

SPEAKERS' NOTES FOR WOMEN ON THE £1 A DAY CAMPAIGNWHAT DO WE MEAN BY £1 A DAY?

We mean that this is the lowest wage that any person working full time should earn. We don't mean that everyone must get £1 a day or that nobody should earn more than £1 a day, but we do mean that everybody should earn AT LEAST £1 a day. IT IS A MINIMUM WAGE, We must work for wage increases all round, but we are beginning with £1 a day because this is the most urgent.

WHY MUST IT BE £1 PER DAY?

Because a family cannot live properly and be healthy if the wage of the earner is less than £1 a day.

- (i) This has been proved in all the main centres of the Union by surveys and investigations which all show that the cost of rent, transport and food for a family of four people, a man, wife and 2 children, add up to £23 a month and this does not include insurance, clothes, etc.
- (ii) The cost of food is rising all the time and especially the cost of the food which people with low incomes have to buy. At the time of the great bus boycott it was the extra 1d that made people boycott, because their incomes were so low that they could not face any increase in the bus fares, without spending less on food

In the last 10 years -

 - (a) bread costs half as much again as 10 years ago
 - (b) mealie meal costs twice as much
 - (c) potatoes cost nearly three times as much
 - (d) rice costs more than three times as much
- (iii) Cost of living allowance: This is supposed to be extra money to pay for the increased cost of food and clothes etc., but -
 - (a) it doesn't meet all the increased costs.
 - (b) only organised workers really get it - that is in industries or offices or on the railways or in the municipalities, but farm labourers and domestic servants and other unorganised workers don't get it.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "ORGANISED WORKERS"?

We mean workers who are organised into trade unions, so that they are united and can force the employers to pay higher wages, because if they don't, no one will work for them.

But in South Africa the employers and the government are afraid that if the African people unite together in trade unions, they will become too strong, and so the Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act was passed, which takes away all the strength of African trades unions and makes strikes illegal.

HOW CAN WE GET £1 A DAY?

1. By uniting together, but especially by organising all workers into trade unions and even where there are no trade unions, we must organise workers in committees so that their trade unions can be formed.
2. By supporting the National Workers' Conference on March 15th and 16th and organising as many delegates as possible to this and other conferences so that it becomes itself a mighty demonstration of the workers' strength and so that our representatives can be strong enough to plan united action by workers throughout South Africa.

CAN EMPLOYERS "AFFORD" TO PAY £1 A DAY?

Yes, they can, if they will be content with smaller profits for themselves. Also if the workers earn higher wages, they will be able to buy more things and so the employers will get back in increased business, part of what it will cost them to pay higher wages.

WOMEN AND THE £1 A DAY CAMPAIGN

WHY IS IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO US?

1. We must not think that it is just a man's campaign. Women are also workers and more and more women are being forced to go out to work because the husband's wages are too low to provide for the family.
2. Except in a few industries, such as the clothing, textile, sweet, leather, food and canning and laundry industries, women are not employed in great numbers and have not therefore formed powerful trade unions. Women workers are usually forced to work for very low wages, for example, domestic servants and washerwomen.
3. Women are very often paid lower wages than men for doing exactly the same job. We must demand the minimum of £1 a day for all workers, women as well as men, and we must organise women to unite against accepting lower wages than men. It ought to be the rate for the job - Equal pay for equal work for white and non white workers for MEN AND WOMEN.

WHAT MUST WOMEN DO?

1. We must establish ourselves as workers. The housewife is also a worker, even if she doesn't get paid in cash by her husband.
2. We must see that women, paid workers and housewives, domestic workers and washerwomen also elect delegates to the National Workers Conference on March 15th and 16th and any other conferences, and we must raise money to send these delegates.
3. We must see that we send women delegates who will speak up at conferences and see that women's demands are recognised.

WHAT ARE WOMEN'S DEMANDS?

- (a) A minimum £1 a day wages for all women workers.
- (b) Equal pay for equal work.
- (c) Proper care for the children of working mothers. We must demand creches for our children. In China, in every factory where more than 20 women are employed the law requires that a creche ~~must~~ be established and maintained by the factory.
- (d) Improvements in the conditions of the working mother.
At present the working mother does two jobs. She works all day and when she comes home she must clean the house and prepare the food and see to the children. When the woman shares in the work to earn the income, should not the household tasks also be shared?

PASSES AND THE £1 A DAY CAMPAIGN.

HOW DO PASSES AFFECT THE WORKERS?

- (1) The pass prevents the worker from moving about freely to sell his labour, and this helps the employers to keep down the wages.
- (2) Pass raids and arrests interrupts employment and influx control limits the unemployed African worker to a few weeks to find a new job before being 'endorsed' out of the urban areas.
- (3) The pass system is the deliberate attempt of the government to prevent the non-European worker from rising to skilled employment and to force workers back to the farms to provide cheap farm labour.
- (4) The pass system (curfew etc.) put many difficulties in the way of African workers when organising their trade unions.

WOMEN WORKERS AND PASSES.

If African women have passes, they will be exposed to the same hardships as mens, and Verwoerd will use the employment of women to force the passes upon them, as is being done in the case of nurses, who are being requested to produce identity numbers in order to register and to earn their living as nurses. To get their identity numbers the nurses must take out reference books.

Verwoerd will do this also in factories and he will make it compulsory for housewives to demand reference books from domestic servants.

But ~~if~~ women are organised and united as workers, Verwoerd will not succeed, for the employers and housewives and the hospitals will not be able to get workers and servants if they demand passes.

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