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Vol. IX. No. 2.

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION

Ons Woord

**'N OPROEP TOT AKSIE**

BY die skrywe hiervan is die inhoud van die Wetsontwerp om die Kleurling kiesers op 'n aparte lys te plaas nog nie bekend. Daar kan egter vrywel aangeneem word, dat dit min of meer sal inpas in die raamwerk van die Malan-Havenga ooreenkoms. Dit is egter eerder die beginsel van die Wetsontwerp as die inhoud wat ons hier wil bespreek.

Vir die van ons wat glo in die demokratiese regering stelsel, en meer belangrik vir die van ons wat gedurende die laaste oorlog bereid was om ons lewe op te offer vir die demokrasie, hou die wetsontwerp meer as net 'n bedreiging in, vir ons meen dit dat daar getorring word aan die fondament van die struktuur wat ons vrye samelewing uitmaak.

Weliswaar word deur die voorstanders van hierdie wetsontwerp aangevoer dat dit tot voordeel van die Kleurling kiesers self sal wees, en dat dit groter seggenskap in hulle eie sake aan hulle sal verskaf. Of hierdie aanspraak geregverdig is of nie is vir die demokraat van minder belang. Hy sien daarin bloot 'n bedreiging van die gevestigde regte van 'n minderheidsgroep, sonder dat dit die goedkeuring van die betrokke groep wegdra, en sonder dat daardie groep selfs geraadpleeg is in verband met die wysiging. Dit ignoreer verder die twee derde meerderheids

bepaling in die grondwet, wat die gevaarlike presedent skep, waarvolgens die Grondwet sy waarde as veiligsklip verloor. Wat verhoed enige toekomstige regering om regte te ontnem aan enige ander minderheids groep, soos b.v. die Engels-sprekende en die Jode?

Sedert die tot standkoming van die Springbok Legioen het ons die volk van Suid-Afrika gewaarsku teen die Diktatoriele neiging van die Nasionaliste. Elke stap deur daardie party geneem sedert hulle aan bewind-koming toon hoe reg ons was. Stap vir stap word die regte van die een groep na die ander verwater, en word sodoende afgestuur op die Broederbond Diktatuur.

Die Regering kan egter alleen voortgaan met daardie beleid mits hulle deur die volk toegelaat word om hulle kloue onverhoeds uit te voer. Ons weier egter om te glo dat die Volk van Suid-Afrika oogluikend sal toelaat dat hulle verslaaf word, en dit is om daardie rede dat ons 'n beroep doen op elke leser van "Fighting Talk" om sy of haar gewig in te werp in die stryd vir behoud van Demokratiese vryheid. Die Bond vir Burgerregte het 'n veldtog geloods, en ons glo dat as dit die ondersteuning geniet wat dit toekom, dit vir die regering onmoontlik sal maak om voort te gaan met die beoogde wetgewing.

Om egter 'n sukses van die veldtog te maak is dit noodsaaklik dat elke vryheidliewende Suid-Afrikaner sy daadwerklike steun toe se.

Petisie vorms is verkrygbaar van die Bond vir Burgerregte, Posbus 4118, Johannesburg. Skryf onmiddelik vir u vorm, laat u vriende en kennisse dit onderteken, en stuur dit terug aan bogenoemde adres.

Dit is u plig teenoor u self en u land om te help om te verhoed dat die Nasionaliste hulle Broederbondstaat daarstel.

(Geskryf deur P. Beyleveld, Mainhuis 37, Mainstraat, Johannesburg.)



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# YOU'RE TELLING US

## Letters to the Editor



The Editor,  
"Fighting Talk."

Sir,

I was vastly interested to read in your issue two months ago the letter from Mr. A. P. Burger, telling of the origin of the National War Memorial Health Foundation.

It seems to me that if what Mr. Burger says is true (and I see no reason why it should not be), then the N.W.M.H.F. owes a lot to the Springbok Legion and to the efforts of individual Legionnaires like Mr. Burger. Yet I never see the Springbok Legion even mentioned in "The Foundation"! On the other hand, "Fighting Talk" is full of the praises of the N.W.M.H.F. and goes to great lengths to reprint its articles and give it a great deal of publicity.

I sincerely hope that the leaders of the National War Memorial Health Foundation will awake to their responsibilities and give credit where credit is due.

Yours faithfully,

L. VAN DEN HEEVER.

Germiston.

The Editor,  
"Fighting Talk."

Sir,

As an ex-serviceman who has been associated with the Legion since its inception, I would like to state how pleased I was to see in your last issue that something is being done to resuscitate the Capetown branch of the Springbok Legion. I sincerely trust that all the Legionnaires living in the Cape Peninsula will take advantage of Mr. Jenner's offer and throw in their weight to make the Cape Town branch the fine organisation it used to be.

Can Mr. Jenner's splendid example not be followed by members living in Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London or

Bloemfontein? Surely the time has never been riper for a strong and truly national organisation of the calibre and prestige of the Springbok Legion.

Yours, etc.,

EX-S.A.A.F.

Pretoria.

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# BRANCH



# ITEMS

THE increased activity in Legion Branches throughout the Transvaal is probably a sign of the times. It can hardly be coincidence that with the Houses of Parliament again in session and the Nationalists again attacking the remnants of our Democratic Rights, we find Legion branches which have been somewhat dormant again springing into action. Germiston and Brakpan have already held meetings in connection with the attacks on the Cape Coloured Franchise, and Pretoria members are busy arranging a similar meeting.

In Johannesburg this is reflected by the fact that the Branch Committee has had difficulty in coping with its work, and has been forced to call an extra meeting this month. Judging by the amount of organised opposition to their Bill the Nats. appear to be stirring up quite a hornet's nest; let's hope they get badly enough stung to realise that they cannot attack our Constitutional Rights with impunity.

Cecil Williams is again staging an

acted reading of "Deep are the Roots", this time for the Johannesburg Repertory Players, who are said to be thinking of doing it as a full production. In these days of Apartheid and Immorality Acts, it is good to see the message of the play being carried to as many people as possible. It is hoped that members who missed the Legion production were able to see the play on this occasion.

The February 3-in-one promises to be extremely interesting. Miss M. McLarty, the well-known M.P.C. is to talk on Christian National Education. So many Legionnaires are now proud parents that we ought to have a full house. The thought of trying to raise a child to be a decent citizen under such an educational system is enough to keep the most complacent awake at night.

It is time that resolutions for our Branch General Meeting were arriving from Groups. There is reason to hope that this year's meeting will be the most successful for some years past.

## Our National Conference— Saturday, 7th April, 1950

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# Don't Mourn for me — ORGANISE!

THIS MIGHT WELL BE the cry of tortured mutilated Democracy in South Africa today. It was the slogan of the Springbok Legion in the immediate post-war years. We used it as the epitaph of our fallen comrades. Organise! How often have we campaigned under this slogan? Yet it would seem that we have yet to know and understand the value of organisation. Our failure to prevent the Nationalist Party taking power in the last General Election and to stop its government attacking and weakening the democratic structure; our inability to halt the rapid flow of fascist legislation, are all a measure of our failure to appreciate sufficiently as individuals the need and value of organisation.

If we as individuals are to survive as free men, if democracy is to be the way of life in South Africa for ourselves and our children, it will be only because we are strong enough to defeat ORGANISED FASCISM. The Fascists are a minority. Numerically we are the majority, but, and it is a big but, to make our numbers count WE MUST BE ORGANISED! The fascists in the Nationalist Party know this and a major part of its efforts and propaganda are directed towards sowing confusion, doubt and fear in our ranks. They are striving to create more and more disunity among us. They are endeavouring to intimidate our people into accepting a passive or non-partisan role. All this is intended to disrupt and cripple the different organisations on the democratic side and to prevent these organisations and groups getting together and so constituting a force capable of defeating the numerically weaker forces of the Fascists.

All this is elementary but it is all too often taken for granted and the obvious lessons are neglected or evaded.

The National Executive Committee of the Springbok Legion has given a directive to members to build the Legion, to get into the democratic parties and build and strengthen them, to join the appropriate trade unions and build and strengthen them, and finally to work for a united effort on the part of all these groups and organisations to expose and defeat the South African fascists.

Our first task is to organise and build the Springbok Legion into an even greater body of politically conscious people. We must have more

members. Every new member counts in the fight for democracy in South Africa. We must have more branches and groups. Every new branch or group means another group of people working systematically and consciously for the defeat of the Nats. We must have more money. Every sixpence we can get over and above our present revenue means that much more towards victory.

We must have fewer casualties and do more to see that those who have fallen are given first aid. Every defection from our ranks weakens us. And finally, each individual one of us must have a consciousness of our individual responsibilities and obligations; the resolution and courage to shoulder our share of the struggle; the honesty to reject for what they are worth the many excuses for inactivity that offer themselves and that are more or less true for all of us. We all have wives and families, we all have to work hard for a living, we all have the problem of meeting the ever-rising cost of living and all of us have only twenty-four hours to our day.



This is the task we have to do. The faint-hearted can take courage from the fact that IT IS BEING DONE. Thousands of people all over the country are doing it. Individuals in the most backward and unprogressive towns and villages — the very strongholds of fascism — are organising and building. They are building Legion Branches, Party Branches and Trade Unions. There is no basis for defeatism. We need only win one battle and the slogan for that battle is ORGANISE! ORGANISE! ORGANISE!!!

If you want to help, write to the National Office, P.O. Box 4088, Johannesburg.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION? WHEN LAST DID YOU ENROL A NEW MEMBER? HOW LONG AGO IS IT SINCE YOU SENT IN A DONATION? DO YOU READ "FIGHTING TALK"? DO YOU LIKE IT? HAVE YOU ANY CRITICISM EITHER OF OUR JOURNAL OR OF LEGION POLICY? WRITE TO US. IN THE MEANTIME MAKE USE OF THE ATTACHED MEMBERSHIP FORM.

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● *Spotlight on . . . .*



## THE FIGHT FOR PEACE

THE Western Democracies are engaged in a tremendous drive to build up their armed forces, and place their economy on a war footing. Eisenhower has surveyed the military resources of Western Europe and is busy organising them into a unified force. It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the implication of these plans except to assess the economic effects on the workers of these countries, and the modification of our attitude to Nazis and Nazism entailed in American policy.

Last week there was a railway strike in Detroit — the reasons for the strike were never published in our press. There was just one item — namely, that President Truman had said that the strike leaders "were worse than Russians".

There has been a new wave of unofficial strikes among British dockers — according to the press, these have been fomented by Communists, and again no publicity was given to the actual demands. It was from a Left-wing paper I learnt that they are demanding an increase of 4/- a day, which is apparently a genuine grievance. The Transport and General Workers' Union has a membership of something like two million, and is probably the strongest individual section of the Labour Party, to which it is affiliated. I think I am correct in saying that since the Labour Party has been in power, this Union has not sanctioned any strikes at all, since its leaders are, in a way, the Government, and the Government froze wages (without freezing profits). This wage freeze provided a very good way of financing the country — since profits have soared, and the Government has taken most of it in taxation. But it is still the workers who paid and the news that there are now more married women working in England than ever before plus high death rates from flu. (low resistance due to malnutrition) plus innumerable other instances, prove conclusively that the standard of living of the British worker has dropped drastically since its post-war peak.

These examples quoted from America and Britain seem to form a pattern—a disturbing pattern of attacks on workers' standards and the virtual outlawing of strikes through the collusion of Union leaders and Communist smearing. In the last resort the state employs the law to

discourage militant leaders, and the army to break strikes.

It is clear that rearmament can only be achieved at great cost, and it seems strikes are to be automatically regarded as against the interests of the state. When the cost of living goes even higher, as it must, it seems inevitable that workers will strike with or without official approval, to protect their standard of living. If those governments are to continue along these lines, it will result in the eclipse of the most cherished rights of workers to organise and to withhold their labour. Are we faced with the loss of freedoms in the name of the defence of freedom?

On the question of the integration of Nazis and Fascists into the Western Union, one can only say that the release of convicted war criminals and the proposed rearmament of Germany make a mockery of everything we fought for. Our countries fought and our relatives and pals died to eradicate for ever this stench of Nazi barbarity from the earth. With sweat and blood the Germans were pried loose from their victims and defeated. Auswitz and Buchenwald were revealed to a horrified world, and the slaughter of six million Jews became known. Some of the perpetrators were brought to justice and sentenced to death or imprisonment. Now in a burst of magnanimity these barbarians are released and are apparently destined to become our comrades in arms.

Everyone knows how Spain was raped from its people with the aid of those same Germans and their Italian allies. The United Nations rightly excluded the Fascist government from the organisation.

Now we find the Americans going

further than mere financial support for the regime — now they send military experts, and attend manoeuvres, and (according to the Press) are thinking of sponsoring Spain for UNO membership and integrating them into the Western Union.

We who believe in Democracy as a living force, know that our system must be superior to Communism if it is to survive. We understand that underprivileged masses and discontented workers, Apartheid policies and suppression of rights are no way to counter another ideology. We know that to condone Nazi brutality and Fascist domination, and to include exponents of these perversions among our comrades in arms, can only weaken our cause, and undermine our belief in the superiority of our way of life. While we guard our Democracy we must guard it zealously — against any corrupting influence which may beset it.

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# LEADING CITIZENS PLEDGE SUPPORT

A MANIFESTO describing the Government's proposals on the Coloured Franchise as unjust, signed by 150 of the country's leading citizens has been made public by the Civil Rights League.

The signatories state that they are "deeply concerned over the Prime Minister's declared intention to ask Parliament to disregard the requirements of the South Africa Act and to abolish the present right of the Cape Coloured people in the Cape Province to qualify as voters on the common roll; offering them instead a European Senator and also special European representatives in the House of Assembly whose number will be in the ratio of 4 Coloured people's to 150 Europeans' Representatives.

The South Africa Act safeguarded the franchise rights of the Coloured citizens of the Cape by requiring a two-thirds majority of both Houses of Parliament, sitting together, to effect

any change. Without this safeguard the Cape Colony delegates to the National Convention would not have agreed to Union. Before the Statute of Westminster was passed by the British Parliament in 1931, General Hertzog, then Prime Minister, and others, including members of the present Government, gave assurances that the new act would not and could not be used to deprive the Cape Coloured people of their franchise rights. This pledge the Government and its supporters now intend to dishonour. Whether the Prime Minister's course of action is legally valid or not, we regard his proposals as unjust to the Cape Coloured people and a grave inroad on the fundamental rights of all citizens, European as well as Non-European."

They therefore "appeal to Parliament and to the European electorate to reject the proposals and insist that faith be kept with the Cape Coloured people and that the Constitution be kept intact."

Among the signatories were—  
 The Hon. Richard Feetham, C.M.G.  
 The Hon. Roy Hatheron  
 The Hon. Saul Solomon  
 Senator the Hon. E. H. Beekun  
 Sir Ernest Oppenheimer  
 Sir Alfred and Lady Beit  
 Agnes, Lady Weasels  
 Mrs. E. M. Russel  
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 Mr. J. D. Rheinnalt Jones  
 Sir Robert Kotze  
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 Brigadier A. J. Orenstein  
 Col. John G. Rose  
 Mr. Alan Paton  
 Mr. Uys Krige  
 Dr. W. D. Duncan Baxter  
 Sir George Albu  
 Mr. A. A. Merikin  
 The Rt. Rev. Bishop Archibald Cullen  
 The Rt. Rev. Bishop C. J. Ferguson-Davie  
 The Rt. Rev. Bishop Leonard Fisher  
 The Rt. Rev. Bishop Gwyer  
 The Rt. Rev. Bishop Wilfred Parker  
 The Ven. Archdeacon C. E. S. Bull  
 The Rt. Rev. Co-Adjutor Bishop Lavis  
 The Very Rev. Dean Palmer  
 Rev. Dr. J. B. Webb

CECIL  
WILLIAMS

says . . . .



## NOW IS THE HOUR

THE Civil Rights League Campaign against the Coloured Franchise Bill is now in full swing. Petition forms have been widely distributed and from all parts of the country forms are being returned filled with signatures.

Tables have appeared on the streets of Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Benoni, Brakpan, Germiston, Pretoria and elsewhere. At these tables passers-by can sign the Petition. Leo Levell, M.P., a member of the Legion's Executive Committee, flew up from Cape Town to address a public protest meeting in Benoni. In Johannesburg the City Hall was crowded for the protest meeting and a strong resolution was passed condemning the Government for its reactionary legislation.

NOW IS THE HOUR for every Legionnaire in town and country to do his bit. You have all received a Petition Form. Fill it up and ask for more. Encourage others to collect signatures and so make this petition to Parliament a morator demonstration of disagreement with the Nationalist policies, which are forcing South Africa back into the ignorance and muck of the middle ages.

## Repeal the Suppression Bill

The following is the Legion's letter sent to various organisations—

17th February, 1951.

Dear Sir, Madam,

### SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNISM AMENDMENTS BILL.

It would seem from the Amendments to the Suppression of Communism Act, now before Parliament, that the fears we expressed at the time when the Act was passed were more than justified.

The National Executive Committee has sent the following telegram to the Leaders of Political Parties—

To: Prime Minister, Mr. J. G. N. Strauss and Mr. John Christie, Assembly, Cape Town.

"Whatever merits of a case for suppressing Communism and activities of Communists, legislation for this purpose can be dangerous to and destructive of a democratic society.

"In the hands of an unscrupulous and authoritarian party such legislation can result only in suppression of all overt opposition to that party and its policies.

"No matter how seemingly innocuous such legislation (and the Suppression of Communism Act is not such) by its nature it makes possible introduction of such amendments as these now before Parliament which, in addition to widening field of possible victims, provides that law shall be retrospective.

"The Act itself violates the rule of law by depriving the individual of access to courts of the land and of protection of the law. The Amendments seek to make application of law retrospective. This is an equally serious breach of the rule of law since it cuts across fundamental principle that no one should be penalised for an act that was lawful at time when it was committed. Nothing can justify this. It is a precedent that will have incalculable consequences.

"If these amendments are passed they will make it easier for Govern-

ment to eliminate political opponents but more than this, it becomes possible for it to take revenge on those opponents for past acts which were legitimate political activity.

"It becomes possible for it to eliminate any person, no matter to what political or other body he may belong, who is sufficiently vigorous in his opposition to the Government and its policies to attract attention. This could be done by listing individual and prescribing him on the grounds that at some time in his life he belonged to an organisation, here or overseas, which through the very wide terms of the definition of Communism contained in the Act and now to be widened in Amendments, could be termed a Communist organisation by the Minister. In fact this can now be done if person had at any time advocated or defended any single aim which was at the same time an object of Communism whether he was or was not a member of an organisation.

"Since last possible access to courts is to be closed by amendments in respect of claims for damages victims would have no legal way of exposing truth.

"This clause also gives to unscrupulous Political groups and individuals opportunity of securing their opponents without having to prove their libelous accusations in court.

"We who fought Fascism and Nazism at risk of our lives in the World struggle to preserve democracy at time when it was both necessary and fashionable to do so, have no hesitation in doing so now when it is equally necessary but seemingly not so commendable and respectable.

"We demand the repeal of the Suppression of Communism Act."

We would urge your organisation to take similar action.

Yours faithfully,

P. HODGSON,  
National Secretary.



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THIS C.O.L. BUSINESS (6)*Holland Street Blues*

In the corridor the plump youngish man said to me, "We're all wondering what's happening on the floor . . . there must be bedlam there this morning. Ja, of course, this power cut is knocking everything to hell."

I commiserated with him at the thought of all those stocks and shares, the bulls and the bears, falling, falling, falling. "We were just beginning to congratulate ourselves that there was a real boom on the way at last and now see what's happening," he moaned.

"Oh come, come, I said, "you can't bluff me . . . you're still sitting pretty, you and the rest of you sharks". He actually laughed at my ignorance and proceeded.

"Look", he said, "I came out of the air force with my gratuity, leave pay, some accumulated pay and with what I had saved before and during the war. A tidy sum, I'll grant you. I looked around and realised that I had several things to do pretty damn quick. I had to get myself into a job that offered me security and a chance of making some dough and by dough I mean dough. I didn't want chicken feed. I know the more dough you want in a hurry the less security you can expect. But I thought I could take a risk and make out pretty well."

"I was lucky when I was one of the ex-servicemen admitted as a broker by the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. My old man put up some capital and I went in with my present partners. Everything looked fine. We were not too late to catch the Free State boom. Apart from what the firm was making I did a bit of business on my own account. I bought some Free State Gedulds, some Welkoms and some West Driefonteins. Then I nipped in smartly and collard for myself some Blyvoors when they were split. I stood to make a packet and we were working like hell day and night, coining it."

So then I thought I'd better get on with the other job I had in mind. You know when I was demobbed I was 35 — time to start thinking about putting a missus on ice and a couple of kippers on the fridge. In any case Saidee and I had been knocking around for quite some time and people were always ask-

ing us what our plans were. So I upped and suggested to Saidee that we should make a go of it. She agreed."

"Fine, but then her Mother started putting her oar in. Wanted to know where I was going to get a house, what my income was, would Saidee have her own car, when did we expect to have a son and so on. Actually, she wasn't such a dragon as that may sound, because when I put my cards on the table she started whamming down some aces. I mean she said that she and Joe, her husband, would start us off with a house — in Lower Houghton! And, by God, they did! And Saidee's Uncle Joe gave us a bedroom suite; my mother said she'd pay for curtains and carpets. So really, we were well away."

"But, O boy! that's when my trouble started. We had a maid-of-all-work inside: but in addition I had to have a boy to do the floors and things. The garden — after I'd tried to cope with it myself, what a sweat! — had to have a piccanin full-time and a proper gardener once a week. And, man, the food we had to have. I suppose it was natural for Saidee to invite her friends down and we played tennis most Saturday afternoons and Sundays. People had drinks and often stayed to dinner. In the meantime, there was this little thing about a car."

"I usually took the car to work, because in those days I never knew what time I'd get home, but sometimes Saidee would need it. Finally — again with the help of her Mother — got a run-about of her own. Fine again, except that I had to pay for the petrol and the insurance and the third-party and so on. In the meantime, the boom had petered out. The lovely shares I had bought to make a few thousand on I dared not sell. In any case, I knew they were good and would cash in well later on. You know it became really a big worry. Poor Saidee cut down as much as she could and I drew in my horns too!"

"Despite that, our monthly bills every bloodey month were more than I was drawing from the office. Saidee got a bit wild once and said she couldn't stand the scrimping and she just went to town and bought three dresses, some

nylons, a hat and three pairs of shoes. Of course, we had a firstclass bust-up, but the bills had to be met. Then came Junior."

"Well, I'd no idea that seven and a half pounds of infant meat could work out so expensive — much more than lamb, old boy. What with the doctor and the nursing home and the layette and the cot and fitting out the back bedroom as a nursery and a nanny — gee, it cost a fortune. At last I had to sell some of my Welkoms — a bitter pill, old man, bitter. You see, they were down lower than I'd given for them — and that, you can easily understand, is not good business. Later on I took a sub. of a couple of thou from my old man. That got us out of queer street — for exactly eight months and then it started all over again."

"Jeanette was born eighteen months ago. I had to trade in my car; we were suddenly confronted with three years' income tax arrears; they shoved the rates up on the house; food prices rocketed; we had to pay the servants more, otherwise we couldn't keep them, they just sheered off to other people who were offering more; my own clothes were a disgrace and I had to have a couple of suits at £28. 10s. apiece; Saidee wanted a holiday and she deserved it, poor kid, so off we went to Plett-enberg Bay — a pretty penny that cost us . . . and so on and so on."

"Is it any wonder that I wished I was back in the old S.A.A.F., drawing my basic, field allowance, batman's allowance, free skoff and so on. And now, here we were beginning to think that the future had a rosy look about it and, hell, they announce these power cuts and down goes the market. Business had slowed up and we've just got to hold on like grim death, hoping that peace may break out and give us a little boom."

"I tell you, man, life isn't all beer and skittles being a broker with a car and a house in Lower Houghton. Saidee and I should be enjoying life to the full. But this cost of living has knocked all the gilt off the gingerbread. So pray for me, pal. Ask the All-High for just a little boom so that I can get up to date with the wolf at the door."



# A BUREAU OF RACE HATRED

IN 1947 an organisation known as "The S.A. Bureau of Racial Affairs" was established by a group of lecturers at the University of Stellenbosch, whose main objects were to promote and exert itself for the separate development of the various groups in South Africa, to safeguard the interests of these groups, to encourage racial peace, and among other things to do research work as to the implications and application of a policy of apartheid. The Bureau has taken exception to the statement by the "Rand Daily Mail" to the effect that "SABRA has been established with Nationalist approval as an opposition to the Institute of Race Relations." We are not concerned here, to enter into this argument, but what clearly emerges from the stated objects of the Bureau is that its principal aim is to promote the *separate* development in South Africa of the various groups, in other words, to promote and exert itself for the policy of apartheid, the main plank in the platform of the Nationalist Party.

With this object in mind, the addresses given to its annual conference in Pretoria, held in January, are interesting in that they show that "Apartheid" does not stand up under scientific investigation. The Chairman, Dr. F. J. Language, indicated that while the present native policy rested on the basis of separation, the country's economic development depended on the large scale integration of the native population, and that the political and geographical separation of the native would have to yield to economic demand. Dr. F. J. van Biljon, Under Secretary for Agriculture, in his address, stated that it was evident that the future industrial development of the Union would have to take into account the greater use of native labour.

In other words "Apartheid" cannot work. It is economically unsound. Its application would stultify South Africa's

industrial development upon which the future of the Union depends.

Dr. Verwoerd, Minister of Native Affairs, in his opening address to the conference, stated that to begin with, the *European would have to provide the finance*, for "the vast project of 'Apartheid'." "Die Transvaler" reporting on the conference, goes further, and points out that this policy was not a magic formula which would change conditions at a moment's notice, but that plenty of time, patience, perseverance, money, and sacrifice were demanded for its application. At this point, it would not be impertinent to ask "Why?" To promote a policy, found, on scientific investigation to be economically unsound even by a body predisposed in its favour? A policy that is bitterly opposed by the people most affected thereby, and which has already created tensions in South Africa dangerously near breaking point? A policy which has created distrust of South Africa in international affairs, and which runs counter to the principles of the United Nations which this country is committed to uphold?

It would seem that the "time, patience, perseverance, money and sacrifice" that the Nationalists demand could be used to better advantage. It could be used to promote rather than discourage the economic integration of the Non-Europeans in industry, to provide housing, to rehabilitate the reserves, to promote health services amongst all sections of the community, to subsidise food for the lower income groups, to improve race relations, to improve educational facilities, to promote soil conservation schemes, to reduce the cost of living; broadly to do those things which the people are entitled to demand of the government as its primary responsibility, and which the Nationalist Government is recklessly disregarding in its dangerously neurotic drive to create in South Africa a paradise for the herrenvolk.

Owing to the critical paper shortage we regret that this issue has had to be printed on a poorer quality paper.

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## Even Our Best Friends Tell Us

I KNEW of an old man who used to curb his vanity once a month by making a list of all the people who disliked him. He was so miserable by the time he reached the bottom of the page that he took his revolver out of the drawer of his desk — but then he paused, with the weapon at his temple, and decided that it was much more sensible to make himself less objectionable.

South Africa is not as wise as that old man. Like the proverbial skunk she wonders where the smell is coming from and looks accusingly at her neighbours. She has neither the conscience to seek for her revolver nor the good sense to make herself less objectionable.

There has been a spate of criticism of South Africa on this continent and overseas during the past year. Not the least unpleasant part of the situation is that many of the critics should be counted amongst our friends — countries like England, Holland, the States and Rhodesia.

Professor de Villiers, a Governor of the S.A.B.C. returned from overseas recently with the general impression that the name of the Union "stinks on the Continent." Whether it was Hollanders, Belgians, Americans or Scandinavians, everyone cursed and abused South Africa and its Government and in particular Dr. Malan. In Germany he had met with no one at all who was favourably disposed towards South Africa. Strangely enough, said Prof. de Villiers, it was in Spain that South Africa's standpoint was best understood. But is it so strange?

Another South African, Nationalist minded, confirms the professor's views. He wrote in the "Transvaler" that he had moved in Catholic and Protestant circles overseas and had not encountered one German sympathetic towards us. Much the same was true of Holland where only the reactionaries (he didn't call them that) — were well-disposed towards the Union.

In Britain there has been almost wholesale condemnation of South Africa. Miss Attlee, sister of the Prime Minister, sharply criticised our policies; so did the British Minister of War, Mr. Strachey, so also the former Governor of Kenya, Lord Altricham. The reaction

to the Group Areas Bill was particularly vehement and it would be true to say that that Bill lost us our last good friends overseas. Except, of course, Spain!

Dr. Otto du Plessis, State Information Officer would not agree with me. He is jubilant about the changing attitude towards South Africa overseas manifested in the formation on the continent and in Britain of 'Friends of South Africa' societies. Such an association was formed in London at the end of last year by Britons and South Africans who "simply could no longer endure the slandering of South Africa, its government and its people." They are, in the opinion of "Die Burger", the 'healthy core of people' who are friendly towards South Africa. The rest are either the dupes of propaganda or maliciously disposed towards South Africa — why, they should be malicious towards the pettifogging little country, the learned newspaper does not say. I wonder whether they are also malicious about Spain?

At UNO South Africa gets only that support which the diplomatic machinations of the great powers forces them to give her. Indeed we have few friends in UNO, despite Mr. Malan's gallant gesture in sending an air squadron to do battle on its behalf in Korea.

The position is no better nearer home. Rhodesian opinion has perceptibly hardened in the last few months and the other African territories are beginning to weigh up the damage being caused to them by the broadcasting of South Africa's native policy.

The Nationalists — and many others in this country — use the argument that all these people are misinformed or have only a vague knowledge of the Union's special problems. While this argument always has some justification (not only applied to South Africa but to any

country subject to foreign criticism) it can never explain the whole situation. After all, these people overseas can read and they only have to read speeches by cabinet ministers in this country to find plenty about which to criticise the country.

Again, the Nationalist press and the State Information Office are emphatic that countries have been turned against South Africa by a campaign of malicious slander and misrepresentation for which the United Party has been in no little measure responsible. Does this contention bear examination? It must be admitted that a fool is born every minute and that a campaign of this sort could catch out some of these. But that sort of thing rebounds like a boomerang on its initiators, for truth outs very soon. It would be a quite unwarranted tribute to the United Party to suggest that its initiative and organising ability are so great that it can turn the rest of the world against South Africa!

If we dismiss this contention we can only conclude that the world is against South Africa because our policies are bad, vicious, undemocratic. That being the case we cannot expect world opinion to improve until we do. Rather will it harden against us until our isolation is complete.

I have made much use of 'us' and 'we' in this article. In doing so I have, of course, fallen victim of the propaganda of "Die Burger" and Mr. du Plessis whose indignation often revolves around the fact that the overseas countries attack South African people. BUT THEY DON'T. They attack our government, not us. Like us they know that our Government stinks and they don't like the smell. We still have our friends overseas in every democratic country, more friends than ever. Now our job is to get rid of the skunk in our midst and thus to clear the air for healthier relations with our friends.



# ROUND-UP

by

VIC EDDY



## THE QUALITY OF MERCY

WONDER whether you felt as I did when I read of the release by the Americans of some of the topmost Nazi war criminals. People like Alfred Krupp, arch-murderer, strutting out of gaol while the pungent stench of Auchwitz, Belsen and Treblinka still lingers in the nostrils of outraged humanity; while orphans of Nazi victims still wander aimlessly throughout Europe, famished and diseased. Krupp and his ilk, of course, are well provided for. A benevolent conqueror has left them with the bulk of their fortunes which they made during the war, while orders from South Africa, for instance, ensure a steady flow of revenue.

And what possible reason can there be for this act of magnanimity? Christian forgiveness? Possibly. That was the rather sickening theme of General Eisenhower's recent serenade to the ex-enemy. But how does this square with the wholesale suppression of all liberal and faintly-liberal opinion in America? — With the arrest of the American Peace Committee, with the legal murder of seven Negroes on a trumped-up charge of rape, the complainant of which had a record of mental disorder, and who, immediately after the trial, disappeared without trace. How does it square with the ruthless and bloodthirsty suppression of the Puerto Rican revolt?

No, I am afraid it does not square at all. Only fascists, Nats. and Southern Senators can rejoice at the release and forgiveness of some of Hitler's ablest thugs. Decent people the world over are aghast and horrified at this betrayal.

## AMENDED TYRANNY

If any of us thought at this time last year that the Suppression of Communism Bill couldn't be more vicious than it was, we were in for an eye-opener. The

Amendment to the Act now before Parliament reaches such depths of depravity as would have made all the tyrants from King John to Adolf Hitler wistful and envious. All pretence of fairness and legislative impartiality have been contemptuously swept aside in a Bill which makes it a crime to have ever in the dim past belonged to, associated with or in any way been connected with any of the programmes, tenets or principles of communism. Surely this must be the first Act in history where the ordinary laws of libel and criminal defamation do not apply. It will be quite within the law for a person "Named" under the Act as a communist, etc. or a person who has ever professed to be a communist, etc. to be libelled and slandered by his political opponents with the full protection of the law. In other words, a convicted murderer or rapist will have more protection in society than, say, a person who was a conscientious trade unionist thirty years ago. I wonder for how long the Nats. expect to get away with it?

The Civil Rights League campaign at present under way, to collect signatures for the Petition, is not without its humorous side.

Roy Cousins tells of how, sitting at the petition table in one of Johannesburg's busier thoroughfares, he was approached by the typical dear old lady of whom much has been written.

Timidly she enquired "what this was all about."

"Well," said Roy enthusiastically, "this is a petition to protest against the removal of the Coloureds from the Common Roll. If the Government gets away with it this time, they will establish a dangerous precedent."

The dear old lady clucked her tongue. "My, my," she murmured, "I'll sign at once, of course. We can't have a president here — we want a democracy."

## Mrs. BALLINGER'S SPEECH

(Continued from page 15)

Nats. came to power, because we fought rearguard actions. The time had come to go forward with a demand for the extension of Democratic rights under the old slogan "FULL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS FOR ALL CIVILISED PEOPLE."

It was ridiculous to say that the removal of Coloureds from the common roll did not represent a diminution of rights, and Mrs. Ballinger mentioned the following:—

At present Coloureds have a say in 55 constituencies — they would be reduced to four.

The Coloureds in Natal would lose part of their rights.

But worst of all would be the fact that once Coloureds did not form part of their constituency, M.P.'s would not go near them, and Europeans would be further isolated from non-European opinion.

Mrs. Ballinger thought that from our protests a new drive may be started to gain democratic rights for all civilised people.

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## Mrs. BALLINGER CALLS FOR A NEW FIGHT IN S. A.

MRS. BALLINGER who flew to Johannesburg specially for the Civil Rights Meeting on Friday, the 16th, delivered a fighting speech to a crowd of more than 2,000 people in the City Hall.

She said that she herself was under political sentence of death, because the Nats would not tolerate the representatives of Africans having a say in the affairs of the country. Since the Native Representatives voted with the United Party to declare war in 1939, the Nats had made it clear that the system was intolerable to them.

When the Nats. came into power, they had withdrawn the offer of Indian Communal franchise, because it would have meant more members of parliament representing the interests of non-Europeans — representatives who might one day hold a balance of power.

For this reason, she said she was not confident that elections would ever be

held for the four representatives of the Coloureds — there was nothing in the Bill which made it compulsory within a given time.

The Bill was being forced through Parliament because the Nats. were a minority government with no prospect of increasing their support — a minority who were determined to entrench themselves in power for ever.

Mrs. Ballinger spoke of the undermining of the Parliamentary system by the Nats., who would prefer to rule without it.

"At the moment they cannot reject Parliament, but that will come."

South Africa has been in full retreat from the limited degree of democracy which we have, ever since Union. Mrs. Ballinger said we should have started fighting in the 1930's when the Cape African franchise was curtailed.

We have lost every issue since the  
(Continued on previous page)

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