the land overnight, the Deputy Minister of Co-operation and Development, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said yesterday.

Addressing delegates at the Cape National Party congress in Port Elizabeth he stressed the need to counter the danger of leaving developed agricultural land in an unproductive state.

And Mr Hennie van der Walt, chairman of the commission into consolidation, told delegates: "We must get away

from the idea that black states have no place for whites."

Mr Van Der Walt said South Africans has to prepare themselves for the need to share the mineral resources of the country with the black states. These mineral resources had to be put to the most effective use, he said.

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# Meat trade probe needs all the beef it can get



**HENDRIK SCHOEMAN**  
Minister of Agriculture



**P. T. DU PLESSIS**  
Incoming Minister



**JAN LOMBARD**  
A warning



**JAN GROENEWALD**  
Outspoken critic



**EUGENE ROELOFSE**  
Consumer watchdog

By DARYL BALFOUR

MINISTER of Agriculture Hendrik Schoeman's proposed investigation of South Africa's R3 000-million a year meat industry could be a farce and a waste of public money unless he agrees to a searching probe of every aspect of the trade.

That's the opinion of consumer bodies and economics experts around the country who have adopted a sceptical wait-and-see attitude before expressing outright opinions on the announcement.

Professor Jan Groenewald, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Pretoria University and an outspoken critic of South Africa's meat marketing scheme, said a commission of inquiry was to be welcomed ... if its terms of reference and the commissioners were satisfactory.

"I'll have to wait and see what the commission's terms are and who is appointed to it before I comment further though," he said.

Professor Groenewald said he would make a decision on whether he would give evidence before the commission once further details had been announced.

"Otherwise I could just be wasting time," he said. The professor, an acknowledged expert on the meat industry, has warned repeatedly that the meat trade was open to manipulation, that monopolistic conditions existed and that the Meat Board's marketing scheme was inefficient.

The Housewives' League too, which has campaigned untiringly for an investigation of the meat industry, expressed reservations about the Minister's announcement.

National vice-president of the league Yvonne Forshaw said she was concerned about Mr Schoeman's attitude towards the proposed probe.

"Initially he said he would investigate certain sections of the industry. Later he changed that to include everything, according to Press reports.

"But that is worrying us. We are keen to find out what the terms of reference will be and whether he is seriously going to allow a probe of every aspect of the industry," she said.

"Without that the whole thing could very well become a farce and a waste of money."

Consumer watchdog Eugene Roelofse, ombudsman of the SA Council of Churches, also expected scepticism, about the proposed probe.

"I'll wait and see who is appointed to the commission before I decide to jump for joy or roll down the passage laughing," he said.

"For the commission to have any credibility the people appointed to it must have no direct or indirect financial interest in the meat trade.

"Otherwise Mr Schoeman may as well forget it and save his money," Mr Roelofse said.

Mr Roelofse said one of the areas the commission should probe is what direct or indirect interest in the production and distribution of meat is held by Cabinet Ministers and senior civil servants.

"Since 1948 we've had a farmer government which has slowly changed into a meat farmer government. And it just so happens that this has happened at the same time that meat price rises really started."

How the SUNDAY TRIBUNE covered the big meat crisis story

## SCHOEMAN ACTS—A YEAR AFTER THE FIRST WARNING

By DARYL BALFOUR

THE commission of inquiry into the meat industry, announced this week, comes almost a year after the Sunday Tribune first highlighted the danger of monopolistic conditions in the trade and warned that South Africa faced a red-meat crisis.

But while the Sunday Tribune's investigations found widespread dissatisfaction in all sectors of the meat industry and uncovered complaints from producers, retail butchers and consumer bodies, the Meat Board and the Minister of Agriculture chose to ignore the warnings.

As early as October 14 last year the Sunday Tribune reported on its front page that the country faced severe shortages of red meat and rapidly escalating prices "as ind-

pendent farmers are forced out of the industry". This week beef prices were more than 100 percent higher than for this period last year.

Following these disclosures, which showed that the meat trade was in the grip of three major groups — Vleissentraal, Imperial Cold Storage and Karoo (now amalgamated with Kanhym) — and that the industry was in a position where it could be manipulated to their benefit, there were calls for a full-scale inquiry.

Economists and agriculturalists joined the calls for an inquiry and criticised the situation in the meat industry. They blamed the Department of Agriculture and its Meat Board's policies for driv-

ing the smaller, independent producers off their land with restrictive marketing practices.

The Minister of Agriculture, Hendrik Schoeman, eventually announced he would appoint a commission of inquiry once he had proof there was anything in the industry that warranted investigation. He called for all parties with complaints to submit them in the form of affidavits.

But the Meat Board general manager, Dr Jan Lombard, promptly issued a warning that anybody who made a complaint that was later found to be unfounded would be sued by the board.

At this time a commission of inquiry into the South West African meat

industry was uncovering evidence of widespread irregularities and corruption and a Sunday Tribune report linked South African interests to the SWA affair.

Still the Meat Board and the Minister refused to be swayed.

And when late in December last year a senior Meat Board official was arrested on — and subsequently convicted of — charges of corruption and accepting bribes, giving Mr Schoeman the proof he had asked for that all was not right in the meat industry, there was still no inquiry.

Then early this year, when meat prices did not drop as expected from the normally high festive-season levels, and later continued their upward

climb, consumer bodies and other sectors of the Press joined the call for an investigation.

By August, with prices having risen by almost 40 percent during the year, calls for an inquiry began to pour in from all quarters.

Last month the Sunday Tribune reported that the Meat Board had lost R6,5-million subsidising exports of red meat. This week the Meat Board announced it was banning all further meat exports until the under-supply situation "rights itself."

And earlier this week, with Minister Schoeman due to leave the agriculture portfolio tomorrow, he announced he was to recommend to the Cabinet that a commission of inquiry into the meat industry be appointed.

CROP INSURANCE **3** *gawid*

**Blossoming out**

FM 24/10/80

Thanks largely to a government subsidy,  
crop insurance has suddenly blossomed.  
Sentraoes, the central co-operative insurer

Was the decline in the area planted — from 7 000ha in 1979 to only 3 050ha in 1980 — entirely due to the drought and difficult weather at planting time? Or were growers deterred by the board's warnings of grim times ahead and the diminutive *voorskot* payment it offered with the deliberate view to curbing expansion?

The demand side of the equation is even more controversial. Was the 68% jump in orders a genuine response flowing through from end-users? Or was the board bamboozled by the big coffee blenders? The board's ham-fisted sales policy lays the market wide open to manipulation.

#### Market cornering

The bulk of the crop is purchased by a handful of local coffee blenders on a forward contract basis. Since each of the blenders knows in advance how much chicory the board has to sell — although the board never seems to have the foggiest idea how much the blenders need to buy — the buyers invariably find themselves in a strong position to outwit the seller. When they know there is a surplus in the offing, they naturally contract conservatively, in full knowledge that they can always come back for a second helping. But, when a shortage looms, they have a strong incentive to over-order. By doing so, they can effectively peg their prices for months ahead, while simultaneously cornering the market to thwart competition.

This is what seems to have happened this year. With a crop down to 5,7m kg (well below half of what would have been considered normal only two or three years ago), the big blenders have naturally scrambled to stake their various claims to a share of the dwindling stockpile. The rush has enabled the board to declare an abnormally large producer *agterskot* of 191,3c per 50kg bag of undried root. That, together with the 175c *voorskot* paid on delivery, adds up to a total of 366,3c per 50kg — the highest price the farmers have ever received.

Unfortunately, few of them have been able to cash in on the boom. Their small crop of last year is likely to be followed by an equally bad one this year. The weather was too dry during the months of March, April and May, when they should have been planting, so even the promise of a higher *voorskot* is unlikely to have had much effect. Disillusioned with past rewards, a lot of growers have planted wheat instead.

ready busy negotiating imports.

What went wrong this time? The board credits its promotional campaign and "a general improvement in chicory sales" for a sudden upsurge in demand. And it puts the blame on the weather for a sudden reduction in supplies. To some extent, its reasons are undoubtedly valid. But to what extent is another question, and one which farmers in the eastern Cape are already asking.

## CHICORY <sup>(3)</sup> other Surplus melts away

FM 31/10/80

Suddenly we have no chicory. Not so long ago, the Chicory Board was in trouble for engineering a surplus through overpricing and subsequently for bungling the export of what it couldn't offload locally. Some 1 200t, which it had shipped to New Orleans, had to be re-imported because the consignee couldn't, or wouldn't, pay for it.

Even as recently as a year ago, the board was making woeful noises in order to frighten off farmers who might otherwise have been persuaded to add more root to its then formidable stockpile. At the beginning of October, it had 8,7m kg stored in its warehouses in Alexandria. But by May this year, the stockpile had virtually vanished and the board was al-

# Bid to prevent 'cheap' chicken imports from US

still so  
Arens  
about  
3

## Consumer Reporter

POULTRY producers, through their association, have asked the Minister of Agriculture to stop planned imports of chicken from the United States which would be sold at well below the market price in South Africa.

Their call comes in the wake of indications from a supermarket chain that chicken prices are likely to fall steeply next year because production has been stepped up.

Mr Harold Greenstein, marketing director of Checkers, which hopes to have imported chickens on sale in its Cape Town stores within a few weeks, said it was clear that the

poultry producers were trying to stop the imports in order to protect their own interests with no regard for those of the consumer.

## PERMITS

Mr Greenstein said in an interview that Checkers already had all the necessary permits and the first chickens were due to leave tomorrow.

They would be sold 'around R1,40 a kg' and Checkers were importing only sufficient to make up the shortfall between supply and demand.

Mr Greenstein said his firm was importing chickens only as a temporary measure until supplies became plentiful again.

By opposing this, the chicken producers made him believe allegations by Mr Raymond Ackerman, head of Pick 'n Pay, that the shortage had been created artificially to force up the price at the time when demand was high.

## RED MEAT

'Until now I did not believe this,' said Mr Greenstein. 'I thought the shortage had been created only by increased demand as a result of the rise in red meat prices.'

Mr Greenstein said Checkers would fight this attempt to stop chicken imports. In this, the firm had the support of the South African Housewives' League and members of the South African Agricultural Union.

A spokesman for Pick 'n Pay said that if the chicken producers diver-

ted their exports to the home market, there would be no need for imports.

'They claim they have cut exports substantially,' he said, 'but we know that vast quantities are still being exported, particularly by Rainbow.'

'The producers will not divulge by what percentage they have cut exports.'

He said he expected chicken prices to come down in January because the producers had increased production and their new broiler houses would soon be supplying more birds for the home market.

## 'OPEN DOOR'

The spokesman said it was clear that the producers were opposed to the importation of chickens in the meantime, partly because it would force down prices on the home market, if the imported chickens were sold more cheaply, and partly because it would open the door to future imports at times when supplies on the home market were not plentiful.

Pick 'n Pay had sufficient stocks of frozen chicken, bought before the shortage, to ensure supplies at reasonable prices at Christmas. He was confident that after that prices would come down.

Mr Desmond Lurie, chairman of the County Fair group of companies has not been available to speak to the Press for several weeks.

# It's Queen's Elect to beat 'Cracker'

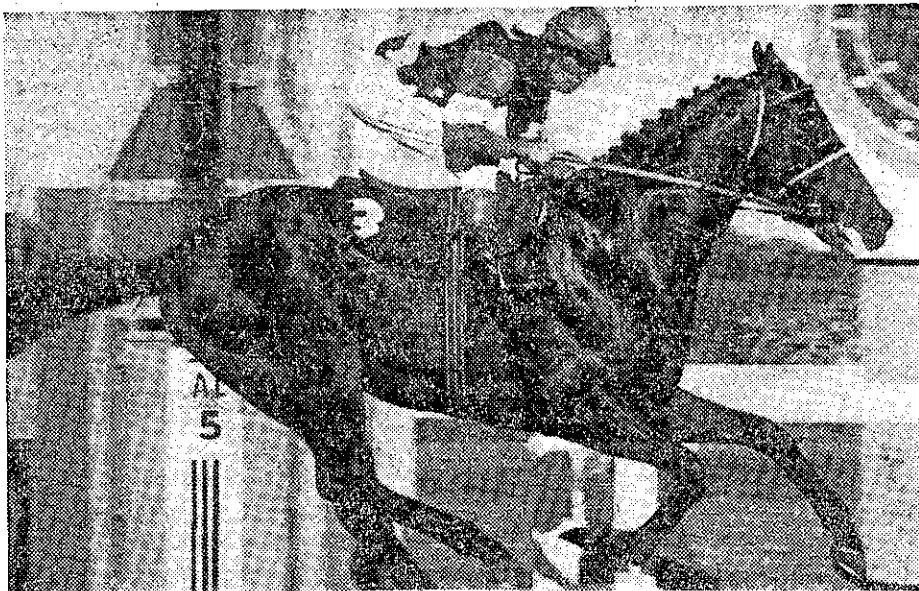
By The Rover

THE clash between the brilliant Prerogative colt, Queen's Elect and Clairwood Winter Handicap winner Cracker Lily looks the key to the outcome of the R6 500 Appeal Court Handicap over 1 600 metres at Kenilworth tomorrow and it is the class colt from the Cawcutt stable who gets the vote, with the useful Royal Duke for third place.

Queen's Elect has the better record at tomorrow's distance having beaten Highborn Harry by nearly three lengths in the CTP Handicap at the course on May 3 when his time of 1 min 38.1 sec was not far behind Over The Air's record for the 1 600 metres on the new track.

Last time out Queen's Elect ran very wide on the bend when beaten into third place, a length off Monocled (53,5 kg) under 53 kg in an A Division 1 800 metres at the course, but this run must be treated with circumspection as it was his first in over three months. He should be far better suited to the faster new track which is back in commission.

Earlier, he showed a touch of class in winning



Big race prices

BETTING at Cape Tattersalls today:

**APPEAL COURT HANDICAP**  
(1 600 m. Kenilworth, tomorrow)  
5 to 4 Queen's Elect.  
5 to 2 Cracker Lily.  
5 to 1 Bold East.  
6 to 1 Royal Duke.  
8 to 1 Prussian Prince, Idris, Dehret.  
10 to 1 Cloud Nine, Audible.  
20 to 1 World News.  
33 to 1 Mini Wave, Scintville.

**SOUTH AFRICAN INVITATION STAKES**  
(1 600 m. Scottsville, November 15)  
7 to 4 Du: Du Orleans.  
7 to 2 Secret Service.  
5 to 1 Poni Pegasus, Bronze Wing.  
6 to 1 Eastern Drum.  
8 to 1 Danish Courage, Mapearl, Concorde.

# Farmers likely to seek higher income

By GERALD REILLY

Pretoria Bureau

FARMERS will be clamouring for even bigger price increases next year to compensate for what are expected to be record production cost levels, a South African Agricultural Union spokesman said in Pretoria yesterday.

This year the prices of fertilizers, animal feeds, vehicles and vehicle parts, seed and other production-linked costs rose by a conservative 18%, and farm requisites by 26%.

Demands for increases in Government-administered food prices will be lodged in the first half of next year by maize, dairy, wheat and other producers — and it is certain their demands, at least to the limit of higher costs, will be met.

The SAAU spokesman said on a base of 100 in 1970, agricultural prices had risen to 274,9 on the index last year.

Farm requisite prices rose to 331, while between 1975 and 1979 producer prices rose by only 44%, and farm requisite prices by 68,9%.

The SAAU food basket for August — it includes grain products, all meats — including poultry, cooking oils, dairy products, fruit and vegetables — for an average white home cost R149,60.

Of this amount the farmer got an estimated R80,92 — 54,1% of the family's expenditure.

A bread price rise next year — probably to be announced in the March budget — is considered certain.

Before budget time, the Government is expected to again come under strong pressure from the trade union movement and from opposition political parties to remove GST from basic foods.

The still high black unemployment, and "underemployed" rate is estimated at about two million, in spite of the economic upswing of the past 12 months.

Even official figures show only small decreases in the num-

...revealed that Mr Gros was being held by police so he could assist in investigations involving a senior Zambian leader. The President said Mr Gros was known to have paid money for the man to be defended in court against a charge which or Kaunda did not disclose. "I do not know whether this money was being paid out of genuine friendship or for sinister motives," President Kaunda said, adding that until...

design of industrial systems. Society of South Africa and sp He is recognised as a member o Stellenbosch. Research at the Business Scho He has taught courses in Mana financial management, manufact His experience includes the d as an international consultan been with Shell International Has a degree in Operations Res

Klaas van der Poel  
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# Drought relief is widespread

STAR  
12/11/80  
3 General

Widespread rain which fell over most of South Africa in the past few days has brought relief to drought-stricken areas in the Free State and Transvaal.

Farmers faced huge losses a few days ago as the planting season passed, but the rains alleviated the problem and most have started to plough and plant.

Farmers in the Eastern Cape also welcomed the good rains. Farming correspondent Hannes Ferguson reports that although dry conditions still prevail in the Western Cape, it cannot be said that there is a drought in the area.

It is normally dry there in summer.

The Karoo is the only area still experiencing drought.

Good rains were reported yesterday from Tzaneen (24,8 mm), Potchefstroom (22,4 mm), Bloemfontein (18,0 mm), Mafikeng (16,0 mm), Wepener (15,0 mm), Jan Kempdorp (14,5 mm) and Frankfort (12,3 mm).

Johannesburg had 2,8 mm and Pretoria 8 mm of rain yesterday.

The Weather Bureau forecasts further widespread rain over the Transvaal, Free State and Natal today and tomorrow.

# 'Agricultural role crucial in constellation'

ROM (B)  
13-11-80

DURBAN. — The establishment of a common market for Southern Africa, which could be accommodated in the Prime Minister's concept of a Constellation of States, was suggested in Durban yesterday by the Deputy Minister of Development, Mr J J G Wentzel.

Addressing the conference of the Africa Co-operative Action Trust, Mr Wentzel said that as in the case of the European Common Market, agriculture would play a crucial role in establishing and maintaining a constellation of states.

It would have to form a structure by which the different states would be linked so that all the participants could benefit from agricultural development in Southern Africa.

Development planning in a regional context would require specific forms of consultation and joint decision-making between authorities in South Africa and similar authorities in the national states on the nature of certain agricultural programmes.

"My Government's desire is to embark on a broad strategy of support for small businesses to accommodate the highest human input possible," Mr Wentzel said.

"You will agree that the small farmer will fit in very favourably in such a broad strategy."

A strategy of this nature had been discussed with the national states last month at a meeting under the chairman-

ship of the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof.

The food situation in several Southern African countries had become crucial, the Deputy Minister said.

There were serious food shortages and production was dwindling in Mozambique, Angola, Zambia and Zaire.

"These countries have many agricultural problems in common with the rest of the continent, but the political situation completely rules out co-operation on the agricultural level."

An organisation like the Africa Co-operative Action Trust could play a meaningful role, particularly with the support of private enterprise.

"The barriers that have been put up artificially by politicians do not exist for organisations like Acat and the private sector," Mr Wentzel added.

"Yet the production in these areas is only one-sixth to one-seventh of that on comparable land in the rest of South Africa," Mr Wentzel said. "Most of the national states are not self-sufficient in food production."

KwaZulu was in a desperate position. It had been estimated that KwaZulu had the potential to feed 16-million people, but it was unable to feed the 3-million Zulus living in the region.

"There are many reasons why regions like KwaZulu have thus far not been able to live up to their agricultural potential. Among these are a lack of mo-

tivation in the farming community and the tendency for its residents to seek work in white areas." The agricultural situation in Southern Africa as a whole was such that Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zaire and Malawi were net importers of food, Mr Wentzel said, adding: "There is much uncertainty about the agricultural future of Zimbabwe."

Looking at the situation on the sub-continent realistically, it was clear that South Africa — including the national states — would have to play an increasingly important role, not only because of their agricultural resources but also because of their potential human resources.

South Africa was the only country in Africa exporting on an extensive scale and still in a position to raise production, as it had done by 30% in the decade from 1970 to 1980.

The Republic also exported agricultural know-how.

It was futile simply to say that African countries had to raise their food production or that it was sufficient to give them technological aid. What was needed was an effort to identify the bases for and the methods of co-operation, Mr Wentzel said.

"Africa can no longer rely as heavily as in the past on the industrialised countries of the world to solve its problem of low food production, starvation and malnutrition. — Sapa.

# Drought gloom faces farmers

3 General

**EAST LONDON** — Many farmers in the northern Border areas declared emergency grazing zones, are reluctant to accept second phase government relief assistance as it involves repayments.

Although the assistance would give them a 50 per cent loan on fodder for a certain number of breed animals, they felt present farming conditions were too uncertain for them to incur additional debts.

While recent rainfalls brought relief to coastal areas, and Jamestown received 28 mm in town, although needing more rain to break the drought, farmers in the northern Border region are facing financial ruin.

In a drought described as the worst experienced in 34 years, many areas

had absolutely no grazing on the veld which was "like a desert."

Mr. V. Cockin, who farms near Waverley, said he had been buying fodder for his stock for over six months and the cost was exorbitant.

Dams on his farm were dry for the first time in 32 years and the water shortage was critical, he said.

For months the Ciskei Government has been transporting fodder and water to the Whittlesea area where stock are dying due to the shortage of grazing and more recently, water.

Even a good rainfall at this stage would be too late to save a vast number of stock. Molteno, Dordrecht and Halseton report that last week's rainfall did little to relieve

the drought situation, and water restrictions were recently imposed in Burgersdorp where the J. L. de Bruin Dam and the Stormberg River are dry.

Mrs P. J. de Wet, whose farm is situated between Sterkstroom and Tarkastad, said their average annual rainfall was 468 mm, but they had only received 130 mm so far this year.

Some farmers battling to feed their stock had no water on their farms at all, while several had been forced to reduce stock.

Should good rains fall soon, it will still be many months before the veld recovers — this means continuing handfeeding the stock for some time. For farmers, the general outlook for the future is gloomy. — DDR

SOME wealthy Boland farmers are paying their labourers wages that have been described as 'appalling and a disgrace'.

This emerged after an Argus inquiry into complaints that one Rawsonville farmer was paying his employees as little as R5 a week after deducting food money from their wages.

In a letter to The Argus, a complainant, who wished to remain anonymous, said that labourers on the farm, Remhoogte, in the Rawsonville District, were earning R13,50 a week on average, less R7,50 a week for food.

A married man with several children, could not possibly support his family on such a meagre salary, he said.

The foreman of Remhoogte, Mr A J Burger, verified that he was paying his 13 coloured labourers between R13,50 and R15 a week

# 'Appalling' low wages paid to workers by some wealthy Boland farmers

14/11/80  
Krus

and that after deductions for food they were earning between R24 and R30 a month.

## ACCOMMODATION

But you must remember that the workers get their food wholesale, they are provided with accommodation and they get free wine, Mr Burger said.

He added that the starting wage for his labourers was R13,50 a week and that this rose to R15 after six months.

For their R13,50 a week the Rawsonville farm labourers work a 10-hour day. A Government source

told The Argus that a number of wealthy Boland farmers were paying their labourers as little as R2-R2,50 a week and that exploitation of coloured labour was a cause for grave concern.

## 'EXPLOITED'

Dr Alex Borraine, the Progressive Federal Party's spokesman on Labour, said there was no doubt that farm labourers were one of the most exploited groups of workers in South Africa.

Referring in particular to farm labourers in the Western Cape, Dr

Borraine said: 'They have no protection and there is no minimum wage laid down.'

'There are no bargaining procedures with employers, many of whom pay the lowest rate possible, and because so many of the labourers have no other qualification, and therefore no other alternative, they are compelled to accept these wages.'

Dr Borraine said the wages these labourers were being paid were a disgrace in any society.

'They are being paid no more than starvation wages and this is why

many leave in desperation for the cities.'

The argument was often used that labourers were provided with housing, food, schools and so on, but there was no doubt, said Dr Borraine, that if the worker had no ability to negotiate his own wages, then he was bound to be exploited.

The Senior Industrial Inspector with the Department of Manpower Utilisation, Mr J F Marais, confirmed Dr Borraine's statement that there was no protection for the farm worker in

the Boland.

'A common law contract exists between the farm labourer and his employer, but the labourer is not usually aware of his rights under that contract. Consequently there is no control over what he earns.'

Professor Johan Potgieter of the Institute for Planning and Research at the University of Port Elizabeth, whose department had established a household subsistence (HSL) level that was generally accepted as the minimum amount required to support a

family, said farm labourers were excluded from the HSL because it was impossible to assess their real earnings.

This was because of their various 'perks' like accommodation, food and free facilities.

The chairman of the Goudini Farmers' Association, Mr Bokkie Viljoen agreed that fringe benefits like houses, food and clothing and school education made it very difficult to establish a set minimum earnings scale.

But he said that the minimum weekly wage

laid down by the KWV was 'about R20.'

'You must appreciate that farm labourers are in a category of their own. The farmer has a special relationship with his workers and must house, school and feed them.'

## RAW DEAL

'Usually they get their food and drink at wholesale prices, so if R8 is deducted from his salary for food, that amount represents more money than it is actually worth.'

In spite of their 'perks' many labourers in the Boland are getting a raw

deal from their employers, according to the Institute of Race Relations.

Mrs Daphne Wilson, chairman of the Cape Western region of the institute said: 'This state of affairs is appalling. There should be minimum wages for all workers, farm workers included.'

'The situation looks even worse when one knows how affluent many farmers are.'

The Argus inquiry established that although coloured workers are often exploited in the

Boland, there are a number of farmers who take great care to see to the welfare of their labourers.

## R80 A MONTH

A survey of farm workers' earnings in the Robertson area showed an average monthly wage of R80, plus a free bottle of wine every day.

At the end of the year most workers get a bonus and their families receive new outfits of clothes.

Some farmers provide TV shows for their workers and facilities range from rugby fields to free firewood, food, water and sometimes land for cultivating crops.

Robertson workers are sometimes equipped with three or four roomed cottages which the farmer furnishes at his own expense.

In the Wellington district some farmers were found to pay their labourers between R96 and R120 a month.

# Disaster faces grain and grape crops

3  
rom  
19/11/80

STELLENBOSCH. — Fears of an outbreak of downy mildew, comparable to the near disastrous 1976 season, have been expressed by a spokesman of the Oenological and Viticultural Research Institute following nearly two weeks of rain.

Outbreaks of the dreaded vine disease have already been reported in Stellenbosch, Somerset West, Wellington, Paarl, and Malmesbury.

"So far these outbreaks have been very light and only the vine-leaves are affected," the spokesman said.

"However, the grape crop is at a very sensitive stage and the disease could spread, bringing serious crop losses," he added.

He advised wine farmers to spray as soon as possible with a fungicide.

"What alarms me is that the weather pattern is the same as it was in 1976, when we had heavy summer rain and no south-easter to dry the ground."

A spokesman for the Westelike Graanboere Ko-op in Malmesbury, has described the recent rain as a "disaster — an absolute disaster".

While only a quarter of the grain crop remains unharvested, it is expected that many farmers will be hit hard.

"There is a real possibility that much of what is left on the lands will be below acceptable weight and grade — and undergrade grain cannot even be delivered to the Ko-op," he said. — Sapa.

# East Cape farmers forced to sell stock

*3 General*  
80  
20/11/80

**EAST LONDON**—Critical drought conditions in some Eastern Cape and Border areas are forcing farmers to sell off stock to the extent that they will eventually retain only a nucleus of their present number.

"Some farmers have already reached that stage," said the Director of the Agricultural and Technical Services Department for the Eastern Cape, Mr H. S. Niehaus.

"With the present lack of grazing for the animals it is the wisest thing they could do.

"Generally, the drought

is still very bad. The only reasonable area is along the coast from Humansdorp to East London, and even there the rainfall figures are well below the average for other years.

"Inland towards the north it gets progressively drier and from Queenstown and Sterkstroom towards Aliwal North where conditions are almost critical, third stage drought relief measures have been applied for."

Farmers would then receive government subsidies of R1 a month per small breeding unit and R5 a month for breeding cattle.

"Most of the veld is very dry and in many areas there is no grazing at all, but with the coming rainfall season things should improve — and it's just possible it may rain at any time," Mr Niehaus said.

The control technician for the Border sub-region, Mr N. F. Kieck, was not as optimistic. "Even in the coastal regions which are recovering slightly due to quite good rainfalls, a lack of follow-up rains will cause the veld to dry out completely.

"There is no irrigation water in the Gonubie and Kwelera rivers at present. Peddie and Cathcart are

two of the hardest hit areas and these conditions extend as far as Aliwal North.

"Some farmers, particularly in the Stutterheim area are hand-feeding stock which they can't even sell because they are so thin.

"Most of the worst hit areas are in the third phase of relief aid and it is difficult to predict if or when the drought will break.

"November and December are known as the dry months, so it's unlikely there'll be any substantial rainfall." — DDR



# Drought still has Natal in its grip

N.M.  
20/11/80

3 General

## Pietermaritzburg Bureau

THE drought that began to crush Natal's agricultural community more than a year ago has not yet loosened its deadly grip.

Although spring rains soaked the coast and Natal Midlands gently and steadily, they were not followed by enough rain to alleviate the drought.

Farmers in the Heatonville and Ntambanana areas are back to 'critical' conditions after very light spring rains, according to Mr Faan Joubert, regional extension officer at Cedara Agricultural College.

The grazing situation at Hluhluwe was critical and most of the cotton farmers in the area were waiting for rain before they could start to plant.

Many maize farmers in the Lowesburg, Swartvolozie, Dundee and Ladysmith areas had not sown their crops due to the drought, although November 15 was the latest planting should have been left, said Mr Joubert.

Although rainfall in the Midlands was 'relatively good' streams that normally flowed strongly at this time of year were being pumped dry within three hours, according to a Lion's River farmer.

'The indications were that we were off into a really good spring,' said Mr Alwyn Bisschoff, secretary of the Natal Agricultural Union. 'But it looks as if we're in for a crippling summer.'

'Most sugar cane farmers cut less than half their normal crop this year, and prospects for next year don't look too good either,' said Mr Joubert. 'Partly grown cane and young ratons (newly planted cane stalks) have suffered extensively.'

Midmar Dam and Greytown's Lake Merthley have dropped to their lowest recorded levels, according to a spokesman for the Natal Parks Board and the Greytown Town Clerk respectively.

Watering gardens has been banned in Greytown as a result.

Although Mooi River has been deproclaimed as an emergency grazing area, Kokstad and Greytown remain emergency grazing areas.

Vryheid and Newcastle have had 'good rains' but less than usual, according to the spokesman for Cedara College.

Although the Hluhluwe area was very dry, streams in the Pongola and Mkuze areas were flowing strongly.



# Milk up soon but potatoes cheaper

AM 20/11/80

3. General

BLIEMFONTEIN.—South African consumers could expect a 'drastic increase' in the price of fresh milk soon, Dr Louis Theron, chairman of the milk committee of the South African Agricultural Union, said here yesterday.

Dr Theron said farmers were slaughtering dairy cattle and getting up to R800 a head which was much more lucrative than dairy farming, Sapa reported.

He said feed for dairy cows was so expensive that in some cases the farmer made only 1c profit on a litre of fresh milk. The last increase in the price of milk was in June when

consumers were asked to fork out an extra 5c a litre.

'The next increase will have to be drastic to lure farmers back to the dairy industry,' Dr Theron said.

On the brighter side of the consumer's life, it was discovered yesterday that cheaper potatoes were being sold throughout the country following an over-supply on all markets.

Current prices were the lowest this year.

A good season for growers in Northern Transvaal, where this year's crop is estimated at 6 000 000 pockets compared with last year's 4 800 000, was the reason for the lower prices, the man-

ager of the board, Mr D van Rensburg, said yesterday.

'Farmers cannot hold back supplies any longer as the heat is forcing them to lift their potatoes as soon as they are ready,' he said.

The average price for grade 1 medium potatoes had dropped from R3,98 a 15 kg pocket in October to R2,07 this week as a result of more than 100 percent increase in supply — from 91 000 pockets on October 11 to 130 000 on November 17 at the Johannesburg market.

The biggest price plunge had been experienced in Cape Town

with the average price having dropped from about R3 a pocket in October to R1,50 this week.

Pretoria's prices for the same period had decreased from about R3,50 to R2,20 and Durban's from about R5,50 to R2,90.

Commenting on the lower prices, Mr van Rensburg said: 'It is not possible to say how long the lower prices will last, but we expect them to rise in the foreseeable future as 70 percent of the Transvaal crop and 60 percent of the 2 000 000 pockets from the Champagne area have already been sold.'

UMTATA — More than 37 000 cattle in Transkei have died because of the drought and pastoral farmers have been advised to sell their stock to avoid losses.

Professor G. van Beers, chairman of the drought committee and economic adviser to the Transkei Government, said up to September 37 033 cattle had died as a result of the prevailing drought.

Last year 14 670 cattle had died up to September. This year the number of deaths had increased by 22 363. He said there was nothing to be done but advise pastoral farmers to sell their stock to avoid losses.

Professor Van Beers said districts seriously affected by the drought were Herschel, Matatiele,

37 000 <sup>DO 22/11/80</sup>  
~~3~~ 3-Gen  
cattle die  
in drought

Lady Frere and Idutywa.

Meanwhile, the Secretary for the Department of Interior and Social Services, Mr M. Titus, said distribution of fortified maize meal to families hard hit by the drought had started in Lady Frere, the district considered to be the worst affected.

He said the South African Government had

given Transkei a grant of R6.9 million to assist the people of the country. Out of this amount R4 million was in cash and R2.9 million was given in kind, including medical services and the assistance given by members of the South African Defence Force in carting water for domestic purposes in areas badly affected by the drought. — DDR.

# Farmers' income set to rise R1 000-m

3-General  
 Sun-Times Bus. 23/1/80

By Elizabeth Rouse

NET income of South African farmers is set to soar by virtually R1 600-million to more than R2 500-million this year.

This constitutes the biggest annual leap in the agricultural industry's history after five difficult years, in which net farm income rose by only 21% while farmers' debts climbed by more than 50%.

The surge is attributable to good maize and other summer crops, plus higher meat production and, naturally, meat prices.

As net farm income takes into account farmers' expenses on intermediate goods such as fuel, power, fertilisers and insecticides, this year's leap in income hardly justifies perennial warnings that South Africa's farming community is being decimated by production cost rises.

By September this year farm net income was up 62% on the same time in 1978 (gross farm income increased by 32% over this period) and the income

were going backwards rapidly.

In 1977 income rose by R195-million to R1 405-million, but in 1978 and 1979 increases were a minor R50-million and R48-million respectively, reflecting the economic recession and the slow rise in producer prices.

Farmers could rightfully complain that the going was difficult, as farm-requisite prices rose by almost 60% from 1975 to 1979 while producer prices increased by 44%.

Agricultural unions wailed that the return on capital in agriculture was 7,3% in 1979 compared with a return of 12,5% in commerce and industry, but that was before the food price hikes and the good crop season.

Farmers' debt figures appear enormous on the surface. They ran up by more than 35% from R2 000-million to R3 188-million in 1979. But, seen against the 1978 net farm income of R1 589-million, the debt-ratio is an acceptable 2:1 and could possibly show a decrease for 1980.



1978, which was down 7,5% on the R1 549-million earned in the year ended June 1977.

On a calendar year's basis, 1978 stands out as a disastrous year for the farming industry. Net farm income dropped by R40-million to R1 250-million from the 1977 figure and, taking inflation into account, farmers

Agricultural Technical Services preliminary figures, net farm income amounted to R2 114-million in the year ended July 1980, up 38% on the R1 532-million earned in the previous comparable period.

The 1978-1979 figure showed a narrow rise of 7% on R1 632-million in the year ended June

estimate of more than R2 500-million assumes that income is progressing at the same rate in the last quarter of the year.

Obviously, the current drought could have a serious effect on this sector's summer crops and next year might not look so good.

According to Department of

26/11/80  
37 000 (5) AR423  
cattle die  
in drought

Argus Correspondent

UMTATA. — Transkei's economic adviser and chairman of the drought committee, Professor G van Beers, says more than 37 000 cattle have died because of the drought.

These cattle losses were the figures up to September this year. In 1979, Transkei had lost 14 670 head of cattle and 22 363 sheep up to September 1980.

The South African Government had given more than R6-million in drought relief for Transkei in cash and kind.

Members of the South African Defence Force are transporting water to drought-stricken areas, and medical aid is being provided where necessary.

The distribution of fortified maize meal has already begun in Lady Frere, the district where families are believed to be hardest hit by the drought.

#### NICK OF TIME

Widespread rains in the Eastern Transvaal have saved crop farmers there from a disastrous season.

Had the rain fallen a week later, there would have been no maize crop this season.

The drought has been finally broken in most of the Bushveld grazing areas. North of the Soutpansberg rivers are overflowing their banks after about 50 mm of rain.

Pietersburg reported 34 mm and Springbok Flats farmers are preparing for the good wheat season.

The Eastern Transvaal Highveld will now have a maize crop after all, although it will be a race against time to get the fields planted before it is too late.

#### MORE NEEDED

Some districts, however, still need more rain to make planting safe.

The Free State crop-growing districts as far south as Winburg have also had good rains, but the southern Free State sheep farming region is still dry.

Fauresmith, Reddersburg and most of the

DD 28/11/80

# Drought broken in Border town

3 General

**EAST LONDON** — Widespread rains over the Eastern Cape have raised drought stricken farmers' hopes, and in the Stutterheim area the drought appears to have been broken.

After reports last week that Stutterheim was "bone dry", 103 mm has fallen since Sunday, and a spokesman for a farmers' co-op there said the weather "showed no signs of clearing up." The Forestry Department said the mountain streams were running strongly, and the ground was moist. In August, the

Stutterheim area was placed on the emergency grazing list.

More than 50 mm of rain had fallen in Stutterheim by midday yesterday and many roads in the district are slippery. The bypass between Stutterheim and Cathcart had to be closed yesterday morning after a heavy vehicle skidded across the road and blocked it.

In contrast, however, the Steynsburg area, which has been critically affected by the drought, has received only 10 mm over the past two days.

A local farmer's wife,

Mrs H. D. Barbier, said terrific dust storms had raged during the past few weeks, and farmers were being forced to sell their cattle.

Mrs Barbier said that before they sold their cattle, she was paying just over R3 000 a month for feed. "All we have left are just a few cows for our household needs", she said.

The Steynsburg farmers are also being plagued by hungry baboons who steal the cattle feed and raid the mealie lands. "One of our farm labourers used to stand guard while the cattle fed", Mrs Barbier said. It appears that while the slight rains have helped, they have come too late for many farmers.

Somerset East, now dependent on four town boreholes for water, has had 28 mm of rain since Monday, but it appears the light rain has done little to alleviate the situation. The water level of Lake Bertie has dropped so low that all the fish in it had to be destroyed.

Although only 13 mm has fallen since yesterday, the drought stricken Fort Beaufort farmers are optimistic that more rain will fall. Last month farmers were granted drought relief loans.

There has been 42 mm of rain recorded in the East London area since Monday. However, the level of the Bridle Drift dam remains unaltered.

In the Western Cape the gale force south-easter, which has buffeted the peninsula since Wednesday, is showing few signs of moderating.

Motorists, motor cyclists and cyclists as well as pedestrians spent a miserable windswept day, while shipping has also been delayed in Table Bay.

The weather office expects no respite from the gale, but reports of good rains have been received from parts of the Southern Cape.

In the Free State violent hailstorms destroyed thousands of hectares of wheat. The possibility of more hail before the beginning of next month cannot be ruled out.

Intermittent thunder-showers are forecast for the whole of the province and the Northern Cape for today. — DDR-DDC-SAPA.



Sharing an umbrella through East London's wet streets yesterday were Lee-Ann Lottering, 16, and Fadila Lagadlen, 21.

28/11/80 BOM

## Dragged into farm machine

CAPE TOWN. — An ambulance raced 200km to bring to Groote Schuur Hospital, in Cape Town, a seriously injured farmer who had been dragged into a machine-driven hammer mill.

Mr H ("Mais") van Zyl, 18, of Tierkloof Farm, Van Rhynsdorp, was grinding chaff for animal fodder on Wednesday

when he was pulled into the mill by a pulley belt.

He suffered severe arm and head injuries before employees switched off the machine.

He was transferred from Vredendal Hospital to Groote Schuur, where his condition was given yesterday as "serious". — Sapa

(3)

# SHOWERS ease

3-General

AD. 29/11/80

# Ciskei drought

**EAST LONDON —** The rain that fell during the past few days had brought much welcome relief to the Ciskei's coastal area, the homeland's agriculture planner, Mr M. Lindstrom, said yesterday.

Mr Lindstrom said the coastal areas, including parts of Peddie and King William's Town, had had 50 mm over the last two days.

"As a result of this domestic and stock water supply has improved considerably while the state of the veld should also improve within four weeks," Mr Lindstrom said.

He said the stock position would take time to get back to normal because of overgrazing and the length of time of the drought.

The planting of the maize should start in the coastal areas, where other grain crops should also benefit from the rain. Earlier rains, though not heavy, had given Ciskei farmers a chance to plough.

Reasonable rains had fallen around the Victoria East area, Mr Lindstrom said, but it would take heavier rains to break the drought.

Domestic and stock water had improved but the veld and general condition of livestock was still critical.

Mr Lindstrom said the position was generally different in the north — especially the Hewu area — where only light rains had fallen — 25 mm over the past week.

"The irrigation dams in the area have not been filled and much more rain is sorely needed."

He said overgrazing in the Hewu district had reached such serious proportions that it would take a long time and a lot of good rain before the area got back to normal.

The rains which have fallen in the Eastern Cape appeared to be letting up in certain areas yesterday.

No rain fell at Molteno, Dordrecht or Steynsburg, and Somerset East had received only 1 mm since Thursday night.

In contrast, Port Alfred, which has received a total of 450 mm this year, and is in no way drought stricken, had received 60 mm since Thursday.

Burgersdorp is experiencing severe water problems. The council is drilling boreholes, but it is doubtful whether sufficient water will be found.

Residents have been warned that unless the council gets the full co-operation of the public, existing boreholes will be

overstrained and the emergency position will change to one of disaster.

The level of the Bridle Drift dam near East London remains unaltered, and a spokesman at the dam said that while the recent rains had temporarily allowed it to hold its own, the level would probably soon drop. By yesterday afternoon, East London had received 16 mm of rain.

The Aliwal North Municipality waterworks filtered 17% more water during the months of August and September compared with the same two months last year, but according to Mr Peter Brooks, the town engineer, there is no cause for alarm about the town's water supply, which is pumped from the Orange river. — DDR.

# Cash crisis is forcing farmers away from borders

S. & P. W. 32/11/80  
(3)

IT'S not really terrorists who are driving South Africa's border farmers off their land — it's money. And if the Government wants the farmers back on the land it will have to act fast.

City-living landowners whose empty farms line the borders with our Black neighbours, may be pressured by the Government to return to the plateau, the Sunday Express was told this week.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr S Hayward, revealed that farmers still "holding the fort" in the dust left by those who have left to seek their fortunes in the cities are angry and demanding action.

We are under tremendous pressure either to force these absentee landowners back to their farms or get them to appoint Government approved managers," he told the Sunday Express.

"People didn't leave these areas because they were scared, they went for economic reasons.

"I think we've had some success in stemming the tide but we need to do more for these farmers.

"I've been put under a helluva lot of pressure to bring the absentee landlords back.

## GOVT THREAT TO MAKE THEM GO BACK AND FARM

by NEIL MACLUCAS

"honest managers" he might consider employing one.

The Opposition spokesman on agriculture, Mr Phillip Myburgh, agreed that the biggest reason for the depopulation of the plateau was economic but said: "It is absolute nonsense to try and force unwilling Whites back to their farms.

"Thank goodness there are still willing and able Blacks to manage the farms. If they were forced out there'd be no-one living there at all."

Former Transvaal rugby player Mr John Faber told the Sunday Express he had employed a Black farm manager since 1953. "He is as good, if not better, than any White manager I've met," he said.

"Our farm, Rooibokkraal, has recreational potential but very few economic possibilities. We get more pleasure out of hunting there than farming."

But Mr Jaap Wilkens, president of the SA Agricultural Union, told the Sunday Express the drain from the land to the cities had eased up because of current rise in meat prices.

the farms," he said.

"But in the long term we need vast sums of Government money to stimulate and improve the infrastructure. Only the Government can afford to finance electricity, road and irrigation schemes.

"With the current economic boom, too many people are being attracted by big-city salaries.

"It's simply a question of economics. I don't think the terrorist threat worries too many farmers."

The Department of Agriculture's Director of Financial Assistance, Mr F Kramer, told the Sunday Express his office had pumped nearly R20 million into "bring back the farmers" schemes.

R15.4 million had been made available this year to help people buy farms.

"We had 172 new farmers this year, but that doesn't mean they'll farm for ever."

"I don't think the situation has improved tremendously but I feel the trend to the cities has been checked."

A prominent Messina cattle rancher, Mr Leon Botha, felt that the position had improved in the last four or five months:

"But only because we've been getting good prices for our meat."

Thabazimbi estate agent, Mr A Whisenach, said: "These rich landlords live in Johannesburg and Pretoria and only seem to use their farms when they come hunting in the winter."

Absentee Johannesburg landowner Mr John Faber said that before the Government tried to force White farmers' back, something would have to be done about price control.

"At the moment people were asking recreational values for agricultural land. A lot of other landowners in my position now only use their land for hunting and safari parties. There is a lot of game in the area and it is more fun and cheaper than going to Sun City once a month."

The pressure on the Government is coming from the farmers left behind — the men who consider the vast empty tracts of land on either side of their farms make them an easy target for the terrorists.

On a visit to the area shortly after Zimbabwe became independent, the Sunday Express found a large number of farms either unattended or managed for absentee landlords by Blacks.

The Sunday Express reporter, Marshall Wilson, broke the news in March this year to the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman.

Wilson told the Minister that more than 1 000 farms were unoccupied in a 250km stretch from Zeerust to Messina.

Mr Schoeman agreed the situation posed a security threat.



• Absentee landowner John Faber now lives in Johannesburg and uses his farm only for hunting and safari parties.



# Karoo still in grip of destructive drought

2/2/80  
Ogus  
3

AS intermittent showers have kept people indoors in the Cape Peninsula the past three weeks, sheep farmers in the Karoo are still battling along in the most brutal and longlasting drought experienced in the area's farming history.

Although there have been reports of 'patchy downpours' from a few isolated areas, general rain continues to elude hundreds of near-desperate farmers.

Stockfeed has to be transported to all the farms to enable farmers to feed livestock and dams — the lifeblood on many livestock farms — have been dry for more than six months.

Mr Ron de Villiers of the farm De Hoop near Beaufort West said even after 40 years of farming in the area he had yet to encounter a more 'destructive and never ending' drought.

## Lambing

'My lambing rate has been cut by half and each day we face ever-increasing running costs and a plummeting turnover. My production is down by 50 percent and my costs up by 25 percent.

'There is no way out, except for abandoning our farms... and that's something not one farmer has the heart to do,' said Mr de Villiers.

Mr Vicus Leeuwener of the farm Rooikloof near Sutherland, said superficial showers fell in the area but were not enough to the ruling Liberal political fund contributor the latter's role as a major stion in the past is due to against the medical protes- lack of government action There is suspicion that with the title of 'doctor' ity and respect for anyone traditional Japanese doc-

will all persevere and grit our teeth.'

Farmers in the drought stricken zones are eligible for Government loans and subsidies to buy fodder to keep their dwindling flocks of sheep and herds of cattle alive, and are also entitled to a 75 percent rebate on the railrage costs of getting fodder to their farms.

## Sheep trucks

Railway trucks are being provided as a cheap form of transport to the Johannesburg abattoir. The SAR three-tier sheep trucks are made up into block load trains and take only 24 hours from Calvina or De Aar to City Deep abattoir.

This service has become very popular with farmers in the drought areas who wish to market their sheep. The tariff for the transport of sheep with a three-tier truck is considerably lower than the normal tariff.

Mr Willem Krugel, assistant secretary of the Western Cape Agricultural Union, said so far Government aid provided for farmers in the Karoo since April amounted to more than R17½-million.

He said R1 327 437 was subsidised on the interest

on carry over debts of the grain and stock farmers in the area and a further R2 697 150 rebate on railrage costs.

Direct subsidies on payments of fodder and subsidies on loans made by farmers amounted to R7 959 502 — but of these subsidies granted by the Government for fodder each farmer had to pay about 50 percent. Another R5 530 000 was made available for loans by the Department of Agricultural Credit.

But Mr Krugel said that all the farmers had estimated that of all the real debts incurred during the drought (since March 1978 until March 1980) the Government had only provided 10 percent in aid.

## Critical

'The situation could be described as critical because the damage to livestock is mounting and debts increasing. Farmers are having to keep their stock alive with fodder because their own fields are parched and it all takes added transport costs and extra labour.'

He said the prospects of rain still looked dismal and Government relief was expected to continue for at least the next two months.

of homeland agriculture employment (1976) avoided making an estimate confined himself to discussing unemployment and the increase in homeland unemployment since 1970, assuming homeland agriculture remained constant at its 1970 level.

# We're ice-breakers — coloured farmers

By ANNAMIA VAN DEN HEEVER

THE first coloured students to graduate from the Eisenberg Agricultural College near Stellenbosch see themselves as 'ice-breakers' preparing for wider coloured participation in South African agriculture.

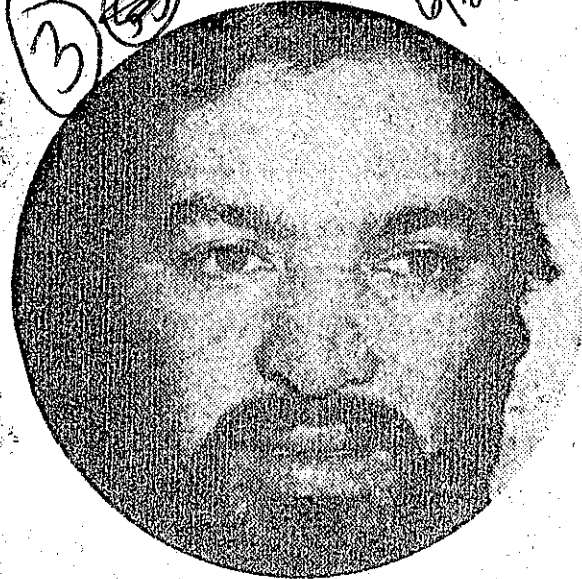
There were some initial difficulties, which we overcame, and it will now be easier for the next group of coloured students who go to Eisenberg,' Mr B J Beukes said after the graduation ceremony this week.

### FIVE SCHOOLS

The five young men who broke the ice at the traditionally conservative college are Mr Beukes of Riversdal, Mr R E Peffer of Durban, Mr James Swiegeelaar of Oudtshoorn, Mr Leon Titus of Stellenbosch, and Mr Leo van der Sandt of Ixopo in Natal.

Next year they will start teaching at five schools in the Cape and Natal that have been selected to offer agricultural subjects to coloured pupils for the first time.

Mr Beukes, who will



MR B J BEUKES who gained a first class pass at Eisenberg Agricultural College this year.

teach at Riversdale, said he had found members of his community were reluctant to accept the new plan to teach coloured pupils agricultural subjects.

### SCIENTIFIC

'Many of them believe we want to make farm labourers out of the children. But this is not true.

'The subjects will be more scientific than practical and, we hope, will spur pupils to

study further in the field.

Mr van der Sandt, 25, said the five students had some problems at the beginning of their course in 1979.

'The problems were understandable, I suppose, because the other students were not used to studying with people of a different colour.

'They did not really mix with us at first. But as they got to know us better, these problems were overcome.'

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HOMELAND URBANISATION, 1960, 1970 & 1978

TABLE 7:

1960, 1970 and 1978.

Table 7 shows the extent of homeland urbanisation in

Homeland urbanisation

a)

two tables indicate.

of it were more true in 1960 than in 1980, as the following  
clined to less than 20% by the end of the 1960's. Other parts  
from their own agricultural production. This proportion de-

# How food will become a strategic SA weapon

"In decades to come agriculture will have the same strategic value and bargaining power as oil has today."

This is why one of the motivating forces behind the Department of Agriculture, under its new Minister Pietie du Plessis, will be an emphasis on food as a strategic weapon.

"Africa today has 440-million people. From 1965 to 1980 there was a decrease in food production of 15 percent," Mr du Plessis said.

"By the end of the century, Africa's population will have doubled. We're at the border of the biggest potential food market in the world.

"We are not only in a favourable position geographically but we have an infrastructure running into the heart of Africa, coupled with an efficient transport system.

"It will be my first duty to see that the tendencies of the past two decades when farmers succeeded in increasing physical volume of agricultural production 3,4 percent a year, against an annual population growth of 2,1 percent are continued," Mr du Plessis said.

## EXPORTS

He proudly points to the fact that South Africa is currently exporting 19,6 percent of its total agricultural production.

"It's very important in the long term for South Africa to maintain and even exceed this.

"In 1965, for example, Africa imported five-million tons of grain.

"By 1968 this had risen to 11,3-million tons and by 1985 it should be 15-million tons.

"Our priorities must be identified and a long-term strategy for agriculture spelt out.

"We're not only going to have to look at research, extension programmes and finance, but at agriculture as an earner of foreign currency and a strategic bargaining power."

Mr du Plessis said this did not necessarily mean that, as had often happened in the past, the consumer would pay more.

"The biggest enemy of the farmer and the consumer is inflation.



Mr Pietie du Plessis... "the importance of food as a strategic weapon cannot be over-emphasised."

"Last year the general rate of inflation was 14 percent but in the same time the inputs into agriculture rose 26 percent, or about R1 000-million.

"If I can't keep production costs down, then how can I keep food prices down? If I don't, all the farmers will go bankrupt.

"The farmers won't get a better chap putting their case than me."

## FERTILISER

When asked if this would mean the fertiliser price — always announced at the beginning of the year — would be lower than previous years, in line with agricultural and consumer requests, Mr du Plessis replied:

"I'll fight all increases in agricultural inputs from the start. I'll fight them as hard as the consumer fights me.

"My main task is to ensure that the 28-million people living in South Africa and the homeland states have food every day at prices they can afford.

"If farmers are encouraged to produce surpluses they'll often be paid more on the export market.

"This, in turn, could subsidise the local market as sugar did."

Mr du Plessis said it was also important that the vital role of agriculture in secondary industry was not ignored.

He said the judicial commission of inquiry into the meat industry would also look at the role of co-operatives.

## New Minister has farming background

Pietie du Plessis tempers his affability with a firmness and easily apparent determination.

It's probably those qualities that saw him nominated a member of the Transvaal Provincial Council for Lydenburg when he was 29.

Four years later, in 1970, he was elected MP for Lydenburg, and now at the age of 45, he is Minister of Agriculture.

Politics have always formed the framework of Mr du Plessis's life. His father, Mr J P L du Plessis, was chairman of the Constituency Council under Dr Hendrik Verwoerd.

His interest in politics developed in a roundabout way, 18 years ago, shortly after he started farming in the Lydenburg

research, after obtaining an MSc in agriculture at the University of Pretoria.

"I was once called the soya king. I did all the pioneer work on soya, which is becoming one of the most important agricultural crops," he said.

Mr du Plessis served on various agricultural and nature conservation organisations. He has three farms of his own and farms beef, maize and soya.

He served on the commission of inquiry into the marketing Act and the finance study group of the caucus, was chairman of the Commission on Co-operation and Development and in June, 1975, the post of Deputy Minister of Finance was created for him.

He was also chairman of the youth branch of the

# 10 pc fertiliser increase will hit 1981 food prices

STAR  
~~2/11/80~~  
3  
9/12/80

**By Hannes Ferguson,  
Farming Correspondent**  
Consumers are to be hit by another blow to their grocery baskets on Christmas Eve.

Fertiliser prices, which directly influence food prices, will rise about 10 percent in terms of a notice in the Government Gazette to be published on December 24.

This season's crops have already been hit by the 17,3 percent increase in fertiliser prices imposed in January this year.

Food prices this year have already increased a phenomenal 25,2 percent, according to the latest

figures released by the Department of Statistics.

The additional 10 percent increase will further boost prices of vegetables and other crops planted after the new prices take effect on January 1.

Maize alone will rise by 2,5 percent in the next growing season, according to Dr P E van der Dussen, economist of the national Maize Producers' Organisation.

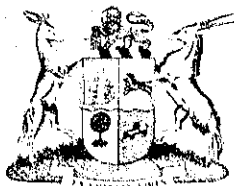
This will affect the maize price in mid-1982, while this year's 17,3 percent jump will take effect on next year's maize prices.

Mr Trevor Webb, chairman of the Fertiliser Society said that fertiliser plants had been more fully used this year and efficiency had improved.

There had been no major changes in the price of raw materials for fertiliser.

The latest fertiliser price increases may have been caused by price increases in other cost items such as machinery, wages and transport costs.

The fertiliser industry was recently criticised in a secret interim report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Fertiliser Industry.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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Vol. 186]

CAPE TOWN, 12 DECEMBER 1980

KAAPSTAD, 12 DESEMBER 1980

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### GENERAL NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

DRAFT BILL TO SUBSTITUTE THE VETERINARY,  
ACT, 1933  
(ACT 16 OF 1933)

The Draft Bill hereunder is hereby published for general information. Interested persons are hereby invited to submit any comments and representations they may wish to make in connection therewith, in writing to the Director-General: Agriculture and Fisheries, Private Bag X116, Pretoria, 0001, within 60 days of the date of publication hereof.

### ALGEMENE KENNISGEWING

DEPARTEMENT VAN LANDBOU EN VISSERYE

KONSEPWETSONTWERP TER VERVANGING VAN  
DIE VEEARTSWET, 1933  
(WET 16 VAN 1933)

Die Konsepwetsontwerp hieronder word hierby vir algemene inligting gepubliseer. Belanghebbendes word versoek om kommentaar en verhoë wat hulle in verband daarmee wil lewer of rig, binne 60 dae na publikasie hiervan skriftelik aan die Direkteur-generaal: Landbou en Visserye, Privaatsak X116, Pretoria, 0001, voor te lê.

**FARM PROPERTY** 3  
**Prices shoot ahead**

Like its urban counterpart, the farm property market is showing marked signs of over-heating. Good grain farms in the maize triangle have been fetching more than R1 000 a hectare. That is almost double the price they would have commanded only 18 months ago.

In Natal, the vendors of sugar estates are now asking (and getting) up to R50 for every ton of cane their properties are expected to produce annually. Individual farms in favourable areas have sold for more. Only a year ago, R30 would have been considered the limit.

The price of extensive ranching property has been slower to take off and is, of

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KEY TO COSTING MATERIALS

course, still much lower on a hectare basis. But it nevertheless reflects the same trend. Good sweet grazing and bushveld properties are currently selling for R800 to R1 000 for every animal they can carry. And that's without the beast, which also costs 60% to 70% more than it would have done last year.

Wine farms have appreciated rapidly, too. The old rule of thumb was that a farm should be capitalised round about the value of three years' production. That yardstick seems temporarily to have gone by the board as buyers have tumbled over each other to pay four and five times the projected crop values.

In Stellenbosch and Paarl, where agents are tempted to press amenity harder than the grapes, several sales have been reported in the vicinity of R25 000 a hectare. Wool farms and irrigation farms have not experienced quite the same euphoria, but that can be partially explained by the fact that they were less likely to have been marked down during the bad days from 1977 to 1979.

Although urban buyers are in evidence, the weight of the purchasing power in the current wave appears to be coming from the farming community itself. Large maize and beef farmers are flush with cash as a result of good crops and higher prices. The banks are keen to lend against the solid security of existing properties.

Moreover, tax and inflation hedging considerations render additional land purchases a more attractive proposition to most than intensification of existing holdings.

There are probably no more than a few score farmers who have been displaced by expropriations and the well-publicised activities of companies scrambling for control of the sugar industry. But they have been much in evidence, too, and many observers blame them for the sudden upsurge. Roaming the country, cash in hand, they find it hard to conceal a sense of urgency which drives them on to reinvest as quickly as possible. A man who has lived hand to mouth on the same farm all his life finds it difficult to be patient when he is suddenly in possession of R1m worth of depreciating banknotes.

A notable feature of this property boom has been the mobility of buyers. Frightened, perhaps, by rumours of further consolidation or the possibility of some future bush war, several wealthy Transvaal and Natal buyers have been tempted to establish either a new or second base in the Cape. One of the most popular hunting grounds for them has been in the PM's stamping ground along the Garden Route and around the growing town of George.

Agents report that farm property prices have trebled in the last year and a half. Farms for sale for less than R1 000 a hectare in early 1979 have recently been selling for R3 000 and more.

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Harris and Todaro (1970) have developed a two sector model of rural-urban migration which assumes a minimum urban wage substantially higher than agricultural earnings. In the model, migration proceeds in response to urban-rural differences in expected earnings with the urban employment rate acting as an equilibrating force on such migration (Harris and Todaro, 1970:126).

The mechanism is this:

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# Clash <sup>18/12/80</sup> over land <sup>(3)</sup>

SEYMOUR — At a public meeting of property owners in the Balfour, Buxton and upper Blinkwater areas on Tuesday night, the chairman of the Katherg Farmers' Association, Mr Gus Peinke, proposed the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union include in a memorandum to be submitted to the government a request that the area be purchased by the government for occupation by blacks.

Mr L. Rau, a member of the association, reported that a succession of speakers, including Mr A. Forsdick and Mr Tom Dreyer, then opposed the proposal on the grounds that it was not a proper function of organised agriculture to propose to the government that an area should be purchased, and it would in any case be poor business strategy to offer land before an approach had first been made by the state.

Another speaker, Mr W. Lenz, stated he felt property owners had the right to negotiate with the state without the intervention of an intermediary such as an agricultural association.

Concluding the meeting the chairman said it was clear the majority of those present were against offering their property to the state, and he suggested to the union they delete from their draft memorandum the paragraph recommending purchase of the area by the state. — DDR

consists of permanent urban force exceeds employment assumed, so that the expected plied by the proportion of ration proceeds and urban ted urban wage equals agricul- brium (shown by Harris & Todaro, here every individual has et the system as a whole Without rede- tism, one may imagine the ore than two sectors and in ve been considering through- except the one where earnings-pect there to be unemploy- earnings are highest (metro- the homelands, unemployment Table 9 shows.

us to note two things:

# Farmers are welcome

19/1/68 51/1/68 (3) (23) (27)

By Dirk Nel  
Northern Transvaal  
Bureau

**PIETERSBURG** — Farmers from Zimbabwe could stem the depopulation of South Africa's border areas, and will receive financial and other aid if they settle on isolated farms in the northern Transvaal.

The President of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Nico Kotze, says his union would welcome Zimbabwean farmers with open arms and make every effort to assist them.

"If they choose to occu-

py farms in the depopulated border areas, we would double our efforts to help them get started," said Mr Kotze at his farm at Crecy near Naboomspruit.

He emphasised he was not aware of a major exodus.

A number of young South African farmers who have received State subsidies have settled in the border area during the past 12 months, but the situation there is still critical, especially between Ellisras and Pont Drift along the Botswana border.

It has been established that the 7000 cars reported to have crossed from Zimbabwe into South Africa via Beit Bridge during the past week represents a normal flow of holiday traffic.

Some Zimbabweans camped in caravan parks said they were here to find employment.

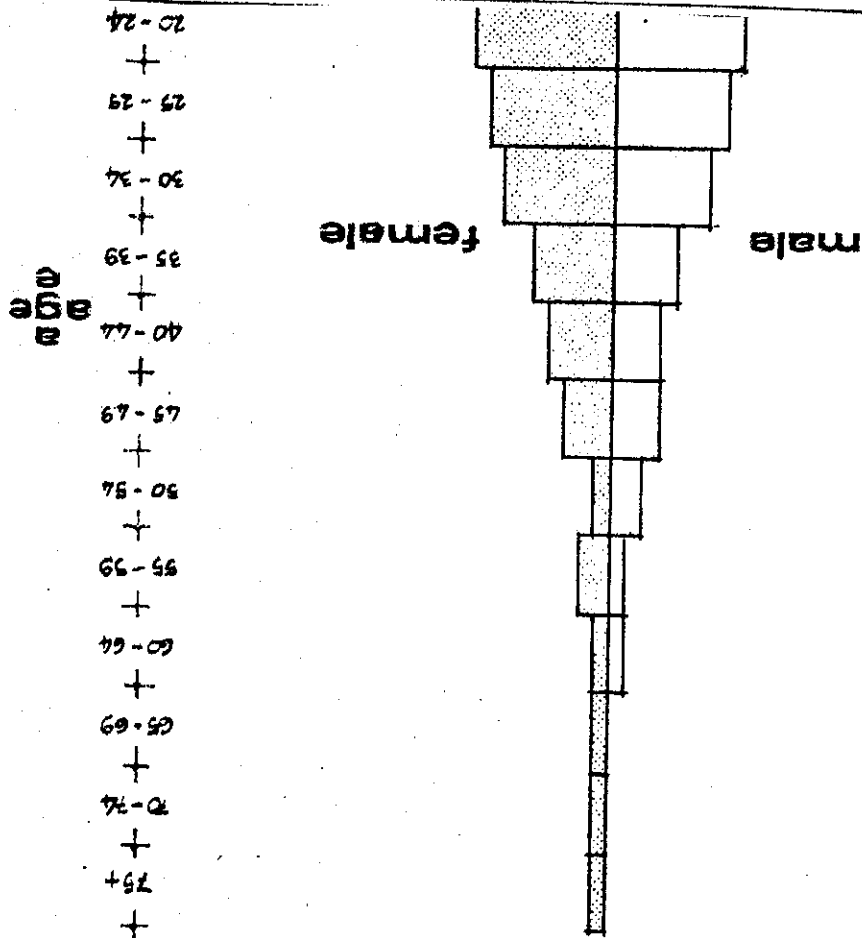
A large number of ex-Zimbabweans have been appointed to technical and agricultural posts in Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu.

Pietersburg's town clerk, Mr Jack Botes, said many Zimbabweans had

settled in the town during the past year but he was not aware of a sudden new exodus.

"Small industrialists from Zimbabwe are particularly welcome here because they are resourceful and progressive," he added. This view was echoed by other town clerks in the area.

But Pietersburg, Louis Trichardt and Tzaneen are facing an unprecedented housing shortage. The influx of Zimbabweans is seen as one of several factors in the crisis.



POPULATION PYRAMID

TABLE 4



cube costs from the net income. So it's obvious that these people's incomes are going to suffer."

Meanwhile, SA's maize crop was the second highest in history, with 10,8 Mt harvested at the end of this year's September to April growing season.

In the 1974 bumper year, the nation's approximately 30 000 maize farmers grew about 11 Mt.

SA exports about 50% of a good year's corn production to other African countries, Europe, and the Far East. The world price has jumped because of a drought in the US, otherwise a surplus maize producer. Additionally, Zimbabwe had to import maize for the first time in 1979, an indication of the disruption to that country's farm sector. Says SAAU's Cilliers: "The outlook for maize farmers is bright for this year."

But this is of little condolence to other farmers. "Many of them have had to learn to cope with bad times," says Holmes. "It's been rough."

## AGRICULTURE FM 19/12/80

### Mixed prospects

Despite recent rainfall in some of the worst hit areas, many SA farmers continue to suffer from the prolonged drought which has ruined crops, killed livestock, and threatens to cut output in critical sectors of the agricultural industry. Sheep and cattle ranchers and wheat growers are worst hit.

"This may end up to be a devastating year for some of our farmers," SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) director Chris Cilliers warns. "They are going to be hurt."

But it has been a good year for maize farmers selling their second highest crop ever in a climate of rising world prices. "In spite of the disasters we've had, net farm income nationwide will be the highest in history," says Cilliers. "The summer crops have done very well, and with good weather conditions next year, we're

expecting an excellent performance," he says. "We're not gloomy about the future."

Overall, net farm income is up 62,5% for the first three quarters of 1980. Gross farm income surged about 40%.

But the wheat harvest is expected to drop from 2,086m t last year to about 1,5m this year. SA's approximately 20 000 wheat farmers produced R405 899m worth of the critical staple food last year. Harvesting usually takes place in December and January, and while it is too early for final crop estimates, there have already been substantial increases in the announced price for next year.

Perhaps most severely affected by the drought are sheep and cattle growers in the northern Cape Province and Transvaal. SA's sheep population is expected to drop from 31,6m to about 30m head this year, while the nation's cattle herd decreased from an August, 1979, high of 9m to 8,5m in August of this year.

Hendrik Botha, assistant director of Pretoria's Agricultural Economics and Marketing department, explains that livestock growers "had to get rid of their slaughtering stocks as fast as possible. They just couldn't get the feed for them."

Meat prices, which have been soaring over the last six months, are expected to increase further. The Meat Board raised the minimum price for beef from R1,19/kg to R1,42 in June. Last month, the price was increased again to R1,52.

An indication of the drought's implications for sheep farmers incomes comes from a survey conducted by Theo Holmes, an economist at the Grootfontein Agricultural College in Cape Province's Middelburg. Based on a mail-in record system from 250 sheep growers in the Karoo region, Holmes says these farmers have had to spend R4,84 for each mature sheep to buy special drought feed.

"The farmers cannot feed their stocks from their lands. It's just too dry," Holmes says. "So they've had to purchase 'drought cubes' — made from roughage and supplemented with protein concentrate — to support their herds. The extra cost will reduce their incomes by more than half."

In the pre-drought 1977/78 season, Holmes' report indicates, sheep farmers in the region earned an average R16,01 for each mature sheep. After deducting costs, net income was R8,29. In the 1978/79 season, partial drought struck, net income for one mature sheep was R6,25. "Using these figures," Holmes explains, "you have to subtract the extra 'drought

# State<sup>S.T.</sup> 2/12/8 accused by top<sup>4</sup> farmers<sup>3</sup>

By BEVIS FAIRBROTHER

FARMERS in the Border area, near Queenstown, claim they are being done out of hundreds of thousands of rand by "unfair" Government evaluators.

Some say they are only being offered half the true value of their land, now being expropriated for the Ciskei.

Among their complaints are:

- Evaluations vary from less than R200 a hectare on one farm to nearly R700 a hectare on another ... for no apparent reason.
- Evaluators know nothing about the area.
- They are not interested in improvements to farms, which have cost the owners thousands of rand over the years.

Farmers feel they are virtually forced to sell at the low prices offered as a last chance before their land is included in the Ciskei. Selling chances will then be slim.

They also feel that, if they stay on, they will be "robbed blind" by stock thieves who have become active only since the Government resettled groups in the Border area.

A spokesman for the Eastern Agricultural Union confirmed that they received "complaints all day" from dissatisfied farmers.

## Fear of reprisal

The union could not act on individual complaints but was taking up the matter with "the powers that be".

Farmers interviewed did not want to be identified for fear of being "picked on".

One of the biggest farmers in the area said he was disappointed with the offer made to him, but accepted "with tongue in cheek".

He was close to retirement and was tired of fighting for a fair price.

"We've been waiting for them to do this for eight years. It's been like a sword hanging over our heads," he said. The evaluators finally came this year.

"They didn't take any improvements I had made into consideration.

"When we came here 35 years ago. There were no fences and water was scarce. Now we have the most improved farm in the Queenstown district.

"I invited the evaluators to see my cattle and sheep dips, and they said they weren't interested.

"I insisted on showing them but, afterwards, they said they still weren't interested.

"I couldn't believe that, in an

and water was scarce. Now we have the most improved farm in the Queenstown district.

"I invited the evaluators to see my cattle and sheep dips, and they said they weren't interested.

"I insisted on showing them but, afterwards, they said they still weren't interested.

"I couldn't believe that, in an area where scab and ticks are rife, they were not interested in dipping tanks."

The farmer was offered the second lowest price in the area — R212 a hectare. Another farmer received only R180 a hectare.

## Stock thefts

Farmers could not understand how the land was evaluated. Stock theft became rife in the area when the government resettled Herschel blacks there.

"The blacks who have always lived here have been good neighbours. We never had any trouble until the newcomers arrived," a farmer said.

Another farmer said she turned down the first offer a year ago, but said her door was still open to negotiation.

When she heard nothing from the Government for a year, she made inquiries in Pretoria and discovered her papers had been lost.

She eventually received R50 000 more for her property, which was only as much as the interest that would have accrued on the original offer over a year.

"We would never be able to buy a similar farm anywhere else for the money we got. We got half of what we should have."

She said private evaluators had quoted much higher prices than the Government officials.

She suggested that a solution would be for the Government to take a figure between the two quotes.

Mr Louis Fouche, director-general of the Department of Community Development and State Auxiliary Services, said it was impossible to comment on general statements.

Each complaint had to be considered separately as separate evaluation had been made in each case. The evaluations had been conducted on a scientific basis."

# 'Exodus to SA' reports denied

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222  
Africa Argus

Argus Correspondent

**PIETERSBURG.** — Farmers from Zimbabwe could stem the depopulation of South Africa's border areas and will receive financial and other aid if they settle on remote farms in the Northern Transvaal.

But Press reports about a 'mass exodus' of white Zimbabweans have been described here as 'exaggerated' and 'unfounded'.

The claim has also been denied by both South African and Zimbabwean authorities.

The president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Nico Kotze, said his union would welcome Zimbabwean farmers with open arms and would make every effort to help them.

'If they chose to occupy farms in the depopulated border areas, we would double our efforts to help them get started,' said Mr Kotze.

## NO EXODUS

He emphasised that he was not aware of a major exodus of farmers, though an increasing number had come to the Northern Transvaal in the past six months.

This was, in any case, not a good time of the year to start a new farming venture.

A number of young South African farmers who have received State subsidies have settled in the border area during the past 12 months, but the situation there is still critical, especially between Ellisras and Pontdrift, along the Botswana border.

It has been established that the 7000 cars reported to have crossed from Zimbabwe into South

Africa via Beit Bridge during the past week represents a normal flow of holiday traffic.

Zimbabweans camped in caravan parks said they were here to find employment.

An increasing number of 'holidaymakers' apparently do not return to Zimbabwe once they have found jobs here.

A large number of former Zimbabweans have been appointed in technical and agricultural posts in Lebowa, Venda and Zanakulu.

Pietersburg's Town Clerk, Mr Jack Botes, conceded that many Zimbabweans had settled in the town during the past year but said he was not aware of a sudden new exodus.

'Small industrialists from Zimbabwe are particularly welcome here, because they are resourceful and progressive,' he added.

## HOUSING

This view was echoed by other town clerks.

But Pietersburg, Louis Trichardt and Tzaneen are facing an unprecedented housing shortage.

The influx of Zimbabweans is seen as one of several factors which have caused the crisis.

A shortage of bricks, builders' preoccupation with industrial and business construction and the resettlement of white government employees from the homelands, have also complicated the situation.

A large get-together of former Zimbabweans, organised by the Rhodesia Club in Pietersburg, is to be held early in the new year and should give a clear indication of the extent of recent immigration.

A similar gathering 12 months ago was attended by 159 people.

# First train the farmers

THIS newspaper has frequently pointed to the illogicality of transferring rich arable land from productive to unproductive hands simply to satisfy the ideological needs of homelands consolidation. To that extent, therefore, we fully agree with the views of the NRP leader, Mr Vause Raw, that productive agricultural land should be used for producing food and not as a pawn in political horse trading.

And it seems that the Government, after studying the thoughts of the Van der Walt Commission, has recognised at last the folly of transferring land and people without studying the consequences to food production. For the Cabinet has decided that while preference should be given to the 1975 consolidation proposals, with adjustments where necessary, they should be implemented in a way that ensures that transferred land is used productively and economically.

There are no absolute guidelines on how this should be achieved, but the Government has stated that where the transfer of agricultural land can add to the economic development of a black State, white farm-

ers should be allowed to remain if they and the black government so wish.

However this does not solve the problem of what happens if the whites choose to sell up and leave. Because in the past so little has been done in the way of agricultural training and development in the homelands, these regions are notably ill-equipped to fill any vacuums caused by departing white farmers. The most likely consequence of their going would be the stagnation of valuable productive soil.

Already significant areas of land are lying idle, and because so much doubt still surrounds the mechanics of homelands consolidation, more white farmers can be expected to opt for departure rather than live on in a state of uncertainty.

Before the Government goes ahead with spending millions of rands on more land for consolidation it should ask itself whether present farming infrastructures in the homelands are competent to cope with new acquisitions. For what is apparent to all is that many more black farmers need to be trained to cultivate and develop the land they already possess.

# Fertiliser prices go up 10 percent

By Hannes Fergusson  
Farming Correspondent

Fertiliser prices for 1981 as gazetted today are up by an average of more than 10 percent, and by as much as 20 percent in one case.

For the crops planted in 1981 this will mean an increase of about three percent in the cost of producing food.

This will push up retail food prices by about two percent, because retail prices include handling and distribution charges.

Cost and price calculations by the Board of Trade and Industries have differed considerably from last year's practice.

Potassium prices have increased by as much as 20 percent, nitrogen fertiliser by 15 percent.

Phosphates have actually come down by five percent because of improved calculations.

## OVERHEADS

Overheads that were previously charged to phosphate production have now been charged to potassium and nitrogen.

The average price of fertiliser has in this way increased by about 10 percent.

The latest fertiliser price increase comes on top of food price increases which so far this year have amounted to 28 percent.

Last summer fertiliser prices were increased by 17 percent and this provided an important factor in this year's massive food price increase.

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# Bergs Land grab moves by planners

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[initials]

## Pietermaritzburg Bureau

**PROPERTY owners in the Drakensberg stand to lose land worth millions of rands if plans for the virtual 'nationalisation' of the area go through next month.**

At stake is the central Drakensberg covering an area of about 161 500 ha which includes popular holiday resorts like Champagne Castle, Cathkin Peak, El Mirador, Mount Memory and Dragon Peaks, which will be virtually frozen by proposed legislation for introduction by the Town and Regional Planning Commission.

Under the plan farmers could find large tracts of their land being zoned 'special conservation' and totally unusable.

Trout streams in these areas would be totally closed to the public who would be restricted to 'contour' paths through demarcated areas.

However, property owners and residents in one of the most beautiful areas of Natal would be the worst affected.

Farmers would be responsible for the maintenance of public paths through their land. Failure to maintain them would mean liability to pay for the work done by the NPA.

In terms of the proposed legislation roads could be closed by the commission whenever they felt it necessary and business owners finding themselves on areas which had been zoned for conservation would lose their investments if they ever decided to move out as the businesses would have to close.

An irate Mr Russell Tunagy, director of a company which has a shop, caravan park and a dairy farm at Dragon Peaks, said his father's farm would have a total of 202 ha 'sterilised' by the law which would allow 40,4 ha for limited agriculture.

**MEC**

**agrees**

**plan**

**is**

**harsh**

**Mercury Reporter**

MR DERING Stainbank, MEC for the Parks Board, confirmed that plans for the Drakensberg catchment area had been drawn up and the conditions had been laid down after consultation by the Parks Board, the Department of Forestry and the Town and Regional Planning Commission.

Some of the guidelines laid down were rather harsh, he said. But they have been drawn up with the intention of guarding the environment. He was not able to comment further, he said.

## Prohibited

In addition subdivision of land would be prohibited and future buildings — on rare sites where buildings would be allowed — would have to be passed by the commission. The plans and even colour of the completed building would have to have official sanction, he said.

The only areas to escape take-over would be existing hotels and the site of the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School.

The hotels and Mr Tunagy's caravan park would, however, not be able to expand their facilities any further and any new businesses would have to be conducted in a special demarcated area near the El Mirador Hotel.

Mr Tunagy said virtually nothing was known about the plan for the take-over 'under the guise of conservation' until two days ago.

'Property values are going to be totally destroyed and owners will be reduced to being by-owners on their own property,' he said.

'The Province wants to turn the area into a conservation park at no expense to itself.'

A spokesman for the commission could not be contacted last night.

# Province plans to 'freeze' Berg resorts

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Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Property owners in the Drakensberg have been rocked by plans which could mean the virtual "nationalisation" of land worth millions of rands.

At stake is the central Drakensberg, covering an area of about 161 500ha and including popular holiday resorts such as Champagne Castle, Cathkin Peak, El Mirador, Mount Memory and Dragon Peaks.

The area will be affected under legislation in the pipeline for introduction by the Town and Regional Planning Commission next year.

Under the proposed laws, farmers could find large tracts of their land being zoned for "special conservation" and unusable for farming operations. Even grazing would be prohibited on affected properties.

Trout streams in these areas will be closed to the public, who will be restricted to taking "contour paths" through demarcated areas.

Property owners and residents in one of the most beautiful areas of Natal will be most affected.

Farmers will be responsible for the maintenance of public paths through their land and — if they fail to do so — will have to pay for work done by the Natal Provincial Administration.

In terms of the proposed legislation, the planning commission may close roads where they feel it is necessary, and business owners finding themselves on areas zoned for conservation would lose out if they ever decided to move, as the businesses would have to close.

An irate Mr Russell Tungay, director of a company which has a shop, caravan park and a dairy farm at Dragon Peaks, said the proposed law would "sterilise" about 200ha of his father's farm, allowing only

about 40,5ha for limited agriculture.

Sub-division of the land would be prohibited and plans for future buildings — on rare sites where buildings would be allowed — would have to be approved by the commission.

Even the colour of the completed building would have to have official sanction, he said. The plans seek to rule out white as a colour for buildings and existing buildings will have to conform to the commission's colour specifications when next they are repainted.

Unscathed by the planned laws would be existing hotels and the site of the Drakensberg Boys' Choir School.

The hotels and Mr Tungay's caravan park will, however, not be able to expand their facilities any further and any new businesses will have to be conducted in a special demarcated area near the El Mirador Hotel.

Mr Tungay claimed: "Property values are going to be totally destroyed and owners will be reduced to being 'bywoners' on their own property."

"The Province wants to turn the area into a conservation park at no expense to itself."

Many permanent residents in the area were away on holiday and could not be reached for comment.

Mr Dering Stainbank, MEC for the Natal Parks Board, confirmed that plans for the Drakensberg catchment area had been drawn up and the conditions laid down after consultation between the Parks Board, the Department of Forestry and the Town and Regional Planning Commission.

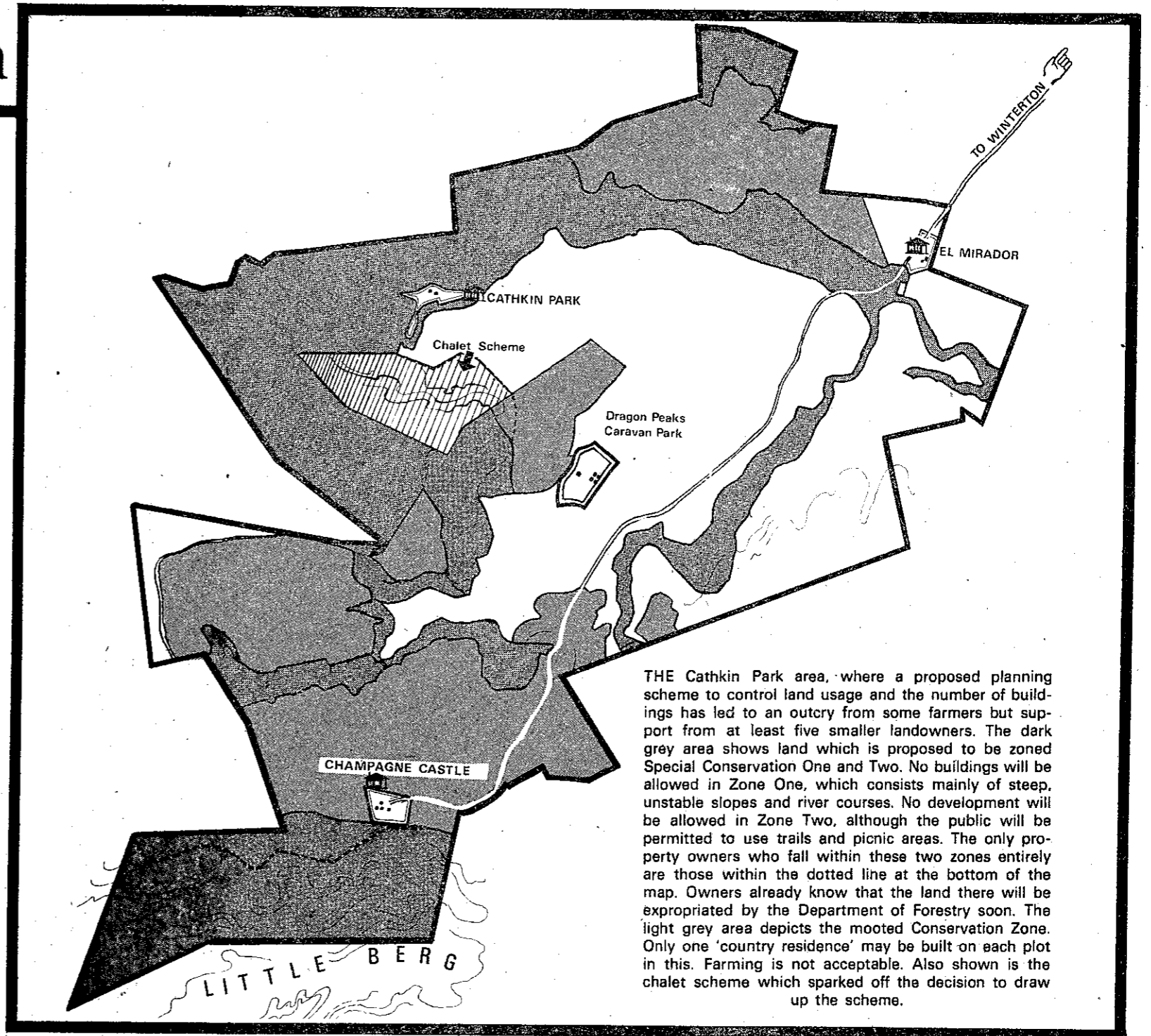
"Some of the guidelines laid down were rather harsh," he said. "But they have been drawn up with the intention of guarding the environment."

He was unable to comment further, he said.

# The big Berg plan

**'We want to protect what we think people value'**

~~5/8~~ (3) Nm 30/12/80



CONTINUED...



## Political Reporter

PEOPLE genuinely interested in conserving the character of the Drakensberg would not judge as harsh a draft planning scheme for the Cathkin Park area, Mr Ernest Froud, Natal's principal town planner who supervised the planning team, said yesterday.

The scheme, now open for inspection at Cathkin Park and in Pietermaritzburg, suggests controls aimed at preserving the character of the Sterkspruit Valley, which included the Champagne Castle, Cathkin Peak, El Mirador, Mount Memory and Dragon Peaks areas. The Drakensberg Boys Choir School was also in the valley.

'I don't see how these regulations can be considered harsh because they are exactly the conditions which will protect what we think this sort of people value in the Berg.'

The proposals centred on the zoning of the 3 800 ha area into seven zones, with varying restrictions placed on the erection of buildings and the use of land in each zone.

Mr Froud said the proposals removed some rights which landowners now enjoyed. The right to breed and graze animals on certain parts would be removed and a

plot owner would not be permitted to build on certain parts of his land. In some cases, a landowner could apply for special consent to build or graze animals in certain areas.

Clauses in the planning scheme could be changed after representations and objections.

The scheme clauses related to the reservation of land for certain purposes, the prescription of building lines and sidespace on plots, building restrictions and the use of land — which pertained to the zoning of property — and

floor area ratio and lot control. The proposed zone areas and uses were:

The river reserve, which was defined by the 20-year floodline along the banks of main river courses, and a 10 m wide strip on either side of all streams. The public could only enter this zone along demarcated footpaths. The aim was to protect indigenous flora and fauna, the sources and resources of water supplies and to prevent soil erosion.

All works were prohibited, including the removal of stone for building purposes, unless special consent had

been given.

Mr Froud said it was not the intention to deprive private owners of their fishing rights. In most cases, trout fishing on private property was controlled by the owner.

The Limited Agriculture One zone was one in which buildings could be used for farming, living or for amenity purposes. The land could be used for limited agriculture — excluding intensive farming such as poultry and pig farming, but including breeding and grazing animals; rural residential land — on which a 'country residence' could be built as long as the

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quality of the environment is protected; and special conservation — which included areas from which the public would be excluded except on demarcated footpaths and picnic areas. No indigenous vegetation or natural material could be removed. By special consent, educational buildings and hostels could be built.

On land zoned Limited Agriculture Two, special consent would be needed to set up camping grounds, caravan parks, holiday unit developments or hotels. Places of public amusement could be included. It would also be possible to make application for the use by special consent of land in the zone for private recreation. Agricultural and amenity buildings and living quarters were generally acceptable. The land in this zone was restricted to limited agriculture and rural residential.

One dwelling could be erected on land zoned Conservation, with an agricultural building needing special consent. The land could be used for amenities, rural residential and special conservation, with limited agriculture permitted by special consent. No buildings would be

permitted on land zoned Special Conservation One, while land zoned Special Conservation Two had provision for amenity land, on which the public would be permitted for 'passive recreation'.

Other zones included the hotel zone — there were three hotels in the valley — the caravan park zone, and the education zone.

There could be no further sub-divisions in Conservation zones and only one house could be built on each plot. Parking, landscaping, maintenance and a limitation to 5 ha were additional controls proposed for Hotel zones.

Mrs Val Spearman, a town planner closely involved in drawing up the proposed scheme, said the external appearance of buildings in the area was controlled more rigidly than in other local authority areas.

For example, it was felt that buildings should not be white, nor should they be on the skyline. Certain colours were prescribed.

Plots could not be sub-divided below 20 ha, but this limitation could be reviewed after a period. No-one would be prevented from building a house on his plot because of the proposed zonings.

Special conservation areas included those which contained indigenous forest and in many cases the ground was so steep that it was subject to land slides.

The proposal to protect waterways by suggesting farmers pump water to points away from sensitive rivers and streams to prevent erosion by cattle would probably have to be changed following objections from farmers.

'Most people who live here do nothing to change the habitat, not even gardening. They just enjoy the Berg as it is. And that is what we want to protect.'

# BATTLE TO 'SAVE' 'BERG FROM FARMERS HOTS UP

RADEMEYER

Tribune Reporter

NATAL'S Drakensberg preservation plan has the solid support of conservationists as well as many 'Berg property owners who say vast tracts of land there should never have been cultivated in the first place.

While landowners in the affected Cathkin Park area are reported to be split down the middle over the scheme proposed by the Natal Town and Regional Planning Commission, noted conservationist and Wildlife Society Director of Conservation Keith Cooper claimed this week that several farmers are cultivating land there illegally.

Mr Cooper said he welcomed all moves to conserve the character of the Drakensberg and was sure landowners would not be adversely affected.

"But a lot of people farming in that area shouldn't be cultivating it anyway because of the provisions of the Soil Conservation Act.

## Great tragedy

"Contraventions of this Act are tremendously widespread. It's one of the great tragedies of this country that so many farmers are cultivating land which should not be cultivated.

"But, and the Department of Agriculture will agree, it is very difficult to get a conviction under the Soil Conservation Act so farmers carry on with impunity," he said.

Mr Cooper said he had had many dealings with the Town and Regional Planning Commission and had found that "they are all men with a lot of sense who don't come out with proposals that don't have a lot of thought behind them".

Dr Nolly Zaloumis, vice-president of the Wildlife Society, said he had not studied the proposals yet but supported them in principle.

"Any effort to conserve the 'Berg must be welcomed. The Drakensberg is one of the most unique areas in the world and is identified as such in world conservation strategies," he said.

## Long term survival

Dr Zaloumis said the Town and Regional Planning Commission's policy statement for the Drakensberg in 1973 had been aimed at ensuring the long-term survival of the 'Berg for the benefit of man.

"It is the commission's responsibility to ensure that Natal remains a pleasant place for people to live and they should receive all the support they need."

Dr Zaloumis agreed with Mr Cooper's statement that large areas of the Drakensberg were being illegally cultivated and said there was already "incredible soil erosion and degradation" in some parts of the Upper 'Berg.

One of the most influential residents of the Cathkin Park area and the author of a book on the Drakensberg, Reg Pearse, said steps had to be taken to preserve the 'Berg.

"My personal point of view is that by and large the commission's proposals are fair and must be taken to conserve the area.

"But I feel a few of the proposals are a little harsh although I will have to study the plans a bit more before I can comment fully on that," he said.

Mr Pearse said the Drakensberg Property Owners' Association has applied for an extension of time for the lodging of objections against the scheme and would hold a public meeting to discuss the plans.

"After that we'll hold a general meeting of the association to discuss the whole thing and then go back to the commission," he said.

# State leases back 'limbo' land to farmers

NM 10/11/81  
3 general  
TOP

By Kevin Mayhew

FIFTY-TWO farms bought by the South African Government for incorporation into Transkei are being leased out — in some cases to their previous owners.

The 32 000 ha of land involved stretches from the border of Matatiele to Quacha's Nek on the Lesotho border.

After being unproductive for nearly four years while the Government negotiated the purchase, the land is now being offered for one-year renewable leases.

A spokesman for the Matatiele municipality said that the local authority had had no idea of the move until about six weeks ago.

'It seems the land is in limbo,' he said. 'No one really knows what is happening or who owns it right now.'

One farmer, Mr Andrew Joubert, who was the last to be compensated after a prolonged fight against the Department of Co-operation and Development, said that he had applied for a one-year lease recently.

## Grace

His three months grace period to vacate the farm after being paid compensation expires soon and he does not have a new home.

Another farmer said he had already negotiated a one-year lease for which he paid 'a couple of rands'.

It could not be established exactly what the rate is but it is believed to be substantially below the existing lease rate for the area of between R3 to R4 a hectare a year.

According to the Magistrate of Matatiele, Mr L P Grobelaar, the land has been leased out since July last year. Some contracts were up for renewal for a further 12 months this July.

He said that the land was leased at a rate determined by the price the Department of Co-operation and Development had paid for it when they had compensated the owner.

He said that the Govern-

ment had decided to lease the land because it seemed senseless letting it lie unused.

According to Mr Grobelaar, the leasing of 27 farms was at present being negotiated. Only six of the applicants were white. Three are former

owners of farms in the area.

The land is open for lease to blacks and whites. There is at present at least one farm leased to a black farmer.

The drought which had plagued the area for a year was a factor considered by

the Government when the decision to lease the land was being taken, according to a reliable source.

The land is needed urgently to provide grazing for cattle as grazing has deteriorated because of the drought.

RDM. 22/1/81

# Farming production must double by 2000

3 general

## Pretoria Bureau

SOUTH African farmers will have to double their production by the year 2000 to meet the increase in population, Mr N J Robbertse of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries said in Pretoria yesterday.

This challenge will have to be met by both the farmer and the management of extension and information services in the agricultural sector, Mr Robbertse said.

Speaking at the Agricultural Outlook Conference 1981, Mr Robbertse said, however, that agricultural resources in the Republic were limited and prone to erosion. This was a grave limiting factor.

Better production from a given area of land would depend on a more intensive use of limited agricultural resources.

"Optimal land-use and a dynamic agricultural industry will pave the way for full economic development of other sectors," he said.

"This will result in maximum wealth for all population groups.

"Only 15,4% (15,4-million ha) of South Africa's surface is arable," Mr Robbertse said. It has been accepted that at least 0,4ha arable land was necessary for the nutritional needs of one person, he said.

With the expected doubling of the population by the year 2000

only 0,32ha of arable land per person will be available.

Mr Robbertse said today's situation in the extension field was characterised by a multitude of information services. This had resulted in a keen demand for graduates and technicians trained in agriculture, he said.

More formal and in-service training in extension methods for extension personnel was needed as were competitive salaries and job enrichment, he said.

Mr Robbertse also appealed to management of extension and information services to formulate an operational framework within which each service could operate in a well co-ordinated and integrated manner.

"This should ensure an up-to-date information link between research and change agents and would diagnose enterprise problems in the field as a feedback service to the research worker," he said.

Dr A J Pienaar, also of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, said higher food production in South Africa would come in the short term — the next five years — mainly from existing knowledge and technology supported by research.

In the longer term, however, the country was almost totally dependent on research and

technology which would have to be aimed at raising food production.

Plant breeding and the application of advanced breeding techniques would also have a decisive role to play.

Mr D J Marlow, managing director of Sentrachem, said the South African fertiliser industry would strive to market its commodity at the lowest possible price.

Mr Marlow said this would be attained by curtailing costs and implementing modern manufacturing methods. This would enable the farmer to gain the biggest possible profit from his product, he said.

There were two solutions for better fertiliser profits, Mr Marlow said.

Either the producer must ask better prices for his product or he must cut the costs of his inputs, he said.

Higher prices would cause problems on the South African market and also against the background of world prices for the product, Mr Marlow said. He believed that it was not possible to lower the unit costs of production inputs.

"The real obstruction in South African agriculture is that methods must be found to increase gross profits without increasing the price of the product or lowering the unit costs of inputs," Mr Marlow said.

To explore and develop its natural resources to its maximum capacity ... that is the aim and objective of the Ciskei Government, which can be clearly seen in the schemes already in operation.

The Keiskamma and Tefu irrigation schemes bear witness of the success achieved to date and with it the Ciskei Livestock Marketing Board (CLB), an operation of which little has been heard since its establishment in April 1978.

The scheme is a joint venture of the Ciskei Marketing Board and the Cape Eastern Meat Co-op.

The aim of the venture was to normalise and control the livestock industry in Ciskei, the head of the department, Mr James Hundleby, said.

The scheme has a three-fold purpose:

1. The escalation of trading operations;
2. The introduction of a fattening and marketing system in different centres of Ciskei and in which the farmer remains the owner of his cattle until they are sold;
3. The expansion and development of breeding centres. The main object here is to ensure a continuous supply of male and female breeding stock to Ciskei farmers. During the three years since its establishment the CLB has built up a breeding herd of superior quality from which stock will soon become available to farmers.

## JAC VAN WYK'S FARMING PAGE



Mr Hundleby (left), Mr Brian Price, stud stock liaison officer of Vleissentraal, and Mr Patrick Hobbs, marketing officer and manager of a section of farms in the Peddie area, with animals from which breeding stock were selected.

# Building up Ciskei stock quality

"The success of our undertakings, naturally, will be determined by the willingness of the farmers to make full use of the opportunities the schemes offer," Mr Hundleby said.

"After a slow start, I am happy to say, more farmers have come to realise that our only aim is to help them."

Until recently the CLB has been mostly concerned with the marketing of cattle — sales which are held for the benefit of

farmers and which are conducted weekly at 20 different sales points throughout Ciskei. Before each sale the cattle are

weighed and graded before they are sold.

Proof of the success already achieved by the CLB is borne out by the number of quality stock offered at these sales. At a sale held at Peddie last week the buyers remarked on the exceptionally good condition of the animals in spite of the drought.

"The more cattle we can market on behalf of the farmers will mean more money in their pockets. It will also result in less pressure being placed on Ciskei's natural resources and will encourage farmers to breed quality animals for their replacement stock.

"When the drought was at its height in August last year, an emergency stock buying campaign was launched to prevent farmers from suffering severe losses through death.

"Stock which would have died were bought by five buyers at prices which satisfied their owners. During that time, and to save breeding stock, farmers were assisted by a famine and drought relief committee in the purchase of fodder and licks.

"The image of the CLB has become something worthwhile and in its acceptance is causing Ciskei farmers to adopt improved breeding methods."

RDM 23/1/81  
 "Let black farmers benefit"

Pretoria Bureau

BLACKS should share in the fruits of agricultural development in South Africa, Mr J le Riche, of the Federale Volksbeleggings Beperk, said at an agricultural conference in Pretoria yesterday.

He said there was a unique situation in South Africa because one group of the population — the whites — were already developed, while the black farmers were undeveloped.

"We now have a task to grant our black farmers an opportunity as soon as possible to enjoy the fruits of our agricultural development," he said.

Mr Le Riche said South Africa's task was to get white agriculture on the highest level and to maintain that level.

in  
 in  
 in fourth

S A Read

General J B M Hertzog Prize  
 For the best final year student.

D H Pryce Lewis

For the best student of  
 Architecture (or Quantity  
 Surveying) in the subject  
 of Professional Practice.

Miss C Tredgold

Molly Gohl Memorial Prize  
 For the best woman student  
 in third year.

P A Rappoport

Helen Gardner Travel Prize  
 For a student who has  
 satisfactorily completed  
 1st, 2nd and 3rd major courses.

P F Dunkley

Sixth Year

Cape Provincial Institute  
 of Architects' Prize  
 For the best student in :-

ARCHITECTURE

# Some of the 'good' rains are welcome

RDM 27/1/81

(3 general)

By ROB TAYLOR

THE recent widespread rain, which has brought relief to farmers in most parts of the country, has renewed optimism that South Africa will produce another record crop this year.

According to a survey made by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), good rains have fallen over most of the country during the past few days and the agricultural prospects for the coming year are "generally very good".

"The good rains received in most parts of the country during the past few days intensify the hope that we will produce another record crop this year," Mr Chris Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union, said in Pretoria yesterday.

There was also increased optimism that South Africa would also have a record maize crop, he said.

However, Mr Cilliers expressed his concern about the drought conditions in the northern regions of the Cape over the past four years — regions now declared pasture distress areas.

"In parts of the northern Cape, particularly the pasture distress areas in the central, southern and south-western areas, there is not much improvement.

"These areas are experiencing the most serious drought in many years. If no additional

rain is received the veld will deteriorate even further," he said.

Mr P C du Plooy, secretary for the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said yesterday no areas in the Transvaal had been drought stricken but had rather experienced "very dry conditions".

He said farmers in the Bethal and Standerton area had received good rains over the last few days.

In the Western Transvaal, where conditions over the last few months have been dry, reports of good rains had also been received, he said.

Farmers in the Bloemhof area received as much as 100mm of rain over the weekend.

More than 300mm of rain has been reported in the Dendron area since Friday.

A spokesman for the Pretoria Weather Bureau said further showers could be expected in the northern and north-eastern parts of the Transvaal today.

He said wet conditions also favoured the dry areas in the western Transvaal.

According to the SAAU the Lowveld area generally received little rain at the weekend, but good rains were received recently and maize crops at Lydenburg and Badplaas are expected to be good.

The highest rainfall figure over the past 75 years — 206mm — was recorded in the

Nelspruit area.

There is a possibility that the tobacco crop will be lower than last year because of too much rain in the planting stage.

In the Eastern Cape, good rains were received in the coastal areas from Storms River to Grahamstown, averaging between 75mm to 125mm.

In the Northern Cape good rains were received, particularly in the northern area, but the general condition was still rather poor in the rest of the area.

In the Western Cape, very good rains have fallen over almost the whole area, except in Namaqualand where drought conditions still prevail.

Up to 1750mm was measured at some places. The rain was accompanied by strong winds and cloud bursts which caused damage to fruit and grape crops.

Scattered rain fell over most of Natal and crops are expected to be the same as last year.

Mr P J van Rooy, head secretary of the Free State Agricultural Union, said that drenching rains had fallen in the Free State since Friday with about 130mm being recorded in some areas.

● A spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs said it was not possible to give accurate figures of dam levels because his department released figures every Wednesday and the recent rains had only occurred later in the week.

1st, 2nd and 3rd major courses:  
satisfactorily completed  
For a student who has  
Helen Gardner Travel Prize

P F Dunkley  
Sixth Year

For the best student in :-  
of Architects' Prize  
Cape Provincial Institute

ARCHITECTURE

FINE ART & ARCHITECTURE

AGROCON 1981 (3)

## Bullish for farming

FM 30/1/81

The representatives of our 22 agricultural control boards combined last week to disprove the myth that farmers are all pessimists. They were assembled in Pretoria for the now annual "Agrocon" congress to discuss prospects for the year ahead.

With the minor exception of the Karakul Board, which has seen prices plummet during the past 12 months from R17,72/kg to R11,56/kg, nearly all the commodity spokesmen expressed optimism. Reflecting the euphoric mood in the economy as a whole, the few who could not be bullish in their volume projections delighted the farmers present by expressing bullishness about prices.

Hennie Nel, GM of the Maize Board, thinks we will have plenty of maize for export next year and little difficulty in remaining self-sufficient for the rest of the century. With world stocks of coarse grain dwindling he is also hopeful that export prices will improve.

Jan Lombard, his counterpart at the Meat Board, foresees consumer demand for red meat increasing by 18% in 1981 but reckons that we have already had the bulk of the inevitable price adjustments. He sees prices stabilising at close to 1980 year-end levels, adding only that "there could be a further moderate increase if the same percentage of disposable income is spent on red meat as in 1980."

Dairy Board GM, Eddie Roux, expects both fresh milk and cheese consumption to get a three-pronged boost from a rising population, higher family earnings and a swing from powdered, canned and condensed production. That swing will be accelerated as and when urban townships are provided with the electricity needed for home refrigerators.

To satisfy this demand many farmers will be able to switch from cream and industrial milk production to meet the more exacting requirements of the fresh market.

The higher prices, for which they will thereby qualify, should then result in higher yields per cow.

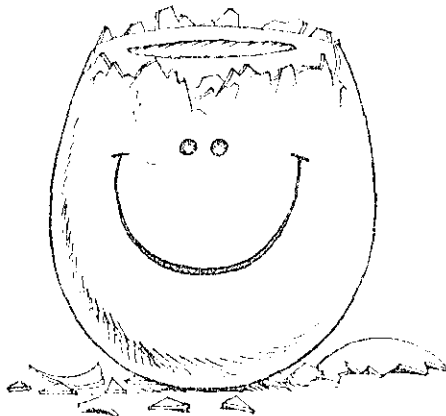
Even the Egg Board has good news. Deputy GM Dawie Gouws was able to report that the chronic surpluses, which have bugged that industry for the last two years, have now disappeared and that supply and demand are in healthy balance. Housewives are learning fast to substitute cheap eggs for expensive red meat and

with the help of a "vigorous promotion campaign which is being planned at present," demand could steam ahead by as much as 15% a year.

Total national egg consumption should easily double before the end of the decade. But, since the industry has virtually no long-term limits to capacity, it should experience no difficulty in responding to the opportunity.

In spite of a tougher economic climate and more discrimination on the part of overseas buyers, the export commodity boards were surprisingly confident too. Joe Strydom, for the Wool Board, spoke of "decidedly favourable prospects." Over the next year the IWS expects wool prices to improve by about 5% in real terms. Looking further ahead it predicts an even brighter future with an upswing in the world economy and the disappearance of the current over-supply of synthetic fibres.

David Uys of the Mohair Board was likewise confident after a nasty hiccup last summer, the mohair market ended



the year on a strong note which should be echoed or amplified in 1981.

With the drought behind him and the world sugar price out of the doldrums, Peter Sale of the Sugar Association, said that the outlook for the sugar industry is much better today than it was this time last year.

Fruit exporters have been battling to hold their own against enormous increases in transport and packing costs. Even so "optimism is high" at the Citrus Exchange, where a particularly bright future is forecast for lemons, late navels and easy-peelers.

Chris von Wielligh of the Deciduous Fruit Board admitted that competition was becoming severe for his products in Europe but he claims that the good reputation of the "Cape" label will continue to ensure a premium price for our apples and pears. Since we dominate the northern winter market for table grapes, the market for them would appear to be reasonably secure as well. Meanwhile Von Wielligh says that there is enormous scope for expansion in the local market as increasingly affluent urban blacks learn to

add fresh fruit to their traditional diet.

But a sceptic in the audience couldn't help wondering how much of this optimism was misplaced. On the first morning of the congress Jim Howard, the US Agricultural attache in Pretoria, had painted a bleak picture for the world at large with food stocks approaching a record low (less than 11% of annual consumption), a lagging rate of population growth and severe cash flow problems in those parts of the world which would like to import.

Immediately before Howard, Joep de Looz, of the Department of Finance, had pointed out that inflation was now the biggest problem facing our own economy — and that food prices had been the chief culprits for our record rate of increase in the CPI last year. Both of them hinted obliquely that SA farmers might be in danger of pricing themselves out of export and domestic markets.



ARABUS 4/2/81. (3 general) 

# Survey of farm damage

AN agricultural flood disaster committee has been established to assess the extent of the damage caused by floods in the Western Cape last week.

Serving on the co-ordinating committee are Dr Jozua Serfontein, director of the Winter Rainfall Region of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Dr Johan Burger, of the Oenological and Viticultural Research Institute, Dr Piet Marais of the Fruit and Fruit Technology Research Institute, and Dr Gert Bosch of the Western Cape Agricultural Union.

Dr Serfontein said the committee found damage to farms had been extensive in areas hit by recent floods but there was no cause for panic because the Government and private sector were doing all in their power to speed up the restoration programme.

Studies done by extension officers of the various research institutes reported that the areas worst hit bordered rivers such as the Hex, Doring, Dasbos, Nuy, Vink, Keisies, Baden, Kogmanskloof, parts of the Bree, Leeuw, Gamka, Dwyka, Buffels, Groot, Touws,

Huis, Gourits and the Buffeljachts.

Rough estimates showed that about 1 200 farms had been considerably damaged and it was decided by the committee to establish an interviewing schedule to determine the exact losses suffered by farmers in the areas.

About 60 officials of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Water Affairs, Forestry and Environmental Conservation had already started with surveys and a complete report on the damage was expected to be released on February 16.

## Flood smashed 44 km of line

From a Staff Reporter

**LAINGSBURG.** — About one third of the 144 km railway between Touws River and Ladismith has been destroyed, according to senior railway officials who flew along the Touws River in a SAAF helicopter yesterday.

Press reporters on board were the first to see the devastation in the fertile valley. For more than 40 km the rail line has either disappeared or lies mangled in the wide river bed.

Mr W F van Aswegen, Railway Superintendent (Operations) in Cape Town, said after the flight it might not be viable to rebuild the railway.

It carried only three trains a week and as soon as more detailed inspections had been held it would be decided whether the train service would be replaced by a bus service.

Mr Arthur Hoal, a civil engineer accompanying Mr van Aswegen, said it would cost millions and take years to repair the line.

'The damage is a great deal worse than I thought,' Mr Hoal said.

At Bloutoring station, near Mr W A Joubert's farm, Labora, a concrete and steel bridge — one of many — has been washed away.

Concrete stays, reinforced by 25 cm steel bolts,

have been snapped off, and the three 15-ton bridge spans torn away.

One of the spans lies 100 m away; another one 300 m away; the third has not been found.

For more than one kilometre rail lies torn and twisted.

Mr Joubert has lost more than 20 morgen of agricultural land, and the valley in front of his house — once fertile and tree-lined — is now a barren, rocky waste.

## R100 000 from PO staff

POST and telecommunications staff throughout South Africa have contributed more than R100 000 to the central fund for the recent flood disaster, the Postmaster General, Mr Henry Bester, said today.

He said the amount might eventually be even

higher as contributions from staff in remote posts and other departmental offices must still be received.

The money would be paid in a lump sum into the flood disaster fund, Mr Bester said.

# Stop taking only farms — union

QUEENSTOWN — For too long now, farmers of this land have been called upon to give up land in the national interest. Mr John Matthews of the East Cape Agricultural Union told the Van der Walt Commission here yesterday when it sat to hear evidence on its proposals to incorporate 85 000 hectares of land in the Tarkastad and Cathcart districts into Ciskei.

"On each occasion in 1936, 1971 and 1975 more and more agricultural land has been claimed to make homelands viable, but land alone does not make viability.

"Jobs are desperately needed and it is our considered opinion that more land is not the solution.

"But it is high time that our urban dwellers, where industries are situated and jobs available be made to sacrifice in the national interest.

"Industry and urbanisation have provided jobs for a rapidly growing black population.

"Left alone farmers can produce the food to feed all our people, without the help of development corporations and government agencies."

The East Cape Agricultural Union have always maintained that the future economic position of homeland citizens could best be ensured in an industrial setting, Mr Matthews said.

"What worries me is that when it comes to agricultural land, nobody seems concerned, but the shouting only starts when towns are concerned."

"If Ciskei needs more land they can come to the Union and we can perhaps help them to find it. High lying wet farm land is not the solution to any problems which may arise from overcrowding. —

DDC.

J H Krens

Civil Engineering.

4/2/81 NM (3)

## Horwood blamed for 'agri-bike' refusal

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

THE Natal Agricultural Union has criticised the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, for turning down requests by farmers for tax concessions when they buy fuel-saving motorcycles.

In an editorial in Naunlu, the official journal of the organisation, the union said specially developed 'agri-bikes' had tremendous potential for slashing transport costs on

the farm.

However, Mr Horwood had rejected an appeal by the South African Agricultural Union that the motorcycles be deducted in one year for tax purposes as was the case with certain capital implements as they would be 'conveying people and not livestock.

Naunlu said that one would have hoped that Pretoria would have been more accommodating with encouragement to cost-cutting and efficiency.

# Hope for students hit by floods

Education Reporter  
THE Universities of Cape Town and Stellenbosch are concerned that students or prospective students who suffered financial loss as a result of the recent floods may feel their hopes of a university education are doomed.

The public relations officer of UCT, Mr Bob Steyn, said: "It is our policy that nobody with the right academic qualifications should be deprived of a university education."

"Any student who needs a bursary, scholarship or a loan should contact Mrs J Johnston at 69-4351."

At Stellenbosch existing funds and further endowments will be used for loans and bursaries. Students should contact Mr Rein Botha at Stellenbosch 2222, extension 49.

# Aid plans for farms in flood area

3 general  
ARGOS 5/2/81

SOME of the smaller farms in the flooded Karoo have disappeared entirely. Others were so severely damaged by the floods it would take a lifetime to get them into full production again.

This was said today by Mr Jaap Wilkens, chairman of the South African Agricultural Union.

Co-operative societies and other agricultural organisations have been asked to channel contributions to the stricken Karoo through the union.

The greatest part of the damage in what was primarily a farming area was borne by the farmers, Mr Wilkens said.

Contributions to the Agricultural Union Disaster Fund can be sent to P.O. Box 1598, Pretoria. Further inquiries can be obtained from Mr Inus van Rooyen, who is co-ordinating the project. His telephone number is Pretoria 28-3191.

The union will be working closely with the State in this project.

Farmers have also been asked to start on repairs to their farms, but where it was planned to seek State help they should keep a close record of expenditure.

## 1 000 FARMS

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr P. T. C. du Plessis, said today it had been established that about a thousand farms in the south-western Cape suffered losses or damage in last week's disaster and everything possible was being done to speed up assessment of damage.

A Department of Health official, Dr John Beynders, said today that water in all the rivers, dams and reservoirs in areas hit by floods should be regarded as polluted and undrinkable.

No typhoid germs had been found in rivers in these areas but other germs had been found.

Water should be boiled before being consumed or used for cooking.

## ROADS

All but one of the damaged roads in the flood-stricken areas have been repaired and reopened to traffic. However, heavy traffic is still not being allowed on roads which were badly damaged.

The road between Prince Albert Road and Prince Albert will not be re-opened before tomorrow at the earliest.

This morning the road between Touws River and Laingsburg was closed to all traffic except official vehicles and people wanting to attend the memorial service at Laingsburg.

# Money, materials boost flood aid

SIGMA Motor Corporation, staff and dealers have collected R101 422 for the Karoo Relief Fund, while Harveytile has promised to give all the roof tiles needed in rebuilding the Laingsburg old age home.

The Sigma collection was decided on during an economic conference, Strategy 80, in Johannesburg last week.

Mr Chris Griffith, chairman, gave R20 000 from the corporation and within half an hour this had been pushed to R80 000 by dealers and personnel.

The next day the figure reached R101 422.

## LIONS OFFER

The Harveytile offer goes with the Lions International offer to rebuild the home.

Mr A Buckle, manager of Harveytile in Cape Town, said: "As soon as the architects have worked out the size we will be able to estimate the value of the materials, but it will probably be between R4 000 and R5 000."

The firm is an operating unit of Abercom Africa.

# Money, materials

Poisoning by poisons used for agricultural purposes

9. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister of Health, Welfare and Pensions

(51) 5/2/81  
(1) How many persons (a) died and (b) were admitted to hospital as a result of poisoning by poisons used for agricultural purposes during the last 12 months for which figures are available;

(2) in respect of what dates are these figures given?

FEBRUARY 1981

62

The MINISTER OF HEALTH, WELFARE AND PENSIONS:

(1) (a) 111.

(b) 93.

(2) 1 January until 31 December 1979.

FRIDAY, 6 FEB

FRIDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 1981

\*Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Hans 2. Aug. 6107 Veterinarians (3) ~~4~~

\*1. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister of National Education:

How many Black veterinarians are at present being trained in the Republic of South Africa? 6/2/81

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

None.

Corporation Medals

For the best student in each  
of the 2nd, 3rd and final years.

Second Year

## Rain hampers railways

JOHANNESBURG. — The South African Railways has had to implement contingency plans to ferry passengers and essential food supplies in the Cape and Free State, where flooding has damaged rail links.

A SAR spokesman said yesterday that teams of labourers were still working around the clock whenever possible, but repairs were being hampered by continued heavy rain and difficult access to areas where the damage had occurred.

A branch line between Touws River and Ladismith in the Little Karoo, washed away at the time of the Laingsburg disaster, is still not operational, but passengers and essential supplies are being transported by road.

In the Free State teams repaired damage to the line between Bethulien and Bloemfontein at Marselles, and the line became operational on Monday night.

The deputy general manager of Sontain, Mr Andries de Swardt, said in Cape Town yesterday that many people in Laingsburg had been hopelessly under-insured and unprepared for the disaster.

His company has had an insurance team in Laingsburg since last Wednesday, and so far they have paid out R850 000 on 50 insurance claims.

"They have lost a great deal," he said.

The Industrial Development Corporation is forming a short-list of small business concerns needing assistance. The IDC's general manager for the Cape region, Mr F F Pratt, said yesterday that the IDC was concentrating on the Montagu, Robertson, and Ashton areas, although Laingsburg — which had been virtually razed to the ground — had not been excluded.

## Search in flood area scaled down

From STEPHEN WROTTESELEY

LAINGSBURG. — Search and rescue operations here are being reduced, and by later today only one of the 13 helicopters involved will remain.

Yesterday members of the Cape Peninsula Ambulance Service rescue team, Metro, left for Cape Town and it is understood that many other people involved will leave soon.

Major "Jinx" Botes, in command of the South African Air Force in the area, said that by today it was probable that only one Alouette helicopter would remain in the area.

At the height of the search and rescue operations a total of nine Alouettes, two Super Frelons, a Wasp and a Puma were working from the makeshift landing ground on the rugby field here.

It was probable that the SAAF operations control-room, established in a tent at the side of the landing ground, would be dismantled soon, he said.

### National road

Meanwhile, the work on assessing damage and attempts to restore the town to some semblance of normality are continuing. Officials from water, electricity, telephone and road departments have moved into the area in force.

The national road between Cape Town and Johannesburg which runs through the town

will be closed from today, while permanent repairs are made to the bridges damaged by the flood. Only makeshift repairs were made after the disaster.

Attempts are being made to restore the water supply to the town, but one of the problems facing workers is that many supply points are still under silt and might leak if water is pumped into the town.

Work at restoring telephone lines is also proceeding at full speed.

### Returned home

Major Botes said yesterday that the SAAF's role in what was happening in the town was being greatly reduced. They were no longer involved in rescue and mercy missions; their role was now one of ferrying officials to inaccessible spots to assess damage.

During the rescue operations the helicopters, which came from Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and Cape Town, made 14 casualty evacuations and recovered 21 bodies.

The helicopters from Port Elizabeth returned to their base last week and on Tuesday two of the Bloemfontein Alouettes returned home.

Major Botes said he could not assess the direct value to the SAAF of the rescue missions, but added that every member of the crews had learned a lot; the helicopters had often to fly in turbulent conditions.

# Union to help flood farmers start again

CT 5/2/81  
Ezeroni  
Staff Reporter

A SNAP SURVEY by agricultural extension officers has disclosed that about 1 050 farmers in the Southern Cape have been badly hit by the recent floods in the region.

A spokesman for the Western Province Agricultural Union said yesterday that the figure was reached by a compilation of figures from agricultural extension officers in the Karoo, Little Karoo and Beland regions.

Meanwhile, a special committee formed to plan and co-ordinate flood relief for farmers expects to complete

a comprehensive survey of flood damage to farms by the end of next week.

The committee was formed after a visit last week by the minister and deputy minister of agriculture and fisheries to flood-devastated areas.

The chairman of the committee is the director of the winter rainfall agricultural region, Dr J Serfontein. Work began on its comprehensive survey on Monday.

In a statement, the Western Province Agricultural Union assured farmers that everything possible would be done by organized agriculture to

assist farmers, both with their immediate needs and to repair their farms.

The secretary of the union had accompanied the minister and deputy minister of agriculture and fisheries on a visit to devastated areas where discussions with farming representatives had been held.

Topics discussed had included housing needs, links with markets and factories and the provision of feed to isolated animals. These needs were receiving urgent attention.

The South African Agricultural Union appealed to all provincial agri-

cultural unions, co-operatives and agricultural bodies to channel flood relief contributions through the union. The president of the union, Mr Jaap Wilkens, said that the gathering of funds needed the greatest possible co-ordination so that they could be used in the best possible way.

Agricultural bodies could channel their contributions through the union by sending them to P O Box 1568, Pretoria, 0001.

Inquiries could be made by telephoning the project coordinator, Mr Inus van Rooyen, at Pretoria 628-6491.

DRAWING IN ENGINEERING

Drawing.

L Menegaldo

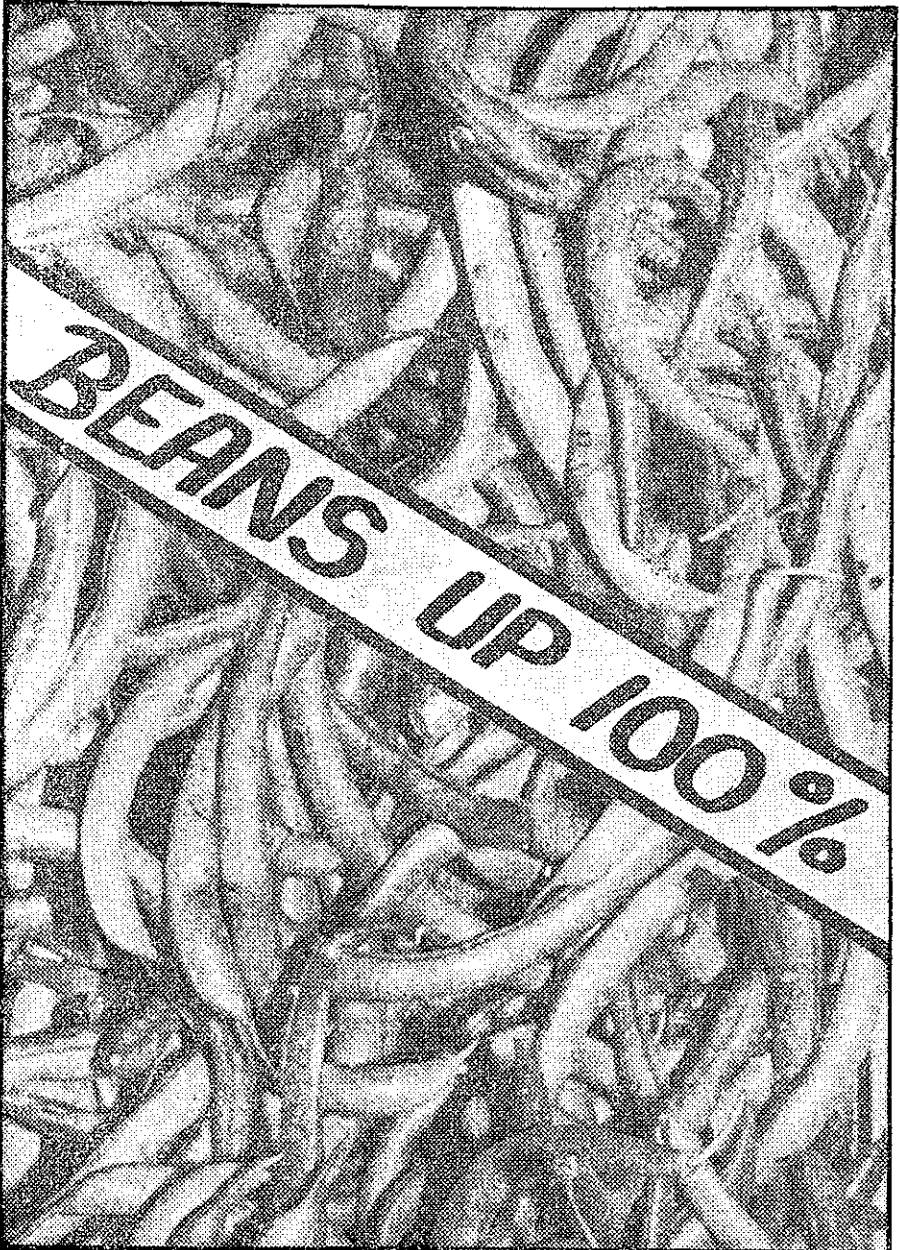
A E &amp; C I Prize

For the first year student  
obtaining the highest average  
mark.

G L Cragg

CHEMICAL

# VEGETABLE AND FRUIT PRICES LIKELY TO RISE...



The price of beans has risen dramatically

# Heavy crop losses feared

S. Tribune 8/2/81

3 general

By CHRIS WHITFIELD

DEVASTATING rains across the country are causing havoc in produce markets — and persistent downpours in the Northern Transvaal seem certain to swell already inflated prices.

Farmers in trouble stricken areas have been unable to get to their lands or to move produce to markets and they predict heavy losses.

Already tomato, onion and potato prices have begun to climb as the main growers — particularly in the produce-rich areas north of Pretoria — struggle to save their crops.

And agricultural experts warn that more rain could force up citrus and subtropical fruit prices, and eventually affect the cost of cotton and meat.

Buyers in Durban report paying high prices for inferior produce: "Because we just can't get anything else," one said.

This week vegetable and fruit outlets in Durban

reported increases of up to 200 percent in fresh produce, and warned that worse was to come.

"It's going to get worse before it gets better," a Durban retailer told the Tribune.

Allen Gardiner, regional director of a leading supermarket chain, reported considerable increases in several lines of fresh produce.

"Potatoes are now selling at R3,50 to R3,80 per pocket of first grade — R1 up on the average price before the rains," he said.

He said onions (up to R4 per pocket this week) and cabbage (R3 a bag) had increased price by up to 100 percent.

Lettuce and cucumber had rocketed nearly 200 percent while beans were also selling at inflated prices, said Mr Gardiner.

Outlets across town reported a general increase of about 20 percent in fruit prices and several reported being forced to sell inferior products, because they could not get good quality foods.

Now all eyes are on the the Northern Transvaal where severe rains have threatened to decimate some of South Africa's premier crops.

Dries Bruwer, chairman of the Letaba District Agricultural Union, told the Tribune that the tomato crop at Mooketsi, near Tzaneen, was severely damaged.

This is the major tomato producing area in the country.

"If the rain doesn't hold up you will get almost no tomatoes from Mooketsi and then you will pay through your nose for them.

"Already the damage is very severe," he said.

He pointed out that 25 percent of the country's citrus produce was grown at nearby Letaba and if the rain carried on a lot of this would be lost, while that saved would be of inferior quality.

"There's also mangoes, litchis and avocados that could be affected if the rain doesn't stop.

"You will find there is



definitely going to be a shortage of fresh produce on the nation's markets for a while," he said.

Other farmers predicted that cotton grown in the area would be affected because it needs sunshine to grow well.

At Helpmekaar farmer Paul Klein said too much rain could damage grazing land and as a result cattle would suffer.

"If this carries on I wouldn't be surprised to see meat go up even more," he said.



CT  
9/28  
3 general

# Floods: 'Crucial phase reached'

Staff Reporter

TOWNS hit by recent floods in the southern Cape now faced the most crucial phase of rehabilitation, three opposition members of the Provincial Council said in a statement released yesterday.

"It is quite clear that the 'first-aid phase' is coming to a close. This phase has been carried out with dedication by all concerned — officials of the municipality, provincial administration, the police, various arms of the defence force and the hundreds of individuals and service organizations," Mr Frank van der Velde, MPC for Wynberg said yesterday.

The three members of the PFP caucus in the Provincial Council, Mr Herbert Hirsh, Mr Rupert Hurly, and Mr van der Velde investigated flood damage first-hand at the weekend and met the Mayor and Town Clerk of Laingsburg, the principal of the local school and the matron and acting secretary of the town's subsidized hospital.

The party also travelled to Montagu to meet the Mayor and the MPC for Swellendam.

"It became apparent in both areas that the next phase is the most crucial of all; that is the rehabilitation of people who have lost all. There must be plans to rebuild a new town, a new economy and farms.

"The town planners of the province must assist in the re-planning of Laingsburg which will largely have to be rebuilt on a new site. So too, engi-

neers, the sewerage and water purifications experts, electrical reticulation experts and the financial boffins will have to work out ways and means to rebuild a town which has lost some 80 percent of its rates base.

"The Department of Social Welfare, Health and Pensions has the extremely difficult and delicate task of rehabilitating those who at present are stunned, back to normality. The moment the army, Red Cross and others leave is the moment of crisis for these people," said Mr Van der Velde.

"The province must consider taking over full subsidization of the hospital, which is now partly-financed privately," he said.

He emphasized that the problems in Ladismith, Montagu and Ashton were as serious as those of Laingsburg and the public should become aware of the devastation of hundreds of farms which had not only lost their present crops but had lost any form of topsoil on which to plant future crops for decades to come.

"The planning and execution of repair work is most urgent and the Executive Committee of the province should consider waiving lengthy tender procedures under these circumstances, to enable resources of private enterprise to supplement the sterling work carried out at present by the divisional councils and municipalities.

"We as the opposition in the Provincial Council have offered the Administrator, the local MPC and the mayors we visited our support and co-operation with the necessary authorities to make funds available for the rebuilding of the communities shattered by the flood," Mr Van der Velde said.

● Smiles, apathy and plans in Karoo flood town, page 7

# Round-table effort to beat crisis urged

RDM 10/2/81

By VITA PALESTRANT  
Consumer Mail Editor

CONSUMER organisations, retailers and manufacturers backed a call yesterday for urgent national round-table talks to solve the growing food price crisis.

The appeal to retailers, wholesalers, producers and consumer organisations was issued through Consumer Mail by Mr Rex Glanville, managing director of Checkers.

Mr Glanville recommended the talks be held under the auspices of Consumer Mail because it has a reputation for "impartiality, accuracy and integrity in the interests of the consumer".

The appeal was given added urgency by the news that more Railways tariff rises are expected later this month — which would push food prices even higher.

Consumer organisations, the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) — which represents 37 leading manufacturers throughout the country — and the major supermarket chains have backed the call for talks.

Mr Glanville said: "It is time for retailers, wholesalers, producers and recognised consumer bodies to get together to put a brake on these excessive increases.

"The food price increase for the last 12 months was 29.5% — which does not take into account the already numerous food price increases of 1981.

"The CPI in total rose only 15.8%, which suggests food prices have far outstripped those of other commodities. With inflation running at 15% plus and with at least a 7% unemployment rate and high

courses over the 4-year curriculum.

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L T A Construction Prize  
For the final year Civil

Engineering student submit the best thesis.

G P Mitchell

S A Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors' Prize

For the best final year design showing constructional merits

K N Hvidsten

S A Institution of Civil Engineers Student Chapter Prize

For the best written report submitted in C E 214, design

P C Watt

CHEMICAL

(Continued)

CIVIL

producers and recognised consumer bodies to get together to put a brake on these excessive increases.

"The food price increase for the last 12 months was 29,5% — which does not take into account the already numerous food price increases of 1981.

"The CPI in total rose only 15,5%, which suggests food prices have far outstripped those of other commodities. With inflation running at 15% plus and with at least a 7% unemployment rate and high incidence of malnutrition, we see the South African situation as very volatile.

"It is now time for the food industry to forget past differences and to try collectively to solve this problem."

Mr J Hele, director of the CMA, said: "We are concerned about the consumer. We'd love to do anything that could solve this problem."

The three major consumer groups — the Housewives' League, the Consumer Union and the Consumer Council — said only good could come of looking at the whole food marketing structure.

Mrs Betty Hirzel, chairman of the Consumer Union, said: "We need to locate problem areas, and any debate that can do this can only be a good thing."

The director of the Consumer Council, Mr Jan Cronje, said the council would support any round-table talks to help the consumer.

Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the Housewives' League, said: "I can't see a solution unless we all meet to see what can be done."

Mr Richard Cohen of Pick 'n Pay said he would welcome the move as long as the talks included all the relevant parties in the marketing chain.

The executive director of Spar, Mr Sid Matus, also said the talks would help.

Mr Meyer Kahn, managing director of OK Bazaars, said he could only decide whether he would take part in talks after finding out who would attend and what would be discussed.

"I have never yet come across a meeting of people with conflicting interests that will bring prices down. Prices only come down with aggressive competition and when production is expanded to bring unit costs down," he said.

Mr Chris Cilliers, director of the SA Agricultural Union, approved of the idea but said his executive would have to give the go-ahead for participation.

Meanwhile, the Progressive Federal Party spokesman on transport, Mr Rupert Lorimer, said from Cape Town yesterday it was "certain" the Minister of Transport, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, would announce a tariff rise in Parliament this month, **GERALD REILLY** of the Pretoria Bureau reports.

Economists warned this could hoist the inflation rate to between 18% and 20% later this year, and an SA Agricultural Union spokesman said higher rates would hit farmers hard and push up food prices.

# Bill to limit produce costs

399/2002  
 CT 10/2/81

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. —

The efficiency of marketing-control boards, poor prices paid to farmers and high costs to consumers of fresh produce were discussed in the second reading debate on the Commission for Fresh Produce Markets Amendment Bill yesterday.

Introducing the bill, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said the measure was one of effective rationalization which he hoped would keep marketing costs as low as possible.

The Progressive Federal Party was opposed to the provision in the bill which enabled the minister to prohibit the use of any fresh-produce market which had been erected without his approval.

Mr Philip Myburgh (PFP Wynberg) wanted clarification on this point before his party supported the measure.

Mr Rupert Lorimer (PFP Orange Grove) also expressed reservations and said that in a free-market system, every facility had to be provided for free enterprise.

He was against inefficient control boards such as the Dairy and Meat boards, but was not against control as such.

Mr Du Plessis said control had little to do with poor producer and high consumer prices. There was little control in the fresh-produce market and consumer prices were still high, as a result of many other factors.

Marketing-control boards are the pillars on which a stable agricultural marketing system is built and are to the advantage of consumers and producers.

He gave the assurance that he would not use the bill to close down greengracer concerns and would look again at the definition describing a fresh-produce market.

Mr Harland Bell (NRP East London North) supported the bill on behalf of his party.

CHEMICAL

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 st classwork in Engineering  
 wing.

Benegaldo

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 aining the highest average  
 k.

Cragg

# Natal sugar workers get pay rise

3 (S. 10/13)  
NM  
10/13

## Mercury Reporter

NATAL sugar mill and refinery workers will receive pay hikes in April as a result of recent negotiations between the sugar industry and various unions representing the workers.

According to Mr W R M Kullin, chairman of the industrial council for the sugar manufacturing and refining industry, condi-

tions of employment for the workers will also be upgraded.

'The agreement follows negotiations which began in December last year,' said Mr Kullin.

The main features of the agreement are an increase of 17 percent in minimum wage rates and not less than 14 percent on actual basic pay.

This means that even those employees who are being paid more than the current prescribed minimum rates will receive at least a 14 percent pay increase from April 1, this year,' he said.

The agreement will run for two years with wage rates for the second year being negotiated early in 1982.

# KDC not interested in blacks, claim

## Mercury Reporter

A DIRECTOR of Church Agricultural Projects at Weenen, Mr Neil Alcock, has claimed that neither the former Bantu Investment Corporation nor the KwaZulu Development Corporation had been interested in the plight of blacks living in the Tugela Estates area of Northern Natal when he approached them initially.

Mr Alcock was replying to a statement by Mr Anson Lloyd, chairman of KwaZulu Agricultural Company, that it was a pity Mr Alcock and Mr Ray Swart, MP for Musgrave, had not approached the KDC about the situation before publicising it.

Mr Lloyd had written to The Natal Mercury, claiming that Mr Ray Swart had not been accurate when he claimed that the land, at present owned by the KDC, was being used for the

cultivation of cotton while people in the area were starving.

Mr Alcock said that a Dr von Marlow, head of the agricultural division of the BIC, had told him he was not prepared to discuss the Tugela Estates development.

Subsequently he had been in contact with Dr J M Erskine, assistant general manager (agriculture) of the KDC, about the matter.

'No one can say I did not try to work with them,' he added. 'I only turned to Mr Ray Swart when I could get no one else to meet the Africans.'

A joint committee of the Department of Co-operation and Development and the KwaZulu Government has been set up with a view to handing over fertile, arable land to residents of Tugela Estates for cultivation.

# Call for talks on food price crisis

CHEMICAL

CT 186  
10/2/81  
General

**Own Correspondent**  
**JOHANNESBURG.** — Consumer organizations, retailers and manufacturers have supported a call to have urgent national round-table talks to solve South Africa's growing food price crisis.

The call to retailers, wholesalers, producers and consumer organizations to solve the food price crisis collectively was made through the Rand Daily Mail's Consumer Mail yesterday by Mr Rex Glanville, managing director of Checkers.

Mr Glanville has recommended that the talks be held under the auspices of Consumer Mail, "which has a reputation for impartiality, accuracy and integrity in the interests of the consumer".

Consumer bodies, the Grocery Manufacturers' Association (GMA) — which represents 37 leading manufacturers throughout the country — and the major supermarkets chains have welcomed the call.

Most organizations contacted by Consumer Mail yesterday expressed concern at rising food price increases.

The latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows that food inflation has soared to 30 percent during the past year.

Mr Glanville said: "It is time for retailers, wholesalers, producers and recognized consumer bodies to get together to put a brake on these excessive increases. The food price increase for the past 12 months was 29.5 percent, which does not take into account the al-

ready numerous food price increases of 1981.

"The CPI in total rose only 15.8 percent, which suggests that food prices have far outstripped those of other commodities. With inflation running at 15 percent plus, and with at least a seven percent unemployment rate and high incidence of malnutrition, we see the South African situation as being very volatile.



Mr Rex Glanville

"It is now time for the food industry to forget past differences and to try to solve this problem collectively," Mr Glanville said.

Mr J Hele, director of the GMA said: "We are concerned about the consumer. We'd love to do anything that can solve this problem. The 30 percent inflation rate on food is terrifyingly high and it is something we are all concerned about."

The three major consumer groups in the country — the Housewives' League, Consumer Union and Consumer Council — said that only good could come out of looking at the whole food-marketing structure.

All the organizations said spiralling food costs were a national major concern and anything done to improve the lot of the consumers would be of crucial benefit to the country.

"We need to locate problem areas and any debate that can do this can only be a good thing," said Mrs Betty Hirzel, chairman of the Consumer Union.

The director of the Consumer Council, Mr Jan Cronje, said the council would support any round-table discussions that would help the consumer, who was fast reaching breaking-point.

"I can't see a solution unless we all meet to see what can be done to solve the crisis," said Mrs Joy Hurwitz, president of the Housewives' League.

Mr Richard Cohen of Pick 'n Pay said he would welcome the move, so long as the round-table talks included all the relevant parties in the food-marketing chain.

"Anything that stands to benefit the consumer will be welcome — the 30 percent inflation rate on food is terrifying," he said.

The executive director of Spar, Mr Sid Matus, said that while inflation did not rest with one particular body in the marketing chain, only good could come out of views being aired.

"The problem has been too much money chasing too few goods. I can't see an overnight solution, but only good can come from such a round-table meeting," he said.

● Call to scrap SA marketing board system, page 9

# 'Minister should not get such wide powers'

RDM 11/2/81

3 general

THE ASSEMBLY. — The Government was reviewing the entire Commission for Fresh Produce Markets Act, 1970, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said yesterday.

He was replying in the committee stage of the Fresh Produce Markets Amendment Bill to opposition criticism that the legislation would confer "wide powers" on the Minister to close down fresh produce markets.

Mr Philip Myburgh (PFP Wynberg) said the Minister was seeking additional powers to act against existing fresh produce markets.

The definition of fresh produce markets in the Bill was so wide it would enable the Minister to shut down neighbourhood greengrocers and even farm fruit stalls.

He did not believe the South African Agricultural Union and "the farmers of South Africa" expected the Minister to acquire such additional powers.

Mr Rupert Lorimer (PFP Orange Grove) said no Minister of Agriculture should be entrusted with such wide powers.

The Minister should state clearly what his intentions were.

The Act had been in operation since 1970 without the need for such a provision.

Mr B H Wilkens (NP Carletonville) said the opposition's point, that the ambit of the definition of fresh produce markets was too wide, was good but the PFP was trying to turn it into an issue.

Mr Du Plessis said Mr Lorimer had cast aspersions on the SAAU.

Mr Lorimer had questioned the SAAU's representation of farmers in South Africa and the Minister would not allow the good faith of the members of organised agriculture to be brought into doubt.

Mr Lorimer said, on a point of order, that the Minister was putting a wrong interpretation on his words.

Interjection: "You should eat more vegetables."

Mr Du Plessis said a committee of the SAAU had informed him that they agreed with the proposed amendments to the Act.

The Minister conceded that the definition could be improved, but added that the whole Act was being reviewed and the Government would look again at the definition.

The reason for the amendment was that the Government was powerless to order the owners of fresh produce markets to close their premises if they had built them without the consent of the Minister of Agriculture. — Sapa.



③

11/2/81

Harward

3

Q.C. 103



**Agricultural colleges**

\*17. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

How many students were enrolled at agricultural colleges in 1980?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

634.

# . . . and planned Bill <sup>RDM</sup> 11/2/81 may up food prices <sup>(3gens)</sup>

Political Correspondent

THE ASSEMBLY. — The Government will soon have sweeping powers to close down fresh produce markets outside the official marketing system — a move that could push up food prices even further.

This is the major implication of the Commission for Fresh Produce Markets Amendment Bill that was read in Parliament yesterday.

The Progressive Federal Party opposed the Bill because "it will be a severe blow to both farmer and consumer".

"The only people who will benefit are the wholesalers, the agents and all the middlemen involved in the official national marketing system," Mr Philip Myburgh, the Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said.

"It will mean higher prices for housewives and lower prices for farmers."

Mr Myburgh was objecting to a clause in the Bill that reads: "The Minister may prohibit the owner of a fresh produce market erected in a controlled area, without the prior written approval of the Minister, from using or permitting the use of such market as a fresh produce market."

Although the Minister of Agriculture, Mr P du Plessis, had declined to give details, this clause was clearly aimed at fresh produce markets outside the national marketing system, Mr Myburgh said.

Some of these markets were set up by groups of farmers to market their produce at outlets independently of the official system. They did this to bypass all the middlemen, thereby keeping down the prices to the public.

"By taking powers to prohibit these independent markets, the Government is clearly trying to protect vested interests in the national marketing system, and this will inevitably push up prices to the housewife and keep prices to the farmers very low," he said.

The 'middleman' situation had reached such serious proportions that last year a farmer would receive 10c for an item and the housewife eventually paid 30c for it.

"One would think during a food price crisis the Government would do everything in its power to encourage measures to keep the soaring inflation under control," Mr Myburgh said.

The Minister said a committee of the South African Agricultural Union had told him they agreed with the proposed amendments to the Act.

He said the measure had been introduced to rationalise the marketing system, and he hoped this would keep marketing costs as low as possible.

Control had little to do with poor producer and high consumer prices, Mr Du Plessis said.

SA food  
RDM 12/2/81  
cheapest  
in West,  
3 ce. val. 2/11  
farmers  
claim

By GERALD BELL  
Pretoria Bureau

FARMERS claim South African consumers are pampered with probably the cheapest food in the Western world — most of the basics supported by huge State subsidies.

The bread price alone, they point out, is cushioned by a massive R100-million a year subsidy.

And in Pretoria yesterday, the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Jaap Wilkens, said most white South Africans had little cause to complain about food prices.

However, the lower income groups, particularly blacks, who spent a larger percentage of their income on food, were affected seriously by continually rising prices.

Mr Wilkens was reacting to a call from a chainstore general manager for talks between consumer organisations, retailers, manufacturers and producers to try to solve "the growing food crisis".

According to the Consumer Price Index, food prices rose by nearly 30% last year.

Mr Wilkens said there was little the farmer could do except raise productivity and lower unit costs, and this, with continually escalating input costs, was extremely difficult.

"The farmer is at the end of the line," Mr Wilkens said.

For the past decade the prices of fertilisers, machinery, equipment and spares had risen, he said, and living conditions for black farm workers had also been improved on a continuous basis.

Mr Wilkens said if the total price of foods was analysed, it would be found that the retailer got the biggest slice of the cake.

He was sceptical about the talks. There was perhaps too much talk, too many commissions, and too little real effort to bring down prices.

A closer look should be taken at the profits of wholesalers and retailers.

Consumer opposition to price levels, and farmers' complaints about lack of profitability, were not new developments. They had been a feature of South Africa's economic life for decades.

But it was apparent, if consumers and their organisations looked round them, that South African consumers were among the most fortunate in the Western world.

"Food in this country is among the cheapest in the world, and there are not many good reasons for complaints," Mr Wilkens said.

RDM 12/2/8

# PFP calls for probe into 'horrendous' food prices

3 general  
By GERALD REILLY  
Pretoria Bureau

244

A NEW anti-inflation manifesto was urgently needed to combat the "horrendous" price spiral, the leader of the PFP in the provincial council, Mr Douglas Gibson, said last night.

Speaking in the part appropriation debate he stressed the increase in food prices had assumed acute proportions — no wonder it was called "the great food price scandal".

The PFP supported an investigation aimed at establishing exactly why it was that food prices

had got out of hand.

"If the consumer is not being ripped off then what else can possibly be the reason?"

Why in the name of humanity he asked, cannot the GST of staple foods be removed?

Why was inflation allowed to run out of control? These questions had to be answered.

The Government had not refuted claims that it was responsible for the high rate of inflation.

The time had come for a representative cross section of qualified people to design a new anti-inflation manifesto.

He forecast that the economic plight of the ordinary man would become a prime election issue.

Ordinary men and women of South Africa were regarded by the Government as voting fodder. Their interests were totally neglected by the Government.

It was great that the country's growth rate was higher than any other country, but it was true too that the inflation rate exceeded that of other countries, and it was the lowest income

groups who suffered most with the shocking rate of 20,1%.

The horrendous inflation was a cause of great hardship to the underprivileged and those living on pensions and fixed incomes, he said.

The worst of the grim story was the savage increase in food prices of 30% last year. Authorities had predicted an inflation rate of 20% before the end of the year.

All who hoped for stability in South Africa must be concerned that inflation seemed to have gathered an unstoppable momentum.

# Food price crisis talks

RDM  
12/2/81  
3 general  
~~1/1/81~~

## Consumer Mail

A NATIONAL round table conference on the growing food price crisis, involving producers, manufacturers, retailers and consumers, will be held within the next two weeks under the auspices of Consumer Mail.

The talks have been organised in the wake of the announcement that the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows that during the past 12 months food prices have increased by a massive 30% — almost double that of the general CPI.

Consumer organisations are worried that consumers are fast reaching "breaking point," particularly those in the low income groups who have been especially hard hit.

The talks will deal with administered food prices, the marketing boards, problems in the manufacturing and retailing sector, GST and food subsidies.

The date of the talks will be announced shortly.

● See Page 2

RDM 12/2/81

# Market Bill ~~277~~ under fire <sup>3 general</sup>

By HELEN ZILLE  
Political Correspondent

**THE ASSEMBLY.** — In the face of strong Opposition protest, the Government yesterday pressed ahead with a Bill empowering it to shut down fresh produce markets outside the official marketing system.

The main implication of the Bill is that it could result in even higher food prices to the consumer and depressed prices to farmers.

Mr Rupert Lorimer (PFP Orange Grove) said the Bill was clearly aimed at protecting the vested interests in the official municipal marketing system — those of the middlemen, agents and bureaucrats while both the farmer and the housewife got a raw deal.

Farmers had taken steps to avoid this situation by setting up loose organisations to market their produce outside the official marketing system.

This cut out the wholesalers, agents and middlemen and benefited both the consumer and the producer.

Because the Minister of Agriculture, Mr P T C du Plessis had declined to say which markets were likely to be closed down under the Bill, it was reasonable to assume that unofficial produce markets were the likely targets.

This was a blatant contradiction of the Government's verbal commitment to free enterprise, Mr Lorimer said.

Instead of taking action against private marketing outlets, the Government should be encouraging any action that

could keep food prices steady and also give the farmers a better deal.

"At a time of a food price crisis one would expect the Government to shorten the route between the producer and the consumer, not extend it," he said.

The Bill was a prime example of unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape which crippled free enterprise, protected vested interests and stopped farmers from selling their produce direct to the consumer.

"It should be the object of the Government to oil the wheel of the marketing system to the benefit of the farmer and the consumer", he said.

Mr Lorimer said he had visited the Johannesburg market on numerous occasions. He had found that greengrocers were forced to buy certain products at grossly inflated prices from wholesalers who bought up certain produce in bulk and resold it at a profit.

Instead of taking steps to stop farmers getting round this system, the Government should be concerned at the racketeering, the inflated bureaucracy and control board system, all of which fuelled inflation.

Mr Du Plessis said the Bill was aimed at giving him the power to stop the operation of a market which, in terms of the existing Act, had been erected without his permission.

Fresh produce markets were erected at a great capital cost to local authorities who needed State assistance to make such markets feasible.

# Gap between farmer and consumer widening - PFP

③ 8/11/181 12/2/81

**THE ASSEMBLY** — The Commission for Fresh Produce Markets Amendment Bill was read a third time after a division yesterday, after Opposition speakers attacked the Government for protecting middle-men at the expense of farmers and consumers.

The Bill empowers the Minister to close down certain fresh produce markets and Mr Philip Myburgh (PFP, Wynberg) said it did nothing to counter the widening gap between producer and consumer prices.

He predicted that the farmer, who was now receiving less than 35 percent of the consumer price, would get even less in future. The measure did nothing to relieve the increasing grip of monopolies and cartels on the

marketing system.

Mr Rupert Lorimer (PFP Orange Grove) cited examples, saying he had visited the Johannesburg Market where green-grocers found that wholesalers bought up the bulk of certain products and were then forced to buy from the wholesalers at higher prices.

These wholesalers were given houseroom, and middlemen by the thousands were allowed to take their "chop."

"The duty of the Government is to shorten the route to the consumer, not extend it," Mr Lorimer said.

The Bill was an example of unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape which crippled free enterprise, protected vested interests and stopped farmers from selling their produce direct to the consumer.

Both farmers and the public were fed up with

controls of this nature and with the organisations controlling the marketing of food.

Farmers were unhappy with the way their produce was being handled and the consumer was dissatisfied with rising prices. Unless the Minister could give reasons for wanting to close down any establishment marketing fresh produce, he stood condemned by the consumer, Mr Lorimer said.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr du Plessis, said the Opposition was in trouble with the farmers for unfair remarks made about the SA Agriculture Union earlier in the debate, and were now trying to get him into trouble. — Sapa.

CHEMICAL

Professor George Menzies Prize  
Awarded on results of final  
examinations to the best male  
student in Land Surveying or  
Civil Engineering

- For the best student in each of the 2nd, 3rd and final years.
- Second Year (Bronze Medal)  
Miss G C Littlewort
- Third Year (Silver Medal)  
Miss N C Davidson
- Fourth Year (Gold Medal)  
P M Salmon  
T J Cumming  
D P Weeks  
J H Rens  
B F McClelland

Surplus agricultural foodstuffs

3

27. Mr. N. B. WOOD asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

Ans 3 Given 6/12/81  
Whether any surplus agricultural foodstuffs grown or produced in the Republic

12/21/81

were distributed to (a) the underprivileged and (b) charitable organizations during the latest year for which figures are available; if so, (i) what foodstuffs, (ii) what quantity of each foodstuff, (iii) what was the estimated total value and (iv) at what cost to his Department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

(a) No.

(b) No.

(i) to (iv) Fall away.



# 'BILL CRIPPLES FREE ENTERPRISE'

Agem 12/17/1  
3

## Farmers fed up with controls — PFP

FARMERS and the public were fed up with the Government's bureaucratic controls over the marketing of fresh produce, the Assembly was told yesterday.

Speakers of the official Opposition lashed out at the system which, they said, protected vested interests, crippled free enterprise and sent consumer prices up.

The attack was made during the third-reading debate on the Commission for Fresh Produce Markets Amendment Bill, introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr P T C du Plessis.

The Minister defended the Bill and accused the official Opposition of making a personal attack on him.

The Bill, which empowers the Minister to

close down certain fresh produce markets, was read a third time with the support of the New Republic Party which voted on the side of the Government during a division. The Bill was opposed by the Progressive Federal Party.

In a final attack on the Bill, Mr Rupert Lorimer (PFP, Orange Grove) said that unless the Minister gave reasons why he wanted the power to close down certain establishments he would 'stand condemned as not acting in the interest of the consumer.'

In terms of the Bill, the Minister could close down any marketing establishment, even greengrocers' shops.

This Bill cripples free enterprise as far as fresh

### Parliamentary Staff

produce is concerned,' Mr Lorimer said.

Earlier in his speech, Mr Lorimer said farmers were dissatisfied with the way in which their produce was marketed and consumers were dissatisfied with the high prices they had to pay.

At the large produce markets, the Government was encouraging a system under which thousands of middlemen were being protected at the expense of farmers and consumers.

The Minister's task was not to protect vested interests existing at the larger municipal markets where retailers found that wholesalers bought up the bulk of certain products.

The retailers were then forced to buy from the wholesalers at higher prices.

At the start of yesterday's debate, Mr Philip Myburgh (PFP, Wynberg) asked whether the Minister intended to close down a market at Krugersdorp where a group of young Portuguese farmers sold their fresh produce directly to housewives.

They had been doing this after finding that prices at the municipal market were manipulated. Now their trade was flourishing and both farmers and consumers were happy.

Replying to the debate, Mr du Plessis said any action he took in terms of the Bill would be on the advice of the Fresh Produce Commission and there would be close cooperation with local authorities.

Municipal markets were not profitable undertakings and received financial aid from the State. If the Government were to allow other markets to be established it would mean that none of the markets could be run properly.

The controls would be to the advantage of both the consumer and the producer, the Minister said.

He did not reply to Opposition questions on which markets would be affected and why the Government would act against them.



③ FM 13/2/81

Chris Cilliers, director of the SA Agricultural Union, was sadly worsted in a radio debate last Friday. What he didn't suffer at the hands of Raymond Ackerman and those listeners who phoned in, he was forced to suffer in subsequent newspaper coverage.

Against the logic and fury of the onslaught, few of Cilliers' outmoded socialist ideas would have stood a chance, even if he had not lost his cool. But he did lose his cool. And this made it even more difficult for him to convince anyone that "free market mechanisms are not suitable for agriculture."

Things have moved on since the Sixties, when it was still possible to cod the general public that government's open hand was always benign, while Adam Smith's hidden one was harsh and ineffective. In failing to acknowledge the shift in sentiment, Cilliers seriously misjudged his audience. Consequently, he left the farmers' real case almost undefended. To a degree, agriculture does have a special case to plead. But not on the grounds that Cilliers put forward. The SAAU still rests its main argument for intervention upon the unproven assumption that a multitude of small sellers (or buyers) needs ministerial protection from the allegedly superior bargaining powers of a lesser number of buyers (or sellers).

Do they? If so, why do the control boards actively discourage competition among "middlemen" through restrictive licensing arrangements? And why is the SAAU so fond of regimented pricing policies which play straight into the hands of the farmers' biggest trad-

ing partners? Cilliers also held that farmers have unusual problems because of the perishability of their products and the long production cycles which are involved. Maybe. But what has that got to do with the case for controls?

Was the director of the SAAU seriously trying to tell us that controls are most essential for commodities like litchis and peaches (which take years to produce although they last only days); and that they are less essential for less perishable annual crops like cotton, tobacco, wheat, maize and chicory? If so, he should surely be a critic, instead of a supporter, of existing agricultural policy which imposes the most rigid controls on the marketing of products which need them least and vice-versa.

No. If there is to be a special case for farmers, it must rest on firmer ground. The most plausible argument is that which hangs on the need to protect our farmers from the depressing influence of surpluses which are regularly dumped on to world markets by other interventionist countries. The second most plausible defence is that which holds that it would be unfair to force farmers to compete in a free market while their suppliers and processors don't.

But that's an argument which must have limited appeal to a man who speaks for the co-ops as well as the farmers. There's the rub. The free market mechanism is suitable enough for agriculture. But it doesn't suit our co-operatives.

TOESPRAAK DEUR SY EDELE P.T.C. DU PLESSIS, MINISTER VAN LANDBOU EN VISSERYE, BY GELEENTHEID VAN DIE AMPTELIKE OPENING VAN DIE OOSTELIKE TRANSVAALSE KOÖPERASIE BEPERK SE NUWE GRAANSILO TE STOFFBERG OP 13 FEBRUARIE 1981

Gister, presies 29 jaar gelede - op 12 Februarie 1952 - het die toenmalige Minister van Landbou, adv. S.P. le Roux, die leningskema vir die oprigting van graansilo's in die Volksraad aangekondig. En ek is seker daarvan dat min mense op daardie stadium enigsins 'n denkbeeld gehad het van wat hierdie onderneming in werklikheid alles inhou en welke uitwerking dit op boerdery in Suid-Afrika sou hê.

Hoofsaaklik omrede die destydse tekort aan graansakke, en die hoë koste van hantering van graan in sakke, het die Regering besluit om die oorskakeling na losmaathantering en -opberging van graan aan te moedig. Hiervoor was die daarstelling/...

-2-

stelling van genoegsame graansilofasiliteite 'n voorvereiste. Daar is egter besluit dat die Staat en die graanbeheerrade nie self die silo's sou oprig nie, maar dat die Regering vir dié doel langtermynlenings teen billike voorwaardes aan die landboukoöperasies, handelaars, meulenaars en verwerkers van graan beskikbaar sou stel. Hierdie lenings sou deur die Landbank gadministreer word.

Die skema is nou 29 jaar in werking en dit is seker van pas om 'n voorraadopname te maak van wat gedurende hierdie tydperk bereik is. Dit is moeilik om 'n raming te maak van die totale bedrag wat reeds in graansilo's belê is, hoofsaaklik omrede fondse vir dié doel vanaf verskeie bronne getrek word. Die Staat en die Landbank het sover die belangrikste bydrae gemaak. Tot 31 Maart 1981 is 'n bedrag van/...

van nagenoeg R245 miljoen vir lenings aan koöperatiewe agente van die graan-beheerrade beskikbaar. Hierby moet rekening gehou word daarmee dat leningsfondse nie vir die aankoop van grond beskikbaar gestel word nie, dat van koöperasies verwag word om 'n bydrae van 10 persent te maak - en in die reël 'n heelwat groter bydrae maak - asook dat koöperatiewe agente ook projekte in die geheel self onderneem.

Daar word beraam dat die bergingskapasiteit van koöperatiewe agente tans voldoende is om nagenoeg 10 miljoen ton graan te hanteer. Bykomend moet die kapasiteit en belegging van privaatagente, meulenaars en ander verwerkers van graan ook nog in ag geneem word.

Die/...

Die hantering van graan in losmaat het vir die moderne boer van die grootste belang geword. Deur die meganisering van sy oes- en leweringsproses, het hy nou 'n produksievoordeel, aangesien hy sy lande vroegtydig kan voorberei vir die volgende oes. Daar is 'n aansienlike besparing van man-ure.

Losmaathantering het ook belangrike voordele vir landboukoöperasies meegebring. Deur die uitskakeling van arbeid, kan die oes vinniger en meer doeltreffend ingeneem en versorg en bestendiger uitgelaai word.

Ook die Staat put voordele uit die losmaathantering van graan. Daar is die kwessie van graansakke, wat noodwendig ingevoer moet word. Nie slegs die koste  
nie/...

nie, maar ook die beskikbaarheid daarvan is uit die aard van die saak 'n probleem. Die vinniger vervoer en hantering van losmaatgraan deur die Spoorweë - ook by die uitvoerhawens - is nog 'n belangrike aspek.

Die stimulerende invloed van losmaatgeriewe op die landbou-ekonomie het uiteraard ook deurgewerk na die landseconomie. Ook die strategiese waarde van soveel voedselskure moet beslis nie onderskat word nie - sy dit in tye van vyandigheid of selfs vrede.

In die lig van die sukses wat reeds met die skema behaal is, en met inagneming van die verdere voordele wat dit inhou, is dit van die aller grootste belang dat

die/...

die skema met mening voortgesit en tot sy volle konsekwensies deurgevoer word. Dit is so dat indien 'n gebied nie oor genoegsame losmaatfasiliteite beskik om 'n graanoes te hanteer nie, al die voordele wat daaraan verbonde is, nie slegs die gebied ontsê word nie, maar dat daar onredelik hoë bykomende koste vir die boer, die koöperasie en die Staat ontstaan.

O.T.K. het in 1965 met sy silobouprogram begin. Op daardie stadium was net die koringsilo te Marble Hall, met 'n kapasiteit van 18 000 ton, tot sy beskikking. Daar is indertyd besluit om die program vanaf die westelike deel van O.T.K. se bedieningsgebied aan te pak. Die eerste silo is dan ook in 1967 op Grootvlei opgerig.

Graanproduksie was sodanig dat daar besluit is om slegs op 16 strategies geleë sentra graansilo's te bou nadat 'n ondersoek getoon het dat dit die maksimum aantal punte was waar so 'n kapitaalbelegging ekonomies geregverdig kon word.

Die fenomenale toename in die hoeveelheid graan geproduseer, het egter herbeplanning genoodsaak, wat tot gevolg gehad het dat die eerste fase van die graansilobou-program uitgebrei is tot 36 silo's. Stoffberg en Carolina het laaste aan die beurt gekom en met die voltooiing van eersgenoemde verlede jaar, is die aanvanklike bouprogram afgesluit. Daar is egter onmiddellik begin met die uitbreiding van bestaande silo's en sedertdien is drie uitbreidings voltooi, terwyl sewe uitbreidings tans onder konstruksie is, sowel as 'n verdere drie nuwe silo's by nuwe ontvangspunte. Een van hierdie silo's word baie naby aan Stoffberg -

net bo/...

net bo-op die rante by die Pan - opgerig en sal die grootste silo wees wat nog in die Republiek gebou is. Dit sal 'n kapasiteit van 150 000 ton hê en sal gereed wees vir die 1981-oes.

Na die voltooiing van die 39 silo's en die uitbreidings wat tans onder konstruksie is, sal O.T.K. losmaatbergingsfasiliteite vir bykans twee miljoen ton graan hê. Die totale kapitaalbelegging sal net meer as R63 miljoen bedra en die gemiddelde eenheidskoste nagenoeg R34 per ton kapasiteit.

Die Stoffberg-silo het sowat R2 miljoen gekos en het 'n kapasiteit van 50 000 ton. Met die inname van die 1980-oes was dit reeds duidelik dat dit verder vergroot sal moet word om in hierdie omgewing se behoeftes te voorsien. Die ingebruikneming

van/...

van die silo by die Pan behoort die posisie egter aansienlik te verlig in die komende jaar of twee.

In die lig van die toenemende graanproduksie in die gebied, het O.T.K.-lede verlede jaar ook die wyse besluit geneem om 'n addisionele een persent tot die ledeheffingsfonds by te dra ten einde die silobouprogram vinniger te probeer afhandel. Die rekordoes van  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miljoen ton gedurende 1980 dui nog op 'n tekort aan silokapasiteit van meer as 'n halfmiljoen ton - met inagneming van dit wat tans onder konstruksie is. Teen die steeds stygende boukoste sal daar meer as R20 miljoen in die volgende drie of vier jaar in graansilo's belê moet word om die agterstand uit te wis.

Die /...

Die produksie van graan in die O.T.K.-gebied het gedurende die afgelope 15 jaar vyfvoudig vermeerder. Behalwe dit, is 'n grondverbeteringskema pas van stapel gestuur teen 'n beraamde koste van R170 miljoen oor vyf jaar om die suurheidsgraad van 900 000 hektaar grond en die fosforstatus van 700 000 hektaar grond eenmalig reg te stel - 'n navolgenswaardige voorbeeld wat deur O.T.K. gestel is! Dit, tesame met verbeterde saadvariëteite en verbouingstegnieke, kan onder gunstige weersomstandighede die gemiddelde graanopbrengs in die volgende dekade dalk weer verdubbel, sodat O.T.K. teen 1990 kapasiteit vir vier miljoen ton graan sal benodig.

As een van ons grootste landboukoöperasies in die land, het O.T.K. reeds op ondubbelsinnige wyse sy bydrae tot landbou-ontwikkeling in die Republiek gemaak,

ook/...

ook wat betref die daarstelling van losmaathantering en -opbergingsgeriewe. Sonder die insig en harde werk van ons landboukoöperasies sou die skema nie van die grond af kon kom nie en sou daar bitter min van al die vergesigte wat dit 29 jaar gelede geopen het, tereg gekom het. Ek sê baie dankie aan O.T.K. vir sy bydrae in die verlede en ek weet dat ons ook in die toekoms op hom kan staatmaak.

Verklaar silo amptelik geopen.

Uitgereik deur die Departement van Buitelandse Sake en Inligting op versoek van die Ministerie van Landbou en Visserye

12 FEBRUARIE 1981



Corporation Medals  
 For the best student in each  
 of the 2nd, 3rd and final years.

Second Year (Bronze Medal)

Miss G C Littlewort

Third Year (Silver Medal)

Miss N C Davidson

Fourth Year (Gold Medal)

P M Salmon

I J Cumming

D P Weeks

J H Rens

B F McClelland

Professor George Menzies Prize  
 Awarded on results of final  
 examinations to the best male  
 student in Land Surveying or  
 Civil Engineering.

J H Rens

Sammy Sacks Memorial Prize

Awarded to the student with the  
 best classwork in Engineering  
 Drawing.

L Menegaldo

A E & C I Prize

For the first year student  
 obtaining the highest average

mark.

G L Cragg

# Game gets farming industry title

Own Correspondent

Intensive game farming has been recognised as a farming industry by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Game farming will be given help in farm planning and subsidies.

The Department of Veterinary Services will investigate the possibility of classifying game farming as animal farming in terms of the law on meat hygiene.

The fact that there are many diseases in different areas means the land will have to be divided into areas each with their own veterinary aids and grazing management.

Game diseases will be researched at Onderstepoort.

Research into grazing capacity norms for game, the impact of shrub encroachment, the application of game to poison plant areas and the production potential of ground under the combination of cattle and game will be researched by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Other research, such as pairing and grazing habits, will be done by other institutes.

For example, the research institute at the University of Pretoria will be used.

Marketing will be referred to the section agriculture, economics and marketing.

Mr Chris Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union — one of the most powerful groups in the country — said on a radio programme recently he did not care about the poor. In the past he has described the Housewives League as "fat tannies". Last week Consumer Mail's PAT SIDLEY asked him about his views and ideals which have helped shape agricultural policy in this country over three decades. She found a man unshakeable in his beliefs and in his desire to represent only the farmers' interests



CHRIS Cilliers, director of the South African Agricultural Union, is a man who knows the value of public relations and the power of the media — he was, after all, a BBC announcer for nine years.

So he understands he will be quoted widely and prominently when he says on radio: "I do not care about our poor".

The SAAU is probably the most powerful lobby in South Africa, claiming to represent all farmers, who in turn form a powerful political voting bloc.

The price of food, mostly produced by those farmers, has risen almost 30% in the past year — double the inflation rate — with meat alone having risen almost 60%.

But through the din of outraged consumers the SAASU has been heard clearly — more than once — calling for higher prices.

Mr Cilliers is not a farmer, nor has he ever been one, neither did he study agriculture.

After graduating with a BSc from Stellenbosch in 1938 he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and went to Oxford to study engineering science.

When he completed the degree "it was 1942, the war was on and I couldn't come back."

So I joined the BBC as an African news reader and worked for them for nine years.

"How I got into agriculture was purely fortuitous — they wanted me to broadcast an agricultural programme."

The job lasted until 1950. Then the Korean war broke out, and with a wife and three children Mr Cilliers felt "one war in London was fine, but

I'm not doing another", and the family came to South Africa.

For the first three years he organised the Van Riebeeck Fair (which celebrated the third centenary of Van Riebeeck's landing), then he joined the SAAU in 1953 as its public relations officer.

He will be retiring in April — to "do nothing".

Mr Cilliers is an outspoken man with a firm set of beliefs surrounding agricultural policy which he has shared with the public over three decades — often to the dismay or plain shock of a great many people.

He vehemently disagrees with the often-expressed claim that South African farmers are inefficient, thereby pushing costs up.

"It's absolute nonsense — they compete with all-comers in maize, wool, hides and skins. One third of South Africa's R2-billion of agricultural products are exported and they compete with the rest of the world."

But it is correct, he concedes, that 20% of the farmers produce 80% of maize — or that 80% of maize farmers only produce 20% of the crop.

"Those 20% are super farmers."

Some of the others, he says, shouldn't be there, and some earn less than his secretary.

The maize price, Mr Cilliers says, is largely worked out on the average cost of production plus an "entrepreneurial award". This would include the uneconomic farmers as well.

He does not believe in a free market for agriculture "especially in a country like South Africa".

"Demand in agriculture is inelastic, while the supply is elastic. You can't plan your supply in any way because of the weather."

He cites tomatoes and onions as an example, the prices of which are subject to market fluctuations. A tomato board has been proposed by the SAAU, but was turned down by the Government.

"I still think it would be a good thing for a tomato board ... to eliminate the fluctuations. The farmers would have a majority on the board — although all other interests would be represented."

"One must expect the Government to represent the interests of the consumers over the farmers."

"For many years this country had a cheap food policy until the Jacobs Commission (into agriculture). It recommended that agricultural prices should be adjusted more realistically and more frequently."

Mr Cilliers believes the control boards do a good job and are worth the R25-million a year it costs to keep them running.

They fulfil their role representing producers.

"It was producers who asked for them. The British started the idea in the years of the depression. But the first thing our Marketing Act did in 1939 was to keep prices down for the consumers."

On his controversial statement that he did not care for the poor, said on radio about a week before his interview with Consumer Mail, Mr Cilliers said: "I stand by my remark".

He had told listeners that he did not care about South Africa's poor because they had it easier than in many other countries. "Nobody has an inborn

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They fulfil their role representing producers.

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He had told listeners that he did not care about South Africa's poor because they had it easier than in many other countries.

"Nobody has an inborn right to have excessively cheap food anywhere in the world. We happen to be more efficient and cheaper. Our bread price is so ridiculously low."

Mexico City, he said, had the next highest bread price — and it's double the price of South African bread.

"Why should a worker in Johannesburg claim the right to pay less than elsewhere?"

Asked how he felt if increased prices lead to increased malnutrition among blacks who formed the majority of the poor, and the possible threat to security, he said: "Malnutrition would not be a case to depress the farmers' prices — it would be a case for the welfare authorities."

"Eating habits are according to income. In our country the only thing the poor can afford is maize, and that is what they live on."

"We supply food to our lower income groups at a much lower level than in most other countries. We have done our

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17/12/81

duty to get food to the poor.

"There is no security threat. The whites should see to it that they (black workers) are paid more."

"When the bus fares went up, I gave more money to my maid to cover the increased cost."

"Really, it gets my goat when housewives in Johannesburg whose husbands underpay workers in their factories, say farmers underpay."

"Especially in Johannesburg. Look what their hus-

bands are doing. They underpay their workers. They don't bother about farmers' workers."

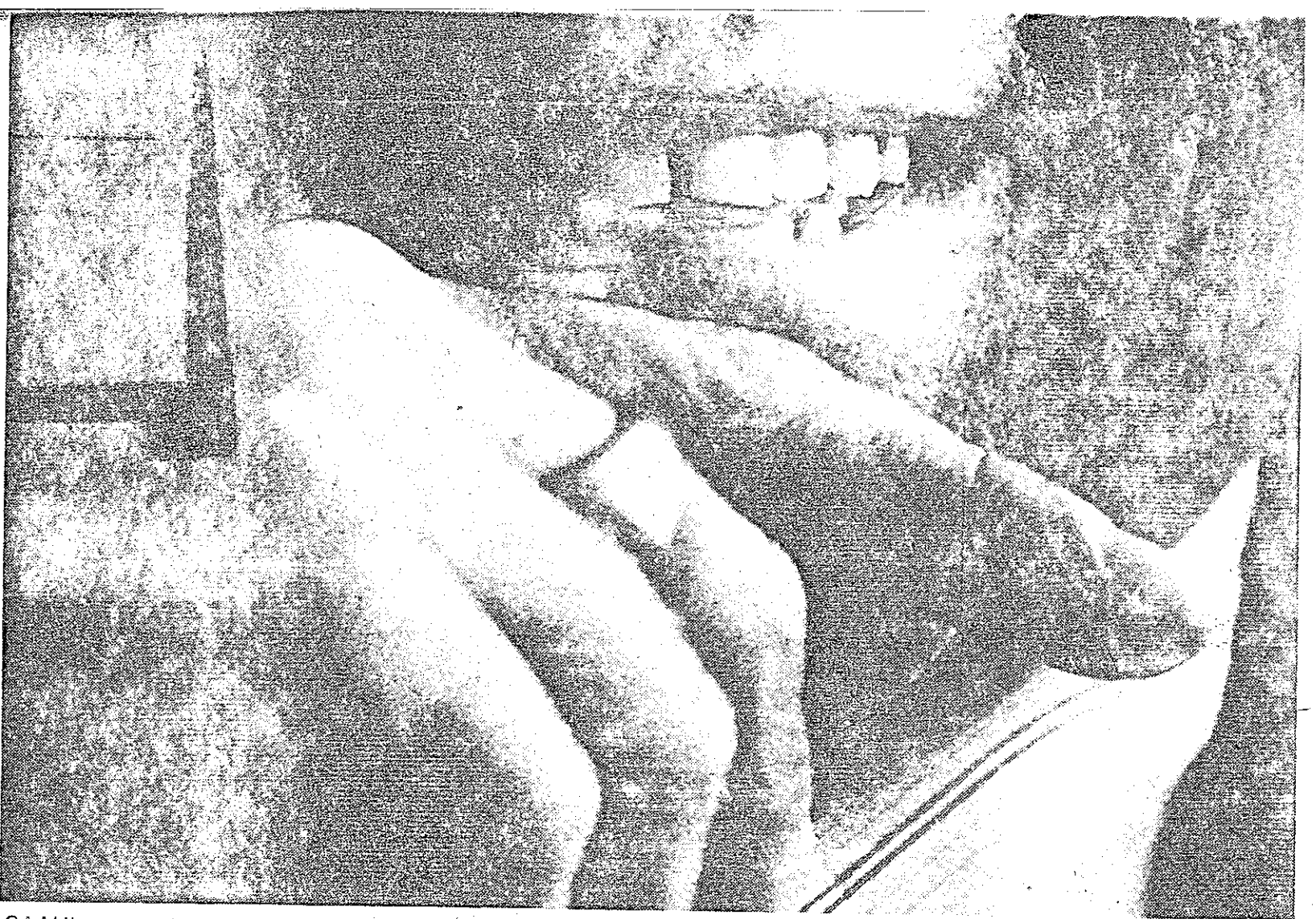
And onto the famed "fat tannies" remark. Mr Cilliers was reported criticising the women of the Housewives League for being "fat tannies" who "gorge themselves on cheap food we produce", spend money on makeup and then call boycotts.

"That was not my remark. It was the Minister's. But I thought it was funny so I repeated it."

"They do spend more on liquor in this country than on red meat — but then they tell us they have to drink after the high prices."

But it seems to be the husbands of the league who inspire Mr Cilliers' vitriol: "Of course they all underpay their workers. Where did the riots start? Industrialists all underpay their workers. There were no riots on the farms."

Commenting on Mr Cilliers' remarks after the radio programme, the current issue of the Financial Mail had called



SAAU's outspoken director Chris Cilliers... "Really, it gets my goat when housewives in Johannesburg, whose husbands underpay workers in their factories, say farmers underpay."

Picture: JUHAN KUUS

"We are so completely spoilt by lower food prices."

"I predicted a red meat and egg shortage — and now it's here. And now I predict a shortage of milk and dairy products."

(The SAAU has called for a significant rise — and more than one — this year in the price of milk and dairy products. Otherwise it says, farmers will have to stop farming.)

"The Government is more influenced by what consumers say than by the 70 000 farm-

"I wish local industry was more efficient. If we could import duty free, costs would be lower. But I agree with protecting local industries."

"I'm sorry they're so damned inefficient."

His firm commitment to his agricultural ideals have been reinforced over the years to the extent that he still stands by apparently anachronistic passages in reports quoting him in 1956 on such controversial topics as export losses.

In an interview in 1956, he

remarks after the radio programme, the current issue of the Financial Mail had called him an "outmoded socialist".

"Oh dear, oh dear. They are completely wrong. Farmers are the only true capitalists ... I'm an enlightened capitalist."

Mr Cilliers had participated on the panel of a listener-participation programme on the English service called "Microphonein", along with Mr Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick 'n Pay. The subject was "Are food prices unrealistically high?" and angry listeners' questions caused Mr Cilliers to lose his temper.

"That programme wasn't good for public relations," he said. "If only I did not lose my temper."

"I did not try to argue with Ackerman. The chain stores are doing a jolly good job. The concept of consumer co-operatives never took off and I ascribe this to the efficiency of our chain stores in keeping prices down."

"But they do abuse their power. He (Mr Ackerman) forced Langeberg (the fruit canning co-op) to sell to him at a lower price than they sell to wholesalers in London — and then it still landed up cheaper on a London housewife's table."

"The profit is much higher here."

There is no room at present in Mr Cilliers' scheme of thought for a lowering of prices.

"If you want to subsidise ... I don't believe in subsidies ... then subsidise the people who count. Take the subsidies and put it into mealie pap."

"If we can prove in South Africa we are doing better than in half the rest of the world, we have no reason for complaint."

"The Government is more influenced by what consumers say than by the 70 000 farmers. There are more votes in consumers than in producers."

He attributes the better times of farmers to the Jacobs Commission, which he says was responsible for putting the prices up.

Mr Cilliers said that if South Africa had to import and pay world prices, it would "come as a shock".

Before the Jacobs Commission, he said, farmers were not paid for their costs.

"Farmers have improved their efficiency and this efficiency is passed on almost wholly to the consumer."

He does not believe sales tax should be removed from foods, although when its introduction was under discussion the SAAU had recommended that the tax be left off food.

The FCI (Federated Chamber of Industries) and the mines thought it should be left off capital equipment — the means of production.

"We thought it should be left off food. But then to compensate, other higher levels would have had to have been introduced on other commodities."

Anyway: "Food prices in South Africa are so low you don't have to take measures to drop them."

At one stage when Mr Cilliers had looked at the question of importing food, the only available commodity that could have been imported at a rate cheaper than it was available in South Africa was one type of cheese.

"My worry is that consumers in South Africa must not push farmers so that they have to start importing — the food may not always be available."

He blames local industry for some high costs.

such controversial topics as export losses.

In an interview in 1956 he said: "It's not possible to increase the local price to make up the loss on exports, as public opinion will not stand for this." He said farmers would lose if exports were sold overseas for less than they were sold in South Africa.

But he remains unimpressed with the generally accepted view that South Africa does export maize at a loss. According to this view, the stabilisation fund pays for the export losses. This fund is paid for by the farmer in the form of a levy taken from the higher domestic prices of the maize.

The maize stabilisation fund is broke at the moment due to heavy expenditure — or losses — on exports. The fund has had to take a loan from the Government to bail it out temporarily and which will probably be paid back out of the next maize price increase, expected in May.

Mr Cilliers, on the other hand, believes maize is not exported at a loss. When confronted with the Maize Board's claim that it is, he explains that the maize farmers' needs are calculated in advance and some idea is available in advance of how large the crop will be. The domestic price is calculated with this information and any funds from exports is a bonus on top of this.

"They may make a slight mistake, but that's why there's the stabilisation fund."

He stands, in fact, by all his comments. — "and I'll say the same in 10 years" — not only reinforcing them but exaggerating them, and does this with an unashamed laugh and charming openness.

<sup>(3 general)</sup>  
<sup>RDM 17/2/91</sup>  
<sup>(204)</sup> <sup>(130)</sup> <sup>(17)</sup>  
**'Govt helps monopolies  
to push up food prices'**

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN. — Fat-cat monopolies had, with government backing, pushed up food prices by nearly 30% last year, the Progressive Federal Party's Mr Rupert Lorimer, MP for Orange Grove, said yesterday.

In a scathing attack on Government-controlled boards, Mr Lorimer said the "great food price scandal" had showed their marketing systems were failing.

"Control boards are not only failing to stabilise prices but are in certain instances aggravating the inflationary spiral to such an extent that both the farmer and the consumer are getting a raw deal."

Speaking in the Part Appropriation debate, Mr Lorimer said in some cases farmers had been driven off the land because the gross incompetence of the control boards "has made it just not worth carrying on."

"They have failed to ensure that the gap between what the producer is getting for his product and what the housewife pays is fair and reasonable, and they have allowed fat-cat monopolies to flourish."

"In spite of higher pay, the average housewife is at her wits end in trying to balance her budget. The poor and people on fixed incomes are just not able to cope," he said.

**THE  
GREAT  
FOOD  
PRICE  
SCANDAL**

The PFP did not blame farmers but Government meddling had upset the free market mechanism.

"One of these days the farmers are going to come to the realisation that they have been taken for a ride by the Government, and when that happens the National Party had better watch out."

South Africa had reached the stage where housewives could no longer afford to buy the meat, butter and eggs they needed.

He said when there was a surplus of dairy products, the nonsensical Dairy Board had raised prices.

A greater chapter of mismanagement could not be found than in the meat industry.

"As far as the Government is concerned, they have allowed middleman monopolies to flourish and grow fat. They simply have not controlled the middleman."

Mr Lorimer also called on the Government to abolish General Sales Tax on staple foods because it was grossly unfair to tax the poor and unemployed on the food they needed to keep alive.

Mr Lorimer also challenged Mr Owen Horwood to test public opinion about his mini-Budget by opposing him in the same constituency. Mr Lorimer will be standing in Durban North in the General Election.

Reacting to the Budget, Mr Lorimer, whose old constituency disappears, said: "If the Minister really thinks that people are going to be fooled by his display of open-handedness today, why doesn't he offer himself for election?"

"He's never been elected in his life. Mr Horwood was the leader of the National Party in Natal so why did he not fight an election?"

"I could suggest to him that he come and fight an election in Durban North, then he can see what the voters of Natal think of him," said Mr Lorimer.

Mr Pietie du Plessis, the Minister of Agricultural, interjected: "Why are you running away from Harry?" (This was a reference to the fact that a large part of Mr Lorimer's old constituency has been incorporated in Yeoville, the constituency of Mr Harry Schwarz.)

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*Item 4* *ans at 147* **Farmers: loans** (3)  
181. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
Minister of Finance:

*note 17/2/81*  
(a) What was the total amount of loans  
to farmers by the Land and Agricultural  
Bank as at 31 December 1980 and (b) to  
how many farmers had these loans been  
granted?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) R668 230 305.

(b) 22 107.

Flood disaster area: assistance to farmers  
ANS. 4 Ques (of 156) (3)

\*14. Mr. W. V. RAW asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

(a) When does his Department intend to commence rendering assistance to farmers who have suffered losses in the flood disaster area in the Cape, (b) what will be the (i) nature and (ii) conditions of such assistance and (c) in respect of what types of losses will such assistance be rendered?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

(a) to (c) Following on the flood disaster an extensive investigation was immediately ordered for the purpose of a preliminary determination of the losses suffered by farmers in the relevant areas. This information is necessary to determine a basis on which farmers can be assisted. The comprehensive particulars obtained during the course of the investigation by a team of 69 officers of my Department on approximately 1 000 farms, are at present being processed and will as soon as possible and in a co-ordinated manner be considered in conjunction with proposals of other Departments concerned by the Cabinet Committee regarding Disaster Areas. An announcement with regard to assistance to farmers will be made thereafter. We hope it will be possible to do so in the course of next week.

*Yans & Aus. (01. 165 3/milk)*  
 Fresh/industrial milk  
 177. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
 Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:†

*15/2/81*  
 (a) What was the producer's price of (i) fresh milk and (ii) industrial milk as at 1 June 1979 and (b) what price increases came into effect in respect of each category since that date?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

(a) (i) Dairy Control Board's controlled areas:

(1) Pretoria: 23,215 cent per litre.

WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 1981

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7	2	4	1	5	5	3	4	3	8	7	1
109	82	93	107	107	97	79	101	91	114	99	110
15	11	20	14	18	12	16	15	17	16	13	14
3	7	3	2	7	9	7	5	5	15	9	42

(2) Witwatersrand: 23,115 cent per litre.

(3) Cape Peninsula: 22,515 cent per litre.

(4) Bloemfontein: 22,215 cent per litre.

(5) Western Transvaal: 23,005 cent per litre.

(ii) 1 500 cent per 100 kg.

(b) (i) Fresh milk: 3,5 cent per litre.

(ii) Industrial milk: 245 cent per 100 kg.



*Hansard 4 Aug 1981* Agricultural production/exports  
180. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

What was the value of the Republic's agricultural (a) production and (b) exports in 1980?

*18/2/81*  
The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (a) R5 712 million.
- (b) R2 128 million.

3 general

107

37

# Black farmland plea is refused

RPM 18/2/81

By J S MOJAPELO

THE Government has turned down a request by the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) to grant black farmers the right to purchase and farm land countrywide.

In its reply, the Department of Co-operation and Development told Nafcoc this would be contrary to Government policy.

The request was one of several issues raised during a meeting between a Nafcoc executive delegation led by its president, Mr Sant Motsuenyane, and Dr Piet Koornhof, Minister of Co-operation and Development, last year.

The Government's replies to Nafcoc's requests are reported in the latest edition of Nafcoc's "African Business" magazine.

Nafcoc said several attempts had been made to involve

organised white agriculture in making a more significant contribution to the development of agriculture in black areas.

Nafcoc also suggested that the prevailing communal land tenure in the homelands be progressively supplanted by a system of freehold ownership which would give individuals greater incentive to develop and improve their allotments.

In reply, the Department said the disadvantage of the present system was due less to the system of tribal ownership than to the fact that each member of a tribe had the right to the use of the land.

Nafcoc also suggested an accelerated industrial programme in which black entrepreneurs would play a major role as employers.

It was advised to approach the Minister of Commerce and Industry with the request.

CHEMICAL

Sammy Sacks Memorial Prize

J H Rens

Civil Engineering.

Awarded on results of final examinations to the best male student in Land Surveying or Professor George Menzies Prize

B F McClelland

J H Rens

D P Weeks

T J Cumming

P M Salmon

Fourth Year (Gold Medal)

Miss N C Davidson

Third Year (Silver Medal)

Miss G C Littlewort

Second Year (Bronze Medal)

For the best student in each of the 2nd, 3rd and final years.

Corporation Medals

20/2/81  
STAR

# Cape vineyards

## face huge loss 3

CAPE TOWN — Up to 50 percent of the harvest in vineyards of the Breede River valley — the biggest single wine producing area in the country — has been lost through flood and rain damage.

The worst affected vineyards are those along the Vink and Cogmans rivers. Vineyards have been washed away, while other vines are covered by a fine layer of silt which makes them unsuitable for making good wine.

Farmers along the rivers say it will cost them R3 000 a hectare to clear the mud and debris from their vineyards before they can start replanting.

— Sapa.

3 meat

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

(1) No. I have of my own accord and in the interest of producers as well as consumers appointed a Committee of Inquiry with terms of reference to investigate and report on the supply situation of red meat over the long term, from own as well as other sources, the economy of beef production in South Africa and any other matters incidental to the aspects mentioned.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

(2) The said Committee of Inquiry has been appointed during November 1980 and announced in a press release.

(a) See (1).

(b) (i) Members of the Committee:

Dr. A. S. Jacobs: Chairman. Vice President of the South African Reserve Bank, and Chairman of the Working Committee regarding the Economic position of the Farmers and Agricultural Financing in General, the so-called Jacobs Committee.

Mr. R. P. G. Kotzé: Member. Acting Chairman of the National Marketing Council.

Mr. S. J. J. van Rensburg: Member. Chairman of the National Meat Committee of the South African Agricultural Union and Deputy Chairman of

Red meat  
 11/10/80 L. Ques (1) 185 3(meat)  
 \*10. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- 20/2/81
- (1) Whether he has received representations to appoint a commission of inquiry to investigate the continued supply of red meat; if so, from (a) which organizations or (b) whom;
  - (2) whether he intends to appoint such a commission of inquiry; if so, (a) what will be its terms of reference and (b) (i) who will serve as members of the commission, (ii) on what basis will such persons be appointed and (iii) in which aspect of the meat industry does each such person specialize?

- (ii) On grounds of their expert knowledge.
  - Prof. J. L. Weyers: Member. Chairman of the South African Coordinating Consumer Council.
  - Dr. M. K. von la Chevallerie: Animal science officer in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Member.

- (iii) Dr. A. S. Jacobs: Independent economist.
- Mr. R. P. G. Kotzé: Member of National Marketing Council.
- Mr. S. J. J. van Rensburg: Representative of the South African Agricultural Union and producers.
- Dr. J. H. Lombardi: Marketing Representative of the Meat Board.
- Mr. F. J. Lategan: Meat trade.
- Prof. J. L. Weyers: Consumers.
- Dr. M. K. von la Chevallerie: Technical research and animal science officer.

Corporation Medals  
For the best student in each  
of the 2nd, 3rd and final years.

Second Year (Bronze Medal)  
Miss G C Littlewort

Third Year (Silver Medal)  
Miss N C Davidson

Fourth Year (Gold Medal)

- P M Salmon
- T J Cumming
- D P Weeks
- J H Rens
- B F McClelland

Professor George Menzies Prize  
Awarded on results of final  
examinations to the best male  
student in Land Surveying or  
Civil Engineering.

J H Rens

Sammy Sacks Memorial Prize  
Awarded to the student with the  
best classwork in Engineering  
Drawing.

L Menegaldo

A E & C I Prize

For the first year student  
obtaining the highest average

mark.

G L Cragg

EDM 21/2/81  
**Special**  
*3 general*  
**fund for**  
**farmers**

CAPE TOWN. — The Govern-  
ment intends to establish a  
special account to finance loans  
to farmers, the Minister of Ag-  
riculture, Mr Pietie du Plessis  
announced in Cape Town  
yesterday.

Describing it as "an impor-  
tant new principle," Mr Du  
Plessis said this account would  
be credited with all capital and  
interest repayments by farm-  
ers on their agricultural credit  
loans.

Until now it had been cus-  
tomary to provide funds for  
loans in the State Budget while  
repayments of capital redemp-  
tion and interest were paid into  
the State revenue account.

Mr Du Plessis said the Gov-  
ernment had decided legislation  
would be introduced during the  
second session of Parliament  
later this year which will auth-  
orise establishment of the  
special account. — Sapa.

23/2/81

3-General

# Stock thieves, poachers plague farmers

## Pietermaritzburg Bureau

FARMERS in the Bergville area with farms bordering on KwaZulu are being tested to the limits of their patience by poachers and stock thieves.

The situation was desperate, according to Bergville farmer Mike Zunckel.

'Farmers are reaching the end of their tether and, if things get any worse, something terrible could happen.'

Mr Zunckel believes the thieves are from neighbouring KwaZulu.

'When our cattle disappear over the border there is nobody we can hold responsible for the loss. Our fences are constantly being cut — I have a labourer who works full time repairing fences.'

The Bergville Farmers' Association has taken the matter to the Natal Agri-

cultural Union and has requested a meeting of farmers. KwaZulu officials and the police.

Bergville farmer James Murray recently appeared in the Ladysmith Regional Court on an attempted murder charge after a 17-year-old black youth was shot while allegedly hunting on his farm with a pack of dogs.

Mr Murray was acquitted this week after the Court was told he had fired shots at the dogs with a shotgun but had not seen the youth hiding in the grass. The youth was hit by the pellets and was hurt but has now recovered.

Farmers in the area were angered by the publicity given to the shooting.

Mr Zunckel said: 'People are given the impression that farmers shoot people at will. They do not know the problems we have.'

*Items 5 & 6 of 206*  
Marketing Act  
*31 Cont. / Board*

178. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

*24/2/81*  
What was the total cost of each board established in terms of the Marketing Act for the financial year 1979-'80?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

	1979-'80 Rand
Potato Board .....	525 795
Dry Bean Board .....	294 869
Dried Fruit Board .....	295 250
Egg Control Board .....	1 103 147
Karakul Board .....	33 370
Cotton Board .....	131 621
Wheat Board .....	2 295 169
Lucerne Seed Control Board	49 999
Maize Board .....	3 367 457
Oilseeds Control Board .....	1 380 079
Banana Board .....	660 678
Meat Board .....	5 082 044
Canning Fruit Board .....	191 279
Rooibos Tea Control Board ..	162 000
Deciduous Fruit Board .....	4 573 336
Chicory Board .....	344 937
Citrus Board .....	5 923 980
South African Wool Board ...	1 260 461
Dairy Control Board .....	2 352 421
Mohair Board .....	166 551
Tobacco Board .....	168 388

26/2/81

3rd day

- (1) Whether there was a shortage of fresh milk in January 1981 in any of the control areas falling under the Dairy Board; if so, what was the extent of the shortage in each of the areas concerned;
- (2) whether a surplus of fresh milk was produced in any of the control areas during this time; if so, (a) what was the extent of the surplus in each of the areas concerned, (b) what price did the Dairy Board pay for the surplus milk and (c) at what price was it made available to the trade?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

**Fresh milk: shortage/surplus**  
 243. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:\*

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes:

(a) 285-

26/2/81

Area	Quantity litres	Daily average	Percentage of consumption
Witwatersrand	1 354 700	43 710	6,2
Pretoria	821 400	26 496	14,5
Western Transvaal	339 300	10 945	25,3
Bloemfontein	327 918	10 578	25,4
Cape Peninsula	1 914 839	61 769	22,8
Natal	773 233	24 943	6,0
Northern Natal	231 291	7 461	22,9

(b) The quota system was applied during January 1981 in the following controlled areas and prices were as indicated below:

Area	Average quota price (cent per litre)	Average price for surplus up to 10% above quota (cent per litre)	Average price for further supplies (cent per litre)
Pretoria	25,862	18,845	15,680
Western Transvaal	24,999	17,421	16,378
Bloemfontein	23,812	16,092	16,026
Northern Natal	24,544	17,586 8	17,226 6

The quota system was not applied in the following controlled areas and prices were as indicated below:



## Agricultural products: surpluses

246. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether any surpluses of agricultural products exist or are expected in 1981; if so, of which products;
- (2) what in each case are (a) the reasons for such surpluses and (b) the price implications;
- (3) what steps have been taken or are contemplated in each case to (a) counter the effect of and (b) avoid such surpluses in future?

## The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (1) Yes: Canning fruit, maize, grainsorghum, tobacco and cotton lint.
- (2) (a) Favourable production conditions.
- (b) Depends primarily on prices realized on foreign markets for the exportable surpluses.
- (3) (a) and (b)

## Canning fruit

A limit of 130 000 ton on the supply of canning fruit. Unseasonable rain and flood damage altered the position so that the limitation will probably not be instituted. Surplus fruit can be used for other purposes like drying, juices and purée.

## Maize and grainsorghum

Due to the strategic value and currency earnings no special steps are taken.

## Tobacco

A production quota system is being applied by the co-operatives concerned and production of a higher quality grade in preference to quantity is encouraged.

## Cotton lint

Buying of surplus stocks is undertaken by the Cotton Board. A promotion programme is envisaged to promote the demand for cotton lint as well as to enhance export.

3

**Agricultural products: shortages**

247. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- Handwritten: 5 Qc 289*
- (1) Whether any shortages of agricultural products exist or are expected in 1981; if so, of which products;
  - (2) what in each case are (a) the reasons for such shortages and (b) the price implications;
  - (3) what steps have been taken or are contemplated in each case to (a) counter the effect of and (b) avoid such shortages in future?

**The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:**

- (1) Yes: Beef, Eggs, Lucerne seed, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye and Rooibos Tea.
- (2) (a) Beef  
Increased consumption, heavy slaughterings during the previous drought conditions, and slaughtering of breeding stock due to low profit margins, which reduced livestock numbers.

**Eggs**

Due to the increase in beef prices the consumption of eggs as an alternative source of protein rose sharply. A decrease in egg production was experienced due to early culling of laying hens.

Lucerne seed, wheat, barley, oats and rye

Drought conditions.

**Rooibos Tea**

Unfavourable climatic conditions and an increase in consumption.

**(b) Beef**

Price implications will depend on the economic conditions and buying power of consumers. The effect of the short supply situation has already been reflected in the price increases experienced during the past six months.

**Eggs**

The increased demand and lower production resulted in an increase in the price of eggs during the second half of 1980.

**Lucerne Seed**

Producers prices were increased during 1980-'81 by approximately 20% to compensate producers for increased production costs and to encourage production.

**Wheat, Barley, Oats and Rye**

None at this stage.

**Rooibos Tea**

Prices were increased by 18,75% during the current season to compensate producers for increased production costs and to encourage production.

**(3) (a) and (b)**

**Beef**

A committee of inquiry under the chairmanship of Dr. A. S. Jacobs, Vice-president of the South African Reserve Bank has been appointed to investigate the supply situation of red meat in the long term and to make recommendations.

**Eggs**

The Board at present imports a quantity of eggs to provide in the domestic demand in the short term. Imported supplies will be available

291.

THURSDAY, 26

during March 1981. No arrangements have been made for further imports at this stage. Additional production permits are being issued in terms of the Egg Production Control Act to provide for the anticipated growth in demand during 1981-'82.

**Lucerne Seed**

The Board is at present taking steps to import 500 tons lucerne seed from abroad.

**Wheat, Barley, Oats and Rye**

As weather conditions in the production areas are variable it is inevitable that temporary shortages will occur during some years. During 1981 220 000 tons of wheat will be imported to supplement the local stocks and Brewers and Millers are allowed to import barley and rye in the cases where the Board is not able to supply stocks. Due to the minor extent of the estimated shortage of oats no arrangements are at present made for imports.

**Rooibos Tea**

The Board has already extended the existing storage facilities and envisaged further expansion to store one year's supply. Special extension work is done with a view to improving the maintenance of plantations and more intensive cultivation of Rooibos Tea.

Agricultural products: price increases  
11 ans GC 29 (3) (24)  
248. Mr. H. E. J. VAN RENSBURG  
asked the Minister of Agriculture and  
Fisheries:

- 26/2/81
- (1) Whether any applications for price increases of any agricultural products in 1981 have been received by his Department; if so, from what organizations;
  - (2) what in each case (a) was the increase requested, (b) were the reasons given for the application and (c) was the response of his Department;

FEBRUARY 1981

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- (3) whether any increases have been or are to be granted; if so, what is the increase in each case;
- (4) whether any representations were made against such price increases; if so, (a) by which organizations and (b) what in each case (i) were the reasons for the representations and (ii) was the response of his Department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FISHERIES:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (4) fall away.

*Hans 201* Agricultural colleges  
263. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries: *3*

- (1) Whether any (a) Black, (b) Coloured, (c) Asian and (d) Chinese students are enrolled at agricultural colleges in South Africa at present; if so, how many in each category;
- (2) whether the conditions of enrolment at such colleges are the same for students of all races; if not, in what respects do they differ in respect of the various race groups?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FISHERIES:

- (1) Yes.  
(a) None.

# R66m aid for flood-hit farmers

CT 28/2/81 ~~3~~ general

Staff Reporter

**THE GOVERNMENT** is putting aside R66 million for farmers in the Karoo and Boland who suffered loss in last month's floods, it was announced in Cape Town yesterday.

In addition, R15,6m will be spent on reconstructing property.

The subsidies and, in some cases, *ex gratia* payments for farmers to restore their lands and crops, is the largest amount ever made available in South Africa after a disaster. The decision was taken at cabinet level yesterday.

At a press conference the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr P T C du Plessis, announced that farmers' losses in the area totalled about R66m.

About 4 000 ha of irrigation land on which vineyards, orchards and other crops had been established were washed away. A further 6 800 ha of similar irrigation land — which can be repaired at high cost — were damaged.

While other departments will provide aid for farmers for homes and irrigation appliances, the Department of Agriculture will give R43,2m to farmers in loans, subsidies and *ex gratia* payments.

About 1 000 farms in the Boland and Klein Karoo are affected, and some of the land washed away is irreplaceable. The minister said it was some of the best farming land in South Africa.

The government will supply loans:

• For repair costs of irrigation land on which vineyards and orchards had been estab-



The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr P T C du Plessis.

In Laingsburg a few houses occupied by coloured people were damaged slightly. The repair cost is R6 000.

Aid for damage on farms outside those areas would be given by Agriculture and Fisheries.

The government continued to provide temporary accommodation and rations for the destitute, Mr Heunis said.

At Saurbrak the water-re-  
huculation scheme, watering  
places for livestock and streets  
would be repaired at a cost of  
R17 000. In Robertson  
schoolbooks and handwork ma-  
terials would be replaced at a  
cost of R1 000.

From page  
28/2/81  
Sapa reported last night.  
The 71 houses which col-  
lapsed at Zoar would be  
rebuilt and the dam, damaged  
soil, weirs and roads repaired  
for R700 000. The water  
scheme, irrigation channel,  
bridge and river bank at  
Genadendal would be repaired  
at a cost of R6 000.

continue

The government will supply loans:

- For repair costs of irrigation land on which vineyards and orchards had been established to a maximum of R1 500 a hectare.

- For re-establishing vineyards and orchards under irrigation on the repaired lands to a maximum of R6 000/ha.

- To a maximum of R1 500/ha for the repair of damaged irrigation lands on which no vineyards or orchards had been established.

- To a maximum of R250/ha for the re-establishment of crops other than vineyards and orchards under irrigation on the repaired lands.

- For the repair of drinking troughs, erosion-combating works and fences. Loans will be provided only if the items were erected in accordance with the planning of the farm by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, or if the farmers re-erect them in such a way.

### 80pc subsidy

Farmers will have to pay back only 20 percent of the loans. The rest will be converted to a government subsidy. The rate of interest of all loans is five percent a year.

Farmers whose lands have been washed away completely or damaged irreparably will receive *ex gratia* payments totalling R16.3m. Payment will depend on damage and type of crops grown.

Applications for irrigation assistance must go to the Department of Water Affairs, Forestry and Environmental Conservation.

Losses by farmers of supplies, livestock, farm buildings and personal possessions will be handled by the statutory Disaster Fund Committee.

- The Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr J C. Heunis, announced aid to coloured communities which suffered



To page 2



# Du Plessis

Argus 2/3/81

## firm on

~~30~~  
30 pages

# profiteering

### Political Staff

THE Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr P T C du Plessis, said today he stood by his criticism that supermarkets were profiteering — in spite of angry reaction from supermarket bosses.

Speaking from his farm near Lydenburg, he said he was prepared to have talks with supermarket representatives to discuss the issue of food and vegetable prices.

'The supermarkets are reacting angrily because they have been exposed,' Mr du Plessis said.

He was replying to comments from the chairman of Pick 'n Pay Mr Raymond Ackerman and others who rejected his criticism as 'unfair' and 'unwarranted.'

#### FAIR

Mr du Plessis said he was satisfied that a recent survey of vegetable prices made by his department at supermarkets and greengrocers' shops had been conducted fairly and that all essential factors had been taken into account.

The survey, made in Pretoria, had shown that, in six cases out of ten, the supermarkets charged more for vegetables than greengrocers.

Asked whether he was considering any action against supermarkets, Mr du Plessis said no action was envisaged at present, but he would again have prices investigated 'to put the matter into perspective.'

Mr du Plessis said the point he wanted to make in his criticism was that supermarkets were not keeping prices down in an area free of price control.

#### ATTACKS

Supermarket spokesmen had for a long time attacked control as being the cause of high prices, and yet their own prices for vegetables were often higher than those charged by greengrocers.

As a result of the attacks by supermarket spokesmen, farmers were blamed for high food prices because they served on control boards.

Mr du Plessis said it was necessary to put this matter into perspective after the 'orchestrated attack' by supermarkets on the control board system.



# STAATSKOERANT

VAN DIE REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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Vol. 189]

KAAPSTAD, 4 MAART 1981

CAPE TOWN, 4 MARCH 1981

*See full text  
see GG*

[No. 7447

KANTOOR VAN DIE EERSTE MINISTER

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

No. 421.

4 Maart 1981.

No. 421.

4 March 1981.

Hierby word bekend gemaak dat die Staatspresident sy goedkeuring gegee het aan die onderstaande Wet wat hierby ter algemene inligting gepubliseer word:—

It is hereby notified that the State President has assented to the following Act which is hereby published for general information:—

No. 18 van 1981: Wysigingswet op die Onderverdeling van Landbougrond, 1981.

No. 18 of 1981: Subdivision of Agricultural Land Amendment Act, 1981.

3



TABLE 6

SCALE OF BENEFITS

No. of stamps issued to or Weekly contributions of member.		Benefits to the Extent of	
a)	b)	S.	M.1
16	20	R90	R140
		R108	
			M.2
			R200
			R230
			R260
			R290
			R320
			R350
			R380
			R410
			R440
			R470
			R500
			R530
			R560
			R590
			R620
			R650
			R680
			R710

of pelt production into meat sales. Since the beginning of the month, the SWA meat board has sanctioned a 100% increase (to 3 000 head a week) in the small livestock slaughter quota for the SA market to take advantage of high red meat prices.

Latest developments on international markets have exploded the myth that the Persian lamb pelt industry was not price sensitive. West German buyers have been staying away from recent auctions because of high interest rates; a current trend switch from tight curl pelt to long haired fur; adverse exchange rates; and the fact that there is a time lag of 10-12 months from the time of buying a pelt on auction to the time of manufacture and sale of a garment.

Recovery of the fortunes of 5 000 pelt growers in SWA and SA are linked to an upturn in the West German economy. According to the best informed advice reaching the karakul secretariat in Windhoek, this may not occur until the third quarter of 1981.

**KARAKUL** <sup>(3)</sup>  
**Curly problems**

The West German recession and a year-on-year decline to the end of February of 31% of the deutschmark against the rand has dealt SA and SWA karakul farmers a severe blow.

From a peak of R85.7m in 1976, foreign earnings from karakul pelts slumped to R67.8m of which the SA share was R28m. Average price obtained at February 1980 auctions was R17.72 a pelt. This month the average fell to R9.22 - against average production costs of R14 per pelt.

West German fur traders have for the past 20 years accounted for 60-75% of SWA karakul pelt disposals with the USSR and Afghanistan making up the balance. The average number of offerings on the German market fluctuated between 3.4m and 3.5m pelts between 1976 and 1978; before slumping to 3.2m in 1979 when Afghanistan sales began to rise, following the halt of Persian lamb meat sales to Iran as a result of the revolution. Combined Russian and Afghan sales have begun to surge strongly because of the current preference for pelts with a "strong curl."

Karakul board officials fear that a combination of falling foreign earnings and the severe drought in the main producing areas, will tempt farmers to diversify out

being presented to Hospital authorities.  
 11) 100% of Nursing home charges at rate of R5,00 per day and 60 days in one year.

e) Theatre Fees: 100% of with a maximum of R25,00 per operation

f) Maternity expenses: (1) R100 in respect of normal confinement after at least 40 weeks of contributing to the fund.  
 11) Caesarian section: additional expenses up to maximum of R30,00.

g) Prescribed medicines: - 75% of cost of medicines and drugs. annual limit of R80,00.

h) 100% of cost of physiotherapy prescribed by doctor. 75% of cost of other auxiliary services.

i) Dental services: 75% of fees in respect of extractions and supply of dentures. Maximum limit of R80,00 per family, per annum.

j) Chiropractors: Maximum of 10 visits.  
Optical fees: A refraction fee of R3,50 plus 80% of cost of lenses and R5,00 of cost of frames. Dependents are limited to a refraction fee of R3,50

Maximum annual limit of R30,00 per family per year.

k) Surgical appliances: In orthopaedic cases, the cost of surgical appliances with a maximum of R7,50 per appliance.

Administration costs.  
 About 10% of contributions go to the administration of the fund. The true cost of administration is about 12%. The difference is made up by income from the council's general funds.

All these three funds have contributions of a rand or over and fairly extensive benefits. This is particularly marked when compared to the medical benefit funds. One of the three funds provides for sick pay benefits under its medical aid scheme. This is more common in medical benefit schemes. All three funds are for skilled workers only. Two of the three funds make provision for the employer to obtain voluntary member ship on making the appropriate contribution. This would seem to put the employers at a considerable advantage, considering the difference in wage rates between employers and workers, albeit skilled workers.

Medical Benefit Schemes.

Eight of the 29 benefit schemes were already established before 1945. The first industrial council medical aid fund was established in 1953.

Medical benefit schemes cover the majority of workers in industries where industrial councils medical assistance schemes have been established.

(1) 100% of Provincial Hospital charges, not exceeding R7,00 per day and 60 days in any one year, subject to the members' latest Tax Assessment.

YEARS AGO, when Mr A H du Preez of the Provincial Administration began building a bridge across the Buffels River valley, far south of Laingsburg, a 90-year-old resident of the area visited the site and said:

'My boy, why are you building the bridge there? The river does not run there — it runs over there, and it will come back to its bed.'

On January 25 this year, the river did exactly that. The old man died some years ago, but his memory had served him well.

On January 25, both the Buffels and the Touws to the south took back what belonged to them . . .

ON windy days, the flood-torn valley of the Touws River becomes a 'yellow night.' The newspapers pushed into the windows and doors of Mrs Naomi la Grange's house flutter helplessly, and the fine, powdery dust seeps through.

From the air, it can be seen that the plains of the Karoo are ruptured by yellow scars. Palls of dust hang over the hard landscape. When the south-easterly winds rise, the 'strange, dead earth' covering the once-fertile valleys is blown back where it came from — back to the mountain ranges.

Mr Corrie la Grange's farm is called Cornae — a combination of his name and his wife's name. On the papers proving his legal ownership it is called Plathuis after the small siding of the Makadas railroad down the valley of the Touw.

### SUDDENLY

The road from Barrydale to Ladismith curves from a hill and the confrontation with the kilometre-wide scar across the veld comes suddenly.

The placid Touws — normally only running after thunderstorms — has torn dongas from the earth and below the bridge nothing remains but black, ragged volcanic rock.

The broad valley upstream from the bridge was once covered by the finest lucerne in the country, and farmers built low irrigation walls across the Touw with sluice gates to lead water down the 2 km-long beds of this product.

Water they did not need ran over the wall to the next farm.

It rained on January 24 — 125 mm of soft, penetrating rain — and Mr Andries van der Vyver like other farmers, felt a good year was in the offing.

# How green was their valley

3 general Angus 9/3/8

● Report: Johann Potgieter  
● Pictures: Doug Pithey

'You know what farmers are like — the falls in the hills were white with water, and I went down with my workers to adjust the sluices,' he said.

The next afternoon — January 25 — the Touws broke its banks, and at 8 pm Mr van der Vyver pulled the curtains of his spacious house. He did not want to look out into the deepening dusk any more.

'My wife and I sat in front of the TV until about 10 pm, and then went to bed,' he said.

Electricity on 58-year-old Mr van der Vyver's farm is generated by a thumping diesel engine, and in the silence after the last lights were switched off his wife asked: 'What's that noise?'

### IN THE TREES

'I told her it was probably the wind in the trees, but just after midnight I woke up and it was if the house was trembling.'

Outside, the raging flood had arrived.

'Well — it took away everything. Irrigation walls, canals, lucerne, thorn trees, fruit trees, and the earth itself.

'All that's left here are rocks and this strange, dead earth.'

About 1 km upstream from Mr van der Vyver's house, the Prins River joins the Touws through a narrow gorge, and just beyond the confluence stood a grove of 200 fig trees. They have vanished.

Mr Albertus Theart of Ladismith Divisional Council and a team of workers are still trying to dig and blast their way through the poort — reputedly one of C J Langenhoven's favourite haunts.

### IMPASSABLE

The road is still impassable, and 30 heavy telegraph poles had to be carried through the poort to restore the telephone lines.

Further up the Touw, Mr Willie de Bod's Sewefontein farm is still inaccessible. 'He had 88 ha of lucerne up there . . . I think he has about 10 left,' Mr Theart said.


Downstream, Mr Theart has heard, 300 Angora goats were washed away, 138 ostriches, valuable milk cows, and countless sheep.

In the searing heat, a Divisional Council truck blows its dust filter, and stands smoking in the valley.

Cornae is just below Mr van der Vyver's farm, and the devastation there is total.

'We farm straight out the river here, and for all I know my irrigation wall is still under the sand here somewhere,' 59-year-old Mr le Grange said.

The river itself is now 100 m away from its old bed, marked by two rows of broken driftwood. Nothing remains of the fertile lands that yielded, in a good year, 200 bags of lucerne seed.



ONCE there were no rocks in the Buffels River valley at Voorbaatsvlakte. Mr Faan de Wit, on the right, is walking over rocks two metres below the level of the vineyard that once grew at this spot.



FARM HAND Mr Jacobus Afrikaner, 21, who works for Mr Corrie le Grange in the Touns River valley, tosses up the powdery dust — 'a strange, dead earth' — all that remains of the vast lucerne fields in the valley.

SAMTEL 70  
 TELEX 345  
 WORLD 165  
 448  
 AUTOMAT  
 CAPA 10

8.6  
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bates in February and  
 March suggest that the car  
 makers would rather cut

CAPE TOWN 22-2907



MR CORRIE LE GRANGE in the valley of the Touws River. For 100 m on either side of him there had been irrigated lucerne lands. Now there is nothing but dust and 'a strange, dead earth'.

In its place is a desert, and the raging dust storms that are whipped up daily by south-easterly winds.

Millions of years ago volcanic action forced a gap between two tectonic plates here, and through the centuries the floods filled the valley with deep, rich silt.

**SCAR**

'It was the best farming land you could hope for,' said 30-year-old Mr Faan de Wit.

Mr de Wit works at Oranjemund, but when he heard of the disaster he took leave to come and help his family.

What greeted him was not the cool valley with its rows of peach trees

and vineyards, but a new, barren scar through the valley.

From the bend in the river the intensively cultivated land stretched for 2 km down to the Ladismith-Laingsburg road, and the narrow stream ran more than 200 metres from the edge of a peach orchard.

The entire valley floor, to a depth of two metres, has been washed away, and there is nothing but rocks and river stones.

'There used to be no stones here — we regularly tested deep down. They were brought here by the river,' Mr de Wit said.

There were, he said, 16 irrigation dams between the poort and

Agrynskraal — three remain, all three on islands in the river bed where they are useless for irrigation.

'One can only hope the river will in a generation or two leave some earth again so you can begin again.'

**DAZED**

Mr and Mrs Gert Olivier divide their time between two farms — a rented property in the gorges 30 km south of Laingsburg, and their own farm at the confluence of the Buffels and the Touw.

'My wife is desperate and we don't know what to do. She sweeps all the time and everything is shut, and still everything

you touch inside is coarse with dust. Some days we can't see the milk shed just outside the house.

'It's like a yellow night,' Mr le Grange said.

South of the Klein Swartberge, the Buffels River runs a few kilometres north of the Touw.

The Buffels devastated Laingsburg late on the afternoon of January 25, and then churned its way through the volcanic crags of the mountains. Just after 10 pm that night it poured into the narrow poort on Mr J A 'Coke' Baard's farm.

From the workers' house, Miss Dina Syfers, 21, ran into the hills

when they heard the terrible roar, and watched the water sweep away the vineyards, citrus and peach orchards and — as she then feared — her employers.

**ROCKS**

Miss Syfers — very articulate in her crisp Klein Karoo accent — grew up with the Baards, and had it not been for a disused reservoir just outside the poort, the large house might well have been swept away.

'They bought the farm four years ago, and so much is just gone, now. All the orchards, and down there was a row of large trees. There were no rocks here — now all the soil is gone and I don't know where all the rocks came from,' she said.

The mountain gorges had accelerated the flow of the Buffels, and the raging torrent of water, trees, and rolling rocks carved away millions of tons of topsoil as it thundered down the Voorbaatsvlakte west of Ladismith.

The water arrived at their southern farm at 1.30 am on January 26. 'When you went to bed

you had a farm; when the sun rose there was nothing but a wasteland of rocks and sand,' Mrs Olivier said in the Laingsburg gorges.

Now, a month later, one still walks around in a daze. 'You see this waste around you, but you also don't see it,' she said.

'God,' said her husband, 'took with a big hand. He will provide again. How many times have we not been destroyed by droughts — and we always survive.'

**DIEHARDS**

In the Touws River valley they recall the 1936 flood. 'We called it bad, but it was nothing compared to this,' said Mr le Grange.

'But, man, we're a lot of old diehards here. We can't live without the veld, and one way or another we make a living.'

'You have to be born here to make it on this land, and we'll manage.'

Outside, on what used to be a green, fertile plain, the 'yellow night' rose.

The 1981 flood continues as the suffocating dust pours in.



MR KAREL SWART, 44, has worked on a farm in the Voorbaatsvlakte for 28 years. This bank is all that remains of a 2 km long and 200 m wide stretch of river land.



FARMERS had hoped that 1981 was going to be a good harvest year at Goree near Robertson. Behind Mr Andries du Toit, 23, there had been a raisin blanc vineyard, and it was expected this would yield 200 tons of grapes this year. After the flood six tons of inferior grapes were salvaged from the devastated vineyard.

The table below lists the distribution according to the value of the weekly difference between the value of the meat and the price demanded from the worker.

TABLE 10

Distribution of workers according to value  
(R per week)

<u>Value of subsidy, weekly, R</u>	<u>Number of workers</u>
0 - 1,00	10
1,01 - 2,00	27
2,01 - 3,00	23
3,01 - 4,00	29
4,01 - 5,00	12
5,01 - 6,00	12
6,01 - 7,00	12
> 7,00	1
total	126

Mean: R3,24

Range: 0 to R8,95

Four workers paid more for their meat to the farmer, paying the farmer a profit. The quantity of meat provided ranged from 1 to 126 kg per week.

On most farms the farmer would slaughter and hand out fixed quantities to the workers had no access to cold storage, they had either to eat most of the meat at once if they wanted it fresh, or dry and salt it to eat during the week.

**EAST LONDON** — Further calls for a co-prosperity zone in the Border region are expected to be made to the Van der Walt Commission when it sits here today.

The commission will be hearing evidence in the Langenhoven Hall at the central library from 9 am.

At its two earlier sessions in King William's Town and Queenstown, the commission heard wide-ranging evidence opposing its incorporation plans and supporting the co-prosperity development plan.

Today much the same message is expected to be relayed to the commission from the East London City Council, the East London Development Committee, the Mayor, Mr Donald Card, and the Berlin Advisory Council.

Other evidence is ex-

pected to be given by the Beacon Bay Municipality, the Council for National Defence, the Berlin Farmers' Association and the Berlin Action Committee. A short memorandum from the Border Turf Club on the proposed racecourse at Berlin is also expected to be sub-

mitted.

Mr Card said yesterday he would be giving evidence on behalf of the city council and the development committee.

He will also be giving evidence on his own behalf, which, he said, would be hard-hitting and

direct.

The co-prosperity development plan was devised in part by the city council, the chamber of commerce and the Border Chamber of Industries, and spokesmen said their evidence would support the plan further and reject the incorporation of Berlin into Ciskei.

The commissioners arrived in the city yesterday and spent the day on a tour of East London and Berlin to acquaint themselves with the region. — DDR.

DD. 10/3/81 3-General ~~105~~

# Card to put case for co-prosperity zone



# Food chief slams price leaps

Argus 11/3/81

~~214~~ ~~135~~  
General

**FOOD STORE** boss Raymond Ackerman says shoppers are too 'punch drunk' to resist unnecessary increases by some unscrupulous food manufacturers and producers. He says the spiral can be stopped.

**Consumer Reporter Audrey d'Angelo**

SOARING food prices are 'critical — not just serious,' Mr. Raymond Ackerman, head of the Pick 'n Pay group said today. He said he was 'stunned' by the rate of increases facing his company daily.

Mr Ackerman claimed some manufacturers and producers were putting up prices unnecessarily because they thought the housewife was too 'punch-drunk' to resist.

He said it was vital there should be no more big increases in farm products such as maize, which would have a ripple effect on other prices.

And he believed the inflationary spiral could be stopped if the control boards, producers, manufacturers and retailers all worked together.

## Meeting

He had great hopes of this after a meeting that Finance Minister Owen Horwood called on March 26.

'We have already had a meeting of businessmen,' he said, 'but this time the control boards will be represented.'

'The boards are critically involved in the inflationary spiral.'

he said, 'but this time the control boards will be represented.'

The boards are critically involved in the inflationary spiral.

'I believe we can curb this food price inflation if we all work together, starting at producer level.'

Mr Ackerman said he was particularly concerned that the maize price should not rise steeply, because this would affect chicken and egg prices as well as mealie meal.

## Ludicrous

'There is talk that the maize price might rise by between 18 percent and 20 percent,' he said. 'This would be ludicrous in view of the fact that we have a bumper crop.'

Mr Ackerman was commenting on the results of a comparison made by The Argus between prices charged in his stores and those of another chain today, and prices charged for the same goods five years ago.

This showed that the cost of most basic foods had doubled and in some cases almost trebled since March 1976.

The price of coffee had quadrupled.

Sample increases were boerewors, which cost 65¢ for 500 g in 1976 and R1.58 today, eggs which were 19¢ for six in 1976 and 39¢ today and tea bags

(Continued on Page 3, col 4)

Argus  
(Continued from Page 1)

which cost 78c for 100 in 1976 and R1.49 today.

This is as stunning to me as it is to you,' said Mr Ackerman. Food prices went up 30 per cent last year alone, which is double the rate of inflation.

Mrs Peggy Borckenhagen, former chairman and now public relations officer of the Cape branch of the Housewives' League, said she believed apathy on the part of the consumer was enabling manufacturers to get away with unnecessary increases.

If a housewife is faced with a big increase she should complain and ask why, and whether the increase is necessary,' she said.

Housewives should shop around and buy an alternative product if it is cheaper. This will discourage manufacturers from putting up prices automatically at certain times a year whether it is necessary or not.

I have sometimes approached housewives

11/3/81  
**Food price increases 'critical'**

whom I have seen selecting goods without bothering to compare prices and they say things like, "Well, I have to have it," or "It's only 3c difference."

But 3c on everything mounts up and there are some people who simply cannot afford to pay it.

The new chairman of the Cape branch of the league, Mrs Gladys Whelan, said: These dramatic price increases on everyday items are shattering and we are really worried about them.

Prices used to go up by about 5 percent every five or six months. Now they are going up by 15 percent or 20 percent every four months.



NM 12/3/81

3 General

# Manure

# myths



MR R LUDORF, of the Soil Science Section, Cedara.

today.

This is not the case with artificial fertiliser, which is much more concentrated and which, unlike manure, has a definite, known composition.

Manure has other disadvantages, says Mr Ludorf.

'Because of the sophistication of animal feeds and the possible addition of trace elements such as zinc, copper and boron, toxicity problems can be created when manure from these animals is added to the soil. This is because excessive amounts of these elements find their way from the soil into plants and into the diet of human beings.'

Salt added to animal feed is also passed out in manure and can cause serious soil problems. At the same time there is the possibility of manure spreading harmful organisms and endangering plants, animals, and human beings.

So it seems that manure is not the benign miracle worker so beloved of the organic enthusiasts. And neither is it a practical proposition to move it around the countryside over long distances as it used to be in the past.

an alternative is not feasible. Artificial fertiliser and manure are not comparable. In fact, he says, they perform different functions and are not competitive but complementary.

The role of manure is mainly to improve the general quality of the soil, in aspects like aeration and retentive power for water and nutrients. It promotes bacterial activity and increases humus production.

But the biggest present-day problem about using manure is the cost of handling and transporting it. Mr Ludorf makes some complex calculations about this and comes up with the conclusion that moving manure more than 6 km from its source becomes uneconomical with fuel prices the way they are

ONE of the fundamental beliefs of the organic farming people is that all manure should go back on the land.

Because manure has been used for so long as a crop fertiliser many myths about it still exist today, says Mr R Ludorf, of the Soil Science Section at Cedara.

But an article he has written for *Arena*, the newsletter of the Natal region of the Department of Agriculture, does much to dissipate the mystique of manure.

Many people feel that organic fertilising materials are far superior to artificial or inorganic fertilisers. They often indicate that organic-grown vegetables are healthier and disease free, and they often call artificial fertilisers "devil's dust" and maintain that they are poisonous to plants and man. These extravagant statements are, however, never substantiated, he says.

He goes on to point out that holding up manure as

and sub-totals do not add up to total to rounding off during conversion from

n Report), R.P. 38/1976, p. 138

the Commission of Enquiry into Matters the Coloured Population Group (Theron

Kind	(R per week)	Total
	9,35	13,96
	4,56	11,40
<b>Total</b>		

arm workers in two areas, cash, kind and ary, 1975 (R per week)

TABLE 20

Payment by area, broken down into cash and kind:

# SA losing too much top soil

Argus 12/3/81  
3 general

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A former director of Agricultural Technical Services has called for emergency measures to save South Africa's second largest industry—agriculture. He has disclosed that 10 percent of the world's current soil losses are happening in South Africa.

Soil loss in South Africa, says Mr. Emil Adler, now technical adviser to the National Veldtrust in Pretoria amounts to somewhere between 233 and 363-million tons a year.

In parts the erosion rate is falling only because there is now less soil to wash away.

Mr. Adler estimates it will cost R213-million to construct anti-erosion works (most contour banks) on farms outside the homelands.

Mr. Adler's State Of The Soil report has been published in the Veldtrust's official journal Ekos.

He says the soil losses do not take into account wind eroded soils and soils which are carried into dunes.

Mr. Adler says: "In 1948 it was estimated that R200-million would have to be contributed as State aid by 1973, if soil erosion were to be checked. Yet by 1980 only R100-million had been spent."

# Farms net income

By Elizabeth Rouse

SOUTH Africa's farmers enjoyed a bumper 1980 after a lean 1979, when climatic conditions were bad.

Net farm income jumped by 50% to R2 342-million, while gross farm income was up 27% at a peak of R5 709-million.

This record rise in income is mainly attributable to greater volume of production because of favourable weather and the added spur of higher prices obtainable in a buoyant market-place — the combined producer price index rose by 17%.

According to figures compiled by Agricultural Marketing Research of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the excellent maize harvest resulted in a 39% increase in gross income from field crops to R2 560-million, income from horticulture rose by 20% to R948-million and that from livestock increased by 19% to R2 202-million.

3 general S. Times  
up by 50%  
15/3/81

## BUMPER 1980 AFTER WEATHER-RAVAGED 1979

Although slaughtering of commercial cattle and sheep decreased, gross income from cattle rose by 32% to R642-million and that from sheep by 18% to R193-million.

The cattle-income jump reflects the 33% rise in the meat consumer price index last year — and meat production is one of the agricultural areas where widespread criticism of unduly high selling prices applies.

Gross income from wool amounted to R210-million, an increase of 14%, and income from poultry and eggs came to R443-million — up 18% on 1979.

To produce more, the farm-

ing industry spent more and in some instances costs of farm supplies soared. According to estimated figures compiled by the research division, expenditure on intermediate goods and services increased by 19,3% to R2 164-million from R1 814-million in 1979.

Investment in capital goods increased by a hefty R262-million, or over 44% to R853-million, spiking the perennial complaint that farming is a dying industry.

Fuel purchases rose by 17% to R384-million from R328-million in 1979, and the amount spent on fertilisers increased

by 26% to R477-million from R308-million and stockfeed purchases by 22% to R487-million from R399-million.

The price index of all farming requisites showed a rise of 18% in 1980, the base year taken being April 1970 equalling 100.

Increases in prices of tractors and farm implements were comparatively mild at 8% and 9% respectively. But costs of other requisites were up sharply — fertilisers by 23%, fuel by 28%, stockfeed and packaging materials, both up 20%.

Again taking 1970 as a base year, producer prices of all ag-

ricultural products went up by 17% last year, those of feed-crops rose by 18%, of horticulture by 8%, of livestock products by 19% and of slaughter stock by 27%.

These producer price index increases must be seen against the rises in the consumer price index, where all items were up 14%, food by 19%, meat 33%, vegetables 17%, fruit 7% and sugar and allied products by 12%.

Projections by Agricultural Marketing Research indicate that the 1980-1981 wheat crop will be down by 30%, and that South Africa will have to import about 220 000 tons of wheat.

## Who said farmers aren't rich

By Vera Beljakova

THE price of food has leapt by more than 20% in the past 12 months.

Since a large part of this increase goes to the farmers, BT decided to investigate how rich the landed barons are compared to city mortals.

Some 40% of South Africa's higher-income groups live in rural areas, towns and villages — almost as many as live in Johannesburg and Pretoria combined.

Here is a breakdown (from AMPS 80) of white households earning R1 600-plus a month:

Rural areas	26%
Johannesburg	22%
Pretoria	19%
Reef/Vaal	12%
Bloemfontein	10%
Durban	7%
Cape Town	6%
Port Elizabeth	5%
Towns	8%
Villages	6%

##### 5 Non-Economic Factors Concerning the Dairies and the Communal Gardens

While the communal gardens obviously can alleviate some hardships people suffer, it does not seem that either the garden or the dairy projects would ever be able to change the basic conditions of how a family lives.

It seems that neither of these two types of project can function efficiently in the present environment and that very seldom do they benefit the very poorest

Small, high-intensive farmers were being driven further and further from the PWV area and the lowveld was now becoming the main supplier of produce formally supplied by smallholders and market gardeners within the urban-demarcated area.

With increased transport costs, storage and refrigeration, the consumer increasingly had to pay the price for land development.

Urban sprawl would not only push up the price of food, he said, but of transport and essential services as well.

And Mr Johan Willemse, of the South African Agricultural Union, said in an interview last week that the decrease in agricultural land as a result of urban development was a serious problem.

principles as reason why they had initially joined the development of the nation; the principle of self-help; and the principle of group work.

##### 5.1 Participants' Views about the Dairies

John Nkalitshane at Amathole said that his family had put a daughter through nursing training and Freddy Mhlauli had put a son through agricultural college with money from the dairy. He said that the daughter and son are now "working for the people" and that "this is progress". He wants 800 people to join the dairy. (Either the education of these people was financed by other sources or the income from the dairy was much better long ago : other evidence suggests this.)

Five of the eleven people at Amathole are no longer using the dairy but they still consider themselves members and have plans for its improvement, etc.

At Inkomo, too, I found the degree of support and involvement in the dairy rather surprising. People who are neither keeping their cattle in the dairy camp, nor milking at the dairy, nor selling through the dairy, regularly go to meetings and participate in discussions about fencing, capital improvements, etc. Seven of the ten people I asked said they were quite prepared to put more money towards capital improvements to the dairy.

## Land grabs reducing vital food production

By David Bristow

Urban sprawl in the PWV area is gobbling up vital agricultural land and is helping to push up food prices.

This is the opinion of planning and agricultural experts following the proposed municipal merger of Halfway House and Olifantsfontein — the last piece in the urban jig-saw puzzle between Johannesburg and Pretoria.

A senior town planner at a local municipality, who did not want to be identified, said it was crucial to stop any further sprawl into agricultural land, not only to save local food production but to save us from the chaos of an uncontrollable megalopolis like some of the world's bigger cities such as New York.

Two of the people who joined in the beginning and even paid joining fees and a subscription had and have no cows. I asked one of them why he had joined. He said that he believes one should support such projects and he hopes one day to get enough money to buy a cow.

I was utterly amazed to find that one of the three people who is most active in the dairy (he goes there nearly every day, makes long speeches at meetings and has many plans and ideas about the future) has no cows at the moment. (He did have three). He is very poor and I cannot see how he will be able to get more.

83 S.M.  
18/3/81

# Food 1971 12/3/81 CRISIS group 3 set for action

By VITA PALESTRANT  
Consumer Mail Editor

A TOP-LEVEL committee, formed earlier this month to seek means of curbing high food prices and consisting of leading business executives and consumers, will meet tomorrow to decide on its frame of reference.

The committee, elected at Consumer Mail's national conference on the food price crisis, will be convened by the Editor of the Rand Daily Mail, Allister Sparks.

A chairman will be elected to head the committee.

The conference, described as "historic" and attended by leading members of the food industry, economists and consumers from all over the country, dealt with major issues in the food sector.

This included: monopolies and collusion in the food supply and distribution chain, administered prices of agricultural products and marketing boards, GST and subsidies, areas of inefficiency in the food chain and Government interference and price control in free enterprise.

The conference was organised in an attempt to locate and curb inflationary areas in the food sector.

It was chaired by Professor Jan Sadie, head of the Bureau of Economic Research at Stellenbosch University.

The latest Consumer Price Index shows food prices are continuing their upward spiral.

In the 12-month period ending in January, food increased by 28,4% — almost double the overall CPI — with meat alone increasing by 51%. In the period December to January, the food index increased by 1,3%.

At the conference, special attention was given to the price of maize, staple food for over 80% of the population.

It is also the starting point for increases in other products such as meat, poultry, eggs and dairy products. Maize has gone up by 71% over the past three years.

Many delegates expressed concern for those on the breadline and examined steps that could be taken to prevent them from falling below it.

Although key marketing boards, the SA Agricultural Union, and Vleisentraal, the large meat co-operative, were invited to attend the conference to put the views of the agricultural sector, they declined.

These attending tomorrow's committee meeting are: Mr R Stevens, chairman of Tongaat Foods; the Grocery Manufacturers' Association (which will choose a manufacturer to represent it); Mr R Glanville, managing director of Checkers; Mr Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick 'n Pay; Mr S Matus, executive director of Spar; Mr C McLeish, director of Metro Cash and Carry; Mrs J Hurwitz, president of the Housewives' League; and Mrs S Motlana, president of the Black Housewives' League.

# Food crisis group targets maize price

RDM 19/3/81 (274) (186) 39/10/81

By VITA PALESTRANT  
Consumer Mail Editor

THE high price of maize and its effect on the food price index will top the list of priority projects to be tackled by the newly-formed pressure group to fight high food prices.

The group, elected at Consumer Mail's conference on the food price crisis, was formed earlier this month by concerned businessmen and consumers.

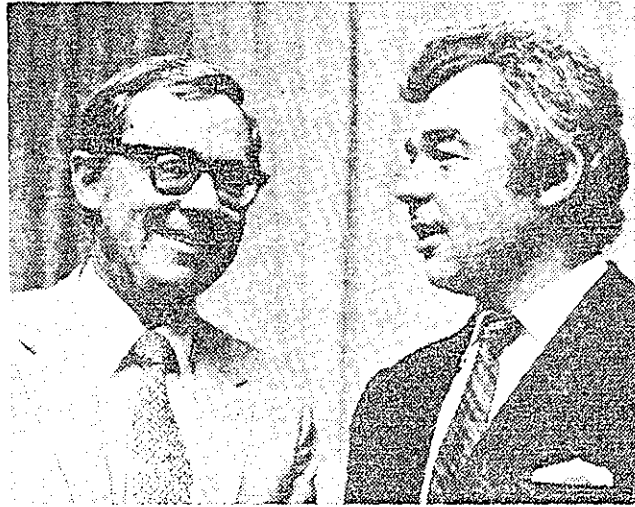
It met for the first time yesterday to decide on its frame of reference and elect a chairman.

The conference was first called for by the managing director of Checkers, Mr Rex Glanville, when the food price index shot to almost 30% at the beginning of the year — almost double the general Consumer Price Index of 15%.

At the time he called on all those involved in the food industry to get together for round table talks to find means of putting the brakes on high food prices: "With at least a 7% unemployment rate and a high incidence of malnutrition, we see the South African situation as very volatile".

The conference was described as "historic", as it was the first time the food industry — representing some of the most influential companies in the country — had come together in joint discussion of inflationary areas.

Yesterday's meeting was convened by the Editor of the Rand Daily Mail, Allister Sparks, who appealed to the group to show free enterprise was prepared to do something tangible for all South African



Mr Russell Stevens, chairman of the food price pressure group, with the Editor of the "Mail", Allister Sparks



Mr REX GLANVILLE ... first called for food talks

consumers, particularly those on the breadline.

Mr Russell Stevens, chairman of Tongaat food and animal feed interests, was unanimously elected chairman.

After the meeting, which lasted two hours, Mr Stevens said: "Our goal is to curb, in the short term, rapid increases in food inflation, and to isolate the major causes which have, in recent times, accelerated the food price index."

Mr Stevens said he could not divulge the terms of reference of the group as it first had to refer back to other interested parties who were present at the food conference.

"We will go back to them with our terms of reference to get their support on the specific areas we have discussed. The meeting was constructive and

those present felt a sense of urgency about getting down to the nitty-gritty.

"Our short-term programme, however, will be to take a look at the maize price. This will have to be done within the next few weeks, before the new price is set.

"It is of concern to all of us, and if the expected increases come through — between 16% to 18%, bringing it to R145 a ton — it will continue to accelerate the food price index and lead to further hardships for those on the breadline."

Mr Stevens said it was a worrying factor that the food price index was 13% above the general Consumer Price Index.

In previous years the index had been running between 3% and 4% ahead of the general CPI — which is the norm in

other Western countries — now it was running 13% higher.

"If the expected increases go through, we can expect another snowball effect in the food price index. We believe a radical view should be taken. Farmers have had a bumper crop this year — 30% higher than it has been in the previous years," he said.

Others in the group are: Mr R Glanville, managing director of Checkers; Mr R Ackerman, chairman of Pick 'n Pay; Mr S Matus, executive director of the Spar Group; Mr K McLeish, director of Metro Cash and Carry; Mrs S Motlana, president of the Black Housewives' League; Mrs J Hurwitz, president of the Housewives' League; and Mr J Hele of the Grocery Manufacturers Association.

# Costly hail prevention plan comes crashing down

3 general S. Express 22/3/81

## FARMERS HAD TO POUR MILLIONS INTO PROJECT

THE Lowveld's controversial hail prevention project is to be stopped, after nine years in which it cost the farmers millions and the taxpayer R230 000.

And the farmers who formed an action committee several years ago to fight the project now say: "I told you so."

The money for the hail-prevention project came from farmers, who contributed to it through the local farmers' co-op.

According to Mr Braam Raubenheimer, former Minister of Water Affairs, the only Government money spent on the project was in the form of R230 000 — which went to the Water Research Commission when it was asked to investigate complaints against the project. The commission's investigation was inconclusive, said Mr Raubenheimer.

Dr Victor Tonetti, a consulting engineer and farmer in the Kaapmuiden district for 34 years, has been one of the most vociferous opponents of the project over the past five years.

He said: "The board of the Laeveld Koöperasie Beperk (LKB), which introduced the project, has now reached the same conclusion we have — but nine years later.

"I wonder if it has anything to do with the new Minister of Water Affairs?"

"The Government has a scientific project in Bethlehem trying to find out about weather modification, yet the one in the Lowveld was launched as a commercial undertaking.

The LKB board, which has fought for years to maintain the project in the face of strong criticism, has informed members that a meeting will be held on March 30 to pass a resolution to stop the weather modification project as soon as possible.

the project in the face of year after year with the approval of the Government, which had to grant a permit each year for it to continue.

The LKB board says it has come to the conclusion that considerably more research, at substantial cost, would have to be done before the technology could be put into practice on a commercial basis.

The board considers that the cost of the project will exceed possible future hail damage.

An action committee set up by farmers has claimed that the project to stop hail damage was worthless and that it also had an adverse effect on rainfall.

Over the last five years many of the farmers have claimed that the only benefit was to tobacco farmers who needed less rain.

In June 1979 Mr Barend Botés, chairman of the action committee fighting to have the rain seeding stopped, told a Sunday newspaper: "The whole programme is for the benefit of the tobacco farmers.

"The cloud seeding is done

and some cash for for them to generate ems and also because a man's labour cantly more money o points out, the and so, as with tary sources of ill transform the tisfy a small part of ancial needs.

by an American company registered as an external company in South Africa, Cansas International Corporation, and they are employed by the LKB.

"The LKB is supposed to work in our favour but there are some very powerful people in charge there — among them the people who initiated the project in 1971 — and it's almost impossible to get anything done," Mr Botés said.

Some of the critics of the project, who had unsuccessfully fought against the scheme for years, see the change in the Minister of Water Affairs as a reason for the sudden change in the board's views.

There has been strong criticism of Mr Raubenheimer, who has now joined the President's Council.

Mr Raubenheimer, a former chairman of the LKB, farms on a large scale in the Lowveld. Criticism has been directed at him in the past because he granted permits every year for the continuation of the project, despite strong protests from some farmers.

There were reports that Mr Raubenheimer was in favour of the project because it favoured him as a tobacco farmer.

The LKB board says the State has informed them it could not make a contribution towards the operational costs of the project, and some feel this decision has been made by the new Minister of Water Affairs, Dr Nak van der Merwe.

There was also criticism of Mr Raubenheimer because he had signed the permit, two weeks before he left office last year, allowing the modification project to continue this year instead of leaving it to the incoming minister.

This week Mr Raubenheimer spoke out against the rumours against him.

He told me from Cape Town: "As a farmer I had my doubts about the project, but as Minister of Water Affairs I had to go according to the scientific evidence, and there was no scientific reason to stop the project.

and some cash for for them to generate ems and also because a man's labour cantly more money o points out, the and so, as with tary sources of ill transform the tisfy a small part of ancial needs.

g properly (i.e. not ding their families te improvement in the etable growing and their home gardens ge gained as important.

said they had t yields at the fencing, water, and . / ...

### SUNDAY EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

Mr Raubenheimer said that although he had been chairman of the farmers' co-op in the late 60s and maybe even in 1970, he had not had a hand in maintaining the project.

He denied rumours that he had gained anything from the project. "You can come and examine my books."

He had received a volume of recommendations not to issue a permit, but I had to go on the recommendation of the scientific committee which approved the project.

Mr Raubenheimer said that rumours that the new Minister of Water Affairs had been the first to turn down Government aid for the project was untrue.

I informed the LKB board that there were no Government funds available because the money was being used on a scientific research unit into the Government project into weather modification in Bethlehem."

Mr Raubenheimer admitted that he had granted a permit for the year 1981, even though he had ceased to be the minister before the end of 1980.

"But permits are granted about August/September, at the start of the rainy season for the following year, so this was usual," he said.

about nutrition. This makes one aware that evaluation should be over a much longer time span than one might expect, to be able to comprehensively assess the benefits of a policy.

	% of year that gardens provide food for family	Cash income from the garden per year
UMLAMBO	Too new to assess	Too new to assess
UMTHI	All members all year	Maximum R20 each
INKOMO	None	None - they pay in
IDOTI	Between their home garden & communal garden most people vegetables all year round	First crop people earned R5 - R10
ABALIMI	Some all year Majority summer only. Others garden provides half needs in summer	Buyambo R200 + 5 people + R100 some R20-R60 Most R10-R20 Few none

I discuss the degree of communalism in the different gardens and people's views about it, in part II of this paper.

- 1) To improve overall standards of public health, and in particular to reduce incidence of water-borne diseases and diseases of insanitation amongst children and the inhabitants of the rural areas.
- 2) To maintain present levels of curative services, improving their standards and distribution where possible.
- 3) To create a situation within which a substantial moderation in the rate of population growth is a reasonable period.

Government believes that within an integrated curative, achieve these objectives most development during the plan period

- a) Expansion of preventive
- b) Improvements in the quational facilities.
- c) Development of health e
- d) Expansion of training p

The last five years of the ended last year (1977) and most been started in the country.

The Ministry of Health has Five new rural clinics complete with 24 beds is about to be finished.

For the expansion of prevention second nurse has been assigned to services after having been oriented because of shortage of personnel We all know that the health rural areas depends greatly on the within a reasonable walking distance and practice of how to live a healthy this the Ministry of Health started workers, because it has not been

The workers are known as mobilized The Rural Health Visitors (RHVs) to every homestead in rural areas in her area.

The process of selecting trainees is one of community participation.

As stated in the FAO/WHO workshop report that "Integrated rural development is seen as a process of balanced social and economic development in a given community." Its components may include, among others, development of family health, education, agriculture, industry and co-operative enterprises, social welfare, socio cultural and other aspects of community life. Hence training of the RHVs is inter-disciplinary and the trained

who will educate the community protected water supply in the areas.

ability and motivate it to attend importance of child welfare services. as to the importance of means for maintenance of good

community on good nutrition diseases by having kitchen their houses for prevention ring dust pits and by control

importance of participation in ment of health and economical

) to the families in cases

amongst members of the ble for disease surveillance any serious illness.

personnel that will super-ness where applicable.

a co-ordinator (RHV) between opment.

the 6th will start the

course in October-November 1978. It is estimated that by the year 1981 800-1000 Rural Health Visitors will have been trained for the whole country.

The training lasts for two months and the requirements are literacy

### PILCHARD PROBLEMS

Fishing FM 27/2/81

The total ban on the fishing of pilchards in SWA waters is likely to have little effect on the production of fishmeal in that region.

In effect the ban reflects the paucity of last year's catch, when only 218 t could be canned although the quota allowed for 4 000 t.

SWA fishmeal producers expect that the quota for anchovy - set tentatively at 150 000 t - and the unlimited catches of maasbunker allowed should enable them to repeat last year's production figure of 56 000 t.

A small amount of pilchard will be accepted, if they picked up in catches of other fish, but will be strictly monitored.

As the season opened this week it is too early to assess if the catches will match the quotas.

Catches in SA waters are reportedly going well and should they continue the 91 000 t of fishmeal produced last year could well be repeated.

Jack Fick, secretary of the Balanced Feed Association says it is anticipated that the fishmeal producers will not be able to supply the country's total needs for fishmeal this year, which is expected to reach between 150 000 t-160 000 t - others put the figure as high as 165 000 t.

Local fishmeal prices have been set at R374/t free on rail this year with the

imported product fluctuating at about R500/t.

In balanced feeds a shortfall of fishmeal can be partially alleviated by a substitution of oil cake - made from sunflower cake, peanut cake, cotton seed cake and soya bean and imported amino acids.

Although there was a shortage of these items last year, which necessitated importation, indications are that this year's crops will be good.

Premier Group's Peter Wrighton says any shortage of locally-produced fishmeal would obviously have an impact on broiler feeds and could increase costs.

But Wrighton believes that an overplay of the shortage could inadvertently aggravate the situation by encouraging consumers to over-order.

He says a similar situation occurred last year when the shortage of broilers was overplayed, resulting in the government allowing broilers to be imported.

The position has now reversed and a glut of broilers has brought the price below the level of production costs.

Fick, however, remembers that three years ago, when the country was facing a fishmeal shortage, there was an unprecedented run of anchovies.

"One never knows how the fish are going to run," he says.



3 general (199) S. Thies 29/3/81

# Bonanza in tractor sales

FARMERS made a bonanza last year for tractor retailers.

By Vera Beljakova

With their increased earnings of 38% over 1979, farmers queued for new tractors. But manufacturers, hard pressed to keep up with demand, had to turn away custom.

Although the used vehicle market as a whole fell during the first 10 months of last year, according to the Department of Statistics, nevertheless 13 033 used tractors were sold, showing an increase of 1.5% on 1979. Whites bought 11 049, coloureds 51, Asians 69, blacks 681 and 1 183 sales were not accounted for in racial groupings.

During this time unit sales of used buses fell by 50.3%, used motor cars dropped by 5.3% and commercial vehicles by 3.9%.

Only sales of tractors showed a growth, as did motorcycles (4%) and minibuses (9.8%).

In the same 10 months, sales of new tractors rocketed by 66.2%, accounting for 12 743 units as opposed to 7 668 for the same period in the previous year.

"In terms of new unit sales, 1980 was second only to the industry record of 19 166 units in 1975," says Ford Tractors. "Last year new tractor sales leapt to almost 18 000," — a 77% increase on 1979.

This was a welcome windfall for the tractor market, which saw a dismal 1979 with a meagre sale of 10 500 models.

New tractors showed the third-largest sales growth last year in the new-vehicle market, says the Department. Tractors were beaten only by motorcycles (up 108.5%) and minibuses (up 77.2%).

Increased new motorcycle sales were accounted for by the luxury end of the leisure market, when more men tried to get out of their restricting limousines into the unconstrained bushveld — so explains one retailer.

The rise in minibus sales is attributed mainly to more blacks buying "taxis" for the daily transport of workers between the metropolis and the townships.

Tractors sales indicate that the farmer was rich enough to go out to replace his old stock and generally upgrade his fleet.

The question of the costs and benefits, to both farmers and workers, of taking a large part of payment in goods rather than in cash, is complicated. Yet at first glance it seems simple: workers should be allowed to organise their own spending, to receive all their income in cash and then to own the farmer or elsewhere, as they choose. They should be able to pay higher rents on bigger houses if they choose, to buy more meat and less clothing if they choose, without cow's milk entirely and pay to graze 30 goats on farmer's land. Anything else, it seems, is either of paternalism — the farmer thinking he can arrange for a better life for the worker himself — or an attempt to keep wage costs down by off-loading on to workers the opportunity cost to the farmer is lower than their

#### 4. Cash and/or kind?

Apart from housing, farmers generally provided retired workers with meat (either free or at subsidised prices), milk (free), fruit and vegetables when available, and some farmers allowed retired workers grazing rights and clothing. Many farmers would bank workers' old age or disability pensions and would take some of the money to partly pay for the items they provided.

# TREURNICHT CHAMPIONS

# ANGRY WHITE FARMERS

S. Tribune 29/3/81 (3 general) (P&M)

WHITE farmers, championed by Dr Andries Treurnicht, have staved off a massive "growth point" north of Bronkhorst-spruit, according to informed sources. Their repudiation of the concept is seen as a reverse for National Party reformists such as Dr Piet Koornhof.

The row goes to the heart of the Government's planning dilemma: should homelands be developed in isolation — traditional policy which even Prime Minister P. W. Botha has conceded cannot always work — or should they be

developed jointly with "white" areas?

Last July a report prepared by Benso, the "think-tank" of Dr Koornhof's Ministry of Co-operation and Development, mooted the new joint-development concept.

## KwaNdebele

As a result of this, 10 000 hectares of prime farmland in the Bronkhorstpruit area were to be expropriated and developed into a "second Soweto" in consultation

with the KwaNdebele homeland.

White farmers, claiming they had not been properly consulted, turned angrily on local MP, Transport Minister Hendrik Schoeman, at a Bronkhorstpruit meeting.

A "much perturbed" Dr Treurnicht initiated urgent talks with his Cabinet colleague, Dr Koornhof.

After further Cabinet discussions this week, the traditionalists have scored a victory according to sources.

The "second Soweto" will now be planned far to the north of Bronkhorstpruit, possibly near Verena or another point inside the expanded borders of KwaNdebele.

## Benefit

The debate is now on about whether promoting regional development for the benefit of both "black" and "white" areas is preferable to developing homelands and "white" areas separately.

While businessmen in

Bronkhorstpruit stood to benefit from the "second Soweto" as first planned, farmers objected to the lack of consultation, the loss of good farmland and to what they claimed would be an increase in lawlessness in the area.

While the Bronkhorst-spruit bungle is a blow to Mr P. W. Botha's "reformist Nationalists" the issue is far from dead.

In Welkom this week Mr Botha told a mainly conservative audience that major changes to National Party policy would be

referred to the people first.

In what observers have interpreted as a clear signal that major reforms lie ahead, Mr Botha spoke in Welkom of the possibility of a referendum but only after envisaged policy changes had been agreed to by all the National Party provincial congresses. Mr Botha said there may even be a national congress of the party: an event which has not taken place in many years.

(See Page 6)

Report by Deon du Plessis, Peter Mann and Hannes Ferguson of 85 Field Street, Durban.

S. Times 29/3/81 3 general

# Farmers raise a storm over R11-m anti-hail plan

By NORMAN CHANDLER

TAMPERING with the weather in the Lowveld has landed the Government with a political hot potato.

That's the view of farmers from Ohrigstad to Barberton as they demand the end to an R11-million hail suppression project, operated by the Laeveld Kooperasie Beperk for nine years.

The farmers — who operate a R300-million agricultural business in what's known as the "pantry of South Africa" — say:

● The Lowveld will become a dustbowl in the next three

decades if the scheme is not stopped.

● Lack of rain has brought on cholera "unknown for years in this part of the country"

● The company undertaking weather modification is not following internationally accepted scientific thinking.

"We want it stopped. And if it is not done, farmers here will almost certainly swing away from the Nationalists at the general election on April 29," said Mr Ian Spear, whose family has been farming in the

area for nearly 50 years.

"This is a political hot potato for them as the man who started the project was Mr Braam Raubenheimer, former MP for Nelspruit and Minister of Water Affairs."

Farmers are to decide at a special meeting tomorrow whether they should accept a recommendation by the board of the LKB that the project — costing R1,7-million a year — be stopped.

In what is viewed in the Lowveld as a desperate attempt to

maintain the project, the Cansas International Corporation — who do the work — have flown two American scientists to Nelspruit to address the meeting. The corporation argues that hail suppression has sharply raised farmers' income from tobacco.

However, the tobacco men are heavily outnumbered by banana, citrus and other farmers who blame the hail project for lack of rain, huge storms (one last year sucked the clocks out of the Nelspruit Town Hall's tower), and causing unemployment.

Mr Spear said: "There is no doubt that the weather pattern has changed.

"Cholera is now rampant in this area, and we believe it is caused by lack of water to flush out dams and rivers.

"Something has got to be done, and quickly."

Mr Edwin d'A Sturgeon, a chartered accountant, has complained directly to the Advocate-General in Pretoria.

He says: "In spite of exceptionally strong, valid and reasoned objections, over many years, the continuity of the project has been ensured by the former Minister of Water Affairs, who personally signed the weather modification permit annually."

Mr Sturgeon says that Mr Raubenheimer, who has big farming interests in the Lowveld, had an interest in the company which started weather modification.

Directors of the company, which has twice been renamed, are Mr G K Mather (a Canadian citizen), Mr L G Davis and Mr G R Smith (both Americans), and Mr N G Jooste (South African).

(News by N Chandler, 171 Main Street Johannesburg.)

# Clash over 'second Soweto'

THE Government's stated policy of not specifically developing homelands is in danger of coming apart on the issue of the siting of the "second Soweto" north of Bronkorspruit.

This emerged when local farmers, backed by the agricultural unions, protested against the establishment of an Eastern Transvaal regional growth point ten kilometres north of the town, far from the KwaNdebele homeland.

Sources close to the Government said that following protest meetings and the subsequent involvement of the leader of the National Party in the Transvaal, Dr A Treurnicht, and the Witbank Divisional Council of the National Party, a meeting was called by Dr Piet Koornhof, which lasted for five hours.

On behalf of the Wit-

bank National Party, Dr W Snyman, and NP Parliamentary candidate, Mr Alwyn Fouche, objected to the proposed siting of the "second Soweto."

The Government had made promises that agricultural unions would be consulted and at the earliest planning stages, that prime crop farming land would be protected and that growth points would

be integrated with the homelands.

These promises have not been kept.

The physical planners in the office of the Prime Minister who had drawn up the growth point project — Dr T du Plessis and Mr A Viljoen — tried to answer the allegations.

A lively debate ensued, in which Dr Koornhof then intervened by say-

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# Huge rises in price of sugar and offal

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3 general

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Staff Reporter

**THE PRICE** of two major food items — sugar and offal — is going up. Sugar will be 11 percent more expensive from today and offal, a major source of nutrition for the lower-income group, could cost the consumer almost 80 percent more next week.

A Meat Board spokesman in Pretoria confirmed yesterday that the price of offal was being adjusted "in order to keep pace with the price of beef".

The abattoir price would go up by 52 percent on Tuesday, but butchers warned yesterday that once wholesalers had "added their slice", offal could cost consumers as much as 80 percent more.

The increase in the price of sugar, announced by the South African Sugar Association yesterday, will have a ripple effect on all other foods with a sugar content, such as cakes, confectionery and mineral water, which can be expected to increase in price accordingly.

The price increase is expected to compensate for the industry's higher production costs and the recent rail increases which came into effect at the beginning of the month.

## Unjustifiable

City butchers reacted angrily yesterday to the offal announcement. They described the increase as "astronomically high and unjustifiable".

Mr Chris Joubert, a Sea Point butcher, said: "We are not happy with the increase. We would have understood an increase in the more sophisticated offal like the tongue, tail and liver, but to increase the price of the cheaper offal is totally unreasonable."

He said there was no justification for an increase in the price of a commodity that sometimes had to be dumped or given away.

The increase was ordered by the Meat Board, which adjusts the price of offal every six months.

Another angry butcher was Eskay butcheries' manager, Mr Ebrahiem Kaskar, who commented: "When one takes into account the slice that the wholesaler puts on the offal the increase will be 80 percent by the time it reaches the butcher. How will the poor be able to afford those prices?"

## Beyond means

He said the poorer section of the community would be particularly hard-hit because they turned to buying offal when the price of red meat rocketed beyond their financial means last year.

"Because of this I can foresee a surplus of offal developing."

He said butchers, no matter how hard they tried, would not be able to absorb the increase. An example of how the price of

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3 general

offal would be expected was that liver costing R1,90 yesterday would by Tuesday cost R2,98.

Mr D C Joubert, chairman of the Cape Offal Board, said there was an agreement between the Meat Board and the Offal Board that the price of offal would increase or decrease percentage-wise in accordance with the increase or decrease in the price of beef.

The price adjustment took place every six months.

He said the price of beef had increased by "more than 52 percent in the past year" and that the profits reaped by the Offal Board went to the producer.

The increase was the price the "offal pool" — an organization which runs the distribution of offal on behalf of the Meat Board — charged the trade and would be followed by an increase in the price for the producer.

## Importation

He said there was not enough offal to cope with the demand and some people were even thinking of importing the commodity.

According to the chairman of the Sugar Association, Mr I G B Smeaton, the effects of the drought which the industry had just come through had not been passed on to the consumer but had been absorbed by the industry.

Of the 11 percent increase, 7.2 percent would go to the industry to cover higher production costs, one percent to cover increased packaging costs, 1.3 percent would go to retailers and 1.5 percent would represent the average increase in rail costs.

The spokesman for Spar Foodliners, Mr Brian Bevan, said last night that the 11 percent increase on a one-kilogram packet of sugar would be in the region of four cents more, and a 2.5 kg packet about 10 cents more.

# Farmers'

# weather S. Times 5/4/81 experiment

# to be <sup>3 general</sup> scrapped

By NORMAN CHANDLER

LOWVELD farmers this week voted out the controversial weather modification scheme at Nelspruit.

The farmers — all members of the Laeveldse Kooperasie Bpk — ended a nine-year commercial experiment into the seeding of clouds to prevent massive hail damage.

The LKB had contracted with a company called Cansas International Corporation to undertake the work, which cost R1,7-million a year.

Despite the company flying two American weather experts to the town for the meeting, farmers decided to follow a recommendation made by the directors of the LKB "that the project be discontinued as soon as possible."

The contract has until August, 1984, to run and it was not immediately clear whether the contract would be terminated earlier than that date.

## Expense

Mr Neil le Roux, chairman of the LKB, told the meeting that farmers had to decide whether it was "fair for a few farmers to carry the expense of the project."

The LKB admitted in a circular to farmers that, despite government assistance on weather modification, "the effectiveness of the project can still not be measured."

A spokesman for the LKB said: "The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, informed the board of the LKB that the State cannot make a contribution towards the operational costs of the project."

The organisation would honour existing commitments relating to the scheme, said Mr le Roux 'but cloud seeding operations, as far as we are concerned, would cease."

...ation  
and probably all the  
border districts.

It is difficult to find two white-occupied farms in a row. One white ranch manager told me he did not have a white neighbour for 20 kilometres.

The official count at the Department of Agriculture office in Ellisras is that 136 farms are unoccupied of the approximately 590 Ellisras farms which fall within the 50 km border zone designated by the Government. This is a conservative count. More are leaving all the time.

There are many reasons why they are leaving and fear is probably not paramount after all. And the consequences are also many — but here the security aspect looms larger.

For the exodus from the farmlands of places like Ellisras is leaving large holes in the Republic's line of first defence, as the Government sees it.

It has tabled legislation to try to reverse the trek, including provisions which would make it punishable not to occupy a farm, under certain conditions.

But it is the economics of farming here which is mainly responsible for the depopulation. It is a "bit-ter, hard" country to farm.

Rain is too scarce for the farmer who wants to cultivate. Irrigation has become too expensive because there is no electricity and water has to be pumped by diesel motor. Cattle ranching is the safest bet but for that you need at least 2 500 hectare and only about 20 percent of the farms are that big. And ranching has its problems too.

The result is that the small farmers are folding rapidly. Their farms are being absorbed by bigger farmers but even this is happening less often now. Most are selling to out-of-towners — doctors and businessmen from the cities — who game-fence the farms and use them for occasional trophy hunting.

This has left vast tracts of land empty most of the year. And the process is self-perpetuating. The popularity of the area among game farmers has pushed up the price of farmland beyond its farming value making it difficult for the genuine farmer to start up here or to extend his farm.

"The main problem here is that the market value of land is way above the farming value," says Mr



**Gawie Jacobs with his prize Afrikaners on the Limpopo River. On the other side of the river is Botswana.**

Willem Lewis, chairman of the Ellisras District Farming Union.

"About one third of the farms here are game farms. The land is selling at R90 per hectare. Its farming value is only R40. (The TRIBUNE discovered that game farms can cost R130 a hectare.)

"If the tendency to sell farms to people not living here, continues, we will have to put pressure on the Government to implement the provisions of the new Act which stipulate that the farmer must occupy his land."

Mr Lewis farms cattle and peanuts.

"I work for peanuts," he says, repeating the district's favourite joke.

He is one of the more prosperous farmers — as evidenced by his position in the farmers' union — but even he does not have electricity in his house.

The diesel to run a lighting plant would be too expensive. The fuel-cost spiral has hit Ellisras hard — situated as it is so far from town markets and provisions and beyond the last railway station at Vaalwater.

For many this has proved the last straw and scores of farmers have left their land to work at the Iscor coal mine being built in the district.

Many of them are still hanging onto their farms by a shoestring. They work at the mine but farm in the evenings and at the weekends.

Mr Ernestus Seegers, (42), is one who was forced to find work at Iscor. He is one of the luckier ones. He had a trade — electro-mechanics. Most work in unskilled positions. But even this is an improvement on their farm salaries.

"I know one chap who has only Std 6 education and who left his farm to work as a foreman at Iscor. He gets R500 — far more than he earned on the farm," one of the town-folk - cum - farmers told me.

Old Flip Coetzee is one of the born farmers whose farm on the banks of the Mogol, is about to be sold.

"I have tried everything," the 65-year-old Boer says with sad eyes. "But the spirit comes from above," he adds, pointing heavenwards. "If it does not come, you can not make it."

The farmers' sons almost invariably go off to town to get professional qualifications.

Mr Leon Steyn's oldest son is a civil engineer, his second intends studying management when he finishes army training.

"My eldest-son earns more than I do. How can I bluff him into coming back to the farm," he says.

Mr Seeger's experience does not bode well for the Government's plan to encourage new farmers to come to the border areas. He left the city in 1967 to try cattle-ranching in the district. "At Steenbokpan there were only two of us who had bought our farms. The rest all inherited."

Mr Seeger found it was impossible to make ranching profitable enough to repay the interest on his Land Bank loan and the interests on other capital investments such as the cattle themselves.

The way things are going it seems the defence of Ellisras — and beyond — is increasingly being entrusted to a rapidly dwindling, aging dad's army.

I asked Piet Pretorius whether it really mattered that whites were spread so thin in the land. Wouldn't terrorists get through anyway, if they were determined? The answer had to do with intelligence, in the military sense of the word.

"The farmers do look after the border," he said. "Everyone who has come across the border illegally we have caught."

By Chris van Gass  
Pretoria Bureau

The Cabinet decision to proceed with an industrial growth point north of Bronkhorstspuit has angered farmers affected by the plan — and could turn sour for the National Party in the election.

The decision means that a "second Soweto" is to be created north of the town to ease growth point pressures on the PWV complex.

"The people are not happy with the outcome," said Mr Floors Steenkamp who served on the committee which fought to have the government's de-

# Growth point decision could rebound on Nats

cision on the siting of the growth point reversed.

He said that in his view, it was a question of choosing the wrong priority — going for growth instead of looking to increased food production.

A statement released yesterday by the office of the Prime Minister said that increased over-concentration in the PWV area had led to a recom-

mendation that the growth point north of Bronkhorstspuit be accepted.

The development had been recommended by an inter-departmental co-ordination committee. The siting of the new growth point fell in line with government policy to decentralise industrial growth along the access stretching from Rusten-

burg, Brits, Rosslyn, Witbank and Middelburg.

About 46 farmers would be affected when expropriation of land took place to provide for the growth point.

For months farmers in the area, under the guidance of the district agricultural union, have tried to have the growth point moved. Their argument was that the development

should have been in an area which did not include prime agricultural land.

Some of the farmers have also suggested that people on uneconomic farms had been offered attractive prices for their land. This undermined efforts to have the growth point sited elsewhere.

Although many farmers concede that growth of such an industrial point should continue, they feel that it is taking up too much prime land and this is moving the accent away from food production.



# Offal, sugar

C. Herald 11/4/81

## price rises

## will hit poor

*3 general*

OFFAL, the inexpensive food that makes up many a tasty dish in a poor man's home, will cost 50 percent more. And sugar, an essential in any home, will go up by 11 percent.

Both these body blows to the pockets of the consumers come into effect this week and hardest hit will once again be the lower income groups.

Offal has always been one of the few high-protein food sources that struggling families could afford. This 50 percent increase follows an increase of 25 percent last October.

A local butcher said: 'With the floor price when the offal leaves the abattoir being increased by 50 percent it will reach us with 80 percent already added on.'

A spokesman for the Meat Board confirmed that the price of offal was being increased to keep pace with the price of other prime pieces of meat.

Mr Ebrahim Kasker, who runs a number of butcheries in black areas, said the offal made up a sizeable percentage of his sales.

### HIT

'It is normally purchased by the lower income group and they are really going to be hit by this increase,' he said.

'I have already decided that I will not add on

my own mark-up but merely add on the latest increase.'

Mr Guy Hawthorne a spokesman for a leading supermarket's butchery department, said that an increase of 50 percent should never be allowed for any commodity.

Their butchery departments will freeze their offal price until June 1 when it will be reviewed.

Mr Raymond Ackerman, Pick 'n Pay's boss, said that the price of sugar and offal would be frozen to give the consumer time to adjust to the increases.

'The price of sugar was justifiably raised due to the bad yield this year, but the increase in maize, still to be announced, is unjustified as the crop has been the biggest in years,' Mr Ackerman said.

### RENT

Mr Rushdi Majiet, a social worker, said that many tenants had just received news of their rent increases and many of them are struggling to survive on their existing salaries.

'The offal and sugar increases will lead to new hardships,' he said. 'We try to find alternatives to their problems but in this case it is going to be difficult.'

The increase in the sugar price will bring about an increase in a wide range of other commodities which use sugar as an ingredient.

**FARM PROPERTY** 3  
**Prices shoot ahead**

Like its urban counterpart, the farm property market is showing marked signs of over-heating. Good grain farms in the maize triangle have been fetching more than R1 000 a hectare. That is almost double the price they would have commanded only 18 months ago.

In Natal, the vendors of sugar estates are now asking (and getting) up to R50 for every ton of cane their properties are expected to produce annually. Individual farms in favourable areas have sold for more. Only a year ago, R30 would have been considered the limit.

The price of extensive ranching property has been slower to take off and is, of

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KEY TO COSTING MATERIALS

course, still much lower on a hectare basis. But it nevertheless reflects the same trend. Good sweet grazing and bushveld properties are currently selling for R800 to R1 000 for every animal they can carry. And that's without the beast, which also costs 60% to 70% more than it would have done last year.

Wine farms have appreciated rapidly, too. The old rule of thumb was that a farm should be capitalised round about the value of three years' production. That yardstick seems temporarily to have gone by the board as buyers have tumbled over each other to pay four and five times the projected crop values.

In Stellenbosch and Paarl, where agents are tempted to press amenity harder than the grapes, several sales have been reported in the vicinity of R25 000 a hectare. Wool farms and irrigation farms have not experienced quite the same euphoria, but that can be partially explained by the fact that they were less likely to have been marked down during the bad days from 1977 to 1979.

Although urban buyers are in evidence, the weight of the purchasing power in the current wave appears to be coming from the farming community itself. Large maize and beef farmers are flush with cash as a result of good crops and higher prices. The banks are keen to lend against the solid security of existing properties.

Moreover, tax and inflation hedging considerations render additional land purchases a more attractive proposition to most than intensification of existing holdings.

There are probably no more than a few score farmers who have been displaced by expropriations and the well-publicised activities of companies scrambling for control of the sugar industry. But they have been much in evidence, too, and many observers blame them for the sudden upsurge. Roaming the country, cash in hand, they find it hard to conceal a sense of urgency which drives them on to reinvest as quickly as possible. A man who has lived hand to mouth on the same farm all his life finds it difficult to be patient when he is suddenly in possession of R1m worth of depreciating banknotes.

A notable feature of this property boom has been the mobility of buyers. Frightened, perhaps, by rumours of further consolidation or the possibility of some future bush war, several wealthy Transvaal and Natal buyers have been tempted to establish either a new or second base in the Cape. One of the most popular hunting grounds for them has been in the PM's stamping ground along the Garden Route and around the growing town of George.

Agents report that farm property prices have trebled in the last year and a half. Farms for sale for less than R1 000 a hectare in early 1979 have recently been selling for R3 000 and more.

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» 31 « CONCEPT OF RACE AND TAXONOMY OF MANKIND  
 been compared." The usefulness of such a concept is much less than that of race as a group of individuals characterized by its gene pool.

3. How to group individuals?  
 Two basic answers have been given to this question. One of them is: let us group together all similar individuals, wherever they live or have lived. Analyzing this way of grouping race, Vallois (1953) shows how widely this way of grouping has been used until recently: "the notion of characters discern-

JEAN HIERNAUX

» 30 «  
**Toward a Definition of Race**

1. A race is a grouping of persons.  
 There is common agreement on this point: if every individual belonged to a different race, there would be no need for a concept other than that of the individual. The concept of race is obviously a classificatory one: it tends to reduce the immense number of individuals to a more limited number of classes. As in any classification, a hierarchy of groupings may be conceived, for example, one consisting of three grades called grand race, race, and subrace—or similar terms.

2. What in Man determines the characters of an individual?  
 Factors of two orders determine the characters of an individual: hereditary and environment. In defining race, do we have to consider the genotype only? Or do we have to consider the phenotypic influence of the environment, at least, to remain stable from one generation to the next. Suppose two groups of people have identical gene pools, but differ phenotypically because of the imprint of different environments. Would it be useful to call them races A and B, knowing that by reversing the environmental conditions race A would become race B in one generation and vice versa? A negative answer seems evident to me as to many others: in order to be useful, a concept of race must be genetically. When using characters known to be partly sensitive to environmental differences, the concept of race is correctly used only when the genetically induced variability is considered. Coon, Garn, and Birdsell (1950), however, write: "A race is a population which differs phenotypically from all others with which it has

**Farmers battling to win war against the army worms**

By G. R. NAIDOO 19/4/41  
 FARMERS who are still reeling in parts of Natal from last year's crippling drought, now face the threat of continued drought and loss of crops and livestock because of a recent army worm invasion. This week, several farmers in the mid-lands lost valuable cattle because of animals feeding on kikuyu pastures which were formerly worm infested.

The damage to pastures alone is put at a million rands. Mr Alwyn Bischoff, secretary of the Natal Agricultural Union, said that Natal had good spring rains, but had a period of extremely hot and unseasonable weather in the summer with very low rainfall. "Natal is a province of relatively high rainfall and both domestic and farmers' irrigation schemes depend on flowing streams which are low now.

"The water table for pump irrigation is also very low. Even if rains came now, it would be too late to do much good for the winter crops and the prospects of a repeat of the extremely dry conditions experienced last year are very good. "Because the province is in a relatively high rainfall area, the entire ecology and production cycle is dependent on high rainfall. We have a serious situation on our hands," said Mr Bischoff.

This year's drought will have a crippling effect on KwaZulu, where vast quantities of foodstuff were moved in to save many people from starvation at the height of the drought last year.

ciniski's paper sums up most of them. We know that mankind has evolved and is still physically evolving. The groups of individuals that constitute our taxonomic units must be such as to allow investigation of those evolutionary processes: Those groups must both show a tendency toward secular stability and reflect evolutionary change. But a race defined as a group of similar individuals is, by definition, incapable of any change. In each generation it will consist of an artificial grouping of people who happen to share a given constellation of characters.

# 1980 agriculture exports soar but so does inflation

3 2107 22/4/81

By Charlene Beltramo

Last year was a blockbusting success for the agricultural sector which exported a third of its products and showed an increase in gross value of 31,5 percent.

In the same year food inflation topped 29,5 percent — an increase of almost 14 percent on 1979's figure.

These facts emerged in a

report on the economic overview of the agricultural sector up to March 1981, compiled by Mr Johan Willemse of the South African Agricultural Union.

Mr Willemse said personal incomes were 17,76 percent higher in the third quarter of 1980 than in the previous year. This had led and would lead to higher demand for protein, fruit and vegetable products.

He said this could cause additional increases in price. Last year consumer prices for meat and vegetables rose higher than for any other products and had a major fuelling effect on the inflation rate.

Meat rose 57,3 percent in price and vegetables cost 29,6 percent more.

The export of agricultural products during 1980 topped R212-million — 27 percent higher than in 1979 and 22 percent of all SA exports in 1980.

The gross value of agricultural products reached a comfortable R5 711,8-million, an increase of 31,5 percent.

Maize fetched R1 295,3-million; wheat brought in R406-million; and groundnuts had sales figures in excess of R88-million.

Mr Willemse said price rises for the first quarter of 1981 were considerably lower than for the same period last year — 9,5 percent compared with 26,7 percent. He points out that good harvests this year should have a further favourable effect.

But he conceded that many price increases scheduled for this time of year had not come through because of the pending elections. This could give a false slant to statistics.

**Political Correspondent**

A MAJOR political row has broken out between the Government and the Opposition over steeply rising food prices and this has become one of the major issues in the general election campaign.

Sharp clashes between Government and Opposition spokesmen are taking place while an announcement on a new, increased maize price is expected soon, possibly later today.

**'Untruths'**

The Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, and the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, have been stung into sharp replies and counter-accusations by Progressive Federal Party accusations that Government mismanagement is responsible for much of the inflation and that further steep food price increases are occurring.

Speaking in Maritzburg last night, Mr Botha alleged that the Leader of the Opposition, Dr F van Zyl Slabbert, was spreading untruths about food prices, one of the major features of an election speech.

Today the two clashed again when Dr Slabbert said he would gladly apologise publicly to the Prime Minister, provided

Mr Botha could give the nation the assurance that there would not be a maize price increase at a time when there was a surplus.

What has particularly infuriated Mr Botha is a full page PFP newspaper advertisement yesterday which stated that since the party had placed its first advertisement on high food prices there had

been several steep increases.

The advertisement stated, in Dr Slabbert's handwriting, that mealies were going up at least 20 percent.

**Speculation**

(No firm announcement has yet been made but there was speculation today that the increase would be 14 percent.)

# MAJOR ROW ON FOOD PRICES

3 general (244) August 23/4/81

Last night Mr Botha said the Government only decided on the new maize price on Tuesday.

Dr Slabbert, he said, could not have known about the price.

Dr Slabbert said today that the point about food prices was that one could not take one in isolation from the other.

'Senior spokesmen of the Reserve Bank are on record as saying that one of

the major causes of inflation is the Government's financing and subsidisation of the agricultural industry.

**'Surplus'**

'There is no reason why the taxpayer should subsidise the price of maize while there is a surplus and when we export maize at a loss when there are people in our rural areas

suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

'Whether the increase is 14 percent or 20 percent, it is still going to have an inflationary impact and add to the spiralling cost of living.

'The issue that is far more important is food prices.

'Rather than quibble about a few percent in the

maize prices increase, the far more important issue to me is that food prices should not increase,' Dr Slabbert said.

Yesterday Mr Horwood said the Government would spend more than R300-million on food subsidies this year.

(Report by T Wentzel, 122 St George's Street, Cape Town.)

● Chicken prices — Page 6; See also Pages 22.

Making a meal(ie) of it...

**Political Correspondent**

THERE was confusion in Pretoria today about when the new maize price would be announced.

At first a spokesman for the Maize Board said the Minister of Agriculture, Mr P T C du Plessis, would announce the new price at 10 am today.

A spokesman for the Minister later denied this, adding that the price would be announced by May 1.

Later in the day the Maize Board invited newspapers in Pretoria to a Press conference at its offices at 3 pm today.

**'BACKGROUND'**

It said a 'background' to the new maize price would be given there. It was not made clear whether a price would be announced then.

The impression in Pretoria was that an announcement on the price — probably an increase of between 14 and 20 percent — would be specially timed for the radio and television news broadcasts.

(Report by T Wentzel, 122 St George's Street, Cape Town.)

The use of BCG vaccination is at the moment too haphazard. A coverage of 70 - 80% is possible, and at that rate some measure of herd immunity is obtained. It is current practice to give BCG vaccination to children born in hospital and to those attending Baby Clinics who are Heaf negative (in practice this means those who attend Baby Clinics on at least two occasions in successive weeks). But it is likely that children who fall outside this select group have at least as high a chance of becoming infected, and far less chance of being brought to hospital for early treatment. If the children who run the highest risk of succumbing to a tuberculous infection are to be helped by vaccination, the campaign must be decentralised. Vaccination must be given to all neonates, and again at six months of age when the immune system is more mature, if the Heaf test is negative. Repeat Heaf testing and, if necessary, revaccination should be carried out at school age.

Care finding could be improved in two ways. The machinery for care finding must be decentralised; if the care gradient (Figure 6) is to be improved, each location must have its own organisation for care finding. Local Transkei Anti-Tuberculosis Association (TATBA) committees already exist in some of the locations, and further use should be made of these committees. There already act as 'finder groups' and perform simple tasks such as keeping the register of infected persons and issuing drugs. They could also collect sputum from those with a productive cough, give Heaf tests and administer BCG vaccination to infants born on the location, and take medicines to those who default.

and ... were found to be rudimentary, and ... fall in the number of cases registered as being in ... those areas further from the hospital. A number of ... made for the improvement of the health services.

Hikes being kept under wraps, alleges buyer

# Food prices will rocket after election

~~2/11/81~~

3 general

S. Tribune 26/4/81

Tribune Reporter

THE Government is keeping massive food price increases tightly under wraps until after the General Election next week.

The senior buyer of Pick 'n Pay in Cape Town, Norman Leibov, predicted yesterday that meat, dairy products and other foodstuffs would definitely go up in price.

In an interview Mr Leibov predicted:

● An increase of at least 12 percent in the

price of flour at the end of the month.

● An Oil Seed Control Board announcement of at least 16 percent in the price of oil seeds.

● An increase of at least 15 percent in the price of milk, and

● An increased cigarette price.

Mr Leibov's predictions follow announcements this week that the maize price would go up by 9.5 percent and the price of eggs would rise by four or five cents a dozen.

"Normally at this time

of the year we know exactly what it going up and we also have a pretty good idea of the increases," Mr Leibov said.

"Because of the election this year, we are being kept in the dark. The food industry is being swept by rumours of increases but it is not difficult to predict that consumers will feel the impact of an even higher cost of living only after the last votes have been counted," he said.

Elaborating on the price increases, Mr Leibov said, the oil seed price increase

would push up the price of cooking oil, margarine and other related foodstuffs.

"A higher milk price will in turn push up the price of butter, cheese and all other dairy products," he said.

The higher maize price would also increase the price of red meat as farmers will have to pay more to feed their stock.

In Durban, Colin Clarke, general manager of supermarkets for Pick 'n Pay, said dog food too would be affected by the maize price

increase, and pet owners would have to shell out more within the next few weeks.

"My feeling is that the maize price increase of 9.5 percent is very difficult to justify when you have a glut of maize.

"If we did away with protectionist bodies such as the control boards, and had a free market condition without fixed prices, it would eventually result in the levelling out of prices, or production would be more allied to the market.

"It is the control boards that tend to distort prices, especially on the agricultural front."

Fanie Ferreira, chairman of the maize producers' association Nampo, has described the new maize price as "political"

He said Nampo strongly objected to a statutory body like the Maize Board being used to shield an "uncomfortable political decision".

The board's price determining function had been taken away from it in 1975, he said.

36

for example, dis an equivalent wa difficult one to needs to address

Economic Aspects of Indigenous Healing

Len Holdstock  
University of the Witwatersrand

There are several compelling arguments for officially incorporating the indigenous healers in the mental health services of the country. Needless to say, the overall improvement in the quality of life of the people in the country and the optimal use of the human resources available to us, are perhaps the two most cogent reasons.

There are as yet no registered black clinical psychologists or psychiatrists in any of the urban townships. There is only a handful of social workers. The Soweto Society for Marriage and Family Life has been registered as a social welfare agency for only a few short months now. They are the first black organization of their kind in South Africa and has an all inclusive staff of four people.

There simply are no professionals trained in a Western-scientific approach to care for the mental health needs of the black people in the urban areas.

Irrespective of whether we take a figure of 10, 40 or 80% of all illnesses to be psychosomatic, a huge amount of time and money undoubtedly go waste because of insufficient provision to care for the emotional and interpersonal needs of the black people of the country.

However, even if there were sufficient numbers of Western-trained people, it is an open question of what benefit to the mental health needs of the majority of the people, such professionals would be?

Within exclusively Western-oriented mental health care systems a serious questioning of the effectiveness of the underlying model and practice, has begun. The doubtful effectiveness of traditional Western-scientific approaches to problems in living becomes a harbored felt ambivalence in attempts to apply the principles underlying the Western scientific model to cultures groups whose dominant values are not rational and individualistic.

Thus, perhaps, it is a blessing in disguise that there is such a complex lack of interest in the mental health needs of the black people in the urban areas.

Another argument in favour of the use of indigenous healers is the plea put out by The World Organization for a Greater Understanding and Use of Traditional Healing Methods.

Furthermore, indigenous healers are an established component of the black communities, not only in the rural areas, but in the urban townships and cities.

In addition, use of their services in an organized fashion would not only alleviate the mental health manpower shortage in the country. It is a distinct possibility that we may be able to learn a great deal from them. There is a good deal of commonality between indigenous healing principles and methods and some recent developments in Western approaches to healing.

Since there are so many arguments for recognizing indigenous healers, I often speculate about the factors which prevent us from incorporating them in our health care system? Is it an arrogant belief in the superiority of one approach over another, or is it a political issue?

Whatever the reason may be, the natural attributes, the knowledge of indigenous healers and people, locking people up, the indignity to train them to become healers, and the debt into a credit is obvious.

Apart from, to me the dominating indigenous healers there are some concrete economic factors like to point out briefly.

Indigenous healers are in black townships, but also in part-time jobs and gardeners, motor mechanics, and teachers on weekdays. They are busy. Regular healers are consulted by 16 white persons on a Sunday.

Some indigenous healers in full-time practice have a time to spare. Several have spoken to me about their work during the day and week anyway. Several have spoken to me about their work during the day and week anyway. Several have spoken to me about their work during the day and week anyway. Several have spoken to me about their work during the day and week anyway.

RDW 29/4/81 (3 general)  
**Farmers braced for an interest rate rise**

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — Farmers are bracing themselves for a rise in Land Bank loan interest rates, which they maintain will further boost the cost of agricultural commodities.

Confirming an increase was expected, the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Jaap Wilkens, said in an interview from Pretoria last night that the move would have to mean higher prices for agricultural produce.

He had not been officially informed of higher charges on the heavily subsidised Land Bank finance, "but I think we can expect that the interest rates will be going up."

"I think if there is an increase in rates for any business, then their goods must also go up and everybody must realise this," said Mr Wilkens.

"Not so," maintained the official Opposition spokesman on agriculture and PFP candidate for Wynberg, Mr Philip Myburgh.

"This is one instance where I don't see a direct correlation between the percentage increase in the interest rate and the cost of commodities to the consumer."

When farmers made use of Land Bank assistance, it was for long term projects.

Land Bank officials could not be reached for comment last night.

Regular healers are consulted by 16 white persons on a Sunday. Some indigenous healers in full-time practice have a time to spare. Several have spoken to me about their work during the day and week anyway. Several have spoken to me about their work during the day and week anyway. Several have spoken to me about their work during the day and week anyway.

In talking to members I was struck by the importance of nutrition education and the influence it has in deciding people to start growing vegetables. An assessment of a nutrition programme might show that a fairly small percentage of people follow up their initial contract by starting gardens. However, in discussing people's reasons for getting involved in the gardens one finds that pi far away hospitals, or a doctor's advice before have spread through a village and about nutrition. This makes one aware a much longer time span than one might assess the benefits of a policy.

# Farmers' loans to cost more

By GUBDON KLING 29/4/87

FARMERS are bracing themselves for a rise in Land Bank loan interest rates which they maintain will further boost the cost of agricultural commodities.

Confirming an increase was expected, the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Jaap Wilkens, said in an interview from Pretoria last night that the move would mean higher prices for agricultural produce.

He had not been officially informed of higher charges on the heavily-subsidized Land Bank finance, "but I think we can expect that the interest rates will be going up". The loan money was not divorced from what was happening elsewhere in the economy and the authorities were unlikely to intervene on behalf of the farmers.

"I think if there is an increase in rates for any business then their goods must also go up and everybody must realize

the cost of commodities to the this," said Mr Wilkens.

"Not so," maintained the official Opposition spokesman on agriculture and PFP candidate for Wynberg, Mr Philip Myburgh.

"This is one instance where I don't see a direct correlation between the percentage increase in the interest rate and consumer."

Land Bank officials could not be reached for comment last night.

"development" projects there might be in their area, and to the fact that very poor and isolated villagers are not so quick to see the benefit of new ideas. However there is evidence that after a period of observation of an efficiently run project the poor people do join and then are the hardest working. Communal gardens are much more open to benefitting the very poor than dairies are. A member needs no resources to join apart from a small amount of money for seeds, and labour. If the amount of labour available is limited, a member is not forced to drop out of the project, she/he may just produce less, and even if she doesn't get enough food to sell she will generally get some to eat.

Most gardens do produce a supplementary source of food and some cash for most members (see chart p.36). It is more difficult for them to generate a significant amount of cash because of marketing problems and also because of lack of labour. However those families which have a man's labour available for hawking and production are making significantly more money than women-only families. Nevertheless as Mr. Buryambo points out, the gardens cannot generate enough for a family to live off and so, as with the dairies, they function as one of several supplementary sources of income. They should be seen not as something which will transform the way in which people live but as something which may satisfy a small part of people's needs, and in some cases part of people's financial needs.

POSITIVE FACTORS

1. Where the gardens are fully established and functioning properly (i.e. not Umlambo and Inkomo) people who were not previously feeding their families on home grown vegetables say they have noticed a definite improvement in the health of their children.
2. At the communal gardens people learn techniques of vegetable growing and soil preparation. They take these techniques back to their home gardens and teach neighbours. Many members cited the knowledge gained as important.
3. Apart from the members at Inkomo and a few people who said they had particularly fertile soil at home, all members said that yields at the communal garden were higher than at home because of the fencing, water, and better soil preparation there.

	% of year that provide food for family
UMLAMBO	Too new to assess
UMTHI	All members aware
INKOMO	None
IDOTI	Between their garden & communal garden most produce vegetables at home
ABALIMI	Some all year Majority summer Others garden half needs in

I discuss the degree of communalism in views about it, in part II of this paper.



# 'More food price increases'

News 29/4/81

General



## Consumer Reporter

A WAVE of new price increases is about to batter the consumer, who has already been faced with a 30 percent increase in the cost of food during the past year, say supermarket executives.

A spokesman for Pick 'n Pay said today: 'The annual increase in the oil seed price will come soon. It is always announced at this time of year.

'That means that the price of margarine as well as cooking oil will go up.

'Milk producers are asking for a 16 percent increase because of the 9,5 percent increase in the price of maize, and other expenses. That means the price of butter and cheese will also go up.

### CHICKENS

'The price of fresh chickens will go up by 6c a kg on Monday. That means they will be retailing at about R1,64 a kg.

'This increase is to cover other costs apart from the new higher maize price, which will lead to another increase soon.

'The increase in the maize price will also lead to an increase in the price of eggs early next month, although we have not yet been notified of this.

'And there is a strong rumour that the price of cigarettes is about to go up next week.'

### SUGAR

He said the recent 11 percent increase in the price of sugar would also affect the consumer next month.

'The housewife has not really felt it yet,' he pointed out, 'because stocks of sugar are still being sold at the "old" price

# KANHYM FPL 115/81 Changing profile

3 general

**Activities:** Vertically integrated farming and meat trading group. Karoo Meat Exchange is a 51% subsidiary. Also has extensive coal reserves and a coal mine. Gencor holds 52,3% of the equity.

**Chairman:** Dr W J de Villiers; chief executive: H Kramer.

**Capital structure:** 9,4m ordinaries of 50c. Market capitalisation: R118m.

**Financial:** 15 months to December 31 1980. Borrowings: long- and medium-term, R26m; net short-term, R29,7m. Debt:equity ratio: 89,6%. Current ratio: 1,3. Group cash flow: R14,8m. Planned capex: R24m.

**Share market:** Price: 1 250c (1980-81: high, 1 405c; low, 690c; trading volume last quarter, 86 000 shares). Yields: +10,2% on earnings; +3,5% on dividend. Cover: 2,9. PE ratio: +9,8.

	'77	'78	'79	'80
Return on cap %	14,0	18,8	20,4	+14,7
Turnover (Rm)	44,1	49,8	59,4	359,4
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	2,2	3,8	5,3	19,5
Gross margin %	12,5	9,7	10,4	6,2
Earnings (c)	32,8	48,5	63,3	+127
Dividends (c)	15	22	30	+44
Net asset value (c)	248	258	298	362

\* 15-month accounting period. † annualised.

Acquisition of the meat trading interests of the Pickard group last year changed the structure of Kanhyim significantly. But as far as the income statement is concerned, the full effects will only be felt this year.

As from July 1, the group's meat trading activities were merged with those of Karoo and Asokor, with Kanhyim holding 51% of the enlarged Karoo. The balance sheet at December 31 clearly reflects the increased emphasis on trading, but the divisional breakdown of profits for the 15-month accounting period (which includes six months with Karoo as a subsidiary) shows a relatively modest increase in the proportion attributable to trading.

Perhaps the most striking indication of the change in group structure is that equity funds now finance only 22% of total assets compared with 52% previously. And even if minorities are included, the total permanent capital base is now the equiv-

## PRE-TAX PROFIT CONTRIBUTIONS

	Rm		%	
	1979	1980	1979	1980
Farming	2,4	9,3	48	48
Mining	0,7	1,2	13	6
Trading	2,2	9,0	42	46
Total	5,3	19,5	100	100

alent of only 38,5% (53%) of total assets.

The total asset base increased four-fold to R156m (R36m), excluding goodwill of R16,7m (R2,4m), while total shareholders' funds were up from R19,1m to R60m. But the capital base of the group itself, at R34m, was less than twice the previous figure of R18,8m, even after last year's one-for-two rights issue.

From this, it is obvious that there has been a very large increase in borrowings. These now total R53,7m (R9,2m) and have taken the debt:equity ratio to almost 90% (48%). While this is not inconsistent with the new emphasis on trading, it is a marked departure from the group's traditionally conservative financial structure. Last year's sharply higher dividend cover of 2,9 is, therefore, likely to be maintained until the ratios of previous years are re-established.

The increase in borrowings is entirely attributable to the consolidation of the very highly geared Karoo. This company's latest balance sheet shows a debt:equity ratio of 187%, and its borrowings of R53,3m represent over 99% of the Kanhyim group total. This means, in effect, that Kanhyim's other operations are virtually ungeared.

Of interest, total assets of Karoo, at R115m, account for 67% of the group total,

emphasising the extent to which the enlarged group is now invested in meat trading.

The main effect of the merger on the income statement so far has been to lower the gross margin on turnover considerably. At 6,2%, this ratio is at an historical low for the group and reflects the narrower margins of the enlarged trading division.

A probability, therefore, is that the margin on turnover will dip further this year as Karoo makes its full contribution to results, unless rationalisation benefits compensate.

Another probability is that interest payments will be sharply higher. Last year, the group paid only R2,8m on a year-end debt total of R53,7m, giving a low average interest rate of 5,3%. This, of course, reflects the fact that Karoo's borrowings were in for only six months. But it is nevertheless clear that if debt is maintained at the present level, the total interest bill could double.

Regarding the future, chairman Wim de Villiers forecasts that taxed profits this year will be 50% higher than the annualised figure for last year. But as earnings will be calculated on the full issued capital, instead of a weighted average, earnings are expected to amount to only some 130c — not significantly different from last year's annualised 127c.

Past forecasts, however, have traditionally been on the low side and it is my guess that the company will continue to perform beyond expectations. I would look for earnings of 150c and a 50c dividend. But even this represents a prospective yield of only 4% at the current 1 250c market price, indicating that investors are already discounting to a large degree the development of the group's coal resources.

Brian Thompson

218  
**Boom decade  
for farmers**

Own Correspondent

Gross value of South Africa's agricultural production rose by 332 percent over the past 10 years, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Piet du Plessis told the annual congress of the South African Agricultural Union in Vanderbijlpark yesterday.

The 1979/80 figure was R5 712-million compared with R1 323-million 10 years ago.

PIET SWART FM 8/5/81  
~~3 control boards~~

# No changes <sup>3 general</sup>

Surprise! The new director of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) is completely in favor of retaining the control board system for the nation's farming sector.

That's to be expected. Piet Swart has spent his entire working life in the agricultural bureaucracy.

After graduating from Unisa, the 46-year-old Swart worked for the Meat Board from 1952 to 1963. He then joined SAAU, becoming general secretary three years later. In 1971, he was promoted to deputy director and last week moved into the top position to "just administer" SAAU's policies handed down by its board.

The SAAU is not dominated by the Broederbond, he says, being a "completely non-political, democratic organisation

for all its members. We're not out to promote anybody other than farmers."

Swart says there are too many "generalised complaints" about the various control boards for which the farming members are nominated by the SAAU. He says the "real question is stability. Without control, there would be such wild fluctuations in production and prices that food supplies would not necessarily be guaranteed. We don't say they're perfect, but there is just no alternative."

But whatever the reason, there's no denying that food prices have been skyrocketing over the last few years. By Swart's own reckoning, the price of beef has jumped about 50% in the last year alone. Overall, all food prices rose at least 29% in the same period. Blacks whose incomes have not kept pace, have been especially hurt.

In the case of meat, where the Meat Board determines a floor price, market forces have pushed the selling price way above the set level. Swart says that means "the free market is telling us we're in a shortage over the medium term."

Overall, Swart says the real culprit for food prices is inflation. "All of our costs — tractors, fertilizer, everything — have risen." He estimates that the combined index of agricultural requisites has increased by 26% during the 1979-1980 year, "so food prices must increase too." With curious logic, he adds: We must ensure that farmers make a profit."

And the price spiral will undoubtedly continue. Swart predicts that while meat producers are making their "first real profit in five years," the Meat Board will hike the floor price for beef "substantially" in the next few months.

"We need a price that is realistic for

the farmer so he can be assured of a profit when he commits his capital. I appeal to consumers to understand the benefits over the long term for SA."

If the control system is so bad, he asks, then why is it that SA is the only exporter of food in Africa, and only one of seven in the world?"

No one doubts SA has the most advanced agricultural sector in Africa. For Swart, an Afrikaner by birth and disposition, the reason for that is the "pragmatic, realistic outlook" of the country's 70 000 farmers.

That description could apply to Swart as well. Born in Germiston — son of a mine surveyor — he lived in Springs and Pretoria. He has no illusion that the future is totally secure for agriculture. He says there is "every possibility" that labour unrest will spread to the rural sector "in a number of years."

But in the meantime, Swart says farmers have a "crucial" role to play in SA. "We expect the population to double by the end of the century. And we must prepare for it now. It really is that simple."

# Alarming drop in number of white farmers

*S. Times 10/5/87  
3 general*

THE drop in the number of white farmers in South Africa is continuing at an alarming rate.

There are now only about 70 000 compared with 106 000 in 1960, Mr Frans Venter, Barclays Bank's chief agricultural adviser, said this week.

Mr Venter told Business Times that the decrease of 32% was mainly because of the rapid drop in profitability of farming in South Africa.

"Take a Western Transvaal farmer, for example. In 1949-50 he had to spend 57c in working capital to achieve a R1 turnover. In those days he could count on almost doubling his investment.

"By 1968-69, the same farmer needed 67c for each R1 in turnover. By 1978-79, however, the farmer had to spend as much as 86c to achieve a R1 turnover.

"These are average figures for the Western Transvaal, but the trend is the same throughout the Republic," Mr Venter said.

Thirty years ago a South African farmer needed only a

By Jan de Beer

year to recover from a total crop failure.

But by 1978-79, it would have taken seven years to make up for such a failure. And it now probably requires an even longer period.

"Obviously, most farmers are simply not capitally strong enough to weather that kind of storm," Mr Venter added.

He said that the tremendously high risk in farming today was illustrated by the fact that the investment in an average farm in South Africa now totalled as much as R312 500.

While the number of farmers dropped by 22% from 106 000 to 80 000 between 1960 and 1974, total agricultural investments rose as shown in the table.

The increase in working capital requirements also rose dramatically in the same period.

Mr Venter said that the need for efficient farm management and financial planning was now vitally needed to ensure South Africa's agricultural survival.

# The Star

## Big v small in farming industry

15/5/61  
3  
15/5/61

OVER the last few years South Africa has seen the gradual monopolisation of its maize and beef farms. The small farmer has been squeezed out. And now, according to Mr Vic Allen, director of the Rural Trust, we may be seeing the demise of the small dairy farmer — crushed by maize prices which form half his overheads. In twenty years the number of small, individually owned farms (those which supply the market, not subsistence farms) has been reduced by half. Some were no loss, but only some.

A dangerous misconception has lulled this country into believing that this has been a good thing. We hear, ad nauseum, how 10 percent of farms are producing 80 percent of agricultural products. While this is true it is no measure of national productivity. For instance, "agri-business" is producing an average 1.3 tons of maize a hectare which is, by world standards, extremely poor. A recent World Bank survey showed that large scale

farming is far less productive than small scale because the small farmer knows his land, utilises all of his land and is aware that his family depends upon his farming skill. In Third World countries small farm productivity is between 30 and 60 percent better than agribusiness which tends to see farming as simply how much profit can be made from capital employed.

One must also bear in mind that sociologically the small farm is the more important for it provides work, shelter, food and security for six times as many people for a given area than the giant farms.

We have reached a point in our agricultural story where we have costly shortages and costly overproduction and where staple foods are beyond the pockets of those who work on the land. There are no simple answers; but we need to look long and hard at the accepted policies which direct farming in South Africa.

ROM 15/5/81

# Reveal <sup>3 general</sup> black border plans, farmers urge

DURBAN. — The Natal Agricultural Union, meeting in Durban, has passed a resolution calling on the Government to complete the 1975 KwaZulu consolidation proposals as soon as possible.

The resolution, proposed by the Ixopo Agricultural Society at a special congress yesterday, was carried by a majority of the 250 delegates.

During the debate the union received bouquets and brickbats from delegates.

Criticism came from Mr Horace Rall, a former United Party MPC and a member of

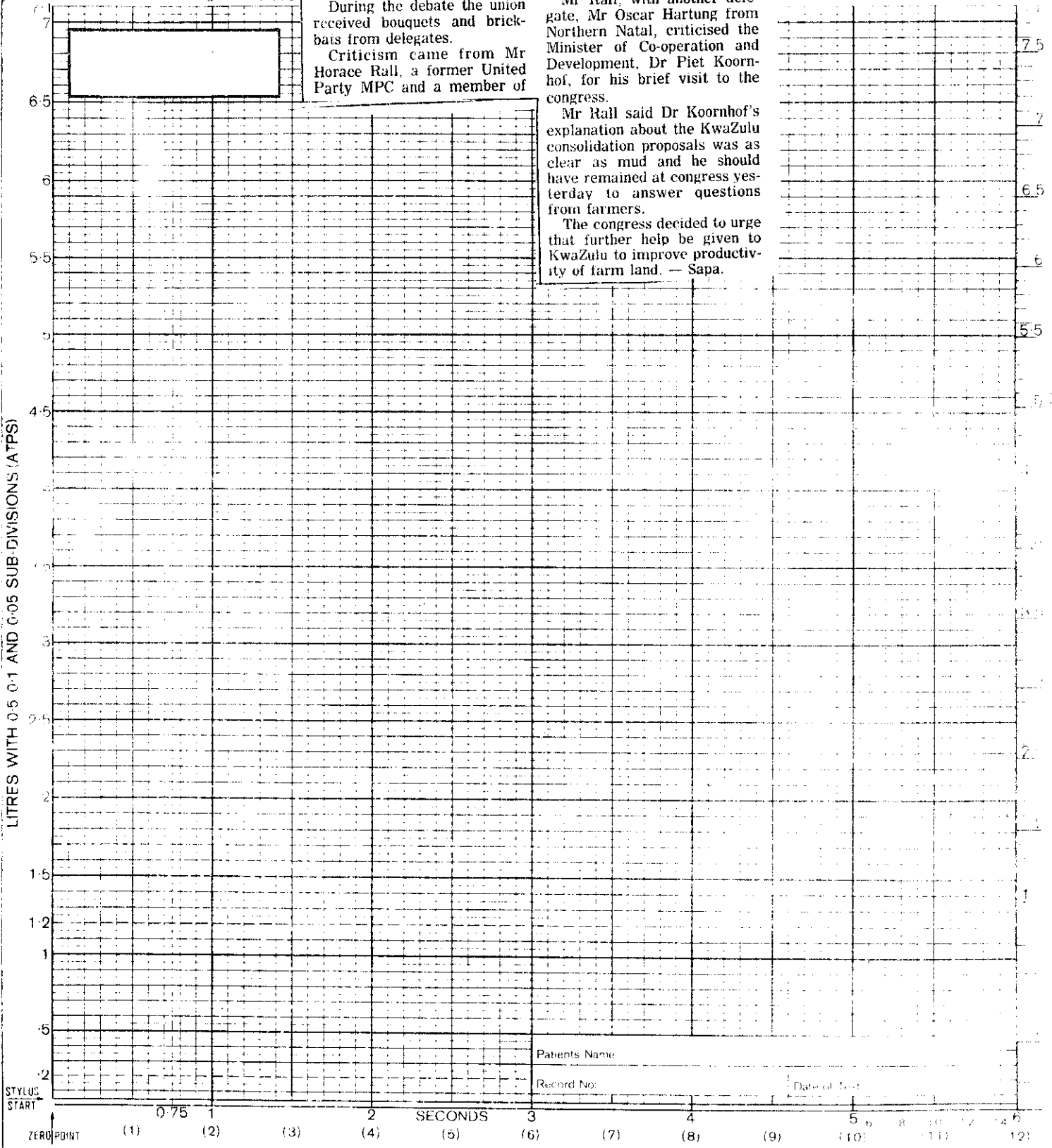
the Muden Agricultural Association. Mr Rall said the NAU itself was partly to blame for the border problems between white and black.

He said that nine years ago the NAU had called for the removal of Zulus from the Drakensberg reserves to Msinga. This had resulted in overcrowding, stock theft and wastage of potentially good farm land.

Mr Rall, with another delegate, Mr Oscar Hartung from Northern Natal, criticised the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, for his brief visit to the congress.

Mr Rall said Dr Koornhof's explanation about the KwaZulu consolidation proposals was as clear as mud and he should have remained at congress yesterday to answer questions from farmers.

The congress decided to urge that further help be given to KwaZulu to improve productivity of farm land. — Sapa.



STYLUS START

ZERO POINT (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12)

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Date of Test \_\_\_\_\_

5000  
Farmers  
call on  
kwaZulu  
land plan

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The Natal Agricultural Union meeting has passed a resolution calling on the Government to complete the 1975 kwaZulu consolidation proposals as soon as possible.

The resolution, proposed by the Ixopo Agricultural Society at the special congress yesterday was carried by a majority of the 250 NAU delegates after a lengthy debate from the floor.

The resolution as approved by the congress reads: "Congress requests that the 1975 consolidation proposals — with small practical adjustments — be completed as speedily as possible."

During the debate the NAU received both bouquets and brickbats from delegates.

Criticism came from Mr Horace Rall, the former United Party member of the Executive Council and a member of the Muden Agricultural Association.

Mr Rall said the NAU itself was partly to blame for the border problems between white and black in the Msinga area.

He said that nine years ago the NAU had called for the removal of Zululand from the Drakensberg reserves, to Msinga. This had resulted in overcrowding, stock theft and wastage of potentially good agricultural land.

Mr Rall, together with another delegate, Mr Oscar Hartung from northern Natal, criticised the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Koornhof, for the short time he had spent at the congress yesterday.

Mr Rall said Dr Koornhof's explanation about the Government's kwaZulu consolidation proposals was "as clear as mud" and that the Minister should have remained at the congress yesterday to answer questions from the farmers.

PRODUCTIVITY

The congress resolved to ask that when land was handed over to the homelands in terms of the 1975 consolidation proposals, the maintenance of productivity receive the

ther help be given to kwaZulu to improve productivity of agriculture land.

The congress also voted against the consolidation of any land into kwaZulu other than the land earmarked in the 1975 consolidation proposals.

The majority of delegates voted against a motion saying that the congress did not believe it practical or feasible to consolidate kwaZulu into a viable and separate state within the boundaries of Natal, even by the provision of further land. Voting was 106 against and 86 for.

The latter motion was introduced by Mr Gerrie de Jong, the former MP for Mooi River, who said that two administrations within one territory would cause incredible duplication and problems.



# Heated discussion on resolution on KwaZulu State

# Mixed views on motivation of black farmers

3 Gear

N. MERCURY  
15/5/81

Political Reporter

HEATED discussion took place at the congress yesterday as delegates considered a resolution rejecting the concept of consolidating KwaZulu into a 'viable and separate State' within Natal.

Charges that the resolution was motivated by politicians, operating behind the scenes, to place the NAU in an embarrassing position, were made by a number of delegates.

Former MP Gerrie de Jong, who proposed the resolution on behalf of the Lions River Agricultural Society, rejected claims that he was blatantly bringing politics into what was essentially a farmers' forum.

When put to a secret ballot, the congress rejected the motion by 106 votes to 85. But a separate addendum added by congress to the resolution, rejecting further consolidation exceeding the 1975 proposals, was accepted on a show of hands with only 3 opposing votes.

Mr de Jong said he did not reject consolidation totally since it was working for Transkei and elsewhere. But it would not work in Natal.

'Natal is unique. It is geographically indivisible. Dr Koornhof alluded to this when he referred to the wide distribution of the Zulu people throughout Natal. That is the problem. There are 4 500 000 Zulus spread across Natal.'

Mr de Jong said he would support consolidation in Natal if the Zulus could be offered a single, viable State.

'I'm not pleading for a special dispensation. I'm asking the Government to look for a different way because this solution will just not work in Natal.'

Numerous studies had shown it was 'absolutely impossible to cut Natal into two viable States'.

A Cedarville delegate said if approved, the resolution would do 'untold harm' to the NAU's ability to bargain with the Government on consolidation. The motion was a political one which had emanated from active politicians.

Dr Flip Meyer of Elandslaagte said farmers had no place discussing such a resolution.

## Blast for Koornhof

Political Reporter

DR Piet Koornhof, Minister of Co-operation and Development, was criticised yesterday for not staying to listen to the opinions of Natal farmers on the thorny question of consolidation.

Delegates spoke at length to four resolutions on consolidation.

Mr Oscar Hartung said the minister was like a teacher who had given his pupils a lump of clay and had left them to play with it.

'He spoke to us for an hour and then left. He should be here now, listening.'

Political Reporter  
A POOR view of the Zulus' ability to become productive farmers emerged yesterday.

The opposing view held that the system imposed by whites was responsible for the attitude adopted by some black farmers and workers.

Dr Flip Meyer, parliamentary candidate for the Herstigte Nasionale Party in the recent election, said he believed KwaZulu could become an exporter of food if the Zulus were prepared to motivate themselves.

But blacks 'don't want to keep up with the Jones, they want to drag the Jones down to their level'.

A delegate said the whites had allowed the Zulus to degenerate into subservient labourers who were prepared to 'do nothing for themselves'.

'When blacks learn to work and not to sit at home drinking beer, they will get somewhere.'

Mr Horace Rall, who blamed the poor conditions in the Msinga area on the dumping of thousands of people in the homeland by the Government, said part of Natal could be desert in 20 to 25 years.

Blacks dumped in arid areas could not but help steal and damage fences when they looked across the border and saw the green fields on white farms.

Mr Oscar Hartung, an HNP parliamentary candidate in the recent election, said black people 'will never be able to fend for themselves. It's not in their nature, no matter how much technical help we give them.'

## Improve productivity plea to Government

Political Reporter

NATAL farmers decided yesterday to urge the Government to give KwaZulu further help to improve the productivity of agricultural land.

Concern was expressed that the Zulu system of land tenure could not lead to an increase in productivity.

It was decided to request that the maintenance of the productivity of land handed over to the homelands in terms of the 1975 proposals receive the highest priority.

The congress also decided that land bought for consolidation be valued realistically, and that compensation be paid immediately on expropriation.

# Delegate wants muscle to move blacks

Political Reporter *Genk*

*N. Mergley 15/78*  
THE Government's ability to finalise its consolidation proposals was doubted by several delegates yesterday.

Mr H Odendaal of Bergville questioned how the Government could move people who had lived in areas for more than a century when the authorities were unable to clear black spots on State land.

'I appeal to the Government to use muscle to clear black spots of squatters.'

Former senator Mr Horace Rall said KwaZulu was not interested in the 1975 consolidation proposals. KwaZulu was not prepared to hand over land in exchange for white land.

Another Bergville delegate said KwaZulu wanted no part of the 1975 proposals because the Zulus wanted the entire province.

A delegate from Eshowe said the Government was having trouble resettling Zulus because the people of KwaZulu regarded themselves as South Africans and were not prepared to accept bits of Natal as their share of the country.

'If we force them to move, we will have a threat to our security.'

Former MP, Mr R Cadman of Eshowe, said Dr Piet Koornhof, Minister of Co-operation and Development, had made it clear the bulk of white farm land needed for exchange with KwaZulu had already been bought. But exchange land from KwaZulu was not available because the people could not be moved.

N. MTRAWY  
15/5/81

3 Genral

# Incensed ~~107~~ delegate says secret talks with Govt 'are treachery'

## Political Reporter

NATAL farmers were slipping off to Pretoria for secret talks aimed at persuading the Government that their districts were too valuable for consolidation and suggesting alternative areas.

The 'cloak and dagger' approach of some farming districts was described as 'traitorous' by incensed delegates at the special Natal Agricultural Union congress in Durban yesterday.

Mr D Broome of Ixopo said uncertainty over the consolidation proposals was creating hostility between farming districts in Natal.

'It is dividing and destroying our *esprit de corps*.

'Any farmer who thinks he is solving his problem by transferring it to another district will face a problem himself later when his district is fingered.

'This is traitorous.'

## Resentment

Mr Broome was introducing a resolution calling for the 1975 consolidation proposals to be completed as soon as possible.

'Consolidation has created black/white resentment.

'The development of Natal and KwaZulu is dependent on the relationship between the races.

'People must be recognised as a major resource and not necessarily as a problem.

'We must teach them to become productive.'

He said consolidation had aggravated the problems it had set out to solve.

Developed areas had degenerated to tribal grazing grounds, and the rural population had increased with a decrease in productivity.

The resolution was carried.

# 'No more white land'

## Natal farmers reject any further consolidation

N. MERCURY 15/5/81 *General*

Blake Wilkins  
Political Reporter

NATAL farmers yesterday unequivocally rejected any further consolidation in excess of the white land earmarked for KwaZulu in terms of the 1975 proposals.

The decision, taken yesterday at a special NAU congress on consolidation, is a total rejection of most of the recommendations made by the Van der Walt Commission, which envisaged handing over several white towns and highly productive farming areas to KwaZulu.

The commission's report — much of which is still secret — has been considered by the S A Cabinet but has not been laid before Parliament.

The congress was clearly opposed to the transfer of productive, white farming land to KwaZulu when black farmers were unable to maintain the level of productivity.

Doubts were expressed about Government assurances — repeated by Dr Piet Koornhof, Minister of Co-operation and Development — that land would not be handed over until guarantees were given that productivity would be maintained.

The many aspects of border farms constituted the over-riding problem at the congress.

Several delegates warned of impending clashes with homeland blacks intent on stealing stock and produce,

and destroying property.

Dr Koornhof gave no inkling of Government action on the problem, apart from revealing that the Van der Walt Commission was investigating the issue.

Nor did he clear up the uncertainty of homeland boundaries, a problem which has bedevilled Natal farmers for decades. And he gave no indication of when homeland consolidation would finally be achieved, if ever.

The one clear message which emerged from Dr Koornhof's speech to the congress on Monday was that the Government was looking at a 'package deal' based on economic lines to achieve the concept of indepen-

dent states in white South Africa. Land was not the only counter in the bargaining process.

At the same time, with a strident and oft-repeated 'disbelieve me at your peril', Dr Koornhof said the Government had the interests of farmers at heart.

Representations would be heard at the highest level from people directly involved in consolidation. And the Government would pay cash for white farms needed for consolidation.

Some delegates suggested that money set aside for buying up land for consolidation be used to upgrade KwaZulu.

Others called for money to be spent on the immediate improvement of education in KwaZulu, both as a means of

providing workers for a labour-hungry market and to break the crippling hold of the 'destructive' system of land tenure in black areas.

Natal farmers have accepted the obligations made to black leaders in terms of the 1936 Land and Tenure Act, which form the basis of the 1975 proposals contained in an Act of Parliament. This will see the existing 47 pieces of KwaZulu being reduced to 10.

But the clear wish of Natal farmers for an end to the uncertainty of consolidation remains unfulfilled.

Dr Koornhof has the unenviable task of trying to move 250 000 unwilling blacks in Natal in terms of the 1975 proposals, or finding a compromise solution within the Verwoerdian dream of separate and independent black homelands.

15/5/81

B. Chomol

# Leave our farms alone!

S. Tribune 30/1/75  
By RODNEY JACKSON-SMITH

NATAL farmers this week told the Government in blunt terms not to overstep its claims on white-owned land for the consolidation of KwaZulu.

Meeting in special congress in Durban, organised agriculture in the province committed itself to the principle of homeland consolidation, but rejected any further steps which exceed the Government's 1975 proposals.

These proposals, which the province's farmers want completed and implemented as speedily as possible, will reduce fragmented KwaZulu from the present 47 to 10 separate units.

But at the end of the two-day congress — called by the Natal Agricultural



Piet Koornhof

Union to thrash out the consolidation issue — about half of the almost 200 delegates returned to their farms committed to the belief that it is impossible to consolidate KwaZulu into a viable and separate state within the boundaries of Natal.

And a vast number of delegates who came to the congress seeking finality and Government assurances on consolidation and how it will affect them, returned home with their hopes dashed.

Even guest speaker Piet Koornhof, Minister of Cooperation and Development, tried hard, but failed to provide a satisfactory Government timetable for the implementation of the consolidation proposals.

Dr. Koornhof struck an optimistic note when he told the delegates: "I am glad to be in a position to

report that most of the administrative and financial constraints of recent years have been overcome and that no reason can at this stage be foreseen why a purposeful effort cannot be made towards the implementation of the proposals."

But in the next breath he dashed all enthusiasm, exposing what is essentially the biggest flaw in whatever plan the Government implements for the consolidation.

"The main obstacle in the course of the more rapid implementation of the proposals at this stage seems to be the unwillingness of the people to be resettled."

He went on to say that while it was appreciated that the removal and resettlement of people was a disruptive process, it had to be understood that they were essential elements of the consolidation.

There is little comfort in that statement for the estimated 250 000 Zulus who will have to be removed and resettled.

At least the 200 white Natal farmers who will be affected by the proposals have the assurance of adequate compensation and a guarantee that they will be paid out in cash.

CT 20/5/81 (3 general)

# Fedco venture will help Cape farmers

By Alex Petersen  
Finance Reporter

**THE FORMATION** of Fedco as a joint venture between Fedmech and farming co-operative societies in the Western and Southern Cape would bring a "new and refreshing deal" to farmers in the region, the chairman of Fedco Cape, Dr L B Knoll, said last night.

Speaking at the launching of the Fedco, Dr Knoll said the venture was "a new departure" which would mean a more extensive availability of Fedmech products and services.

Fedmech market the range of Massey-Ferguson tractors and agricultural machinery in South Africa.

Because of problems experienced by previous Massey-Ferguson dealerships in the Cape, the

provision and servicing of MF products had not met the standards of the group. This had led Fedmech to establish its own distribution and service operations in Malmesbury and Worcester, and later discussions with the Cape co-operative societies had led to the formation of Fedco.

Dr Knoll said that the partnership agreement provided a shareholding of 51 percent by Fedmech and 49 by the co-operative societies as a group, with the option open to other co-operative societies to join.

Dr Knoll said that between April 1980 and March this year, Massey-Ferguson tractors had enjoyed 24 percent of the South African market, and Fedmech had a 38 percent share of the total South African farm implement market.

# Hunger as tobacco replaces food

Argus 21/5/81

3 general

Medical Reporter

THE South African Government helps promote hunger by allowing the growth of cash crops such as tobacco, on land that is badly needed for food. Dr Derek Yach of the Medical Research Council said yesterday.

Speaking at the University of the Western Cape's Africa Week, Dr Yach told his audience the major killer of African children was diarrhoea associated with malnutrition.

Yet many African governments allowed multinational corporations to grow export cash crops on land that was used for subsistence food production, he said.

'An example of this relates to South Africa where this year 6-million tons of maize is to be exported at a loss while malnutrition runs as high as 20 to 30 percent in rural areas.'

## ILL HEALTH

Pointing out that ill health was one of the major obstacles to African development, Dr Yach said the national average infant mortality rate for countries such as South Africa, Kenya, Zambia and Mozambique was 120 to 150 in every 1 000.

'This figure is similar to that which prevailed in England and Wales in the 1850s,' he said.

'Hospitals and doctors throughout Africa are concentrated in urban areas while the majority are often not within one day's walk of a clinic.'

# Farmers big new venture

3  
3 1 units (Bus)  
20/5/81

By Elizabeth Rouse

FEDMECH and three co-operatives in the Western and Southern Cape have formed a joint venture, Fedco Cape, to handle the Fedmech farm-machinery product ranges.

Fedco Cape, 51% owned by Fedmech and 49% by the co-operative societies as a group — at the moment comprising co-operatives Caledon-Rivier-sonderend, Westelike Graanboere and Suid-Westelike Kooperatiewe Graanmaatskappy — started operations in April.

Fedco is in full swing in Malmesbury, Caledon and George. Hopes are that more co-ops will take shares in the new company. The idea is that additional shares may be issued but the shareholding proportion remains 51%/49%.

The joint venture was first mooted by Dr P E Rousseau, chairman of Federale, and Frans van Wyk, chairman of Boeresake. In the end Boeresake decided against participation.

The Fedco board consists of Dr Leon Knoll chairman, Floris Brand, Laurie Schreuder and John Turpin as Fedmech nominees, Dawid Broodryk and Att Verster as the co-op societies nominees with one vacancy on the board to be filled later from a nomination by the three co-ops.

Fedco will be managed by Laurie Schreuder. He will be supported by three retail outlet managers, Brian Roberts at Malmesbury, Mynhardt van Niekerk at Caledon and Robert Dick at George.

Dr Knoll said at the launching of the company in Cape Town this week that the formation of Fedco represented an extension of Fedmech's facilities in the Western Cape as well as an extension of its links with co-operative societies.

Fedmech already has R6-million invested in distribution, spares and service facilities in the Western Cape. The formation of Fedco amplifies Fedmech's policy to provide continuity and standards of service, said Dr Knoll.

Although co-operatives have the franchises of other makes of farm machinery and implements, Fedmech has a major share of the entire farm machinery market.

April figures show that MF tractor sales were more than double those of April 1980 and the MF market share for the year to April 1981 of 25.2% puts MF well ahead of competitors.



# Farmers S. Times 24/5/81 big new 3 general venture

By Elizabeth Rouse

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FM 5/6/81

S. General

# Farmers' loaded scales

The tax returns which farmers should have been submitting during the last two or three weeks ought to show substantially improved profits. In many cases they will. Even so, declarations will probably bear

little or no relation to profits the farmers have actually been making.

For a start, the February year-end makes a mockery of farm profit and loss accounts. Most crops are planted in one

tax year and harvested in the next. So the maize farmers, for instance, will be setting the growing costs of this year's bumper crop against the income of last year's average one. And for good measure, many

of them will be throwing in the expense of (some of next year's fertilisers as well.

Unlike other businessmen, farmers are not obliged to value work in progress and few of them even acknowledge the existence, let alone declare the value, of consumable stores on hand at the year-end. In an industry typified by slow turnover, the value of inventories, work in progress and control board *aterskotte* in the pipeline may exceed total annual revenue.

Confusion is compounded where perennial crops are involved. Sugar cane and vines may absorb costs for two and three years before they generate any income. With these it may take three to five years before any visible taxable income becomes apparent. In the meantime, the farmer who has planted them could have added tens or even hundreds of thousands of rands to his private balance sheet (the one he shows to his bank manager rather than the Receiver) in the form of hidden reserves. Tree crops, like apples, oranges, avocados and pecan nuts, take even longer to bear taxable fruit.

It is true that all of these investments eventually generate a net cash inflow that will have to be declared, but the system effectively allows the individual farmer to escape income tax as long as he keeps expanding. The accountant's standard advice to every successful farmer client is to "Expand! Otherwise the Receiver will catch you."

Stock farmers can conceal profits in cattle, sheep and pigs, which may be declared at ridiculously conservative standard values. At today's prices, this provision affords the farmer an opportunity to understate the value of each cow by as much as R400 and even sheep and pigs by R40-R50. Standard values are usually justified on the grounds that they put the farmer on the same basis as the industrialist who can value inventories on a last-in-first-out basis.

The argument is superficially true. But there is a subtle difference. Animals are the grazier's capital equipment as well as his stock in trade. So standard values allow him to write off as much as 90% of his capital costs in the year of expansion. New farm buildings, fences, tractors, combine harvesters, trucks and implements for use on the farm can also be written off entirely during the year of purchase. Once again the farmer who expands is privileged to escape the tax net.

Defenders of the system argue that agricultural expansion is a good thing and that measures that encourage it ought to be lauded rather than criticised. Their simplistic view fails to take cognisance of the types of investment that are being encouraged. If expansion means buying out a smaller neighbour (as it very often does) the country may end up with less production than before.

In SA agriculture, economists agree that management is generally the limiting resource rather than land, labour or capital. That being the case, big farmers tend increasingly to opt for simple farm systems modelled round one or two extensive enterprises. There is ample evidence to suggest that their farms are both less productive and less efficient than the small to medium-sized family units which they are currently absorbing at the rate of over 1 000 a year.

A great deal of publicity attended the closure of the dairy unit on the previous Minister of Agriculture's own farm. But Hendrik Schoeman's decision probably reflected the large scale of his farming



Windmill . . . spinning tax-free

operations rather than the producer price of milk. There comes a time when even the keenest millionaire will opt out of five o'clock milking on Sunday mornings. Smaller fry are still bidding up to R1 000 a heifer to expand their Friesland herds. They, too, of course, are allowed to slip these animals into their balance sheets at standard values. But the provision doesn't benefit them to the same extent because, unlike the land barons, they wouldn't be liable for high marginal taxes anyway.

For the pig and egg industries, the bias in the value of tax reliefs is even more damaging. Both enterprises are management intensive and naturally belong on small to medium sized family farms, where tender, loving care can be provided round the clock, throughout the week and round the year.

But instant capital write-offs have en-

couraged and are still encouraging large arable farmers and feed millers to pour millions of rands into vast new production units. Half the cost to them is effectively subsidised by money that would otherwise have gone in taxes. Interest on the money borrowed for expansion is deductible too. But the smallholder, whose markets they are flooding, gains little or no benefit from either allowance. His tax bill would scarcely be affected if he had to depreciate his buildings over 10 years instead of one, because he would still be in a low tax bracket for each of them. He benefits little through being allowed to deduct interest, because nobody will lend him money to expand and his marginal rate of tax is already low.

During four years of egg surpluses (generated almost entirely by milling companies, cane growers and western Cape wine farmers) it seemingly never occurred to the Minister of Agriculture that his colleague at Finance was to blame. The egg board was exporting surpluses at a loss and resorting to permits and quotas to halt expansion while the Receiver was nonchalantly priming the pump at the other end.

All in all, there would appear to be a good case for a re-examination of the whole system of assessing farm income and levying farm taxes. Current provisions are undoubtedly aggravating a serious and harmful trend towards the consolidation of farms into larger units which are then encouraged to substitute imported capital equipment for local labour. While they are at it, the investigators would also do well to look into the effects of the averaging option. Since 1962 farmers have been allowed to "equalise" their tax rates by using the average of five years' profits to determine their marginal rates of taxation. As a means of putting the erratic profit earner on the same footing as a consistent one, the idea of equalisation was a good one. But when inflation is galloping along at 16%, the option allows farmers to average five sets of historic earnings denominated in rands of very different values. So farmers who exercise the option are effectively being taxed according to a separate and more generous set of tables of their own.

In the current political climate, farmers should no longer be allowed the time-honoured privilege of virtually writing their own ticket either for tax or for produce prices.

Government recently summoned up the political courage to give the maize farmers much less than their original (and thoroughly unreasonable) request (FM April 10).

The logical follow-up would be for the standing commission on taxation to examine in depth all the special rules relating to tax on farming operations. Any that are economically counter-productive should be effectively modified.

# Farmers face ruin in W Cape

*Argus* ~~3~~ 3 5/10/51

A CRIPPLING five-year drought in vital wheat and sheep farming areas is ruining more and more diehard Western Cape and Karoo farmers.

Dams in the stricken areas are low — in some cases even empty.

The only hope in some sheep areas is that spring rains will break the drought by October.

In the Swartland wheat growing area, the need for rain is more urgent. It is needed within the next 10 days.

Worst hit by the drought is Carnarvon, where much of the grasslands have died. Farmers have had to sell up to 30

percent of their Merino stock and must rely on State aid to save them from financial disaster.

## SUBSIDIES

The Government is subsidising sheep fodder up to 60 percent to keep the wool industry from going under.

Farmers are hoping this will be increased soon to an 80 percent subsidy.

Some farmers refer to their plight as an 'economic drought.' The high cost of road and rail transportation has preven-

ted them from moving their stock to areas unaffected by the drought.

This is the fourth year that Carnarvon farmers have had to supplement sheep diets with extra fodder.

## INCOME

Mr Nico van der Westhuisen of Kalkgat farm in the Carnarvon district has experienced a drop in income of 40 percent because of the drought.

Only 50 mm of rain has fallen this year on his farm.

In Calvinia, Mr C Lombard, chairman of the area Farmers' Union, said it was the fifth drought-troubled year for the district.

'The situation is bad. The greater district of Calvinia is dry' he said.

About 400 farmers in this 26 000 sq km area are affected.

The Smartt Syndicate dam at Carnarvon is empty — while 270 km south, the Floriskraal Dam at Laingsburg is 97 percent full. In Laingsburg the land was largely stripped of its top soil by floods.

## PRICE RISE

At Springbok, north of Carnarvon, an abundant water supply from the Orange River is barely untapped. Last month, the Department of Water Affairs slapped a 30 percent kilolitre increase on the price of water.

With the cost now at R1,20 a kilolitre few people can afford to beau-

tify their gardens, said Springbok's Town Clerk, Mr Daniel Ellis.

The area had been hit by drought for almost seven years, with the land parched and dry.

Seedlings have been unable to grow in the dry, hard soil of the Swartland wheat area since sowing in May.

## FIGURES

At 26,5 mm in May, it was still well below the average May rainfall of 63,8 mm. The lowest recorded rainfall for May was in 1928 when 12,8 mm fell.

At the D F Malan Airport, 13,8 mm of rain was recorded last month — the lowest for May since the Weather Bureau began measuring there in 1957.

The mean May rainfall at D F Malan is 76,4 mm.

# Light rainfalls — 'but not enough'

RAIN fell last night in the drought-stricken Swartland, where farmers face crop disaster — but there has not been enough to have any real impact.

Mr E Pienaar, assistant manager of the Westelike Graanboere Co-op, said 2,5 mm of rain fell in the Malmesbury area, 12 mm in the Philadelphia district and there were lighter rainfalls along the west coast.

There has not been enough rain to break down the hard summer crust covering the soil so that farmers can plough, and for those who have already managed to sow, not enough has fallen to make much difference,' Mr Pienaar said.

The opportunity for search is absent and if one gets better slowly, one cannot find out if another drug would have been preferable. This, however may apply to the chair: if it breaks, you may not know whether better nails would have withstood the strain. Yet you do know that the chair has

# Drought means ruin for many diehard farmers

to the drug market.

CAPE TOWN. — While the Southern Cape has been hit hard by heavy downpours and flooding, a crippling five-year drought in vital wheat and sheep farming areas is ruining more and more diehard Western Cape and Karoo farmers.

Dams in the drought-stricken areas are low — in some cases even empty.

The only hope in some sheep areas is that spring rains will break the drought by October.

In the Swartland wheat area, the need for rain is more urgent. It is needed within the next 10 days.

Worst hit by the drought is Carnarvon, where much of the grass has died. Farmers have had to sell up to 30% of their merino stock and must rely on State aid to save them from financial disaster.

The Government is subsidising sheep fodder by up to 60% to keep the wool industry from going under and farmers are hoping this will be increased soon to 80%.

Mr Nico van der Westhuizen,

of Kalkgat Farm in the Carnarvon district, has experienced a drop in income of 40% because of the drought.

Only 50mm of rain has fallen on his farm this year.

In Calvinia, Mr C Lombard, chairman of the area Farmers' Union, said it was the fifth drought-troubled year for the district.

About 400 farmers in this 20 000sq/km area are affected.

The Smart Syndicate Dam at Carnarvon is empty, while 270km south the Floriskraal Dam at Laingsburg, where there have been floods, is 97% full.

Rain fell last night in the drought-stricken Swartland, where farmers face crop disaster — but there has not been enough to have any real effect.

Mr E Pienaar, assistant manager of the Westelike Graanboere Co-op, said 2,5mm of rain fell in the Malmesbury area and 12mm in the Philadelphia district. There was lighter rainfall along the west coast. — Sapa.

does not know what cures he needs (output) and even less does he know what drug can help him (inputs). Because of prohibitive pre- and post-purchase search costs the patient relies on the doctor-patient relationship. This induces further distortions:

The doctor is trained to recognise the consumption output required, but does not have the experience to judge the inputs needed. He relies on the drug firm to supply information on the consumption technology. There is therefore a lack of knowledge in the market that cannot be found even after purchase.

In addition to the "isolation effect" of "he who pays does not order" are further factors making for price insensitivity: there is the "necessity effect" of obtaining cure at the time of illness. (5) Third-party payment (approximately 60% of South African Whites are covered by one of 260 medical schemes) also reduces price sensitivity. (4)

The lack of information and price insensitivity do not imply that the manufacturer can price his drugs at any level he chooses. But it does imply some isolation from the forces that in other markets are exerted by consumers:

For example, in the cold drink market the producer can increase sales by increasing promotion or lowering price, each implying a sacrifice of revenue. The producer balances the forces at the margin; and the price-promotion combination that evolves is also efficient from the consumers' point of view. If a consumer feels that one manufacturer's price-promotion mix is inappropriate, he will purchase elsewhere. The initial manufacturer observes his sales falling off and must alter his price-promotion mix to suit his target market.

In the drug market, for reasons outlined above, such feedback from consumers is absent. Price insensitivity and the inability to compare the quality of competing drugs imply that the producer whose price is higher than that of competitors will not necessarily lose sales, especially if he spends heavily on promotion.

The drug market is therefore distinguished by its information flows and resultant price insensitivity.

Lancaster has divided the act of consumption into the recognition of the bundle of satisfactions wanted (outputs of consumption) and the identification of the products containing the attributes that will generate the desired satisfactions (the inputs of consumption). (2) e.g. when you realise that you are thirsty you reach for a Glass of water. Within the drug market uncertainty prevails. A sick person

• / ...

• / ...



MIKE CLEMITSON ... "Prospects highly encouraging"

# Natural-rubber project mooted

*(S.A. Bus)*  
*7/10/61*

By John Spira

SOUTH Africa could boast a R30-million-a-year natural-rubber industry by the end of the decade.

This is indicated by preliminary studies being carried out by Agtec, a company in the Mitec division of the LTA group specialising in agricultural project development.

In conjunction with the CSIR and major rubber users, Agtec is investigating the viability of large-scale production of guayule, a Mexican shrub which produces rubber virtually the same as that grown on rubber trees.

And the prospects are highly encouraging, says Mike Clemitson, Agtec's managing director.

The instability of natural-rubber-producing countries like Liberia and Malaysia, coupled with the rising cost of petroleum-based synthetic rubber, has spurred United States researchers into taking a new look at guayule, which earlier in the century produced half the rubber used in America.

Tyres moulded from guayule rubber have been tested successfully in Mexico, and Good-year has run a guayule radial tyre through two American winters, during which it passed all endurance and speed tests.

The US Department of Defence has retreaded naval aircraft tyres with guayule rubber, which withstood aircraft landings as effectively as other natural rubber types.

Agtec's scientists are abreast of the latest US developments and are progressing well with their own research into the suitability of the shrub for South African conditions.

Guayule grows in semi-arid conditions with a winter rainfall, and Mr Clemitson says that the Western and North-Western Cape would be the best areas for guayule production. He envisages about 300 sq km being planted.

As guayule is labour-intensive, it could form the nucleus of a major agricultural, industrial and social development in the area.

About half the value of the ultimate crop would come from by-products, which would include a drying oil, bagasse, adhesives and tackifiers.

An essential requirement in developing a guayule rubber industry will be to perfect a solvent extraction process instead of the primitive Mexican flotation method in which potential by-products are wasted.

Agtec's scientists hope to be in the forefront with processing developments.



MR BARTELS with dead sheep and a lamb.

Picture by ANTHONY McMILLAN

**'We'll take  
a posse  
in and  
kill them'**

**Farmers' threat  
to end KwaZulu  
dog pack menace**

Mercury Reporter  
IMPENDLE farmers are threatening to 'take a posse into KwaZulu' to hunt down and shoot packs of dogs which nightly savage and kill their sheep.

Farmers from the area said they had lost more than 200 sheep valued at R3 200 since September last year, but there seems to be little they can do about the dogs.

The marauding dogs, which have been seen to operate in packs of up to 10, steal on to the farms at night and stampede the sheep.

Mr Heinz Bartels, from Runnymead farm, said yesterday he awoke to find four of his sheep dead and another four had to be put down because their intestines were hanging out after having been savaged.

He said he had also lost four newly-born lambs — trampled in the stampede caused by the dogs.

'They do not do it for food,' he said. 'The dogs merely savage the sheep.'

Mr Bartels said they would be able to kill the dogs if they found them on their property but by morning, after the damage was done, the dogs had fled back into KwaZulu.

Mr Merrell Turner, a neighbouring farmer, who has lost 59 sheep since the trouble started, said he had managed to kill five dogs but the ravaging still continued.

The farmers said they thought the dogs were used for hunting by the blacks and either broke loose at night or were left to roam the area.

They had reported the matter repeatedly to the police but there seemed to be some confusion as to whether the South African Police had any jurisdiction in KwaZulu.

Mr Ken Falconer, who has lost 60 sheep, including three rams, said the NPA dog control inspector from Ixopo had spent a night at his farm but on that occasion the dogs had not arrived.

**Poison**

'But his hands are also tied as far as KwaZulu is concerned,' Mr Falconer added.

All of the farmers had put poison down for the dogs but they seem to ignore the poisoned meat.

Mr Bartels said: 'We had arranged a meeting with the chief of the area for yesterday but he cancelled it at the last moment and when I telephoned his office I was told he had gone to Pietermaritzburg.'

In desperation, the farmers said yesterday that if something were not done soon they would take the law into their own hands.

'We will get our guns, form a posse and go into KwaZulu and shoot every loose dog we see,' they said.

# E Cape farmers count flood cost

E.P. 17/6/81

(3) 17/6/81

(3)

By CHRIS OLCKERS, Chief Reporter

**DAMAGE** In the flood-stricken Baviaanskloof and Langkloof is expected to total more than R2 million as farmers and the authorities count the cost of floods which have devastated roads and farms in both areas.

## Some farmers 'sat back and did nothing'

Chief Reporter

SOME farmers in the Baviaanskloof, isolated by floods for almost three weeks, have been severely criticised for "expecting to get everything on a plate".

The secretary of the Winterberg Divisional Council, Mr Theo Crous, said many farmers had, under very difficult circumstances, helped generously when the Baviaanskloof River burst its banks.

"But many farmers expected us and the army to do everything for them. It was virtually impossible to satisfy them," he said.

"They thought that because they paid taxes they were entitled to sit back and watch others do all the work."

"Many made unreasonable demands and made things very difficult for workers. But most farmers did their utmost to help and some even left their farms and helped us to repair the

According to the secretary of the Winterhoek Divisional Council, Mr Theo Crous, damage in the Baviaanskloof alone could be more than R1 million and it could be months before things in the ravaged kloof

220mm of rain was measured. The biggest problem now is our isolation because the roads are so poor."

Mr Crous said the divisional council was doing its utmost to restore road links but the strong river current was a

APPLICANTS for aid from people who sustained losses in the April floods in the Port Elizabeth area are still being dealt with by the Disaster Flood Relief Fund. The local secretary of the fund, Mr H Sorge, said that 300 families had applied for aid from the fund, which had

fewer than 72 cases, more than incest or intercourse with an

Mr Crous also condemned reports which claimed people were starving and that authorities had done nothing to help.

"We have been working around the clock. During the first week of the flood it was impossible to reach the area," Mr

James said. "As soon as we were able to fly into the area we did. A fully

qualified sister was on board the helicopter and we helped people wherever we could."

He was aware a coloured baby had died on a farm during the floods. A Sunday newspaper claimed the child had died of

starvation. "We were on that farm last week where we had to remove a

woman to hospital for treatment to a severely injured child."

he said. "Not a word was said about the child and at this stage we

believe he might have died during the first week of the floods. But we are conducting a full inquiry into the incident."

being processed

# **KwaZulu farmers 'also lose livestock to dogs'**

## **Mercury Reporter**

KWAZULU farmers in the Impendle district are also losing sheep and goats through savaging by hunting dogs, according to Mr Heinz Bartels who last week lost nine sheep in a dog attack.

Mr Bartels said one of his black labourers had said his kraal had lost six goats recently because of savaging by dogs.

He added: 'Neighbouring farmers' labourers said they had lost 21 goats overall; so the dog problem is affecting not only white farmers in this area.'

'I have also had reports that black farmers from the Howick area have lost 10 sheep.'

Mr Bartels said he had been asked yesterday by the local magistrate to meet him and the tribal chief to discuss the dog problem on Friday.

'I invited the local magistrate to attend our meeting.'

'The chairmen of Impendle, Nottingham Road and Boston Farmers' Associations will also be attending.'

The magistrate, Mr D L E Umpleby, said he had been asked by the KwaZulu Government, after reports in the Mercury, 'to find out what is going on'.



43,5 + 31

of the previous season's average of 401c for the first seven months of the current season, the price suddenly leapt ahead during the two closing months. Industry spokesmen are confident that still better times lie ahead.



# UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION

When Wool Board chairman Pieter van Rooyen reviewed the state of the market a year ago, he pointed out that stabilisation stocks in the major producing and consuming countries had fallen from 17% of annual production to 6% during the five years from July 1975 to July 1980. Despite this, and an anticipated 3% drop in world production, he predicted then that the depressed economic conditions in the major importing countries would suppress prices for most of the season.

He also said a stronger rand might translate static world prices into lower prices for SA producers. Up until March that is precisely what happened.

Since then, however, the recession in the northern hemisphere appears to have bottomed. World stocks, especially of fine merino type wools, are now barely above the 5% of production level which exporters reckon the market needs as a strategic reserve. The Australian flock has shed another 5,9m sheep, bringing it down to 130m, its smallest size in 27 years. And with the financial rand discount widening, it would appear that SA currency is more



SA sheep . . . more than three bags full

likely to weaken against the currencies of importing countries than it is to continue strengthening.

All these factors point to a more prosperous year ahead for our growers. Furthermore, since it takes several months for raw wool to travel through the tortuous and fragmented pipeline from scourer to high street outfitter, the trade has to anticipate consumer demand as much as 18 months in advance.

The financial and the fashion forecasters are already advising it to prepare for an improved market and the buyers know as well as anyone that world stocks are low. The abnormally high cost of money is now their only deterrent. As soon as interest rates begin to fall in the northern hemisphere, the processors will all be wanting to rebuild inventories in an under-supplied market.

When the new selling season starts in September, all of SA's wool will be put up for auction in one centre, Port Elizabeth. Hitherto, sales were held in Durban, East London and Cape Town as well. But with modern methods of sampling, "objective measurement" of wool and catalogue presentation it is no longer deemed necessary for the sale to be held in the warehouse where the bales are stored. Indeed, in order to speed up delivery after the sale and reduce storage costs, many of the bales will have been already compressed into tight little bundles, suitable for containerisation, before they are actually sold.

After binning and blending to produce large enough lots to interest big buyers, a sample from each lot is made available so that potential bidders can make their own assessment of elusive qualities, such as "handle" (which apparently still defies laboratory analysis). But for more mundane information, the trade now relies on laboratory reports which are presented at the same time. By means of "objective

All answer books must be numbered

Number of books handed in
Number of this book

## WOOL MARKETING <sup>3</sup> Prosperity lies ahead

The wool marketing season, which runs from September to May, ended this year on a high note. The weighted average index price for 47 types of merino wool hit a new record of 469c/clean kilogram during the last week of sales.

Having hovered within a range of 3,5%

Date 11/10/81

Degree/Diploma/Certificate for which you are registered (e.g. B.A., B.Sc.) B.Com

Subject Economics I(a)  
(to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

Paper No .....  
(to be copied from the heading on the Examination Paper)

### NOTE CAREFULLY

1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.
4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

### WARNING

1. No boral m unles
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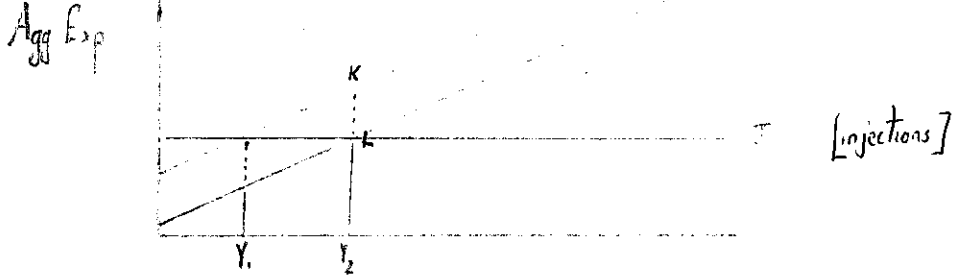
**Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University**

Section A

Question 1 (b)

(ii) "Paradox of Thrift."

basic assumptions → close as possible to full-employment; ~~unemployed resources~~  $w_1 \uparrow$   $w_2$  [withdrawals]



X As households income increases, the quantity of savings will also increase. Therefore the ~~income~~

measurement" it is spared the trouble of making individual visual, and less accurate, assessments of clean yield, staple length and staple diameter.

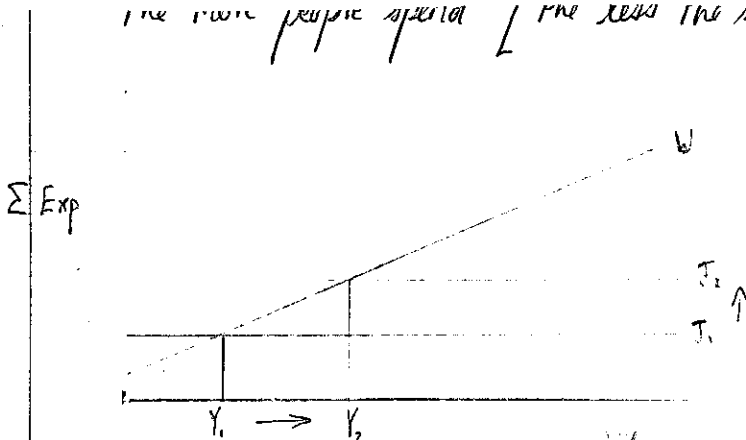
Having proved to their own satisfaction that neither buyers nor sellers are harmed when sales are held at a distance, the Wool Board has now decided to do away with the Cape Town and East London sales altogether. Growers will continue to send their wool to their co-operative agents in whichever port they choose. But the new system will allow buyers to bid for wool in each or all of the four centres without having to spend the whole of the eight month season scurrying up and down the coast in pursuit of the hammer.

should save the trade R1m a year in expenses and most of that will trickle back to the owners of the sheep. Some of the trade and a number of suspicious farmers still have reservations about the new system. Fears have been expressed that most or all the benefits could flow into the hands of the people who would have chosen to buy or sell in Port Elizabeth anyway.

For this reason the board and its sole remaining agent, Boeremakelaars Kooperatief Beperk, have agreed that the Durban sales will be suspended experimentally for the first year. If the experiment fails to satisfy and produce the expected economies, Durban could subsequently be resurrected as a second sale

venue. Port Elizabeth, which handles more than 35% of the clip, has long been the most important of the four selling centres. Durban comes next, with 25%, followed by East London and Cape Town, which is by far the smallest outlet.

With an increasing percentage of the clip being scoured locally, Port Elizabeth is also emerging as the most important South African processing centre. Last year, for the first time, over half the wool produced here was scoured locally and by 1982 the Wool Board expects local scourers to clean more than 60% of the clip. Between them, the two Port Elizabeth scourers, Gubb and Ings and Cape of Good Hope Combing, clean more than all the other locals put together.



same rules as above apply below → equilibrium level of NY was at  $Y_1$  now at  $Y_2$ . Therefore NY has increased therefore, the more prodigal and the more households spend, which is passed along in the circular flow of income, the more NY will be.

Basic Assumptions of the "Paradox of Thrift" → ~~close as possible to full-employment.~~ Increase in friskiness → household income and NY decline. Spending more leads to increase in NY and therefore household ~~therefore lesson is to spend more.~~

pool. 3

# Call for world meat onslaught

By PAT SIDLEY

AN international meat "task force" with an agricultural global strategy, an international meat bank and a meat fund to help developing countries has been proposed to control the "market, breeders and consumers" of the meat world.

These ideas were repeatedly proposed and referred to by speakers at Opic's 4th World Meat Congress which ends in Cape Town today.

Among those who referred to the plan were: The president of Opic, Dr E Ragno; the director of Italian Sanitary Services, Dr E Benevelli; the president of Bophuthatswana — a member country — President Lucas Mangope; the Secretary for Agriculture of Bophuthatswana, Mr C M K Seape, and the chairman of the Livestock Merchandising Institute based in Kansas City, Missouri.

Calling for a "task force" and a meat "realpolitik", Dr Benevelli said the international meat trade should be freer and have fewer barriers. A global strategy had to be developed to co-ordinate and concentrate on a correct and harmonious meat programme to meet the needs of the future.

Such a strategy had to transcend politics and have the full support of governments.

Among objectives of the programme would be:

increased meat production; a world meat bank to control the market, breeders and consumers; an international fund to fight contagious diseases in livestock, and political collaboration to lay down regulations for meat classification, veterinary and sanitary legislation.

Mr Glen Allen, chairman of the Livestock Merchandising Institute in Kansas City, recommended a specialized international banking system for the livestock and meat trade.

"It may be necessary for the industry to develop this banking mechanism in co-operation with the existing international banking institutions — but this industry needs a banking system fully cognizant of the industry's opportunities and conversant with the specialized needs for handling perishable products," he said.

One responsibility of the international meat trade was to match the "seasonality of supply in various geographic exporting areas". Another was to encourage and promote labour productivity.

The president of Opic, Dr Ragno, said meat and beef in particular had become "strategic arms".

There should be a common agricultural policy which would be to everybody's benefit. Food had become an instrument of power — a very important phenomenon.

He proposed an international fund to help the developing countries with sanitation and to fight livestock diseases.

Opic should establish a trust channelled through the World Bank so that developing countries could draw on this for their agricultural development, he said.

In his address, President Mangope called on the "more affluent" countries in Opic to "use the influence of its offices to focus the attention of its more affluent members on the practical solution of the problem of meat production facing the countries of the Third World".



The vice-president of the Housewives League, Mrs Yvonne Forshaw, is confronted at the World Meat Congress by a group of angry farmers yesterday.

## World economic order: Mangope urges rethink

By PAT SIDLEY

DEVELOPED countries have a moral obligation to assist developing countries in their quest for economic independence, self-reliance and self-sufficiency in food-production.

This was said by the President of Bophuthatswana, Chief Lucas Mangope, when he opened the final session of the World Meat Conference in Cape Town yesterday.

He criticized previous attempts at development aid because "negotiations on international and economic orders have been going on for over 30 years now... and the results have been pitiful."

"Rather belatedly the developed countries have come to realize that for much too long, the developed countries have exploited the natural resources of the developing countries, almost

exclusively, to their own benefit," he said.

He was addressing International Permanent Meat Office (Opic) members, the majority of whom come from developed countries.

He called for development aid and a rethink of the present world economic order with reference to developing countries.

"Mr chairman, what we plead for, is a total Third World development policy with an operational plan that will take into account each country's potential, its needs and special requirements."

"International organizations such as Opic, should as a matter of policy, be responsible for the support and advice as well as supervision of such an overall plan."

Opic is one of the few international bodies which have recognized Bophuthatswana as an independent state — a fact which did not escape the

president's notice.

He thanked Opic because "it is one of the first international organisations which recognized Bophuthatswana's independence."

Later, Bophuthatswana's Secretary for Agriculture, Mr C M K Seape, criticized some of the technical speeches at the conference.

The technical speeches, though eloquent, did not grapple with a developing country's problems.

"Is Opic relevant to our needs?" he asked. "Unless Opic can focus on this type of thing, we might find developing countries' membership of Opic is irrelevant."

Mr Seape said the representatives of the Housewives League were the only people present who seemed to care about what meat actually cost.

They talked in terms of prices that people could afford, he said.

# Farmer killed

Post Reporter

EAST LONDON — An elderly Kidd's Beach farmer, Mr Leslie Brook, was killed by a large bush-cutting machine yesterday.

Mr Brook, of the farm High Close, died soon after his shirt became entangled in the machine.

A labourer who was working with him ran to fetch their neighbour, Mrs Susan Mountfort, who switched off the bush-cutter.

Mr Brook leaves his wife and three children.

# Govt halts drift from border

By Dirk Nel  
Northern Transvaal  
Bureau

**Pietersburg**  
A Government injection of at least R100-million appears to have stemmed the exodus of farmers from South Africa's strategically vital border areas.

This follows warnings in recent years that deserted farms were vulnerable to guerilla incursions.

The chief of the SA Defence Force, General Constand Viljoen, has described farmers in remote border areas as South Africa's first line of defence and has expressed concern at the depopulation of these zones.

Mr. Hendrik Schoeman, Minister of Agriculture, also sounded

*Rev 10/7/81*  
**Farmers benefit by new R100-m rescue operation**

warnings on the strategic implications of farmers deserting border regions.

In many cases farms have been bought by city people who only used them at weekends and holidays.

### Rescue

When the drift from the border farms reached its peak in 1979, Parliament passed legislation designed to counter the trend.

The Government has now mounted a rescue operation in areas including the Northern Trans-

vaal bushveld, the Komatiport area and the Northern Cape.

More than 400 farmers have benefited from the Government's aid scheme and at least 100 new families are estimated to have settled on farms.

Mr Deon de Beer, a young schoolteacher at Steenbokpan near Ellisras, at present a part-time farmer, has received financial assistance which has enabled him to buy more land. He plans to go into farming fulltime.

Mr Isak Nel from Zimbabwe, who settled on a cotton farm west of Messi-

na with his wife and three young children eight months ago, was able to buy the land after receiving a Government loan.

### Developments

Mr Koos Venter of Toezicht near Ellisras, is another who received Government help. Previously the owner of a farm which was totally uneconomic he now speaks of "making a profit for a change" since being enabled to buy additional land.

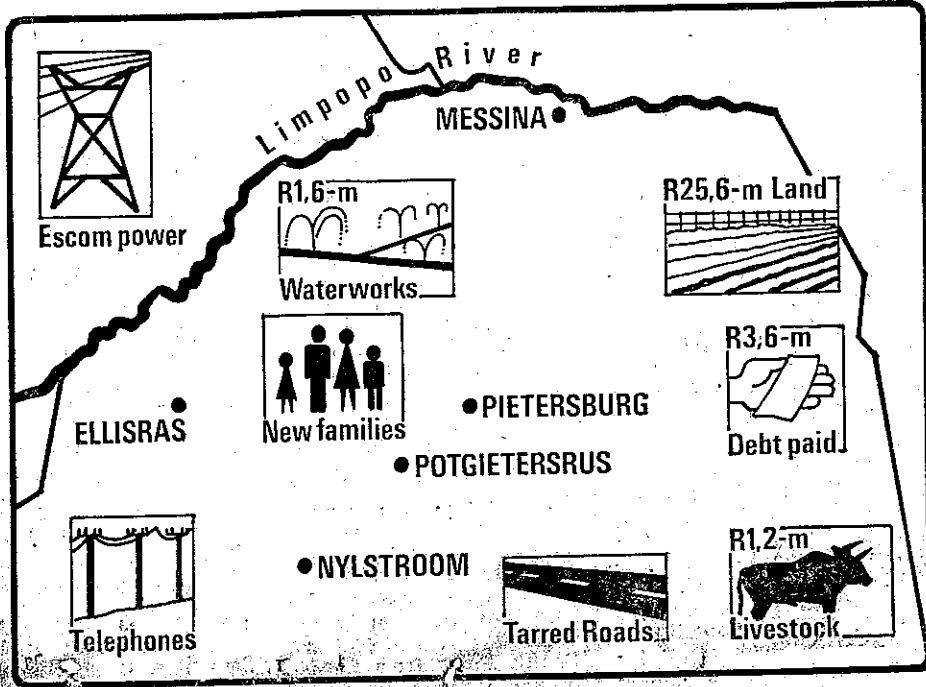
New developments in the areas include:

● R32,6-million poured in by the Department of Agriculture since the beginning of 1980. A spokesman for the department said of this R25,6-million was to help farmers buy land. Other money was to pay debts, buy machinery and implements and purchase livestock.

● A network of tarred roads making the north-western Transvaal bushveld more accessible.

● Work on Escom's new Limpopo power line west of Messina, which is progressing rapidly. This will enable 100 farmers, many of whom have already invested in modern irrigation equipment, to say farewell to fuel-driven generators.

New optimism in the Northern Transvaal also springs from higher meat prices which make cattle farming more viable.



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# More aid for farmers

CT 15/7/81 Staff Reporter

3 general

THE government has decided to grant further financial assistance to grain farmers in the drought-stricken southern Cape.

This was announced in a joint statement in Pretoria yesterday by the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, and the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Pietie du Plessis.

The decision to grant further assistance arose from representations made by organized agriculture, they said.

"The assistance comprises a continuance of the interest subsidy of 3,5 percent in respect of grain farmers' remaining 1978/79 and 1979/80 carry-over debts to their co-operatives and an extension of the subsidy to the 1980/81 carry-over obligations," the statement reads.

"Interest subsidy is payable for the 1981 calendar year. The 1980/81 carry-over debts, as in the case of the other two years, will be repayable over a period of four years."

# T'kei to spend R80m on mechanisation

E. Post 16/7/81 (3) ~~3~~

EAST LONDON — Transkei expects to spend more than R80 million in the next two or three years on mechanisation of its agriculture.

This was announced yesterday by Transkei's Minister of Agriculture, Mr E Z Bool. He was speaking after his return from a visit to Austria with the Prime Minister, Chief George Matanzima.

Chief Matanzima said an important part of the mechanisation programme would be a plant to assemble tractors. This plant, which had been prefabricated in Austria, was on its way to Transkei and would be erected near Queenstown. It would assemble tractors imported in a semi knocked-down form from Austria.

# Set the farmers free

② general FM 17/7/81

The *FM* is seldom slow to speak out in favour of a freer market nor tardy to take a stand against privilege. For these reasons we have never been shy to criticise government when it has fixed the price of maize too high or given tax concessions that favour certain groups of farmers at the expense of others and of the country as a whole.

We still believe the uneven delimitation of constituencies leads to an over-representation of agricultural interests in Parliament. And we regret that influx control was originally implemented at the behest of white farmers who were not prepared to pay an open market wage for their black labourers.

On the other hand, we acknowledge that the boot is not always on the farmer's foot. Indeed, we would go so far as to say that the majority of our farmers suffer from intervention and from State expenditure which discriminates against their interests more than they benefit from the handful of well publicised privileges which have been conferred in their favour. Contrary to popular belief, most of our 70 000 farmers still sell their produce at market related prices.

It is true that local producer prices of wheat, maize and tobacco are currently supported at artificial levels, but the local price of sugar and even maize has often been pegged below the world level. Although egg, cane and winegrowers are protected by quotas, more farmers cater for export markets where the price cannot be fixed or for local ones where it is not. Wool, mohair, karakul pelts, citrus fruit, apples, pears, peaches, soft fruits, dried fruits, canned fruit, potatoes, vegetables,

soya beans, hay, fresh milk and most dairy products; cut flowers, seed crops, stud stock, ostrich feathers and even meat and hides are all sold, sooner or later, to the highest bidder. Although the markets of many of those products are ostensibly governed by one or other of the 22 celebrated agricultural control boards, most of the bodies concerned are actually powerless to increase farm prices.

At best those that deal with export commodities (wool, citrus, deciduous fruit) co-ordinate sales promotion and distribution, while the domestic commodity boards (meat, potatoes, eggs, bananas, dairy) attempt only to iron out the humps and bumps of volatile supplies. At worst, however, those same boards can (and mostly do) depress farm gate price. They protect inefficient private and co-operative middlemen and processors from competition. Meat, dairy, wheat, maize, bananas and cotton are prime examples and they often speculate unwisely with the commodities they administer and unprofitably with the farmers' funds with which they administer them.

Meanwhile, less publicised forms of government intervention elevate the input costs of farming to unnatural and unwarranted heights. Thanks to one interfering government department or another, our hamstrung farmers are obliged to pay above the odds for all their major purchases. Local manufacturers of fertilisers, particularly nitrogenous ones, are heavily protected by import restrictions. So our farmers are obliged to pay more than their counterparts in the other six big exporting countries with whom they compete. The same goes for agricultural



**Cane Growers' Ardington . . . make the market really free**

chemicals and veterinary supplies.

Overt protection of local manufacturers now compounds the hidden protection long afforded to importers and distributors by tough "registration" requirements and patent law. Israeli growers of Jaffa oranges purchase some of their spray materials at a fraction of the price which Outspan producers are obliged to pay. The animal feedstuffs industry is dominated by a handful of heavyweight companies that derive most of their power from a web of privileges conferred upon them by government. Ironically, the majority of those "middleman" privileges have been bestowed through the medium of the very control boards which were set up to protect farmers from their predations.

The milling companies have used their power first to charge exorbitant prices for the farm inputs which they have cornered and then to enter into competition with their farm customers by, for example, producing eggs which they could not market profitably. In that instance another control board, also compulsorily financed by farmers, was then instructed to purchase the offending eggs and export them at a loss. The expense of the Atlantis Diesel Engine plant — a SA extravagance if ever there was one — will be passed on to the farmer. This is expected to add upwards of 20% to the price of tractors already expensive by international standards.

In theory farmers buy their diesel oil at a discount. In reality, they still pay roughly double the true cost of bringing it into SA and a great deal more than most of their overseas competitors are charged.



**Karakul on the hoof . . . no protected market for their pelts**



The North American maize and wheat crops — which largely determine world prices — are planted and harvested with fuel sold realistically for less than half the price charged here.

There is a "jute controller" in Pretoria, whose job it is to elevate the price of SA grain bags and there are a dozen or more administration boards which impose levies on farm labour and then spend most of the proceeds in town. Industrialists who move to border areas are afforded an array of concessions and subsidies for which new farmers, expanding farmers and farmers who are already there, fail to qualify. Then the industrialists use the subsidies to lure away their labour.

Government favours to industry and commerce are seldom taken into account when critics fling mud at allegedly backward farm employers. It is true that farm wages are typically lower than those paid in factories and city offices. They are in every other country too. But how much could and would SA industrialists pay if they were not subsidised by tariff protection, import controls and investment allowances? How generous could commerce afford to be if it wasn't protected by restrictive licensing legislation? We should not forget that farming is one of the few jobs left in SA to which there is no legal or educational bar to entry.

Well-meaning lawyers, accountants, doctors and (especially) academics who are fond of grumbling at "feather-bedded" farmers with "archaic" employment practices, should not be allowed to forget that their professions are even more heavily protected and subsidised by political intervention. The farmer has more right to be critical of their privileges than they

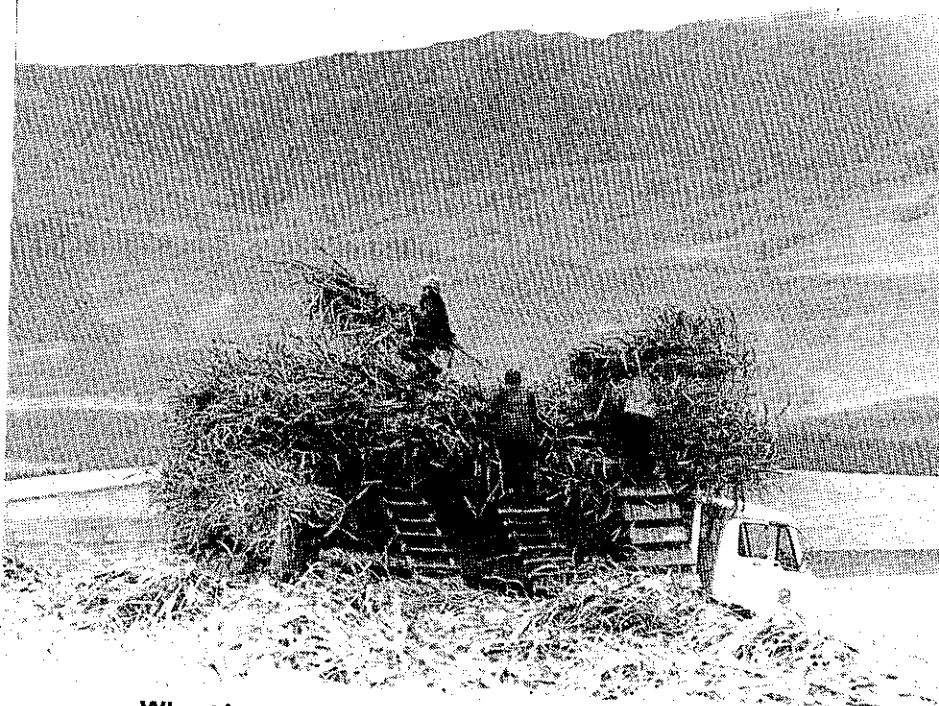
of his. Who else has to put up with competition from "weekend" producers who are allowed to subsidise farming losses out of the otherwise taxable proceeds of inflated monopoly earnings?

Industrial critics of agriculture would

do well to heed the words of Tony Ardington, chairman of the Cane Growers' Association: "If agriculture is expected to compete in the same capital markets as industry, it should be placed on the same footing as industry with respect to other aspects of the free market. Generally, industry is not required to house its employees, nor does it supply free housing, medical attention and schooling facilities to their families. For some reason, government has seen fit to be entirely responsible for the housing of the vast majority of the men (and their families) who work in industry and commerce. The burden of supplying these and other amenities for agricultural workers is borne entirely by agriculture . . ."

Ardington's line of argument is one that the rest of organised agriculture could profitably echo. Historically, farm unions have antagonised townstolk by pushing too hard for unsustainable domestic food prices and wasted their clout in defending legislation which fattens farm co-operatives at the expense of the members who pay for them.

In today's political climate (under a government which had identified inflation and bureaucracy as our two worst economic bugbears), they should be pleading for the freedoms which will permanently lower farm input costs instead of coercive measures which can only temporarily enhance output values.



**Wheat harvest . . . does a control board help the farmer?**

# Farmers to consider a <sup>CT 21/7/81</sup> 'total' <sup>3general</sup> media strategy

Staff Reporter

THE second annual congress of the Western Cape Agricultural Union opens at a City hotel today with motions on the agenda for requests to the government for more subsidies and less taxation.

The three-day congress, which will be attended by nearly 200 delegates from more than 100 farmers' associations, co-operatives and other special associations, will be officially opened tonight by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr P T C du Plessis.

Among the motions to be put forward during the congress will be a request to organized agriculture to improve the image of the South African farmer and to restore harmonious relationships between producers and consumers.

The congress will consider whether a total strategy should be launched to provide objective news coverage to place, in particular, rising food prices in the "right perspective", the appointment of public relations officials in the larger centres, and a regular and positive television programme about the South African agricultural industry.

Other motions for consideration will include:

- That the government be asked to look into the possibility of subsidizing the transport of agricultural production requisites to distant border areas, as well as the transport

of produce from such areas to the markets.

- That in the light of the high rate of inflation and the "phenomenal" increase in the price of land, the congress again appeal to the Minister of Finance, Dr Owen Horwood, to abolish estate duty and to make urgent realistic adjustments to the rebates in the meantime.

- That to help agriculture generate more of its own capital, the congress request that renewed attention be given to the recommendation of the Jacobs Committee that farmers be assisted in good years to invest a portion of their taxable income by exempting it from taxation.

- That with regard to the dairy industry, requests be made to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and others concerned to ensure that price adjustments are expedited and that prices are adjusted more than once a year.

- That the South African Agricultural Union be asked to protect the control boards against negative public criticism and to make the general public more aware of the functions and objectives of agricultural policy and the controlled marketing system.

- That the SAAU also be asked to make the general public more aware of the contributions made by farmers to curb inflation by absorbing costs.

# Price boost break for 3 general farmers

By David Bamber

The financial position of South African farmers improved considerably in the year to March 31, says Volkskas in its July Economic Spotlight.

The bank says greater volumes produced, higher prices received and an "appreciably" slower rise in the prices of agricultural requirements were the major factors influencing the improvement.

It notes that the 14 percent increase in the price of fertiliser and the 11 percent rise in fuel costs were well below increases experienced the previous year.

The net result was that farmers' gross earnings rose 22 percent to R5 704-million, while net income increased by an even faster rate — 42 percent — to R2 313-million.

## CLIMATE

Volkskas comments that favourable climatic conditions were of considerable benefit to the summer grain producing areas in the 1980/1981 production season.

The latest estimate of the maize harvest is a record 14.2-million tons which is 37 percent higher than that of the previous year and far exceeds the standing record of 11.1-million tons achieved in 1974.

Although the net producer price of maize has not been changed during the current season, the net income of maize farmers this year should increase by more than R100-million.

## DROPPED

However, low humidity in the Free State during the planting and growing seasons produced a wheat harvest of only 1.5-million tons which is almost 29 percent lower than that of the previous year.

Agms 22/7/81 (3 general)

# Drought, rain drive out farmers

**YIELDS** in Western Cape agriculture have dropped dramatically in the wake of droughts and floods, and in the drought-stricken Bushmanland farmers are being driven off farms and savings are being eaten up.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr P T C du Plessis, last night told the annual congress

of the Western Cape Agricultural Union, that grazing conditions in Bushmanland were now critical, and the Government was investigating the position of farmers.

Farmers who had intended retiring could no longer do so and were spending their savings on buying feed for their stock.

The yields in wheat and

cereal harvests further south had declined by from 25 percent to, in some cases, 68 percent, and in the Little Karoo wine and fruit production had dropped by 20 to 25 percent.

The main cause for the serious shortage of lucerne seed in the Little Karoo, Mr du Plessis said, was the serious drought

before the floods inflicted further damage.

Compared with the average annual yield of 20 000 bags of seed, the yield this year was only 2 000 bags.

Wine-grape production in the Boland dropped by eight percent and production of canning peaches was down 38 percent, Mr du Plessis said.

# Call to protect control boards

CT 23/8/81 23/7/81 (3 general)

Staff Reporter

DELEGATES to the annual congress of the Western Cape Agricultural Union yesterday gave strong support to a motion calling for the protection of control boards from negative public criticism.

The motion also said there was a need for the general public to be made more aware of agricultural policy and the controlled marketing system.

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Piet du Plessis, who officially opened the three-day congress at a City hotel on Tuesday night, returned briefly yesterday to address delegates on this motion.

He said food prices were by their very nature a sensitive issue and certain indi-

viduals and organizations were making it their business to persuade the consumer he was paying too much.

Loud applause from the nearly 200 delegates greeted Mr Du Plessis's statement that he would rather resign his post than see the removal of controlled marketing for certain commodities.

Although he supported the government's principle of moving towards a free market system, the agricultural sector was different from others in the economy in that it had special problems which could not be handled in the normal way, he said.

Certain aspects of South Africa's marketing control could be criticized, but studies and exchange of information with other marketing systems worldwide had time

and again resulted in admiration from abroad for the South African system.

"This is a cold fact that I am giving to you," Mr Du Plessis said, adding that many people in the agricultural sector of other countries had said they wished a system similar to that in South Africa could be introduced for them.

Controlled marketing provided a steady supply of food and security for all involved.

## 'Pay heavily'

"If there were no controls, the consumer might pay a little less for a couple of years, but from then on, he would pay heavily for his food."

Unlike minerals such as gold, which were finite resources, agriculture was an ongoing process, which made it of strategic importance in the long term. If it was not seen to that the image of agriculture was not harmed, the producer as well as the consumer would suffer heavily, he said.

The congress adopted the motion, which called on the South African Agricultural Union and the various control boards to take more positive action to:

- Convey the views and policy of the agricultural organization in a more dynamic and progressive way to the authorities and the news media;
- Protect control boards against negative public criticism, and
- Make the general public more aware of the functions and objectives of South Africa's agricultural policy and the controlled marketing system and the contribution made by farmers to curb inflation by absorbing costs.

## Minister warns dairy farmers

Staff Reporter

A MOTION at the annual congress of the Western Cape Agricultural Union calling on the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Piet du Plessis, to adjust prices in the dairy industry more than once a year was amended yesterday after the minister warned of possible rampant inflation should this be done.

The proposers of the motion had called for increases in prices at least twice yearly in order to combat rising production costs and, instead of having one large increase, to have two smaller increases to reduce consumer resistance.

Mr Du Plessis, who briefly attended the second day of the congress at a City hotel yesterday to address delegates on the motion, said that more frequent, although

smaller, increases would be far more likely to draw resistance from consumers.

He warned that if prices in the dairy industry were adjusted more than once yearly, this practice would have to be extended to many other sectors of the economy, which could lead to an unprecedented inflation rate of as much as 20 percent.

"But I can assure you that the dairy industry is being carefully watched, and that more than one price adjustment per year will be considered if exceptional production circumstances result," the minister said.

The motion was then amended to accommodate Mr Du Plessis's concession, and called on the minister to ensure that price adjustments be expedited and that they be adjusted more than once a year if exceptional circumstances came about.

# Protect control boards

CPM 23/7/81  
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Mail Reporter

**DELEGATES** to the annual congress of the Western Cape Agricultural Union in Cape Town yesterday gave strong support to a motion calling for the protection of control boards from negative public criticism.

Award who has shown at the end

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The Committee of the Western Cape Chapter of Quantity Surveyors' Prize For the student obtaining

Bell-John Prize For the best all-round student in any year of study. P C Key

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(Continued)  
SURVEYING  
QUANTITY

# 'Surplus, then increase not only in agriculture'

ET 24/7/81 (3 general)

Staff Reporter

PRICE INCREASES when there was a surplus of a particular product was not a phenomenon peculiar to the agricultural sector, said Mr Piet Swart, assistant director of the South African Agricultural Union after the annual congress of the WCAU had ended at a City hotel yesterday.

He was responding to a request to explain in simple terms, for the "man in the street" why the prices of certain foodstuffs increased when there was a surplus.

He said local prices of various non-agricultural products, for example coal and steel, had been increased when a surplus existed.

"Stability in price and supply is of great importance for both producer and consumer," he said.

"If it were left to the unbr-

dled forces of supply and demand, consumers would have to pay excessive prices during times of shortages and the bottom would fall out of the market for producers when there was a surplus.

Price increases had to be expected in these inflationary times, when producers' production costs had been increasing at an average rate of about 20 percent over the past few years.

Market differentiation, where different prices were charged in local and export markets, was an accepted principle of pricing, not only in agriculture, but in all economies, he said.

But when export prices were higher than those on the local market, the producer was entitled to be paid a reasonable and stable "real" price for produce sold on the local market, Mr Swart said.

WOOL

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wool

## Flexibility's the key

FM 24/7/81

Director-General of Finance Dr Joep de Loor says SA woolgrowers should try to develop a more flexible export strategy, geared to exchange rate movements. For-

foreign earnings from wool were R220m last year.

Between January 1980 and January this year, the rand hardened 9,7% against the dollar, but fell back after that by 13,8%. The effective devaluation of the rand against the dollar since January 1980 is 5,4%, but the US hardly features as a

buyer of SA wool.

In fact, 80% of the export clip is taken by Italy (21%), UK (21%), Germany (17%), Japan (11%) and France (11%).

In the 18 months to June 30 1981, the rand has appreciated by 30,4% against the DM, 32,6% against the French franc, 39% against the Italian lira and 8,1% against sterling. The rand softened 10,9% against the yen in this period.

De Loor told a woolgrowers' conference in Bloemfontein this week that while he was aware of difficulties posed for exporters by the floating rand, the export effort should be geared to secure hard currency in conditions where exchange rates were hardening against the rand.

An obvious example is Japan, which is already an established major buyer, and the US, which takes a considerable part of the export clip.



# Reply to criticism of control boards

Staff Reporter

CRITICISM of the control board system in South African agriculture was mostly made in ignorance of the system's exact function in the consumer food price structure, Mr Peter Robertson, new president of the Western Cape Agricultural Union, said yesterday.

The three-day congress of the WCAU ended yesterday with Mr Robertson, former vice-president, taking the president's chair in the place of Mr G J Malherbe, who stood down after winning a parliamentary seat in the General Election.

Referring to a recent comment in the Cape Times leader page, Mr Robertson said: "When we see an editorial article in one of our leading newspapers attacking the increase in costs of certain boards over the last year or two, we are sure that this is done in ignorance of

their exact function in the consumer food price structure.

"The main subject of ignorance is how the boards are funded, and I would like to make it clear that the government does not contribute any money to the cost of management of their work.

All costs are financed by the producers of those commodities by levies on their produce," he said.

He said the boards were established by a non-political Act of Parliament to correct the bankruptcy facing farmers at the depression.

It had been realized that the country would be unable to keep whites on farms or feed a growing population without a stable agriculture.

How successful this policy had been was shown by the fact that the cost of the South African food basket was still the lowest in the world, relative to standards of living and wages paid.

# Farming needs

## CO-ops — 3 general Minister

KROONSTAD. — Agricultural co-operatives were essential to the South African economy, Mr Pietie du Plessis, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, said at Kroonstad at the weekend.

Speaking at the 50th anniversary of the Kroonstad West Co-operative, he said commerce and industry, consumers and even some farmers did not always realise the importance of co-operatives in all aspects of agricultural development.

As a result of the appointment of the Steenkamp Commission on Co-operatives, co-operatives started paying income tax in 1977.

### Changes

Legislation governing co-operatives would be amended during the forthcoming parliamentary session, Mr Du Plessis said.

Many advantages enjoyed by co-operatives had been removed. They now competed to a larger extent with private business undertakings on an equal footing.

If all advantages for co-operatives were removed, all restrictions should also be eliminated.

This would mean even fiercer competition from them.

In 1979 co-operatives had a produce turnover of about R3 900-million, or 89% of the total gross agricultural produce for that year.

Taking this into consideration it was clear that co-operatives were essential in the country's economy, he said.

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For the student obtaining  
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Surveyors' Prize

Cape Chapter of Quantity

The Committee of the Western

P C Key

in any year of study.

For the best all-round student

Bell-John Prize

(Continued)

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### Staff Crisis 3

Farming Correspondent

The shortage of expert staff in the Department of Agriculture has flared into a serious crisis.


Vital research work involving cheaper food production is grinding to a halt. Emergency measures are being taken to prevent a total breakdown of the department's professional services.

Dr D W Immelman, Director-General of Agriculture and Fisheries, said in Pretoria that of a total of 663 research posts, 60 could be filled, 70 researchers were on military duty and about 100 were on extended study leave.

Of a total of 180 posts for extension officers — the people who give professional advice to farmers — no fewer than 51 were vacant, 20 men were on military duty and 11 were on study leave. The effective strength was only 98.

During the first six months of 1981, 75 expert staff had resigned. These were mostly senior officers, leaving the department to cope with inexperienced juniors and a handful of efficient senior staff.

Dr Immelman said to stem the tide, the Commission for Administration had authorised exceptional salary increases.



Dr Neville Howes, chief superintendent of the Johannesburg Hospital, discusses the serious nursing shortage at the hospital with the Chief Matron, Miss M J Somers.

## DRIED BEANS

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### Free enterprise dying

FM 31/7/81

Government's proposed scheme to introduce single channel pool marketing of dried beans. (*Government Gazette*, June 19) is drawing heavy flak from producers, traders and merchants. Co-operative societies, such as Delmas Co-operative, prefer to remain neutral on the issue.

If accepted, the scheme will force farmers to sell beans only to the Dry Bean Board. At present the board's function is confined to buying surplus capacity at the floor price — said to be 25%-30% less than market price. The existing scheme allows farmers two options. Production can be sold competitively to traders, while government's floor price guarantees take-off of any surplus capacity.

The scheme was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries by the Dry Bean Board. After consultation with the National Marketing Council, the minister provisionally approved the proposed scheme.

However, the *FM* learns that objections and representations lodged since publication of the proposed scheme are only 20% in favour of the scheme and 80% against it. The scheme has been labelled "the death knell to competitive free enterprise."

Some traders say the scheme will benefit no one other than farming co-operative societies which wish to have a monopoly on dry bean production (estimated at 70 000 t this year) and marketing.

A spokesman for the Dry Bean Board says that should the board become the initial buyer and sole supplier to the trade of all dried bean stocks, it will come as a result "of a request from producers."

According to the board, "medium and small farmers are not in the vicinity of proper marketing channels. Fly-by-night agents harass them. They don't have access to a stable marketing organisation." That's why they have asked the board to step in. Small and medium sized farmers contribute roughly 35%-45% of total production, says the board.

The advantage to farmers of single channel pool marketing is price stability, claims the board. At present, market price fluctuates dramatically during the April-October bean season. In 1980, for example, yellow haricot beans sold for R425/t in April. In August, the price soared to R880/t, a 107% escalation. By October the price had dropped to R550/t.

Price fluctuations and lack of stability, says the board, cause cyclical fluctuation in bean production. High prices mean production increases substantially and farmers tend to over-produce as a consequence. Over-production, in turn, forces down prices so farmers switch to planting more profitable crops. Inadequate produc-

tion then forces up prices.

The board believes that what is happening, is that the long-term benefits of the supply and demand mechanism do not apply. It says that at present dry bean prices are extremely high and quality poor.

Should the scheme be implemented, the board says it would insist on the trade following grading regulations to prevent undergrade beans being sold. The board says it would also assess the supply and demand situation to ensure production is stabilised. Credit facilities to traders will be reviewed as well.

#### Floor price

The SA Grain Traders Association says it is "completely opposed to the scheme." The present scheme, which offers a floor price for surplus capacity, ensures farmers of two options. With the new scheme, only one price will apply. "Our information is that producers are overwhelmingly against the scheme. It cuts out free enterprise and robs everybody of initiative."

One grain trader tells the *FM* that should the board act as single buyer, it will recommend a price to the Minister. "Private enterprise is completely excluded from handling the product. This is contrary to government's expressed policy of encouraging free enterprise."

Costs will escalate because government will have to handle and store beans or pay co-ops to do so. At present crop storage is absorbed to a large extent by traders, the industry "and whoever buys beans."

Producers believe, says one trader, that "the control board will not be as efficient a seller as private enterprise. One reason is that it will act as both buyer and trader. Farmers will not benefit from this arrangement."

Retailers, especially smaller retailers, maintain the biggest factor militating against the proposed scheme is that beans "are a high capitalised investment and we will have to make this investment in advance."

Says one: "The volumes consumed by predominantly black and Indian consumers make it a very saleable commodity. I sell up to 400 t monthly. The cost of goods sold is R500 000/month. On a cash in advance basis, the capital costs would be very high. The big guys with vast capital resources could secure the entire crop."

He claims that smaller traders would be phased out completely.

"That's what's happened to small traders in maize.

"The big guys have a virtual monopoly and as middlemen they are in a position to rig a price cartel."

Buying from the co-ops at the moment, says the retailer, ensures 60-90 days' credit, with interest payable after 60 days. One factor that ensures relatively low interest rates is that co-ops have access to low-interest Landbank loans."

# Rustler

## gangs

## face

## armed

## night

## patrols

By BEVIS FAIRBROTHER

THE rifle-toting farmers stand guard nightly over their stock which, they claim, is being rustled by organised gangs in the Eastern Cape and Border.

The farmers say the gangs have suddenly become particularly active this year.

They have lost thousands of rands worth of cattle and sheep already.

The rustlers operate in the early hours of the morning, selecting only the best animals.

Some animals are lamed in one leg — if they are too wild to handle — and driven to the outskirts of black townships where they are slaughtered.

Others are killed on the spot and loaded onto trucks.

It has also been known for rustlers to use dogs to catch sheep.

## Roadblocks

Police set up regular roadblocks and have caught a great many thieves, but the area is too great to cover effectively.

Farmers fear that if rustling continues, it will be a serious threat to their livelihood, so they are taking on the gangs themselves.

As one farmer put it: "Now when the sun sets, it is no longer a chance to settle down for a peaceful night's rest. It's time to load the gun."

Another farmer, Mr N T Sparg, said he had lost three prized cows in a matter of weeks. They were valued at nearly R1 000 each.

"Now I've brought all my cows close to the house, which is a costly affair. Because they are confined, I have to provide food and water.

"Then at night I get up at

Then at night I get up at regular intervals to check on them."

The rustlers are clever and well organised. The only time anyone in the area has come close to catching them was when one farmer's workers surprised them while they were loading a cow onto a truck.

## Electric fence

They left the slaughtered animal and fled.

"I'm thinking of setting up an electric fence and an alarm system," Mr Sparg said.

"It will be expensive, but it will be worth it if I can save a few cows."

He said rustling had become bad this year because blacks in the townships had acquired more vehicles and thousands of people were unemployed.

The Peinke brothers, Basil and Athol, took it in turns to guard their animals at night.

They guarded two roads which lead to their property. They had lost cattle valued at R3 000 so far this year.

Mr Basil Peinke said one night last month he was on duty when three men came past him driving a cow with barbed wire tied round one of its back legs.

"I shouted at them to stop and they ran off. I fired low in their direction," he said.

"Police caught one of them the next day. He had broken his ankle trying to jump over a fence when running away.

"The cow wasn't one of ours; it belonged to a man in the Ciskei, but that doesn't matter, at least we caught one."

Mr Gideon Joubert, of the farm Gordonsfontein, said there were about 400 unemployed people living near Hanover.

## Helpless

Some of them were stealing stock from farmers and selling the meat.

At times they used dogs to hunt down the animals.

Another farmer, Mr G Ferreira, said he lost sheep every week, but he did not bother to report it to the police because he knew they were helpless to catch the culprits.

Captain C A Engelbrecht, District CID Officer in Middelburg, appealed to farmers to notify police about incidents of stock theft.

More men could then be made available to track down the thieves.

Colonel J H Fourie, Divisional CID Officer for the Border, said he doubted that the rustlers were operating in organised gangs.

There could be isolated cases, but most of them were slaughtering animals for the pot.

Stock theft was rife because there were many unemployed people.

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## CONTROL BOARDS

**Dry rot FM 14/8/81**

<sup>3 general</sup>  
Government is back on its control board kick again. And there could be only a few more competitive shopping days left if its proposed plan for single-channel production and marketing of dehydrated vegetables is introduced.

The proposed scheme widens the scope of current legislation — which provides for one channel production and marketing of dried fruit — to include dried vegetables.

If the scheme is passed, it will compel manufacturers to buy dehydrated vegetables through a board appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The 11-member board will consist of six members representing producers, two representing dealers, and one member each for consumers, processors and bakers.

Power will, therefore, lie with the producers and the implication is that the board could be used by producers as a rubber stamp.

Manufacturers who use dehydrated vegetables are not happy. Liptons, Nestlé and Robertsons, among others, have lodged objections, claiming that the move

is yet another restriction and an unnecessary, costly burden to be borne by the consumer.

“It leaves us in no position to negotiate on price and is unfair as it nullifies all the energy spent on purchasing contacts in the local and overseas markets,” says a Liptons spokesman.

“We’ve played the game with local producers and have cut down, where possible, on imports. We do, however, need access to overseas markets, especially in times of shortage. We have the expertise and muscle to buy in these markets.”

Robertsons is similarly concerned. “It will lead to higher prices and, if competition is stifled, it’s possible that quality will be downgraded,” says a company source.

Nestlé concurs, and has lodged a complaint with the Minister.

Another angry voice is that of indent agents, W Thomson & Partners. “It can only have harmful effects,” says Bill Thomson. “The local product is not only not of the same quality as the imported, but it is less dependable. The local delivered price is also around 10%-15% higher than the landed import.”

Producers have a different story. Sadpro, the body representing, among others, the four main dehydrated vegetable producers — SA Dried Fruit, Lowveld Co-operative, Langeberg and Citrusdal Co-operative — claims that the scheme will help stabilise and control quality in the R6m a year industry.

Leroy Tolmay, assistant GM of SA Dried Fruit, says: “The dehydrated vegetable market emanates from the fresh vegetable market which is chaotic. Controls have to be imposed.

“We are not dealing with nuts and bolts.

The new scheme will ensure that prices hit neither the floor nor ceiling.”

Imports, in his view, must also be controlled.

What of the costs of the bureaucracy needed to run it? “Because the control will be set up alongside that of the Dried Fruit Board, the advantages of using the existing structure will be felt. Besides, the levy for the board will be fractional and paid for by the producer.”

And passed on to the consumer?

# Horwood—farmers' whippingboy

*Star 17/12/51*  
A groundswell of farmer resentment against Finance Minister Owen Horwood could become a serious political issue for the National Party. Farming Editor Hannes Ferguson, reports.

In the wake of the Budget speech, farmers allege that Mr Horwood lacks understanding of the basic needs of farming.

*General*  
Farming circles saw it as significant that it was the outspoken chairman of the powerful co-op committee of the SA Agricultural Union, Mr Fanie van Rensburg, who commented on the Budget on behalf of the SAAU. Caustic remarks by Dr Kit le Clus, an executive of the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo), added fuel to the fire.

A few main issues, all involving Mr Horwood, have now crystallised.

Foremost is the sore point of maize export losses. As Dr le Clus pointed out, the fall of the gold price had worsened South Africa's balance of payments to such an extent that the country simply could not afford to ignore the dollars earned by maize exports.

The 5.5-million tons of maize to be exported this year were expected to bring in R625-million.

The 2.75-million tons that had to be carried over into next year because the Railways could not carry them from the silos to export harbours in time, would have meant another R300-million in foreign currency.

Maize farmers had expected at least a subsidy to cover the storage and handling of the held-over stocks, mostly stored at high costs in bags alongside overflowing silos.

In this situation the maize industry found it galling that it did not succeed in its many pre-Budget requests that a larger consumer subsidy on maize meal should divert some export maize to domestic consumption, replacing bread baked from imported wheat.

The SAAU also felt strongly about the delay

in paying out farmers whose farms were to be bought out by the State to consolidate the black states. Farmers were often "left in mid-air" for up to two years. This caused hardship and uncertainty, while the State could hardly gain by the delays.

All that was needed, the SAAU felt, was a little goodwill and attention.

Mr Horwood's Jacobs Committee had recommended a policy of equalising a farmer's income tax over periods spanning both good and bad years. It was a recognition of the nature of South Africa's climate. At present producer prices, this tax technicality often spelt the difference between swimming and sinking to the individual farmer.

The SAAU had badgered the government for years on this point. But there was no word about it in the Budget speech.

Another disagreement that had been fanned into a grievance by default was the estate duty issue.

At present inflated land values, even a middle-sized farm could easily be torn out of the farmer's family by crippling estate duties. Farmers felt strongly that agriculture was a long-term occupation spanning successive generations on a family farm. This was one of the fundamentals of farming.

Through the SAAU, farmers had for many years asked for the abolition of estate duties on farms, offering to pay other taxes instead. Yet Mr Horwood had treated these requests as mere begging for special favours, granting a token reduction without considering the principle involved.

Farmer dissatisfaction has now clearly acquired political significance. It



Horwood . . . treated requests as mere begging for special favours.

was a factor in the recent elections. The heat had initially been on the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Pietie du Plessis, to the point where his political future was seen to be in the balance.

Now the atmosphere has changed markedly. Rumours that the unpopular former chairman of the Maize Board, Mr Ben Wilkens MP, was waiting in the wings to replace Mr du Plessis, has made farmer leaders think again.

Both Mr du Plessis and the Minister of Transport, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, have since gone out of their way to be nice to Nampo and the SAAU.

Now the focus is on Mr Horwood. He is not being accused of any particular political crime, but farmers allege bias against agriculture.

Mr Horwood is far too strong, of course, to feel threatened by the gathering groundswell.

In this situation, the potential danger is transferred to the governing party as such. It is an ill wind calling for careful rudder-work by the Prime Minister as leader of his party more than as head of the government.

not be hit by the section as it was then worded. The 1959 amendments were intended inter alia to bring such transactions within the net of the section and based on the decision in Smith's case

# Land Bank loans to control boards rise by 427%

By PAT SIDLEY

ASSETS of the Land Bank increased by 17% in 1980 and loans to control boards rose by about 427%. The bank's 1980 report says agriculture needs high capital investment and there is an increasing demand for long-term credit.

According to the bank's analysis of the number of mortgage loan applications received annually, more is being asked for in larger amounts than in previous years.

In 1979, 6.6% of applications were for R100 000. In 1980 this jumped to 19.8% after the R100 000 limit on loans was lifted. About 72% of these were for land purchases.

The Land Bank says it occupies a prominent place in the agricultural economy and "exercises a stabilising influence on the industry". In 1979 it had a 36% share in the R3 120-million total debt of farmers who then owed it R593-million. Co-operatives owed R540-million for farming requisites and production requirements supplied on credit to members.

In 1980, farmers owed the bank about 12% more, or R668-million, than in the previous year. Of this R602-million was in long-term loans.

Co-operative advances in 1980 were R1 707-million in short-term loans (cash credits) and R214-million in long-term (mortgage) loans.

About R39-million was lent to control boards — R37-million of this in mortgage loans. The 1979 figure was R7-million.

Loans to farmers rose by 14% and loans to co-ops increased by 15%.

The bank's assets in 1980 increased from R2 300-million to R2 691-million.

The bank's 1980 liabilities are marked by a switch in financing to overdrafts from Land Bank bills.

In 1979 bills payable amounted to R283-million and in 1980 dropped to R50-million. The

overdraft with banks rose to R953-million from R492-million in 1979.

To finance the expansion of co-op activities and provide for their additional capital requirements, the Land Bank Act was amended in 1980 to empower it to raise funds in the capital market through the issue of Land Bank stock at competitive rates of interest for an initial period of not less than three years.

This stock will qualify as a prescribed investment but not a liquid asset.

The bank pays competitive rates of interest on funds raised and determines its rate of interest on advances "by the rates at which the bank obtains

its funds".

Its policy is to keep the loan interest rates as low as possible.

"Due to the high liquidity in the money market over the past year, short-term funds were readily available and the bank was also able to obtain the necessary funds with its latest debenture issue at a favourable rate of interest," the report says.

The bank uses funds obtained through overdrafts with commercial banks and the discounting of bills to finance short-term loans to co-ops.

Deposits from control boards or other agricultural organisations are an important source of finance to the bank.

18/1/81  
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# Farmers complain of border uncertainty

DD 22/8/81

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PORT ELIZABETH — Farmers close to the Ciskei border have lost enthusiasm for farming because of uncertainties surrounding consolidation of the homeland, farmers from the area told the East Cape Agricultural Union congress here yesterday.

A delegation of farmers from the area are to seek a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, to determine exactly where the borders of the Ciskei will be and what safety measures will be taken to protect them from stock and crop thieves.

Farmers said they had been waiting for years to hear the outcome of Ciskei consolidation.

Many said they had lost enthusiasm because they did not know on which side of the border their farms would eventually be, whether their farms would be bought by the state to be incorporated into the homelands, or whether it would be worth their while to carry on

farming if the borders were not clearly defined and fenced to prevent the loss of hundreds of cattle and sheep each year.

They said they had had many meetings with government officials over the years and still had no definite answers.

The president of the union, Mr M. H. Louw, said: "We are tired of the pathetic uncertainty regarding the future of both black and white people in the area and want an answer now. We are all sick of this issue, which has been dragging on for years."

Mr C. Cawood, who farms near Tarkastad, said even the Van der Walt Commission, to which many farmers gave evidence, had not helped to solve the complex question of consolidation.

"We were treated with contempt by the commission and our morale has been broken by the continual uncertainty which has been going on for more

than 15 years. There is no longer any incentive for us to produce and continue farming."

Another farmer, Mr J. B. du Randt, said because of cattle thieves and damage to crops, labourers were also almost impossible to keep or find.

"Because of the dangers of farming on the border, labourers now demand firearms as protection and are unwilling to stay on farms."

He said the value of farms in the border areas had also deteriorated so much that even if farmers wanted to sell their farms and move elsewhere, they could not afford to do so.

Nor could they afford to fence their farms with suitable fencing which would prove a deterrent to thieves. Many of the farms had boundaries thousands of metres long and they could not afford the extra expense.

Some farmers also said their sons were unwilling

to stay on or take over farms because of the uncertain future.

The farmers' delegation would also ask the Prime Minister for no further consolidation of other homelands to take place until the question of the Ciskei borders was settled.

Other resolutions were:

That a national road be constructed at the earliest date between the Transkei border and South Africa and between Ciskei and South Africa, which would not cross into the territory of either state;

That when the boundary was defined it should be fenced and patrolled by police; and

That the Fencing Act be amended to provide for a more sophisticated type of fencing for farms, adjoining urban areas to prevent stock theft and marauding dogs.

The new president elected is Mr Fred Pettit. Mr Tobie Meyer is the new vice-president. — DDC.

# Farmers had a record income of R5 585-m

By Elizabeth Rouse

S. Times 23/8/81  
3 general

SOUTH Africa's farmers pulled in a record gross income of R5 585-million in the 12 months to June 1981, and their profits will look even better at the end of the year when the full impact of a bumper maize crop is reflected.

The 1980-1981 rate of income growth, however, is not as dramatic as in the previous comparable 12 months, when the agricultural industry showed a remarkable advance after the 1979 drought.

Also, because of this year's late maize harvest after the rains in April and May, the effect of a bumper maize crop will be reflected only in September quarter figures.

This calendar year's income growth should therefore be greater than the June-on-June increase of 6,8%.

The total maize crop estimate for 1980-1981 is 14,2-million tons, while the grain, sorghum crop estimate is 577 000 tons.

According to figures compiled by Agricultural Marketing Research of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, in 1979-1980 farmers' gross income rose by 26,2% to R5 229-million from R4 142-million in 1978-1979 as the industry recovered from the drought and raked in higher prices for its products, especially meat.

The farming community naturally had to contend with a jump in production costs in 1979-1980, expenses on intermediate goods having risen by 26,6% to R1 998-million from R1 578-million in 1978-1979.

The rise has not been as damaging in the past 12 months, expenses having increased by 15,9% to R2 316-million from the 1979-1980 figure. However, it must be remembered that full expenses of the maize harvest will be shown in the September quarter.

In spite of last year's jump in agriculture's production costs, farmers' net income increased by a larger percentage than that of their gross income. The rise was 36,1% to R2 102-million in 1979-1980 from R1 544-million in 1978-1979.

Over the past 12 months, however, the rise in net farmer income has slowed down to 5,6% at R2 220-million from R2 101-million in 1979-1980.

The rate of increase in agriculture's contribution to South Africa's gross domestic product — which totalled R58 259-million in 1980 — has also slowed down substantially.

The contribution amounted to R3 477-million in the 12 months ended June, up 6,8% on R3 256-million in 1979-1980, which in turn showed a substantial increase of more than 36% on 1978-1979's contribution of R2 625-million.

Inevitably, farmers' debts keep on rising. The 1980 calendar year increase was 19,3% to R3 839-million from 1979's R3 219-million, which in turn showed a rise of 12,2% from 1978's R2 870-million.

## Farmers call for protection

THE Free State Agricultural Union has called for a Government price policy that would ensure that farmers are fully compensated for production cost increases.

The union said at its annual congress in Bloemfontein yesterday that such a policy would

make it financially possible for producers to proceed unhindered with maximum production. *By M. J. M.*

A call was also made for the Government to hasten its decision to allow farmers in good years to make investments with the Land Bank. — Sapa.

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 this body could not be regarded as a political organisation.  
 and though it was through this organisation that he maintained  
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 the Muslims of Cape Town emerged. Abdol Burns, in 1875, was  
 It was only in 1903 that the first political organisation of  
 history might have taken a different course.  
 cated by the election results. 85 In that case, South African  
 been abolished, he would have won a seat. This is clearly indi-  
 ahead, suffering heavy defeat. Had the cumulative vote not  
 against him. His chances were greatly diminished, but he went  
 four white candidates who pooled their resources to stand  
 Constitutional Ordinance Amendment Act or the 'Ticket of Four',  
 Achmat Effendi was not deterred by the promulgation of the  
 position should enjoy the same privileges as the whites.  
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 seated beside them" in Parliament and added further that provi-  
 House who would be willing to have a Malay or Coloured man

Agricultural Credit Act  
 251. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
 Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) How many applications for loans in terms of section 10 of the Agricultural Credit Act were received in 1980;
- (2) (a) how many such applications were (i) granted and (ii) refused and (b) what was the total amount involved?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

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- (2) (a) (i) 2 820.  
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- (b) R194 947 612 of which an amount of R90 202 187 was granted.

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AUGUST 1961

(vi) the general economic policy of the Government.

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69. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether recommendations in regard to the producer price of (a) wheat, (b) maize and (c) fresh milk are made to his Department by the respective control boards; if so, (i) to what extent are such recommendations taken into account by his Department in determining the producer price of each of these products and (ii) what documentary evidence is submitted by such control boards to substantiate their recommendations;
- (2) whether such evidence is made available to the public; if not, why not; if so, in what form?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (1) The price decisions taken by the relevant control boards in terms of the powers vested in them by sections 56, 60 and 64 of the Marketing Act, 1968 (Act No. 59 of 1968), are submitted to the National Marketing Council as prescribed by section 32 of the said Act. The Marketing Council must submit its report and recommendations thereon to the Minister as prescribed by the said section 32.
- (2) No, but the views of the control boards are conveyed in the price reports of the National Marketing Council which are tabled in Parliament in terms of the provisions of section 81 of the said Act.

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The Cape Muslims and the

Association was its first ever Conference held in the Cape Town City Hall in June, 1925. This study will attempt to place this Conference, hailed by the Cape Times as "the first Muslim Conference in South Africa", 18 in its historical perspective.

28/8/81

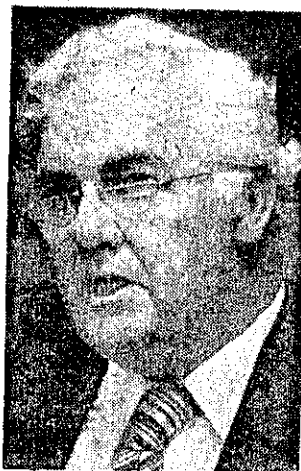
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68. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

On what basis does his Department establish the producer price of (a) wheat, (b) maize and (c) fresh milk?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (a), (b) and (c). The prices of the products concerned are not determined by the Department, but by the Control Boards with the approval of the Minister. The following are the major factors which are taken into account by the Control Boards and the Minister:
  - (i) The relationship between supply and demand;
  - (ii) the marketing possibilities locally and/or abroad of the product concerned;
  - (iii) increases in the production costs of the product concerned and the possible reaction of the supply when prices are not adjusted, as well as possible consumer reaction to price increases;
  - (iv) the general level of prices of agricultural products in relation to other prices and the relationship between agricultural prices *inter se*;
  - (v) the relationship between domestic and world prices; and



MR MALCOMESS

## Alarm over stock theft

DD 1/9/81  
30000 (35)

CAPE TOWN — The rise in stock theft in some areas of the Border was becoming alarming, the Progressive Federal Party MP for Port Elizabeth Central, Mr John Malcomess, said yesterday.

The worst areas, he said, appeared to be East London and Queenstown.

"I believe we must ask the police to implement special measures to put a stop to this escalating problem.

"This would, of course, be treating the symptoms and not the disease which has its roots in socio-economic problems.

"The sooner the whole Border area has something positive from the Prime Minister other than fine words and promises, the sooner the problem will be solved.

"I have said so many times before over the last four years that what we need is action, not words.

"Yet, nothing at all has been done by the government", Mr Malcomess said.

Replying to question by Mr Malcomess last week in Parliament, the Minister of Police, Mr Louis le Grange, said there had been 829 cases of stock theft reported on the border in 1980. Of these, 118 had been in the East London area, 229 in Queenstown and 114 in Grahamstown. — PS.

# Loans to farmers

Star 1/9/81  
up <sup>3 general</sup> 37,4%

By Patrick McLoughlin

The value of mortgage loans given to farmers by the Land and Agricultural Bank of South Africa last year rose 37,4 percent — from R138-million to R189,7-million.

The 1980 annual report shows that while the number of loans only increased marginally to 3 082 (3 041), the average size of loans jumped from R45 390 to R61 551.

"The agricultural industry is characterised by its high-capital investments and the increasing demand for long-term credit," the report commented.

## CO-OPERATIVES

At the end of 1979 the total debt of farmers amounted to an estimated R3 120 million against R2 854-million in the previous year, R2 662-million in 1977 and R2 311-million in 1976.

Apparently the figures for last year are not yet available.

Total loans to farmers by the Land Bank in 1980 — including mortgage, charge and short and intermediate loans — amounted to R668-million, up from R584-million.

Advances to co-operatives rose by R281,9-million to reach R1 922-million.

Once again debentures proved to be a popular financing medium. The total outstanding was R876,9-million — up from R771,9-million.

Deposits rose R25,9-million to reach R281-million.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Land Bank's income last year amounted to R189,5-million. Interest bills were R160-million, administration costs were R13,2-million and a R16-million surplus went into the reserve fund.

Referring to farming conditions, the annual report said that the beneficial of 1979/80 in most parts of the summer-rainfall region resulted in excellent summer-grain crops.

According to the final crop estimate, last year's maize crops amounted to 10,2-million tons — 24 percent increase over the 1979 crop of 8,3-million tons. Soya bean, dried

bean and grain sorghum crops were markedly higher.

The 1980 wheat crop was estimated at 1,6-million tons — down from the previous season's 2,1-million tons and the tobacco crop was expected to be 37-million kg for 1980-81. This compares with the 47,7-million kg crop for the previous season.

## SURPLUS STOCKS

The bank said that the massive decline in tobacco production was ascribed mainly to a "voluntary limitation in production" of about 20 percent by producers because of the existing surplus of stocks in the industry.

Favourable climatic conditions which prevailed during the 1979/80 wine production season set the scene for a record of 6,99-million hectolitres produced against the previous season's record of 6,2-million hectolitres.

Ntambanana police station: trust farmland

16. Mr. G. B. D. McINTOSH asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

- 2/9/81
- (1) Whether there is a vacant area of trust farmland adjacent to the Ntambanana police station; if so,
  - (2) whether such area has been earmarked for settlement purposes; if so,
  - (3) whether it is the intention to settle people there in the near future; if so,  
(a) when and (b) from which areas are people to be moved there;
  - (4) whether any services are to be provided in such area; if so, what services?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3)(a) and (b) Although the land concerned has been earmarked for the purpose of resettlement, it is not at this stage possible to indicate when the land will be utilized and which people will ultimately be resettled on the land.
- (4) Yes. The usual infrastructure provided by my Department on compensatory land namely houses, sanitation, water reticulation, clinics, schools etc.



Whites/Coloureds/Asians: agricultural land  
198. Mr. R. R. HULLEY asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

What percentage of the agricultural land

SEPTEMBER 1981

280

of South Africa is being farmed by (a) Whites, (b) Coloureds and (c) Asians as principals?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

According to the 1976 agricultural census and excluding the land of the National Black States:

- (a) 97,53%
- (b) 0,79%
- (c) 0,08%

# Cabinet to see Van der Walt report soon

Political Staff

3/9/87

to play on behalf of his country and the neighbouring country in maintaining a very stable, diplomatic understanding and attitude towards the situation in which he finds himself.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — A report about the position of farmers on the borders of homelands is to be made by the Commission of Co-operation and Development to the cabinet soon.

The commission's chairman, Mr Hennie van der Walt, MP, said in Parliament this week the position of the border farmers had been "a very serious problem for the commission".

He was replying to a plea by the New Republic Party MP for King William's Town, Mr Pat Rogers, for the government to give greater attention to the position of border farmers.

Mr Rogers said it was necessary for the government to understand the "tremendous role the border farmer has

"We are of the opinion that it is vital that the government create the sort of stable platform on which he can execute this duty to bring about the desired situation," Mr Rogers said.

Mr Rogers said the situation on the border farms provided an ideal situation for joint ventures in which real co-operation and assistance could take place.

Replying, Mr Van der Walt said he did not differ with Mr Rogers about his views on border farmers.

He would discuss the matter with Mr Rogers as well as the agricultural unions.

# Farmers call for harsher penalties for stock theft

NM 3/9/81  
38 general

Mercury Reporter

NATAL farmers at the annual congress of the Natal Agricultural Union yesterday called for harsher penalties for stock theft in order to stop 'this ever-increasing problem'.

Mr G G Gauche, from northern Zululand, said no longer was stock theft a haphazard thing, and those involved were becoming highly organised.

He claimed a butcher in his area had been parking alongside the road and shooting cattle from it, in order to supplement the meat he bought legally.

'The police were well aware which vehicle was being used but were powerless to do anything about it.

'The harsh penalties which at the moment apply to illegal hunting of game should be applied to stock theft as well.

'This would allow for the confiscation of the vehicle and gun used by the thief.'

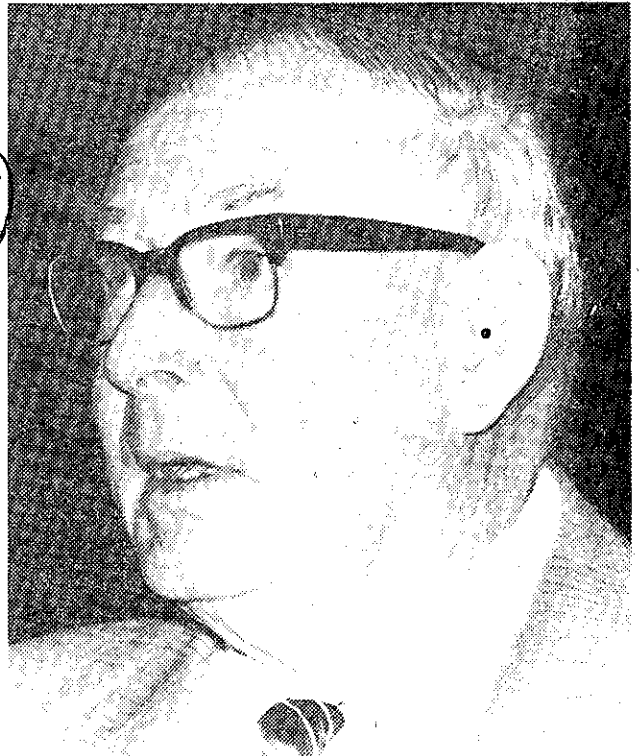
He said he had raised the matter with the Attorney-General of Natal, Mr Cecil Rees, who had not been aware of the seriousness of this offence.

Mr C H Zunkel said it was most frustrating for the police, who spent months tracking down stock thieves only to find the stolen beast had been slaughtered.

'Many cases have been dropped because the farmer was unable to say with certainty that the meat came from his beast.'

Mr Zunkel said in cases like these it should be up to the accused to have to prove where the meat had come from.

Mr K Mienie, from Dejagersdrift, said the present penalties were no longer acting as a deterrent against stock theft.



MR DONALD Sinclair was re-elected president of the Natal Agricultural Union for the 14th time at the annual congress in Durban yesterday, making him the longest serving president in the union's history. Mr Sinclair, who owns a dairy farm near Dargle, has served on the council for the past 29 years. He has also been the chairman of the Natal Parks Board since 1976. The new vice-president of the union is Mr Anthony Erskine, who was president of the Harding Farmers' Association and has been a delegate since 1953.

# Rural schools for blacks 'neglected'

NM 3/9/81

3/9/81

## Mercury Reporter

SCHOOLING facilities for blacks in the rural areas were totally inadequate, according to farmers gathered for the annual congress of the Natal Agricultural Union in Durban yesterday.

Farmers at the congress blamed this situation on the lack of real effort by the Department of National Education and Training to support the farming community in providing education for the children of their labourers.

Mr Denis Thomson, from Ifafa, said the black school in his district, which catered for 160 children, had a staff of three and only four classrooms.

'All the administration of the school is done by the farmers, including the hiring and firing of staff, something which we feel completely unqualified to do,' he said.

The Department of National Education merely provided a few desks and

books.'

Crammond farmer Mr Graham Fraser said in the school in his area there were up to 60 children in a class and no books had been provided.

'Black education in the rural areas has been completely neglected,' he said.

Mr H de Blanche, from Rietvlei, said his father-in-law ran two schools, one in an old church and the other in a shearing shed.

'We have been battling for years to build proper classrooms, but the regulations regarding the materials that have to be used for

these structures makes the cost beyond our means,' he said.

'Anyway, we do not see why we should have to finance the school out of our own pocket.'

Mr D P Fowler from Lions River said the haphazard way the Department of National Education dealt with rural education was very unsatisfactory.

He said because it was left up to the farmer to provide the school building and to hire teachers it meant that if the owner sold his farm, the next farmer was under no obli-

gation to carry on with the school.

The president of the union, Mr D C Sinclair, said the average black man placed a great deal of importance on whether he could get education for his children in a particular area.

'If he is not able then he is likely to leave the farm,' he said, 'so it is to our own benefit that education be made available.'

Mr Sinclair said it was about time that the union had talks with the department about this unsatisfactory situation.

# Farmers approve levy for training skilled workers

## Farming Correspondent

To get the training of farm workers off the ground, farmers would finance a crash programme themselves out of a levy to be imposed on all agricultural produce.

The annual congress of the Transvaal Agricultural Union held in Pretoria yesterday voted in favour of an urgent programme to accelerate the training of skilled farm workers.

The training of workers in agriculture was to receive highest priority from the agricultural unions. Training increased the productivity of agriculture, made higher wages possible and improved labour relations.

Only one training cen-

tre for farmers existed. This was situated at Boskop, near Potchefstroom.

Boskop was entitled to request administration boards to impose a levy to finance the centre out of a levy imposed on all agricultural employers and collected by the board.

Farmers however, did not want this kind of financing and the congress asked that the Minister of Agriculture be asked to approve a levy on all agricultural produce sold to finance a much broader scheme. Training should be decentralised, and Boskop would become a training centre for instructors.

The whole programme was to be co-ordinated by a central agricultural training council.

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Cape Town suggests this (see Maree and Cornell, 1977).  
informal sector in the squatter settlement at Crossroads in  
in the metropolitan and urban areas exists; the extent of  
This is not to deny that some scope for expanded employment  
sector employment vastly must be regarded as naively sanguine.  
reduce South African unemployment by expanding informal  
and a vastly more powerful advanced bloc, proposals to  
subject to the outcome of continuous 'negotiation' between it  
that in the light of the size of the marginal pole being (11)  
all. (Simkins, 1978b: 84)  
unemployed respondents are in receipt of no wage income at  
Kwa Zulu have revealed that households of 44% and 49% of  
poverty' (Simkins, 1978b: 65) and surveys in Lebowa and  
in Durban and Pietermaritzburg have fallen into severe

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# Stock thieves still plague Border farms

EAST LONDON — Farmers in the Border area are having continuous problems with stock thieves, although the incidence of stock theft in the East London area seems to have dwindled since recent arrests by the police.

The Progressive Federal Party MP for Port Elizabeth Central, Mr John Malcomess, said in Parliament this week that the rise in stock theft in some areas of the Border was becoming alarming. He said the worst areas seemed to be East London and Queenstown. The Minister of Police, Mr Louis le Grange, in reply to a question by Mr Malcomess, said there had been 829 cases of stock theft reported in the Border in 1980. Of these 118 had been in East London area, 229 in the Queenstown area and 114 in the Grahamstown area.

The Divisional Criminal Investigation Officer for the Police in the Border, Colonel J. H. Fourie, said there was no evidence that any large scale organised stock theft was taking place in the East London and Border area.

He said most of the thefts consisted of one or two sheep stolen and the thieves were normally people who stole to eat. These types of thefts could

be attributed to unemployment in the area.

He said some of the stolen animals were taken to Mdantsane but most were stolen for personal consumption.

Mrs A. H. Peinke, wife of a Greenfields farmer who has been plagued by numerous stock thefts in the past, said that after recent arrests by the police, things seemed to be quiet and they had had no more incidents of stock theft.

Mr N. T. Sparg, another Greenfields farmer, who also had numerous problems with stock thieves, said he had no problems at the moment, but said he took a lot of precautions.

One of these precautionary measures is a fence with a circuit breaker that will give any stock thief a mild shock and also triggers off an alarm if it is touched.

Mr Sparg said he also spread a lot of propaganda among his farm labourers about the dangers of stock theft and worked about with a firearm on his farm.

Farmers in the Queenstown area still seem to be badly hit by stock thieves. The president of the East Cape Agricultural Union, Mr F. W. Pettit, who farms on Landskrona farm in the district, said stock theft

was a very big problem in the area.

He said the thieves not only steal sheep and cattle but also wild game. Recently stock thieves stole a number of Springbok that belonged to the Queenstown municipality and were kept in a reserve.

Mr Pettit said that animals were stolen by thieves for eating and for sale. He said he had suffered losses amounting to thousands of rands over the years and many other farmers were in the same position.

In many cases the stolen animals are taken to areas like Sada and Uinge where the meat is sold. He said in most cases a few animals at a time were stolen but there were cases in the past where farmers lost up to 25 animals at one time.

Mrs L. A. van der Vyver, of Vlabfontein farm in the district, said her husband had a number of farms and on every one stock theft was a problem.

She said on one of their farms the problem became so severe that they took all their sheep away because they were losing too many through stock theft.

The stock thieves were getting clever too because it seemed as if they were informed of the times the police would be in wait for them.

CT  
5/9/81  
3 general  
Plea for Kalahari farmers

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. —

The Kalahari was a strategic border area and it was essential that white farmers remained there, Mr J H Hoon (NP Kuruman) said yesterday.

Speaking in committee on the Energy Affairs Vote, Mr Hoon said farmers should be encouraged at all costs to remain on their farms.

"This is in the interest of South Africa."

The investigation of a uniform petrol price for the whole country and the supply of Escom power to the farmers in the area would encourage them to stay.

People in the Kalahari, who often lived very far from towns or villages, paid highly for their petrol.

"There, just to go to church and back, one often uses a full tank of petrol." — Sapa

**Soil Conservation Act**

298. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

*Plans E.C.C. 225 3 A*  
Whether any restrictive directions in terms of the Soil Conservation Act were served on any farmers during 1980; if so, (a) how many such directions and (b) in what districts?

*8/9/81*

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

Yes.

(a) 11.

(b) Amersfoort, Barkly West, Clanwilliam, Herbert, Koffiefontein, Kuruman, Malmesbury, Volksrust, Vrede, Vryburg, Zululand.



**Maize millers: cartel**

*Answered in Q.C. 344* *(M)* *(3)*

\*24. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- Wife*
- (1) Whether his attention has been drawn to the formation of a cartel by the maize millers with a view to controlling the (a) price, (b) distribution and (c) market shares of white maize products;
  - (2) whether the authorities concerned were consulted before the formation of such cartel?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No—I have no confirmation that such cartel has actually been formed.

**Onderstepoort: students**  
 Hans G Q C. 328 ③ ④  
 310. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
 Minister of National Education:  
 (a) How many second-year veterinary

9/9/81

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students applied for admission to Onderstepoort in 1978, 1979 and 1980, respectively, and (b) how many students qualified as veterinarians at Onderstepoort in each such year?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

	1978	1979	1980
(a)	269	446*	359*
(b)	40	1**	87***

\*In 1979 and 1980 selection took place on admission to the first year, and the numbers, including those applicants at the beginning of their second year, were as indicated.  
 \*\*Due to the fact that the duration of the course was extended from five to five and a half years.  
 \*\*\*The result of the extended course.

**Agricultural colleges**  
 Hans 6 Q.C. 352 9/16/1  
 309. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
 Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (a) What additional facilities (i) have been provided and (ii) are planned at agricultural colleges and (b) when is it anticipated that such facilities will be completed?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (a) (i) Cedara Agricultural College  
 New hostel facilities  
 Extension of dining-hall and kitchen  
 Elsenburg Agricultural College  
 Hostel facilities  
 Lecture hall
- (a) (ii) Potchefstroom Agricultural College  
 Hostel Complex  
 Facilities for practical education and alteration of existing workshops  
 Indoor sports complex with clubhouse  
 Rugby field, changing rooms.

tennis courts, cricket pitch and pavilion  
 Glen Agricultural College  
 Hostel complex  
 Alterations to existing buildings for additional rooms  
 Class rooms  
 Demonstration room  
 Rugby field  
 Snooker room and squash court  
 Grootfontein Agricultural College

Hostel complex  
 Squash court  
 Tennis courts  
 Cedara Agricultural College  
 Studies  
 Alterations to existing buildings for practical education  
 Squash courts  
 Tennis courts, rugby field, changing rooms and pavilion  
 Elsenburg Agricultural College  
 Squash courts  
 Rugby field and tennis courts

- (b) Within the next 5 to 10 years depending on the availability of funds.

14 hrs 60 Farmers

3

297. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries;†

- 240  
1978
- (a) How many farmers were there in the Republic in 1978, 1979 and 1980, respectively, and (b) how many of such farmers were (i) over 60, (ii) between 45 and 60, (iii) between 30 and 45 and (iv) below 30 years of age

351

WEDNESDAY, 9 S

according to the population census of 1980?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES:

- (a) and (b) The required information is not readily available. The 1978 Agricultural Census is at present in the processing stage but according to that Census the number of farming units is 71 206. Processing of the 1980 Population Census will not reach the stage during this year where information regarding the age grouping of farmers will be available.

## FARMING <sup>3</sup> general Spending splurge

SA farmers are on a spending spree. From July 1980-June 1981, they spent a total of R683m — 62% more than July 1979-June 1980's R422m.

Record machinery and farm implement sales for the same period are reported by the Division of Agricultural Marketing Research of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Investment in fixed improvements is up 18% from R275m to R323m.

One of the most significant increases in expenditure comes from tractor sales. Farmers spent R375m — 116% up on July 1979-June 1980's R174m. Dr Jim Rankin, Malcomess group marketing manager, says farmers bought 23 182 units during the 12 months to July, against 13 994 in the previous year.

Sales of combines are up 60% and balers by 65% over the same period.

A significant point about the big spend is that net farming income for the period July 1980-June 1981 rose only marginally from R2.1 billion to R2.2 billion.

However, this does not yet reflect earnings from 1981's record 14.2 Mt maize crop. SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) economist Johan Willemsse says net farming income for the year ending September 1981 could in fact increase by 42% over 1980, if maize earnings are taken into

account.

Several other factors have contributed to the increased purchasing. Farming equipment is tax deductible. From October the Atlantis diesel engine project is expected to push up tractor prices by 20% - 30%. And, farmers are anxious about the performance of tractors fitted with the new Atlantis Perkins engine.

Bill Pascoe, marketing director of John Deere SA, suggests forward buying could have accounted for 15%-20% of this year's tractor bonanza.

Although sales of farming equipment are expected to level off this year, all agree that 1982 will bring a sharper drop. Pascoe says he expects a fall of 50% to 10 000-12 000 units. Sales in a "normal" year average 14 000-15 000 units. But then another bumper season could well reverse the expected downward trend.

# White

# flight

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# the

# platteland

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3



GOING, GOING . . . whites on the land: a vanishing species

And a staggering 2m blacks now live on abandoned farms

By PATRICK LAURENCE

It is on account of the actual elimination of various categories of peasant: share-croppers, cash tenants and labour tenants and peasant proprietors who owned land outside the reserves — COLIN BUNDY

If the thin line of white farmers becomes too stretched de facto African control could become very extensive — CHARLES SIMKINS

**T**HE brief flicker of debate in Parliament and in the media last week on the wages paid to farm workers cast a sliver of light on South Africa's forgotten people: blacks living in white-designated rural areas.

It offered the layman a transitory glimpse into the role of these central, though largely silent, actors on South Africa's historical stage.

An elementary but crucial point to make in any attempt to offer a clearer picture is that farm workers constitute less than a third of the total number of blacks living on white-owned land.

As Mr Charles Simkins, of the University of Cape Town and one of the few people to have a detailed and overall view of the situation, has noted, there are some 1.3-million farm workers against an overall black population of 4.3-million in "white" rural areas.

Blacks in "white" rural areas account for just under half of the 9.5-million blacks who live in white-designated South Africa, the remaining 5.2-million of whom are concentrated in South Africa's cities and towns.

The figures quoted by Mr Simkins for blacks in white-designated rural areas (as distinct from the "homelands") raise an interesting question: where do the 2-million blacks who are not enumerated as farm workers live?

Leaving aside the possibility of under-enumeration of farm workers, the answer is almost certainly: on white-owned farms which are not occupied by their owners.

The continuing drift of whites to the urban areas and the associated phenomena of absentee land-owners has left vast areas of farming land open for land-hungry blacks to occupy.

In the Transvaal bushveld alone an estimated 4 000 farms have been vacated by whites, while Die Vaderland reported late last year that nearly 60% of farms along the border with Botswana have been abandoned.

## Graphic

The same *beswarming* trend is evident in the "conquered territory" along the Free State-Lesotho border, where the white population has dropped by nearly 25% and that of blacks risen by more than 65%.

The former Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, described the situation graphically in a debate in the Senate on the exodus of whites from border farms in February 1979.

He said: "A terrorist can walk from the Limpopo River right through to Pietersburg without having set foot on a farm occupied by whites. That is an unhealthy situation."

Inviting "patriots" to ponder the situation, Mr Schoeman added: "It is useless having a strong defence force while there, where there should be

**QUOTE**  
— from the former Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman



"A terrorist can walk from the Limpopo River right through to Pietersburg without having set foot on a farm occupied by whites . . . that is an unhealthy situation."

fore the 1913 Land Act. They sentries, the country is uninhabited."

The presence of blacks as the de facto if not de jure owners of these abandoned farms is a testimony to their resilient resistance to a concerted bid to pry loose their hold on the land and to either reduce them to farm labourers or to forcibly relocate them to the "homelands."

## Assault

In his seminal study "The Rise and Fall of the South African Peasantry," Dr Colin Bundy describes the history of black farmers' outside the reserves or "homelands" as "a chronicle of irresistible . . . pressures bearing upon a people politically rightless, unorganised and unrepresented."

The assault was largely launched from the Natives

Land Act of 1913, which prohibited blacks from buying land outside the reserves and which set aside 10% of the land for exclusive black occupation.

Apart from restricting black land ownership to the reserves, the 1913 Land Act prohibited share-croppers and thus eliminated blacks who farmed on white-owned land in return for giving a portion of their crop to the landowner.

A class of black farmers was thereby reduced to what the renowned black writer, Sol Plaatje, described as "roving pariahs," most of whom ended up, as Dr Bundy records, either as farm labourers or in reserves.

The next major move came in 1936 with the passage of the Natives Land and Trust Act — which made provision for another 6.2-million ha of land to be added to the reserves at the cost of a further diminution of

black rights in white-designated rural areas.

The 1936 Land Act provided legal machinery for the elimination of two more categories of peasant-farmers: cash tenants, who paid for the use of white-owned farming land in either cash or kind, and labour tenants, who worked on the white farmer's land in return for farming part of it for themselves.

Over the next 45 years the law was used to steadily reduce tenants of both types to rightless squatters, who later become prime targets for relocation in the 1960s and 1970s to the reserves or — to give them their later labels — "homelands" or "national states."

## Tenants

The destruction of cash tenants speeded up 25 years ago when, in September 1956, the provisions of the 1936 Act against cash tenants were extended throughout South Africa.

The elimination of the labour tenants has been partially recorded by Dr Bundy: in 1936 there were about 1-million labour tenants and their families on white-owned farms, in 1964 their numbers had dwindled to 163 000, and in 1970 there were a mere 27 585 left.

Last year, on August 31, the process finally came to a head when all new labour tenant contracts were forbidden by law and all existing ones cancelled.

There was, however, another dimension to the attack on small-scale black farmers outside the reserves. It was the elimination of "Black Spots," or pockets of land owned by blacks in white-designated rural areas.

These enclaves of black-owned land were acquired be-

were held individually and communally. In the Transvaal some allocations were made by the Afrikaner patriarch, President Paul Kruger, but his political heirs systematically excised these Black Spots from white-declared land.

Two phases can be distinguished during the destruction of black peasant farmers on white-owned land in the rural areas:

In the first white farmers were in dire need of labour and the period is characterised by measures to force dispossessed black farmers into service as workers on white-owned farms. Above all they took the form of tightened influx control laws to prevent "escape" to the urban areas.

It was a time when the shortage of labour was so acute that prisoners were taken to rural areas under a "volunteer scheme" to overcome the shortage. At its height in the late 1950s, to quote Dr Bundy, as many as 200 000 black prisoners were working as labourers on farms annually for 9d a day.

## Policy

But, as Mr Simkins has noted: "Enforced retention (of blacks in rural areas) was rapidly replaced by a policy of expulsion for many."

Two inter-related factors were behind the switch from penning blacks up in white-owned rural areas to forcing them out: the political desire by South Africa's governors to save the platteland from *beswarming* and the growing investment by white farmers in labour-saving equipment.

The extent to which black plattelanders were affected by the relocation programme is shown by Mr Simkins' calcula-

tions — based on the population census figures for 1960, 1970 and 1980 — for the "emigration" of blacks from white-designated areas to the "homelands."

Between 1960 and 1980, 2-million blacks moved into the "homelands," of whom 1,75-million were from the rural areas, Mr Simkins found. Calculations by Dr Robert Schrire point to a similar exodus from white-owned rural areas to the "homelands."

But the extent of the relocation should not be allowed to obscure one central fact: although the black population growth rate in the rural areas was slowed down between 1960 and 1980, there was still an *absolute increase* in the total number of blacks.

Thus, although blacks in rural areas constituted a smaller proportion of the total black population in 1980 than in 1960, their absolute numbers rose from 3,8-million in 1960 to 4,3-million in 1980.

## Advantage

More important, the ratio of black-to-white in the white-owned platteland continued to change to the advantage of blacks because of the continuous drift to urban areas by whites during the two decades.

The tenuous hold of whites on the land near the "homelands" and South Africa's neighbouring territories increasingly amounts to de facto black control of the land, in defiance of the laws and policies dating from 1913.

The overflow from the crowded "homelands" can be seen and checked to a degree when it results in squatter settlements near the main white-ruled cities, but it is largely unseen and seemingly inexorable when it flows into abandoned border farms.



NEW PLATTELANDERS . . . blacks who have taken the place of absentee landlords

Co-operatives must seem a strange species to the townsman. They are large, modern business organisations handling farm products but maintain they are not business organisations at all.

They compete against private firms and still claim they are mere service organisations entitled to applicable privileges.

Now a new Co-op bill is being discussed in Parliament after a "package deal" in 1979 between the Government, the co-ops and private industry.

Organised commerce and industry have been up in arms for some time over alleged preferential treatment of co-ops, which are exempt from company tax and enjoy Land Bank financing at low rates.

The Government found itself unhappily in the middle of a confusing debate and was glad to have engineered the uncertain truce now to be embodied in new co-op legislation.

The Government of 1939 actually understood the co-op movement better. The initial Co-op Act, as well as the first control boards of that time, recognised the economic disadvantages of agriculture —

(General) Star 17/9/81

# The co-ops: have dragon's teeth been sown?

the unpredictable climate and price fluctuations against which the farmer was powerless and his lack of bargaining power.

The control boards attempted to bring price stability to the farmer, assuring him of the best possible market through one-channel distribution and the cutting of distribution costs where possible. On this basis they tried to maintain stable prices under the watchful eye of the Government.

The co-ops tackled the problem from the bargaining power angle. By marketing together, farmers could enter the market at a point further down the line where their bargaining power would be stronger.

Incorporating the commercial stage that followed production into the production stage itself, they were in fact starting a move for joint vertical integration.

Hence they claimed not to be separate business organisations but merely extensions to the farms of their members.

They did not talk of profits but calculated "surpluses." This was

more than playing with words, for in every situation of vertical integration inter-stage profits or losses are meaningless.

The co-ops asked how can a farmer make profits out of himself? And how can the state tax such non-existent profits?

Indeed, "surpluses" are not distributed as dividends to shareholders but divided among members as "bonuses" according to the use they made of the co-ops services.

In 1939, co-ops were still weak and inarticulate. To give them force, some were specially created by legislation such as the KWV, and others such as the Magaliesberg Tobacco Co-op were soon made compulsory by the Government.

In general the newly created control boards took over many of the co-op functions, but they appointed the co-ops as their handling agents.

As such the co-ops grew big. They lived in the shadow of the control boards but gained time to establish themselves. They could not proceed with vertical integration further down the line as the

then Co-op Act made this impossible. But they were tax-free, as the farmer paid tax on his bonus. And they had the same access to Land Bank funds as the farmers themselves, for they were recognised as extensions to their members' farm business.

Private mills retained their handling rights as agents of some boards. They still do good business and sometimes show co-ops how to do the job. Others wanted to break into the vertical integration line, but did not succeed.

Farmers wanted to handle their products themselves.

The tax and Land Bank provisions for co-ops were not understood or not properly explained — not even by the Government. In this situation they caused increasing friction with Assocom, the Handelsinstituut, the Chambers of Industry.

In the end, the Ministers of Finance and Agriculture announced in 1979 that:

● Co-ops should pay taxes like any other business.

● The financing of new premises, work-

shops and offices, as well as short and long term financing of new premises for processing farm products were now to carry higher interest rates.

All Land Bank financing of co-ops had previously been done at preferential interest rates which the Land Bank had bargained for from the commercial banks.

● Financing of the manufacture of farm requisites like tractors, chemicals and implements was also to carry the higher interest rates.

● Agricultural co-

ops could freely process agricultural products and manufacture farming requisites.

● The payment of bonuses from surpluses on a patronage basis was recognised as a prerogative of co-ops.

This was the 1979 "package deal." Farmers said the Government had not understood the basis of the 1939 legislation or the nature of co-operatives. But this was clearly a purely political "package." Understanding was not relevant.

The result, however, might be ironically

just the opposite of what was sought by Assocom, the Handelsinstituut and the Chamber of Industry.

By freeing the entry of co-ops into the processing and manufacturing fields, the package deal and the new Co-ops Act based on it may have put the co-ops squarely back on their original aim of improving their members' bargaining power by vertical integration.

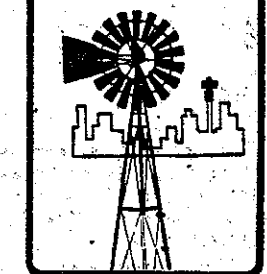
Vleissentraal, often regarded as a special case in the co-op field, may only be showing the way in striving to

control as much as possible of the marketing of livestock and meat down to the end consumer, it has successfully entered even the by-product industries. Selling hides and skins, it has acquired tannery interests and will soon have a slice of the shoe industry.

From the cowherd to the shoe store, all under stockowner control.

In reverse the same recipe applies — backward vertical integration — into the manufacture of farm requirements — effecting savings and lessen-

Hannes Ferguson  
Farming



ing distribution costs while improving the productivity of agriculture.

It may be only a matter of time, when the farmer/consumer of farm requisites could be controlling a slice of tractor implements, fertiliser and farm chemicals manufacture.

Has Assocom sown dragon's teeth?

# Accusing finger on food prices

## Parliamentary Staff

THE Minister of Agriculture and his agents had to be held largely responsible for the 'wild' increases in food prices, the Assembly was told yesterday.

Mr Philip Myburgh (PFP, Wynberg), the chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, called for an inquiry by independent experts into the entire agricultural marketing set-up.

Speaking in the budget debate on the Agriculture vote, he said about 75 percent of all agricultural products was under the control and administration of control boards in terms of the Marketing Act.

A further ten percent was controlled under other legislation.

## URGENT

The role of the control boards and the manner in which they carried out their marketing functions had to be investigated urgently.

Mr Myburgh also accused the department of having failed in part of its task through its inability or unwillingness to cope with the emergence of highly sophisticated monopolistic organisations.

These organisations were getting a stranglehold over both consumer and prime producer.

'How incompetent can the Maize Board be in its regular surveys to allow what developed in the last few months?' Mr Myburgh asked.

He said that only last week he had asked the Minister of Agriculture, Mr P T C du Plessis, whether his attention had been drawn to the forma-

tion of a maize millers' cartel.

The Minister had answered in the affirmative but said he had no confirmation that such a cartel had actually been formed.

Mr Myburgh asked: 'Is that Minister living in an ivory tower? Has he no contact with the world outside?'

'I heard of the cartel for the first time at the end



Mr Philip Myburgh

of June while on holiday in Transkei. During the last two or three weeks newspapers have carried articles and reports on the formation of such a cartel. They even approached the Minister for comment.'

Mr Myburgh said the farmers cared because against a drop in maize product consumption of six percent last year any price rise would reduce domestic consumption still further.

This would increase the export surplus as well as the export loss.

Mr Myburgh also questioned the Minister about an agreement against which 'everybody is up in arms'.

The agreement, which Mr Myburgh said should be illegal, had expressed the aim of regulating the

sale of and to control the prices of all consumer maize products.

The Minister seemed to know little about the agreement, the effect of which would be to eliminate any miller who refused to co-operate.

Replying, the Minister rejected Mr Myburgh's allegations of 'wild' food price increases. He accused Mr Myburgh of not wanting farmers to enjoy the same prosperity which other sections of the community were enjoying.

Mr du Plessis quoted figures which, he said, showed that food price increases had not been excessive.

Reacting to Mr Myburgh's allegations about a maize millers' cartel, the Minister said he had followed up on Press reports and had instructed the Maize Board to report any cases of exploitation to him.

## WATCHED

He had also warned that he would not hesitate to re-introduce retail price control of maize meal if there should be any exploitation, and the situation was being watched by his department.

Rejecting Mr Myburgh's criticism of the control board system, the Minister said a parliamentary commission of inquiry had found unanimously after a three-year investigation that the control board system in South Africa was one of the best in the world.

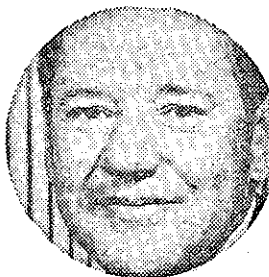
One aim of the system was to reduce the price gap between producer and consumer as much as possible.

15/1/80  
- part  
20



# Food - strategy against blackmail

Agus 15/9/81 3 general



The simplist

Mr P T C du Plessis

Clearly, approx

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**Parliamentary Staff**  
SOUTH AFRICA'S self-sufficiency in food production meant that this country could not be blackmailed with food sanctions, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr P T C du Plessis, said in the Assembly yesterday.

He said agriculture was of great strategic importance to the country.

Being a food exporter gave South Africa international negotiating capacity in addition to the advantage of being self-sufficient in food production.

In a continent where hunger was prevalent among millions of people, South Africa was like 'a tower of light and hope.'

Rising costs made food price rises unavoidable. But South Africans could still be grateful for living in a country where there was not a shortage of food

and where people did not have to stand in queues for food or be turned away empty-handed.

A factor often overlooked was that agriculture was one of the biggest employers of labour in South Africa.

The country's capital assets in the agricultural sector now totalled R27 000-million.

Mr du Plessis said the Government would have to give sympathetic attention to the position of small farmers. It was 'absolutely essential' that a maximum number be enabled to make a decent living out of agriculture.

Marine resources would also have to be investigated in future with a view to maximum utilisation.

Referring to research being done with sunflower oil as tractor fuel, Mr du Plessis said the highest

priority was being given to this research in view of any possibility of oil sanctions against South Africa.

The Minister said the machinery and 'soldiers', were needed to fight the war against hunger.

It was a tragedy that many highly trained agricultural specialists were being used by private firms to do other jobs.

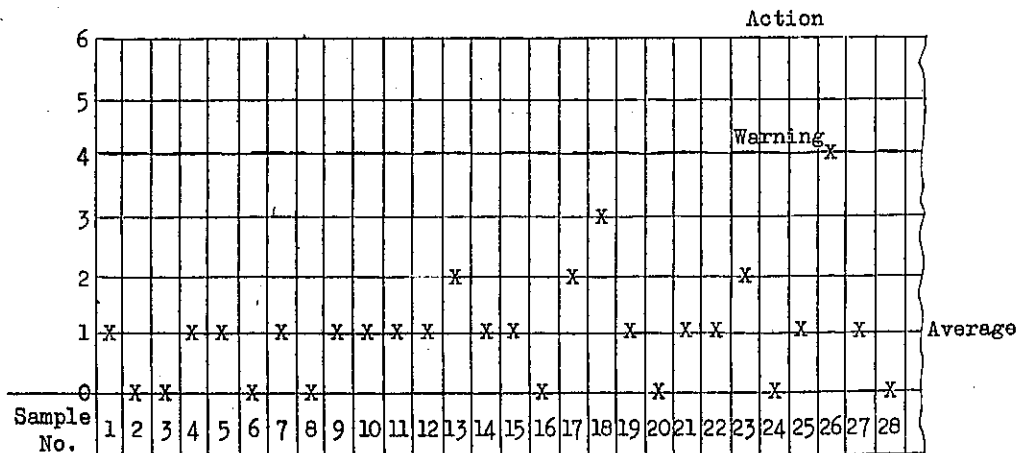
The firms were using the names and status of these experts for commercial purposes. Some were working as property consultants or were selling fertilisers.

The Minister announced the appointment of a committee of inquiry to investigate aspects of the agricultural industry.

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(Time sequence →)

'CONTROL CHART FOR NUMBER DEFECTIVE'

Patrolling of borders

\*7. Mr. P. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

- 18/9/81
- 3 general
- 18/9/81
- (1) Whether any representations in regard to maintaining and patrolling the borders between South Africa and neighbouring states have been made to his Department by the South African Agricultural Union; if so, what was (a) the nature of the representations and (b) his response thereto;
- (2) whether any action is anticipated as a result of such representations; if so, what action?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (1)(a)-(b) and (2) No representations have recently been received in connection with the maintenance and patrolling of the borders.

Representations have however, been submitted to me by the South African Agricultural Union that my Department should render assistance to remove uncertainties and to solve problems regarding the consolidation policy and National States in general.

It was agreed that regular discussions between me and the South African Agricultural Union were necessary to solve problems experienced by the farming communities.

As a result of the numerous in-

quiries and representations received by the South African Agricultural Union, the said Union recently established a Consolidation Committee to give specialized attention to these matters.

A sound base for liaison between the said Committee and my Department was established and farmers are invited to refer the problems and uncertainties they experience through their provincial affiliations to the Consolidation Committee of the South African Agricultural Union which will ensure that the matters receive urgent attention at the highest level.

Hans S Peddie district: consolidation  
Q.C. 460-61 22/9/81 (General)

253. Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the  
Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(a) How many farmers affected by consolidation were bought out in the (i) Peddie district and (ii) Republic under the scheme in terms of which 60 per cent of the purchase price was paid in Government Internal Registered stock and (b) what was the total amount of money involved in the (i) Peddie district and (ii) Republic?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT:

(a)(i) and (ii) and (b)(i) and (ii) It is unfortunately not possible to furnish separate figures in respect of the district of Peddie and the Republic of South Africa without performing a considerable volume of work, which is deemed to be unjustified. A total number of 1 675 landowners in the Republic of South Africa were affected under the scheme in terms of which 60% of the purchase price was paid in long term internal Registered Stock. A total amount of R118 077 540 was paid to the 1 675

TUESDAY, 22 SE

landowners mentioned above in  
Stock Certificates.

Question standing over from Friday, 18  
September 1981

MCNS 8 Patrolling of borders (302010)  
QC 472-3 22/9/81

5. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether any representations in regard to maintaining and patrolling the borders between South Africa and neighbouring states have been made to his Department by the South African Agricultural Union; if so, what was (a) the nature of the representations and (b) his response thereto;
- (2) whether any action is anticipated as a result of such representations; if so, what action?

473

WEDNESDAY, 23

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FISHERIES:

- (1) No. The Eastern Cape Agricultural Union submitted such representation in respect of the Transkei border.
  - (a) That the existing border be retained;  
a new fence be erected;  
the fence be patrolled regularly;  
and  
border police posts be erected at strategic places.
  - (b) The representations were referred to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information.
- (2) Negotiations with the Transkeian Government are in progress.  
In addition it may be mentioned that the South African Agricultural Union recently informed me about problems experienced by farmers in the border areas which it planned to discuss with other Ministers.

Hours 8 Co-operatives  
 QC 484-503 24/9/81 *Zgenuw*  
 296. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the  
 Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

- (1) (a) How many registered co-operatives are there in each province (b) what are their names and (c) how many branch outlets does each such co-operative have;
- (2) (a) what is the annual turnover of the co-operative movement in each province, (b) what is the turnover in terms of the products sold by them on behalf of farmers on the (i) domestic and (ii) export market and (c) what is the turnover in terms of products sold by them to farmers;
- (3) how many registered proprietary companies are (a) wholly owned by (b) subsidiaries of, and (c) partly controlled by, such co-operatives?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
 AND FISHERIES:

- (1) (a) Cape Province: 280  
 Natal: 47.  
 Orange Free State: 40.  
 Transvaal: 154.

- (b) Cape Province:  
 Die Federale Landboukoöperasie van Suid-Afrika Beperk.  
 Suid-Afrikaanse Sentrale Koöperatiewe Graan Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Albert Koöperasie Beperk.  
 De Boeren Koöperatiewe Molen Maatschappij Beperk.  
 Bredasdorp-Napiersse Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Caledon-Riviersonderend Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Dordrechtse Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Humansdorpse Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Langkloof Boerekoöperasie Beperk.

Moorreesburgse Koringboere (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Namakwalandse Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Porterville Koöperatiewe Landboumaatskappy Beperk.  
 Ugie Agricultural Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Riversdal-Albertiniase Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Sasko-Bokomo Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Suid-Westelike Koöperatiewe Graan Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Swellendam-Heidelberg Koöperatiewe Landboumaatskappy Beperk.  
 Vaalharts Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Westelike Graanboerekoöperasie Beperk.  
 Ceres Aartappels (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Die Gamtoos Koöperatiewe Tabakmaatskappy Beperk.  
 Kango Koöperatiewe Tabaken Wynmaatskappy Beperk.  
 Katrivier Tabak Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Westelike Provinsie Koöperatiewe Tabakkwekers Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Die Clanwilliam Koöperatiewe Tee Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Sentrale Katoenkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Douglas Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Ladismith-Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Oranje Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Villiersdorp Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Border Citrus Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Goede Hoop Sitruskoöperasie Beperk.  
 The Kat River Co-operative Citrus Company Limited.  
 Keiskama Citrus Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Koonap River Citrus Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Patensie Sitruskoöperasie Beperk.

Sundays River Citrus Co-operative Company Limited.  
 The Uitenhage District Citrus Growers' Co-operative Company, Limited.  
 South African Co-operative Deciduous Fruit Exchange Limited.  
 Appelprodusente van Elgin Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Ceres Fruitgrowers Co-operative Association Limited.  
 Concordia (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Elgin Fruit Packers Co-operative Limited.  
 Kromrivier Apple Co-operative Limited.  
 Lanko (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Die Stellenbosse Koöperatiewe Vrugtepakkers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Tradouw Vrugtepakkers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Sadpro (Sentraal Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Citrusdal Koöperatiewe Droogbane Beperk.  
 Suid-Afrikaanse Droëvrugte Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Langeberg Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Peko (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Stellenbosch se Sentrale Botteringskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Aan-De-Doorns Koöperatiewe Wynmakery Beperk.  
 Agterkliphoogte Wynkelder (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Ashton Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Aufwaerts Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Badsberg Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Barrydale Koöperatiewe Wynmakery en Stokery Beperk.  
 Bolandse Koöperatiewe Wynkelders Beperk.  
 Bonnievale Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Botha Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Bottelary Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.

Die Bovelei Ko-operatiewe Wynnemery Beperk.  
 Brandvlei Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Breëriviervallei Botteleringskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Calitzdorp Vrugte en Wynkelders Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Citrusdal Koöperatiewe Wynkelders Beperk.  
 Clairvaux Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 De Doorns-wynkelder (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 De Wet Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Drakenstein Co-operative Winery, Limited.  
 Die Drostydse Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Du Toitskloof Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Eerstarivier-Valleise Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Franschoekse Wynkelder (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Goudini Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Groot Eiland Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Helderberg Koöperatiewe Wynnemery Beperk.  
 Klawer Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Koelenhof Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Ko-operatiewe Wijnbouwers Vereniging van Zuid-Afrika, Beperk.  
 Ladismith Koöperatiewe Wynnemery en Stokery Beperk.  
 Langverwacht Koöperatiewe Wynnemery Beperk.  
 Lateganskop Wynkelder (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Louwshoek-Voorsorg Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Lutzville Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Mamreweg Wynkelder Koöperatief Beperk.  
 McGregor Koöperatiewe Wynnemery Beperk.

Merwesfont Koöperatiewe Wynnemery Beperk.  
 Merwida Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Montagu Muskadel Boere Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Die Nordale Koöperatiewe Wynnemery Beperk.  
 Nuwehoop-Wynkelder (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Nuy-Wynkelder (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Die Olifantsrivierse Koöperatiewe Wynkelders Beperk.  
 Oranjerivierwinkelders (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Overberg Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Overhex Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Paarl-Vallei Wynkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Perdebergwynboere Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Porterville Koöperatiewe Keldermaatskappy Beperk.  
 Riebeeck Wynboere (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Rietrivier-Wynkelder (Koöperatief) (Beperk).  
 Robertson Koöperatiewe Wynnemery Beperk.  
 Romansrivier Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Roodezand Koöperatiewe Wynnemery, Beperk.  
 Rooibergse Koöperatiewe Wynnemery, Beperk.  
 Simonsvlei Koöperatiewe Wynkelders Beperk.  
 Slanghoek Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Soetwyn Boere Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Spruitdriif Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Stellenbosse Wynroete (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Swartlandse Koöperatiewe Wynnemery Beperk.  
 Trawal Wynkelders (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Vloottenbergwinkelder (Koöperatief) Beperk.

Waboomsrivier Koöperatiewe Wynkelder Beperk.  
 Wamakersvlei Koöperatiewe Wynnemery, Beperk.  
 Wellington Wynboere Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Welmoed Koöperatiewe Wynkelders Beperk.  
 Windmeul Koöperatiewe Wynkelder, Beperk.  
 Rosarium Koöperatiewe Kwekers Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Noordvaal Veevoerders (Sentraal Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Beaufort-Wes Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Brandvlei Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Britstown Koöperatiewe Vleis Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Cape Eastern Meat Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Carnarvonse Vleisproduseerders Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Fraserburgse Koöperatiewe Vleisprodusente Beperk.  
 Groot-Karoo (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Hopetown Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Karoo Vleis Boere Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Kenhardtse Vleisprodusente (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Koup-Produsentekoöperasie Beperk.  
 Die Landboukoöperasie van Calvinia Beperk.  
 Loeriesfontein Koöperatiewe Vleismaatskappy Beperk.  
 Noordooskaap Vleiskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Noordkaap Lewendehawe Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Prieska Vleis Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Spekenam (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Steytlerville Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Sutherlandse Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Transoranje Koöperatief Beperk.

Willistonse Koöperatiewe Vleismaatskappy Beperk.  
 Algoa Milk and Creamery Co-operative Limited.  
 Boesmansrivierse Koöperatiewe Kaasfabriek Beperk.  
 Darlingse Suiwelkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Ladismith Towerkop Koöperatiewe Kaasfabriek Beperk.  
 Reivilo Suiwelkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Sebraskop Koöperatiewe Kaasfabriek Beperk.  
 Stormberg Koöperatiewe Kaasfabriek Beperk.  
 Boland Melkboere (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 East London Model Dairy Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Melton Dairy Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Rooikrans Melkery (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 United Dairies Co-operative Limited.  
 Algoa-Pluimvee en -Eiers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Hides and Skins Brokers (Central Co-operative) Limited.  
 Perseverance Wool Pullery Co-operative Limited.  
 Boeremakelaars (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Suid-Afrikaanse Koöperatiewe Karakoelers Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Volstruisprodukte (Sentraal Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Klein Karoo Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Boeresake (Kaapprovinsie) Sentraal Koöperatief Beperk.  
 Banhoek Farmers Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Drakensteinse Vrugtekwekers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 East Cape Agricultural Co-operative Limited.  
 Elgin Co-operative Fruitgrowers Limited.  
 Die Kalahari Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Noord-Bolandse Landboukoöperasie Beperk.

Suider Paarl Co-operative Farmers Export Company Limited.  
 Western Province Fruit Growers Co-operative Association Limited.  
 Boere Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Szamvervoer (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Zaney Boere Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Buffeljagsrivierse Arbeidskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Hawequa-Buitepos (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Patensie Buitepos (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Perdeberg - Gevangenis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Riebeekbuitepos (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Co-operative Shipping Service Limited.  
 Ceres Co-operative Cold Storage Company Limited.  
 Hexvallei Koelkamer (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Montagu Koelkamers Koöperatief Beperk.  
 Lakto M.A. (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Nanaga Milk Recording Co-operative Company Limited.  
 South African Co-operative Wool and Mohair Brokers Limited.  
 Veekos (Sentraal Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Verbruikers-Groothandel (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Amko (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Aliwal (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Bergsig (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Breevallei (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Dordrechtse Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Elim (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Franschoekse Verbruikerskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Gamtooshandelsvereniging (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Gariep Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.

Ghaapse Berg (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Graaff-Reinetse Koöperatiewe Winkels Beperk.  
 Die Groenkloofse Handelshuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Grootrivier (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Handelshuis (Moorreesburg) Koöperatief Beperk.  
 Harmonie Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Hexvallei Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Hottentotshollandse Handelaars (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Kakamas-Verbruikerskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Karoo-Handelshuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Kurumanse Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Ladismith Verbruikerskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Laingsburg Koöperatief Beperk.  
 Lutzville Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Mactear (Co-operative) Limited.  
 Magogongse Verbruikerskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Middel-Karoo Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Merino Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Mortimer Co-operative Trading Society, Limited.  
 Namakwalandse Verbruikerskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Niekerkshoop Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Nuwevekdse Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Ons Eie Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Ons Handelshuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Ooskaap Verbruikers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Panorama (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Ramskop Verbruikers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Riversdalse Handelshuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.

Saamstaan (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Spitsbergse Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Suidhoek Verbruikers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Sutherland Verbruikers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Swartbergse Verbruikers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Swartlandse Koöperatiewe Handelshuis, Beperk.  
 Tuinroete (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Van Rhyasdorpse Handelskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Vryburgse Verbruikers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Die Welvaart Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Willistonse Koöperatiewe Handelshuis, Beperk.  
 Willowmorese Handelskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Die Idas-Valleise Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Kharkams Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Komaggas Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Kuboes Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Namakwasse Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 Adelaide Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Byskorf (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Die Colesbergse Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Elliot Home Industries Co-operative Limited.  
 Farm Fare Home Industries Co-operative Limited.  
 Flinke Vroufjies (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Formosa Home Industries Co-operative Limited.  
 Grahamstown Home Industries Co-operative Limited.  
 Humansdorp Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Keur en Geur (Koöperatief) Beperk.

Komma-Weer (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Ladismithse Tuisnywerheid Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Nababeep Tuisbedryf (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Neutvars (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Op-en-Wakker (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Oudtshoorn Tuisnywerheid Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Pandora's Box Co-operative Limited.  
 Patty Pan Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Saambrou (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Selfsorg (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Somerset-Oos se Tuisnywerheid Koöperatief Beperk.  
 Stop-'n-bietjie (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Tarkastad Co-operative Home Industries Limited.  
 Upington Tuisbedryf (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Woeker en Woel Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Bontebok Motors (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Dienskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Dordrechtse Koöperatiewe Vulstasie Beperk.  
 Douglas Dienskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Faserburgse Koöperatiewe Motorhawe Beperk.  
 Reindersgarage (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Die Suid-Afrikaanse Koöperatiewe Amptenare Vereniging Beperk.  
 Port Elizabeth Bookmakers Co-operative Limited.  
 Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage Brick and Tile Co-operative Limited.  
 Gansbaaise Koöperatiewe Visserij Beperk.

NATAL:  
 Natalse Landboukoöperasie Beperk.

The Natal Tobacco Co-operative Limited.  
 Umfolozi Co-operative Sugar Planters Limited.  
 Mkusi Falls Koöperatiewe Sitrus Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Muden Co-operative Fruit Export Company Limited.  
 Natal Co-operative Fruit Export Company Limited.  
 Cragadour Packers Co-operative Limited.  
 Panpack Co-operative Limited.  
 Sungold Co-operative Limited.  
 Senpro (Natal) Co-operative Limited.  
 Eston Co-operative Limited.  
 The Central Timber Co-operative Limited.  
 Natal Co-operative Timber Company Limited.  
 Union Co-operative Bark and Sugar Company Limited.  
 Zululand Timber Growers Co-operative Limited.  
 Fawn Leas Co-operative Butchery Limited.  
 Stock Owners Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Eskort Bacon Co-operative Limited.  
 Natal Egg Co-operative Limited.  
 Coastal Farmers Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Table Mountain Co-operative Limited.  
 Natal Indian Agricultural Co-operative Limited.  
 Last Post Agricultural Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Retreat Agricultural Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Uloa Agricultural Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Grocance Fire Insurance Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Riet-Ass Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 The Timber Growers' Co-operative Insurance Brokers Limited.

Eshowe Co-operative Sugar and Timber Company Limited.  
 Umzimkulu Planters' Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Dynamo Stores Co-operative Society Ltd.  
 Farm Supply Co-operative Limited.  
 Natalse Verbruikerskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Saligna Forestry Co-operative Trading Society Limited.  
 Umgungundhluvu Co-operative Trading Society Limited.  
 Dundee Home Industries Co-operative Limited.  
 Empangeni Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Hlobane Tuisbedryf (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Koöperatiewe Tuisnywerheids Beperk.  
 L.S.C. Co-operative Limited.  
 Pinetownse Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Port Alfred Home Industries Co-operative Limited.  
 Umhlali Home Industries Co-operative Limited.  
 Umvoti Home Industries Co-operative Society Limited.  
 Winterton Koöperatiewe Dienstasie Beperk.  
 Contractors Co-operative Society Limited.  
 Natal Bookmakers' Society (Co-operative) Limited.

#### ORANGE FREE STATE:

Clocolan Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Drakensberg Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Ficksburg Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Ladybrand Koöperatiewe Landbou Maatskappy, Beperk.  
 Die Senekal Koöperatiewe Landbou Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Vrystaat Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Die Vaalrivierse Tabakkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Suid-Vrystaat Vleiskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Vrystaat Lewendehawe Koöperasie Beperk.

Midde-Vrystaatse Suiwelkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Tweespuit-Eastern Free State Co-operative Dairies Limited.  
 L. M. Nywerhede (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Kroonstad Wes Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Sentraoes (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Massamelkvervoer (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Vrystaat en Grens se Melkaantekeningskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Sentrale Ontwikkelings en Voorligtings Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Edenville Handelshuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Heilbron Koöperatiewe Handelshuis Beperk.  
 Koöprat (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Kragkop (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Kroonstadse Verbruikers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Reitz Koöperatiewe Handelshuis Beperk.  
 Smithfield Handelshuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Uitkoms (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Oppermans Koöperatiewe Handelshuis Beperk.  
 Dit-En-Dat (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Fraai Voorskoot (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Gon-Gou Iets Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Harrismith Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Houtlepel (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Huisvrou Paradys Koöperatief Beperk.  
 Indraf Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Kies en Keur (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Klaradyn Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Kroonstad Tuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.

Vars-uit-dis-Oond (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Samba (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Delta (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Suid-Afrikaanse Soutkoöperasie Beperk.

#### TRANSVAAL:

Suid-Afrikaanse Oliesadeproducente (Sentraal Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Unie Graan Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Delmas Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Koster Koöperatiewe Landboumaatskappy Beperk.  
 Lydenburg Voorspoed Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Magaliesbergse Graankoöperasie Beperk.  
 Marico Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Noord-Transvaalse Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Noord-Westelike Koöperatiewe Landboumaatskappy Beperk.  
 Oostelike Transvaalse Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Sentraal Westelike Koöperatiewe Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Suid-Westelike Transvaalse Landboukoöperasie Beperk.  
 Transvaalse Aartappelkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Die Sentrale Koöperatiewe Tabakmaatskappy van S.A. Beperk.  
 Laeveldse Koöperasie Beperk.  
 MKTV Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Potgietersrusse Tabakkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Die Sentrale Saadkwekers Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Suid-Afrikaanse Saadbeurs (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Katoensentrale (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 South African Co-operative Citrus Exchange Limited.  
 Barberton Co-operative Citrus Company Limited.  
 Bergsig Sitruskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Bosko Sitrus Koöperasie Beperk.



Hazyview Koöperatiewe Sitrusmaatskappy Beperk.  
 Integrity Citrus Growers Co-operative Limited.  
 Karino Koöperatiewe Sitrus Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Koedoe Koöperatiewe Sitrus Pakhuis Beperk.  
 Laer-Letaba Sitrus Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Letaba Estates Co-operative Citrus Company Limited.  
 Letsitele Koöperatiewe Sitrus Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Loskopdam Sitrus Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Lydenburgse Sitruskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Magaliesbergse Koöperatiewe Sitrus Maatskappy Beperk.  
 Malelane Sitruskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Potgietersrusse Sitrus Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Rustenburg Co-operative Packhouse Company Limited.  
 Tropicsun Citrus Co-operative Limited.  
 The White River Fruitgrowers' Co-operative Company, Limited.  
 Zebediela Co-operative Company Limited.  
 Sentrale Piesangkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Burgershallpakkers (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Letaba Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Levubu Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Sabie Piesangpak (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Senpro (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Marco Co-operative Limited.  
 Rustenburg Koöperatiewe Boeremark Beperk.  
 Transvaal Wattle Growers Co-operative Agricultural Company Limited.  
 Livestock Products (Central Co-operative) Limited.  
 Vetmesting (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Vleissentraal (Koöperatief) Beperk.

Boere Vleis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Transvaal Lewendehawe Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Sacca Limited.  
 Sentrale Suiwelkoöperasie Beperk.  
 National Co-operative Dairies Limited.  
 Isando Nywerhede (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Letsitele Papiersny Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Vetsak Koöperatief Beperk.  
 Sentraoer (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Sentrale Vervoer en Bemarkingskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Senwe (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Davel Buitepos (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Hendrina Buitepos (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Trichardt Plaasarbeid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Geluk (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Taurus Co-operative Limited.  
 Melkaantekeningentrale (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Transvaalse Melkaantekeningkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Sentrale Landboukrediet Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Hoëveldvoere (Sentraal Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Voersentrale (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Die Koöperasiepers van Suid-Afrika Beperk.  
 Afrikaanse Handelshuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Brendan Village Co-operative Society Limited.  
 Brits Koöperatiewe Handelshuis Beperk.  
 Bronkhorstspruitse Koöperatiewe Handelshuis Beperk.  
 Dalmada Waterkoöperasie Beperk.  
 Delareyville Koöperatief Beperk.  
 Delmas Verbruikerskoöperasie Beperk.  
 Groothoek Co-operative Trading Society Limited.

Handelshuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Hellenic Commercial Co-operative Society Limited.  
 Impala (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Koepak (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Letaba Estates Employees Co-operative Society Limited.  
 Makwassie Koöperatiewe Handelsvereniging Beperk.  
 NTK-Bosveld Handelshuis (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Omega (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Sabie-Sand Koöperatief Beperk.  
 Swakobo (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 S.W.K. (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Vetsak Promosies (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Voortrekkerwinkels (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Whiteriver Fruitgrowers Co-operative Trading Society Limited.  
 Zebediela Employees Co-operative Trading Society Limited.  
 Sentrale Koöperatiewe Handelsmaatskappy van Tuisnywerhede Beperk.  
 Alherton Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Arbeid Adel (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Besige Bye (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Bosveld Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Brits Koöperatiewe Tuisnywerheid Beperk.  
 Carletonville Tuisnywerheid Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Delareyville Tuisgebak (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Delmas Tuisvlyt (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Doringkloof Vingerlek (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Elsburgse Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Evander Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.

Geur en Genot (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Gevalde Ure (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Groblersdal Koöperatiewe Tuisnywerheid Beperk.  
 Hendrina Tuisbedryf (Koöperatief) Bpk.  
 Hertzogville Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Huisvrou Koöperasie Beperk.  
 Koekoek tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Koljander Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Koop en Geniet Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Koster Tuisbedryf (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Lekker Woeker (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Lydenburg Lekkersmul (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Lynnwoodrif se Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Marble Hall Koöperatiewe Tuisnywerheid Beperk.  
 Naboom Tuiskeur (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Piekfyn Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Piet Retief Koöperatiewe Tuisnywerheid Beperk.  
 Potpourri Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Raap en Skraap (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Sannieshof Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Smulhoekie (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Spansaam (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Sterkstroom Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Suikerbekkie (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Tuisgenot (Koöperatief) Beperk.  
 Tuismark (Koöperatief) Beperk.

Tuiskoop (Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

Vlytge Vingers (Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

Volksrustse Tuisbedryf Koöpe-  
rasie Bep.  
perk.

Vroue Tuisnywerheid Koöpe-  
rasie Bep.  
perk.

Warmbadse Tuisnywerheid  
Koöperasie Bep.  
perk.

Westonaria Tuisnywerheid  
(Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

Witrivier Tuisnywerheid  
(Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

Pretorium Trust (Koöperatief)  
Bep.  
perk.

Noord-Wes Autosentrum  
(Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

Noord-Wes Motors Koöper-  
atief Bep.  
perk.

Huis-En-Haard Beskermings-  
koöperasie Bep.  
perk.

SAKU (Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Indus-  
triële Koöperasie Bep.  
perk.

The Transvaal Bookmakers'  
Association (Co-operative) Lim-  
ited.

M.K.T.V.-Personeel Vakan-  
sie-oord (Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

Noord-Westelike Koöpe-  
ratiewe Personeelvereniging Bep.  
perk.

Ooteekalia (Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

Sentraalwes Personeel Ver-  
eniging (Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

Slagdiensle (Koöperatief) Bep.  
perk.

(1) (c) The required particulars are not readily available.

(2) (a) Not available. The activities of several co-operatives reach beyond provincial boundaries.

(b)(i) and (ii) R4 581,3 million. Separate figures in respect of domestic and export market are not available.

(c) Not available.

(3)(a) and (b) Not available.

Sale of farms Tempe No.  
241/Collingham/Rietfontein/Burnt Kraal

301. Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

(1) Whether a portion or further portion of the farm Tempe No. 241 and/or portions of the farms Collingham, Rietfontein and Burnt Kraal, as referred to in his reply to Question No. 3 on 22 June 1979, has been sold; if so, (a) what portion and (b) when;

(2) whether such portion was sold subsequent to the sale of a previous portion; if so, (a) when was such previous portion sold and (b) why were the two portions not sold at the same time;

(3) whether such portion was sold as an economic unit; if not, why not;

(4) whether tenders and/or offers for this portion were invited; if so, (a) what procedure was followed in this regard, (b) how many tenders and/or offers were received and (c) what was the amount of the (i) highest, (ii) lowest and (iii) successful tender and/or offer;

(5) whether State assistance was given to the purchaser; if so, what assistance;

(6) whether any tenderers did not require State assistance; if so, what prices did they tender?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FISHERIES:

(1) Yes.

(a) Portion 3 of the farm Tempe no. 241 in extent 440,0076 ha, and portion Penn Rock, portion of Tempe, now Glen Craig in extent 519,0584 ha.

(b) February 1981.

(2) Yes.

(a) January 1978.

(b) The South African Defence Force only indicated after lapse of a further period that the other portion of land would also not be required for its purposes.

(3) No. The two portions mentioned under (1)(a) combined do not constitute an economic unit.

(4) No. The land was made available under the Agricultural Credit Act, 1966 as an extension to an uneconomic unit.

(5) Yes. The purchaser was allowed to pay the balance of the purchase price over a period of 25 years at the current interest rate.

(6) Falls away.

Hans 8 Houses at Mapopohomeni (25)  
QC 505 24/9/81  
302. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) (a) How many houses will be built at Mapopohomeni and (b) how many people will be accommodated there;

(2) whether any such houses have been completed to date; if so, (a) how many and (b) when is it anticipated that this housing project will be completed?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a) Phase 1: 2 600 houses.  
Phase 2: 1 450 houses.

(b) Approximately 32 000 people.

(2) Yes.

(a) 1-165.

(b) During 1987-'88.

Hans 8 KwaZulu/Transkei: consolidation (107)  
QC 506 24/9/81 (103)  
311. Mr. R. W. HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) (a) How many hectares of White-owned agricultural land have been purchased since 1960 in (i) Natal for the consolidation of kwaZulu and (ii) the districts of Mount Currie, Umzimkulu and Matatiele for the consolidation of Transkei and (b)(i) to whom has such land been transferred, and (ii) what is the extent of such land in hectares, in each case;

(2) (a) to what account are rentals paid for farms leased back to White farmers after purchase by the South African Development Trust, (b) on what basis are such rentals calculated and (c) for what period are such leases negotiated;

(3) whether any provision is made for rental escalation; if not, why not; if so, on what basis?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a) (i) 305 877 hectares.

(ii) Mt Currie: None.  
Umzimkulu: 21 479 hectares.  
Matatiele: 35 221 hectares.

(b)(i) and (ii) The land acquired in the province of Natal for addition to kwaZulu is still the property of the S.A. Development Trust. All the land acquired in the districts of Umzimkulu and Matatiele, excluding the farms in the Ongeluksnek area to the extent of approximately 30 000 hectares, has been transferred to the Government of Transkei.

(2) (a) The account of the S.A. Development Trust.

Tuiskoop (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Vlytjige Vingers (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Volksrustse Tuisbedryf Koöperasie Bepersk.

Vroue Tuisnywerheid Koöperasie Bepersk.

Warmbadse Tuisnywerheid Koöperasie Bepersk.

Westonaria Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Witrivier Tuisnywerheid (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Pretorium Trust (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Noord-Wes Autoseentrum (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Noord-Wes Motors Koöperatief Bepersk.

Huis-En-Haard Beskermingskoöperasie Bepersk.

SAKU (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Die Suid-Afrikaanse Industriële Koöperasie Bepersk.

The Transvaal Bookmakers' Association (Co-operative) Limited.

M.K.T.V. Personeel Vakansie-oord (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Noord-Westelike Koöperatiewe Personeelvereniging Bepersk.

Ootsekalia (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Sentraalwes Personeel Vereniging (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

Slagdiens (Koöperatief) Bepersk.

(1) (c) The required particulars are not readily available.

(2) (a) Not available. The activities of several co-operatives reach beyond provincial boundaries.

(b)(i) and (ii) R4 581,3 million. Separate figures in respect of domestic and export market are not available.

(c) Not available.

(3)(a) and (b) Not available.

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(4) whether tenders and/or offers for this portion were invited; if so, (a) what procedure was followed in this regard, (b) how many tenders and/or offers were received and (c) what was the amount of the (i) highest, (ii) lowest and (iii) successful tender and/or offer;

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(2) Yes.

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(b) The South African Defence Force only indicated after lapse of a further period that the other portion of land would also not be required for its purposes.

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(4) No. The land was made available under the Agricultural Credit Act, 1966 as an extension to an uneconomic unit.

(5) Yes. The purchaser was allowed to pay the balance of the purchase price over a period of 25 years at the current interest rate.

(6) Falls away.

## Farmers want fence on border

ST 24/3/81 (3 gwead)  
Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Eastern Cape farmers have proposed that a fence be erected on the Transkei-South Africa border and that the fence be patrolled.

This was disclosed in Parliament yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Pietie du Plessis, when he replied to a question which had been tabled on the matter by Mr Philip Myburgh (PFP, Wynberg). Mr Du Plessis said the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union had made representations about the patrolling of the border.

The minister said the union had asked that "the existing border be retained; a new fence erected; the fence be patrolled regularly, and border police posts be erected at strategic places".

He said the union's representations had been referred to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Du Plessis also added: "It may be mentioned that the South African Agricultural Union recently informed me about problems experienced by farmers in the border areas which it planned to discuss with other ministers."

# Why should inept farmers profit? asks COLLEEN SHEARER

# RATHER FEED THE POOR

39ms  
S. Tubina  
27/9/51

THAT there are problems and discontent at control board and consumer levels is undeniable and though my surveys in the Tribune have been enlightening, and have even laid to rest some of my own misgivings, there still remain grey and darker areas.

Possibly if we let in some light in the form of constructive suggestions, the "blanket" image of control boards might be brightened.

The overall impression gained is this: "In the absence of export incentives and international competition OR of voluntary participation in a marketing scheme, control measures fail as they protect the inefficient farmer while the good producers and all consumers lose out."

Producers vote for control boards. According to the Marketing Act, such farmers must constitute more than 50 percent. The scheme is to help farmers market their produce and this is sound economics — he is a businessman too — but he should be free to choose how he markets.

Let those farmers who want to belong to boards do so, otherwise let it be a free market with no Government control. If all farmers are forced to join a board, competition ceases.

What price the Carlton Conference?

Tied to this denial of true free enterprise is the overriding concern that we be self-sufficient in an increasingly hostile world — "We must keep the farmer on the land" — but what does not tie up is the reluctance to allow the import of cheaper products, cement for instance, from countries which are still willing to trade with us.

Despite restrictions, some boards operate admirably: Banana, Citrus and Potato are examples. These success stories illustrate beautifully the advantages of a two-market system, where a farmer may choose whether to market his produce through a board (the pool system) or go it alone.

market systems protect the inefficient farmer. Are we so desperate that we must keep him on the land as well? Such closed shops may please the producers but wool merchants, for one, are unhappy. Talking Shop gave full marks to the Woolmark but I was told by the managing director of a wool merchandising firm that my praise was sadly misplaced!

He contends that the Wool Board (75 percent producer members) sets its floor price then sits back and waits. Meantime, the merchants have to negotiate exports and take the risks subject to world currency fluctuations.

It is the merchants, not the Wool Board, therefore, who earn the valuable foreign exchange.

This view was endorsed by a wool buyer from France when both of these men visited me.

In his autobiography, *Never a Dull Moment*, Dr E. G. Malherbe airs some provocative views on our farming methods. He compares us with Western Australia where "farmers could produce wheat, send it by ship and land it in South Africa at less than half the price for which our farmers in the Caledon and Malmesbury districts could produce wheat" (and with no coloured labour).

★ ★ ★

Surpluses, and how to cope with them.

It seems the difficulty is always distribution and if surpluses are "dumped," entrepreneurs can exploit the situation.

Having previously suggested the Red Cross and church organisations, another idea is Kupugani.

This is an organisation whose main object is to combat malnutrition by providing nutritional food as cheaply as possible.

The chairman of Kupugani is Mr L. A. Weinberg and he has very disturbing facts on poverty and malnutrition.

There is no excuse to export at a loss. On this point the Oilseed Board has said: "... all protein materials are so important to the



E. G. Malherbe . . . provocative views

country's self-sufficiency that an embargo has been placed on the export of any material that contains more than 12 percent edible protein."

The department of State Health told me that eggs constituted the best form of protein, at least 14 percent. Lean meat contained over 23

percent of a slightly lower protein.

This brought up a curious situation which Joan Hemson, adviser for the Natal region of NCW, was quick to point out and question.

How was it, that eggs could be exported at all, loss or otherwise?

I put this question to the Protein Advisory Committee who explained that the restriction related exclusively to animal feeds that is fishmeal and oil cake. Imports and exports were subject to permits being granted.

The Egg Board confirmed the above, saying that protein for human consumption was not similarly restricted as regards exports. In any case, there had been no exports of eggs this year. In fact, egg marketing has shown tremendous improvement recently, as well as the

general handling of them by the board.

A Natal producer member told me they did their utmost to supply all areas and that eggs were delivered at least weekly at standard prices to all black consumption points, urban and rural, in Natal, KwaZulu, Transkei and Swaziland by Natal firms. Conditions were constantly improving elsewhere.

However, despite eggs being the richest source of natural protein and extremely cheap compared with other proteins, most blacks, particularly rural, simply could not afford adequate protein.

This member ended with a pointed remark almost enough to make a consumer say "ouch": "We give lip service to the free market principle coupled with total rejection of the violent price fluctuations and

shortage/surplus situations this implies. But the moment things turn sour the cry is 'Why hasn't the board controlled it better?'"

Touché. He is quite right, so perhaps the answer is a re-structured, modernised marketing system because farmers certainly need some help with selling.

As it is pointless asking rhetorical questions, especially of the authorities, I wrote the the Minister of Agriculture, Mr P. T. du Plessis, asking whether control boards could be disbanded and a central marketing "umbrella" scheme be introduced.

Regarding producer dominance on boards, it was pointed out that the Marketing Act specifically provides for such a majority: This same aspect was subsequently approved by a commission of inquiry into the Act.

On the question of free enterprise versus controlled prices, he pointed out that only a few agricultural products are thus fixed, namely standard bread, butter, cheddar, gouda and fresh milk — and these are to protect the consumer.

As to the "umbrella" scheme, he said this has been done where possible. For example the Maize Board controls maize, sorghum and buckwheat; and the Dairy Board was amalgamated with the Milk Board.

Finally, the Minister points out that the National Marketing Council is the co-ordinating body between the various control boards.

But what about the comment by Mr R. H. Landman of the Maize Board to my suggestion that his board should offer the cheaper

"export" maize to our own dairy and beef farmers first: "The Meat and Dairy Boards must come and ask us," he said.

Is the National Marketing Board asleep? Hasn't it even introduced the various boards to each other yet?

But this is serious. Basic foods are at stake — bread, butter, margarine, milk, eggs, maize, beans, potatoes, meat and more.

I do believe a voluntary two-channel marketing scheme (free enterprise and/or certain controls) would be the most satisfactory system for producers, dealers and consumers.

It is time we all had a round-table conference with the control boards to work out a square deal for everyone.

Let's have an eyeball...



CROP surpluses should go to the needy

# Border

## area looks to brighter future

See 28/7/81  
General  
215

By Dirk Nel, Northern Transvaal Bureau

**MESSINA** — A new deal for border farmers and promising coal mining prospects emerged as the two key factors at a development conference in Messina attended by representatives of more than 20 bodies concerned with the future of the area north of the Soutpansberg.

A report from Iscor on coal mining in the area aroused a great deal of interest. An amount of R15-million has already been spent on drilling operations in six areas, including the region known as the E block, which covers the eastern part of Venda and the Pafuri area of the Kruger National Park.

The Mopane field about halfway between Louis Trichardt and Messina appears to be the most viable at this stage. But Iscor's representative, Mr J. Alberts, told the conference it was difficult to make projections before the quality of the coal in all the fields had been established.

He said the Venda and Kruger Park field was somewhat remote and needed more development because of the lack of an established community. Many delegates thought

JUST

# Farmers angry over the 32nd committee

for 29/9/87  
3 general

By Hannes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

Farmers have reacted acidly to the announcement of yet another committee of inquiry into agriculture.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr P du Plessis, said in Parliament he would appoint a broadly-based committee to investigate agricultural services.

Its work would have far-reaching implications and would involve many aspects of agriculture.

Mr Daan Bosman, chairman of the Oilseed Control Board and former vice-president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said this would be the 32nd committee or commission of inquiry into agriculture since 1910.

Little had come out of the recommendations of most of them — usually because their members included too few farmers and too many public servants and representatives of other interests.

#### WELCOMED

The present committee was to be welcomed, however, if it could sort out the confusion surrounding agricultural research and extension work.

One would have to wait for tangible results.

Dr C M Cameron, president of the Public Servants' Association, said the root of the problem was the "inadequacy" of the public service.

In the Department of Agriculture, as elsewhere, there was no long-range planning to implement what the department had set out to do.

There was no career planning for individual professional officers and no way of attracting the necessary professional staff.

Staff requirements in five, 10 or 15 years could be reliably determined and adequate steps should be taken in time to see that these requirements were met.

A committee of inquiry into the public service was already overdue but too often committees were set up only to postpone solutions already known to everyone, Dr Cameron said.

## ZULULAND

### New roots

FM 2/10/81

Cassava is set to become a major cash crop and food source in northern Zululand. Seven years of research by Anglo American's food and agricultural division suggests that it is extremely viable in the dry and sandy regions of Zululand and KwaZulu.

Initial excitement arose during the fuel crisis when cassava was tested as a source of ethanol. But Willem Hefer, Chairman of Anglo's food and agricultural division, says cassava as a base for the production of alternative energy sources has been all but discounted in SA.

Anglo's main interest, he says, lies in the use of cassava for industrial starch. Most industrial starch comes from maize, but a small sophisticated quantity, made from waxy maize which is not grown locally on a large scale, is imported.

Hefer says cassava-based starch could be used as an import substitute.

With the assistance of local farmers, the Umfolozi Cassava Growers' Co-operative has been formed and Anglo is busy "bulking" cassava seedlings at its centre for cassava research at Mtunzini.

This year co-op members will plant an

estimated 600ha. The first commercial plantings will begin in 1982 and in three years, Hefer estimates, there could be 15 000ha under cassava in Zululand and Kwazulu.

Once the crop is viable, Anglo plans to establish a mill for the production of cassava-based industrial starch on a site adjoining the Umfolozi sugar mill. The intention, apparently, is to use the sugar mill's infrastructure, handling facilities and transport to back-up the operation.

A senior agronomist says cassava is now regarded as an important complementary crop to sugar, the region's largest agricultural product. As an added attraction it is not in direct competition with sugarcane, which thrives in heavier soil.

Cassava can also grow in low rainfall regions, is more drought-resistant and, unlike sugar, is not an irrigation crop. Another advantage: It is completely unseasonal and can be harvested and planted virtually all year round.

Cassava is also expected to provide valuable revenue to the emergent black farmers of KwaZulu, who already grow it for tribal food.

#### Soil

With the mixed soil types that occur in northern Zululand, it will be theoretically possible for farmers to grow both sugar and cassava on their farms -- cane on the more fertile hilltops and cassava in the dry, sandy river valleys.

The average growing cycle for cassava is said to be 18 months. Yields are expected to be about 24 t/ha/year. But this could improve with the introduction of new high-yielding cassava plants suitable for local cultivation.

A price formula, undisclosed at this stage but linked to the price of maize, has been agreed upon with farmers in the co-op.

Hefer says Cassava could be an important food in SA by the turn of the century. He points out it is already the staple diet of more than 300m people around the world.

Anglo's research indicates that the most viable cassava growing region extends from Lower Mkuze to just south of Mthatha.

Hefer sees a limited overseas market for the industrial starch which could be exported in a semi-processed form from Ebelards Bay, only 40 km from the future mill site.



# Harder times lie ahead

FM 2/10/81 <sup>3</sup> Special

SA's economic cycles are supposed to lag about a year behind those of the northern hemisphere. Another theory holds that agriculture is the last sector of any economy to enter a recession and the last to come out.

By tagging those two hypotheses together, a sage might reasonably predict a nasty turn in local farming fortunes some time towards the end of next year. In practice few of our agricultural service industries, and fewer still of our farmers are preparing for a downturn. For that very reason, there will almost certainly be one and it could be more severe than in other sectors.

For the past 18 months the platteland has been awash with money. And farmers have been spending as though it has gone out of fashion. A big maize crop in 1980 has been followed by a record one this year. The Maize Board purchased the first extravagantly and the second generously. Between receiving payment for the former and the latter, the beef price doubled.

Egg, poultry, pork, mutton and dairy prices have been dragged up in the wake of beef. Dryland farmers who grow sunflowers, groundnuts and planted pastures have benefited from the same clement weather that produced the bumper crops of maize. The Orange Free State and Cape have responded to a strong price incentive and promised us a big wheat crop. Citrus, subtropical fruit and vegetable farmers have had two profitable years.

The cane growers have bounced back from last year's drought with an enormous crop. And the new wool marketing season has opened with prices even higher than those predicted in July.

Confidence, running high, is reflected in the demand for land. During the heady days of 1979 and 1980, while gold was up and money cheap, a backlog of previously pent-up land expropriations was cleared by the government. At much the same time a flood of city money began flowing into farm property. Individuals looking for weekend

hideaways in "amenity areas" followed the lead of mining houses and other quoted companies as they rushed to buy established sugar farms in Zululand, then underdeveloped timber and beef propositions in the Transvaal and nether Natal.

The family farmers who were displaced by those purchases thought they had sold well. But they soon found themselves vying against each other for substitute properties. Flush grain and cattle farmers from the maize triangle, Vryburg and the northern Transvaal have joined the search in droves, particularly during the last 12 months. In consequence farmland prices have been bid to unprecedented heights throughout the country. Even the Karoo has trebled its nominal value during the last two years.

In the intervening years individual farm cash flows tend to run out instead of in and balance sheet ratios can deteriorate alarmingly. That is precisely what is happening at the moment. And farmers are only just be-



Prime farmland . . . prices at unprecedented highs

ginning to realise that their shortfalls will have to be funded at 19% instead of 9%.

So far the Western Cape has been the only area to feel the cold wind. But the speed at which the economic temperature has plummeted for the deciduous and canning fruit farmers should serve as a warning to the rest of the country. Meat prices are still high but they appear to be on a plateau below their recent peak and few pundits expect them to keep up with the escalation of costs during the next three to five years. After last year's shortfall we are self-sufficient in wheat once more and the price increase announced last week was not enough to compensate for inflation.

Few control boards have much money in their stabilisation funds. The maize industry is already heavily indebted to the government through its board and getting more so. Next year the growers will have to be given a poor price if they present anything other than a poor crop. Similarly the sugar industry has only begun to repay loans totalling R130m. Although it is making a profit on this year's exports, which were prudently sold forward, it could be in dire trouble next year. The world price of white sugar hit a two-year low last week with an enormous European beet crop overhanging an already glutted market.

That means that dairy and vegetable farmers should be prepared for trouble too. When cash is plentiful, grain, beef and sugar producers tend to neglect or cull their labour and management intensive sidelines. But a credit squeeze can be relied upon to stimulate renewed interest at precisely the wrong moment. On top of that, dairy farmers are notorious for expanding their herds during hard times in last-ditch efforts to maintain steady incomes. Those farmers who have used the boom of '81 to consolidate and wipe out their debts are going to fare much better during the crunch of '82 than their euphoric neighbours who are still expanding from the crest of the wave.

# Don't break the law!

Sunday Tribune  
4/10/81

3

By PAT BULGER

NATAL farmers, angered by alleged State contraventions of the Forest Act and Soil Conservation Act, will tell the Government: Don't break your own laws!

Farmers believe that illegal burning of fire breaks could endanger their livelihood.

Fires causing hundreds of thousands of rands damage have ravaged Natal in the past few weeks.

According to Natal Agricultural Union Press spokesman Philip Rix these could not be directly attributed to State burning of firebreaks next to railway lines and at roadsides.

"We cannot say for certain that the fires were caused through State negligence. But it just goes to show how dangerous burning can be when it is not done within the provisions of the law."

Farmers allege, however, that State and semi-State institutions such as the Railways endangered private farms by burning firebreaks in Natal in August.

"The law states quite clearly that July 31 is the last day for burning yet the Government can burn when it likes and endanger our lands without fear of prosecution," one farmer told the Natal Agricultural Union Congress in Durban recently.

A resolution expressing concern about the inequality that exists between the State and the individual farmer in the application of the Soil Conservation Act, the Forest Act and the Weeds Act was passed at the

Congress.

The resolution is being considered by the South African Agricultural Union agenda committee for possible discussion at the union's annual general meeting this month.

The resolution was passed amidst claims from farmers that the Government had blatantly put itself above the law.

One farmer, who claims that he lost 100 hectares of valuable grazing land through State burning after July 31, said: "It seems there is one law for the Government and another for the farmer."

Several farmers alleged that the Government was breaking provisions of the Weeds Act by allowing noxious weeds to grow on their lands and the Water Act by planting trees less than 20 metres from river banks.

New Republic Party spokesman on water affairs Ralph Hardingham said in Parliament that the Government would have to observe and enforce the regulations of the Water Act more strictly if it wanted to avoid "a drought situation".

South African Timber Growers' Association chairman J. Ferguson said it seemed "wrong in principle that the Government should not be bound by its own laws."

NAU spokesman Phillip Rix said the union had written to the South African Railways asking whether or not they were bound by the law.

"The matter will certainly be discussed at a much higher level to solve what seems to be gross unfairness."

RAYMOND CROTTY

③

FM 13/11/81

# Mobilising Africa's resources



Raymond Crotty has served as an agricultural consultant in Third World countries and is author of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux publication, *Cattle, economics and development*.

Africa, with over 25% of the world's grazing lands and 12.5% of the world's cattle, produces only 5% of the world's beef and 2.5% of the world's milk. Its output of pastoral products per person, already only about one-third of the world's average, is declining.

The situation in relation to low output per unit of land and livestock, and in relation to low and declining consumption per person, is broadly similar in all of those former colonies that now comprise the Third World. Though south east and south Asia, Latin America and Africa have between them most of the world's grazing lands and grazing animals, their output from these resources is low and consumption per person of pastoral products, already pathetically low, is declining.

Nor is imbalance between pastoral products and people confined to the non-Caucasian races. Ireland, another former colony, has doubled cattle numbers during the past century and a half. This has forced out people. Less than half as many now earn a living in Ireland as 150 years ago and Protestants and Catholics compete murderously for declining job opportunities.

Russia, too, may be bracketed with those countries incapable of mobilising their pastoral resources in the service of society. The Soviet Union shares with India the doubtful distinction of having both atomic bombs and cows that don't milk. The two countries are thus the chief dumping grounds for western Europe's embarrassingly large dairy surpluses.

The problem of declining consumption per person of pastoral products has, of course, a technological element. But the problem arises from the application, rather than the withholding, of new technology. Medical science slashes death rates and gives rise to an explosion of population dependent on pastoral re-

sources. The number of people so dependent in the Third World has increased by as much in the last 25 years as it did in the whole of the preceding 10 000 years during which man has tended his flocks and herds.

Veterinary science has had similar success in cutting down livestock mortality so that numbers of cattle and sheep have increased as much as or more than the human population. The pastures of the poorest third of the world's population are stocked twice as heavily as those of the richest third. As a result, the overstocked pastures of the poor produce only one-fifth as much per hectare as those of the wealthy and their animals only one-twelfth as much per head.

A want of resources, to be made good possibly by transfers from richer countries, is also patently not a primary cause of the low productivity of the Third World's pasturelands. As noted, a major cause of low output is the excessive stocking of these lands — or too many resources being employed, but in the wrong way.

It cannot be said either that a stubborn adherence in Africa and Asia to the traditional institution of communal grazing is the cause of low pastoral productivity. Pastureland has been grazed for centuries in severalty, or by individual stock-owners on individually held land, in Latin America. Yet in virtually every country in the region, meat rationing has been invoked in a vain attempt to cope with the problem of declining supplies of meat per person.

Botswana's rapid movement in recent years under its "National Policy for Tribal Grazing Lands" towards the individual grazing of its extensive rangelands has also posed problems. It has given rise to a situation where 15% of the rural population own 75% of the cattle, while 45%, which depend almost entirely on cattle, own none.

The gravity of the threat to the political stability of all southern Africa is patent.

Mobilising the pastoral resources of the Third World more effectively to make it possible for its inhabitants to increase their present low and declining levels of milk and meat consumption is a task with many facets. These include technological, resource mobilisation and institutional considerations. Contrast

for example, Africa's and India's preoccupation with the overstocking of grazing lands with the laws (invariably ineffective) that most countries in south east Asia and Latin America have against destocking pastures.

There is, however, one common feature. The countries concerned are all former colonies where alien technology and institutions have been superimposed on indigenous cultures. The result has been maladjustment, declining consumption levels for large and rapidly increasing sections of populations and chronic political instability under regimes of the extreme Right or extreme Left.

The complex, many-faceted failure to mobilise effectively the pastoral resources of the Third World constitutes a central element of the wider problem of underdevelopment. Progress in mobilising more effectively the two-thirds of the world's agricultural land used for grazing and the animals that graze that land would of itself help to feed the increasing number of hungry. The indirect benefits could be even greater because progress here could help solve the intractable problems of economic underdevelopment generally.

SA has an exceptional incentive as well as exceptional opportunities to secure a breakthrough towards the more effective, productive and socially integrating use of pastoral resources. Progress would benefit its own indigenous pastoral peoples. It could be the key to economic survival for the homeland territories. Unless Africa achieves a more productive use of its 25%-plus of the world's grazing land, the decline into barbarism, now widely evident in the continent, is unlikely to be halted. No part of Africa can expect forever to hold aloof from that decline.

The partial, piecemeal study of the various disparate elements of the complex subject of pastoral resource use in a situation of explosive change has been quite ineffective. The key to progress is the comprehensive, integrated, simultaneous consideration of the various technical, economic and sociological aspects of pastoralism. That, after all, is man's oldest form of production after hunting and gathering. No such approach has been or is being tried. The world awaits the lead that SA can give — and can benefit so greatly from giving.

# Game farming industry recognised

3-General

14/10/81

Agricultural Correspondent

**THE** South African game farming industry, which is worth about R9 000 000 in export earnings alone, has been officially recognised as a branch of organised farming by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

A spokesman for the SAAU said yesterday that the SAAU had recently formed a national committee for game farming under the chairmanship of Mr Andrew Conroy of the Northern Cape Agricultural Union.

According to the spokesman it was estimated that there were about 5 000 farms in South Africa on which some form of game farming was practised. In 1980 about 80 000 car-

cases worth about R9 000 000 were exported.

The deputy director, commodity services, of the SAAU, Mr Jack Raath said the newly formed committee would handle various aspects of the industry such as co-ordination in respect of legislation and ordinances, and financial assistance to game farmers.

Mr Raath said one of the first tasks of the committee would be to collect statistics and to study the marketing of venison. He pointed out that members of the committee were unanimous that farmers would have all the say in the marketing of venison and would market the product themselves, subject to certain health requirements.

# 40% of farm crops wasted <sup>3</sup>

BY THE turn of the century, about 48-million people would have to be fed in South Africa and the food industry had to ensure the complete elimination of wastage of agricultural products, the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Eugene Louw, said yesterday.

Opening an international conference in Cape Town on "Feeding the Nation", he said studies had shown that 40% of the country's agricultural production was lost through wastage.

"We must aim at the complete elimination of wastage by developing more effective methods of food handling, processing and preserving.

"Together with this, the development of nutritious, acceptable and competitive products from new food sources such as factory waste and soya products, or from agricultural surpluses, must not be neglected.

"On all of us rests the responsibility to do everything in our power to avoid wastage."

Mr Louw said increasing pressure had to be put on the food industry locally, nationally and internationally by government and public opinion to make sure available food was "absolutely safe".

Food packaging and processing costs should be kept to a minimum and the challenges which the industry would have to face in the future could only be met through training and adequate research, he said.

"It is extremely unsatisfactory that technical know-how and skilled and trained people have to be imported or borrowed from overseas. People must be trained locally for local conditions."

Mr Louw said South Africa also had an important role to play in feeding the starving millions in Africa. — Sapa.

## AGRICULTURE FM 16/10/81 Harvest of problems

③ general

Last month the executive committee of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) met in Strasbourg to discuss what it sees as "the number one problem in farming today — access to capital and financing agricultural borrowing." At the conclusion of the meeting, attended by SA Agricultural Union president Jaap Wilkens, IFAP issued a stiffly worded press statement claiming that "record interest rates are bringing farming worldwide to the edge of bankruptcy where heavy investment has taken place to maintain growth of world food production."

IFAP laments a sharp increase in foreclosures arising from financial difficulties which, it says, have little or nothing to do with the farmer's competence to farm. It draws attention to the fact that modern farming has become a capital-intensive industry, requiring more capital per unit of output than the manufacturing sector. It complains that family farmers have difficulty in spreading their risks by raising capital through share issues, that the average age of farmers is high and that young people are being driven away from the industry by the prospect of a lifetime of debt.

Beneath each of these statements there lies a grain of truth. But in order to get at it, we need to begin by sweeping away the hyperbole. Aggregate statistics and superficial symptoms of distress can easily be misinterpreted. And a false diagnosis of a real disease could all too easily result in a harmful prescription.

First, let us remember that no farmer has ever invested "to maintain the growth of world food production." Like all other sensible and selfish businessmen, farmers invariably invest to increase their own incomes and preserve their own fortunes. If farmers have invested too heavily in the past, it must

either be their own fault or the fault of their governments which have offered false incentives.

Second, it is not "farming" that is being brought to the edge of bankruptcy, but individual farmers and badly managed farm businesses. Third, agriculture would never have become such a capital-intensive industry had it not been showered, worldwide, with subsidised credit and with loans made available at prices well below prevailing rates of inflation.

Fourth, the main reason why it is so difficult to mobilise share capital (and other forms of private sector finance) for agriculture is that the public sector has already swamped the market. Cheap credit everywhere has driven the average return on capital in agriculture below its natural level. The alleged benefits of easy money have long since been capitalised in the inflated values of farmland and production quotas. Consequently, the risks involved in farming have increased enormously and private sector loan capital has been driven away.

The greatest risk facing the agricultural investor today is the risk that his own government might suddenly decide to stop propping up the industry. The next biggest is the risk that someone else's government might ruin his market by dumping on it a politically embarrassing and artificially engineered surplus. The very real financial

problems that many farmers and farm co-ops are now facing are, indeed, largely a result of those two factors.

The political climate has suddenly turned sour. Governments everywhere have begun facing up to the fact that they cannot subsidise agricultural inefficiency indefinitely and that inflation (which encourages private as well as public extravagance) drags nations into debt, not out of it.

Many of the difficulties which IFAP has identified are now unavoidable. Interest rates must be allowed to catch up with reality. If inflation is going to be beaten, the cost of money must be allowed to beat inflation. If government spending is going to be curtailed, farmers will have to forfeit some of the privileges they have been shortsighted enough to take for granted. If foreign aid programmes are going to be cut, first world farmers will have to learn to find real hard currency markets for their own surpluses for a change.

If the IMF and other lenders are going to be tough (which in this case means fair) on Third World borrowers, they are bound to force the countries concerned to become more self sufficient. That means importing less food and fibres while exporting more.

All this spells trouble for every over-capitalised farmer who has saddled himself with debt. There are lots of them in nearly every country where family farmers still

# Large agriculture exports 'favour' balance of payments

Union president spells out the importance of the Republic's farmers

Agricultural  
Correspondent

ALMOST a third of South Africa's agricultural production was exported and the R2 000 million which was earned from this had an important stabilising effect on the Republic's balance of payments, the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr

Jaap Wilkens, said last night.

Delivering his presidential address at the opening of the union's annual congress in Durban, Mr Wilkens said that in spite of relatively poor agricultural resources, South Africa was one of only seven countries which was a nett exporter of food and agricultural products.

He pointed out that not only was the agricultural sector the most important employer of non-white labour, but it was also able to feed the population from its own resources, and so contributed to domestic peace and stability.

He said the role played by agriculture in respect of trade and the general economic and socio-economic

development of rural areas was well known.

The fact that farmers had title deeds to more than 8 percent of the Republic's surface area was naturally of economic, social and strategic importance to the country, he said.

Turning to problems facing agriculture, he said rising costs was the most serious.

However, certain export industries were also experiencing problems. This was due to declining terms of trade, high export costs and poor prices due to recession conditions in the economies of South Africa's most important trading partners. He said it had become increasingly more difficult to recover higher production costs by means of higher prices.

Mr Wilkens said it was vital that an adapted export incentive scheme be devised for agriculture. It was, he said, unfair and quite unacceptable that agriculture was largely excluded from the existing scheme.

High risk and the inherent instability associated with agricultural production demanded that organised agriculture place a

high premium on measures which promoted greater stability, he said.

Mr Wilkens said he was referring specifically to the Marketing Act, the Soil Conservation Act and the recently promulgated Co-operative Act, which formed the basis of organised agriculture.

He called on the Minister of Finance to help farmers by creating a reserve fund which would enable farmers to invest their surplus funds tax-free with the Land Bank in good years, and to tax these funds during years of withdrawal.

'Such a measure would give successful farmers greater stability, but most important of all it would help farmers to overcome setbacks more easily and independently,' he said.

# Farmers

## rap tariff protection

GENERAL  
RDM 22-10 '81 (3)

PROTECTIVE tariffs granted to industry push up the cost of food and jeopardise the economic position of farmers, the SA Agricultural Union congress has been told in Durban. Mr Rex Hudson, the SA Sugar Association's economist, told the congress a new concern producing synthetic rubber had applied for protection from imports.

The effect of the tariffs, if granted, would be to increase tyre prices by about 10% for passenger vehicles and about 20% for heavy duty tyres.

The same situation applied to other commodities including fertiliser, fuel, crop protection chemicals and tractors.

Mr Hudson said this protection added between 5% and 10% to farm production costs. This was to South Africa's competitive disadvantage.

Farmers conceded the strategic importance of self-sufficiency or even the need for reasonable protective tariffs.

However, they had the right to ask that this was not used to cover up mistakes or inadequacies.



By Hannes Ferguson,  
Farming Correspondent

DURBAN — Ugly incidents with neighbouring black States are just around the corner, says the president of the Natal Agricultural Union, Mr Donald Sinclair.

He told the congress of the South African Agricultural Union yesterday that all along the many borders of kwaZulu white farmers faced theft of their cattle and produce, even physical danger.

Terrorism might be the next stage if the South African Government did not immediately intervene.

Many white farmers had been all but ruined.

The danger of irresponsible action by desperate farmers grew by the day, Mr Sinclair said. "We could do without a shooting war along the bor-

# Farmers fear terror may follow thefts

der."

A meaningful homeland development policy was an urgent need.

Mr A E Peinke from the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union reported identical problems along the border with Ciskei. Cattle losses were mounting, arson was rife and farmers threatened to take the matter into their own hands.

Mr P J Pretorius from Bethlehem, said that along the Lesotho border a dangerous situation was developing.

Mr Jaap Wilkens, president of the SAAU, referred to "the explosive situation." Good neighbourly relations needed urgent repairs.

In another discussion farmers demanded measures to curb costs.

Manufacturers of farm requirements were protected by Government policy and import duties were often unacceptably high.

Farmers suspected that strategic self-sufficiency was often used as a cloak to cover up inadequate planning.

In reply the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said import duties were necessary to provide jobs in industry.

Farmers commented that protection of industry was often granted indiscriminately, even when the number of jobs created was negligible.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr Sarel Haywood, said the department's new revolving fund could help beginner farmers until the next financial year.

*\$ Star 22/10/81*  
*3 general*

DD 24/10/87

# Govt offers to buy stock farms

General

**EAST LONDON —** The government has been making offers to grassveld farmers in the Kidd's Beach area to buy out their farms — and indications are the farmers are not very happy with the offers.

The chairman of the East London Western Districts Farmers' Association (ELW DFA), Mr Neville Hewson, says there are about 10 farmers that he knows of who have had the offers.

"The stock farmers, in general, are not happy about the prices offered for their land," Mr Hewson said.

"They are not getting replacement value."

Mr Hewson said he could not divulge the names of those farmers who had been made offers by the government.

He said that one farmer he had spoken to had told him it would cost him about three times the price he had been offered for his farm to buy another farm of a similar size within the Eastern Cape area.

"I couldn't tell you how the government has arrived at these values," he said.

The secretary to the ELW DFA, Mr E. Stylianou, said the association would be having its ordinary monthly meeting on November 3.

"Until then I cannot make any comment because I would not have had any official comments from farmers involved," he said.

Mr Stylianou said the association would have to consider whether or not to make a statement after the meeting. — DDR



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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## STAATSKOERANT

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Vol. 196]

CAPE TOWN, 28 OCTOBER 1981

[No. 7853

KAAPSTAD, 28 OKTOBER 1981

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

KANTOOR VAN DIE EERSTE MINISTER

No. 2248.

28 October 1981.

No. 2248.

28 Oktober 1981.

It is hereby notified that the State President has assented to the following Act which is hereby published for general information:—

Hierby word bekend gemaak dat die Staatspresident sy goedkeuring geheg het aan die onderstaande Wet wat hierby ter algemene inligting gepubliseer word:—

No. 91 of 1981: Co-operatives Act, 1981.

No. 91 van 1981: Koöperasiewet, 1981.

## Seeds of rage

Conflicts between farmers living along the country's internal borders and their impoverished homeland neighbours have long been an established part of the South African scene.

can scene. But the once prevalent feeling of indulgent tolerance is giving way to anger.

The farmers attending the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) congress in Durban last week were in an ugly mood. They told of an escalation in border incidents — particularly involving stock thefts. Unless the authorities took action to stop cross-border raids on their farms, they warned, they would no longer be able to hold themselves responsible for their actions.

The conflict between farmers and blacks living across the borders in the homelands is by no means new. It has its roots in rural poverty and the apparent inability of the homeland authorities and central government to provide any tangible solutions. The population explosion, large-scale removals and creeping starvation have not helped matters.

Those homesteaders who have borne the brunt of these shortcomings in long-term planning and development are those whose farms abut the fragmented pieces of Kwa-Zulu in northern Natal and Zululand, and border the more desolate regions of the Ciskei along a narrow corridor between Queenstown and the sea.

Addressing the congress, Don Sinclair, president of the Natal Agricultural Union, cited stock thefts, packs of marauding dogs, damage to fences and the ever-present danger of rabies infections spilling over from the homelands as some of the farmers'

major grievances. The Department of Co-operation and Development was to blame to some extent, he said.

"When they move people, they tend to put them right up against the border. There's no work for them there. They are idle, they lack food and consequently they trespass onto their neighbours' property. Farmers should do everything in their power to help alleviate unemployment in the homelands," he said. "It isn't philanthropic, it's enlightened self-interest. You can't sleep at night if your neighbour is hungry."

But there are farmers who see a more sinister undertone to the events. A farmer from a problem-plagued district in the eastern Cape suggested that the border violations could be part of a "broader strategy to deliberately create unstable conditions on our internal borders." He said it was possible that what farmers were experiencing was the third phase of a low-key terrorist onslaught. He added: "We fear for the safety of our families."

Appeals to the government to intervene appear to have been met with a lukewarm response. The farmers claim that while government is sympathetic to their plight, they are told that border disputes are a sensitive matter between governments — SA and the "national states."

Sinclair said that while government has accepted the responsibility for fencing the international borders between SA and other

states such as Lesotho and Swaziland, it has taken no similar decision to fence the country's internal borders.

A change in official thinking could be in the offing, though. Piet Blomenstein, a senior official of the Department of Community Development, who served on a government-appointed committee looking into the question of border fences, said a report has now been laid before the government. He indicated that one of its main recommendations would be that government should bear the cost of erecting fences along the country's internal borders. In addition, it should seek the co-operation of the homeland governments in helping to maintain them.

Judging from the belligerent mood of the farmers, such a change couldn't come too soon. Some of their more radical suggestions, like using troops to patrol the border, creating a buffer zone of no-man's land between the farming districts and the homelands, and confiscating vehicles involved in stock theft, could only serve to stir up further racial conflict.

# Natal's big gamble against the drought

M. MERCURY 9/11/81  
 Pietermaritzburg Bureau 3 General

MANY drought-stricken northern Natal maize farmers face a month-long gamble against time and the elements.

Farmers who have held off planting in the hope of sorely needed rain have two options — plant now and watch their crops wilt in the dry soil, or wait until the last moment for rains which may not fall in time.

And the latest they dare leave planting is about the first week in December; and the later they leave it the lower their final yield,' the agricultural extension officer for northern Natal, Mr Ray Goebel, said yesterday. Planting usually began in mid-October.

'But where farmers are usually two-thirds of their way through planting at this time of the year, there are some who have not even started yet.'

He said the 25 mm of rain that had fallen over most of his area a week ago had evaporated in the intense heat, leaving a lower-than-average soil moisture content for this time of the year.

And other regions in Natal are also suffering from a two-year drought.

ews of the Deep South and  
 s, this multi-Oscar winning  
 r of its acting  
 beautiful Vivien Leigh has  
 reveals the steel beneath the  
 passionate, wilful Scarlett  
 les today's heartthrobs seem  
 his dimpled, dashing charm  
 Butler. Leslie Howard adds  
 Wilkes, the only man Scarlett  
 e Olivia de Havilland im-  
 ing of his potentially dreary  
 seem strange today, like the  
 explanations and the simplis-  
 black issues, while visually,  
 contrivance.  
 into this sort of extravagant  
 ertainment — all 219 min-

Lynne Kelly

UNID, 174708, PROJFLD  
 BC\*DATAFILE, F/5  
 . ABC\*DATAFILE  
 LM, ELM

strates a run stream which will compile and execute a user's program. The program has specified through the options that he wishes his run stream to be processed. If the program runs for more than three minutes (the T option), the program will produce more than 100 pages of output (the P option). In this case, the source element names for the elements produced by the program are placed into the run temporary program file TPF\$. The source element is named SYM and the relocatable elements are placed into the run temporary program file TPF\$. The user is placed into execution in the manner described by the user commands. The user program may acquire card images by the use of the commands. The data images are placed in the run stream statement.

Data Images  
 Source Language Statements  
 SYM, .RB  
 UNID, 174138, PROJFLD, 3, 100

shows a run stream which will compile and execute a program. The @FOR statement causes the execution of the FORTRAN program processor will insert a relocatable binary element into the temporary file TPF\$. The @XOT statement causes the program to produce an absolute element in TPF\$. No named element is produced for an absolute element is found, as in this example, the absolute element is called the relocatable binary elements absolute element. This absolute element produced by the program is placed in execution.

RDM 14/11/81 3 General

# Drought, searing heat cost OFS farmers R72m

THE last three weeks of drought and searing heat have cost Free State farmers 300 000 tons of wheat — or about R72-million, according to agricultural authorities in Pretoria.

And although scattered showers have been forecast in parts of the Free State and Transvaal, drought conditions continue.

Rain is needed desperately throughout the two provinces if further dramatic losses are to be avoided. The maize crop is also now at hazard.

The manager of the Wheat Board Mr J van Aarde said yesterday that three weeks ago the official estimate of the Free State crop had been 2,25 million tons — an all-time record.

However since the estimate was made strong winds and hot days had dried out the young crop and caused serious loss.

Mr Van Aarde said he had called for a reassessment of the crop which he expected to be able to lay before next Wednesday's board meeting.

There was little doubt, however, that losses in some parts were severe. The losses would mean that the board would again have to make arrangements for imported wheat to supplement the local crop.

He pointed out that the Free State produced nearly 60% of the country's total wheat crop.

Time is also running out for planting maize.

"Although plantings can be made up to the end of November and early December, the crop is

**By GERALD REILLY**

at risk if plantings are delayed much beyond the middle of December".

Under ideal conditions last season maize farmers produced a huge record crop of more than 14-million tons — almost twice the quantity needed to meet the local need.

## Grazing

This year could be disastrously different if the drought persists beyond mid-December.

An SAAU spokesman said grazing lands were also drying out after days of withering heat in many parts.

Reports from agricultural extension officers were that game was dying from lack of water in parts of the Northern Transvaal.

Milk and beef production would also be adversely affected unless pastures were restored by good rain soon.

Farmers in parts of the Eastern Transvaal, the spokesman said, had reported that unless it rained before the end of the week their newly-germinated maize would be destroyed.

Work out your reading rates for your prescribed books - you will then know in advance whether to schedule a whole weekend for a chapter, or whether to read it on the train on the way home. Try to do the same for test preparation, essay planning and writing, etc.

(B) The second missing element is obvious. You have work to do, time to do it, but where do you do it? Studies on study areas suggest that a good place to study:

(i) Is free from interruption (noise, visual distraction)

### New borders

In the case of new borders there was usually a large concentration of people without an agricultural background who had, in most cases, a hostile attitude towards the farmer.

Among the concessions the ECAU asked for were:

- Protection for farmers and their families.

- Provision of 'necessary means of communication' such as radio sets and roads.

- Preferential treatment with regard to buying or leasing adjacent state-owned land.

- Exemption from further operational duty after completion of national service.

- A guarantee of property values in the event of a border farmer wishing to sell his land.

(v) Is cool and comfortable.

(vi) Is available to you on a regular basis.

Those of you who are privileged enough to have your own room at home will have little difficulty. If this is not the case use your ingenuity. The libraries on campus have many study areas - find a quiet area. Many departments have study rooms or seminar rooms which you could ask to use. In general, find the best study place available to you - the factors mentioned should help you decide between venues even

constitutes one of the major study tasks for most students in the faculties of Arts and Social Science. Once again, taking good notes aids understanding and recall.

#### 1.4 Completing Assignments

This includes essays, long papers, practicals, reports and tutorial work. Written assignments will be scheduled throughout the year.

# Call to protect border farmers

Defence Reporter

EASTERN Cape farmers have called on the government to erect patrollable fences and the construction of control posts along the national states' homelands to solve or diminish their current problems.

In addition, they say, the only way of stabilizing the country's internal boundaries is to give black farmers property rights along the national states' borders and grant unconditional concessions to their white opposite numbers on the other side of the line.

A long memorandum on the subject of the internal borders was submitted by the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union at the South African Agricultural Union congress in Durban recently and has been quoted at length in the Farmer, official journal of the SAAU.

The Eastern Cape farmers said the most common problems encountered in border areas were:

- The systematic removal of fences.

- The theft of livestock and produce.

- Trespass on white-owned property by man and beast.

- The threat to life, such as murders and acts of terrorism, and the consequent drop in property values and creditworthiness.

- The spreading of livestock diseases.

- The intimidation of employees.

The memorandum pointed out that farmers who found themselves on a national state's border as a result of government policy were not in the same situation as those who had been border farmers for centuries.

This preparation includes reviewing lecture notes and reading, memorising facts, outlining relationships and preparing practice answers.

Now, each of these activities requires special skills and you will need to become proficient at each to succeed at university. The lectures tomorrow and the day after will look at the different skills some of these study behaviours require. Today's lecture will look at an important factor they all have in common - they all require a carefully planned use of a scarce commodity - TIME.

# Pickfoods surplus cash problem

3 Meat  
C. TIMES  
2/12/81

By ALEX PETERSEN

FOLLOWING a bumper abnormal dividend from its shares in Tollgate Holdings, and with the restructuring of its meat interests, an extraordinary profit of R6,5m on the sale of subsidiary companies and properties to Karoo, Pickfoods immediate problem appears how to invest its surplus cash.

Pickfoods' chairman, Mr J P du Toit, notes in the group's annual report that "the form which the reinvestment of all available funds will take on in the longer term remains unresolved".

The report shows that the group holds 458 700 ordinary shares in Tollgate Holdings Ltd. In March Tollgate payed an abnormal dividend of 220c a share, and a capital reduction of 50c a share.

The other cash bonus to the group came from the restructuring in July 1980 of the group's meat interests.

As a result Pickfoods has 10,5m or 39% of the ordinary shares in Karoo Meat Ex-

change, as well as 1,6m 7% redeemable preference shares of R1 each. The market value of the shares, Pickfoods largest investment, is about R25m.

Pickfoods group income after tax and minority interests rose 30% to R4,73m (1980: R3,6m), while earnings per share rose from 63c to 82c, although dividends rose only marginally to 20c, pushing dividend cover to 4,1.

Noting that the merger of the meat interests of Kanhym and Pickfoods with those of Karoo was the basis for the strong growth experienced, Mr Du Toit points out that turnover for Karoo for the 12 months to June increased by R426m or 138% to R734m, while group attributable profit increased by R5,649m or 211% to R8,327m.

According to Karoo's budget for 1981, as well as the five-year budget, Mr Du Toit reports that "healthy growth is expected and the growth in profit experienced during the past five years should be maintained".



# Govt's border areas plan hitting snags

RDM 7/12/81

3 Gen

THE Government's plan to repopulate the border areas in the north and north-western Transvaal has met with limited success because production costs are too high to make farming in the area economically viable.

Farmers say the only way to repopulate the border is to create an infrastructure which would bring down production costs.

Because of the danger of insurgency, more than R27-million has been spent over the past two years in an attempt to stem the outflow of farmers and to resettle farmers in the depopulated areas.

Despite this assistance — which has gone mainly into helping farmers acquire land and repay debts in a 50km-wide border strip stretching from Botswana to Zimbabwe — a visit to the area last week by the Press and the South African Agricultural Union showed that a large number of farms are still unoccupied — and very little had been done to improve the infrastructure of the area.

In the Ellisras agricultural district only 251 of the 654 farms are occupied by whites and farmers have expressed fears that the economic infrastructure of the area is collapsing.

In the Koedoesrand area only 320 of the 470 farms, comprising more than 500 000ha, are occupied by whites. The average age of farmers is 53. Forty-one farmers own more than one farm.

There are 1 017 blacks living on the 470 farms.

In the Swartwater area only 54 of the 93 farms are occupied by farmers and they have an average age of 60.

The Unitas Primary School, serving 8 000km<sup>2</sup> in the Swartwater area near the Botswana border, had 104 pupils in 1971. This year the number dropped to 71. It is expected that within seven years the school will have 35 pupils.

## Assistance

Other border area primary schools — there are no high schools — show a similar trend.

The unoccupied farms are owned mostly by professional men making a living in the cities and using the farms for recreation.

This week farmers urgently called for a number of improvements in the area to better the lot of the "veterans".

They were less concerned with the possibility of insurgency because of depopulation than with economic realities, the chairman of the Border Areas Committee in Potgietersrus, Mr Willie Kern, said.

He named 12 problems causing farmers to move away from the area. Some of these are:

- In the area, where 10ha can support only one cow, farmers must receive financial assistance to enlarge their farms to economically viable units.

This should be done by the private sector or, failing this, by the Government, said Mr Miekie Genis, Potgietersrus District Agricultural Union chairman and MPC for the area.

Up to February this year the Government had spent R21-million in assisting 225 white families to buy farms.

## By MAURITZ MOOLMAN

- More and more farmers who have tried to irrigate crops such as groundnuts, tobacco, cotton and maize are stopping because of the prohibitive cost of fuel. They need electricity to cut costs.

- Border farmers in the Koedoesrand area are more than 200km from the nearest railway station at Potgietersrus and an abattoir in the area could cut production costs for red meat by 47 percent. At present farmers have to drive cattle by truck to Potgietersrus for railway transport to Pretoria, the nearest large abattoir.

- They have to drive more than 200km to find a doctor or dentist. There are no growth points such as at Messina, Ellisras and Zeerust. They need a hospital, banks, veterinarians and an optician.

"Our growth points are the few co-operative shops which sell spare parts dearer than you would get in the more developed areas because of transport costs," Mr Kern said.

- Dirt roads must be improved and, where possible, tarred, even if it is not economically viable.

Mr A de Goede, chief engineer of the Transvaal Roads Department, pointed out that a road should carry at least 350 vehicles a day to make tarring an economic proposition. He said the only Platteland roads which qualified for this were those leading to black homelands.

## Priority

These roads are receiving priority because "the blacks must remain there," he said.

- The border is fairly rich in mineral deposits and mining houses have taken options, but it cannot be mined because there is no electricity or railway facilities.

Beef last year earned Koedoesrand farmers more than R9 200 000 but because of the high cost of investment per animal, more and more farmers are turning to the more lucrative business of game farming.

By David Breier  
Chief Reporter

The security risk on South Africa's northern borders is worsening as more farmers leave the land in the Transvaal bushveld.

Despite hopes earlier this year that Government action had stemmed the tide of farmers from the bushveld, current figures show that the exodus is increasing.

In the Ellisras district in the north-western Transvaal, about 400 of the 650 farms are not occupied by their owners.

A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture

# Risk grows on northern border as farmers quit

STAR 7/12/81 3 General

and Fisheries said that since the Government began its scheme to repopulate designated border areas in April last year, only 86 new farmers had been brought into the bushveld.

Statistics from April last year to September this year show that the Agricultural Credit Board has granted R35,7-million for the scheme.

Of this about R28-million has been used

for the purchase of land.

The scheme has helped 456 farmers, but only 86 have been newcomers.

No official statistics are available on the number of unoccupied farms, but in Ellisras alone 32

farmers have left in the past two years while only eight new State-assisted farmers have arrived.

The imbalance worsened this year when 17 farmers left and three farmers arrived. Last year 15

farmers left and five newcomers established themselves.

The most vulnerable areas to guerilla incursions are those bordering Botswana to the west, Zimbabwe to the north

and Mozambique to the east.

These have been designated for special State assistance.

Mr Harry Schwarz, the Opposition spokesman on defence, said absentee farmers were not in the national interest although there was no law forcing a farmer to occupy his land.

He said the amount of State money available could be used to finance a more intensive resettlement of the area.

"The more people occupy the area the lesser the problem becomes.

The recent amendment to the 1944 Land Bank Act, permitting farmers to obtain loans from the Land Bank secured by gov-

1177

ernment stock, does not entirely meet expectations.

In August 1976, the SA Development Trust started to issue government stock towards the cost of expropriated land purchased under the 1936 Development Trust and Land Act for consolidation into black homelands. Based on the valuation of land and buildings, supplied by the Department of Community Development, property was bought from the owner in cash (40%) and government stocks (60%). Having repaid the previous bond out of the cash proceeds, the farmer was often left with insufficient funds to cover the statutory 30% cash stake needed for a new Land Bank loan to buy his replacement farm.

Although the Trust now expropriates all relevant land for cash, some farmers — those whose property was compulsorily purchased between 1976 and the end of 1980 — have been left with government bonds, issued at a time when the government was short of cash. The amendment to the Land Bank Act now permits these farmers to submit their government stocks as security for cash loans towards this 30% requirement, provided they qualify for Land Bank assistance in the first place.

However, there are two main problems with this new arrangement. To begin with, the board of the Land Bank, quite rightly, can take the government securities only at their current discount value. Based on the

board's valuation of the present value, this can effectively reduce the current worth of the farmer's investment to between 70% and 90% of face value, depending on the stock's maturity and interest as assessed by the board.

In other words, the final proceeds to a farmer of his expropriated land might be only about 80% of its expropriation price in the worst possible case. This means that a farmer who wants to replace his previous farm, "like for like," must find an additional 20% over and above the stringent requirements of the original bond, for which he will have to re-apply.

To the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), this does not return the farmer to the same position he enjoyed before expropriation, although this was the purpose of the amendment.

Furthermore, those elderly farmers who do not wish to re-invest in farming are left with two untenable alternatives: to sell their government bonds now — as some have already done — or to wait as much as 22 years for maturity. The latter alternative is not generally practicable for obvious reasons, while the sale option would mean a considerable loss.

#### Face value

What would maintain the farmer's position is for the Land Bank to accept the *face value* representation of the particular government stocks for the purposes of securing cash loans. At the same time, an optional facility for refunding at face value all of those stocks belonging to bought-out farmers, who are consequently retiring, should be incorporated into the Act.

A further dimension underlying the whole question of the use of government stocks is the present government squeeze on spending. The 1936 Act, together with subsequent amendments, earmarked specific areas of land for expropriation. So far, approximately 6.3m ha — including agricultural land — has been purchased, but there is still a further 1.2m to be bought up under the proposals put forward in 1973 and 1975. The SAAU is naturally quite anxious about this, because until this scheduled land has been procured, those farmers who are affected will not wish to develop their present business further and this will probably affect business efficiency.

Jacob Wentzel, a Deputy Minister in the Department of Co-operation and Development, said last September at the annual congress of the Transvaal Agricultural Union that the homeland consolidation proposals would be carried out by 1985 provided the government was able to continue its programme at the present pace. However, as land costs continue to rise, the suggestion may be raised again that government stocks should be used to assist the Trust's purchase programme. If this is the case, the authorities will have to seriously review their policies on this issue if the same problems are to be avoided.



Expropriated farmers ... suffering unexpected losses

## MAIZE BOARD TRADING ESTIMATES 1981/82

Maize Board estimated trading account for the current marketing year (in '000 tons)

	White	Yellow	Total
Opening stock 1 May 1981 .....	870	1 082	1 952
Purchases (of 93,3% total production) .....	5 984	7 260	13 244
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>6 854</b>	<b>8 342</b>	<b>15 196</b>
<b>LESS</b>			
Local sales .....	3 550	2 625	6 175
Exports .....	1 670	3 650	5 320
Incidentals, including losses .....	20	185	205
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>5 240</b>	<b>6 460</b>	<b>11 700</b>
Closing stock 30 April 1982 .....	1 614	1 882	3 496
Net increase over period .....	744	800	1 544

### MAIZE F.M. 11/12/81 <sup>3</sup> Maize Marketing obscurity

The recent refusal by the Maize Board of a large number of tenders calls into question the board's present marketing strategy.

Tender prices ranging from R118,25-R125,31/t were refused on 21 of the 28 cargoes offered by the board during the period November 12 to December 1. However, last week, tenders of R120/t were being accepted. This response to the tenders of traders representing foreign customers is contradictory to what might be expected of an organisation with a large maize stockpile on its hands.

The longer the maize remains as stock the greater will be the overhead costs. And this season's surplus of maize harvests over domestic needs will exacerbate the situation. The board's current estimated trading account for the marketing year, May 1 to April 30, indicates that it plans to increase its stocks by some 1,5 Mt, to 3,5 Mt.

The tender refusals may point to an imminent (and large) government-to-government deal which would exclude commodity traders acting as middlemen. But the subsequent acceptance of prices lower than those refused seems to belie this. If the board was attempting to withhold maize to bid up export prices, it failed. It succeeded, however, in alienating traders. They claim further that it also alienated their customers, who may in future attempt to avoid the bureaucratic delays encountered in SA by seeking maize elsewhere.

This is a matter of some concern, since the exportation of SA's annual maize surpluses regularly entails a loss. This will amount to no less than R270m over the current export year or about R51/t (which includes railage). This loss is financed, partly by a Reserve Bank seven-year bridging loan of R71m, and partly by a series of

levies totalling on average about R16/t included in the gross producer price for bulk, uncleaned maize. These levies are the difference between the gross and net producer prices. At the same time, the cost of handling, storage and fumigation by agents has to be borne by a government subsidy of about R86m. But there are still transport and finance costs to add to this, so that the board's total administrative costs will run to about R320m a year. More sharply outlined, it is now buying maize at an average of R134/t and selling its export surpluses for around R125/t average over the year, FAE (free alongside elevator) at coast.

The tender refusals may also disrupt transport schedules. They followed a highly-successful effort in which the South African Railways delivered an average of 430 000 t of maize per month to the dockside. Assisted by air-braked trains, which allow a 50-truck capacity totalling 2 100 t/train, they

achieved a total of 2,4 Mt in the period May 1 to December 6. This places them just ahead of schedule. So well are the mechanics of exportation going, with eight trains a day arriving at the ports, that the board's export target figure of 5,3 Mt could well be achieved by the end of SAR's contract period on June 30. The railways have sufficient capacity, within reasonable limits, to catch up on any back-log caused by the board's marketing problems.

However, SAR may find blockages developing at ports in January, affected by the loss of the November tenders, which could thwart their current schedules and disrupt future ones.

The Maize Board's obscure marketing tactics in November herald once again the annual ritual of the fixing of the maize price each April. This price must accommodate a large number of inefficient farmers growing maize on small-holdings, probably num-

## HARD-PRESSED RAND

The Reserve Bank rate for the rand closed at \$1,0227/47 on Wednesday December 9, above the day's low of \$1,0215/35. Foreign exchange dealers attributed the weakness to the fairly obvious causes — a dollar stronger against the continental currencies and SA's continuing BoP current account weakness.

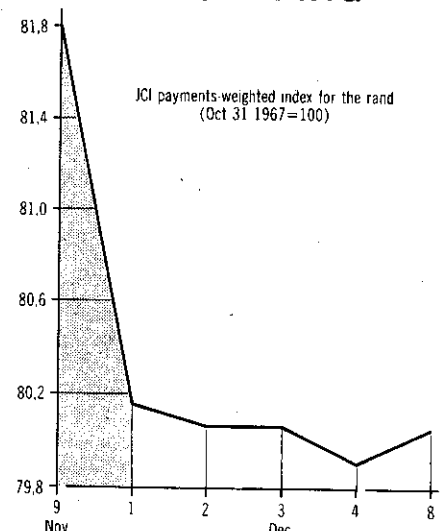
Dealers argue that the Reserve Bank may, in permitting the rand to fall, be anticipating a further drop in gold to around \$380, so that if this adverse development does not eventuate, the rand could rise from present levels.

The financial rand stood at 79/79,5 US cents on December 9, for a discount of 22,6% against the commercial rand. Could this relatively low discount reflect a possible, contrary view in the foreign exchange markets that gold, and the rand, are due for a recovery?

The payments-weighted rand has also dropped. Its value of 80,04 on December 8 reflected a decline of 13,95% since the beginning of 1981, when the value was 93,02. A move of this magnitude should have given a real advantage to SA's exporters on a world-wide basis, as it exceeds the differential between SA's inflation rate and the inflation rates of its major trading partners.

Dealers say that the forward cover position is now broadly neutral, as the Reserve Bank no longer appears as concerned as previously about the state of the foreign reserves, rather being pre-occupied with controlling the money supply.

## STILL SLIPPING



Note: On January 2 1981 the payments-weighted value of the rand was 93,02

## Harvesting 'free' advice

**First problem:** SA has a surfeit of well-meaning scientists, commercial representatives, rural politicians and common or garden thwarted rustics who want to tell our farmers what to do and how to do it.

**Second problem:** only a minority of our 65 000 farmers are prepared to pay expert advisers as much as they (the advisers) think they are worth. And understandably those who fork out are selective when choosing who to pay and what advice to listen to.

Up until the early Sixties, most of our farmers learnt from each other and got new ideas through the farming press. Sporadic "farmer's days" were organised at the behest of departmental extension officers, most of whom were pre-occupied with the problems of overgrazing and soil erosion. Only a trickle of science reached the platteland. Technical advice took off with the use of fertilisers, hybrid seeds, patented medicines, feed supplements and tractor-drawn farm machinery.

By 1970, most agricultural supply companies had hidden away their commercial salesmen and substituted "technical representatives." Private consultants were already beginning to appear in the fields of agricultural business management, irrigation engineering, genetics, soil science, animal nutrition and farm building design.

Departmental extension officers and regional economists tried at first to keep up. But it soon became apparent to them that

they could not and probably should not compete at the top end of the market.

If government had any legitimate role to play in providing free advice to farmers, it was surely to assist the laggards in their struggle to keep up with the leaders rather than to help well-shod leaders draw away from the crowd. In pursuit of that levelling objective, the department regularly enlists the help of the better farmers in each area to teach the others how to compete with them.

This policy works because a lot of efficient husbandmen are also public-spirited braggarts and because there is no rural equivalent of industrial espionage. Farmers enjoy showing off. But the free government service is not sophisticated enough for the efficient. And even the most public-spirited of braggarts eventually discovers that he is putting more into departmental extension than he is getting out.

Hence the cry from organised agriculture for something better. During the last decade the agricultural co-operatives have climbed into the extension and advisory business in a big way. In the process they have lured scores of men out of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

This has further weakened the department's own advisory services and antagonised many farmers.

"Why should we be forced to pay for these men through our co-ops," they ask, "when

the government would have paid for them anyway?"

More recently the control boards have begun clambering onto the same bandwagon. Several already employ technical and economic staff whose activities lap well beyond the blurred line which demarcates production from marketing.

Some boards would like to expand and formalise their field services by financing fully fledged extension schemes. But fearing competition on the one hand and the spread of socialism on the other, neither the department nor the commercial sector want them to. A hullabaloo was bound to break out sooner or later.

It did when Agriculture Minister Pietie du Plessis refused permission for the Wool Board to use levy funds to finance an extension service which the National Woolgrowers' Association had asked it to supply. In the wake of criticism, Du Plessis has now promised to set up a committee of inquiry to study the various ways in which agricultural advisory services can and should be provided.

The SAAU, the private sector, the chemical industry, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and other state departments which offer agricultural advisory services have all been promised representation. Since they all enjoy giving gratuitous advice they should have fun formulating the inevitably lengthy report.

# 'Money, not fear, drives farmers away'

By DON MARSHALL

FARMERS' fear of insurgents is not the main cause for the depopulation of Transvaal's eastern and northern areas, according to a Human Sciences Research Council report.

Weighed against other farming problems, such as high operating costs and uneconomic farming units, fear of insurgency apparently enjoyed the lowest priority, said the report published by the HSRC's Institute for Historical Research in Pretoria.

But 75.4 percent of the farmers in the area accepted that guerrillas could launch an attack from across the border, notably from Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

More than 46 percent of the farming community said in the survey that blacks living in their areas had become more hostile towards whites, while 43.2 percent of the farmers who were polled thought there had been no change in their attitude.

The report states that the present process of depopulation is not as extensive as the Press suggests. Just over 14 percent of the farms adjacent to Mozambique were not occupied while the figure for the area bordering Zimbabwe and Botswana was 42 percent.

## Exodus

This means that just over 60 percent of the farms in the Transvaal's northern and eastern border areas were populated. According to the HSRC report it would appear that there was little talk among farmers of a full-scale exodus from the area and 40.4 percent of the farmers said it was a foregone conclusion that one of their children would take over the farm after they retired.

"The farmers are well aware of the potential danger of terrorist attacks in the area. The survey showed that 84.4 percent of the farmers are prepared to change their pattern of life in order to adjust to the security situation," said an HSRC statement.

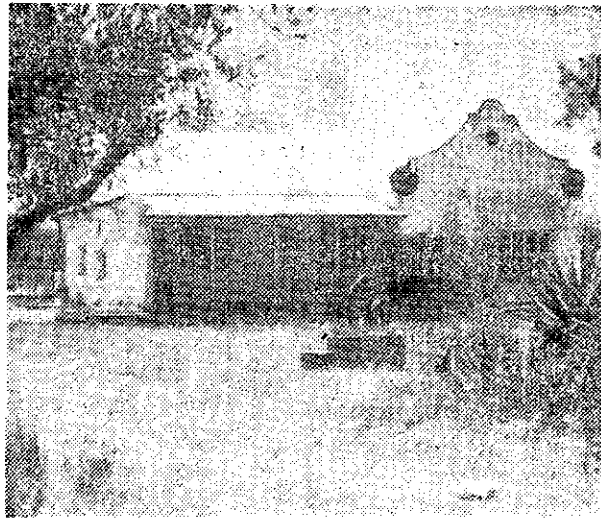
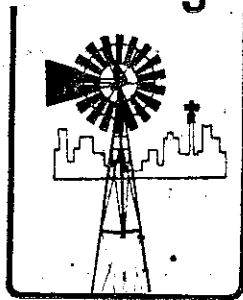
Although most farmers agreed that at this stage it is safe on the border, the survey showed that 96.3 percent of them believed the security situation could only get worse in the future.

"The conclusion may therefore be drawn that farmers are generally aware of the security situation in the area and that the potential danger of terrorists in the area is not being underestimated," said the HSRC statement.

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AGRICULTURE

Hannes Ferguson Farming



Deserted farmhouse on a large Bushveld farm producing only tax benefits for its owner; a Pretoria doctor.

Bushveld farmers: a vanishing breed

Where have all the farmers gone? To the cities, everyone. Almost everyone, that is.

The focus of the problem of depopulation of the countryside is the Transvaal Bushveld — roughly the Zeerust - Messina - Lydenburg triangle.

The total number of farms in this area has been estimated at 9 700. This includes 2 600 farms situated in a continuous 50 km strip along the Zimbabwe and Botswana borders.

This strip covers part of the districts of Messina, Soutpansberg, Potgietersrus, Waterberg, Thabazimbi and Marico.

It is the strategically vulnerable north-western Transvaal border region which the Defence Force is adamant, should be repopulated on the double.

Statistics are frightening. Along the Thabazimbi border only 20

percent of the farms are occupied. In the Ellisras bushveld 245 out of 655 farms are occupied.

The depopulation of the Bushveld started long before General Constand Viljoen, then Chief of the Army, rang the alarm bell in 1977.

The root of the problem is agriculture which has not shared in the general industry-based prosperity of the country since about 1955.

Part of the industrialisation drive was a cheap-food policy. In

the grain areas farmers could, to some extent, counter the trend by mechanising and thereby lowering cost levels. But how do you mechanise a cattle ranch?

In 1955 a Meat Board survey showed that the yield on capital invested in cattle ranching had declined

from 6 percent in 1945 to barely 2 percent.

The three-year drought of the 1960s was also a factor, but the Bushveld was familiar with droughts and could weather them. The general meat price level was the problem.

Enter the city slicker with a bag of

money. Tax regulations favoured the lawyer, doctor or businessman who could masquerade as a farmer. Owning a Bushveld farm became a status symbol for the smart and the rich. They bought themselves chunks of veld without much intention of farming them. Often farmhouses and gates were just locked and a black man taken on as watchman.

City buyers did not care much about land prices. They bid against each other and offered the farmer two or three times the real worth of his farm. In the end, the farmer left.

This process has merely been accelerated in the years since

inflation got out of hand. Buying land was the only safe hedge against inflation.

The big push from the land started when inflation coincided with a long period of disastrously low meat prices.

The farmer was disheartened by the unprofitability of stock farming.

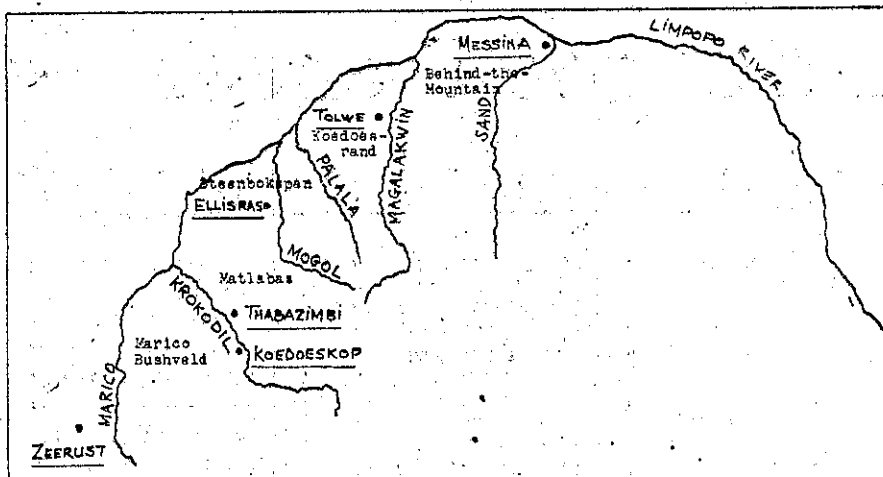
The lack of public services became an increasing burden. Because of the depopulation, the infrastructure started to collapse. And because of the disappearing act played by the schools, post offices, the Roads Department and SAR road services, the depopulation trend gathered momentum.

It was a vicious cycle.

If you can make a decent living out of a cattle ranch, you don't mind much if you have to drive some 900 km over a bad road to fetch your children from the school hostel for a weekend at home. You put up with not having TV or FM radio. If the nearest doctor is 300 km away you stock your medicine chest and hope that you won't be struck with a sudden illness.

You grin and bear it all because the green and the dust of the veld, the smell of your kraal and the sight of your cattle are your life and your world.

But if you are faced with losses year after



### Despite superb grazing and many rivers, depopulation continues.

year and your bank manager in distant Pietersburg, Potgietersrus or Nylstroom, does not understand your problems, you feel all the discomforts acutely and easily succumb if the city advocate or factory owner offers you R320 a hectare for your R80 a hectare farm.

In 1979 the economic

boom started and meat prices improved. But an economy is dynamic. There is a momentum of decay just as there is a momentum of growth. The further erosion of public services in 1980 and 1981 will keep the depopulation going during the rest of the decade if the momentum is not reversed.

It is elementary development economics that to get development a minimum effort is needed. Any effort that is too weak to get over the threshold, is misspent.

Seen in this light, State action to solve the crisis seems singularly inept.

Initiated by the army, which feared for the security of the routes from the Limpopo to the large urban centres, the Steyn Committee was appointed four years ago. Its report was never published, but it was leaked that the committee made realistic proposals to repopulate the bushveld. It centred its attention on a strip about 50 kilometres wide along the borders.

One recommendation was that the collapse of the infrastructure of the area could not be tolerated. Public services in the region were to be restored.

Another was that adequate loans be offered to intending new settlers at soft interest rates.

A third positive idea was that owners of farms in the border strip were to be compelled to be resident on their properties or else should employ able-bodied whites to manage them.

A watered-down version of the Steyn Committee's recommendations was subsequently enacted. But then the Jacobs Committee — named after the chairman Dr A S Jacobs, vice-president of the Reserve Bank — stepped in unencumbered by development economics and shot the Steyn report down in flames. It was pronounced impractical and far

too expensive.

He tried to save something of the repopulation project by earmarking a part of the amount budgeted for the financial assistance to farmers, for settling new farmers in the bushveld.

Eighty-six new farmers were eventually settled during an 18-month period.

Most had to depend on some irrigation farming under adverse transport and power conditions to make ends meet. And for every new farmer settled by the State in the border regions, three others left.

The agricultural unions looked on in awe and disbelief.

It became too much for them to bear however, so the Transvaal Agricultural Union recently arranged a week-long fact finding mission to the areas involved.

What will come of it is anybody's guess. The inertia of the State apparatus easily matches the heavy dead weight of economic decay.

Here another threshold effort law operates.

A comic opera touch was added when a dispute arose at the highest level about whether or not it was fear of terrorists that caused farmers to leave the border area.

The Human Sciences Research Council was asked to investigate the question.

After six months of painstaking research and dedicated study, it brought out a 56-page report reassuring the country that it was definitely not fear of terrorism that had brought about the depopulation.

South Africa's economists were duly impressed. But still some of them ventured the unthinkable heresy that if half that number of pages had been devoted to restoring the basics of development economics for the benefit of those in high places a greater contribution would have been made.