

African economy is controlled by six monopolies — Anglo American, Old Mutual, Sanlam, Liberty Life, Rembrandt and Anglo Vaal.

Of these, Anglo American itself controls 46,3 percent of the economy. In fact, some political analysts estimate that the income of Anglo American is more than the combined income of Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Bophuthatswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania put together. One now appreciates the gigantic nature of that corporation. 80 percent of the sugar industry is controlled by Anglo American and Barlow Rand.

The same monopolies own wholesale and retail outlets. In this manner, the monopolies are in a position to manipulate and control prices — all with one objective in mind — to make the maximum amount of profit.

We know why the committee is dragging its feet in respect of the enquiry. They cannot expose “the big boys” because he who pays the piper calls the tune. The Government, in the final analysis, is the representative of Monopoly Capital.

Our prediction is that food prices will continue to soar. Survey after survey point out that year-after-year prices on basic food items have increased at an average of 25 percent to 30 percent.

The monopolies will continue to cream off the profits — exploitation will continue unabated.

RETURN THE “GIFTS”

Now that Abdul Bhamjee has been found guilty of stealing millions from the NSL, it is only fair to assume that most of the money he handled was tainted. What then is the position of the “gifts” he so generously dished out to “very important persons”, like Mr and Mrs Mandela. Another recipient was the inimitable Sam Ramsamy. In his case a brand new tradition was born — just to cater for him. This new tradition is that if it's your birthday and you happen to be Sam Ramsamy, you receive a very expensive Raymond Weil watch as a “gift”. This brand new tradition does not end there. It goes on to say that if it is your birthday and you are . . . (you know who), then not only do you get a very expensive . . . (you know what), but your wife also gets one! Logically, this means that on her birthday, he also gets one. But it's tough luck. Santa Bhamjee Claus is behind bars. In prison, if you have the money and if you know how, you can get most things. But not all. Raymond Weil watches are not available in prison.

But seriously, we believe that all persons who received gifts from Bhamjee are duty-bound to return the gifts to the source from where the money to buy them was stolen.

ANOTHER BUDGET FIASCO

On Wednesday 18 March 1992, the whites only Minister of Finance, Barend du Plessis slipped in his 1992 budget. True to form he took great care to look after the beneficiaries of the "gravy train". He allocated 59 million rand per working day to keep the Tricameral circus running. This is a total of 15,4 BILLION rand!!! (One billion rand is a thousand million rand).

Compare this to the 4,6 billion spent on education and 1,2 billion spent on health. And this in a budget Linda Ensco lauds, in the Natal Mercury 19/3/1992, as spending "record amounts of money on social services."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"YES" DROWNED IN BLOOD

20/3/1992

Dear Sir,

The Daily News 13/3/1992 reported that 20 people had died in renewed violence in Umlazi outside Durban. The next morning the figure rose to 25. Those who died were poor and oppressed. The most plausible accounts of these events are that the killings were the result of a dawn attack by KwaZulu police on sleeping residents. In the weeks that the ruling class press whipped up hysteria for their racist white referendum 300 people died in the violence.

These are just figures. They do not begin to tell the story of the tragedy of each death.

On the morning of 13 March 1992, a ten-year old girl was brought to the R.K. Khan hospital in Durban. She had been shot in the neck, the back and her thigh bone had been shattered by a bullet. She will spend three months in hospital. Hopefully, her leg will recover.