

THE PEOPLE REJECT NEW VOTE

Plain No to PC Proposals

REPRESENTATIVES of democratic organisations in Mitchells Plain took over the "Committee of 15" meeting in Westridge on Monday June 7, after the self-appointed convenor Eddie Kai was removed from the chair by popular vote.

The rest of the meeting was used to discuss the President's Council proposals.

A motion condemning the proposals was adopted unanimously.

The intended formation of the Committee of 15 was promoted with great fan-fare by the two give-away papers in the area, The Metro Bruger and the Plainsman (Cape Herald).

The papers even

published nomination forms to be used in elections scheduled to take place at the public meeting.

The democratic organisations' only counter was a pamphlet distributed the day before the meeting.

The pamphlet was Council - Committee of 15 = Apartheid."

Supporters

Kai's newspaper campaign was a huge flop.

On the night of the meeting there was no evidence of nomination forms for candidates and hardly a supporter of the Committee of 15 idea turned up.

The audience of several hundred was made up of democratic organisations' representatives and supporters.

Opening the meeting Kai said that the purpose of the meeting was now only to exchange ideas about a single body for Mitchells Plain.

When he began to discuss the pamphlet there was a point of order because it wasn't on the agenda.

Twelve local democratic organisations and the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC) read out statements condemning the formation of the Committee of 15.

• Eastridge Residents

Association: "People should join their existing organisation. The organisers of the Committee of 15 went about it in a furtive manner.

• Portlands Civic Association: "Committee of 15 was hatched in somebody's office. It will promote apartheid and impede the struggle.

• Lentegeur branch of MPYM: "It won't serve the people's interests. It promotes apartheid through the President's Council. We unite for a democratic South Africa where the people shall govern."

• Rocklands Civic Association: "We need grassroots organisations to fight for creches and so on. The people should join their local civic organisations."

• Rocklands Branch of MPYM: "It is a direct link out of the President's Council proposals. It is undemocratic and unasked for. We reject it, the PC and other racial bodies."

June 16 Remembered

THE JUNE school holidays began very early this year. The third school term is as a result extremely long.

It is speculated that this is a deliberate move on the part of those who plan our education. This is an attempt to try and prevent

CAHAC: "People should be represented by democratic organisations where decisions are taken collectively. The decision to form a Committee of 15 was not democratic."



Nightwatchmen face harsh conditions as they protect the security and property of others.

• Portlands Branch of MPYM: "We reject it because the people were not consulted. Local organisations, who have the peoples' interests at heart must be supported."

• Portlands Senior

Secondary school students: "It is linked to the PC and will not serve the people but those who formed the idea."

• Portlands Anglican Youth Fellowship: "It doesn't represent the needs of the people. Organisations should see to the day-to-day needs of the people - like the EPC does in the area."

• Westridge Action Committee: "It is an elitist group and its structures are undemocratic. It furthers the aims of apartheid."

• Westridge branch of the MPYM: "It is an

attempt to foist a useless body on us."

• Woodlands Action Committee: "It is part of an attempt to make a Colouredstan of Mitchells Plain."

• CAHAC: "People should be represented by democratic organisations where decisions are taken collectively. The decision to form a Committee of 15 was not democratic."

A representative of the Ministers Fraternal dissociated that body from the Committee of 15 idea.

The following resolution was then adopted

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'Threat to Democratic Forces'

LOCAL organisations this month warned their members that the new Presidents Council proposals would change nothing for them.

In statements issued by trade unions and civic bodies, the proposals were strongly rejected.

"If these proposals were to be accepted, it would create very serious divisions between Africans, Coloureds and Indians, in particular, working people," said the Food and Canning Workers Union in a statement

issued.

"We cannot preach unity amongst workers of all races on the one hand, and allow a political system based on racial divisions," the statement reads.

In rejecting the proposals, the Municipal Workers Association said the proposals must be fought at all levels. "They pose a threat to the democratic forces," the Association said.

The Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (Cahac) believes that the proposals seek to "undermine everything that Cahac stands for.

"Our call is for the right of all people to have a say in all matters affecting our lives, all levels of Government - not an artificial say in some matters affecting us," Cahac says.

The Federation of Cape Civic Associations stressed that the proposals were "a new attempt by the rulers to entrench apartheid."

For the General Workers Union, the proposals will give no decision making powers to people except at a local level.

"Obviously we reject it from the start, because it is a racial institution and we believe in true democracy, in a single non-racial state," the statement reads.

Valhalla stands together

"WE HAVE many problems in Valhalla Park", said a member of the newly formed Valhalla Park Civic Association. "We need to stand together to try to solve our problems. Nobody can do this for us. We must stand together to make our organisation strong."

This was the message to the community at a meeting held recently to launch the civic association. An 11-person executive committee was elected. Messages of support came from the Kensington Factory Residents Association and the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee.

Speaking in support of the formation of the association, a young Mother said: "I pay R30 for a one-bedroomed house which is

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BOSSSES THREATEN RAILWAY WORKERS

EVER since the railway workers at the East London and Port Elizabeth docks joined the General Workers Union (GWU), they have faced opposition from their bosses, the South African Transport Services (formerly the South African Railways).

The railways workers were first organised by the stevedores who work alongside them and whom the union started organising three years ago.

The GWU are recognised by the stevedoring companies and have a membership of more than 90 percent among the stevedores in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London.

While membership of the union has led to an increase in wages and improvement in working conditions for the stevedores, conditions for the railway workers have remained the same.

So it is not surprising that these workers wanted to join the GWU.

But when the union approached management for recognition, the bosses responded by calling in the railway police to question union members.

These workers were told that the GWU was a "rotten apple" and that they would end up on Robben Island if they organised new members for it.

They were threatened with the sack or detention if they continued to support the union.

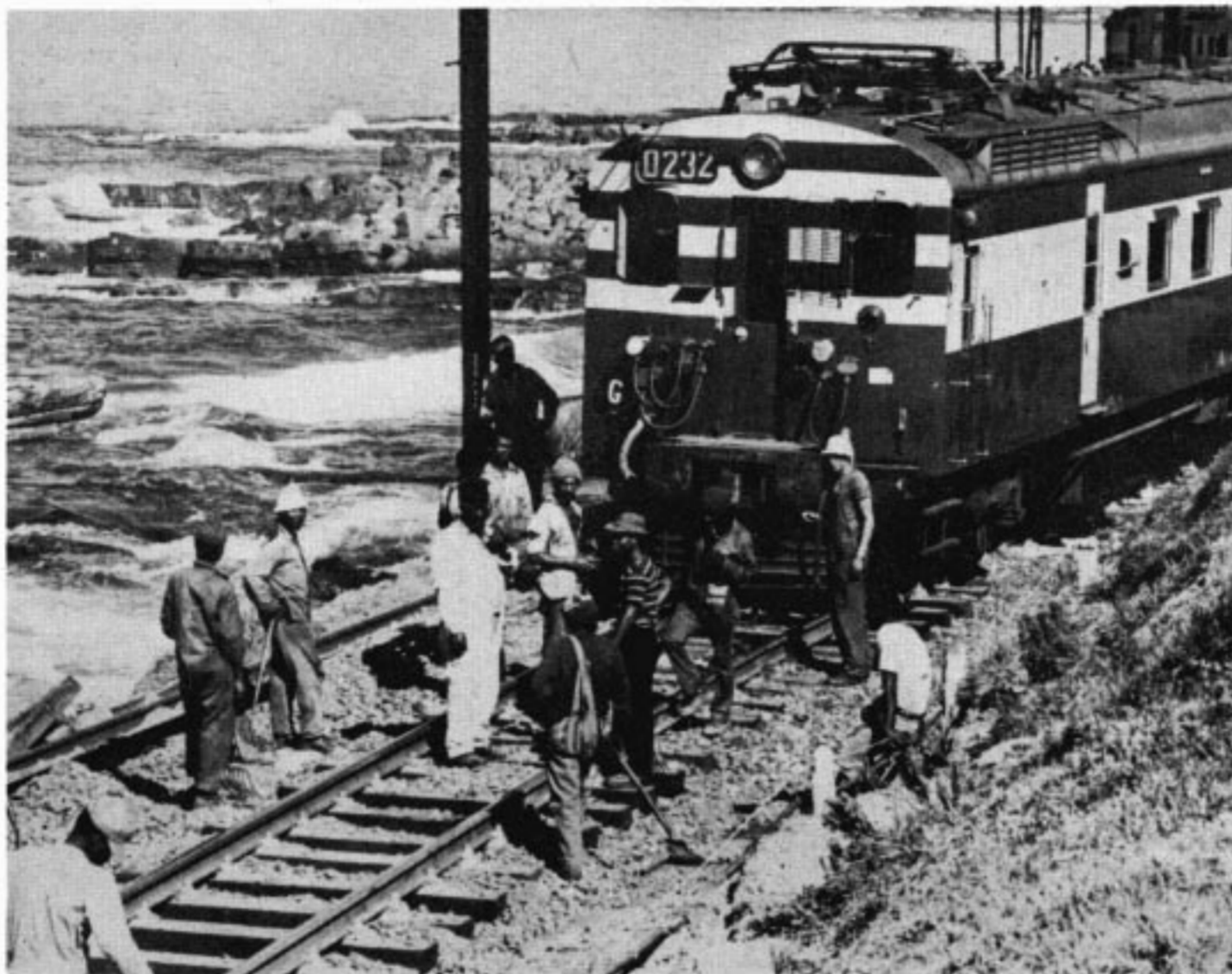
Smear pamphlets attacking the union have been distributed, union members have had their homes searched and the chairman of the Port Elizabeth workers committee was fired with 24 hours notice after having worked for the SATS for 12 years.

The union believes management have done this with the aim of provoking a strike which they could use to fire all the union members.

The latest news is that an annual bonus of R30 has been withdrawn from the workers - a further sign of

provocation by management.

Under these conditions the workers will not be able to remain patient forever.



Poor Deal for Nightwatchman

NIGHTWATCHMEN will receive a legal minimum of R160 a month for 72 hours work a week in terms of a new wage board determination which takes effect from August this year.

Wage boards are government appointed bodies which set the wages and conditions of work in industries where there are no unions. Because there are no unions to represent workers interests in the wage boards, they end up representing mainly the employers' interests.

R160 a month for 72 hours work a week is a lot of work for very little money. But many night-watchmen do not

even get these minimum conditions of work and pay - the security industry is well-known for its exploitation of night-watchmen.

Night-watchmen are often forced to work double shifts over weekends. Under this system night-watchmen work from Friday afternoon to Monday morning without a break.

Many security firms pay wages which are only part of the legal minimum. Workers are forced to sign for pay packets stating that they contain the minimum wage, while they actually get only part of this wage.

Also wages are illegally deducted for such

"offences" as failure to wash uniforms, going to the shop for food or falling asleep on the job.

Deductions are also made for the provision of uniforms and whistles.

Night-watchmen also suffer because of the dangerous nature of their work. Many have been assaulted and recently a night-watchman in Sea Point was killed.

Why are the working conditions of many night-watchmen so bad? A major reason is that most night-watchmen are either contract workers from the homelands or they are "illegals" without pas-

HUNDREDS of workers from Van Riebeeck dairies went on strike for two days last week for the second time in three weeks. They were demanding the dismissal of management-appointed "boss-boy".

Workers interviewed by GRASSROOTS accused the "boss-boy" of victimization and corruption.

A driver, who has worked for Van Riebeeck for 25 years, said this "boss-boy" had

Parow Workers Stand United

singled out 15 workers and told the bosses they were leaders of the last strike over wages.

According to workers, he had also brought the police to the Nyanga hostels, where the workers live, during the most recent strike.

"The 'boss-boy' came to the hostels with seven police 'waentjies'. He asked why we were on strike and we told him it was because we didn't want him as 'boss-boy'", said the driver.

Another driver, who has worked for the dairies for ten years, said contract workers in the Transkei had to pay the "boss-boy" R50 before they could get jobs with Van Riebeeck.

Most of the dairy workers are migrants from Transkei.

In a newspaper re-

port, the bosses said the workers were demanding the dismissal of a "colleague". They had called in the Transkei Consul-General to help break the strike.

"The Transkei people pleaded with us to return to work. But they didn't talk properly to us", said one worker.

According to the newspaper report, the "boss-boy" had gone on leave while negotiations took place and all the workers had returned to work after two days.

The boss-boy has not been present since.

Some workers believe that he has been dismissed while others suspect that he has been moved to another area.

The workers won a R25 increase when they struck the first time.

Tactics to Divide Workers

NINETY workers at Parow General Galvanising have collected their pay and quit their jobs, ending a strike over unfair dismissals and poor working conditions.

The workers collected their pay saying they were not prepared to work at the factory.

They said there had been numerous unfair dismissals at the plant and they had wanted to be consulted about them. Management refused.

Workers also claimed that conditions in the factory were extremely unsafe.

Of the 90 strikers 14 had suffered an injury - either being burnt or having steel fall on them.

Another 10 had been treated for lung disease - the result of

being in contact with metal dust.

Several say their accidents were never recorded which meant they never received Workmen's compensation.

They say they had to work in the dust all day without masks but when the manager came round he wore a mask.

Several workers had suffered broken toes, a result of not being supplied with safety boots.

In 1980 one worker, Siphso Mvemvaki, died after falling into a bath of acid.

The workers said it was because of conditions such as these that they wanted sound channels of communication with management. And when management turned them down they saw no point in continuing working there.

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THE Stellenbosch Divisional Council is prepared to deal with the Macassar Civic Association and accepts that the people of Macassar reject the Management committee in the area.

This was reported at a meeting attended by about 200 people by a delegation who had gone to see the Council about the "bathroom door question".

At a number of house meetings held by the Civic Association, people complained about the way the bathroom and toilet structures at the back of the houses in old Macassar had been built.

Affected residents

have to leave their houses to go to the bathroom or toilet. The bathroom and toilet structure is right next to the house and the people have demanded the Divisional Council build a door leading from the kitchen to the bathroom.

Petitions were circulated in the area demanding Council install the outside door immediately without any cost to the residents.

At a public meeting after this a delegation of 10 residents was elected and they had a meeting with the Divisional Council.

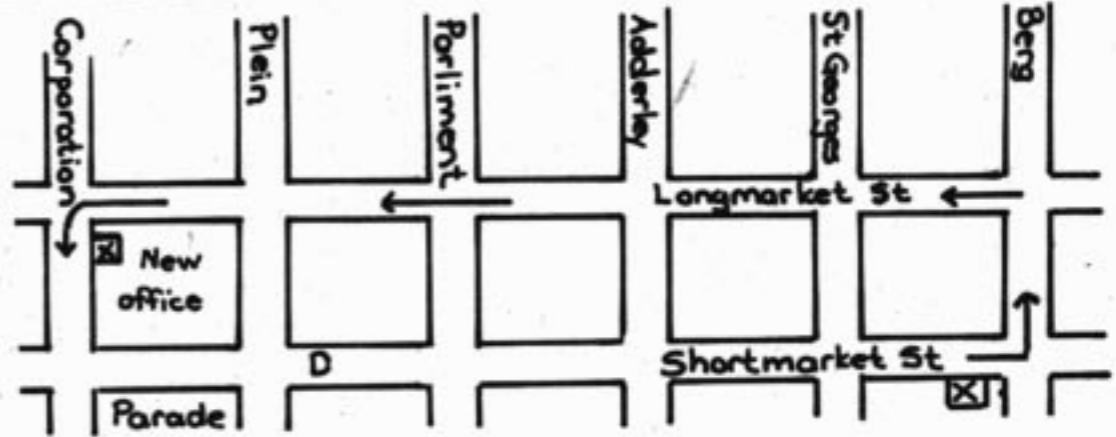
At a mass meeting held on May 31, the

delegation brought the following report to the people.

They said:

- The Engineer told them that in the original plan for the bathroom structure, provision had been made for an outside door.
- They were told that although there were funds available for the doors at the time, it was later decided not to build them.
- It was admitted that the structures were not completed, but Council said because of a lack of funds now, it could only be done in two or three years time.

Grassroots moved to new offices on the 4th floor of Atlantic House Corporation Street, Cape Town. Telephone: 22-0264



MACASSAR RESIDENTS SAY:

'We refuse to pay for Divco's mistakes'

The Divisional Council is prepared to deal with the Macassar Civic Association and accepts the people of the area reject the management committee.

In the light of this, the people at the meeting decided to issue the following ultimatum to Divco: "Come and meet us within two weeks to tell us whether you are going to build the door immediately."

The people decided that if the Council refused to meet them or install the doors, they will under the Macassar Civic Association, have

the doors built at their own cost and deduct it from their rent.

The Residents at the meeting said: "Why must we pay for the mistakes of the Divisional Council".

The Macassar Residents Association which is still very young had brought out a pamphlet on 'die badkamerdeur kwessie' and the importance of being organised.

In it the Civic states that the small beginning was made to try and show what standing together and organising is.

"We must be organised before we can take any action", it said.

'Pink Eyes' Scare Bosses

PINK eye has made 'master' and 'madam' very concerned for a change.

"Why did it need 'pink-eyes' to open the eyes of 'masters' and 'madams'?", workers in Cape Town are asking.

"At the first sign of pink, the bosses see red and send us home," some workers told GRASSROOTS.

"Stay home till you are better," they tell us. For a change 'master' and 'madam' are showing great concern," they said.

But workers are not fooled. They recall the many other times when they were forced to carry on working in spite of sickness or pain.

With aching bodies,

floors had to be scrubbed and washing done.

"You can't go to the doctor now", madam would say. "There is too much work to be done. Why don't you go after work tonight?"

"I've worked for my employer for ten years and never had a week's sick leave," a domestic worker told Grassroots.

"A day off sick has almost caused me to get sacked or have money deducted from my wages.

"But when I got pink-eyes, I was told to take off for as long as I wanted to. "We can see that the bosses can make other plans if they are affected. They are only concerned now because 'pink-eyes' can get to them too," she said.

CTMWA statement on PC

THE Cape Town Municipal Workers' Association rejects the President's Council and its

proposals in toto. The proposals are designed to divide the oppressed people in

general and the working class in particular.

The proposals first of all create division be-

tween the "African" section of the oppressed and the rest of the oppressed. Secondly they divide all the oppressed into "ethnic" groups. This is totally unacceptable.

For us the unity of the oppressed is paramount. As workers, we will not allow ourselves to be divided. The real basis of our unity is our common oppression, common exploitation and common disabilities.

Therefore our struggle - "African", "Indian" and "Colour-

ed" workers and other progressives - is a common struggle.

The so-called democracy at local authority level is a fraud. It is within the apartheid and group areas framework.

In addition at Central Government level, the proposals will convert South Africa into a total dictatorship under the rule of a presidential junta.

The proposals pose a threat to democratic forces and must be fought at all levels.

Students, community and worker organisations have issued the following statements rejecting the proposals of the President's Council.

CAHAC Speaks

"OUR call is for houses, comfort and security for all - not dummy votes," the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee said in a statement rejecting the new President's Council proposals.

"Our call is for representation by the true people's organisations and its elected leaders - not for the imposing of puppet bodies as the

voice of the people," the statement reads.

"Our call is for unity of all oppressed, not the handing out of certain privileges to so-called Coloureds and Indians.

"Our call is for a true democracy - the rights of all people to have a say in all matters affecting our lives, at all

levels of government - not an artificial say in some matters affecting us."

CAHAC believes that it is not the aim of the President's Council to promote the interest of the people.

"The proposals merely represent one of the ways in which the government is attempting to maintain its oppressive rule."

Students reject PC

MORE than a thousand University of Western Cape students this month resolved to reject the President's Council proposals.

At a mass meeting on the campus, the students said they rejected any proposals for alternative governments which excludes the participation of South Africa's people on a non-racial democratic basis.

In a pamphlet issued at the meeting, it was said that Azaso, the national students organisation was an organi-

sation which could serve to unite the oppressed.

"When the P C attempts to divide the Coloured and Indians from the rest of the Black oppressed, we must strengthen those organisations which unite them," the pamphlet reads. "At the university level, Azaso is one such organisation," it reads.

In rejecting the P C, the students said they will fight for the right of all people to: govern themselves, redistribute

the wealth and land of the country, complete equality in all walks and spheres of life; comfortable homes and full employment, free compulsory education and complete peace and independence.

"These demands we shall fight for side by side with all who share our love for and loyalty to a non-racist democratic South Africa which through our struggles will be born in the future," the students resolved.

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Cosas Congress: Student-Worker Action Theme for 1982

COSAS, the congress of South African Students, held its second national congress in Cape Town last month.

Delegates travelled from all the different regions around the country to attend the congress.

Other student organisations based on campuses such as the Azanian Students Organisation, (AZASO) and the National Union of South African Students, (NUSAS), also attended.

There were also representatives from worker, women's and community organisations. The congress was held under the theme of "Student-Worker Action".

Cosas was formed in 1979 to be the voice of students, mainly at schools and to build democratic organisation at schools.

Congress

It was formed to fill an important vacuum in the organisation of students following the unrest in 1976 and the banning of organisations such as, Saso, the South African Students Organisation in 1977.

Congress was held over two days, and was preceded by a national executive council meeting. Posters, banners, singing and dancing spelt a spirit of unity among students and the

broader community.

The road of the organisation has never been an easy one. Its leaders have been detained and harassed by the security police.

Throughout congress, speakers condemned the system of detentions without trial and called for the unconditional release of all detainees.

SRC's

Oupa Masuku, a member of the national executive, has been in detention since November last year.

The decision to change the venue from the Transvaal to the Cape was taken to improve working relations with the organisation.

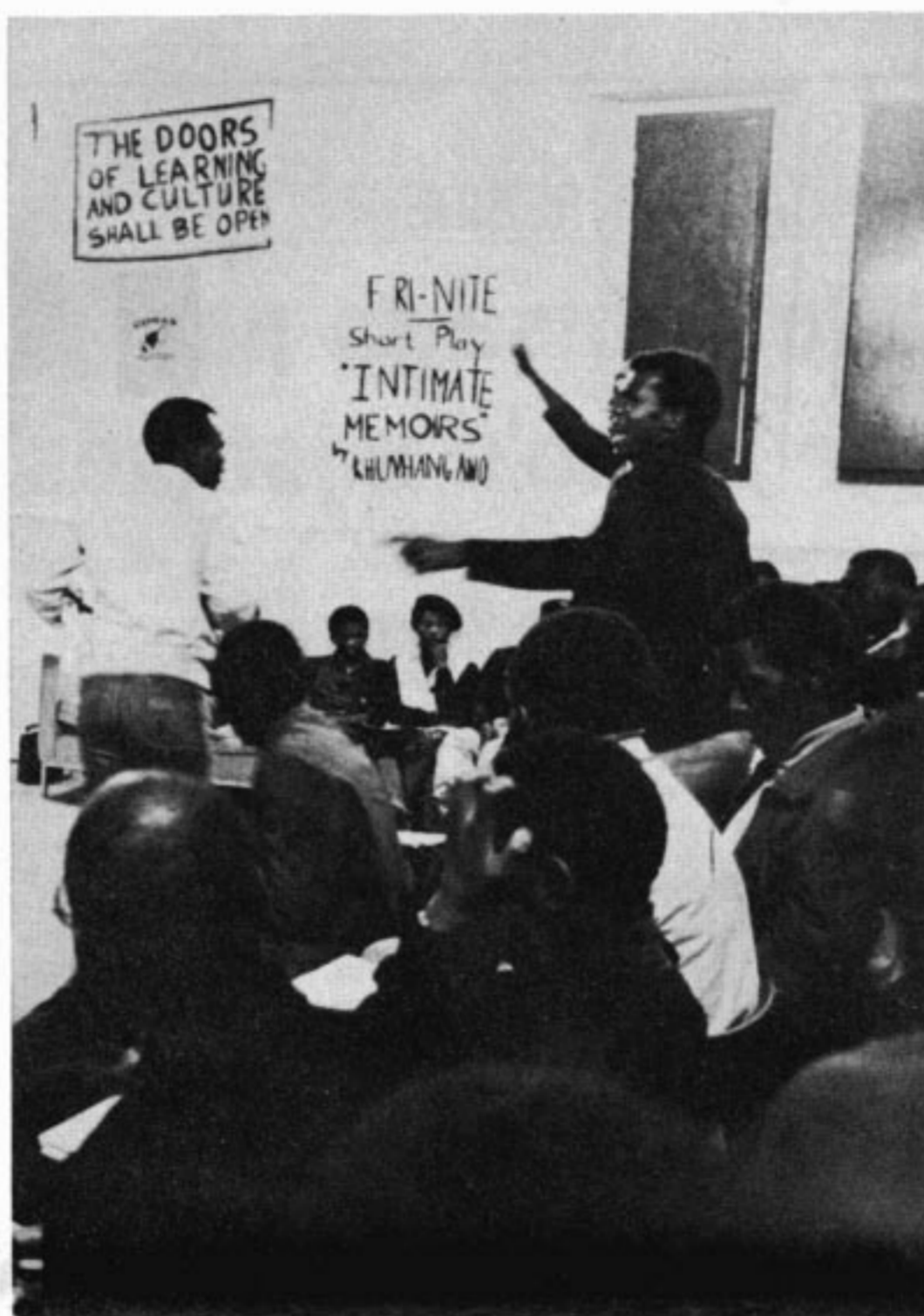
This was also seen as a way of promoting strong democratic SRC's at our schools.

Three papers were delivered at the congress. The first paper by Abba Omar, general secretary of AZASO, was entitled "Education for Liberation". He pointed out that our educational system serves to oppress us.

It prepares us for a cheap labour market and aims to control our ideas and force us to accept the society in which we live.

"We must challenge the ideas of racism and exploitation and present alternatives.

We must also bear in



mind that changes in the educational system can never be brought about unless there are fundamental changes in the rest of society.

We must link the educational struggle

with the overall struggle for liberation", he said. Further, he pointed out that our strength lies in our organisations.

"We must unite and organise ourselves so that we can give direc-

tion to our struggles. Most importantly, we must be disciplined. At this stage we cannot afford mistakes because the costs would be too high".

Eric Molobi, from

the General and Allied Workers Union, delivered the second paper on 'Education for Change'. He stressed that students must equip themselves to study our history, our political and our economic system.

That education for change must link this understanding to our daily experiences. We must not only educate ourselves to get certificates, but to make a contribution to change in our country.

Supportive

The speaker stressed the importance of the workers struggle in the fight for a democratic South Africa.

He also stressed the supportive role that student organisations can play in workers struggles.

But, worker struggles should not be the only focus of student organisation. The undemocratic way in which our educational system operated, needed to be fought on a united front.

A third speaker, Joe Phahla, the AZASO president, talked about the "Role of Black Consciousness and A progressive Approach to the South African situation. He presented a background to black consciousness and pointed out that at that time it was a positive response to white liberal student

organisation.

Black consciousness reached its climax in 1976 and was dealt a harsh blow by the state with the banning of organisations in 1977.

While Black Consciousness served to instill pride and self-reliance in our people, we need to move beyond this approach.

Black Consciousness, he said, also failed to mobilise the masses, and build strong organisations of the people.

We could learn from these lessons and apply them to the demands of our time towards pressing ahead in the non-racial democratic struggle.

The papers stimulated discussion of the role of student organisations in the fight for change.

Elections

Congress also adopted a resolution to elect a steering committee to look at how non-scholars and youth in Cosas could be catered for. The committee is to make recommendations to the national executive.

The congress closed after elections were held. The following positions were filled: President, Vice-President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, Publicity Secretary and 3 full-time organisers.

Call for Involvement

DURING May students were sitting down for the graduation ceremony. Chief Lennox Sebe president of the Ciskei, and his party

arrived. He was to attend his son's graduation ceremony at Fort Hare University.

It was rumoured that Sebe was to receive

an honorary doctorate degree and the university was to be renamed the University of the Ciskei.

In response to Sebe's presence, students started singing freedom songs and stoned the motorcade.

The Bantustan police reacted by shooting two students and detaining 25 others.

A boycott of classes resulted on the campus with 1500 students being charged for holding an unlawful gathering. Police patrolled the campus with dogs and machine guns.

The students issued a statement rejecting the government's homelands policy. The Ciskei was declared an independent homeland on 4th December last year amidst great protest from the people of South Africa.

It is a creation of Apartheid, a place of poverty, landlessness, unemployment and re-



settlements.

AZASO, the Azanian Students Organisation, took the lead in calling for a national day of solidarity with the Fort Hare Students.

A student spokesperson said: "Students should join the call for a South Africa where the brutality of the last few days need not exist. Where poverty and hunger need not exist."

On campuses around the country, students resolved to support the call. The University of Cape Town and Witwatersrand also responded to the call. The students recognised that their boycott was not sufficient. For this reason alternative programmes were organised on all the campuses.

The aim these was to highlight the unjust

homelands system and the repression on campuses. A member of the UWC SRC said: "Our support and participation should not end with a boycott. We should extend this solidarity towards greater involvement on our campuses and in the communities."

Thousands of students - both black and white - attended alter-

native programmes on their campuses.

This further demonstrated the strong non-racial alliance which presently exists in the student movement.

It is quite evident that the student movement has overcome the divisions in their ranks and was in the process of regaining their strength.

LOVE **spicy daltjies?**

easy to try and fry

for the tastiest daltjies in town

We will not move without protest

CLOSE to 50 Harfield residents attended a meeting organised by the Claremont branch of the United Women's Organisation to discuss the problem of evictions in the area.

Ten years ago, Harfield Village was declared a "white" area under the harsh Group Areas Act. Since then, people have been forced out of their homes. At present, there are only 50 "coloured" families living in the area. Soon they too will be evicted.

Wilfred Rhodes, the chairperson of CAHAC and the guest speaker at the meeting called for people to stand together and to protest against being forced from their homes.

He said, "people in all areas affiliated to CAHAC feel the same as the people of Harfield. We have had our homes taken away. A few people who found our black faces unacceptable have taken away our rights. Some people have been staying in Harfield for more than 50 years. Now they want to take our history, our pride and throw it away. We can't accept this. We want the right to live where we choose."

One resident responded to the speech by saying "we cannot ask questions because everything that he said is true".

Evictions

A motion was passed at the meeting

- not to let the evictions go by unnoticed by the people of Cape Town
- to organise as much support through newspaper articles, raising the issue at meetings and in other areas where people are being evicted under the Group Areas Act.

It was also proposed that a booklet be written to record the history of the people of Harfield. A call for volunteers to assist with the writing of the booklet was made. Residents responded positively to the call.

The meeting resolved not to let the evictions go unnoticed.

"We will not move without protest. This is our home, the only one



"We want the right to live where we choose."

we've ever known. The others made a mistake to move without protest."

Grassroots learned after the meeting that the Minister of Com-

munity Development, Pen Kotze said in Parliament "coloured" families in Harfield Village will have to move. There will be no grave for them.

Women organise playgroup

THE United Women's Organisation has branches in 18 areas of the Western Cape, going as far out as Worcester. The Woodstock-Salt River-Walmer Estate Branch of the UWO has started a children's playgroup in the Chapel Street area of Woodstock.

This is the way that this branch is taking up the UWO Uniting Project "Child Care and Working Mothers".

The branch has sold GRASSROOTS in the area over the last six months and talked to people about the problems there.

Branches who were organising similar projects made contact with each other. The Woodstock branch invited a group of children from Langa to the playgroup.

These children put on a show called 'The

Gumboot Dance' and then taught the Woodstock children how to do the dance.

The two groups of children enjoyed the afternoon very much. They all decided to be part of the playgroup from then on.

Many women are busy in the house when they come home from work. They have little chance to work together with the other women of the area.

A playgroup is an important way to bring women together.

It is also a way for children to learn to cooperate with each other.

In a playgroup we can all learn that things do not have to be the way they are now. It is only by working together as a team that we can build the society the way we want it.



The Woodstock - Salt River - Walmer Estate Branch of the UWO has started a playgroup. This is part of the UWO project on childcare and working mothers.

Wage Increases for Council Workers

THE City Council of Cape Town has decided to give Council workers an increase in their pay packet from 1 August 1982.

According to a spokesperson from the Cape Town Municipal Workers' Association, the increase will be equivalent to 15% of workers' existing wage.

Said the spokesperson: "Workers regard the increase as being insufficient but it will bring some relief."

It means that the starting wage for a labourer will now rise from R44,16 per week to R50,60 per week.

The top wage for the

labourer will consequently increase from R58,42 per week to R67,16 per week. The payment of an annual bonus will similarly increase to a minimum of R250 for the very lowest paid.

On Sunday 23 May 1982 the Cape Town Municipal Workers' Association held a meeting of its members to discuss the pay crisis. Nearly 1 000 000 members of the Association attended the meeting and expressed themselves strongly on the pay question.

Workers were unanimous in their feeling that Council was still

giving them a raw deal even though they appreciated the grant of a 15% increase.

As one worker said at the meeting: "Onse pay is nie genoeg nie. Wat kan ek doen met die geld wat ek kry."

"Daar is nie eers genoeg geld vir kos nie. Watter klere moet my familie dra?"

"My kinders het nie uniforms vir skool nie. Hulle word huistoe gejaag deur die prinsipaal."

"Dan wil die base weet hoekom is daar skollies. Wat gebeur met ons vroeë? 'n kind is skaars gebore, dan moet sy die huis verlaat

om te gaan werk anders is daar nie genoeg kos in die huis nie.

"Wat gebeur met so 'n kind as daar nie 'n moeder is om hom op te bring nie?"

Another member said: "Is nie net ons wat so suffer nie. Dit lyk my dat orals is die base net interested in profits. Ons moet saam staan met ander werkers anders sal ons nie vordering maak nie."

The meeting discussed Council's decision to evaluate duties and jobs. Members were suspicious of this as well.

One worker echoed the feelings of everyone

when he said that job evaluation will only mean more exploitation.

The meeting decided that whilst members welcomed the 15% increase this was only temporary relief. The meeting rejected the move by the City Council that the 15% increase shall remain in operation until 30 June 1983.

Members were emphatic that the Association must not bind itself to that date.

According to the decision of the meeting, the Association must continue with its struggle for improved wages and working conditions for all members and should continue to formulate demands for its members without regard to the City Council's decision in the matter.

Factreton to oppose council

A NUMBER of house meetings were held by Factreton residents recently to discuss the decision of the Cape Town City Council to postpone the demolition of outside structures built by the residents.

At a recent meeting with a deputation from the area, the council said they would decide in two weeks whether to allow the structures to remain or whether to pull them down.

They said the outside rooms could remain until the decision was made provided no new structures were built.

The council told the

deputation a policy decision had to be made because other areas such as Bonteheuwel and Bokmakierie were also affected and a decision could not be made for Factreton alone.

If the structures are torn down, it will drastically affect the lives of Factreton residents who rely heavily on outside rooms to provide space for storage, extra accommodation, sheds, playing space for children and the like.

It is probable that if the council decides to break down the buildings, they will meet strong opposition from the people.

COMMENTS

PC Sows Divisions

THE President's Council proposals do not recommend the scrapping of the Group Areas Act and homeland policy, the cornerstones of apartheid.

Instead, the recommendations made, remain firmly based on the principle of separating people into different race groups.

They also exclude the majority of people in this country. All these facts leave us to come to only one conclusion — the Government has no intention of doing away with apartheid. And as long as apartheid lives on, the proposals will be totally unacceptable to us.

The proposals themselves, some of which are looked at on our centre pages clearly represent an attempt to further divide our people.

The intention is to include Coloured and Indians at local "city council" level and in a non-parliamentary cabinet. While all those over 18 years of age will be allowed to vote, the people who own property will have two votes and the businesses will have three.

Those of our people who own property will thus be separated from the rest of the people causing further division.

Our organisations cannot accept such divisions. We believe in a non-racial struggle and have at all times demanded full political rights for all in an undivided South Africa.

Instead of responding to our demands, the Government has over the years created political bodies which they thought would satisfy the people. But any claim which these bodies may have over the lives of our people, has been destroyed through the struggles led by our organisations.

In coming up with their new proposals, the Government itself is admitting to the failure of these bodies. However these new proposals show that the Government has still not given up the idea. It is once again going to try to force bodies onto us without consulting us at any stage.

We were not asked whether we wanted the President's Council to be set up.

The President's Council represents an attempt to stop the growth of the democratic organisations of the people. Although our organisations are not as strong as we would want them to be, it is clear that the organisational resistance we have shown so far has created a crisis for the Government.

Our struggles for higher wages, decent housing and a non-racial education system for all South Africans have obviously not gone unnoticed.

In response to this crisis the Government is on the one hand introducing harsher security laws to clamp down on organisations and on the other hand trying to win over some of our people to their side by making constitutional changes.

Our reply to the Government must be to join and strengthen our non-racial democratic organisations where we work and where we live.

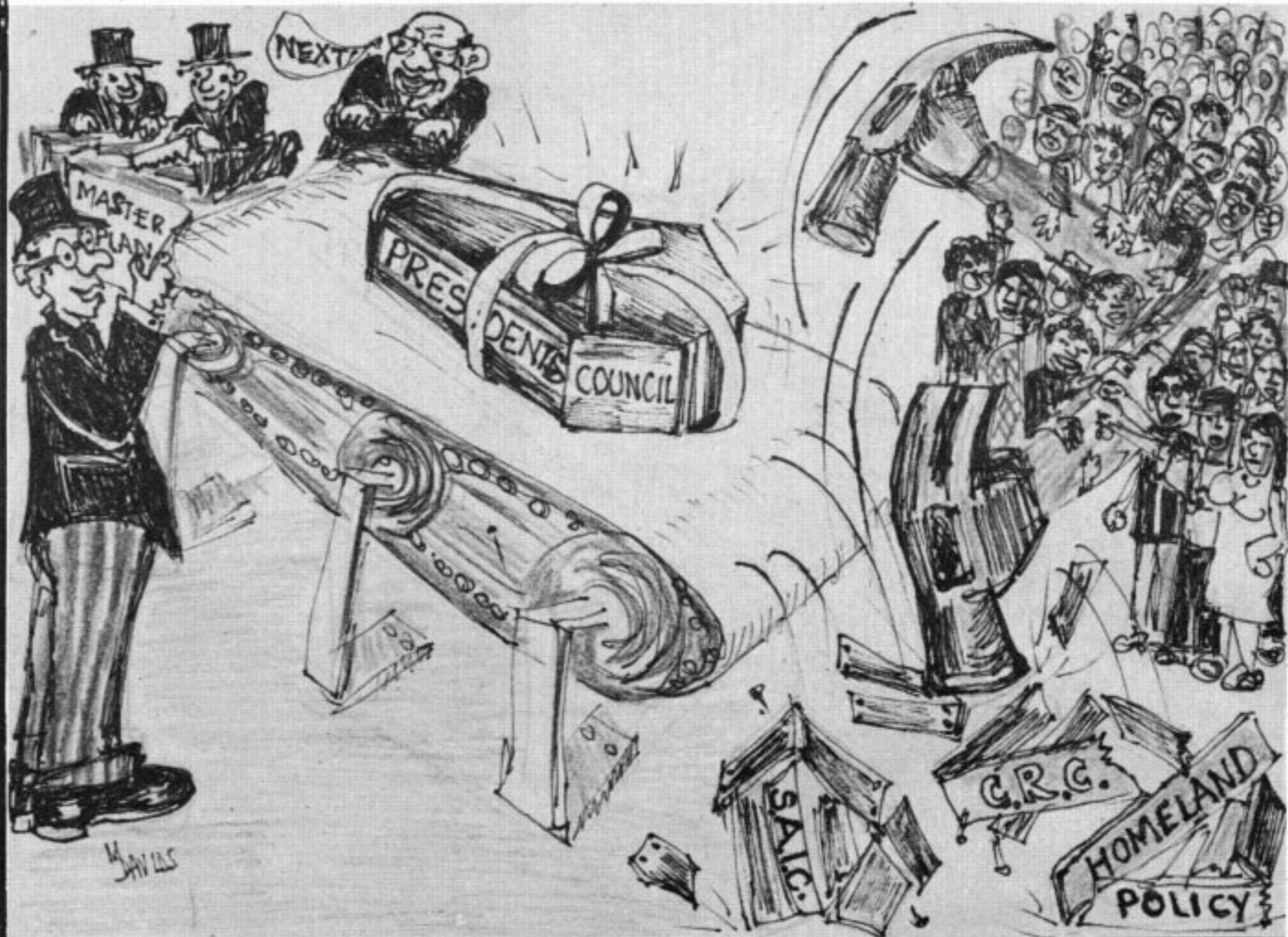
The task of our organisations is to discuss the proposals thoroughly. They must be discussed and understood so that as many students, youth and workers will be made fully aware of their effects. This will allow organisations to work out a common approach to this problem.

June 16

Commemoration

June 16 has come and gone. We remember the many who died then and have died since. The day symbolises the upheavals we experienced in 1976 when thousands of our young people showed their rejection of apartheid education.

Six years later, their demand for a non-racial education system has still not been met. Unlike former years the school term has been ended before June 16 this year. Reshuffling the school term will not stop pupils, students and the broader community from remembering those who died and their demands — a non-racial education system for all in an undivided South Africa.



LETTERS

This letter is a response to our article on 'The Search for a Workable Relationship' between Trade Unions & Community Organisations.

IN the last issue of Grassroots, the Food and Canning Workers Union (F&CWU) talked about the relationship between trade unions and community organisations.

As an organiser working mainly with the tenants of the Hout Bay Harbour, I felt that there are important points to be made in response to this article.

The F&CWU article was read by both resident and worker committees in the harbour. People feel that it is important that the relationship be strengthened, but found the article difficult to discuss.

I think that only by working together and discussing our problems and experiences, will we find ways of strengthening the relationship. There can be no hard and fast rules.

The Hout Bay Harbour community is different to other communities on the Cape Flats. It is very isolated and is cut off from the broader alliance of people's organisations.

For this reason, joint struggles to break this isolation is important in winning the demands of the people.

The Hout Bay peo-

ple know that by themselves they are weak and need the support of other organisations. That is why they joined the rents campaign under the banner of CAHAC.

The harbour is a tenant area, with the majority of the people employed in the fishing industry. A representative community organisation would therefore consist almost entirely of working class people.

There are some people, very few, who earn more than others, and are an elite. Elite people mostly do not have the same interests as the majority of the tenants. It is precisely because they control the civic association that this organisation does not have the support of the people. The tenants are now forming themselves into an action committee that aims to build a democratic and representative people's organisation.

But there is always the danger, as in any organisation, that leadership can become removed from the people. This must be guarded against at all times.

The challenge facing this new organisation is to represent the interests of the tenants and

to build working people's leadership.

The road to building any democratic organisation is a long process.

The workers of the fishing industry in the harbour are organised in the F&CWU. Unlike the new residents organisation, the union has had lots of experience over a longer period.

Change

Among the organisations in the harbour there has been a sharing of organisational skills which has helped to build both organisations.

The workers have now become involved in community issues, which never existed before.

They are also beginning to understand the broader struggle for democratic change.

A worker involved in the formation of both the residents and youth organisations in the area explained how he understands it. He said: "Workers should participate in community issues. The struggle of the workers does not end when they clock out at night.

"Out of the factory gates, workers are facing oppression

applied by the Government through their local authorities".

A most striking experience for the workers was the community's response to their collecting donations in the area. Money was needed for workers to get to Neil Aggett's funeral in Johannesburg.

The workers were surprised to find that the community was supportive to their cause and gave generously. This showed workers that their struggle is not isolated.

The residents in turn are learning organisational skills from the trade union. Workers through their experience understand the value of organisation. They bring to the community organisations enthusiasm, experience and how to work democratically.

In principle, the F&CWU supported the rents campaign. But, worker committees did not discuss nor decide what part they could play in the campaign.

It is important that channels of communication be kept open within our organisations and between different organisations.

The active participation by residents and workers is vital if we

are to succeed in our aims.

As the Hout Bay experience shows, this relationship is important because workers on the factory floor through community involvement come to understand that the enemy is not only the bosses. It is the exploitative economic system.

Community people on the other hand, in working with trade unions also come to realise that their enemy is not only the Divisional Council or the Government — it is the unjust laws which deny people political rights.

Fighting

In this way, our people through joint struggles come to a better understanding of what they are fighting and who the enemy really is.

We are hoping to bring all the organisations together in the area to discuss how we can work together. This will include religious, students, youth, work and resident organisations.

In this way all people's organisations in the area hope to arrive at a workable relationship.

Community Worker

The Long Road to Democratic Organisation

IC's do not allow workers to speak for themselves

RECENTLY two General workers Union factory committees have signed agreements with two big steel firms, Trident Marine and Consani's Engineering, outside the official collective bargaining system — the Industrial Council system.

The GWU said these agreements were very important to workers because it was the first time companies in the steel industry affiliated to the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa (SEIFSA), which is the steel bosses organisation, have negotiated with workers outside the Industrial Council (IC) system.

He said their agreement with management was a very serious thing.

"It is wrong to think workers know nothing about the Industrial Council system. Workers must speak for themselves and the IC system does not allow this," he said.

Most of the independent unions have said they prefer to negotiate with the

bosses directly on the factory floor.

At the summit conference in Langa last year 13 independent unions and union groupings recommended unions not to enter ICs if they were not already part of one.

Why are these unions happier negotiating with the bosses in the factories rather than in the IC? The GWU General Secretary said in a speech recently that it was mainly because ICs were the agreement made directly between the workers' committees and the bosses.

Even though all workers are now allowed to join registered unions that can sit on the IC, the independent unions would rather negotiate directly with the bosses.

On an IC half the voting rights go to the bosses and the other half go to the unions, no matter how big each particular union is.

This means that a small craft union

would have exactly the same say as a large industrial union representing most of the workforce. The craft union could negotiate wages for unskilled workers, even though they have no unskilled workers as members of their union.

Bureaucratic

This would obviously make the position of most of the workers weaker. For instance in the iron and steel industry, even if all the independent unions were to enter the IC, they would still represent 40 000 workers out of 500 000 workers in the industry.

"This means we would be 10 percent representative," said the GWU Secretary.

Another reason why the independent unions would rather negotiate through in-plant agreements is because the ICs are extremely bureaucratic structures. It is difficult for workers in the factory to participate and negotiation is taken out

of their hands. Because they cover whole industries, sometimes employing as many as 500 000 workers, like in the iron and steel industry, it is difficult for trade union representatives to take the decisions back to the workers for approval. In a democratic in-plant factory committee, it is much easier for representatives to be in constant communication with the workers.

Although the unions are opposed to participating in ICs, it does not necessarily mean they will not participate in multi-plant bargaining — that is, all the workers in one industry negotiating together, rather than each factory. But there must be certain conditions first, said the GWU General Secretary. Multi-plant bargaining can only take place if there is rank-and-file organisation, if the firms involved are "logically grouped together", and if the unions who negotiated with the bosses were truly representative of all the workers in the industry.

Victory Due to Unity and Organisation

THE workers committee at Trident Marine, an engineering firm, have signed a significant agreement with the firms management on behalf of all the workers there.

The workers are all members of the unregistered General Workers Union.

The agreement introduces a new minimum wage of R1,78 an hour or R80,10 a week (45 hours). Workers who do semi-skilled jobs like

sand-blasting and high pressure water blasting will now earn R2,08 an hour.

In terms of the Industrial Council agreement the minimum wage in the engineering industry was only R1,13 an hour.

Agreement was also reached to a three-day guarantee system. Under this system the workers are assured of receiving at least three days pay in any week.

At times when work is slack and the management put workers on short-time, workers will have guarantee of three days money.

These agreements are very significant in the light of agreements reached at the Steel and Engineering Industrial Council.

The unions that negotiate on the Industrial Council agreed to R1,43 an hour.

The Trident Marine



"We hope workers in other companies will take an interest in what we have achieved". This is the message from the Trident Marine workers after their success in negotiating an agreement outside the Industrial System.

workers last year became the first engineering workers in the country who won the right to negotiate their working conditions and wages at the factory

and not at the Industrial Council.

The workers rejected the Industrial Council because it is very difficult for the ordinary worker to influence

decisions reached there.

One committee member said: "We hope workers in other companies will take an interest in what we have achieved."

The General Workers Union said: "This important victory is the result of patient organising and disciplined unity among the workers".

Union fights for rights of migrant workers

AFTER spending years travelling between the Ciskei and Cape Town as a contract worker, Mr Stanford Booii, a Fattis and Monis worker has been given permission to stay in Cape Town permanently.

In a judgement handed down in the Supreme Court on May 5, Mr Justice Schock granted Mr Booii Section 10 1 (b) rights. He ordered the Labour Officer in Nyanga to stamp Mr Booii's pass book, endorsing these rights.

The African Food and Canning Workers' Union, to which Mr Booii belongs, applied to the Western Cape Administration Board for Section 10 1 (b)

rights for 36 workers at Fattis and Monis last year. All of these workers had worked for Fattis and Monis for more than ten years.

However, the application was turned down and the union took the Administration Board to court on behalf of one worker, Mr Booii, in what could be an important test case.

Mr Booii has worked for Fattis and Monis since 1969. His wife and two daughters live in Ndevana in the Ciskei.

Every year Mr Booii has had to spend 6 days of his two or three weeks leave travelling to and from the Ciskei to see his family and

have his pass book stamped.

He said his family would be very happy to hear that they could now live with him without getting arrested.

He added that he wanted to thank the union for helping him to get these rights.

"I want all other workers to succeed with me," he said. "The life of a contract worker is very difficult. A worker cannot look after his family properly from so far away. It is also tiresome to travel between here and the Ciskei. If you come back one day late you get the sack."

In terms of labour regulations the Govern-

ment passed in 1968, all contract workers are forced to return to the homelands to renew their contracts.

The Government has always said this meant that contract workers "broke their service" and could not qualify to live in the cities permanently under Section 10 1 (b). Section 10 1 (b) rights applies to people who have been employed at the same place for more than ten years.

There are many contract workers who have worked for years for one boss, but because they have to return to the homelands to renew their contracts the Administration Boards

have said they have broken their employment service and cannot qualify to live in the cities.

Mr Booii was one of those thousands of workers who travelled "home" every year in terms of the 1968 regulations.

The AFCWU now want to try to get the same rights for other contract workers at Fattis and Monis, and eventually in all their factories. The Fattis and Monis' bosses have agreed to support the workers' applications for permanent residence.

"We have always held out for the right of workers to choose where they want to live and work. Workers from the homelands have always been deprived of these rights.

This is one way of winning this right for some workers. But we are certainly going to press for this right for all our workers," said the union.

"We have always held out for the right of workers to choose where they want to live and work."



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New step in history of oppression

FOR many years now, the majority of our people have had no right to vote in the land of their birth. Why then are some of us now going to be given this right?

Let us look at the past, at what happened to our people before 1982, so as to understand the motives of the National Party today.

For generations now, our people have organized themselves against the unjust system. Our early forefathers fought with spears against the men of Jan Van Riebeeck. After many long battles, our people lost the land which was theirs by birth and were forced to go and work in the mines and factories.

After they defeated us, the British and Afrikaners fought each other for control of the country. However, they soon realised that if they stood together, they can oppress us much easier. They formed a "Union of South Africa" in 1910.

United the organisations and joined the leaders on Robben Island.

Once they had done this, they set out to divide the people so that their resistance would be weak. The Group Areas Act uprooted Coloured and Indians from their homes and placed them in underdeveloped, bush areas. The homelands system uprooted Africans from the cities, and placed them where there was no food and no work (Trawaski, Bophathathwana, Ciskei). To Coloureds, the government gave the Coloured Representative Council (CRC), to Indians, the SAIC and to Africans homelands governments. By spreading people across the country and herding them into little pockets, they managed to divide and weaken us. With the organisations banded, it took many years before the people could once again show their resistance.

By 1973 we once again saw thousands of workers going on strike in Durban. In 1976, a massive student uprising which involved African, Coloured and Indian students took place. Hundreds of young people were killed in Soweto, Cape Town and the Eastern Cape.

The government became worried, and started talking about change, while it sent the police to ban, detain and imprison people in 1977. But this did not stop the people.

In 1980, students boycotted classes, parents boycotted City Transways buses in Cape Town and workers went on strike at meat factories in the Western Cape.

These action committees which co-ordinated all these struggles grew into permanent organisations in many areas. The formation of solidarity committees of the democratic trade

unions, the growth of the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee, the women's struggles led by U.F.O. and the many youth groups are all indications of a growing strength and unity.

In this climate, the government set up the Presidents Council to look at ways to stop the people's advance. The P.C. was to make some changes to apartheid, in order to prevent our organisations from becoming stronger, without going in to our demands.

Last month, the Presidents Council came up with proposals giving Coloured and Indians "more power". They recommended that Coloured and Indians be included in a non-parliamentary cabinet and at a local government level.

Parliament will soon consider these proposals. Some people may think the government is really concerned about us. Yet, this same government has just passed new and harsher laws on security.

These new proposals will divide the Coloured and Indians from the Africans, and further divide richer and poorer Coloured and Indians from each other.

Our organisations are non-racial, like our struggle, and this is an attempt to break our unity and our strength by making false distinctions between Africans, Coloured and Indians.

Our reply to the government must be to organize ourselves and strengthen our democratic and non-racial bodies. We can show our rejection by joining our clubs, trade unions and our other people's organisations.

Defiance Campaign

Very few Africans, Indians and Coloureds were allowed to vote. You first had to own property, which excluded most people. After the "Union", the government set out to slowly remove the vote from all blacks. They knew that our people would not be happy with apartheid. They had to take away the vote so that we could not object to bad laws.

In 1946, the vote was taken away from the Indians and 1956 Coloureds were excluded from voting. The way was now open for apartheid.

But the people did not accept this. They organized themselves into democratic people's bodies to oppose the unjust laws. By 1952 the organisations launched the defiance campaign to show their rejection of apartheid. This campaign, opposed all apartheid laws, and thousands of people took part.

The government does not like it when all the oppressed stand together and unite. In 1960 they



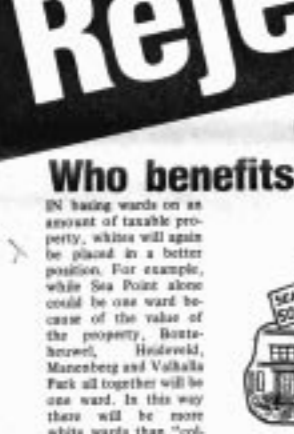
THOSE who own property will have more say on the council. How many of our people own property? Most live in rented houses in the many townships created by the government. That one vote of the rent payer will have to compete against the two or three votes of the landowners who are mainly whites.

The PC has spent more than 5 million on itself. Each month gets R35000 per month

500 000 PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

Who benefits

IN having wards on an amount of taxable property, whites will again be placed in a better position. For example, while Sea Point alone could be one ward because of the value of the property, Bonteheuwel, Heideveld, Maresburg and Valkalla Park all together will be one ward. In this way there will be more white wards than "coloured" wards.



The PC proposes

IN terms of the proposals local councils will not only decide on matters such as recreational facilities and beaches but will also administer the area. For example, the local council for Mitchell's Plain will not take any decisions about how much electricity will cost but will only see to it that the electricity accounts are paid.

The metropolitan council will have the power to decide what electricity will cost. When people from Lotus River had problems with their electricity accounts, they did not go to the supplier, Eskom, but to the Divisional Council which is in charge of the area. All our energies will be directed at the local council which will be made up of people

from our area.

"The intention whenever possible is to place decision-making and ultimate responsibility for their own welfare in the hands of local communities and their elected representatives," the Presidents Council said in its report.

Local communities who never had any say in creating their living conditions will now have to cope with the many problems facing

them.

If the new system is accepted, it will serve to take the heat off central government and shift the blame for the people's many problems onto the local authorities.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
YOU MUST GO TO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL.

LOCAL COUNCIL
WE CAN'T CHANGE THE RENTS, WE CAN ONLY HAVE THE BELLER. HOW ABOUT SOME FREE-POP PLANTS FOR THE COMMUNITY LEAVING?

YOU MUST GO TO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL.

RENTS TOO HIGH!

WE CAN'T CHANGE THE RENTS, WE CAN ONLY HAVE THE BELLER.

WE CAN ONLY HAVE THE BELLER.

TODAY, the government talk about a "new deal" for 'coloureds' and 'Indians' in South Africa. While they have over the years ignored the people's demands for a better life - higher wages, lower costs, lower business - they suddenly want to give some of us the vote and share "power".

This "power-sharing" has been recommended by the Presidents Council a body created by the government to look at what changes can be made to make our people accept the Apartheid system.

The homelands system has forced self-government on to the Africans. These new proposals talk about "local councils" which could force self-government onto the coloureds and Indians.

On these pages, Grassroots looks at what the Presidents Council is proposing at a local level, and what the effects of these proposals will be for the people and their organisations.

The proposals are:

1. All big cities will have several local councils who will take decisions about beaches, sportsfields, civic centres and come together in a metropolitan council controlling water, electricity, roads and sewerage.
2. Each local council will be divided into wards based on a certain amount of taxable property, and will be 'coloured', 'Indian' or 'white'. (The Group Areas Act will not be changed.)
3. All 'coloureds' and 'Indians' over 18 will have the vote. Property-owners will have two votes, and those who own companies (mainly 'whites'), will have three votes.



"If you take five sticks together, you won't be able to break them. But if you take them one by one, they will break easily. This is what the government wants to do."

Mr. Moses Mbootho of the General Workers Union

"THESE proposals will weaken the unions. The bosses like to tell us that we are different but we are all doing the same work."

Mr. E. Ndlovu, Cravenby Estate

"If Divisional Council cannot do anything about our problems, how will forming another council change things?"

Mr. E. Ndlovu, Cravenby Estate

"WE must not make the same mistake we made in 1948 when we voted for the Nationalists."

Aunt Stenie Ferrus, Worcester.

"THE proposals it may not wear 'n diepse jam in die mond."

Mrs. J. Carole, Kransfontein

Reject President's Council

'They won't break us'

"If you put five sticks together, you will not be able to break them. But if you take them one by one... by dividing us, they will break us more easily," Mrs. Anna Baardman of Nyanga East told GRASSROOTS.

Africans, Indians and Coloureds work together in many factories in Cape Town, she said. "They work together and have learnt to struggle together. Why are some being given the vote now and not others?"

"The government can see that through all of us standing together in our organisations, we have become powerful. They want to break this power."

"To weaken the people, they have divided Africans into separate homelands. We belong here, not in the homelands."

"They are now going to try and take the Coloureds and Indians away from us. They belong here, not with the Whites. The Whites want there so that they can have more power."

Mrs. Baardman believes that local councils won't help anybody. "We have seen that the community councils are worthless," she said.

"It is only in our own organisations that we can take decisions. In the trade unions and women's organisations the people are learning to fight together against the bad laws."

She told GRASSROOTS that Africans will take it very seriously if the Coloureds and Indians vote.

"In Cape Town, Africans are a small group and have to depend on the co-operation of the other two groups," she said.

"If these groups vote they will be leaving the Africans on their own."

But Mrs. Baardman does not think that many people will accept this vote.

"There are so many Indians who know the struggle from far back."

"There are so many Coloureds who know the struggle from far back."

"The Government is taking a chance with these plans. We must not let them break us," she said.

'The Group' will stay

THE President's Council proposals will not put an end to separate townships, schools and community facilities.

If the proposals are accepted, the Group Areas Act, which has brought suffering to thousands of our people, will remain.

It was this act that allowed the government to move our people from their places of birth to bleak areas all over the Cape Flats.

The "Group" came to the doors of the people of District Six and told them to move. The "Group" brought in the bulldozers and flattened their homes.

Today many still live with the memories of the life they enjoyed in



'The proposals will still mean apartheid for us'

IN the outlying areas surrounding Cape Town, many people have in the past voted for management committees and bodies like the Coloured Representative Council which was forced on them. But when Grassroots visited some of these areas this month, the people spoke out against the government's new plan to give Coloureds and Indians the vote.

"They are making empty promises again," said Mr. Frances of Scottsville, Kransfontein.

"We voted for the management committee and this brought us nothing," said Mrs. J. Carole also of Kransfontein.

"We have been far too willing in the past to accept things without properly understanding anything," she said. For her it was out of the question to accept this vote.

"If we accept this vote, it will be like getting onto a plane without knowing where it is going. Maybe the plane is going to land in the sea, we don't know. The proposals it may wear 'n diepse jam in die mond," she said.

In 1948 many Worcester people had voted for the Nationalists because they had lost hope in the promises of the United Party.

"Our people must not make the same mistake they made in

1948," Aunt Stenie Ferrus of Worcester told Grassroots.

"The Nationalists made promises then and the people voted for them. After the war, the people were tired of the United Party and they looked to the Nationalists for answers."

"They gave us apartheid. These proposals will still mean apartheid for us. And by giving some of us one vote and others two votes, then I will look down on the one who has one vote. Who will this benefit?"

"It is the man in the street who earns R19 a week that is of interest to me. Will that little cross he makes bring any change in his life? I get R37,00 for pension every month. White pensioners get R127. Will the vote change that? They do not intend really sharing with us. This vote will be like a fifth wheel to a wagon - it will be useless."

"It is near not wear apartheid 'niet 'n ander brokke aan," she said.

'We want one man one vote'

IF the Divisional Council don't do anything in the area now, how will forming another council change things?" is what Elsie River resident, Mr. Edgar Ndlovu would like to know.

"The vote won't take away the problems of high rents and poor housing," he said.

"We want one man, one vote. Anything else is unacceptable."

In confirming his rejection of this new vote, an elderly Cravenby Estate resident told Grassroots of the days when Indians were still allowed to vote.

For Mr. Ndlovu who came to Cape Town from Durban in 1936, voting had been a new experience.

"In Natal, they kept us in cages. We could not move outside the province without permission. We were not allowed to vote at all."

"In Cape Town, we could vote. When we

will the vote change this

S.A. 10 children die from lack of food every hour

600 000 Indians & Coloureds have already been uprooted by Group Areas

2.5x more money is spent on defence than on housing

GROUP AREAS

New step in history of oppression

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The government does not like it when all the oppressed stand together and unite. In 1960 they

banned the organizations and jailed the leaders on Robben Island.

Once they had done this, they set out to divide the people so that their resistance would be weak. The Group Areas Act uprooted Coloureds and Indians from their homes and placed them in underdeveloped, bush areas. The houseless system uprooted Africans from the cities, and placed them where there was no food and no work (Traasak, Bophathatwana, Ciskei). To Coloureds, the government gave the Coloured Representative Council (CRC), to Indians, the SAIC and to Africans houseless governments. By spreading people across the country and herding them into little pockets, they managed to divide and weaken us. With the organizations banned, it took many years before the people could once again show their resistance.

By 1973 we once again saw thousands of workers going on strike in Durban. In 1976, a massive student uprising which involved African, Coloured and Indian students took place. Hundreds of young people were killed in Soweto, Cape Town and the Eastern Cape.

The government became worried, and started talking about change, while it sent the police to ban, detain and imprison people in 1977. But this did not stop the people.

In 1980, students boycotted classes, parents boycotted City Transways buses in Cape Town and workers went on strike at meat factories in the Western Cape.

These action committees which co-ordinated all these struggles grew into permanent organizations in many areas. The formation of solidarity committees of the democratic trade

unions, the growth of the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee, the women's struggles led by U.F.O. and the many youth groups are all indications of a growing strength and unity.

In this climate, the government set up the Presidents Council to look at ways to stop the people's advance. The P.C. was to make some changes to apartheid, in order to prevent our organizations from becoming stronger, without going in to our demands.

Last month, the Presidents Council came up with proposals giving Coloureds and Indians "more power". They recommended that Coloureds and Indians be included in a non-parliamentary cabinet and at a local government level.

Parliament will soon consider these proposals. Some people may think the government is really concerned about us. Yet, this same government has just passed new and harsher laws on security.

These new proposals will divide the Coloureds and Indians from the Africans, and further divide richer and poorer Coloureds and Indians from each other.

Our organizations are non-racial, like our struggle, and this is an attempt to break our unity and our strength by making false distinctions between Africans, Coloureds and Indians.

Our reply to the government must be to organize ourselves and strengthen our democratic and non-racial bodies. We can show our rejection by joining our clubs, trade unions and our other people's organizations.

TODAY, the government talk about a "new deal" for 'coloureds' and 'Indians' in South Africa. While they have over the years ignored the people's demands for a better life - higher wages, lower costs, lower business - they suddenly want to give some of us the vote and share "power".

This "power-sharing" has been recommended by the Presidents Council a body created by the government to look at what changes can be made to make our people accept the Apartheid system.

The houseless system has forced self-government on to the Africans. These new proposals talk about "local councils" which could force self-government onto the coloureds and Indians.

On these pages, Grassroots looks at what the Presidents Council is proposing at a local level, and what the effects of these proposals will be for the people and their organizations.

The proposals are:

1. All big cities will have several local councils who will take decisions about beaches, sportsfields, civic centres & come together in a metropolitan council controlling water, electricity, roads and sewerage.
2. Each local council will be divided into wards based on a certain amount of taxable property, and will be 'coloured', 'Indian' or 'white'. (The Group Act will not be changed.)
3. All 'coloureds' and 'Indians' over 18 will have the vote. Property-owners will have two votes, and those who own companies (mainly 'whites'), will have three votes.



"If you take five sticks together, you won't be able to break them. But if you take them one by one, they will break easily. This is what the government wants to do."

Mr. Moses Mbootho of the General Workers Union

"These proposals will weaken the unions. The houses like to talk us that we are different but we are all doing the same work."

Mr. E. Ndlovu, Cravenby Estate

"If Divisional Council cannot do anything about our problems, how will forming another council change things?"

Mr. E. Ndlovu, Cravenby Estate

"We must not make the same mistake we made in 1948 when we voted for the Nationalists."

Aunt Stenie Ferrus, Worcester.

"The proposals it may not wear 'n diepse jam in die mond."

Mrs. J. Carole, Kransfontein

Reject President's Council

"The Group" will stay

'They won't break us'

"If you put five sticks together, you will not be able to break them. But if you take them one by one... by dividing us, they will break us more easily," Mrs. Anna Baardman of Nyanga East told GRASSROOTS.

Africans, Indians and Coloureds work together in many factories in Cape Town, she said. "They work together and have learnt to struggle together. Why are some being given the vote now and not others?"

"The government can see that through all of us standing together in our organizations, we have become powerful. They want to break this power."

"To weaken the people, they have divided Africans into separate homelands. We belong here, not in the homelands."

"They are now going to try and take the Coloureds and Indians away from us. They belong here, not with the Whites. The Whites want there so that they can have more power."

Mrs. Baardman believes that local councils won't help anybody. "We have seen that the community councils are worthless," she said. "It is only in our own organizations that we can take decisions. In the trade unions and women's organizations the people are learning to fight together against the bad laws."

She told GRASSROOTS that Africans will take it very seriously if the Coloureds and Indians vote.

"In Cape Town, Africans are a small group and have to depend on the co-operation of the other two groups," she said. "If these groups vote they will be leaving the Africans on their own."

But Mrs. Baardman does not think that many people will accept this vote.

"There are so many Indians who know the struggle from far back."

"There are so many Coloureds who know the struggle from far back."

"The Government is taking a chance with these plans. We must not let them break us," she said.

'We want one man one vote'

If the Divisional Council don't do anything in the area now, how will forming another council change things?" is what Elsie River resident, Mr. Edgar Ndlovu would like to know.

"The vote won't take away the problems of high rents and poor housing," he said.

"We want one man, one vote. Anything else is unacceptable."

In confirming his rejection of this new vote, an elderly Cravenby Estate resident told Grassroots of the days when Indians were still allowed to vote.

For Mr. Ndlovu who came to Cape Town from Durban in 1936, voting had been a new experience.

"In Natal, they kept us in cages. We could not move outside the province without permission. We were not allowed to vote at all."

"In Cape Town, we could vote. When we

'The proposals will still mean apartheid for us'

Claremont, Newlands and the District, nurseries which provide the comfort in the overcrowded housing schemes where they have been dumped.

In areas such as Constantia, families owned property which they had to sell for next to nothing. In return they had the joy of renting a house in distant areas such as Morningside and Rondebosch.

Many of our people who live in rented houses now, used to live on the land owned by whites today. The "Group" took their land away and gave it to a few people. This land will give those few people the right to have more votes than our people.

"They are making empty promises again," said Mr. Frances of Scottsville, Kransfontein.

"We voted for the management committee and this brought us nothing," said Mrs. J. Carole also of Kransfontein.

"We have been far too willing in the past to accept things without properly understanding anything," she said. For her it was out of the question to accept this vote.

"If we accept this vote, it will be like getting onto a plane without knowing where it is going. Maybe the plane is going to land in the sea, we don't know. The proposals it may wear 'n diepse jam in die mond," she said.

In 1948 many Worcester people had voted for the Nationalists because they had lost hope in the promises of the United Party.

"Our people must not make the same mistake they made in



Who benefits

IN having wards on an amount of taxable property, whites will again be placed in a better position. For example, while Sea Point alone could be one ward because of the value of the property, Bonteheuwel, Houtekamp, Morningside and Valhalla Park all together will be one ward. In this way there will be more white wards than "coloured" wards.



The PC proposes.....

IN terms of the proposals local councils will not only decide on matters such as recreational facilities and beaches but will also administer the area. For example, the local council for Mitchell's Plain will not take any decisions about how much electricity will cost but will only see to it that the electricity accounts are paid.

The metropolitan council will have the power to decide what electricity will cost. When people from Lotus River had problems with their electricity accounts, they did not go to the supplier, Eskom, but to the Divisional Council which is in charge of the area. All our energies will be directed at the local council which will be made up of people

from our area.

"The intention whenever possible is to place decision-making and ultimate responsibility for their own welfare in the hands of local communities and their elected representatives," the Presidents Council said in its report.

Local communities who never had any say in creating their living conditions will now have to cope with the many problems facing

them.

If the new system is accepted, it will serve to take the heat off central government and shift the blame for the people's many problems onto the local authorities.

them.

If the new system is accepted, it will serve to take the heat off central government and shift the blame for the people's many problems onto the local authorities.

THOSE who own property will have more say on the council. How many of our people own property? Most live in rented houses in the many townships created by the government. That one vote of the rent payer will have to compete against the two or three votes of the landowners who are mainly whites.

The PC has spent more than 5 million on itself. Each month gets R35000 per month

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METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

YOU MUST GO TO YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

LOCAL COUNCIL

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RENTS TOO HIGH!

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LIVE!

will the vote change this

10 S.A. 10 children die from lack of food every hour

600 000 Indians & Coloureds have already been uprooted by Group Areas

2.5x more money is spent on defence than on housing

GROUP AREAS



'Stand together for our rights'

GRASSROOTS spoke to the residents of Valhalla Park about the problems in their area. This is what they said.

Many of the residents of Valhalla Park were forced to move from District Six after it was declared a White area in terms of the Group Areas Act.

Mrs Philander said: "We were happy in District Six. We felt much safer and knew everybody around us. There was also a wonderful neighbourly feeling. In Valhalla Park we are in a world of strangers."

Other residents were moved from squatter areas in Kensington, Steenberg, Modderdam and Vrygrond. "The people were happy to get a roof over their heads, but now they find themselves in an area with no facilities, a high crime rate and rents which they can-

not afford.

Many residents have to travel great distances to work.

A resident said: "In Cape Town my rent was R9,00. Here I pay R35,00. My husband earns less than R200 and transport costs to work eat into this."

There are no telephones in the area. This has caused the people great inconvenience and has increased their sense of isolation.

Cut-off

Residents feel even more cut-off, as buses only pass through the area once every hour and are often full by the time they reach Valhalla Park.

Another major problem for the people is the lack of day care facilities. A mother explained that the creche in the area takes 80 children.

"We are forced to go out and work to help our husbands make ends meet, but there is no place at the creche," she said.

Residents have also complained bitterly about the bugs in their houses.

The people say that the bugs come from the ashbricks that the council used to build the houses. The houses are also cold and damp.

"Our children are always sick", they said.

The people of Valhalla Park are hard hit by the rising prices. A survey done by the residents' committee shows that the income of the average Valhalla Park family is so low that they simply cannot afford to make ends meet. A resident summed up the plight of the people when she said: "We must stand together for our rights."

Valhalla Needs Organisation

A group of residents in the area started working a few months ago to take up some of the issues in the area. They are working on the rents problem.

On 19th May, a delegation met with the Council in the area.

A survey done by the committee showed that the people cannot afford the high rents.

One of the tenants pays R65 rent, but only earns R75 per month.

But, the council said that they cannot do anything about the problem.

A spokesperson for the civic said that the "Council and the Government are using the people as a football. Pen Kotze referred us to the Council, now they have referred us to the Government".



But, the residents are determined to continue to make the Council aware of the people's problems.

There is a high rate of evictions in the area. Committee members also inform tenants about to be evicted of their rights.

"On Monday mornings we go to the rent office to inform ten-

ants of the civic, especially those who are about to be evicted. Many people do not know that if they pay a portion of their rent, they cannot be evicted. We inform them of this", said a member of the civic.

"We are also thinking of working to start co-operatives in the area. The mothers have thought of a vegetable buying club."

Another problem that the committee intends working on is the electricity problem in Dark City.

There is no electricity. The Council says that the people earn too little money to afford electricity.

But the people say they are paying up to R80 per month on candles, gas and

paraffin.

Residents are also complaining about high electricity accounts.

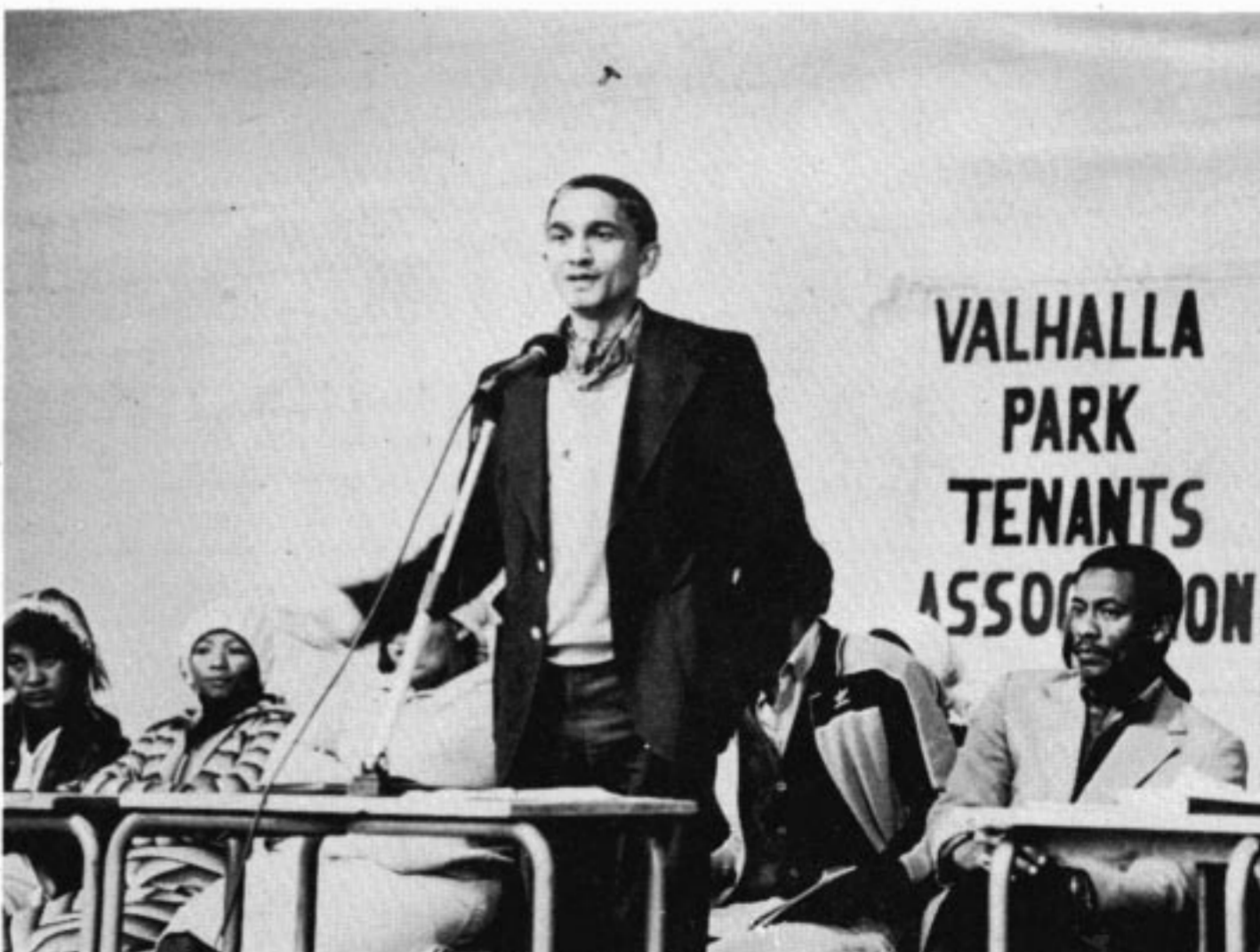
They claim that the

metres are often faulty and that the meter readers are taking incorrect readings.

These are some of

the problems that the civic is taking up. "We can only do something about our problems if we stand together. We hold house-meetings to

talk to residents about the civic. If everybody puts in a little work, we will go a long way in building a strong organisation."



Valhalla Park has at last got a civic association. The Valhalla Park Tenants Association was launched at a public meeting in the local community hall on June 5. Here a speaker stresses the importance of the people standing together. "Only when we act as one will we get what we want," the meeting was told.



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People's History – Learning from our Past

In the life experiences of this well-known old man who died earlier this year aged 96 in Edendale, Natal, are some of the historic moments in the struggles of the oppressed peoples of South Africa.

He fought the 1913 Land Act, which limited Blacks to 13% of the land of South Africa. He organised communities and workers in and around Bloemfontein for better living and working conditions in 1918/1919. In 1919 he was a founder of the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (I.C.U.) with Clements Kadalie. In the 1920's he came to believe in joining hands with liberal Whites. He participated in the Joint Councils of Europeans and Africans. Much later in the 1950's he was a founder member of the Liberal Party.

Understanding

He participated in local affairs wherever he happened to be agitating about lack of facilities like sewerage, rubbish collection, roads and transport. He organised a burial society, and a crèche in Edendale. He demanded local government by the people, for the people. In 1965 the State banned him to silence him, then an old man of 75.

In interviewing Selby Msimang, we heard about his early life. "The beginning of real understanding for me was when I landed my first job, as interpreter to a mining inspector," he said. His job was to enforce mining and labour regulations, collect taxes and generally see to the work of the mine workers.

"If workers had complaints they would come to our office, make a statement, in the hope that some redress would be made. In fact matters ended there, and nothing was done.

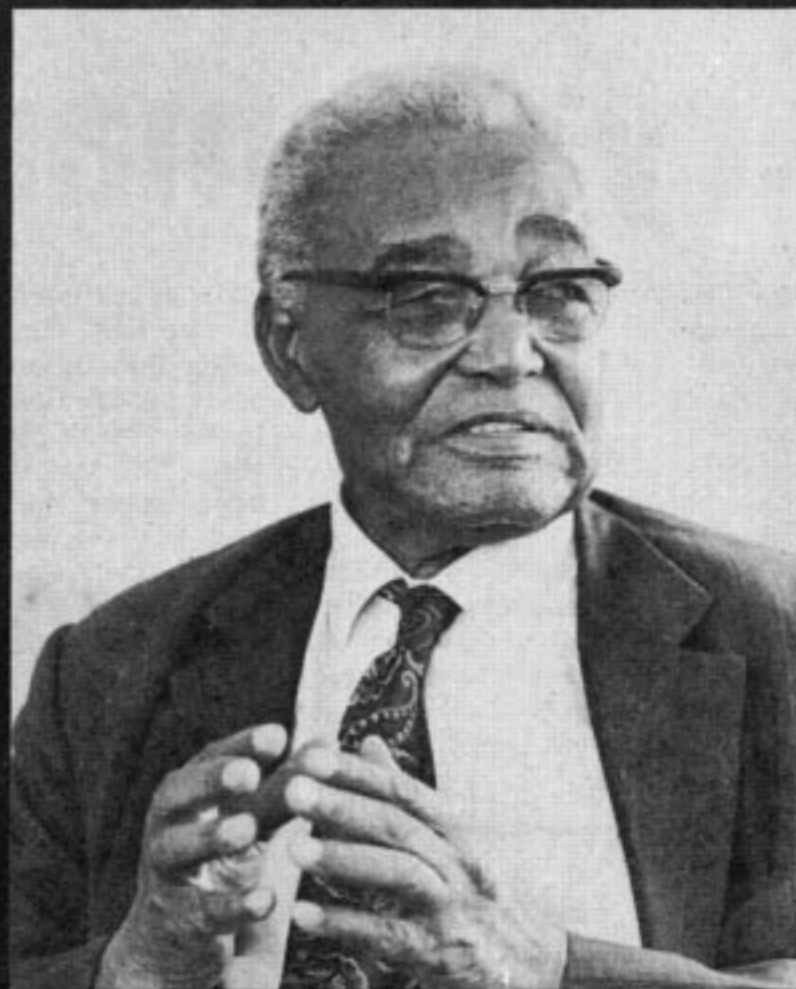
"I began to see the chain which linked the mines to the poverty of the reserves. I saw how a man recruited from his home would already be in debt to the local trader, who was usually also the local recruiter." He would supply the worker's family with food before he left home. This, and the cost of transport would be deducted from his pay. The scale of pay was so low that a worker could not even make £3 in three months.

Africans seized the opportunity and did very well. There

Selby Msimang tell the story of resistance

IN the last GRASSROOTS we wrote about Rose Ehrlich, a woman who worked with community organisations to bring drama and acting to the people. This month we have the story of Selby Msimang, a man who worked in many of the big organisations in the history of our resistance against oppression. We learnt these stories by talking to Rose and Selby and asking them how they worked in their days.

In the next few editions of GRASSROOTS we will carry further stories about the past – about different organisations, people and campaigns. You and your organisation can help us to build up our own history by interviewing people in your area and asking them about their experiences. We would like to hear from you about what you have found out so that we can share it with all the readers of GRASSROOTS.



"In fact, some would wait for up to four months before being in a position to send even a small amount home. When we speak of the poverty of the reserves we must remember why.

We then came along and claimed one pound for tax. This was most painful to me. It was the low wages on the mines that first set my mind thinking along the lines of organising our people.

The opportunity came in 1910. By this time I was clerk to Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, one of South Africa's first African lawyers. By the Act of Union in 1910, Britain had failed to assume her moral responsibility to Africans in South Africa, and Seme was quick to appreciate our predicament.

Seme sensed that tribalism was the deadly enemy of African unity. He sent out feelers throughout the country, including the Protectorates to explore the possibility of forming a national organisation.

"He appealed for the formation of bridges between the tribes to enable the Africans to

join in common cause. His efforts bore fruit at a stupendous gathering in Bloemfontein in December 1912. Here chiefs and leaders of organisations throughout the country met together to form the African National Congress, then called the South African Native National Congress.

Challenge

"I am happy to record that I was there in 1912, perhaps the youngest among those distinguished Africans.

Our first challenge came with the introduction of 1913 Native land Bill. This sought to deprive Africans of the right to buy land, to lease or in any way to have an interest in land. It sought also to make squatting and ploughing on shares by Africans illegal.

It should be remembered that the Anglo-Boer War had left many Boers in a state of dire poverty. Many had abandoned their farms to work on the gold mines. They left their farms in the hands of Africans on a half share basis.

had developed among them a healthy competition for the highest production. Some had made so good that they bought farms in the Transvaal and Natal. Some in fact became involved in the purchase of a block of four farms in the Wakkerstroom District for the Battokwa Tribe.

General Hertzog, who had just been dropped from Botha's Cabinet, raised the cry of the "Black Peril". According to the late J.W. Sauer, then Minister for Native Affairs the Botha Government was stampeded into introducing the Native land Bill, for fear of a worse Bill the Hertzog Party proposed to introduce.

The African National Congress, was stirred to action. It launched a country wide campaign for resistance and fundraising. The organisation was still young, and unprepared for this upheaval which sought to make Africans pariahs in their own land.

It was my first experience of large-scale organising. Most of us had to give up work to tour the country. We explained the pro-

vision of the Bill, the aims of Congress and we collected funds.

Dr Dube and I went to Sekukuniland and then I toured Eastern Pondoland with Mr Mtaka. Mr Sol T. Plaafjie took the campaign into the heart of Tingo Jabavu's political domain and challenged him to debate the issue in public.

As the Bill reached its final stages, Congress decided to send a deputation to England. Notwithstanding the fact that it had no confidence in the British Parliament, Congress felt its case would arouse the conscience of the British Public.

With the support of the Aborigines Protection Society, the deputation initiated a press campaign and organised public meetings throughout the British Isles.

Before any significant success was recorded, the first world war broke out. Rightly or wrongly Congress decided we should give our support to the war effort.

Meanwhile the Natives land Act became law. The extent and amount of evictions that followed soon after were sufficient to convince us that our people had become victims of a devilish conspiracy to destroy or compel us to submit to slavery. My brother Richard and Sol T. Plaatjie toured the country recording evidence of the plight into which our people had been thrust. This was published in Mr Plaatjie's book "Native Life in South Africa." Most of the evicted families drifted into urban and industrial areas having lost their livestock and their means of subsistence.

Organise

The war ended in 1918. It was followed immediately by a most devastating influenza epidemic. For the whole period of the war African wages had remained static in spite of the rising cost of living. Throughout the country there was considerable unrest.

It was then that I began to organise workers for higher pay. I had no notion of calling a strike. I just wanted to use pressure by means of holding mass meetings"

Selby Msimang went on to discuss organisation in the Bloemfontein area, and the inception of the ICU. But that is another story.

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ADVICE

WOMEN are told that they should have a pap smear regularly. What can this test tell us?

A pap smear is a cancer test of the womb. It can also tell if there is any inflammation in the mouth of the womb (the cervix).

How do cells change with disease?

The womb, like the rest of the body, is made up of many cells which are joined together.

If a woman gets cancer of the womb it starts in one cell, moves to the second and third cells, and so on, until a large area is affected.

Inflammation also changes the cells at the mouth of the womb.

How is the test done?

The pap smear is very simple and painless.

The lips of the vagina are separated.

An instrument is introduced gently so that

Cancer Test Essential for Every Woman

the health worker who is doing the test can see the mouth of the womb.

A smear is taken from the cervix and put into the glass slide of a microscope, because the cells are too small to be seen otherwise.

What is done with the results of the test?

If the result of the test is not normal, the woman will be called to

the clinic.

Treatment will be started there immediately.

If this is not possible, the woman will be referred to a hospital where further, more specialised treatment will be given.

Who must have the test, and where is it done?

The family planning

clinic at the hospital or at your local clinic will do the test for you.

At your first visit to the family planning clinic, the test will be done. After that, women who are under 35 years should have it done every second year. Women who are over 35 years should have a pap smear done every year.



Even though it is done at the family planning clinic, the test has nothing to do with contraception (birth control)

Why should it be done?

The pap smear is a very important test because it picks up abnormal cells that can sound the first warnings of

early cancer where it cannot be seen, but when it can be cured completely.

For this reason, it is essential that every woman should have the test.

Caring for your teeth

GRASSROOTS invited a dentist to serve on our advice panel. In this article he answers some of the questions you have always wanted to ask your dentist if only he would give you the chance by removing his instruments from your mouth!

Why are teeth important? Our parents seemed to have coped without them.

In a recent community health project done in Tongaat near Durban, doctors examined 1 800 children and found that their most common problem was dental caries, i.e. rotten teeth.

Children with bad teeth are often in pain and cannot concentrate well at school.

People need healthy teeth to chew and digest food properly.

Rotten teeth can cause abscesses in the mouth.

They can also lead to a sore throat or a chest infection and it can worsen serious diseases like rheumatic fever.

A person can cope without teeth; but why should one? In the past there were not enough dentists who cared to help people save their teeth. Neither did people know enough about the prevention of dental disease.

What is tooth decay?

Germs in the mouth attach themselves to teeth. They combine with saliva to form a sticky film - called plaque. When bits of food are left on the teeth, especially sugary food, the germs in the plaque turn these food bits into acids which eat into the outer layer of the tooth called the enamel, then into the dentine and finally into the pulp where the nerves lie.

When this happens, you have toothache.

What is gum disease?

This is caused by not cleaning the gums often enough and not eating enough nutritious food. The gums become red and swollen and bleed easily.

How to prevent dental disease.

As we have seen holes are caused by a combination of plaque and sugar. To prevent holes people can be taught to remove plaque by careful brushing and to eat as little sugar as possible.

What is the correct way of brushing?

Brush at least twice a day; after breakfast and before going to bed at night.

Use a toothbrush with soft rounded bristles. This will allow you to clean close to the gums where plaque usually collects. Brush the teeth from top to bottom with small circular movements, but never from side to side.

Brush all the surfaces, i.e. front, back, top and bottom of all teeth.

What type of toothpaste should be used?

Choose one containing fluoride as this helps to strengthen the teeth. Toothpaste is not essential for cleaning the teeth. It is the brushing action which removes plaque.

How can holes be treated?

When you have a tooth with a hole in it, do not wait until it begins to hurt.

Go to a dental clinic as soon as possible.

If the tooth is treated soon enough and filled, it may last for many years.

At the clinic ask to have all teeth cleaned, polished and fluoride treated and to have all teeth that have holes filled. Only if the tooth cannot be filled should it be pulled out.

Our next article will deal with your child and the dentist.

Be smart this year. Wear Student Prince Super Schoolwear.



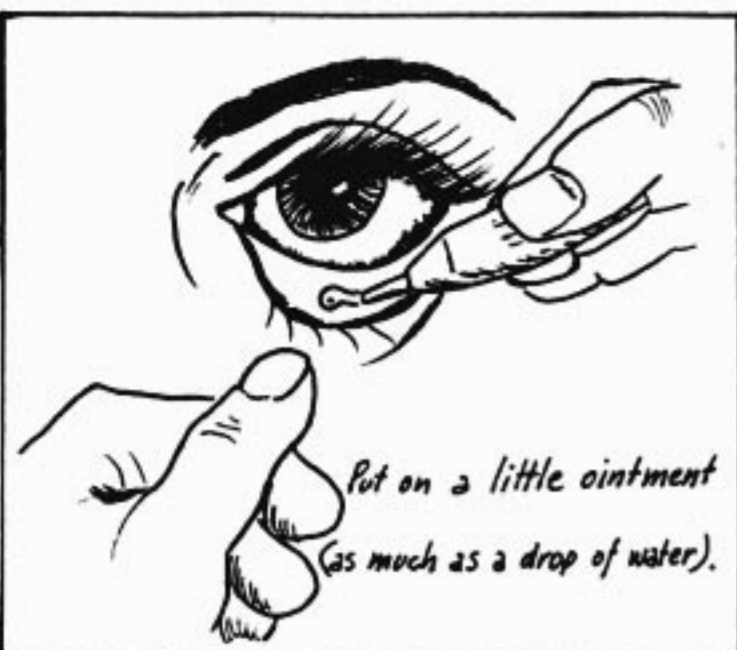
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ADVICE



"TREATING PINK EYE"

OVER the last two months thousands of people suffered from an infection of the eye called conjunctivitis, or more commonly known as "pink eye". It caused disruptions at schools, factories and hospitals.

DO YOU HAVE PINK

EYE?

The signs of pink eye include pain in the eye, a feeling of itchiness, excessive tearing and a feeling of "something" in the eye.

Within a short period of time the white of the eye (conjunctiva) becomes red. This happens as a result of bleeding into this part of the eye.

There is also swelling of the eyelids. In some people this is followed by pus in the eyes.

HOW TO TREAT PINK EYE.

To treat pink eye, it must be washed with a teaspoon of salt or bicarbonate of soda added to a cupful of water. This should be done every 3 - 4 hours. It is helpful to wear dark glasses when going out

into the sun.

However, a doctor should be seen so that an eye ointment is prescribed. It must be remembered that pus can cause permanent damage to the eye.

If someone in your family gets pink eye it will probably be from school or at work.

This is where precautions need to be taken to prevent spread of pink eye.

If you get pink eye go to see a doctor and ask to be put off work or school for three or four days.

This will help to prevent the spread of pink eye at work or school.

Hygiene at home, at work and at school can prevent spread of pink eye.

Coping with "High Blood"

Dear Grassroots

My doctor told me I have "pressure". He gave me a list of things I should not do. I have stopped smoking and I control my diet.

The doctor also said I am too tense and I should relax more. I know that doctors are very busy and the one I saw didn't have much time to listen to me.

Otherwise I would have told him why I can't relax. Tension is part of my life. I can't help worrying about making ends meet. The things my family should have but which we cannot afford on our wages. The restrictions they suffer because of apartheid.

The dangers of life in a township where crime happens daily on our doorstep.

Getting to and from work is a headache — high busfares, long queues waiting . . .

Just thinking about my job is enough to make my blood pressure rise — the pressure of getting the week's quota done, the noise of the machines, the heat of the furnaces and always the danger of getting my hand in the machines. Can you tell me more about "high blood" and help me to cope with it?

Dear Reader

"High blood" and "pressure" both mean that the pressure of the blood flow in the blood vessels is high.

Blood vessels carry the blood that the heart pumps to all parts of the body. The elastic walls of the blood vessels stretch to keep the blood pressure normal. As you grow older the blood vessels harden, narrow and lose their elasticity.

In some people this is more severe or happens at a younger age and this causes high blood pressure.

High blood pressure can cause a stroke or cause the heart and kidneys to fail. In countries where people have demanded that they themselves become involved in planning their health care, patients have a

better understanding of their illnesses.

In these countries the patients blood pressures are better controlled and there are fewer strokes.

Who gets high blood pressure?

Two out of every 10 males and females over

the age of 30 years get high blood pressure.

The danger is that you may have high blood pressure for months or years without feeling ill.

Meanwhile, damage to important organs goes on inside.

Project to build SRC's

IN our last two issues, we have seen that Student Representative Councils (SRCs) and Youth Organisations have many problems. Young people have complained that at many schools SRCs are not active or are concentrating on issues which are not important. They have also said that there are many schools which don't even have SRCs.

Young people are talking about these things. They recognise that there is something lacking when a school does not have a properly functioning SRC, or worse doesn't have an SRC at all. And they have asked what can be done about this situation.

In Ravensmead, the SRCs at the local high schools have come up with an approach to the problem. The SRCs discovered that tuberculosis (TB) was a serious problem in the Ravensmead area. After much discussion with their fellow students, they decided to have a "week of focus" on this problem in their schools.

We spoke to members of the SRCs to learn how this project helped the SRC.

WHY WAS THE PROJECT CHOSEN?

"The project was chosen because SRCs had become aware that Ravensmead has the highest TB rate in the Western Cape. We got this information from a newspaper report, and checked it by examining health records at clinics in the area. The SRCs felt that it was necessary to make people aware of this problem, and why TB is such a problem in our area."

Students also wanted to show that they could get involved in community issues, and that SRCs were not merely 'boycott steering committees' as many young people seemed to think. Many students at school had a negative attitude towards the SRCs. They felt that SRCs were irrelevant, and that there was no point in becoming involved in SRC activities.

WHAT WAS DONE?

A week of focus at each of the two high schools in the area was planned. Because of the problem of accommodating all the students at a school in one place, the same program would be presented to each of five groups of students during one week. The program showed that TB occurred most often in the sub-sub-economic areas where there was terrible overcrowding — where houses lacked basic facilities like floors and so on.

Slides were taken of these areas and presented in the program. People who lived in these areas were spoken to, and they told how they had got TB.

It showed that TB is often caused by poverty and other social conditions like bad housing and bad working conditions. It also showed that a fight against TB is a fight for a just and democratic society. The pamphlet also explained the danger signs to watch for and how the problem could be tackled. Health Care Trust

helped to prepare the program.

Permission to run the focus week was obtained from only one of the principals of the two high schools. It was decided to go ahead with the project at this school. The principal at the other high school has also now given his permission, and the program will be run in the third term.

The program was presented every day for a week, at the end of the school day. About 180 students at a time were accommodated in one large classroom, and at least two teachers were present at each session. The pamphlets were made available at the end of each session.

WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF THE STUDENTS?

All students were expected to attend. Questions could be asked at any time. Once the SRC had decided, and obtained permission, to run the focus week, an ad hoc committee was set up to make all the necessary arrangements. The main aim of the program was to inform students about the causes and dangers of TB in the area, and to show all the socio-economic implications of the illness.

WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

Pamphlets will be distributed to all students and their parents. Later on, we hope to do a comprehensive survey of the area, with the assistance of Health Care Trust, to find out in more detail how serious the problem is. Once this has been done, it will be decided how to tackle the problem.

WHAT WAS THE REACTION OF STUDENTS WHO HAD ATTENDED?

Their reaction was generally positive. They felt that they had gained a good understanding of the causes of TB. They also said that the program had been better than the recent TV program on the subject.

Students are also now showing more interest in the SRC. They have a completely different attitude. Thanks to the co-operation of the staff, the discussion was carried on in the classrooms, during oral periods for example. The project has been discussed with the staff before the time, and they had agreed to co-operate with the SRC in this way.

The principal was very positive. He was so impressed by the fact that the SRC had tackled the project, that he suggested it take on other projects. The SRC was now getting better co-operation from the principal than before.

WOULD IT BE USEFUL FOR OTHER SRCs TO RUN SIMILAR PROJECTS?

It could only be of benefit for them to organise similar projects. But they should only take up something like this if there is an issue which affects both the school and the community. This would be good for the SRC, students and the community.

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RECOGNITION AGREEMENT

A stage in building organisation

MANY independent unions are negotiating or have already negotiated recognition agreements with the bosses.

A recognition agreement is an agreement in which particular bosses agree to recognise the right of unions to organise in their factories. Bosses can also impose certain conditions on unions in these agreements.

In a recent GRASSROOTS, African Food and Canning Workers Union (AFCWU) and Food and Canning Workers Union (FCWU) warned unions to be cautious in negotiating recognition agreements.

Limit

The unions said bosses regard recognition agreements in a different way from workers. Bosses might try to use these agreements to limit the democratic organisation of workers.

Bosses do this in various ways. One way is to try to commit unions and their members to the continued profit of the company - something which is definitely not in the interests of workers. They might also try to limit the workers' right to strike.

While recognition agreements were often important, they said, unions had to be careful not to weaken organisation for the sake of a paper agreement. It was very important for progressive unions to discuss a common approach to recognition agreements, to avoid these dangers.

There are other trade unionists who have a slightly different viewpoint. Some Johannesburg trade unionists wrote an article in *Work in Progress*, saying recognition agreements mean the bosses recognise the union's organised presence in the factory.

This is very important, they say.

In a modern factory it is often impossible for workers to have meetings at the same times, because they all work different shifts.

An agreement can be a way for workers to consolidate their power and carry on their organisation. This depends on how strong the workers' organisation is to begin with.

GRASSROOTS asked some trade unions in Cape Town what their attitude to recognition agreements was.

The General Workers Union agreed they could be important concessions by bosses, that workers had won real ground in the factory, but they were not the be-all and end-all of organisation. They are a stage in the building up of strong organisation among workers.

"They can concede to workers some degree of control over their working lives. But not every recognition agreement wins that and even if it does, its not the real end to the story. We have to keep on the struggle.

They are only part of an organisational experience. It is a mistake to see recognition agreements as a way of getting union officials in on the act. The important thing is that they must give workers the right to have some control over their working lives in the factory."

The union said these agreements could also

be politically important.

"When unions are faced with an onslaught from the state, it is important for the state to see that major employers recognise that the union is in the factory to stay.

For instance, the stevedore bosses have agreed to recognise that workers demand a certain relationship with the bosses, for example, the right to negotiate, the access to information and the right to participate in decisions the bosses make that affect the workers."

The union added that whereas the state does not allow workers a voice in the running of the country, the stevedore bosses have conceded that workers do have a voice in their companies.

The Cape Town Municipal Workers Association, which has a recognition agreement with the City Council, said these agreements do have definite advantages.

Their agreement with the City Council has allowed them to take up many cases on behalf of workers, for instance cases where disciplinary action had been taken against workers. But they warned that recognition agreements should be regarded with caution.

Their success for the union and the workers, depends on their strength before they sign any agreement with the bosses.

The CTMWA agreed they can be long-winded and bureaucratic.

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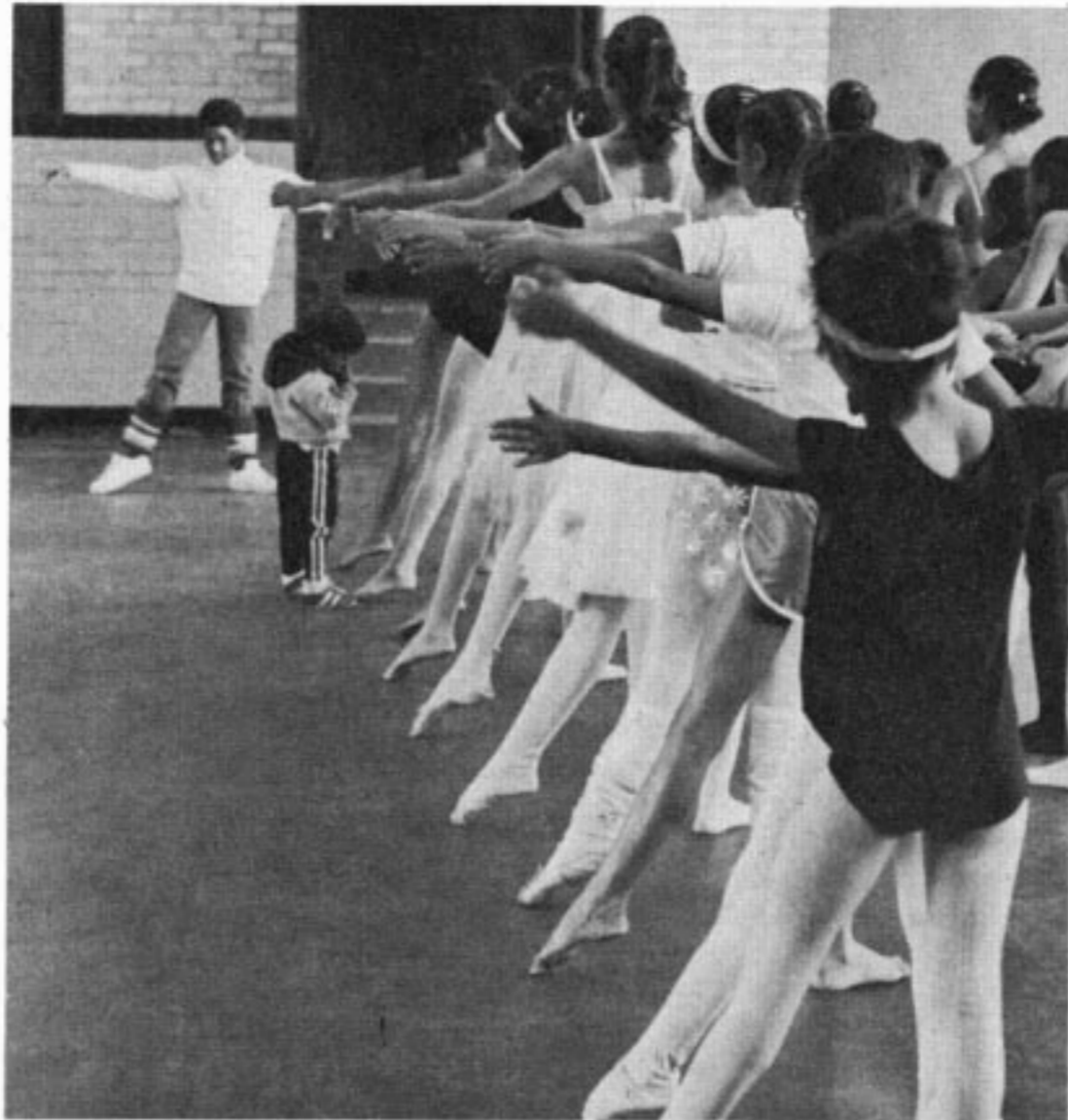
ON Saturday May 22 streams of people, both young and old were seen walking down Grindal Avenue in Lavender Hill. Some of the children were eating popcorn, others held balloons while adults were carrying bags of goods. All were in a good mood.

They were all coming from the bazaar held at the Lavender Hill Community Centre on that day.

The children and parents alike joined in the fun and laughter at the bazaar which was held to raise funds for the newly-formed Lavender Hill Youth Group.

Residents Association also had a table with games, food, clothing and sweets. The funds raised will go to Grassroots.

The decision to give the money to Grassroots was taken at a working committee meeting where people felt that Grassroots badly needed the funds. Although the bazaar could have been better publicised and there could have been more participation by members, it nevertheless served to build a stronger relationship between members of the Youth and Residents' Association.



THE Hout Bay Harbour ballet club consists of dancers. It has been going for four years. It is run by a parents committee.

The teacher lives in the harbour and has learned to teach through his experience in the club.

The club has put on shows in outlying areas like Hawston. It has fund-raised for ballet bars. It also helps provide dancers with the things they need like dancing shoes and costumes for shows.

Games

There was something for everyone. People played games and won prizes, they bought food and clothing and thoroughly enjoyed the various activities.

A money or the box show was held, there was a bit of modern jazz and, a male model show in which a heavily bearded young man was crowned 'queen'.

For the youth it was a good first attempt. The youth members had divided into groups a few weeks before the bazaar and each group was responsible for a table.

The Lavender Hill



BLAC bazaar

Builds Organization

ON 29 May 1982 the Roman Catholic Church Hall in Bishop Lavis was a hive of activity. What was happening?

Why were so many people streaming into the hall decorated with posters reading among others "BLAC for unity" and "The future is Ours"? Simple! This was the day on which the Bishop Lavis Action Committee (BLAC) held its Bazaar.

Much effort had gone into this venture. And the effort was rewarded by huge numbers of people attending and supporting the Bazaar. The huge numbers in fact exceeded the organizers' wildest expectations.

Overcome

Why had the BLAC decided to organize the Bazaar?

The bazaar was organized for a number of reasons.

Firstly the organiza-

tion had for some time suffered a severe shortage of funds and the bazaar was seen as a venture which could satisfy this need.

A second reason was organizational. A general lack of cooperation between the youth and civic members of BLAC had developed over the last few months. A means to overcome the lack of cooperation had to be sought.

Work

The bazaar was consequently seen as the answer as it demanded that as many people as possible had to work together if the venture was to be successful.

Another reason for organizing the bazaar was the fact that a lack of activity in Bishop Lavis was causing people to become slack with regards to organizing.

Were the initial goals met?

Yes. With regard to the financial aspects of the bazaar effort, definite gains were made.

The organization made a sizeable profit out of the bazaar.

This money will enable BLAC to tackle money.

Firstly it will help to finance a survey (regarding the electricity issue) presently being conducted in the area.

Secondly the money will possibly be used to bring out a second publication of Bishop Lavis' newsletter, "The Peoples' Voice".

The money will also be used for other projects which the civic still has to decide upon.

With regards to the organizational aspect of the bazaar BLAC'S goals were to a large extent also met.

Because the civic and youth members had to work together to make the bazaar a success, firm working relations were built up

between the two wings of BLAC.

Also, during the process of organizing for the bazaar a few new members were also recruited into the organization.

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Lansdowne Coffee bar

THE Lansdowne Youth Movement held a successful Coffee Bar on Monday evening (31 May) in the Lansdowne Civic Centre.

More than a hundred residents listened and watched as the various groups, all of them from Lansdowne, performed musical items.

There were songs played by a Spanish music group from Groenvlei, the Golden Strings. They had everybody clapping along and set the relaxed atmosphere for the evening.

A young Lansdowne resident played a classical piece on the piano and another played a violin solo. They are both members of the Harvard group.

Between the music members of the youth movement read poems about the hardship of our people.

Our members also wrote the "News" which was read to intro-

duce our guest speaker. He spoke about the President's Council and showed us that the proposals are not going to improve the daily living of the majority of our people.

Another group of young people from the area who held everybody's attention was the Lansdowne Moravian Junior Choir.

They sang the Impossible Dream, Morning has Broken, and ended the evening with the national anthem Nkosi Sikelel' Afrika.

The LYM learnt a useful lesson from this event.

We saw that there are unknown talents and skills in our community which we can use to entertain residents with.

We can also use these talents and skills of established groups to attract people to our activities and build up our youth movements.

BYM ORGANISES

A CULTURAL afternoon organised by the Bonteheuvel Youth Movement was held in the area last month.

Parents and youth came together at the Catholic Church Hall to take part in the activities which included short plays, music and a short panel discussion.

It was an enjoyable afternoon and the children's group who sang and put up a short act were loudly applauded.

Songs were sung and at times the audience joined in the singing. A short sketch about the problems of working people and a play on detentions was put up.

A panel discussion by two Bonteheuvel Youth members and two people from Mitchell's Plain and Lavender Hill, looked at the problems of youth, the need for youth groups, values of youth and the relationship between youth

groups, Residents Associations and trade unions.

For a first attempt, everything ran reasonably well according to youth members. The participation of the youth members was fairly good and the cultural afternoon also served as a means of contact with people from the community, they said.

There were however a few problems but good lessons can be drawn from them for the future. The messa-

ges contained in the plays were at times not put across very clearly. The programme should have flowed much better because there were times when there was silence between acts.

The cultural afternoon was initiated by the cultural group but the whole youth group became involved in it.

More than 100 people attended the cultural afternoon and it is the first of a number of activities planned by the BONTEHEUVEL YOUTH MOVEMENT (BYM).

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WHY IS THE PROBLEM NOT GETTING BETTER?

RATS are a problem in many areas of Cape Town, especially places close to town like Salt River and Woodstock.

When Grassroots spoke to people about what their problems were they said that the rats came into their houses and dirtied them.

They cause damage to food and the houses mak-

ing holes in the floors and ceilings.

Mrs Jacobs said that she could not sleep at night because of the noise that the rats made running around the roof.

Another resident said that she was afraid that the rats would affect her family's health.

What are the dangers to health caused by rats?

GRASSROOTS asked a health worker. He explained that because rats are very dirty animals, they can carry disease.

If people ate food that had been contaminated by rats, they could get food poisoning. Rats sometimes carry a disease called bubonic plague which has killed thousands in the past.

Today, such outbreaks

are rare, although it happened in Port Elizabeth recently. Rats have also been known to bite people, especially children.

What are people doing about rats?

Some get cats. But a Salt River resident said that the rats are almost the size of cats. Rat traps also did not help. The council was asked to put down traps and poison. This worked for a while, but six weeks later, the rats were back.

The Health Department of the City Council provides a free service to anyone who phones. In 1980 they used 16 750 kg. of poison to control the rats.

Rat catchers also made 45 519 visits. Why is the problem not getting any better?

In Baltimore in America, it was found that there was one rat for every eight people.

They also used poison and traps, but nothing worked. The City Council was forced to improve sanitation by keeping lanes between houses and big empty spaces clean.

They also cleared rubbish bins more often. A programme was also started to improve the houses in the area, especially the very old ones.

Soon, there were very few rats to be found.

So, the answer to the rat problem is the same as that of many other health problems. Better housing and living conditions. A Salt River resident said, "we've got rats because we have no rights."



Poor housing and living conditions allow rats to breed and cause serious health problems.

Plain meeting rejects new vote

unanimously:

"We, the people of Mitchells Plain, strongly reject the planned formation of the Committee of 15. The reasons have been spelt out in the statements of the organisations - that it is undemocratic and will not serve the people.

"We reject all such puppet bodies.

"We resolve to support our democratic bodies and unite through them to work to achieve our ideals which is a democratic, nonracial South Africa."

It was at this point that a motion to replace the chairman was unanimously carried.

Under a new chairman the meeting continued, to discuss the implications of the

President's Council proposals.

A resolution rejecting the PC and its proposals was also passed without dissent.

Said a speaker: "In exchange for this dummy vote they will conscript our young people to die on the border for a cause in which we don't identify."

A speaker questioned the role of Metro Burger and the Plainsman in building up puppets as leaders.

Another speaker said that people shouldn't bother to read the two papers as the one was the little brother of the mouthpiece of the Nationalist Party and the other a member of the Argus Group.

Many people shouted: "Read Grassroots."

Read Grassroots."

A speaker from CAHAC said the PC was trying to cut down peoples' organisations and to build up dummies.

"They want to establish a Kleurlingstan in Mitchells Plain."

He described the planned local council as self-service apartheid.

"Their job will be to implement rent increases and other unpopular measures. These are the things that the demagogic bodies organise around.

"In future we'll be expected to focus on the Mayor of Mitchells Plain.

"We'll also be expected to focus away from the broad oppressed mass - and from the people who really make

laws."

He asked for suggestions from the floor on how to make the general public aware of the dangers in the PC proposals.

Suggested a speaker from the floor: "Seeing Grassroots is so popular, CAHAC should make its attitude to the PC proposals known in Grassroots."

It was pointed out that this was already being done.

It was then decided to go back to the individual organisations and ask the people what action should be taken and that the Action Committee representing the various organisations should arrange another public meeting for a final decision to be taken.

from page 1

Valhalla on the move

from page 1

so damp in winter. The doctor told me that I should move to another place because it was bad for my children's health.

"But what chance do I have of getting an-

other place? What chance do any of us have of moving forward if we don't stand together. That is why the association is so important."

The association is new and consists of

only a few hard-working people. A spokesperson for the VCA said, "the people must come forward to help build our organisation because it is only in this way that we can fight for our rights".

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