

Broadly speaking

Bosses organise against workers

The bosses are adopting our slogans: "Cosatu and Nactu have organised and co-ordinated their forces. We invite you to join us in the same strategy on a national basis. 'An injury to one (employer) is an injury to all'.

These remarks are from a confidential circular addressed to employers, which found its way into our offices. It is from the little-known Labour Foundation, inviting employers to a conference on 'Labour Stability for Growth'. The circular says:

"Business confidence has taken a dive due to various threats to our future. The Labour Foundation identified the onslaught of radical trade unions as a major threat. To succeed against this threat we now call on all employers for a co-ordinated strategy for the protection of employer rights.

"It is important to us to influence legislation and the industrial court for a positive business climate which is conducive to wealth and job creation...."

The Labour Foundation has 400 members, who are organised into its Federation of Employers' Organisations and Employers of South Africa. It has existed for at least a few years. In its newsletter *Labour Affairs* No.6 it states: "our primary objective is to support employers against radical trade unions." Services include a 24 hour 'hotline' to a labour law attorney; 'consultations' during wage or strike negotiations; 'training' to suit the individual employer, and a 'strike fund' to support employers during strikes.

Most ominous of all for workers is the 'surrogate workers' service, which is a "databank" to provide employers with "an alternative

workforce should you be the victim of a strike".

The Labour Foundation also calls for 'co-ordinated actions' to "curb salary inflation..., protect employers' rights" and "to neutralise the powerful Cosatu". ❖

Union educators picket union

The Johannesburg-based Urban Training Project (UTP) is set to close because its funding from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) has been withdrawn.

The UTP has been around since the early 1970s, as a worker education project from which the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA) - the forerunner of NACTU - emerged. UTP staff allege that funds were withdrawn because NACTU intervened, after the UTP refused to become its education department, preferring to remain independent. In protest, UTP staff picketed NACTU's Johannesburg offices. ❖

ANC, PAC and AZAPO take action against inter-organisational violence

It is heartening to see a commitment by the leadership of liberation groups to act against undisciplined and destructive violence amongst activists. After recent violence between people claiming to be supporters of their organisations, the leaders of the ANC and AZAPO held a joint mass meeting in Kroonstad's Maokeng township, to condemn inter-organisational violence. AZAPO has adopted