

GLACIER BEARINGS

In our last issue we reported on the Glacier Bearings factory in Durban. The struggle for union recognition by MAWU has been continuing since April 1978. There is still no progress and management says that they won't recognise an unregistered union. Management have shown shop stewards a letter from Ronnie Webb's Union, the Motor Industry Combined Workers Union saying they want to organise at Glacier. At present MICWU have no members at Glacier.

FATTIS & MONIS

The strike by 55 workers at the Fattis & Monis factory in Bellville South, Cape Town is still continuing. The workers both Coloured and Africans are struggling for recognition of their union, the Food and Canning Workers Union. The strike started in April and 5 months later the workers are still united. Management tried many ways to split the workers. One of management tricks was to offer to re-employ only the Coloured workers and not the Africans. Another was to offer each one of them a job in other factories owned by them. The strikers are receiving R15 per week to live off which is supplied by the union and from donations to the union.

W. PROVINCE (CAPE)14TH AFFILIATE

On the 30th September the JEWELLERS & GOLDSMITHS' UNION Became FOSATU's 14th affiliate. The Union is registered with a mixed coloured and white membership. The Cape Town branch has a membership of about 450 and the Johannesburg branch is being reorganised.

Jewellers & Goldsmiths will be one of the smaller FOSATU affiliates but it is certainly the oldest having been started in 1939.

CAMPAIGN FOR UNION RECOGNITION AT HENKEL CONTINUES

Henkel is a German owned factory in Prospecton, Durban which manufactures glues and soaps. Workers there were organised by the Chemical Workers Industrial Union in 1977 after they realized that the Liaison Committee had no strength. In fact it was the Liaison Committee itself which in September 1978 approached the management for recognition. To date about 8 meetings have been held between the officials of the union, shop stewards and management.

In January 1979 the Company stated its intentions to recognise the Union. However at a later meetings management was asked to clarify what it meant by recognition. After the union sent a memorandum to management clarifying this the management agreed to the election of shop stewards inside the factory and monthly meetings with the Union officials and shop stewards.

In February management began a counter-move against the union by campaigning for the establishment of a counter body known as the Company Council which they claimed would represent all workers since, "All are not interested in the union." Workers successfully boycotted the elections of the Company Council and this adequately showed management that workers rejected this Council.

The Union then submitted a Memorandum setting out how Shop Stewards and officials would be involved in taking up grievances and how the union will protect workers from unfair dismissals if the union were recognised. It was now becoming clear to workers that management was trying to block the union. Management respond to the memorandum by stating that these proposals will be referred to Company Council which is a national body, and considerations from other centres must be taken into account. The union has heard rumours that workers in the Transvaal know nothing about this Company Council, but they only know of the Liaison Committee.

NATAL

Although the Company claims to be recognising the Union it is clear that this is not the case in practice since it is not accepting the proposals to allow the union to take up grievances and protecting and fighting for workers' rights at Henkel. Workers at Henkel have recently signed a petition to be sent to members of the Company Council, to the Chairman of this Council and to Management, including overseas, to show that workers at this plant reject the body imposed on them.

RAINBOW CHICKENS

In late August a huge work stoppage occurred at the P2 plant of Rainbow Chickens in Hammarsdale. Workers were demanding an explanation from management about the dismissal of a union member who was on the Works Committee. Management refused to give proper reasons for this and would not discuss the matter with the elected works committee. The Dept. of Labour too did not respond when asked to sort out the matter. Workers were then ordered to leave the factory. When they gathered outside the gates to demand their jobs back, the police arrested 55 workers for "meeting illegally in the open".

Now management has employed new workers to replace over 100 workers who remained out. But because the new workers are unskilled there has been a drop in production and therefore a loss to the company.

The workers who remained inside the factory continue to strengthen their Works committee even though management tried to replace it with a Liaison Committee.

UNION WINS ONE WEEK'S NOTICE PAY FOR DISMISSED WORKERS.

For 20 years Revertex has been dismissing workers with only one days notice pay. Because workers have organised themselves into the union they have learnt that their legal rights are one weeks notice pay. This has now been won for all workers dismissed in the future.