

HOUSING & HOSTELS TW

JANUARY - ^{MARCH} ~~FEB~~ 1989.

Tembisa evictions are suspended

CP Correspondent

EVICTIONS in Tembisa have been suspended until a new policy is formulated on how to handle rent arrears.

Addressing residents, Solomon More, one of the seven elected Tembisa councillors – short of a quorum – called the system of evicting people and their possessions “outdated.”

Many people had complained of their goods going missing after being left on the street.

More recently made a triumphant return to township politics after being ousted in 1987 for allegedly “talking softly to the Press” concerning the promotion of blacks to senior positions and the replacing of whites.

More also criticised the eviction of pensioners as recently happened in Mashemong section.

He made a request for unity, saying it was a powerful weapon against the “diabolical evictions”.

Most Soweto residents will still have to pay rent

By Stan Hlophe

Soweto Council says most rent-defaulters in Soweto will still have to meet their rent and other service charge commitments even though the Appeal Court has ruled in favour of some residents

Soweto's housing director, Ms Estelle Bester, confirmed this yesterday.

She blamed the media and "some community leaders" for giving the wrong impression

Ms Bester said an appeal against payment of rent by Mr Themba Mngomezulu and two others against the council affected only 12 842 housing units

A further 82 000 homeowners and rent payers have to pay site rent and service charges because the houses they occupy were built by loans granted by the National Housing Commission

Ms Bester said the Appellate Division had ruled the rent payers affected were those occupying the 12 842 houses which had been built by a loan granted to the Johannesburg City Council by mining houses in the late 1950s. These houses are in Mapetla, Phiri and Jabu-

lani, as well as a number in Emdeni and Zola

In a statement yesterday, Ms Bester said the Appeal Court held that

● The council has the power in terms of Act No 102 of 1982 to make by-laws relating to site-house rentals with the approval of the administrator, but that such powers must yield to the special powers referred to in Section 61 of the Housing Act

● As there are no statutory provisions under Act 102 of 1982 which override those of Section 61 of the Housing Act, the rentals for the appellants' approved dwellings were not lawfully fixed and determined in the prescribed manner

She said the council believed the determination of rentals for the remaining 82 000 houses by the Minister in 1977, and the determination of site rentals for those houses by the council in terms of its by-laws, were still applicable

Therefore, the payment of municipal service charges in respect of the 82 000 houses is not affected by the decision of the Appeal Court in any way

'Write off rent arrears'

Sowetan 3/11/84

THE Lekoia Town Council has called on the Government to write off the R80-million in rent arrears owed by residents in the Vaal Triangle and start on a clean slate.

The mayor of Lekoia, Mr Samuel Kolisang, yesterday also called on the residents to cooperate with the council and to help rebuild all the structures that were destroyed in the area.

He urged residents to continue to pay R30 a month for services until the Government gives the greenlight to scrap the arrears.

Vaal Triangle residents have not been paying rent since September 3, 1984 — the outbreak of violence in the area.

By **JOSHUA RABOROKO**

The council has resolved to:

- Stop evicting rent defaulters,
- Consult with residents on matters affecting them,
- Continue negotiations with community-based organisations, trade unions, church leaders and political organisations;
- Put an end to bribery and corruption in the council's ranks.

Mr Kolisang said the rent boycott in the Vaal Triangle was caused by lack of communication between the council and residents.

He was prepared to

consult with residents on the rent issue

Mr Kolisang slammed councillors who were "position mongers" and only interested in acquiring businesses for themselves.

"I have already

spotted some councillors who are interested in getting businesses I want to warn them that the council will take drastic steps against any councillor who is out to enrich himself," Mr Kolisang said.



SAM Kolisang . . . Lekoia mayor.

Township declared 'emergency camp'

Oukasie's people continue to fight — now in court

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Star 4/11/89.

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Residents of Oukasie — the Brits township where some 6 000 people are threatened with removal — are going to court to fight the proclamation of their settlement as an "emergency camp", according to the director of the Johannesburg office of the Legal Resources Centre, Mr Geoff Budlender.

A sharp increase in rent was one of the more controversial effects of Oukasie, an area settled more than 50 years ago, being declared an "emergency camp" in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Bill last year

DEPROCLAIMED

The emergency camp provision was evoked some months after the threatened area had been deproclaimed as a black urban area.

If the court action succeeds, the new rent rates and various other regulations which came into effect as a result of the proclamation will be lifted

The application to the Pretoria Supreme Court has been made by four residents, headed by Mr Joseph Maka-

ma who has been a shopkeeper in the old township for 45 years

According to Mr Budlender, papers were served on the respondent in the case, the Administrator of the Transvaal, last week. He has three weeks in which to respond in opposing the application

The applicants are seeking a court order

- Setting aside the decision to declare Oukasie an emergency camp
- Declaring that an emergency camp could not be established in the area
- Declaring the regulations consequent on "emergency camp" status to be null and void

For several years the authorities have been attempting to remove the entire population of Oukasie to Letlhabile, about 25 km from Brits. Many have moved, but at least 5 563 have refused to go

Led by the Brits Action Committee, they have fought against the closure of schools and struggled to maintain facilities in the officially doomed township

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Up in arms over rent increase

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Sowetan 4/1/89

HUNDREDS of Atteridgeville, Pretoria residents — up in arms over the average monthly rent increase of R20 imposed by the local city council this month — have threatened to take legal court action against the authorities.

Residents lashed out at the council for ignoring their objections to the increases and accused the newly-elected councillors of ignoring their plight and failing to keep their promises of serving the interest of the community. Tenants complained that the R20 rent increase, which came into effect from January 1 this year, was too much.

"The council imposes an increase of R20 a month per household despite the fact that we are law-abiding residents who have never been involved in a rent boycott," said Mr Daniel Mdluli.

Residents, including political and civic associations, yesterday said they were going to brief lawyers with the intention of challenging the tariff increases. "Most people are unemployed, the cost of living is high and a R20 rent increase is just too much. The council must either rescind its decision or substantially reduce the amount," residents said.

Mr Daan Mouton, acting town clerk, yesterday said it would be impossible to

reduce the tariffs because the council, which is R5 million in the red, was still going to have a deficit of about R2 million even after the imposition of new rent hikes.

He added that the council did consider objections lodged by residents against the rent increase, "but in the light of the council's precarious financial position, it was imperative that we increase tariffs." Mr Mouton said the council tried to be lenient when effecting the increases.

Consideration

The new mayor, Mr Velaphi Mathebula in a statement released yesterday, said: "My council always takes into consideration the affordability of such increases in taking such decisions." Residents however said the council had received no mandate from the community to increase rent.

Most of the residents who telephoned the *Sowetan* yesterday warned that hundreds of tenants would not be able to afford the new rent. "I earn R80 a week and the council now expects me to pay R86 rent per month. How did they come to the conclusion that I can afford?" asked Mrs Grace Sibiyi.

No possibility of rent write-offs in townships

star 5/1/87

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East Rand Bureau

A Member of the Executive Council of the Transvaal, Mr Olaus van Zyl, said the writing off of rent arrears in black towns would be unfair to the people who had been paying their rents regularly

He was reacting to an appeal by the mayor of Lekoa, Mr Sam Kodisang, that the Government write off arrears in black

towns so that they can start on a "clean slate"

"Those paying regularly could demand a refund of their money," Mr van Zyl said

In any event, the local authorities had a contract with the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) about bridging finance loaned to them

Mr van Zyl said there was no possibility at this stage that the TPA could write off the loans

Daveyton gets a shocker

(127)
Sowetan
5/11/89

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

RENT and service charges in Daveyton are up ~~by an~~ average of 25 percent as from yesterday.

The rent and service increases differ and services which would be affected by the increase will be site rent, refuse removal, cemetery rates, water and electricity. Reports that bus fares were also included could not be confirmed as the town clerk, Mr J Joubert, was said to be in Pretoria.

The respective percentage increases were not revealed by council officials although the *Sowetan* established that those residents paying R16 for site rent will now pay R24 at the end of this month.

The rent and service charges increases were confirmed by the highest official in the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), Mr Olaus van Zyl, who has the special responsibility of presiding over the Black Local Authorities councils countrywide, yesterday.

Mr van Zyl's confirmation of the increases came amid raging controversy and confusion within the Daveyton Town Council over the increases.

Mayor unaware

Mr Sinaba Shadrack, Mayor of Daveyton said he was "not aware" that the implementation had taken effect. He said he had moved the suspension of the increases indefinitely pending the scrutiny of financial records by his council during the "mayor's unopposed motions" during December. The deadline for the furnishing of the financial records by the town clerk, Mr J Joubert, was December 15. The reports had not been submitted by yesterday.

The *Sowetan* has established that Mr Sinaba and his deputy, Mr M Mthimunya and the chairman of the management committee within the council, Mr M Makgathe, had met TPA officials in Pretoria requesting the suspension of the rent increases. Their plea was rejected because they had not obtained a council approval by putting the issue to other councillors for debate.

The meeting was held in December, weeks after Mr Sinaba had announced during an SABC programme that he had suspended the rent increases. He made the same announcement to newspapers.

The TPA's decision to continue with the increases brings into question the validity of Mr Sinaba's unopposed motion because by going ahead the TPA rejected Mr Sinaba's motion.

Rushing to process ratepayers' cheques

Staw 6/1/89

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By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

Johannesburg City Treasury is working overtime to ensure that all uncashed cheques for rates and services will be processed by the end of this weekend and December accounts will reflect up-to-date payments, said the senior deputy city treasurer, Mr Lukas Opperman.

He was reacting to householders' complaints that cheque payments from as far back as early December had not been deposited by the Treasury or that they had not received their December accounts.

Boxes uncashed

Mr Opperman said he was unable to confirm treasury staff comments to the public that "there are 50 boxes of un-

cashed cheques for December" or that there were "a few thousand outstanding cheques"

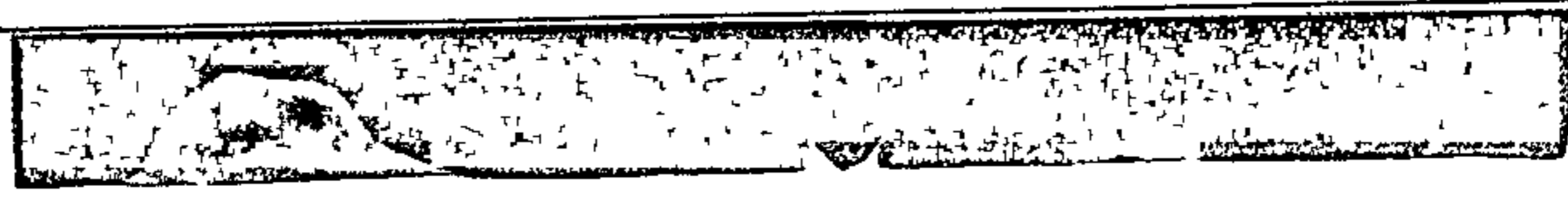
"It is normal to have an accumulation of accounts over the Christmas period from people going away on holiday, but this is our top priority and a substantial number have been processed

"With a few exceptions we have held back most of the December accounts, which means they will be late but completely up to date, reflecting all payments made by the due date"

Mr Opperman said most of the outstanding cheques were for small amounts as the large ones had been extracted and deposited

"There is no risk of unfair electricity cut-offs while we are getting up to date but we will be more rigid from January when everything is running smoothly," he said

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BY MOJALEFA
MOSEKI

A GROUP of Daveyton township residents yesterday said that at least seven people were in jail or had served their various jail terms at Modderbee Prison for failing to respond to summons issued by a legal company hired by the council to collect rent arrears from residents.

The spokesman for the group, Mr Rhoo Hlatwayo, led a delegation of concerned residents who handed the council a petition by 371 people calling for the council to stop jailing residents and

cancel the contract with the lawyers. The petition, which was signed by one of the newly elected councillors, among others, was handed to the secretary of the council's town clerk, Mr J Joubert.

Among the scores of people who accompanied the delegation were several members of the families whose parents have either been jailed or were still serving their prison terms for failing to respond to the lawyer's summons. Among these were the son of Mr

Hendrick Lewane (58), who has completed his jail term. Miss Pearl Damba said her father, Mr Barney Damba (64), who has been searching for a job for three years, will complete his prison term next week.

Among the listed grievances were that the attorneys charged the same

"exorbitant" handling fees which included interest on a monthly basis.

That several people who had undertaken to pay up within six months were unable to keep their promises because they had to pay the lawyers for the arrears and at the same time pay the

Daveyton jailed for rent

Sowetan 6/1/89

current monthly rentals and service charges, and

- Daveyton residents had never embarked on a rent boycott and it was not necessary for the council to hire a legal company to collect rent. Those people failing to pay were experiencing financial problems due to lack of employment and their cases had to be considered by the council's social welfare department for relief.

The mayor of Daveyton, Mr Shadrack Sinaba, together with his deputy, Mr M Mthi-

munye, said they had not been approached by residents about the issue since they were elected to office two months ago. They had not yet received the petition but would inform the council and seek its decision on the issue as soon as they receive the petition.

One of the partners in the legal company hired by the council said he could not comment on any of the questions put to him by the Sowetan because the attorney handling the Daveyton rent arrears was on leave.



SOWETO residents are to hold meetings at different venues on Sunday to discuss various issues, including formulating strategies to resolve the rent crisis

The Soweto meetings are to be held at St Francis of Assisi Anglican Church in Rockville, the Roman Catholic Church in Moletsane and the Holy Cross Anglican Church in Orlando West. (127)

The meetings start at 1pm. Sowetan 6/1/89



Call for indaba on Vaal rents

Sowetan 6/1/89

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By MATSHUBE MOFOLOE

VAAL Triangle residents are invited to a meeting to discuss the prolonged rent boycott at Mphatlalatsane Communal Hall, Sebokeng, on Sunday, from 8am

According to the Mayor of Lekoa, Mr Samuel Kolisang, the planned weekend meeting is in line with the promise he made earlier to promote constant communication and consultation between his council and the residents.

Mr Kolisang has also extended invitations to community based organisations including churches, trade unions and other political parties which have an "interest in the affairs of the community of Lekoa"

Have a say

Mr Kolisang said residents should have a say in matters affecting their daily lives and urged residents "not to sit back" but come with ideas in order that mutual understanding and harmony should be created through regular meetings

He speculated that the

Sunday meeting was the beginning of "big things to come through the joint efforts between his council and the Vaal Triangle residents" and appealed to the youth to participate in the indaba. He said the youth were leaders of the future and

should be involved in the community activities to assist the council with guidance and relevant information

The Lekoa Town Council is already over R80 million in the red because of a Vaal Triangle rent boycott which started on September 3, 1984

Ltd for
the rules

End rent boycott meeting on Sunday

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1/1/99

CP Reporter

LEKOA mayor Samuel Kolisang starts a campaign to end the four-year-old Vual rent boycott when he addresses residents at the Mphahlalatsane hall on Sunday at 8am

The meeting, which is likely to attract thousands of people, comes in the wake of reports made by the new mayor that he has called on the government to write off rent arrears owed by residents estimated at R80-million.

Kolisang says the unrest is due to the previous council failing to communicate with residents. He, however, has invited trade unions, church organisations, the youth and political bodies to the meeting.

In addition, Kolisang has suspended all evictions, promised to end bribery and corruption by his council.

Court reinstates tenants evicted by landlord

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

A Berea landlord, who attempted to evict tenants who are members of Actstop from his Soper Road rooming house on New Year's Day, has been ordered by the Rand Supreme Court to reinstate them.

One tenant, Mr Johnson Baloyi, testified he was threatened with a gun by Mr Clay Cerasoli and later forced to go into hiding. He said the caretaker was angered by his refusal to vacate his room at Allendene Residential Hotel without a proper eviction order.

Mr Baloyi alleged that when he went to lay a charge at the Hillbrow Police Station he was advised to return the next morning.

POSSESSIONS REMOVED

His possessions were removed from his room by security personnel and, after spending the night with friends, he appealed for help from Actstop, the organisation involved in halting evictions under the Group Areas Act.

Mr Cerasoli stated that neither of the evicted tenants, Mr Baloyi nor Mr Saxon Dlamini, had paid their January rents of R250 each.

Reacting to the eviction, Actstop publicity secretary Mr Cas Coovadia claimed both families were victimised because they were members of his organisation. He also expressed his concern at the inability of the police to open a docket when the incident was reported to them.

He called on the Johannesburg City Council and members of the public to condemn this type of illegal action by landlords. "We believe this leads to public disturbance and the security agencies should look into such actions instead of harassing Actstop members who work within the law," he said.

TRANSFER HOUSES CALL



ARCHBISHOP Tutu ... at meeting.

A DELEGATION of community leaders, who include the Anglican Archbishop, Desmond Tutu, is to present the Soweto City Council with a set of proposals later this month demanding the transfer of thousands of rented homes to tenants in the area

Only after the two parties have agreed on this issue — including the transfer of land and a new formula developed

By LEN MASEKO and PHANGISILE MTSHALI

for the provision of electricity and water at "just rates" — would the three-year-old rent boycott end, residents' meetings were told in Soweto yesterday. Addressing more than 2000 residents at report-back meetings in Rockville, Moletsane and Orlando West,

members of the delegation told residents they were "engaging experts to deal with the technical aspects relating to the transfer of houses to the people and the problems of electricity and water supply"

The delegation was given the green light at yesterday's meetings to present the municipality with the proposals. Community leaders who

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'Transfer homes'

• From Page 1

are part of the delegation include the Reverend Frank Chikane, Mrs Ellen Khuzwayo, Sister Bernard Ncube, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, Mrs Albertina Sisulu and the Rev Lebamang Sebidi. Soweto's housing director, Ms Estelle Bester, came under fire at the rent meetings for "contradicting" a recent Appellate Court judgment which ruled that the municipality was not entitled to demand rentals from residents as the rentals were determined without the consent of the Provincial Administrator

Newclare family's home torn down

By Janet Heard (127)

An extended Newclare family, including six children, were evicted from their home yesterday after the parents had lived there for 20 years

Mrs Thelma Jakobs (43) said their home in Welman Avenue was demolished in the morning "while we were still removing the furniture from the house"

Mrs Jakobs, her brother, Mr Mathew Swart, his wife, Susan, and six children were given a notice of eviction last July. The letter read that the house had been sold and was to be demo-

lished because it was a health hazard

The family paid rent of R20 a month

The Star visited the family at the house yesterday afternoon. They were standing on the pavement by the rubble with their belongings

Mrs Jakobs said they had applied for a council house and had asked to remain in Welman Avenue until alternative accommodation was found

The council has found the family a place to live for three days

"We are not sure when we will find a house because there is a shortage of houses in Newclare," Mrs Jakobs said

Council ¹²⁷ workers stage

sit-in protest

By McKeed Kofiso,
Pretoria Bureau

More than 500 Atteridgeville Town Council employees staged a sit-in yesterday shortly before the arrival of the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, in the township.

They were protesting against the recently introduced rent increase and were also demanding the resignation of the town clerk, Mr Solomon Rammala.

The sit-in dispersed about an hour before the arrival of Mr Heunis and his entourage at noon, after the council had requested the protesting workers to return to work and draft a memorandum stating all their grievances.

The deputy mayor, Mr Ezekiel Justice Tsungu, said a copy of the memorandum would be given to the town clerk to answer the allegations so that the council could take a decision.

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Stoffel warns 4 newspapers

Sowetan 12/11/84

THE MINISTER of Home Affairs and Communications, Stoffel Botha, yesterday served notifications in terms of the Media Emergency Regulations on the publishers of four newspapers — *Al-Qalam*, *Work in Progress*, *New Era* and *Grassroots*.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Botha said in his opinion reports in a specific series of these publications warranted examination to see if they contained repetitive, subversive propaganda.

They also contained numerous articles which may have the effect of promoting the public image or esteem, of the ANC and/or the SA Communist Party, he said.

Mr Botha has given the publications two weeks to submit representations which he would study.

"The publishers of *Work in Progress*, *New Era* and *Grassroots* had previously been warned in the Government Gazette about the repetitive publication of subversive propaganda," the Minister said.

"If after the current

examination, I should decide that action against any of these three publications is warranted, I shall have to consider the temporary suspension or pre-censorship of such publication or publications" — Sapa

Hand over houses'

DAVEYTON township residents are to meet the council to demand that houses in the township built between 1958 and early 60s be handed over to their owners as they have paid up the building costs of those houses

This was disclosed to the *Sowetan* yesterday by the leader of a delegation which presented a petition requesting the cancellation of a contract with a legal company in the area hired by the council, Mr Rhoo Hlatshwayo

He said scores of residents, who are in financial difficulties, flocked to his home to thank him and urge him to continue his good work after he presented a petition signed by 371 residents to the council last week.

Newclare family sees home torn down

A NEWCLARE family of eight spent Tuesday night out in the cold after their home of 26 years was demolished.

The Jacobs family was woken up on Tuesday morning by the thundering of the hammer as

By PHANGISILE
MTSHALI

their Welman Avenue home was being torn down. They said they had received a notice that the house was to be demolished in terms of the Slums Act last year in August.

"We have not moved out because we did not know where to go," said Miss Thelma Jacobs. "We have brought our plight to the council but we have not heard from them. After we received the notice we also joined the long waiting list for houses."

The director of housing for the Johannesburg City Council, Mr F W Robins, said "The evicted family has

not contacted us directly but we have heard about the matter and we are investigating. However, I cannot say if we will be able to accommodate them because we did not put them there (out in the street). No council official authorised their eviction."

An Independent MP, Mr Andrew Booysen, who represents the constituency of the Jacobs family lashed out at the Labour Party-controlled council, saying "they are playing politics with people's lives."

"I am trying all avenues to accommodate the destitute," he said. "The Labour Party is putting politics above people's lives."

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(27)

No homes 'for desperate 8 000'

By Janet Heard

There are 8 000 "desperate families" on the housing application list and there is no development taking place in coloured townships, Mrs Margaret Mateman, chairman of the South-western Management Committee, said this week.

Mrs Mateman was responding to the eviction, and subsequent homelessness, of a Newclare family from their home in Welman Avenue on Tuesday. The parents had lived there for more than 20 years.

The private house was demolished and no alternative housing was found for them.

Mrs Thelma Jakobs (43), her brother, Mr Mathew Swart, his wife, Susan, and their children spent the night sleeping outside the demolished house with their furniture and belongings.

Mrs Mateman said "People cannot be accommodated temporarily. Due to the long waiting list, we have to give priority to

those who applied in 1982. The family only applied for a house at the end of last year.

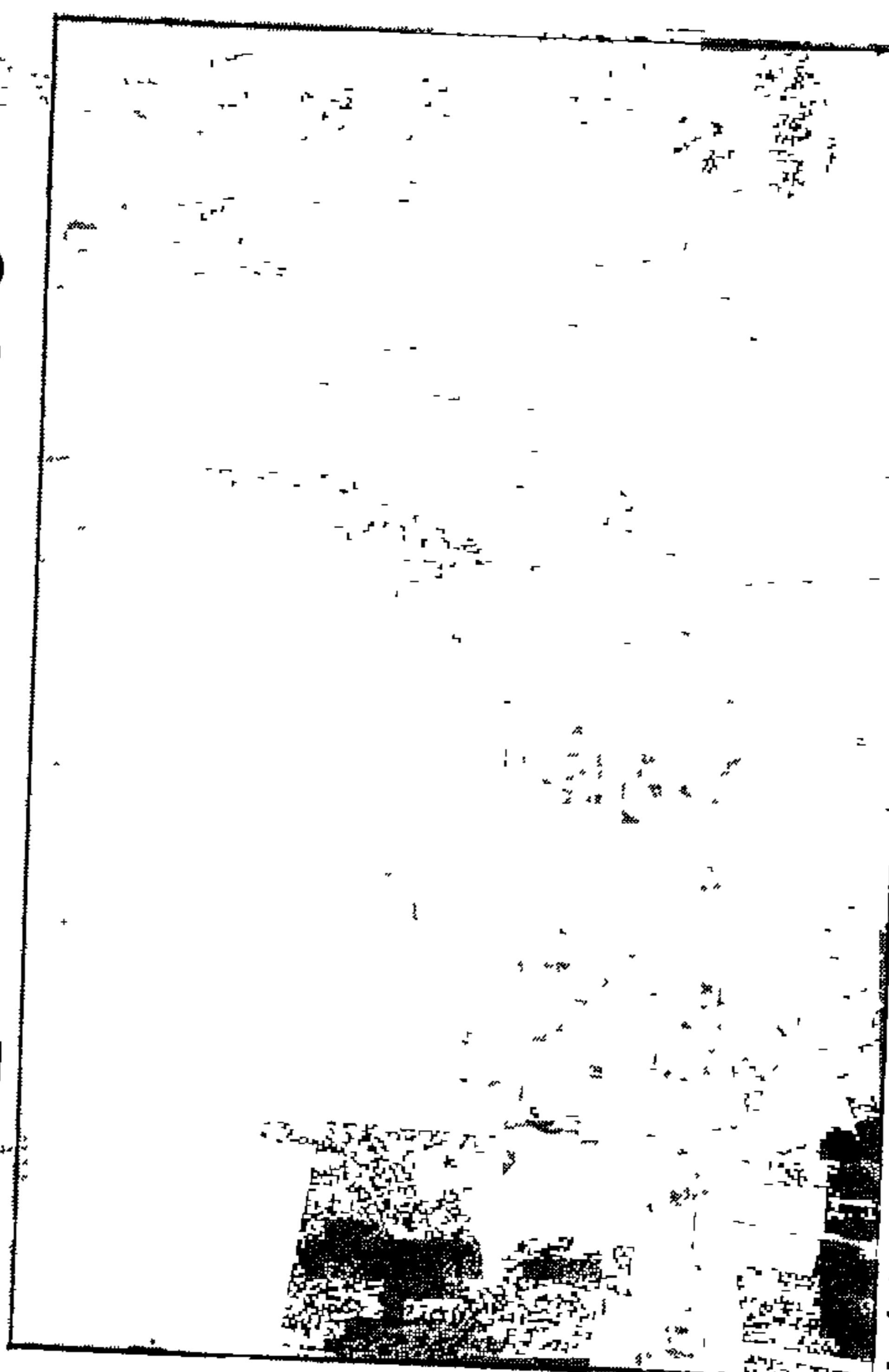
"There is nothing we can do. There is no accommodation and no development," she said.

Mr Andrew Booysens, the management committee representative for Newclare and an opponent of the Labour Party, spent the first night with them in his car.

The Star visited the demolished house late yesterday afternoon as rain clouds gathered. A kitchen table had been set up on the pavement and there was bedding on the ground.

Mrs Joyce Hendriks, a relative of the family, telephoned Mrs Mateman yesterday to plead, "on humanitarian grounds", for a roof over the family's heads but said she was told "they should go back where they came from".

A desperate Mrs Jakobs added "We don't know who to turn to for help anymore."



As their Newclare home is demolished, Mrs Thelma Jakobs (left) and her relatives gather alongside. ● Picture by Alf Kumalo.

Get out, mixed couple told

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8/14/89
CLARE HARPER

THE Group Areas Unit of the South African Police has warned a mixed Yeoville couple to leave their rented flat where they are living in contravention of the Group Areas Act.

Mr Nick Ross (27), an assistant manager of a bottle store, said yesterday that he and his fiancée, Temb Nxayi (24), and their 15-month-old baby had been living in Sylrosa Court, Raymond Street, for a year.

Mr Ross said the couple had been warned twice by the police to move out of the area and

go to Hillbrow, which they refused to do.

"The police told me to go and stay in Hillbrow or Soweto. But I don't want my fiancée and child to live there," he said.

Mr Ross said that he and his fiancée had painted and fixed up their flat when they moved in, and always paid the rent on time.

He said none of the neighbours had ever objected to him and his fiancée staying there.

He said the police had told them to report to John Vorster Square on

Monday morning

A spokesman for Actstop, Mr Cas Coovadia, said his organisation condemned this harassment of peaceful citizens.

He said the police appeared to be turning a blind eye to the actions of unscrupulous landlords in Hillbrow, Joubert Park and central Johannesburg, while acting against peaceful people, who were not causing a disturbance.

Actstop, he said, would act on behalf of the couple and would resist any attempt to remove them from their flat.

Pageview conditions appalling, says envoy

The Canadian ambassador, Mr Ronald Maclean, yesterday described the conditions in Pageview, Johannesburg, as appalling, and said he hoped the South African Government would improve them as soon as possible

Mr Maclean was visiting the suburb, where residents face eviction, at the invitation of the Action Committee to Stop Evictions (Actsop)

The ambassador, accompanied by Mr Mohammed Dangor of Act-stop, and Mr Farouk Varachia and Mr Ebrahim Kharsany, respectively the chairman and secretary of the Pageview Association, said he was here to observe, not to interfere in South African problems

CONDITIONS

Mr Mclean said he hoped the Government would improve the socio-economic conditions of all areas, including Alexandra, Mogopa and squatter camps in the eastern Cape

Asked if he would recommend that pressure be exerted if no change took place, he said pressure was not the right way to effect change — negotiations and diplomacy were the answer



CAS COOVADIA ... SA law does not mete out justice equally Picture ROBERT BOTHA

Actstop appeals to judges on new GAA cases

B/Dam 19/11/89
DANIEL SIMON

JUDGES and magistrates have been asked by Actstop to be more lenient when deciding cases on Group Areas Act (GAA) transgressions

Actstop publicity secretary Cas Coovadia told a media conference in Johannesburg SA law was "rooted in apartheid" and did not mete out justice equally

Coovadia was highlighting the plight of 88 black families facing possible eviction from their Hillbrow and Joubert Park flats on January 31 if applications to the Supreme Court by the landlords were successful

The tenants, who live in the Ritz Plaza, Claridges, Waldorf Heights and Fabian Court, were recently served papers informing them that applications would be made for their evictions

Coovadia said it was Actstop's belief the landlords took this step because the tenants had refused to pay the rents verbally agreed to when they took occupation because landlords had not maintained services.

"It is our opinion they gave such notice fully confident they will be able to secure other tenants immediately as the GAA has created a drastic shortage of accommodation in these areas"

Coovadia said as a result of this, Actstop was making a direct appeal to those who implemented the law

"Magistrates and judges will find an increasing number of such cases coming before them We maintain the laws of our country are rooted in apartheid and do not mete out justice equally"

"We appeal to magistrates and judges to consider fully the broader socio-economic conditions created by apartheid"

Appalling, yes, but no place like home

By ESMARÉ VAN DER MERWE,
Political Reporter

The plight of 67 Indian families who are fiercely resisting eviction from Pageview, Johannesburg, was highlighted again this week when Canadian ambassador Mr Ronald Maclean urged the Government to take action over the "appalling" conditions in the area.

Senior Government officials reacted angrily to what they interpreted as foreign interference in the country's domestic affairs.

But their anger is outweighed by that of the embattled Indian community, demanding the right to live in their memorable "Fietas", where many of them were born and raised

They lovingly speak of "the old days" when living conditions in the western Johannesburg suburb were good, when the once thriving shopping area of 14th Street offered the best bargains in town, and when people from all race groups lived in racial harmony.

What has changed?

"Living conditions are appalling indeed," says Mr Ebrahim Kharsany, secretary of the Save Pageview Association (SPA) and chief executive of the Islamic Bank.

"Our houses are dilapidated, municipal services are bad, many roads untarred. All we are fighting for is the right to live in the area which, accord-

ing to many history books, was given to us by Paul Kruger. And the right to upgrade our houses and live in prosperity."

Pageview's Indian community boasts four doctors, many businessmen — now mostly trading in the Oriental Plaza after being ushered from 14th Street — professionals and workers.

One of the best-known residents, Mrs Ayesha Nana (57), complains about the "really messy drain system", but says she does not want to live in Lenasia, 35 km from town.

"It is convenient to live here, and besides, I was born and raised here. It has sentimental value, a history."

Miss Jamilla Talia (33) echoes those sentiments — "we are happy here" — but says "the houses are getting old".

The old houses which escaped the Government's bulldozers are dotted among the standard rows of neat terraced council houses built by the State for low-income whites.

In the wake of the Indians who moved out — Mr Kharsany estimates that up to 10 000 people have been evicted — came black squatters, seeking refuge in derelict buildings, "old cars or under piles of rubble".

Much of the suburb has been demolished — but the last 67 Indian families are determined to carry on their fight to stay in Pageview.

Stay 20/1/87
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Let's set our own rents, say city-centre blacks

BLACKS living in city centres are being urged to adopt some of the methods of the township rent boycotts and to set their own rents.

The tenants organisation, Actistop, says that Johannesburg residents, who claim they are being exploited by unscrupulous landlords, are beginning to determine the rents that they consider appropriate.

In a statement, Actistop said that tenants' attempts to discuss the lack of maintenance of buildings and poor living conditions in rented accommodation with landlords had proved futile.

After "many unfulfilled promises", tenants had decided to pay rents that were "relative to the conditions of the building".

According to Actistop, approximately 100 families renting flats in Joubert Park, Hillbrow and Berea could be homeless by the end of this month.

The tenants, who have refused to pay the rent demanded, have been served with notices of eviction. However, they have decided not to move from their flats, as there is no alternative accommodation available.

According to Actistop, the Group Areas Act has created an incredible

Grey Area blacks, paying exorbitant rents for dilapidated flats, are being urged to decide their own rents — just like their fellows in the townships.
By THANDEKA QUBULE

shortage of accommodation in the suburbs of central Johannesburg.

The organisation said landlords had already notified tenants that they intended applying for orders ejecting the families by the end of this month.

"Tenants have used every channel provided by law to secure their moral right to the service and conditions they have paid for," Actistop said.

It added that if the families were evicted, they would have no option but to camp on the streets.

"The tragedy of this particular situation is that it is a microcosm of the crisis of homelessness facing black people in South Africa."

The housing crisis in the townships made it unlikely that people evicted from white city centre flats would find other places to live, Actistop said.

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Arson and gunshots, but no liquor, kids or visitors

W/Mail 20-26/1/82

ACUTE tensions between tenants and their landlord over poor living conditions in Allendene Residential in Berea, Johannesburg, flared into violence this week.

A fire broke out at the residence at about 4am on Monday. Three of the "hotel's" rooms — one occupied by the caretaker — and two cars parked nearby were gutted.

Police suspect that one or more residents was responsible. Residents deny any involvement.

Residents claim that soon after the fire broke out, Joseph Ranngakile, the caretaker, drew their attention to a pamphlet which claimed Pressege Nkosi, an Actstop activist, was responsible for the fire. Actstop is an tenants' rights organisation in central Johannesburg.

The pamphlet warned that the building would be burnt down if Jonson Baloi, one of the residents, was not released from jail. Baloi was arrested after a dispute with the landlord and caretaker during which the caretaker allegedly fired a shot at him.

Contacted by the *Weekly Mail*, Nkosi denied any association with the pamphlet and said it was not written in his handwriting.

Stressing that the situation at Allendene was typical of the Johannesburg central city suburbs, he said "Caretakers and owners of buildings are exploiting the shortage of accommodation created by the Group Areas Act and are charging people exorbitant rates to live in dilapidated conditions."

All the inhabitants of Allendene are black, and many are foreigners from countries such as Mozambique and Malawi. Some are vulnerable migrants, or are in the process of "getting their papers in order".

Allendene was apparently a residential hotel in its heyday — but no more.

A visit by a *Weekly Mail* reporter revealed that no services are provided and that the small rooms, which contain only a bed and have concrete floors, are rented out to a large number of people.

There has been no water for the past week at the residence. The electricity has also been turned off, according to residents.

Although there has been no running water at the "hotel" for some time, one has to negotiate stagnant puddles in the corridors. Green fungus grows everywhere.

In a building with no water, no lights and puddles in the corridors, the battle between residents and landlords includes gun fire and arson.

By THANDEKA GQUBULE

The building has one outside tap, from which a meagre trickle of water flows. The male communal toilet on the first floor is a long sink.

In the absence of power, the corridors are so dark that one cannot see who is walking in the passage.

In the hallway — which must have once been a kitchen — lie broken mattresses, old gas stoves, the remains of blankets, bones and the skeleton of a wire bed.

This is where the tenants wash their dishes. There are no cooking facilities and steel pipes line the ceiling.

What must have once been a beautiful dining room with high ceilings is completely bare.

A three-storey structure, containing other occupied rooms, is attached to the house. The two structures are joined together with barbed wire.

Parts of the "hotel" seem to have been under construction when the tenants moved in.

For their paltry room and the use of Allendene's "facilities", tenants pay R296 a month. And they also have to abide by a stringent list of rules drawn up by the landlord.

No liquor, children or visitors are allowed. Despite the absence of cooking facilities, residents may not cook in their rooms.

At the end of the long list of regulations is the warning that tenants may be evicted without prior notice if they step out of line.

In terms of health regulations, not more than two people are allowed to occupy a room.

The landlord, Clay Cerasoli, told Actstop that he did not speak to blacks on the telephone. Attempts by the *Weekly Mail* to obtain comment were unsuccessful.

According to tenants, Cerasoli visited Allendene the day before the *Weekly Mail* visit with health inspectors.

The tenants say that following the arson attack, clashes with residents, Actstop's intervention and a visit by the police, he has decided to cut his losses and have the building condemned.

Duncan Village row over kids' registration

CP Correspondent

IN what seems to be yet another attempt to break the three-year-old Duncan Village rent boycott, school registration has been refused to pupils whose parents owe rent.

Conflicting reasons have been given why some children were turned away at the opening this year of Duncan Village's Ebenezer Majombzi High School.

According to one parent, Novotile Macwili, her son Mncekeleli, 17, was first refused registration at school because he was not registered as a Duncan Village resident. Mncekeleli is about to go to standard seven.

Macwili said her son could not be registered at the rent office because his uncle, Mzimkhulu Khohleli, was not paying rent.

Garett Qwabe said he could not have his grandchild, Lulama, registered, because he had not been paying rent since 1985.

A letter written to the school principal by Qwabe's lawyer was returned without any response. The letter, which requested a response within 24 hours, asked what the payment of rent had to do with the registration of pupils. The letter warned

that legal steps would be taken

The rent boycott in Duncan Village has been going on since late in 1985. There have been various attempts by the Gompo Town Committee (formerly known as the Duncan Village Community Council) to break it. Families have been evicted from homes and residents refused burial sites.

Gompo's chief executive officer, PJ Cronje, said he would investigate the matter if people came to his office. "I need the names of the parents and pupils before I can investigate," he said.

Cronje would not comment on children being turned away from schools, but said "problems with accommodation" might have been the reason.

The Department of Education and Training's Cape Region chief director, Bill Stuade, has described the turning away of students as "serving the community".

"This was necessary because it would be unacceptable if the child of a resident was turned away from a school and his place taken by a non-resident's child," Stuade said. - Elnews

Eight year-long housing queues in coloured areas

By Janet Heard

The critical housing shortage in coloured townships has sparked criticism by the Neighbourhood Advice Centre of Newclare after the eviction and subsequent homelessness of a Newclare family

The shortage was highlighted when Mrs Margaret Mateman, chairman of the South-western Management Committee, said there were 8 000 "desperate families" on the housing application list and there was no development taking place in Coloured townships

She said only now were applications made in 1981/2 being considered

A representative of the Neighbourhood Advice Centre in Newclare said it wondered whether these people were waiting in vain

If the committee is only looking at 1982 applications now, and there are so many people who do not have housing, how can there be no plans for development?" she said

The advice centre received 62 clients who did not have accommodation between June and September last year

"Most of these people are married with children, and are forced to live with their parents in

overcrowded homes
If the management committee cannot do anything for the homeless, should they not admit they are powerless to help these people?"

More than a week ago Mrs Thelma Jakobs and her family, which includes six children, were evicted from their home and because they only applied for council housing last year were too far down the list to be helped

Mrs Mateman could do nothing to help

The management committee representative for Newclare, Mr Andrew Booysens, who is in opposition to the Labour Party, said the family should have been allocated a house after it as evicted. The family lived in his ward

Mr Booysens said he had arranged an emergency meeting with the South-western Management Committee to see if it could accommodate the family

The Advice Centre representative said: "The family are living in the street and their predicament has highlighted the possible abuse of power"
● The Red Cross pitched a tent for Mrs Jakobs and her family last Friday, but said it would have to take it down on Tuesday

The remains of a property in Croesus Street, Newclare, where a row of houses was demolished last year.

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23/1/82
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Actstop to highlight plight of city tenants

Star 24/1/89

By Clare Harper

Actstop has launched a campaign to highlight the plight of 88 black families facing eviction from their rented flats in Hillbrow and Joubert Park, on January 31.

At a press conference in Johannesburg, Actstop spokesman Mr Cas Coovadia said the families — tenants of Ritz Plaza, Claridges, Waldorf Heights and Fabian Court — had entered into verbal agreements with

their landlords between one and three years ago

The families facing eviction reduced their rent payments after the landlords allegedly reneged on their agreement to maintain and service the flats

"Tenants felt it was morally unjust for them to continue paying high rentals and keeping to their end of the agreements when the landlords were not," Mr Coovadia said

'Tent family' given a reprieve

By Janet Heard

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The Red Cross is leaving a tent which it provided for Mrs Thelma Jakobs and her family standing until Monday. It was to have been taken back yesterday.

Mr Dame Jakobs, Red Cross disaster relief co-ordinator for the southern Transvaal, said it was very concerned about the plight of the family and "could not put them out on the street".

The Newclare family, which includes six children, was left without shelter two weeks ago after its home was demolished. Mrs Jakobs had lived in the house in Welman Avenue for 20 years.

The Red Cross pitched the tent on humanitarian grounds and on a temporary basis last Friday but said it would have to take the tent

down in a week. It has now granted the family an extension until Monday.

"All the family members are sleeping under one roof with no room dividers. We would not like to see them live there indefinitely," Mr Jakobs said.

He said it was up to the local authorities to find them accommodation.

The family applied for council housing late last year when they were notified the house, which they rented, was going to be demolished.

Mrs Margaret Mateman, chairman of the South-western Management Committee, said they could not be allocated a house because of the housing shortage in coloured townships.

Residents vow to fight new Hillbrow evictions

By Adele Balefa 127

At least 300 people attended an Actstop meeting in Johannesburg last night to protest against the impending evictions of at least 88 families from four blocks of flats in Hillbrow and Joubert Park

The meeting was part of Actstop's recently launched "homelessness" campaign, launched to draw attention to the plight of the tenants of the Ritz Plaza, Claridges, Waldorf Heights and Fabian Court buildings

The campaign will also rally support nationally for the abolition of the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Act, Actstop spokesman Mr Mohammed Dangor said.

At last night's meeting, tenants signed affidavits which will be used today as notice of their inten-

tion to oppose the evictions

A spokesman for the Ritz Plaza flats said that if the 32 tenants were evicted they would lobby for a boycott of the landlords' businesses

"We will sit on the pavements and prevent people from entering the businesses," he said

The landlords applied for a court order to evict the tenants after they reduced their rent payments. The tenants claim the landlords had failed to adhere to a verbal agreement entered into between one and three years ago to maintain and service the flats

Mr Dangor said it was necessary to highlight the critical situation in South Africa's cities where landlords were exploiting black tenants who were not protected by the law

85 families face eviction

Sowetan 26/1/87

OVER 85 black families threatened with eviction from their Hillbrow flats yesterday resolved to stage a sit-in wherever the authorities will dump them at a meeting and to "die there if need be".

The families from four blocks of flats were given notices by their landlords to move out of their flats at the end of the month.

"When evicted we will lobby for boycott of the businesses owned by our landlords," said a speaker who could not be named for fear of victimisation.

"We will make the streets, where we will be dumped, our homes and we will be sitting on the door-step of their businesses. Nobody will get inside.

"If we can protest

By PHANGISILE
MTSHALI

against the CP in Boksburg why can't we protest against the National Party in the heart of Johannesburg?"

Actstop called for a broad front national campaign for the abolition of the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Act.

"The threatened evictions shows that the government protects only white citizens," said Mr Mohammed Dangor, Actstop spokesman. "It must be realised that people of colour staying in Hillbrow are not an influx society but they are permanent residents. They need all amenities available to them."

Line 1106/20X 27.50 2

MAYOR of Daveyton . . . Mr Shadrack Sinaba.

VOW TO ATTEND TO PETITION

By ALI MPHAKI

signed in 24/1/89

THE Daveyton Mayor, Mr Shadrack Sinaba, has promised to attend urgently to a petition signed by residents in protest against rent increases in the area.

The petition, signed by 6 000 residents was delivered to Mr Sinaba at a mass meeting on Sunday.

According to a spokesman for the Daveyton Civic Association (DCA), which is responsible for the petition, the protest was to highlight residents' feelings about the 25 percent rent increases that became effective from January 1.

Afford

The petition, among others, reads that many of the residents are unemployed, sickly and pensioners, hence the increases are beyond their means. It also states that the undersigned cannot afford to pay high rent for services which are not fully rendered.

"Our township is a health hazard. The services are very poor. Refuse is never removed and the toilets and sewers are always blocked," the petition reads.

Mr Sinaba said he was going to investigate all the grievances and then report back to the community.

Cautioned

He however cautioned that most of the grievances cannot be resolved overnight and can only be attended to in stages.

Meanwhile, Mr Sinaba has indicated that there will be "fireworks" at the Daveyton Town Council monthly meeting today. He said some of the councillors, including former mayor, Mr Tom Boya, did not attend the mass meeting he called on Sunday because they feared for their lives.

"I am going to call them cowards," he said.

HOME LOANS (127) (10)

Limping along *FM/ATL 27/1/89*

Last year's upturn in home sales appears to have been one of the shortest in living memory. High mortgage rates and a general economic clamp down saw to that.

Nevertheless it looks as though there will continue to be a significant turnover in residential properties around the country with some banks and building societies forecasting a "brisk" demand for home loans in all but the highest income housing market.

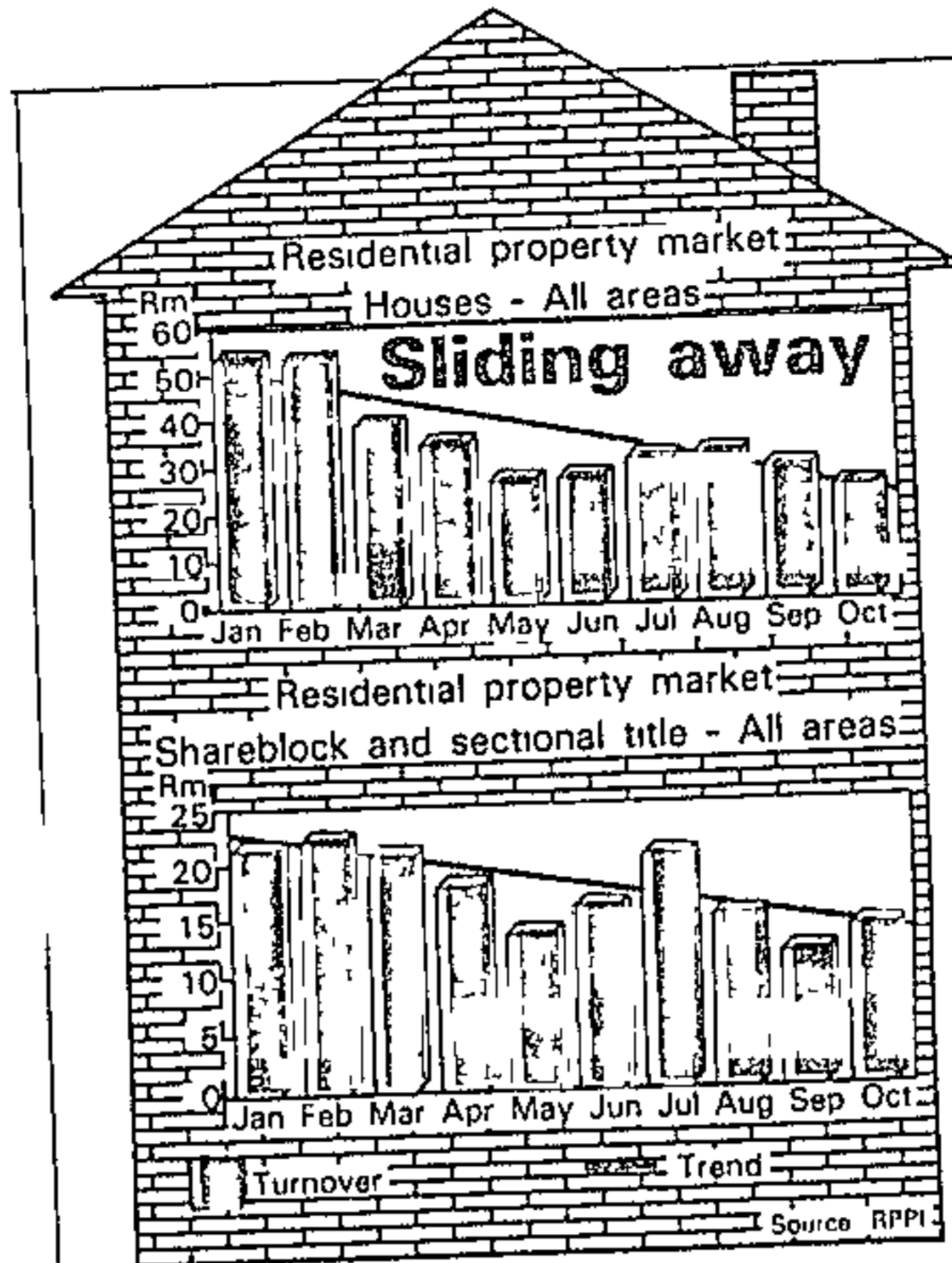
The Durban market in many ways appears, generally, to be a reflection of the housing situation in the rest of the country.

Graham Gavin, vice-chairman of the Durban branch of the Institute for Estate Agents, says the bottom began falling out of the housing market in March (see table). It was triggered, he says, by the first modest increase in the bond rate above its 12,5% nadir — and the belief that worse was to follow.

The result was a massive decline in volumes and values with single residential sales recorded by institute members (representing about 75% of all sales in the city) slipping 77% from 436 in January 1988 to December's estimated total of around 100.

Monthly sales values halved from the R53,3m worth of houses sold in January to R26,9m in October. Sellers struggled to off-load unwanted dwellings. The average lapse between listing and finding buyers doubled from 35 to 70 days.

The good news, according to Gavin, is that the market has absorbed the shocks of bond rate increases and political uncertainty, and early indications are that January's seasonal boost will see unit sales in the single residen-



tial market rise to between 250 and 300. Last year's total of 2 956 houses sold in Durban will probably be repeated this year, meaning a year of consolidation rather than further decline or real growth.

These tough trading conditions are also reflected in the level of applications for bonds reported by the banks and building societies. Though most say demand for loans is once again growing.

Perm assistant GM marketing Peter von Broembsen says applications for home loans in the last quarter of 1988 were 14% lower than for the same period in 1987. But he is confident that despite a softening of the market through high interest rates, current lending levels will be maintained throughout 1989.

Trust Bank was even more severely hit with demand in the final three months of last year down 40% on 1987 levels. Like the other institutions Trust Bank is confident that, at worst, current levels of demand for mortgages will be maintained in the next 12 months.

Perhaps the biggest impact on the home loans market has been that of the banks which began their market share assault in late 1987, early 1988.

A measure of their success can be gained from Standard's MD financial services, Dennis Matfield. He says the number of applications for home loans has declined, particularly in the last three months of 1988. "While applications were 63% higher than demand in 1987, the value of actual loans granted in December totalled just R100m compared to R255m in July."

He doubts that the 1988 boom which saw the Standard processing about R200m worth of new bonds every month will be repeated this year. It is more likely to be maintained at a level of R100m to R120m.

"The decline will mostly be in the medium to upper price bracket." He sees the growth being in the supply of black houses. "Bond applications for new houses is mostly black, while white buying is taking place largely in the home resale arena."

Jabavu massacre

Victim still suffers

Life is hell for 'innocent bystander'

(12)

By SELLO SERIPE

LIFE is still "hell on earth" for a White City, Soweto, father of four who was shot five times -- allegedly by police -- during a rent protest more than two years ago

George Nophondo, 31, has two tubes inserted in his groin -- one for urinating and the other to drain a bullet wound

His jaw was also wired after a bullet lodged in the left side of his face

A third bullet ripped into his left leg and he was hit twice in the back

Since then, he has been able to work only on and off because of pain and he has to visit Baragwanath Hospital three times

a month for treatment

Nophondo was wounded on August 26 1986, during the battle between security forces and White City Jabavu residents who resisted Soweto Council evictions

Unofficial sources claimed that 30 people died and 100 were injured, while police said 12 died and 65 were injured

Nophondo told City Press that on that night he was walking home down Kumalo Street from church at about 8 30pm when he encountered youths running in the opposite direction

"After they had turned off mtg. Xaba Street, two municipal police vans emerged and I was shot," Nophondo said

He blacked out and regained consciousness in hospital the following day

He was told that five others who had been shot at the same time died before they were admitted to hospital

Nophondo was hospitalised for five months. In August 1987 he was readmitted and discharged in October

"Since then, I bleed through my left ear on cold days," Nophondo said

Prominent Johannesburg lawyer Krish Nardoo this week said his firm was acting for some of the victims, and that they were still waiting for the police to respond to their demand for compensation

George Nophondo, shot during rent riots in Soweto in 1986, still feels the pain.



Flat services rate envisaged

Soweto plan to abolish home rents

By Stan Hlophe

The Soweto City Council has launched a bold bid to abolish rent and introduce a flat rate for service charges, Mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi announced yesterday

He said the council had approached Eskom, which will now consult a committee of community leaders to find a flat rate for the service charges

Mr Mkhwanazi was speaking to a crowd of more than 20 000 Sofasonke supporters and Soweto residents at the Jabulani Amphitheatre in Soweto

He said most had already been paid for and implied that rent should not be levied and the massive backlog written off

The public meeting attended by Mr E. B. Tshabalala, president of Sofasonke, was to report back to residents after a series of discussions the council has had with community leaders, educationists, churchmen, youth leaders and businessmen

Cheering crowd

The mayor told the cheering crowd that Eskom and the committee — which comprises Dr Nthato Motlana, Mr George Negota, an executive member of Black Management Forum, Mr Richard Maponya, Soweto businessmen, and two council executive members — has been given till March to complete its investigations

If the committee's findings are accepted, the mayor said the council would call another public meeting to advise residents what rates to pay for service charges

However, if the findings were rejected, the council would advise residents to pay a flat rate, which would be levied according to the size and age of buildings

"For instance, those owning newly built houses would pay more than those who have been living in houses for more than 35 years"

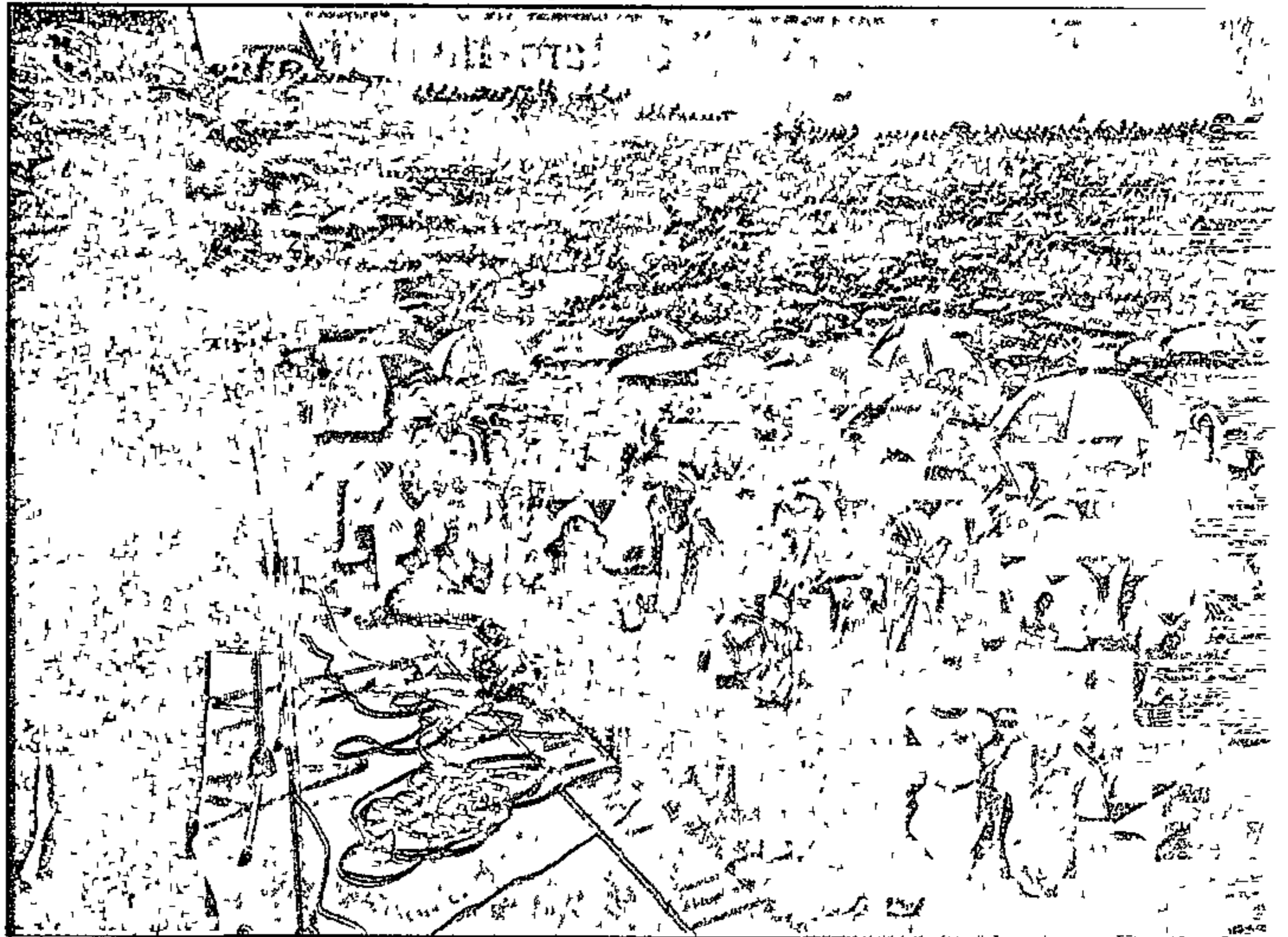
Blueprint to PW

Mr Mkhwanazi said he had also sent his blueprint to President Botha and he had asked to meet the President

"My discussion with all community leaders and educationists have been fruitful, and I am optimistic that soon you will hear the results.

"With your support, I am positive I will realise my dreams and objectives. The present council is here to eradicate a lot of corruption which was practised by the former council and its officials. With the Sofasonke passport, we took control of the majority of the seats and we will worry the Government a great deal for the rights of our people"

"He slammed the critics of Sofasonke. "If we are puppets, such a large number of people would not be here today, and many of you would have been kicked out of your homes long ago"



Soweto's Mayor, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, addresses a crowd of more than 20 000 people at his report-back meeting at the Jabulani Amphitheatre yesterday

Picture by Herbert Mabuza

Police still probing Asvat's killing

By Craig Kotze, Crime Reporter

No single, clear cut motive for the murder last week of Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) health secretary Dr Abubaker Asvat has yet emerged, a police spokesman said yesterday

Soweto police spokesman Major Noel Hartwell said Dr Asvat's killing was being "fully investigated"

All possibilities were being probed but the motive — whether assassination or robbery — was not yet known, said Major Hartwell

Dr Asvat was shot dead at his Rockville surgery by an unidentified gunman who masqueraded as a patient on Friday afternoon. A second man was with the killer

No arrests had yet been made, said Major Hartwell

Mrs Albertina Sisulu, wife of jailed ANC leader Walter Sisulu, was present at the time of the killing. She was Dr Asvat's nurse

Dr Asvat, who was last year nominated as a "Star of the Community" by The Star was shot in the heart at point blank range

He survived two earlier attempts on his life. Last year a gunman wanted to kill him after calling Dr Asvat a "political troublemaker" but fled when a patient entered. About two years ago a hitman threatened to murder him

His funeral took place in Lenasia's Avalon Cemetery on Saturday. He is survived by his wife Zohra and two sons, Sulaiman and Aker, and a daughter, hasina

Dr Asvat was also president of the People's Education Committee, a former president of the Transvaal Cricket Board and was last year's recipient of the Indicator Human Rights Award

A crowd of about 5 000 people attending Dr Asvat's burial became "aggressive" towards policemen in plainclothes who attended the ceremony. Major Hartwell said the policemen withdrew "for their own safety and to avoid any further incidents"

Limpet mine detected in controlled explosion

DURBAN — No arrests have been made in connection with the controlled explosion of a sub station in Glenwood, Durban, last night and the finding of two limpet mines last week

On Saturday night, a pollen plastic bag containing a limpet mine was found near an electricity transformer station in Ridge Road

Bomb experts were called to the site of the controlled explosion after residents of flats were asked to evacuate and open their windows. Blocks of flats were shattered in the blast

This was the second controlled explosion done by the police in three days, soon after the blast at a Glenwood police found a limpet mine and had to detonate it on the spot

Hundreds sleep on Bara's floor as beds stay empty

By Pat Devereaux

Each night last week about 325 patients at Baragwanath Hospital, slept on the floor. Less than 20 km away there were more than 1 000 empty beds

Explanations by the executive director of Transvaal Hospital Services, Dr Hennie van Wyk, on why vacant beds at Johannesburg Hospital cannot be used to accommodate the patient overflow have been criticised

Last week, responding to a report on conditions at Baragwanath, Dr van Wyk said Johannesburg Hospital was an institution intended for highly specialised treatment and could not accept the normal flow of admissions

There were 300 vacant beds at other hospitals which were better situated to cope with the Baragwanath overflow. He added "These cannot be utilised due to lack of funds and personnel"


But the PFP spokesman for health, Dr Marius Barnard, said "It is the Government's duty to provide adequate health services for its people. The Government wastes millions on security walls for Ministers' houses, but will not spend money on the only full service hospital for Soweto"

"They seem especially reluctant to improve facilities for those who are not white."

On the recent announcement that the TPA had drawn up plans and set aside funds for a new hospital for Soweto, Dr Barnard said "We have heard about this for the past 10 years"

He advocated that the medical profession should take positive action

Dr Nthato Motlana, chairman of the Get Ahead Foundation, said "I have no doubt that beds could be found for these patients. The South Rand Hospital bordering Soweto is only 50 per cent full. This Government is so wasteful with its duplication of facilities"

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WHAT DAMELIN WILL TEACH

Police warn Mayfair residents

White mob threatens

Indian family

Star 30/1/89

(127)

Police have warned the public not to take the law into their own hands after an armed "lynch mob" of CP supporters and neighbours yesterday ran an Indian family out of their Mayfair West home in Johannesburg.

Police said today they would, if required, provide protection for the Doyle family if they wanted to remove their goods from their home, bought under the nominee system.

Colonel Vic Haynes, commander of the SAP Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria, said if Mr Doyle wished to lay a complaint against those who had run him out of his home, the charges would be investigated.

The SAP cannot and will not allow anyone to take the law into their own hands. Members of the public who are of the opinion they have legal course for complaint should lodge a complaint with the SAP," said Colonel Haynes.

Another police spokesman, Major Dries Jacobs of Johannesburg, said the SAP's Group Areas Act unit at John Vorster Square was investigating the matter and that Mr Doyle was today expected to make a statement to police.

Police were yesterday called in to placate the angry Mayfair West residents demonstrating against the Doyle family.

The crowd dispersed only when assured the family had agreed not to occupy their house, after being informed they were not legally entitled to live there.

Backed by Conservative Party posters and a noose hanging from the wall of No. 11 St Gotthard Street the crowd demanded assurances the family would not be allowed to return.

By Lloyd Coutts and Craig Kotze

was the CP city councillor representing Mayfair West, Mr Hendrik Claassen, who said he had been called by residents to 'sort out the matter'.

One resident, Mr Ben Bopp, who was wearing an AWB cap said "I will physically remove them. They are going to have to arrest us."

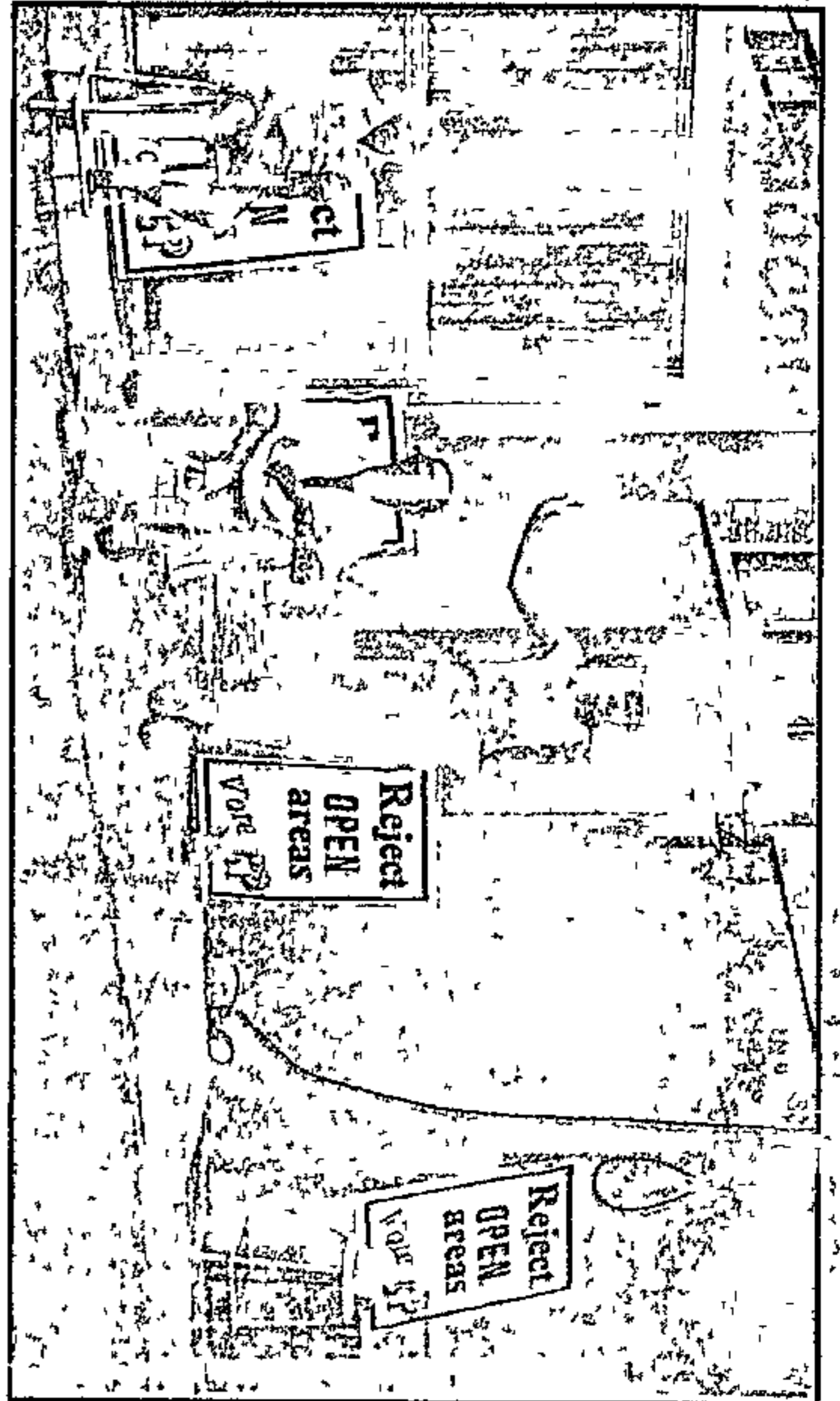
A young man standing next to him agreed saying angrily "We want to kill them."

A woman shouted "We don't want bastards living here!"

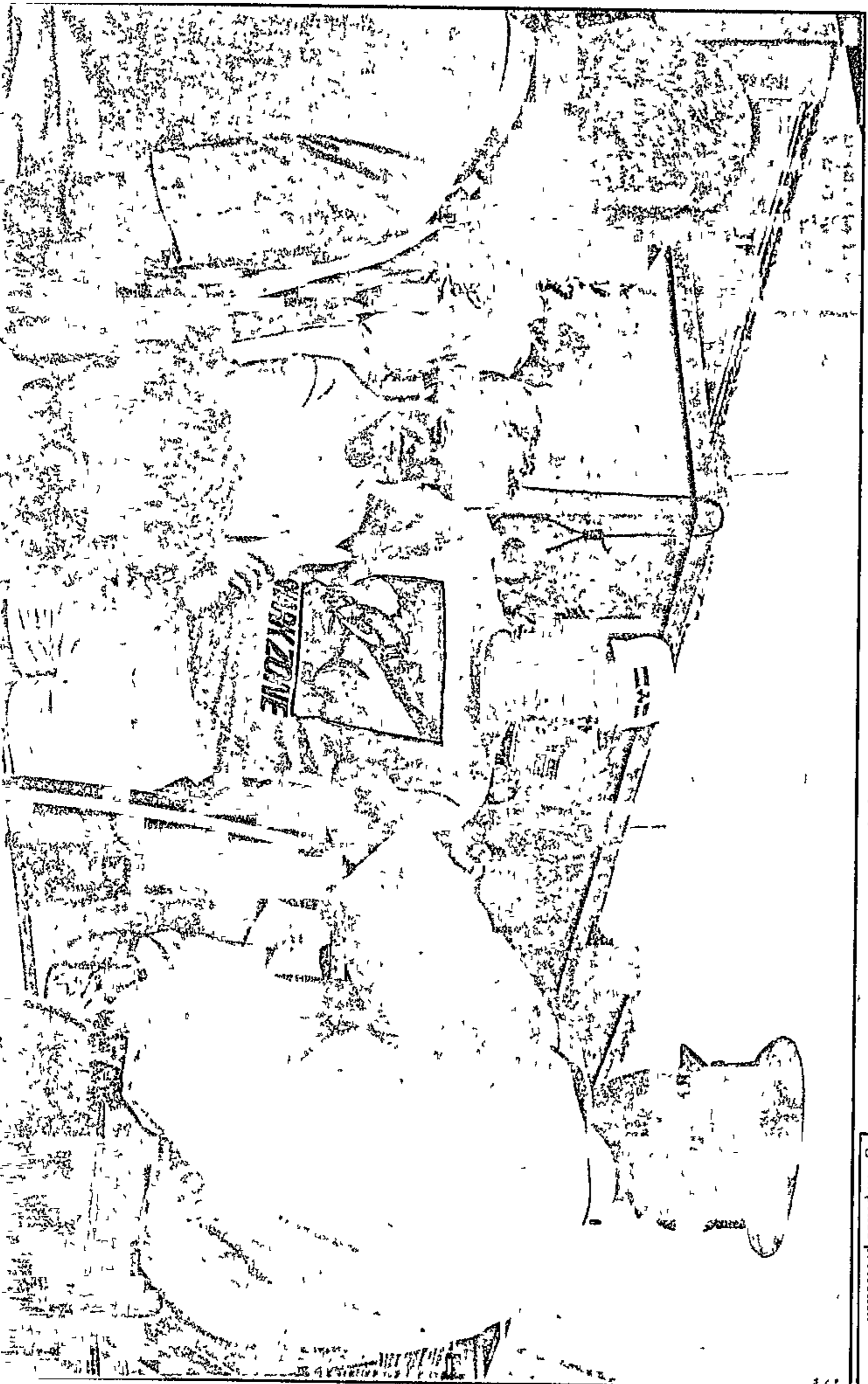
Let them go and live in George or Heidelberg," Mr Bopp said.

One woman warned a policeman He (the husband) will die if he comes here. You will have to collect bodies here tomorrow if he comes, then we shoot.

Mr Roel Meyer, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, said he was investigating the incident. A



The mob placed a noose on the wall of the Indian family's St Gotthard Street house and covered the walls with CP placards rejecting open areas.



Hit team 'would face visa wait'

The Star's Foreign News Service

PERTH — South Africa's ambassador in Canberra Mr David Tothill ridiculed suggestions today that Saturday's shotgun attack on the Sydney home of ANC representative Mr Eddie Fudge was the work of a South African hit team.

Interviewed on TV, Mr Tothill commented "The suggestion (by anti-apartheid groups) is absurd. A SA hit team would need six months to get visas."

He deplored all violence, but any South African who had suffered ANC violence would say "It couldn't happen to a nicer bunch of guys."

In the attack, two shotgun blasts were fired through Mr Fudge's front door. He has been given police protection.

investigate

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Another police spokesman, Major Dries Jacobs of Johannesburg said the SAP's Group Areas Act unit at John Vorster Square was investigating the matter and that Mr Doyle was today expected to make a statement to police.

Police were yesterday called in to placate the angry Mayfair West residents demonstrating against the Doyle family.

The crowd dispersed only when assured the family had agreed not to occupy their house, after being informed they were not legally entitled to live there.

Backed by Conservative Party posters and a noose hanging from the wall of No 11 St Gothard Street, the crowd demanded assurances the family would not be allowed to return.

Drama

The drama started on Saturday evening when the family attempted to move in at about 8 15 pm.

A neighbour informed Mr P J van den Berg, who lives at No 17. He told the family to leave because they were not entitled to be there.

Mr van den Berg said police were called but told him the family were entitled to live there. The family left, returned yesterday morning and after being threatened, left again to fetch the police.

Mrs Lee Hassell, the estate agent who sold the property to the family through a closed corporation with a white nominee majority shareholder, said she had received a call yesterday from the family, who said neighbours had blocked off the road and were holding the husband at gunpoint.

I was told police refused to give them an escort because it was a political matter. It is not a political matter. I do not believe anybody can be denied the right to police protection because it is a political matter.

She said she believed the house had been damaged. The intercom system had been smashed and windows broken. Present at the demonstration

By Lloyd Coutts and Craig Kotze

was the CP city councillor representing Mayfair West, Mr Hendrik Claassen, who said he had been called by residents to sort out the matter.

One resident, Mr Ben Bopp, who was wearing an AWB cap, said I will physically remove them. They are going to have to arrest us.

A young man standing next to him agreed, saying angrily: We want to kill them.

A woman shouted: "We don't want kaffirs living here!"

Let them go and live in George or Heidelberg," Mr Bopp said.

One woman warned a policeman He (the husband) will die if he comes here. You will have to collect bodies here tomorrow if he comes, then we shoot."

Mr Roelf Meyer, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, said he was investigating the incident. A spokesman for the Minister of Law and Order appealed to people not to take the law into their own hands.

Three die as SAP fires on crowd

West Rand Bureau

Three people were killed and several people injured in Davidsonville, Rodepoort, when police fired on a crowd while investigating a stabbing.

A Pretoria police spokesman said police were called to investigate the stabbing of a 14-year-old boy at Belinda Court at about 5 pm on Saturday.

Police apprehended a suspect at the scene of the stabbing. A crowd had gathered and he was freed by them. The police re-arrested the man and the mob began stoning the police and their vehicles.

The police fired shots to disperse the crowd and about five people were hit.

Pietie sees A-G as 301189 allegations increase

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — The former Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, appears before the Advocate-General, Mr Justice P J van der Walt, again today as the claims of his involvement in various dealings increase in number.

Bodies of 5 women spark manhunt

QUEENSTOWN — Police have begun a murder investigation after the discovery of the bodies of five women near Queenstown at the weekend.

The bodies were found in an open veld within a kilometre of a railway line and refuse tips.

The head of the Queenstown detective branch, Captain Neil Moss, said the first body had been found by a pedestrian early on Saturday.

At about 4 30 pm the same day two teenage boys walking near the railway bridge found



Mr Ben Bopp (wearing the AWB cap) in an angry confrontation with police in St Gothard Street, Mayfair West, yesterday. "I will physically remove them. They are going to have to arrest us," Mr Bopp said.

© Pictures by Sean Woods

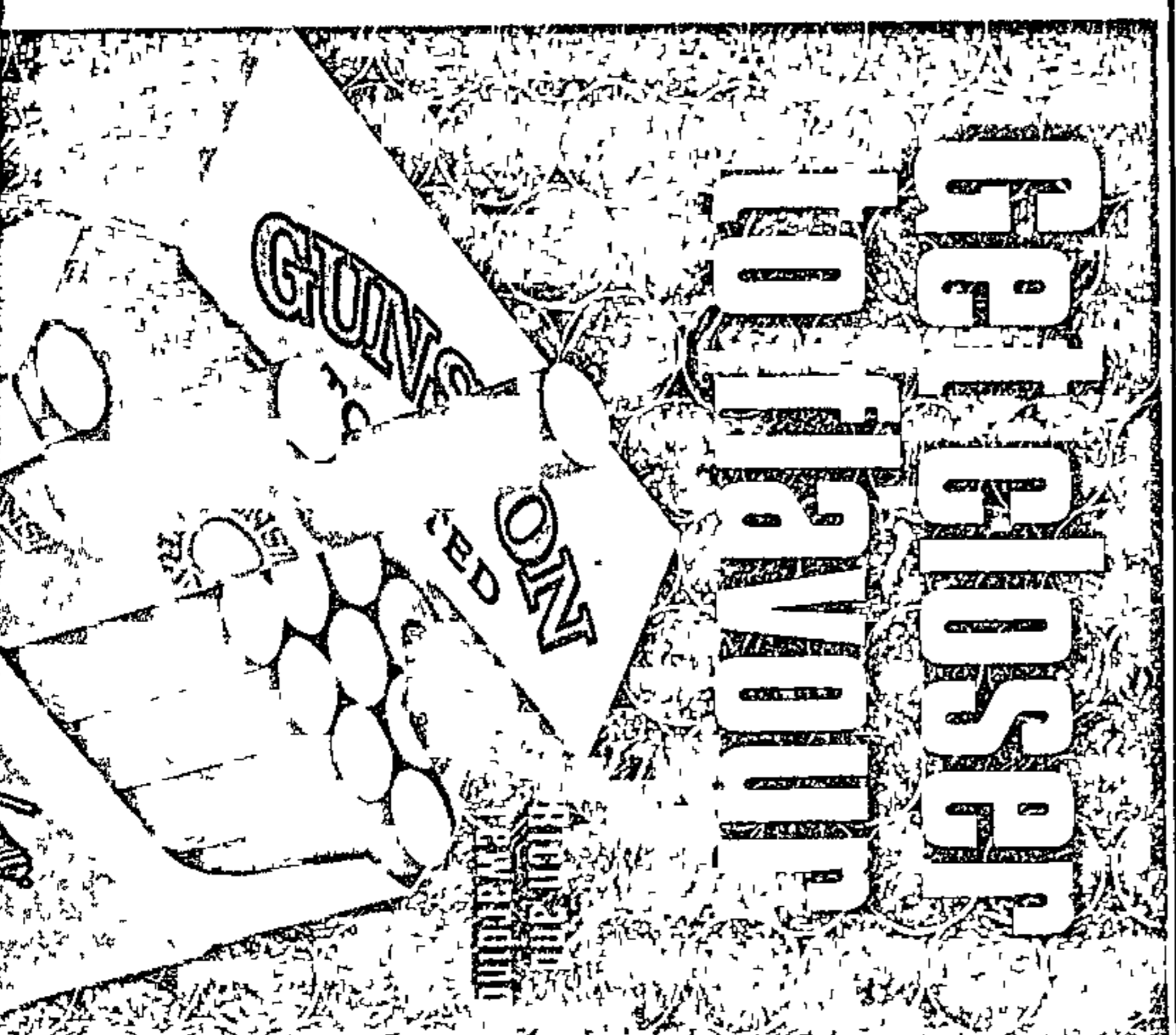
Cyclone leaves one dead, 1 000 homeless

One woman died, up to 100 people were injured, and more than 1 000 are homeless in the wake of the devastating tropical cyclone Firinga which swept over the Indian Ocean islands of Mauritius and Reunion at the weekend.

The woman was killed on Mauritius. She was swept away when she went outside her home to empty a garbage bin.

Seven other people on the island were injured and more than 100 houses damaged as the cyclone struck on Saturday, with winds exceeding 160 km/h.

Yesterday Firinga moved over the French island of Reunion, leaving 60 to 100 people injured.



X Star 30/1/89

Flat services rate envisaged

Soweto plan to abolish home rents

(127)
~~scribble~~

By Stan Hlophe

The Soweto City Council has launched a bold bid to abolish rent and introduce a flat rate for service charges, Mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi announced yesterday

He said the council had approached Eskom, which will now consult a committee of community leaders to find a flat rate for the service charges.

Mr Mkhwanazi was speaking to a crowd of more than 20 000 Sofasonke supporters and Soweto residents at the Jabulani Amphitheatre in Soweto

He said most had already been paid for, and implied that rent should not be levied, and the massive backlog written off

The public meeting, attended by Mr E B Tshabalala, president of Sofasonke, was to report back to residents after a series of discussions the council has had with community leaders, educationists, churchmen, youth leaders and businessmen

Cheering crowd

The mayor told the cheering crowd that Eskom and the committee — which comprises Dr Nthato Motlana, Mr George Negota, an executive member of Black Management Forum, Mr Richard Mponya, Soweto businessmen, and two council executive members — has been given till March to complete its investigations

If the committee's findings are accepted, the mayor said the council would call another public meeting to advise residents what rates to pay for service charges

However, if the findings were rejected, the council would advise residents to pay a flat rate, which would be levied according to the size and age of buildings

For instance, those owning newly-built houses would pay more than those who have been living in houses for more than 35 years

Blueprint to PW

Mr Mkhwanazi said he had also sent his blueprint to President Botha. And he had asked to meet the President

My discussion with all community leaders and educationists have been fruitful, and I am optimistic that soon you will hear the results

With your support, I am positive I will realise my dreams and objectives. The present council is here to eradicate a lot of corruption which was practised by the former council and its officials. With the Sofasonke passport, we took control of the majority of the seats and we will worry the Government a great deal for the rights of our people

He slammed the critics of Sofasonke: "If we are puppets, such a large number of people would not be here today, and many of you would have been kicked out of your homes long ago"

X

Soweto rent solution is 3 months away

127
Sowetan 30/1/87

SOWETO residents have to wait for three months for the solution to end the rent boycott that was promised by the Sofasonke Party during the by-elections.

The announcement was made by the Mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi at the Sofasonke general meeting held in Soweto yesterday. The meeting was attended by over four thousand members from as far as the Vaal Triangle.

"The blueprint to burst the rent boycott has been sent to the relevant bodies including Escom," said Mr Mkhwanazi. "We have been told to wait until April while they test the workability of our plan."

Unemployment

"On taking office Sofasonke promised its members and the residents of Soweto to find a solution to the rent boycott, its causes and to overcome day to day problems like unemployment," he told the meeting.

"We are currently negotiating for an affordable rent and tariff payments. It is also our duty to increase job opportunities for our communities to allow for the payment of tariffs."

Low cost housing project is boosted

By Abel Mabelane

Star 30/1/89

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The Department of Manpower, through the Apex Group Training Centre in Benoni, is to help with the construction of low cost housing for blacks on the East Rand

A spokesman for the centre, Mr Gerhard Sommer, said that his institution would provide labour free of charge to residents who had their own building materials

"In this way, many residents of the black towns who could not afford to build their own houses because of the high cost of labour will get houses cheaper," Mr Sommer said

He said the builders would be recruited and trained in their own areas

Mr Sommer said the building project had started in Daveyton, but progress was slow as some

residents did not have enough building materials

The building in Daveyton followed a request by the town clerk, Mr D J Joubert.

In his appeal to the centre, Mr Joubert said he was submitting names of 23 occupants of stands in Daveyton who were unable to build their own houses and were destined to live in shacks permanently

Mr Joubert said that should the centre regard the list as a feasible project and complete it with success, the council would be prepared to embark on bigger projects

Graffiti is malicious damage

Police probe charge on mob

By Craig Kotze,
Crime Reporter

Police are investigating a charge of malicious damage to property in connection with the CP mob which ran an Indian family out of their Mayfair West home in Johannesburg at the weekend

A spokesman said the charge was linked to racist graffiti written on the Doyle home in St Gothard Street

Those present at the time would be questioned, said a spokesman. No arrests have yet been made

Lodge complaint

Police yesterday also warned members of the public not to take the law into their own hands

Colonel Vic Haynes, commander of the SAP Public Relations directorate

in Pretoria, said any charges laid by Mr Doyle in connection with Sunday's incident would be investigated

The SAP cannot and will not allow anyone to take the law into their own hands. Members of the public who are of the opinion they have legal course for complaint should lodge a complaint with the SAP," said Colonel Haynes

Another police spokesman, Major Dries Jacobs of Johannesburg, said yesterday that police were duty-bound to protect the Doyles if necessary

Police were on Sunday called in to placate angry Mayfair West residents demonstrating against the Doyle family

The Doyles were forced to evacuate the house, bought under the nominee system

Jovial Rantao reports that Actstop, an anti-eviction organisation, said last night that actions similar to those in Mayfair could cause unequalled racial friction

A spokesman said the Government had to stop "white vigilantes" who took the law into their own hands

"The onus is on the Government to stop these white racists," the spokesman said

The spokesman said that under its state of emergency, the Government did not allow progressive organisations to operate, but allowed "white vigilantes" to do what they wished with other people's lives

"We believe people have the right to protect their homes and property. It is also the Government's duty to see to the safety of citizens

"The Doyle family were legitimately and legally renting the premises for occupation and had the right to occupy them," he said

The spokesman added that if the Doyles were occupying the premises illegally, then the CP supporters should have laid a charge and not forcibly moved the people out

The spokesman urged the Doyles not to hesitate in approaching Actstop for assistance

Group areas 'crisis unit'

The Progressive Federal Party caucus in the Johannesburg City Council has formed a committee to deal with group areas problems, the PFP press liaison officer, Mr Hans Strydom, said last night

Anyone with group areas problems can contact the committee through the PFP regional office at (011) 836-9541 — Staff Reporter

New pressure to clarify policy

Govt facing crisis over group areas

Star 31/1/89

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By Peter Fabricius,
Political Correspondent

The Government is facing mounting pressure, even from within its own ranks, to make its stand on group areas clear

The acting State President, Mr Chris Heunis, is expected to respond promptly to a challenge from National Party MP Dr Johann Vilonel by setting out the Government's position when he opens Parliament on Friday

The flutter in Nationalist ranks over the Group Areas Act follows an ugly racial incident in the white suburb of Mayfair West, Johannesburg last weekend when a mob of white residents forcibly prevented an Indian family moving into a house

Dr Vilonel the National Party MP for Langlaagte which includes Mayfair West, challenged the Government yesterday to apply its group areas policy properly or scrap it

Split policy

The Government's stated policy is that some areas should be opened while segregation should be enforced more strictly in the rest.

The Free Settlement of Areas Bill which will enable areas to be opened, has been passed. But the controversial Group Areas Amendment Bill which would have drastically increased penalties for transgressions of the Act has been referred back to the Government by the President's Council

The Group Areas Amendment Bill lapses on Friday

Dr Vilonel said yesterday 'We can't leave the group areas policy hanging in the air as it is now. It's high time we made up our mind about this law

For these people there is a lack of clarity. While I agree they went about it the wrong way it is also true the Indian man was openly breaking the law

This is a very sensitive matter and the Government must give everyone a definite answer on it

'We must find ways of opening areas that must be opened as soon as possible and closing the others. Or, if we can't close them we must tell our people we can't and scrap the Act,' Dr Vilonel said

He said there was some confusion in people's minds between Mayfair West and Mayfair. They were two different areas

Mayfair would never be white again, because so many blacks had moved in

But only seven black families had moved into Mayfair West

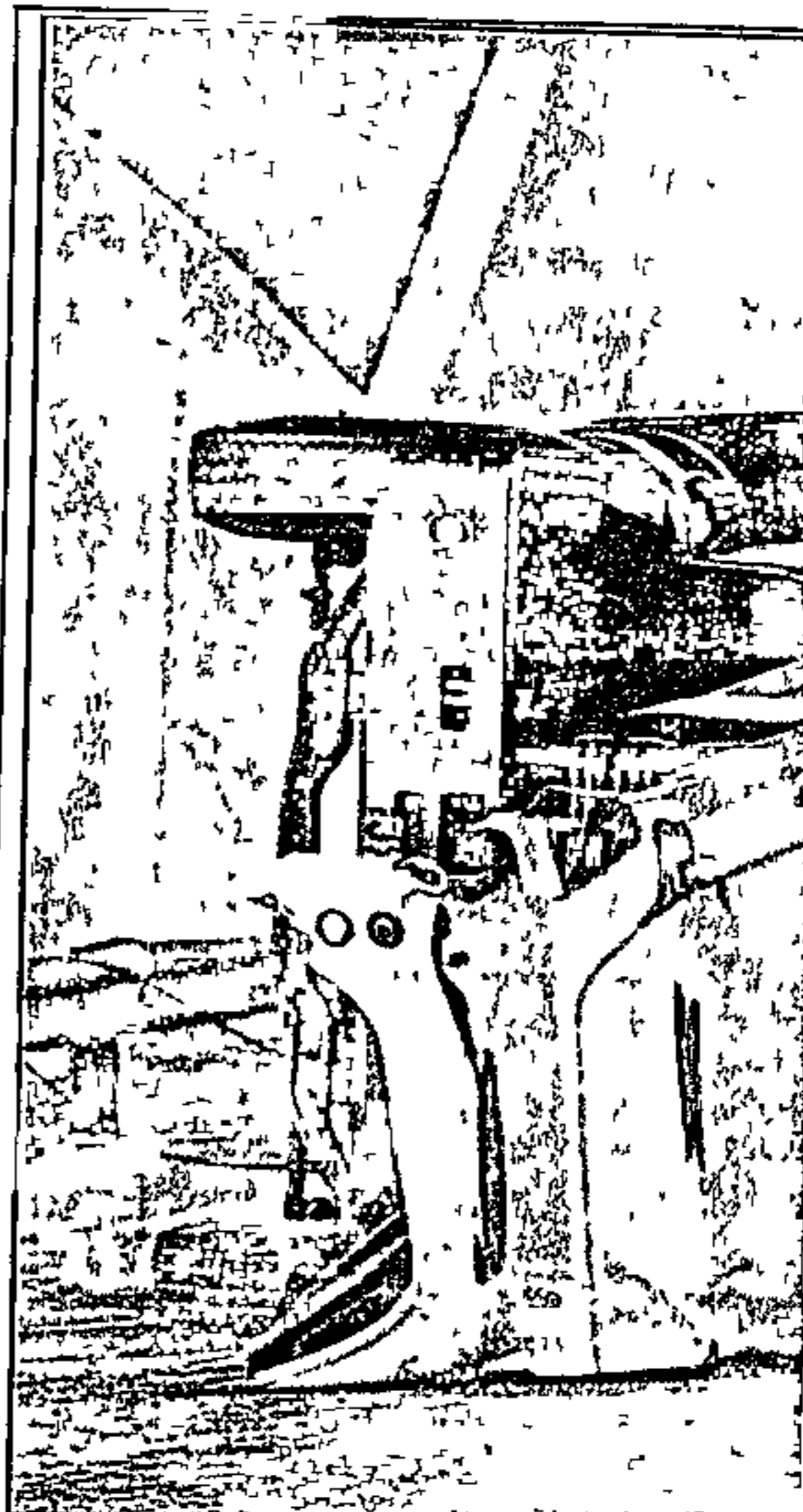
The Conservative Party's Johannesburg chairman Mr Fred Rundle said today that CP supporters did not create racial friction but avoided it by preventing an Indian family from moving into Mayfair West

Mr Rundle said the Doyle family by moving into the house in St Gothard Street, treated the Group Areas Act with contempt

If the Government applies laws selectively this will bring about anarchy

Dr JN Reddy leader of the opposition alliance in the House of Delegates, said Indians did not necessarily want to live next to whites. 'They just don't have any choice'

• See Page 4



Into thin air . . .

Killer's prints taken before he shot doctor

The killer who walked into the Soweto surgery of Dr Abu Baker Asvat and shot him dead, left his fingerprints with the doctor's receptionist minutes before, staff at the surgery have disclosed

According to a nurse at the surgery Mrs Albertina Sisulu, it is standard practice to determine the identities of patients before entering the doctor's consulting room

The security measures were adopted after two unsuccessful attempts were made on the life of Dr Asvat

Mrs Sisulu said the man complied with the measures and had his fingerprints taken because he did not have his identity documents. He had given his name as Mandla, she said

The Divisional Commissioner of the Soweto police, Brigadier J.J. Viktor said 'The SAP are following all possible leads surrounding the death of Dr Asvat. But we are not prepared to reveal or divulge any details concerning the investigation'

• See Page 6

Gold slump hit marginal

The slump in the gold price has seen the continued viability of South African mines

The bullion price was fixed at \$310.50 an ounce in the afternoon, a further decline of \$0.30 in the morning fix, and it opened \$0.81 higher in Hong Kong today

Mr Gary Maude, managing director of Anglo American, said yesterday that any mining loss for three months in succession would consider closing down

He said Gencor's marginals like Bracken were sensitive to small changes but the group's other mines — Umseke and Beatrix among them — were still profitable despite the lower bullion price

PROSPECTS

Mr Maude is 'guardedly optimistic' about the next seven months

Among the country's marginal mines is a potential loss making position in the Rand/gold price (R948 an ounce yesterday) in Durban Deep, South Reef, Cons Modder, ERPM and West Rand

Gold dealers on the JSE said yesterday that the metal's drop below \$400 an ounce was out of all proportion

'Gold shares have eased as a result of no dramatic drops,' said one dealer. 'The market has been tight which is an indication of panic selling'

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Police docket On race clash

127

304

Sowetan 31/1/89

POLICE yesterday opened a docket of malicious damage to property after death threats and AWB slogans were sprayed onto the back windows and a wall of a house in Mayfair West after the Indian purchaser had been chased away from the house

Police yesterday were examining the walls and windows of the house, due to have been occupied by a Mr Doyle, which had been sprayed with matt black paint.

A sign along the back wall of the house, which was moved into and out of yesterday by Mr Doyle after a rightwing group of residents blocked

access to the dwelling, said "coolies f k off"

All the windows at the rear of the house had been painted

The slogans said "Die Boere is hier om to bly (The Boers or Afrikaners are here to stay)," "AWB," and "BBB" (the initials of the banned ultra-rightwing Boere Bevrydings Bewegings) There was also a picture of a man hanging from a

gallows
Police at the scene confirmed that malicious damage to property was being investigated

Neighbours, who refused to give their names for fear of reprisals, said the Doyle's furniture that had been brought Sunday morning and in the early afternoon had been removed from the house by 4pm

CP plans to oust illegals from white areas

Biday 3/1/89

80 127

EDYTH BULBRING

THE successful attempt by CP supporters to prevent an Indian family moving into a Mayfair West home at the weekend was the first of many, Mayfair/Homestead Park CP city councillor Hendrik Claasen said yesterday.

About 90 demonstrators, who hung a noose and CP party election posters in front of the house, physically prevented the Doyle family from moving in at the weekend.

The family bought the house at 11 St Gothard Street through a close corpora-

tion with a white majority shareholder

White residents in Mayfair were "getting itchy" and wanted to get rid of Indian families living in the area. The CP had schemes in the pipeline to "keep Mayfair white", including laying charges against Indian families who were living in the area, Claasen said.

The CP would attempt to "clean up" Mayfair West and Homestead Park before "moving on" to Mayfair.

"The police do not do anything unless there is a complaint. People just have to physically stop them from moving in."

Other actions would include reporting estate agents and landlords who sold or rented houses to Indian families.

An Actstop spokesman said Claasen and his right-wing vigilantes had no right to stop Indians moving in.

Police spokesman Colonel Vic Haynes said the SAP would not allow the public

● To Page 2 →

CP plans to oust illegals from white areas

Biday 3/1/89

← ● From Page 127

to take the law into their own hands. Complaints should be laid with police.

□ Sapa reports that police yesterday opened a docket of malicious damage to property after death threats and AWB slogans were sprayed onto the back windows and a wall of the house.

A sign on the back wall of the house said "Coolies f off", and all the windows at the back were painted over. There was also a picture of a man hanging from a gallows.

The slogans read "Die Boere is hier om te bly" (the Boers, or Afrikaners, are

here to stay), and "AWB" and "BBB" (the initials of the banned ultra-rightwing Boere Bevrydings Beweging).

Doyle — who did not wish to be identified further — told Sapa yesterday he had asked his estate agent to try and sell the house for him.

Constitutional Development and Planning Deputy Minister Roelf Meyer said from Cape Town yesterday he was investigating the incident.

Mayfair West mob 'broke seven laws'

Star
31/1/89
By Tim Cohen

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Members of the "lynch mob" that ran an Indian family out of their Mayfair West, Johannesburg, home on Sunday could be convicted of no less than seven offences in South African law, lawyers said yesterday

Had the family moved into the house, they could have been convicted of an offence in terms of the Group Areas Act, but they were in the process of moving in when they were confronted by the mob, according to legal opinion sought by The Star

The family bought the house through a closed corporation with a white majority shareholder, which is completely legal

Members of the mob could be liable for conviction under the following acts:

- The General Laws Amendment Act for inciting racial hatred
- The Internal Security Act for being part of an illegal outdoor gathering
- The Intimidation Act for hanging a noose from the wall of the house.

Members of the crowd could also be guilty of:

- Malicious damage to property for painting slogans on the house
- Crimen injuria for calling the family "kaffirs"
- Assault for threatening to kill members of the family
- Trespass for being on the property without the permission of the owners

Members of the crowd could be guilty of all these offences, even if they were not involved in, for example, hanging the noose from the wall of the house, in terms of the doctrine of common purpose if they actively associated themselves with the mob.

Star-1/2/89

(127)

MEC praises Soweto for tackling rent problem

Staff Reporter

The Soweto City Council was to be commended for tackling the rent problem, although the proposed abolition of rent would have to be explored before the idea could be judged feasible, said Mr John Mavusa, MEC for housing and community services

Mr Mavusa was reacting to Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi's weekend announcement that the council had launched a bid to abolish rents and introduce a flat rate for service charges

He said at this stage it was not possible to say whether a flat service charge would generate enough money to keep Soweto operating. A committee of prominent community leaders had till March to complete their investigations into the matter

FEASIBLE

Mr Mavusa said all possibilities would have to be explored and this would reveal whether the idea was feasible. He hoped they would be able to come up with a simple rent system which people would understand

It would be impossible to say whether the rent backlog would be written off as this was made up by a number of components including electricity, water, site rent and rent

He said in the past there had been no distinction between people renting houses and paying site rents, a problem which the mayor's proposition might solve

"The council has undertaken a massive task which should have been done long ago and they need support," said Mr Mavusa

Star 1/2/89.

(127)

(127)

Threats follow rental bid to Indian family

Agent may seek police protection

By Jovial Rantao

After being inundated with threatening phone calls from what she believed to be right-wing elements, the estate agent who sold a house to the "Doyle" family in Mayfair West said today that she was well protected but might consider police protection if the calls persisted

An angry Mrs Lee Hassell said she received numerous phone calls yesterday from rude men. One caller was particularly ascerbic

"He told me to sell houses to 'kaffirs' and 'coolies' in my own area, Kensington, and leave 'their' Mayfair alone," Mrs Hassell said. "There are Indian people everywhere, in Hillbrow, Bedfordview, Bez Valley, you name it. I don't understand what all the fuss is about. After all, Mayfair itself is 51 percent Indian."

Mrs Hassell said police have been informed about the calls

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) yesterday called on the Minister of Law and Order, the Commissioner of Police and the Attorney-General of the Transvaal to explain why the "lynch mob" had not been arrested for terrorism or subversion

A statement issued yesterday by the national

director of LHR, Mr Brian Currin, said "Section 54 of the Internal Security Act provides, *inter alia*, that any person who, with the intent to put fear or demoralise the general public, a particular population group or the inhabitants of a particular area, threatens to commit an act of violence, is guilty of terrorism

"If simultaneously such a person causes, encourages or foments feelings of hostility between different population groups or parts of population, that group is guilty of subversion

"Can you imagine what would happen if blacks were to brandish firearms at political rallies? Also the 'lynch mob' in Mayfair West were attending an illegal gathering. Why were they not arrested?"

"Unless racial discrimination is not only eradicated from our statute book but prohibited by law, and unless the absolute equality of rights of all people is entrenched in a Bill of Rights, South Africa will without any doubt be torn apart by racial conflict

"The racists and bigots will exploit laws as long as they remain on the statute book

"Secondly, while only whites have the vote there can never be equality before the law. The Government has no need to placate the black man in the street," said the LHR

Split opinions, but the verkramppte spirit prevails

By KAIZER NYATSUMBA

When Mayfair West made national headlines at the weekend, it was not the first time that the suburb had received media attention. From as early as 1983, white Mayfair residents were living in fear that the area would be declared Indian.

In what could be described as a political yo-yo game, the Government has gone forward and back on its widely rumoured intention to proclaim Mayfair East Indian. In the meantime, however, a lot of Indian families moved into the area, buying houses at exorbitant prices.

In September 1983 The Star reported "Indians buying houses in Mayfair East, which might be rezoned as an Indian area, are prepared to pay more than four times their value."

"Estate agents dealing with Mayfair say prospective Indian buyers have agreed to pay R120 000 for a house valued at R40 000 and R92 000 for a house with the municipal value of only R11 000. Realising the demand for houses, white Mayfair residents are asking exorbitant prices and their demands are being met by Indians eager to own houses in the area."

White Mayfair West

While more and more Indians were moving into Mayfair East, however, the nearby Mayfair West remained white. Then an Indian family tried to move into a house at 11 St Gothard Avenue in Mayfair West on Friday — and an ugly scene developed.

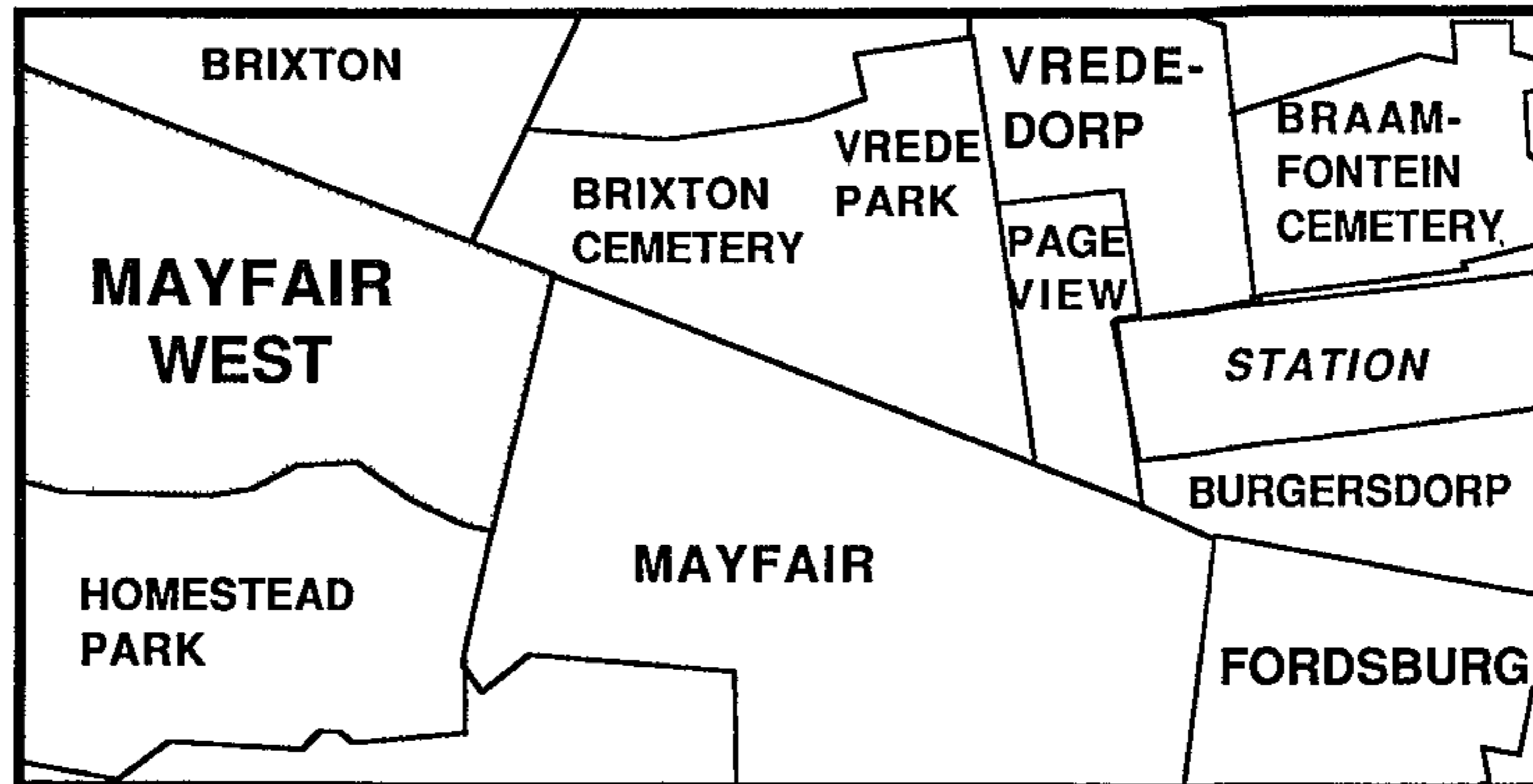
Carrying Conservative Party anti-open areas posters, angry white residents threatened the Indians with violence if they ever tried to move in.

But what does the average person on St Gothard Avenue really feel about the matter? The Star investigated yesterday.

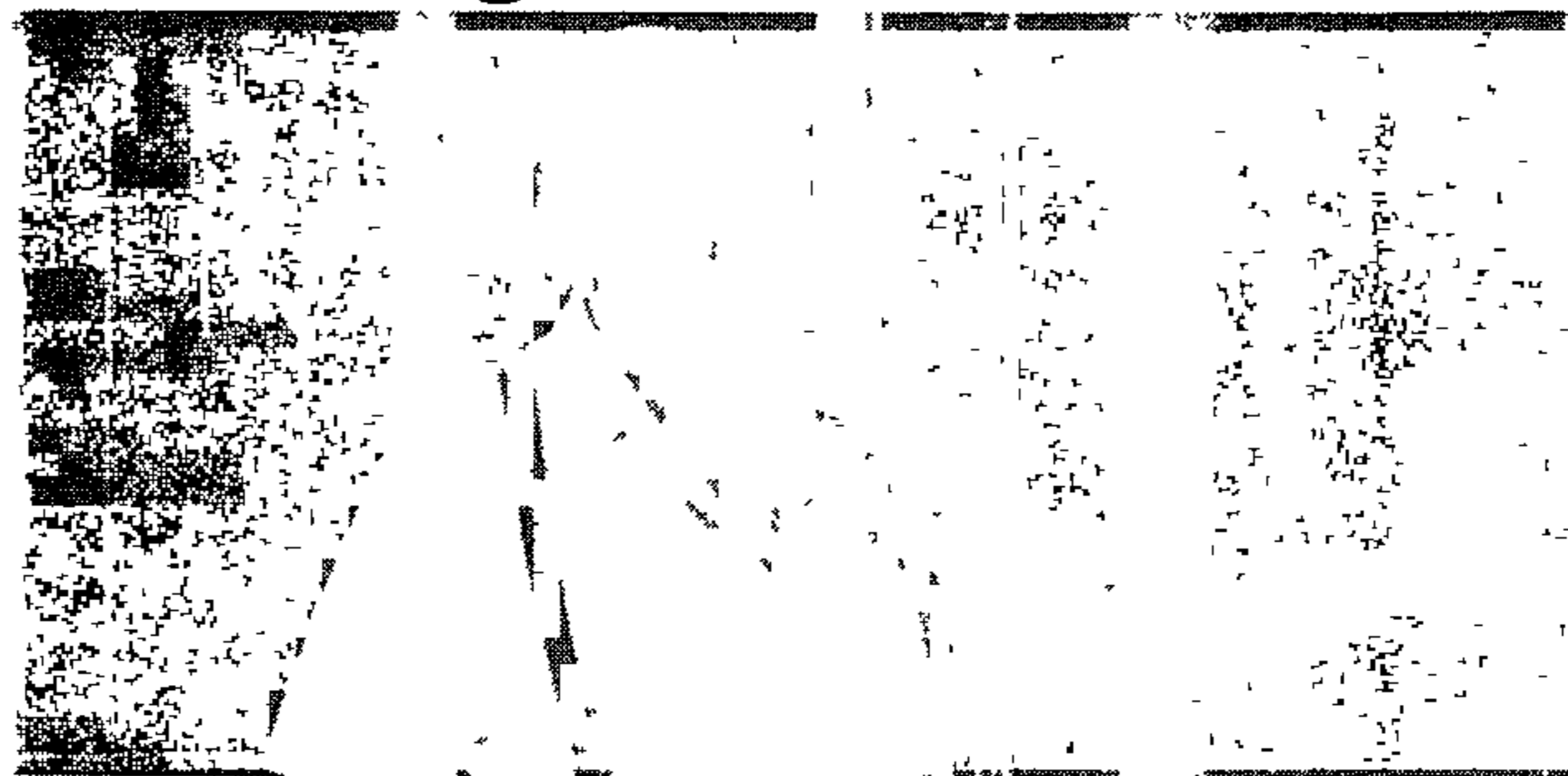
Some refused to speak, but the vast majority of those who did comment — though insisting on anonymity — did not mince their words when they said they wanted the suburb kept white.

"I have no grudge against Indians or people of other races, but I feel that I am happy living here among other white people," said an elderly woman.

"I am very glad that that the weekend incident happened. Those people (the Indian couple)



Mayfair: what do they want?



Mr J Green of St Gothard Street... "They say the Indian couple should go live in an Indian area, but there is a shortage of housing for people of other races in this country."

ple) have a right to live among their people, and so do we. I was born and bred in this vicinity, and I have no intention of moving out now to make way for people of other races," she said.

A babysitter by profession, she said she once looked after the child of the neighbour who sold the house to the Indian couple.

"They were very nice neighbours. We were not the best of buddies, but we did greet each other whenever we met. In December they told us they had found a buyer for the house. It came as a shock to me last week to learn that the house had been sold to an Indian couple."

Mr J Green, who said he had lived in the area for more than

35 years until his retirement, said he did not mind who his neighbour was, as long as that person measured up to his standards.

"As far as I am concerned it does not matter who my neighbour is. I get on well with people of all races — after all I used to work with them as a taxi driver and as a salesman — and I treat them like I treat

everybody else, because they are all human beings."

"My white neighbours say the Indian couple should go and live in an Indian area, but there is a tremendous shortage of housing for people of other races in the country. Now where should they live?"

Rand Afrikaans University students Miss Yulandi Cadle and Mr Corne Badenhorst, who share a house with three other RAU students, said all people were equal and could live together amicably.

"I think the whole thing on Saturday was pathetic. They should not have gone to that extent. Anybody can stay next to me as long as they are decent and meet my standards," said Miss Cadle, a second year B Comm student.

"Everybody has rights, regardless of their race. I believe that people can and should live wherever they want to live, as long as nobody troubles me and I do not trouble them," said Mr Badenhorst, also a second year B Comm student.

Incident a disgrace

The mood at Mayfair East was quite different. Indian home-owners interviewed said what happened at the weekend at Mayfair West was a disgrace and an affront to their human dignity.

"What happened there was an affront not only to black people in this country, but to all decent and right-thinking South Africans. Things like that should never be allowed to happen," said one man who asked not to be named.

Mrs R Rajah said "I also couldn't care less who lives next door to me as long as they are decent people and I have my privacy and they have theirs."

"The Mayfair West spectacle was terrible. Apparently the people there are very nasty people who want to live alone. I have not come across anything like that here."

Mrs Rajah's white neighbour, Mrs C J van Vuuren, said "I wouldn't like to hurt other people. It does not matter to me who lives next door. My two Indian neighbours are very nice people and I get along well with them."

Another white woman interviewed said she felt "the same as the white people in Mayfair" and told The Star to "go to hell".

A few whites living in Mayfair East refused to talk to The Star.

State quizzed on 'mob'

By THEMBA MOLEFE

LAWYERS for Human Rights yesterday called upon the Minister of Law and Order, the Commissioner of Police and the Attorney-General of the Transvaal to explain why the "lynch mob" which ran an Indian family out of their new house in Mayfair have not been arrested for terrorism and subversion

The organisation was reacting to the Sunday incident in which white residents of Mayfair West forcibly prevented the Doyle family from moving into the house

In a statement issued by the national director of the LHR Mr Brian Currin the organisation said Section 54 of the Internal Security Act provides *inter alia* that any person who with the intent to put fear or demoralise the general public a particular population group or the inhabitants of a particular area threatens to commit an act of violence is guilty of terrorism

GUILTY

If simultaneously such a person causes encourages or foments feelings of hostility between different population groups or parts of population groups that person is guilty of subversion

Can you imagine what would happen if blacks were to brandish firearms at political rallies Also the lynch mob in Mayfair West were attending an unlawful gathering Why were they not arrested?

"Unless racial discrimination is not only eradicated from our Statute Books but prohibited by law and unless the absolute equality of rights of all people is entrenched in a Bill of Rights South Africa will without any doubt be torn apart by racial conflict

VOTE

"The racists and bigots will exploit laws as long as they remain on the Statute Books Secondly while only whites have the vote there can never be equality before the law The Government has no need to placate the

Beer

black man in the street,' said the LHR

The Black Sash said "We respond with disgust to the racial climate that exists in this country

"The National Party policy of discrimination is a breeding ground of fear, hate and suspicion which is growing daily in the white population against people of other colours

"The fear is stimulated by the Government-

controlled media and until apartheid is scrapped and South Africans get on and live their lives together in a normal society this type of reaction will only intensify the Black Sash said

• The South African Police Directorate for Public Relations in Pretoria said investigations into the incident were continuing and no arrests had been made

• See page 6

Victim 'kicked, dragged'

A MAMELODI resident who was allegedly killed by a white policeman on the day of the 1985 shootings was also kicked and dragged along a concrete driveway before he was thrown into a police vehicle, an inquest magistrate heard yesterday

This was said by two women who saw a policeman shoot at Mr Jerry Ngwatle inside the yard of a Section O home on November 21, 1985 The women were testifying before Mr J N Pretorius during an inquest into the shootings

Both witnesses, Mrs Maria Malebelo Sibanyoni and Mrs Agnes Madiseng, said the man was shot at as he and

other youths were running away shortly after they were approached by an armed policeman They said as the youths were running in different directions, the policeman opened fire and Mr Ngwatle was struck by a bullet

According to Mrs Sibanyoni, Mr Ngwatle had done nothing to provoke the policeman's action She also said he did not carry a petrol bomb as was stated earlier by two policemen

Mrs Sibanyoni said she was one of the people who marched to the administrative offices earlier on that day

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not been intended as a threat against SA but had been a statement of what might happen

lem of a shortage of schools in Ciskei "This has nothing to do with education"

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NP call to enforce or kill Group Areas Act

1/2/89
LANGLAAGTE NP MP Johan Vilonel is urging government to declare Johannesburg's Mayfair district an officially mixed area but wants adjoining areas to remain white

Right-wing protesters evoked a storm of protest at the weekend after they prevented an Indian family from moving into a house in Mayfair West

Vilonel yesterday appealed to government to apply the Group Areas Act properly or scrap it

Johannesburg City Council manage-

PETER DELMAR

ment committee chairman Dame van Zyl said it was time government clarified its position on the Act

Vilonel said he believed Mayfair must be opened immediately Uncertainty about the Act was playing into the CP's hands

Vilonel denounced "in the strongest terms" Sunday's protest in which the house was daubed with right-wing slogans and a noose warned the Indian family to keep out

He also criticised the family for trying to move into a *de jure* white area

EDYTH BULBRING reports a PFP motion in the Johannesburg City Council last night, aimed at censuring the CP and councillor Hendrik Claasen, for his involvement in the Mayfair incident, was quashed after Deputy Mayor Koos Roets ruled it was not urgent

PFP council leader Tony Leon further proposed the council should strongly dissociate itself from such activities

● See Pages 2 and 6

By Jovial Rantao

After being inundated with threatening phone calls from what she believed to be right-wing elements, the estate agent who sold a house to the "Doyle" family in Mayfair West said yesterday she was well protected but might consider police protection if calls persisted

An angry Mrs Lee Hassell said she had received numerous phone calls from rude men. One caller was particularly ascerbic

"He told me to sell houses to 'kaffirs' and 'coolies' in my own area, Kensington, and leave 'their' Mayfair alone," Mrs Hassell said. "There are Indian people everywhere, in Hillbrow, Bed-

Estate agent reacts to rude phone calls

Star 2/14/89

127

fordview, Bez Valley, you name it. I don't understand what all the fuss is about. After all, Mayfair itself is 51 percent Indian."

Mrs Hassell said police had been informed about the calls

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) on Tuesday called on the Minister of Law and Order, the Commissioner of Police and the Attorney-General of the Transvaal to explain why the "lynch mob" had

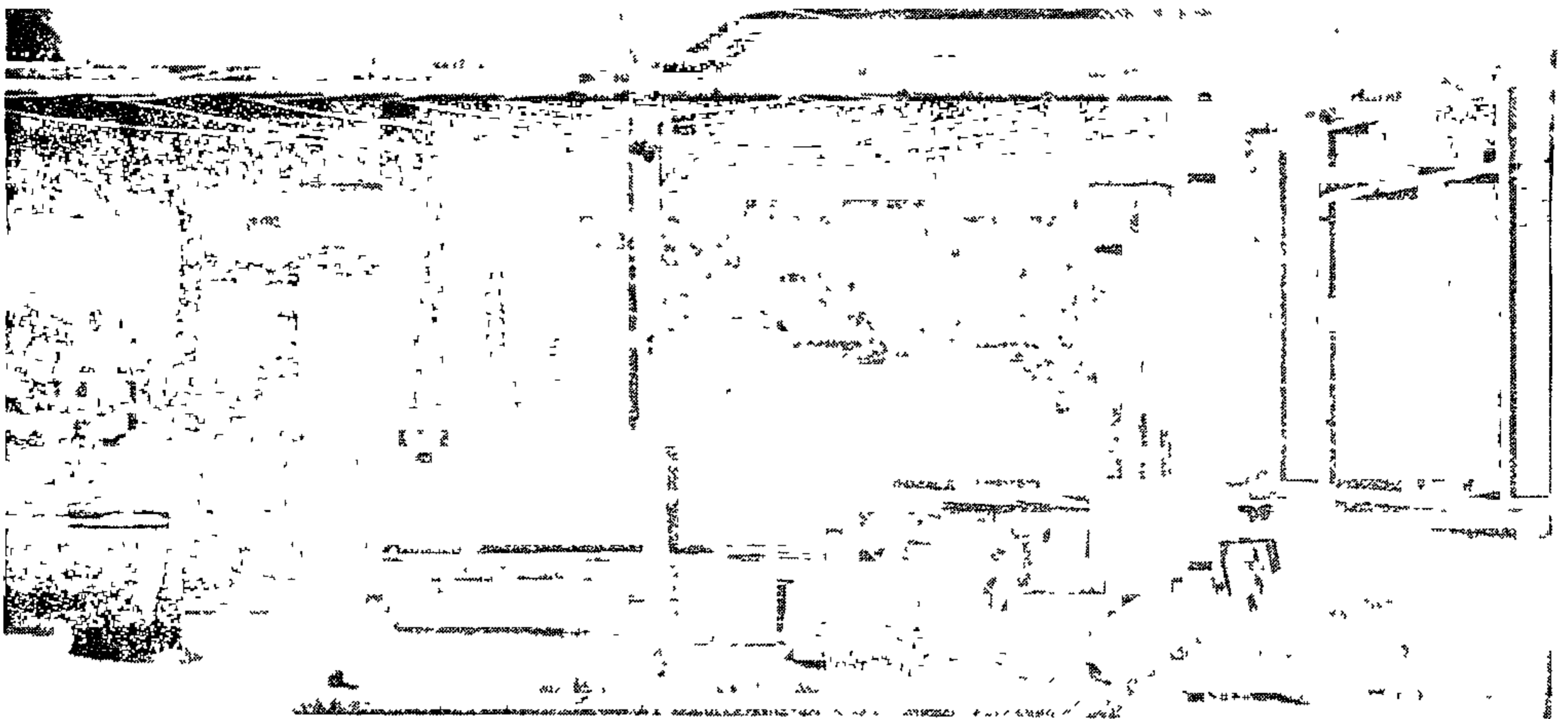
not been arrested for terrorism or subversion

A statement by the national director of LHR, Mr Brian Currin, said "Section 54 of the Internal Security Act provides, *inter alia*, that any person who, with the intent to put fear or demoralise the general public, a particular population group or the inhabitants of a particular area, threatens to commit an act of violence, is guilty of terrorism

"If simultaneously such a person causes, encourages or foments feelings of hostility between different population groups or parts of population, that group is guilty of subversion

"Can you imagine what would happen if blacks were to brandish firearms at political rallies? Also the 'lynch mob' in Mayfair West were attending an illegal gathering. Why were they not arrested?"

"Unless racial discrimination is not only eradicated from our statute book but prohibited by law, and unless the absolute equality of rights of all people is entrenched in a Bill of Rights, South Africa will without any doubt be torn apart by racial conflict," he said



BIGOTRY: Right-wing slogans daubed on the house which the "Doyle" family was to have occupied.

It's big, bigger bigot out West

Star 4/2/89

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BIG, bigger, bigot — that's the way superlatives seem to run in Mayfair West.

This emerged from a survey of the suburb conducted by Saturday Star this week, after the weekend incident in which right-wing extremists prevented an Indian busi-

SUE VALENTINE

nessman from taking up residence in a house in St Gothard Street he had contracted to rent from a corporation

The ultra-rightists, complete with Conservative Party posters and an imitation hangman's

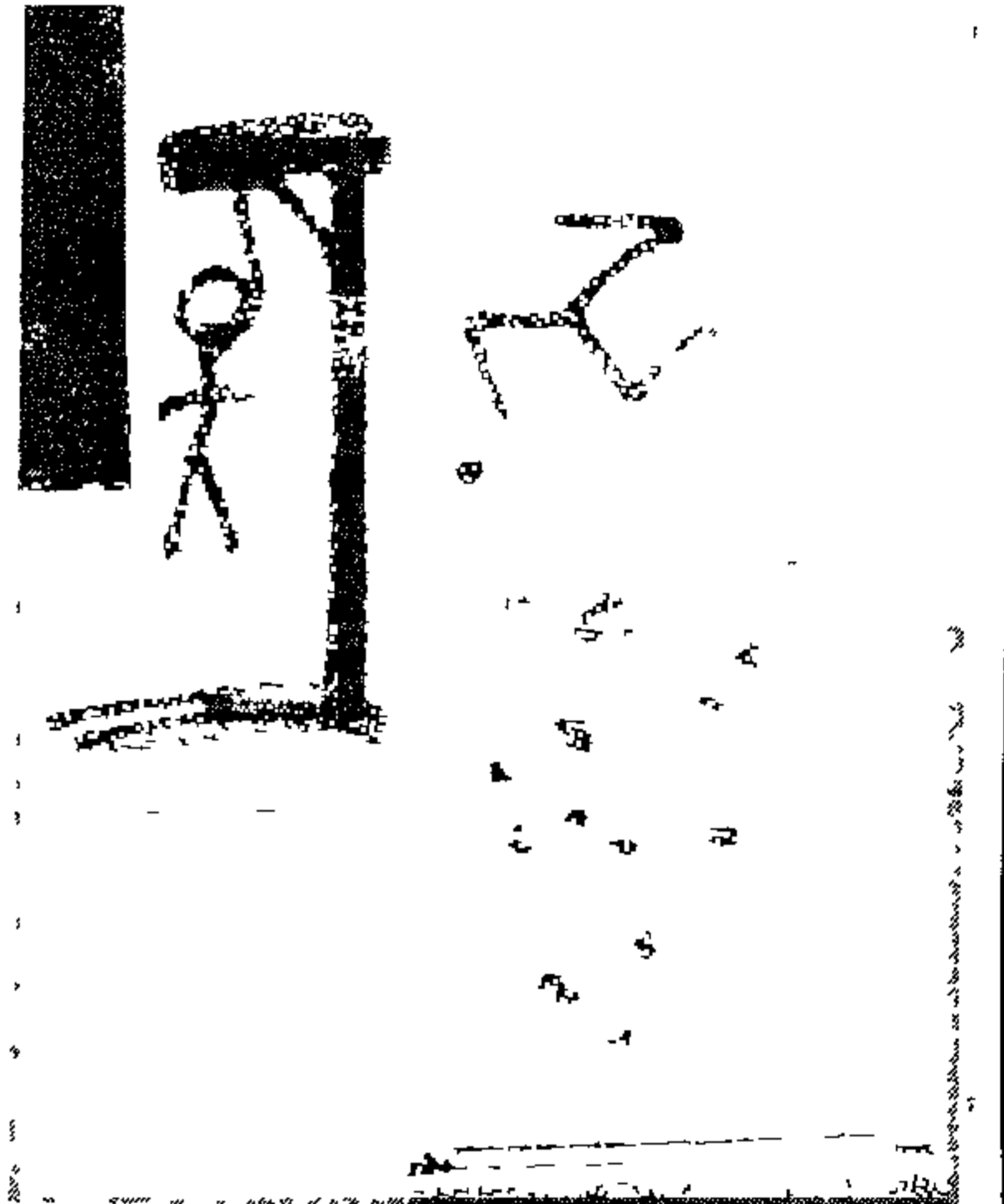
noose, threatened violence when the Indian, identified only as a "Mr Doyle" tried to move in with his family

White residents of Mayfair West answered questions put by Saturday Star, but refused to be identified

"I'm not used to mixed living," said one elderly resident who has lived in the suburb for 40 years "I wouldn't like it if they moved in here property values would go down.

"The estate agents are to blame for the incident, they know it's not right. This is not a grey area. The Indian took a chance, the same way you or I would. I feel sorry for them.

"Yes, I do shop at the Oriental Plaza. I love shopping there They are very friendly and they



THREATS: Spray-painted symbols of a "lynchmob" — an AWB emblem and the noose.

help you. Recently I took some friends who were out from England and they just loved it.

"But somehow the idea of them living here just doesn't feel right I'm a widower, where would I move to if they came here?"

Another resident of St Gothard Street said she had nothing against Indians and she, like many residents in the area, supported Indian business at the Plaza.

"I'm a housewife, I've never had Indians living next door to me. I have to obey the law and the law says they may not live here.

"We support their business, but they have their own residential areas. The whole thing is the estate agent's fault, I feel sorry for the Indians."

An elderly man who shares a house with his daughter and son-in-law said he had moved to Mayfair West from May-

fair because so many Indians had moved into that area.

Another resident of St Gothard Street who has lived there 22 years seemed unable to explain her antagonism to the idea of Indian neighbours.

"I just don't like it," she said. "Lenasia is for them. I feel sorry for the (white) senior citizens living in Mayfair, they can't afford to move out."

● From the other side of the fence, the Transvaal Indian Congress condemned the removal and promised full support for the displaced family, writes Sally Sealey.

Publicity secretary of the TIC, Mr Firoz Cachalia, said it was the Government's insistence on keeping the Group Areas Act on the statute books which gave extreme right-wingers "the excuse and the licence to intimidate others"

Black tenants win evictions court victory

Chen 5/2/89

By HAPPY ZONDI

TENANTS at three blocks of flats in central Johannesburg this week won their case against a landlord who threatened them with eviction

The flats, which belong to J Farber, are Claridges, Waldorf Heights and Fabian Court

The Rand Supreme Court dismissed Farber's case

Following the decision, Actstop general secretary Cas Coovadia said, "This means the tenants threatened with evictions in these buildings have been proved correct in their claim that Farber acted illegally"

Another evictions case, involving residents of Ritz Plaza flats will be heard in

the Rand Supreme Court in two weeks. The evictions have been suspended till then

Actstop also condemned "in the strongest terms" the attack on an Indian family by white right-wing vigilantes in Mayfair-West last week.

"The Group Areas Act breeds racism and racial friction

"Right-wing vigilantes feel they are protected by it and thus have a licence to take the law into their hands"

Actstop also called on all the people to move into any "so-called white area"

Coovadia said "Move in. We will turn out in our hundreds to give you protection"

He said Actstop was "utterly disturbed" by a statement made by the Conservative Party representative for Mayfair-West, Hendrick Claasen, that what had taken place was only the beginning of a process to rid the area of Indians.

Coovadia said his organisation would ensure that the police keep the peace when black families move into white areas.

He added that Actstop would ask the Attorney-General to bring to justice those responsible for the Mayfair incident

30wctem 12/2/81

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THE opposition Dobsonville People's Party was yesterday given a mandate by residents to meet the local town council to voice their grievances which include the scrapping of the proposed rent increases

At a report-back meeting attended by more than 3 000 people at the local stadium, the party's representatives told the residents that they failed to meet the council executive last week because a quorum was not formed

DPP's chairman, Mr Vincent Thusi, said another meeting has been arranged to meet the council's town clerk, Mr

M Conn and council's executive on Wednesday at 8 30am

The residents complaints, which are in a petition, include rent, service charges and arrears, water and electricity accounts, crediting of payment not reflected on accounts and monthly debits not changed regarding purchased houses

Mr Thusi said the party has temporarily stopped the proposed rental hikes, which were to be effected from February 1

He said the rents were to be increased by almost 14 percent for all houses

Star 6/2/89

Scrapping of Act the only solution

Actstop sceptical over **backdown**

By Sally Sealey

The Government's announcement last week of a major new approach to group areas has met with scepticism from the anti-Group Areas Act organisation, Actstop

Mr Cas Coovadia, a member of Actstop's publicity secretariat, said the only answer to South Africa's housing crisis was to scrap the Group Areas Act

He said the Government's decision to drop the tough Group Areas Amendment Bill was not a result of pressure from the Labour Party or the House of Delegates but rather its growing realisation that it would be impossible to implement

"The Government has accept-

ed the fact that there are thousands of black people living in so-called white areas and that nothing can be done to reverse this trend"

Mr Coovadia said the decision by Acting President Mr Chris Heunis to appoint a chairman for the Free Settlement Areas Board which will decide on opening areas to all races, was "doomed"

Slum conditions

"We are on record as saying that open areas will exacerbate the situation. It will cause an influx of people who are seeking houses into these areas. It will lead to overcrowding and slum

conditions"

As far as the Government's decision to build more houses for people of colour was concerned, Actstop welcomed any moves to create housing that would go some way towards relieving the housing crisis

Mr Coovadia added "Actstop noted the Government's recent warnings to right-wing organisations but would like to point out that when it comes to dealing with organisations left of the political spectrum, the full force of the law is used against them

"We would like to point out to the Government that legislation does exist to curb these right-wing vigilantes. The time for warnings has come to an end"

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Windmill Park

waits for the axe

127
Star 2/2/89

Within the tiny suburb of Windmill Park, Boksburg, all the problems of a racially divided society have become manifest. The 42 families in residence — 21 Indian and 21 white — are uncertain as to their future. They all have different solutions to the problem, but they do have one thing in common — none is happy with the status quo. **DAWN BARKHUIZEN** reports

The weeds in Windmill Park are a metre high. They are the only evidence of growth in the Boksburg suburb since racial zoning became an issue two years ago.

Today, 418 of the suburb's 460 plots stand vacant. Little effort has gone into establishing gardens around 42 lonely houses as residents — both Indian and white — wait for the axe to fall.

Within the boundaries of the "white controlled" suburb, all the conflicts surrounding South Africa's racial divisions have become manifest.

Half the residents are white and half Indian — and, for a variety of reasons, nobody is happy.

The Conservative Party dominated City Council has vowed to move the 21 Indian families out.

Local city councillor Mr Pieter Strydom yesterday was emphatic about the fact that "Windmill Park is a white residential area and we want the Indians out".

The area which is a "white controlled area" required Indian occupants to have permits, he said.

None of the Indians has permits so by law we can take them out, and we will, because we keep getting complaints from the whites living there.

"We will replace the Indians and send them somewhere else. They can go back to where they came from or to a nice new area which should be ready within the next year."

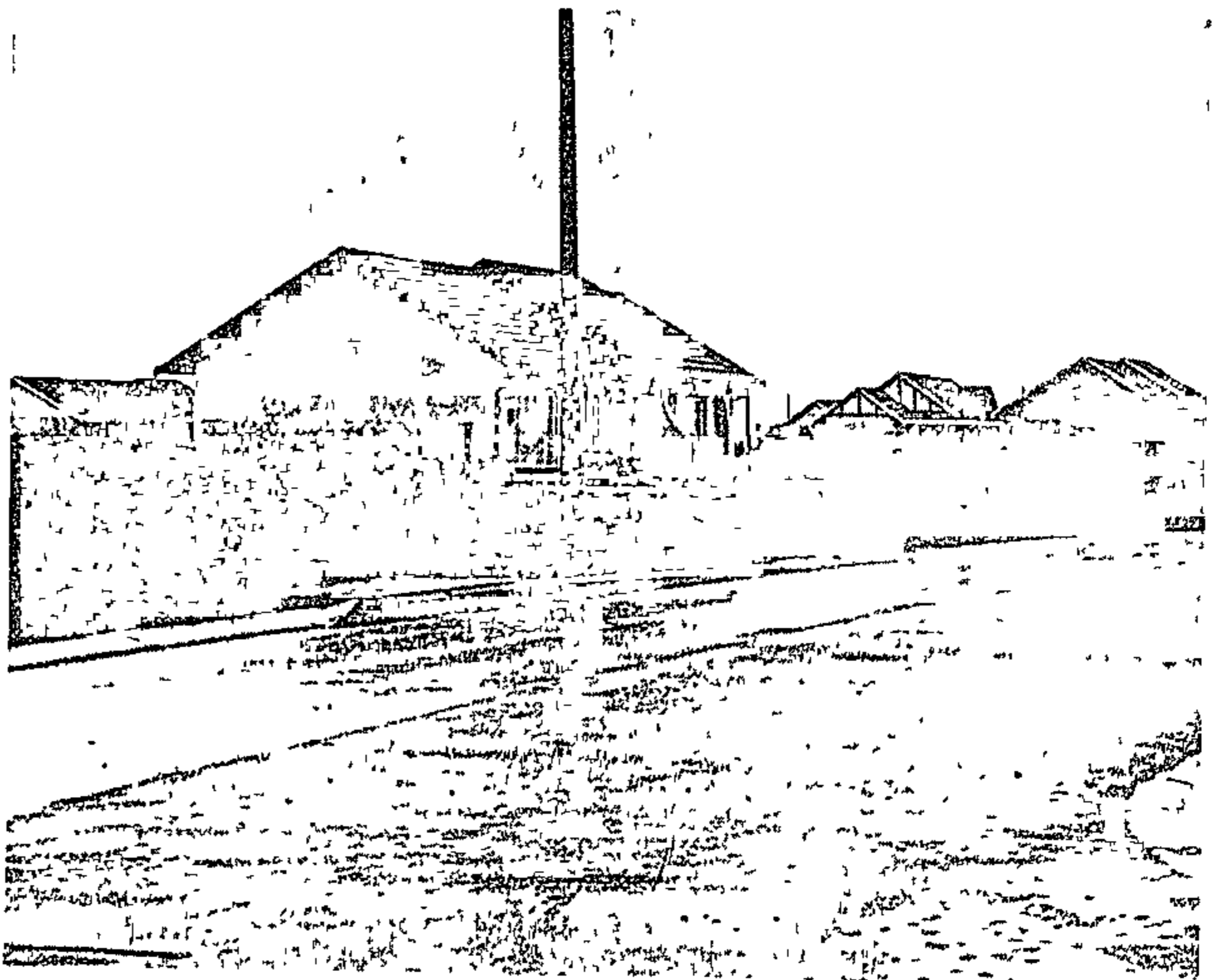
For the Indian residents, a return to their overcrowded flats in Actonville would be tantamount to a prison sentence.

Businessman Mr Billy Pillay moved to Windmill Park in July last year. He had been told that the area was likely to be proclaimed Indian within a month. Now he pays R900 a month for a compact three-bedroomed house which he is hoping to buy.

Apart from the man who once told him to get off his front lawn, Mr Pillay has a happy "neighbourly" relationship with the white residents.

"I was stuck in a tiny council flat with four kids. It was hell, the area was getting overcrowded and industrialised. Here our rent is exorbitant, but in terms of living conditions, my family has never been so happy," he said.

He added that the Indians in Windmill Park had little alternative accommodation.



Empty stands with weeds one metre high surround 42 lonely houses in the suburb of Windmill Park on the outskirts of Boksburg.

"There is a terrific housing shortage — people wait for three years to get a crummy, tiny flat. Anyway, why should we go? Before we moved here the houses were standing empty."

Neighbour Mr Danny Perumal agrees. "Our kids all play together in the afternoons, some of the white kids go to church with us, everybody is very friendly."

He is adamant that the 'elite' Indian residents are not there illegally.

"We have applied for our permits, but we haven't had a response. They haven't turned our permits down so they can't kick us out."

"None of the Indians here has ever had a house before. We've never been so happy."

Their closest neighbour is former Zimbabwean, Mrs Merle de Wet, who says she has made good friends with some of her Indian neighbours and has decided to stay in the area "no matter what".

"Before the Indian families moved here my kids had nobody to play with. Now they have some lovely little friends."

Mrs de Wet, who bought her home five years ago, says she has no objection to the proclamation of a "grey area".

"I just wish the authorities would make a final decision. Everyone is so unsettled."

"I don't feel at all threatened by my Asian neighbours. Why should I? I just hope the authorities don't move them out — those poor people have been shunted around for so long."

Her sentiments were echoed by another neighbour who moved to the suburb 30 months ago.

He said "I feel sorry for those Indians and don't mind living among them at all. I just wish the authorities would declare it a grey area and then get on and develop it."

Another white resident, Mrs F W Botha, is strongly opposed to Indians living in the suburb.

"We want to stay and we want a white group area. Look, the Indians are very quiet, but it is, you know, just the fact that they are here."

"We have complained and called the police. They say they are investigating so we will just have to see what happens."

Neither does Mr Casper Labuschagne, assistant chairman of the Homeowners Association, want to live among the Indians. He wants out.

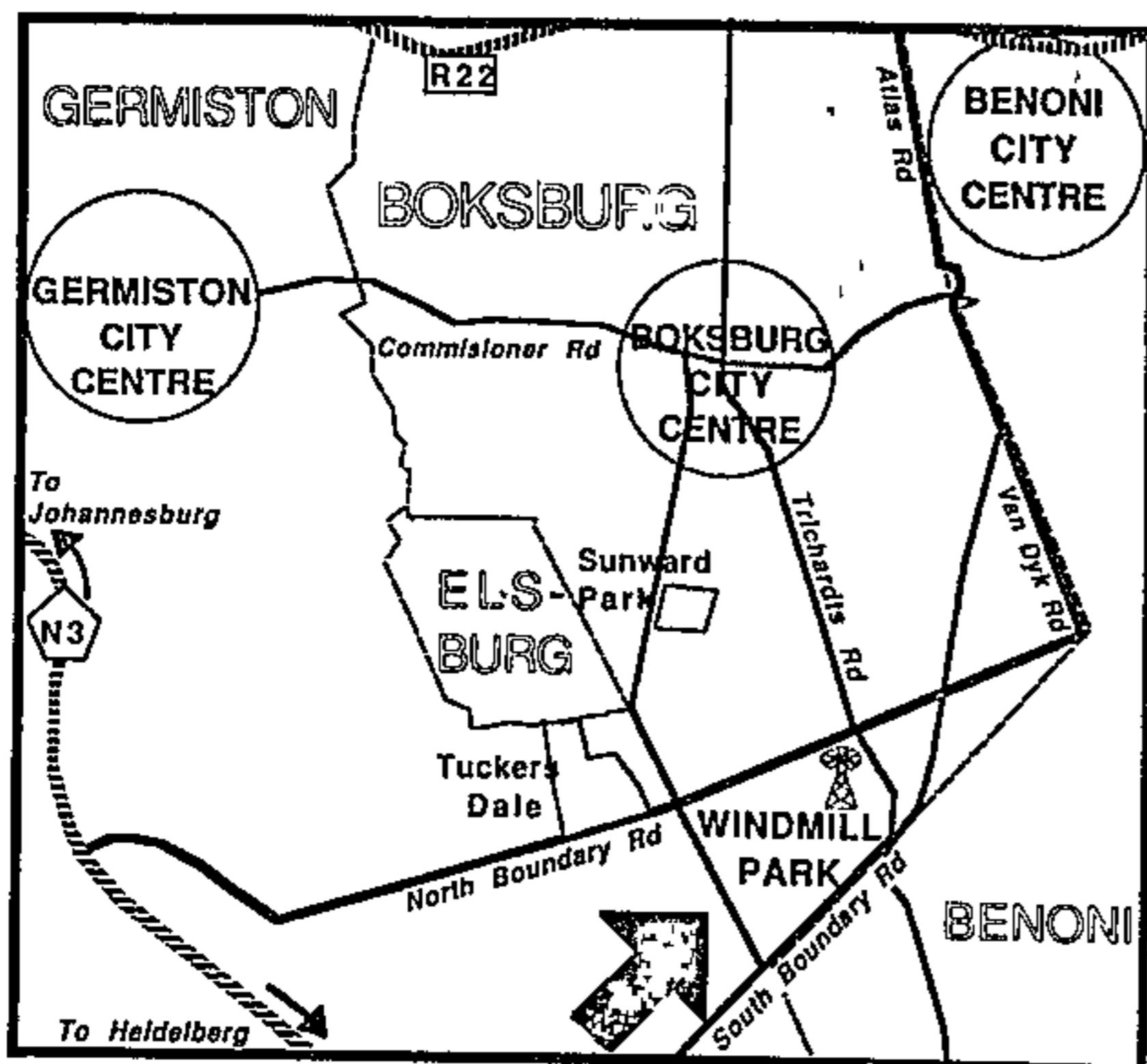
"But I can't get out. Whites don't want to buy here. We are not allowed to sell to Indians. The building society won't give me a second bond that will allow me to buy elsewhere. I'm stuck — and I speak for most of the folk here."

"There has been no development, there are no shops, no recreational facilities and there are hundreds of Indians wanting to buy homes here."

Developer Mr 'Mannetjies' Ford is eager to have the area declared an Indian group area.

"I have bought up all the land around here, have hundreds of potential buyers, but cannot develop further until there is some certainty. I am losing an enormous amount of money. If they would hurry up and proclaim it we will all be happy."

According to Mr Ford the area is zoned for whites but allows Indians in possession of a permit to reside.



**Half
are
white,
half are
Indian
— and
nobody
is happy**

Star 8/2/89

(127)

Hillbrow image puts people off mixed areas — Meyer

Group Areas 'cannot be adequately applied'

CAPE TOWN — The unsavoury image of Hillbrow made mixed residential areas unacceptable to many people and led to emotional reactions, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Roelf Meyer, said in Parliament yesterday

But it had to be accepted that the Group Areas Act could not be adequately applied "The non-application of the Act leads to reactions with some people who then want to take the law into their own hands," he said

Others asked whether the Act could not be scrapped

But mixed living had led to over-occupation, as in Hillbrow

"The current perception, unfortunately, is that if that is how mixed conditions look, then it's unacceptable," Mr Meyer said

The reality of the situation had to be faced to try to find solutions

For instance, in the recent "Doyle" case, alternative accommodation in the adjoining black area of Mayfair could be

offered

● Former Hillbrow MP Mr Alf Widman, said today that Hillbrow would probably disappear as a constituency in the next parliamentary delimitation because the multiracial flatland was "a huge embarrassment" to the Government

Mr Widman, who was the Progressive Federal Party's MP for the area for 10 years, suffered a shock defeat against the National Party's Mr Leon de Beer in the 1987 general election

Mr de Beer was subsequently found guilty of electoral fraud and was expelled from the NP and Parliament

Mr Widman did not expect a by-election to be held after Mr de Beer's expulsion

"In fact, I don't think an election will ever be held in Hillbrow again. The constituency will simply disappear."

He said Hillbrow would probably be split up between the Parktown, Yeoville and Jeppe constituencies

Asked whether he would consider standing for Parliament again, he said "I will cross that bridge when I come to it"

Political Reporter and Sapa

Record housing target set

Sunday 9/12/89
PRETORIA — Government aims to sell a record 50 000 township houses this year — about 25% of remaining housing stock, said Transvaal Provincial Administration assistant director of housing Alex Weiss

He said by the end of December, approximately 100 100 of the original stock of 333 907 houses from five years ago had been sold

A countrywide balance of 233 082 was left

Weiss said with government prepared to build houses only for the very poor, a big responsibility fell on the private sector to help their work-

(127)
ers become home-owners.

He added an increasing number of big private corporations and companies were helping

In the Transvaal 72 139 of an available total of 233 968 houses had been sold by the end of December

MEC in charge of community development and housing John Mavuso said with the expansion of house sales, a social revolution was in progress in the townships, contributing to the economic upliftment of the black community

GERALD REILLY

Hillbrow image

'not deserved'

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

STW
9/12/89

Hillbrow's bad reputation was not deserved and was a matter of public perception rather than the reality of racially mixed living, Mr Cliff Garrun, Progressive Federal Party city councillor for Ward 31 (Pullinger Kop), said yesterday

"Hillbrow has become the scapegoat for diehard segregationists. But the truth is there are no gangs such as the all-white thug groups that existed here and in Mayfair when they were segregated suburbs," he said

Mr Garrun was reacting to comments by the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Roelf Meyer, that the suburb's unsavoury image had made desegregated residential areas unacceptable to many people and had led to emotional reactions

Mr Meyer said mixed living had led to over-occupation, as in Hillbrow, and the current perception was that if that was the face of mixed conditions then it was unacceptable

Mr Garrun countered "There is a bit of overcrowding but compared to any major world city the situation here is acceptable for a suburb going through a social transformation"

He said the Conservative Party had used the situation in Hillbrow for its own ends and that it would take a major public relations exercise to clear up misconceptions people had about the area.

Wheels in motion for 'white' Windmill Park

9/2/89 By Dawn Barkhuizen (127)

The Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg Town Council has set the wheels in motion to have racially divided Windmill Park declared white.

Acting town clerk Mr Koot Maré yesterday said an application had been lodged with the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning to have the "controlled" area zoned for whites only.

He said the council was acting in the best interests of the residents to "put a stop to all the lies and false publicity surrounding the area, stop certain estate agents from abusing the uncertainty and get a move on with development".

Indian residents — who occupy 21 of the 42 houses in the suburb — were living there illegally and their position would be reconsidered following a decision by the state.

He said people of colour were required to be in possession of permits prior to moving to the area and "could not expect to perform an illegal act and then have it condoned by applying for a permit later".

PROSECUTE estate agents? Hire Ellis Park first ...

CONSERVATIVE and National Party supporters who want to re-segregate formerly all-white areas which have become "mixed" may find that they have to prosecute every major South African estate agency for violating the Group Areas Act

Johannesburg CP councillor HJ Claasen threatened last week to take estate agent Lee Hassell to the Estate Agents Board for selling a home in "white" Mayfair West to Indians

The purchasers were the Dayal family, called "Doyle" in some press reports because the police incorrectly noted the name. An armed lynch-mob prevented them from moving into the house

"I am waiting for Mr Claasen's complaint with pleasure," said Hassell, whose estate agency Erfwise also sells homes in lily-white areas such as Florida, Primrose, Germiston and Malvern

"But please tell him to hire Ellis Park for all the prosecutions he will have to make," she added

An investigation of estate agents operating in the main areas of Johannesburg revealed that almost every agency is "breaking the law" by renting flats to people "disqualified" under the Group Areas Act

Anglo American Property Services made a splash last year when it announced that it would directly sign leases with black tenants in white areas. This eliminated the nominee system, in which blacks have to find whites to sign leases on their behalf

Although Amaprop owns only one residential property in Johannesburg, it was thought that the corporation's high profile in other areas would give credibility to moves to legitimise the presence of whites in "grey" areas such as Hillbrow

By contrast, JH Isaacs, the largest estate agent in South Africa, has a conservative policy on letting across the colour line

As one estate agent remarked, if they want to prosecute estate agents for Group Areas infringements, they'll have to hire Ellis Park first ...

By ANDREW CLARK

After Anglo's decision last year, for instance, the firm's executive chairman, Les Weil, announced that "the policy of my company is that we adhere to the law"

A spokesman for the company reiterated the stance this week, but acknowledged that almost half of the 30-odd buildings that it manages in the greater Hillbrow area had "mixed" occupancy

Landmark Real Estate likewise concedes that almost a third of its major Johannesburg flats are "mixed" at the discretion of the owner.

"I am not sorry that we have gone this route," says director Peter Nathan. "Our multi-racial buildings have tenants at the upper end of the non-white spectrum rather than at the lower end of the white spectrum"

"Incidents of vandalism are lower in the multi-racial buildings and occupancy rates are higher," added Nathan, who has received high marks from Actstop, the local tenants' right group, for his stance

Ivan Hellman of the Whitefields Estate Agency noted that "our buildings in Hillbrow have gone up-market" since they were integrated. Although Hillbrow had had a "Third World influx" in recent years, he did not believe this had affected his buildings

"We've made sure of this by raising rents and taking in lower-middle-class blacks instead of low-low-class whites," Hellman notes. "There are now fewer fights and less trouble with the police"

TO PAGE 8

Prosecute estate agents? Hire Ellis Park first..

The 6 000-strong member Institute of Estate Agents, the industry's professional association, has taken a strong stance against the Group Areas Act and supports the right of people to own property where they want and can afford to live

But behind the facade lurks a reluctance among most agents to back individuals who find themselves on the wrong side of the law

Actstop spokesman Ayub Mayet adds that many of the cases dealt with by the organisation originate in the legally vulnerable position of Group Areas "illegals"

These include overcharging, underservicing and capricious evictions by landlords and estate agents who real-

ise that black options are severely limited

"One estate agent which is notorious for evicting mixed couples is JH Isaacs," Mayet said, pointing to the case of a white man and a coloured woman evicted from a flat they had let from the company in Rosebank

"We would do our duty to report such suspicions (of "mixed" couples) to our clients, and take action to have that person removed if this is our client's opinion," said JH Isaacs managing director Peter Holling

He also denied that any black person had consciously been granted a

lease in a white area, arguing that it was only as a result of "passive surveillance" on the part of their clients that "disqualified" people were living there

This means that non-whites living in buildings managed by the firm must make use of white nominees

In the case of the Dayals in Mayfair West, Hassell said that this, her first "illegal" deal, was done by means of a close corporation in which the Dayals owned 49 percent of the stock in the firm and a white friend had title to the other 51 percent. However, a close corporation for buyers offers more protection than a casual nominee, particularly if the latter is provided by the estate agent himself

From PAGE 7

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Tenants win fight against flats eviction

By Sally Sealey

Tenants of three blocks of flats in Joubert Park, Johannesburg, who were threatened with eviction, have won the right to stay in their homes, according to Mr Cas Coovadia of Actstop

The tenants of Fabian Court, Claridges and Waldorf Heights challenged the validity of the eviction orders in the Rand Supreme Court last week.

The case against them was dismissed with costs and they will now be able to stay in the buildings

The landlords applied for a court order to evict the tenants after they reduced their rent payments

The tenants claim the landlords failed to adhere to a verbal agreement to maintain and service flats.

Tenants of a fourth building, Ritz Plaza, were also threatened with eviction at the end of last month, but have received accounts for February

Vaal black housing explosion in spotlight

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2 The "developing black housing explosion" in the Vaal Triangle area is to be discussed at an afternoon symposium in Vereeniging on February 21.

The function, which will be held in the Vereeniging Civic Theatre, is being organised by the Regional Development Association (RDA) for the Vaal Triangle metropolitan area.

It is estimated that there is an immediate shortage of about 100 000 housing units in the Vaal Triangle and that the lion's share of the shortage falls within the sub-economic sector.

While 3 500 erven in Evaton North have already been serviced to accommodate squatters from the nearby Weiler's Farm, it is expected that another approximately 50 000 erven will have to be developed in the Evaton area alone within the next five years.

— Vereeniging Bureau

Actstop ready for legal action

8/24/14
14/12/14
By Sally Sealey

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Tenants at Miltherd Court in Kerk Street, Johannesburg, have been threatened with eviction today on the basis of a seven-day notice

Actstop, the nonracial organisation fighting evictions and other tenant-related problems, said the notice "is invalid in terms of the law".

They warned the landlord, Mr Tony Pharboo, that legal action could follow

A member of Actstop, Mr Cas Coovadia, said "If these landlords do not treat tenants fairly, we will abandon all attempts at negotiation and meet them in court"

Mr Pharboo said he had given the tenants notice in August last year because he was warned by the municipality to have the building renovated or it would be condemned

"I have said that once the building is renovated the tenants can move back in but they just don't want to move"

15 families face court under Act

Star 14/2/89
By Dawn Barkhuizen

At least 15 Indian families in white-zoned Homestead Park, Johannesburg, have been summonsed to appear in court for illegal occupation in terms of the Group Areas Act.

Residents told The Star last night that at least 15 summonses had been served within the past two weeks, and they expected that 30 additional summonses would be forthcoming.

They had been ordered to appear before a Johannesburg magistrate from March 2 onwards under Section 53 of the Act.

At a meeting last night they vowed to fight the action in court.

"We have been threatened with death on occasions, but most of our neighbours have been very supportive. We have been here for between one and two years and regard ourselves as permanent residents," a spokesman for the group said.

The area borders Mayfair West, the scene of an incident in which an Indian family was prevented last month from moving into a house by armed right-wing whites.

Star 14/2/89

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Mayfair group areas furore continues

Agent forced out by bomb threats

By Dawn Barkhuizen

The Johannesburg estate agent at the centre of the Mayfair West eviction incident has been driven from the area by threats of petrol bombing from a man claiming to represent the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) and Blanke Bevrydingsbeweging (BBB)

Irate Mrs Lee Hassell said yesterday that she would no longer sell houses in the area as she was "not prepared to jeopardise anybody else's property"

Telephoned

She said a man telephoned her to say that any houses she might attempt to sell in Mayfair, Mayfair West or Homestead Park would be bombed. He claimed to represent the AWB and the outlawed BBB, she said

And he warned her that she

should not show her face in the streets

The threats are the strongest of a volley directed at her following the incident in which an armed mob stopped an Indian family from moving into a house in Mayfair West on January 29

Mrs Hassell sold the house in white-zoned Gothard Street to a closed corporation on behalf of Mr Dayal

Mrs Hassell told The Star that she had not reported this specific incident to the police as she had contacted them earlier about threatening calls

Actstop spokesman Mr Cas Coovadia said Mr Dayal and his family would not be returning to the area and it was likely that the house would be placed on the market.

Although Actstop had offered to protect the family, Mr Dayal felt it would be unsafe to take his family back, he said

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'Buffeted' Dayal is bailing out

By Dawn Barkhuizen

Navnit Dayal is punch drunk and now he is throwing in the towel

The man who right-wing extremists stopped from moving into a Mayfair West house in January won't be going back to 11 St Gothard Street and will probably sell

In an interview with The Star last night a depressed Mr Dayal (34) said the blows had been raining hard and fast from all sides leaving him tired, disillusioned and punch drunk.

"I feel like a ball on a tennis court — getting whacked from all sides — and all I am is a man who wants a roof over his head I don't ask for a lot"

Right-wing extremists phoned him at all hours of the day and night threatening him with death, the Government was using the incident as a propaganda stunt and the Left were urging him to move back to prove a point, he said

"I feel as if I am everybody's guinea pig"

He was "really fed up with the Government" who had been quick to come up with offers of salvation on the TV, but had never bothered to contact him personally with an offer of help

"They were very happy to go on the bandwagon — but now they're just trying to gloss over it without doing anything"

Mr Dayal, an electronic engineer, is also troubled by the apparent lack of action against the group of armed whites who slung a hangman's noose over his garden wall and barred him from moving into the first house that he would own

"If they were blacks you can be sure they would be sitting behind bars by now"

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wwwm 17-23/2/89

Detained: Key man in rent boycott talks

Weekly Mail Reporter

THE detention this week of a key mover behind the attempt to negotiate an end to the Soweto rent boycott, Nat Ramaghopa, has led to fears that the state is trying to sabotage the talks

Ramaghopa is reputed to be central to the initiative that resulted last December in a high-profile meeting between a Soweto delegation led by the Reverend Frank Chikane and the Soweto Council, led by its new mayor, Sam Mkhwanazi

The concern about state intentions has been strengthened by details that have emerged of another meeting that has taken place since then

Shortly after the December meeting, an urgent meeting of all the top Transvaal Provincial Administration and Joint Management Centre officials was arranged to plot a response

It was decided at this and at subsequent meetings of the JMC that Chikane's negotiation initiative should be discouraged, but an alternative joint committee be established to draw in various interested parties

It also emerged this week that a government-linked structure called the Soweto Communications Sub-Committee has recently been formed. Present at these two meetings were top government officials, JMC officials, Eskom, a number of Soweto businessmen, the Soweto Council and the Urban Foundation

An Urban Foundation representative was quoted this week saying he was in favour of such deliberations

It was notable that the members of the Soweto delegation had not been invited

The three year-old boycott, which has cost the government in excess of R250-million, has not collapsed, as some newspapers reported last year. Soweto councillors and Transvaal Provincial Administration officials now openly admit that only R3-million out of a total potential monthly income of R13-million is being collected.

Nico Malan, the Soweto Town Clerk who recently resigned his post, forcefully argued in his farewell message to the council that it was the failure to negotiate an end to the rent boycott that was the greatest mistake made by the council during his term of office

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Accusations fly in tense Homestead Park

Star 17/2/59 By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

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Indian families this week told The Star they had pressed charges of intimidation, harassment and trespassing against self-professed AWB supporter Mr Allan McCabe. Mr McCabe says he is poised to press charges against Indian families who are "pushing me beyond the limit and provoking me beyond what any normal person can stand".

Indian residents say:

Paarlshoop Road resident Mr M Juta laid charges of trespassing, harassment and intimidation against Mr McCabe on February 6 after Mr McCabe entered his garden and ordered him to leave the area.

"He said there was no law in South Africa — he was the law — and he would see to it that we left the area. He told me nothing would happen to me but I must remember my wife and children are alone at home all day."

"With a guy like this running around my wife is scared to stay alone at home. He didn't even have the decency

to come in my front door," he said.

Another resident, Mr Ismail Bulbulia, was en route to the police station when interviewed by The Star. He said "Everytime McCabe sees me in the street he draws his finger across his throat — he has done it three times. When I called the police he told them I waved my fist at him."

This week it was revealed that 15 families living in the area — adjacent to Mayfair West — had been summoned to appear in court for illegal occupation in terms of the Group Areas Act.

McCabe says:

"I will be pressing charges I am being pushed to the limit by these Indians — provoked beyond anything a normal person can stand."

"Every time they see me they wave their fists. They threaten me over the phone and shout at me in the streets. It's quite clear these guys just want me out."

Mr McCabe believes strictly segregated areas are the answer to harmonious living.

He said it was clear Indian residents were trying to provoke him into taking physical action that would land him

behind bars.

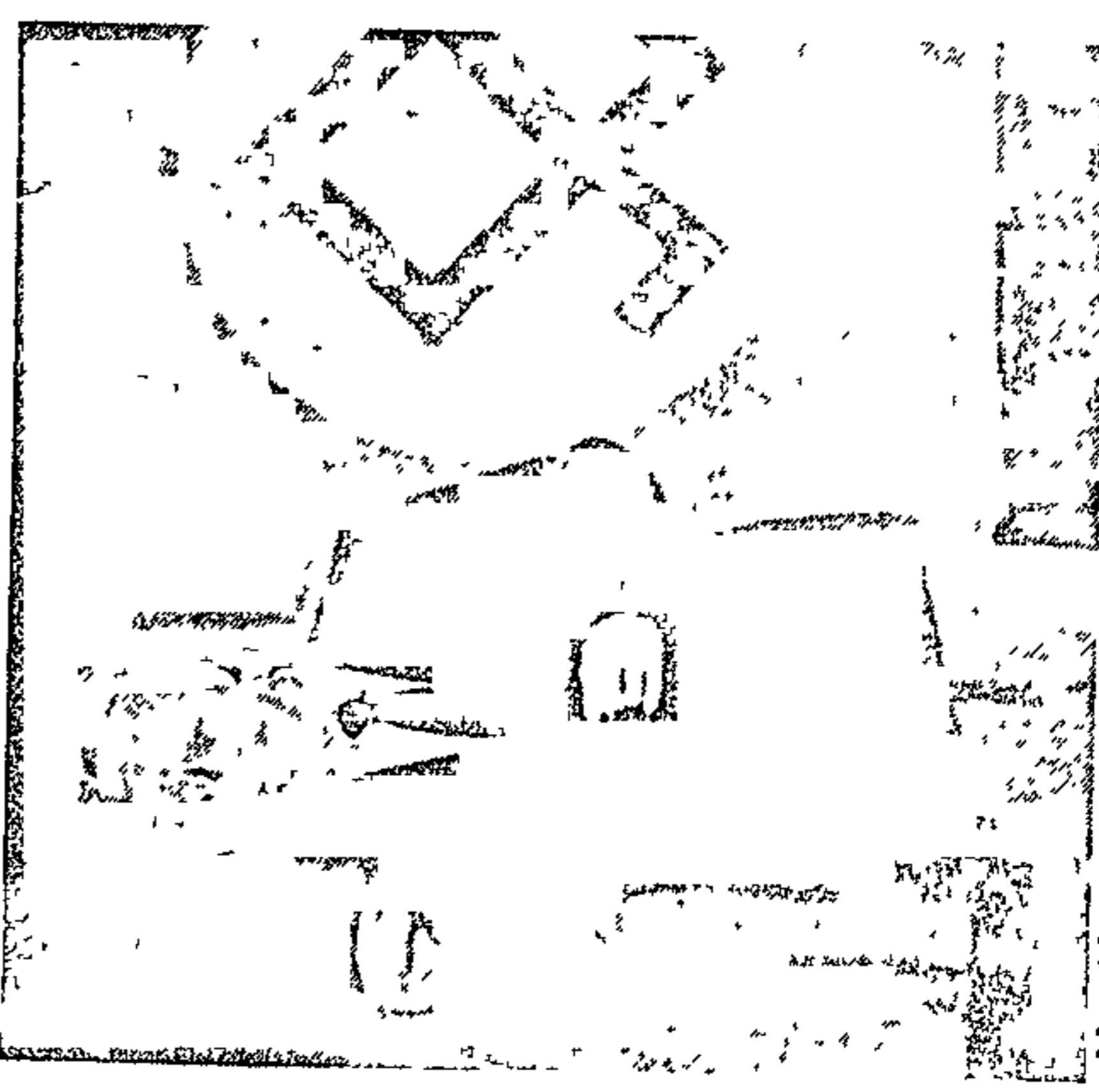
Referring to his conviction for assault in December, he said "I was involved in an unfortunate incident for which I am truly sorry. I really don't want to get into something like that again."

As Homestead Park Ratepayers' Association chairman, he said it was his duty to investigate complaints of Indian families moving into the area.

"I investigate before I call the police so I can be certain there is a valid complaint. I always knock on the door, and I deny threatening these people."



Mr I Bulbulia "Every time Mr McCabe sees me in the street he draws his finger across his throat."



Mr Alan McCabe, who says he is being provoked beyond the limits any normal person can tolerate.

CP to move on Windmill Park

2/12/89
By Anna Louw
East Rand Bureau

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The CP-dominated Boksburg Town Council is likely to decide at its monthly meeting this week what steps to take against Indian families living in Windmill Park in Boksburg

In the meantime police have confirmed that charges have been laid against Indians for illegal occupation

The majority of whites in Windmill Park say they will make way for Indian families living in overcrowded

conditions in Actonville, Benoni.

Windmill Park has been the centre of controversy for some time. Of the 42 houses in the controlled area, 21 are occupied by Indian families who have applied for permits

Vice-chairman of Windmill Park's Home Owners Committee, Mr C La-buschagne said many of the residents in the area wanted Windmill Park to be proclaimed for Indians

He said the CP was not acting in the interest of residents by insisting that the area remain white.

Rent crisis fight 'blow'

Soweto 22/2/89

THE detention of Mr Nat Ramokgopa, a key figure in the negotiations to solve the Soweto rent crisis, was a contradiction in terms, the Reverend Busani Ngubane said yesterday in a statement on behalf of the Ministers United for Christian Co-responsibility.

Mr Ramokgopa, a committee member of the Soweto Peoples' Delegation (SPD), was detained by police on February 12, at a meeting held at a church in Moletsane, Soweto.

Duty

"While it is the duty of the police to see to it that society is well-ordered and organised for the well-being of all its members it is also true that it is the duty of all members of society to see to it that this duty and obligation be fulfilled," Rev Ngubane said.

He said Mr Ramokgopa was a leader in the community. "He had no AK-47, no petrol bomb, or any weapon whatsoever.

"But it was still deemed right and proper to seize him like a common criminal when he was only doing the work that had to be done to find solutions to the problems that face the community.

"Moccor believes that such actions only serve to open the rift that already exists in the country in spite of talks of peace and reconciliation," he said.

25 families get homes

township
TODAY marks the end of a chapter for the more than 25 families who have been living in buses for nine years in Alexandra township

The Alexandra Town Council has resolved to move the families to either flats or rooms,

22/2/81
depending on their choice today, according to chairman of the management committee, Mr Prince Mokoena

127 The buses were donated by Putco to help ease the housing shortage

Plan to battle housing crisis

Sowetan 23/2/84

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By SY MAKARINGE

MORE than 1 000 homes must be built in the Transvaal alone this year in order to alleviate the serious housing crisis, according to Mr Brian Longley, Chief Executive Officer of the FHA Homes.

Mr Longley said although the target seemed to be an impossible one to reach, there were companies which were committed to offer solutions to this grave problem.

Utility

He said FHA Homes, a utility company of the Urban Foundation, had declared as part of its mission the establishment of a local home building industry. He said the company was responding to local needs and demands by providing answers to the crucial need for low cost, yet structurally sound homes for all.

"One of the problems which still need to be addressed is the number of homeless

people who cannot afford housing.

While the cheapest product — a three-roomed home and stand — seems accessible to most at monthly instalments of R250, a problem arises in that only 20 percent of the population earn more than R1 200 a month a family. This is the approximate figure required by financial institutions in order to grant a bond.

"Although land is becoming more freely available in certain areas, proximity to urban areas is often a major problem which consequently creates a need for sophisticated transport services," Mr Longley said.

He said FHA Homes was to this end actively seeking solutions.

"Our aim is to provide homes and thus security and stability to numerous homeless South Africans. Means must be found to encourage all sectors to become involved in housing our burgeoning population," he said.

Vista Homes move into the black housing market

FOR the first time in its 25 years of existence national home builder Vista Homes has begun building houses for blacks.

The company, acquired about six months ago by Time Housing, will make its debut into this market as one of home builders in a R50-million housing project at Spruitview, south of Germiston

By SY
MAKARINGE

Commenting on the company's venture into the black market, chairman Mr John Bezuidenhout said while the company had always wanted to move into this market, mass-produced, sub-economic homes had never been part of Vista's building strategy

He said the rapidly emerging "black middle class" had altered the situation radically, allowing the company to offer traditional designs, finishes and features marking the Vista houses

"We will not have to alter our techniques or arrangements with our suppliers in any way to build houses in Spruitview. They are exactly the same designs, comprising three and four-bedroomed homes

"Another factor to our

shift in strategy is that South Africa's housing shortage lags far behind particularly in the black sector of the population, and it is not getting any better. Time Housing's presence in the black market has given us the ideal opportunity to learn from their experience," Mr Bezuidenhout said

Buyers of the Spruitview Homes will be offered a variety of "options," with a wide choice of award-winning designs, fittings, colour

Rowe
23/2/89
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scheme and three "levels" of finish, depending on the buyer's preferences

"Our homes are also designed to be extended easily. When an owner can afford to extend the home, extra rooms can be added in logical, cost-effective places. This gives the buyer greater freedom to express his individuality and precludes him from owning another identical unit in a mass housing complex," said Mr Bezuidenhout

Indian families in Boksburg under pressure

Star 24/2/89
By Tim Cohen

The Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg town council resolved yesterday to press charges against 10 Indian families living in "white-controlled" Windmill Park and to cut their electricity supply

Management committee chairman Mr Gideon Fourie said the council had discovered in which houses Indians stayed after a traffic officer questioned residents about their dog licences

Legal advice had been taken and illegal residents would have their electricity cut off in two weeks' time

Even if only one white resident complained about non-whites living in the suburb, the council had a duty to protect that resident's rights, he said

Following revelations

by CP members that an interview with Government Ministers had been sought "to sort out the problem", National Party councillor Mr Dennis Malan suggested that the resolution should be held over until after these discussions. The suggestion was defeated

Mr Fourie said the first complaints about Indians living in Windmill Park had been received about a year ago. He accused the Government of dragging its heels over these complaints and said the Government itself had proclaimed the area "white-controlled".

Residents could therefore live in the area only if they had Government permits

Although residents had applied for permits, they had not been informed one way or the other

Tenants' representative and lessee in counter allegations

By Sally Sealey

The head lessee of Argyle Court and a member of the tenants' committee in the Johannesburg building have accused each other of assault

Mr Dave Malan, the head lessee of at least seven buildings in Johannesburg, has been accused by Mr Pressage Nkosi

Mr Nkosi, who is also a member of Actstop, said Mr Malan had contravened a restraining order granted against him in the Supreme Court last July

Mr Nkosi said he arrived home from his office on Tuesday and was confronted by tenants in Argyle Court who said that Mr Malan had changed the locks on their doors

Mr Nkosi said one of the tenants had put a key blocker on her door and Mr Malan insisted that it be removed

"I removed it and as I attempted to hand over the key, Mr Malan pulled the key from my hand and punched me in the stomach"

Mr Malan said exactly the opposite had happened and that he was assaulted by Mr Nkosi for no reason

Mr Malan said he had laid a charge of assault against Mr Nkosi

BUILDING societies are gearing up for a property boom in "grey" Hillbrow — and demand from black buyers could outstrip supply.

The illegal twilight years of South Africa's most cosmopolitan suburb are set to end

And its expected proclamation later this year as one of the country's first free settlement areas will end years of uncertainty caused by creeping — and up to now illegal — black immigration

Property values in the area plummeted because owners were not legally allowed to sell to blacks. Many hundreds of whites, who sank their life savings into property when Hillbrow was the "Chelsea" of South Africa, found themselves marooned with buildings which had no re-sale value

But a legally grey Hillbrow will spark a dramatic revival, experts said this week

Expectations have been heightened by the Government's appointment last week of the Free Settlement Board, which will determine racially mixed residential areas in terms of the Free Settlement Areas Act

**Special report
by DAVID
JACKSON**

Mr Johan Kruger, a National Party President's Council member, has been appointed chairman of the board with effect from March 1, when the Free Settlement Areas Act comes into operation

Mr Johan Fick, of the Rand Afrikaans University's department of development studies, who was the co-author of an authoritative report two years ago on residential settlement patterns in Hillbrow, said this week "The decline in the property market is artificial. It causes hardship to many of the older white resi-

dents who bought their apartments there when they retired

"Their entire savings went into them, but there is no way they can sell at the moment

"But the legalising of Hillbrow as a free settlement area will dramatically change the situation. It will also mean a lot to the upgrading of Hillbrow in general"

The number of blacks, coloureds and Indians living

HILLBROW, South Africa's biggest "grey" area, is abuzz with anticipation at its imminent declaration as a free settlement area

Although representatives of various interests believe this may take a long time still, they say it will end years of uncertainty which have affected business and tarnished the area's image

All parties agree that the best start to making Hillbrow, presently in a "serious state of decay", a better place for all would be to apply stringent criteria in admitting tenants to flats

Preparations afoot are

● Hillbrow Traders' Association chairman Carl Fischer is seeking a meeting with the SA Property Owners Association. He believes "all undesirables" of all races must be kept out of the area

"We've got to set standards. Before a person can move into a flat he must have a full-time job and declare the size of his family. We just cannot have the situation of 15

By MANDLA TYALA

people sharing a one-bedroom flat"

● Miss Hillbrow, Melanie Walker, is acting as the flatland's ambassador. She recently chaired a meeting of interest groups where Hillbrow's future was discussed

She is now contacting police and health authorities to put to them submissions by the meeting

● A drive has started to make the Hillbrow Residents Association as non-racial as possible. Residents of all races have been invited to the association's annual meeting tomorrow night. A new leadership will be elected. But amid the buzz, there

THE 'GREY' REVOLUTION POISED TO TRANSFORM THE FACE OF HILLBROW

some buildings and individual apartments

"Just because people drive through and see 20 blacks on one balcony, it's not necessarily the same situation throughout"

Mr H Maclachlan, a senior general manager of the SA Permanent Building Society, said "There is a huge demand by people other than white to live in Hillbrow

"We are sitting with a lot of properties that we would

be able to dispose of, but which we can't do at the moment

"All building societies which have historically lent in Hillbrow have got a problem on their hands"

Mr Maclachlan added "There are lots of properties in Hillbrow where the owners would desperately love to sell the unit to the people living there. But at the moment they can't sign a formal lease agreement with them. When the position is legalised because they can't get a title

There are properties occupied by black people who legally cannot purchase the dwelling they are living in and, therefore, there is no real re-sale value to the person who owns the property"

Mr Maclachlan added "There are lots of properties in Hillbrow where the owners would desperately love to sell the unit to the people living there. But at the moment they can't sign a formal lease agreement with them. When the position is legalised because they can't get a title

Societies had been reluctant to lend in Hillbrow "because the situation is abnormal and we are not allowed to lend to blacks because they can't get a title

Lease

The legalising of Hillbrow is expected to curb racketeering — in which some unscrupulous landlords, at the moment, are renting from

ple will take transfer and we'll start getting back to normal demand and supply situation

"The demand will govern what the prices will be — and I think demand is going to outstrip supply many fold"

The legalising of Hillbrow is expected to curb racketeering — in which some unscrupulous landlords, at the moment, are renting from

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'State of decay' can end, say some

is secretary of the traders' association, shares a flat in Hillbrow with Miss Gertie du Preez, a nurse at a private hospital

There are, Mr Dryja says, various factors that people are concerned about, like schooling and medical services

"There are coloured families here whose children have to attend school as far away as Rosmont"

Mr Fischer says Hillbrow has a great potential, but he sees an open Hillbrow going through a "rough" period for a year or so before settling down.



James Dryja and girlfriend Gertie du Preez

Vista Homes in court move

CAPE TOWN — Vista Homes (Pty), the Transvaal operating company of the national Vista group, has applied for provisional liquidation

The move follows Time Holdings' announcement on Friday it was cancelling the R11m purchase of the Vista group, which comprises the Transvaal company and its subsidiaries and Vista Homes Cape (Pty).

Vista Homes Cape MD Eugene Parkin said it was "business as usual" for his company which remained viable and would not be liquidated.

The Cape company is responsible for the group's developments at Blue Downs (700 units), Kraaifontein (150), Brakenfell (66) and Kuilsriver (72)

He said those who had bought homes from Vista Cape had nothing to fear.

Vista Cape's pre-tax profit was R2m last year although the group as a whole had made a R1m loss, Parkin added

Spokesmen for the Transvaal com-

Own Correspondent

pany could not be reached for comment yesterday

Time said on Friday Vista failed in its 1988 financial year to meet the R3m pre-tax profit agreed in September.

Time executive chairman Colin Hibbert said it had become apparent senior management would have had to spend considerable time with Vista to improve its profitability

BIDON 27/1/87

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Profit

'Accordingly, we exercised our option to withdraw,' he added

It was expected pre-tax profits would exceed R6m a year in 1988, 1989 and 1990. The Transvaal company turned a R3m profit in 1987 to a R3m loss in 1988

It was not clear last night what the ultimate fate of Vista Transvaal would be but Parkin said it was unlikely to go into final liquidation

Court bid for Pageview intergration

PAGEVIEW, unofficially a mixed or "grey" area 2km west of central Johannesburg, may officially become mixed if a court application for it to be proclaimed a free settlement area succeeds

In a statement on Friday the Save Pageview association said the area was proclaimed white under the Group Areas Act in 1956

The matter is still to be settled in the Supreme Court, but no date has been given — Sapa

**Court bid
for Pageview
intergration**

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In a statement on Friday the Save Pageview association said the area was proclaimed white under the Group Areas Act, 1950

The matter is still to be settled in the Supreme Court, but no date has been given — Sapa

CP in row over blacks' living in horse stables

Star

27/2/89

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By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

CP's Mr Rundle says:

The agents say:

The Conservative Party has laid charges with the Estate Agents' Board against the southern suburbs agency, Campbell and Seward, which is allegedly collecting more than R3 000 a month by letting horse stables to blacks.

CP regional chairman Mr Fred Rundle claimed his complaint that 27 stables were rented out for R85 a month each and a fine adjoining rooms in Turfontein Road, Kenilworth, for R95 a month, the tenants receiving receipts marked "parking". There were no bathrooms and only two toilets, which were out of order. One woman, Mrs A Martin, said she had lived in the same premises and paid rent of R85 for the past six years.

"A squatter camp of about 100 people are living in the stables with at least two people and, in some cases, entire families living in the single rooms separated by walls only three quarters of the way to the ceiling. The situation poses a grave health hazard with refuse apparently collected in plastic packets and discarded in piles on top of rubble in the square in the middle of the stables.

The dehumanising of black people, paying to live in animal quarters, is the result of the abolition of influx control and the Government's failure to implement the Group Areas Act.

The CP believes it is the right of all races to live in dignity in their own areas. Here we have whites exploiting people in filthy premises for their own gain, condoned by the Government's refusal to prosecute under the Act.

Local National Party MP Mrs Sheila Camerer and councillor Mrs Patricia Lion Cachet, entrenched in their northern suburbs homes, are either unaware of the situation or choose to turn a blind eye to the influx of blacks into the southern suburbs.

This is merely the tip of the iceberg. Right under their noses the entire area is going black and I am prepared to take them to blocks of flats and houses to prove it."

"We have been acting as letting agents for the owners of the buildings for the past eight months and this is the first complaint we have had.

These are not stables, but rooms which were converted for human habitation when the council ordered that horses could not be kept in certain stables in the area.

At that stage neighbours complained that hoboes and vagrants had moved into the empty premises.

The hoboes also contributed to increasing theft in the area, and we got rid of them and replaced them with black tenants of a better social standing, people with incomes of up to R500 a month who kept the place clean.

These tenants are not only keeping the place clean but have removed refuse and voluntarily created a committee to control their daily living, the number of people visiting and the hours that people may visit from time to time.

They have actually decreased the risk factor and the fire hazard to the surrounding area and they are provided with a toilet and washing facilities.

They are not white but we have ensured they are of a good class. It is not feasible to put certain races into the area but it is preferable to have the upper class blacks than the hoboes.

We are purely involved in economics, at the same time caring for the neighbouring area."

Blacks are paying R85 a month to live in horse stables in Kenilworth in Johannesburg's southern suburbs. Picture by Karen Fletcher.

Voters in open areas 'in for shock'

Star 28/2/84

127

By Tim Cohen

Thousands of voters could automatically lose their representation on city councils around the country following the introduction of Free Settlement Areas, the leader of the Progressive Federal Party in the Johannesburg City council, Mr Tony Leon, warned last night

The Free Settlement Areas Act is due to come into operation tomorrow

In terms of the legislation, voters who stay in areas that are proclaimed Free Settlement Areas have 90 days in which to inform the Administrator that they wish to stay on the municipal voters role for their local city councils, he said

If voters, who prior to proclamation were permitted to vote for city council representatives, failed to inform the Administrator in time, they would automatically be added to the area's Management Committee voters roll

The Management Committees would be deprived of the revenue resources and rates income which, for example, the Johannesburg City Council was able to command, he said

In Johannesburg, the Hillbrow, Mayfair, Doornfontein, Joubert Park and the central business district areas have been mentioned as possible free settlement areas

EXPLANATION

Shirley Woodgate, The Star's Municipal Reporter, reports that the Government has been called on to clarify what avenues of finance would be made available to people intending to buy property in open areas.

Mr Simon Chilchik who resigned as chairman of the Hillbrow Residents' Association last night, said there were many questions which had to be answered as soon as possible so that thousands of affected people of all races could know what their future held.

Star 28/2/84

CP presses for action over 'illegal' estate deals

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

The Conservative Party has warned that further charges will be laid with the Estate Agents' Board (EAB) not only for alleged illegal letting, but selling of property to disqualified people in white areas in Johannesburg -

The warning by CP Johannesburg regional chairman Mr Fred Rundle follows a report that he had asked the EAB to investigate allegations that a prominent southern suburbs estate agency was guilty of a total of 114 charges relating to the letting of horse stables and flats to blacks

He claimed there were 36 counts of contravening the Group Areas Act and misleading the public by invoicing the stables as "parking" and that the agency was guilty of at least six contraventions of the Act in two separate blocks of flats in La Rochelle and Rosettenville

Mr Rundle said agents who were not South African citizens and who ignored CP warnings about selling or letting to disqualified people would be "phased out"

Winnie graffiti is no joke, say homeowners

By Paula Fray

The new owners of a house in Parktown got more than they bargained for when they moved in — their pristine white wall surrounding the house, some of which faces the busy Jan Smuts Drive, is a graffiti artist's dream.

Having just bought the house two months ago, Mrs P Di Pasquale woke up one morning and found the bold slogan "Swop Nelson for Winnie" painted in black against her white wall on the side of a bend along Jan Smuts.

What did she think about it?

"I don't like it at all," Mrs Di

Pasquale said emphatically.

Efforts to scrub off the slogan were in vain and the wall will have to be repainted.

"It is a bit difficult to understand why people will do that on someone else's property," she said.

If it continues, "I might have to hire a permanent painter", she said, smiling. But she will not be laughing if she ever finds the illicit writer, as witty as he or she may be.

In fact, she will be quite angry.

Mrs Di Pasquale was not sure what charges would apply, but said she would take some sort of action.

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Eviction case postponed

By Helen Grange

An opposed motion brought by Mr Anthony Mendes of Bergville Properties against 30 tenants of Ritz Plaza flats in the centre of Johannesburg to have them evicted was postponed to March 22 in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday

The postponement followed the granting of leave to the tenants, members of Actstop, to file answering affidavits

An interim interdict to prevent the tenants from being evicted was also granted

The tenants were served papers last week informing them of the applica-

tion for eviction. This came without the customary one month's notice

The action was taken after tenants lowered their rent payments

Three other applications by landlords of flats in the Joubert Park area were withdrawn two weeks ago after tenants successfully argued that the landlords had failed to adhere to a verbal agreement to maintain and service flats

Mr Cassim Coovadia of Actstop said this week that apartheid made it possible to charge blacks high rates for flats in these areas

He said the establishment of the Free Settlement Area Board today would not solve these problems

Mayfair's Bopp to stop political actions

BEN BOPP, the man who led a group of residents in preventing the Dayal family from moving into their Mayfair home last month, has agreed to cease his political activities

This was revealed by the council's management committee yesterday in answer to questions asked in council by PFP councillor Les Dishy.

The management committee confirmed Bopp was employed by the council's personnel department, and would

127 EDYTH BULBRING

010ay 113187
be referred back to his job in the Civic Theatre when it reopened in 1990

Bopp was asked by the director of the personnel department to cease political activities and had agreed to do so

"I am not satisfied with this. It is not good enough. He should go before a disciplinary committee," Dishy said after the council meeting last night

Rundle backs CP action in Belgravia

By Esmaré van der Merwe
Political Reporter

Johannesburg's white residents were forced to prevent people of other races from moving into "white" residential areas because the Government no longer implemented the Group Areas Act, the Conservative Party's Johannesburg divisional chairman, Mr Fred Rundle, said yesterday.

He was reacting to an incident in Belgravia, Johannesburg, where the CP had acted to prevent an Indian family from occupying a house in Darling Street.

"Residents have to take the law into their own hands in order to protect their own residential areas. The Government thinks it can solve the shortage of black housing by turning a blind eye to blacks moving into white areas," Mr Rundle said.

Yesterday, a handwritten poster warning people of colour not to move into the house was torn down by an employee of Mobi-Jack, a jack and crane manufacturer in the Johannesburg suburb, presently occupying the house. The poster had been put up by the CP.

Mr Dame Struwig, chairman of the CP's Jeppe constituency, said the CP would prevent an unknown Indian family — said to be moving into the house today — from contravening the Group

Areas Act

Although his constituency committee had been encouraged by similar actions taken by the CP in Mayfair, it would not use violence to prevent people from moving into the area.

"We will go about it in a civilised and diplomatic way.

"We will inform people of colour that they are contravening the law, but we will physically prevent them from carrying their furniture through the front door."

Mr Mike Steyn, CP secretary of the constituency, admitted that many people who had already moved into the area could not be removed.

"They move in at night. We wake up in the morning to see that yet another black, Indian or coloured family has moved in. But from now on we will act.

"It is shocking to see how many people of colour have moved in. In some houses blacks and whites even live together."

Mr Struwig added that the CP had decided last week to "take action."

"I believe this action will be effective to an extent. One can in a nice way prevent them from moving in."

The woman who removed the poster said it was written in a "child-like" handwriting.

Record pay rise deal

THE Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa (Ccawusa) has negotiated the highest-ever pay rises in the history of Pepkor.

Workers at Pep Stores, Ackermans and Pepkor warehouses will get an across-the board salary increase of R87,50 next month and a further R90 in September.

The minimum wage will be R450.

Shell revises pay offer

SHELL has agreed to revise its wage offer to Sapref refinery workers in Durban following a strike ballot being undertaken at the Durban refinery by the Chemical Workers Industrial Union.

According to a Shell spokesperson, the company has telexed the union and is seeking an urgent meeting.

Cosatu calls rents meeting

VAAL Triangle organisations are to meet soon in a bid to resolve the growing rents crisis in the area.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) is concerned about alleged claims by Lekoa councillors that Cosatu has agreed on residents paying rent and service charges.

The council has allegedly been approaching employers to arrange stop-orders for rent payments.

Star 2/3/89.

(127)

By Dawn Barkhuizen

A storm of protest has erupted over plans to erect cluster housing on Houghton golf course with residents vowing to fight the move to the bitter end

And in a blunt statement last night the Houghton Ratepayers' Association said there was "no room for negotiation"

An application to have two portions of the course rezoned from "Residential 1" to "Residential 2" was submitted to Johannesburg City Council by the owner, Houghton Golf Club, on February 22

Houghton housing plan row

Plans make provision for 31 upmarket units bordering Third Street, Houghton

Golf club president Mr Martin Seehoff said the club was not broke but the cost of improving the fairways and making necessary renovations to the clubhouse and driveway was "way beyond that which could normally be collected by way of levy on members"

MIDDLE

He initially told The Star that the land was

owned by Johannesburg Consolidated Investments and said the cluster houses would be erected in the middle of the course

JCI spokesman Mr Raymond Hoffman yesterday confirmed his company's support for the application and said it was considering "participation" with the Houghton Golf Club in the establishment of a low-density, upmarket development

The move has come under fierce attack from

the Houghton Ratepayers' Association, which is unanimous in its opposition

Acting chairman Mr Clive Gilbert said that the proposal was in "blatant conflict" with the Houghton density policy of 1982 which provided for a density of 20 per cent. The cluster scheme had a density of 35 per cent

DELIBERATELY

Residents said the club had deliberately chosen land bordering Houghton,

not Norwood where stands were smaller, in order to make a "fast buck"

City councillor for Norwood, Mrs Claire Quail said she was aware of the intentions in October last year. Residents however learnt of the plans last week and claimed the project had been shrouded in secrecy

In a notice issued to golf club members yesterday, Mr Seehoff stated. "We have identified two pockets of land and in due course, subject to the consent of members, we will be able to proceed with negotiations"

EIGHT people were charged yesterday with contravening the

Group Areas Act in four separate cases at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court

Frederick Samuels, 39, Mohamed Khan, 50, Ebrahim Wessels, 62, and Vijay Naidoo, 27, all of Homestead Park, were charged with illegally occupying land in a white group area

Josua Sachs, 49, of Braamfontein, was charged for knowingly allowing Samuels to occupy land. Similarly charged were Robert Cromberg, 45, of Kempton

Group Areas: 8 charged

BIDEN 3/3/87
(127)

BRONWYN ADAMS

Park, Hendrik Lategan, 34, of Mayfair; and Keith Wentworth, 46, of Robertsham, for allowing Khan, Wessels and Naidoo respectively to occupy land

The cases of Samuels and Sachs, Ebrahim and Lategan, and Wentworth and Naidoo were postponed until April 21. Cromberg and Khan will appear again on April 26

Windmill Park Indians will 'stay put and fight'

5/27/89
By Dawn Bärkhuizen (127) 89

Indian residents of Windmill Park have thrown down the gauntlet to the Boksburg Town Council with a promise to remain in residence longer than the Conservative Party-controlled council remains in power.

This follows the issue of notices yesterday stating the council's intent to cut off electricity to houses occupied by Indians within 14 days in terms of the Group Areas Act.

"They can cut off all the electricity they like, but they will never put out the burning light inside us to liberate this country," said Mr Clemens Padiachy, chairman of the Windmill Park Indian Home Owners Association.

"Let it be known that we are going to stay and fight. And, in terms of the laws governing law and order, we expect the State to provide us with any protection which we might need."

"We don't want a confrontation, but if it boils down to that we will go all the way," said resident Mr David Naidoo.

Mr Padiachy said the National Party — which on January 10 informed Indian residents that their application for residence permits in the "white controlled suburb" was under consideration — was the only party which could provide a solution.

Black tenants given notice to vacate flats

By Lloyd Coutts

Black occupants of 45 flats in Ponte City in Berea have been given a month's notice to vacate the premises

The building administrators say they had been told by the police that the Group Areas Act was being violated and they had no choice but to evict the illegal occupants

A resident, Mrs Estelle Jackson, who has a six-month lease, said the administrators' action had come as a surprise

"One month's notice is too short. We will only be getting our deposits back at the end of the month and during that time we need to find another flat," she said

Mr Donald Botha, of the administrators Bankorp, said many black residents had used white "fronts" to enter the building illegally

He felt the period of notice given was reasonable

Bankorp did not wish to evict the tenants and would be losing rental by doing so, he added

"We are not racialistic or anything. If the laws change, our whole attitude can change"

A spokesman for Actstop said it was watching the situation but could not act until approached by the residents. However, he said Bankorp could not force the residents to leave unless it obtained a court order

Police comment was unavailable at the time of going to press

Star 3/3/89

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Many Rand consumers face full effect of 16 pc tariff increase

Get set for rocketing water bills

By Anna Louw and Shirley Woodgate

All municipalities in the PWV area are likely to announce substantial water tariff increases this year following the latest 16 percent price increase by the Rand Water Board.

The RWB's full tariff increase will be passed on in full to ratepayers in Randburg and Boksburg.

Randburg management committee chairman Mr Frans Lourens said it was the council's policy to pass on tariff increases when they were announced, rather than adjusting tariffs in the budget, which was the preferred policy of certain other towns.

He said the increased cost would be reflected in the May accounts of ratepayers.

A spokesman for the Kempton Park municipality said an increase was on the cards and a Benoni spokesman said an increase was imminent.

Johannesburg's city treasurer, Mr Perry Rabe, said a report was being prepared.

Roodepoort management committee chairman Mr Dave Trelewan said the increase would be discussed by his committee next Monday.

Alberton Town Clerk, Mr Joggie Prinsloo, said the increase was too high to be absorbed by a municipality and an increase of between 10 and 12 percent would have to be passed on to the consumer.

A Germiston municipal spokesman said an increase of between 9 and 10 percent would come

into effect immediately while the Town Clerk of Bedfordview, Mr A J Kruger said an increase was being investigated. A decision would be taken later.

The Town Clerk of Springs, Mr H A du Plessis, said the council would decide on a water price rise at the end of March.

The Town Clerk of Boksburg, Mr J J Coetzee said he expected the water tariff to be increased by as much as 16 percent.

A spokesman for the Kempton Park municipality said an increase in the water tariff was on the cards and a Benoni municipal spokesman said an increase was imminent and would be approved by the council at its meeting at the end of March.

Star 3/3/89

Houghton pickets in the streets

(127) Staff Reporter

Irate Houghton residents yesterday took to the streets to picket against the proposed townhouse complex on the Houghton Golf Course

The application by the golf club to have a section of their grounds rezoned with a view to establishing a twin cluster housing complex has come under fire from members of the Houghton Ratepayers Association

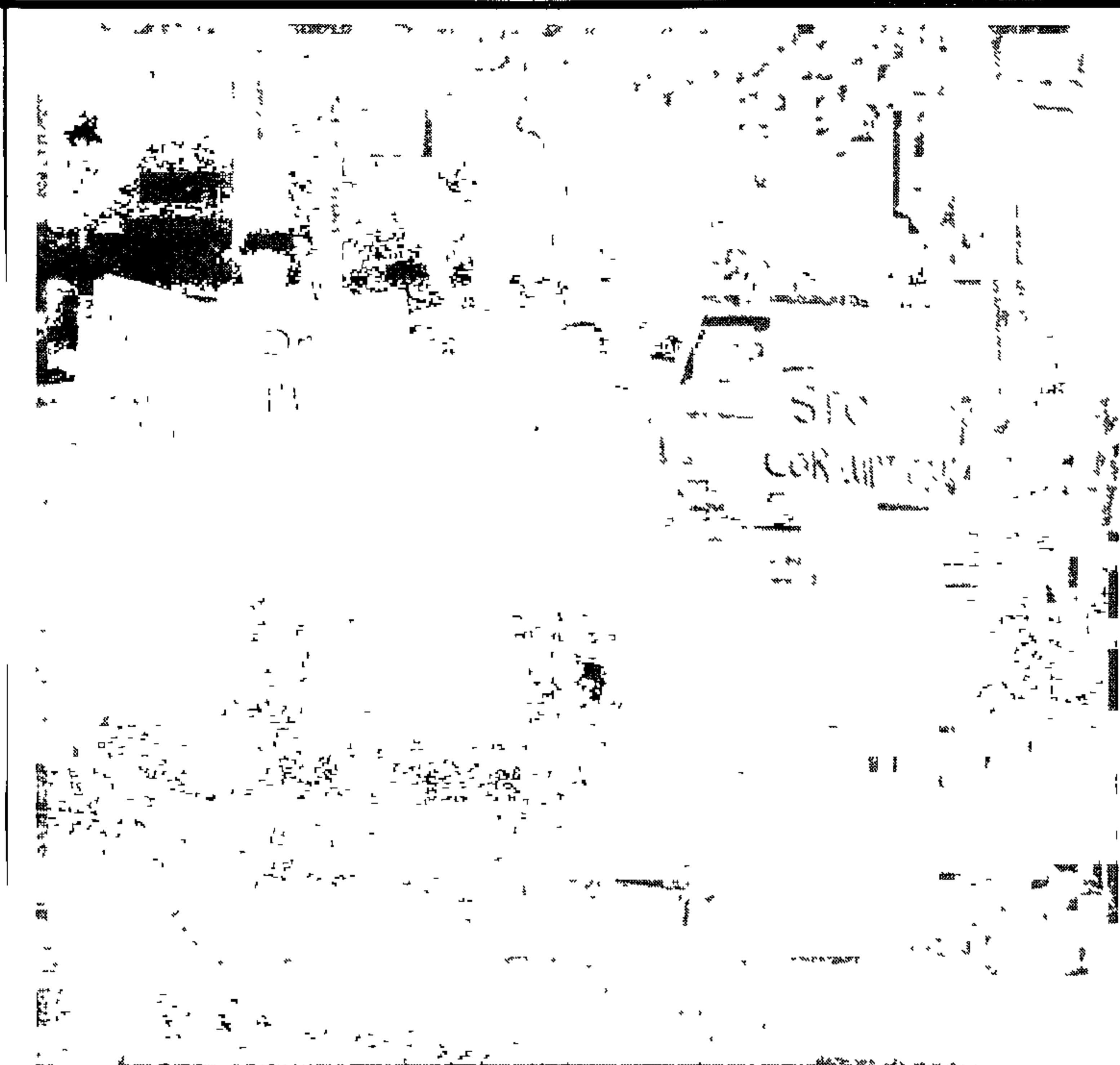
ANGRY

The picket took place late yesterday afternoon in Third Street, Houghton — the site of the proposed complex

I am passionately angry. Houghton is now surrounded by motorways, we have no public parks at all, resident Mrs. Heather Bernstein said

Ratepayers, who have vowed to fight the application to the bitter end 'with no negotiation' have scheduled another protest meeting for Monday

Residents have until March 20 to submit their objections in writing to the Johannesburg Town Planning Department



Protest for green areas . . . residents of Houghton, Johannesburg, stage pickets in Third Street yesterday against the proposed building of a townhouse complex on the Houghton Golf Course.

Sandton set to make a Free Settlement bid

127

Monday to 6/3/87

SANDTON is expected to join Cape Town in applying for its municipal area to be declared a Free Settlement Area, management committee chairman Peter Gardiner confirmed at the weekend

Gardiner said he had asked for a report on the procedures to be followed and the practical implications of such a move. The council is expected to consider the report in April.

The Free Settlement Areas Act, promulgated early last month, permits local authorities to apply to the recently-constituted Free Settlement Areas Board for the scrapping of the Group Areas Act in any area under their jurisdiction and for it to be declared legally open for mixed residence.

Gardiner, who is due to meet Free Settlement Areas Board chairman Hein Kruger on Friday, said he would have preferred the Group Areas Act to be scrapped throughout SA, but declaring the whole town open was preferable to small areas becoming free settlement areas.

Meanwhile, the PFP leader in the Johannesburg City Council, Tony Leon, says government does not want free settlement areas to work and will use "chaotic" legalised mixed residence to argue its apartheid policies.

PETER DELMAR

This belief, says Leon, is borne out by the appointment of "a bunch of retirees" with little experience in cosmopolitan planning to the Free Settlement Areas Board.

Leon recently appealed for the whole of Johannesburg to become a free settlement area.

Leon acknowledges his plea for all Johannesburg to be declared a free settlement area is "second prize", but says this is "eminently preferable" to small city areas becoming such areas.

Turning Johannesburg's 160-plus suburbs into mixed residential areas will make for a much fairer distribution of population, he says.

Leon says free settlement areas can work, but only if they are done on a large enough scale, coupled with imaginative planning and a willingness to deploy sizeable resources.

To ensure the viability of free settlement areas, new facilities will have to be created to cater for the burgeoning population, he says.



● LEON

CP councillor votes for NP amendment

8/Day 6/1/89
EDYTH BULBRING (27)

A CP Johannesburg city councillor last week said he would not oppose free settlement areas in Hillbrow, Mayfair, Joubert Park and the CBD.

"It is too late to clean up those areas. It would be impossible to make them white residential areas again," CP councillor Gert Bezuidenhout said in an interview.

Bezuidenhout raised eyebrows at a council meeting by voting for an NP-amended motion accepting creation of free settlement areas.

He said later he was against certain parts of greater Mayfair — Mayfair West and Homestead Park — becoming free settlement areas, but would not oppose such a move in the larger part of Mayfair, where hundreds of Indian families lived.

Bezuidenhout said he voted with the NP as it was the "lesser of two evils." A PFP motion called for the Group Areas Act to be scrapped.

CP caucus leader Jacques Theron said "We just can't let it (free settlement areas) happen."

Significance that the legisla-

'Landlord' told to restore homes to 10 black tenants

SUSAN RUSSELL

151 Sun 6/3/87
127

JOHANNESBURG businessman David Malan, who claims he acquired tenancy of a city block of flats last December, was ordered by the Rand Supreme Court on Friday to restore possession of their homes to 10 black tenants.

The tenants were locked out of their flats on March 1.

Mr Justice Schabert granted the order against Malan with costs.

He also dismissed with costs a counter-application by Malan for eviction of the tenants.

All 10 rent flats in Stanhope Mansions in terms of lease agreements made with letting agents I Kuper.

None had been issued with summonses for ejectment.

In court papers Malan said he had a written, five-year lease agreement with the owners of Stanhope Mansions.

Finding in favour of the tenants, Mr Justice Schabert said Malan had not placed before the court the necessary evidence to show he had acquired the real right in regard to the building.

The judge said it was evident, also, Malan had not attempted to establish he had done what was necessary under the relevant Act to terminate the leases and claim for an ejectment order.

Boksburg calls for removal of Indian illegals

8/26/81
127
By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

The Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg Town Council has challenged the Government to remove Indian families living illegally in "white controlled" Windmill Park to the nearby Indian residential area, Villa Liza.

Management committee member Mrs Stephanie Greyling said that, following the reproclamation of Villa Liza as an Indian residential area in April last year, the House of Delegates and the town council were building 1 700 houses in Villa Liza.

"Why doesn't the Government remove the few Indian families living illegally in Windmill Park to Villa Liza? Then both the whites and Indians will be happy," she said.

Mrs Greyling also urged the Government to take up the plight of white families in Mapleton Extension 1 which forms part of Villa Liza.

AGREED TO SELL

"After long negotiations with the Government, the 17 smallholding owners in Mapleton reluctantly agreed to sell their land to the House of Delegates — after having been told that either Windmill Park or Villa Liza would be declared an Indian residential area

"However, we then received a letter from the Indian House saying it was no longer interested in buying our land, and suggesting that we sell directly to Indians.

"As a result, not one of the smallholdings was sold.

"We are thus living there illegally because the area has been declared an Indian residential area — and the Indians illegally live in Windmill Park because the Government has indicated that the area's constitutional status will not be altered."

Apr 12/87 (S) 12.7

Council support urged for Pageview residents

By Shirley Woodgate, Municipal Reporter

The Save Pageview Association's (SPA) application for the suburb to be declared a free settlement area should be immediately taken up by the Johannesburg city council, Progressive Federal Party councillor Mr Ian Davidson said at the weekend.

He was reacting to an appeal by 67 Indian families who have remained in Pageview under threat of removal for the past 10 years.

He said that historically the "Malay location", re-named Pageview in 1942 when it was declared a white area, was a mixed area and the council was morally bound to heed the SPA's call.

The PFP is adamant that the Group Areas Act must be repealed, but in the face of the Government's refusal, the PFP calls for the whole of Johannesburg to be opened to all races. Since they have dug in over free settlement areas, it is now essential that the National Party-controlled city council must back the SPA appeal.

A major obstacle to the application by the SPA, formed in 1981 with the aim of preventing eviction, was that the SPA did not have the legal right to apply to the Free Settlement Board, Mr Davidson said, "but it does not stop the Johannesburg local authority acting on behalf of the residents' wishes".

Benoni council vote on the Loonats' fate

The fate of an Indian businessman and his family who have lived for the past two years in an elite Benoni suburb was the subject of a heated debate in the Benoni Town Council chambers last week.

Mr Tiny Loonat and his family became the centre of the discussion when a permit application he had made to the Transvaal Provincial Administration was referred back to the council for a decision.

The head of the five-man Conservative Party group on the council, Dr Wilhe Koen, request-

ed that Mr Loonat's permit application be voted on immediately and the matter not be held over to a later meeting.

This motion was defeated by a margin of 16 votes to three. Two members of the CP sided with the management committee's decision to review the permit application in two months' time and to analyse the importance of the newly promulgated Free Settlement Area's Act in the interim.

Speaking from his home in Lakefield, Mr Loonat said all he wanted was the opportunity to

"live in peace with my family"

The councillor for the ward in which Mr Loonat is currently residing and member of the town's management committee, Mr Aubrey Ritz, said he had not received any letters of complaint about Mr Loonat's residency in Lakefield.

"The only letters I have seen were all letters of support from Mr Loonat's neighbours," said Mr Ritz.

Mr Loonat previously occupied a two-bedroomed house in Actonville with his wife and four children.

Hillbrow and Mayfair in 'open' pipeline

B/D 8/3/87

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CAPE TOWN - Parts of Hillbrow and Mayfair could be declared free settlement areas in six months time

The Free Settlement Board met here yesterday for the first time and chairman Hein Kruger announced that applications already received by the Department of Development would be dealt with in accordance with the Act

Asked which areas these applications related to, Deputy Constitutional and Development Minister Roelf Meyer, who attended the meeting, said they

MIKE ROBERTSON

were those areas which Minister Chris Heunis had identified on September 26 last year

These included an area in Midrand, Diepsloot, which is north of Randburg, parts of Hillbrow and Mayfair; parts of District 6, the Warwick Triangle and parts of Marydale and Marianhill in Durban, and Fairview in Port Elizabeth

Meyer said the first areas to be declared open to all races would be those that were undeveloped The Diepsloot

and Midrand areas fell into this category

It would take up to six months for the board to process applications for inhabited areas to be declared open to all races

Kruger said in a statement after the board's first meeting that it would soon lay down a list of minimum requirements for applications.

He invited developers, local authorities, Ministers Councils and other authorities to submit official applications for the board's consideration

[Faint, mostly illegible text and markings covering the lower half of the page, possibly bleed-through or a second page of a document.]

Attorney-General says in some Jo'burg areas . . .

B/P am 8/3/59

127

GAA prosecutions are a 'logistical impossibility'

IT WAS "a logistical impossibility" to prosecute anybody under the Group Areas Act (GAA) in a "seriously infiltrated" Johannesburg area, Witwatersrand Attorney-General Klaus von Lieres said yesterday

He said that had not been done in any such Johannesburg areas for some time

The number of GAA prosecutions were minimal in the Johannesburg area generally, and were less than 20 a year

Nobody had been prosecuted in Johannesburg under the Separate Amenities Act in five years and the Act was "a bit of a dead letter"

Von Lieres said there was a shortage of manpower to deal with GAA contraventions, especially in "seriously infil-

EDYTH BULBRING

trated areas" and so many of the prosecutions depended on the availability of manpower

He said he understood there were only five police officers available countrywide for GAA investigations

Exempt

On the question of implementing a moratorium on GAA prosecutions, as called for by the PFP, Von Lieres said "The Act is on the statute books and has not been repealed. The Attorney-General is there to enforce the law, and not suspend the law"

Once free settlement areas had been established, these would become exempt from the GAA "Until this time an offence is an offence, the Attorney-General has a duty to do his task"

Von Lieres said the sooner free settlement areas were proclaimed, the sooner pressure would be taken off the Attorney-General "to prosecute or not to prosecute"

Once these areas were established, it might reduce the "infiltration of other group areas and have a positive effect on relieving social conflict"

The decision of whether to prosecute under the GAA rested with the Attorney-General and nobody else

Von Lieres said once a docket had been submitted, he had to consider in which area the contravention took place, the circumstances of the offending parties and the facts in the broader context

A police spokesman confirmed there was only one GAA unit in Johannesburg dealing with the entire Transvaal region, but would not disclose how many policemen were assigned to it

Swamped with 'colour' reports

Sowetan 8/3/89
A VICE-CHAIRMAN of the Mayfair West Ratepayers' Association told a Johannesburg magistrate that the organisation was very busy as the Mayfair residents were so much on guard that they reported to them any person with the slightest dark skin colour in the area. *(127)*

Mrs Maria Kruger was giving evidence in the trial of two men accused of contravening the Group Areas Act at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday. The men, Mr Lawley Clive Shane (34), an attorney and Mr Davechand Ramjee (39), of Mayfair West, pleaded not guilty to the charge. The charge arose from allegations that from July 1986, Mr Ramjee, being a coloured, lived at a plot in Mayfair West and Mr Shane allowed him to live there.

It's strange bedfellows

127

ok
Blaet

WHITE families in Boksburg's Windmill Park are preparing to share their stoves and baths with their Indian neighbours whose lights and water will be cut in two weeks' time if the Boksburg Town Council carries out its threat.

Almost all white residents *The Star* spoke to yesterday expressed support for their neighbours — but their first concern was that the controversy in their tiny suburb be settled as quickly as possible.

The CP-controlled Boksburg Town Council, claiming the Indian residents are illegal in terms of the Group Areas Act, have threatened to cut lights and water from March 20 in an effort to force the people out of their homes.

The chairman of the Indian Home Owners Association, Mr Clemens Padiachy, said yesterday that his organisation has consulted its lawyers on the legal grounds of defence against this action.

"I am very optimistic that our services will not

SOWETAN Correspondent

be cut. If they are, I will look forward to a showdown the CP has never seen before.

"Meanwhile, every white family in the neighbourhood has offered help if our services are cut. We intend staying through thick and thin," he said.

Mr Jaap van Veen, one of the first people to settle in the area, said the white community would "object strongly" if services are cut.

Friends

"We'll string up cables, take extension cords for electricity and run hosepipes from our homes to help our Indian friends," he said.

Mrs Belinda Baxter said she would allow her neighbours to "come and use the stove and bathroom."

"We have never had any trouble in this suburb. Our Indian neighbours are wonderful people," she added.

Support was also pledged by Mr and Mrs

Bill Mawdsley, Mr Casper Labuschagne and Mr Jaap Truter, according to Mr Padiachy.

However, not all Windmill Park's white families felt the same.

Said Mrs Tammy Collosche "The Indians started moving into the area *en masse* and are determined to buy all our houses. They are always looking over the fences into our house and we

keep receiving safe propositions.

"If services are cut, we would rather keep to ourselves and not interfere."

Mr Manny da Silva said he didn't care "one way or the other" the fate of his Indian neighbours. "I just want this thing to be settled so I can start developing my property with confidence in the future."

127

Angry scenes as Indians defy CP protest actions

By Tim Cohen and
Lloyd Coultis

An Indian family defied all attempts by the Conservative Party to stop them from moving into a house in Malvern, Johannesburg, last night.

There were angry scenes at 10 7th Street when CP supporters and members attempted to prevent the Naidoo family from occupying the home they have bought.

Scuffles broke out when the protesters lined up along the fence, while family members passed belongings and furniture over their heads.

There was near chaos when supporters of the Naidoo family and members of the anti-group areas Actstop group tried to prevent the harassment. Many of the CP protesters were not resident in 7th Street, it was claimed.

The furore was filmed

by international television crews called in by the CP, who were represented at the scene by the party's chairman of the Johannesburg Regional Council, Mr Fred Rundle.

Even after the family's belongings were moved in, he refused to concede defeat, and threatened to lay charges against the estate agent involved in the sale, and to charge the Naidoos under the Group Areas Act.

A member of the Naidoo family, Mr Merger Naidoo, said he had earlier laid a charge of harassment against three unidentified people.

CP supporter Mrs Mandy Laventhall said she had alerted the party that the family was moving in. She added that she had asked the Naidoos not to move in — and was told that she was on private property and should leave.



Actstop members help a family to move into 10 Seventh Street, Malvern, in defiance of CP supporters

Boksburg whites to help Indian neighbours

White families in Boksburg's Windmill Park are preparing to share their stoves and hot water with their Indian neighbours, whose lights and water will be cut in two weeks time if the Boksburg Town Council carries out its threat. Almost all of the white residents The Star spoke to yesterday supported their neigh-

bours — but their first concern was that the controversy in their tiny suburb be settled as quickly as possible. The Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg Town Council claims the Indian residents are illegal in terms of the Group Areas Act and have threatened to cut lights and water from March 20 — Staff Reporter

... ..

Star 8/3/89

Factories to make 'plastic houses'

By Norman
Chandler

Eight factories are to be established in South Africa to produce polystyrene extruded houses — the revolutionary "plastic house" — in an effort to help beat the critical housing shortage

The development follows discussions held in Switzerland and France by the South African holders of the franchise for the revolutionary "plastbau" building system

The Star last year reported that the system was to be used in South Africa. As a result of the story, more than 600 enquiries were received — including the SA Housing Trust, the Urban Foundation, building societies and banks, universities, potential investors, plastics companies, the Soviet Embassy in Harare, and homeland governments

CUTS COSTS

"Plastbau" is the name given to an expandable polystyrene bead foam core building panel which cuts construction costs by more than 25 percent. Houses built by this method are popular in Europe and are also under investigation in the United States and the Far East

The plastic house has been named House of the Year for 1988 in France.

Mr Michael Childs, a spokesman for ESCC (Pty) Ltd Bophuthatswana, told The Star this week that the first of the factories — which would cost R5 million each to build and would provide work for hundreds of people — was scheduled for



Bophuthatswana, with others on the Rand and in QwaQwa

It was hoped to go into

Houses built by this method are popular in Europe and are also under investigation in the United States and the Far East

The plastic house has been named House of the Year for 1988 in France.

Mr Michael Childs, a spokesman for ESCC (Pty) Ltd Bophuthatswana, told The Star this week that the first of the factories — which would cost R5 million each to build and would provide work for hundreds of people — was scheduled for



Bophuthatswana, with others on the Rand and in QwaQwa

It was hoped to go into production in the latter part of the year

Factories would also be built in coastal areas and there were also plans for moveable factories, which could be transported in pantechinons to housing sites

Mr Childs said "The building method will be slightly modified for South African conditions, bearing in mind our major housing problem.

"We will be looking at homes from the very low cost variety to luxury accommodation

"The low-cost homes will be erected in such a way that no foundations will be necessary, but will still have the strength of a conventional brick home.

SAME SYSTEM

"They are also being designed to include a roof using the same system as the rest of the structure.

"If the owner needs to, a foundation slab can be constructed on a do-it-yourself basis

"Electrical and plumbing requirements are extruded in the same process as the walls.

"We anticipate that by this method of construction, costs will be considerably reduced

"It is anticipated that the system will bring the cost of houses at the lower end of the market to about R4 000 for a 40 sq m two-bedroomed dwelling"

Each factory would be able to produce 30 houses a day, and each house could be erected on site in three days

Upgrading by Indians

not welcome

5/4
8/3/89
127
Although Celeste Louw
Mayfair West their contribu-
vice-chairman of the Rate-
yesterday
Mrs Maria Johanna Magde-
lena Kruger added that large
expenditure to upgrade proper-
ties was one of the reasons
whites moved out — "they just
can't keep up because Indians
have lots of money"

She was giving evidence in
the trial of Johannesburg attor-
ney Mr Lawley Shem (34) and
Mr Davechand Ramjee (39) of St
Jeffrey Avenue, Mayfair West,
who have pleaded not guilty to
charges of contravening the
Group Areas Act by allowing
Mr Ramjee to live in Mayfair
West

COLOURED PERSON

According to the charge sheet,
Mr Ramjee "is a coloured per-
son and as such a disqualified
person in respect of land and
premises situated in the group
area"

Mrs Kruger told the court
that the residents of Mayfair
West complained when they saw
residents "with even the slight-
est darker complexion"
"We want to keep Mayfair
West white — we guard against
a second Mayfair"

In 1987 97 percent of residents
petitioned against people of dif-
ferent races living in the area
and the figure was higher after
a more recent petition, the court
heard

Mrs Kruger said that the
main aim of the ratepayers as-
sociation was to upgrade May-
fair West
"Keeping the area white is
only one of many problems," she
said

Detective Adriaan van Blerk
told the court that he investigat-
ed the matter that he investigated
"from Pretoria"

The complaint was lodged by
Deputy Minister Roelf Meyer,
the Mayfair West MP
The defence argued that the
State had not proven physical
occupation of the residence by
Mr Ramjee and that no evi-
dence had been led that they
had not been in possession of a
permit to occupy the house
It was also argued that no
evidence was given that Mr
Ramjee was a coloured person,
as alleged in the charge sheet
It was put to the court that
Mr Ramjee was not a coloured
person
The hearing was postponed
April 19

Free settlement applications on agenda

THE Free Settlement Areas (FSA) Board was expected to consider official applications at its next meeting in about two weeks' time, board secretary Gert Bezuidenhout said yesterday.

Bezuidenhout said a number of "informal" applications had been received but these would have to be further motivated and examined.

Official applications had not yet been received for existing areas such as Hillbrow and Mayfair to be declared officially open.

The first areas to be declared FSAs

(27) 3109 9/3/89
PETER DELMAR

are expected to be undeveloped areas with the board likely to take some six months to process applications for inhabited areas.

Johannesburg management committee acting chairman Jan Burger said the council had not yet considered applying to the board for specific areas in the city to be proclaimed FSAs.

Meanwhile, opposition groups predicted the proclamation of FSAs was likely to be accompanied by increased

harassment of "illegal" tenants in white areas.

Actstop spokesman Cas Coovadia said government was trying to perform a delicate group areas balancing act by appeasing the left and the right.

It believed officially opening some areas would keep the left happy while "harassing" black tenants outside these suburbs was intended as a sop to the right.

However, he doubted whether government would risk large-scale evictions.

City council against Pageview application

Star
9/3/89
By Esmaré van der Merwe
Political Reporter

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The Save Pageview Association's application to have the controversial Johannesburg suburb declared a free settlement area was "nothing but an attempt to play politics", the city's acting management committee chairman, Mr Jan Burger, said yesterday.

He was commenting on the SPA's request to the National Party-controlled city council to support its application to the Free Settlement Board

Mr Burger said there were strong rumours that most of the Indians in the area already own properties in Lenasia

Mr Jan van Blerk, NP councillor for Ward 24 (which includes Pageview), also rejected the request.

GOING BACK ON ITS WORD

"The taxpayers in that area are opposed to a free settlement area. The whites have bought properties on the Government's expressed undertaking that the Indians would be removed

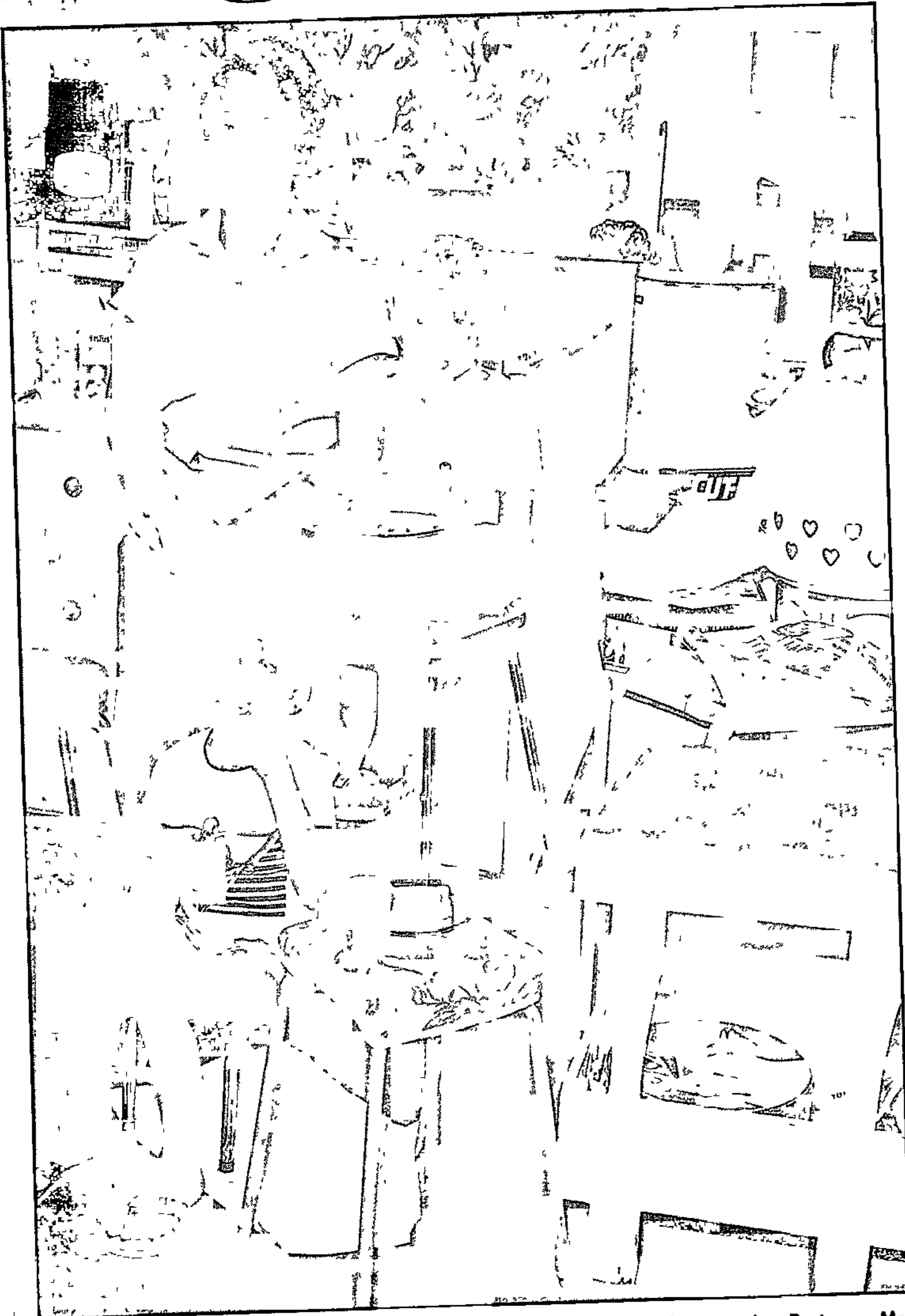
"The council cannot possibly support such a request, because that would imply that the Government has gone back on its word"

PFP councillor Mr Ian Davidson said that historically the "Malay location", renamed Pageview in 1942 when it was declared a white area, was a mixed area and the council was morally bound to heed the SPA's call.

Mr Davidson said a major obstacle to the application by the SPA — formed in 1981 to prevent eviction of Indian families — was that the SPA did not have the legal right to apply to the Free Settlement Board

"But it does not stop the Johannesburg local authority acting on behalf of the residents' wishes"

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Indians 'welcome' in Malvern

By Dawn Barkhuizen

Conservative Party action against an Indian family who moved into a house in Malvern this week has come under strong criticism from the chairman of the Kensington-Malvern Ratepayers' Association, Mr Finbarr Dunne

Mr Dunne was yesterday among the first to welcome the Naidoo family to their home in Seventh Street

His visit followed an incident on Tuesday afternoon in which CP members and residents attempted to prevent the family from moving in by blocking the pavement outside their newly purchased home

In a strongly worded statement yesterday, Mr Dunne said "I have invested in my suburb, I do not want it to turn into a battleground"

CULTURED

"Nobody has the right to kick people out, even animals find a home for their young. People live there and they paid good money for that house. They are well educated and cultured people. They are not rubbish."

While he respected the rights of political parties to exist he was "not in favour of taking the law into one's own hands"

He stressed that he was speaking as chairman of the ratepayers' association, not from a political platform

"They can replace me if they like, but I support their right, and that of the 1 000-odd other Indian and coloured families in the area, to live here"

He said the situation was the fault of the National Party which had failed to give clarity on where people were permitted to live

Determined to live in Malvern despite the strong-arm tactics of the Conservative Party — Mrs Shirley Naidoo and her nephews Kamen (7) (beside her) and Shavenn (5). Picture by Alf Kumalo.

Pageview Indians push for 'free' area

INDIAN residents of Pageview will push ahead with an application for their area to be declared free settlement, despite doubts over whether private individuals are entitled to make an application to the recently-established Free Settlement Areas Board

Chairman of the Save Pageview Association Ebrahim Kharsany said yesterday the application could be lodged

PETER DELMAR

within days

Pageview's 67 Indian families are faced with eviction as their suburb was officially declared a white group area

Group Areas should be scrapped, but proclamation as a free settlement area was the next best alternative, Kharsany said

(127)

Govt will back Windmill Park Indians (127)

GOVERNMENT will recommend that 21 Indian families living in Windmill Park, near Boksburg, be granted residence permits, and that the suburb be declared a free settlement area

Deputy Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Roelf Meyer said in a statement yesterday he would recommend on humanitarian grounds that temporary permits be granted, as the council had threatened to cut off electricity to Indian families living there on March 20

Meyer also said the recently inaugu-

**PETER DELMAR and
EDYTH BULBRING**

rated Free Settlement Board would be asked to investigate Windmill Park as a possible free settlement area

In an interview, he explained that the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning was entitled to make the application, as Windmill Park, a controlled white area, fell outside the jurisdiction of the three Ministers' Councils

Residents' spokesman Clemens Padiachy described Meyer's announcement as a major victory Indian and

white residents had gathered for a celebration last night, he said

Boksburg management committee chairman Gideon Fourie reacted angrily "We can do nothing We have been completely undermined," he said

The council would no longer carry out its threat to cut off electricity to Indian families as this would not be legal if they obtained permits, he said

Germiston District MP Kobus Bosman, who earlier staunchly opposed efforts to make Windmill Park an Indian area, praised the government move

10/17/69

Blacks kicked from Ponte

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OVER 60 black tenants and mixed couples are faced with eviction from a prestigious Berea block of flats, Ponte City, as the landlords evoke the Group Areas Act.

The tenants were served with notices at the beginning of the month. The notices cited that their presence in the building was a contravention of the Group Areas Act.

In an emergency meeting held on Wednesday the tenants resolved to "ignore the notices while organising to oppose the eviction from taking place."

"The landlords knew about the Act when they first accepted us," said Mr George Msibi, a tenant. "The reason for evictions is unacceptable to us. We also cannot accept their ultimatum because we do not have alternative accommodation."

Mr Fanie Steenkamp, manager of the building, confirmed that notices were sent to black tenants and said they were ordered by the police to evict people of colour from the building.

"We have never really accepted them in our building. They used certain methods to gain access," he said

A public secretary for Actstop, Mr Pressage Nkosi, said they believe Ponte City was used as a test case to start evictions on the basis of the Act.

Star 10/3/89

De Klerk ticks off Blanche

By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

National Party leader Mr F W de Klerk has rapped Boksburg MP Mr Sakkie Blanche over the knuckles for continuously campaigning for a reproclamation of Windmill Park from a "white controlled" to an Indian residential area.

In a letter to Boksburg and Germiston District constituencies, Mr de Klerk told Mr Blanche to accept the Government's decision that the area's constitutional status would not be altered.

Mr de Klerk also addressed the rift between National Party MPs in the area following Mr Blanche's persistent efforts to have the area reproclaimed.

If false expectations were raised among Windmill Park residents it "was not the Government which had acted wrongly in this matter" he said.

"I regard this matter as settled, and want to make a serious appeal to all our Nationalists to bury the hatchet, to accept the decision, and to co-operate in developing Dawn Park (a neighbouring area) and Windmill Park in two viable white residential areas."

Mr de Klerk added that the Government could not grant the more than 200 occupation permits for which Indians had applied, because that would contradict the Government's announcement that Windmill Park would remain "white controlled".

● Mr Blanche's campaign for a reproclamation has resulted in a bitter clash with Boksburg's Conservative Party-controlled town council.

Last month management committee chairman Mr Gideon Fourie asked the Government to investigate Mr Blanche's "persistent efforts" to have the area reproclaimed and his "commitment to put Indians in the possession of occupational permits to live in a white-controlled area."

At the time, Mr Blanche defended his actions by saying "The fact that in five years only 41 houses have been built on 453 stands proves that there is an over-saturated white market and that Windmill Park should be considered for another race group or as a free settlement area."

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Govt steps in to let Indian families stay

By Peter Fabricius and Helen Grange

The Government has stepped into the Windmill Park crisis by taking steps to grant permanent residence to the 10 Indian families under threat there

It has asked the Transvaal Administrator to give occupation permits to the Indian families whose municipal services are to be cut off by the Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg Town Council on March 20

The action has been taken "on humanitarian grounds" pending the possible declaration of the suburb as a free settlement area, which the Government has also recommended, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development Mr Roelf Meyer announced yesterday

Boksburg's mayor, Mr Beyers de Klerk, reacted angrily to the NP's "disgraceful meddling with their own laws"

"It is shocking that the Government simply overrides the Boksburg Town Council's efforts to implement the law," he said

The CP has accused Mr Meyer of demonstrating the NP's "unreliability and inability to protect the interests of whites"

The PFP warned that threats to cut lights would have "serious consequences for race relations and stability"

Mr Meyer said he had requested occupation

permits for all the families whose municipal services the council had threatened to cut off on March 20

There are about 270 residential plots in Windmill Park, about 42 of which have been built on

Mr Meyer's announcement came on the same day as nominated MP in the House of Delegates, Mr Ismail Seedat of the Peoples Party of South Africa, gave notice of a motion calling on the Government to grant permanent occupation to the Indian families

Immoral intention

He said this should be done because of the "immoral intention of the Boksburg municipality to discontinue electricity and water supply"

Other reasons mentioned by him were the tension between the Boksburg municipality and the residents of Windmill Park and the alleged assault of a housewife by a Boksburg traffic officer

Further, he said the Indian families were accepted by an overwhelming majority of white residents of the suburb

Mr Peter Soal, Progressive Federal Party, MP for Johannesburg North, welcomed Mr Meyer's "concern and compassion" in asking for the occupation permits to be granted

But he said that declaring Windmill Park a free settlement area would be "another matter"

Burger statement angers SPA official

By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

The Save Pageview Association (SPA) has noted with "utter shock" the words of acting Johannesburg management committee chairman Mr Jan Burger that the SPA's application to have the suburb declared a free settlement area was "nothing but an attempt to play politics"

SPA secretary Mr Ebrahim Kharsany said yesterday he was "aghast at this racist attitude" of the city's ruling, National Party

"If this is the attitude, mockery is made of the Free Settlement Areas Act," Mr Kharsany said

He said the statement pre-empted the findings of the Free Settlement Board

Nat's stance on race row criticised

Staff Reporter (127)

The anti-Group Areas organisation Actstop has taken issue with National Party councillor for Malvern Mr Richard MacArthur over his stance on a racial incident when an Indian family moved into the "white" Johannesburg suburb on Tuesday

Conservative Party members tried to bodily prevent the Naidoo family from moving into a house in 7th Street

Mr MacArthur said the CP supporters were acting within the law because the Naidoo family had transgressed the Group Areas Act

He said "While I condemn the methods that the CP used and do not agree with that method of confrontation, I have to concede that they were acting within the law and were correct"

Mr Cas Coovadia, publicity secretary for Actstop, said "We are shocked at the statement attributed to Mr MacArthur and find it disturbing to note a councillor encouraging confrontationist actions like those of the Conservative Party"

Mr Coovadia conceded that the CP was legally entitled to lay a complaint and that the procedures of the Group Areas Act could follow

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No rent, no power strategy

PRETORIA — The Mamelodi council is taking tough action against rent defaulters in a bid to recover R15m in arrears.

Mayor Bennett Ndlazi said the council was cutting electricity to the homes of defaulters to force them to come to terms with the council over the repayment of arrears.

The action started about two months ago and power was cut to about 10 houses a day.

Ndlazi said the strategy was working — nine out of 10 householders whose electricity had been cut were now making arrangements to pay their debts.

Attorneys

He said the council would continue to cut electricity supplies if the residents did not respond to the council's plea to arrange payments.

Besides electricity cuts, the council has retained four firms of attorneys to recover arrears. The council also charges interest of 1% a month on outstanding rents.

Ndlazi said arrears had stood at R15m for the past three months and the council's action was aimed at reducing and ultimately wiping out the amount. A source close to the council said unpaid rentals amounted to about R2m in 1986. A year later the figure was R8m. — Sapa

Living in suspense

5/17/87 12/3/87
By BOETI ESHAKI 127

THERE is still uncertainty about the fate of Indians living in the white Boksburg suburb of Windmill Park.

The Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg Town Council has threatened to disconnect their water and electricity on March 20.

But this week the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Roelf Meyer, said occupation permits may be issued to the Indian families.

He said he had asked the Administrator of the Transvaal to consider issuing permits to the affected families.

Boksburg's Town Clerk, Mr Johan Coetzee said: "The resolution taken by the council to terminate the services still stands.

"If permits are issued then the resolution would fall away."

Mr Meyer said his request should not be seen as an attempt to pre-empt any legal procedures or to change the existing group character of Windmill Park.

Meanwhile, white residents of Windmill Park are ready to help their Indian neighbours should the council go ahead with its threat.

Group Area family

AN Indian family is determined to stay in their home in a white group area in spite of efforts by Conservative Party supporters to keep them out.

By BOETI ESHAK

STW 12/3/89

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Indians refuse to leave home in white area

Mr Megan Naidoo and his family of nine moved into their Malvern, Johannesburg home on Tuesday afternoon.

Earlier, CP supporters tried to stop people from carrying furniture and other items into the house

But the family managed to get their possessions in with the help of white neighbours and members of Actstop, an organisation which helps Group Area victims

"Now that we are in the house, we will not move out. We will go to court if necessary," a determined Mrs Shirley Naidoo said this week.

"I know the Lord will look after us. People have no right to throw us out.

"I am more shocked than angry at the attitude of the CP and its supporters. We did not experience anything like this when we lived in Kensington, another white area," she said

"My father had retired recently and we had no intention of getting my parents into an old age home. We wanted them with us," Mrs Naidoo added

"We found this house. It was big enough for all of us

"What's more, my father and other members of my family fought side-by-side with the Afrikaners in World War II. Now they

don't want us near them," she said

Mrs Naidoo said most of the furniture was moved in on Monday. But when they arrived with the rest of their possessions on Tuesday, CP supporters blocked the entrance to their home

"There was no violence — although there were arguments between the CP people and Actstop members as we moved our goods in," she said

A neighbour, who declined to be named, was one of the many whites who helped carry the family's possessions into the house

"I'm really proud of them," said the woman. "They are a lot more civilised than many other whites in this street."

The CP's Johannesburg regional council chairman, Mr Fred Rundle, who led the protest, lodged a complaint against the Naidoos for contravening the Group Areas Act. Mr Naidoo also lodged a complaint against the picketers

Mr Naidoo said police at Cleveland promised to stop the picket.

Ten policemen arrived but left shortly afterwards, leaving plainclothes officers at the house

Three armed plainclothes policemen did not intervene when scuffles broke out later between Actstop activists, friends of the Naidoo family and CP supporters

dig in

PETER DELMAR

A BLACK American diplomat was among at least 50 tenants given their marching orders from Johannesburg's giant Ponte City block, a spokesman for the owners said on Friday

But the man's identity is a mystery — official US sources said they had no idea who he is.

Bankorp GM Property Services Tony Botha confirmed a black US foreign service official had been told to vacate his flat, but the order was withdrawn when it was discovered he was a diplomat

A US Information Service spokesman said, however, a search of employees' addresses had failed to produce anyone living in Ponte

(127) (13) B/D...
13/3/89
Mystery American
in Ponte eviction

The decision to evict the tenants for contravening the Group Areas Act has been sharply criticised because of the likelihood that greater Hillbrow will be declared a Free Settlement Area

Residents claim more than 50 black families are affected

Actstop spokesman Mohammed Dangor said residents had formed a committee to approach Bankorp

Free Settlement Board chairman Hein Kruger said last week several applications had already been received to create new mixed townships

Call for compassion in Pageview

By Esmaré van der Merwe

The Government's recommendation that Boksburg's Windmill Park become a free settlement area has led to renewed calls for a similar "act of compassion" for Pageview's 67 Indian families who have been locked in legal battles for years to prevent eviction.

Progressive Federal Party councillor Mr Ian Davidson today called on Mr Roelf Meyer, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, to now "focus his mind on Pageview".

"Before 1956 the Indians had the legal right to live in Pageview. However, the Government

then declared Pageview a white area, and since then the Indians have lived under the constant threat of removal," Mr Davidson said.

The Save Pageview Association's appeal to the National Party-controlled Johannesburg City Council to support its application to the Free Settlement Board to declare Pageview a free settlement area failed last week.

Acting management committee chairman Mr Jan Burger's remark that the SPA's appeal was "nothing but an attempt to play politics" sparked off angry reaction from SPA secretary Mr Ebrahim Kharsany and PFP

councillors.

Mr Kharsany said Mr Burger had pre-empted the work of the Free Settlement Board.

"If this is the attitude, mockery is made of the Free Settlement Areas Act"

PFP councillor Mr Les Dishy said he was amazed at Mr Burger's "shocking response to a legal and interesting request".

Mr Davidson said: "If anyone is playing politics, it is the National Party. The NP is happy to grant Windmill Park's Indian residents occupational permits to embarrass the Conservative Party, but is reluctant to do the same in Pageview which is a NP ward."

Howard

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found guilty on the charge of crimen injuria. However, he appealed against the conviction and on 18 September 1987 his appeal was upheld. Disciplinary action was therefore not taken against the member because he was acquitted by a competent court on the merit of the evidence.

Temporary area with reference to Question No 1083

*5 Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning (1) Whether, with reference to the reply of the Minister of Education and Development Aid to Question No 1083 on 28 June 1988, the area concerned is still regarded as temporary, if so, (a) why and (b) on whose instructions, (2) whether it is the intention of his Department to move the persons currently residing in this area, if so, (a) when, (b) where and (c) for what purpose is it intended to use the land after these persons have been moved? B311E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

This matter vests in the Administrator of the Cape Province and he has furnished the following information

- (1) Yes (a) Because the squatter areas of Fechter, Fienter, Witlokasie and Joodse-kamp are situated on private land where only basic services can be rendered, while Khayaletu (105 Ha) is already declared as a development area and also fully serviced. The proclamation of Damsabos and portions of Concordia and Nekkie as extensions to the existing development area (±220 Ha) is at present being investigated (b) According to a decision by the Community Development Branch of the Cape Provincial Government with regard to the above-mentioned circumstances

(2) Yes

- (a) As soon as suitable serviced sites are available for the development area (b) To the development area presently under investigation as well as Khayaletu

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(c) The land belongs to private landowners who must decide for themselves about the utilisation thereof

Mozambique: facilities provided for members of Parliament

*6 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Whether his Department (a) made any arrangements and/or (b) provided any facilities for the visit to Mozambique by the members of Parliament and of the President's Council referred to in the reply by the Minister of Defence to Question No 6 on 21 February 1989, if so, what arrangement or facilities? B312E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (for the Minister of Foreign Affairs)

- (a) No, but the Department was informed beforehand of the visit and received a report on the discussions (b) No

†Dr W J SNYMAN Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister, I should like to ask whether Defence Force transport was used during this visit and whether all parties in Parliament were invited to take part in this visit

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, I refer the hon member to the reply I gave on that subject two weeks ago in this house

†Dr W J SNYMAN Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister, he has not indicated whether an invitation was extended to the other two parties I want specifically to ask the hon the Deputy Minister whether the other parties were also invited to this function

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, I do not have that information at my disposal at the moment [Interjections]

Police station for Sandringham/Sydenham

*7 Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether he has received a request to establish a police station to serve the Sandringham/Sydenham area in Johannesburg, if so, when, (2) whether he will accede to this request, if not, why not, if so, when is it anticipated that the police station in question will be in operation? B317E

Howard

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†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) Yes, on 30 January 1989 (2) A feasibility study is at present being conducted to ascertain whether or not a police station should be opened in the area concerned. It is anticipated that it will still take a considerable time to complete this study, therefore I cannot make any decision at this stage

Mr H H SCHWARZ: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply would he like to give me an estimate as to what he regards as a "geruime tyd"? Secondly, would the hon the Minister like to indicate whether there is a mobile police station that can be made available in the interim?

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, it is really not possible to say how long it will take to complete the study, but I shall look into the hon member's request for a temporary police station and see whether we can assist him in this regard in the meantime

*8 Mrs H SUZMAN — Law and Order [Withdrawn]

*9 [Discharged]

Mixed marriages: permits for White residential areas

*10 Mr M J MENTZ asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

Whether applications for the issue of permits to couples who have entered into mixed marriages, to live in White areas notwithstanding the provisions of the Group Areas Act, No 36 of 1966, are considered according to certain criteria, if so, what criteria are applied for this purpose? B328E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

This matter vests in the Administrators of the different provinces and they furnished the following information

The criteria applied when considering all applications are those set out in section 21 of the aforementioned Act.

Industrial Council for the Building Industry: house loans

*11 Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Manpower

Whether any cases have occurred in which the Industrial Council for the Building Industry in the Transvaal granted more than one house loan to a single employee, if so, (a) why, (b) when, (c) in how many cases and (d) in terms of what statutory provisions, regulations and/or other enabling provisions? B331E

†The ACTING MINISTER OF MANPOWER

(a), (b), (c) and (d) The Council is empowered by its constitution to grant housing loans to its employees on conditions and at such interest rates as may from time to time be determined by the Council and against such security as it deems necessary

The Department of Manpower does not have the requested particulars as the Council is an autonomous body corporate which conducts its domestic affairs in terms of its constitution and the Labour Relations Act, 1956, without intervention from the Department

Sea Point: removal of shellfish

*12 Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

- (1) Whether his Department exercises any control over the removal of shellfish from the rocks at Sea Point, if not, why not; if so, to what extent, (2) whether his Department has received reports of shellfish being removed indiscriminately from the rocks at Sea Point; if so, what steps are being taken in this regard? B334E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND OF LAND AFFAIRS (For the Minister of Environment Affairs)

(1) No, the Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation of the Cape Provincial Administration is responsible for control over the removal of shellfish from the rocks in the Cape Province

(2) No

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

De Beer angry at the plight of Indian families

THEO RAWANA

PFP leader Zach de Beer was angry yesterday when he saw the plight of Boksburg Indians at Windmill Park.

He said races could live harmoniously and it was political propaganda to say they fought when mixed.

De Beer added on a walk-about in Windmill Park, where threatened Indians have been promised temporary permits by Deputy Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Roelf Meyer, that there was confusion among Nationalists on how to apply the Group Areas Act.

"The CP wants to enforce the GAA, I want it scrapped. What the Nats are doing in the middle is a mystery," De Beer said.

He added Boksburg management committee chairman Gideon Fourie told him the committee would recommend the Indians should be granted temporary occupation permits until neighbouring Villa Liza was developed and they could move there.

Residents' spokesman Clemens Padiachy said he would never move from Windmill Park. "I came to settle here and I am settling."

De Beer said "I have noted that Minister Meyer intends to grant permits to these threatened people, and I suppose I ought to be grateful, but I don't feel grateful. I feel angry that these fellow-citizens are discriminated against and humiliated in this way."

CP vows to 'remove' Boksburg's Indians

By Esmaré van der Merwe
Political Reporter

Jubilant over the imminent legalisation of Indian families in Boksburg's "white-controlled" suburb of Windmill Park could be short-lived

Boksburg's Conservative Party-controlled town council — which earlier this month threatened to cut water and electricity supplies to Windmill Park's Indians — has vowed to continue the battle to have the 22 families removed

At a special town council meeting tonight, the council is expected to accept a motion recommending the granting of temporary occupational permits to Indian families in Windmill Park — but only for a period of one year from the proclamation of Villa Liza, a proclaimed Indian area, as a township

This would give Windmill Park's Indian families time to buy land and build houses in Villa Liza, after which they would be removed from the controversial "white-controlled" suburb — if the CP has its way

FAMILIES JUBILANT

Yesterday, the 22 Indian families in Windmill Park were still jubilant after the announcement by the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Roelf Meyer, that he would recommend to the Administrator of the Transvaal that occupational permits be granted to them

But spokesman Mr Clemens Padiachy warned that they would not move to Villa Liza.

"They're putting pressure on us to move to Villa Liza. But I am not white or black. I'm a South African. And I'm here to stay," he said.

Mr Henry Ford, the local estate agent from whom the Indians are renting their houses, said he had already applied to the Free Settlement Areas Board for the proclamation of Windmill Park as a free settlement area

● The leader of the Progressive Federal Party, Dr Zach de Beer, yesterday visited the area to meet residents and the management committees of Boksburg and Reiger Park.

He said the Government's decision to legalise the position of the Indian families indicated it was confused about the application of the Group Areas Act

CP threat to block further Indian moves into Malvern

By Dawn Barkhuizen

The Conservative Party last night warned that it would take steps to prevent any other Indian family moving into Malvern, Johannesburg, as it had done with the Naidoo family last week

It warned that it would "keep on acting the way we did in Seventh Street until the National Party takes notice".

This was stated by the secretary of the Conservative Party in Jeppe, Mr Danie Struwig, chairman of the Jeppe constituency council of the Conservative Party at a meeting of Malvern ratepayers in the Malvern Methodist Church Hall

Chairman of the Johannesburg regional council of the CP, Mr Fred Rundle, said the State's failure to take action against blacks moving into white areas was a clear signal for people to break the law and take the law into their own hands

'DIGNIFIED MANNER'

In attempting to stop the Naidoo family from moving in, the CP had attempted "in a dignified manner" to prevent them from transgressing the laws

Malvern residents themselves appear divided over the issue

In a sometimes heated debate, those in favour of the maintenance of a white group area called for Government action "before it is too late and we are all murdered in our beds" and "before the blacks start raping our white women"

They demanded to know "how the Indians got there in the first place" and challenged blacks to "move to PFP areas"

'FACE THE FACTS'

Other residents welcomed "decent people of colour", said people should "face the facts and have the Group Areas Act scrapped" and "children should learn to grow up together and respect one another"

In response to a challenge that he make his position clear, the chairman of the Ratepayers Association Mr Finbarr Dunne said "I will never surrender my principles or conscience for any political party"

"I could not go to church on Sunday and then come out and put people out of their homes into the street — no matter what colour they are"

BLACK tenants at Ponte City flats in Johannesburg yesterday resolved to "pressurise and embarrass" their landlords in a bid to stop their threatened eviction.

Negotiations have reached a deadlock.

The landlords offered to withdraw the present notices and advised the tenants to obtain valid permits "to reside in a white group area by the end of June."

The offer was turned down by the 156 black

Black tenants fight on

families and mixed couples who are affected.

"The suggestion is an affront to our dignity and an insult to us as South African citizens," said the tenants spokesman who may not be named for fear of victimisation.

"We refuse to apply for permits to allow us to stay in any place in the country of our birth. We consider the attitude of Vincemus Investments Ltd and Bankorp Property Services to be totally unreasonable and racist," they said.

Meanwhile the affected tenants and Actstop are organising a mass meeting to be held on Monday to protest against renewed evictions under the Group Areas Act.



Carr's Colleges South Africa
(Established 1948)

Registered in Terms of the
Manpower Training Act of 1981

SPECIAL OFFER

Write off rent debt, says probe

By THEMBA MOLEFE

SOWETO rent arrears of about R200 million should be written off and a community trust fund be established out of housing sales to build other houses, a research report says.

The research was commissioned by the Soweto Delegation, a group of leaders elected by residents last year to seek ways to end the four-year rent crisis.

The report, presented at a Press conference in Johannesburg yesterday, also recommends

- Old houses should be transferred to occupants free of charge.
- A sliding formula should be developed for the remaining houses to determine the amounts to be paid.
- The quality of service should be improved, and
- A single tax base be established for Johannesburg and Soweto in formulating one integrated urban economy, thus abandoning the present "apartheid city" approach.

Talks plan

The Soweto delegation comprises Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Rev Frank Chikane, Father Lebamang Sebidi, Mrs Albertinah Sisulu, Mrs Ellen Khuzwayo, Sister Bernard Ncube and Mr Cyril Ramaphosa.

The delegation is to meet the Soweto City Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration to discuss contents of the report.

The findings of the report also highlight the appalling conditions in Soweto. It said these led to rent boycott and were a result of neglect.

It says, "The erratic shifts in State policy with regard to running of places like Soweto are an indication that the State has no rational policy in respect of these areas — but it is merely governed by its apartheid or racist ideology," it says.

The report says about 283 000 Soweto residents

• To Page 2 •

Sowetan
17/12/87

P.T.O.



THE Soweto delegation at yesterday's press conference. From left: Dr Ellen Khuzwayo, Mrs Albertinah Sisulu, The Rev Frank Chikane, Father Lebamang Sebidi and Sister Bernard Ncube.

Call to scrap rents debt

sowetan 17/3/89

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• From Page 1

worked in Johannesburg and earned more than R2 billion in 1987, when about R1 billion was spent in the city's CBD. However, because Soweto is defined as a separate city, Sowetans do not benefit from the economic development of Johannesburg.

In this way, the report says, Soweto subsidises Johannesburg.

The ever-escalating backlog on black housing exacerbated the

bad conditions in the community, the report says.

The delegates said in their statement that the 97-page research report came as a result of the rent boycott which was "the people's voice of anguish saying enough is enough".

The report also focuses on the policy positions of various State institutions and parties with a stake in the Soweto crisis.

These include the Soweto City Council itself and the TPA which the report says has adopted a hardline policy on the rent boycott.

"It would like to see the bridging finance repaid," says the report, which recommends that Soweto's current debt of about R701 million be written off.

The report says the Soweto City Council itself is financially bankrupt and has very little political legitimacy.

Also involved in the Soweto crisis is the Witwatersrand Regional Services Council and the Wits Joint Management Committee which the report says has "recently become a player in the issue and places emphasis on political stability while being concerned with seeing the Soweto Council emerging as a fully functional local authority".

skw
12/3/87

East Rand 127 townships short of land

By Paula Fray

Additional funds and land for expansion emerged as two of the greatest needs of some local authorities on the East Rand during a tour of six of the 32 towns under the area's Regional Services Council yesterday.

The remaining 26 local authorities will be toured in the next two weeks.

RSC chairman Mr Leon Ferreira said the tour was for new representatives to acquaint themselves with the region being served; to have discussions with council officials and to establish the problems of the various local authorities.

Representatives were taken to Wattville, Actonville, Benoni, Daveyton, Kempton Park and Tembisa and were shown projects undertaken with RSC financial aid.

Mr Ferreira said the RSC had decided to provide money "where the need was greatest" and in many cases this was in the black areas.

Benoni town clerk, Mr Nantas Botha, said the problem was receiving attention.

Most of the local authorities appealed for additional funds for drain-water systems, roads and community projects.

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Turnabout on electricity, water services

By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

Staff in the Johannesburg city treasurer's department were yesterday instructed to in future accept deposits for water and electricity connections from blacks "illegally" living in Johannesburg's "white" suburbs, the Conservative Party claimed

This is the latest development in the row which had erupted over the National Party-controlled council's policy not to connect water and electricity to houses in "white" residential areas occupied by blacks — unless they provided proof of exemption permits in terms of the Group Areas Act

City treasurer Mr Perry Rabe declined to comment on the claim by the CP's Johannesburg divisional chairman, Mr Fred Rundle

Mr Rabe said he had been instructed not to make any further statements until the management committee had discussed the issue on Monday

Earlier, Mr Rabe said "legal and administrative" reasons were behind the council's policy of refusing certain services to blacks living in "white" areas.

Acting management committee chairman Mr Cecil Long said there was "good reason" for this policy

If mixed residential living was allowed, "this country will have racial confrontation like it's never had before"

Jo'burg 'will now accept deposits from illegals'

Reacting to the Progressive Federal Party's revelation of this "racist" policy, adopted in March 1987, Mr Long said "If the PFP wants to accuse the NP of being racist because this particular policy coincidentally is the same as the CP's, it can well do so"

Mr Rabe added "Legally, we cannot conclude a contract with blacks living illegally in white areas. The contract thus is not enforceable — not only from the council's point of view, but also from the consumer's point of view"

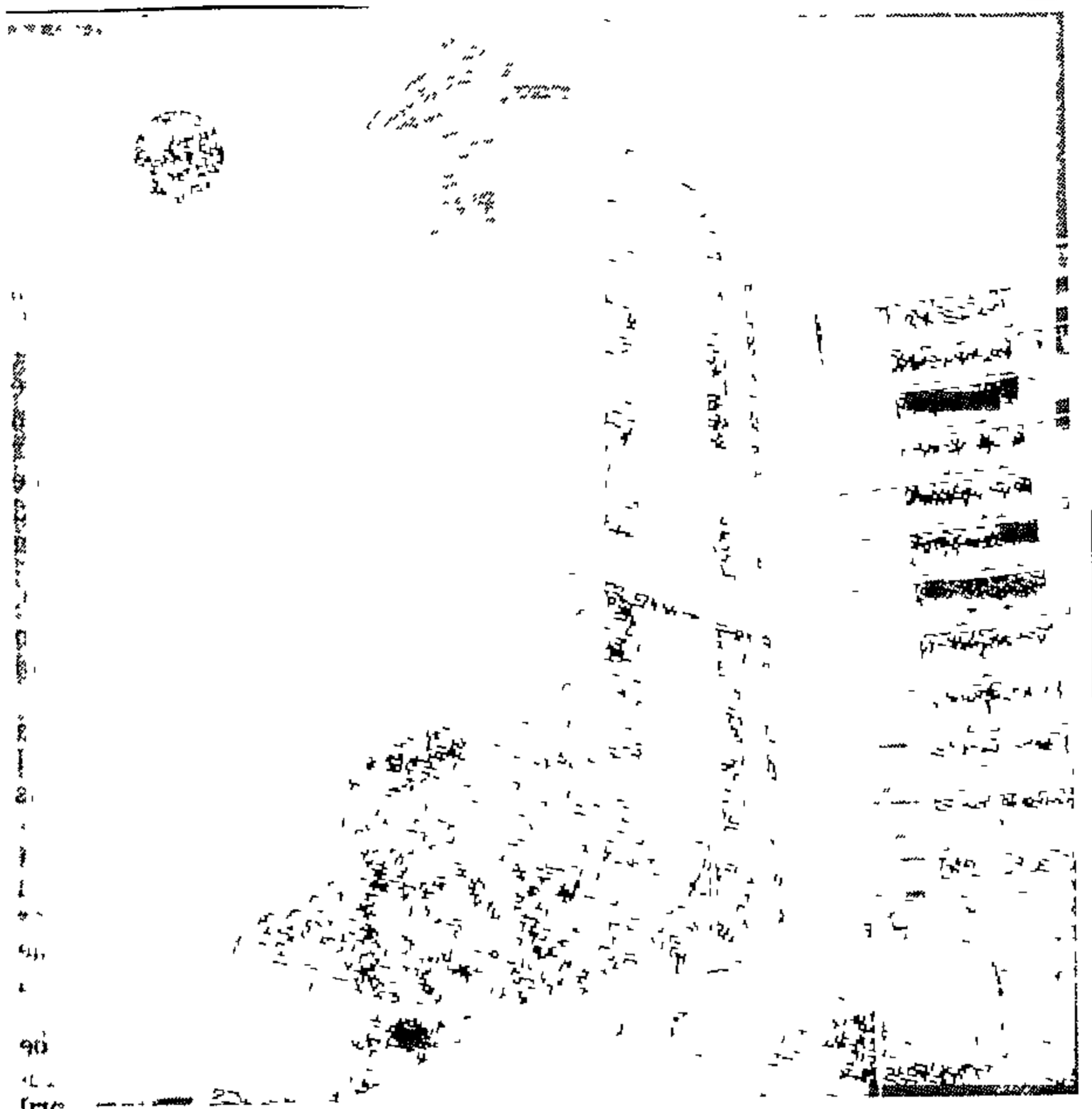
PFP leader in the council Mr Tony Leon said by refusing to supply such households with services the city council was

"doing exactly the same as the CP in Boksburg"

"Whereas in Boksburg so-called illegal residents have their electricity cut off, in Johannesburg the council simply refuses to supply it"

Mr Leon said the council had many remedies available to it should any consumer default by not paying his electricity account

●The Boksburg Town Council this week officially abandoned its threat to cut the electricity supply to Indian families living in the officially "white" area of Windmill Park, but the council said it would not give up its attempts to rid the suburb of Indian families



Ponte City in Berea . . . at centre of Group Areas controversy.

Ponte tenants refuse to apply for permits

8701 17/3/89 (127)

By Lloyd Coutts

Black occupants of Ponte City in Berea have rejected, as an insult to their dignity, a proposal by the building management that they apply for residents' permits

More than 40 residents have been given a month to vacate their flats by the owners, Vincemus Investments, which says it has been asked to comply with the Group Areas Act by the SAP's Group Areas Division

"In a letter to a residents' committee, Vincemus rejected a proposal that it withdraw the notices since this constituted an instruction to the company to ignore current Group Areas legislation, and, in doing so, risk prosecution

"However, after due consideration of the matter, it has been decided to withdraw the relevant notices and to grant all the affected tenants an opportunity to apply for and obtain a valid permit to reside in a White Group Area by not later than June 1989," it said

The committee, which is being assisted by the anti-Group Areas Act committee, Actstop, said in a statement released last night "We consider any suggestion regarding an application for a permit to be an insult to our dignity as citizens of South Africa

"As a matter of principle, we refuse to apply for permits to allow us to stay

in any place in the country of our birth We refuse to be discriminated against because of the fact that we are black We consider the attitude of Vincemus and Bankorp to be totally unreasonable and racist"

The committee said residents had been left with no choice but to pursue peaceful methods of pressure to win the moral right to live at Ponte City

The statement said residents expected Bankorp Property Services, a holding company of Vincemus Investments, to take a stand against the Group Areas Act as had other companies

"We have been loyal and respectable tenants for a number of years The owners of the building have always been fully aware that they have black tenants It would be ludicrous, even from a business viewpoint, to purport otherwise

"We have always tendered our rentals of between R380 and R900 per month personally and often with our personal cheques Now, all of a sudden, we are so-called 'illegal tenants'," the statement said

The committee advised Vincemus that it would instruct counsel to defend any action against residents Vincemus had not responded to a request for a meeting

Union politics in the melting pot

Mar 3/3/89

Representatives of about 40 unions with nearly a million members meet this weekend in Johannesburg in a summit that could signal the beginning of a break with traditional political divisions among South Africa's black workers and the forging of a greater unity, writes Labour Reporter MIKE SILUMA.

When an estimated 700 delegates, representing more than a million workers, meet this weekend they will be taking a major step in the long and tortuous battle to unite South Africa's black workers.

The question of uniting black trade unions has emerged, since the legalisation of these unions in 1979, as the most pressing strategic goal for organised black labour.

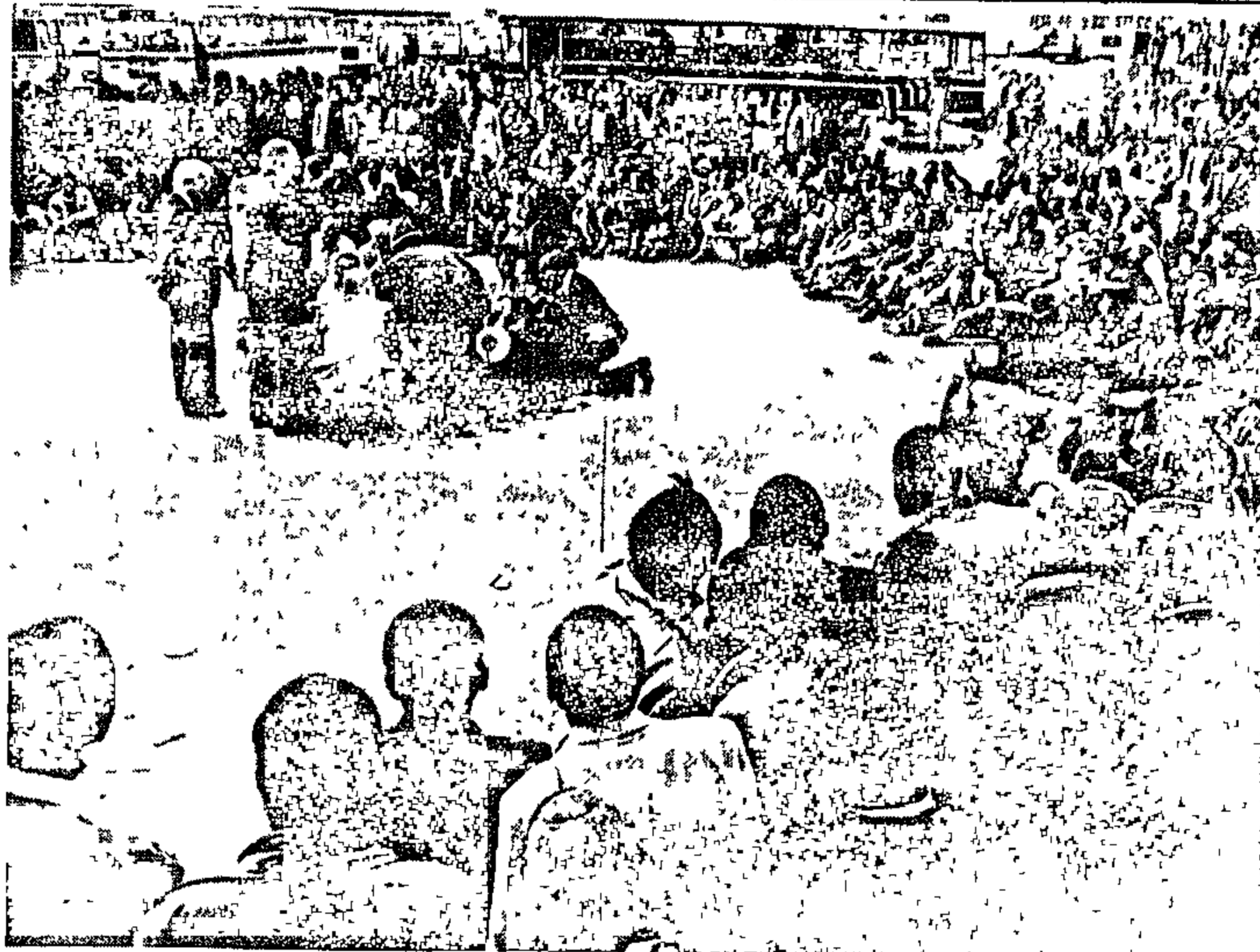
Moves started in earnest in 1981 and were followed by nearly five years of what were to be known as "the unity talks", involving major groupings — the Federation of SA Trade Unions (Fosatu), the Council of Unions of SA (Cusa), the Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions (Azactu) and a host of unions affiliated to the United Democratic Front, as well as many independents, also took part in the protracted negotiations.

THREE GROUPS

With the formation of the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) in 1985, which incorporated Fosatu's three main groupings became identifiable names were Cosatu, which was later to adopt the Freedom Charter as the basis of its political strategy and establish itself as the biggest SA labour union, Cusa, which tended to take a middle ground in black extra-parliamentary politics, and Azactu, which fell in line with black consciousness groups.

By the end of 1986, Cusa and Azactu had merged to form the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu).

Although areas of cooperation existed between the three, it was, however, the introduction of the Labour Relations Amendment Act that gal-



A union-management indaba. The question of union unity has become the most pressing strategic goal for organised labour — but it is beset by several problems, mostly political.

vanised Nactu and Cosatu into seriously pursuing the unity issue again.

They found common ground in their opposition to the Act, which they still regard as detrimental to workers' rights, and jointly mounted a protest which saw black workers staying away from work for three days last June.

In subsequent discussions Cosatu and Nactu agreed to a "workers summit" on March 4-5 1989 to discuss the Labour Relations Act, union unity and "State repression".

Then came Nactu's proposal that the summit be postponed indefinitely to give Nactu members

time to discuss the question of unity. Cosatu was emphatic, however, that the meeting could not be postponed "because of vague tactical considerations".

UNACCEPTABLE

"We cannot accept this because we believe the apartheid State and its allies in big business will not wait for us to prepare our blueprints. Thousands of our members are being dismissed, unions are interdicted, locked out and threatened with damages claims which aim to bankrupt us (in terms of the new Act)," said Cosatu, pointing out that the idea of a summit was initiated by Nactu in

the first place.

Hot on the heels of the Cosatu statement came the announcement by 11 Nactu affiliates that they would attend the summit, despite Nactu's decision. Cosatu, the Nactu affiliates and some independent unions then jointly declared that the summit would go ahead this weekend as scheduled.

Explaining their decision to attend the summit, the 11 Nactu unions said "The State and capital have gone into their historical laager and this demands the same of us. The growing repressiveness of the State and the arrogant attitude of capital can only be effec-

tively challenged by the black working class if it is united."

REJECTED

Nactu's decision, they added, was not "in the broader interests of the working class". While pledging their continued allegiance to Nactu, they rejected that federation's plea for postponement.

The Nactu unions' spokesman, Mr Bulelo Rakwena, conceded that the stance of the 11 would be questioned within Nactu but maintained that the 11 had acted in accordance with Nactu's principles of worker unity and the independence of affiliates.

That tensions are running high within Nactu over the matter cannot be denied, however.

Nactu assistant general secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana is adamant that the decision of the 11 unions was "against the grain" of the Nactu national council and the workers but insisted that Nactu still supported unity.

Mr Ngcukana said his decision "by the 10 general secretaries of affiliates" to attend the summit was a domestic issue to be dealt with through the structures of the federation and affiliates would not say if that meant disciplinary action would be taken against those attending the summit.

POLITICAL

Although Nactu says it wants a postponement to give members time to discuss unity, there is little doubt that its position has political undertones. Mr Ngcukana himself said "The question of unity is a political issue in the variegated national political spectrum that permeates the labour movement of our country."

Interestingly, Cosatu appears to have been over backwards to create obstacles. It has agreed that delegates from Nactu (now its 11 affiliates) and Cosatu be limited to 250 each, despite its membership being about seven times that of Nactu. It is also understood to have gone along with a number of changes to the summit agenda introduced by Nactu.

Despite its problems, the summit could turn out to be a turning point in the politics of black labour, long plagued by divisions along political lines.

Joy over sharing in Windmill Park

Star 18/3/87

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'Scared Indians turn to CP'

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN — Some Indians had turned to the Conservative Party in Durban to complain about blacks moving into their areas, said the Conservative Party's Mr Carl Werth at a public meeting in the City Hall.

He claimed the Indians had said they felt threatened by blacks moving into their neighbourhood

Mr Werth said he wanted the Indian and coloured communities to know their salvation was dependent on a Conservative Party government.

He said that when House of Representatives member Mr Cecil Kippen asked for Clairwood to be made an open area, a number of Indians had objected.

Something must be done to stop white areas from becoming grey areas, Mr Werth warned. "This cancer is spreading. It's like blackmail, once you succumb to it, there is no stopping."

He said Albert Park was a *de facto* open area and this would most likely spread to other areas it was stopped.

THE promise of permits to Indian families living in the Boksburg suburb of Windmill Park was a cause for celebration by residents this week

The suburb has also been referred to the Free Settlement Board which means there is a prospect of it becoming a free settlement area

The announcement that 21 Indian families living in the Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg suburb were to be given permits was made by the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Roelf Meyer, in Parliament this week

Yesterday, spokesman for Windmill Park's Indian residents, Mr Clemens Padiachy, said "We are delighted with the announcement. We have been told we will get our permits on Monday and we are not prepared to accept anything less"

In response, white residents in Windmill Park heaved a sigh of relief

'Grey' prospect

For them this was the first official step taken in their lengthy battle to get the suburb declared a "grey area"

The racially mixed suburb consists of about 25 white families and about 16 Indian families, the chairman of the residents' committee, Mr Coen Klopper, says

It is officially a white group area and the Boksburg Town Council last month attempted to charge Indian families in the suburb for contravening the Group Areas Act.

White neighbours rallied to support them and were infuriated by threats that Indian residents' water and electricity would be cut off in an attempt to force them out of the area

However, a number of white families this week said they were pleased with the announcement because they could now sell their houses "and get out of this area" "We all get on very well but there is now a stigma attached to living in this suburb," said one.

PAT DEVEREAUX

Mr Klopper said "We are hoping the next step is that it will be declared an 'open area' If this is done we have more chance of selling our houses"

He added "We feel cheated. Four years ago when we moved here it was prime land so we built our dream homes. Since then a mine hostel with 8 000 black workers has been built on one side of the suburb. A prison is being built on the other and now the largest rubbish dump in the southern hemisphere is also being established close by

"There are no mailing facilities. No shopping centres, schools or recreation centres. In fact we don't care if we sell our houses to Martians — we are so desperate to get out"

Asked whether the new developments including the rubbish dump and the prison bothered Indian home-owners, he said "We chose to live in the suburb. But Indians living in Villa Liza who will be closer to the dump don't have that choice"

On the question of whites selling out if the area was declared a grey area, Mr Padiachy said he did not believe the suburb would become totally Indian "as some white families have committed themselves to staying"

Meanwhile, the Naidoo family, who moved into Johannesburg's Malvern and were welcomed to the suburb by the ratepayers association chairman, Mr Finbarr Dunne, have also applied for a permit to live in the white suburb

The family were at first prevented from moving into their home in Seventh Street by Conservative Party members, but, said Mr Mergan Naidoo "we haven't had any further trouble or threats since we moved in"

Mr Dunne said he couldn't understand what all the fuss was about. "There are a number of Indian, coloured and black families living in Malvern. The poor turnout at a recent residents' meeting shows that people are not concerned about having a mixed neighbourhood," he said

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS AND ADVERTISING COMPANY LTD. THE SALVATION ARMY

CP members try to stop family

RIAAN SMIT

AN Indian man laid a complaint of harassment yesterday against CP supporters who tried to prevent him and his family from moving into a house in the white group area of Malvern.

Mergan Naidoo said police at the Cleveland station promised to send officers to the house to stop CP supporters preventing him from moving the last of his household goods into 10 7th Street.

Ten policemen arrived at the house at about 6pm, but left shortly afterwards, leaving three armed, plainclothes officers at the house.

Scuffles broke out when nine CP supporters tried to prevent about 15 Indian friends of the Naidoo family from carrying possessions into the house at about 7.30pm. *6/10/81*

The three policemen did not intervene and left the scene. They returned after the scuffles had stopped.

A white woman neighbour also helped the Naidoo family carry possessions in.

She said: "I'm proud to have them here. They are more civilised than a lot of the whites in this street. In God's eyes there is no colour."

The CP supporters were led by Johannesburg regional CP chairman Fred Rundle. He laid a complaint of contravening the Group Areas Act.

He said: "These people are breaking the law, not us."

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19/3/89
COWAY

New hope at hand for Mhluzi's matchbox inhabitants

Scheme to provide houses the 'majority will be able to afford'

By STAN MHLONGO

A MAJOR housing company has announced details of a housing scheme for Mhluzi township near Middelburg that it claims the majority of potential home owners can afford

FHA Homes chief ex-

ecutive officer Brian Longley this week said the scheme would help alleviate the acute housing shortage in the township, where up to 26 people have been crowded into a matchbox house

The development pro-

ject was devised jointly by the Mhluzi City Council and FHA Homes. Prices of houses, including land costs, range from R19 500 to R48 000

The Mhluzi council said the abolition of influx control in 1986 more than doubled the township's population, swelling it from 28 000 to 60 000 and upsetting long-term projects lined up for the area

However, this did not affect the "original initiative" taken by the council three years ago when it purchased 510 hectares from the Middelburg City

Council with a view to providing 7 500 housing units

The development is situated within walking distance of community services like shops, churches and sport facilities. Residents will also have easy access to transport.

● Meanwhile, LTA Comiat Homes has sold over 100 houses in Lamontville outside Durban under the 99-year leasehold scheme, saving buyers about R3 500 in freehold transfer costs. The first phase of the 100-home project proved popular - they sold within five months

LTA Comiat Homes regional manager Dave Crompton said the Lamontville scheme was the first to be awarded to a private developer in a black urban area in Natal. "Its success proves the need for large-scale housing developments by the private sector in the area," he said

● In Thabong outside Welkom, nine showhouses costing R30 000 will be on view this Sunday

Sunrise View Building Consortium spokesman Ian Harris said there were about 1 300 stands in the first phase of the development. The sites sold on leasehold can be converted to freehold on payment of an additional transfer duty fee

Blacks given the job

ABOUT 300 sites have been allocated to black builders to build homes in Jouberton near Klerksdorp

The secretary of the United Black Builders Association, Mr Abram Nkomo, yesterday said the sites were allocated to them by the South African Housing Trust

He said this was a breakthrough for the association which intended to build low cost houses for many people living under "horrifying conditions" in the township.

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Sandam 20/3/87

'Unjust law must be rejected by just-minded people'

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Star 21/3/89

Actstop, the anti-Group Areas Act committee committed to fighting evictions, says the nomination of the Free Settlement Areas Board appears to be heralding an increase in the number of prosecutions under the Act. Ponte City in Berea, Johannesburg, is currently under the spotlight, but Actstop says it is assisting residents of 74 buildings in the city. **LLOYD COUTTS** reports

Ponte City has been described, unkindly perhaps, as "the giant toilet roll on the hill". Be that as it may, the building has certainly become a Johannesburg landmark and a distinctive part of the city skyline

And the subcontinent's largest block of flats — or at least its black tenants and the building management — is back in the news

Many of its black occupants are middle class upwardly mobile people, professionals and business people who pay rents of between R380 and R900 a month

For them the crunch came on March 1 — the day the Free Settlement Areas Board came into operation

The owners of the building, Vincemus Investments, informed black residents they were being given a months' notice

The circular said "We have been instructed by our head office after a visit by the SA Police to apply the Group Areas Act of 1966 to avoid possible prosecution

"We therefore in terms of the Group Areas Act of 1966, or any Act in substitution therefor, tender you one months' notice to vacate your flat. There will be no exception to this decision"

Residents refused to move and called in Actstop, which has helped to organise them, providing legal advice and back-up in case Vincemus presses ahead and seeks an interdict

This week the residents' committee issued a statement which said Ponte had a history of attempted prosecution under the Act

"As far back as 1978 black tenants were prosecuted, but never evicted. Now, 11 years later, a Government purporting to be moving away from racial discrimination is repeating its repressive actions by bringing yet again the threat of the Group Areas Act

"It is interesting to note that a Government claiming to be reaching out to black people in a spirit of reconciliation can still treat us in this manner"

In a related statement, Actstop said the nomination of the Free Settlement Areas Board by the Nationalist Government appeared to be heralding an increase in the number of prosecutions under the Act

"We in Actstop are not at all surprised by this. We have consistently maintained that the Free Settlement Areas Bill was never meant to be a move away from the "group area" doctrine. In fact it simply allows the Government to project a semblance of reform, under which it increases its repressive policies"

The threat against Ponte residents followed cases in progress against black people living in Mayfair and there was every indication this type of harassment was on the increase, Actstop said

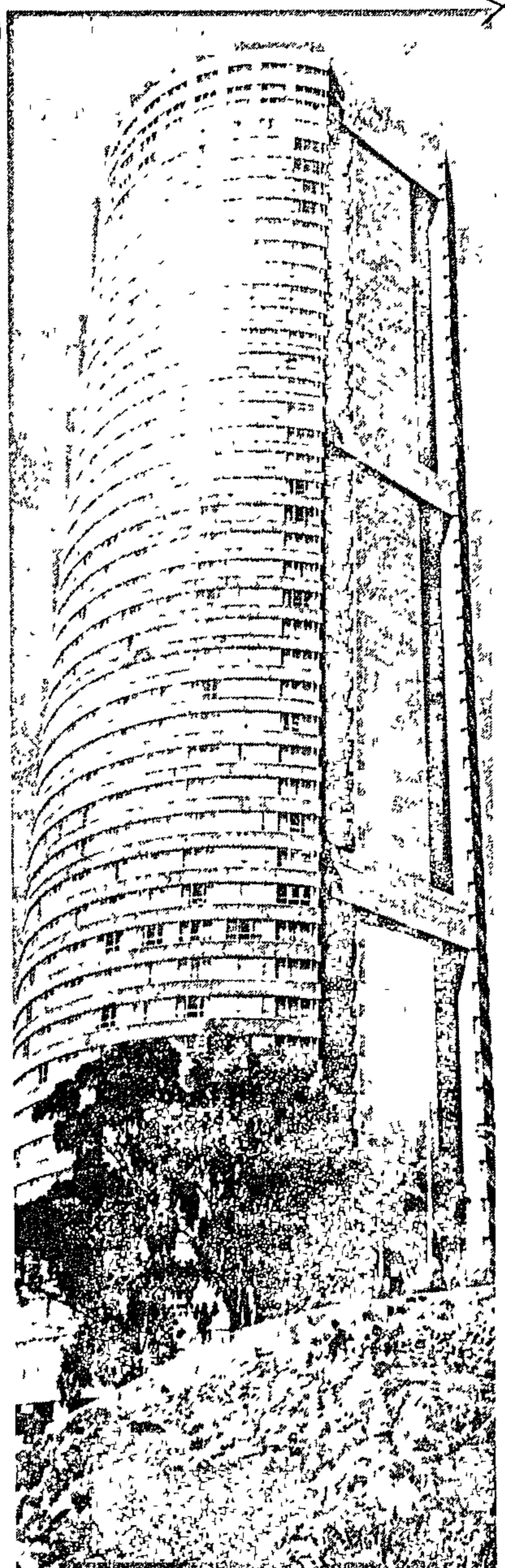
The irresponsible and stubborn insistence of the Government to cling to an Act that was being denounced by people ranging from members of the National Party to members of the broad democratic movement was causing irreversible damage to the future of the country

"The Group Areas Act, which has been a corner-stone of apartheid, has been destroyed by the popular struggles of black people and this is a sign that apartheid itself is crumbling

"It is inevitable that a law without the quality of justice must be rejected by all just-minded people. All decent and just people must, eventually, find it repugnant to abide by a law that causes hardship and misery to thousands of people," Actstop said

Recent incidents in Mayfair-West, Homestead Park, Belgravia and Malvern were examples of lawlessness under the protection of the Group Areas Act

The NP had to bear full responsibility for unlawful actions committed in the name of the Act. "We appeal to this Government to accept that laws promulgated by an exclusive minority to control the vast majority can only lead our country to disaster," Actstop said



Ponte City . . . back in the news as tenants receive letters giving them a month's notice

'Unjust law must be rejected by just-minded people'

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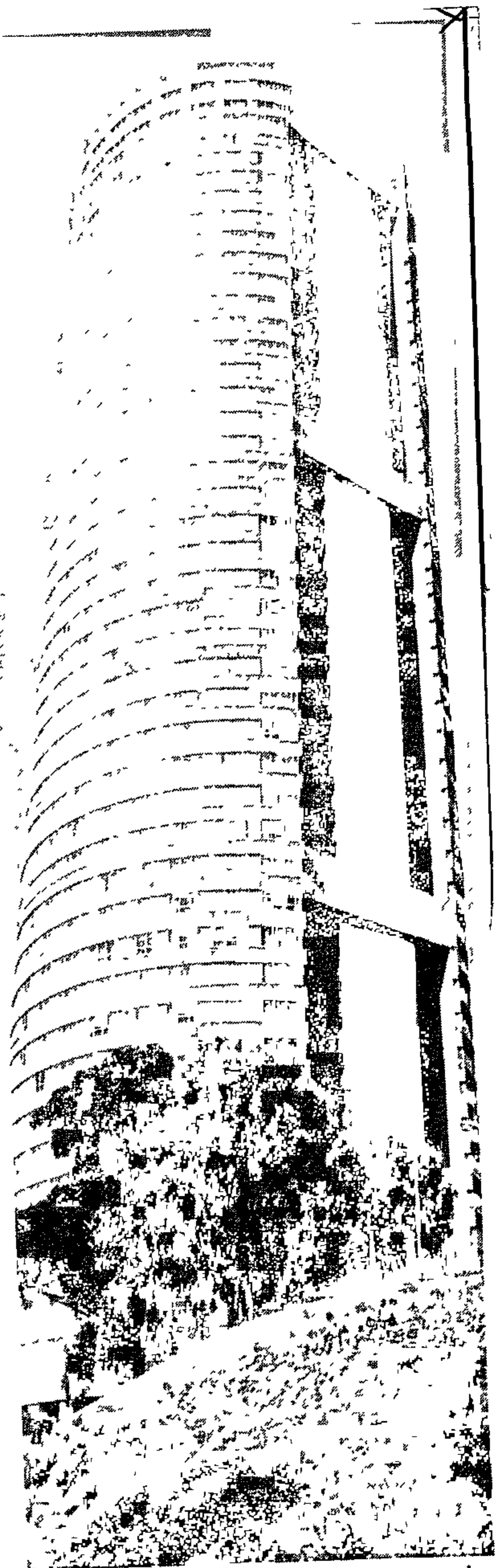
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Ponte City . . . back in the news as tenants receive letters-giving them a month's notice.

Challenge to FW on suburb in Boksburg

By Esmare van der
Merwe,
Political Reporter

The Ratepayers' Association of Dawn Park, a residential area in Boksburg, has challenged National Party leader Mr F W de Klerk to fulfil his promise not to declare controversial Windmill Park an Indian or free settlement area

In an open letter, the association's chairman, Mr Billy Hilder, said Mr de Klerk had given a written undertaking in 1988 that no occupational permits would be granted to Indians

However, the Government announced this month that occupational permits would be granted to Indian families and that the area would be considered a free settlement area

Mr Hilder said the association believed that neighbouring Villa Liza would provide for the housing needs of the Indian community

"The Ratepayers' Association, representing 1 000 households in Dawn Park, has no objection to the issuing of temporary permits to Indians to remain in Windmill Park until alternative accommodation can be found for them

"We understand that they will relocate to Villa Liza as soon as housing becomes available. The first houses are due for occupation in July this year"

He said business interests had bought up houses in Windmill Park at greatly inflated prices and had sold them to Indians at exorbitant prices

"Uncertainty is killing Windmill Park, nothing else," said Mr Hilder

(27)

26/3/89



One of the people who is forced to share his hostel-house because of the housing shortage in Tembisa.

Tension rising in Tembisa over homes shortage

Homeless people have waited up to twenty years for houses

The East Rand township is in the news at present because of tension between hostel-dwelling migrant workers and ordinary residents who are "invading" the hostels with their families because of the dire shortage of accommodation.

Tembisa, which was originally planned to be a labour dormitory for the Kempton Park and Isando industrial areas, was established in 1957. It was also intended to accommodate some families removed from Alexandra, Edenvale and Midrand.

It was granted municipal status by an Act of Parliament in 1982. In 1983 a 16,9 percent poll saw the election of 17 councillors to administer the township.

Like other townships it also experienced the rent, school and consumer boycotts of 1984/85.

In 1986 the "comrades"

in Tembisa decided to allocate four-roomed hostel houses to homeless residents, forcing the original inhabitants to share their homes. And this system remains in force today. Hostel-dwellers in Tembisa are accommodated in houses rather than traditional hostel buildings.

The council has not evicted the ordinary township residents from the hostel houses, and tension is rising.

In 1981 Soweto was abuzz with the arrival of the O'Jays.

Tembisa's activists were busy with other issues. They were having meetings

at which councillors were told the recent rent increases would not be tolerated and that councillors should resign.

While Sowetans were dancing to the rhythm of the O'Jays, a number of Tembisa rent protesters were being hauled into police vans and cells.

Tembisa's political activities did not start then. It has its political fathers.

Recall Mthuli Ka Shezi who died after an argument with a railway official in the early 1970s.

Mthuli Ka Shezi was one of Tembisa's black consciousness political candle-bearers, and spread the philosophy in the township.

Driving from Kempton Park into Tembisa the green veld immediately changes into a grey jungle which a stranger could be forgiven for believing is a huge army barracks, deserted by the soldiers and taken over by the people.

Excluding its two big hostels, Tembisa has about 23 000 houses and a rough estimate of its population is 350 000, including at least 30 000 hostel dwellers.

The population of Tembisa could easily be housed in the houses and flats in Hillbrow and Berea. Had the allocated land been used as economically and efficiently as in Hillbrow and Berea, Tembisa and other black townships would not be crying for more land and houses, and the present tension would not be necessary.

The monotony of similar matchbox-type houses in Tembisa is irregularly broken by new and extended houses whose owners have used bricks and mortar to create pleasant homes for themselves, proving that the previous planning was done by uncaring people who had no love for them.

Tembisa was erected during the days of prohibition - when it was a crime for a black person to drink Western liquor. There were no plans for taverns and shopping centres. But today these outlets are rising with regularity.

No more houses are being built by the council and it seems no new hostels are being erected either.

People are told to go to the banks for financial assistance to purchase homes. Those who want houses claim they have

Words:
SAMKELO KUMALO, J MOKWEBO
Pictures:
ANDRIES MCINEKA

Mother feeds her baby. Tembisa residents share houses with strangers.

been on the waiting list for
 up to about two decades.
 City Press visited one
 four-roomed hostel house
 which was in the process of
 being allocated to a pen-
 sioner
 One migrant worker hos-
 tel dweller, Matsheketshe
 Dlangamanda, who has no
 intention of bringing his
 wife to the urban area, said
 that, before the invasion by
 residents, he shared the
 four-roomed hostel with 10
 other men. But five of
 them have since brought
 girlfriends to stay with
 them.
 Each of the 11 inhabi-
 tants pays R16 a month at
 the local council office.
 This house brings the coun-
 cil revenue of R176 a
 month. Annually it aug-
 ments the coffers of the
 council by R1 912.
 There are about 300
 such houses in Tembisa
 which means the council,
 at the end of the year,
 smiles all the way to the
 bank with about R573,600.
 On the other hand, simi-
 lar houses occupied by
 families in other parts of
 the township have rent tags
 of about R40 a month, and
 the council is selling them
 to residents for R1 500.
 However, Dlangamanda's
 four-roomed hostel
 house has apparently been
 allocated to Sophie
 Chauke, who claims she
 has been on the waiting list
 for about 20 years.
 She was allocated the
 house by what she calls
 people in the umzabalazo
 (people in the struggle).
 She does not know what
 umzabalazo is.
 However, unlike other
 homeless residents, she
 said she was not staying in
 the house as it was full. She
 was waiting for the au-
 thorities to remove the ten-
 ants.
 But Dlangamanda and
 his co-inhabitants have
 vowed that they will not
 leave.
 His hostel house has no
 toilet and he and his 10 co-
 inhabitants and their five
 women rely on sharing oth-
 er houses' toilets.

26/3/59

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Cosatu calls rents meeting

2-8/3/89.

127
Smith

VAAL Triangle organisations are to meet soon in a bid to resolve the growing rents crisis in the area

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) is concerned about alleged claims by Lekoa councillors that Cosatu has agreed on residents paying rent and service charges

The council has allegedly been approaching employers to arrange stop-orders for rent payments

**Rabie aims
at R68-m
turnover**

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Star
29/3/89

Rabie Property Developers, part of Rabie Investment Holdings and one of the largest property developers in the country, is forecasting sales of 1 300 homes in the Transvaal this year and 5 000 houses nationally

"We are looking to achieving a turnover in the Transvaal of about R68 million this year. One of our successes has been that we have been able to secure prime land in the right areas," says group sales director, Dave Harris

Mr Harris says the group's newest development will be at Spruitview on the East Rand where, in a joint venture with Murray and Roberts, where 300 homes of between 50 and 100 sqm upwards, with a starting price of R51 000, will be developed

That's not OUR flag!

Sowetan 3/13/89



A SOUTH African flag displayed at a Democratic Party meeting in Boksburg's coloured township of Reiger Park on Wednesday night caused an outburst of indignation from members of the multi-racial audience.

And the troika leadership of the merger party — the Progressive Federal Party's Dr Zach de Beer, the Independent Party's Dr Denis Worrall and the National Democratic Movement's Mr Wynand Malan — came under fire for speaking Afrikaans to an audience which featured blacks

Shouts of "viva" greeted the speakers

Take it down, demands crowd at DP meeting

SOWETAN Reporters

shortly after entering the hall to the music of "Chariots of Fire"

Some members of the 600-strong audience demanded that the flag be removed immediately

However, meeting chairman Dr Louis Luyt called on the audience to reserve their comments until question time

Several Reiger Park residents voiced their anger about the "patronising" attitude of the speakers, white people's ignorance of the hardships caused by apartheid and their lack of knowledge about township life

A resident, Mr Henry Jefferies of the Urban Foundation, accused the speakers of "not having done your homework" by speaking under the South African flag

The rules

"If you want to reach out to the black community you must obey the basic rules. One groundrule is that we do not gather under that flag. You should have an understanding of the hostility towards that flag," he said — in Afrikaans — to loud applause

The DP was also criticised for co-operating with the Labour Party, which, according to one resident, had done the coloured community great harm

Other residents demanded clarification of the DP's policy on the redistribution of land, participation in the tri-cameral system and the state of emergency

Launch

The meeting, which was the DP's unofficial launch in the Eastern Transvaal, was held in Reiger Park because no multi-racial venue could be found in Conservative Party-controlled Boksburg

But one resident boldly told the speakers "You have come here by mistake. This meeting was intended for white people"

The DP leaders urged the audience to accept the party's bona fides in its attempts to create a non-racial, democratic dispensation through negotiations across the political divide.

In his speech, Mr Malan said the DP would enter into talks with all political groupings in South Africa

'The rent boycott . . . is perceived as the best way of resolving socio-economic conditions'

Features of the face behind Soweto

Behind the Soweto rent boycott are the people of Soweto — people whose lives are so little known to researchers that even their true number is a matter for conjecture.

The Planact report draws together what little research there is to sketch some features on the collective face of Soweto and to suggest motives for the massive refusal to pay rent over the last three years.

The studies have found that ● The average Sowetan is likely to come from a household exceeding five people (the average size is 5.48, according to the Bureau for Market Research's 1986 study) with fewer than two breadwinners (the average being 1.53 breadwinners) The odds are almost even that those in employment will be women.

● The chances are also almost even that Sowetans of working age will be unemployed. The Development Bank has put unemployment in Soweto as high as 53 percent, while the Bureau for Market Research at Unisa puts the proportion at nearly 30 percent in the 20 to 64 year age group, rising to 41 percent for those between 25 and 34 years.

Minimum living level

University of the Witwatersrand political scientist Dr Philip Frankel found that only 40 percent of persons interviewed came from households not hit by unemployment.

● Between 54 percent and 68 percent of Soweto's families earn less than the minimum living level — the income calculated by scientists as necessary to maintain a family in an urban area. Planact concludes. This figure was R869 in 1987.

● Between 1980 and 1985, the proportion of Sowetans' income spent on housing and electricity almost doubled — increasing from 8.7 percent to 15.1 percent.

These were the people among whom the boycott took root in mid-1986. They were poor people, in relative terms —

The Soweto Delegation, a group of community and church leaders pictured at the right, were mandated by township organisations to attempt to negotiate a solution to the housing crisis and an end to the three-year rent boycott, reports **JO-ANNE COLLINGE**.

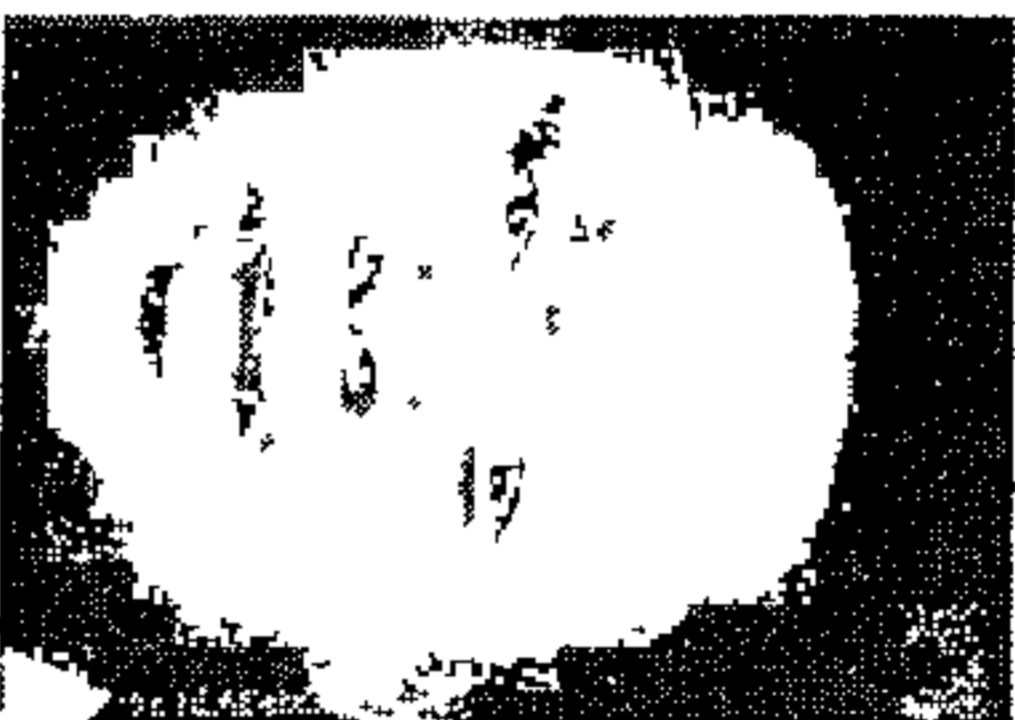
They asked private planning consultants to draw up a report on the Soweto housing problem as a basis for further talks with the Soweto Council. The report by Planact, entitled "The Soweto Rent Boycott", was released yesterday. Its major recommendations are that the arrears amounts owed by rent boycotters be written off, that existing housing stock must be transferred to Soweto residents, that infrastructure must be upgraded, that affordable formulae for service charges be devised and ultimately that a single tax base be established for Soweto and Johannesburg.



The Rev Lebamang Sebidi



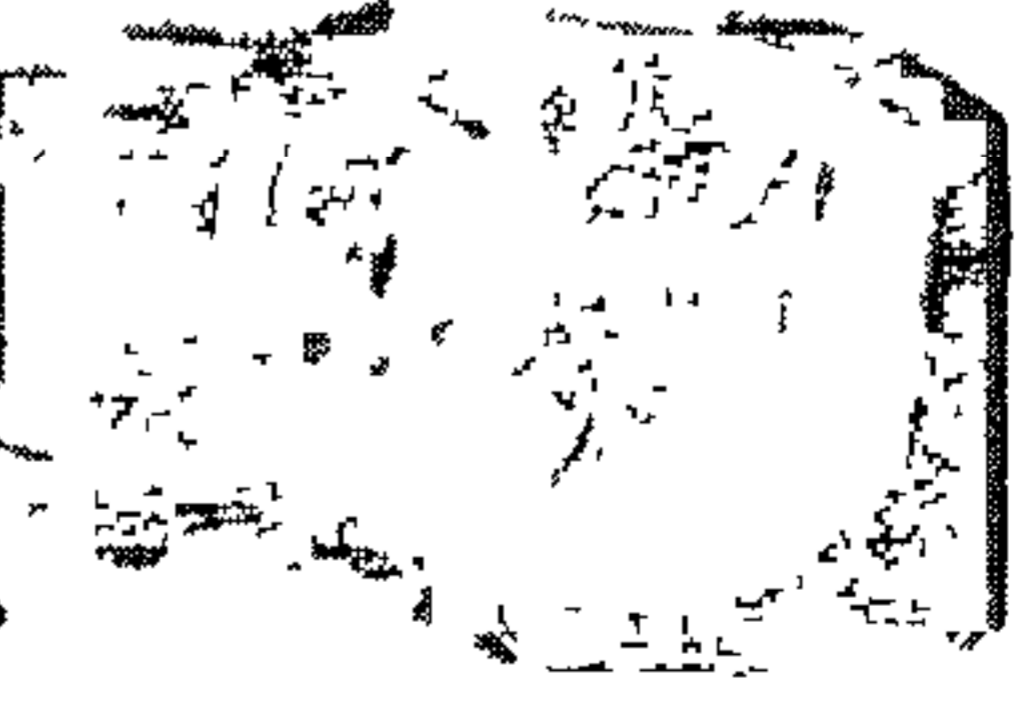
Mrs Ellen Kuzwayo



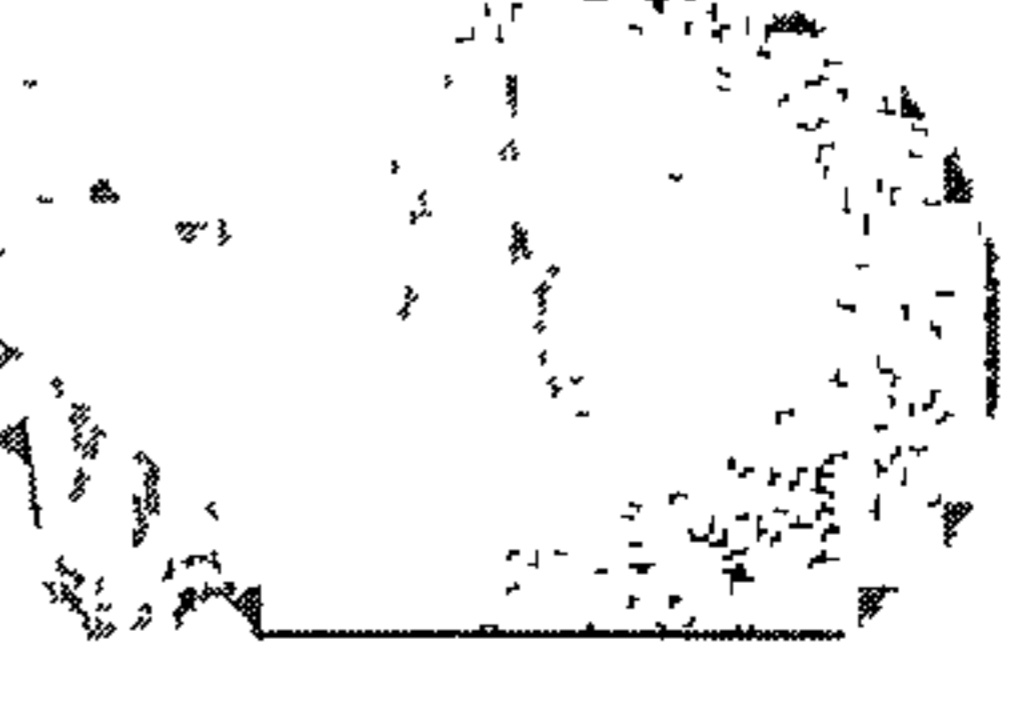
Mr Frank Chikane



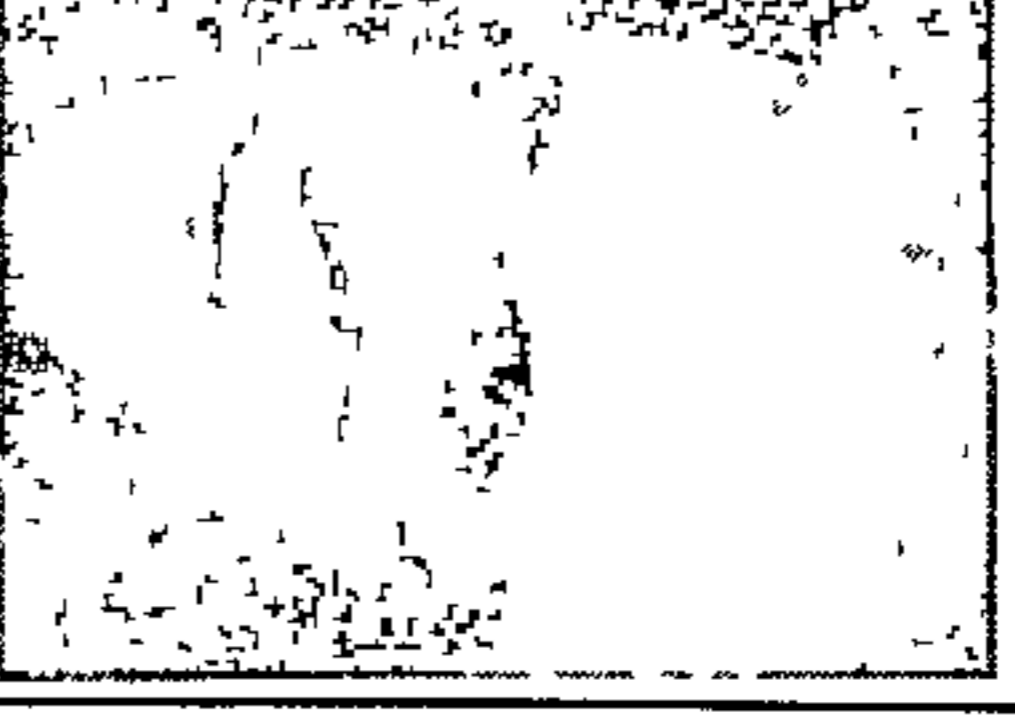
Sister Bernard Ncube



Mr Cyril Ramaphosa



Mrs Albertina Sisulu



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

people with limited incomes being forced to stretch them.

Motivation for the boycott has been directly assessed in only one study commissioned by some American corporations from Dr Frankel.

Planact summarises his findings. "In short, the rent boycott enjoys widespread support because it is perceived as the best way of resolving socio-economic conditions.

"It is not being enforced by intimidation nor are overly political considerations as significant as socio-economic interests. This popular consciousness will not be easily dissipated through repression."

Frankel found that 60.9 percent of the Sowetans he interviewed supported the boycott because they regarded the cost of housing and services unreasonable for the standard of goods offered. A further 14.3 percent said simply they could not afford to pay. A total of 8.7 percent said they feared intimidation. The remaining reasons were that community organisations had called the boycott (six percent), that it was the best way to bring grievances to the attention of authorities (4.3 percent), and it was the best way of getting troops out of the townships (4.3 percent).

Interests converge, but privatisation methods differ

The authorities appeared every bit as keen to quit playing the role of "collective landlord in the townships" as tenants were to acquire title of their homes, but the difference of opinion lay in how this transfer should take place.

This was Planact's assessment of the convergence of interests between government institutions bent on "privatisation" of housing and tenants forced for decades to rent homes because ownership was out of bounds to them.

Planact insists the method of residents attaining home ownership is far more important than the goal itself.

It cites the experience of the British during Margaret Thatcher's campaign to privatise housing, which was accompanied by a drop in government spending on housing, a decrease in the number of new units produced, a growth in the number of homeless and an increase in the number of repossessions due to default on bond repayments.

"The clear lesson to be learnt from

the British example is that it is invariably those already at the bottom of the housing hierarchy that have most to lose," Planact warns.

Its report notes the council has acknowledged the "entrenched rights" of present occupants of Soweto homes through the huge discounts offered in its "great sale" of housing.

Despite discounts, affordability remained an enormous problem, Planact stated. It pointed out that the National Building Research Institute estimated that 84 percent of black people would not be able to afford a low cost house without financial assistance.

"What is at issue here is not the absolute cost of the houses themselves, but the relationship between that cost and the income of the household responsible for its payment."

It proposes a Community Housing Trust be set up to guide housing policy, ensure building programmes commence and safeguard the interests of the poorer sections of the community.

A Soweto homeowner, living in a typical "matchbox" house on a typically untarred and undrained street, will pay nearly one-and-a-half times the rates and service charges due by a Johannesburg householder living in a R72 000 property in a modest, well-served suburb.

Bluntly put, Planact concludes: "Sowetans are being requested to pay more for a considerably poorer level of service."

In fact, it points out that Dr E. Buch, who heads the Centre for the Study of Health Policy at Wits University, has stated unequivocally that Soweto's services are of such a low standard that they actually "constitute a hazard to health of the community" and are likely to promote the incidence of "water washed diseases", such as dysenteries and diarrhoeas.

The typical Sowetan site rent (rates) and service charges (excluding payment for electricity and water consumption) totalled R38.55 a month in 1987, according to information supplied by the Soweto City Treasurer, the

Sowetans fork out for unhealthy services

report says

A Johannesburg householder whose land and house is valued at R72 000 will pay R25.97 a month, Planact calculates.

The root of this inequity is the maintenance of "apartheid cities", the report states. Whereas Johannesburg residents are subsidised in their payment of services and rates by the city's businesses, which foot the bulk of the Johannesburg City Council bill for these items, Sowetans have no such subsidy.

The Soweto Council derives no proportion of its running costs from businesses in Johannesburg, although Soweto residents were estimated to have earned R2 billion in the city in 1987 and to have ploughed R1 billion back into the Johannesburg economy in consumer spending.

The following figures indicate the extent to which business bears the brunt of Johannesburg's costs. "Domestic residential properties pay 30 percent (Johannesburg's) service charges, and businesses — including leased flats — contribute the remaining 70 percent.

"Domestic residential properties disburse 15 percent of assessment rates, commerce and industry contribute 74 percent, while several government bodies provide the remaining 11 percent."

"It is therefore salutary to note that Sowetans are being asked to finance a situation they did not willingly create (segregated residential areas) and at increased costs to themselves."

The only possible long-term solution to Soweto's development needs is the acknowledgment that it forms a single economic entity with Johannesburg and the establishment of a single tax base for the two areas.

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Political Reporter

The Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Roelf Meyer, yesterday met Boksburg's Conservative Party-controlled management committee to discuss the plight of white residents in the Mapleton area

But "no progress" had been made concerning the "illegal" position of the residents, said National Party MP for Germiston District, Brigadier

'No progress' on plight of whites living in Mapleton

Kobus Bosman

Mapleton forms part of Villa Liza, which has been proclaimed an Indian residential area

Management committee chairman Mr Gideon Fourie said he was satisfied with the talks, but declined to reveal details of the discussions

Mr Meyer left the meeting without speaking to waiting journalists

Brigadier Bosman said he had requested Mr Meyer to meet with the management committee members and a representative of Mapleton's residents, Mr Roger Calvert

"The discussions centred on

the selling of their land which now forms part of an Indian area"

Brigadier Bosman said "white-controlled" Windmill Park had not been discussed

The town council, which is still threatening to cut electricity and water supplies to Windmill Park's Indian residents if they cannot provide proof of occupational permits by May, would put its case to the Free Settlement Areas Board, Mr Fourie said

Family defies council after eviction over rent

Step 31/3/89

By Montshiwa Moroke

(127)

An Eldorado Park family left homeless after being evicted about two weeks ago from a municipal house for which rent of "several thousand rands" was allegedly owed, yesterday defiantly moved back into the house.

Mrs Amaryllis Williams said her husband had gone to fetch their impounded furniture early yesterday morning and had returned to the house they had lived in since October 1987.

She said she and her husband, Tyron, and five-year-old child were evicted on March 16 because the Johannesburg City Council claimed a man who had previously lived in the house owed about R5 000 in rent arrears.

Mrs Williams said her family was moved into the house together with a Mr Mario Crouch by the MP for Klipspruit, Mr Anthony Reeves, because not enough houses were available to accommodate them.

Mrs Williams said her husband had tried to negotiate with the council to buy the house but the council refused and first wanted all arrears paid.

Yesterday, the director of housing, Mr F W Robins, said he knew several thousand rands were owed on the house.

HOUSING & HOSTELS

TRANSVAAL

~~APRIL~~ 1989

APRIL — JUNE

It's a life of wall-to-wall deprivation

SATURDAY STAR spoke to people who for years have waited for suitable housing, and the same story of deprivation and inadequate living conditions was repeated again and again.

In Heavenly Valley, Eldorado Park, with an estimated population of 240, an average of eight people live in each housing unit, which has no electricity. There are eight toilets and 48 cold water taps to serve the whole community. The roofs leak and the units were built as a temporary measure to house people until suitable accommodation could be found for them. Some of these people had been living there for 20 years, Mr Keith Bingle of the Eldorado Advice Centre said.

Application refused

Mrs Mary Phillips (62), a senior nursing assistant at Coronation Hospital, was housed "temporarily" in a flat in Westbury after her home in Old Western was demolished in 1980. Today, nine years later and with just three years left before she goes on pension, she is losing hope that she will get a house.

When she applied for a house in Newclare in 1988, her application was turned down because the authorities said she would not be able to afford the monthly payments on a salary of R1 020.

Mr F W Robins, director of the Housing Department, told Saturday Star that her plight was "regrettable". He said everything possible would be done to obtain a house which suited her pocket.

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Mrs Claudell Sampson, a widow, was forced to pitch a two-man tent in the front yard of her mother's Riverlea council flat in January this year after she was evicted from the flat in which she was living with her children, Nolene (1½) and Germaine (5). When it rained, she was forced to move into the flat. There are now 12 people living in the three-bedroomed flat.

Mrs Thelma Jakobs, of Newclare, was evicted in February from the home where she and her large family lived for 20 years. The private house was demolished and no alternative accommodation was available so they slept outside for two days until the Red Cross pitched a tent for them on council property. A month later, they found a tiny privately owned flat.

● A man who asked to remain anonymous bought a council house in Eldorado Park at the end of 1987 after a five-year wait. He was told it would cost R26 000 with repayments fixed at R310 a month. After a few months he was told the price of the house had gone up to R36 000. He received a letter saying he must reduce his monthly payments to R170, which she did.

Months later, he was told he was R1 400 in arrears and he would have to pay R440 a month to meet his debt "I have waited so long for a house and I'm afraid of being evicted. So must do what I am told."

THOUSANDS of coloureds in South Africa are forced to live in overcrowded homes, many of them separated from their families, while others are so desperate for shelter that they pitch tents in the back yards of other people's homes.

The ongoing housing shortage in South Africa has been blamed largely on the Group Areas Act and other apartheid legislation which has designated much of the country's resources, including land, to whites

This has resulted in large-scale upheavals, demolitions and evictions. It has produced small pockets of overcrowded townships far from city centres

Constant appeals

Various community advice offices told Saturday Star this week that the Government had ignored the housing crisis and did not regard the shortage as a priority. They said it was the Government's responsibility to provide people with affordable and adequate housing.

Mr Keith Bingle, of the Eldorado Park Advice Centre, said that although people constantly came to the centre for assistance, there was little he could do to help them find accommodation, because "we are not in control of housing development or allocation and the powers that be are not concerned about the plight of people"

There are people who applied for council housing in the 1970s — and are still waiting today. Broken promises and endless waiting eventually destroy their hopes of a place of their own.

The South Western Management Committee (SWMC), which approves housing applications in coloured areas, has acknowledged the "desperate" plight of thousands of families.

Its chairman, Mrs Margaret Mateman, said recently there were 8 000 families on the housing application list in the Johannesburg area and the committee was looking at people who applied in 1981/2.

She said there was little the SWMC could do for people who urgently needed accommodation because there was no development taking place in coloured townships and there were few vacant houses or flats.

She said people were allocated housing according to the date of application.

MPs in the House of Representatives have questioned the housing allocation process and have claimed that the Management Committee is unfair in its selection process.

Mr A E Reeves, MP for Klipspruit-West, said he had the minutes of an allocation committee meeting of the SWMC in which it allocated houses to applicants who applied for accommodation in 1984 and 1987.

He gave many examples, including that of Mr A Abrahams, whose application was approved three months after he applied in May 15, 1987. He said other people's applications were approved on the date of application.

On the other hand, Mr Reeves said he had a list of hundreds of people who

JANET HEARD

had been on the waiting list for years, some dating as far back as the 1970s. He cited the example of Mr Abraham Hendriks, who applied in 1977 and was still waiting for a house.

"You get a house depending on who you know, not according to the date of application," said Mr Reeves. "There is no development in these areas partly because the committee is not doing anything to speed up the process. They are not seeing to the day-to-day needs of the people."

He said that in spite of this, he was not disillusioned with his role as MP, and said Parliament was useful for debates and the exposure of corruption.

Mr Trevor George, Bosmont MP, said the housing shortage was connected to the Group Areas Act. The Government, four generations ago, planned only for the short-term needs of the people, he claimed.

The coloured townships of Newclare, Bosmont, Coronationville, Westbury, Davidsonville, Fleurhof and Riverlea could not be enlarged because they were "adjacent to mining properties or filthy cyanide streams or railway tracks".

"The areas of Eldorado Park (20 km from the city) and Ennerdale (35 km from the city) are growing at a tremendous pace, but the question is: When will the authorities develop land centrally to Johannesburg for the coloured people?"

Mr F W Robins, director of the City Council Housing Department, which administers the allocation of housing, said "We are looking at a number of possibilities for development at the moment and we hope to make progress by the end of the year."

He said the SWMC had initiated a number of schemes to alleviate the shortage, including identifying unused pockets of land and acquiring additional land.

He would not comment this week on Mr Reeves's allegation, but said that he would respond later. He would only say that in a few instances, people were allocated houses because of humanitarian reasons.

The Neighbourhood Advice Centre (NAC), which serves the Bosmont-Newclare area, said the MPs were powerless to address the issue of housing and were, therefore, unable to keep election promises.

Squatter invasion

A panel of executive members of the NAC said the root cause of the problem was apartheid. But the opening of certain grey areas would not solve the problem as most people would not be able to afford houses in those areas.

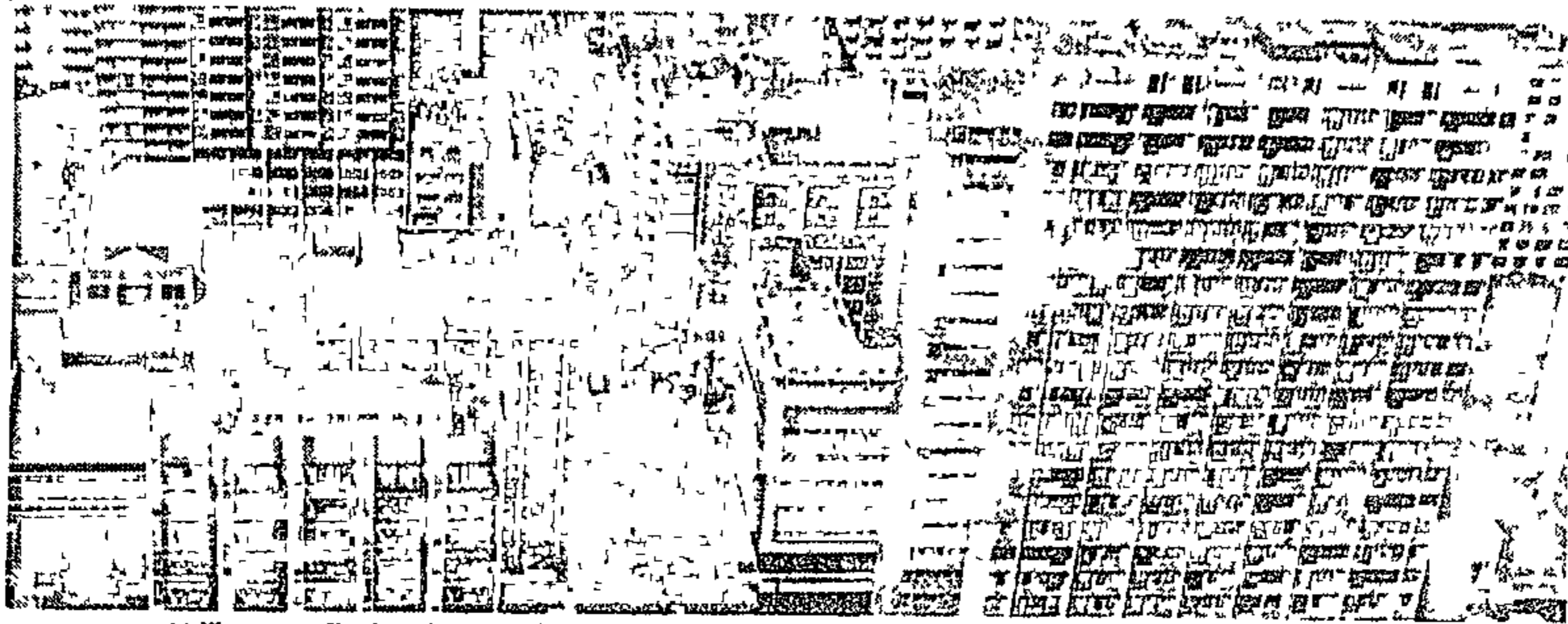
The number of families who required housing was "way above" 8 000. Some aspects of the people's plight were:

• Squatters had invaded most coloured townships, including Bosmont and Newclare. There was a group called the "reed" people, who lived in the open veld.

• The housing shortage had resulted in landlords exploiting tenants and charging exorbitant rents and doing nothing towards maintenance of properties.

Official apartheid is alleged
to be the cause of
overcrowded townships
and housing crisis

P.T.O.



Hillbrow's flatland — Today's grey area but tomorrow's new Free Settlement society.

Big benefits will flow from Free Settlement move

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Sler 11/4/89

PROPERTY experts have generally welcomed the Government's move on Free Settlement Areas and see big benefits resulting in more stable conditions in high-density areas such as Johannesburg's Hillbrow and Berea suburbs.

And with the affordability factor being made easier as a result of the extension of the first-time buyer's subsidy into existing property — presumably including flat units — a strong demand can be expected.

Mr Neville Berkowitz, chairman of the Property Economist Organisation, believes, however, that if non-whites are free to purchase in accommodation blocks they must also ensure that they are in "control of their own destiny"

Following the introduction of the measures, he foresees a "free for all" over the next two years with an eventual controlling factor emerging in high-density living

"The strength lies in non-whites owning their flats so that they will be able to control their environment," says Mr Berkowitz.

"There is bound to be an over-population problem initially

FRANK JEANS

and a squatter situation similar to that which occurred in cities abroad

"The likelihood of this happening here must be nipped in the bud immediately."

Unless this happens, flat prices could depreciate dramatically and the onus is on the new era ownership to make sure that social standards are maintained.

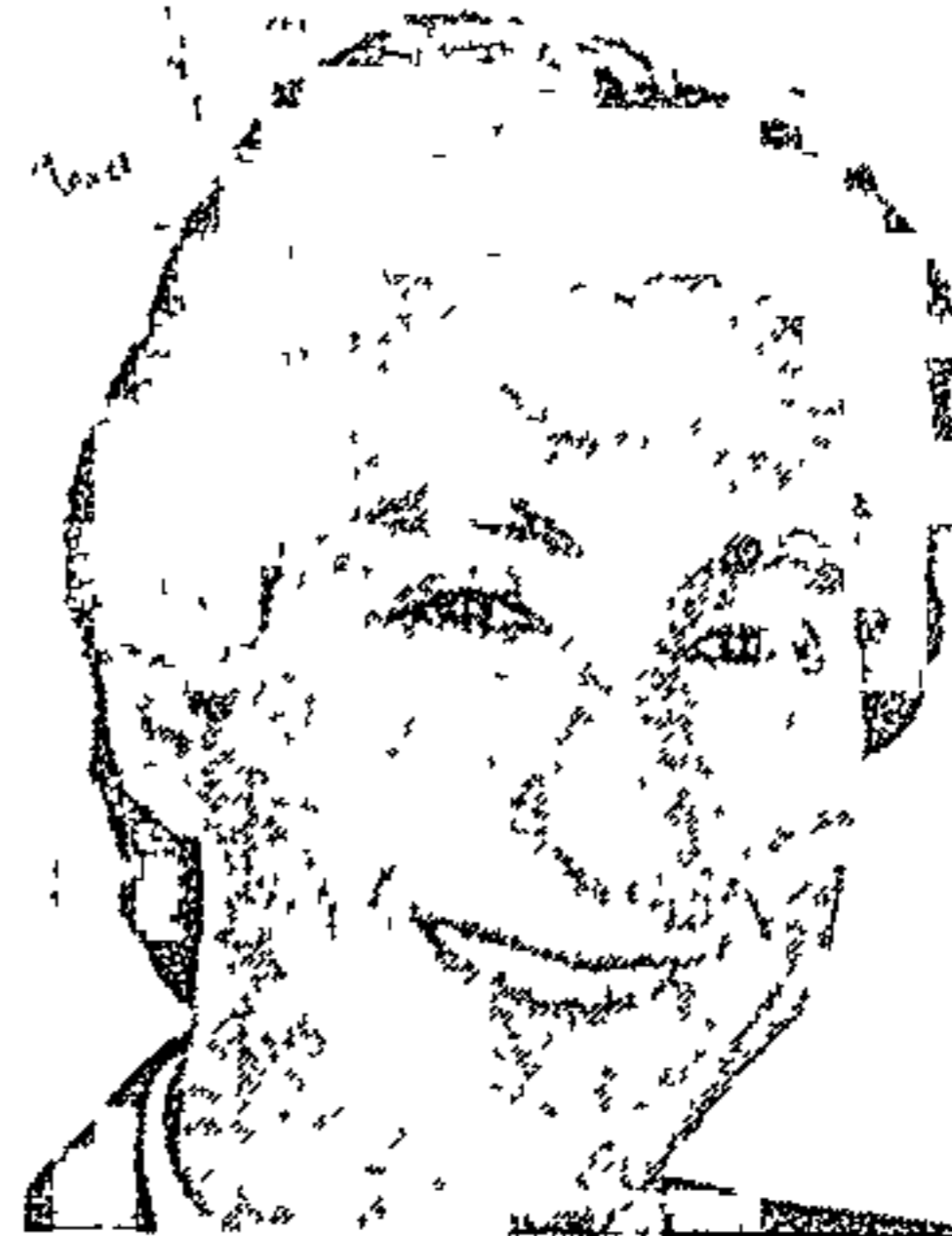
Once the initial rush settles, however, Mr Berkowitz has no doubt that prices in controlled apartment blocks must inevitably rise.

"The people must be given the opportunity to control their living standards themselves. They should not need to call the police," he says

"Certainly, the timing is critical and a squatter situation must not be allowed to continue too long"

Mr Berkowitz endorses the view that the Hillbrows of the future will be a good place in which to invest, for there must, in the future, be more buying demand than supply.

An indication of how flat purchase, assisted by the first-time subsidy, could be a decided advantage



NEVILLE BERKOWITZ

for the home seeker, is seen in the latest figures from the Central Statistical Service

They reveal that more than 60 percent of the country's flats are let unfurnished and that relatively large increases in the rent of these occurred in the Vaal Triangle areas — nearly 22 percent last year over the 1987 level.

● See The Property Guide for more comment on flatland business.

Jay April 3 1989

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Campaign to make Johannesburg apartheid-free

Residents to defy racism

By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

Johannesburg residents striving for an apartheid-free city are to start a defiance campaign against racial discrimination.

This was decided at a weekend conference in Johannesburg, titled "Towards an Open City", which was organised by the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (Idasa) in conjunction with the Five Freedoms Forum and the anti-eviction organisation Actstop.

The two-pillar strategy to "take our future in our own hands" was spelt out by Actstop publicity secretary Mr Cas Coovadia

First, it involved an "inner city encounter" by which Johannesburg residents would be invited to live with "illegal" black families in town to experience the overcrowding, deteriorating conditions, harassment and eviction threats which formed part of "the life of a drifter", as inner city resident Mrs Jennifer Matholemi described it.

Second, an ongoing campaign to defy apartheid laws would be launched. Black residents would attempt to use "whites only" public amenities and hospitals and would "present our children for enrolment at white schools", Mr Coovadia said.

Dr David Webster of the Five Freedoms Forum said the unification and desegregation of greater Johannesburg, including Lenasia, Eldorado Park and Soweto, was

not only desirable but inevitable.

In view of the National Party-controlled Johannesburg city council's refusal to scrap apartheid laws, residents should "channel their anger and emotion into something constructive", he said.

The challenge, he said, was to turn Johannesburg into a model of peaceful and affluent mixed living.

The Progressive Federal Party leader in the city council, Mr Tony Leon, suggested some practical steps to transform "the City of Shame which it has become under its present administration into a shining city on a hill".

He called for a reallocation of public funds to provide more facilities in the inner city and in areas which would be proclaimed for free settlement.

Friday April 3 1989

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April 3 1989

CITY



Soweto Mayor dumps R701-m in rent arrears

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, has announced that the estimated R701-million rent arrears owed by the residents is to be written off by the council. Instead, new rates for service charges are to be levied.

Mr Mkhwanazi told a 30 000 crowd at Orlando Stadium that as from May 1, 230 000 Sowetan householders would pay an average monthly service charge of R30.

Pensioners will pay a flat rate of R20 for service charges and electricity.

If the new charges are accepted by the political organi-

sations and the residents it will mean the end of the three-year rent boycott which has seen many people shot dead and others evicted.

The mayor, amid ululations from the predominantly Sefako Party crowd, said as far as the Soweto Council was concerned there "is no more rent — only service charges and electricity" to be paid for.

Mr Mkhwanazi announced the following new rates:

Orlando East, White City Jabavu, Mofolo, and Phiri (two-roomed houses) R15 for service charges (including water and refuse removal) and a flat rate of R30 for electricity.

Dube R17,50 for service charges and R50 for electricity.

Orlando West and Orlando

West Extension: R22,50 for service charges.

Tladi, Moletsane, Jabulani, Zola, Emdem, Zondi, Senoane, Dlamini 1 and 2, Mofolo South, Central Western Jabavu, Naledi Extension 1 and 2, and Klipspruit Zone 1 to 7. R22,50 for service charges

Pimville (Selection Park), Protea North, Dlamini Extension, Molapo Extension, Chiawelo Extension 4 and Mapetla Extension: R37,50.

Chiawelo 1 and 2 (R32,50), Chiawelo Extension 3. R62,50

Jabulani Flats: two bedrooms R62,50, three bedrooms R72,50, duplex R92,50

Chiawelo Flats two bedrooms R62,50, bachelor flats R52,50.

All these areas will pay a flat rate of R50 for electricity.

Rand residents strive

Ex-detainee

Ampros forecasts sharp increase in office rents

Office rents could rise to R33,50 a sq m by the end of this year and hit a peak of more than R46 by December 1990

This is the view of Mr Graeme Lindop, national leasing director of Anglo American Property Services (Ampros), who believes that if the gap between office rents and the consumer price index (CPI) is to be closed, rents will have to increase by 90 percent over the next two years

Speaking at an Ampros office leasing seminar recently, Mr Lindop said "While future projections are difficult, I forecast a minimum rental growth of 25 percent this year, which would have the effect of significantly narrowing the CPI gap

"However, if the gap is to be closed, it will have to be within the next two years as this will probably be the last chance in the present boom."

Looking at past rental movement, Mr Lindop said that in 1987 office rents barely moved, having fallen by 10 percent in 1986.

Last year, though, there was

Property &
Construction

FRANK JEANS



a dramatic turnaround, with rental growth in Johannesburg of 38 percent and of 37 percent as a whole elsewhere

In its latest property review, Ampros says the demand and supply position in Central Business District office markets has reached the point where the five-year tenant's market is slowly changing to what the company believes will be a strong landlord's market for at least the next two to three years.

"Concern over a slowdown in

the economy expressed by most economists at the end of 1988 has been replaced by optimistic forecasts of a growth rate of at least two percent for this year, compared with the three percent for 1988," says the review

"With private fixed investment increasing and the manufacturing sector more buoyant than it has been for many years, there will be a growing demand for prime office accommodation, especially in the Johannesburg and Cape Town markets"

Tenants might well be concerned about rent projections. But landlords, on the other hand, know that even at R30 a sq m gross, it is still not economically feasible to create quality office space with land and building costs at today's levels

Lamontville Star 4/4/87 sales spurt 127

The demand for housing is seen in the sales performance at one of LTA Comiat's developments — phase two of the homes project at Lamontville, Durban.

In only one week near the end of last year, 30 homes were sold and now nearly 100 units have been signed up of the total 136 at prices between R42 000 and R65 000.

The first phase of 102 homes was sold out within five months of coming on to the market.

Mr Dave Crompton, LTA Comiat Homes' regional manager in Natal, says, "Lamontville was the first scheme to be awarded to a private developer in a black urban area in Natal.

"Certainly its success proves the need for large-scale housing development by the private sector in the area."

The Lamontville homes are sold under 99-year lease, thus saving buyers about R3 500 in freehold transfer costs.

Mr Crompton says this saving is generally welcomed and points out that the buyer can convert leasehold to freehold in the future.

LTA Comiat Homes has development rights for a total of 700 stands over five phases in Lamontville.

Soweto rents decision 'no solution'

JOHANNESBURG — The announcement at the weekend by Soweto mayor Sam Mkhwanazi that his council has resolved to write off all rent arrears has received a mixed reception here

Many believe it is a public relations exercise on the part of Mkhwanazi

A spokesperson for Planact, the Wits research group of townplanners and engineers, described Mkhwanazi's scheme as a "short term populist ploy".

"It is not a solution at all; it is only part of the solution," he said

According to Planact, the actual

estimated rent debt is about R250-million. The widely-publicised figure of R701-million includes capital funding

"It would appear Mkhwanazi is using this scheme as a means of avoiding talks with the seven-member Soweto People's Delegation," said the spokesperson

"The Soweto City Council was supposed to have held further discussion with the delegation before the end of March, but such a meeting failed to materialise"

The spokesperson said Soweto could not afford to finance proper services and maintenance on the basis

of service charges alone

In a scathing attack, the delegation said that the Soweto Council's proposed solution to the rent crisis "clearly demonstrates that it has chosen the politics of collaboration with the apartheid system rather than to represent the wishes of the majority of the residents of Soweto"

The delegation said the council had refused to meet with it in January to discuss the issue.

Mkhwanazi told nearly 20 000 people at a meeting at the Orlando Stadium on Sunday that as from May 1, the people of Soweto would pay an average monthly service charge of R30

127 Smith

5-12/4/89.

Row erupts over rent write-off

SIPHO NGCOBO

A MAJOR row has erupted between the Soweto Council and a group of community leaders, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, over the council's announced solutions to the rent boycott in the township.

Community leaders yesterday described the council's announcement it would write off the estimated R701m arrears, freeze future rents and introduce fixed rates for service charges, as a "sellout strategy" and called for a mass meeting to be held on Sunday, April 9.

According to the leaders, the meeting will be preceded by seminars and workshops at local levels to facilitate meaningful discussions.

The leaders include SACC secretary-general Frank Chikane; the NUM's Cyril Ramaphosa; wife of jailed ANC member Walter Sisulu, Albertina Sisulu, the Rev Lebamang Sebidi, Ellen Khuzwayo and Bernard Mncube.

Soweto mayor Sam Mkhwanazi — whose council brought together about 25 000 residents last Sunday — said if the leaders had any problem with the council's announcement they should discuss the matter with him and stop waging a war of words through the Press.

Promise

The Peoples' Delegation said they had been promised further talks on rents with the council but were surprised by its announcements at the weekend.

"We are concerned that the Soweto Council is submitting to the whims of the joint management committee (JMC). We are aware that the JMC held meetings in December 1988 and January 1989 to plan strategies to frustrate the negotiation process with the Soweto Delegation and to initiate its own form of consultations that exclude the Soweto Civic Association and the Soweto Delegation," the leaders' said in a statement.

A recent Planact survey, commissioned by community leaders, shows the Soweto Council has an accumulated debt of R701m. Planact found the council needed to collect at least R13m from residents every month. It currently raises only R3m.

Don't raise township fees - Suzman

By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

The Progressive Federal Party has warned that an increase in rentals and services fees paid to black local authorities, as suggested by Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Hough, would fuel tension in the townships

PFM Houghton MP Mrs Helen Suzman yesterday reminded the Transvaal session of the Extended Public Committee on Provincial Affairs, sitting in Pretoria, that an increase in rentals and service charges had sparked the 1984 unrest in black townships

"It is absolutely crazy to suggest an increase at a time of rising unemployment. This is asking for trouble and will merely

increase tension," she said

Mrs Suzman was reacting to Mr Hough's announcement, made at the opening of the two-day session, that black local authorities would be urged to raise their rental and service fees and to recover arrears that had resulted from the protracted rent boycott

In an interview with The Star, Transvaal MEC responsible for local government Mr Olaus van Zyl said some black local authorities had not increased tariffs in three years "Mr Hough's words should be interpreted against that background. We are simply urging for a regular increase in fees, bearing in mind the affordability of services"

There is confusion over Sowe-

to mayor Sam Mkhwanazi's proposal that rent arrears of an estimated R701 million owed by Soweto residents be written off

A highly placed source in the Transvaal provincial authority said yesterday that Mr Mkhwanazi had assured the authority that he had not suggested that the deficit be written off. He had claimed he had been misquoted by the several newspapers that had covered his speech, made at a mass rally on Saturday

However Soweto deputy mayor Miss Esther Mkhabela yesterday told The Star Mr Mkhwanazi had said the deficit "should be frozen for some time, possibly two years, until a solution is reached on how the money should be paid back"

B/Da 15/4/89

127

Hiking rents 'is looking for trouble'

PFP MP Helen Suzman yesterday warned Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough that he was looking for trouble if he went ahead with plans to urge black local authorities to increase rents and service fees

Hough said at the extended public committee meeting on Transvaal provincial affairs that the Community Development Branch would be urging black local authorities to increase rental and service fees to recover rentals in arrears

Arrears in Soweto alone are estimated at R428m, says the TPA

Suzman said Hough should remem-

MIKE ROBERTSON

ber that unrest began in Sebokeng in 1984 as a result of rent and services increases, and later swept though the country

"It's crazy to suggest rent and services increases at a time of rising unemployment in black communities," she said.

Suzman said increases now would strengthen the rent boycott campaign as it was beginning to weaken

Rent increases had led to imposi-

tion of the State of Emergency, and further increases now would prevent the state of emergency being lifted

□ PETER DELMAR reports that Soweto City Council appeared to be heading for a showdown with the TPA over council's decision to write off rent arrears

The Transvaal Administrator said the TPA was "seriously concerned" about the economic bases of not only black municipalities, but all forms of local government, adding that means to avoid the stage where taxpayers could not afford essential services would have to be devised

30 ~~wait~~ judgment

By Cathy Staggs

(27)

The 34 are represented by counsel briefed by a member of Lawyers for Human Rights

Judgment is expected today in a matter which affects 34 tenants of Hillbrow flats

Mr Joe Farber, the director and shareholder in Detline Investments (Pty) Ltd, Datro Investments (Pty) Ltd and Janberg Investments (Pty) Ltd, launched three applications in the Rand Supreme Court

As the owner of the three buildings, Mr Farber wants the tenants out

This action is not being fought on the basis that the tenants have not paid their rent or that they have contravened the Group Areas Act

The attack on the applications is technical for example, that there is insufficient evidence that Mr Farber is authorised to act on behalf of the companies or that the companies own the buildings, Fabian Heights, Waldorf and Claridges

Mr Justice P Streicher, who heard the application, was asked to award the costs of two counsel should the respondents' preliminary points be successful

There are 35 applications against other tenants of the three buildings pending

7/4/89

capable of accommodating 40 000 people in Soweto

The scheme, mooted by the non-profit organisation Foundation for Community Development (FCD), which is working in conjunction with a subcommittee of Sahac involves the construction of 7 000-8 000 apartments in 20- to 25-storey blocks built in a circular formation. The lower two floors and central area will be used to provide 40 000 m² of retail space and entertainment facilities.

The plans also include two office towers and a hotel.

According to FCD spokesman Schalk Botes all project details should be finalised in about a month.

He says finance for the project, which was researched by a Pretoria-based development consultant, Multifin, will come from a consortium of financial institutions. However, he adds that it is premature to name them.

The proposed site for the high-rise project is centrally situated at the old hostel complexes of Nancefield and Lifakeng. The hostels presently house 4 000 single men.

Plans for upgrading the vicinity also include 24 schools with playing fields and recreation facilities which will be open for use by the community after hours.

FCD says the Soweto City Council has a waiting list of 32 000 families for flats. FCD bought the site last year from the council for about R2m. ■

HOUSING (127) FMTL

Soweto high-rise

The SA Housing Advisory Council (Sahac) is studying the feasibility of a R560m, high-rise residential, office and retail complex

Racism at its worst

Residents cry out for water

SIYATHEMBA residents near Balfour, a dorpie in the Eastern Transvaal, are losing hope of having the most precious commodity in their households — water

At the centre of the crisis is the Conservative Party-controlled Balfour Town Council which has stopped supplying the black township with water and the Siyathemba Town Council which has given residents nothing else but promises

There is no running water in Siyathemba, which, ironically, means we hope

A member of the Siyathemba Water Crisis Committee, formed last year by residents as the crisis entered its first year, said "The Balfour Town Council told us it was stopping the supply to our township because the reservoir we shared would now provide water for white residents only and we have to find our own supply elsewhere

"This means we no longer share the same reservoir because the CP has reserved it for whites. This is racism at its worst and it hits us where it hurts most," he said

The Balfour Town

By THEMBA MOLEFE

Council said the water shortage was caused by the breaking down of the main pipeline and the incapacities of the purification plant. The council said the 10000 squatters in the township aggravated the shortage

Siyathemba residents dismissed the explanation as vague and said the 4500 whites in Balfour town — two kilometres from Siyathemba — experienced no shortage

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has indicated to the residents that the water crisis would only be resolved in August 1989

The fact that the

A SIYATHEMBA housewife (right) draws water from a tank supplied by the SADF as the township experiences a water crisis.

Pic JOE MOLEFE

30000 Siyathemba residents are faced with a crisis was illustrated this week when the *Sowetan* visited the rural area

Women and children queued at street corners with buckets and a variety of containers for water supplied in tanks provided by the South African Defence Force

Residents who live far away from the points where the tanks are situated have dug wells in the streets

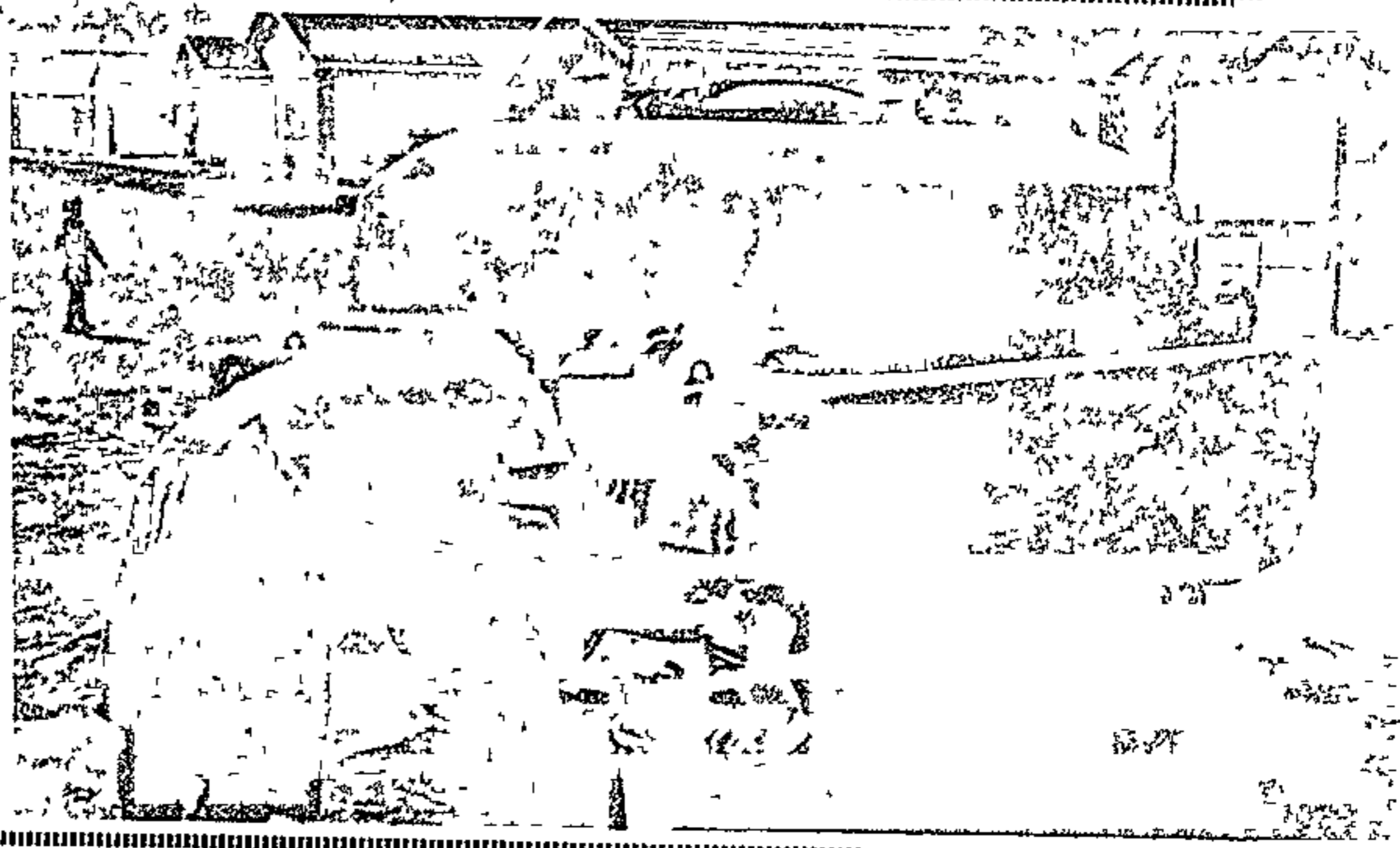
The crisis committee said a child drowned in one of the wells about two weeks ago. The agony is real, residents say, as babies come down with diarrhoea caused by the absence of running water

Extortion is rife with residents who have running water and selling the "commodity"

Mothers with newborn babies are hardest hit with no water to wash dirty napkins or prepare milk formulas for their infants

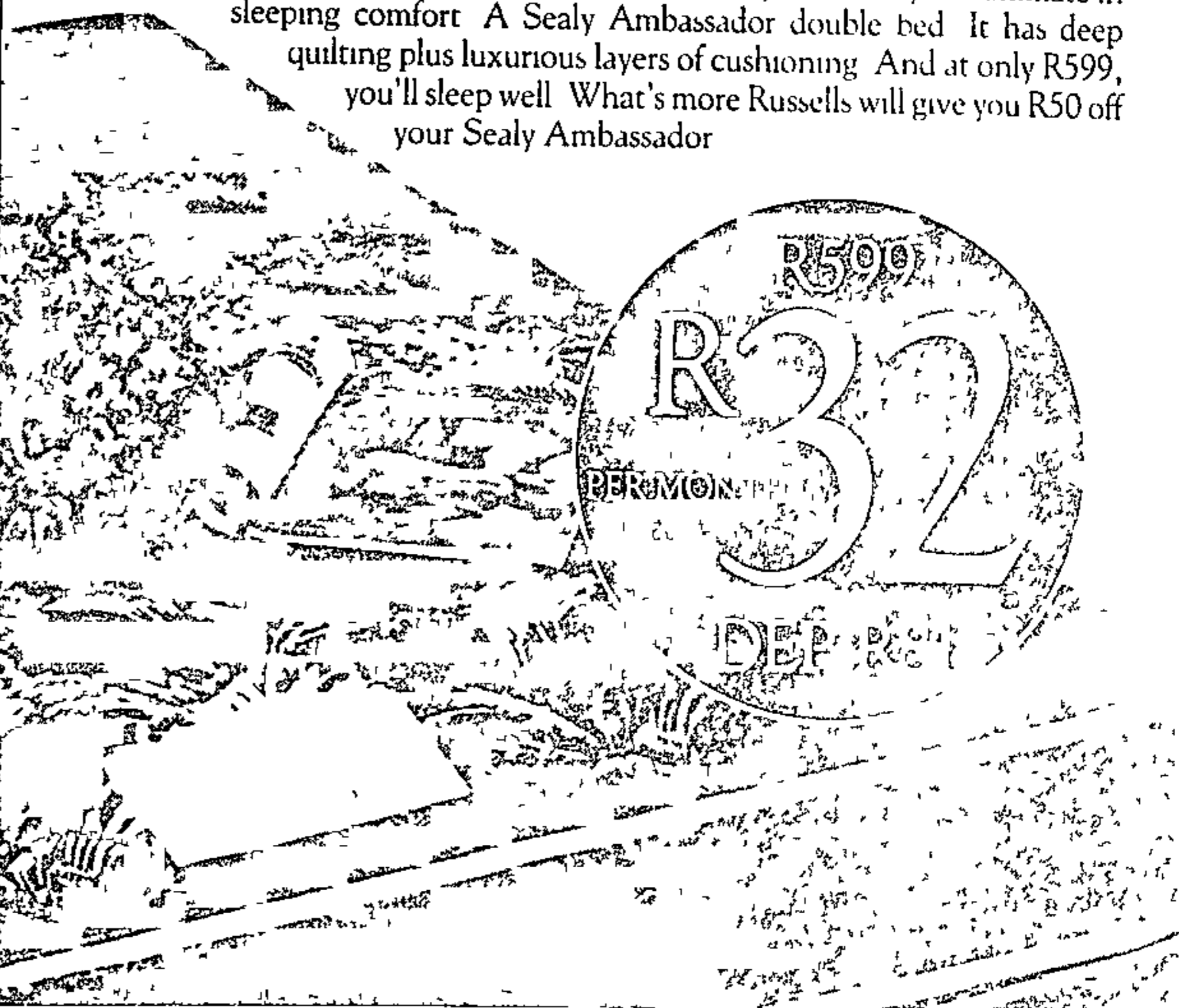
Those who have cars buy water from the whites in Balfour at prices ranging from R1 and R1,50 a bucket

In desperate attempts to obtain water some residents have to walk long distances to a veld outside the township where a rivulet provides some relief



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Come into your nearest Russells store and you can buy the ultimate in sleeping comfort. A Sealy Ambassador double bed. It has deep quilting plus luxurious layers of cushioning. And at only R599, you'll sleep well. What's more Russells will give you R50 off your Sealy Ambassador



THIS woman and her child were among the of residents who queued at points where tanks provided by the SADF are situated would be back at the same point the next day

ABDUCTIONS, eviction threats and extortion are just part of the price residents of Ardenlee Court have to pay for living illegally in the Johannesburg "grey area" of Joubert Park.

Although the all-black residence on Smit Street, near the Hillbrow Hospital, lies in the middle of the "open city", it exists on the periphery of the law.

Ardenlee Court provides a case study in the harassment, poor conditions and high rentals that "illegal" tenants often receive in "open" areas. And the resistance of its residents to this treatment shows that — despite distant owners, unconcerned estate agents, and careless caretakers — blacks moving into the inner cities are determined to put a stop to the problems planted there by the Group Areas Act.

While some in government hold out the hope that designating Hillbrow and Joubert Park as "free settlement areas" will alleviate the worst of the burdens of illegality, most tenants believe that narrow "free settlement zones" will do little or nothing to address the slum conditions that thousands of blacks endure because of a market burdened by the distortions of residential segregation.

Tenants emboldened by the assistance of anti-apartheid groups such as

A dreadful place to live. Yet residents endure hell to stay

Actstop have begun to restore a new sense of community

In a routine case before the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court last week, the judge refused to give a summary ruling on the matter between Ardenlee Investments (Pty) Ltd, the plaintiff, and the tenants of at least 14 flats fighting eviction. The owners were claiming R800 in back rentals (R295 per month for a small bachelor flat) and an order ejecting the tenants

The attorney for the defendants, Krish Naidoo and Company, countered that his clients had received notice from the Rent Board setting the rate at R110. Protesting the high rentals in a building in such poor condition, these tenants refused to pay R295 (which was raised to R340 this February) and tendered the Rent Board figure instead. This was not

whether the building is serving the high-demand black market or the the low-demand white market. Comparable rents in whites-only buildings in Hillbrow can buy three times as much space

The smell of dirt and urine when entering the building is overpowering, and almost every window on the darkened staircase is broken

The lift, after being broken for more than a year, is only now operational

Now that the case has gone to court, I Kuper no longer claims responsibility for the building, arguing that it terminated its services with the owners by mutual agreement.

On March 15, tenants received a notice from Ungerer that "with immediate effect we are no longer the management agents for (Ardenlee Flats). All tenants' deposits will be transferred to the owners. Any queries or

"But they refused to take the charge, and said that we shouldn't be staying in an area for whites, making numerous very racist comments."

When Tsipho Kokie felt he was being overcharged by paying R295, he approached the Rent Board of the city's Department of Local Government Housing and Works in September last year. The chairman of the board gave him the 1977 figure of R44 as the latest rent determination.

He started paying that amount to I Kuper as a protest, but later raised the figure to R110 to account for increases in costs over the past 10 years. But when Kokie returned to the Rent Board in December after he was threatened with eviction, he says the chairman denied ever having seen him or having written what the rent was. On the sheet of paper where he had written the rents, he now wrote, "This block of flats is no longer subject to Rent Control as it has been phased out."

The Rent Board confirmed that only buildings built before 1949 were still subject to rent control, but couldn't confirm whether Ardenlee met this criterion. However, they denied that the Rent Act applied only to white tenants living in white areas.

Kokie, his brother, their next door neighbour and a family of four were evicted from Ardenlee on February 5. The struggle currently going on in Ardenlee dates to February last year, when I Kuper decided to raise that rent to R295. At the same time, the previous caretaker, who was white, left the building and was replaced by Simon Baloyi.

"The caretaker has not maintained the flat — the toilets and pipes leak, there is no light outside," Muelase said. We have had three deaths here because there are no panels on the window (next to the stairwell). They have fallen through and hit the drains. No confirmation of these alleged deaths could be obtained.

problems are to be directed to the owners."

No mention is made in the letter of who the owners are or where they can be reached. When asked, Ungerer replied that "Ardenlee Investments" owns the buildings, but confirmed that the company was overseen by one Mrs Swanepoel.

A representative of Mervyn J Smith, the law firm representing Ardenlee Investments, said she didn't even know whom she was representing. Persons inquiring from the building's caretaker, Simon Bulayi, were given the name and phone numbers of Rupert Korp, the National Party councillor for Hillbrow.

Korp did not return several calls, but Hein Kruger, the National Party councillor for the area directly around Ardenlee Court, reported that he had received no complaints from either the owners or the tenants.

The lack of complaints may have been before the situation progressed to assault and kidnapping. On Tuesday night two weeks ago, eight bouncers, identified by one resident as coming from a nearby disco, arrived at Ardenlee Court after 11pm.

"Four of them came and knocked on our door, said they were from the agents, and demanded that we pay money," recounts Eva Muelase, a resident in Ardenlee and one of the Actstop members who is paying only R110 until the owners meet the tenants to discuss the terms and conditions of rentals.

"After we said we had no money, they threatened us but finally left," Muelase said. "But they came back around 1am, without the caretaker, and demanded the same thing. They took Across, my husband, out to the car and kept him there, driving him around the city and saying, 'We'll kill you' unless you pay the rest of the rent money."

"They finally dropped him off in Doornfontein at quarter to six in the morning, and he just ran home."

A complaint of kidnapping was lodged at the Hillbrow police station the next day, according to Pressage Nkosi, a director of Actstop who has worked on the Ardenlee case.



SCHOOL'S OUT . . . Eight-year-old Ilse Gelderbloem, who has to go to school in Boksburg's Reiger Park, talks a walk in Hillbrow with her little brother, Bradley, and child-minder Mrs Sylvia Masumpa.

Major battle still facing the residents of Hillbrow

PAT DEVEREAUX

HILLBROW residents may have shed the shackles of apartheid by making it a racially mixed residential area, but there is a further battle to be fought — to open municipal facilities and amenities to all living in the area

Residents have expressed surprise that Free Settlement Board chairman Mr Hen Kruger has not mentioned moves to investigate declaring Hillbrow an open area

He said this week the board, which met officially for the first time eight days ago, had received "no applications to declare racially mixed areas such as Hillbrow, Doornfontein and Pageview open"

It appears that the board will investigate only the areas proposed to it by local authorities, municipalities, certified developers, Cabinet Ministers, provincial administrators and councils and the State President

A private individual or non-State organisation cannot ask the board to investigate opening up an area, says Mr Kruger

Mr James Dryja, secretary of the Hillbrow Traders' Association, said "Hillbrow is already a grey area whether the Free Settlement Board declares it so or not"

"The major battle for those living in residentially integrated Hillbrow is that its (council-controlled) facilities are not"

Mrs Melanie Claasen said "We moved to Hillbrow a month ago. The other day we tried to go to the indoor swimming pool and couldn't. We're not allowed to use the public library and although we don't use buses, it is up to the driver's discretion whether he allows us on"

Her sister, Miss Colleen Claasen, said "Our white neighbours seem to feel threatened and are unfriendly."

Mr Dryja said attendance at white schools in the area had dropped drastically, but they could not accept pupils who were not white. Children like eight-year-old Ilse Gelderbloem have to attend school in Boksburg's Reiger Park

However, Mr Ronnie Govender and his girlfriend, Miss Sheila Harrison, said "Apart from funny looks we get there are no problems. Our block of flats is non-racial. We swim in the private swimming pool and our baby goes to a non-racial creche"

Challenge to Govt from three groups

LAST WEEK'S conference, hosted by the Institute for Democratic Alternatives, the Five Freedoms Forum and the anti-eviction organisation, Actstop, challenged the Group Areas Act and the Government's proposed policy on free-settlement areas.

It was pointed out that:

- There is no paediatric ward for black children at the Hillbrow Hospital and they will not be admitted at the Johannesburg Hospital
- Johannesburg city council

administers 29 swimming pools.

Every one of these is reserved for whites.

• Twenty of the 21 indoor recreational centres under the council's control are reserved for whites.

• The city council refuses to accept electricity deposits from "illegal" residents.

• Residents who are not white are constantly being exploited by landlords or evicted in terms of the Group Areas Act

Soweto: rents debt can't be written off, says Mkhwanazi



Mkhwanazi.

By SOPHIE TEMA

THE Soweto City Council will not write off the R701-million rent debt until alternative means to raise the money can be found.

Soweto's mayor, Sam Mkhwanazi, said the Transvaal Provincial Administration had not approved the scrapping of the rent arrears but the council had taken the burden upon itself to repay the debt.

He said: "This is why we are looking at plans for Soweto's industrial development and other sources to generate income." Mkhwanazi emphatically denied telling about 30 000 people at the Sofasonke Party mass meeting at the weekend, that the township's total rent arrears had been written off.

"I made it clear to the residents that I had no authority to write off the debt and explained that the TPA had not given its approval to have the debt written off." He admitted, however, that the council had introduced fixed levies ranging between R15 to R120 for service charges and R30 to R50 for electricity, depending on the area concerned.

Residents of Orlando

East - Soweto's oldest township - including Jabavu, are the only ones who will pay R15 for service charges. On Tuesday this week Parliament's Joint Committee on Taxation met in Pretoria and the Soweto dispute was discussed by the Administrator of the Transvaal and chief directors of the TPA.

TPA officials have been upset by Mkhwanazi's announcement on the proposed new tariffs, which they say are "uneconomical".

Soweto's acting town clerk, Rene du Toit, said: "The council took no formal decision on the new levies and can only write off debts with the approval of the TPA."

Du Toit said the present backlog on water and electricity payments amount to R135-million and on rent-service levies about R85-million.

He revealed that Soweto's outstanding debts, to be repaid over 25 years, include R250-million for the township's electrification and R150-million for an upgrading programme.

The Soweto People's Delegation called for an urgent meeting.

127 2000 2000

By SAMKELO KUMALO
and JAPIE MOKWEO

BRONKHORSTSPRUIT is a rural one-horse town hardly visible on the map.

The town's name does not conjure a picture of street lights, skyscrapers or even a tarred road. Yet it has these – and a supermarket, too. The latest 24-hour banking facilities are dragging the dorp into the 20th Century.

Like all rural dorps, particularly in the Transvaal, it is a stronghold of rightwing Afrikaner organisations and most of its inhabitants hack a living from the surrounding land.

This is a conservative town where a black man knows his place. There is no way for a black man to address a white man other than saying baas.

The town is a mere 45 minutes from Pretoria and Johannesburg, and many black residents work in these cities.

When Soweto and other townships around the country were burning and KwaNdebele, a few kilometres away, was having its share of the riots, Bronkhorstspuit's black township was as peaceful as paradise itself.

A sticker on the rear window of a bakkie drives the message home. It proclaims *Ons Ondersteun Treurnicht* (We support Treurnicht). The bakkie is driven by a black man.

Despite the expanse of empty land around Bronkhorstspuit, there is no land allocated for new black housing.

Like all other rural towns, this dorp has its own labour dormitory – Zithobeni, with 483 houses, established in 1953. It is unbelievable that there is housing shortage and the township looks like an islet in an ocean of open land.

A railway line cuts Zithobeni off from the growing shack settlement shared by more than 52 families.

Two types of residents live in these shacks: those who are on the waiting list for houses and were living in backyard shacks, and those who have been displaced from surrounding farms and were lucky enough to get employment in Bronkhorstspuit industries.

Faces of anguish stared at us as we entered the tiny and dusty shack location. Perched on a nearby koppie near a sewage dam were a dozen youths, reminiscent of sentries waiting for the bulldozers to come and demolish their makeshift homes.

They had to be on alert as their parents had been told that on this day they would be removed to KwaNdebele, some 20km away.

The 52 families staying in the shacks have reason to despair when seeing strangers as they had been rejected by the Bronkhorstspuit and Zithobeni town councils.

"No one wants us. We have been told in no uncertain terms



A woman who has been on the waiting list for a home in Zithobeni for 20 years.

Pic: EVANS MBOWENI

SAY BAAS!

Squatters outlawed in dusty dorp

that we must go some 20km away as a place has been found for us," said one resident.

What seems to worry everyone is why the authorities cannot accommodate them at Zithobeni when the township has less than 500 houses and vast open land.

A number of houses were built by the Zithobeni council last year, and a few shack-dwellers were given homes. The mayor of the place is alleged to have said no more houses would be built again.

Towards the end of last year the first batch crossed the railway line to erect shacks on what

was believed to be no-man's land.

They chose the site they are at now because there is a fresh water tap at the nearby sewage dam. As soon as they settled down, the authorities refused them the right to draw water from the tap.

They had to go cap in hand begging for water from the township. The allegations are that some of the township residents refuse to allow the shack-dwellers to draw water from their taps. Water from the nearby stream is used for washing.

Pauline X said the Bronkhorstspuit council made them sign forms agreeing to be re-

moved.

"When we were told about our pending removal we were given the impression that we were to be settled in or near the township. To our surprise we have just discovered that we are to be taken to Rethabisent (Restfontein) in KwaNdebele.

"If those are the conditions, we will not move an inch from here," she said.

The Bronkhorstspuit council sent the shack-dwellers notices of eviction early this year in which they were told they were to leave the farm by February 28.

The reasons given were that the place was unhealthy.

Soweto: rents debt can't be written off, says Mkhwanazi



Mkhwanazi.

By SOPHIE TEMA

THE Soweto City Council will not write off the R701-million rent debt until alternative means to raise the money can be found.

Soweto's mayor, Sam Mkhwanazi, said the Transvaal Provincial Administration had not approved the scrapping of the rent arrears but the council had taken the burden upon itself to repay the debt.

He said, "This is why we are looking at plans for Soweto's industrial development and other sources to generate income." Mkhwanazi emphatically denied telling about 30 000 people at the Sofasonke Party mass meeting at the weekend, that the township's total rent arrears had been written off.

"I made it clear to the residents that I had no authority to write off the debt and explained that the TPA had not given its approval to have the debt written off." He admitted, however, that the council had introduced fixed levies ranging between R15 to R120 for service charges and R30 to R50 for electricity, depending on the area concerned.

Residents of Orlando

East - Soweto's oldest township - including Jabavu, are the only ones who will pay R15 for service charges. On Tuesday this week Parliament's Joint Committee on Taxation met in Pretoria and the Soweto dispute was discussed by the Administrator of the Transvaal and chief directors of the TPA.

TPA officials have been upset by Mkhwanazi's announcement on the proposed new tariffs, which they say are "uneconomical".

Soweto's acting town clerk, Rene du Toit, said "The council took no formal decision on the new levies and can only write off debts with the approval of the TPA".

Du Toit said the present backlog on water and electricity payments amount to R135-million and on rent-service levies about R85-million.

He revealed that Soweto's outstanding debts, to be repaid over 25 years, include R250-million for the township's electrification and R150-million for an upgrading programme.

The Soweto People's Delegation called for an urgent meeting.

Nov. 11/4/69 (123)

Families to be paid for move

East Rand Bureau

The Germiston City Council passed a resolution at a special meeting last night to grant 400 coloured families from the Germiston Asiatic Bazaar a R288 000 *ex gratia* payment to resettle them in Eden Park

The payment includes R600 in rental for each family — at R200 a month for three months — as well as a deposit on each household's water and lights account

The ruling caucus also decided that every effort should be made to recover R45 000 in rental arrears from the Asiatic Bazaar. Failing this, the amount would be written off

Management committee chairman Mr Stan van Eeden said while a handful of coloureds were against resettling, 78 families had agreed to do so

The council will make at least R7 million if the Asiatic Bazaar is used for industrial purposes.

CALL TO SCRAP RENT DEBTS

A REPORT-back meeting attended by more than 500 Soweto residents at the weekend endorsed recommendations contained in research commissioned by the Soweto Rent Delegation arising from the three-year rent boycott in the township.

The meeting was held at the Methodist Church in Rockville. It was one of the three called by the SRD to discuss and take decisions on the progress made by the delegation since the last report-back meeting.

Meetings

The other meetings were held at St Philip's Catholic Church (Moletane), Modisi Yo Botse Church (Diepkloof) and St Martin School (Orlando West).

**SOWETAN
Reporter**

The recommendations are that the rent arrears amounts be written off, the housing stock be transferred to the ownership of Soweto

residents; Soweto's infrastructural services be upgraded to an acceptable standard, an affordable service charge be designed and a single tax base for Johannesburg and Soweto be established.

The Reverend Frank

Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches and a member of the seven-member delegation, told the meeting that they were disappointed that the Soweto Council had failed them in March. Instead the council went

to announce its own "solution" to the rent problem at a recent public meeting.

Mr Chikane said the council was under pressure from the joint management committee or the police not to talk to the delegation.

Mum speaks out on ban

THE ban on the unveiling of the tombstone of journalist, Malkompo Kutumela last week showed the hypocrisy of the Lebowa homeland leadership, the Kutumela family said at the weekend.

Speaking in an interview with *Sowetan*, when the family expressed thanks and gratitude to Mwasa, Azapo and Azasm, Mr Kutumela's

mother, Mrs Annah Kutumela said the homeland's Chief Minister, Mr M N Ramodike, had been using her son's alleged killing by the police as an election issue.

Elections

"He goes about denouncing the killing saying a former Minister of Police had ordered it. But when we want to

unveil a tombstone in honour of my son, his police ban the service and harass the people who came from far and near to pay their respects," Mrs Kutumela said.

Mr Kutumela died in police custody at the Mahwelereng Police Station on April 5, 1986. He had been arrested the previous evening with six other Azapo members — some of whom were also

beaten and had to be admitted to hospital. Police banned the unveiling and ordered people to disperse. The unveiling, however, went ahead with only about fifty relatives allowed by the police to attend.

Mrs Kutumela paid special tribute to Mogodi Memorials of Seshego who apparently donated the expensive tombstone free of charge.

Eviction approved, then suspended

By Cathy Stagg

A Hillbrow landlord's application to eject 14 tenants was granted by the Rand Supreme Court yesterday, but the order was suspended pending a petition to the Chief Justice.

This was the outcome of the application launched by Dato Investments against tenants of Waldorf Heights, 28 Esselen Street.

On Friday, 20 tenants successfully opposed an application for their eviction from Fabien Heights and Claridges because in each case the company which owned the block of flats had been linked to the wrong property.

Mr Justice Streicher yesterday granted an application for the suspension of the eviction order he had already granted, but said should any of the respondents fail to lodge a petition to the Chief Justice within 21 days, the suspension of the eviction order would lapse in respect of that respondent.

Rumpus over old Germiston coloured area

By Jovial Rantao

The coloured families living in Germiston Old Location or Asiatic Bazaar, were yesterday divided on whether to agree to be relocated by the Germiston City Council in Eden Park near Alberton.

While some residents agreed that the township had become a health hazard, some, mostly the unemployed and pensioners, expressed concern over the high rentals they would be required to pay at Eden Park and called on the Government to proclaim the area coloured.

R288 000 earmarked

On Monday night the Germiston Town Council announced at a special meeting that R288 000 had been set aside to help relocate 400 coloured families staying in the area, which is prime industrial land.

The money will be used to pay each families' electricity and water deposits and their furniture will be moved free of charge.

Originally a non-white residential area, the Asiatic Bazaar has been under threat of removal for the past 10 years. Black and Indian families were relocated in Katlehong, Thokoza and Palm Ridge respectively. Coloured families started moving in due to a shortage of houses in the neighbouring towns.

Residents also urged the Germiston City Council to write off R45 000 they owe in rentals to the council.

Chairman of the township's management committee Mr Victor Minnie told The Star that the majority of residents wanted the area to be proclaimed a coloured area and re-developed.

"The council want to dump us out in Alberton where we will not be their responsibility. Why can't they proclaim the area coloured and rebuild it? We are the only coloured community in Germiston and therefore deserve our own residential area," Mr Minnie said.

Mr Paul Louw (66), a resident in the area for the past 23 years, was against the whole idea of relocation. "I am not sure I will be able to survive in Eden Park on the meagre pension I receive from the State. It is my greatest wish to die and be buried here," he said.

Wants to move

"That place is too expensive," Mrs Bennedine Mahommed said. "How are we expected to survive? It is high time the Government listened to us rather than the industrialists."

A social worker in the area for the past 25 years, Mrs Cathy Hermans does not share the same sentiments.

"This place has deteriorated so badly over the past years that no right thinking person would want to stay here or raise their children under such squalid conditions," Mrs Hermans said.

"If people don't want to move and the Government re-develops this place, we are going to pay the same rent as in Eden Park. People must learn to uplift their living standards."

Mr Willem Groenewald, an unemployed father of seven children, said he wanted to move from the area because chemicals from the neighbouring factories were affecting the health of his children.

The few Indian families that remain in the area are those who have businesses in the township. The businessmen told The Star that they were waiting for their business sites in Palm Ridge to be developed.

Spel 12/1/87
Complaints 'had no effect'

Eviction row buildings badly needs repairs

By Carima le Grange

While the fate of 14 families resident in Hillbrow's Waldorf Heights is being decided in the courts, many other residents are complaining bitterly about the state of the building

This became apparent when The Star visited the block of one-roomed flats in Esselen Street yesterday

The resident's landlord, Mr Joseph Farber of Dato Investments, on Monday successfully applied to the Rand Supreme Court to eject 14 tenants, but the order of eviction was suspended pending a petition to the Chief Justice for leave to appeal

Victimisation

Residents were hesitant to speak and would not identify themselves to the press for fear of victimisation. But they did point out the derelict state of many parts of the building

This included the two lifts, neither working, broken bathroom windows, malfunctioning toilets, a lack of wall plugs for electrical devices, inadequate geysers and peeling paint. All said they had pointed out these

matters to the caretaker but nothing was ever done in the way of repairs

One tenant said all the residents were being victimised for the "sins of those who ran shebeens"

The new caretaker, Mr Piet Grobler, who was himself busy fixing his own flat, said he wanted to "get rid of the liquor sellers" but that as far as he was concerned, those who behaved themselves and paid their rent could stay

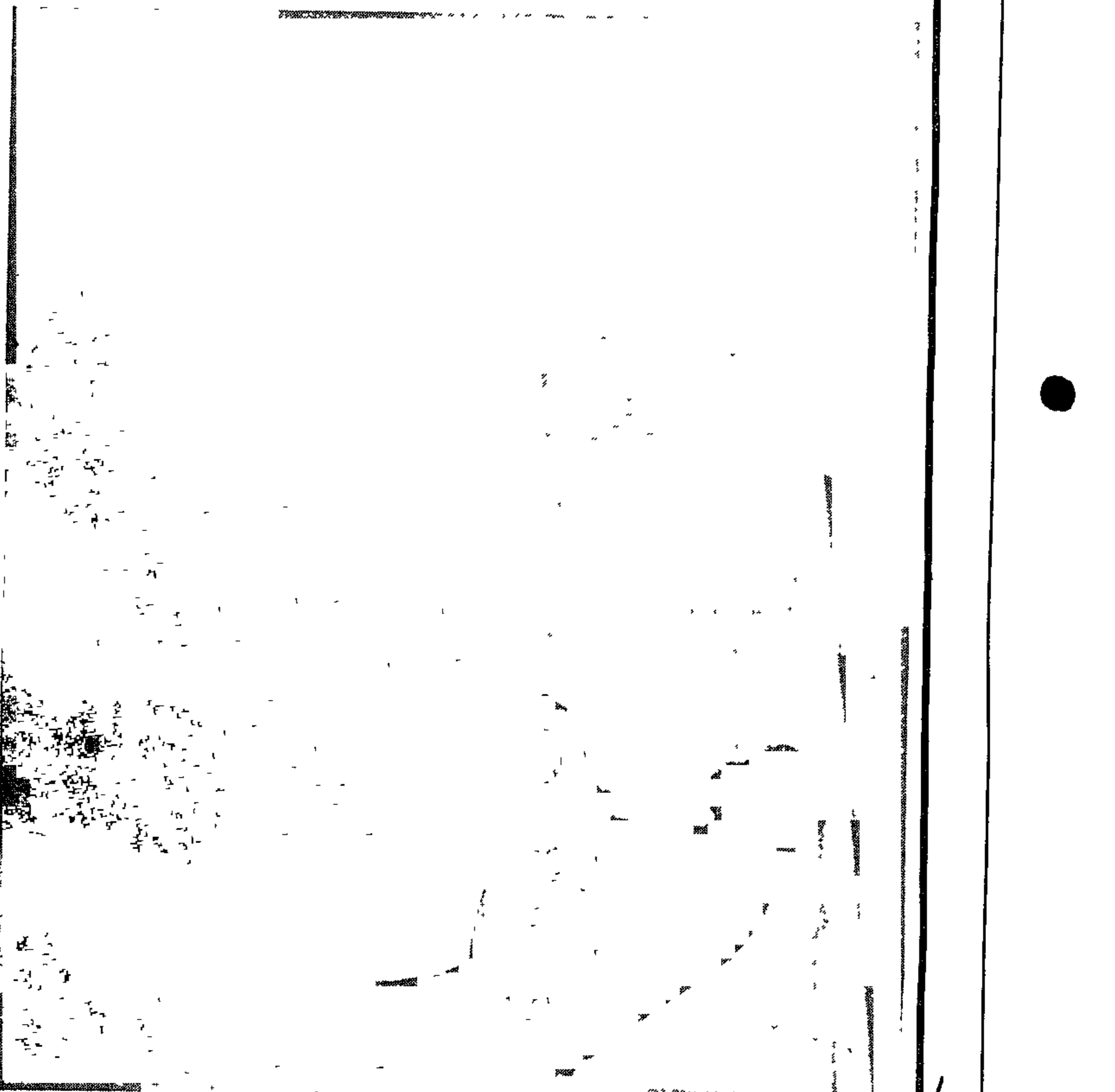
Some tenants have not paid their increased rent — now more than R300 for the small one-roomed flats with only a kitchen and bathroom — because repairs were not done and services not provided

They all said it would be "nearly impossible" to find alternative accommodation if they should be evicted

Actstop, the anti-eviction body, said in a statement on Monday that tenants had been involved in an "acrimonious struggle" with Dato Investments for about two years over the conditions. Actstop said they did not regard the outcome of the court case as a serious setback

"We are fully aware we can not depend only on the law's promulgated by a white minority," Actstop said

A resident of Waldorf Heights, Johannesburg, who is threatened with eviction — he did not want to be identified — in his one-roomed flat. ● Picture by Ken Osterbroek.



PROPERTY/Edited by Terry Meyer

Diepsloot township back in contention

B/par 12/1 4/184

(127)

MOVES are once again afoot to create a township at Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg, following the announcement that it was being considered for development as an open area.

However, Greenbelt Action Group (GAG) chairman Eric Fletcher said GAG would continue to resist any urbanisation of the area, although he welcomed the investigation as "a step in the right direction".

GAG would like to see the entire area around Diepsloot — covering some 13 500ha — declared open but allowed to retain its rural status.

However, the 33 owners of the 850ha earmarked for consideration by Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Chris Heunis have formed a committee to lobby for Diepsloot's rezoning for township development.

Teams of consulting and geotechnical engineers have already investigated the availability of services and the geological stability of the site. In addition, town planners have prepared a proposed structural plan, financed by the property owners.

And town planner Fanie Haacke, of

VAL PIENAAR

Haacke Belling Partnership, said this was not the only scheme under consideration. "Both the West Rand and the Johannesburg Regional Services Councils have drawn up independent plans for Diepsloot — both of an unsatisfactory, superficial nature. Greater control is essential if we are to avoid the development of a squatter settlement," Haacke commented.

According to Henne Pretorius, a member of the committee and legal advisor to the owners, the preliminary investigation indicated that geological

conditions were favourable and that infrastructure services would be available "at a cost which would make the development feasible".

Dr Alf Levin, of Township Realtors (SA) — one of two developers with an interest in the area — pointed out that it was close to a sewerage works, while he said the cost of providing water and electricity would — taken stand by stand — be nominal.

However, Piet Schoombie, GM for Gencor's property division, said last year that Diepsloot was too far from any established area for the provision of services by a developer to be financial-

ly viable. According to Schoombie, government had made it clear that the provision of these services would be the developer's responsibility.

Gencor had options on some 200ha in the area until last November, when they were allowed to lapse. Contacted recently, Schoombie confirmed that Gencor had no further interest in the area.

As conceived by the town planners employed by Diepsloot's property owners, the township would cater for the executive class.

It is questionable whether there would be any demand for up-market accommodation among whites, whose needs are more than adequately met by such established, more central areas as Sandton and Randburg.

And since it seems likely that Sandton will vote in favour of becoming an open area, Diepsloot would seem likely in the long run to lose a fair proportion of its black, Indian and coloured market as well.

Because of this, residents in the surrounding rural area believe a township would be doomed from the start, and predict that it would rapidly degenerate into a slum.

Pretorius maintained, on the other hand, that the development would have a beneficial effect on the surrounding area, in addition to creating work opportunities.

"It will enhance the surrounding area, as it is intended to be a model township for people of all races in the higher income group. It will draw people who work in the north of Johannesburg, Sandton, Randburg, Krugersdorp and Verwoerdburg," he said.

And Levin added that the availability of housing in developed areas would be insufficient to meet demand even if it was made available. "It will be a very good area for blacks, many of whom take as much as two hours to travel from Soweto to their places of work in the northern suburbs," he said.

The proposed township has been designed in accordance with the requirements of a white area, with provision made for primary and secondary schools, small business areas and a large shopping centre.

However, the stand sizes are considerably smaller than those found in up-market white areas. About 5% of the residential area has been set aside for flats, townhouses and duplexes, and about 75% for stands of 500m² and larger. The balance has been allocated to stands of 600m² and larger.

MIDRAND IS IN DEMAND

OFFICE space under construction at Midrand amounts to 43 309m², or more than half of the total existing office accommodation. And according to the Ampros property

1 Day 12/4/89

LABOUR MP SLAMS CP COUNCIL'S WATER POLICY

CAPE TOWN — The conservative Party-controlled Balfour Town Council in the Eastern Transvaal has been slammed by a Labour Party MP Les Abrahams, for denying water to the local black township of Siyathemba. *1 Day 12/4/89*

The Balfour council was keeping water, one of life's basic needs, from the black majority in area, he said during the budget debate in the House of Representatives

"Is the CP trying to make the black people of Siyathemba die of thirst?" he asked

Political Staff

The 4 500 white residents of Balfour used up to 75% of the domestic water available to the town but the remaining 25% was channelled through to 30 000 citizens of Siyathemba. *1 Day 12/4/89*

Seeking water

"In desperation many of the residents of Siyathemba have walked to Balfour with containers in an effort to obtain water from taps in the town.

"This CP-controlled town maintains that the law does not compel it to supply Siyathemba

"It only sells its surplus water to the black township of Siyathemba. What a disgrace," he said

Siyathemba was a proclaimed area and should be supplied with essential services

"I for one cannot understand the attitude of people who first see to themselves and in the process deprive their brothers of a darker hue of God's gift to mankind — water," Abrahams said

13/4/89
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Houghton to fight bid for townhouses

Municipal Reporter

Houghton residents are rolling up their sleeves for a major effort to block the latest application for townhouse rights in their prestige suburb

The application called for the rezoning of stands 1752 and 1753 on the corner of Central Street and Ninth Avenue to allow the existing house on 7 930 sq m to be replaced by six two-storey townhouses, said deputy town planner Mr Rudi Erasmus

But neighbour Mr Sam Skapinker said he and other affected residents had already lodged their objections. He said councillor Mr Carl Stein and the local ratepayers' association would also protest against the application

"It sets a precedent with old, often magnificent homes and trees on large plots being replaced by townhouses"

He said the latest application was only two streets from the recent one for townhouses on Houghton Golf Course.

Mr Erasmus said the council's attitude would only be finalised once the application had gone through the normal channels

The application had been made in terms of the Lower Houghton Higher Density Policy, "so strictly speaking there should be no problems"

ACTION AGAINST COUNCIL

RESIDENTS of the elite Hillsview township in Kagiso are taking the local council to court over the failure to provide them with electricity for the past two years.

Sowetan 14/4/89

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

The 500 residents of the area said a test case was pending against the council.

Summons have been served on the council and a court date was expected to be announced soon.

Summons

The mayor of Kagiso, Mr Edward Moeketsi, and his deputy, Mr David Modiba, were not available for comment. Messages left for them to return calls drew no response in two days.

The town clerk, Mr J van Rensburg, said he did "not know" of the summons.

Stones

There are other elite areas in Kagiso which have not been electrified.

since they were built more than two years ago.

Some of the areas have no proper roads or street lighting and residents of Hospitalview Extension have to walk 5 km to board taxis to Krugersdorp.

Some residents use candles for lighting and pressure stoves for cooking in the R40 000-plus houses in Kagiso's elite areas.

Wits Business School (Funda Centre) offers professional training.

SKILLS AND INDUSTRY

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Rent talks agreed

12/11/1989
THE Soweto City Council has at last agreed to meet with the Soweto People's Delegation to continue discussions on the rent issue at the council chambers in Jabulani today

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SOWETAN Reporter

The meeting was set up after several fruitless

efforts by the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) to get the councillors to another meeting. The last meeting was on December 9.

A flurry of meetings as rents crisis flares again

MEMBERS of the Soweto People's Delegation — formed last year to represent residents on the rent issue — staged a series of residents' meetings in the giant township at the weekend to reiterate demands for the scrapping of residents' R200-million rent backlog.

The meetings followed a controversial statement by Soweto Mayor Sam Mkhwanazi last week that arrears would be frozen rather than scrapped. Earlier reports that he had promised to write off unpaid rents had misquoted him, he claimed.

At the SPD meetings, civic leaders such as Frank Chikane, Lebamang Sebidi and Albertina Sisulu reiterated

that the rent boycott would not be called off until the Soweto City Council addressed their demands.

In addition to the scrapping of rent and service arrears, these include demands for a single, open Johannesburg-Soweto metropolis, that rented houses be given to tenants, and that better services be provided at cheaper tariffs.

If the Soweto City Council could not agree on a response, SPD members said they would take the issue and their arguments to the Johannesburg Town Council, the Transvaal Provincial Administration, and the Department of Constitutional Planning and Development.

Contradictory reports of statements by Soweto's mayor, have re-kindled the rents boycott controversy, reports ANDREW CLARK

"We are tired of the lies of Sofasonke [the majority party on the Soweto City Council] and the supposed mayor of Soweto, Sam Mkhwanazi," said one former member of the now-banned Soweto Civic Association, which called for the rent boycott in June 1986.

"Mkhwanazi may be able to draw a crowd, but he can't deliver the goods."

Last week, after allegedly promising an audience at Soweto's Orlando Stadium that the council would write off rent and service arrears, Mkhwanazi claimed that he had been misquoted. The debts would be "frozen" until a solution had been worked out. His statement came after Soweto city treasurer and TPA officials had said that writing off the debts was "totally out of the question".

Mkhwanazi, who was elected last October after winning on a less than 11 percent poll, ran on a platform including drastically reduced rents and a solution to the boycott.

His meeting with the SPD, formed in December last year, was seen as a

dramatic departure, and he promised to meet them again after they released a study of the Soweto rent boycott in the new year.

However, since the publication of the watershed Planact report in March, the Soweto council has refused to answer at least three letters from the SPD.

In an interview yesterday, Mkhwanazi denied he was refusing to meet the delegation, claiming that a meeting had been scheduled for today. However, SPD members have received no notification of a meeting, and suspect that members of the local Joint Management Centre and TPA have pressured Mkhwanazi into cutting off negotiations.

The findings of the Planact report have considerably weakened the moral position of the authorities, and may help reshape urban politics by showing for the first time how black Sowetans are subsidising the cash-rich Johannesburg City Council.

The report argues that the unification of the Soweto and Johannesburg tax base is the only lasting solution to the fiscal crisis in the townships.

Among the report's findings are that:

- About 280 000 Sowetans, 96 percent of the township's employed population, contribute their labour power to the Johannesburg economy, and that Sowetans spend R1-billion in Johannesburg's central business district. The report points out that 70 percent of Johannesburg's income, accruing from service charges, comes from businesses.

"It is black labour and black consumption expenditure that are the foundations of the businesses, contributing no less than 74 percent of the council's assessment rates," it notes.

● Sowetans pay an average of R38,55 for servicing charges on sites and sewerage — as compared with the R28,97 Johannesburg assessment on a much larger plot and house. ● Sowetans pay electricity charges of R0,11 per kilowatt hour, as against R0,09 per kilowatt hour paid by Johannesburg residents. ● Soweto's contribution to Johannesburg council revenues enables the council to provide Johannesburg's white residents with a 55 percent rates rebate. The SPD sees the document as a starting-point for negotiations with the state. "If [Department of Constitutional Development and Planning Minister] Chris Heunis says he wants a 'grand indaba', here is the city, here is the report and here is the group," said the delegation's Frank Chikane.

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Jan 17/87 (11)

Sympathy for the housing crisis among coloureds

JANET HEARD

THERE is empathy, and not apathy, for the housing needs of the coloured community

This is the view of the director of the Johannesburg City Council's Housing Department, Mr F W Robins, who was responding to recent reports on the housing crisis in the Saturday Star

He said 5 200 units had been made available over the past four years, which represented "a proud record in spite of land, financial and other constraints"

The council, which recognised the inadequacy of State funds, had injected its own money into developing areas. Most of the development was in Eldorado Park, Ennerdale and Westbury

Before the development scheme began there were 13 561 housing units. The waiting list stood at 3 639 in June 1984. The South-Western Management Committee (SWMC) estimated there were more than 8 000 families on the waiting list

The Saturday Star based its report on information received from MPs in the House of Representatives, who alleged that the SWMC was unfair in the way it allocated houses

"Wherever an imbalance between supply and demand exists, the potential for dissatisfaction, suspicion and malpractice is high", Mr Robins said. The SWMC granted people houses strictly on the basis of the date of application. The only exceptions were when compassionate cases were considered, and if a unit which was occupied by a tenant who had a lodger lawfully occupying the premise became vacant, then special consideration was given to that lodger, provided certain conditions were met

Contact with applicants lost

"The management committee is considering applications made during 1981 and 1982. Applications before these dates having either been accommodated or are no longer under consideration, the department having lost contact with applicants"

Mr Robins said that since he had taken over as director in 1988, he had received no information on people who applied in the 1970s and who had still not been allocated a house. "Any such case reported to me will be fully investigated."

He denied the allegation by the MP for Klipfontein West, Mr A E Reeves, that Mr Abraham Hendriks applied for a house in 1977 and was still waiting. "Mr Hendriks has no application for accommodation with the council."

He said the allegation that Mr A Abrahams received a house three months after applying was incorrect. He received a house more than four years after his application in 1984

Mr Robins said facilities have been established for the community's needs. They include five halls, eight community centres, nine clinics, 78 parks, seven swimming pools, 15 soccer fields and eight tennis courts

Vaal Triangle gets a R300m township

AD 17/4/89 EDWARD WEST 127

BEVERLEY Hills, a huge new township in the Vaal Triangle, opens next month

Direct Estate Agents MD John Marshall added construction had begun on the R300m development near Vereeniging and registration of buyers of up to 530 stands was taking place

Services for stands are complete except for road construction

Marshall said infrastructure costs for the first phase were R35m and contractors had erected a village of show houses

The development will include 11 000 dwellings.

By the end of the year developers expect to have built 4 000 of them

Phase two is expected to start in two months' time and involves the construction of 500 houses

Marshall said the developers were applying to make the area a free-settlement zone

Most interest has come from Sowetans seeking a more comfortable and quiet place to live.

The development has made provision for 11 school sites, seven pre-primary schools, 20 churches, flats and business stands.

Bl Day 20/4/89 (127)

White neighbour speaks up

THEO RAWANA

THE presence of blacks in "white" residential areas was not defiance of any law but caused by landlords looking for occupiers and blacks looking for accommodation, the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court was told yesterday

Actstop president Cassim Saloojee told the court that as whites left places like Hillbrow, the CBD and Mayfair for up-market houses in the suburbs, landlords were left with no white takers for accommodation, while blacks were desperately looking for places to live

Saloojee was testifying for the defence at the trial of attorney Lawley Shein, of Orange Grove, who is charged with allowing a non-qualifying person to live in his house in Mayfair West from July 1986, and Daveechand Ramjee, an Indian charged as the illegal occupant of the house

Both have pleaded not guilty to the

charges

Saloojee said although government had vowed to wipe out the black housing backlog, there was no substantial housing development taking place

"Instead, government has given housing to private developers who have put prices beyond the reach of the lower- and middle-income groups"

A white neighbour, Anne-Marie Ham, told the court her family had had no problems with the Ramjees, there was no culture conflict, and they would be greatly upset if Ramjee was ejected

She said her husband had refused three times to sign a petition calling for the eviction of the family

The case continues today

25 doctors disciplined in six months

DIANNA GAMES

SOME 25 doctors have been found guilty of improper conduct by the SA Medical and Dental Council in the past six months, a council executive committee meeting heard in Johannesburg yesterday

The council agreed to remove one of the doctors, a surgeon, from the register while penalties agreed on for the rest included temporary suspensions and warnings. They are to be notified of the penalties today

This follows a series of disciplinary com-

mittee hearings during the past six months at which the doctors were present

During yesterday's third and final day of the biannual council meeting it was also agreed that, because of the number of women doctors qualifying, the regulations should be changed to allow students to qualify as doctors through part-time training. At present only full-time students can qualify

Homes - new twist

THE Soweto City Council yesterday agreed to transfer ownership of more than 50 000 rented houses to tenants in the area.

This was announced in a joint statement by the municipality and Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) after a six-hour meeting held at the council's offices.

REPORTS, pictures and comments in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency.

The council has agreed to the transfer of all rented houses to the people of Soweto - only the details need to be worked by it," said the Rev Frank Chikane, who led the SPD delegates with the Rev Lebamang Sebidi.

The delegation said

Soweto's rent arrears were no longer a focal point as the council had asked us to leave this matter to them. The council had also pointed out that the matter would be settled without Soweto residents having to pay the money.

The SPD had urged the council to seek a single tax base for Soweto and Johannesburg as a solution to the

To Page 2

Meeting

Soweto 20/4/89
From Page 1

council's financial problems

The SPD met a council delegation led by the mayor, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, and his deputy, Miss Esther Mkhabela. Other SPD members included former UDF president, Mrs Albertina Sisulu and Mrs Ellen Khuzwayo.

The delegation rejected the recently announced flat-rate service charge because the council could not show how "it had arrived at the rates", and that they were not consulted on their formulation.

The SPD is to present to the council its own rates "within the next few days".

Both parties also agreed to meet later this month, to resolve problems in the area.

The SPD is to hold report-back meetings at various venues in Soweto as from next week.

Indians go into white areas 'in desperation'

By Celeste Louw

Many Indians moved illegally into white areas "out of sheer desperation", the Johannesburg Regional Court was told yesterday

The evidence was heard in the trial of Johannesburg attorney Mr Lawley Shein (34) and Mr Davechand Ramjee (39), of St Jeffrey Avenue, Mayfair West, who have pleaded not guilty to charges of contravening the Group Areas Act

Mr Ramjee told the court he had applied to the Department of Community Development for a home in Lenasia and had been waiting for nine years.

The court heard that Mr Ramjee lived in Fordsburg until 1984 when he was forced to move to a white area "or live on the pavement"

He moved in 1986 and Mr Shein offered him the Mayfair West house.

Mr Frederick Samuel told the court he was in a similar position. He and his

family had lived for 19 years in one room without running water and electricity in Fordsburg. His father applied unsuccessfully for a house in Lenasia, but eventually gave up.

He said the company for which he worked helped him get a house in Mayfair.

"I applied for a permit to live there. It was refused and I eventually moved in as a guest with the chairman of the company in Parkview."

After "numerous threats" Mr Samuel moved back with his family to the quarters in Fordsburg.

He then looked for a place in a white area, the court heard.

A founding member of Actstop, Mr Ebrahim Salojee, said informal figures showed that more than 70 000 people were living illegally in white areas in Johannesburg.

"They moved into these areas out of sheer desperation," he said.

The hearing continues.

Taps running again in CP town



MAYORS of Balfour and Siyathemba, Mr M J Claassen and Mr Daniel Mophohosho, holding a jar of water to symbolise the new spirit of sharing.

THE acute water shortage at Siyathemba township in Balfour was the result of the abolition of influx control laws and the flood of squatters to the township.

This was said by the Conservative Party-controlled Balfour Town Council (127) yesterday.

The council denied that it deliberately stopped the water supply to Siyathemba and yesterday took the press on a tour of the area. Journalists were shown a new system which it said would increase the supply to the township by 400 kilolitres a day.

BY THEMBA MOLEFE

Balfour mayor Mr M J Claassen said the town would not answer questions on whether his council would open all facilities to people of all races.

Mr David Maphosho, the mayor of Siyathemba, denied that the squatter problem aggravated the shortage and pointed out that the Siyathemba population was 24 000 and that only 800 families lived in shacks in the township. He criticised the Balfour council and the Boksburg Town Council.

Mr Claassen said, "The difference is that we have not done what Boksburg did". He would not answer questions on whether his council would open all facilities to people of all races.

Mr David Maphosho, the mayor of Siyathemba, denied that the squatter problem aggravated the shortage and pointed out that the Siyathemba population was 24 000 and that only 800 families lived in shacks in the township. He criticised the Balfour council and the Boksburg Town Council.

Taps are running

Balfour Council has having delayed negotiations over the crisis and accused whites in the town of refusing to let Siyathemba residents draw water from their taps.

Mr Maphosho said the crisis was still in the Siyathemba but that water was running again from taps in the area. The Balfour Council also dismissed claims that the water supplied in tanks to the Balfour residents was dirty and blamed the "black Press" for writing sensational articles about the crisis.

12/11/89

To Page 2

Mayfair's white status to be challenged

THE 27-year-old proclamation declaring Mayfair a white area is to be challenged in the Rand Supreme Court after a defence application in an illegal occupation case in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday

Magistrate G van Wyk referred the case to the Supreme Court after defence lawyer Dave Dison had submitted that Proclamation 83 of 1962 was no longer valid as the situation had changed significantly in recent years

Attorney Lawley Shein, of Orange Grove, was appearing on a charge of letting his Mayfair West house to a non-qualifying person Davechand Ramjee, an Indian, was charged as the illegal occu-

THEO RAWANA

pant of the house Both have pleaded not guilty to the charges

The defence lawyer cited a 1980 judgment by Chief Justice Rumpff in which he said the overturning of the proclamation had no chance "in the foreseeable future"

Saying SA was now past that "foreseeable future", Dison said "There has been a significant shift now with government talking of proposed free settlement areas and the legalising of some people occupying areas illegally

"In the past two days, we have heard

evidence of thousands of people living illegally in white areas, having been on housing lists for long periods We want to challenge the proclamation in the Supreme Court because of the racial inequalities it provides

"That September 5 1980 judgment left a window by referring to the foreseeable future and a superior court might strike down the proclamation"

Earlier in the hearing, Urban Foundation executive director (urbanisation) Anne Bernstein had told the court there was a surplus of 40 000 housing units in SA for whites while thousands of Indians could not find shelter

127 WMMML 21-27/4/89.

Three years on, a Soweto rents deal

THE Soweto City Council and the Soweto People's Delegation agreed this week to write off all rent and service arrears arising out of Soweto's three-year-old rent boycott and to transfer all houses currently owned by the government to the residents of the township.

The accord could lead to the resolution of an apparently intractable problem by rolling back state control of township life. It marks a victory for the demands of the SPD, which grew out of local meetings last year in Soweto on the rent issue.

"It is now the people who determine the pace of change," said delegation leader Frank Chikane at a press conference following the Wednesday meeting. "And if the council doesn't keep its promises, it is the people that will decide what to do," he said.

However, it remains unclear how the council can repay its R700-million debt (over R200-million of which is due to rent arrears) "without ever charging the people of Soweto," as it agreed to do on Wednesday.

When mayor Sam Mkhwanazi backed down from his promise to write off rent arrears two weeks ago, he did so after Transvaal Provincial Administration officials had said that it was "totally out of the question."

Mkhwanazi, who claimed his previous statement had been misquoted, refused to say anything after this week's meeting, except that the council and the SPD "have both agreed to the statement" voiding past rent payments and giving individual houses to their residents.

Yesterday, TPA executive committee member Olaus van Zyl suggested that there was no hard-and-fast provincial position on the question of writing off rent arrears.

"The city council of Soweto has certain rights to make its own decisions," van Zyl said. "However, if you are to write off the rents of those who have not paid, will you repay those that have?"

"Moreover, Soweto and Lekoa (in the Vaal triangle) are the only local authorities where rent boycotts are still going on," he added. "People in other townships will ask, 'Why must we pay when others have not been?'"

In this week's meeting, the council also agreed with the SPD that a single tax base should be established for Soweto and Johannesburg, and undertook to "come back to the delegation later on this matter."

It agreed with SPD demands that Soweto's electricity, water, roads, and sewerage system needed to be upgraded and that charges for these

Soweto's plan to write off rent arrears has been hailed as a victory for the boycott. But there are still some uncertainties, reports ANDREW CLARK

services should be scaled down to reasonable levels.

The delegation made these demands in a crucial report on the Soweto rent crisis released in March. The report documented for the first time the extent to which Sowetans subsidise white Johannesburg ratepayers through taxes on their labour and consumption in Johannesburg's central business district.

However, observers consider it highly unlikely that the council will be able to convince the TPA, the local Joint Management Centre (JMC) and the regional service councils to foot the bill for better services or to persuade the Johannesburg council to even consider the possibility of a merger.

Delegation member Lebamong Sebidi said another meeting had been scheduled for May 29, but hoped that there would be several discussions before that date.

Despite the political hurdles still to be crossed if the rent backlog is to be written off and houses transferred to their current tenants, several delegation members felt encouraged by the council's agreement to their demands.

"They are co-operating, really and truly," commented Albertina Sisula. "They are still oppressed people, but there are some that are trying to raise the issues with the chaps in Pretoria."

Commenting on the council's suggestion that funds be raised from the RSC, Chikane said: "We said to them that that would be begging."

"We were uprooted from our areas and told we were not allowed to own businesses in the new ones. In 1963 came the principle of one man, one shop, and businesses could only sell basic commodities and nothing else. The solution is not to redistribute wealth from one apartheid city to another, but to create a single city with a unified tax base."

There was least agreement between the parties on the issue of services. At the meeting two weeks ago, when Mkhwanazi announced that rents would be frozen, he called for a flat-rate R50 a month service charge.

"There is no justice or rationale behind that sum," Chikane said. "Tariffs must be affordable, and they must be according to water and electricity used. Johannesburg's accounts are metered and cross-subsidised. Why can't Soweto's be as well?"

MP against Pageview being included in area

PETER FABRICIUS,
Political Correspondent

MAYFAIR is to be advertised as a possible free settlement area very soon, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development Mr Roelf Meyer said yesterday.

Mr Meyer said that as the MP for the area, he had urged the Government to proclaim it a free settlement area.

However, he added that he had advised against including Pageview in the free settlement area. He believed that the 42 Indian families living in Pageview should move to Mayfair.

And the chairman of the Free Settlement Board, Mr Hen Kruger, said yesterday that Mayfair was in the board's list of top priorities for proclamation.

He stressed that the area under investigation excluded Mayfair West, Pageview, Homestead Park and the E P Baumann School.

Other top priority areas being investigated are Diepsloot, Midrand, Windmill Park in Boksburg and Warwick Triangle in Durban.

Diepsloot and Midrand — two proposed residential areas between Johannesburg and Pretoria — are likely to be the first free settlement areas proclaimed — possibly by late August or early September. It is understood that the two areas will be advertised on April 26.

The free settlement board's procedure is that after a preliminary inquiry, potential free settlement areas are advertised for 28 days to allow for comment from residents and others.

Three months

After that it takes about three months before proclamation — one month to investigate the area, another month to prepare a recommendation for the Government and a third month to prepare proclamation documents.

Mr Meyer yesterday denied charges brought by the Pageview Residents Association that he had used his influence as Deputy Minister to sway the Government against proclaiming Pageview a free settlement area.

Mr Meyer said it was eventually up to the Ministers Council in the House of Assembly to decide if it should be opened.

He had told Mr Amie Venter, Minister of Local Government and Housing, that he did not favour Pageview being opened.

He did not know what decision the Ministers Council had made, if any.

Mr Meyer said that he believed that it would be better for the Indians of Pageview to move to Mayfair. There were only 42 Indian houses spread over the whole of Pageview, and most of them were in a dilapidated condition.

In a related development, National Party MP for North Rand Mr Attie Grobler has confirmed that he will do everything in his power to oppose moves by a property developer to have a free settlement area declared in The Reeds Ext 4 and 17 — a suburb between Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Mr Grobler said the residents of the area had objected to the move by the developer, Mr Mike Meyer, and he would support them.

leap/h/ee

42100
DIEPSLOOT
MAYFAIR
PAGESVIEW
WINDMILL PARK
WARWICK TRIANGLE
HOMESTEAD PARK
E P BAUMANN SCHOOL
MAYFAIR WEST

Huge deficit in town council budget

Shock rates rise forecast for Sandton

Step 22/4/89
123

SANDTON ratepayers should brace themselves for a large increase in assessment rates from July, which according to Sandton councillor Mr Willem Hefer, could rise between 33 and 50 percent.

Although not officially announced, Mr Hefer predicted the estimated rise in the rates from his own calculations at the council meeting last month. The increase is usually announced in June.

He said the rise was due to the deficit which arose from the current year's budget after the increase in officials' salaries and the car-loan scheme granted to them.

He said the council did not have the funds for these expenses and it was forced to borrow money from the market and delve into its accumulated funds.

"At one stage, the council had about R7 million in accumulated funds, but now we are in deficit."

In addition, he said, it was highly likely a further increase in officials' salaries would be announced this year, in view of a general election. He emphasised that this should be taken into account.

Taking the deficit from last year, and an increase in salaries this year, he estimated between R20 million and R30 million would be required to balance the books. "The ratepayers will have to pay for this," he said.

"President Botha declared the increase to civil servants last year in view of pending municipal elections in October. Although the council did not have the money, the increase was accepted by the management committee and cost

JANET HEARD

the council about R2,6 million for the remainder of the financial year."

He said the money was drawn from the accumulated surplus. "At the same time, it was besieged by the white trade union, the South African Association of Municipal Employees, with the request for car loans."

"The car-loan scheme entitles employees to borrow the equivalent of their annual salaries at a subsidised interest. According to my calculations, R2 million was borrowed at a higher rate of interest to pay for the subsidised loans. This will have to be paid back in the coming budget."

"The State, the Province and the council are spending money which we have not got."

The council gets money from assessment rates, water, electricity, refusal removal and sewerage

Prior warning

"Most service charges already exceed the Government's profit guidelines of 10 percent, and increases are likely to be kept to a minimum. The balance will have to be found in assessment rates."

At the March meeting, Mr Hefer asked the MC to not wait until the budget debate in June to announce an increase, because ratepayers needed prior warning. "It is a fallacy that everyone in Sandton is a millionaire."

He said salary increases this year could involve more than R4 million.

Mr Hefer stressed his calculations were estimates because only the management committee had access to the figures.

The Town Clerk, Miss Sybil Mostert, said figures were not available until the expenditure meeting in May.

"Until this is done, nobody can speculate on the rise in rates."

She said the salary increases were a problem for all local authorities and caught the council unawares last year.

She said the car-loan scheme was an added expenditure, which did affect the budget.

Alderman Bill Hedding said "Mr Hefer has done his own work. My guess is that he is guessing. This is seen particularly by the broad figure he gives."

"One of the reasons for the increase in expenditure is the salary increase, car loans, etc, but there are a lot of other expenditures. These include inflation and rising costs of construction for all the maintenance and development which people request."

He said the increases would be discussed in June. The management committee chairman outlines the problems and makes recommendations for an increase. The council has the authority to turn it down.

He justified the additional expenses and said the council had no choice but to grant the salary increases and the car-loan schemes. "We cannot step out of line with the unions and other municipalities or we will lose staff."

He said it was not possible to predict if the Government would announce another salary increase this year. This made it very difficult when drawing up the budget, although it was taken into account this year.

Management committee member, Mr Meyer van Niekerk, said it was too early to predict a rise in rates, and refused to comment.

The chairman of the management committee, Mr Peter Gardiner, is overseas and could not be reached for comment.

Keep your rainwear handy today

TRANSVAAL Cloudy and mild with scattered showers over the western half, spreading to the remainder of the area. Isolated falls are expected in the west and south-west tomorrow.



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SOWETAN Monday April 24 1989

Page 3

Parents' Anguish Over Water Cuts

FREQUENT and un-announced water stoppages in Moletsane, Soweto, have caused anguish to working parents as their children are turned away from child care centres.

For three days last week Entokozenwani Early Learning Centre sent away over 130 of its 176 children when the water was cut off without notice.

"The water stoppages are becoming a weekly occurrence," said the

**BY PHANGSILE
MTSHALI**

Deputy Director of Entokozenwani, Mrs Cecilia Sililo-Tshishonga

"It is a great inconvenience to childminders and parents. Every day we have to turn away a number of children and the parents do not know where to leave them for the day. We sometimes ask parents to bring a

buck of water before going to work."

Mrs Sililo-Tshishonga said it was impossible to care for children when there was no water.

"Our children must be fed four times a day and we have 176 dishes to wash. They need toilets

When one of them is hurt we must clean the wound, make a disinfectant solution to kill germs

"We have over 25 infants who drink powder milk. Children have been ill because we used water from the

"The council should notify us before time if there is going to be a water stoppage," said Mr Joe Sekele, a parent.

"The council should notify us before time if there is going to be a water stoppage," said Mr Joe Sekele, a parent.

"Right now our children are coming down with ailments and we have to pay for their treatment. Water is sometimes closed down on weekends when everybody is at home and doing their chores."

A spokesman for the water board in Soweto said his department has not received any reports and it has not closed down water in the Moletsane region.

If there is a water stoppage residents should telephone the department at 331-7468.

Impossible

Chores

DP slams Govt over proposal for Indian removal

812 24/4/87
By Peter Fabricius,
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Democratic Party has slammed Government suggestions that the Indians of Pageview should move to Mayfair

"This is a disgraceful disregard for people who have owned their homes for so many years," Mr Peter Soal, DP MP for Johannesburg North said today

He was reacting to Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development Mr Roelf Meyer's disclosure last week that as MP

for the area he was opposed to Pageview becoming a free settlement area

Mr Meyer said that he believed the 42 Indian families in Pageview could move to neighbouring Mayfair, which is also in his constituency of Johannesburg West

"After many years of peaceful pleading to be allowed to stay, they are simply being swept away from the place where they and their families have lived for many years on ground given to them by President Kruger

Jo'burg boss asked to back 'open area' bid

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

Newly elected Johannes-
burg management com-
mittee chairman, Mr Jan
Burger, has been chal-
lenged to prove his en-
lightened attitude to city
problems by backing an
application to have Page-
view declared a free set-
tlement area

Mr Ebrahim Kharsany,
secretary of the Save Pa-
geview Association, said
there was no better way
for Mr Burger to leave
his mark on the city

He said the SPA last
week submitted its appli-
cation to the Free Settle-
ment Board to the city
council for its backing

This was after the SPA
application had failed to
win the support of Depu-
ty Constitutional De-
velopment Minister, Mr
Roelf Meyer, the Nation-
al Party MP for the area.

The 67 Indian families
living in Pageview in de-
fiance of group areas leg-
islation will put their
case in the Rand Su-
preme Court this week in
a last-ditch attempt to
remain in the area in-
stead of moving 35 km
out of town to Lenasia.

24/4/87

29 newly built houses could be threat to occupants — SABS

THEO RAWANA

A BUREAU of Standards (SABS) report on 29 Soweto houses built last year by Linco Project Developers highlights several defects which, it said, could pose a threat to tenants. 9/10/89

Lawyers representing the tenants have threatened legal action against the developers if they do not remedy the situation.

The SABS report said it was evident that the houses, in Zola township, were built in "swamp-like ground conditions" and this could affect foundations and infrastructure. If some of the houses were built under the flood-line, it could pose a threat to the inhabitants."

Some houses were not built according to plans, and the report urged that the issue be taken up with Soweto Council.

Among other points of poor workmanship mentioned in the report are that walls were not straight, window-sills in the same wall were not in the same horizontal line, outer walls had cracks, electrical boxes were not properly fixed, and drain pipes, taps and roofs leaked.

Linco Project Developers said yesterday that they did not agree with the report, but steps had been taken "to remedy genuine complaints".

Housing ^{12P} trust calls in managers ^{Star} 20/4/89

By Norman Chandler

The South African Housing Trust and the Professional Builders' Federation (PBF) has for the first time asked a private organisation to act as project managers for a major housing construction project

Time Projects, part of the listed Time Holdings Ltd, revealed this week that they would oversee a low-cost, 500-home development at Vosloorus, on the East Rand

The 500 stands were allocated last year to the PBF, a recently formed organisation of small black building contractors and merchants. The Housing Trust is assisting the federation in organising credit facilities and other aspects

Mr Ron Henderson, managing director of Time Projects, told The Star "An advantage of this development is that it will harness the group's sophisticated project management and housing skills on a project of considerable magnitude

"We have developed comprehensive computer systems to cater specifically for the needs of low-cost housing"

Eviction case postponed

127
E/

Sowetan 26/4/89
THE application for an order to evict about 215 members of black families living in a flat in Berea, Johannesburg, was yesterday postponed to May 23 by a Rand Supreme Court judge

has paid rent since that time

Mr Cerasoli said trouble started in November last year when some of the tenants became involved with "Activists" (sic)

The families involved were given a chance to file papers on May 12, stating reasons why they should not be evicted. Mr Claudio Cerasoli, who seeks an eviction order, said in his affidavit the flat has been "unlawfully" occupied

In December last or early this year, he said, he was threatened and told that that building at 51 Soper Road, Berea, would be set alight. He said part of the building has been damaged by fire since the threats were made in January. In one of the incidents the caretaker's room and car were burnt out and the caretaker had his leg burnt. He said the police were investigating

He said he was accompanied by three policemen when he gave the tenants notices to vacate the building. This was on January 31 this year, and none of them

WIT



use black housing backlog. They are (from left) Mr Alf Nel Khumalo and Mr Mike Graham.

Answer to the housing problem lies in:

Black

*Soweto
27/4/87*

and

127
(scribbles)

white

CO-OPERATIVE ventures between white and black builders are one of the most effective ways of tackling the country's grim black housing backlog, according to Mr Mike Graham, managing director of Time Housing.

Mr Graham said in an interview that Time Housing had long realised that white and black partnership in the building industry was the only logical and realistic way to solve the chronic housing shortage.

He said partnership between Time and black builders in Witbank resulted in the completion of 96 homes in KwaGuqa in less than four months.

"About seven months ago we teamed up with a

group of black building entrepreneurs to form Tri-Time (Pty) Ltd and this partnership is already yielding fruit," Mr Graham said.

The new company has just recently completed three houses in a 50-home project to upgrade two blocks in Alexandra township.

Delight

Mr Nel Khumalo, director of Tri-Time, said clients were delighted at the results.

Nearly half the homes are being built on vacant sites and all of them were snapped up in four weeks.

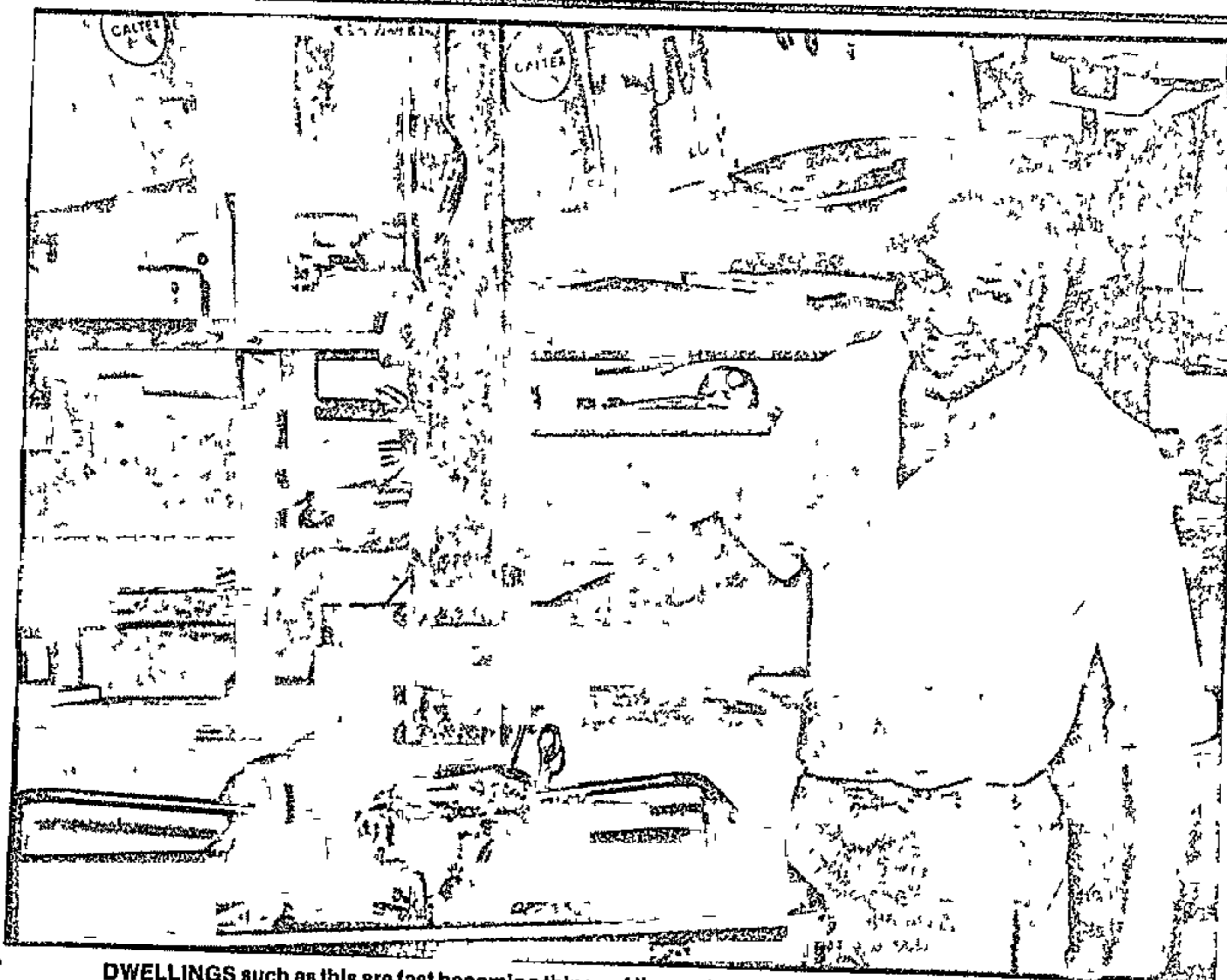
The company's homes are designed for the middle and the upper

income groups and sell between R39 000 and R64 000, including the cost of the land. Homeowners have more than 100 designs and finishes to choose from.

Tri-Time has also drawn up a time-table which will see it expand its activities to Soweto and other metropolitan areas in the Transvaal this year.

"My partner Alf Molatlohe and I have many years of experience in the industry. However, a small building company needs a strong partner to really make an impact. Time Housing's input, its administrative, financial and management expertise are invaluable to us," Mr Khumalo said.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS



DWELLINGS such as this are fast becoming things of the past as the Gold and Uranium Division of the Anglo American Corporation commits itself to the total urbanisation of its workers on the mines

HOUSING HOPES FOR MINERS

THE Gold and Uranium Division of the Anglo American Corporation has set aside more than R82 million for the development of housing projects to accommodate thousands of its employees working on the mines

The division says it has always been its commitment to move away from the migratory labour system and to employ people on a permanent basis so that they could settle themselves with their families near their workplaces

It says it could not achieve this objective until in 1986 when the influx control regulations were abolished and freehold rights were extended to blacks

After the abolition of the Act, the division acted quickly and a home ownership scheme was launched the same year

A market survey, conducted in 1986, revealed that more than 24 000 people employed on the mines were likely to be urbanised within three years

"To make home ownership a viable option for our married employees, we developed a financial scheme which subsidises bond repayments down to five percent interest. The

scheme requires only two-and-half percent deposit and also provides for collateral to building societies in order that employees may have access to such financial institutions," the division said

The subsidy provided by the division ensures that all employees who are married and those at the lowest levels of the wage structure are eligible for home ownership

The division has since embarked on four major housing developments in

Wedela, near Carletonville, Klerksdorp, Welkom and Qdendaalsrus, the biggest of which is in Wedela where more than 7 000 stands have been serviced

Owning

According to Mr Willem van der Post, manpower consultant of the division, about 700 employees were owning their homes by November 15 last year

According to Mr Van der Post, the biggest problem facing the

division is infrastructure

He said the anticipated urbanisation of mine workers over a short period of time in townships which were already overcrowded and suffered from inadequate infrastructure raised severe problems

"Land for development, bulk services and storm water drainage are the most pressing needs. Public transport services, recreational facilities, educational facilities and health services also have to be provided, he said

He said he believed

that these services should be provided by the Government

"So far very little has been done. Without adequate infrastructure, the progress of the home ownership scheme will be seriously impeded," he said

He said during the next decade alone, 134 schools would have to be built in the four regions to meet the educational needs of the inhabitants

EARDOP

Plans to develop

RABIE Property Developers is to develop more than 1 300 homes in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal Triangle area this year, according to sales director, Mr Dave Harris

Mr Harris said the company experienced rapid expansion of its operations since it moved into the Transvaal a few months ago. He said, however, the unavailability of land was a major obstacle.

Despite all this, the company is offering new homes in a number of townships in the PWV area, including Alexandra, Daveyton, Duduza and Spruitview.

Sowetan 27/4/84 (127)
He said the company would soon build a show village and an information centre in Spruitview.

"The centre will be manned by five of our professional sales staff seven days a week. It will have models of typical Rabie homes and examples of finishes which prospective buyers can choose from.

"From there, our sales staff will take the buyer to the show village. Each of the four homes in the village are fully furnished and landscaped with lawns, plants and shrubs," Mr Harris said.

Low-cost homes

THE South African Housing Trust has, in conjunction with the Professional Builders Federation, embarked on a multi-million rand housing development in Vosloorus to cater solely for the lower income group.

The project, to comprise more than 500 low-cost housing, was started last month and is expected to be completed by February next year. (27)

The stands were allocated to PBF, a recently formed organisation of small black building contractors and merchants, sometime last year.

The SAHT is assisting with certain aspects of the development while Time Projects, member of Time Holdings, was awarded a contract to manage the project. Sowetan 27/4/89

Mr Ron Henderson, managing director of Time Projects, said the company had developed comprehensive computerised systems to cater specifically for the needs of the low-cost industry.

He said the company would also conduct comprehensive workshops and seminars

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF

Sowetan 27/4/89

A SOUTH African

company has developed a unique and cost effective construction system in an effort to solve the chronic shortage of housing in the country.

Mr T D Berbey, marketing manager of Ultraplan Systems Limited, said the newly invented system was based on a dry stacking interlocking system with numerous features, making it the most economical system available in the country to date.

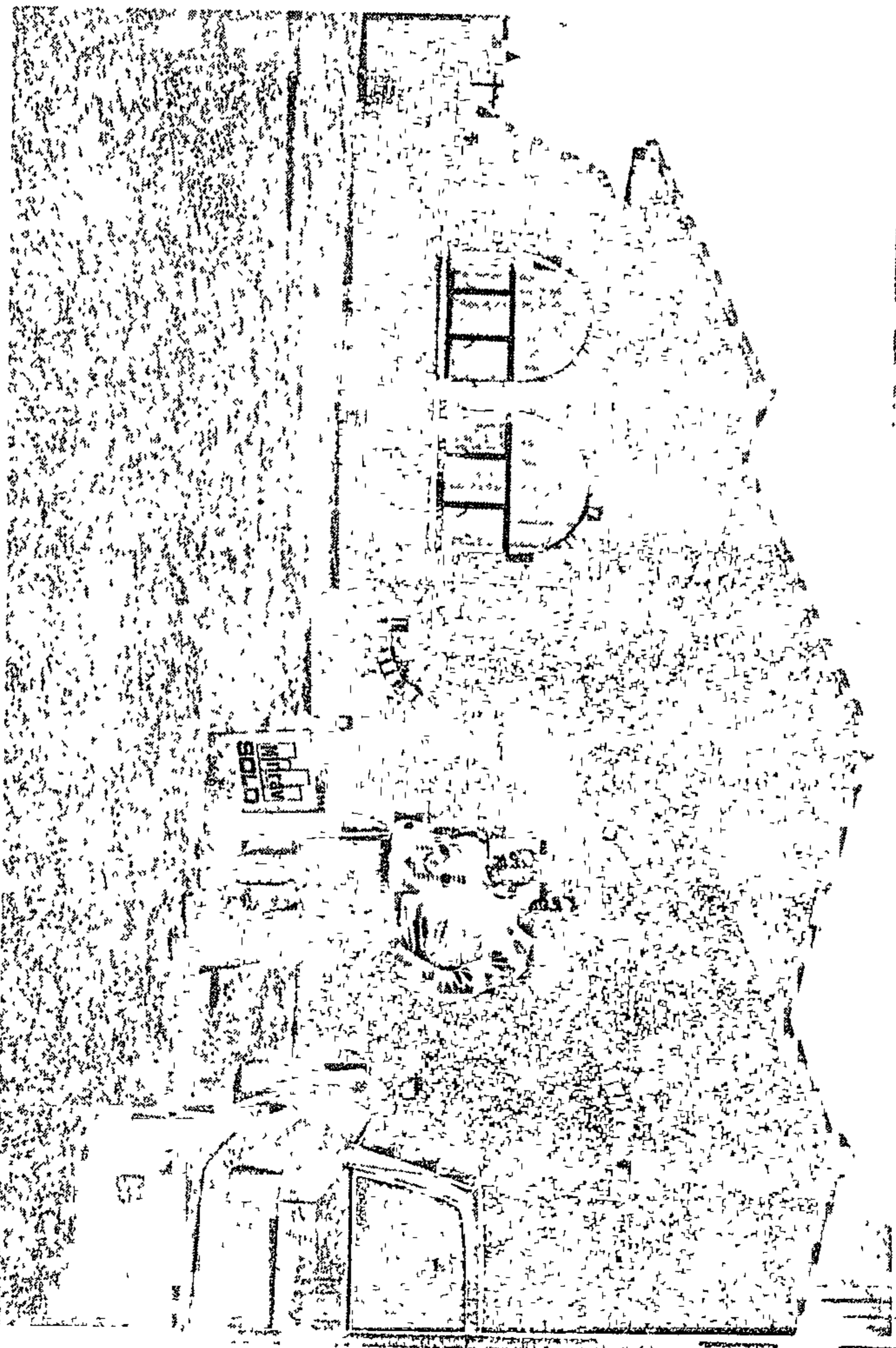
He said the system was designed in such a way that no cement was required for adhesion, thereby eliminating the need for a team of labourers to mix and supply dagha to the bricklayer.

"The Ultraplan blocks

are delivered on site as a package and put together as a kit. By eliminating the mortar mixing team, costs of labour and materials are considerably reduced," Mr Berbey said.

He said blocks were designed in such a way that they fitted into one another. This feature, Mr Berbey explained, eliminated the need for skilled labour. Once the initial layer of blocks had been laid, the rest were stacked easily and quickly.

"Since the size of the Ultrablock is the equivalent of about eight conventional bricks and is much lighter, the construction of a house requires much less time than a conventional brick house," he said.



MILRAY International, an Israeli-based construction company, has over the years made an invaluable contribution in the provision of houses in the black townships. The company's houses are easily identifiable. They are durable, yet relatively inexpensive. This is one of the houses the company built on the Reef.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF

Sowetan 27/4/89

Stacking process saves cash

A SOUTH African company has developed a unique and cost effective construction system in an effort to solve the chronic shortage of housing in the country.

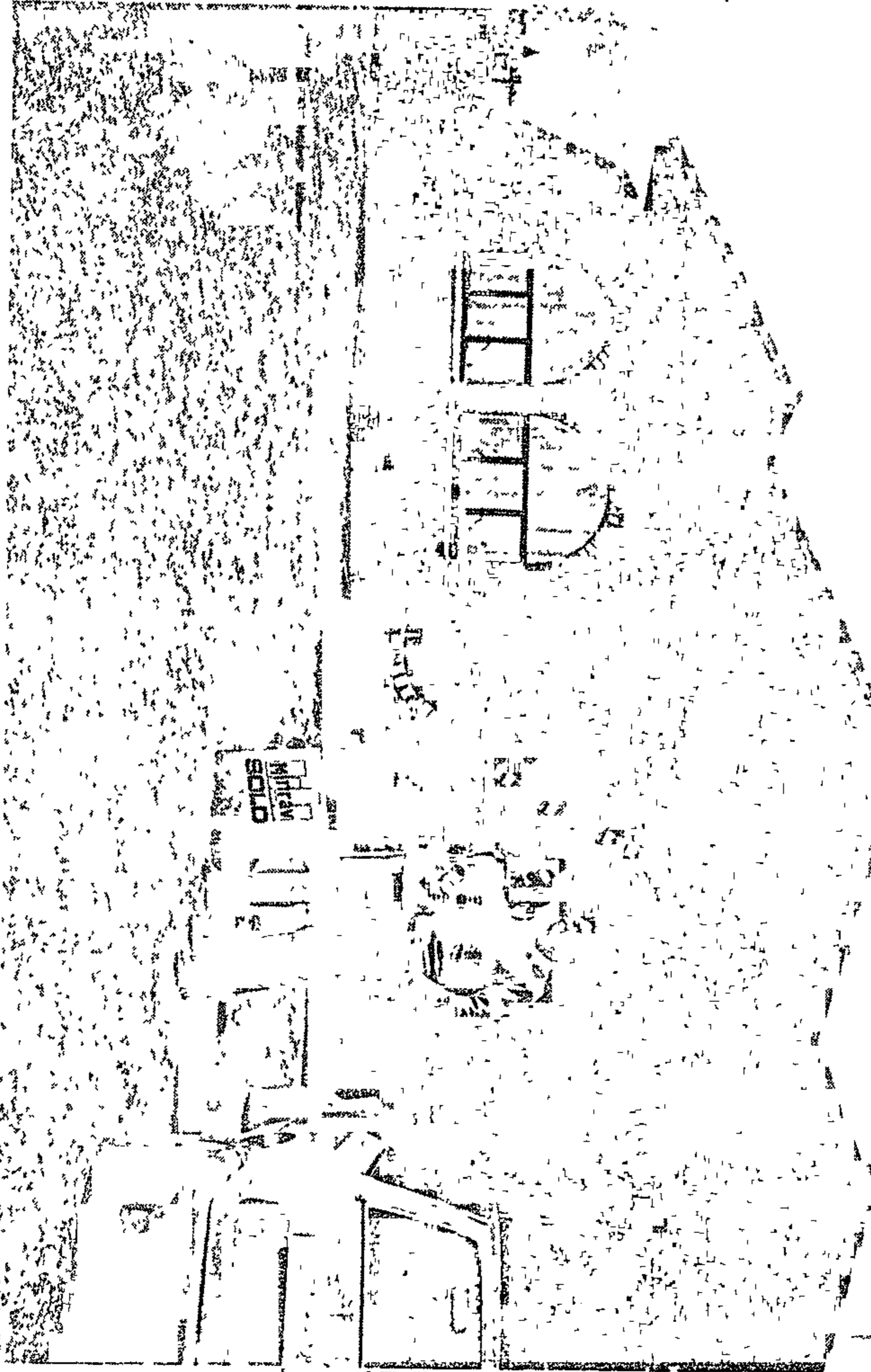
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MINRAV International, an Israeli-based construction company, has over the years made an invaluable contribution in the provision of houses in the black townships. The company's houses are easily identifiable. They are durable, yet relatively inexpensive. This is one of the houses the company built on the Reef.

Soweto high-rise plan dubbed a 'disaster'

THE R560m high-rise housing complex planned for Soweto is being dubbed a recipe for disaster.

Soweto council and the TPA should halt the scheme, former Johannesburg and provincial councillor Dr Selma Browde said yesterday.

Johannesburg Metropolitan Action

(127)

THEO RAWANA

Group chairman Conrad Berge said it was a big risk both socially and financially.

The Foundation for Community Development (FCD) had the scheme, which includes 8 000 apartments housing about 40 000 people in 20- to 25-storey blocks, approved by the Soweto Council last week.

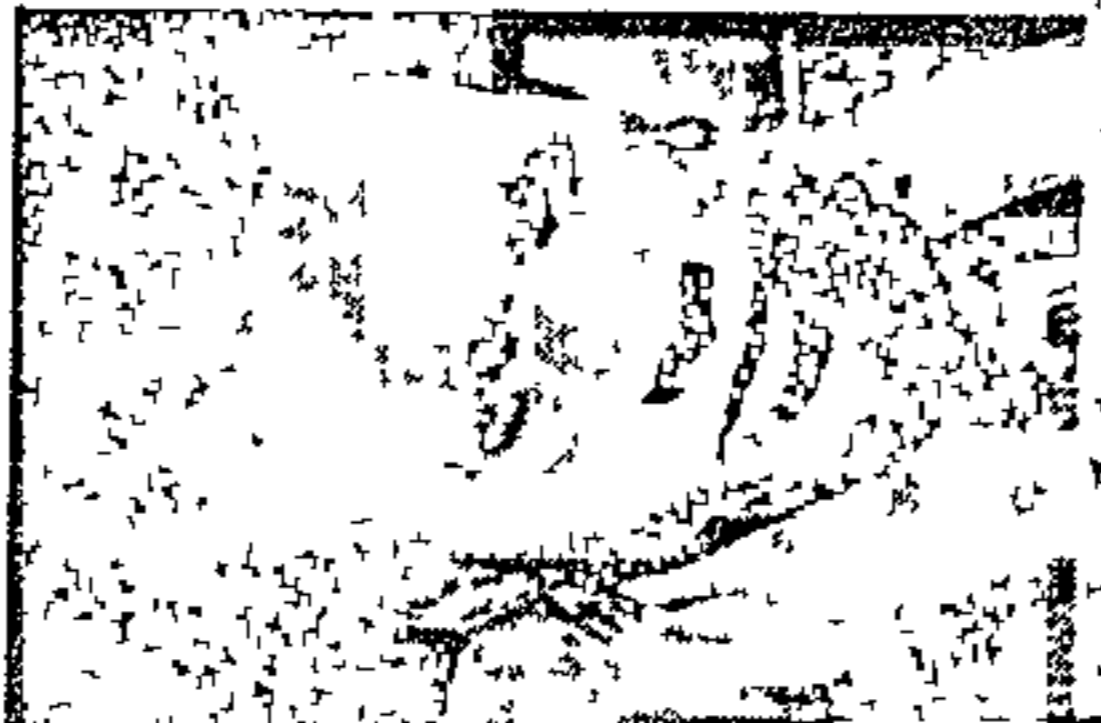
BROWN OVER HOUSE

A SOWETO family — living as sub tenants in a house at the Meadowlands transit camp — claims they were evicted by the Diepmeadow Town Council without proper notice and in the absence of the owner.

Mrs Jemina Mogotsi, who lives with her husband, said that they were ordered by the director of protective services, Mr T Mabambe of the council's police force to move out of the house.

"He came with his policemen on April 19 and told us to vacate the house not later than 9am the following day," she said.

"As legal lodgers in the house, the township manager never called us



MRS JEMINA MOGOTSI evicted without notice.

By SONTI MASEKO

to the office so that we should discuss the matter," she added

The house belonged to her brother-in-law, Mr Michael Mogotsi, a former employee of the council now working in Bophuthatswana

Mr Mabambe, who

evicted the couple, said he was merely carrying out a council resolution and would not comment on whether the correct procedure was followed or not

He said the house was given to Mr Michael Mogotsi who was employed with the council as a condition of employment

Shows to raise funds

MISSISSIPPI BURNING, a film recently released in Johannesburg, will be shown in a fund-raising drive for Uwezo College. The shows will be at Kine Centre, Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, at 5 30pm on May 2 and 3

Tickets will be sold at R10 each and bookings should be made

Services increase means severe blow

127
28/4/89
Sowetan

RESIDENTS of Wattville on the East Rand, may soon be dealt a severe blow if the local town council's wide ranging proposals to increase tariffs for essential and other services could be approved by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

By SY MAKARINGE

The proposals, published for comment in the smalls section of the *Sowetan* yesterday, will come into effect as soon as they had been approved by the TPA and published in the Provincial Gazette

The council has also invited individuals and other interested groups to lodge objections within 21 days of the date of publication

The proposals mean, among other things, that it will very soon cost too much to die in Wattville. The council has recommended that grave fees for adults be increased from R8 to R40 — an increase of 250 percent. Children's graves have also been increased from R4 to R20.

If the proposals are approved, residents will also pay for services which were offered free of charge in the past. They will pay the council R200 to reserve a grave, R150 to exhume a body and R50 to erect a tombstone.

Tariffs

Taverners and owners of "sphaza" shops have also not escaped the council's net. Taverners will soon have to pay R60 a month while "sphaza" shop owners will be charged R50 a month.

The council has also recommended to increase water tariffs from 56 cents a kilolitre to 72 cents a kilolitre.

Domestic electricity consumption will go up from 9 31 cents a unit to 13,06 cents a unit.

According to the notice published in the *Sowetan* yesterday, hostel dwellers will soon pay R22 a month a bed, an increase of about R4.

Disgusted

Although gate takings at the township's stadium have been reduced from 15 percent to 10 percent, users will have to pay about R3 000 ground rental for sporting activities. People who will hire the stadium for religious gatherings will be charged about R1 000.

Mr H Anderson, town clerk of Wattville, was not available for comment yesterday.

Miss Nomonde Japheta, projects co-ordinator of the Imbeleko Women's Organisation and a resident of Wattville, described the proposed increases as disgusting.

She said it was clear that the council viewed funerals as a "money making market". She said because of the council's "shortsightedness and unsympathetic attitude" towards the residents, it would now be impossible for people to bury their dead.

in the case which was part of a col-
furniture, rare porcelain and paintings.

● Picture by Etienne Rothbart.

'Legal and moral duty to assess Pageview'

26/1/54 Municipal Reporter

Johannesburg's management committee chairman Mr Jan Burger was morally and legally obliged to take up the Pageview issue, said Democratic Party council leader Mr Tony Leon.

He was reacting to the postponement of the Supreme Court application to prevent the removal of 67 Indian families from the suburb until clarity has been obtained from the council on free settlement areas.

"The Johannesburg council is obliged to take up the issue whether they agree or not," Mr Leon said.

"There is nothing to prevent the board from investigating Pageview on its own initiative and I am dismayed they have not done so."

Deputy management committee chairman Mrs Marietta Marx said council was looking at the whole of the city, not suburbs in isolation, to determine its approach to free settlement areas.

Carletonville ratepayers to petition Heunis on council

29/14/89
CARLETONVILLE — Carletonville ratepayers will present a petition to the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, next week.

They will ask him to bar the Conservative Party-controlled Carletonville Town Council from using their money to defend the court action brought against it by local businessmen.

The ratepayers said they "objected strongly to the town council of Carletonville using ratepayers' money to pay for any possible costs which may arise from the court action instituted against it by the business community of Carletonville."

More than 250 people had already signed the petition last night, and many more were expected to do so before Monday, Carletonville Chamber of Commerce president Mrs Annetjie Claassen said yesterday.

Application

The petition comes in the wake of an application recently lodged in the Pretoria Supreme Court by Carletonville businessmen, asking for the dissolution of the CP-dominated town council.

The businessmen said the town council had neither consulted people on its policy nor given them a chance to make representations.

A ratepayers' meeting at the Carletonville Technical College this week passed a motion of no confidence in the town council, and resolved to request the town clerk of Carletonville "to consider invoking the applicable provisions of the Local Government Ordinance with a view to a possible investigation in regard to maladministration."

Several CP supporters attending the meeting tried to disrupt proceedings

(127) KAIZER NYATSUMBA

"by constant interruptions and interjections", while some had walked out early, according to Mrs Claassen.

A tour of Carletonville by Saturday Star yesterday afternoon, showed that blacks were still not buying in the town, despite the fact that it was a Friday at the end of the month.

"The overall picture is that business is still very bad out here," Mrs Claassen told Saturday Star.

She estimated that Carletonville businessmen had already lost more than R12 million in turnover as a result of the boycott, and close to 400 people had already been laid off.

The Carletonville ratepayers said in the petition to Mr Heunis that they "strongly objected" to the council's decision to reserve certain parks in Carletonville for the use of whites.

"The parks are seldom used by whites (and) there are no similar facilities (for blacks) in the business area of Carletonville."

"Black people regarded the decision as insulting and it has had an adverse economic effect, as they, who were the only users of the parks, are now forced at great cost and inconvenience to shop in surrounding towns."

"The decision resulted in a black consumer boycott with adverse economic effects on businesses in Carletonville, and a large number of businesses are facing insolvency. The decision is causing unnecessary friction between the race groups and is not in the interest of the community of Carletonville."

In his response, Carletonville management committee chairman Mr Koos Nel said "If the ratepayers don't want us to use their money, then we are not going to use their money — because we are going to win the case."

Govt's black
housing sales
'unsuccessful'

THE government's great housing sale to black people did not have much success last year — only 150 black people, all in the Transvaal, bought property under freehold title last year, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said yeatsredya in Parliament in reply to a question by Mr Jasper Walsh (DP Pinelands).

However, 34 688 applications for 99-year leases were approved last year.

Mr Heunis said 145 properties in Johannesburg and five in Witbank were sold under freehold title to black people in 1988.

In the Cape, 9 867 properties were leased under 99-year title, 6 031 of which were in the Eastern Cape, 2 606 in the Western Cape and 1 230 in the Northern Cape.



Bishop SB Linako of Kaitshong pleads for more awareness of dangers facing the homeless.

Squatters brave cold to pray for land to build homes

127
Cnews 30/4/89

THAT there is a shortage of land on which to build houses for squatters is a myth existing only in the hearts of the authorities, a prayer meeting in Johannesburg was told

Addressing the service at the Central Methodist Church to pray for squatters, the chief organiser of Iso Lomzi People's Union, Eric Ntshiqela, said it was about

Story: LULAMA LUTI
Pics: EVANS MBOWENI

time squatters were treated the same as other people by the authorities

"We are all paying taxes, just like those who own houses. We demand to be treated equally by those in authority," he said

More than 150 representatives of squatters from the Reef braved the cold, damp weather last weekend to attend the service, which was led by the Anglican Bishop Suffragan for Johannesburg East, Bishop Simeon Nkoane

Squatter representatives said most shack-dwellers became the victims of ill-treatment by landlords because they were desperate

Stories were recounted of the dangers presented by the cramped conditions in which the squatters live

Nkoane said the problems of homelessness among blacks was one that had always brought pain to clergy

Nkoane added that there was no reason for people to remain homeless in the country of their birth

The congregation - comprising mainly women - punctuated the service with occasional moans and outbursts

Expressing his gratitude to Iso Lomzi, Nkoane urged the squatters not only to pray but to work tirelessly

Father Peter Hortop of the Catholic Church in Thokoza attacked the South African system of government and dubbed it the most evil in the world

Said Father Hortop "God is on our side and we must not complain. We know that God will help us. We have no doubt about it."

Sharing their experiences, the shack-dwellers urged each other to persevere and unite in their bid to find shelter



A member of the congregation loses herself during singing at the meeting held to pray for squatters.

relieved that death sentences had not been imposed.

Lenasia to get new housing

THEO RAWANA (127)

ANCHORVILLE Development had embarked on a new housing scheme near Lenasia, The Indicator reported.

It said the project would be located in the area bounded by Lawley railway station and Lenasia extensions 6 and 11.

Anchorville spokesman Abbobaker Ismail said service facilities would be completed by December and building could start early next January. "The houses are mainly for middle-income groups and will be available from as little as R55 000 each."

Other projects were a new building in the Lenasia CBD and a section of Ext 8, as well as a shopping complex with "anchor tenant Pick n Pay on Daxima Road". Anchorville was also providing factories and industrial sites near Lawley railway station.

The housing projects come at a time when the Lenasia area is having a development boom.

Handwritten: *Handwritten*

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Handwritten: *127* (circled) and *128* (circled)

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

General Affairs

Pageview: free settlement areas

1 Dr J J VILONEL asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

What is the Government's standpoint in respect of the declaration of free settlement areas in Johannesburg in general and Pageview in particular?

B821E INT

*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING Mr Speaker, as is the case in most other metropolitan areas in the country the settlement pattern in certain areas in Johannesburg has undergone a marked change during the past few years. The occupation of parts of the Joubert Park and Hillbrow area by people of colour is generally known. It is also true that a considerable number of Indians have already settled themselves in areas such as Mayfair.

This phenomenon can be mainly ascribed to the operation of market forces and the preference that people have for certain residential areas owing to social and financial considerations. In certain high-density residential areas the age of the buildings and consequently the affordability of residential units has been conducive to changing the group character. The favourable situation of these areas in respect of job opportunities in and around the city centre has also played an important part in this connection.

Although own residential areas with an own community character is and will remain Government policy, there are those who, because of the diversity of the population structure, do not place a high premium on this and would like to associate freely in all spheres. To make provision for this the Free Settlement Areas Act was placed on the Statute Book in 1988.

In the identification of possible free settlement areas in Johannesburg consideration will there-

fore be given to areas in the vicinity of the city centre in which the above-mentioned settlement pattern has already established itself. A need also exists for free settlement areas in the high-quality residential areas. The opening of existing high-income residential areas to satisfy this need may possibly also be considered.

Pageview was declared a White group area on 24 May 1963. This residential area consists of 398 residential erven and three flat sites. The Administration House of Assembly at present owns 258 of these erven on which 79 new dwellings have been erected, while 78 new homes have already been sold by the Administration. The Administration has therefore erected a total of 157 new dwellings that make provision for accommodation in the lower-income group. On the three flat sites 27 three-bedroomed flats have been erected and let. This is also the property of the Administration House of Assembly. The City Council of Johannesburg owns the remaining 62 residential erven in this area.

In contrast to this there are only about 32 structures that are occupied by Indians in Pageview and these structures are in general dilapidated and in a particularly poor condition. I am not unsympathetic towards the Indian families in Pageview, but because of the above-mentioned reasons I could not see my way clear to supporting an investigation into Pageview as a free settlement area.

Mayfair is adjacent to Pageview and also part of the Johannesburg West constituency. There I took the initiative by asking for an investigation into the possibility of a free settlement area.

Mayfair consists of approximately 2 000 residential erven. The population composition in the area is according to surveys mainly Indian. I am convinced that the Indian families of Pageview can be accommodated in Mayfair in an appropriate and suitable manner as an alternative to the deplorable structures in which some of them are living at the moment. [Time expired.]

*Dr J J VILONEL, Mr Speaker, the House of Assembly is making history today because as far as I know this is the first time that an NP member, a member of the governing party, takes a Minister under interpellation, if that is the right expression. [Interjections.] However, the impor-

tance and the relevance of this subject at this precise juncture justifies these historic events

Allow me to say at the outset that we in Langlaagte sincerely appreciate the fact that the hon the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Roelf Meyer, recently accompanied city councillor Mr Gert Bezuidenhout and Mr Willie Lang, a community leader, and myself on an *in loco* inspection of Homestead Park. Paarlshoop and a portion of Mayfair to find out precisely how matters had developed there

Naturally this interpellation is concerned with the application, the practical implementation, of the policy in regard to free settlement areas. The success or otherwise of this policy is going to depend largely on its implementation, and here the time factor is of the utmost importance

Free settlement areas are an essential, positive development and a definite step forward in the reform process. In this way peaceful coexistence or peaceful cohabitation, if you like, in South Africa is being promoted

However it is also very clear and implicit in this process that if one accepts free settlement areas as a policy, there are also, and must be, non-free settlement areas or rather own residential areas and own community life. This is the other side of the coin, and definitely not the reverse side of the coin

What is the position in the Langlaagte constituency in Johannesburg in regard to this practical application and implementation of the free settlement policy on the one hand, and own residential areas on the other? We accept the need for free settlement areas in Johannesburg. We accept that Mayfair to the west of Robertson Street should be declared a lawful open area, and we say the sooner the better. We also accept that new open areas, not only existing areas, should be considered

However we insist on our rights to continue to retain residential areas such as Homestead Park, Paarlshoop, Mayfair West Crosby and other areas for our own community [Interjections] We are fighting for our rights. We are fighting to retain our own community life

I should like to say more about Homestead Park, Paarlshoop and the Abraham Kriel Children's Home. This interpellation deals with the appli-

cation, as I have already said. The Homestead Park-Paarlshoop residential area is, as it were, a closed area. It is closed off as a result of the industrial areas, open spaces, railway lines and the vacant, undermined areas surrounding it. The neighbourhood is scarcely large enough to support an own community life of church and school [Time expired]

*Mr S C JACOBS Mr Speaker, it is very clear why the NP, just before the election campaign, is coming forward with an interpellation such as this one. The hon interpellant is now putting forward a standpoint which he would like to sell to his voters, namely that the areas in and surrounding his constituency will after all be reserved for the White population group. He is afraid of the implications of his own party's policy in regard to free settlement areas, hence the interpellation [Interjections]

If we now consider the standpoint of the hon the Deputy Minister in this connection then this is precisely the policy of the NP. We are not open, we are not closed. We do not really know what we are

*An HON MEMBER Open and closed!

*Mr S C JACOBS Is it not true that the hon the Deputy Minister said that own residential areas were still Government policy? He admitted at the same time that a change had taken place in the group character in Johannesburg for people who now wished to associate freely. He then furnished a long explanation

We say that the NP is afraid to go to the voters with this policy of free settlement areas. Let me mention an example in this connection—the hon the Deputy Minister knows what I am talking about. Adjacent to the southern side of Johannesburg is the Suurbekom area. It is now going to be declared a development area [Interjections] The area to the east of the Johannesburg-Potchefstroom Road has expressly been set aside as a White group area. I now invite the hon the Deputy Minister to pay a visit to that area. He will see that it is already *de facto* a mixed residential area. He is turning it into a free settlement area, although he expressly promised the voters that it would remain a White residential area [Time expired]

*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING Mr Speaker, let me begin at once with

the last point made by that hon member, namely the point in regard to Suurbekom. The hon member knows as well as I do that on 5 December we announced that the area to the west of Soweto was being set aside as a possible Black development area. This area's boundary, on the southern side, is the Johannesburg-Potchefstroom Road

*Mr S C JACOBS Correct!

*The DEPUTY MINISTER That is correct, but who went and sold properties to the south of that road to people of colour? [Interjections]

*An HON MEMBER The CP!

*The DEPUTY MINISTER Who did? That is the whole point. Is it the Government that sold those properties? Did we give any indication that the character of that area was going to change? [Interjections] No, definitely not! Some of the party compatriots of that hon member are now approaching me and telling me that we must now consider a group character change in respect of that area [Interjections.] This is so typical of the CP as we have come to experience it over the years. Petitions are sent to us and in the end, if we consider what the petitioners themselves are doing, they are the people who are running away from those areas, as we saw happening in Mayfair and elsewhere

Let us now argue the point of open and closed areas, to which the hon member referred. I sometimes get the impression that they are merely closed [Interjections] What is really important, however? I have taken time to deal with this point because the fact of the matter is that in Johannesburg we are dealing with a situation which the colleague of that hon member, the hon member for Overvaal, conceded last year could not be dealt with in any other way than by reflecting the reality of the situation. In other words, the Hillbrow question cannot be unravelled. The hon member for Overvaal said that Hillbrow was a mixed area [Interjections]

The question is do we want to perpetuate the illegality, or do we want to ensure that a situation of legality and stability arises in those residential areas? Owing to that reason, namely the situation as it presents itself at present, I personally took the initiative of ordering a free settlement investigation in the case of Mayfair [Time expired]

Mr S VAN DER MERWE Mr Speaker, this interpellation has led to a number of very interesting points

Firstly, in regard to the role of the hon the Minister and that of the hon the Deputy Minister, in spite of the assurances given at the time of the debate on the Free Settlement Areas Bill and the procedures prescribed, it would seem that the hon the Deputy Minister has an extraordinary degree of influence over the deliberations in regard to that Act. It would seem that in the case of Pageview the hon the Deputy Minister has the influence to prevent an investigation from even taking place. It is not just a question of making his input and saying that he wants it open or not, but he is exercising such influence that as a result, an investigation will not take place

Secondly, another interesting point is that the hon the Deputy Minister takes us back to the time of forced removals. He is in fact suggesting that the 50 odd families should just pack up, smash down their houses and move somewhere else in the hope that Mayfair will be able to accommodate them in due course. It is the same old principle

Thirdly, judging by the attitude of the hon the Deputy Minister it would seem that until an already established residential area is virtually overrun by people of colour, the Government will not consider declaring it an open area. By implication this means that they must rely on illegality to apply their own policy. It highlights the complete inadequacy of the free settlement area system to alleviate the problems that have been created by the Group Areas Act

It is nonsense to suggest that it creates an open choice for everybody. One cannot have an open settlement area, a White area, a Coloured area and a Black area in every area where people need to make their choice to live in terms of affordability, where they are employed, transport and so forth

In the final analysis, the Act and the system will not work [Time expired]

*Dr J J VILONEL Mr Speaker, it is the standpoint and policy of the NP that people have the right to live in their own communities and to live a community life of their own. The State has a duty to take that right into account in its statutes and to protect it. Just as the Free Settlement Areas Act takes into account in

statutory form the right of people who do not want an own community life, so the right of the other people must also be taken into account

I said that Homestead Park was in reality a closed off area. I also said that it was the cultural birthplace and milieu of the Abraham Kriel Afrikaner Children's Home. One cannot relocate that children's home to Houghton, Lenasia or Soweto. The children's home belongs where it is and where it has been all these years.

During the past 12 to 16 months we have had the situation in which approximately 70 families of Indian origin, rich people with a great deal of money, have been moving illegally into that neighbourhood [Interjections]. The question that may now be asked is whether we should not allow the market mechanism to take its course [Time expired].

*THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING Mr Speaker, the hon member for Green Point said that I had made use of an advantageous situation. That is not true. The representatives of the Save Pageview Association spoke to me and asked me whether I would be prepared to support an investigation to establish whether Pageview should become a free settlement area or not. I told them that I would examine the facts. I did so, and also held talks with representatives of the White community. I wrote back to them, and my reply was that according to the facts I could not support such an investigation. That is what I said.

The fact of the matter is that I do not have the authority to take that decision. The Ministers' Council of the House of Assembly has the authority to decide whether there should be an investigation or not. All that I did was to express my opinion, as representative of the constituency concerned.

The hon member is now harping on the fact that we are not prepared to investigate free settlement in Pageview. I want to say the following to him. A representative of his party in Johannesburg, who is also a city councillor of Johannesburg, a certain Mr Strydom, is also an inhabitant of the Johannesburg West constituency and resides in Melville. When I confronted him with the facts and asked him whether he would be prepared to support an investigation into Melville as a free settlement area, his reply was

"No, not until the whole of Johannesburg has been thrown open." However it is good enough for Pageview, which falls in the lower income group, to be thrown open as long as the other residential area in which he lives is protected [Interjections]. I think that this type of hypocritical standpoint which the hon members adopt should really be exposed. Considering all the circumstances, I am not prepared to change my standpoint in the case of Pageview. However, I do think it is important—I shall concede this point to the hon member—that we should in fact consider the throwing open, by way of free settlement, of higher income areas in Johannesburg. I think there are grounds for instituting such an investigation [Interjections]. When we have done that, we can indeed involve a balanced cross-section of the society of Johannesburg in that way, because then we have Mayfair as such an area and, for the sake of argument, an area such as Houghton as well [Time expired].

Debate concluded

Fuel prices: increase
2 Mr D G H NOLTE asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology

(a) What were the reasons for the recent increase in the price of petrol and diesel and (b) what are the present components of the total price of fuel?

B823E INT
THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY (Mr G S Bartlett) Mr Speaker, the recent increase in the price of fuel consists of four basic components. The first was the increase in transport costs which were previously announced to become effective as of 1 April. These were delayed until 15 April and they were financed during the interim period out of the Equalisation Fund. This increase varies between 0,6 cents and 0,7 cents per litre.

The second was the increased fuel levy levied on diesel for road users of 2,5 cents per litre which was to become effective as of April 1 but which was deferred until 15 April.

The third component was the rising international prices of fuel which makes up the largest component of 6 cents to 9 cents per litre. The reason for this was the increase in international prices which since September last year have been something like 40% in United States' dollar terms. As a result of these increases there had also to be a

slight increase of 0,3 cents per litre in the resellers' margins

*The components of the total for 93 octane fuel price as at 15 April 1989 in the PWV area are as follows

(i) Landed cost	40,142 c/ℓ
(ii) Zone differential or transport cost	9,2 c/ℓ
(iii) Delivery differential	1,9 c/ℓ
(iv) Customs and Excise	4,0 c/ℓ
(v) Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (MVA)	3,6 c/ℓ
(vi) Retail margin	8,7 c/ℓ
(vii) Wholesale margin	5,558 c/ℓ
(viii) Equalisation Fund levy	7,0 c/ℓ
(ix) Fuel tax	31,9 c/ℓ
(x) Pump price in the PWV area	112,0 c/ℓ

Therefore the pump price increase was as follows

Landed cost	6,4 c/ℓ
Retail margin	0,3 c/ℓ
Transport costs	0,7 c/ℓ
Rounding off at pump	minus (0,4) c/ℓ
Total increase	7,0 c/ℓ

The increased wholesale price for diesel in the PWV area was the result of

Landed cost	8,8 c/ℓ
Transport cost	0,6 c/ℓ
Total increase	9,4 c/ℓ

In addition to the above-mentioned increase the fuel levy on the price of diesel was increased by 2,5 c/ℓ for road-users who do not qualify for a rebate on the diesel price.

*Mr D G H NOLTE Mr Speaker, the NP Government is being accused today of overburdening the consumer with fuel price increases. The Government wants to link these increases mainly to the world price of crude oil and the weak exchange rate of the rand, as if all of South Africa's fuel is imported from overseas.

For years now the consumer has contributed to the pump price in order to make South Africa less vulnerable to outside influences. In addition to the weak rand and the increases in the crude-oil price which put pressure on the fuel price we know that the price of petrol is an easy method of taxation.

We know the Government is desperately seeking new ways and means of taxation. Therefore we can understand why the inland price of petrol

was increased by 37% last year and the price at the coast by 39%

The latest increase in the petrol price is going to cause the general inflation rate to sky-rocket. It is therefore clear that the hon the State President's prediction and intention to bring the inflation rate down to 9% by 1990, are going to come to nothing as a result of these increases.

The National Energy Board has predicted that an additional increase in the petrol price later this year will be inevitable. This comes as no surprise, as it is in line with the trend we have noticed since the NP started to reform in all earnestness. This has been the case since August 1983 when a certain kind of petrol which cost 59,6 c/ℓ cost 88,0 c/ℓ in January 1985, 102 c/ℓ in January 1986 and 105 c/ℓ in January 1987.

It is striking not only that the frequency of the increases has become alarmingly high during this period, but also that the increases themselves have risen to such an extent each time that the increase between September 1988 and the next price announcement in January 1989 was higher than the price of a single litre of petrol in July 1970—95 c/ℓ to 105 c/ℓ, whereas the price was 9,2 c/ℓ in July 1970.

At present we are experiencing the third increase in eight months. I can therefore understand that the Government has become so embarrassed by these periodic increases that it no longer wants to make the announcements itself and leaves it to the National Energy Board to do so on its behalf. The fuel tax on every litre of petrol is 31,9 cents. When one adds the extra 4 cents for customs and excise plus the 7 cents for the Equalisation Fund, the Government's share out of each litre of fuel amounts to 42,9 cents.

Once again this proves to us that the Government is in a financial bind, if I may be so bold as to make the understatement of the year.

Mr R R HULLEY Mr Speaker, the present high price of petrol and diesel, seen together with the recent price increase and the threat of a further price increase later this year, probably just after the general election, represents one of the main costs which the long-suffering consumer has to pay for the NP's mismanagement of the economy.

In spite of the generally favourable crude oil price on the world market compared with earlier

(2) whether it is the intention to allow Soviet officials to enter South Africa, if so, for what reasons?

B732E

†The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(1) I myself or the Deputy Minister did not hold any meetings with the Soviet Ambassador in Mozambique during the latter half of 1988. It is possible that the South African Trade Representative met with the Soviet Ambassador at social functions.

(2) Yes. In terms of the agreements reached on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 and Cuban withdrawal from Angola.

Comdt C J DERBY-LEWIS Arising from the hon the Minister's reply, would he mind telling us what apartheid has to do with the Cuban settlement as raised by the Russian representative recently in Cape Town?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Absolutely nothing! [Interjections]

Ciskei Ministers: meeting attended

*14 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

With reference to his reply to Question No 8 on 11 April 1989, (a) which senior Ciskei Ministers attended the meeting on 12 February 1989, (b) how many persons from East Peilton were present at this meeting, (c) at what time did the meeting (i) commence and (ii) finish and (d) what issues were discussed at it?

B739E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Government of Ciskei has supplied the following information

- (a) Three senior Ciskei Ministers visited the area on the said date
- (b) A survey of the number of persons present was not made
- (c) The visit took place during the morning
- (d) Discussions revolved around the attainment of peace and stability in the area

(3) No

(a) and (b) In my statement of 2 June 1988 in this regard, the Government fully indicated which proposals were acceptable and which were not

Mr H H SCHWARZ Mr Speaker, on a point of order! what remedy is available to an hon member when he asks a question and the Minister concerned does not get up? In the circumstances I would submit that if the particular Minister is present the member is entitled to require that the Minister should at least get up and say that he will or will not answer

Mr SPEAKER Order! That is for the presiding officer to decide, not a member

Mr H H SCHWARZ Mr Speaker, I am raising a point of order

Mr SPEAKER Order! My ruling is that it is for the presiding officer and not for a member to decide [Interjections] In respect of Question No 1, is the hon the Minister or the hon the Deputy Minister present? I then put Question No 1 to the hon the Deputy Minister of Finance

Reserve Bank proceeds to mining houses

*1 Mr W J D VAN WYK asked the Minister of Finance

Whether his Department authorized the Reserve Bank to pay mining houses the proceeds of their gold sales in dollars, if so, (a) what are the advantages to South Africa of this course of action and (b) whose responsibility will it be to see that the proceeds of these gold sales remain in South Africa?

B690E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE

On the recommendation of the South African Reserve Bank authorisation was granted to pay the mining houses the proceeds of their gold sales in US dollars, with effect from 1 February 1989

(a) The Reserve Bank credits the \$-accounts of the mining house concerned with the proceeds on day of delivery at the current \$-price of gold. The mines therefore do not receive the dollar proceeds in a foreign country, but the dollar amount to their credit must within 7 days be sold to authorised South African foreign exchange dealers

In this way the local exchange market is broadened and its effectiveness promoted, since private bodies can themselves offer dollars for rand, with the result that the exchange rate of the rand reflects, more effectively, the balance between supply and demand. The South African Reserve Bank, at its own discretion, intervenes in this market in order to stabilise the exchange rate when the market is in disequilibrium

(b) The fact that the proceeds must be sold in South Africa within the confines of the banking system, and within 7 days, as indicated, obliges the mining houses to treat these proceeds just as does any other receiver of foreign exchange. It necessarily imposes a responsibility on the Reserve Bank to ensure that this system operates within the parameters of the exchange control regulations

Windmill Park: free settlement area

*3 Mr H J COETZEE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

(1) Whether the Free Settlement Board is investigating the possibility of establishing a free settlement area in Windmill Park, Boskburg: if so,

(2) whether the lawful residents of Windmill Park have applied to this board for free settlement area status for their suburb, if so, (a) when and (b) what are the names of these applicants, if not, at whose request is the board investigating this possibility?

B729E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

(1) Yes

(2) The Act does not make provision for residents of an area to apply directly to the Free Settlement Board. In this case the Free Settlement Board has been requested in terms of the Act by the Minister's Council of the House of Assembly

(127)

Bad air still hangs over scrapped Act

THE highest levels of air pollution in South Africa are recorded in the Vaal Triangle. And, says Mr Martin Lloyd, the director of air pollution at the Department of Health, the black townships and the absence of influx control are responsible for more than seventy percent of it

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

Because of the High Pressure System prevalent over the Highveld, particularly in winter, pollutants emitted into the air cannot escape. This High Pressure System, causes what scientists call Temperature Inversion — thus "sealing" daily emissions in the atmosphere overnight

Responding to Mr Lloyd's claim the president of the United Municipalities of South Africa (Umsa), Mr Tom Boya says his organisation takes "great exceptions to the remark"

The lack of infrastructure and electricity in the townships are largely responsible for people there living in Third

World conditions "People are forced to use braziers and any other type of heat they can find"

"It has become a trend to blame everything possible on the abolishment of Influx Control, which was clearly a positive move by the Government," says Mr Boya

The situation was worse before the abolishment of the Act. If you look at residential areas created after the repeal of this law — places like Spruitview, Hospital View and Diepkloof Extension — there is virtually no sign of pollution, Mr Boya

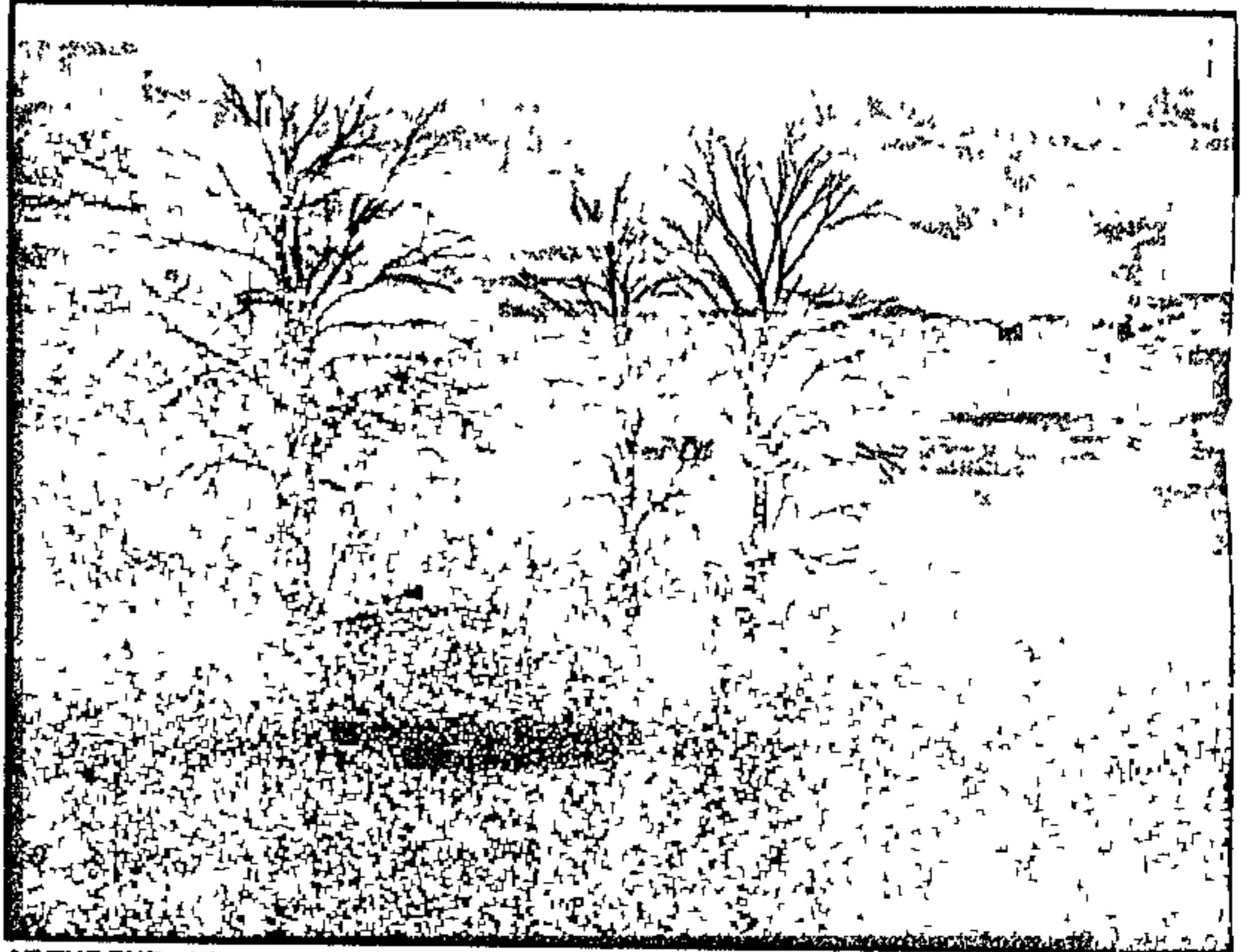
said Ignorance, says Mr Lloyd, is why industry is blamed as the main source. The Vaal Triangle is one of the most densely populated areas with the highest ratio of cars and industry in South Africa. Because people see smoke billowing from industries in the area they say it is the main cause

"The townships cause more than seventy percent of the pollution," estimates Mr Lloyd. He says there is an Air Pollution Act which provides for the "cleaning up of industrial air pollution". Since the inception of the Act in 1976 his department has monitored pollution and he is convinced that "they have cleaned up"

"Because of rapid urbanisation — you know, Influx Control — most people don't even have stoves and build fires in tin drums" This he says, emits more harmful gasses than the neighbouring industries. "People don't see this plume of smoke from the black township, but readily blame the industries"

"We have done research which proves that even if the townships are electrified the people there won't get rid of their stoves because they need it for space heating as electricity is very expensive."

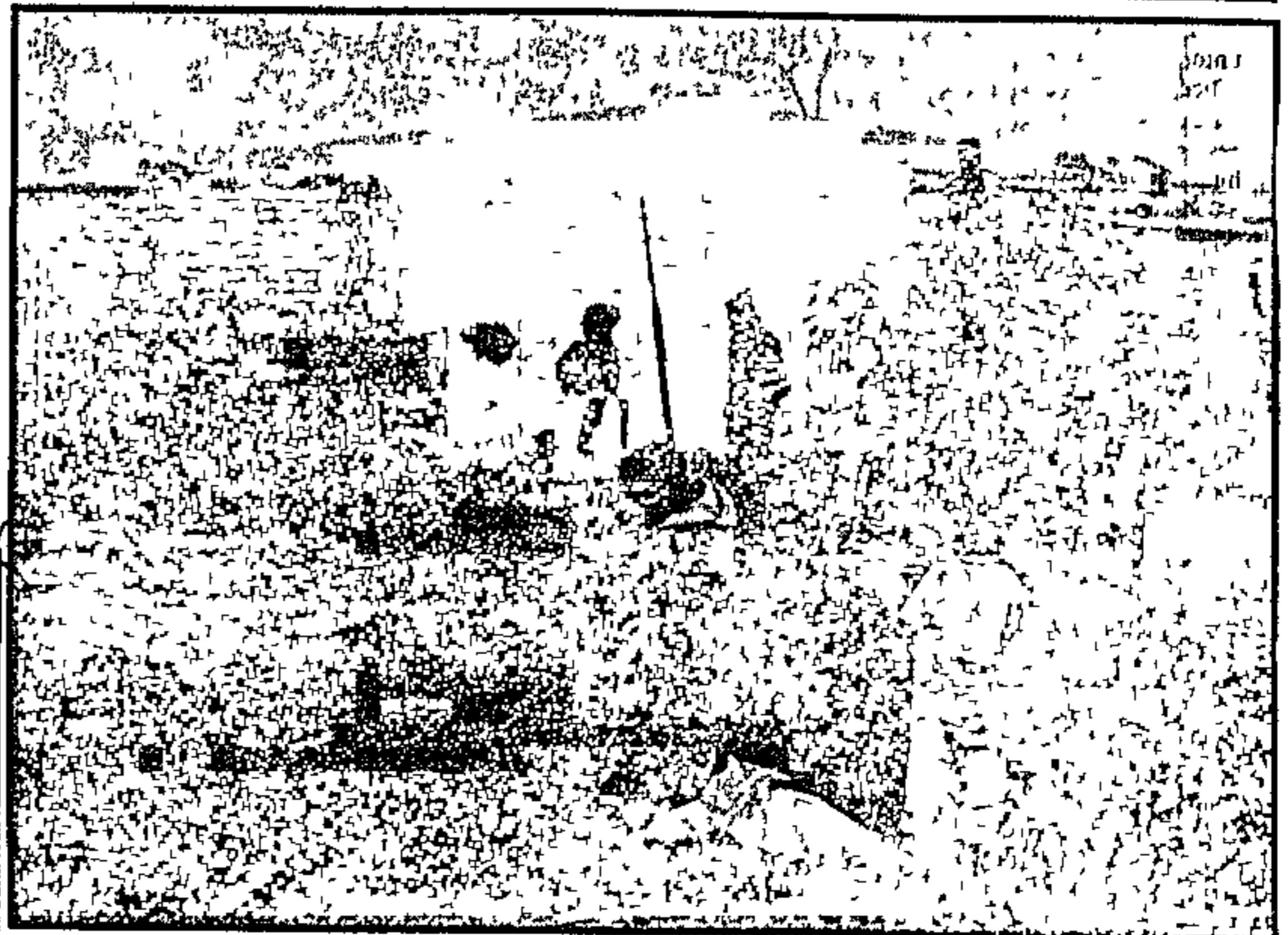
"It would cost the country hundreds of millions and what do you do with all the old stoves?"



AT THE END of the day smoke settles over the townships in the Vaal Triangle in a dense fog reducing visibility to a couple of hundred metres.

Pics ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

Influx and control of chronic pollution



SMOKE engulfs residents of townships in the Vaal Triangle

Wealthier suburbs to be open to all races?

CAPE TOWN — Government hinted yesterday that parts of Johannesburg's northern suburbs would become open areas.

Constitutional Development and Planning Deputy Minister Roelf Meyer also gave the strongest indication yet that parts of Mayfair, Hillbrow and Joubert Park were to become free settlement areas.

Meyer also expressed opposition to Pageview being opened to all. He had asked for an investigation into Mayfair becoming a free settlement area and was convinced the 32 Indian families in Page-

127
MIKE ROBERTSON

view could be accommodated in Mayfair.

In identifying free settlement areas in Johannesburg, consideration would be given to areas in the vicinity of the city centre where the respective settlement pattern had already been established. At the same time a need existed for free settlement areas in high-quality residential areas.

□ Sapa reports Meyer said a free settlement area in Windmill Park, Boksburg, was being investigated.

**Pageview is
white area**

Sunday 11/1/89
PAGEVIEW would remain a white area but the adjoining area of Mayfair would be investigated as a possible free settlement area, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Roelf Meyer, said in Parliament yesterday

Soweto 5/5/89

Praise over accord

THE Ministers United for Christian Co-Responsibility this week praised the Soweto City Council and the Soweto People's Delegation for the agreement on the transfer of council owned houses to residents

Muccor also congratulated the people of Soweto for their patience during the rent crisis. Most praiseworthy was the unity of the Soweto residents, said the statement delivered by the Reverend M Mbande

Muccor said it was a step ahead for both parties have agreed

- That the rent crisis would be solved through negotiations and not by force;
- That there would be no solution without attending to the residents' genuine grievances such as poor services and irregularities in service charges,
- That the Soweto council's financial problems could only be solved through the creation of a single tax base, and
- That Soweto residents were unable to pay the rent arrears

Residents oppose business sprawl

By Shirley Woodgate, Municipal Reporter

Residents' associations in Johannesburg and Randburg's north-western suburbs have launched a public awareness campaign aimed at restricting the multi-million rand business and commercial sprawl in the Cresta/Darrenwood/Blackheath area

The 94 000 sq m office park near Darrenwood Dam, the expanding Cresta Shopping Centre and business developments along D F Malan Drive are set to alter detrimentally the entire character of the area, said Jomag secretary Mr Conrad Berge

Risidale Residents' Association chairman Mr Dave McLeod said "Increased traffic and the subsequent widening of Judges Avenue and Republic Road would ultimately have a ripple effect on suburbs as far away as Dunkeld and Brixton

"Residents have been ignored in the planning of the area and we plan to exert pressure on the Randburg Town Council to do a land swap with the developer responsible for the huge office park adjoining the Darrenwood dam and koppie"

HOTLY DEFENDED

But Randburg management committee chairman Mr Frans Lourens has hotly defended the council's plans for nodal development, saying it is simply good town planning to decentralise from a single CBD

"The concept is generally accepted as it takes offices and shops to the residents, who do not have to travel far to their work and shopping places

"You see this type of business/residential mix in Johannesburg, and here in Randburg we have Cresta and the proposed Northgate development in North Riding, where shops and offices service a residential area.

"It is wrong to say the views of the public are being ignored. Two open meetings were held last year by former councillor Mr Olaus van Zyl and we will call a third if that's what the public wants," he said

Mandy in favour of open area

Municipal Reporter

Johannesburg City Council has been urged by the Central Business District Association to support an application to have Pageview declared a free settlement area

CBDA chairman Mr Nigel Mandy stressed that council support for the Save Pageview Association's petition was not a commitment but merely motivated an inquiry by the Community Development Board

The Supreme Court hearing between the SPA and the board was postponed until after the council's decision on the application, he said

In a letter to management committee chairman, Mr Jan Burger, Mr Mandy urged the city council to back the SPA application

He said the council's failure to support the petition would not only frustrate the new legislation but prevent the investigation of a matter of great importance to the city's future.

Ten moves in grim search for a home

COLIN VAN STAVEL and his wife have moved house no less than 10 times since they got married five years ago.

The longest they have lived together as a family, before having to pack up their things and move on, is 12 months.

The Van Stavel family is just one of the thousands of coloured families who cannot find suitable accommodation because of the dire shortage of houses in black townships.

Mr van Stavel (26) applied for a city council house in Coronationville shortly after he married Fiona (27) in February 1985. He is still waiting.

Mr van Stavel has not lost sight of his dream that he and his wife and three children, Kim (10) — from his wife's first marriage — Lee-Anne (4) and Delano (seven months), will one day settle peacefully in a permanent home.

"I have got three children and a wife to feed. How can I do it if I am moving from one place to another. It is heartbreaking."

In the meantime, the Van Stavel family have moved from one place to the next and Kim lives permanently at Mrs van Stavel's mother. Each time they move out of a flat or a back room in somebody's house, either because they are forced out, or because the place is too small, expensive, or unhygienic, he seeks temporary refuge at his mother's house, and Mrs van Stavel and the children go to her mother's home.

When they find accommodation, they move in with furniture and belongings. Apart from Coronationville, Mr van Stavel has applied for accommodation in Bosmont and Newclare.

When the couple first married, they lived with Mrs van Stavel's mother in Corona-

tionville. After a few months, they found a sub-economic house which had no electricity in Riverlea Extension. "We lived there illegally and left without arguing in 1985," Mr van Stavel said.

The family then moved to his brother's overcrowded two bed-roomed flat in Eldorado Park, Extension 4, but the place was too small so they moved back to Mrs van Stavel's mother for almost a year.

Mr van Stavel said "We then rented a room from somebody who has a big house. There was no privacy and I could not afford the R240 rent on my salary of R340."

'Like a slum'

"We moved again and paid R65 a month for a small room in a large house with five rooms. This is where things started turning sour with my wife and I. The house was like a slum and all the people shared a single bathroom. Our one child became ill and Fiona and I started fighting."

"I left the house and went on holiday to Cape Town. When I returned a month later, Fiona had moved back with her mother. I moved in with my mother. We lived apart for almost a year."

The family pleaded with the council for accommodation, and wrote a letter explaining that they were having marital problems because they had nowhere to live together.

"Still, we received nothing. Eventually, after we talked all our problems over, we could not bear to not be together as a family. We found a back room of a council house in Pollack Avenue, Newclare."

"There was no electricity. We paid R20 a month for the back room. We lived a rotten life. In March 1988, we got evicted because the house was being demolished."

Mrs van Stavel said "My husband was at work the day they came to demolish the house. They ripped the roof off while we were still inside."

The couple separated again and moved back to their respective parents' homes and lived apart until March this year.

During this time, Mr van Stavel wrote desperate letters to Mr David Curry, Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture. His representative wrote back saying they were looking into the matter.

In March they moved in with Mrs van Stavel's sister. A few weeks later, she swapped her council flat with another. The Van Stavel's were forced to leave on three days' notice.

"My sister-in-law, Michelle, said we should move in with her. She was the legal owner of the flat. How can somebody be illegal if the person who rents the flat asks you to move in?" asked Mr van Stavel.

Fortunately, after a few days, they found a back room in a privately-owned house. They pay R150 rent for a two-bedroomed place. "I feel very happy, as long as I can stay here," he said this week.

They do not want to reveal the address where they live, "in case we are hounded by the council officials and evicted again".

He added "I realise there are families who are even worse off than we are — who have been on the waiting list for accommodation for many years."



HOMELESS: Mr Benjamin van Stavel and his wife Fiona dream of the day they can live together under one roof without having to move from one place to another. With them are their children Lee-anne (4) and Delano. The longest they have lived together is a year.

● Photograph: Alf Kumalo.

STYLING: JANET HEARD 127

New Lenasia housing will alleviate shortage

Star 8/5/89 (127)

A new township is to be built near Lenasia to alleviate the housing shortage in the area

The new project, named Anchorville, is to be undertaken by Anchor Land Developers (Pty) Ltd. It will comprise more than 2 000 houses and 60 business units.

A spokesman for Anchor Developers, Mr Aboobaker Ismail, said the houses are earmarked for the middle-income first-time home-buyers.

20 PERCENT DEPOSIT

The houses will cost a minimum of R55 000 for a three-bedroom house including the land. Buyers will be required to pay a 20 percent deposit and the balance over 36 months, interest free.

The business premises will range from 103 sq m and will be made available to anyone. A large supermarket chain has shown interest in the project, according to Mr Ismail.

ESKOM has submitted to the Transvaal Administrator proposals for normalising the supply of electricity to Soweto

Eskom proposes plan for Soweto electricity

ALAN FINE

Eskom management services GM Johan van der Bergh confirmed this on Friday and said Eskom was hopeful its recommendations — devised jointly with representatives of the private sector and the community — would be approved. He said someone had already been appointed to oversee the project.

He was reluctant, he said, to disclose much detail of the proposals at this stage. However, any project would be a joint venture between Eskom and the private sector.

The Urban Foundation (UF) is one body which has been involved in discussions on the project.

UF director Sam van Coller said on Friday the UF had interacted with both Eskom and the Soweto Delegation, headed by SACC general secretary Frank Chikane. It had indicated it was available as a resource to both, and to anyone else involved.

A Soweto project would be very different from Eskom's joint venture with the private sector at Kwa-

Nobuhle launched last year. In that case there was a complete absence of electrification.

While 70% of Soweto homes already have electricity, Eskom's problem is that few users have paid for the service since the rent boycott began in 1985. It would appear Eskom's priority would have to be to gain support in Soweto for its initiative.

A further difference between Kwa-Nobuhle and Soweto is that, in the case of the former, a small number of companies employ most working residents of the township. Volkswagen was the prime private sector participant in the project.

Van der Bergh said the intention of the Soweto project was to ensure a quality service and to eliminate billing problems and the inconsistent supply of electricity.

Chikane was not available for comment. However, at a recent media conference he declined to answer queries on the project because of its "sensitivity".

Row over flats lands up in court

127
127

8/5/89

A bitter row, culminating in a court case, has broken out between the owners of a Hillbrow block of flats, Waldorf Heights, and residents of the building over their tenancy

The owners, Dato Investments, have objected to a report in The Star which was written after a visit to the building. The report noted the derelict condition of the building and listed residents' complaints

Dato Investments claim that the residents are not tenants, but are in fact "squatters"

Some of the residents — 14 families — who live in the building are awaiting the outcome of an application for leave to appeal after Dato Investments won its bid to evict them

Dato Investments said:

The "residents" whom they are trying to evict are not tenants but are "squatters" living in the building. They said the "derelict state of parts of the building" was the result of vandalism in the lift area and other common areas by the "squatters" of various flats

They said all they "wanted to do was to evict the squatters to allow tenants to enter into leases and to pay rents to occupy the flats". The premises will then be put in a proper state of repair and leased to tenants who respect property

They said that inasmuch as it was "nearly impossible" for those facing eviction to find other accommodation it was "not the function" of the owners to find places of residence for the squatters

They said attempts to resolve

the issue had been met with vilification

They further said the activities of the anti-eviction body Actstop are in the process of being investigated

Actstop and residents said:

The building was derelict and the two lifts were not working, bathroom windows were broken, there are malfunctioning toilets, a lack of wall plugs, inadequate geysers and peeling paint. Complaints were not heeded, they said

They said it was their impression that all residents were being victimised for the "sins" of those who kept shebeens

Actstop said that tenants had been involved in a struggle with the owners for two years over the poor conditions and the lack of services. Actstop said it had always maintained that the "struggle must be waged both in the courts and outside of the courts"

Homes for the homeless 'appalling'

By Montshiwa Moroke

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Homeless families from Dobsonville who have stayed in makeshift accommodation for nearly three years have been moved into former men's hostels some of which, they claim, are uninhabitable

The unhappy families have been told to pay R71 a month from the end of April for what they describe as "appalling conditions"

They are part of the original 147 families — some of whom have been on the waiting list for more than 20 years — who forcibly moved into new council homes in 1986 after authorities failed to allocate them houses

Those who have been moved to the former hostels had been staying in tents provided by the Witwatersrand Council of Churches after they were

thrown on to the streets

The first of the "tent families" were taken to the hostels about three weeks ago and the last moved in on Sunday

A team from The Star yesterday went to see them

Most of the rooms have no window panes or frames, the walls and roofs are dirty and blackened, there are no doors for privacy

Families have used a variety of materials including corrugated iron, to try and stop the wind and rain from coming in the windows

Some of the families are still without water in the bare kitchens, and without electricity

The families share communal toilets which have no partitions between the buckets. It is just a long row without any sort of privacy

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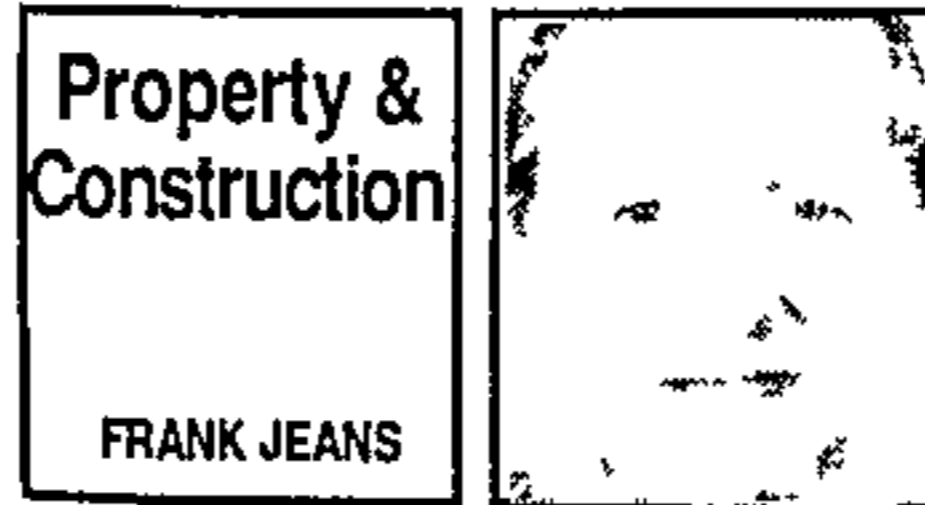
Jo'burg winning battle against suburban sprawl

In its battle against suburban sprawl, Johannesburg appears to have lost none of its tenant appeal

The size of the greater Johannesburg market is now 5,4 million sq m, with suburban space accounting for 1,4 million sq m — 26 percent of the total

Announcing these figures, Mr Grahame Lindop, national leasing director of Anglo American Property Services (Ampros), says accommodation under construction amounts to 239 000 sq m, compared with 210 084 sq m on the outskirts

More than 73 percent of that central Johannesburg accommodation has been pre-let, compared



with 30,5 percent in suburban developments

Nevertheless, the decentralised market continues strong and it is worth noting that 10 years ago there were only 416 000 sq m of office space in the suburbs

Mr Lindop predicts a bright future for the Johannesburg proper-

ty market and gives five points for renewed confidence

- The drive by the council to make the CBD more attractive
- The campaign by developers to improve security perceptions and develop more varied shopping facilities
- A move back to the city centre as suburbs become over-developed
- The dismantling of the Group Areas Act, resulting in an infusion of people into the city
- Limited new decentralised office nodes in close proximity to the city centre

houses for black people Experience had shown that when squatters were

ton area Today, 90 percent of them were developed with brick houses

IPA supplies these stands with basic services such as water, refuse removal and graded roads At Brits

Owners want white area declared a township

By Helen Grange

Residents of Orange Farm near Grasmere, Johannesburg, have appealed to the government to declare it a township development area.

Most of Orange Farm, except for about 300 ha on the west, is occupied by squatters, many of them having been moved there from surrounding areas

Residents say their properties have been devalued substantially

and are "continually being destroyed"

"On one occasion, a roof was stolen, and because many of the homeowners live and work in town, they have no control over theft or destruction."

"We cannot find tenants to live in our houses because of lack of security in the area."

"White home buyers are not in-

terested in purchasing the properties and we are not allowed to sell to any other race in terms of the Group Areas Act," said Mr Henry Wienand, a resident at Orange Farm.

Mr Wienand said white homeowners on Orange Farm wanted the whole area declared a development area so they could sell their houses either to the Government or to black, Indian or coloured buyers.

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Rent rises battle

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

WATVILLE residents have launched a petition and are seeking legal advice to fight the proposed 250 percent rent and service charge increases.

The petition was launched at a meeting held at the Anglican Church in Watville on Saturday. The resolution to seek legal advice was among several others adopted at the meeting.

The residents expressed dissatisfaction that they had not been consulted and accused the present councillors of being "toothless", undermining and misrepresenting residents' interests.

Residents resolved that even if they were consulted it would have been "impossible" for the councillors to expect them to pay the increased rates on top of suffering high inflation due to increase of food and fuel.

A report-back meeting will be held at the local Anglican Church tomorrow at 6pm. Top of the agenda will be legal opinion.

The mayor of Watville, Mr George "Master" Nkosi, yesterday said his council had called for a meeting to be held at the Davey Social Centre on Sunday at 9am.

He said the meeting will discuss the proposed rent and service charge increases which are still open to objections by residents, traders and other affected and interested parties. Mr Nkosi and his five-man council were elected to office during the countrywide October municipal elections last year. The councillors before them resigned under pressure during the height of the 1986 uprising in the Vaal.

A 1987 report by the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said that Watville had 35 000 residents while another Government report put the figure at 31 000. There are presently 2 515 houses in the township. Of these houses 400 were built between 1941-8 and 2 000 between 1951-5.

For decades Watville residents have been confined to 34 hectares of land. Recent development of houses in all townships in the East and West Rand has not had any effect on Watville except for 50 privately built houses. Stagnant development is expected to be one of the highly heated issues for discussion at the weekend meeting.

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THE Free Settlement Areas ball is rolling, with Diepsloot and a portion of Midrand already under consideration for reclassification, and portions of Boksburg, Durban and Mayfair to come under scrutiny shortly.

According to Christian Saaman, assistant secretary of the Free Settlement Areas Board (FSAB), the proposed reclassification of Windmill Park, in Boksburg, the Warwick Avenue Triangle, in Durban, and a portion of Mayfair adjoining the existing Indian township of Fordsburg will be advertised this Friday.

The Mayfair proposal does not, he says, include either Arthur Block Park or the E.P. Bowman School.

The proposed reclassification of a block of 22 plots totalling 880ha in Diepsloot, and three adjoining sites totalling 315ha in Midrand, was advertised on April 26.

The Midrand sites are the headquarters of Secosaf and the Development Bank of SA, and Countryview, a 150ha site proposed for township development. Meanwhile, the controversy surrounding the proposed rezoning of Diepsloot has reached a new peak. Two separate issues — Diepsloot's reclassification as an open area and its rezoning for township development — have become inextricably entangled, with neighbouring residents — under the Greenbelt Action Group (GAG) banner — coming out strongly in favour of reclassification but resisting development.

Diepsloot rezoning row at a new peak

VAL PIENAR

B. B. B. B.

10/5/89

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rounding the proposed rezoning of Diepsloot has reached a new peak. Two separate issues — Diepsloot's reclassification as an open area and its rezoning for township development — have become inextricably entangled, with neighbouring residents — under the Greenbelt Action Group (GAG) banner — coming out strongly in favour of reclassification but resisting development.

Objections

In terms of the Act, residents have 28 days following publication of the advertisement in which to lodge any objections — and, says Saaman, "all relevant objections will be taken into account when the proposal comes before the Board".

However, according to Diepsloot residents, neither the Act nor FSAB chairman Hen Kruger have clarified exactly whose comments will be considered relevant. "I told Kruger I lived next door to the proposed Diepsloot township and wanted some say with regard to what happened in the area," comments Peter Ritchen, treasurer of GAG. "All he could tell me was that only a potential developer could apply for the reclassification of an area — which ignores the potential for open rural areas. And he indicated that only the opinions of residents of the area actually under consideration would be considered relevant." Kruger was not available for comment.

'Recreational asset'

"The neighbouring municipalities see the area as it stands as a recreational asset to their inhabitants. And they are also unwilling to undertake the expense of upgrading their own road systems, for instance, to cope with through traffic from a township in Diepsloot," he says. And town planner Fanie Haacke, of Haacke Belling Partnership, believes

the developers' proposed "dream township would degenerate into a slum for lack of demand. "Establishing a township in the area would be a totally artificial development serving no social or economic purpose," claims Haacke. "Affluent blacks can already, through intermediaries, own property in good white areas while there would be no need for whites to move that far out," he adds. However, United Municipalities of SA (UMSA) president Tom Boya disagrees. "There is a tremendous demand among wealthy blacks for quality residential properties — and the density of a rural area would be too low to make a real impact," he says. Boya stresses, however, that stand sizes should be kept above a minimum of 800m² — considerably more than the 600m² previously suggested by Alf Levin, one of the developers with an interest in the area.

Ancient remedy

Chief Justice Michael Corbett faces a tough test over a Hillbrow eviction case. Though at this stage he has only to rule on a petition for leave to appeal against a ruling by Justice Streicher of the Witwatersrand Supreme Court, his ruling will have important implications for thousands of black tenants and a number of landlords in Johannesburg.

Last month, Judge Streicher upheld the

(Continued on p 53)

FINANCIAL MAIL MAY 12 1989

(127) (12/5/89) Fwall

right of Hillbrow landlord Joe Farber to evict 14 black tenants from Waldorf Heights, in terms of *rei vindicatio* (an ancient Roman-Dutch principle in our common law, whose simplified meaning is "that property is mine, I want it back") Farber, as the majority shareholder in companies which own three buildings, is applying for a similar ruling for the other two buildings. A hundred tenants, most of them with families, could be affected.

In the two other cases, against 17 tenants in Claridges (Deltine Investments) and three tenants of Fabian Heights (Janberg Investments), the courts ruled in favour of the tenants after finding technical faults in Farber's legal papers. Farber has re-issued the applications.

Will Farber continue with another civil case against other tenants from each of the three buildings? He has applied for their ejection on grounds of a breach of lease, he accuses them of not paying the agreed rent, electricity and gas charges. In replying papers, the tenants say rent was paid, but not the increases, electricity was paid with a sum felt to be reasonable for what was used, because no chits were ever issued. The tenants say Farber is also claiming for water, which he is not entitled to do because he does not have separate meters.

The case appears to be straightforward, but this could be deceptive. True, as the court found in the Waldorf case, Farber

correctly gave notice and at the end of the period was entitled to his property back.

However, residents point to the underlying social issues. All of them are black. Most are supporters of Actstop, the anti-eviction organisation which has waged a campaign against Farber, accusing him of ruthlessly



Corbett

exploiting the uncertain status of his black tenants under the Group Areas Act (GAA). Essentially, they argue that, because they are black, they are being "exploited" (But, by invoking common law, Farber has made no use of the GAA. The case is to do with the rights of tenants versus those of landlords.)

The allegations formed the substance of a dossier handed in to the Chief Justice by nine Waldorf tenants, including two Actstop activists who drove to Bloemfontein last week. Their lawyer described their action as "a breach of etiquette".

A source close to the delegation says they went "in desperation" because they felt the court was not getting the full picture. "In using *rei vindicatio* Farber prevented our side of the story from being put before the court," he says. The group's attorney, G I Bhikha, says the tenant's move was timed to

coincide with his legal petition being handed in to the Appeal Court, but denies all prior knowledge of his client's actions. In any event, the tenant's allegations, which in terms of the *rei vindicatio* clause have no bearing on the case, are now with Chief Justice Corbett.

These include allegations that rent increases were extracted for maintenance which did not materialise, garbage is not removed from the corridors, light bulbs in the passages are seldom replaced, the lift is often out of action, toilets flushed from above overflow into those below, the building is damp, tiles have come off the walls, and worms are found in walls.

Farber was also accused in two successful interdicts brought before the Supreme Court of acts of intimidation.

Meanwhile, residents say they will resist eviction, regardless, and the Central Methodist Mission told a press conference that 20 white sympathisers have volunteered to stand with any black tenants refusing to be evicted. ■

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BUSINESS

Speculators drive up black property prices

A conference on property hears that land values have risen so high that provincial authorities cannot afford to buy land for black housing By HILARY JOFFE

PROVINCIAL authorities in the Transvaal favour self-help housing schemes — but are not having much success in acquiring the land for such schemes, as speculators push up prices on land set aside for blacks

Bokkie van der Hoven, chief director, land use, in the community services branch of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, revealed this at a conference of the South African Property Owners' Association (Sapoa) in Johannesburg this week.

In areas earmarked for black development, Van der Hoven said, land values had increased to the extent that the TPA "does not see its way open to buying the land for black housing"

In the area west of Soweto, earmarked two years ago for black housing development, "the private sector can't make a profit on developing the land as residential erven, so how can the government participate to provide for the underprivileged?" The land was in the process of being proclaimed a black development area in terms of section 33 of the Black Community Development Act, he said

He added that prices for land earmarked for black development reached between R15 000-R30 000 a hectare. The TPA worked on 20 stands a hectare, so it would be prohibitive to use the land for affordable site and service stands

Further evidence comes from the latest South African Institute of Race Relations *Social and Economic Update*, which reports that in Zuurbeekom, west of Soweto, speculation increased prices by 75 percent after the government announced that it was to be developed as a black area, ensuring the land is beyond the reach of many potential buyers

Speculators took up options for the land before the announcement. The *Update* explains that white land owners can ask a developer to apply for their area to be proclaimed for black use if the application succeeds, competition for scarce land ensures that owners can ask inflated prices

Update research indicates that land remains scarce despite government moves to provide land for black housing in urban areas. It calculates that 225 000 houses could be built on the land freed by the government for black development in 1988 (at a density of 14 stands per hectare), but the



Speculators have pushed land prices beyond homebuyers' reach

Urban Foundation has calculated the shortage of houses for black people outside the homelands at 800 000

Van der Hoven told the Sapoa conference that "it seems we might be able to provide enough erven for black housing development in the not-so-distant future if enough land is available at a cost which would fit the end-user"

Van der Hoven said the system had advanced to the stage where "we will only be able to provide an erf with services, and the owner of the land will be responsible for erecting a house for himself according to his needs and what he can afford". He added that these should be "rudimentary service facilities", such that people could survive but could also improve on the services when their finances improved

He said the upper end of the black housing market, where the private

sector had been pursuing market opportunities, was slowly starting to be saturated. The upper end was the "easy market", and financial institutions and developers were not operating at the lower end of the market. This was left to the provincial authorities and "at that level we have difficulty making an erf available at an affordable price"

"We are pleading for a new ap-

proach to township development — the private sector must try to accommodate the need at a profit, but cut corners to the extent that housing becomes affordable to people who need it"

Van der Hoven also threw some light on why, even though black people can now own land on freehold, very few do. He said in the two years that the TPA had been dealing with black housing in the Transvaal, there had been very few applications for the proclamation of townships where freehold could be given

Township developers could sell off erven at an early stage on a leasehold basis and get the cash flow, and then tended to lose interest in getting the development proclaimed as a township, Van der Hoven said. "Leasehold is available but freehold is very scarce because very few townships have been through the whole process of being proclaimed," he said

According to the *Race Relations Update*, by February 17 this year, 817 African freehold titles had been registered since property rights were restored in November 1987 — 606 in the Transvaal. By contrast, 28 200 leasehold properties were registered by Africans in 1987 and over 50 000 in 1988

The *Update* quotes legal experts as saying that township registers — the prerequisite for freehold — are being opened slowly because there are multiple title-deeds in existing townships and this complicates the opening of registers. "As more township registers are opened, the price of registrations is expected to increase," the *Update* says. The figures on freehold and leasehold do not necessarily reflect the number of new homes built. Freehold can be conferred on vacant land, and leasehold registrations include both new houses and state housing stock bought by township tenants

Black builders hindered

Weekly Mail Reporter

BLACK entrepreneurs need increased access to capital and to skills if they are to survive, a South African Property Owners' Association (Sapoa) conference on the future of black business heard this week

Black builders had no credible involvement in the construction industry and their progress was hampered by a shortage of capital to acquire land, lack of skills and expertise, lack of access to the legislature, and bureaucratic obstacles, said Baker Mogale, president of the Transvaal Black Builders' Association

He said the key issue in South Africa was the need for permanent, rather than temporary solutions to the housing problem. It was necessary to involve blacks in addressing this, and in preparing a national agenda on homelessness

Mogale said black builders could make gains by collective action, but his association believed the private sector could and should help make the effects of centuries of discrimination fade faster

A small black business infrastructure was necessary to make black business competitive

Constraints hindering black builders from being competitive in the market were stressed by Neil Fraser, director of the Building Industries Federation of South Africa (Bifsa), who focused on the lack of costing skills among inexperienced black builders. They often faced heavy losses because they failed to incorporate overhead or contingency costs in quoting for tenders, he said

"A large number of builders, usually through total ignorance, underquote prices and then abscond before their contracts are completed, leaving clients with unfinished projects but with fully utilised budgets and the building industry thus continues to develop a bad name," Fraser said

The Small Business Development Corporation had stopped giving out small builders' loans due to massive bad debts, he added

Fraser said the formal building in-

dustry had to provide training and education for the rapidly developing informal sector. And white construction companies had to select black staff who could be trained in skills such as estimating and costing

Bifsa has started the Foundation for Entrepreneurial Skills Training, funded by the IBM Projects Fund, to train small builders in management skills, Fraser said

Former African Bank chief executive Gaby Magomola outlined further reasons for the inability of black township entrepreneurs to compete with established businesses

These included distance from wholesale suppliers, which raised transport costs, and lack of electricity, which necessitated high capital outlays for generators or gas equipment

Black entrepreneurs were often driven "underground" by their inability to comply with the huge number of laws and restrictions, and they became informal sector operators

Magomola called for the private sector to erect shopping centres in black townships, to remedy the lack of suitable premises for entrepreneurs. He urged Sapoa members to treat this as a priority and become more "activist" in this regard

Such centres would not only bring convenience to the black shopper but would help create jobs and "provide a tax base for the fiscal management of those residential areas", which would continue to exist as low-income areas even after racial discrimination had disappeared

The Transvaal Provincial Administration's Bokkie van der Hoven also supported the development of commerce and industry in black townships as a way of making them more self-sufficient. He said the TPA was considering new kinds of title deed which, for example, would allow residential properties to be used for business as well

Privatisation yielded billions in 1988

TOTAL proceeds from privatisation sales by governments around the world amounted to more than \$40-billion (about R100-million) last year, according to the newsletter *Privatisation International*

In a league table of the leading merchant banks, the newsletter says that N M Rothschild led the field for advice on privatisation by a short head last year. The number of privatisation jobs handled by the bank totalled nearly 90 in 21 countries

In the course of 1988, Rothschild completed 11 different projects in eight countries. It was closely followed by Schroders and Morgan

Grenfell who each worked in six different countries. The major American players are said to be Credit Suisse First Boston and Goldman Sachs

Accountants and consultants tended to work on smaller projects, with the total of more than 140 different jobs in 15 countries. Price Waterhouse led the field with 46 jobs in 13 countries

The study says that privatisation is now an important and distinct business for investment banks in several countries. The bank is normally needed to advise on the feasibility of privatisation, the form it should take, the price and the state of the market — *The Guardian*, London

Welfare Policy Conference

Fri 19th May 1989 — 6 - 9.30pm

Keynote address: Mohammed Valli Moosa 'Toward a Democratic Welfare System' Cultural event: A Tribute to David Webster

Sat 20th May 1989 — 9am - 6.30pm

Toward a Democratic Welfare System: Options and Strategies

Speakers include Prof. Wilson, Jane Barrett, Stephen Gelb, Leida Patel.

Venue: John Moffat Building, University of the Witwatersrand

Registration: R30 (including meals)

Convened by: Concerned Social Workers, SA Black Social Workers Society for Social Workers (Wits) Social Workers Forum-Cape Town, Durban Committee Against the Welfare Policy

Enquiries (011) 852 6016/7 (8.30-4.30), 648 7716 (alt)

We urge all democratically-minded social workers, welfare organisations, progressive social service organisations and trade unions to join us in evolving a democratic, non-racial and unitary system for all

12-19/7/89
W.M.A.I.

Rent meeting delayed

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A MEETING between the Soweto City Council and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) which was supposed to take place at the council chambers in Jabulani, Soweto, this week has been postponed to May 17

The mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, yesterday said they had postponed the meeting to give the Soweto People's Delegation enough time to draft its version of flat rates for service charges to be charged in Soweto. Both parties will discuss the drafts and if agreed

then the one deemed suitable and "affordable" will be adopted. The talks were part of an undertaking by both parties to continue meeting to discuss options and suggestions towards resolving the rent boycott facing the council.

Sowetan 12/5/87
The SPD reportedly phoned to say it had not completed its draft of flat rates. The talks are specifically aimed at finding a compromise solution to the non-payment of rent and service charges in Soweto which started three years ago.



MR SAM MKHWANAZI

Ratanda taxi boycott goes into 10th day

By Jovial Rantao and Thabo Leshilo

Residents of Ratanda township have embarked on a taxi boycott — which enters its 10th day today — following fare increases varying from 20 to 80 per cent set by the Heidelberg Taxi Association (HTA)

The fare increases were introduced on May 1 and residents were not consulted about them

The disagreement has led to the formation of the Ratanda Residents and Workers Committee (RRWC) The committee held a mass meeting on May 4 where it was decided to use public transport

Community leaders have expressed fears of an outbreak of violence following the HTA's withdrawal from negotiations with the RRWC

The HTA says:

The HTA increased the taxi fares without any consultation whatsoever with the community

We approached them and a meeting was held after which it was resolved to suspend the hikes until the community was consulted and a mandate was given to the HTA to go ahead with the fare increases

Before we could meet with the residents, we received a letter from the HTA notifying us that our meeting with them, scheduled for May 7 was off

The taxi operators started forcing people to pay the increased fares

One of our committee members, Mr Oupa Buthlezi survived two attempts to kidnap him by a mini-bus full of taxi operators

We call upon the HTA to negotiate with the people because we want to avoid a Maritzburg-type situation

The RRWC says:

Chairman Mr Samuel Mntambo said the increases were necessitated by the recent increase in the petrol price and higher maintenance costs

He conceded that some members of his association did not respect their executive committee

Certain operators started to force commuters to pay the "suggested" increased hikes without the executive committee's approval

The fare increases were mooted at a special meeting convened by the taxi drivers and owners, but were never sanctioned by the executive committee

Mr Mntambo denied that the association was acting in concert with the police He condemned the involvement, if any, of the police in the matter and said he was willing to meet the RRWC to resolve the issue

Springs Indians object to race bar

By Anna Louw,
East Rand Bureau

The Management Committee of Bakerton, the Indian township in Springs, has condemned a decision by the CP-controlled Springs town council to close the Civic Centre and the H F Verwoerd Theatre to citizens of Springs "who happen to be of a colour other than white"

OBJECTION

Mr Abou Kahn, chairman of the management committee and member of the President's council, said they had decided to lodge a formal objection to the amendment of a by-law to close these facilities to other races.

He said a letter of protest was to be submitted to the town council and a memorandum would be sent to the Administrator of the Transvaal, appealing to him not to approve the amendment.

The by-law states that people of all races have access to the facilities.

"It is a decision based on racism," he said.

Nat MPs assure voters on 'grey' areas

12/5/89

Political Reporter

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30/8/89

National Party MPs for Johannesburg are assuring voters that their constituencies will not become free settlement areas.

Following a statement by Jeppe MP Mr Hennie Bekker this week that Malvern, Jeppestown and Troyeville would remain white, Rosettenville MP Mrs Sheila Camerer yesterday said La Rochelle and Rosettenville would also not be considered as free settlement areas.

In a statement in the name of Mrs Camerer and Mr Roelf Meyer, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning and Johannesburg West MP, the anti-eviction organisation Actstop and "certain Democratic Party-supporting newspapers" were accused of including these two areas on a list of suburbs which might turn "grey".

Mrs Camerer said: "La Rochelle and Rosettenville are not grey areas and they will not become grey areas. Wishful thinking by Actstop is not going to make them grey areas."

Move to shift Sandton rates

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127/5757

BRENDAN TEMPLETON

A PROPOSAL to shift the rate-paying burden from the residents of South Africa's "No 1 address" — Sandton — to the burgeoning business sector faces difficulties as current legislation does not allow for such a move.

Originator of the proposal, town councillor Mr Peter Gardiner, nevertheless says he believes that the proposal is justified as Sandton is unique in its growth rate which is placing an "intolerable" burden on the town's facilities.

But, despite strong support from both business and residents, the plan might not go through.

He will nevertheless be making strong representations to the Department of Finance and the Provincial Administration for an amendment to the existing rates ordinance.

Ratepayer Association representatives interviewed were unanimous in their support of Mr Gardiner's plans to shift the rate burden and to limit expansion of Sandton's office development by about two-thirds.

President of the Sand-



MR PETER GARDINER:
a proposal to ease
rate-payers' burden.

ton Chamber of Commerce Mr Warren Dale also approved of the proposed scheme, "even though I could get half of the Sandton business community jumping down my neck for saying so", he said.

Mr Gardiner believed the infrastructure of Sandton, one of the most popular business property markets in South Africa, had to be altered to deal with the increased burden the swelling demand for real estate had put on the town.

"We have been choked by our own success. Business premises are the largest users of the facilities provided by the Sandton council, but this is not reflected in the ratio of rates paid by

residents, compared to business premises," he said.

Sandton had become very attractive to developers who were responding to the decentralisation trend which was a normal stage of development for major cities like Johannesburg all over the world.

More than 60 percent of the entire office market outside the Johannesburg CBD had been located in Sandton.

In modelling Sandton's future office growth pattern, it was proposed that, apart from limited development on its periphery, the central business district would not be extended, he said.

Quite fair

Mr Dale said it was quite fair not to expect residents to pay for added expenses caused by the growing business area, although the plan should be based on future development.

The increased traffic in Bryanston and surrounding areas resulted in wear and tear on the roads in the suburb which had contributed largely to a possible 30 percent rate increase, committee member of the Bryanston Ratepayers Association, Mr Jan Maas said.

"The CBD is already cluttered up with these ruddy offices, and the situation can't go on like this. It's ridiculous."

He approved of Mr Gardiner's proposal, and said he did not believe the increased rates would frighten businesses away from Sandton.

Mr John de Villiers, past chairman of the Parkmore RA, agreed with the proposal "in principle" as the council had previously been unable to address the increased traffic problem as the costs involved were too great.

It was right that the costs be passed on to businesses which had caused much of the increase, he said.

Other ratepayer representatives expressed strong support for Mr Gardiner's position, although Mr John Lambson of Ward 10 was worried that the proposed diversion of traffic from Sandton would mean the Field and Study Centre could again be endangered by road development.

BLACK education is not the only state service which is suffering from the country's poor growth rate, according to the South African Institute of Race Relations' latest *Social and Economic Update*

The publication, which is written by institute researcher Elaine Cosser, notes that government attempts to improve black facilities are under increasing pressure — and various schemes currently being initiated or exploited face financial and political problems

While privatisation schemes run up against affordability problems, attempts to ensure white subsidisation of black services via the regional

Finans Crisis Looming

services councils (RSCs) face resistance from some white municipalities, who fear a backlash from their constituents

In the face of these problems, together with an overall lack of finance, *Update* argues that during the period under review there is evidence that the burden of funding some services is being shifted back to black communities

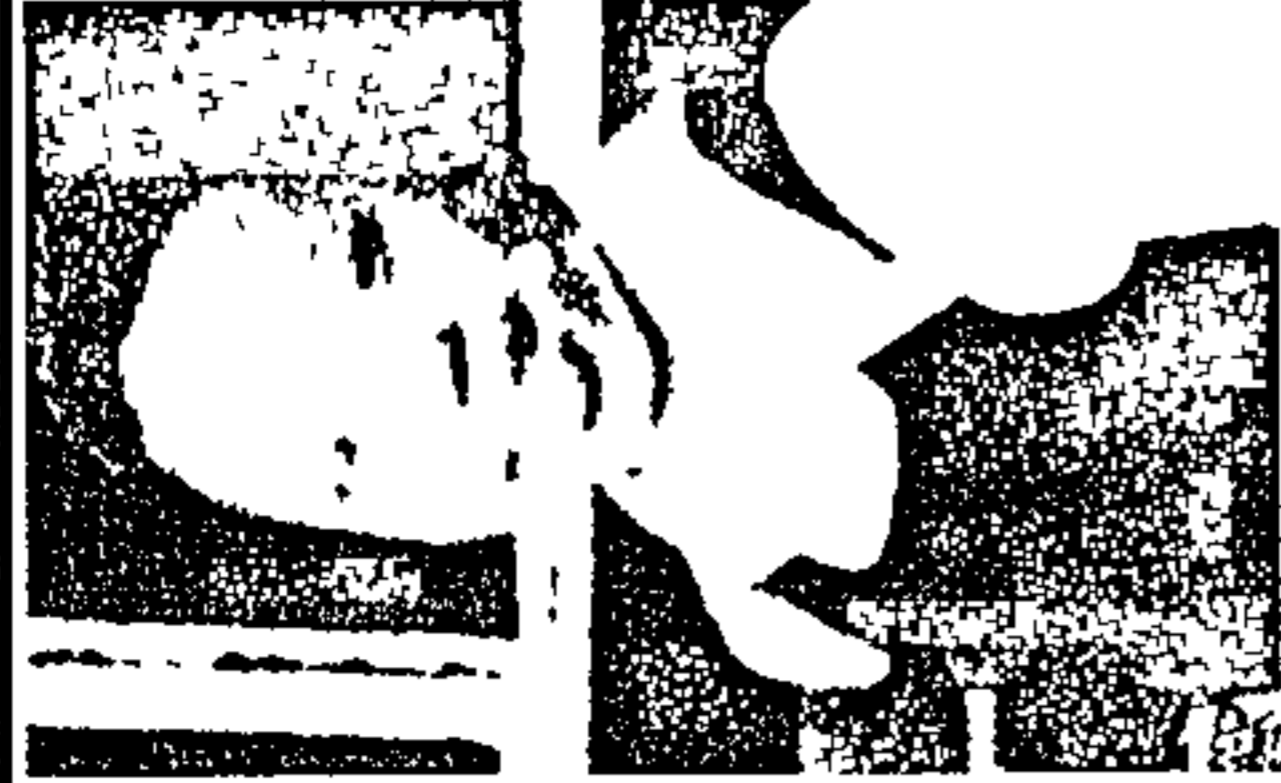
Officials have said sanctions and disinvestment are largely responsible for the government's inability adequately to upgrade black services.

Examining plans to extend and improve electricity to black areas,

Update expresses the view that township residents may be unable to afford partly-privatised electricity (although the authorities believe this kind of service should be cheaper and more efficient)

While Escom's intervention has created some momentum for the extension of electricity to black areas, the research has found that there is no agency pressing for adequate water and sewerage, and these services are poor in urban as well as rural areas

Update suggests that if services like these are to be subsidised by the RSCs, white consumers will have to foot the bill and white municipalities might face a backlash from their constituents



Pupils need bursaries.

127

Bond rates send families reeling

Sowetan 15/5/89

127

THE increase in mortgage bonds has sent residents of the townships' elite sections reeling

Many bought homes when the rates were about 13 percent. The house was affordable and there was extra money for school fees, furniture, groceries and clothing. Then the bond rate was raised to 16 percent. There were grim faces but the bond was paid.

When the bond was increased to 18.75 percent, many families tightened their belts and economised on a large scale. The bond has now been increased to 20 percent.

Miss Pearl Mogae, a single parent with two children lives in a three-bedroomed house in Daveyton. She does not receive maintenance from her former husband who is unemployed. Miss Mogae says that budgeting her finances would be a pointless exercise.

"You cannot budget if practically all your money goes to pay the bond on the house," Miss Mogae said.

"I stopped thinking about buying clothes at the last increase. The current increase will make my situation worse. It means I have to buy essentials only. Polony, cheese and milk are luxury foods now.

"Forget about red meat. It is now a month-end treat. We live on eggs, mince and wors. I will have to cut mince if the rates go up again.

"We live from hand to mouth. I look forward to payday with desperation."

Miss Ros Monaheng of

By NTHABI MOREOSELE

Garankuwa has cancelled a deal to buy a house.

"Anyone would be crazy to move into a new house right now," she said.

"The rates are too high. Who knows, they may be worse in the very near future."

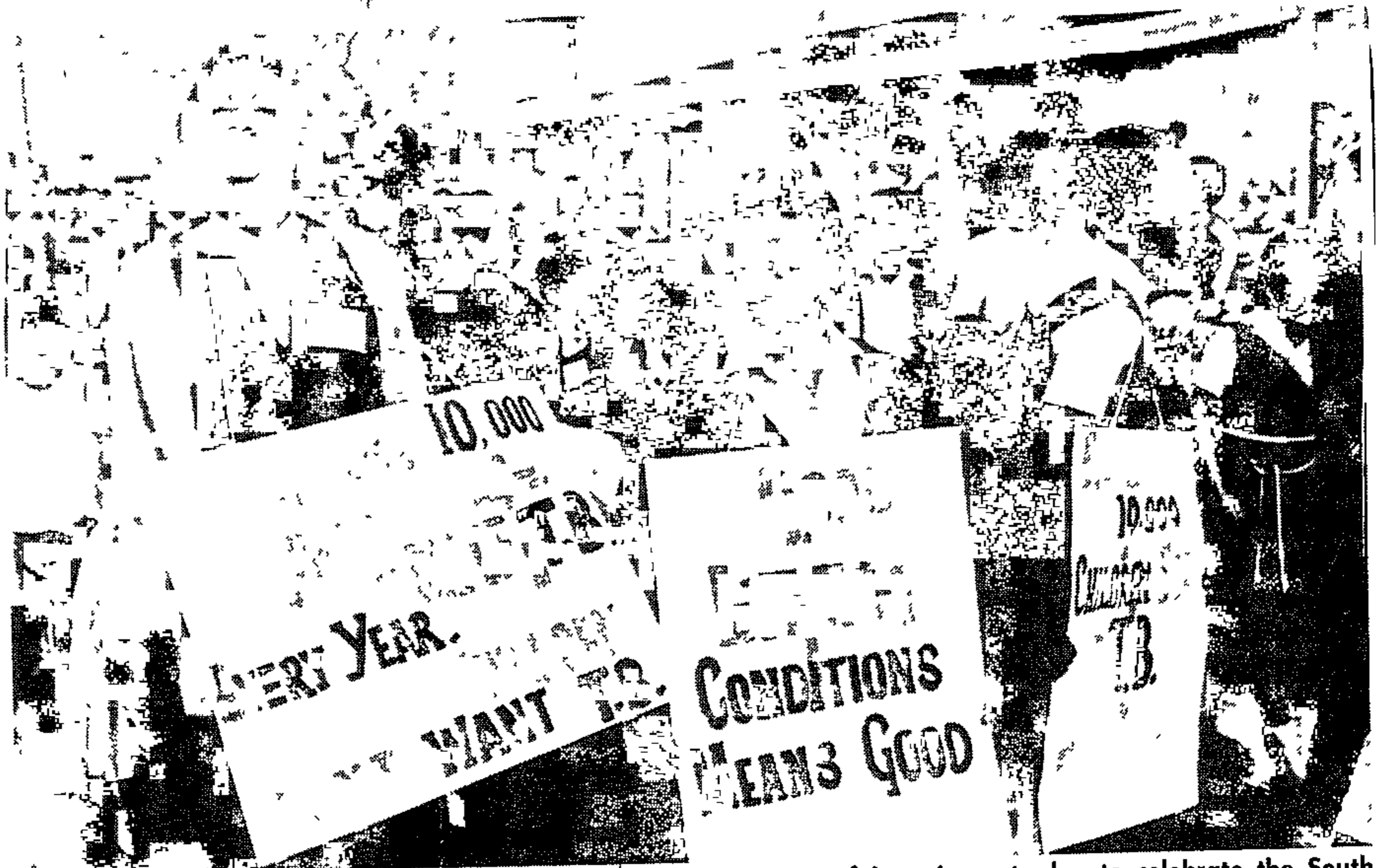
A resident of Spruitview who declined to be named, said many people were talking of cancelling

their houses or selling them.

"Everyone is reeling from the news," she said. "It is a nightmare. At present we are paying R900 a month. This is steep but the new rates will paralyse us."

"Those caught with unpaid furniture bills are unfortunate. I do not see how they will keep up payments."

"The bills were paid with the money that will now be gobbled up by the bond," she said.



Hundreds of children participated in a parade through the streets of Lenasia yesterday to celebrate the South African National Tuberculosis Association's 25th anniversary and in support of the homeless. ● Picture By Sean Woods.

Lenasia highlights homeless

By Sally Sealey

Thousands of Lenasia residents lined the streets yesterday to support a joint parade by the South African National Tuberculosis Association (Santa) and the Homeless Support Committee (HSC) which highlights the plight of the homeless community in and around Lenasia

The procession was jointly organised by Santa, the HSC, the Ananda Marga and the Federation of Residents' Associations (FRA)

Hundreds of children from squatter camps in Lenasia and

surrounding areas marched in the procession singing "We are marching in the light of God" and carrying banners declaring "We the children don't want TB" and "Support the homeless, fight TB"

Mr I Mayet of Santa said the parade was part of Santa's 25th anniversary celebrations and to highlight the fact that more than 5 000 children in South Africa suffer from tuberculosis every year

Dr A Wadee said that in places such as the Ciskei and Transkei 600 people out of every 100 000 contract TB annually.

Johannesburg's suburbs are going 'grey' (127)

Movement towards a post-apartheid society

Star 15/5/89

HELEN GRANGE reports on the quiet, spontaneous change presently occurring in ethnic patterns in Witwatersrand suburbs — an irreversible trend away from apartheid

The irreversible progression towards a post-apartheid South Africa can be witnessed most clearly by the slow "greying" of white suburbs surrounding Johannesburg's inner core, much of which has gone unnoticed while the spotlight remains on Hillbrow and Mayfair

Over recent years, most of Johannesburg's immediate suburbs have become "grey", in spite of the continued enforcement of the Group Areas Act

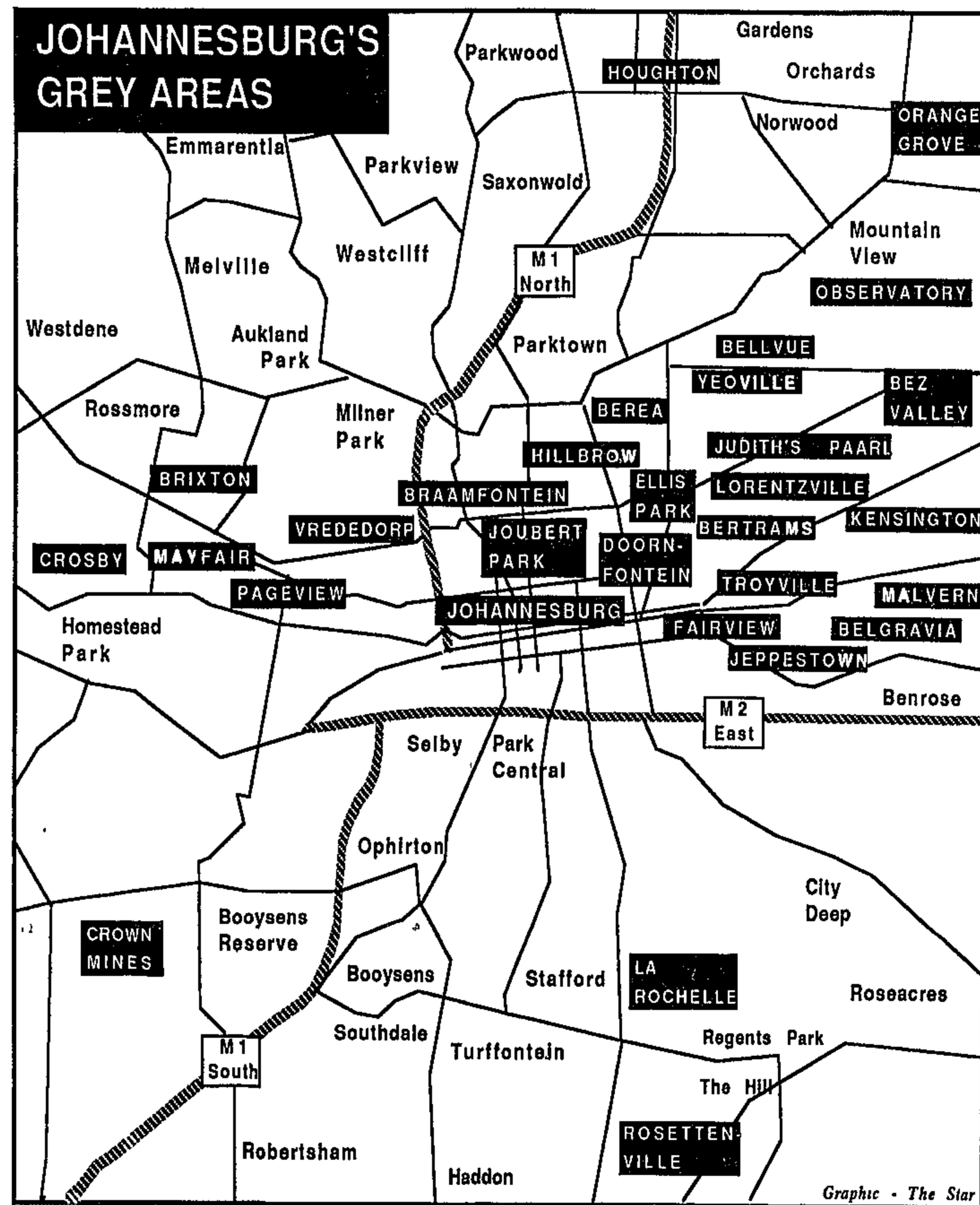
And the process is speeding up in the light of the government's apparent leniency towards mixed areas, demonstrated in Hillbrow and Mayfair which accommodate an increasing black and coloured community

In the ever-widening circles of mixed-race suburbs, the following areas are included Belgravia, Judiths Paarl, Bez Valley, Joubert Park, Fairview, Troyeville, Braamfontein, Malvern, Pageview, Orange Grove, Observatory, Kensington, Yeoville, Bellevue, Berea, Bertrams and Houghton

The fact that almost every suburb in greater Johannesburg has become a "grey area" to a greater or lesser extent seems to have been accepted to some degree by government authorities

Chairman of Johannesburg's management committee Mr Jan Burger said recently "For all practical purposes, apartheid is dead in this city. At this stage, the reality is that Hillbrow, Mayfair and several other suburbs are de facto mixed"

The spread of mixed suburbs is shown by the recent earmarking by the Free Settlement Board of Mayfair and two large tracts of northern Witwatersrand land as, probably, South Africa's first areas



of mixed residential ownership.

However, apart from government moves towards opening areas to all races, grey suburbs are arising from the response to strong market forces, according to Mr Theo Coggin, director of the Institute for Race Relations

"There is an immense demand by blacks and coloureds for housing, while there remains an oversupply of housing for whites. It is only natural

that people will move to where housing is available

"Land owners have responded to these market forces accordingly," he says

Although blacks, coloureds and Indians initially infiltrated those areas which were least resistant to mixed living — namely Johannesburg's immediate suburbs and the "liberal" northern suburbs — mixed races can also be seen today in

some of the southern suburbs, such as Rosettenville and La Rochelle

Actstop spokesman Mr Mohammed Dangor says the housing market was forced to adapt to changing trends after the 1976 "chicken run", when many houses in white suburbs were left unoccupied

"With seven million people short of housing in this country, it is inevitable that even the

most conservative white suburbs with housing space will be infiltrated by people of other races," he said

But according to Mr Johan Fick, chairman of the Department of Development Studies at Rand Afrikaans University, it is unlikely that most Johannesburg suburbs will follow the same pattern as Hillbrow and Mayfair, which have experienced a "scale tip" in terms of ethnic mix

"Most other white suburbs accommodate a very small population of other ethnic groups, and as long as these suburbs remain predominantly white, even legal changes will have little impact," he says

There was a natural tendency for people to live among their own, a phenomenon which had been illustrated in America where, if 12 to 20 percent of a white suburb became occupied by another ethnic group, whites would move out and the area would eventually be dominated by that group, he said

The occurrence of a stable, fully integrated area over time was rare and it would be interesting to observe the outcome in areas such as Berea and Yeoville, where an increasing colour mix was becoming evident

Mr Fick pointed out that the future of these areas would be determined by whether whites would begin to move out, leaving space for further infiltration

In wealthy, upper class suburbs such as Houghton, however, the prospect of a significant ethnic mix coming about was remote, he said, considering the fact that blacks living in these areas belonged to a limited high-income group

Mr Fick said even the complete abolition of the Group Areas Act would not cause a substantial change in current neighbourhood ethnic patterning

"At present, neighbourhood patterns are developing spontaneously and once this process has started, little can be done to control it," he said



Suburbs join Mooikloof protest

Pretoria Correspondent

Pretoria's eastern suburbs have joined the protest against a proposal for an area outside the city municipal boundary, Mooikloof, being declared a free settlement area

A planning meeting of representatives from areas including Constantia Park, Garsfontein, Faerie Glen, Rietfontein, Olympus, Zwavelpoort was being held last night

Protest action has already begun, with 700 signatures collected in a peti-

tion against the proposed opening of Mooikloof

A massive banner reading "Mooikloof, a free settlement area - never!" has been erected in an open field opposite the Faerie Glen Hypermarket

An application for the opening of Mooikloof as a free settlement area has been handed to the Free Settlement Board, who will investigate the proposal after members of the public have commented on the plan

RESIDENTS WELCOME INQUIRY

THE appointment of a commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities by local councillors was welcomed at a meeting attended by hundreds of residents at Thokoza Extension 2 at the weekend.

The spokesman for the Thokoza Residents Unity, Mr Paul Ngobeni, said residents were delighted that they were being given an opportunity to voice their grievances.

The main complaint by residents at the weekend meeting was the increase of tariffs in the township last month. They said that when the council imposed the R5 levy on shacks in the backyards in 1984 it said the money was

to be used for a fund to attract developers to build sub-economic houses (2-3 roomed houses) in the township.

The council last month increased the shack rent to R20 a shack but has not built sub-economic houses as promised.

Thokoza has about 50 000 shack dwellers and more than 45 000 squatters.

The Thokoza Residents Unity last month wrote to the Transvaal Provincial Administration protesting the recent suspension of town clerk, Mr M Combrinck. The organisation asked the TPA to intervene.

Another meeting will be held at the church hall on Sunday at 9am.

Fund to protect home buyers mooted

Staff Reporter

98 (127)

Top estate agents are to hold a crisis seminar in Johannesburg next week to discuss the rising mortgage bond rates.

Mr Keith Wakefield, president of the Institute of Estate Agents, said they were expected to urge the creation of a stabilisation fund to protect buyers.

"Financial institutions such as banks and building societies, insurance companies and the Government could contribute to such a fund when rates go up

and recover their money when rates drop," he said.

"When rates are lower the consumer could be charged half a percent to cushion for times when rates go up"

He said stabilisation funds had worked for the sugar, maize and petrol industries. And the insurance industry was sitting on millions of rands.

Bond repayments have risen nine times in the past 14 months from 12,5 percent to 19 or 20 percent.

'Living museum' created



A worker stands next to a sculpture at the entrance to a hut in one of Credo Mutwa's villages in the Montshiwa Nature Reserve.

By Brendan Templeton

He claims to have predicted the downfall of Mr P W Botha only days before the State President had his stroke; he told Mr George Bush — who was visiting South Africa at the time — he would become president of the United States; and he has singled out 1989 as the make or break year for South Africa.

Now Mr Credo Mutwa, sangoma and self-proclaimed "spiritual leader of the Zulu nation", has created a "living museum" of five traditional villages outside Mafikeng to promote understanding between the black and white people of southern Africa.

He believes many valuable traditional beliefs and practices have been forgotten and discarded and intends preserving these by creating an environment in which this knowledge can be pooled and made available again.

Two tours have been arranged in

conjunction with Southern Sun from June 2 to June 4.

People visiting Mr Mutwa's villages will be able to view sangomas doing their traditional work, the preparation of cures, the training of apprentices, and the making of beads and artefacts which will be on sale. The villages have been constructed according to the exact specifications of traditional villages built hundreds of years ago.

Mr Mutwa is being assisted by Mr Gary Sinclair, chairman of Grow, an organisation which has promoted backyard vegetable gardens in Soweto and Walkerville.

Grow had also played a role in developing education and housing in Walkerville and at Orange Farm, Mr Sinclair said.

Information can be obtained from Mr Ian Spitz (011) 53-8194; Mr Charles Joffe (011) 640-6406; and Ms Esther Farber (011) 640-2784.

of the Covenant, which the survivors of the Battle *emotionless* I shot one of them *one* and the

New tariffs for Soweto announced

By Montshiwa Moroke
The Mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, yesterday announced new proposed electricity and service charges

The figures were due to go to the full council today, but Mr Mkhwanazi said the new charges had already been implemented and accounts would be sent out at the end of the month

Details of the new tariffs were released to the media hours after members of the council had met a Soweto people's delegation as part of the ongoing talks in an

attempt to resolve the two-year-old rent crisis

Announcing the new charges, Mr Mkhwanazi also said the council had had "many rounds of talks with many groups".

● The figures for monthly electricity tariffs are R30 for Jabavu 1-3, Orlando East, Mofolo South and Klipspruit two rooms. The rest of Soweto will be charged a uniform R50

Other charges will be R17,50 for improved flats and R12,50 for unimproved flats

Service charges will be R15 for

Jabavu 1-3, Orlando East, Mofolo and Klipspruit two rooms and R17,50 for some parts of Dube. The highest tariff — R37,50 — is to be paid in areas such as Pimville (Selection Park) and Protea South Extension

The rest of Soweto will pay R22,50

Tariffs of R52,50, R72,50 and R92,50 are to be paid for different flats in Chiawelo and Jabulani

Women in hostels in Zondi and Orlando West are to pay R8,50 and R6,50 respectively

Don't go to SA,

'Bitch, Boozer' quit soaps

1915/89
Soweto

Mayor urges people to pay

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

THE Soweto City Council urged residents to start paying the newly announced flat-rate service charges which came into effect on May 2 — following a meeting with the Soweto People's Delegation yesterday

Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi said residents should pay the flat-rate as explained at Orlando Stadium during a Sofasonke Party meeting in April

He said his council had taken that decision and informed the SPD after the delegation had failed for the second time to provide the council with its "affordable" flat-rate to be paid by Soweto residents

The SPD has asked the council to accompany it in meetings with the Escom, Jo'burg City Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration in its efforts to establish an "affordable" rate

Survey

"We told the delegation (SPD) that we had conducted a wide-ranging survey to establish our flat rate, but they challenged it. We then asked them for their version of a flat rate. They have failed twice to present their version and today they told us that the company they had engaged for a report on rates had advised that they meet with the authorities — all of whom we met before establishing our rates. We are now going ahead while awaiting the SPD results," said Mr Mkhwanazi

The SPD is supposed to complete its talks with the authorities within three weeks. Mr Mkhwanazi is expected to leave on a 10-day visit to Canada where he will attend the International Mayor's Conference in Halifax. He will be accompanied by the town clerk, Mr Sarel van Rensburg

Threat to sue health union

THE Balfour Town Council has threatened legal action against the South African Health Workers Congress which revealed that water supplied to the black township of Siyathemba was contaminated with human faeces

The telex to SAHWCO was sent by Balfour council secretary Mr J T Potgieter who demanded information on when the water sample was taken, where and at what time of day and the method in which it was collected before being tested in a medical

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

laboratory

The council said it was considering legal action "within seven days" if no response was received from Sahwco

Sowetan 19/5/87

A spokesman for Sahwco yesterday said they did furnish the council with the required information despite the fact that Sahwco "strongly objected" to the threats by the council. He said the organisation

welcomed legal action by the council as it was give "us a chance to expose the numerous violations of the Health Act and basic human rights" by the Balfour council

The spokesman said since the report was released the council had fitted pipes and taps from which residents could draw water. It has also undertaken to install a pipeline to pump 600 kl a day into Siyathemba to increase the water supply. The arrangement ensured that the water was not contaminated

Last-ditch stand Pageview 'illegals' await Jo'burg City



INNOCENT VICTIMS: Yusuf and Naseema Kharsany are not old enough to understand why they might soon have to leave their home in Pageview, an area which their forefathers have occupied since 1893.

THE fate of 67 Indian families who have resisted all attempts to be forcibly removed since Pageview was declared a white area in terms of the Group Areas Act more than 30 years ago, will be decided at the end of the month in one of the most topsy-turvy sagas in the history of apartheid.

The Save Pageview Association (SPA) said the decision rests on whether the Johannesburg City Council decides to support its application for Pageview to be declared a free settlement area.

If the Council supports the application, which is due to be heard on May 30, it will motivate an inquiry by the Free Settlement Area Board to consider Pageview a free area.

Mr Ebrahim Kharsany, SPA secretary, said the community regarded a successful outcome by the City Council as was one of their last hopes to remain in the area.

He said all other efforts had failed. Last month, the SPA's application to declare a free area.

He expressed doubt that the City Council would support the application, and said in view of the pending general election.

The contrast between homes rented by Indians and those by whites is startling. When the Government bulldozed Indian homes and began erecting houses for white-occupation, Indians were prevented from restoring their homes, despite the fact many have the finances to do so.

As a result, their homes are dilapidated on the exterior, whereas homes rented by whites are newly-painted and newly-renovated.

Mr Kharsany said the issue was not only one of race, but of class. "The Government, which represent the interests of whites, are for example, threatened by a poor white living next door to a black who has a Porsche."

Indian tenants, despite being illegal, continue paying R30 rent a month to the Council.

Report: JANET HEARD
Pictures: JOHN HOGG

the Free Settlement Area Board was blocked by Mr Roelf Meyer, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development, who is also MP for the area.

He said he was opposed to Pageview becoming a free settlement area and in Parliament stated the suburb would remain white.

The families have embarked on a relentless struggle to remain in the area despite the Government declaring 12 years ago that the removal of Indian families from Pageview to Lenasia would be complete by 1980.

The remaining 67 families live as illegals in an area which many of their forefathers have occupied since 1893, when President Kruger granted the land to blacks.

Mr Kharsany said "We are not asking for the moon. We just want an independent and objective inquiry into the application for Pageview to be de-



SIDE BY SIDE: A white child and a black friend, who live next door to each other in Pageview.

Council decision

SCA rejects rents move

Soweto am 22/5/89 (127) ~~127~~

THE Soweto People's Delegation and the Soweto Civic Association (SCA) yesterday rejected the flat rate proposed by the council last week.

A spokesman for the SCA said the association rejected any announcement that the people of

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

Soweto should start paying while talks between the council and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) were still continuing. It said efforts to pressurise residents to start paying will breed conflict in the

townships

A statement released by trade unionist, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, who led last week's talks with the council on behalf of the SPD, stated that the SPD was "not in a position to recommend to Soweto residents that they start payments of

service charges" the council has called upon the people to pay as from May 2

The SPD said it is still to meet with the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) which grants "bridging funds" to the council and Eskom and the Rand Water Board which supplies Soweto with electricity and water respectively. The SPD will also meet the Johannesburg Municipality on the issue of a common tax-base.

The SPD also stated that The Soweto council was R1 billion in the red — and was slipping deeper into debt

- Soweto was grossly overcrowded — with an average of 10 people for each house. There was a shortage of 66 000 houses in greater Soweto, and no improvement was in sight.

- The low level of service provision in Soweto posed a health hazard for residents, particularly children, the elderly and sickly people

- Soweto residents were unable to pay the high rent charges — a factor which led to the rent boycott, which is the only peaceful way in which residents could highlight their plight

- That the government would like Soweto to be self-financing. For this to be realised residents will have to pay R250 a month rent

The statement added "Lasting solution to the problems, however, do not lie in Soweto. Not only does the Soweto City Council have insufficient resources and lacks credibility, it also has too little independence from the Transvaal Provincial Administration"

Experts divided on rentals

Staff Reporter ^{SKW} ^{2/21/56}
Estate agents in Johannesburg are divided over what effect the imminent increase in bond rates will have on housing rents

Rents have risen recently, but some estate agents say increases were due to a growing demand for rented housing, balanced against a limited supply, rather than the rising bond rate

Estate agent Mr Douglas Drysdale said he believed recent rent increases were a result of a combination of the two factors

The increasing bond rate had forced landlords to sell their property as the increases could often not be passed on to the les-

see, thus creating the present shortage of rented housing

Aida Real Estate owner Mrs A Geffen condemned the bond rate increases, and said people with a modest income would not be able to buy a house

Renting had become an unviable proposition except where a few apartments were concerned

"Rentals have been very high this year, but if one looks at what the landlords are getting out of the situation, it is also a pittance," she said

She predicted an increase in rentals once present leases had expired

(127) (882)

By Helen Grange

Objection to Diepsloot free settlement

The Diepsloot Resident's and Landowners Association (DRLA) has made a formal representation to the Free Settlement Board "objecting in the strongest terms" to the declaration of Diepsloot as a free settlement area

Diepsloot is one of two large tracts of northern Witwatersrand land earmarked by the Free Settlement Board as free settlement areas

The DRLA says the intention of the application for a free set-

tlement area in Diepsloot is "essentially to establish a township and not merely to permit ownership without reference to race. From various statements and reports which have been made, it is obvious that very small stands of 500 sq m are

contemplated. This is an intolerable intrusion into the rural character of the area, and is not in keeping with the total of 1000 prestige multi-racial upper-income top-grade residential sites proposed by the Government for this area — and the 'country view' area near the new Development Bank on the Ben Schoeman highway

"We oppose the establishment of a township in this vicinity as unjustified, inappropriate and detracting from the value of the Green Belt, and from the value of Diepsloot as a rural area"

Bedfordview raises rates, electricity.

Bedfordview Town Council last night increased its assessment rates from 1,725 c to 1,9 c in the rand

Ratepayers face increases of 10 percent in sewerage and refuse removal, and electricity is to go up from 11 c to 11,45 c a unit from July 1

Management committee chairman Mr Lew Leppan said a 40 percent rebate would still apply and a special rebate would be granted to pensioners and disabled people

Assessment rates will yield R4,43 million

NEW LIBRARY

A capital programme of R7,8 m was approved. An amount of R1,6 million was allocated to the building of a new library but there was no room in the budget for the completion of the Gillooly's Farm project

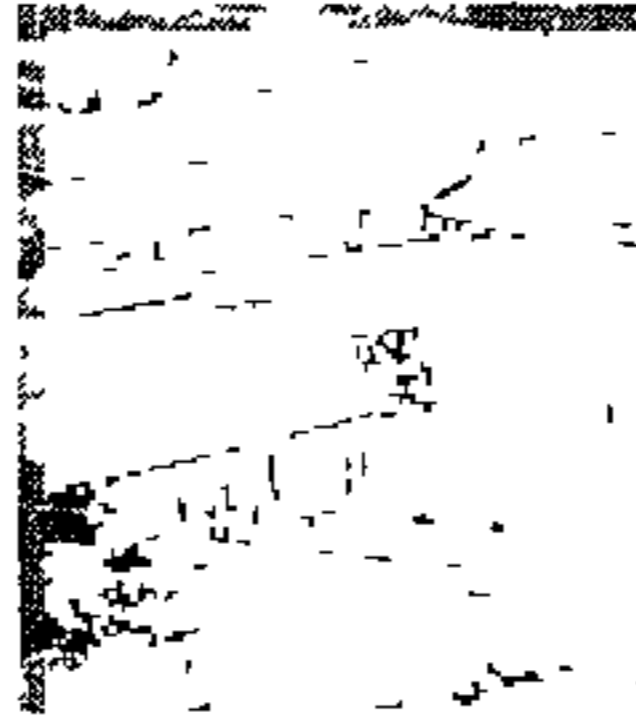
The cost of water remains unchanged

The revenue or "operating" budget is estimated at R36,1 million. Income is estimated at R36,4 million to produce a R295 000 surplus —
East Rand Bureau

Soweto residents ponder rent status

To pay or not to pay is the question many residents will ask themselves following statements at the weekend by the Soweto Peoples' Delegation (SPD) and the Soweto Civic Association (SCA).

The two community organisations said they rejected last week's announcement by the Soweto mayor, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, that the people of Soweto should start paying flat rates proposed by the council,



Soweto houses rents still disputed.

while talks between the SPD and the council were continuing.

They said efforts to pressurise residents to start paying would breed conflict in the townships. Residents have not been paying rent since June 1986.

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, who was part of last week's SPD delegation, said the SPD was "not in a position to recommend to Soweto residents that they start payments of service charges".

On the eve of his departure for Canada, Mr Mkhwanazi said residents were expected to pay the new rates from May.

The SPD said it still had to meet the Transvaal Provincial Administration which grants "bridging funds" to the council, Eskom and the Rand Water Board.

71 families evicted from flat by court

AN ORDER evicting an estimated 71 families living in flats in Berea, Johannesburg, was granted by a Rand Supreme Court judge yesterday

Some of the members of the families had

packed the court's public gallery when the order was made by Mr Justice Spoelstra. A member of the groups of families later told the *Sowetan* that their legal representatives had withdrawn from the case. He could not state reasons given by their lawyers for withdrawing from the case.

Mr C Cerasoli of the flat in number 51 Soper Road, Berea, Johannesburg, said in his affidavit none of the families presently occupying the building had the right to be there. He said the families had been given notices to vacate the place. He said trouble started in December last year and early this year when he was threatened that the building would be set alight.

THE MEC responsible for local authorities, Olaus van Zyl, could not say yesterday how the R451m rent arrears in the Transvaal would be repaid.

The problem, he said, was complex because reasons and circumstances for arrears varied among local authorities

Constitutional Minister Chris Heunis said in Parliament on Tuesday that township residents countrywide owed R555m. He stressed no provincial administration had authorised or approved the write-off of arrears.

Van Zyl said tenants were, in some areas of the Transvaal, paying back what they owed.

Of a total of 80 black local authorities, 33 had made collections of more than 100% of the accounts levied for December.

"This indicated black residents were willing to pay back

their debts," he said. Soweto, which accounted for R210m of the arrears in the Transvaal, and Lekoa local authorities were still having low repayments.

Reasons for non-payment in the Transvaal varied.

Some newly elected local authorities needed to establish communication links with tenants before applying pressure for money. In other areas rent boycotts prevented people from paying back.

Time for repayment would vary and could take longer than two years, Van Zyl said.

"Some local authorities will get their money back, but some arrears were not valid and needed investigation," he added.

ADELE BALETA

African peace suffer setback

LONDON — Peace prospects improved in only two parts of Africa last year — the Maghreb in the far north and southern Africa — and international diplomacy played a key role in both areas, the International Institute for Strategic Studies reported yesterday.

Most African countries suffered major economic and financial problems, compounded by political turmoil or ethnic disputes, the London-based institute said in its annual global survey.

"In northern and southern Africa, international diplomacy had a substantial impact on local prospects for peace."

The survey said the peace agreement to remove Cuban forces from Angola and bring independence to Namibia was made possible by the "untiring efforts" of US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crock-



The grubby facade of a Berea block of flats at the centre of a wrangle between tenants and the landlord *By Day 26/5/84* Picture ROBERT BOTHA

Illegals and landlord battle over Berea block

A TENSE battle between group areas "illegals" and the owner of a block of flats in Berea is being waged over alleged appalling conditions and non-payment of rent

Residents of Allandene flats in Soper Road, Berea, yesterday denied that they had damaged the building. Some were defying an eviction order.

The Rand Supreme Court granted a final eviction order against the residents on Tuesday after an urgent application was brought by the owner of the flats, Clay Cerasoli.

Cerasoli said tenants had removed cupboard doors, damaged wash basins and removed toilet seats. Bits of wooden floor had been removed.

Cerasoli said he had suffered financially and wanted the block vacated.

But residents denied these claims, saying they had brought their own cupboards into the flats and the toi-

ADELE BALETA

lets and basins were already damaged when they moved in.

Lindy Mzobe was living in a room not big enough for a bed and was paying a monthly rental of R190.

Business Day visited the premises yesterday and could find no evidence of broken cupboards, or lifted floor boards.

A receipt book supplied by residents revealed that callers to Allandene were charged R3 for their visits.

Cerasoli said yesterday the building had been condemned and he had not received any rent from residents since January.

An Actstop spokesman said residents had been overcharged for squalid accommodation which was damp, smelly and without electricity.

SOWETO STALEMATE ON RENT PAYMENTS

12/11/87 ADELE BALETA (12) (12)

THE Soweto rent arrears crisis was still in a stalemate this week with government refusing to write off the R210m rent debt and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) refusing to advise residents to pay up.

SPD delegate Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday the position of the SPD had not changed despite Constitutional Affairs Minister Chris Heunis's speech in Parliament on Tuesday when he said that rent arrears had not been written off.

Heunis said township residents countrywide owed R555m in rent arrears. Transvaal local authorities alone were owed R451m and, of this amount, Soweto residents were R210m in arrears.

Ramaphosa said the question of arrears was no longer an issue. The people did not want to pay. "It does not matter what the Minister says as it is of no effect. The Soweto Council has put forward our view to the Provincial Administration," he said.

He warned government's insistence on rent payments could set the scene for further tension and turmoil in Soweto.

He said the SPD was still waiting for a meeting with the TPA to discuss Sowetans' demands and the bridging of finance provided by the TPA.

Soweto Mayor Sam Mkhwanazi is on a visit to Canada and could not be reached for comment.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, LOCAL PRESSURES ARE BUILDING FOR UNITED, NON-RACIAL URBAN AREAS

From inside the city, a rising call to bury apartheid

AS inner-city residents begin to launch a campaign for an "open Cape Town" and an "open Johannesburg", township leaders are already fighting the next battle against urban apartheid. They are demanding an end to the separation of Johannesburg from Soweto or Cape Town from the Cape Flats.

City residents are forcing the government to confront the gaping contradictions between its policy of free settlement areas and still-segregated schools, hospitals and swimming pools in these areas. Likewise, the Soweto People's Delegation and similar township "civics" are pointing out the degree to which Soweto citizens underwrite the coffers of the Johannesburg City Council through taxes on their labour and consumption in the central business district.

In doing so, they are building a tangible local pressure point for reunifying the finances and administration of city and township -- and ultimately non-racial local government.

"A city divided against itself cannot stand," says CBD Association chairman Nigel Mandy, quoting from his book *Johannesburg and Soweto - A City Divided*.

The cities should never have been separated in 1972, when Soweto passed from the control of the Johannesburg City Council and into the hands of the West Rand Administrative Board, thus beginning a long line of administration by local authorities with diminishing legitimacy.

The "one city" movement (to unite Soweto and Johannesburg), like its sister "open city" movement, hopes to undermine apartheid legislation by going ahead and building the non-racial city despite what the letter of the law states.

And just as the "open city" movement will accept nothing short of the abolition of the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Act, the "one city movement" will not stop until the Black Local Authorities Act goes and Johannesburg and Soweto are reunited on equal and not colonial terms.

Although far short of a solution, said Actstop's Cas Coovadia, "the free settlement areas have only come about because the inner cities have already been desegregated by the struggle of the people."

The struggle of the people in the township revolves around the Soweto rent boycott, which reached a climax several weeks ago when the Soweto City Council agreed to two demands of the Soweto People's Delegation: writing off the rent arrears and turning state-owned houses over to the people who live in them.

But the Soweto City Council may be powerless to keep its promises, and SPD members are now approaching officials in the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Regional Service Councils and, ultimately, the Johannesburg City Council, who have the power -- and the finances -- to meet its commitments.

In the 1988-89 year, for instance, the Johannesburg City Council collected R197-million in rates and R140-million from the sale of electricity, the majority of which came from business.

The combined municipal councils, of Soweto and Alexandra, on the other hand, lost R149-million in uncollected rents and service charges.

"It is unfair for people to say that Johannesburg subsidised Soweto," says Johannesburg Democratic Party leader Tony Leon. "On the other hand, Bedfordview residents spend income in the city but don't get anything out of revenue, either. The difference with Soweto is that it has been steadfastly prevented from development as a city."

The people in the inner cities are... The traditional apartheid... colour and class lines... BY ANDREW CLARK

Instead, Soweto City Council has had to rely on rents and "service charges" to cover the costs of electricity, sewerage, water, and infrastructure. In the 17 years which Soweto has been severed from Johannesburg, the "service charge" component has come to occupy an increasingly high percentage of the total rent bill -- often 10 times the rental component. Moreover, electricity and water usage are rarely metered properly, and up the point of the rent boycott in 1986, the "service charge" almost took the form of a direct tax for municipal government.

The so-called rent boycott is really a tax revolt, argues David Solomon of the Department of Business Economics at Wits University. "It's a political rejection of the structure and representatives of local government, spurred on by high taxes for poor services."

"For a local government to be viable, it must be able to raise money from its citizenry," Solomon adds. "But the citizens won't give it money if they think it will waste it -- which is exactly what the Soweto City Council has done."

In one example documented by the Planact report commissioned by the SPD, electricity costs are higher in Soweto than they are in Johannesburg. Although some of this is due to the fact that Johannesburg is a large and historic consumer of Eskom, it may be equally due to the poor rate of collection in Soweto, even prior to the rent boycott.

Hence Eskom's entrance into the direct negotiations with members of the SPD notes a dramatic shift for a state-controlled body. One of their proposals, the "smart card" for pre-purchasing electricity in the townships, has been met with skepticism. It is regarded as a means to cut the boycott short. But it holds out the promise of alternative means of providing services, without having to rely on a bankrupt municipal authority to provide electrification.

In fact, it heralds Eskom's willingness to take the demands of the delegation for upgraded services at reasonable costs seriously, and demonstrates how "privatisation" might help to meet them.

Segregation? Not even whites seem to care

MOST people interviewed in a recent Durban survey were positive about racial integration.

The survey, undertaken by Michael Sutchiffe, acting head of the Department of Town and Regional Planning at the University of Natal, Durban, involved questioning 500 people in the central business district on their attitudes to various integration issues.

The survey, sponsored by the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa (Idasa), revealed that white and African women were generally more conservative in their responses than white and African men, while younger whites indicated more conservative views than older whites.

Asked about their attitude to the integration of facilities, 78 percent of the African respondents approved, as did 87 percent of "coloured" and In-



Despite campaigns for open cities, 12 families were evicted from a building in Hillbrow this week. Picture: CEDRIC NUNN, Afrapix

Soweto protesters are showing how hollow the government's promise to privatise is, at least in the area where townships are concerned. Although the SPD demand that houses be turned over to the people who live in them, the government's "great sale" initiated five years ago has succeeded in selling less than a third of the houses in the township, many of them held under 30-year leasehold before they were outlawed in 1968.

Even though they were being offered at prices far below their market resale value (a R22 000 house was sold to its resident for R2 000), residents were unwilling to turn any money over to council officials who they feared would waste it. This

problem will affect any attempt to sell homes already occupied.

Rather than attempting to collect any money on properties that individuals feel they have paid for many times over in rent, turning the housing stock to the residents, as the SPD demands, will spur a revitalisation of township life by providing owners with the availability of mortgage funds long denied them.

In doing so, they would only be following their brothers in the inner city, who have have forced the city open through ignoring the Group Areas Act, defying the law governing hawkers and shebeens, and created non-racial schools and "street academies".

Among whites respondents the figure was 65 compared with 62 percent, for "coloured" and Indians it was 87 and 78 percent and among the African respondents 83 percent approved open schools while 77 percent wanted open residential areas.

Sutchiffe also discovered that the different races gave different reasons for approving integration.

While most Africans, who were positive about the idea, gave as their reason that it would improve race relations through allowing all races to get to know each other; most whites (and "coloureds" and Indians to a lesser extent) made another comment.

They said that a more "natural", "economic" integration would occur if the government "left things to the market".

Close to the scar that was District Six, calls to open Cape Town

By SAHM VENTER, Cape Town MORE than 1 000 Cape Town residents, most of them white, met this week to demand their city be open to all races.

In the 39 years since the promulgation of the Group Areas Act, thousands of blacks have been evicted from their homes. Now some of the city's white residents have decided they can "no longer live in tolerance of a system which offers privilege to one group and discrimination to another", according to Beverly Roos, media officer of the Open City Initiative.

The organisers of the campaign, the Cape Democrats, Nusas, Jews for Justice, the Black Bash and the Democratic Party, hosted the public meeting held at the city's civic centre which overlooks the scar that was once District Six.

The meeting was meant to be a debate -- but it turned into a panel discussion when two National Party MPs, Hennie Bekker of Jeppe and J Deport of Sunday's River, withdrew at the last minute.

"The authors of the legislation, in a sense the ultimate inspiration for the meeting, forbade certain of their MPs to come and address you, even in the context of a debate," said campaign chairman Glen Henck.

But NP city councillor and Sea Point butcher Chris Joubert was there. He insisted on the use of state channels for "incremental change". One of his customers announced his family would go without meat in June and would donate R1 000 to the "Open City Initiative" instead.

The demand that Cape Town be open to all races was best articulated by Franklin Sonn, rector of Peninsula Technikon, whose family has been forced to move twice. For him there was no debate.

"Group Areas must go," he said to applause. "When they imposed those laws on this country, there was no talk of 'incrementalism' or 'protection'. We were simply told 'Verkoop en waa!'"

"South Africa," he said, "can't pain fully debate a sinful and atrocious piece of legislation like the Group Areas Act and expect itself to be regarded as civilised."

"Our call for an open city is an affirmation of our demand for a non-racial democratic, equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment for all."

Campaign organisers assured critics that as many community organisations as possible had been consulted and had been "uniformly positive" towards the campaign.

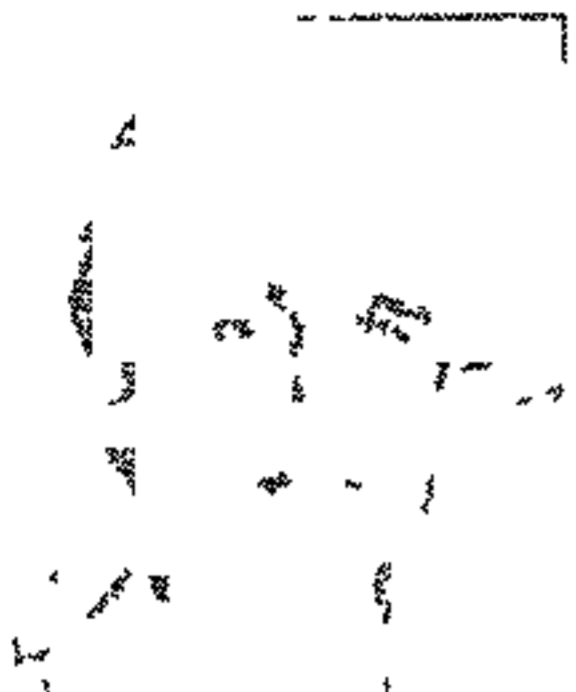
But, Sonn said, the issue was essentially a "white" one. "You must correct this. It is your responsibility. And we are watching," he told the audience. "We are encouraging this initiative. On you rests a heavy responsibility, a heavy obligation to be true to your undertaking and to show that you mean what you are saying."

The Open City Initiative, which has as its motto "Open hearts, open minds, open city", follows the Cape Town City Council's decision against applying for open area status through the government's structures. Its aim is to make Cape Town a symbol for a non racial South Africa.

"We don't believe in 'grey' areas. Because they are artificial and a result of racism we believe 'grey' areas will increase the misunderstanding and fear between South Africans. Exactly the opposite will happen in an open city," said a campaign statement.

Of groups and grouping

Enail
26/5/89.



Roelf Meyer, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development & Planning, recently refused to back a free settlement investigation in Pageview. Here he gives reasons for his decision.

As in the case of many other metropolitan areas in the country, the settlement pattern in certain areas of Johannesburg has over the past few years undergone a marked change.

It is true that a reasonable number of Indians have already settled in areas such as Mayfair. This phenomenon can be ascribed mainly to market forces and the preference that people have for certain residential areas due to social and financial considerations.

In certain high density residential areas the age of the buildings and consequently the affordability of residential units has contributed towards changing the group character. The favourable situation of these areas in respect of job opportunities in and around the city has also played an important role.

Though "Own" residential areas with an own community character is and will remain

government policy, there are those who, because of the diversity of the composition of the population, do not place a high premium on this and would like to associate freely.

The designation of free settlement areas is another very important step in the provision of land for the various communities.

In the identification of free settlement areas in Johannesburg consideration will have to be given to areas in the vicinity of the city centre where the respective settlement pattern has already been established.

A need also exists for free settlement areas in the high-quality residential areas. The opening of existing high-income residential areas to satisfy this need is a possibility.

In connection with the discussion of Pageview as a possible free settlement area the following facts are relevant. It was declared a white group area on May 24 1963. This residential area consists of 398 residential erven and three flat sites. The administration House of Assembly now owns 258 of these erven on which 79 new dwellings have been erected while 78 new homes have already been sold by the administration. The administration has therefore erected a total of 157 new dwellings that make provision for accommodation in the lower-income group.

On the three flat sites, 27 three-bedroomed flats have been erected and let. This is still the property of the administration. The Johannesburg City Council owns the remaining 62 residential erven in this area.

Against this there are only about 32 structures that are occupied by Indians in Pageview and these structures are in general dilapidated and in a particularly poor condition. I am not unsympathetic towards the Indian families in Pageview, but because of the above-mentioned reasons I could not see my way clear to supporting an investigation into Pageview as a free settlement area.

Mayfair is adjacent to Pageview and also part of the Johannesburg West constituency which I represent. There I took the initiative by asking for it to be investigated as a free settlement area. Mayfair could therefore become the first white residential area in the country to be declared a free settlement area. It consists of approximately 2 000 residential erven and the population composition in the area is, according to surveys, mainly Indian. I am convinced that the Indian families of Pageview can be accommodated in Mayfair in an appropriate and suitable manner as an alternative to the dilapidated structures in which some of them now live.

Vlakfontein cleared to become 'open' area

SKW 26/5/84
Staff Reporter

The farm Vlakfontein will not be included in a development area west of Soweto, in order to make it available as an "open" industrial area, Mr Roelf Meyer, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, said yesterday.

He said since the announcement that an area to the west of Soweto would be designated as a development area, representations had been received not to include

Vlakfontein — a potential industrial area. This was to ensure that the Vlakfontein area could be made available to all population groups.

"In view of the fact that it is Government policy to develop industrial areas for all population groups, the request has been granted," Mr Meyer said.

A notice defining the remaining area as development area will appear in the Government Gazette today.

Shop owner alleges council 'irregularity'

AN Arteridgeville man who was in rent arrears totalling about R8 000 had his shop closed down by the council which did not take similar action against four other shopowners, including a councillor, who also owed rent, it was alleged yesterday.

By MONK NKOMO

A commission of inquiry that his shop was "given to another man without my consent" after summonses were served on him by the council's lawyers. He added that the shop and goods, some of which were still on hire purchase were

sold by the lawyers despite an agreement he had with the council's attorney that he was prepared to make arrangements to pay the debt.

Moshidi said at the time legal action was taken against him, he was aware that four other shop owners were also in

rent arrears totalling a huge amount. The shopowners included the Reverend Enoch Sibanyoni, councillor and chairman of the management committee Mike Peta, manager of a hotel. A Mokgathane and Mir D Lebala, he said

Testifying before

advocate Wilhe Kriel, chairman of the inquiry, Moshidi said he also requested a recommendation from a council official, Noel Madiba, for a taxi licence but in vain. Madiba informed him that council recommendations to the Transportation Board had been stopped.

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Sandton awaits rates increase

(127) SANDTON residents should know what their increase in rates will be in about three week's time — after the council's budget meeting on June 19

Although the management committee has not released figures, there has been widespread speculation among residents about the expected size of the increase

Sandton councillor Mr Willem Hefer told Saturday Star in April that he had estimated the increase would be somewhere between 30 and 50 percent

Increased rates would be needed to cover a huge budget deficit, he said, which had arisen largely because of salary increases paid to municipal em-

JANET HEARD ^{SKW} 27/5/69

ployees before last year's municipal election and the car-loan scheme awarded to the city's officials

He said these were granted even though the city could not pay for them. It obtained the funds by depleting its accumulated reserve and borrowing the rest from the market

Mr Hefer believes that between R20 million and R30 million is now required to balance Sandton's books

Management committee chairman, Mr Peter Gardiner, confirmed earlier this month that there would be a rates increase

Land 'for Soweto' is withdrawn

PART of the 13 000 ha of land earmarked to be added to Soweto has been withdrawn at the request of the property owners, who do not want it to be made available to all population groups

PRETORIA BUREAU

the overall development plan, which allowed ownership by people from all population groups

See 2/1/51
This was disclosed yesterday by Mr Roelf Meyer, the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

"In view of the fact that it is Government policy to develop industrial areas for all population groups as far as possible, the request of the owners has been granted"

He said in a statement that representations had been received from the owners of Brink's Vlakfontein area (Farm Vlakfontein 238 IQ) not to include the proposed industrial area in

In addition to the land already made available, other areas have also been included. The land now stretches from Gembokfontein Compartment, near Westonaria, to Azaadville, bordering on Kagiso

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Do not use our money, residents tell CP

By Kaiser Nyatumba
Carletonville ratepayers resolved at a meeting last night that the Conservative Party controlled town council should be barred from using their money to defend the court action brought against it by local businessmen.
In a petition to be sent to the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, the ratepayers said they strongly objected to the town council's decision to reserve certain parks in Carletonville for the sole use of whites only, and said they did not want the council to use their money to defend court action against it.

We urgently request you as the responsible Minister to take the necessary steps to investigate the matter and ensure that appropriate action is taken by way of legislation or otherwise in order to resolve the problems facing our community, the ratepayers said in the petition. They further noted that the town council's action would inevitably lead to the destruction of the economic infrastructure, economic decay, increased taxes, a decline in property values, the withdrawal of investments from Carletonville, a decline in business confidence, economic stagnation and unnecessary unemployment to the detriment of all inhabitants of Carletonville.

LAI D OFF

Already 379 people in the town have been laid off since the consumer boycott began 10 weeks ago, according to a survey conducted last week.
It is important to note that building projects to the value of R20 million have already been cancelled as a consequence of the town council's actions, said the ratepayers.

They also resolved to request the Carletonville Town Clerk to invoke the applicable provisions of the Local Government Ordinance with a view to a possible investigation with regard to maladministration.

Several Conservative Party supporters present at last night's meeting tried to disrupt the proceedings by constant interruptions and interjections, and some left the meeting before it ended. Mrs Annetjie Claassen, president of the Carletonville Chamber of Commerce, told The Star.

Approached for comment last night, Carletonville management committee chairman, Mr Koos Nel said, "If they don't want us to use their money, then we are not going to use their money because we are going to win the case."

B/Dwy 29/5/84 (127)

Row over council's R2m rent

EDYTH BULBRING

THE Johannesburg City Council is paying more than R2m a year in rent to the Johannesburg Municipal Pension Fund (JMPF) for a below standard building to house the council's licensing department, DP councillor Clive Gilbert said yesterday.

Gilbert will ask questions in the council meeting tomorrow night relating to the renewal of the lease of the JMPF building in Loveday street.

Gilbert said that, according to his information, the council paid more than R14/m² at the time of entering the five-year lease in 1984.

The rental amounted to R105 000 a month for the 7 118m² during the first year of having the lease, Gilbert said.

Rent increases varied between 8% and 12% each year. On calculating the increase on an average 10%, Gilbert said the council was paying the JMPF R169 000 a month

now. This amounted to more than R2m a year.

Gilbert said he was concerned that the council was paying exorbitant amounts of money for renting "possibly C-grade property".

In Old Mutual's quarterly report, regional property manager, Witwatersrand, Ian Watt says that over the last six months rentals for prime space in Johannesburg's CBD have moved from R20,70/m² to R23,60 gross.

According to Gilbert's calculations, the council is paying R23,79/m² for property which is not considered "A grade".

In April, the management committee authorised the city secretary to negotiate the renewal of the existing lease for a further five years.

Gilbert said he wanted to know the

terms of the new lease if the negotiations had been completed.

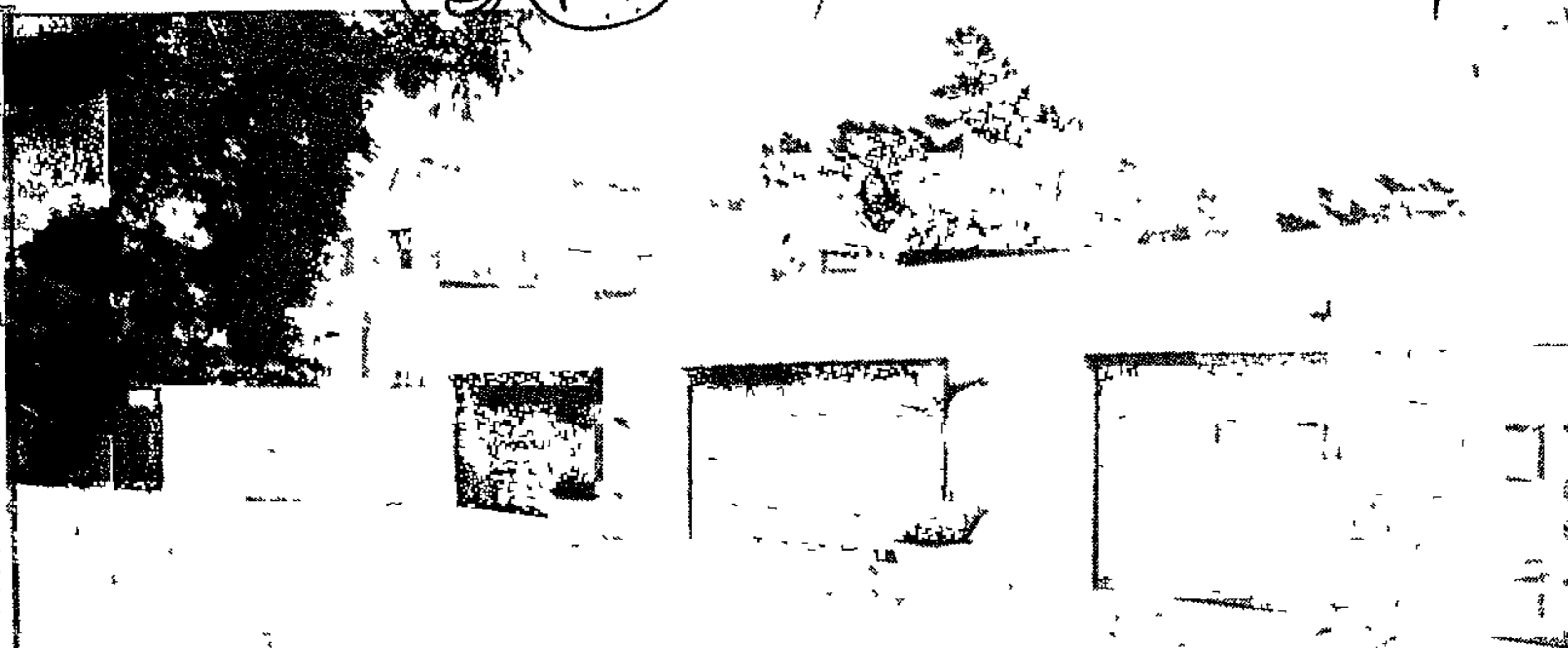
He also wanted to know if the city council was liable for any other expenses on top of rent, for instance cleaning, operating costs and maintenance. He doubted the council had investigated the availability of other properties either to rent or to buy.

"The amount of money spent on rent could have bought an entire building," Gilbert said. Decisions to renew the lease were taken by the management committee without full council participation.

"What it boils down to is that the rate-payers of Johannesburg do not have a say in how the money is being spent."

Management committee chairman Jan Burger said yesterday he considered the rent reasonable.

"It would cost a fortune to buy or build a building equal to the one we are renting," he said.



Town Clerk Manie Venter's Houghton residence which includes a triple garage for entertaining council guests, a swimming pool, tennis court and 24-hour security guard

Picture ROBERT BOTHA

Ratepayers to pay for renovations

JOHANNESBURG ratepayers will foot the bill for renovations to Town Clerk Manie Venter's palatial Houghton home, which is owned by the council

Plans for the changes were drawn up by Venter's son Deon and not approved by the town planning department, DP councillor Carl Stein said yesterday

Stein will ask questions about Venter's home at the council meeting tonight

Stein said the property had a swimming pool, tennis court, servants' quarters; three double garages adapted for entertainment purposes and two other garages

Venter's move into the house three years ago was not made public or discussed in council "for security reasons"

The house — believed to have cost in the region of R300 000 — was extensively renovated at the council's expense before the Venter family moved in. The cost was never disclosed, also for "security reasons"

Stein believes the double-storey house is now worth about R1m

Venter is supplied with a municipal guard who patrols the grounds 24 hours a day — at ratepayers' expense

EDYTH BULBRING

He also has a gardening service, by courtesy of the parks and recreation department

Recent renovations have included a carport and guard-house

Deon Venter said yesterday he had designed the carport and guard-house

He is a final-year architecture student at Wits Technikon and works for the council's architecture department

No plans

He said he had designed the carport and guard-house as a formal project which was part of his work

Stein said he did not know whether the renovations contravened the Lower Houghton density policy and building by-laws as there were no site development plans on record in the town planning department

He was told by a town planning official that the plans for the new building did not have to be approved because the construction was on council property

"I was told the council did not have to pass their own plans. Are they a law unto themselves?"

Stein said Venter entertained lavishly in the triple garage which was fitted with a bar and bathroom

Management committee chairman Jan Burger said yesterday he believed Venter paid about 6% of his salary in rent for the house

Venter earned about R100 000

Burger said Venter's home was used extensively for council business like entertaining important guests. The normal procedures regarding approval of plans was followed as certain alterations could not be made without the town planning department's approval

Venter said he could not disclose how much was paid for the house

A site development plan was not required for the property as it contained only one dwelling. As far as he knew the renovation plans were submitted to the town planning department

"I only stay here, the approval of the plans is the work of other officials"

Venter confirmed the council paid for the maintenance of the property, the 24-hour guard, the gardening service and renovation costs. The cost of the renovations was part of secret council minutes which Stein would have access to

Ratepayers protes⁽¹²⁷⁾
against development

Star 20/5/89
Angry ratepayers protested at a meeting at the Risdale Primary School last night against a proposed office block development in the Darrenwood Dam and koppie area

The residents complained that it would create traffic problems. It was agreed the development would be planned with the participation of residents.

Perm joins in bond rate increase

Finance Staff

Major financial institutions, with the exception of Standard Bank, Volkskas and Nedbank, have now announced increases to their bond rates

The Perm this morning said it would be raising its bond rate by one percentage point to 19,75 percent with immediate effect on new bonds and from July 1 on existing bonds

The rates of the United and the Natal Building Societies were increased to the same levels yesterday, while the Allied Building Society on Friday decided to push up its rate by 1,25 percent to 20 percent on its traditional bond, in line with the rates by First National, Trust Bank and Santambank

CATASTROPHIC

A Standard Bank spokesman said an announcement would be made today. However, Mr Nico Czypionka, economist at the Standard Bank, said he did not think the latest bond rate increase would have the same "catastrophic effects" as the interest rates rise during 1985/86

United, SA's largest home mortgage financier, said that despite the latest mortgage rates increase, house prices will on average rise by 10 percent this year

● See Page 9.

Ultimatum to council

THE Wattville town council have been given an ultimatum to respond to residents' grievances by noon today, failing which no further communications will be held with the council in

By ALI MPHAKI

future, a report-back meeting of residents resolved at the weekend

The residents had invited the council to

shed light on the recent tariff increases in the township but the council failed to attend, without forwarding an apology.

Residents are represented by the Wattville Concerned Residents Committee, which has submitted a petition to the council about the tariff hikes. The petition was signed by 3 300 residents

Secret travels for CP leader

CAPE TOWN — Arrangements for Conservative Party leader Dr Andries Treurnicht's visit to Europe and Britain this week are being shrouded in secrecy for fear of political demonstrations

The party has disclosed only the barest details about the trip, which is likely to take in London, Paris and Zurich

Dr Treurnicht has confirmed he will not be seeing British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher or any other high-profile leader

Conservative MP Mr Clive Derby-Lewis said Dr Treurnicht, accompanied by several MPs, would leave on Thursday and would hold a news conference in Pretoria on June 12 after he returned — Sapa

Rates, tariffs to go up in Meyerton

Vereeniging Bureau

The Meyerton Town Council has approved hikes in assessment rates as well as sewage and electricity tariffs that will cost the average household about R11,38 more a month.

Water tariffs will remain unchanged.

Announcing a budget of just over R27 million for the 1989/90 financial year, management committee chairman Mr Danie Maclean said the council was budgeting for a shortage of R316 796 in the coming year.

He said assessment rates were being increased by 11,67 percent for homeowners. Rates for businesses and industries would rise by 14,29 percent.

The hikes in basic and additional sewage costs will result in residents paying R2,70 more a month.

Although the basic electricity tariff is to remain unchanged, an increase of 3,03 percent (or R2,63) per 1 000 units of electricity has been approved.

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Star 1/6/89

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Mr Mohammed Darsot outside his Pageview home in which he has lived for the past 30 years.

Still no decision on Pageview Indians

By Melame Gosling

Pageview's 67 Indian families, who hoped to hear this week whether the Johannesburg City Council had backed their application to have the suburb declared a free settlement area, still do not know what their future is

The secretary of the Save Pageview Association (SPA), Mr Ebrahim Kharsany, said yesterday he was disappointed that the council's management committee had not announced its decision at the council meeting on Tuesday night as was expected

Residents, who have had the Group Areas Act hanging over their heads for decades, are close to despair

Mr Mohammed Darsot, who has lived in his Pageview home for over 30 years, told The Star yesterday it was "terrible" living under the threat of removals and said that it was "high time" the council made its decision clear

Mr Feeraz Bulbulia said it was difficult living with uncertainty

"My house is old now and needs to be repaired but it's no use doing it today and then

being told the get out next month," Mr Bulbulia said

Mass evictions of Indians from Pageview started in 1963 when the area was declared white

This year Mr Roelf Meyer, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning rejected an application by the SPA for Pageview to be declared a free settlement area

In April the SPA resorted to their final option by applying to Johannesburg City Council to back their application to the Free Settlement Board

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Govt's programme a 'flop'

Star 1/6/89

Not a single freehold house sold in Soweto

By Peter Fabricius,
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Not a single house was sold under freehold title in Soweto, Dobsonville or Diepmeadow last year, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, has disclosed.

He was replying to questions by the Democratic Party in Parliament

Mr Peter Soal, DP spokesman on black administration, said that the figures showed the Government's programme of selling housing was "another failure".

"This is a result of hopelessly inadequate planning. The Government lifted influx control and the pass laws before adequate land was available.

Insecurity

"People flooded into the south of Johannesburg at places like Wheeler's Farm and the Government introduced anti-squatting measures to try to get rid of them.

"Instead, they should have had a properly organised campaign of advertising houses from the start.

"The ad hoc organisation coupled with the uncertainty and insecurity in the townships, and perhaps the current economic crisis,

have all turned the house-selling campaign into a huge flop"

Mr Heunis's reply did reveal, however, that some houses had been sold on 99-year leases last year

In Soweto, 1 489 applications for 99 year leases had been granted, in Dobsonville 490 and in Diepmeadow 988

In another reply, Mr Heunis revealed that Government funding to the nine major South African local authorities for black housing development, from the National Housing Fund, had dropped 31,4 percent over the past two financial years.

During the 1987/88 financial year, R75,6 million was allocated by the fund for the provision of infrastructure and material loans for black housing

In the 1988/89 year, this dropped to R51,9 million.

Mr Heunis said the Government had built no houses for blacks in Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Maritzburg, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth and Kimberley

"The State does not build homes in black local authority areas

"Funds, however, are made available to black local authorities via the National Housing Fund as loans."

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● Picture:

Gang of 2 000 on rampage through streets

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA
and Weekly Mail Reporter

RESIDENTS of Tembisa say police stood and watched on Wednesday afternoon as an armed gang of about 2 000 hostel dwellers raided houses, attacking families and destroying furniture and other belongings

The fighting has left several people injured and four in hospital. Eyewitnesses could not confirm earlier reports of three deaths resulting from the battle.

Over 200 families of the Vusumuzi section (also known as Nicaragua) spent Wednesday night in the cold as fighting continued between families and the migrant labourers whose accommodation they share.

The clashes were the first in a continuing housing crisis in this East Rand township which has seen residents move into four-roomed hostels along with the migrant labourers officially housed there.

Distraught residents told of tensions building over the last three weeks between hostel dwellers and residents over the issue.

A resident told the *Weekly Mail* of growing tensions in the area following the deaths of three people after the migrants fought amongst themselves over girlfriends.

"We complained to them about the fighting and killings but nothing happened.

"We decided to take steps to stop this by going from house to house on Monday and Tuesday asking several women who were not resident in Nicaragua to leave," he said.

Another resident said the hostel dwellers held a meeting on Wednesday where they decided to evict the residents.

"We decided to send a delegation to discuss the problem with the dwellers' representatives. But the next I heard was gunshot and people screaming. We had to flee for our lives," he said.

"We regrouped later at a nearby garage and watched. I saw my furniture, my clothes, everything going up in flames," he said, despairingly.

Another resident said "Police came later and told us that they were instructed not to intervene. In fact, they told us that their captain had said they should help the hostel dwellers remove our property since we were occupying the houses illegally."

It was still tense in "Nicaragua" yesterday. Terrified residents gathered at a garage just outside the area while vanloads of members of the South African Defence Force and municipal police moved in and out of the township.

As we moved into the area we saw abandoned mattresses and clothing scattered next to Zonki dry cleaners. Deep inside the township, destitute men and women were trying to collect the remnants of their belongings.

When approached for comment, East Rand police spokesman Willie Meyer referred us to the Police Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria. But according to Captain R Bloomberg in Pretoria no report of the incident had yet been received.

The contents of this newspaper
have been restricted in terms of the
Emergency regulations

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OUT IN THE COLD

Crackdown on rent defaulters

AT least nine families were left out in the cold after a crackdown on rent defaulters by the Daveyton Town Council this week.

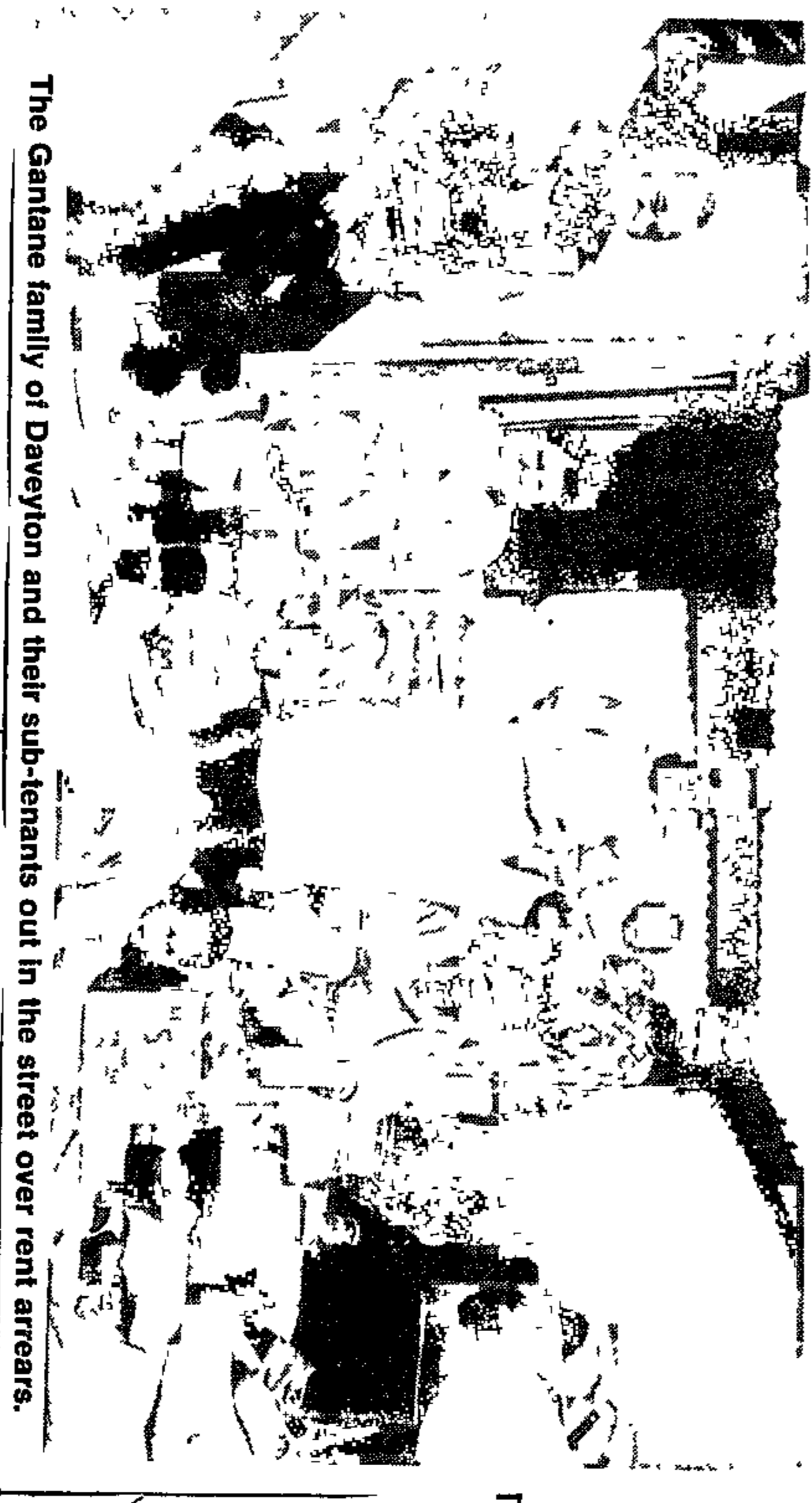
The evictions were carried out by municipal police following a court order granted to the council in August last year to eject residents in rent arrears.

The evictions have also started rows between houseowners and their backyard shack tenants who were also evicted.

Some backyard tenants moved their belongings back into their shacks. They said they had paid their rent in full to their landlords. They are charged at least R30 a month depending on the size of their shacks.

The Gantane family who were the first to be evicted, said they were surprised when they were told they were R2 000 in arrears.

"We are still shocked to find ourselves out in the streets because my father has been paying by a stop order from his employer since last July," Mr Velle Gantane, said.



The Gantane family of Daveyton and their sub-tenants out in the street over rent arrears.

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

The mayor of Daveyton, Mr Shadrack Sinaba, said he could not comment before he got the feedback from the department concerned with evictions.

Action groups plan an 'inner-city encounter'

By Sally Sealey

Anti-apartheid action groups start their campaign for the desegregation of Johannesburg with an "inner-city encounter" planned for June 22, 23 and 24

Organisations involved include Actstop, Five Freedoms Forum (FFF), Black Sash, the Johannesburg Youth Congress (Joyco), and other community, church and political groups.

The "inner-city encounter" will entail inviting primarily white people from outside the inner city areas to spend two nights with families in flats situated in Hillbrow, Joubert Park and the city centre.

INVITATIONS

Mr Cas Coovadia of Actstop said the organisers of this phase of the campaign Actstop and FFF, are approaching a range of prominent and influential individuals in the political, religious, education, health and community spheres.

Letters from Actstop, on be-

half of tenants, have been sent out to people inviting them to participate in the encounter.

Objects of this phase of the campaign were

- To expose the poor conditions of buildings and exploitative attitudes of some landlords
- To encourage and foster inter-racial harmony.
- To re-emphasise the inhumanity of the Group Areas Act.

Mr Coovadia said they were still waiting for confirmation from people who have been invited. However, Mr Tony Leon and Mr Cliff Garrun of the Democratic Party have already confirmed their participation as has Sister Nadine, Mr Mike Sejali and Molvi Suleman of from the World Council of Peace and Religion.

Others who have been invited are Mr Harvey Tyson, editor of The Star, Mr Ronnie Bethlehem of Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI) and Mr Christo Nel of the Consultative Business Movement.

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Five injured in Tembisa hostel fight

Star 2/6/89
By Abel Mabelane,
East Rand Bureau

At least five people were injured, one seriously, when fighting broke out at the Vusumuzi hostel in Tembisa between hostel residents and families occupying some of the hostel houses.

The incident took place on Wednesday and by yesterday families who had been forcibly evicted stood shivering in the cold with nowhere to go.

A member of the Vusumuzi Hostel Committee who refused to be identified said three men and two women were injured in the incident. One of the men was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Some of the evicted people said they were forced to run for their lives when they were shot at and attacked with iron bars and pangas by a group of hostel men.

HOUSES BURNT

Two houses in which some of the families lived were burnt, and the belongings of others allegedly destroyed or looted.

The town clerk of Tembisa, Mr P L Harmse, denied rumours that three people were shot dead at the Vusumuzi Hostel.

He said the fighting was sparked by some local residents, who forcibly evicted the inmates from their houses.

"The hostel people are getting fed up with being evicted from their houses and have, in turn, decided to kick out any of the illegal residents found in the hostel premises," Mr Harmse said.

He said some of the people from the Ethaseni hostel who had earlier been evicted from the four-room houses they had occupied had joined in the Vusumuzi fighting in an attempt to secure accommodation for themselves.

Housing policy needs negotiation

By JOE LATAKOMO
The Government's black urbanisation policy is being hampered by political constraints, and to implement it successfully the Government may be obliged to negotiate with the community.

Current Government housing and land policies cannot remove the tensions they are designed to address because some of the major constraints to Government housing goals are political rather than technical. The Government cannot achieve its housing goals unilaterally but may have to pursue them in negotiation with communities.

This is the finding in a book, "Politics on the Home Front" by Paul Hendler, released recently by the South African Institute of Race Relations.

Hendler says there is a growing realisation in official circles that housing policies require revision and that pressures for adaptation will grow.

"In theory, more effective land use and subsidy policies might achieve Government housing goals without creating a need for negotiation. But the freeing of land on the scale required would hold risks for the Government — in the form of heightened white resistance — which it may be unwilling to accept."

The goals of the Government's urbanisation policy are economic growth, job creation and social stability. Planners and social stability potential believe that conflict potential can be reduced by home ownership and the encouragement of local industries in the black townships.

This policy, however, is as much shaped by social pressures as by the intentions of the policy-makers, Hendler says. Government urban housing

policy had previously been based on the assumption that blacks were temporarily in these areas, and legislation like the Housing Act (No 35) of 1920, for instance, which established the first housing board, was rarely used to fund black housing, but instead used to combat the "poor white" problem. It was only used for State intervention in black housing after 1948.

However, expenditure on black housing from State funds rose only from R2,76 million in 1949 to R6,48 million in 1957. Declined.

From 1958, when an estimated R2,27 million was spent on housing in Soweto, an average of 4 545 houses were built a year up to 1965, but from 1967, when houses to the value of R14,369 million were built, the value of housing provision declined to a low of R2,695 million in 1976-77.

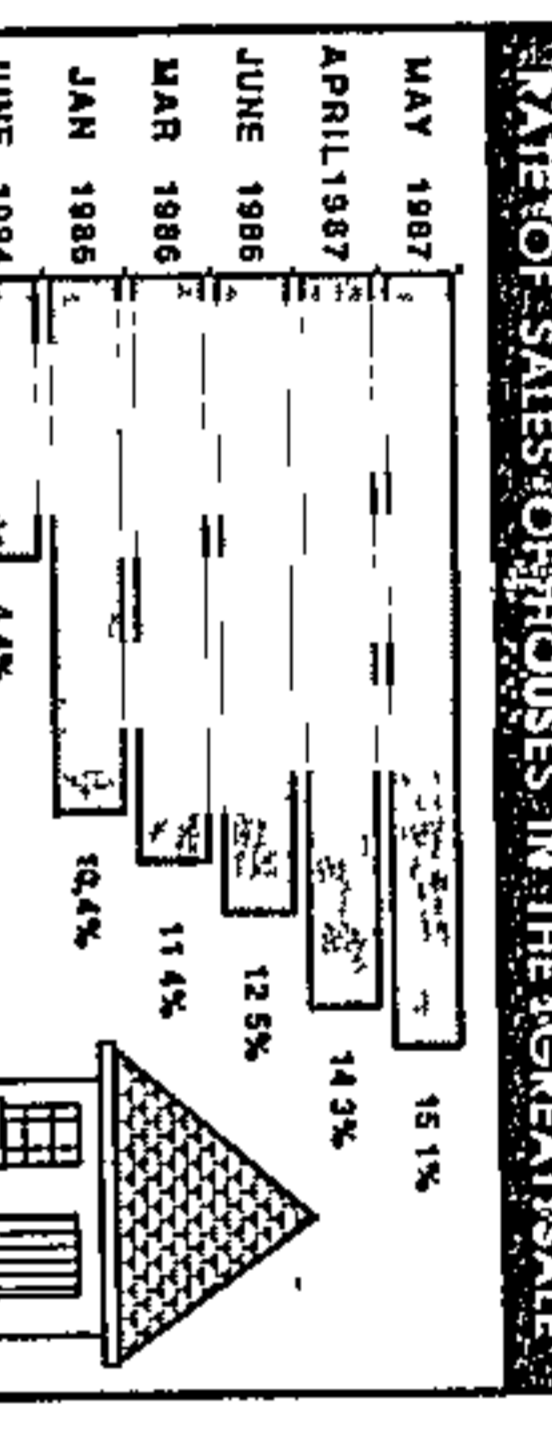
This decline reflects the Government's attempts to limit the number of blacks in the urban areas through insisting that the townships should be self-sufficient. The administration boards then took over the townships, and some townships which had enjoyed subsidies from municipalities, lost these subsidies as the boards did not get a State subsidy. The monopoly on sorghum beer provided some revenue for the boards, but they used this revenue to fund housing in the homelands while strictly controlling access to housing in urban townships. The limited State funds were used to finance migrant worker hostels — resulting in deteriorating conditions in the townships.

These — and other social and political factors — led to the unrest in 1976. The Government's response was to provide more security of tenure in various almost tentative steps. However, the upgrading programmes were still to be paid for by the residents of the townships, and this led to tensions between the residents and the local authorities introduced by the Government.

The Government was unwilling to build urban houses itself, and has sought to encourage home ownership while relieving pressure on State funds by deregulating and privatising housing delivery.

But the Government's land use policy still remained a major constraint on housing delivery. The Government's 1986 "orderly urbanisation strategy" abandoned most of the formal controls on black labour mobility, but still attempted to channel labour consistently with its earlier policies — namely away from the major cities to prescribed deconcentration points.

Despite its stress on deconcentration, however, the Government has been prepared to release some land in metropolitan areas — but not enough to contribute to growth, says Hendler.

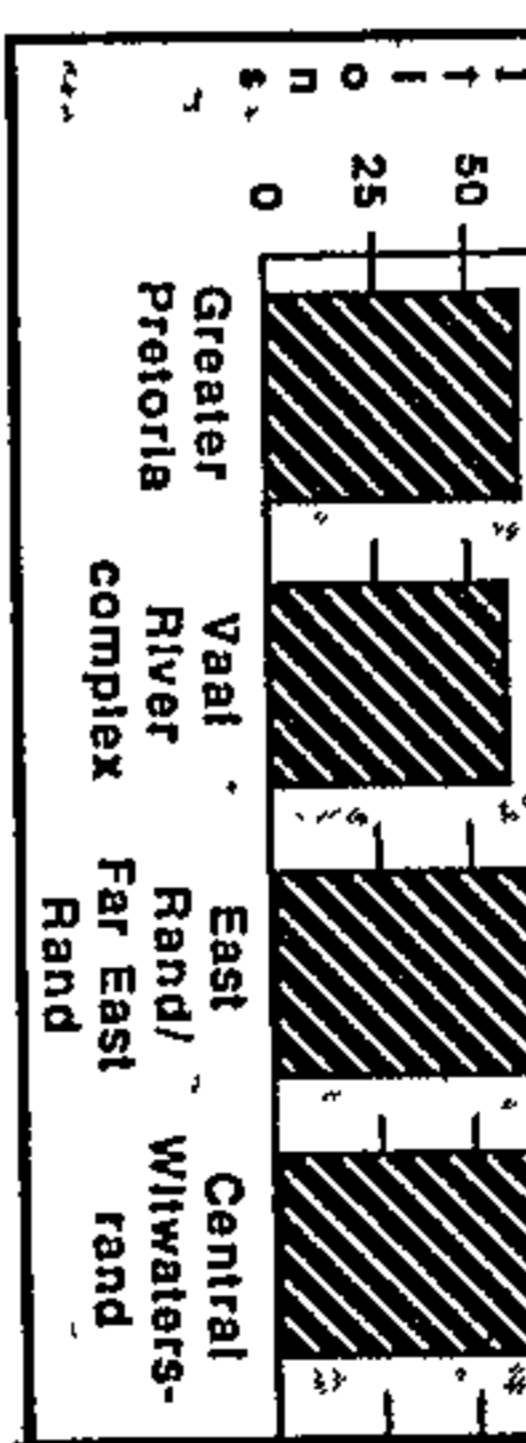


The new strategy faces major obstacles, including the private market has had little impact on housing short-

age because most township dwellers cannot afford loan finance. For privatisation to work, State subsidies would have to be vastly increased. But it is precisely the Government's inability or unwillingness to finance housing on this scale that has prompted its stress on privatisation," Hendler writes. However, private developers' imperative to recover costs and make a profit would price land out of the reach of many of those whose need for housing is greatest.

Privatisation has therefore created possibilities for increased land allocation and housing negotiation, but development is still constrained by land policies which restrict growth — the authorities remain the final arbiters of where land is made available

and could be a source for conflict.



Black entrepreneurs — a key factor in the "inward industrialisation" strategy do not have sufficient capital to enable them to compete with established white developers.

Self-help schemes backed by low interest loans are hampered by affordability problems.

Affordability — This constraint has ensured that all but a handful of residents require subsidies.

Security measures alone might offer it a temporary solution, but it has a very real interest in negotiations with community groups as a complementary tactic for maintaining social stability.

R10-m plans for new suburb

Vereeniging Bureau (127)
Government Village, Vereeniging's suburb for its less well-off residents, is to be relocated at a cost of about R10 million.

Star 2/6/87
Plans for the new residential area, to be known as Leeuhof Extension 1, include 153 housing

units, a community hall, spacious parks and a shopping area.

Although no date for commencement on the development has been set, the Vereeniging Town Council recently decided application should be made for a loan to finance the construction of the new township

Hostel impi attacks Tembisa families

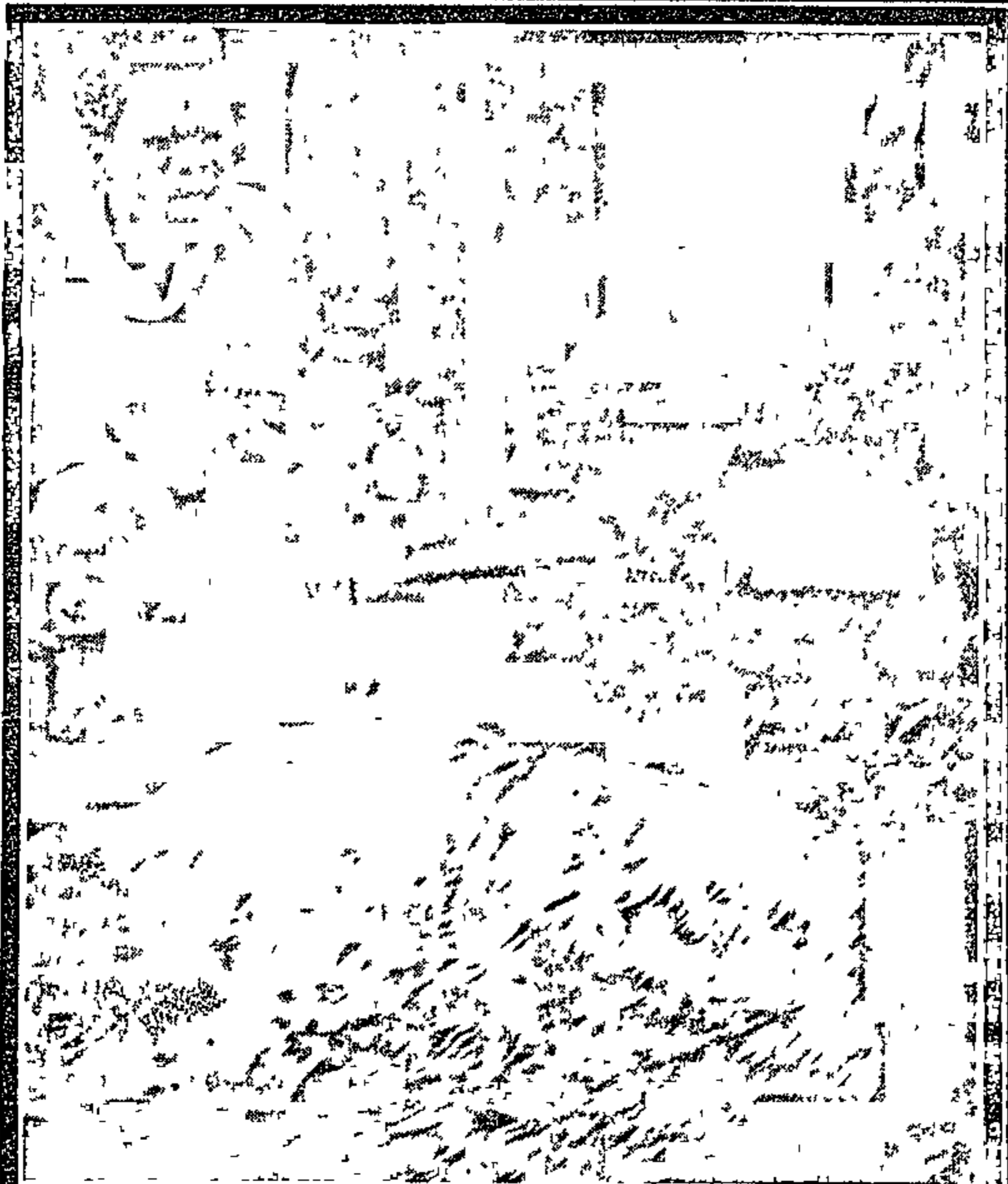
2000 FLEED HOMES

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REPORTS, pictures and comments in this section may be censored in terms of the Government's state emergency



By ALI MPHAKI
MORE than 200 families fled from their homes in Tembisa on Wednesday night when hostel dwellers attacked their homes.

They burnt their belongings leaving a trail of destruction behind

The families live in houses near the Vusumuzi hostel which were occupied by employees of a private company until late last year

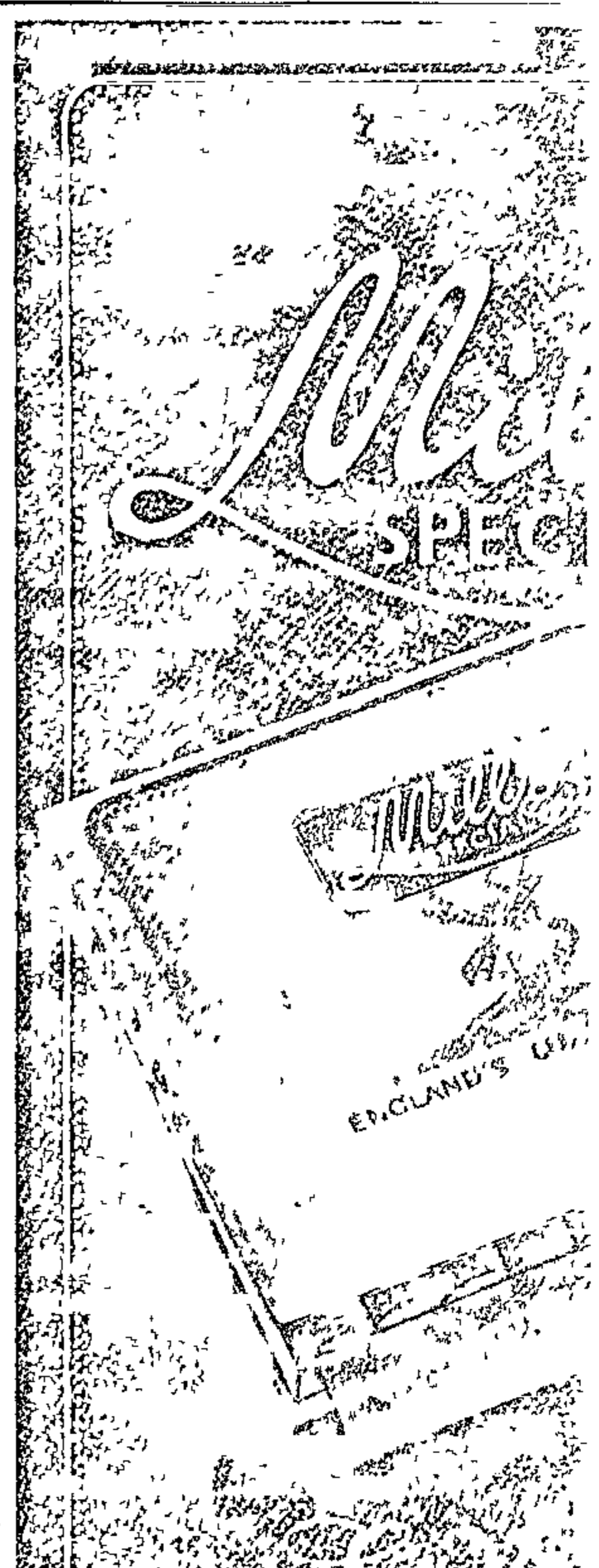
Moved

The families moved into the houses in February this year following a council resolution

The attack was sparked off by claims from the hostel dwellers that they are entitled to stay in the houses and residents should be evicted

The men from the Vusumuzi hostel, numbering close to 1000, swooped on the unsuspecting residents about 3pm on Wednesday, looting, breaking and burning furniture in their wake

• To Page 2



Minibus tragedy

A LITTLE boy clutches at a handbag, presumably his mother's, who is lying dead on the ground, and gives way to tears. This was after the woman and two others, both men, were killed when two minibus taxis and a van were involved in an accident near New Canada station yesterday evening.
Pic HARRY THATEDI

P.T.O

200 (127)

flee

homes

Sowetan 2/6/89

• From Page 1

A resident said he was missed by three bullets and had to run for dear life with the men hot on his heels

Over the months there has been growing tension between residents and the hostel inmates, resulting in a meeting of the hostel inmates on Tuesday where a decision was taken to evict the families.

By late yesterday most of the residents had gathered outside a nearby filling station with their belongings, apparently in fear that another attack was imminent. Some of the women residents were carrying their babies on their backs.

A resident, who asked not to be named, said police visited the scene about 4pm and again at about 7pm on Wednesday, but left after talking to the group of hostel men.

When contacted about the incident, the East Rand police spokesman, Lieutenant Willie Meyer, said he knew nothing of the incident.

SADF personnel patrolled the area yesterday and Sowetan reporters were ordered to leave the township.

There was an uneasy atmosphere in the township by late yesterday afternoon.

Families evicted in township war

CAPE TOWN 2/6/87 (127)

JOHANNESBURG - More than 200 families were evicted from Tembisa council-owned houses and their belongings burnt on Wednesday night by a group of unmarried men, a resident of the township said yesterday.

The resident, who asked not to be named, said that at least four people had been seriously injured in "the war", which started at 3pm on Wednesday.

He said the group of single men, led by the Vuzimuzi hostel's Zulu faction, held a meeting on Tuesday when they agreed to evict the families at 3pm on Wednesday.

The group apparently gave the families notice of their plans.

Furniture, clothing and other belongings were thrown into the street and burnt, the resident said. Only single men occupying the four-roomed houses were not harmed and their possessions left intact.

He said police visited the scene about 4pm and again about 7pm but left after talking to the group of single men. "They refused to intervene," the resident said.

The looting and burning continued after the police left, he said.

When contacted yesterday morning, East Rand police spokesman Lt Willie Meyer said he knew nothing of the incident.

He said police returned yesterday morning to the scene where the mood was "tense and uneasy" — Sapa

Gantane family back at home

Sowetan (127)
5/10/87

THE Gantane family of Daveyton yesterday re-occupied their house with permission of ward councillor and former mayor Mr Tom Boya.

The family, evicted from their home for rent defaulting, pleaded with Boya, also president of the United Municipal-

By PHANGISILE
MTSHALI

ities of South Africa (Umsa), to intervene on their behalf yesterday during winter rain

Boya said the Gantane family was evicted together with another

family in his ward. Both evicted families had lodgers in their backyards who were also evicted five days ago.

Boya told the *Sowetan* that "it was inhuman to leave people on the streets without shelter during winter, especially when it is raining"

Star 5/16/89

The Star M

Mid-winter evictions in townships

Removals calculated for cruelty SACC

By Junior Motsei

The crackdown on rent defaulters at Daveyton and the demolition of shacks at Protea South in Soweto last week was calculated to achieve maximum cruelty and hardship, according to the South African Council of Churches (SACC).

At least nine families were left out in the cold by the Daveyton Town Council when evictions were carried out by municipal police. This followed a court order to the council in August last year to eject residents in rent arrears.

And 36 shacks were pulled down at Protea South by the Soweto City Council employees, accompanied by armed municipal police. The decision to demolish those shacks followed a resolution passed at the council's executive committee meeting last Monday.

Ms Brigalia Bam, deputy general secretary of the SACC, said

"The demolition of shacks and the evictions happened during the coldest nights of winter. This is the height of mercilessness. We continue to oppose all forms of forced removal. This is unspeakable inhumanity."

Ms Bam appealed for Government intervention. "We call upon the Government to exercise Christian charity and to ensure that these people are not left destitute and without shelter. In the name of God, we implore for the stoppage of forced removals," she said.

'Real savagery'

Community leader Dr Nthato Motlana, who had just arrived in the country from New York, also appealed to the Government to step in. "May the Government do something about this barbaric act," he said. "How can people be harassed like this in the middle of winter. This is real savagery. Sufficient land should be provided for people."

It was reported in a daily morning newspaper that evictions in Daveyton have started rows between house-owners and their backyard shack tenants who were evicted.

The mayor of Daveyton, Mr Shadrack Sinaba, refused to comment, saying he had to get the feedback from the department concerned with evictions.

At Protea South, the people claimed they had been given permission by the Sofasonke Party Councillor, Mr Zakhele Twala, to erect shacks there.

Mr Jabu Mguni, the deputy chairman of Soweto City Council, said Mr Twala would be called before the disciplinary committee of the council to explain why he gave people permission to erect the shacks.

Families have been sleeping in the open since the demolition of shacks and they said they had nowhere to go. They said they were surprised at the demolitions because they had paid Mr Twala the money he asked for.

Housings need is 'critical'

ALEXANDRA Action Committee representatives, including prominent activist, Moses Mayekiso, will meet Alexandra mayor, Mrs Agnes Poo, this week to discuss grievances relating to housing problems in the Johannesburg township.

At the launch of the "affordable housing for all campaign" in Johannesburg yesterday, Mr Mayekiso said a petition would be circulated among Alexandra residents this week. A mass meeting was planned for early July.

Mr Mayekiso, who was recently released from detention, said township structures were being "revived" in Alexandra.

"We have found there are a lot of problems in Alexandra. The housing situation has reached crisis proportions," Mr Mayekiso said.

While it was difficult to obtain accurate figures, the AAC had been informed about 1 000 shacks were being erected in Alexandra each month, Mr Mayekiso and AAC publicity secretary Obed Bapela told a Press conference.

Alexandra's total population was estimated at about 200 000 in 1986, they said.

Issues the AAC oppose include shack demolition, the removal of shack dwellers to Orange Farm and high cost housing.

Mr Mayekiso and Mr Bapela said 30 families had moved to Orange Farm (near Vereeniging) from Alexandra. They were living in shacks on unserviced stands. When AAC representatives spoke to them, they claimed they had been moved to the area after

signing papers they did not understand.

The AAC had already consulted the Legal Resources Centre and planned to set up a law clinic for Alexandra residents, they said.

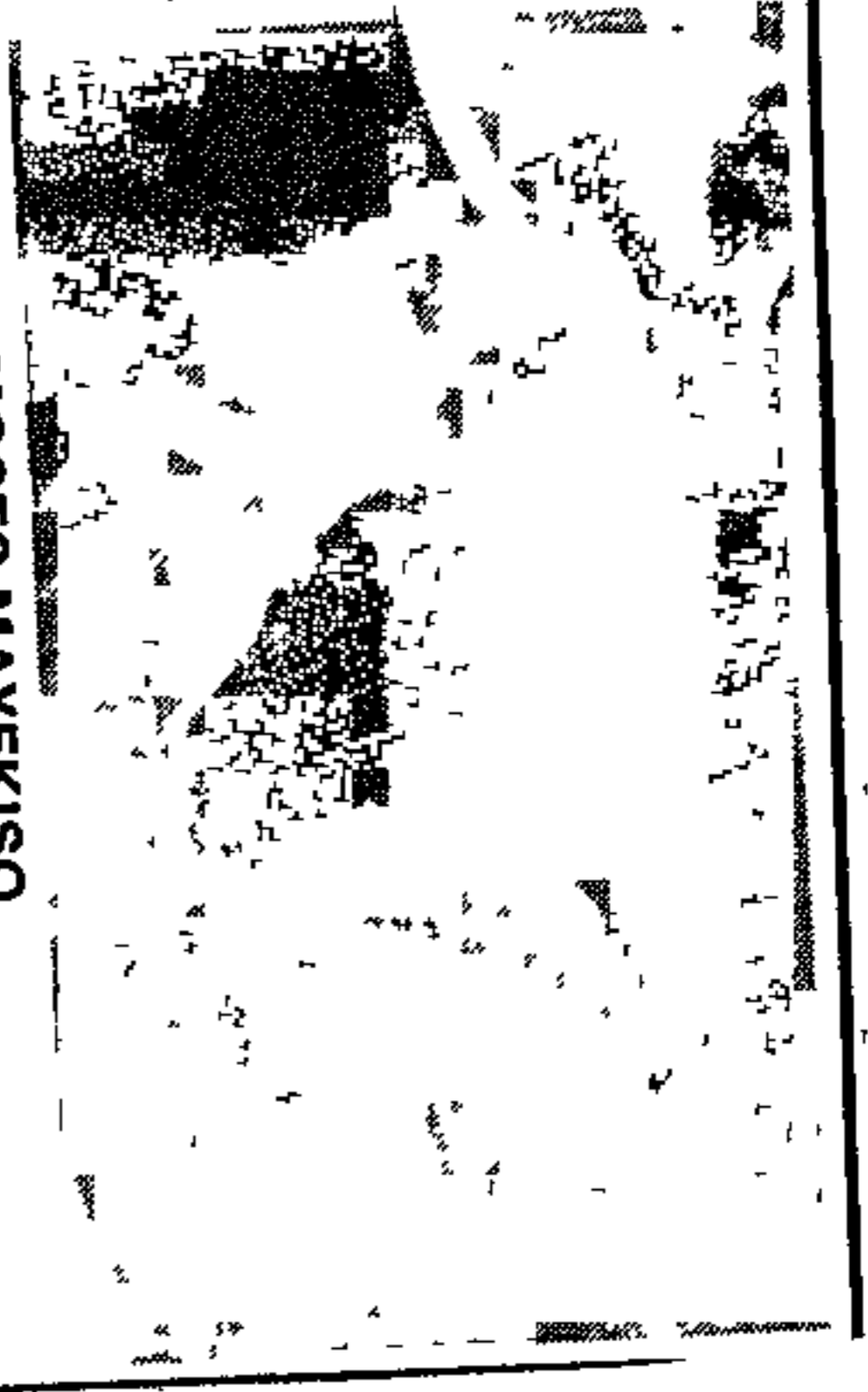
An AAC sub-committee of shack dwellers would also be formed this week "so they can have one voice", Mr Bapela said.

Claims by the authorities that no land was available for housing at Alexandra were untrue. They have the land to build expensive houses people at Alex cannot afford.

"A golf course is also being built south of Eastbank (to the north of the township). We don't know who is doing this, but that land should be used to build affordable housing."

Another problem for Alexandra residents was the

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MOSES MAYERKISO


sale of houses or stands by the authorities, sometimes without prior consultation with the people living on the stands.

"The Alex people believe this is a plot by the authorities to counter the rent boycott and to create conflict amongst the residents. People are now being pushed by the new standowners to pay rent."

They said the AAC would meet new standowners to ask them to charge reasonable rents — about R60 a month for a six-room shack and R40 for a four-room shack.

Mr Mayekiso said they had a group in mind who would meet the need for affordable housing, but said he did not wish to name them because "they are already there. I wouldn't like to jeopardise their position" — Sapa

Whites to block free area (17)

Mayfair's white residents are planning to block moves aimed at declaring the suburb one of South Africa's first free settlement areas, said Conservative Party leader in the Johannesburg City Council, Mr Jacques Theron. *Star 6/6/89* 

Tonight, the local residents' association has called a protest meeting for 7.30 at Brixton Primary School to back petitions signed by virtually every remaining white person in the area, he said.

The chairman of the Free Settlement Board, Mr Hen Kruger, has been invited to attend the meeting — Municipal Reporter

Dispute over eviction of tenants

Star
9/16/87

By Jovial Rantao and
Julienne du Toit

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A Berea landlord evicted 50 tenants from Park Mews apartment block on Wednesday night for allegedly not paying rent, and three versions of the incident have been given to The Star

Forty-seven of the evicted tenants were allowed back into their flats, but three were denied access to their homes. Their belongings are still locked up in their flats, claims Actstop, the organisation fighting for tenants' rights in Johannesburg

The one irony is that when the residents were locked out on Wednesday night to stand in the bitter cold, a sign nearby read "Friendly Atmosphere, Security Conscious (sic)";

Here are the three versions.

Actstop says

Mr Pressage Nkosi of Actstop claims that 19 evicted tenants were Actstop members and the other 31 were sympathisers.

The evictions followed a meeting at which the tenants gave the landlord, Mr J M Schoeman, an ultimatum. They said they would pay a flat rate of R100 for rent and R30 for electricity until con-

ditions, including fluctuating rent, harassment and missing property after illegal evictions, had been dealt with

Mr Nkosi said the tenants, joined by Actstop members from neighbouring apartments, forcibly gained entry to the building. Three Actstop committee leaders, however, were still locked out

Actstop claims that police were called in and that some tenants were beaten with batons

Landlord says

The tenants were evicted, said Mr Schoeman, because they had not paid their rent. He refused to clarify whether or not the 47 tenants who were allowed back into the building had promised to pay the full rent. He said he would not allow the tenants to be interviewed

Police say

A police spokesman said the SAP had received a call from the landlord, Mr Schoeman, saying that a large group of tenants had threatened to "necklace him". Police had "monitored the situation" which, the spokesman said, was peaceful. No action was taken against protesters

Alex residents demand 'affordable housing'

Sewefan a/16/87
THE Alexandra Town Council delegation led by mayor, Mrs Agnes Pooe, yesterday asked for time to consider demands and grievances of shackdwellers in the area presented by a five-man delegation of the Alexandra Action Committee at the council chambers yesterday.

The AAC was led by trade unionist and chairman, Mr Moses Mayekiso. The meeting was part of the AAC's "Affordable Housing for All Campaign" which

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was launched early this week

Alexandra residents demanded proper and affordable houses and were opposed to the sale of old stands (sites) to private owners without consultation with present tenants.

They also demanded that houses for low-income families be built on the extended East Bank area, the AAC said.

Coloureds form new lobby

By Shirley Woodgate (27) dates in the general election in September

Disenchantment with the South-Western Management Committee, overcrowding and problems with rented houses in Johannesburg's coloured areas have led to the formation of an action group known as the United Tenant and Ratepayers' Association (Utara) SW 12/6/57.

The organisation, headed by Mr Mannie Sahabodien, plans to unite individual residents' groups throughout Riverlea, Ennerdale, Eldorado Park and Newclare under one umbrella for better representation of the coloured residents of Johannesburg

A major aim is to field candi-

Mr Sahabodien said about 90 percent of the houses in these areas were rented from the city council, but coloured people with valid complaints were often unable to obtain help from their own representative committee, the 13-man South-Western Management Committee, their supposed contact with the city council.

"They highlight the problems of Hillbrow but in our areas overcrowding often sees up to 15 people in a two-bedroomed house

"We will take up the problems and bypass the management committee," he said.

Star 13/16/89

(84) X

300 evicted flat tenants move back

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By Kaizer Nyatumba
and Junior Motsei

About 300 people who were evicted from a Berea, Johannesburg, block of flats yesterday morning as the result of a Rand Supreme Court order, last night defied their eviction and moved back into the building

Supported and assisted by Actstop members, the tenants of Allandene Residential in Soper Road — who said they had nowhere else to go — moved their belongings back into the block of flats last night and vowed to stay put

The decision to return was taken at a meeting held at the Central Methodist Church

The residents were served with eviction notices — granted by a Rand Supreme Court judge on May 23 — at about 6 am yesterday

The owner of the block of flats, Mr Claudio "Clay" Cerasoli, claimed in court papers that the tenants were destroying the 70-roomed building

However, residents yesterday told The Star the building was unmaintained and without electricity

Sfar 13/6/89



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Mayfair is 'de facto free settlement area'

By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

Mayfair would probably not be declared a free settlement area before the general election, Mr Roelf Meyer, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning and National Party MP for Johannesburg West, said yesterday.

Interviewed at the NP's Johannesburg West nomination court session, where he was the only candidate nominated for the constituency, Mr Meyer said the Free Settlement Board's investigation into Mayfair's constitutional future would not cost him a significant number of votes.

Both the Conservative Party and Democratic Party regard Johannesburg West as a prime target on September 6.

"The situation in Mayfair has already been politically resolved. Mayfair's free settlement area status is a *de facto* situation which already exists."

'REASONABLE AND FAIR'

As MP for the area, he had considered all factors regarding Mayfair and Pageview and had acted "reasonably and fairly".

Asked whether he had been "reasonable and fair" in obstructing the Save Pageview Association's efforts to have Pageview investigated as a free settlement area, he said "I have not blocked their application, I just did not support it."

"I appreciate the Save Pageview Association's position, but have taken all factors into account."

Pageview houses had been made available to lower income whites. If Pageview were declared a free settlement area, a number of whites would prefer to move from the area, which would leave the Government with the obligation to resettle them elsewhere.

● Mr Meyer claimed that the DP had approached Mr Johan Fick, deputy chairman of the NP's Johannesburg West divisional council, to be the DP's Parliamentary candidate for the constituency.

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Blind workers help Soweto homeless

Star 13/6/89
By Winnie Graham

Blind men are doing their bit to ease the problems of the homeless in Soweto

A brick-making project initiated by the Transvaal Association of Blind Black Adults (Tabba) in Soweto, in co-operation with a number of companies, is producing thousands of bricks a month — bricks being snapped up by local people anxious to build their own homes

When the project was opened last week by Mr Dean Norton, executive director of the Portland Cement Institute, the blind brick-makers were churning out bricks at a rapid rate

Mr Colbert Sobopha, a worker and one-time member of the Moroko Swallows who lost his sight in a stabbing incident, was running barrowloads of the brick mixture — cement, ash, sand and water — to the brick-making machine

"It's good to be involved," he said "Everyone wants a house, so there is a big demand for our work"

Mr Enos Motirapula, a former clerk in the Supreme Court who lost his sight in 1976, was equally enthusiastic



Mr Colbert Sobopha, a blind brick-maker, tips the mixture into the brick-making machine.

"Look at the beautiful bricks we are producing," he enthused "They are selling like hot cakes"

Nearly three years ago, Mrs Ruth Machobane, secretary of Tabba, approached PCI and asked that blind men be trained to make bricks, not only to provide jobs for them but to fill the need for bricks in the community

"She showed all the elements of entrepreneurship," Mr Norton said

Thirty men were trained to mix concrete, compact it into moulds and to produce concrete building blocks. No concessions were made

to the regular training programme

"Our training team was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the group and its ability to produce bricks every bit as good as those made by sighted people," Mr Norton said

A Soweto woman, Mrs Dolly Mokoko, impressed by the group's initiative, offered to raise funds. With the money she collected a hand-operated block-making machine was bought

PPC, a cement-producing company, donated 400 bags of cement to build a flat slab — essential to the production. National Beverages provided financing for the clearing and levelling of the ash site, as well as for electrification and renovation of the offices

BP donated an electrically operated brick-making machine capable of producing 2 000 bricks a day. Operation Hunger provided wheelbarrows, hose pipes, industrial brooms and shovels. Crown Cork financed a cement mixer, a crusher, a conveyor belt and other equipment

Mr Norton added "The blind brickmakers have had the courage to focus on their abilities rather than on their disability"

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70 families evicted

ABOUT 70 families were yesterday evicted from a block of flats in Berea, Johannesburg, following a court order granted to the flat owner, Mr Clay Cerasoli.

The early morning eviction, in which police were keeping a high profile, saw most of the residents staying away from work to watch over their belongings which were out in the open

"We were woken up by the police kicking our doors and ordering us

By PHANGISILE
MTSHALI

out of the building. There was absolute panic," said Miss Neli Sono

Liquor

"Most of us did not go to work as we could not risk to have our belongings stolen. We have nowhere to go or to store our belongings."

Residents who were already at work when the eviction started were

recalled and others reported to have lost various belongings from crockery to safes

Four people were arrested in a raid that occurred simultaneously with evictions. Police confirmed that they arrested three people under the Liquor Act and one for illegal immigration

The eviction has been condemned by Actstop and the ward councillor, Mr Cliff Garrun, of the Democratic Party.

Sowetan 12/6/89

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HOSPITAL SERVICES WARNING

SPECIALIST units at the JG Strijdom Hospital would close if the hospital remained an "own affairs" institution, Dean of Wits Medical Faculty Clive Rosendorff said yesterday.

Rosendorff predicted a "gross deterioration" in services by the end of the year and he said the closure of specialist units was inevitable.

A hospital spokesman said yesterday appeals had been made to staff wanting either to transfer or resign, to stagger their departures, so allowing time to replace them.

But Rosendorff said the likelihood of replacing 20 doctors and 40 nurses who were planning to leave was so remote that sections of the hospital would be jeopardised. He would not

ADELE BALETA

specify which sections, but it is believed that the kidney, intensive care and cardiac units are at risk.

The hospital spokesman said there were no closure plans and services would be maintained.

Rosendorff stressed that Wits had not given government an ultimatum to return the hospital to "general affairs" administration.

"We have asked staff to remain at the hospital until the end of the year in order to minimise the adverse affect the government action will have on the hospital and its patients.

"In the meantime, we have appealed to government to change its mind," he said.

Allendene residents arrested for trespass: removed by SAP

POLICE yesterday confirmed that 45 adults were arrested for trespassing at Allendene flats in Berea, Johannesburg.

The arrests came after the eviction on Monday of the occupants of Allendene flats, in Soper Road, by the Deputy Sheriff of Johannesburg in terms of a court order served on May 23.

A spokesman for the SAP's Hillbrow Crime Unit said a few children, including a baby, had accompanied their mothers into a police truck.

Those arrested for trespassing face a R100 admission of guilt fine. Alternatively, they can choose to appear in court in due course.

Eviction

After police had left, the premises were secured by a security company.

On Monday, landlord Claudio Cerasoli said that only after several negotiating sessions — with both residents and Actstop — was an application for an eviction order for non-payment of rent made to the Supreme Court.

He said the eviction had only taken place two weeks after a court order had been served on the occupants.

Meanwhile, Actstop spokesman Cas Coovadia said the Johannesburg City Council should declare a moratorium on evictions in the inner-city area while it tried to find solutions to the homelessness problem.

He said this was the only way in which the council could show honest and positive intent towards seriously addressing the problem of homelessness in these areas.

The council should bear responsibility for the "un-Christian acts" perpetrated by landlords who evicted tenants from buildings, he said.

The only "crime" the Allendene tenants had committed was to demand reasonable living conditions for reasonable rentals.

"The response of the landlord was to serve notices on them to vacate the premises, and the courts backed this up by granting eviction orders. Is it any wonder that black tenants in the inner-city have become frustrated and sceptical of the law?"

He said he believed landlords had a social responsibility to the homeless in the country.

The action of tenants in resisting evictions had to be seen within the context of the housing crisis in SA. He quoted figures from the Urban Foundation that there are about 1.6-million to 2.5-million squatters in the PWV area alone. The estimated housing shortage in 1987 for blacks was 832 000 units, while the surplus for whites in that year was 37 000 units.

"These figures point directly to the source of the reason why tenants are beginning to resist evictions," Coovadia said — Sapa.

PW appointees dismissed

DURBAN — Three House of Delegates ministerial representatives will lose their salaries and allowances, amounting to about R130 000 a year, after being dismissed by State President P W Botha from July 1.

The three men — Ashwin Mohanlall and Sathi Naidoo of Durban and Perry Chetty of Johannesburg were appointed by Botha two years ago at the request of Amichand Rajbansi, then Minister's Council chairman.

Botha told them this week he was acting at the request of Minister's Council chairman Dr J N Reddy. No other reason was given.

The three are fighting seats in the

general election.

A ministerial representative's salary is about R6 000 a month with a total package of about R11 000 a month.

It is believed their main task is to act as agents for HoD ministers at the latter's request.

Naidoo said he was aware Reddy was under pressure from the ruling Solidarity Party members to get rid of the representatives. "However, I am grateful to him for keeping us for so long," he said.

Reddy could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Own Correspondent

Landlord may let tenants return

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Staff Reporters

A compromise appears in sight for tenants and their landlord locked in battle for occupation of the derelict block of flats, Allandene Residential, in Soper Road, Berea. Star 14/6/59

Landlord Mr Claudio Cerasoli now says he will allow the same tenants back in after renovations are completed and Actstop, the group helping evicted tenants in Johannesburg's flatland, says it would be happy with the proposal.

"Let me fix the place," said Mr Cerasoli last night. He offered a guarantee that once renovations were completed on the building in a few months time, the tenants could move back.

Mr Cas Coovadia of Actstop said he thought this would be a satisfactory arrangement provided a written agreement, ensuring residents could move back after the renovations were completed, was signed by both parties.

Mr Cerasoli said half the present number of tenants could even stay in the

building during renovation.

He said tenants had not paid rent for five months and that he was financing the bond and renovation expenses for "plenty thousand rand", using his own resources

The Star visited the premises and found a badly maintained building without electricity, many broken windows and damaged built-in cupboards. It was not clear who caused the damage

Residents said they were paying R250 for their rooms, some measuring 2 m by 3 m. Many had no windows, and smoke and mould stains covered the peeling paint on the walls

Some lavatories were broken and drains were blocked with dirty water in many of the baths and basins

Forty-three people were arrested for trespassing at Allandene Residential yesterday, following defiance by some tenants of a Supreme Court eviction order

Close proximity to houses causes concern

Eskom pylons anger Alberton residents

By Jacqueline Myburgh

A group of Alberton residents are up in arms over the erection of electrical pylons in the Brackendowns area

The 300 homeowners fear the power lines may be a health hazard and will devalue their properties.

One resident, Mrs Anne Critchley, said a British newspaper had claimed electrical pylons were hazardous to people's health and could promote cancer

Mr Eddie Grossop said residents had no concrete proof of health hazards, but regarded the pylons as "unsafe until you prove they aren't".

He said the two pylons, one 34 m and the other 25 m high, undoubtedly reduced the value of properties, since they were so close to some houses they seemed to be "growing in the back garden"

About 60 people have signed a petition demanding financial compensation from Eskom, which built the pylons on land belonging to the Rand Water Board

Lost interest

Mrs Critchley said some residents had attempted to sell their houses but potential buyers lost interest when they saw the pylons.

"I am the worst hit," she said "They are right outside my kitchen window and loom over the house."

Mr Grossop said when Eskom was questioned about the matter, a spokesman said "These people bought in a cheap area, therefore they can expect this kind of thing to happen"

Representatives from Eskom and the Rand Water Board were invited to a meeting at the weekend, but did not arrive to hear residents' grievances

Eskom said the proposed construction was advertised in three newspapers in December 1988 and the pylons were built in March 1989

Mr Grossop said the advertisements were placed while most people were away on holiday and appeared in obscure sections of the newspapers

Tenants' group will back UDP in general election

By Shirley Woodgate

The pressure group United Tenants and Ratepayers Association (Utara), launched recently to fight for tenants' rights in Johannesburg's coloured areas — has decided to back Mr Jac Rabie's United Democratic Party in the general election.

Utara chairman Mr Mannie Sahabodien said candidates put up by Utara would have to enter

into a legal agreement "to stick to the rules" and report back to Utara every three months.

"We are sick and tired of hollow election promises made by our sitting MPs, who are never seen in their constituencies after they are voted into power."

Utara decided to back Mr Rabie, MP for Reiger Park, after his stand against Boksburg's return to petty apartheid.

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15-22/6/89. Wmail

200 Tembisa refugees shelter in disused hall

By MZIMKULU MALUNGA

FAMILIES recently hounded from a hostel complex in Tembisa by a 2 000-strong mob of hostel dwellers are now living in a disused recreation hall in the township

Since their May 31 "eviction" from Vusumuzi hostel, the families have approached the hostellers, asking to be allowed back to their former home. The approach was rejected.

Conflict at the complex apparently arose over women living with the hostellers and blamed by the families for a number of murders. The families moved into the hostel earlier this year because they could not find other accommodation in Tembisa.

A member of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) who was in the delegation which met the hostel inmates says the negotiations failed because "it became clear that they were being used by the town administrator and the town clerk"

The town clerk and the administrator of the council issued a statement on June 2 saying Vusumuzi would remain a hostel

About 200 refugees are currently living in the former recreation hall, known as "Cuba Hall". Others have sought refuge in relatives' homes in the township

The refugees say candidates in forthcoming council elections in Tembisa are trying to use the crisis to win support for themselves

When the *Weekly Mail* visited "Cuba Hall" this week, freedom songs could be heard, while some of the refugees were *toy-toying* inside

The merriment made a strange contrast with the living conditions. Almost every window pane in the hall was broken and to ward off the winter weather, residents had filled up the holes with cardboard

As there are only two functioning lights, much of the hall was in darkness. The darker side of the hall was the men's sleeping section, while the illuminated portion was used by the women. Cooking pots, a primus stove and piled up mattresses could be seen

Nicholas Hlongwa, the father of four, one of them a month old, said. "After we were chased out of Vusumuzi, I had to hire a place for my other three children in the township so that they can have a place to wash themselves

He said his family had moved to Vusumuzi from a dining-room in one of the four-roomed houses in the Mfuyaneng section of Tembisa.

The 38-year-old Hlongwa, a worker at a switchboard manufacturing company in Kempton Park, said he had been on the waiting-list for a house four years. He sees no prospects of ever owning a house, and adds: "The only alternative is to build a shack"

Another refugee, Victoria Mafunda, a pensioner, used to own a house in Mthebeka section before 1978. She said her husband had died in 1976, leaving her to look after four children. "I was unemployed and did not have money to pay rent, so I lost the house," she said.

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THE ECOLOGY OF APARTHEID: THE MOST WRETCHED PEOPLE CROWDED ONTO THE MOST WRETCHED LAND

SINKHOLES pose a severe threat to the property — as well as the lives — of many of the two million people forced to live in segregated black townships on the Witwatersrand

Doctor Tony Brink, a world expert on sinkholes, told a conference in Johannesburg late last year that 300 residents could disappear in their sleep during a single night-time cave-in unless adequate protective measures were taken

Researchers at the Unit for Applied Studies on Dolomite, Dave Buttrick and Tony A' Bear, told the *Weekly Mail* that a repeat of the disastrous sinkholes that claimed some 40 lives in the 1960s could take place in black townships — where the threat to life is much greater because of the large number of people living on each stand

Most of the highly congested black townships in the PWV area have been built on a bedrock of unstable dolomite rock which is prone to develop large underground cavities and sinkholes

Says Brink. "The day is not far off when there will be loss of life because of a sinkhole. We will then be in for a lot of international criticism because the Group Areas Act forces blacks to live in townships built on dolomite."

Last year the government approved a plan to develop some 13 000ha of unused land, mainly in a bid to deal with more than two million squatters who are living in 200 000 shacks in the PWV area, mostly in overcrowded township yards

Most of the sites allocated to the scheme are located on a girdle of dolomite — a unique rock type that is soluble in water and can easily collapse and give way to large sinkholes — that surrounds cities and suburbs on the PWV

A number of existing townships, such as Lenasia and Ateridgeville, are already located on dolomite. The

The Cruel Earth

One night, early next century, the porous ground may finally give way. Scores of sleeping Reef residents could vanish into a giant hole ... unless we act now



Sinkholes in Carletonville ... could happen again

EDDIE KOCH reports on the sinkholes threat to PWV townships

result, says Brink, is that the only location available for Indian people is on dolomite, while most new townships for blacks are being built on the rock.

In December 1963 the perils of living on dolomite were graphically illustrated when an ore-crushing plant on the West Driefontein mine slid in to a 60-metre-wide sinkhole, killing 34 workers. Just nine months later, six people vanished during their sleep when their house was swallowed up by what was described as the "world's biggest grave".

Brink says his worst-case scenario, in which 300 township people could be devoured by a single sinkhole, was arrived at by superimposing the surface area of the largest cave-in recorded in the PWV area — 100 metres in diameter — on a map of Ate-

ridgeville, where an average of 13,5 people live on each stand

Buttrick and A' Bear say homes can safely be built on the dolomite if stability surveys are undertaken, unsafe areas excluded from development and stringent measures taken to ensure there is no seepage from the water and sewerage services in the township

"But many planners, authorities and institutions seem to have formulated the opinion that stability investigations and precautionary measures are unnecessarily expensive," says Buttrick. "They believe that the potential for loss of life and damage to property has been exaggerated"

"In many developments, the services often do not conform to the recommended or prescribed standards. This practice holds grave consequences for

many developments now mushrooming on the dolomite, especially the low-cost housing projects"

Townships that could be affected, say Buttrick and A' Bear, include Khutsong, Bekkersdal and Protea on the West Rand and Katlehong, Duduza, Vosloorus and Tembisa on the East Rand. At least another dozen townships are at risk and the total population in the region tops two million.

A number of sinkholes have already appeared on sites in Vosloorus where water-bearing services have been laid down in recent months to prepare for construction, says Brink. There are a number of houses in the township with large cracks caused by shifts in the earth.

Residents in Khutsong — which means a "resting place" — last year

faced the prospect of going homeless after large areas of ground began sinking and four houses were declared unsuitable for occupation. At least 20 small sinkholes have already appeared in this township

In September 1987 the dangers of dolomite were highlighted when a 35-metre-wide section of the road between Potchefstroom and Johannesburg sank 25m into the ground. Even animals appear to be at risk, recently two rare rhino disappeared into a sinkhole in the Krugersdorp game reserve

Hardly a year goes by without sinkholes appearing on the PWV belt of dolomite, says Brink. In May this year there were five sinkholes, in March there were 14

Buttrick says damage caused by previous sinkholes has been limited because they occurred in older middle class suburbs on or near pavements where pipes for water and sewerage are laid. However in the highly-congested, low-cost housing schemes, every available piece of land is used and up to 38 people live on a 300-square-metre stand

"The high concentrations of people, resulting in a continuous population coverage of the landscape, dramatically increases the probability of loss of life should a sinkhole form," he says. "Water-borne services have only been put into townships in the past eight years. The major manifestation of the problem will be in 20 years' time, when these pipes deteriorate and start leaking"

An alarming feature of the problem is that some building societies exclude damage caused by sinkholes from home-owners' insurance policies. At the same time, few property developers inform prospective buyers of the results of mandatory investigations into the stability of the ground. This is despite the fact that the information is, in theory, available to the public

Star 15/6/89

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Johannesburg 'still one of cheapest cities in world'

Huge rise in city rates and taxes

By Shirley Woodgate, Municipal Reporter

A 20 percent increase in Johannesburg's rates and taxes was announced in yesterday's municipal budget.

For the "average household" this means paying an additional R29,38 a month or an increase from the present level of about R150 in June to R180 in July. These figures are calculated on a ratepayer in Roosevelt Park on land valued at about R25 000

THE EXTRA COST OF KEEPING A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD						
UTILITY RATES (ASSESSMENT)	WATER	ELECTRICITY DOMESTIC OTHER	SEWERAGE	BUS FARES	GAS	CLEANSING DOMESTIC OTHER
INCREASE 14,2%	45%	10% OTHER 15%	50%	20%	15%	15% OTHER 24%
OVERALL INCREASE = 19,5%						
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLDER WILL PAY R29,30 EXTRA PER MONTH						

Tighten belts

Lasting the increases in the R1,8 billion budget that average out at one-fifth, management committee chairman Mr Jan Burger said "Everyone will have to tighten their belts"

- Up goes the price of water by 45 percent For the average homeowner using 30kl a month this means his monthly account will rise from R21 to R30
- Up goes electricity by 10 percent for householders and 15 percent for all the city's other consumers
- Up go sewerage charges by 50 percent A representative householder's present charge of R8,80 a month goes up to R12,85
- Up goes the cost of gas by an

average of R3 a month

- Up go cleansing services by 15 percent on domestic properties and 24 percent on other users In hard cash from R9 to R10 monthly
- Up go bus fares by 20 percent but despite this increase the loss on the transport service will remain at R28 million to be borne by the rates account
- Finally, up go assessment rates by 14,2 percent from 3,476c to 3,97c in the rand Rebates will remain

Electricity provides the largest source of income (45 percent) for the operating budget of about R1 400 million, followed by the assessment rates which bring in nearly 18 percent

Mr Burger denied the huge price increase compensated for last year's low 6,3 percent increase ahead of the October municipal elections and said Johannesburg was still one of the cheapest cities in the world

Civic Theatre

One of the major provisions in the R382 million capital budget is R37 million toward the R67 million reconstruction of the Civic Theatre Mr Burger said the state would be asked to contribute R20 million "The harshest budget in living memory," was the reaction of Mr Tony Leon, Democratic Party leader in the council

It was "disingenuous" to claim the rate and tariff increase was only 19,5 percent In actual fact, this had to be coupled with a bond rate increase of 50 percent, a 40 percent rise in the cost of petrol, a 40 percent food price rise, a 30 percent clothes increase and the effect of "Pretoria's" taxation on Johannesburg's economy

He accused the National Party-controlled council of "joining the gravy train" by introducing staff increases of up to 29 percent There was an increasing tendency to create super directorates including that for public safety, although the crime rate continued to rise, he said

Mr Leon added that the sale of electricity was used as the greatest source of dependable revenue for the council (about 40 percent of the rate account) but the fact that the electricity surplus had soared 2 400 percent from R7 million 10 years ago to the present R166 million was proof that the council was "spending itself out of control"

'Wastages'

The management committee's refusal to phase in the new valuation roll necessitated an ever-increasing reliance on electricity tariffs to prop up the city finances

Other "extravagant wastages" included an all-time high of R400 000 for entertainment and civic functions, nearly R1 million for overseas guests, a guarantee of nearly R450 000 on housing loans and even R103 060 for floral decorations

The DP would introduce a vigorous policy of privatisation, a full partnership with the private sector through a Civic Business Council with real teeth and the raising of bonds, in lottery form, for funding essential expenditure

Bail is set for evicted 48

Staff Reporter (127)

Evicted residents who were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly trespassing at Allandene Residential in Berea, Johannesburg, after defying an eviction order, were allowed bail yesterday by the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court.

They were evicted on Monday, but said they had nowhere to go and moved back in the same evening.

Forty-eight people (30 women and 18 men) were arrested and charged at Hillbrow police station on Tuesday. Two women were released on bail at midnight. The rest spent the night in the cells.

Only 45 of the 46 people still held yesterday were allowed bail of R30 by magistrate Mr W R Doveren. The other had disappeared while in transit from the police station.

Yesterday morning residents of Al-

landene Residential and supporters of those arrested packed the court while waiting for charge-sheets to be brought from the police station so that the could start.

Among those arrested was a six months pregnant Miss Nomvula Magxala (28), her seven-year-old daughter Sweetness, and Miss Lindiwe Mzobe (19) and her four-week old baby Lucky.

The two women said they were released after an Actstop member paid bail.

An anonymous white woman who stayed in Soper Road gave them lodging for the night.

Mrs Magxala expressed concern for Sweetness, who she said had developed a bad cough.

The hearing was postponed to July

Flat owners win domestics right to receive visitors in their rooms

By Cathy Stagg

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Two flat owners who took on their body corporate's decision that their domestic workers were not allowed visitors won their case in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday

Mr Justice Rex van Schalkwyk said the "rule" issued by the body corporate in August last year was unenforceable because it was unreasonable. He said the body corporate could not interfere with the owners' exclusive right to the section they had bought, including the right to have visitors calling on the lawful occupant.

Mrs R Kahn and Mr J Stone both bought flats in Majestic Towers, Empire Road, Parktown.

Included in the purchase was a room at the top of the next-door building, Majestic Gate, in which their workers lived. The caretaker refused to allow them visitors.

On August 10 last year, residents received a circular telling them the board of trustees had decided that under no circumstances would visitors

be allowed

16/6/89
Thefts and assaults, drunkenness, shebeens and prostitution were mentioned as possible consequences of granting visiting rights.

Mrs Kahn and Mr Stone both objected to this. On September 9 they launched the court action.

The judge said the decision did not comply with the procedure required by the Section Title Act for a management rule or a conduct rule so was invalid on that ground.

Mr D Fine, on behalf of the body corporate, said it was a house rule and had been approved by the majority of residents.

The board of trustees obtained a quote from a security firm of R15 558 to install a new security system and R1 749 monthly running costs if domestic workers were allowed visitors between 6 pm and 8 am.

The judge said he was not as sanguine as Mr Fine about the infallible wisdom of the majority.

He said the majority would have the

benefit of an improved security system, for which they would not have to pay. Their votes were motivated by self-interest.

He said he could not help but think the security system was a side issue, a palliative.

COSTS

As the case was conducted by the Legal Resources Centre, the judge did not make a costs order. He ordered the body corporate to reimburse the centre for disbursements made.

Mr Arthur Chaskalson, SC, assisted by Mr M S Navasa, appeared for the applicants.

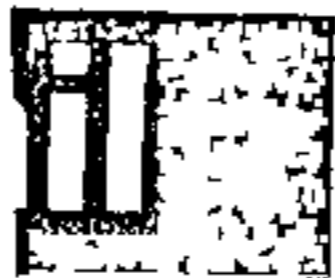
**Benoni rates set
to increase 20 pc**

(127) Staff Reporter 16/6/89

Benoni ratepayers are facing a 20 percent increase in assessment rates following the tabling and approval of Benoni's R206 million 1989-1990 budget

The increase in assessment rates, which ranges from R27 a month in some suburbs to R88 in others, is expected to net an additional R5,7 million enabling the budget to balance with a surplus of R140 000

The budget also detailed the scrapping of the local bus service, which ran at a R5,6 million loss last year.



Tents put up outside two blocks of Jo'burg flats

By Julienne du Toit
and Kevin Udemans

Actstop has erected tents outside two Johannesburg blocks of flats to accommodate evicted tenants

The tenants of Allandene Residential, in Berea, were evicted on Monday and seven families from Waldorf Heights, in Hillbrow, were evicted yesterday.

Actstop spokesman Mr Cas Coovadia said the landlord of Waldorf Heights, Mr J Farber had increased rentals from R280 to R305 after tenants asked him to decrease the rent in November last year because of the bad condition of the building

The tenants claimed they had continued paying R280 a month, but a Supreme Court order was obtained against seven families in the building for allegedly not paying rent

Mr Peter Sebothoma and Mr David Sibanda who were evicted say they have postal order counterfoils proving payment

When The Star contacted Mr Farber yesterday, he would not say whether he was the landlord He then said the caretaker had told him the tenants moved out on their own

The tenants of Allandene Residential were evicted when they failed to vacate the building after been served notice to do so in order for the building to be renovated It has been condemned by the Johannesburg Health Department.

Mr Rudy van Wezel, who is in charge of security at the building, said one of the tenants attempted to set fire to the building yesterday by setting a carpet on the second floor on fire

"But the security guards saw the smoke and put out the fire before any damage was done," he said last night

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Evicted tenants lose tent

5 Jan 1989 (127)
TRAFFIC policeman yesterday pulled down a tent which was sheltering families evicted from a block of flats in Berea in Johannesburg

The families, who had lived in the Allendene block in Berea, were evicted on Wednesday for failing to pay their rents

Acstop, an organisation formed to assist to evicted families, put up the tent

The traffic police dismantled the tent on the grounds that it was interfering with traffic and therefore violating a by-law

Johannesburg's traffic chief Mr John Pearce, who was at the scene, said he had received many complaints about the tent, which encroached into the street, and had had no option but to order his men to dismantle it

The tent was removed and its metal struts taken down as the families watched Mr Pearce asked them not to rebuild the structure during the night as this could lead to confrontation

Mr Pearce said he had done everything possible to avoid a confrontation with the families and had explained to them that the structure was illegal because it encroached on the road

The families said they would sleep up against the building from which they had been evicted

Democratic Party city councillors Mr Peter Asherson and Mrs Judith Briggs visited the owners of the building last night to negotiate on behalf of the families, who claimed they had not paid their rent because they were being overcharged for a building which was in disrepair — Sapa

Arrears 'must be paid'

(Over)
By DAN DHLAMINI

12/6/89
THE government does not intend to write off more than R465 million in black townships' rent arrears

Transvaal Administrator Dame Hough made this clear when he urged councils to take strong action to collect rent arrears from residents

In an address in Potchefstroom this week, Hough also appealed to councils to review their service charges and bring them up to a realistic level through gradual increases

He told councillors his administration assisted

most local authorities' survival with bridging finance, the source of which was drying up

Unless additional funds were found, his administration would not be able to assist councils for more than three or four months

Hough lashed out at council officials. Some, he said, instilled the notion that local authorities should not be concerned about the origin of the funds and should not bother to increase tariffs or take measures to recov-

er rent arrears

He also told councillors to communicate with their constituencies the need for service charge increases and added that, if arrears were not collected, essential services might be affected.

That would be a sad day for local government because "our enemies may then justify their claim that local authorities are unable to perform their functions satisfactorily and should be abolished", he said

Time for Weeping

By S'BU MNGADI

WHEN Durban film producer Anant Singh named his well-known film on Weenen *Place of Weeping*, little did he realise that he was predicting the fate of tenant labourers of this Natal thornveld.

Neither did King Dinizulu, when in 1884 he gave about 800 farms — covering 4 000 square miles — as a gift to the Boers for their military assistance in defeating his rival, Zulu Prince Zibhebhu ka Maphiba.

With the land went thousands of people who became tenant labourers under exploitive conditions. They worked for their white landlords for six months of the year without any pay in return for the use of a piece of land.

This week their modern kinsmen were evicted. Eighteen families were left on the roadside with no abutment facilities and little or no food.

This first group was soon joined by 10 more families who had also been thrown off the land that had been their home for so long.

WATCHDOG

Natal's forced removals watchdog, the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra), estimates that 200 000 people in the province are living under threat of eviction — 2 700 by farm owners in the Mgwanya Valley, south of Weenen.

In less than three years more than 10 000 people were forcibly removed from the Weenen district, according to Afra field worker Richard Clacey.

When the government planned labour tenancy, in the late 1960s in an attempt to modernise agriculture and labour, those living on the land were given smaller fields and were forced to reduce their livestock in return for "wage labour" terms — food rations or a

Evicted families forced to face rain and cold without cover at Natal roadside

nominal wage of R10 a month.

All unauthorised families living on the land were resettled in KwaZulu during the mass evictions that followed. Clustered on the roadside this week, the evicted families huddled in the weak winter sun.

Rain-soaked blankets and other clothes were hung on the nearby fence. Women tended to sneezing babies, some of them as young as two months old, while men milled aimlessly around a small fire.

Next to the children lay a seriously ill man suffering from chronic bronchitis. His condition has worsened after sleeping in the rain for over a week. One of the men, William Mkhize, said his wife had missed her appointment with a doctor on Monday because they could not afford the consultation fee or the bus fare to Moor River, about 100 kilometres away.

Explaining his helpless position, Mkhize said that before their evictions they had been forced to get rid of their livestock by selling them to farmers at prices determined by the farmers. This was usually well below the value of the beasts, he said.

The latest evictions, following civil proceedings against the tenant labourers, took place in a much subtler manner than those instituted in the early '70s and replaced the criminal proceedings that followed charges of illegal squatting for many years.

When the Natal attorney-general decided against prosecuting 21 Weenen families last month — many of the cases had been pending since May 1987 — the farmers immediately served them with civil eviction orders.

Most of the evicted people have strong moral claims to the farms from which they have been moved.

DUMPED

An 80-year-old woman said "Umlungu" (the white owner of the farm), accompanied by a messenger of the court, had come to her hut and demanded that she remove her belongings. They were then loaded onto a truck and dumped on the roadside.

"My parents were born here and I have lived here all my life. I want to go back to my hut — I am so cold," she

lamented.

The locals wept silently as they watched the old Mgwanya Valley being destroyed. "We have finally lost the war to the Boers," they murmured.

Afra has worked with rural communities throughout Natal and believes the present crisis in Weenen is a deep-seated socio-political problem which expensive legal proceedings will not solve.

"The present spate of civil orders are leading to absolute destitution for the tenant families. Not only are they losing their homes but their possessions are being attached to cover legal costs. They now have absolutely nothing."

"The tenant families have occupied these farms for generations because it suited the farmer — they provided cheap labour. Now that the farms are being commercialised the tenants are expected to disappear into thin air," said Clacey.

The Natal Provincial Administration's (NPA) handling of the situation has been criticised by many as inept. When NPA officials met the Weenen Farmers Association last year it

was decided that the families should be moved to the Weenen emergency camp, a temporary settlement.

Later in the year the NPA's deputy director for land usage control, D de Klerk, undertook in a meeting with Weenen tenant families — whom he referred to as "my children" — to listen to all the people's problems.

EMERGENCY CAMP

When asked by Afra representatives present to commit himself on whether people would be moved to the emergency camp, he said the camp was "not the final solution by any means". He also assured them that the expropriation of farms for the families "was still a possibility".

De Klerk later assured the tenants they would not be harassed while the NPA was still "looking for farms" for the families.

Now the director of land usage control, Robin Raubenheimer, says the solution to the crisis lies in the creation of upgraded townships in areas close to the labour tenants' original homes and through the provision of trust land

"What we are awaiting are the finances, the manpower and the availability of land to be able to give effect to the programme of creating townships,"

was his line before the evictions. According to Raubenheimer, the Natal/KwaZulu planning council has allocated about R100 000 for the establishment of the necessary infrastructure at the Weenen emergency camp and R258 000 has already been spent. Employment will be provided by "the pool of vegetable farmers in the area," while the informal sector "will also contribute to the economic viability".

Afra says this is forced urbanisation and a recipe for disaster. The association said they had already seen the development of similar rural-urban centres as dumping grounds for tenant labourers and farm workers.

"A visit to Mondlo shows that even the most rudimentary infrastructure, got such as water, is non-existent for the approximately 40 000 people living in the Kwabhekumtheho section of the trust land adjoining Mondlo," Afra said in a statement.



1271

18/6/89

50 LINED UP FOR ACTSTOP SLEEP-IN

ANTI-EVICTION group Actstop said yesterday about 50 personalities from the fields of big business, organised religion and the legal and medical professions had responded to its call for people to spend two nights with evicted Johannesburg flat-dwellers.

Actstop spokesman Mohammed Dangor said the organisation was also inviting Johannesburg City Council management committee deputy chairman Marietta Marx to join the "slumming" campaign "to get to know how those black tenants are living in Johannesburg's flatland".

The personalities would live with black families for two nights — June 22 and 23 — in the central city, Joubert Park, Hillbrow, Mayfair and other "grey areas" under Actstop's Inner City Encounter programme.

 THEO RAWANA 127

Dangor said the 52 flat-tenants evicted from Allendene Residential in Berea last week, and who had their tent removed by the Traffic Department from outside the residence at the weekend, had been temporarily accommodated at Christ Church in Hillbrow. *81 Day 1976/89*

"We question the city council's commitment to its people if it can leave children to sleep in the cold outside. We wonder if the council would fail to act if white children were freezing out there

"We therefore invite management committee deputy chairman Marietta Marx to join the campaign and get to know how those people are feeling."

Marx could not be reached for comment.

Whites will stay with blacks

Top people in Jo'burg are to go 'slumming'

Star 19/6/89

By Jaap Boekkooi

About 50 prominent Johannesburg people will go "slumming" in the central city this week to see how the other half — black tenants in overcrowded flats — live and work.

The personalities, including Government supporters, will live with black families for two nights in Joubert Park, Hillbrow, Mayfair and other new-black areas.

The Inner City Encounter programme has been launched by Actstop.

"Some of our white guests will sleep on floors if tenants

are used to sleeping on floors," said Actstop publicity secretary Mr Cas Coovadia.

The main purpose of the programme is to bring whites from plush suburbs and penthouses face-to-face with the havoc wrought among black tenants by the Group Areas Act and dire housing shortages, which have again led to evictions and families sleeping in the street.

The first "slummers" will be briefed at Central Methodist Hall on Wednesday night before setting out to stay with black families.

The experiment ends on Saturday with a tea party for all participants.

50 evicted

tenants ¹²⁷

live life of nomads

Star 19/6/87

By Kevin Udemans

The former residents of Allandene Residential, in Berea, are having to live a nomadic life in the heart of Hillbrow after the tent in which they were living was pulled down by the Johannesburg Traffic Department on Friday.

The evicted tenants, numbering about 50, were then given shelter by Christ Church, in Hillbrow, on Friday and Saturday.

Last night they were moved to St George's Presbyterian Church, in Joubert Park, where they can stay for three weeks.

Mr Cas Coovadia, the publicity secretary for Actstop, said the organisation had erected the tent on Thursday to shelter the tenants from the bitter cold. There are a number of children in the group, including a 10-day-old baby.

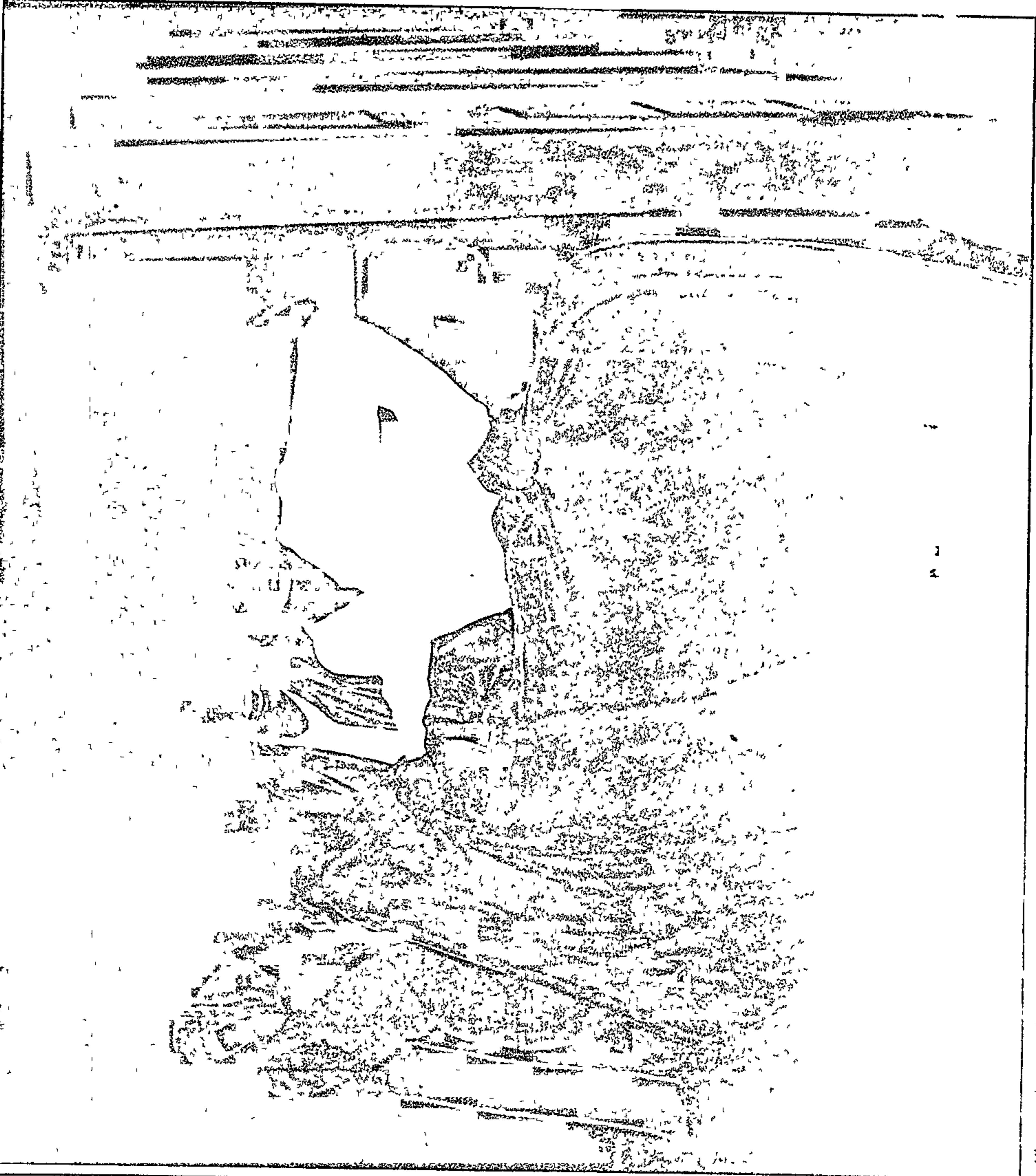
"The fact that we have found shelter for these people does not mean that the dispute with the Allandene landlord, Mr Claudio Cerasoli, is over," he said.

"This situation is highlighting the serious problem of homelessness in Johannesburg, a problem we have asked the city council to address."

The Waldorf Heights, Hillbrow, saga has been resolved and the evicted families are now back in the building.

Mr Coovadia said Actstop had prepared an interdict against the eviction orders.

Lawyers acting for landlord Mr J Farber then settled out of court and the families were allowed back into their flats, said to Mr Coovadia.



Evicted tenants move their meagre belongings after being forced from Allandene Residential in Berea on Friday. They have been moving from church to church in an attempt to escape the bitter cold. Picture by G. M. M.

Mayor steers clear of eviction victims

Municipal Reporter

The mayor of Johannesburg, Mr Koos Roets, said yesterday he was unable to become involved in the issue of people evicted from Allendene flats in Berea because his position of first citizen was traditionally non-political

"As a Christian I am very sorry for anyone who falls into that situation, but as the mayor representing all people in the city regardless of race, colour or creed, I have to consider very carefully whether it has political overtones," he said

GROUP AREAS

"In this case an alleged transgression of the Group Areas Act is involved and this means it is not so easy to comment on the matter," he said

He had been approached about the eviction of 52 people from the building last Monday. Having nowhere to go, the people remained on the pavement

with their belongings until Actstop erected a tent to keep out the cold

(Actstop is an organisation which fights for the rights of evicted, mainly black, people in Johannesburg)

At the weekend the Traffic Department pulled down the tent despite the pleas of city councillors Mr Paul Asherson and Mrs Judith Briggs who later found alternative accommodation for the people in a church

Chief director of Public Safety, Mr John Pearce, said at the time "These people are breaking a municipal by-law. We are not arresting them, we are removing their tent"

The residents are being housed in the St George's Presbyterian Church in Wolmarans Street, Joubert Park

According to the spokesman for the tenants, Mr Johnson Baloyi, the Presbyterian Church has given them about three weeks to stay in the church building while they are looking for alternative accommodation

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Start 20/6/89

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SOWETIAN Wednesday, June 21 1989

Mamelodi's white couple moves out

MAMELODI'S first white residents, Nico and Ellen Smith, are moving out.

Neighbours and members of Dr Smith's Ned Gerel Kerk in Afrika stood watching as the last of the Smith's household goods were loaded into a removal van.

But Mrs Smith — who made history three years ago as the first white woman to move into a black township — assured them with a smile that her husband was by no means "deserting" them.

She said while it had been an interesting experience living in Mamelodi the work never ended, and they felt a

SOWETIAN Reporter

need for some "free time". They were moving to a smallholding about 30km from the city.

Mrs Smith said people called to see Dr Smith at all times of the day and night, and recently he had not been sleeping well.

She said she also needed some division between work and home life, and that this was not proving possible in the modest Mamelodi house.

The house in Shabangu Street will in future be used as a church office, and Dr Smith would be available there each day. The office would be shared by Koinonia.

In 1984 the Smiths became the first whites to be granted official permission to live in a black group area, but they only moved in once local permissions had been obtained and a house built by the church.

Dr Smith said at the time he wanted to be close to the heart-beat of his congregation, so he could "communicate the gospel effectively", and "contribute to social enhancement of the community".

Sowetan 2/1/89

Lights out, again

SEVERAL Soweto townships were hit by an electricity blackout last night, something that has almost become a daily occurrence in the area.

Worst-hit were Pimville (Zone 5 and 7) residents, whose homes have been without lights since Thursday last week. Some of the areas affected by the power-cuts included Dobsonville and Dube.

Residents in the affected areas said the blackouts have continued for days despite assurances from the Soweto Council that the problem was being rectified.

Dobsonville and Soweto municipality spokesmen could not be reached for comment last night. Sowetan 2/1/89

Tenants have been moved

Sowetan 21/6/89

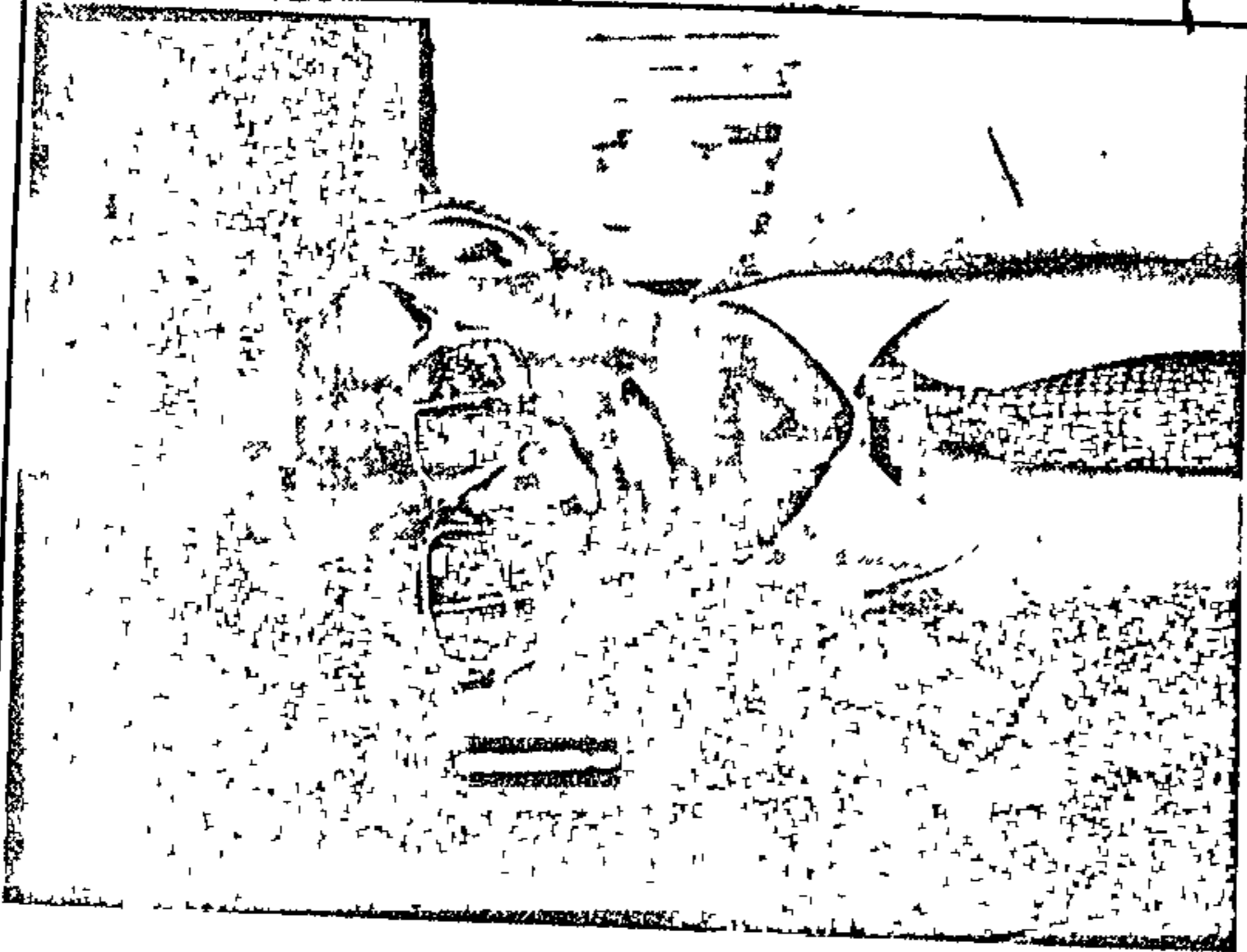
MORE than 50 evicted occupants have moved from their temporary crisis shelter at Christ Church in Hillbrow to St George's Presbyterian Church, Joubert Park, Johannesburg, where they will remain for three weeks until their court case on July 17

Among the evicted are children and an 11-day-old infant. The black working class breadwinners, who are employed in the Johannesburg area had

previously occupied Allandene "residential hotel", Berea. Following a court ejection order the occupants were evicted by the deputy sheriff.

"Unfortunately the Church of England Christ Church does not have showers and adequate cooking facilities so the offer from St George's was taken up by the Allandene evicted occupants," said Rev David Newby of the Central Methodist Church, Johannesburg.

FIRING WORKERS TO LOSE THEIR HOMES



THE Post Office has withdrawn home subsidies of about 60 of its former employees and evicted some of them and their families from their Soweto homes.

The action against the workers, all members of Post and Telecommunications Workers Association (Potwa), follows the 1987 strike which was marked by mass dismissals.

About 2 800 of the 20 000 employees who took part in the industrial action were fired.

Potwa president Mr Kgabisi Mosunkutu said the Post Office was evicting former employees whose homes were either financed or subsidised by it.

BY LEN MASEKO

Two Potwa members had already had their homes sold by the Post Office, according to the union.

The Potwa official said 60 more union members faced eviction from their homes now that they were no longer Post Office employees.

He said one worker, Mr Peter Mgidi, was kicked out from his

home after the Post Office obtained a court order against him. This action was taken against him despite that Potwa had made representations to management to halt the eviction.

A Post Office spokesman said the evictions were being carried out against these workers because they were no longer employed by the Department of Posts and Telecommunications. He added union officials and management were still discussing the matter.

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st Hostel men on rampage

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Sowetan 21/6/84

By MONK NKOMO

TWO shops, including that of an Atteridgeville community councillor, were extensively damaged after Saulsville hostel inmates angered by an electricity blackout went on the rampage this week.

Councillor Henry Nchabeleng, who owns a fast-food outlet in the hostel, yesterday said he narrowly escaped death after being confronted by an angry mob at about 8.45pm on Monday.

Nchabeleng said that

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Attack

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• From Page 1

damages to his shop were R80 000. The other shop also had windows and walls smashed during the attack.

Nchabeleng said hostel inmates accused him of doing nothing about the power failure that started at 5.45pm on Sunday. He said that at about 6.30pm on Monday a group of men accompanied him to the local superintendent's offices to complain about the electricity, but they could not find any official to help them.

Nchabeleng said he also did not have lights in his shop.

"At about 9pm a large mob, wielding sticks, missiles and bricks, then attacked my shop, smashing walls and windows. I had just closed the shop and was near it when the attack began," Nchabeleng said.

THIS WAS SAID YESTERDAY



A worried Mrs Agnes Mashoeshoe nurses her five-month-old baby after her flat in Argyle Court, Joubert Park, was raided by police yesterday. ● Picture by Steven Davimes.

Police 'ransack' flats during raid

Stan 22/6/87

By Stan Hlopha 127

Police yesterday raided eight Argyle Court flats in Joubert Park.

The flats are occupied by members of the Action Committee to Stop Evictions (Actstop).

Actstop publicity secretary Mr Pressage Nkosi said the raid came on the eve of the "Inner-City Encounter" rally planned by Actstop and the Five Freedoms Forum. During the rally, whites would spend a night with black families living in Hillbrow and Berea.

He said the five-storey block was raided at about 9.30 am.

Two policemen forced open the door of his flat and pointed a firearm at him, Mr Nkosi said.

"They jostled and pinned me against the wall. My flat was ransacked while they asked for my particulars. I was accused of being a foreigner who was here to instigate other people.

"I was threatened with detention under the emergency regulations. I was accused of forcing people to join Actstop and to cause trouble. An Actstop leaflet and a T-shirt were confis-

cated during the raid."

Mrs Agnes Mashoeshoe, mother of a five-month-old baby, said her flat was ransacked.

"They pulled down the pictures and broke the mirror on the wall. I was asked if I belonged to Actstop and they took down my name. They left my flat in a shambles."

Miss Irene Maluleka, a mother of three, said "They started ransacking my room and turned it upside down. I asked them what they wanted as I was here to help them. They had a list with them and they said they got it from the landlord who alleged that Actstop members were troublemakers."

"I told them that I did not know of any troublemaker as we were exploited and desperate people."

The landlord, Mr David Malan, refused to comment.

A police spokesman said the raid was carried out by the security police in terms of Section 5 of the emergency regulations. He said various articles were seized, some of which would be returned to the owners.

(127)

Star 22/6/59

Govt urged to clarify policy on Hillbrow

Political Reporter

The National Party parliamentary candidate for Hillbrow, Mr Tony Wasserman, has challenged the Government to clarify its stance on the multiracial flatland's constitutional future.

The Government should "unwrap the blanket of uncertainty and despair draped around Hillbrow" by stating whether the suburb would be considered a free settlement area, Mr Wasserman said in a statement released yesterday.

"We demand to know what is going on," he added.

While being in favour of the concept of free settlement areas, he believed that Hillbrow's white residents had the right to decide whether the area should become legally mixed.

Once the Government had spelt out its intentions, residents could start preparing submissions to the Free Settlement Board.

Valuation increases Nelspruit rates

By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau

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Assessment rates in Nelspruit have been increased — thanks to a new valuation roll — and general tariff increases will range between 10 and 15 percent

Tariff increases are as follows: Sewerage — 10 percent, electricity — 12 percent, refuse removal — 13 percent, and water — 15 percent.

Airport landing fees and

boarding costs at the municipal owned youth centre were also raised by 12 percent.

On paper, assessment rates actually decreased — from 6,10 cents to 4,60 cents in the rand for businesses and from 4,75 to 2,07 cents on residential property. But a new valuation roll, which comes into effect on July 1, and which reflects increased valuations, will mean that residents and businessmen will have to fork out an additional R1,1 million.



Impala Lodge residents Mr Paul Tlhapi (left) and Mr Sydney Mafoko discuss inner-city life with educationist Dr Andries Lategan. ● Picture by Sean Woods.

50 whites try life with 'illegals'

By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

About 50 whites, including three Democratic Party city councillors and representatives of prominent anti-apartheid organisations, rolled out their sleeping bags on Hillbrow flat floors last night to experience the living conditions of "illegal" black residents of Johannesburg's inner-city area.

Organised by the anti-eviction organisation, Actstop, and the Five Freedoms Forum (FFF),

the "Inner-city Encounter" started last night with a press conference at the Central Methodist Church.

Hosts and guests were introduced to one another, after which participants in the anti-apartheid campaign left for the dwellings which will be home until tomorrow.

Among white residents who gave up their comforts for two days were three DP councillors — Mr Tony Leon, Mr Cliff Garrun and Mrs Rae Graham — educationists, office-bearers from the

FFF, the Institute for a Democratic Alternative to South Africa (Idasa) and the Urban Foundation, church leaders and a large contingent of journalists.

Explaining the aims of "this journey to enlightenment", Actstop publicity secretary Mr Cas Coovadia said the encounter symbolised anti-apartheid groups' commitment to reconciliation between all South Africans.

He told the white participants: "You will see the poor conditions and exploitation."

"You will miss the recreation facilities you may be used to in your parts of Johannesburg."

"We are sure your hearts will go out to the child who cannot be taught in the inner-city."

"We will share with you the grief when a sick child cannot be treated at the nearest hospital."

The publicity secretary of the Five Freedoms Forum, Ms Gael Neke, said that the campaign for the desegregation of Johannesburg aimed to draw attention to the conditions under which approximately 60 000 black residents lived.

Cold comfort for evicted 70 127

By Carina le Grange and Noel Ndhlovu

Star 23/6/89
The hall at St George's Presbyterian church in Johannesburg's Wolmarans Street is vast and airy, big enough to house two basketball fields — and a cold place in winter.

But for the 70-odd people, all evicted from Allandene Residential, Berea, who have been granted shelter there, it is, for the time being, home.

For one resident, it is the first home she has known

She is eight-day-old Patricia Nlangani, who lies sleeping at her mother's side. Ms Thokozile Nlangani, who came directly to the church after her confinement at Baragwanath Hospital, says it is not easy to care for the tiny baby under the circumstances.

PLACE TO STAY

But she agrees with freelance artist Mr Johnson Baloyi that while it is not comfortable and convenient, it is a place to stay

On the stage of the hall, behind heavy curtains, 10 women and four babies lie snuggled into each other under colourful blankets on makeshift beds. Elsewhere in the hall, other women lie on mattresses scattered like islands in a sea of floorboards. The only way to keep warm is under blankets.

A group of men stand chatting in a corner.

"We are not happy here because the

place is big and cold," says Mr Saxon Dlamini. "As a result most of the people who live here are sick with cold."

Lack of privacy was another problem

"There are about 50 people who live here. Men sleep on the one side of the church while women sleep on the stage behind curtains. But no one has a room of their own."

There is one shower for men and one for women. The showers provide hot water. And there are four toilets shared by men and women

It is almost mid-morning and most of St George's new inhabitants have gone to work. Rows of large bulging shopping bags stand deserted against the wall on neatly folded blankets.

In the clean and strangely bare kitchen, Ms Ruth Dhlamini irons the clothes she had washed and dried at a laundromat earlier. Next to her a large urn bubbles with boiling water. Behind her stands the single four-plate gas stove on which food is cooked. There is only one large box of food.

"It takes a long time to feed all," Ruth says.

Ms Martha Tshangela says: "There is order. Our committee sees to that. People don't disturb others when they get up to go to work in the morning."

Ms Beauty Nyokana says they will venture out later in the day to seek permanent shelter.

"We won't find it," someone mumbles from underneath a blanket



Ms Thokozile Nlangani holds her eight-day old baby Patricia — a church hall is the infant's first home.

Councillors bed down on floor to sample life of the 'illegals'

AR 64 23/6/89 (127)
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — About 50 whites, including three Democratic Party city councillors and representatives of prominent anti-apartheid organisations, rolled out their sleeping bags on Hillbrow flat floors last night to experience the living conditions of "illegal" black residents

Organised by the anti-eviction organisation Actstop and Five Freedoms Forum, the "inner-city encounter" started last night with a Press conference at the Central Methodist Church

Hosts and guests were introduced to one another, after which participants left for the premises which will be home until tomorrow.

Journey to enlightenment

Among white residents who gave up their comforts for two days were three Democratic Party councillors — Mr Tony Leon, Mr Cliff Garrun and Mrs Rae Graham — educationists, office-bearers of Five Freedoms Forum, Idasa and the Urban Foundation, church leaders and a large contingent of journalists

Explaining the aims of "this journey to enlightenment", Actstop publicity secretary Mr Cas Coovadia said the encounter symbolised anti-apartheid groups' commitment to reconciliation between all South Africans

He told the white participants "You will see the poor conditions and exploitation. You will miss the recreational facilities you may be used to in your parts of Johannesburg

"We are sure your hearts will go out to the child who cannot be taught in the inner-city. We will share with you the grief when a sick child cannot be treated at the nearest hospital."

To bridge divide

Five Freedoms Forum publicity secretary Ms Gael Neke added that the campaign for the desegregation of Johannesburg aimed at drawing attention to the conditions under which about 60 000 black residents lived

"The encounter is an attempt to bridge the divide between 'illegal' tenants and their 'legal' neighbours from the suburbs

"The division between black and white, legal and illegal, rich and poor, is often exacerbated by myths and misconceptions about the people who make up the inner-city community"

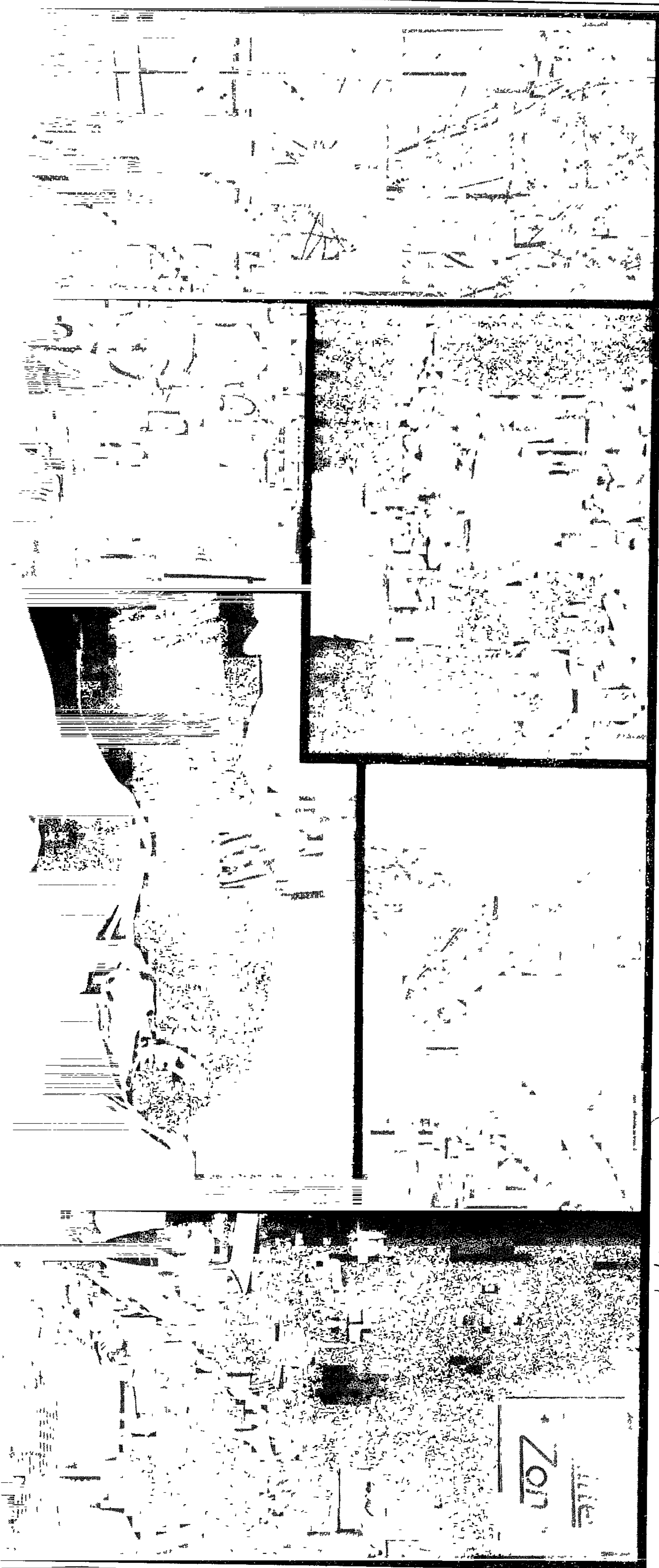
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Excess is Killing 'Hill Bronx'

(127)

24/6/89

After



MULTIFARIOUS

A cross-section of people, swarms the streets and inhabit the flatlands of the "Brow".

Wherever you look you find traders of all kinds, punks, rasta-farians, smooth dudes, thieves, hobos, beggars, drug addicts, prostitutes, old ladies and street kids — all competing for their place in the sun in the "concrete jungle".

buildings which once soared proudly on the city's northern skyline are derelict and in a state of sad disrepair. They are inhabited by thousands of lonely old pensioners who are too scared to venture into the streets at night, and tens of thousands of black residents who are forced to live in overcrowded, squalid rooms which should have been condemned as slum areas years ago.

A prominent feature of Hillbrow is the down-and-out dropouts of all races who loiter in the streets with nothing better to do.

Residents, both black and white, expressed fears of walking around alone at night, and leaving their children to play in the busy, crime-ridden streets during the day.

These fears are real. Unemployment, homelessness, the recession, Government neglect, over-population and lack of town planning and resources have all contributed to an increase in criminal activity, particularly petty crime.

The latest figures released through Parliament by the SAP show that the Hillbrow police station last year had 65 reports of murder, 17 culpable homicides, 300 assaults with intent to do bodily harm, 928 common assaults, 82 rapes, 589 robberies, 3 329 car and

MORE than a decade ago, a daily newspaper reported that Hillbrow — Johannesburg's concrete jungle of noise, violence and boredom — could be an urban sore within 10 years. Flat dwellers were afraid to open their doors not only at night but even during the day, for fear of being mugged, said the then PFP MP for Hillbrow, Mr Alf Widman.

These comments came soon after the announcement in Parliament that between 1974 and 1976, there had been 236 rapes, 1 945 robberies, 6 162 car thefts and 1 200 assaults reported in the Hillbrow area.

It was reported in 1977, when Hillbrow was mostly inhabited by whites, that the blocks of flats were 25 percent full.

During the past decade, thousands of black South Africans, initially largely Indians and coloureds, defied the Group Areas Act and moved into Greater Hillbrow — a white area — in a desperate bid for

accommodation. This movement increased rapidly in 1986, with the abolition of the influx control laws.

Hillbrow is one of the first areas in South Africa unofficially to be declared a non-racial inner city zone but black inhabitants live a life of constant worry — they are "illegals" and have no protection from exploitative landlords.

The future of this congested suburb, which is bursting at the seams with people, remains uncertain. While the Government dithers about whether to declare it a mixed area, Hillbrow, one of the liveliest suburbs of South Africa, is a melting pot which could explode.

Reporter JANET HEARD and photographers Ken Oosterbroek and Sean Woods walked the congested streets of the "Brow" to get the feel of the place.

cycle thefts, 601 cases of damage to property, 1 623 housebreakings with intent to steal and 19 reports of drug possession.

(This must be seen against the population figures, which stand un-

officially at more than 80 000)

Many residents suggest that a stronger police presence in the streets could help prevent criminal activity.

Others report the po-

lice are unsympathetic and, apathetic to the plight of people in distress, and the lines to the police station are often engaged when they try to contact the police station.

White resident, Miss Angie Cochrane (22), who has lived in Hillbrow for three years, dismissed allegations from right-wing organisations that the problem was one of race.

"If the authorities could get rid of the dirt,

There has been an exodus of white residents over the years into the suburbs, and into adjacent Yeoville, but many who bought property in Hillbrow years ago can not sell because of the

decline in the market. Hillbrow's facilities have not adapted to all influx of people of all races and the recreation centre and nearby schools are still open to whites only.

Black children have to travel to the townships to attend school, while in Greater Hillbrow, some white schools are half empty.

The declining number of white residents was highlighted this week — the whites-only Johannesburg Girls High School is likely to be closed down because of the decline in pupil enrolment.

Hillbrow has for many decades been a suburb of transients, with people coming and going. It has always attracted young newcomers and foreigners looking for a place with easy access to the city, and which also has energy, excitement and night life.

Mr James Dryja, the co-owner of the Mini Cine, and Hillbrow resident for nine years, said there had always been a high level of crime in the area, due to the very nature of Hillbrow, which was not designed to cope with so many people.

He said the problem was one of class conflict, not race. "If there was a mixture of people of the same class, there could be less conflict, and less complaints from residents. If the landlords managed their blocks of flats, and did not charge exorbitant rents, black people would not be forced to overcrowd their flats with more than one family to pay the rent,

and the tension would ease".

Mr Dryja, a concerned resident who is actively involved in organisations attempting to address the problems facing Hillbrow, said the council did not enforce the by-laws to protect black tenants from "unscrupulous" landlords who had taken unfair advantage of the demand for housing by blacks.

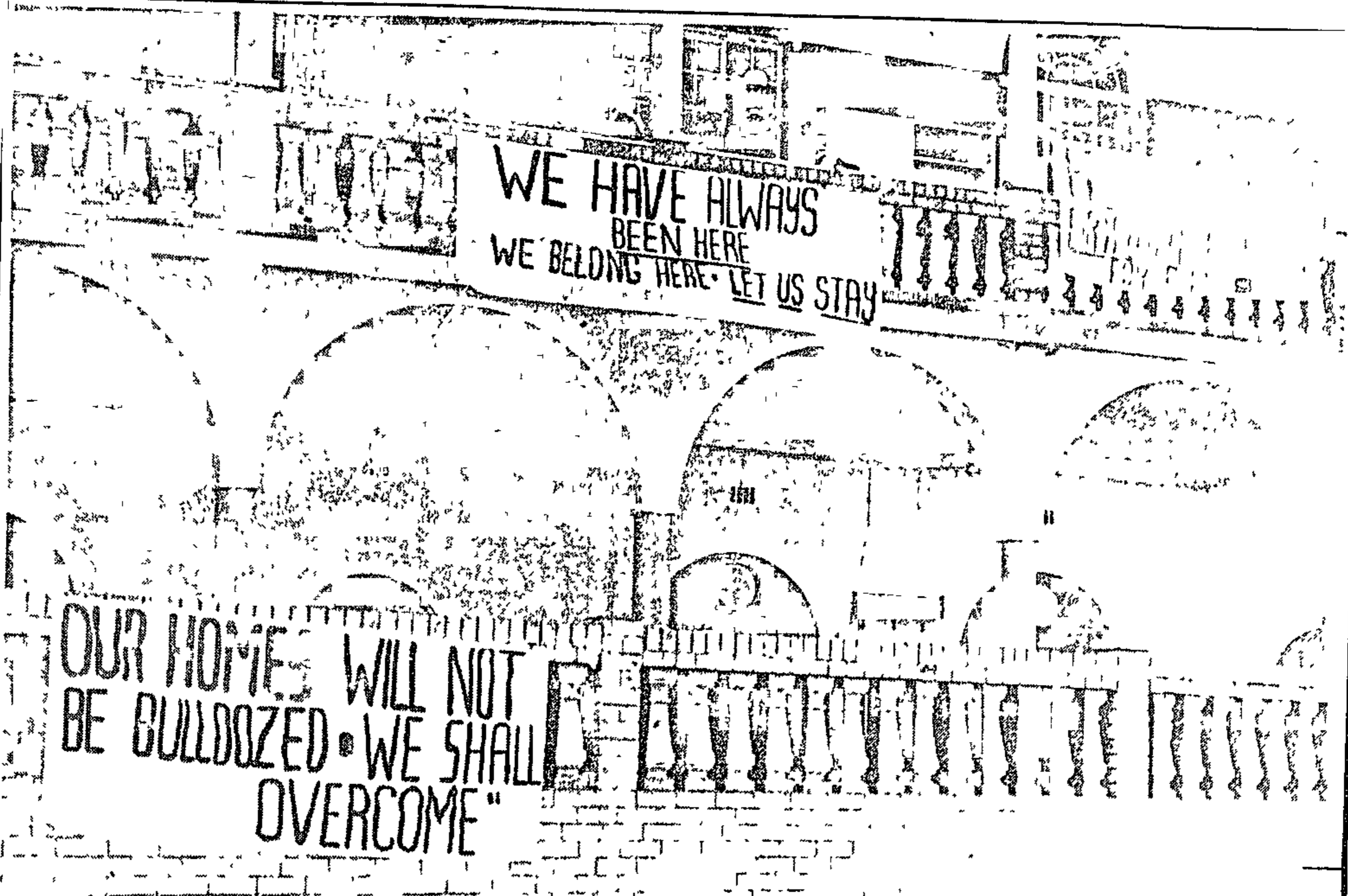
Mr Dryja, has not given up hope for Hillbrow, and said, if the authorities got their act together and showed genuine concern for all the people of Hillbrow, and if the residents gained a common sense of purpose and community spirit, the quality of life could improve.

"Freddy", a black man who works at Fontana's, said Actstop, the Anti-Group Areas Organisation, had done a lot to improve the lot of black "legals" in Hillbrow for pays R270 per month for a small flat where he lives with his wife and baby. He said blacks were there to stay, whether the whites liked it or not.

Common emotions among Hillbrow residents are apathy and despair.

They give the impression of not knowing what the future holds, and being too tired and worn out to care. They have given up trying to improve the image of the suburb by coming together as a community, and they are tired of broken promises by the authorities.

SA 3
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(2)



LAST-DITCH STAND: More than 1 000 people held a vigil at the 14th Street, Pageview, mosque yesterday, in what could be their last hope in their 21-year-old fight against forced removal under the Group Areas Act

Indians pray for a miracle to stop eviction

WHILE leader of the National Party, Mr F W de Klerk, was yesterday trying to convince British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher of his good intentions, more than 1 000 people attended a vigil in Pageview, Johannesburg, in the hope of stopping their eviction

The vigil was to pray for a miracle, which Indian residents see as the last hope in their 21-year fight against their forced removal under the Group Areas Act

Among those who attended were sympathisers from all over the city and Democratic

SHIRLEY WOODGATE
Municipal Reporter

Party city councillors who have thrown their weight behind the Indians' last-ditch attempt to remain in the area

Instructed to abandon their homes in 1968 when the Government declared the suburb "white", most of the 7 000 Indians resettled, mainly in Lenasia, 35 km from the city centre

But as "urban renewal" saw white "economic" homes going up in Pageview, 67 Indian families dug their heels in

Their numbers have dwindled

to 300, but over two decades they have waged a peaceful protest against their eviction, through the courts, appeals to politicians and in the media

The Islam Bank has even offered to fund the reconstruction of the now dilapidated homes which flank 14th Street, once the "Petticoat Lane" patronised by NP supporters who showed off the quaint shops to overseas visitors

Eventually, with a decisive Supreme Court case hanging over their heads since 1982, the Save Pageview Association (SPA) grasped at the one last

straw offered by the Free Settlement Act

They applied to the State President to have their suburb considered He referred their request to Mr Roelf Meyer, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, who turned them down

The SPA then applied to the Johannesburg City Council, which also turned them down

Now they seem to have come to the end of the road

At midday yesterday, the families bowed their heads in prayer for a miracle to prevent what may yet be Johannesburg's last forced eviction

127

Star 24/6/89

But Mr Dalino... their conversation... wish... the... can... a... and... and...

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Sandtonians hail low rates increase

JANET HEARD

SANDTON ratepayers breathed a sigh of relief and welcomed the relatively low increase in residential assessment rates, which were announced by management committee chairman Mr Peter Gardiner this week

The burden, which resulted from the current year's expenditure, has been placed primarily in the hands of the business sector

Presenting the budget address, Mr Gardiner announced that the 1989/90 assessment rates for business sites would increase by 48,8 percent. Residential rates will increase between 8,2 percent and 25,3 percent.

Mr Gardiner said Sandton's rates income, which represented 14 percent of the council's total 1988/9 income, had to be increased for the next financial year to finance, in part, some of the current year's commitments.

These include the unexpected increase in civil servants' salaries. Mr Gardiner said this had added an extra R4,2 million to the 1989/90 budget.

The excess expenditure was temporarily funded by internal borrowings from the council trust funds, comprising developers' contributions and endowment payments, as well as provincial subsidies, Mr Gardiner said. This amount was now at a satisfactory level of R35 million.

In April this year, Saturday Star

published an article quoting Sandton councillor Mr Willem Hefer, who correctly speculated that overall assessment rates would have to be increased by between 33 percent and 50 percent to cope with the burden.

Mr Mike Urwin, chairman of the Parkmore Residents' Association, complimented Mr Gardiner's address and said he was "delighted" that residents did not have to bear the brunt of the rates increase.

Mr Tony Leftwich, chairman of the Rivonia Residents' Association, said his committee was "surprised to be let off so lightly".

Mr Martin Jennings, chairman of Fourways Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, said that although he had not received feedback from residents, he had personally attended the meeting and felt the budget had been dealt with in a mature fashion.

Commenting on the salary increases for the 1989/90 year, he said the salary increases in the 1989/90 budget were very high in some departments, although the overall salary budget remained within the guidelines.

A statement from the River Wards Ratepayers' and Residents' Association complimented the management committee.

Grey life of a black hero in the Mansions of Misery

IT'S been a long time since I slept on a floor, boiled my own water for a 2cm bath, lived and slept in one room with three other people and plotted and planned how to get the better of a callous landlord.

In fact, a couple of these things have never happened to me in my life. Johannesburg flatland residents do every day and I'm glad to have been reminded of it. The chance came with this week's Inner City Encounter, during which 50 white suburbanites moved in with grey-



Entrance to a once fine block of flats ruined by decay

area flatland tenants in Jonbert Park and downtown Johannesburg for two-and-a-half days.

The family I "encountered" were the Hlongwane, Oupa and Grace and Thandi Somba a friend who is sharing their rundown, hasn't seen a coat-of-paint-in-years bachelor flat in Stanhope Mansions.

As soon as I met Oupa — a big, outgoing Zulu with a

curtury guard put in by the landlords broke into my flat and stole R3 000 and my TV set. I pointed the guy out to the police and land charges but he's never been brought to court.

So I've told the landlord I'm working off my rent on that R3 000. He obviously accepts that his guy is guilty because he doesn't try and have me thrown out.

If my electricity is switched off because I don't pay that either I ring him up and he puts it on again. After dropping my bag at Stanhope Mansions — a misnomer if ever I heard one — Oupa and I went off to a live-

ly meeting of tenants of 17 flat blocks controlled by one man.

GWEN GILL finds out, first hand, how the 'other half' lives

Residents was the way land lords tried to make them pay rentals way over the levels set by the Rent Control Board.

Rodney — a production controller and keen activist, and his wife Sharon live in a one-bedroomed flat rent controlled at R254.

But the landlord is demanding R395 and the difference goes down on rent receipts as arrears and amounts each month.

Attempts to get the board to act have proved fruitless. Through Rodney did get to meet an official — he believes he was seen because of his white surname — the RCB would not help.

But there are other residents too. Why can't the residents use the local facilities? We're here to stay. We want creches and schools near us says quality engineer Dees who talks bitterly about the likely closure, reported this week, of Johannesburg Girls High because of empty classrooms.

You understand why when you hear from Rodney that his son Leareal 7 is forced to travel by taxi to Coronationville every day to go to school.

Floor

There's bitterness too, about Mr F W de Klerk becoming State President. As Minister of Education many black people blame him for the poor schooling they've received.

Tired and hungry at 11pm Oupa and I go home to Grace who has kept a supper of stew and rice warm. We should have gone to bed but there was so much to talk about. The Hlongwanes who have a son Phula 16 living with granny in Soweto, don't believe in violence and bombs — they only seem to kill black people. They want to talk "but who ever listens to us?" By now it's 12.45 and we're all exhausted. We take turns

for the bathroom. Then Oupa and Grace return to their bed in a curtained-off alcove. Visitor Thandi and I curl up on a double mattress on the floor. Despite the inevitable snores and snuffles of four people in close quarters, we all sleep well.

Oupa's left before I wake in the morning so Grace, Thandi and I leave the large saucapan that's kept boiling to provide hot water to the bathroom. A quick cup of coffee and we're all on our way — Grace 33 to her job as a Jill-of-all-trades in a city fashion showroom, Thandi a machinist to look for the work she hasn't had since last year, and me to the newspaper.

I'm warned that the next night — Friday — won't be so quiet. We'll have the raucous shebeens in the building to contend with. And we do. But before we go home to the din there's a visit to the International Unemployment Training Centre which Oupa has set up in what was an empty building on the corner of Marksa and Krus streets.

Caught

Up to 500 out of work people a day come through these doors to learn for free, singing acting, knitting, sewing and other trades, some just by watching videos.

I want to help fight crime and the only way that can be done is by giving people a skill to help them think for themselves," said Oupa, who is applying for a fund-raising number to get money for the training centre.

He left school in Std 6 and spent five years learning to lay bricks and paint before his acting career started. He ended up owning a disco but being caught selling liquor without a licence the night last year when Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and his entourage did a downtown walkabout and getting a heavy suspended sentence put a stop to that.

But even with these hardships and the grey lifestyle the Hlongwanes have there's a fire in them that can't be coused. As Rae Graham put it: "How can you all stay so warm and loving? If I had to go through what you do, I'd be abrasive and bitter."

Fervour

There I — and another encounterer — Johannesburg city councillor Rae Graham, who was also staying at Stanhope Mansions — a misnomer if ever I heard one — Oupa and I went off to a live-

ly meeting of tenants of 17 flat blocks controlled by one man. A white suburban residents association chairman would have been thrilled at the turnout, the fervour, the commitment but perhaps a mite surprised as the meeting ended in shouts of Viva Actstrop and Viva the ANC — the moving strains of the only national anthem the tenants recognise. Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika.

Before going home to the flat, Oupa and two neighbours Rodney Veldman and Dees Moothee Rae Graham's host took us to meet other Stanhope tenants. In one flat three families each paying R150 a month, live in a sleazy two-bed roomed apartment with few facilities sharing a kitchen and bathroom without hot water.

There are facilities for heating water in the building but the landlord doesn't both er said the tenants. We had no lights on the stairs until the other day when the guy who controls the building found out you people were coming. Tales are told of tenants occupying the servants quarters on the roof at R250 for one room. I learned that one of the biggest grumbles among

Homes at risk

Soaring bond rates threaten big defaults

If mortgage foreclosures are already up as a result of the bond rate rise from 16% to 17% in December, what will happen in the next six months? Going back to the beginning of 1988, the monthly instalment of R100 000 bond for 20 years at 12.5% was R1 136. At 18.75% it is R1 600. At the predicted 19.75% to take effect from July it will be R1 679, a R543 per month increase started taking off in May.

otherwise have fixed level of income in terms of \$ move up. REPOSSESSIONS. From clouds gather. before the storm. The number of repossession through failure to service of 12,586. along with a strong possibility of 12,586. REPOSSESSIONS. From clouds gather. before the storm. The number of repossession through failure to service of 12,586. along with a strong possibility of 12,586.

Business Times May 21

Tougher times as crunch hits house-owners

HOME-OWNERS have coped well with the increase in mortgage rates in the past few months, say banks — but harder times lie ahead. By Udo Rypstra account is noted as being in arrears. Mr Tucker says red tape is holding up many bond subscribers, pushing borrowers mainly in arrears. He encouraged r



SMOKE BREAK Oupa with guests Thandi Somba and Gwen Gill Pictures KEVIN CARTER

When the colour of your skin no longer matters

By SAMKELO KUMALO

OVER the past few years — despite Group Areas legislation — many of SA's residential areas have become racially mixed.

Walking through the streets of a suburb like Hillbrow it is possible to forget that one is in apartheid SA

Take a stroll in the park and you will find people of all races relaxing amicably together. The situation has become so normal that the colour of your skin probably won't even be noticed in a pub or food outlet

A *City Press* survey of white residents this week recorded a



Racial 'slurs' as cops storm buildings

By STAN MHLONGO

TENANTS at Argyle Court in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, told how "a rude group of gun-toting policemen" raided and searched their building this week.

Agnes Moshoshoe said police had called her "a kaffir" and had broken her mirror in the raid.

A toy pistol, a T-shirt belonging to Act-stop publicity secretary Pressage Nkosi and documents belonging to the organisation were allegedly confiscated.

A Witwatersrand Police spokesman confirmed that police had raided Argyle Court in terms of the emergency regulations.

He said various articles were seized but declined to comment on allegations made by Argyle Court tenants that police had been

were against integration while others thought it was a positive step.

Berea Park resident AV Appelton, 71, said without hesitation that she was not bothered who her neighbours were

"For a neighbour I do not look at race or colour. People have a right to live where they please. If my neighbours cause trouble they will get on the wrong side of me, be they black or white. The most important thing is that people respect others

Disgrace

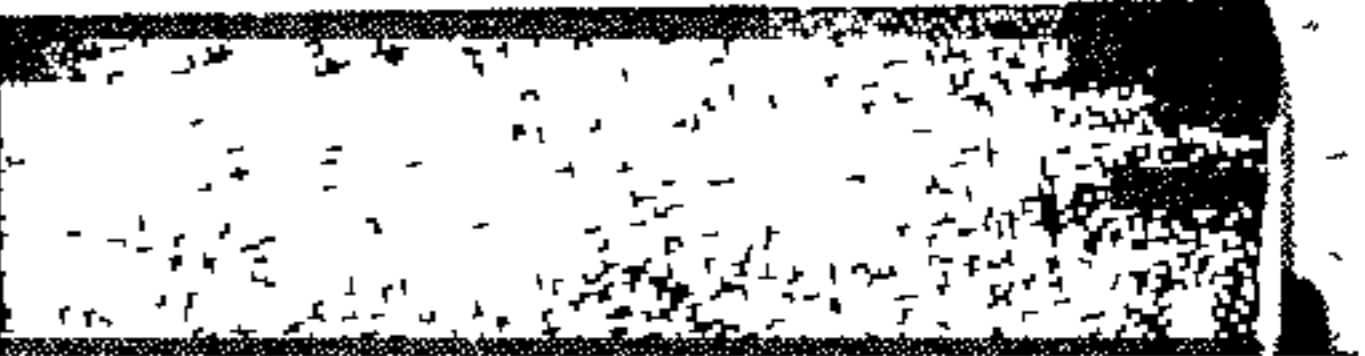
"If I was to lay a charge of disturbance against a black person it would not be because he was black. It is not your fault that you were born black or born in this country. We need no law to tell us with whom we can live," she said.

BA Martin said "I firmly believe that blacks should be allowed to live where they want immediately. It is a disgrace that about five percent of the flats where I live are empty and blacks are not allowed to rent them."

Belinda Burger and two of her friends agreed that as long as people behaved, irrespective of the colour of their skin, they should be free to live where they pleased.

"I can't see the wrong in allowing blacks into so-called white areas as long as they can afford the rent," said Burger.

Richard Wallace, 18, who is still at school, said he did not care who his neighbours were as long as they could live in peace. A Yugoslav visitor who has been in SA for some time said those who wanted apartheid leg-



Oblivious to their differences, children join in a game of horse in a Hilbrow park while parents and nannies sit side-by-side on park benches enjoying the winter sunshine.



Parents and nannies sit side-by-side on park benches while children play a game of horse in a Hilbrow park while parents and nannies sit side-by-side on park benches enjoying the winter sunshine. Pics: EVANS MBOWENI

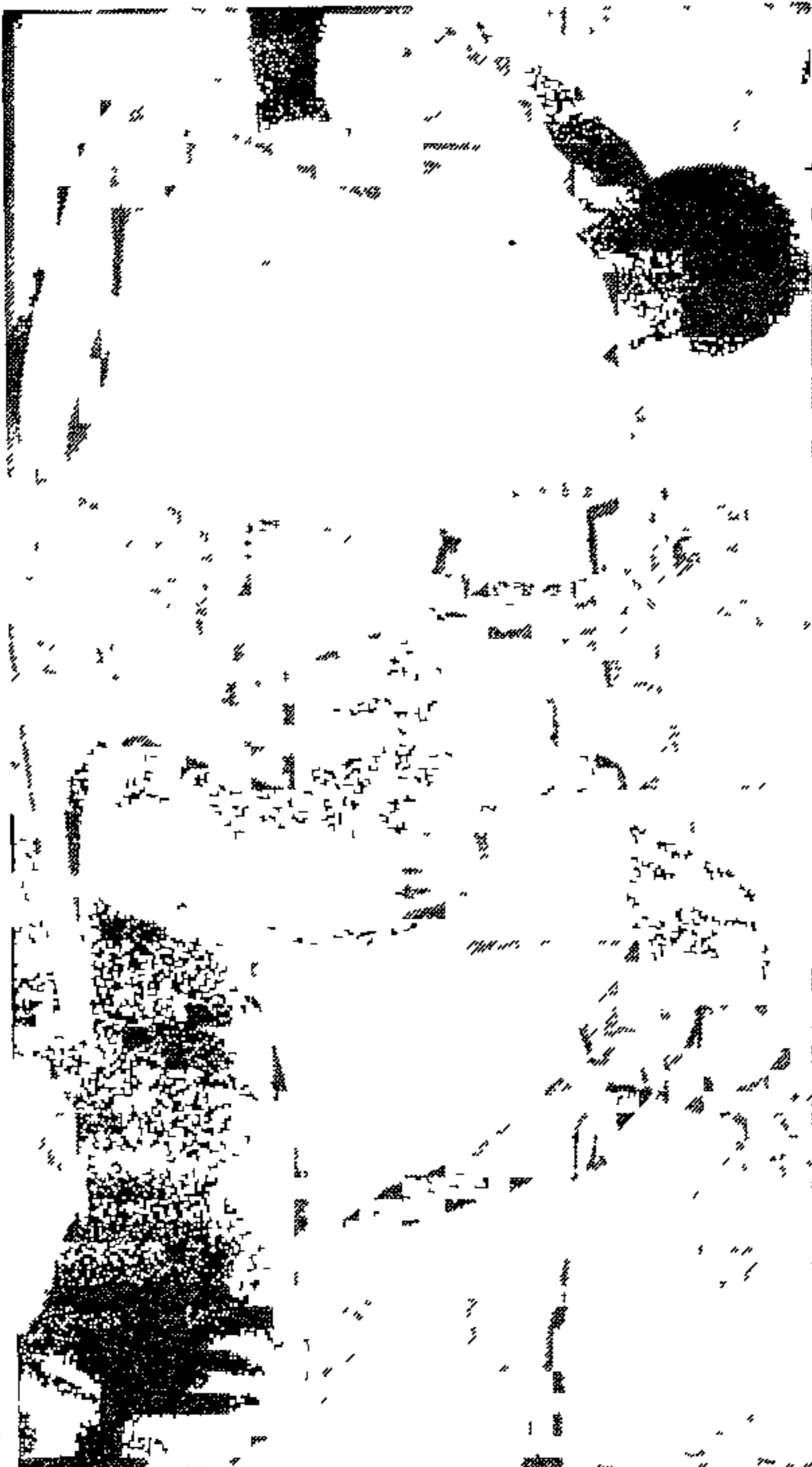
Argyle Court landlord, David Malan, denied claims by tenants that he had called the police.

The building has a history of conflict between militant tenants and the landlord.

Nkosi was acquitted by a Johannesburg magistrate last week on a charge of assaulting Malan after the court found that the two men had exchanged blows after a tenant had been locked out of the building.



BA Martin: "The laws are a disgrace."



Colour does not perturb this German immigrant, who has lived in SA for 20 years. He happily shares a Hilbrow park bench — and other local amenities — with other races.



Malcolm Campbell: "Change attitudes."

isolation to be retained should be scrapped one day and blacks would then be free to live where they wanted.

"It is unnatural for people's choice of where they are going to live to be controlled by a law very soon," he said.

Mike Oelofsen of neighbouring Yeoville, who has travelled all over the world, said more facilities should be provided to

avoid congestion. "I think Johannesburg is still lagging when it comes to things like swimming pools.

"Edinburgh, in Scotland, is far smaller than Johannesburg yet it has a number of large and small pools. There is the 50m Commonwealth Pool, which is bigger than anything Johannesburg can offer.

"The talk should not be on the question of race but availability of facilities for all people. The

archaic Group Areas Act should have been scrapped long ago," he said.

J Bisset has resigned herself to accepting that blacks in Joubert Park are there to stay. "It's not a very good thing, but what can we do? The government never did anything about it," she said.

An elderly Berea resident, who did not wish to be named, said government should buy out white home owners and declare the area black or build more homes

in Soweto. "If I could sell my flat I would go," she said, adding that she objected to the number of people sharing the flats. "Some house two or three families. It would not be so bad if they were a better type of black."

Meanwhile in nearby Berea Park black and white children played happily together, oblivious of their differences. Their parents and nannies sat side by side on the benches enjoying the winter sun.

HARMONY, ECSTASY, ANGER... DEEP IN THE HEART OF MULTIRACIAL SOUTH AFRICA

The Five Free-dom Forum and Actstop launched an Inner City Encounter this week.

About 50 prominent people, among them journalists from major newspapers, spent nights with black families living illegally in Johannesburg to experience the hardships faced by the estimated 60 000 people barred from the medical and recreational facilities closest to their homes. CHARLES MOGALE spent a night with one of the families

A night in Joburg's illegal slumlands

Life is a perpetual orgy of frustration: exorbitant rent for a dump is but one gripe.

though as coloured Johannesburgers life is a perpetual orgy of frustration

Johnny observed

"The only time we ever see the man is when he comes to ask for more money

"Whenever we want to discuss the condition of the flat, he gets angry and refuses to discuss the matter," he said

The couple has lived in the derelict flat for about three years and pay a rental of R184, excluding

electricity, as stipulated by the Rent Board.

They have ignored a rent increase demanded by the landlord

The wealthy owner of Stresa Court has, they say, often threatened to close down the building instead of renovating it

"This is an amazing place," says neighbour Uncle Jim (not his real name)

"The roof leaks like hell, even if it is not raining. When it rains, I can't avoid a cold shower in bed."

A pungent smell overcomes you as you enter the building and make your way up the dark, winding steel stair case

The lift has not worked for months

Stresa Court was built in the mid-1930s and the

dilapidated interior of the building seems to have been neglected since then

Paint is peeling off the walls, electrical fittings are not fully insulated, the plumbing is literally falling apart - and all these things are apparently "the tenant's responsibility"

"The owner tells us he is only responsible for the

maintenance of the exterior. He says whoever wants to do something about the interior of his flat should foot the bill

"This is silly and exploitative because we do not own this place. How can we improve his property out of our own pockets?" asked Johnny

A major gripe from Stresa Court tenants is its lack of security. Since January this year five people have been murdered in the building

"When we asked for some form of security, the landlord told us we would have to pay for it," Johnny said

Out on the streets of Johannesburg, people hopes of normal treatment in a normal society have been shattered

Uncle Jim's wife remembered the day he grandson gashed himself on a piece of glass. As he bled profusely she called an ambulance to rush him to the nearest hospital - the General in Hillbrow

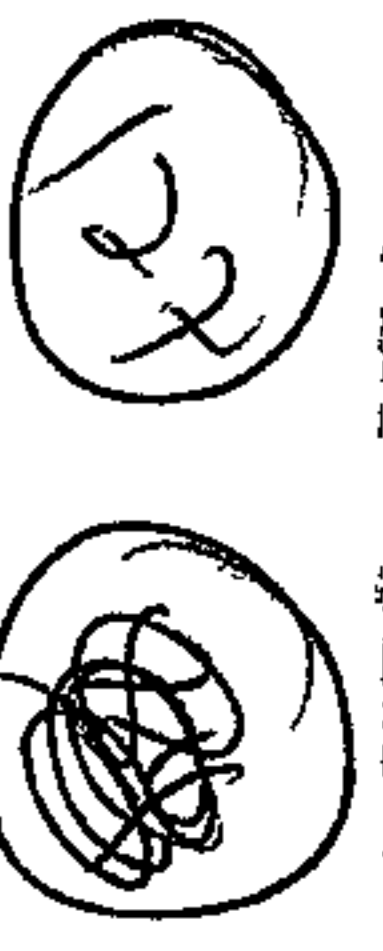
"The driver flatly refused and said we could not be served there

"We had to drive all the way to Coronation Hospital. What if the boy had died from loss of blood?"

Gaby, too, experienced discrimination when she went to the General after being referred by a Cape Town hospital

"First they made me stand in the queue for about eight hours. When at last I saw someone they told me to go to Coronation Hospital," she said

Johnny summed up "the might not be in our lifetime but our children are going to see a better Johannesburg and SA"



1527

[Handwritten scribble]

Sleeping on a church floor

By HAPPY ZONDI

Evicted Berea tenants shelter from the cold

JUST as a 19-year-old mother has lulled her baby to sleep, another child wakes up and howls, startled.

The young mother gets up and tip-toes to the kitchen to get something to eat. She has to tread carefully so as not to step on the mass of bodies sleeping on mattresses strewn on the floor of the church hall.

She trips and falls over a grouchy man who is trying to get a good night's sleep before waking for work. He mutters, rolls over and dozes off again.

Some 52 families have moved into the hall of St George's Presbyterian Church in Hillbrow after being evicted from Allendene flats in Soper Road, Berea, last week.

Landlord Claudio Cerasoli gave tenants a month's notice, saying he was renovating the building.

They refused and Cerasoli got a court order to have them evicted.

Once they were on the streets, Actstop erected a large yellow and white tent on the pavement outside the building. The same tenants watched heartsores as their shelter was torn down by the traffic department.

Johannesburg's traffic chief John Pearce said at the time that he had received many complaints about the tent, which encroached on the street, and had no option but to dismantle it.

Church put the families up until last Sunday and St George's Rev Rod Adamson offered them shelter from the icy June wind till they found other accommodation.

"Since we housed the Allendene residents the senior minister has been inundated with crank calls, presumably from angry right-wingers who are not happy with what we did," said Adamson.

The health department has also come to check health conditions. Though the hall is large and icy cold, the tenants are happy to have a roof over their heads. At night they gather in small groups chatting quietly. From one corner comes the soft strains of Nkosi

Sikelel' Africa

The church hall squatters could only bring their bedding, blankets and a few possessions bulging out of cardboard boxes.

Their furniture still lies on the pavement outside Allendene Court, permanently guarded by some of the tenants.

"We only pray that it does not rain," said tenant Thokozi Mlangeni.

Actstop publicity secretary Cas Coovadia urged the Johannesburg City Council this week to declare a moratorium on evictions in the inner-city area while it tried to find solutions to the problem of homelessness in the city.

They also proposed that the government introduce legislation to protect tenants against "unjust treatment" by landlords.

Meanwhile, tenants of Waldorf Heights in Hillbrow are still locked in conflict with their landlord, Joe Farber.

The tenants say they have been involved in a struggle with Farber for two years over the poor conditions and lack of services in the building.

They claim the building is derelict and the two lifts are not working.

Bathroom windows are broken, toilets malfunction, geysers are not working properly and wall plugs are inadequate.

The tenants say they had an agreement with Farber that they would

pay more rent if he upgraded the building.

In a statement released through Actstop to highlight their plight, the tenants said they had paid the increased rentals for a number of months but Farber had failed to keep his part of the promise.

"The present condition of the building bears testimony to this," the statement said.

The Hillbrow Estate Agency also failed to give advance notice of the proposed increase, the tenants said.

After seeking legal advice they were told that because the agency had failed to give advance notice, the increase was invalid.

"The attorney suggest-

ed that we call a meeting where the issue would be discussed with the landlord. He ignored our request to see him. We then decided to safeguard ourselves and collected rentals which were paid by our attorney through the agency," the statement said.

Five months later the tenants were again issued a month's notice that the rent was increasing. A delegation was appointed to meet the landlord in order to discuss the conditions of the buildings - which had still not been attended to, the tenants claimed.

They have still not met the landlord and said they would not pay the increase till they had met him. They also demanded metered accounts for electricity and gas.

Houses will be finished disgruntled owners told

Nov 26/6/84

127

By Kevin Udemans

There now appears to be light at the end of the tunnel for 17 disgruntled homeowners at the Kloof Mews complex in Allen's Nek, Roodepoort, who may soon be moving into the Vista Homes houses they were promised seven months ago

Time Housing — it last year made plans to buy the struggling Vista Homes, but later withdrew — has given the homeowners a written undertaking to complete the houses for the amounts available from their registered mortgage bonds

Building is expected to resume next week

The trouble began when the homeowners' occupation date was continuously delayed last year and problems finally peaked when Vista Homes went into liquidation earlier this year.

Those affected by the delay called a meeting and asked Mr Ken Moses of liquidators Wes Trust to explain what was being done. Mr Moses said Time Hous-

ing had agreed to complete the houses

He said the liquidators had the right to cancel the Vista Homes contracts but "had we done that, a lot of you people would have been hurt".

Last Wednesday the liquidators were given a written undertaking by Time Housing general manager, Mr Mike Graham, that the homes would be completed with no further outlay by the registered bondholders.

Time Housing required that new contracts be signed between the homeowners and themselves

Said Mr Graham. "This is necessary to prevent us from being liable for consequential damages as a result of the delay due to Vista's liquidation

"It will also absolve us from any responsibility for structural guarantees on work done to date"

Mr Graham has told The Star that builders would go this week to start completing

LEAVE

Angry old
folks tell
Govt men

127

US

Sowetan 26/6/87

ALONE

THEMBA MOLEFE

AN OFFICIAL of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning was chased away by angry landowners in Daggakraal as he tried to conduct elections for a community authority in the Eastern Transvaal area at the weekend.

Daggakraal is one of several communities which have

REPORTS, pictures and comments in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency

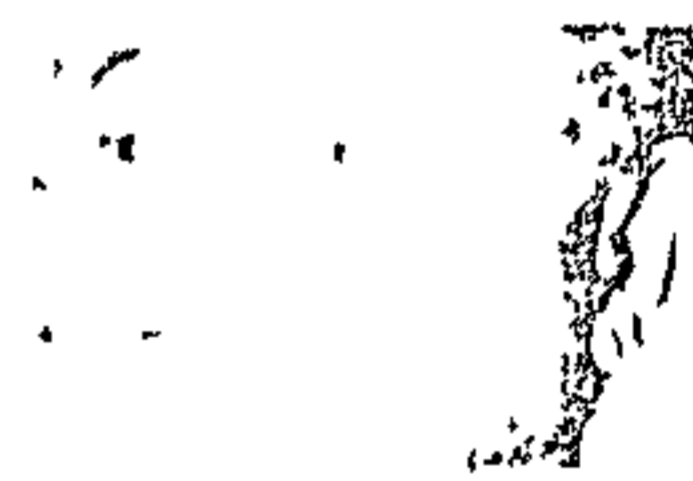
resisted forced removal and among the few which still enjoy freehold rights.

The commissioner for the Amersfoort district, Mr F J C Piek, postponed the elections to July 22 when he failed

Go to Page 2



Inkatha's Chief Buthelezi



UDF's Archle Gumede

Move to
end the
slaughter
— Page 6

P.T.O.

SAW 27/6/89

Sasolburg gets 13 pc rates rise

Vereeniging Bureau

The Sasolburg town council last night approved increases in all service tariffs as well as a 13,1 percent rise in assessment rates for the coming financial year

The increases will result in the average household paying a total of R14 more a month

Presenting a record budget of just over R50 million, management committee chairman Mr Dawie Malherbe said assessment rates were being increased by 0,5 cents in the rand, which would result in residents paying an average of R5,21 more a month

Electricity tariffs will rise from 10,8 c/kWh to 11,1 c/kWh, while water costs are being increased by 13,1 percent to 68,9 c/kl

The largest increase approved is a 35,3 percent hike in refuse removal tariffs, which will now cost householders R11,50 more a month

Sewage tariffs were also adjusted by 3,3 percent

Food, not group areas, the key issue — Fuchs

Municipal Reporter

Nov 27/6/89
With Hillbrow due to become a free settlement area, the vital issue which had to be urgently resolved for the inner city residents was economics and the cost of food, not Group Areas said Democratic Party candidate Mr Lester Fuchs

Commenting on the call for clarity on the Act by his National Party opponent, Mr Fuchs said "There is nothing new about his appeal. The whole world is waiting for signs of the official scrapping — not clarification — of this law.

"What must be addressed urgently is the creeping poverty which is hitting South Africans, particularly those in the lower income groups in places like Hillbrow

SHOPPING BASKET

(127) ~~87~~ ~~244~~
"The cost of a shopping basket of basic foodstuffs has increased over 15 years from R35 to R246, despite Minister Org Marais's statement that we are better off than 20 years ago

"The Government must now come out with a clearcut economic policy which will show how it plans to reverse the spi-

ral of increasing prices.

"Food costs have gone up to the extent that nutritional problems could develop among the lower income groups

"All the while the Government is living well, fatcat Ministers opt out with golden handshakes and these people simply do not feel the pinch

"And the situation is far from resolved

"After the September election South Africans can clearly expect a further 20 percent increase in food costs when the price of petrol is almost certain to rise," Mr Fuchs said

King of grey area landlords talks on 'war of the slums'

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Star 29/6/89
By Helen Grange

A war is being waged in the tenements of Johannesburg

The "war of the slums" is being fought between tenants represented by the anti-eviction body Actstop, and downtown landlords

The landlords are slated as "slumlords" profiting from people who, because of the Group Areas Act, are paying exorbitant rents and service charges for living in rundown buildings

The landlords regard themselves as businessmen battling to carry on business in the face of rent boycotts and "irresponsible" tenants

SQUALID

The result of the war is that scores of families are evicted every month. Almost every multiracial block of flats in town has been at the centre of scandals over evictions and squalid conditions

And while solutions are nowhere in sight, the war between illegal tenants and landlords continues

The recent eviction of about 300 tenants from Allandene Residential Flats in Berea has swung the spotlight back on the plight of people living illegally in the inner city — and the landlords accused of exploiting them

The Allandene evictions were the latest in a long series of evictions and threatened evictions from multiracial Johannesburg slums

LASHED OUT

Recently, 88 families living in Waldorf Heights, Fabien Heights, Claridges and Ritz Plaza were served with eviction orders. Before that, 50 tenants in Park Mews were evicted and so were 50 tenants in Ponte in Hillbrow

Landlords such as Mr Tony Pharboo and his partner, Mr Ismail Patel, who own several downtown slums, have lashed out at Actstop for "inciting tenants not to pay their rents and service charges"

Actstop has consistently accused landlords of exploiting the homeless by charging exorbitant rentals while leaving their buildings to decay

● See Page 11



Mr Tony Pharboo . . . his opponents describe him as a slumlord, but he sees himself as a struggling businessman, losing money on the rented buildings he controls.

● Picture by Ken Oosterbroek.

Soweto council acts to restore electricity

(127) By Noel Ndhlovu
The Soweto City Council has appealed to Soweto businessmen "to be fair with prices" during the electricity breakdown

In a statement released yesterday, the Council also requested businessmen to assist residents by

stocking up with candles and paraffin *Star 29/6/89*

The council said it had called in experts from Eskom to advise and assist with manpower and equipment to restore electricity

The possibility of extending the contract of the Zola substation

contractor to repair the damaged Mapetla substation was being investigated.

The Mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, said the electricity breakdown was purely accidental and had nothing to do with service charges

'No' to free settlement

127

Pretoria Correspondent

Verwoerdburg has voted against a free settlement application in an area called The Reeds

The area — The Reeds extensions 4 and 17 — does not meet the viability requirements laid down by the town council which is to recommend to the Free Settlement Board that the application be refused.

In a declaration of policy, the council said no existing residential areas would be considered as free settlement areas

An application for free settlement in a new residential area would have to be viable with regard to infrastructure, including accessibility and "own" facilities, and the wishes of local residents would be given serious consideration

Management committee chairman Dr Pieter Smith said at a council meeting last night that he hoped this policy and its practical implementation in the decision on The Reeds would suffice. He called on protesters to "stop crying wolf".

These landlords play dirty, says Nat councillor

Mr Tony Pharboo and his partner, Mr Ismail Patel, seem indisputably the kings of Johannesburg's grey area landlords

The bonds of Midhill Gardens, Roseneath Mansions and Sussex Court are all registered in the name of Mr Clive Kupritz, a Johannesburg businessman who claims he in turn sold the buildings on deed of sale to Mr Pharboo and Mr Patel

The Star learnt that apart from these buildings, Mr Pharboo and Mr Patel owned Milton Court, Miltherd Court, Dunrobin Residential, Impala Lodge and Tillaby Court.

All these buildings have at times been the centre of controversy over continual evictions and alleged squalid conditions.

It has since been established that Mr Pharboo also bought the Olive apartment block in Yeoville from Mr Kupritz, where conditions are reported to be deteriorating.

Mr Pharboo's main holding company is Summergold Investments Pty Ltd.

Several allegations regarding Mr Pharboo's buildings have been made by both Act-



Mr Tony Pharboo . . . under fire for over charging.

stop (an organisation defending tenants rights) and Mrs Desiree Simpson, National Party councillor for Hillbrow/Joubert Park

Not long ago, Mr Pharboo dropped the monthly flat rental in Milton Court from R200 to R60 after Actstop brought court action against him.

Mrs Simpson has since claimed that tenants of Midhill Gardens are no longer receiving a record of electricity units used, and are being charged exorbitant amounts for water and lights.

Mr Kupritz told The Star

that the electricity meters at Midhill Gardens "are not in good shape" and that black tenants were charged an all-in amount including rental, water and lights

It was also disclosed to The Star that an attempt had been made in March to increase tenants' parking rental at Midhill Gardens from R22 to R30 per month without authorisation from the Rent Board

After receiving a complaint from one of the tenants, the Department of Local Government, Housing and Works got an undertaking from Mr Pharboo's rent consultant and co-director of Summergold Investment Pty Ltd, Mr F G Putter, that the contravention would be rectified.

However, a tenant's April receipt, furnished to The Star by Mrs Simpson, showed that R30 was still being charged for parking

"Each building Mr Pharboo and Mr Patel own can be identified by the same problems, including overcharging for rent and services, abandoning of maintenance responsibilities and eventually, mass evictions," said Mrs Simpson.

Owners are also the auditors

The owners of Hawarden Court, one of Mr Tony Pharboo's central city multiracial buildings, are directors of the auditing firm which audits for a company owning seven other downtown flat blocks.

Mr Cecil Scher and Mr Jacob Freedman are directors of Freedman Scher, the auditing firm for Gorfil Brothers In-

vestments, which owns Argyle Court, Claridge and Margate Courts, Protea Mansions, Branksome Towers, Stanhope Mansions and Manhattan Court.

Mr Solly Gorfil, director of Gorfil Brothers, has consistently refused to admit ownership of these buildings. The Star found that the holding com-

pany for his buildings, Gorfil Investments (Pty) Ltd, is directed by Gorfil Brothers.

Mr Cecil Scher confirmed that he and his partner, Jacob Freedman, had sold Hawarden Court to Mr Pharboo on deed of sale "As soon as Mr Pharboo has paid the balance of the purchase price, the building will be his," he said.

Inside the 'Poor People's Market'

Next door to one of the most decrepit buildings in Johannesburg is the second-hand furniture store from which Mr Tony Pharboo and Mr Ismail Patel conduct their business - administering the multi-racial buildings they own

Inside the "Poor People's Market" at 293 Bree Street is a clutter of furniture which hides an office barred with a security gate, and barricaded from view by a piece of cardboard

We stroll into the shop Loud discussion and shouting can be heard from the office, while bleak-faced black men wait outside to speak to Mr Pharboo They complain that their lights have been cut off

On asking for Mr Pharboo, a man appears Instead of immediately throwing us out as we expected, Mr Pharboo seems not to hear our questions and drifts back towards the office

"We are all in the office," he mumbles over his shoulder.

Sitting behind a paper-strewn desk in a frayed leather chair is Mr Pharboo's business partner, Mr Ismail Patel, a large,

vociferous man who immediately proves himself the dominant figure in the room

Mr Pharboo and Mr Kupritz sit quietly as Mr Patel launches into an hour-long, emotionally charged monologue about the buildings he has seen destroyed "in a matter of months."

"They won't pay their electricity and the municipality is switching off the whole building (Hawarden Court) tomorrow," he says emphatically

"Good! I won't get any more bills from the electricity department I already owe them a fortune and I can't get the money They (the tenants) have the lights on all day They keep the stoves on all night, and then they won't pay. Just as well the electricity is cut off

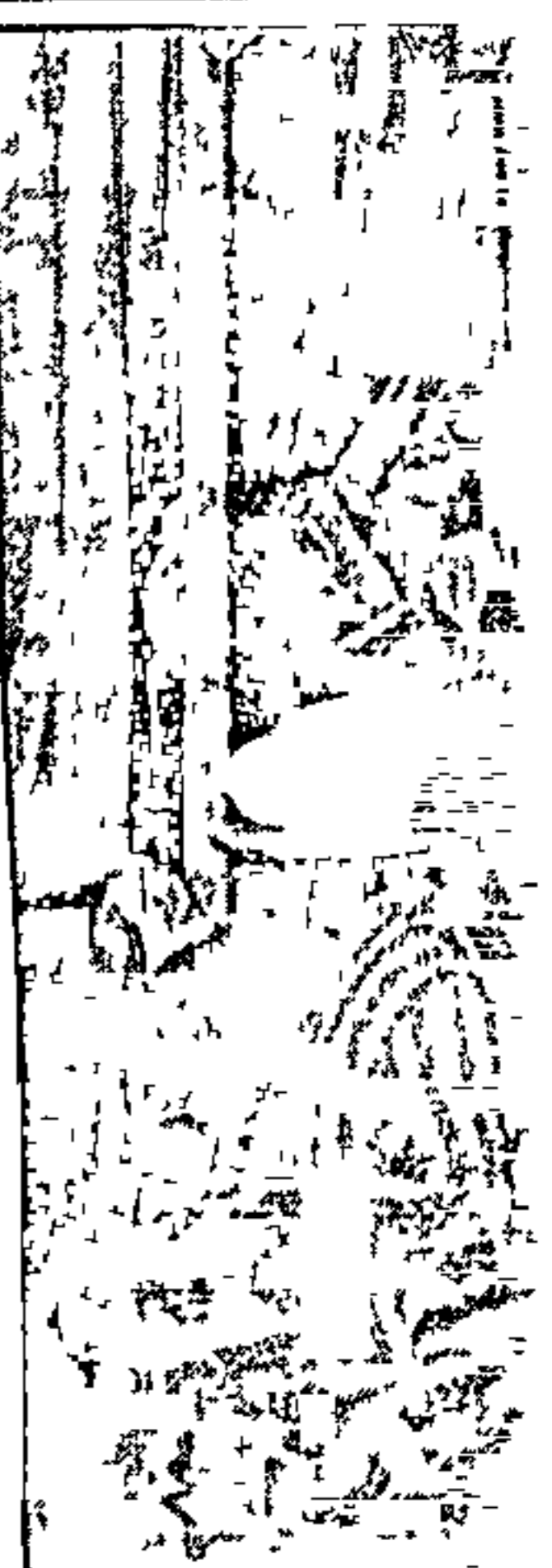
"You people (The Star) only tell one side of the story You make us out to be exploiters I will prove that we do not exploit our tenants We are losing money daily Look at these (electricity) accounts How am I supposed to maintain the building when I can't even pay the expenses? I can barely pay the bond," Mr Patel shouts while Mr Pharboo nods his head in vigorous approval

While Mr Pharboo rushes off to get the

Landlords of multiracial city flats often come under fire for the condition of their buildings and for evicting tenants But the landlords blame Actstop, an organisation representing tenants, for "inciting tenants not to pay their rents" Reports by HELEN GRANGE



The squalid interior of Clardge Court, Joubert Park.



A short-lived reprieve in Berea this pulled down by the



The homeless . . . tenants of the run-down Branksome after being evicted last year under

"Rose Neath file", Mr Patel goes on "Why don't you ask Actstop (an organisation representing tenants) if they are prepared to pay all these outstanding bills? They first incite the tenants not to pay and then offer them no protection

"Why don't they take these homeless people in for free It is because we (the landlords) are prepared to accommodate homeless people that we get into so much trouble."

Mr Pharboo returns with the file and jabs a finger at five-figure amounts for outstanding electricity bills for Rose Neath Mansions

An hour later, a tenant is brought in and shouted at for siphoning off electricity from his light to provide power for a rock band on the roof

"Well, now it doesn't matter, because the whole building will be cut off by the municipality tomorrow You better ask Actstop to have it switched on," shouts Mr Patel

At this juncture, I take my leave, scramble through a jumbled array of old furniture and emerge on to the pavement, relieved to breathe the fresh air once more

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Reports
GRANGE



Actstop ruins us, claims slums landlord

127

The man whose name appears on the mortgage bonds of some of Johannesburg's worst slums, Mr Clive Kupritz, says his dream of becoming a property magnate was shattered on discovering the "vices of tenants who eventually run buildings to the ground".

Mr Kupritz is responsible for paying off the mortgage bonds on Midhill Gardens, Roseneath Court and Sussex Court, but claims he has sold the buildings on deed of sale to Mr Tony Pharboo, the *de facto* owner

All the buildings are located in the grey areas of Johannesburg's flatlands and have continually had attention drawn to them through squalid conditions and a steady stream of evictions.

Mr Kupritz claims he is the mortgagee of many more city buildings, although he refuses to name them.

"I am not interested in owning buildings anymore," he said "The laws in this country have made it impossible for landlords to operate successfully and Actstop (an organisation representing tenants) is slowly destroying us"

Mr Kupritz said the man to whom he sold the buildings, Mr Pharboo, was struggling to recover rentals and service charges from tenants, who continually refused to pay

"I'm going to have to take the buildings back from Tony and try and manage on my own if things don't improve," said Mr Kupritz "On one building, I owe the electricity department R20 000"

Mr Kupritz claimed tenants had virtually wrecked one building beyond repair

He explained "The passages are running with urine. People defecate on the stairwells. They have broken the parking lot gates and cars are stolen regularly

"The parking lot is now used as a workshop for taxis. The doors of the flats are smashed and tenants use the stoves as heaters running up huge electricity accounts

Insurance companies won't touch the buildings and the banks are threatening to withdraw the bonds," he said

"Landlords like myself are forced to evict people because we cannot pay our bills"

Mr Kupritz lays the blame squarely on Actstop, which he said, incited tenants into refusing to pay rents and service charges

He said when the buildings were first bought, flats were rented out as fully furnished, and thus were exempt from rent control

"Tenants have broken and stolen furniture in the meantime and Actstop now claims they are subject to rent controlled tariffs as low as R39"

Tenants were charged differential rentals because he was obliged to make concessions for "the older people". He disputed that high rentals forced large families to move into flats in order to split costs

"I know of tenants who rent flats in several buildings and then charge R100 per person moving into the flats. The building gets overcrowded, resulting in people fighting and destroying the building"

Asked whether he had any concern over Mr Pharboo's way of controlling the buildings, Mr Kupritz replied "I am not my brother's keeper. As far as I am concerned, he is honourable in his commitments"

Mr Kupritz, who runs a men's clothing shop in town, said he bought several buildings in the early 1980s, after making a fortune on the stock market

"Now it's a huge headache. If I could get rid of the buildings for a decent price, I would"

A short-lived reprieve for tenants evicted from Allandene Residential in Berea this month. This tent, erected by Actstop, was pulled down by the Johannesburg Traffic Department shortly afterwards.



... tenants of the run-down Branksome Towers in Johannesburg on the pavement after being evicted last year under the Group Areas Act.

INSIDE THE PA...

LPG gives power to the people

Sowetan
29/6/84

127



MORE than 70 percent of homes in the country's 208 black townships do not have electricity, according to latest Government's statistics.

One of the townships is Alexandra, situated only about two kilometres from the affluent suburb of Sandton.

It is against this background that Easigas (Pty) Limited has called on all developers to look to other energy sources in order to meet the ever-increasing demand for power supplies.

Logical

Mr Collin Harris, marketing manager of Easigas, said Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) was the most logical and practical solution to this

enormous problem.

"It fulfills all power needs of the ordinary household, cooking, lighting, heating, hot water and even refrigeration. As a heat source, LPG is tremendously popular in this country because of its convenience," Harris said.

He said Easigas staff were always on hand for free advice on applications and siting installations. The company also assisted home owners to prepare the necessary plans to obtain permission from local authorities.

Cheap

"Appliances, installation, the LPG itself, back-up maintenance and service of appliances, are available through our extensive distributor network. We see LPG as possibly the only practical option for housing developers in areas where no electricity is available. It is an alternative cheap power source," he said.

New building laws too restrictive, says Boya

BLACK local authorities had to play a pivotal role in addressing the housing shortage crisis because an effective system of local government was the prerequisite of any community development, the president of the United Municipalities of South Africa, Mr Tom Boya, said yesterday

Launching the Rabie Homes in Spruitview Gardens, he said black local authorities would have to streamline procedures to escalate private sector involve-

ment in housing developments

He said the new building regulations promulgated last year still did go far enough

Black local authorities had to insist on being exempted from certain aspects of these regulations, which failed to take into account the peculiar circumstances of their communities

"We must allow people to provide their own shelter using the best materials and methods they can find without

being unduly restricted by building regulations designed for more affluent people"

To address the backlog of applications for housing units, black local authorities had to persuade the Government to move away from planning based on ideology and make more land available

He said it was necessary to revise prevailing attitudes towards the provisions of housing for lower income groups. — Sapa.

(127)



News in Brief

Power cut

SOWETO Council workers and electricians started working frantically yesterday in an attempt to restore power to thousands of homes after a sub-station in Mapetla was badly damaged on Monday night

Initial reports yesterday indicated that thousands of families who get their power from the Mapetla sub-station, could be without electricity for the next 14 days

Yesterday the Mayor of Soweto, Mr Sam Mkhwanazi, said his council was investigating alternative power sources while repairs on the sub-station were being carried out

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Sowetan 29/6/89

Increased rates lead to Midrand protest meeting

By Helen Grange 127

5/11/89
N/S
20/6/89

The announcement by the Midrand Town Council this week that rates for the average household will increase by 62 percent has led to the organisation of a mass protest meeting tonight

The protest follows Tuesday's Midrand budget meeting — when average rate increases of 62 percent for the average household and up to 170 percent for a plot — were announced

The chairman of the management committee, Mr Ian Bekker, said during his speech that Midrand residents had had a "tax holiday for the last eight years"

Independent councillor Mrs Marilyn Kuczynski described the budget as "proposterous"

"The huge rate increase for plots has by-passed a special council ordinance which gives additional rebate to agricultural holdings and small rural plots," she said

The protest meeting is to be held tonight at 8 pm in the Peri Urban hall in Halfway House.

Soweto's lights are on again

More than 15 000 Soweto residents, who have been without electricity since Monday night, can now breathe a sigh of relief

The Soweto City Council yesterday announced a temporary sub-station has been erected

The sub-station will generate power while repairs are carried out on the Mapetla plant which burnt out, resulting in a mass blackout.

Already, four of the suburbs affected by the blackout — Protea North, Mapetla Extension 1, Chiawelo Extension 3 and Naledi Extension 2 — have electricity.

Several other suburbs will have full power later this evening, with the rest of the affected areas coming on stream tomorrow — Sapa