

They have used petty technical points of law to charge Union officials and to take away Union Record cards.

Piles of pamphlets have been left at factory gates and busstops. The pamphlets say the Union are working with management and are stealing the workers' money but there is no signature on the pamphlets. The Unions think that the pamphlets were written by the same people that are causing all the other troubles.

Now the government is trying to get the Unions out of their office because those offices, they say, are for Whites only.

In spite of all the efforts of the government the Unions are fighting on. But they have asked the Wages Commission to let the workers know in **ISISENZI** what their enemies are trying to do. It is clear that the enemies of the workers are trying to destroy the workers' trust in their Unions and in **THIS** way to destroy the Unions. The Unions call on all workers to stand united. If workers are together the battle may be hard but victory is inevitable.

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### INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The black workers of South Africa are not alone in their struggle for fair wages and better living conditions. There are people all over the world who are aware of the problems faced by South African workers and who support them when they can.

### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The International Labour organisation (ILO) had its conference in Geneva, Switzerland during June. The ILO is an organisation of trade unions from all over the world and every year they meet to discuss matters affecting workers in the different countries. Every year, too, there is the problem of who is going to speak for the S.A. workers. This year Lucy Mvubelo, Secretary of the Garment Union in Johannesburg went as a representative of South Africa. But delegates from other African countries criticised her strongly and did not allow her to speak at all. They did not like her because she came as a representative of TUCSA and they say that TUCSO is an organisation which helps only White workers, not Blacks. The only organisation which was allowed to speak for South African workers was SACTU (South African Congress of Trade Unions). This organisation was organising African workers into Unions as from 1955 until it collapsed in 1967 when its leaders were banned. It now operates outside South Africa, speaking for the workers here.

During the Conference many people attacked conditions in South Africa. They said that they should do all they could to destroy apartheid and migrant labour which makes life so difficult for workers here.

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### AMERICAN COAL IMPORTS

On the 22nd of May this year a big fuss began because the United States was buying coal from South Africa. The United Mineworkers Union in the United States criticised this saying that the reason why South African coal was being bought was because it was cheap. It was only cheap, the Union said, because South African miners were paid such low wages. They said that the miners were treated like slaves.

The Union held a protest meeting outside the company that was buying the coal, and a few days later about 6 000 miners went on strike to protest against the imports. Some important politicians in Africa are now supporting the Union and the matter may be taken to court to see if the imports are against the law.

## AROUND THE UNIONS

### T.U.A.C.C.

The African Trade Unions have now been operating in Durban and Pietermaritzburg for about a year, and they have found it necessary to form a central organisation with representatives from the Unions, the Benefit Fund and the Institute for Industrial Education.

This organisation is called T.U.A.C.C. - Trade Union Advisory and Co-ordinating Council, and its duty is to discuss the problems of the Unions and to negotiate with the Kwa-Zulu Government when necessary. For instance, when there was a clash between Chief Gatsha Buthelezi and Mr Barney Dladla in the Kwa-Zulu Legislative Assembly, three members of T.U.A.C.C. went to see Chief Buthelezi to make the position of the Unions clear. They repeated that the Unions wanted to stay out of Kwa-Zulu politics and they asked for continued support from Chief Gatsha.

On 16th June T.U.A.C.C. held a meeting in Durban which was attended by Mr Solomon Ngobesi, the new Kwa-Zulu labour representative, and Mr Barney Dladla. (This was when Mr Dladla was still Minister of Community Affairs). At the meeting the Unions and Mr Ngobesi discussed future co-operation between Kwa-Zulu and the Unions. Also at the meeting each Union presented a report on its history and its present activities. We have based this edition of 'Around the Unions' on these reports.

### BENEFIT FUND

Started in September 1972. It is controlled by an Executive Committee of twenty members who were elected by the workers and it has ten paid employees working in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. The total membership is about 22,000. Every member of a Union is automatically a member of the Benefit Fund. (See ISISEBENZI No.2 for an article on the Benefit Fund).

### CHEMICAL WORKERS UNION

The Union has been accepting members since the end of 1973 but it is only recently that organisation has started. A fulltime secretary has taken over from the staff of the Furniture and Timber Union who used to run the Union. Recently a delegation of workers from A.E. & C.L., the big Durban factory, came to the Union offices and said they would start organising their factory. This is a good sign for the future of the Union.