

NEW AGE BACK TO 8 PAGES!

As from next week we have decided to restore New Age to eight pages. Our financial position certainly does not justify our decision and in doing so we are taking a deliberate risk. We are gambling on your political consciousness and generosity to give us the necessary funds to pay our way at the end of this month and in the months to come.

In support of our drive for funds we print, on page 4, an appeal by Dr. Y. Dadoo which every democrat should read and take to heart.

Let Dr. Dadoo's call to action, which he has backed up by sending £10 to our funds, stir us all into greater activity on behalf of our people's paper! Let us make 1956 a record year for New Age!

There is no time like the present for making a start! Send your own contribution immediately!

NEXT WEEK

- Short Story "The Hour of Decision" by T. H. Gwala
- Parliament Reopens
- Foreign Newsreel

Make sure you get your copy by placing your order NOW!

NEW AGE

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NEW TALK OF COALITION

Preparations For Fateful Session of Parliament

JOHANNESBURG.—As yet another fateful session of a Nationalist-dominated Parliament approaches, a Stock Exchange scare about 1956 economic prospects and a sensational drop in overseas investment in the Union are stimulating in the ranks of the White political parties renewed talk of the need for a coalition.

The most recent Quarterly Review of the Treasury revealed that the net inflow of private capital from abroad, which was £49 million in the first nine months of 1954, dropped to £2 million in the first nine months of 1955.

This was the year of the Senate Act crisis, though Minister Eric Louw has other explanations of this loss of confidence. He blames it on British Chancellor of the Exchequer Butler's credit squeeze and exaggerated and over-optimistic reports of Free State gold production.

The Stock Exchange has been "dead" for some months now, and businessmen and investors are transferring their panic to the political front.

Once again the talk is reviving of the need to present a more acceptable government to the outside world, and "toenading" is once more in the air. The talk is sweeping the Stock Exchange—if not the country!—and has already begun to affect some prominent supporters of the United Party.

THE BOND

Some are looking hopefully to the S.A. Bond, the latest group to emerge which, while disgruntled with Nationalist Party policies, is yet prepared to swallow apartheid and present it in a slightly more palatable form.

The Bond consists of individuals who have been fostering this coalition idea for some time. They have now come together to test public reaction to a new party which, while not the Nationalist Party, would yet be a home for Nationalists and United Party elements together.

In a leading article entitled "One Big Question Mark Against 1956: Lack of world confidence in Union's politics," a Johannesburg daily expressed alarm about the drop in capital inflow, but then ended on this note:

"The farmer tilling his ground, the worker in the factory, office or mine are all affected by the way in which investors at home and abroad regard the Government's handling of their ideological programme.

"They see a Government in which there is not one representative of the English-speaking section which has been, and still is, largely responsible for the enterprise and money which have raised South Africa to its present industrial strength.

"A change in outlook and a greater willingness to live and let live is all that is needed to make the Union's economic prospects for 1956 as bright as any country could wish for."

The English daily press has been noticeably mild about the birth of the new political grouping, the Bond, when previously its reaction would have been one of sharp warn-

ing that the United Party opposition should not be split or dissipated.

SESSION PLANS

As for the parliamentary session itself, Nationalist Party plans seem to be to get the Senate crisis over as early as possible, to hold a joint session of both Houses to repeal the entrenched clauses of the Act of Union and then separate sessions to remove the Coloured voters from the common roll. Finally, when the United Party Opposition has been knocked senseless, they plan to proceed with their apartheid and anti-democratic legislation.

High on the list are the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill, to smash the trade unions on the apartheid altar, and the Official Secrets Bill. A Bill to amend the Urban Areas Act is also expected.

United Party tactics for this session are as vague as ever, largely because the party has clearly not yet decided what to do. The Liberal Party is in a state of flux, with a split between the Ballingers and Senator Leslie Rubin on the one hand (with ideas of forming a new party with Mr. Bernard Friedman) and the party organisation in the Transvaal and Natal seeming imminent.

With the exception of the small Labour Party group and the lone C.O.D. member Mr. Len Lee-Warden, who will fight another rearguard action against undemocratic Bills, the Opposition is ill-equipped to face this sixth session on the Coloured vote crisis, and one which is to be decisive for the very future of Parliament itself.

Banned!

JOHANNESBURG.

Mr. Dan Tloome, formerly a prominent African trade unionist, has been served with yet another banning notice by the Department of Justice which prohibits him from attending gatherings for a period of five years.

Mr. Lawrence Ncombo, a member of the Pimville Advisory Board has been banned from the Board, and from 38 other organisations, including even Verwoerd's own school committee set up in Pimville to administer the Bantu Education Act at the Pimville Primary School.

Mr. Ncombo told New Age he had been a member of the Pimville Advisory Board since 1948.

In Port Elizabeth, Mr. Raymond Mhlaba has been served with an order forbidding him to attend gatherings for a period of five years.

Free State Women Have Long Record of Struggle

JOHANNESBURG.—"If African women in the Free State could oppose the pass system 40 years ago, they can easily do so today!" said Mrs. Mary Ranta, national secretary of the African National Congress Women's League, replying to the official Native Affairs Department statement that the first passes for women will be issued in the Free State.

Imposition of Pass Laws "Intolerable"

The N.A.D. decision to start in that province must be in the belief that the Free State organisation of the African people is behind the other provinces, said Mrs. Ranta. But the well-known and traditional fighting spirit of the Free State women had been demonstrated on this very question, she said, referring to the heroic struggles against passes conducted by the women of Free State towns like Winburg, Bloemfontein and Jagersfontein.

The Government has threatened to take action against the African National Congress, said Mrs. Ranta; "but we are not so easily frightened and intimidated. We know," she said, "that this Government is ruthless and savage in its attacks on the African people and their rights, and this campaign—and others—will not be easy. It demands that every African woman must demonstrate her opposition to this threat."

INTOLERABLE

The N.A.D. says that the issue of pass books will impose no restrictions on their existing rights and that the opposition being worked up against the pass books for African women is based on misrepresentation of the true facts.

Freedom Charter Slogans in P.E.

By GOVAN MBEKI
PORT ELIZABETH.

As the warm day broke on the New Year's morning and people drifted towards the beach they were greeted by slogans painted in 3 to 4 feet high letters at various points about the town. At the bridge that opens into New Brighton appeared the following:

"Smash the Passes for People—Afrika!"

On the cement wall of the causeway along the main route that enters town there was this writing on the wall:

"People Shall Govern."

On the wall of a tyre factory in letters almost as high as the average man, was painted:

"Police Raids—Police State."

For several days this painting defied all efforts to erase it. Some other paint was then applied over it but the first coat still left the letters, like a lingering light in the dark, showing through.

On the wall of another factory appeared: "Equal pay for equal work."

The police are investigating and some people have been called for questioning.

"Reference books and passes for our men never brought anything but disadvantages," said Mrs. Ranta, "and it is intolerable that these hardships must be extended to us."

"The curfew will now affect the women, and they will be at the mercy of influx control regulations. We will be arrested for non-production of passes. Are these not hardships and restrictions on our rights? The pass books are designed to keep the African in perpetual servitude and to say they bring him benefits is one huge bluff.

"African women know the burdens that their men have carried under the pass laws, and they speak as sufferers under these laws, not like officials of the Native Affairs Department who merely dream about their benefits.

"Officials dare to tell the public that African women, just as their menfolk, will welcome the introduction of passes. I say this is all nonsense. No African man or woman has ever welcomed the pass system, nor will they ever consider the pass anything else but a badge of slavery."



Mrs. Mary Ranta, who at the first national conference of the African National Congress Women's League in Bloemfontein last month, was elected national secretary. 32 years old, and a mother of two, Mrs. Ranta first joined the Congress movement in 1948. She is a member of the Transvaal Provincial Executive of the Women's League. Mrs. Ranta worked some years ago as a typist in a trade union office, but is now a machinist in a clothing factory and a shop steward in her union.

CAPE ANC TO LAUNCH VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN

CAPE TOWN.

"A vigorous campaign" against all forms of passes for African women in the Western Cape will be launched shortly. This was decided at a special conference of Cape Western branches of the African National Congress last Sunday.

The conference also decided to intensify the campaign against Bantu Education and to start with the boycott of schools in the Cape Peninsula.

Thirty delegates attended the conference, representing branches all over the Cape Peninsula, as well as Paarl, Stellenbosch, Kraaifontein and Koelenhof.

A feature of the conference was the militant spirit of the women delegates. Mrs. Maqubela brought a message from Mrs. Annie Silinga, women's leader from Langa,

whose request for leave to appeal against her deportation order was turned down last week.

"I will never give up the struggle, even if the Government reports me," Mrs. Silinga told the conference.

Conference also heard delegates report on the recent ANC national conference in Bloemfontein. Mr. John Mtini presided.

On Trial

JOHANNESBURG.

Dr. H. Moosa and Mr. A. Kathrada, charged with entering the Free State illegally and being in the Bloemfontein Location without a permit, are to stand trial on these two counts in Bloemfontein on January 26. They are out on bail of £50 each.

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