

FIGHTING TALK

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION

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JUSTICE DETHRONED

MR. SWART, the Nationalist Minister of Justice, has a stranglehold on the throat of the goddess of justice. Within the next few weeks he intends, no matter to what lengths he must go, utterly to destroy the body and soul of justice in South Africa.

The promised "martial law" legislation has been presented to Parliament under the title of the "Public Safety Bill. If ever there were a misnamed measure, it is this one. Certainly it gives the public no protection against its Public Enemy No. 1 — the Nationalist Government itself.

The "Public Safety" bill has been introduced on the grounds that the Government need additional powers to place themselves in a position to cope with the Defiance Campaign. The Defiance Campaign has been operating throughout the country for about eight months. Over eight thousand people have gone to gaol. And yet in all that time, with all those people involved, there has not been a single incident to disrupt the peace or threaten public safety.

The reasons for the legislation are two: in the first place the Government wants to have the terrifying powers outlined in the bill in order to be in a position to suppress ALL opposition, to thwart EVERY legitimate, democratic means of protest, whether the protests come from Europeans or non-Europeans. In the second place, the bill is a despicable scheme to play on people's fears, already aroused by the Nationalists' deliberate exacerbation of racial feelings. The Nationalists are exaggerating the fear of public peril in order to appear to the intimidated voter as the "strong" party, able to keep the non-Europeans "in their places".

The bill demands such unlimited powers of banning, suppression, proscriptions, confiscations, imprisonments and untold other penalties that at one swoop it destroys our heritage of democratic laws and sets up a more terrifying, despotic tyranny than we had dreamt possible.

There is only one thing to do. This measure must be fought by the United Party, the Labour Party, the Torch Commando, the trade unions, the churches, the Legion —

by every organisation and individual with every weapon that lies to hand. This ultimate fascist bill must be tirelessly opposed in Parliament and out. In factory and workshop, in office and home talk must be directed against this vicious attack on the "volkswil" and the sovereignty of Parliament. This must be the focal point of the whole election campaign, so that on Election Day the rallying of the democratic forces in South Africa will be so overwhelming that we shall rid the country and our future of the filthy menace of tyranny and shall be ready to rebuild a worthy home for justice and democracy.



South Africa will signify its rejection of the "Martial Law" legislation at the General Election.

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MISSING LINKS *and* LIVING FOSSILS

by Edward Roux

THE newspaper publicity which followed Professor Smith's discovery of yet another species of living coelacanth (following the one landed at East London some years ago) has produced the expected crop of letters to the editors on the pros and cons of evolution. It is now nearly a century since Darwin published his "Origin of Species" and since biologists accepted the concept of evolution as a fundamental principle of their science. I myself have been associated professionally with botanists and zoologists for thirty years, during which time I have met only one who did not believe in evolution. He is now a lecturer at Potchefstroom.

The fact that all mention of evolution is excluded from the biology syllabus in Transvaal schools and that the public (even the literate public) is deplorably ignorant on the subject enables obscurantists of all sorts to get away with the most misleading statements. A common line of attack by the Fundamentalists is the claim that many leading biological experts themselves criticise the "theory of evolution".

To show that this claim is false one may take an analogy from crime fiction. In the ordinary detective story we meet, usually in the first chapter, with a corpse. Someone has been murdered and the problem is to discover the murderer. We are now presented with various conflicting theories as to how and why the murder was committed. The fun consists in trying to "spot" the murderer before the final *dénouement* in the last chapter when the whole matter is finally cleared up by the brilliant detective.

EVOLUTION HAS BEEN COMMITTED

The problem of evolution is very much like that. The 'corpse' is the body of accumulated knowledge about plants and animals, their structure and physiology, their growth and development, their methods of reproduction and inheritance, their fossils which are found in the rocks. From all these facts it becomes clear that organisms are related, some closely, some more distantly and that "descent with modification", i.e. evolution, has taken place. This view, that evolution has occurred, is comparable, in our analogy, with the fact that a murder has been committed.

To "explain" evolution various theories are put forward. As knowledge increases more experiments done and new fossils found, old theories are modified or abandoned and new ones formulated. The biologists continue to argue among themselves.

When a "leading authority" says that Darwin's views "have been discredited", he does not mean that scientists have given up the idea of evolution,

On the contrary biologists are more convinced than ever of the truth of evolution.

All it means is that biologists no longer accept in their entirety *all* the hypotheses which Darwin put forward to explain the "how" of evolution. It would be surprising if the intensive work of thousands of scientists during a century had left matters exactly as they stood in Darwin's time. Unfortunately there is unlikely to arise a "master detective" in the field of biology who will tell us in a few short sentences how evolution has taken place. The "explanation", when it does come, will be extremely complicated and technical, and, like other scientific theories, still subject to further elaboration.

From this it should be clear that there is a great difference between *the* theory of evolution (which is not really a theory but a fact to be explained) and *a* theory of evolution, which is an attempt to explain it.

There is also a good deal of unclear thinking about "missing links". "Descent with modification" implies that animals (or plants) may produce offspring which are different from themselves and which may become increasingly different in the course of millions of years.

LIVING FOSSILS

But some of the offspring may not change or may change very little, so that their modern descendants are the same or almost the same as some of their ancestors which lived a very long time ago. Such types are often called "living fossils". The coelacanth fish is an example of this.

Coelacanths have been known to zoologists for a considerable time, but only as fossils. Professor Smith has now shown that at least two species are still living in the Indian Ocean. It will now be possible to learn something of the internal anatomy of these creatures. In fossils it is normally only the outer structure of the fish which is preserved.

The coelacanths are particularly in-

teresting because they were probably closely related to, though not identical with, the group of fishes which gave rise to the first land vertebrates, from which all the higher vertebrates (back-boned animals) including man, are descended. The coelacanths have peculiar lobed fins which, it is believed, may have given rise to the limbs of land animals. They therefore constitute a "link" between the fishes on one hand and the amphibians (most primitive land animals) on the other.

Of the amphibians themselves much is known. Most of them exist only as fossils, but a few small living types still survive as frogs, newts and salamanders. All, both living and fossil, have fully-developed limbs.

Between the amphibians and the coelacanths there must have been other links, for it is inconceivable that the lobed fin of the coelacanth was converted into the proper limb of the amphibian at a single jump.

From this it should be clear that there is no such thing as *the* missing link. Zoologists can sketch in general outline the course of evolution from amoeba to man. Parts of the record are fairly complete, others very sketchy. New fossil discoveries, such as those of pre-human apes made at Taungs, Sterkfontein and Kromdraai by Dart and Broom, have helped to fill in the record. South Africa has contributed much during the last generation to bridge the gap between man and the apes.

It is interesting that Dr. Malan, leader of a party which includes prominently within its ranks an influential group which is working to impose the anti-evolutionary tenets of Christelike Nasionale Onderwys upon the country, should have played such a prominent part in securing the coelacanth for Professor Smith, so much so that the fish is likely to be named after the Prime Minister.

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The World Today

RED HERRINGS

by Ben Giles

J'ACCUSE! I accuse the ruling class of France! I accuse the militarists! It was the mighty voice of Emile Zola that rang out across the nineteenth century world, to strip the mantle of righteousness from the enemies of Captain Dreyfus, to expose the corrupting abyss of anti-semitism created by the rulers of France to assist their political aims, to divide and undermine the progressive opposition to French imperialism.

The mantle of Zola sits uncomfortably on the shoulders of a Tory party which raised no whimper against the anti-Jewish genocide of Hitler from 1931 to 1939. The cloak of fighter for liberty fails to disguise a State Department whose highest ethic is to use the atom-bomb "before they have got it." The speeches of sympathy and friendship for the Jews roll unconvincingly from the lips and pens of those who pardon Nazi war criminals and compensate Krupp suppliers of gas for the Jew-destroying chambers of Auschwitz.

It is the cloak of Zola which the "Atlantic Pact" advocates attempt to wear in their charges of anti-semitism, recklessly hurled against the Soviet Union. But the disguise fails. Zola fought against those who sought to use the Jews as a tinder-box to light the flames of aggressive war. He fought against those who, like Hitler, worked to arouse military frenzy and war hysteria by using the Jews as scapegoats. Had Zola lived, he would have fought the Nazis in 1931 — (not just in 1939 when they turned their armies West) — because by the incitement of anti-Jewish passions they were preparing the way for new aggressive wars.

And had Zola lived today, his voice would have been not with the U.S. State Department and the Tory Party, but against those in the West who seek to gather up the legions for a new aggressive anti-Soviet war, by recklessly hurling the charges of anti-semitism against the countries of Eastern Europe.

AWAKENING

Zola was no professional "friend-of-the-Jews" or defender of every Jewish Act. Zola was a militant, progressive fighter. So too the Soviet Government. Those who regarded the Soviet Government as professional "Jews-can-do-no-wrong" propagandists — (Hitler and Malan in their wilder moments both

professed to believe this essentially reactionary and anti-Soviet theory) — they have received a rude awakening. The Soviet Government, it now appears, like the Czech Government, regards Jews as citizens, indistinguishable from Slovaks or Russians or Georgians save for their culture, their religion, sometimes their language. And like Slovaks or Georgians, it is not inconceivable that Jews commit crimes up to and including the crime of espionage for a foreign power. And having been tried and found guilty, Jews are not exempt from the laws of the land.

This is the simple fact of what is happening in Czecho-Slovakia and the U.S.S.R. What then remains of all the wild and reckless allegations of anti-Semitism as a state policy now being peddled in the papers of the Western bloc, and most hysterically in the Zionist press? It remains only to be seen whether the trials which give rise to this outcry have been frame-ups, and whether the defendants have been charged with being criminals or with being Jews. In the Soviet case the answer is simple: the case has not been brought before the courts yet, the evidence against the accused is unknown, and charges therefore that the case is fundamentally anti-semitic is hysterical nonsense from the "Jews-can-do-no-wrong" theorists, or blatant, deliberate lying by those who will seize any stick, no matter how slimy, to beat the U.S.S.R.

FANTASY OR TRUTH?

In the Czech case, now completed, the verbatim record has been published in Czecho-Slovakia. The court was open to foreign journalists. Yet nowhere, in all the allegations of anti-semitism has there been a single journalist, scribe or Zionist leader who comes forward to challenge the evidence or the bias of the court. "Fantastic!" "Incredible!" "Lies!" This is all that the anti-Soviet

spokesmen can master to disprove the verdict.

Yet what is there in the Slansky case that is so fantastic? The allegation that Zionists in Eastern Europe can spy and have spied for the American intelligence service? What is fantastic about such a proposition? Zionists, the overwhelming majority of Zionists, are anti-Communist; they belong, as the Slansky indictment charges, to a "bourgeois nationalist" organisation, an organisation of a type (though not necessarily identical in character and policy) with the nationalist organisations of Ireland, India and South Africa, an organisation committed to the policy of establishing for the Jewish people a state in which they will rule, a capitalist state or a state moving towards socialism, the variety which the British Labour Party understands.

The Zionist organisation, in short, is opposed by its very being to the Communist ideas of the international brotherhood and unity of the working class against the bourgeoisie, and counters the Communist idea with the idea of the international, inter-class unity and brotherhood of Jews.

From such a clash of ideas and class interests spring the anti-Communist phobias and practices of Afrikaner nationalism. Can there be any grounds, other than hysterical, for believing that anti-Communist actions could not arise amongst the Zionists?

ESPIONAGE UNLIMITED

And if anti-Communism is possible, nay likely, why not espionage? Why not service for the U.S. Intelligence or M.I.5? Perhaps if principle forbids, hard cash will talk.

In 1951, the United States Government passed the so-called "Mutual Security Act". 100 million dollars were set aside for "selected persons *who are residing in or escapees*" from Eastern Europe, "either to form such persons into elements of the military forces for supporting N.A.T.O. or for other purposes." (My italics. B.G.). Wisconsin's Representative Kersten, moving the Act in the U.S. Congress, described it as "a method whereby the U.S. can render aid for underground liberation movements in Communist countries." And the same Mr. Kersten, in a letter to the U.S. representative at U.N.O. objecting to a portion of the U.N. Code which forbids the organisation of terrorist acts in foreign lands, complains that the code might prevent "... groups in this country, as well as our Government, from assisting in the liberation of peoples enslaved by the Communist tyranny . . . One of the

(Continued on next page)



Resolutions of the World Congress of

PEOPLES FOR PEACE

WE hold that there are no differences between states that cannot be settled by negotiation.

We call on the Governments of the Five Great Powers, the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., Great Britain, the People's Republic of China, and France, on whom so largely depends the peace of the world; we call on them at once to start negotiating to conclude a Pact of Peace.

We call for all hostilities in Korea to cease immediately. While towns are shattered and blood flows, agreement becomes impossible. When hostilities have ceased, the parties will more easily reach agreement on the questions at issue between them.

The Congress of the Peoples for Peace proclaims the right of all peoples to self-determination and to choose their own way of life without any interference in their internal affairs, whatever motive be invoked in justification. The national independence of every state constitutes the essential condition of peace.

We protest against all racial discrimination which, an insult to the human conscience, aggravates the danger of war.

We have heard the reports on the use of bacteriological warfare and demand the adherence of all states to the Geneva Protocol of 1925. The great achievements of science must not become a means to destroy millions of defenceless human beings. At the same time we demand an absolute ban on atomic, chemical and all other means of exterminating civil populations.

We hold that the Charter of the United Nations offers a guarantee of security for all the countries of the

world, but this Charter is being infringed in spirit and letter. We urge that the People's Republic of China be enabled to take its rightful seat at the United Nations. We urge likewise the admission of the fourteen nations who have as yet been unable to raise their voices there.

We call on the peoples of the world to struggle for the spirit of negotiation and agreement, for the right of man to peace.

THE necessity of renouncing the use of force as a means of settling international conflicts becomes daily ever more urgent.

Six hundred million men and women throughout the world have already put their names to a demand that the five Great Powers should negotiate and conclude a Pact of Peace.

The representatives of important sections of opinion have also expressed their desire that resort to force should be abandoned in favour of negotiation.

The Congress of the Peoples for Peace, meeting at Vienna, December 12th, 1952, expressing the will of mankind, solemnly invites the Governments of the United States of America, of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, of the People's Republic of China, and of Great Britain and of France to open the negotiations on which peace depends.

Agreement between the Five Great Powers, the conclusion of a Pact of Peace will put an end to international tension and will save the world from the greatest misfortune.

This is the demand of all the peoples.

(Continued from previous page)

main objectives of a real liberation movement is to strike terror into the hearts of the Communist tyrants Liberation will not be achieved merely by propaganda and parliamentary manoeuvres"

After that, what grounds can there be for declaring, without any reference to the evidence, that Zionists could not spy for the U.S. Government, not even the weak, money hungry Zionists, not even those who like Slansky could be blackmailed into it by threats to expose a 'deal' made with the police in the 1920's, whereby Slansky went free and his comrades went to jail?

THE COLD WAR BUSINESS

The protests ring too hollow; we have heard them all before. Can you recall the case of a certain American, claimed by the U.S. Government to be a "business man," one Robert A. Vogeler. Arrested and charged in Hungary with espionage, he was sentenced some two years ago to a 10,000 dollar fine or imprisonment. The world echoed with the Western protests of his "innocence", with shouts of "frame-up", until the U.S. Government, 'under protest and duress'

paid the dollars and brought Vogeler home. This "innocent business-man", victim of an Eastern frame-up is in the news again. Listen to this: "*Peekskill Military Academy, a preparatory school, will offer a new course called "Techniques of Espionage" in the autumn. One of the lecturers will be Robert A. Vogeler, who spent seventeen months in a Hungarian prison*" This is an Associated Press dispatch from Peekskill, New York. Sometimes, they protest too much.

And if this be fact, why then the agitation? How explain the outcry of the Israel Government, and its reckless charges of 'Extermination of the Jews', 'finishing the work of Hitler.' Perhaps they too protest too much. Perhaps their own hands, like the hands of every Western Government which has received the dollars and the strings of Marshall Aid, are not clean enough to bear close scrutiny.

But in all probability the reason lies deeper. Much of Israel's population emigrated from Eastern Europe; and if they know nothing else about politics, they know that the Soviet Government both by law and by action outlawed all race discrimination, including anti-Jew-

ish discrimination. Hard, almost impossible to draw those Eastern European emigres into an aggressive anti-Soviet North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Difficult too, to draw in those Israelis who still remember that the arms with which the very state of Israel was built came not from Britain (who placed an embargo on arms to Israel but supplied Glubb Pasha and the Transjordanians), not from the U.S.A., Greece or Turkey — all gallant allies in N.A.T.O. — but overwhelmingly from Czechoslovakia, from behind the journalists' Iron Curtain.

So once again, the big lie comes into its own in the sphere of world politics. Once again the Jewish question becomes part of the preparation for new aggression, new wars of world conquest. But this time the anti-semites have dropped the hoary "Protocols of Zion", the old "Jewish capitalist conspiracy" lies. This time they have joined the ranks of those reactionaries "some of whose best friends are Jews", who use reckless and lying charges of Soviet anti-semitism to prepare for war against the East, and to beat down the popular Israeli resistance to Israel's participation in the NATO drive to war.

BOOK REVIEW

POWER WITHOUT GLORY

A Novel by Frank J. Hardy

THIS is the first of a series, intended to depict the main streams of Australian life in the Twentieth Century. The author proposes to complete the series shortly.

First published in Australia in 1950, apparently by the author himself, the book has reached its fourth edition. It is printed on cheap paper, badly bound and, although containing fourteen illustrations by Ambrose Dyson, gives the impression of coming from the pulp magazine press.

For all that, however, it is a novel well worth reading. Not because it is good literature — it is not well written — but because of its content and the wealth of incident and detail of some aspects of Australian life. It has both a sociological and a political interest.

Covering the period from 1890 to 1950 and divided into three parts, the story describes first the nefarious and devious struggles of the central character, John West, to achieve wealth as a means to power. The second part shows him at the height of his power, using it for petty ends since he has acquired it simply for the sake of having it. This

part shows too the effects of this on himself, his associates and his family, all of whom he looks upon as his personal possessions. The final part deals with the decline of his power, arising out of the rebellion of his paid henchmen and his family, coupled with his inability to understand the changing world and his failing interest in it due to the processes of old age.

That is the story. The real interest, however, is in the incidents and details exposing the corruption and racketeering obtaining in Australian Federal, State and Civic politics, and in the exposure of the ruthless and criminal exploitation of all spheres of Australian Sport. Interest is in the incidental stories of the

insidious and sometimes overt corruption and bribery of the various politicians, labour leaders and trade unionists, whom John Kent required to protect his own peculiar and narrow interests. Interest lies in the incidents of dishonesty on the part of some of them, the unscrupulousness and cynicism with which they exploit their positions as members of parliament and Cabinet Ministers to enrich themselves at the expense of the people.

Despite all this, one is left, not with an impression of the futility and hopelessness of the struggle of the common people of Australia, but with the consciousness of a growing and powerful force for progress.

The author shows a keen sense of the psychological, dialectical and sociological processes. Perhaps it is because of the scope of the book, the abundance of detail and incidence crammed into its 669 pages, that the majority of the characters fail to emerge clearly.

It is a book you must read if you can get your hands on a copy. You may be inspired to write the same story for South Africa.

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“INALIENABLE RIGHTS”

EARLY in January a group of European liberals formed in Johannesburg a new democratic organisation called the “South African People’s Congress.”

For the information of our members and their friends, we publish the aims and objects of the S.A.P.C.

The Society shall work for the attainment for all South Africans of:—

EQUAL CIVIL LIBERTIES

the freedom of thought, speech and press;
the freedom of movement and assembly;
the freedom of organisation.

EQUAL POLITICAL RIGHTS

the right to vote in and to stand for elections to state and local law-making bodies.

EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

the opportunity to qualify for and engage in all trades, crafts, occupations and professions;
the opportunity to acquire and own land and property.

EQUALITY OF SOCIAL STATUS

in every field of state and church, culture and recreation, public activity.

Members in Johannesburg who wish to join the society or to get more information should write to the Secretary at 36 Waverley Court, Smit Street, Johannesburg.

Members in other parts of the country who might be interested in forming similar organisations or keeping in touch with the S.A.P.C. should also write to the Secretary, address as above.

LET'S HAVE A FINAL SHOWDOWN

WHITE South Africa is preparing for the coming General Election. Indeed, already the first shots have been fired. No efforts are to be spared by either side in an endeavour to snatch a victory. Everything the parties have will be thrown into the struggle.

It goes without saying that the Springbok Legion and its members will play their part in an all-out effort to defeat the Nationalists. Legionnaires must rally to the opposition political parties and organise others into the electoral fight. We, too, must spare no effort.

If we are to be effective, however, we must be clear as to the political realities, our objectives and the meaning and size of the tasks we are undertaking.

The General Election struggle is not an end in itself. It is one more opportunity and mechanism for mobilising the people against fascism. Although not the only one and not decisive in itself, the opportunity is, however, a very important one. We must, therefore, hope and strive for a victory in the election and we must do so in the full realisation that victory will mean a blow against fascism — a very severe blow even if not a knock-out. It will be an important blow, because a defeat for the Nationalist Party is also a defeat for all the undemocratic legislation the government has introduced since coming to power.

It is a defeat for the Citizenship Act, the Bantu Authorities Act, the Population Registration Act, the Coloured Franchise legislation, the Suppression of Communism Act, the Group Areas Act, etc., etc. It is a defeat for the Nationalist Party's policies of Herrenvolkism, Apartheid, intimidation of political opponents and subject peoples, the restriction and abrogation of civil, human and political rights.

THEIR DEFEAT — A VICTORY

A defeat for these hateful measures and policies in the shape of a defeat of the Nationalist Party in the elections must have its effects also on the policies and programme of the party which succeeds.

From all of this it can be seen that the wresting of power from the Nationalists would be an extremely important contribution to the struggle for democracy in South Africa. It is a high objective worthy of all the effort and sacrifice necessary to its achievement.

It will not be an easy task. In fact,

in the face of what the Nationalists have done since coming to power to entrench themselves in office and, particularly, in the light of the effects of the new delimitation decisions, it would seem to be an extremely difficult task calling for superhuman efforts.

The Nats. were returned to power in the 1948 elections with only 39 per cent. of the votes. Since then, as the result of various legislative acts and the effects of the new delimitations, they have created a situation wherein they can be returned to power with as little as 35 per cent. of the votes or even less.

EVERY "X" COUNTS

We must fully appreciate this fact — the Nationalists can win by an absurd and wholly undemocratic minority of the actual votes cast. On the other hand, let the pessimists remember that a swing of a very small percentage of the votes away from the Nationalists to the Opposition candidates can gain a victory for us.

An equally if not more important factor in the situation will be the impact of the Defiance Campaign on the electorate. We know that the Nationalist Party will exploit this to the full, that they will attempt to create an atmosphere of imminent "black revolt" and Mau-Mau terrorism in an effort to stampede all white South Africa into their camp. So far the United Party has not faced up realistically to the Defiance Campaign and has not taken its stand on the fundamental principles involved. This fact can only assist the Nats. and make their task easier.



intimidation of the press resulting from these measures plus the Press Inquiry Commission. Nevertheless, we know full well that intimidation is going on all the time.

It is impossible to assess the degree of intimidation of the electorate that results from the Suppression of Communism Act and similar measures:

nor the degree of

TURNING ON THE HEAT

That the Nationalists count on additional forms of intimidation as important weapons in the election fight is indicated by the organised hooliganism already evident at election meetings. It is quite within the bounds of possibility, even probable, that the Nats. by means of widespread hooliganism on polling day and by a whispering campaign "that the ballot is not secret" may frighten timid voters into remaining away from the polls. This would not be difficult for the Nats. to do, particularly in centres where they are highly organised. In a marginal seat it would require not many intimidated voters to give the Nats. the victory.

BOOSTING MORALE

I believe a most valuable contribution Legionnaires can make is in the role of morale-boosters. I do not mean spreading false optimism — not at all. But if Legionnaires in their election work and in their personal contacts can convince others that the fight is vital, necessary and, whatever happens, worthwhile, they can achieve two results:

- (a) larger, stronger, more hard-hitting election teams;
- (b) larger, stronger, more politically-aware groups of South Africans who will carry forward the fight for democracy.

Whatever the result, we shall not have laboured without profit, if, by our participation and activity in the election struggle, we — the democratic forces — emerge ideologically, organisationally and numerically stronger than we are now.

Of course, for Legionnaires who are more politically conscious than the average voter there is the added task of educating white South Africa to the political reality that only in an alliance with the non-European movements in a common struggle for the extension of democracy can fascism be finally defeated. It may be that the process of fascism to which our rulers have committed South Africa can be halted and reversed only by a mobilised people, conscious of its power and prepared to exercise it in an extra-parliamentary assertion of its will for democracy.

In the meantime, the General Election is before us. It represents a challenge and an opportunity. Let me conclude with the time-honoured slogan that is peculiarly the Legion's own:

Go out there and fight!



This article has been written by . . .

ALAN LIPMAN
the Legion's delegate
at the Congress in
Vienna.

★

[Left] Prof. Joliot-Curie, president of the World Peace Council.

THE PEOPLE'S CALL . . .

THE Appeal of the "Congress of the Peoples" and the Address to the Governments of the five Great Powers [published elsewhere in this issue] represent the summation of weeks of preparatory work for the World Congress of Peoples for Peace, which assembled in Vienna in December. These documents are the outcome of full, free and frank discussions on the threats to the maintenance of world peace confronting all peoples today.

"The Peoples for Peace", in no chance or purpose wishful thinking to conjure up world-wide support for the noble ideal of peace. No! This was truly a congress of the peoples of the world, for today the organized expression of the common man's burning desire for peace has reached the stage where one can honestly say that, in the overwhelmingly greater portion of the world, the struggle to preserve peace unites men and women of all political, religious and other convictions, as well as all economic and social classes.

It is precisely because the vast majority of mankind has rallied to the cause of peace and taken this cause so much to heart that Prof. Frederick Joliot-Curie was able to emphasize in his opening address to the Congress that the continued success of the forces for peace is ensured because, unlike other peace movements in recent history which have relied on the words and deeds of only a number of well-known personalities; the present peace movement is based on the conviction that the real forces for peace consist in the great mass of men and women who suffer from wars and without whose consent war would not be possible. All previous peace organizations and movements have been unable to achieve their avowed objectives of the preservation of

peace, because these movements in fact did not manage to create powerful waves of public feeling. Thus the popular masses were unable to play active roles in the search for the solutions to the pressing problems of the day.

THE PEOPLE ACT.

The proof that the peoples of the world have taken the cause of peace into their hands emerges from the Congress in two undeniable ways. The first is that the participation of all opinions in the deliberations of the Congress was ensured. The second is that the delegations from most countries consisted of the broadest cross-section of the political, racial and economic divisions in those countries.

In September of last year, for example, M. Nitti wrote to Prof. Joliot-Curie on behalf of his peace organization, stating that they were keen and eager to take part in the Congress of the Peoples. But they felt they could not without the assurance that certain points set out by them would be observed at the Congress. These points were chiefly concerned with independence of opinion and freedom to associate with or disassociate from particular decisions the Congress might take.

I think that the essence of the criticisms felt by the Italian Parliamentary Group for Peace is summed up in Mr.

Nitti's second point — "No person at the Congress should feel politically or morally committed by the resolutions, appeals, motions and declarations to which he has not subscribed and for which he has not clearly voted."

Prof. Joliot-Curie replied to Mr. Nitti's letter and gave him full assurance that all the points specified would be adhered to in all respects, and stated that they were consistent with the constant rule followed by the World Peace Council in all its work for peace. His letter stated that: "All those who, living under different systems and having different ideologies, think that:

- peaceful co-existence of different systems is possible;
- all differences between nations can be settled by negotiation;

can freely express themselves at the tribune of the Congress of the Peoples."

NO IRON CURTAIN.

So satisfied were the Italians at this exchange of letters between two great men, that, despite the action of the Italian Government in banning all visits to Austria for the period of the Congress, the Italian delegation was fully 180 strong. I think it is obvious that the fears expressed by the Parliamentary Group for Peace in Italy are fairly general in certain circles in the Western world, and expressed in their simplest and crudest form it can be said that the Italian Parliamentarians were afraid of a political trick and concerned about "playing the game of the Communists" in participating in the Peace movement.

In the course of his speech to the Congress Senator Nitti gave the final answer to the charge that the Peace movement is a Communist trick. To those who fear that action on behalf of Peace means playing the game of the Communists, he said forcefully: "If the Communists sincerely mean to defend Peace, and act accordingly, I am perfectly willing to play the game of the Communists."

War threatens to all, religious groups, athletes, specialists, nationalists, pacifists — people of all beliefs, creeds, walks of life — and it is only the universal desire, say hunger, for peace that can reach across all our differences and unite mankind for peace. This simple sublime truth was the one thing that could not fail to strike all who attended and saw the Congress. To see the Malayan and British, the American and Korean, the French and

Vietnamese delegations get together in a spirit of friendly co-operation and amably discuss their outstanding problems and difficulties was a sight to make the most cynical of men hopeful of a future based on co-operation.

Of course this international goodwill was by no means the complete picture, for it was based on unity within the national delegations themselves. In the 190 strong British delegation, there were over 90 members of the British Labour Party, some 25 to 30 Anglican clergymen, delegates from local Peace Committees, members of the Communist Party, Trade Unionists and delegates from Trades and Labour Councils; further, groups such as the Quakers attended as well as representatives from Fascist organizations and individual pacifists.

FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

The French delegation included authors such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Louis Aragon; artists such as Ferdinand Leger, Matisse, Picasso, and the famous film director Jean Cocteau; and greetings and best wishes to the Congress. The National Peasants Conference held in Paris on Nov. 29th, 1952 sent representatives led by Prof. Malterre of a leading Agricultural College.

The Indian delegation, which was led by Dr. S. P. Kitchlew, veteran leader of the Indian National Congress Party, said of his delegation: "Our delegation is proud of the fact that amongst us are

outstanding representatives of all eleven main political parties and opinions in our country, leading members of the party in power, the Indian National Congress, led by Pandit Nehru; celebrated followers and disciples of Mahatma Gandhi; leaders of the main opposition parties — the Communists, the Praja Party, the Peasants and Workers' Party and the Forward Bloc. The Indian delegation to the World Congress of the Peoples for Peace is an all-party delegation, but whatever our differences on all other issues, we of all parties and all opinions stand together and united on every issue of Peace."

I am confident that what Dr. Kitchlew said of his delegation applies with equal force to the delegations of most countries. Just a brief list of international and national figures who welcomed, sent greetings or attended the Congress will, I believe, convey why I am firmly convinced that all the major opinions in all lands were raised at the Congress.

Paul Robeson, Howard Fast and Prof.

de Bois of the U.S.A.;

Pastor Niemoller and Dr. J. Wirth, a former Chancellor of the Weimar Republic, of Germany as well as Anna Seghers of Eastern Germany;

Mr. Han Ser Ya, writer and leader of the Korean delegation;

Sheik Laid, Algerian poet;

Prof. J. D. Bernal, Dr. Hewlett Johnson and Rev. Barnes of Great Britain;

Miss Sun Yat Sen and Mr. Kuo Mo Jc, both Vice-Presidents of the Chinese Peoples Republic;

Ilya Blazenberg and Constantin Simion, as well as Dmitri Shostakovich of the Soviet Union;

Emil Zatopek, Czechoslovak champion and three times Olympic champion;

Romeo Barbosa, Brazilian professional boxing champion;

Gabriel Darbonaier of French Africa.

Many many more great men such as Pablo Neruda and Diego Rivera, beloved leaders and artists, represented the hopes and aspirations of the common man the world over, for peace. World-renowned military leaders such as General Buzenko of Brazil and General Galaban of Venezuela also spoke.

SPEAKING THEIR MIND

How then did this wide representation of diverse opinions set about the task of examining world problems and finding solutions embodied in the suggestions of the Address and Appeal, always bearing in mind that, to be effective, these pro-

posals had to be acceptable to the popular masses of the world?

Discussion at the Congress centered about the three items on the agenda:

How to safeguard the independence of nations and guarantee the security of every country;

How to bring about a lessening in international tension;

How to stop the wars at present in progress?

These items were suggested by Prof. Joliot-Curie and unanimously accepted by the assembled delegates as the basic problems upon which all questions of peace depend. It was repeatedly emphasized and made clear that in the course of discussion and in the proposals accepted by the Congress the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of countries was to be strictly respected.

In discussion on the first item of the agenda, colonialism and its accompanying evils were roundly condemned and the right of all nations of self-determination was supported, particularly by colonial

countries or those countries that felt themselves to be in the position of semi-colonies. Here of course the voices of Malaya, Vietnam, Korea, India and other Asian peoples; Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina and other Latin American states were loudest in the Congress. Delegates from these lands told the Congress of the horrors of colonial exploitation that oppressed their peoples.

It was aghast at the tales of misery and brutality that delegates had to tell although we in South Africa are not unaware of the bestiality of man to man. The general feeling of the Congress can be honestly summed up in the thought that there can be no security for a country which parts with its national independence. On the contrary, peoples who regain their national independence are in a position to claim guarantees of security from other countries.

But in the deliberations on the question of national independence, given first priority at the Congress, colonial countries were not the only examples of loss of national sovereignty. Speakers from metropolitan countries, such as Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland also complained that their peoples had lost and were faced with the likelihood of further losses to portions of their national independence. Agreements such as the Atlantic Pact have made enormous inroads into European national independence, and the stage has been reached where war could spring

. . . FOR WORLD PEACE

up not only without the people having been consulted in many states, but further, without their governments having been warned.

Mr. Yves Farge, a former French Cabinet Minister made the link between national independence and peace perfectly clear when he said: "Independence is in the first place liberty to take action for Peace; it is next the only situation in which people can obtain guarantees of security from their neighbours."

Percy Belcher, General Secretary of the Tobacco Workers' Union, speaking as a member of the British Sponsoring Committee stated that British cultural life is threatened by the U.S.A., whose government has taken a lead in a campaign whose results are now serious. The standard of living is reduced in order to build up armaments, millions of pounds are being used in a mere experiment in the exploding of a single atom bomb, the possession of which does not increase the security or the independence of Great Britain.

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Mr. Belcher then outlined the threats to the proud British tradition of national independence, and said: "We must and do recognise, however, that we have no right to claim this for ourselves unless we are prepared to apply the same right to peoples of other lands."

For South Africa the fact that the Congress took so firm a stand on the question of national independence and peace is of particular importance, as the national liberatory struggle now in progress here is an integral part of the fight for the preservation of national independence.

The session of Tuesday afternoon, 16th December was dominated by the introductory speech of Prof. J. D. Bernal of Great Britain on the second point of the agenda — how to reduce international tension. He briefly summarised how the present international tension, by creating a war atmosphere, is undermining the already unstable world situation. Directly and indirectly, in hundreds of ways, that tension is being raised, new fears are being created, incidents are being magnified to cause distrust and division.

FOR A 5 POWER PACT.

The only way to end this situation is a meeting of the five Great Powers so as to negotiate outstanding problems and conclude a Pact of Peace — this was the unanimous decision of the Congress and while there are hundreds of other methods of contributing to the breakdown of the present strained relations, it was generally felt that this is the primary requisite for the resumption of normal international relationships. Such questions as the opening of trade relations between the capitalist and socialist worlds were discussed, as well as the exchange of scientific knowledge and cultural and sporting delegations in order to break down the mistrust born of misunderstanding that permeates all our ideas about the "other half of the world."

Delegates from Korea and the U.S.A., from Malaya and Great Britain, from Vietnam and France agreed that all foreign troops must be immediately withdrawn from areas of hostilities; that negotiations continued while the firing is still in progress are bound to be frustrated so that truce negotiations must be preceded by a cease-fire if the parties concerned are sincere in their desire for peace; and further that international agreements must be adhered to and not flaunted by any one side in order to create pretexts for the continuation of hostilities.

Here in South Africa, although no bombs have dropped on us, we ex-servicemen and women know the stark reality of

(Continued at foot of next column)

PLAY REVIEW

TWELFTH NIGHT

I AM grateful that National Theatre is so seriously attempting to fulfil its obligation to produce plays which our amateur groups might find too difficult and too expensive. Ben Jonson's "Volpone" is followed this year by Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night".

Now, for me "Twelfth Night" is perhaps the richest comedy in the English language. It has everything. There is an intricate inter-weaving of plot and two or three sub-plots: there is rollicking comedy and tickling verbal wit: there is romance of a sweet and wholesome nature, there is poetry, there is music and there are poignant moments that move the heart. Above all there is a glorious freshness sweeping through the play, a feeling of early summer, when the world is young and happy and the sun is shining. The most sombre strand in this gay tapestry is the treatment of Malvolio — and even that has the quality which children show when they try and shake an old sobersides into a reluctant smile.

How disappointed I was, then, in Leonard Schach's production. He has gone out of his way to stress every melancholy moment and to heighten the temporary distresses that beset the characters in the course of the story. Orsino, who to me is a charming young man taking a good deal of pleasure in playing the 'lovelorn', is a very sad creature indeed in the production under review. Olivia, who after all is a beautiful, rich young girl, ready enough at the first opportunity to fall in love and forget her brother's death, appears on the stage in deepest black, drooping to mournfulness at every whip and turn. As for Feste, the jester, dear heaven! he drips and sags round the stage like Petrouchka at his most neurotic.

This time, Leonard, I just cannot agree with you!

Presumably guided by Mr. Schach's conception of the play, Mr. Frank Graves has designed a pale, dim, watery French landscape in place of the

(Continued from previous column)

war. While the threat of annihilation weighs upon the whole of humanity, our first-hand knowledge of war cannot weaken us, but must inspire our will to act for peace. I have returned to South Africa resolved to continue what was begun in Vienna and to explain here what is unknown or poorly understood of the views of others. For, if ignorance often breeds distrust and hatred, knowledge leads to brotherhood, truth leads to light.

cypress-scented blue-skied, sunshot landscape that Shakespeare guessed at when he set the play in "Illyria". The lighting of the set at the Repts Theatre in Johannesburg was on the dim side, with never a really sunny day throughout the play. Was it just to be 'different' that this production is dressed in the costumes of 18th century France and/or England, with here and there a costume that had strayed from earlier or later centuries? In any case, beautiful as the individual costumes were, they were selected from a period when dress mirrored the extreme artificiality of the lives of the upper classes . . . alien, it seemed to me, to the joyous sincerity of Shakespeare's play.

Of course, even when producers and designers have had their say on "interpretation", there is still Shakespeare, so though I may disagree with this producer's ideas, "Twelfth Night" remains. And how full of interest and diversion it is. Make no mistake about that. Go and see it to enjoy the droll stupidity of Siegfried Mynhardt's Aguecheek: the lusty, wicked, drunken boisterousness of Pieter Geldenhuys's Sir Toby. Go for the presentation of Vivienne Drummond's Viola, a very good performance indeed. Miss Drummond gives us a delicious piece of characterisation. Her boyish swagger underlines the real femininity beneath the pageboy's costume. She speaks her lines with complete understanding — and complete audibility.

The scene where the timid Viola meets the terrified Aguecheek in a duel is extremely funny, as are parts of the scene where Malvolio is tricked into believing that Olivia is in love with him. Edna Jacobson is a spritely, energetic, mischievous Maria, who imparts to the audience a consistent spirit of fun. Roma Reilly plays Olivia according to the producer's understanding of the character. I was very sorry that Miss Reilly's attractive voice and acting abilities were not employed to render her more likable to the audience.

Whether you agree or disagree with aspects of production, the presentation of one of Shakespeare's plays is an opportunity not to be missed. Don't miss this one.

CECIL WILLIAMS.



It seems to me that when bigger and better warmongers are made the American Defence Department will make them. The item that set me off on this train of thought was a report by a Major-General T. A. Willoughby. This gentleman has had a good grounding in this sort of work, having been General MacArthur's Chief of Intelligence in the Far East. The report that Willoughby made on his return from Europe was "that Spain was a reliable and efficient ally" and indispensable to Western European defence.

That in itself would be bad enough, but he goes on to draw a comparison between events in Spain and Korea — that both were to be attributed to the "sinister power" of Russia and the undermining of government by communist saboteurs.

Quite apart from the insult that this offers to the gallant Spanish people, it is a source of amazement to me how even an American general can compare Spain with Korea and attribute both to the convenient Kremlin. Spain was invaded by the German and Italian fascists. Russia was the only country, as far as I can remember, which urged the other nations to oppose the spread of fascism by intervening in Spain. Her plea went unheeded and the dress rehearsal for the second world war was successfully accomplished.

In Korea the position is more obscure, but it is extremely doubtful and certainly no proof has been produced that Russia is directing the North Korean war effort. On the contrary, the Soviet Union has repeatedly made an effort to bring the war to a close by negotiation. Only a mind as devious as General Willoughby's would attempt to hoodwink the peace-loving people of Europe in this manner.

FURTHER, PLEASE

Mr. A. E. P. Robinson, the United Party candidate for Langlaagte, went a good deal further than his colleagues recently when he pledged that his party on return to power would withdraw the Citizenship Act and would amend the Suppression of Communism Act to allow an appeal to the Courts. Desirable as such an assurance may be, it is, to say the least, inadequate. What about the Group Areas Act? What of the Population Registration Act? How about withdrawing the infamous Immorality Act? Or the Mixed Marriages Act? Indeed, I can think of no legislation enacted by the Nationalists which should not be totally withdrawn and a fresh and decent start made in an honest and statesmanlike attempt to find a healthy solution to the many complex problems facing this country.

GOOD SHOW, LABOUR

The Labour Party, on the other hand, has come out most creditably when, at its recent conference, it decided to oppose vigorously Swart's proposed "martial law" legislation. Also to their credit is the fact that they have not fallen into the easy trap of condemning the defiance campaign but have pledged themselves to do all in their power to remedy the justified grievances of the non-European people. It is a happy augury for the Labour Party to emerge in such strong fashion after its many years in the wilderness.

WE'RE ON THE WAY

The breaking-up recently of a United Party meeting at Krugersdorp by a group of Nat. hooligans means that we are once again on the threshold of an election. The Opposition forces in South Africa must expect this sort of thing on an ever-increasing scale as the election campaign becomes more intense. It is, however, unthinkable, that Malan and his government cannot be swept out of office in the same way as they were swept in. In this connection it is heartening to note that from a strictly technical point of view the United Party and the Torch Commando seem to have a smooth election machine with which to achieve this.

The National Executive Committee of the Springbok Legion at a recent meeting decided once again to support Opposition candidates to the best of its ability. Members of the Legion and regular readers of "Fighting Talk" will need no urging to play an active part in this the most vital of all general elections.

FILMS ARE NOT ALL FUN

Home Office statistics from Great Britain for the year 1951 show that the number of young people between the ages of 14 and 17 years convicted of various crimes was 76,000. This represented a 100 per cent. increase on 1938.

Of the 1,790,000 crimes of a serious order recorded by the United States courts during 1950 one-third were committed by juveniles.

In Western Germany general criminality in 1948 showed a 33 per cent. increase over 1933 and juvenile delinquency an increase of 87 per cent.

Professor Neimayer of California University made a study of 115 films currently screened in his country. He found that no less than 106 different types of crime were portrayed in these films.

Professor Stuckrath of Hamburg University observed in 400 films shown in Western Germany the following ingredients: 310 murders, 156 thefts, 624 frauds and 200 miscellaneous crimes.

According to the bulletin of the British Cinematographic Institute 70 per cent. of the 1950 films in Great Britain were found to deal with crime or with sexual subjects.

There are films, such as "Rommel" and "Steel Helmet", which glorify war. The Censorship Office in Canada officially protested to the makers of "Steel Helmet." The same censors reported that they had been forced to cut 305 scenes from 146 films they had reviewed because of the depiction of brutality, cruelty, indecency, the torturing of women and other atrocities.

A young English journalist writes: "During 14 months when I attended regularly the juvenile court sessions, I heard time and time again the same reply to the magistrate's question, 'Why did you commit such and such a crime?', 'I wanted to do the same as they do on the pictures'."

"ALL HONOURABLE MEN"

by *ELWOOD C. CHOLMONDELY*

It just goes to prove what I've always said: you can't be too careful these days. I know a lot of you have scoffed. But now you can see for yourself, these Bolsheviks worm their way in everywhere, and no-one's safe these days from their dirty plots. Not even if you look under the bed every night, or join in the Moral Rearmament. If they can lay their hands on a fine upstanding man like Senator MacCarthy, well, then nothing's sacred.

I mean, just think of it. A fine man like that, who's spent his whole life preserving the American way of life. Even Truman picked him as just the right type of man to keep the U.S. free of Communism. And believe me, being Chairman of the Un-American activities Committee has been a full-time job, and then some. But he stuck to his hundred percent democratic job through thick and thin — you can't deny that — and uncovered some of the most dangerous of the Kremlin's agents. All those dirty reds trying to overthrow the Government, but he caught them, yes sir: Shirley Temple, Charlie Chaplin, Theodore Roosevelt and I don't know how many more.

You can see what scum he's got to deal with that they even turn round and try to undermine a man like that. Making all this fuss just because MacCarthy was patriotic enough to bum a few rides on planes in war-time to qualify for the D.F.C. And when a man deserves the D.F.C., what's wrong with getting the press photographers along to photograph the presentation ceremony anyway? After all, fair's fair, and the seats in those damn superforts were pretty hard on civilian bottoms.

But the reds are gunning for him. Just like they did when I was sweating it out at War Records. There was this Commie fellow, see, who thought he knew everything just because he'd been through the desert campaign. Should have heard the performance he put up

when Dr. Malan applied for the D.S.O.; deserved it too, for the way his arms had suffered holding all that wool for Mrs. Malan to make into socks for O.B. internees. Fit to bust, this Commie was, but I let him have it straight from the shoulder. He got his way in the end — Malan's medal was turned down flat, like that. Goes to prove what I've always suspected, that that fellow Poole was a fellow traveller at least. Fair makes me mad to see these reds worming their way in to our democratic institutions under the very nose of the Government.

Same sort of dirty trick they played on Ebenezer Donges. Now there was a man deserved a medal if anyone did. Showed the greatest courage and devotion to duty right through the war, he did, taking all the dirty cracks that came his way without flinching, not even losing his nerve when they nabbed those stormjaers with the gelignite on the railway tracks. But the way those reds carried on, not even Robey Leibbrandt got a medal, not even the Atlantic Star, and him crossing hostile waters in a German U-boat and all.

We need a MacCarthy here, that's what. And mark my words, we're well on the way to getting one. Take this De Villiers Louw chap for example, "liquidator", or whatever they call him. Now there's a fellow whose carrying on the fight against these reds, and getting precious little for it except fifteen hundred nicker a year. But they'll try and get him too, mark my words, just the way they're getting MacCarthy. Those reds will gun for him, just see if they don't.

So what if MacCarthy did use the Government anti-Communist funds for his own expenses? He's fighting Communism, isn't he? So what's wrong with that? Same blooming red trick that they played against the last chairman of the Un-American Committee — old whats-his-name-er, Parnell Thomas. Hounded him they did, and finally framed him too. Defrauding the government, they said, using the Yankee OHMS stamp for his own election propaganda. I'm telling you, these reds make it tough for a fine upstanding man these days.

But we'll fix them yet, mark my words. Blackie Swart knows how to deal with them. Now there's another fine man, as good an anti-Communist as MacCarthy or Parnell Thomas any day. And what does he get for it but catcalls and slander? Those reds will try to get him too, but this time they won't get away with it, because we've got our grips on them now see. This time we're going to settle them for good. And I should know if anyone does, seeing as how I've been fighting to preserve South Africa from Communism ever since I finished my last stretch, see.

LIVING CONDITIONS.

In September 1949 Italy had 34,580 unemployed young farm workers. Five months later this figure had risen to 54,831. This mass unemployment brought about a rapid sinking of wages, as labour became very cheap. Today in 20 districts boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 15 years are earning less than 40 lire (about 8d.) an hour. In 11 of those districts the wages range from 21 to 33 lire. In Cremona farm workers earn only 30 per cent. of the wages of an adult. In Salerno it is only 42 per cent.

If you are not already a regular subscriber of "Fighting Talk," let us remind you that this magazine is one of the few progressive, militant anti-Nat. monthlies left in the country. Why not become a subscriber?

Subscription: 5s. per annum. Please fill in this form and send it together with your Postal Order to The Secretary, Springbok Legion, P.O. Box 4088, Johannesburg.

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WHO STANDS CONDEMNED?

BY the time this article appears the fate of Julius Rosenberg and Ethel Rosenberg may have been decided finally by President Eisenhower. If the decision is to carry out the death sentence upon them, many people throughout the world will be left with the conviction that an injustice has been done.

It is fashionable at the moment, when the Rosenberg case is mentioned, to retort, "What about Slansky?" It is difficult to see the relevance of this rejoinder. An unjust sentence in America does not become just because an injustice has also been done in Czecho-Slovakia. If the Americans wish us to believe that they are more democratic than the Czechs, they make a poor case by saying merely that their injustices are no worse.

There are two reasons why the Rosenberg case causes misgivings among democrats. The first question involved is: even if they are guilty, is the sentence not far too severe? The Rosenbergs did not (assuming the allegations against them to be true) supply American military secrets to a nation with which America was at war, or which was officially regarded as a potential enemy. They gave information to a country which was America's ally at the time, a country which American official propaganda was presenting as wholly admirable and trustworthy.

BEFORE THE COLD WAR

The idea of a Third World War was in those days regarded as unthinkable. The official 'line' was that war would be abolished for ever after Hitler's defeat. The Rosenbergs had only to believe their own government's propaganda to believe that no harm could conceivably come to America as a result of their action. Their motive may well have been merely to circumvent what they regarded as unnecessary secretiveness between Allies — secretiveness which might be hampering the joint war effort against Germany. Foolish and reprehensible conduct, perhaps, but surely not worthy of the death penalty?

But there is a further question which is being widely asked: are the Rosenbergs guilty at all? They have consistently maintained that they are not. Their lawyers have maintained (and eminent lawyers of other countries who have examined the evidence have agreed) that they were convicted on grossly inadequate evidence.

One may feel inclined to say, "The judge and jury which tried the case must know best." But American judges

and juries are not noted for unwavering impartiality in political cases. There are certain very concrete reasons for this. Firstly, the judges are elected (often for as short a term as two years) on a political basis. A Democrat judge, trying an accused of Leftist tendencies, knows that the Republicans will attack him at the next election, if he acquits.

A Republican judge knows that there will be McCarthyites eager to purge the party's nomination list of unreliable elements at the next nomination day. The maintenance of judicial impartiality is hardly possible under such circumstances.

"UN-AMERICAN?"

The jury is submitted to an unrelenting blast of press propaganda through-

CRY, KOREA!

"No country has ever been more completely laid waste by war than Korea," reports J. D. Kingsley, Agent-General of the U.N. Korean Reconstruction Agency. "Since June 25, 1950, when hostilities in Korea began, civilian losses (according to U.N. estimates) total more than 1,000,000 dead, 1,000,000 wounded and 500,000 missing. Three-quarters of the homes and property in South Korea have been destroyed. Eight million of a population of 22,000,000 are homeless. They face this winter in shelters of the crudest kind — tents, caves dug in the clay, huts patched together of scrap lumber and pasteboard cartons.

Only one-fifth of Seoul, the capital, remains standing. Approximately 60,000 children wander the highways in search of their families. Cities and camps are bulging with refugees—2,000,000 fugitives from the north and perhaps an equal number who have fled from battle areas in the south. Nearly all are dependent on relief — when there is relief available."

out the case. The salutary rule of the English and South African courts, whereby any comment on a case which is sub-judice is regarded as contempt of court, is not applied in America.

Not only does the juryman read propaganda concerning the case in his paper every morning, but he is faced with the prospect of personal press attacks on himself, if he votes the wrong way. (This happened in the Hiss case, among others. When Hiss was first tried, four jurymen voted for his acquittal, which meant that there was no verdict and a fresh trial had to be held. The four jurymen were mercilessly pilloried in the press. The second jury duly convicted Hiss).

These conditions have produced a number of notorious injustices in the past. Perhaps the best-known are the Haymarket massacre case and the Sacco-Vanzetti case. In the Haymarket case a number of policemen were killed by a bomb in the course of disorders following on a strike. The man who threw the bomb was never found, but a number of left leaders were rounded up and tried on the most flimsy evidence. Four were executed. Others, sentenced to life-imprisonment, were later pardoned by Governor Altgeld, who announced himself satisfied of their complete innocence.

Sacco and Vanzetti were two anarchists who were charged with murder. Though politics had nothing to do with the alleged crime, their views were used by the prosecution and by the press to create prejudice against them. They were convicted and executed although they produced what appeared to be unshakeable alibis. Today it is accepted by most American historians that they were innocent.

Numerous other examples could be quoted of the fallibility of American justice in cases with a political flavour. It may yet not be too late for world opinion to prevent the last, irrevocable step in the case of the Rosenbergs.

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"Law of the Vultures"

YET ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

Dear Sir,

Your correspondent, E. C. Paterson, is as ignorant of people as he is of literature. He displays a typically South African "apartheid mentality" about "the Africans". He believes that they are mysterious, different from ordinary people, that "the African" has a peculiar group personality which is lively, courageous, joyful and happy. Because "the African" is not an ordinary person, he can only be understood if seen "from the inside", and this E. C. Paterson apparently feels he has done.

The absurdity of this contention is easily illustrated. What would we say of a critic who denigrated one of Sarah Gertrude Millin's books about a white South African on the grounds that "the European South African is not like that" and that, while Mrs. Millin's principal character was thoughtful, kindly and heroic, "the European South African" is in fact lacrimose, abject, downcast and depressed?

The fact is, though E. C. Paterson may find it a startling revelation, that the characters of non-white South Africans are as diverse and complex as those of their white fellow-countrymen — and that fact is obvious to those who do not regard them with colour-blinded eyes. As it happens, Mrs. Altman has chosen for her protagonist a sensitive and intelligent man, peculiarly maladjusted to the South African environment which she depicts so well. She was not writing about "the African", any more than Gorki or Dostoevsky wrote about

"the Russian", Dickens about "the Englishman" or Howard Fast about "the American" — she was writing about a man.

E. C. Paterson continues his error when he argues that Mrs. Altman imagines that Africans are "simple, easily beguiled, easily led and misled," whereas in fact they are "careful, hard to convince, slow to act like working people everywhere". To Paterson, then, not only "the African" but "the worker" is a type. Of course "Africans" in the abstract cannot be pigeon-holed in any such facile manner, any more than working people can. But there is a sufficiently large host of simple and easily beguiled Africans to make their support of Thaele's Society completely credible. Country people who have come to town are notoriously easy to part from their money, to which the victims of the three-card trick, daily seen in the streets of Johannesburg, give ample, though mute, testimony. There is in South Africa today a whole class of "bed-and-breakfast boys" who live by swindling their fellow-Africans, sometimes paying the police a retainer to gain immunity from arrest.

The truth is that it is a rare gift to be able to write about *anyone* convincingly, even oneself. A good writer requires precisely the ability to project himself into the minds and hearts of other people, be they millionaires or street sweepers, young or old, black or white or what have you. It is no use substituting a set of types or clichés, as E. C. Paterson has done. If you lack that ability, it is best not to write. And not to criticise.

Yours sincerely,

GUY ROUTH.

Johannesburg.

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Dear Sir,

I wonder whether other readers had the same experience as I had, when I showed a friend the article on the use of napalm in Korea. His opinion was that all forms of warfare are inhuman and horrible, so why squeal about the horrors of napalm?

I must admit that any war, however just the cause, is repugnant to me. Nevertheless, I can see that for the sake of the survival of humanity some limits must be set to what is permissible and what is not. Foremost among such limitations must be the principle that non-combatants, women and children, must not be gratuitously killed and injured. Secondly, we can never tolerate any form of killing and maiming which is calculated to inflict the most frightful physical agony, as is the case apparently with various gases and napalm. Thirdly, bombing raids must have the destruction of industrial war-potential as their aim — not the senseless destruction of homes.

There are probably other reasons. I feel there are probably arguments against the limitations I have suggested, and yet, whatever wars people become entangled in, surely they do not want to injure irremediably the human race itself.

Yours sincerely,

J. CARLSON.

Durban.

Dear Sir,

I would like to compliment Dr. Njongwe for his clever comment on the value of an 'educational' qualification for the vote. He hits the nail on the head, when he says, "Can all this talk of 'education' be valid, when the best the European voters could do with their 'educated' vote in 1948 was to put a fascist government into power."

Pretty smart!

Yours etc.,

R.L.

Yeoville.

Dear Sir,

Generally I have enjoyed the changed quality of "Fighting Talk" over the last year. It has been a pleasure to get a mature analysis of the political situation in South Africa and also information of events overseas. But in the issue just to hand you seem to have lost the balance. Six whole pages were given over to the question of War and Peace, by a little stretch, one could put the articles by Anna Louise Strong and "Serendip" in the same category, adding another three pages. Too much, don't you think?

Yours etc.,

R.M.G.

Johannesburg.

Too right! We're trying to do better.
—Editor.

Dear Sir,

The general election is coming closer. I anticipate the Legion will fire big guns on the 'political' issues, such as Democracy, fascism, the Constitution, the Defiance Campaign, Republicanism, etc.

Might I suggest that you give us a detailed article on the Cost-of-living. I believe that this is the political cancer in the South African body. We ex-servicemen and our families probably have felt more acutely than those who didn't join up the tremendous struggle to make ends meet. How many people can afford holidays? I think you could help a lot by giving us some of the figures, comparing c.o.l. today with what it was, say in 1948. We could use such information in canvassing. I do not think the ordinary man and woman are so interested in the big political arguments, as the political parties imagine.

Yours etc.,

D. v.d. M.

Klerksdorp.

Watch our next issue!—Editor.

PASSPORT DENIED

KOREA war veteran Dick Davis's try for peace was not to the liking of the U.S. State Department, which last month denied him a passport to attend the Congress of Peoples for Peace in Vienna.

Davis vigorously protested the ruling in a letter to R. B. Shipley, head of the Passport Division:

"I am more convinced than ever," said the young Korean vet, "that only the people themselves can win world peace."

Declaring that "I am a loyal American citizen," Davis told the State Dept.: "I have just recently returned from the Korean battlefield. I had wanted more than anything else to go to the World Peace Congress and sit as an observer.

"I wanted to see for myself what the peoples of the world were thinking and saying about peace . . . what they propose to be done in an effort to establish peace.

"It is with deep regret that I find my government . . . the government which put me in uniform and sent me to the battlefield on another continent . . . now places obstacles in my way and prevents me from attending the World Peace Congress."

We wish to advise members and readers that the Springbok Legion has changed its office address. The new offices are at: Suite 5, First Floor, Somerset House, 110 Fox Street, Johannesburg (between Rissik and Joubert Streets). Postal address: P.O. Box 4088, Johannesburg.

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Unless otherwise stated, J. Podbrey, 5 Somerset House, Fox Street, Johannesburg, is responsible for all political matter in this issue.