

3,000 AT BASUTOLAND CONFERENCE

NEW AGE

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Audience Weeps as Mrs. Mafekeng Speaks

From Joe Gqabi

MASERU

MORE than 3,000 people attended the seventh annual conference of the Basutoland Congress Party which was held at Maseru on January 1 to 3.

Among the resolutions passed was one that "the mineral resources of the country should be nationalised to avoid monopoly by capitalists".

Other resolutions dealt with amendments to the new constitution of Basutoland.

The conference demanded that franchise rights be extended to wo-

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Multi-Racialism or Black Self-Rule?

TANGANYIKA AGREEMENT CRITICISED BY MBOYA

From J. C. H. ABDULLAH
DAR-ES-SALAAM

ALTHOUGH the announcement recently of "constitutional reforms" in Tanganyika, providing for responsible government after the general elections in September, 1960, has been received with enthusiasm by the majority of the people here, voices of criticism have been heard from influential quarters both inside and outside the country.

Mr. Tom Mboya, the Kenya leader, has criticised the leader of the Tanganyika African National Union, Mr. Julius Nyerere, for accepting multi-racial self-rule.

If this was the policy the Colonial Secretary was going to put forward in the constitutional talks with Kenya politicians in London, "I'm sorry," said Mr. Mboya, "we won't accept it. What we want in Kenya is Black self-rule."

In Tanganyika itself, the leader of the African National Congress of Tanganyika has warned the Colonial Secretary, Mr. MacLeod, that the Africans do not want decisions now and that the Arabs, Asians and Europeans must not interfere with political activities in the country.

"They can stay, do business and other things, but not take part in the running of our Government," he said. "I am looking forward to the day when Tanganyika's legislature will be pure Black."

Mr. Mtemvu accused Mr. Nyerere of selling Tanganyika to Asians and Europeans who had no birthright to govern Tanganyika.

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Above: People demonstrate in the streets of Dar-Es-Salaam after the announcement that Tanganyika will get responsible government in September, 1960.

Below: Mr. I. MacLeod, British Colonial Secretary, in conversation with Mr. Julius Nyerere, the President of the Tanganyika African National Union and leader of the Tanganyika Elected Members' Organisation.

Mass Rallies on February 28

JOHANNESBURG

Mass rallies of workers in every province are to take place on February 28 with the object of stepping up the £1 a day Campaign, challenging the industrial colour bar and strengthening the Congress alliance.

Under the slogan "From every work place ten or more delegates; at every work place a workers' committee," these conferences are part of the Congress movement's plan for 1960.

Directives have been sent out to all local committees of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions telling them to start preparing for these conferences and all branches and regions of the African National Congress have been asked to see that the workers' conferences on February 28 are a success and to assist in organising delegates from every factory and compound.

CANNING UNION WARNS LANGEBERG

"We Will Never Accept Wage Cuts"

CAPE TOWN

A WARNING that canning workers "will not rest until the employers have renounced the Wage Determination once and for all, and until they accept our Unions as the sole spokesmen of the workers in the industry" is contained in a statement on the recent stoppage of work at the Port Elizabeth factory of Langeberg Ko-operasie issued by the Food

and Canning Workers' Union and the African Food and Canning Workers' Union.

"As a result of the workers' unity in rejecting the wage cuts by the firm at the end of November, and the widespread support they received from the public, Langeberg Ko-operasie has decided to restore the cuts," says the statement. "The stoppage of work is at an end, and the workers are going back to the factory."

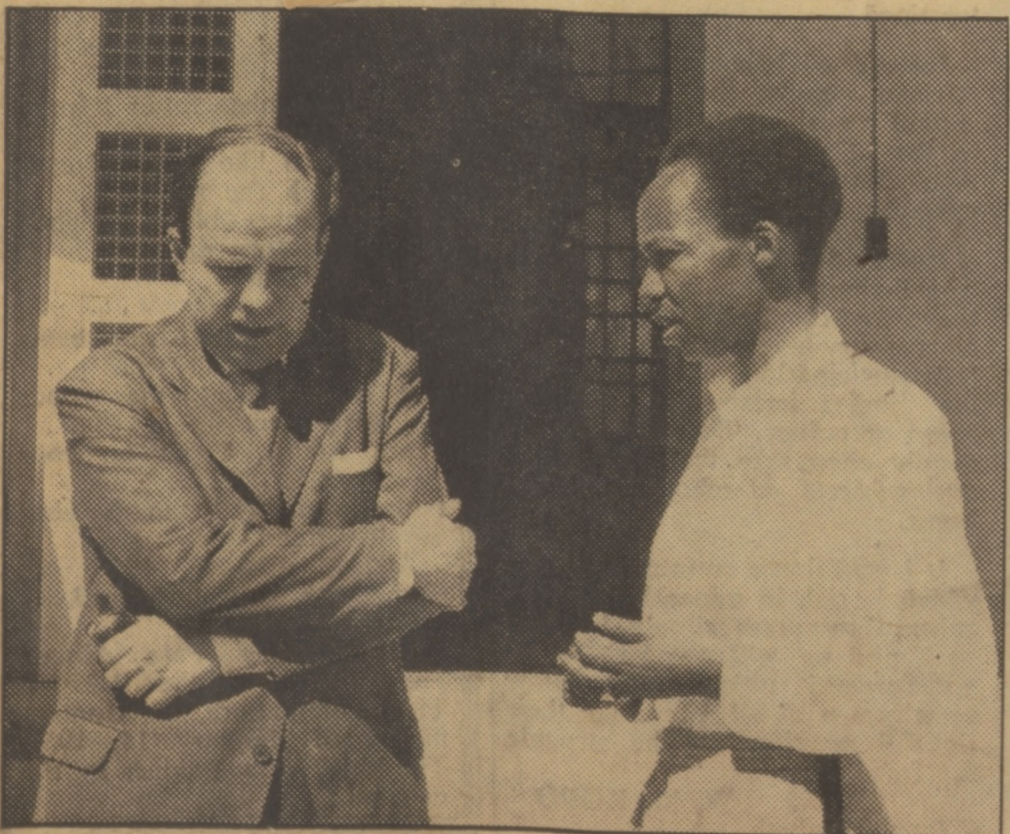
"While pleased that the cuts have been restored and that the dispute is over, the Unions are far from

satisfied with the terms of the statement issued on behalf of the firm by its chairman, Mr. R. S. Rob Ferreira, on December 29, 1959.

"Firstly, he said that the amount of the cut would be 'made up' in the form of a bonus. This suggests that L.K.B. still persist in making the Wage Determination the basis of the wage rates applying in Port Elizabeth.

"Secondly, he went out of his way to say that he would not discuss matters with the Unions or other representatives of the workers.

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NEW AGE LETTER BOX

SIX STUDENTS EXPELLED FOR SHOUTING "AFRIKA"

Recently I visited St. John's College and I was disgusted to learn that six senior students have been dismissed. It is alleged that at Chief Sabata's installation ceremony at Bumbana, all senior students welcomed Mr. De Wet Nel with the "Afrika" salute. They had been taken there to sing for De Wet Nel.

What surprises these victims is the fact that only six of them were picked. They told me that on their return to College from the ceremony, they were told to write an essay on "My visit to the Ceremony at Bumbana" for submission to Pretoria. What a mean and dastardly stunt!

When questioned about an article appearing in New Age (29.10.59) concerning the St. John's President of the Congress Youth League, they denied the existence of any political branch at St. John's.

"We are aware of what is happening in Africa, especially in South Africa, but we dare not join any political organisation for we would be playing into the Government's hands," they said.

They have been wondering why members of the Special Branch are always roaming about the College campus almost every week-end, particularly on Sundays. They have seen them entering the Principal's office.

On many occasions they have been asked to write articles praising Bantu Education, for publication in "The Bantu." They told the Principal that they were not prepared to carry out the Government's policy. They were there to receive education and not to be "used as tools."

Their attempts to go to Fort Hare next year have been foiled because they are the "Government's political enemies." Other students told me that they were being discouraged from going to

Fort Hare because Fort Hare students are "rebellious."

There is certainly unrest at St. John's College and had it not been for the cool-headedness and calmness of students, a clash would have occurred.

"COMRADE"

P.O. Bizana.

Students Against Federation

Feeling against Federation is strong even amongst high school pupils. At a certain high school in Northern Rhodesia one of the boys won an essay competition on "Partnership" — his essay being among the five best in the Federation. The other boys were angry with this when they saw his essay exhibited in the Library and accused him of writing nonsense for a mere trip to America—the first prize in the competition. That night his bed was apple-pied in a novel way.

On the eve of Federation Day the principal addressed the morning assembly on the benefits of Federation and then told them to rise and sing "I Vow to Thee My Country". Though this is a favourite hymn, the boys felt it was the wrong occasion to sing it. Ten out of 450 pupils sang while the rest murmured anti-federation slogans. Those who refused to sing were ordered to appear before the principal. That evening unauthorised meetings took place in the school where anti-Federation speeches were made.

On Federation Day notes appeared on the notice board bearing the words "Away with Federation". The compulsory film show which included a film on Kariba was boycotted by the majority of the students. When asked by the principal why he did not attend one of the boys replied that he was disgusted by everything to do with Kariba as his relatives had lost their lives as a result of the project. "If the principal does not want us to meddle in politics," declared the students, "he should not force Federation down our throats."

Those boys who attended the show had their beds soaked with water.

Following attempts to expel the leaders of the pupils, severe restrictions on their freedom and threats to close down the school, most of the pupils packed their bags and left the school.

H. P. K.

Munali,
N. Rhodesia

A Word of Warning

There are about five political parties in Basutoland engaged in political struggle. Here is a word of warning to the politicians in Basutoland. Since it is not always the case that people be of the same ideas, even though of the same race, so here in Basutoland it may be found that a certain race is more inclined to be more interested in one party than in another. If such a party in which that race is interested should achieve political power, the party will be of no good to the Basuto nation and thus Basutoland will be led to destruction.

LETSOELOPELE MATSABE
P.O. Mamathe's, Basutoland

NATS. BREAK GOD'S LAW

I belong to no political organisation, but no one dare be silent on the unjust steps taken by the Nationalist Government against Mrs. Mafekeng. This woman was married by Christian rites to her husband. "What God has joined together let no man put asunder"—Matt. 19:6. The Minister who performed this banishment is not guiltless before the heavenly court. No doubt his own marriage was performed with the very same words.

The Nationalists claim "The Government came to power by the will of God," but these men have no knowledge of the word of God. Mrs. Mafekeng is banished for no other reason than political gain by the firm of Verwoerd, de Wet Nel and Co. (S.A.) (Pty.) Ltd., Undertakers of Human Rights, whose head office is Union Buildings, Pretoria.

W. MADUBEDUBE
Retreat, Cape.

Deportation Order Withdrawn

The deportation order against Mr. Abraham Thibile, a 34-year-old resident of Seecisoville Location, Kroonstad, was withdrawn by Mr. F. C. Nel at the local Magistrate's Court last month.

The deportation order was served on him by the Town Council of Kroonstad after the riots that took place in Seecisoville Location on April 2, 1959.

Twenty-three people who appeared in Court the same day on a charge of public violence had their charges withdrawn. The case took nine months to complete.

The Court gallery was packed with Congress supporters who came from various parts of the Orange Free State to attend the case.

After the withdrawal of the case there were cheers from the crowd, with the exception of the local Special Branch head, Detective-Sergeant Coetzee.

Mr. D. Lakele appeared for all the accused.

Z. SONKOSI

Kroonstad.

Beware of Wolves

I am astonished to learn that the Anglican Church should have amongst its clergy men such as the Rev. Peacey, the Government-appointed member of the Council of the so-called University College for Coloureds.

At their recent Synod meeting in Cape Town this priest was rather cheered when he gave approval for inferior education, Job Reservation and the sinister Group Areas Act etc.

Allow me to applaud the DRC for openly identifying themselves with racialism, while members of the English Church preach the brotherhood of man with hypocrisy.

As Jesus had put it, Beware of men who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwards they are ravaging wolves.

PETER PETERSEN

Kensington.

NEW YEAR GIFT

I am sending you 10/- for Mrs. Elizabeth Mafekeng and Uhuru. The African masses look upon you as a true fighter for freedom. Keep it up.

Bransby Ndobe, New Brighton.

(Thank you. The money will be forwarded.—Ed.)

EDITORIAL

A JOB TO BE DONE

THE New Year has started off in symbolic style with a riot at Langa Township and a crop of banning orders from the new Minister of Justice, Mr. F. C. Erasmus. Evidently the Nationalist Government has taken no New Year resolution to reform, but intends to carry on with the same mixture as before, only more so.

It is nearly 12 years now since the Nationalist Government came to power. In that period, they have banned and exiled hundreds of the people's leaders, passed ferocious laws to suppress this and that, lashed the skin off the backs of thousands of unfortunate prisoners. But they are no nearer their apartheid goal than they were when they started.

Life obstinately asserts itself, despite all their attempts to stamp it out. The people's resistance movement is stronger than ever, the people's will to win inflexible. University apartheid and Bantu Education have come too late to hide from the Black man the knowledge of what is happening in the world. This is the century of the common man, and in the remotest corners of our Continent he is very conscious of his destiny.

Now in 1960 the Nationalist Government intends celebrating 50 years of Union around the motto "Ex Unitate Vires"—from unity comes strength. The apostles of apartheid—of the separation of peoples—have the cheek to preach about unity. Never have our peoples been so divided — English from Afrikaner, Black from White—as now, thanks to the policies of the Nationalist Government and its predecessors. History will still prove the extreme weakness of the South African Union, which must shatter at the first real shock it has to face, be it war, or economic disaster, or the accumulation of internal conflict. And not all the Government's Saracens and Suppression Acts can prevent the dawn of that eventual day of reckoning.

Nevertheless, our Union motto preaches an eternal truth—**from unity comes strength. The basis for the unity of all our peoples, of all races, creeds and colours, has been laid by the Congress movement in the Freedom Charter. Now in 1960 there is a challenge for us all to face: if we reject the Nat. way, let us show the real way to unity. And let us, in reply to the farcical official celebrations, demonstrate for all to see the true strength of the country based on the unity in equality of all our peoples.**

THE CONGRESS COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION TO THE UNION FESTIVAL ON AFRICA DAY, APRIL 15, MUST BE MADE THE BIGGEST POPULAR DEMONSTRATION THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER SEEN. TIME IS SHORT AND THERE IS A JOB OF WORK TO BE DONE. LET ALL DEMOCRATS GET DOWN TO IT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

REPEAL MEDIAEVAL LAWS

Political events in Africa today remind me very much of events in England during the time of the Industrial Revolution, when even the poets wrote poems which gave inspiration and courage to the workers who were struggling for human dignity.

At the time the brutality displayed by the police (yeomanry, they were called then) was eventually stopped by the determined action of the masses. So today, all the actions of the Government will fail to halt the struggle for freedom if we are united and determined.

Instead of being scared of the African people, the Government should repeal such mediaeval laws as the I.C. Act, Bantu Education Act, Bantu Authority and Immorality Acts.

Rather it should allow people to sell their labour in any market they may choose, implement free compulsory education for all, allow participation in the law-making bodies irrespective of race, creed or colour. The Government should encourage the teaching of sex subjects at schools and at home.

It is sad that a country like ours which is rich in mineral and agricultural resources should be held back and we will not be able to go forward unless our fellow countrymen of all races take their rightful positions in the struggle for freedom.

W. M. KOBO

Port Elizabeth

"AFRICA COME BACK"

(A WAR SONG)

I have caught the madness of your drum,
My hot blood beats and throbs with it—come,
Africa, come!

Come, now from dust I have raised my head,
Torn misery's bandage from my face,
Wrenched my arm free from pain's grip, cut
My way through the web of helplessness—
Africa, come!

The shattered manacle is my mace,
From the broken fetter I forge my shield,
Spears burn like gazelles' eyes through the reeds,
With enemy blood night's shades turn red—
Africa, come!

The earth's heart, Africa, beats with mine,
The river dances, the woods keep time,
I am Africa, I put on your mask,

I am you, my step is your lion-tread,
Africa, come,
Come with your lion-tread,
Africa, Come!

(Written by Faiz Ahmed Faiz, editor of the Pakistan Times of Lahore, in Montgomery jail, January 14, 1955. The title is in English in the original.)

AN ALL-TIME LOW

WE are starting the year with an all-time low as far as donations are concerned.

ALL THAT WE CAN SAY IS THAT IF YOU WANT NEW AGE TO CONTINUE, THIS SORT OF THING MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY.

1960 is an important year for Africa and no doubt what happens in the rest of Africa will influence the South African liberatory movement. Without New Age the Congress Movement will be very much poorer—for no one can deny the organisational strength of our paper.

But in order to live a man must eat and without the food which is your financial support New Age will not see 1960 out. YOU DARE NOT FAIL US AND THE FREEDOM FIGHT! SEND US YOUR DONATION TODAY!

Last Week's Donations:

Cape Town:

J.H., 9s.; Unity, £5; Harry, £1; A.T., £5; Wyndoc, £10; Anon (Per Ray), £1; S., £1 10s.

Total: £22 19s. 10d.

AFRICAN WAGES MUST BE RAISED

Facts And Figures At P.E. Symposium

From Temba Mgota

PORT ELIZABETH.

ON Monday, December 14, a meeting of the Eastern Cape Region of the Institute of Race Relations was held at the Crispin Hall to hear a lecture on "African Family Budgets" delivered by Mr. Selby Ngcobo.

In his address he dwelt at length and in detail with the statistical findings of various social research investigations into the decline of African living standards and the uninterrupted rise in the cost of living.

Referring to the hardy annual of higher productivity being demanded by some industrialists as the primary condition for an increase in African wages, Mr. Ngcobo stressed that productivity was the responsibility of management.

Speakers from the floor enlivened the meeting which had become dull under the heavy drone and repetition of figures and c.o.l.a. indices up to 1950. One lady stood up to say the workers in Great Britain had improved their own earnings through vigorous trade union organisation and unless the same right of organisation and collective bargaining were extended to the African workers there would not be a worthy improvement in the foreseeable future.

REACTION

This statement immediately provoked a rather interesting reaction in a leading member of the embryonic Progressive Party in Port Elizabeth. Mr. R. Bennun, vice-President of the Federated Chamber of Industries in the Eastern Cape, stood up to say we should forget about Trade Unions in this matter of raising African wages because in South Africa it was the employers who were stressing the need for an increase in African wage earnings.

Like the lecturer, Mr. Ngcobo, who had made a similar observation in his main address, Mr. Bennun blamed the wage regulating

machinery of South Africa for the absence of a uniform wage level for all African workers.

Two speakers from the floor, Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Forbes Robinson, asked about Job Reservation, influx control, and the £1 a day campaign and made the gathering more realistic in that for the first time in the course of the discussion it was agreed that between £27 and £30 a month was a fair wage level in present day conditions. It was remarkable to hear Mr. Ngcobo affirm that this £27-£30 minimum wage level was applicable only to industrial workers and not farming and agricultural workers. No reason was given to defend this viewpoint.

The meeting closed as it had begun, a lengthy budget of the African worker's hardship without a suggestion as to how the gap between his low earning-power and his high expenditure could be bridged in the day-to-day struggle to keep his body and soul together.



"DR. VERWOERD, I PRESUME"

Vicky in the Evening Standard.

British Prime Minister Mr. Harold Macmillan left London this week to begin his tour of Africa during the course of which he is due to meet Prime Minister Verwoerd in South Africa.

SACTU RENEWS DRIVE FOR £1 A DAY

SACTU's renewed drive to bring home to employers the urgency of the workers' demand for a national minimum wage of £1 a day is producing significant results. Today the workers' battle cry for higher wages cannot be brushed aside as it was nearly three years ago during the bus boycott and the strike wave that followed. Proof of this is the outcome of SACTU's sustained national organising campaign and its approach to 200 trade unions, industrial councils and employers' organisations to increase wages to £1 a day.

Hundreds of copies of a memorandum stating SACTU's case for £1 a day and exposing the poverty wages now being paid to workers, were sent to these organisations. This memorandum, which is a follow-up of the first memorandum demanding a £1 a day which helped to spark off the higher wages movement in South Africa, sharply criticises the Government's wage policies and present wage levels.

WAGE BOARD

First to react was the Wage Board itself, whose chairman, Professor Steenkamp, rebuked SACTU for making public his statement in East London, "that wages cannot be raised immediately without endangering the economy of the country." In a letter to SACTU he asked that his statement be corrected. But SACTU refused to do so, pointing out to him that his East London remarks were widely reported in all national newspapers and he had ample time to correct them if he disagreed with them.

Professor Steenkamp, speaking for the Wage Board, which means the Government, had said that favourable increases would force 17 gold mines to close down, cause the textile industry to disappear and affect the economy of the country!

INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS

Of the 92 industrial councils asked to discuss the need for a minimum of £1 a day and increases for those workers already receiving more, numerous replies have been received by SACTU for additional copies of the memorandum for council members to study.

SACTU has singled out the "big 3" (The Chambers of Mines, Industry and Commerce) for direct talks, and has put forward strong arguments showing that these organisations cannot put off negotiating with the true representatives of the workers.

Though the "almighty" Chamber of Mines has made no comment, there has been a response from commerce and industry, which have been hit by workers' pressure during recent years.

The Federated Chamber of Industries asked SACTU for 300 additional copies of its memorandum for circulation to all its members

and stated that the issues raised would be discussed at its executive council meeting. In a letter to the chamber pressing it to meet a deputation SACTU stated:—

"We are in direct contact with thousands of organised and unorganised workers of all races and know their immediate problems. A meeting such as we propose would be a significant step forward in labour relations. At present Non-White workers have no channel for negotiations with their employers which is extremely frustrating for them. We attempted to overcome this obstacle in 1957 by circulating our memorandum and requesting meetings with employers, but these were refused.

"Consequently the frustration of the workers expressed itself in the stay at home in April, 1958, for the workers had no other way of expressing their grievances. Since 1958 labour relations have worsened and the recent rioting in Natal was the direct outcome of the refusal of various municipalities and others to consult the workers."

WORKERS' PRESSURE MOUNTS

Meanwhile more workers are joining trade unions and attending workers' meetings. In Natal over 50,000 workers have recently been organised by SACTU and more workers continue to enrol in trade unions. The National SACTU treasurer, Mr. Don Mateman, aptly sums up the enthusiasm for trade union organisation in Natal: "The workers queue up to join trade unions as though they were going to a cinema."

In the Transvaal, SACTU has had to cope with an influx of workers and union officials are hard pressed to deal with the new recruits. Petrol and oil workers, engineering, glass, shop and brewery workers are the latest to come forward. In Springs 400 workers in two factories were recently organised by SACTU.

At a mass meeting in Pretoria recently, workers filled in union application forms on the spot.

GOVT. REPRISALS

Despite determined efforts by the Government to stop the workers' organising campaign, workers refuse to be intimidated. The sharpest re-

prisals have come from the Railway administration, where workers have been dismissed for union activity. In addition Group Areas officials have been investigating African trade union offices with a view to getting them closed down. These are the methods the Government is using in an attempt to bleed African trade unions to death. But they will not succeed, for the trade union movement is growing apace. Led by SACTU and the Congress movement, the workers are gaining confidence in themselves and are determined to improve their wages, win trade union rights, and take their rightful place side by side with their fellow workers in the world trade union movement.

Woman Trade Union Leader Begins Jail Sentence

JOHANNESBURG

Christina Matthews, who had to surrender herself on January 2 for a term of six weeks' imprisonment, is the only woman among the eighteen people whose appeals against their conviction for incitement as a result of the 1958 Stay-At-Home were dismissed in the Appeal Court last month.

Born in 1904 in the Cape, Miss Matthews' first job was in Benoni as a domestic servant. Her employer, a Mr. Stevens, was arrested for taking part in the 1922 strike. This early lesson in trade unionism was not lost, for many years later when Miss Matthews went to work in a canning factory she joined the union and six weeks later was elected as Chairman of the local Food and Canning Workers' Union.

She was dismissed from her job at the time of the treason arrests when her employers made an attempt to smash the union. Thereafter Miss Matthews became a full-time organiser for the Food and Canning Workers' Union and was responsible for setting up a local committee of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions in

Benoni.

One of the pioneers of the £1-a-day Campaign, Miss Matthews has been elected to the management committee of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions for the last three years.



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