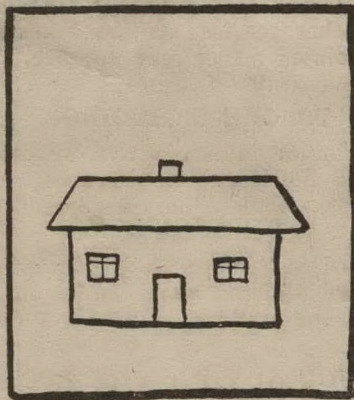
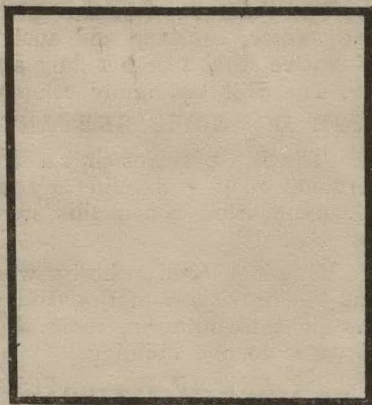


The Sky Is The Limit



HOUSE—OLD STYLE



NEW STYLE
(Site and Service Scheme)

Locations In The Sky

THE CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS' VIEW OF THE
NATIVE [URBAN AREAS] AMENDMENT BILL

ANOTHER REMOVAL SCHEME!

"Locations in the Sky" is the title given by Dr. Verwoerd to the Natives (Urban Areas) Amendment Bill . . . "a picturesque" title for a sordid Bill!

The Bill seeks to remove the majority of African domestic servants from flats and buildings in European areas and resettle them on a vacant plot (or at best a shack) supplied with water, sanitary and such other services as the Minister of Native Affairs or his duly appointed officer may approve.

The Bill has many other undesirable features.

FIVE DOMESTIC SERVANTS TO ONE BUILDING.

The Bill provides that a maximum number of five domestic servants may reside in any one building. Any request for accommodation above this number would "be considered on its merits."

But if a local authority wished to "co-operate" in carrying out the provisions of the Bill, the Minister would confer on it the right to authorise more than the statutory number of five servants to one building.

AND IF HE LATER FOUND THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY WAS NOT GENUINELY CO-OPERATING, HE WOULD WITHDRAW THESE RIGHTS.

10,000 D.P.'s.

According to Dr. Verwoerd there are 15,000 African domestic servants in the main flat areas of Johannesburg. Should only 5 domestic servants be allowed to reside in any one building, there will (in the words of the Minister) be 10,000 "surplus Natives" to be resettled elsewhere.

Where are these people to be housed?

THEY ARE NOT TO BE HOUSED BUT "ACCOMMODATED!"

NEW DEFINITIONS

In most civilised communities the word "accommodate" means "house". But not so in Nationalist South Africa.

The word "accommodate" has been altered to mean "make available for occupation any land or premises, provided with

water, sanitary and other services approved by the Minister."

THIS IS THE VERWOERD SOLUTION TO THE HOUSING PROBLEM — THE SITE AND SERVICE SCHEME.

It means that 10,000 domestic servants will be placed on a serviced site at great distances from their places of work, involving long hours of travelling, increased bus and rail fares, higher living costs and innumerable other inconveniences associated with strictly controlled native areas.

THE S.S. PLAN — SITE AND SERVICE

The site and service scheme has been described as a "ray of hope" to those municipalities which have neglected and evaded the responsibility of housing their African populations.

THE SITE AND SERVICE SCHEME IS A TEMPORARY HOUSING SCHEME IN WHICH NO HOUSES ARE BUILT! INSTEAD "SHACKS" ARE TO BE ERECTED.

Verwoerd's 10,000 "surplus natives" are to be housed this way. The "surplus populations" of Pretoria, Germiston, Brakpan, Benoni, Springs and other smaller local authorities are to be housed this way.

"We are at last giving a human being a piece of land . . . and however humble it may be, he will have a stake in the country and an opportunity to start life afresh" (P.E. City Councillor).

"It's a grand opportunity!" "Site and Service is the key" to

VAST POLICE CONTROLLED SQUATTER CAMPS, BREEDING GROUNDS OF POVERTY AND DISEASE AND PERMANENT LICENSED SLUMS!"

HOW THE SCHEME WORKS.

Dr. Verwoerd has "forced" the Johannesburg City Council into accepting this "Housing Scheme" by warning them that unless they co-operate, he would not "give them their rightful share of money for Departmental housing".

Under the scheme 50,000 serviced sites are to be provided. Shacks are to be erected on the sites at a cost of £35.0.0 each(!) and are to be replaced within five years by permanent homes. Remember Moroka, Pimville, Jabavu? These were also intended to be "temporary" houses. THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN REBUILT!

A DOOR AND A WINDOW.

The prototype of the site and service scheme is to be found at Vlakkfontein (near Pretoria). If an African can afford to build a house, he may submit plans and go ahead and build! If not, £35 worth of building material will be provided for the erection of a shack. The material is to consist of bricks, corrugated iron for roofing, a door and a window.

This happens in Vlakkfontein!

(An authority on housing has stated that £35 would pay for no more than an iron roof, two doors and two windows.)

SAFEGUARD?

No wonder Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the removal or abolition of any native village hostel or location, should the authorities desire this on the grounds of security, public health or regional planning.

For the Government, the Johannesburg City Council, and all other local authorities are well aware that Site and Service is unlikely to be replaced by a permanent housing scheme. They fully realise that they are creating the conditions for further slum areas, which, like Moroka, Pimville and Jabavu in Johannesburg, will remain ghastly eye-sores and a constant shame to the authorities responsible for their creation.

THIS IS APARTHEID IN ACTION, SHORN OF ITS CATCH PHRASES AND ELABORATE FRILLS — AND THIS IS ONLY ONE UNDEMOCRATIC, AUTOCRATIC, CALLOUS AND SORDID BILL AMONG FORTY OTHER PIECES OF APARTHEID LEGISLATION.

Issued by the S.A. Congress of Democrats, Johannesburg Region,
P.O. Box 4088, Johannesburg.

Collection Number: A3299

Collection Name: Hilda and Rusty BERNSTEIN Papers, 1931-2006

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive
Collection Funder: Bernstein family
Location: Johannesburg
©2015

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of the *Hilda and Rusty Bernstein Papers*, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.