

CONCLUSION:

If the Government is serious about stopping wastage and controlling inflation, then let the politicians take a sizeable cut in their own salaries; abolish the tri-cameral system, dismantle the bantustans, "independent" or otherwise, imprison all those rogues who man the bantustans; make peace with the neighbours and thereby chop the multi-billion military budget.

If all these happen, then we will start believing that the government is serious about economic reform.

But as we all know that it is an impossible IF.

DEFEND THE FIVE TEACHERS

APDUSA salutes the five courageous teachers who have spoken out against the tyrannical practices of the shameless quislings who control Indian Education.

What these fearless five have done is to articulate the frustration and anger felt by the general body of teachers. It would be difficult to deny that the sell outs in the short space of three years have reduced the state of education to a shambles. Morale among the teachers has reached an all-time low; teacher-pupil ratio is unacceptably high; the teaching load has increased; teachers are constantly harassed through supervision by the members of the management staff and panel inspection by teams of subject advisers; students who have completed their degrees and diplomas are without jobs; teacher training institutions have closed and the two that are in operation have drastically reduced their enrolment.

It is therefore ironical that these five brave individuals are charged for "bringing Indian education into disrepute". Such an allegation is indicative of the arrogance of the officials who (mis) manage education. We assert, without fear of contradiction, that it is these quislings and the sellouts who should make amends for their crimes against the teaching profession.

The five teachers, fully aware of the consequences of their action and fully aware of the "jackboot" method that the Department employs to deal with dissension, had the courage of their conviction to stand up and be counted. In so doing we believe they spoke on behalf of the vast majority of oppressed teachers.

It is now incumbent on every member of the public, every teacher, every student, every branch of the Teachers' Association to rally to the aid of the five valiant men and women.

We must, all of us, expose the treacherous and reactionary role of the Indian Department of Education. Those who have knowledge of nepotism, of favouritism, of rule bending and manipulation must disclose such malpractices to the public

by whatever means available (eg. by writing to the press; by issuing pamphlets) so the villains are exposed.

This is the least we can do for the brave five. If not, we will be in default and unwillingly become part of the machinery to silence the voice of resistance.

FIGHT THE JULY 1988 RENT INCREASES!

A number of townships around Durban are faced with massive rent hikes as from July 1988. Responding from instructions from the Houses of Parliament to local authorities, the Durban City Council has "surveyed" incomes, "re-assessed" rentals and presented the increases as if the more than 15 000 tenants have a choice in the entire process.

A warning must be sounded as the amounts payable presented are merely the rentals and excludes electricity, water, rates and general lighting costs. It is only a matter of time before these costs increase as well. The cost of both water and electricity has increased at least twice each over the past two years.

What about medical costs, transport, food and clothing? As from 1 April 1988, even pensioners and grantees have had to pay for treatment at hospitals and clinics run by the Natal Provincial Administration. The Phoenix Community Health Centre, built at a cost of more than R5 million, has proved to be precious little else besides a showpiece under the administration of the House of Delegates.

What is clear, however, is that the respective State Authorities deem it fit to increase their income by breaking the backs of those who already bear much of the brunt of economic exploitation and political oppression. The hardest hit workers are exploited as producers and together with their families are further exploited as consumers when they return home.

Rents are a particularly sensitive issue in townships throughout the country. Recall the millions in lost revenue to State coffers because entire communities resisted such increases. Rents should be affordable and people should have the right to accommodation, which is of a quality they should also have a right to choose. Increases at a time when there is a freeze on wages, without a basic minimum living wage for all workers, are an insult the exploited and oppressed must take full note of.

It is no accident that the ruling class behaves in this fashion. It is part and parcel of systematic oppression and exploitation country-wide. It is time that all those struggling under the yoke of these twin evils, stand together in organisations related to all aspects of our lives - trade unions, civic and student organisations, cultural and political organisations. Our freedom from all these insults that flow from