



SACPO demonstrators outside Electricity House, Cape Town, last Saturday morning, protested against the introduction of apartheid there.

COLOURED PEOPLE HIT BACK

(Continued from page 1)

At the same time, leaflets were handed out to passers-by headed "Reject Apartheid Here!"

The leaflet said: "The Electricity Department has introduced apartheid at this office without the matter even having been discussed by the City Council.

"If we allow this to continue, it will be a step towards the introduction of further unjust measures against the Non-European people.

"Already our people are having to do without parks, pavements, swimming baths, roads and other amenities, and unless we take a firm stand now, we will soon be burdened with apartheid which is insulting and expensive to the citizens of Cape Town.

"Take action now! Phone the Town Clerk! Organise deputations to the Mayor and Council. Demand that these boards be removed immediately.

"Demand equal rights for all! DON'T LET THE NATS RULE

"Hour of Decision"

(Continued from page 6)

said something about Communists poisoning wells and all that sort of thing. One has just left my office now. No, no, no, not me, he was found out by my boss-boy. I can't say he was found with any incendiary material. You know what happened yesterday. Surely, I thought you were taking them into custody. Look, hallo! hallo!" The phone just gave a buzz. He threw down the receiver and sighed, "Oh! my, my. Even the police have turned red. The only difference between a baboon and a Dutchman is that the Dutchman pays income tax."

Philemon came out of the factory gate, opened his reference and read, "Bearer has been in our employ for over twelve years. Leaves our employ because of his Communist activities." He stood looking at it for a long time; crumpled it up slowly and briskly chucked it in the gutter; shoved his hands in his pockets and whistled softly "The Internationale unites the human race," while he quietly walked up the street.

The comment of the judges (Uys Krige, Jack Cope and Dr. R. E. van der Ross) was: "Despite faults, jarring patches and some verbal roughness, this story is excellent. It has a verve and bigness and a natural flair for story-telling that make it outstanding. An ironic humour, though sometimes unsuccessful as in the redundant scene of the City Hall meeting, and a sense of character give this writer an interesting talent."

NEXT WEEK: "An African Affair," by Joan Gifford.

CAPE TOWN!" the leaflet concluded.

UNCALLED FOR

Apartheid at Electricity House was "uncalled for, unnecessary and unwanted," Councillor (Mrs.) Z. Gool told New Age this week.

The matter had never been brought before the Council and the notices had been put up without the whole Council being consulted, Mrs. Gool said.

"I have been told that these notices were introduced by the City Treasurer's department as an experiment and have been sanctioned by the chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. A. Z. Berman. The City Treasurer says they are not intended to be political.

"I object to it, as I object to all apartheid in principle," said Mrs. Gool, "and I dissociate myself entirely from these latest notices.

"There has always been a harmonious relationship between people of all races paying accounts at Electricity House, and we have had no indication that the old system did not work to the satisfaction of all. We can only regard the apartheid notices as an insult to the Non-European people.

"It is the duty of local government to try to maintain and to foster good feeling among the different sections of the people. Only on that basis can we have a healthy and prosperous city."

Afrikaners Really Like The Indians

PORT ELIZABETH.

Why do so many Afrikaners buy at Indian shops? is a question which worried the race-mad delegates to the SABRA conference here last week.

Speakers had called the Indians in South Africa a "parasitic element," an "unassimilable branch of a foreign people," etc. etc. So why did white South Africans support their shops? delegates wanted to know.

Because in many Indian shops the Afrikaans language came into its own, particularly in the Natal countryside. Service was in the customer's own language, display notices were in Afrikaans, said one.

Because many of the poorer people did not feel at home in white shops, said another. There are people who suffer from an inferiority complex, and who can make their importance felt in an Indian shop, which they could not do in a white shop.

People sometimes leave a white shop because they are not treated well there. The Indian treats them in a friendly manner and gives them much credit. The Indian makes his shop very attractive, and gives Xmas presents, said another.

CENTRAL INDIAN SCHOOL WILL CARRY ON

JOHANNESBURG.—This week the Central Indian High School, which was started by parents who refused to send the children to the Ghetto school at Lenasia, opened for its second year, determined to continue despite all the obstacles placed in its way.

A statement by the school parents' committee says that the Transvaal Education Department has refused registration or approval of its principal and some other members of the school staff, in most cases without giving reasons. "This refusal appears to us arbitrary and unjustified."

To ensure the continual legal existence of the school, however, the committee has been forced to accept the resignation of its principal, Mr. Michael Harmel. Steps are being taken to replace him and in the meantime Mrs. S. J. Fischer will act as principal. Representations concerning other members of the staff will continue to be made, says the school committee.

A further difficulty created for the school has been the refusal of the Department to allow last year's Standard Eight class to enter the Standard Nine class at the Johannesburg Indian High School. This has forced the school to shoulder

the additional burden of organising a Standard Nine class.

"Despite all these handicaps, we are determined to continue in our task of providing alternative education of a high standard for Indian boys and girls, and not to submit to the unwarranted scheme of sending our children to Lenasia, a plan which makes education a pawn in the sinister plan to ruin our community through the Group Areas Act."

The committee expresses its appreciation of the way in which the Indian community has rallied to the support of the school during 1955. It was this support which made it possible to maintain the school during its first year. "We have no doubt that the same support, extended in even greater measure, will enable the school to overcome the additional difficulties which now face us, and to maintain and improve the school during the coming year."

BOOKS

IN TWO CHINAS

Memoirs of a Diplomat, by K. M. Panikkar. Published by George Allen and Unwin. 15s. 9d.

A close associate of Nehru, one-time Prime Minister of one of the Indian states, and a notable historian, K. M. Panikkar was India's Ambassador, first to Chiang Kai-shek's government in Nanking and then to the Chinese People's Republic in Peking. He reached his post in Nanking when the collapse of the Nationalist regime was already imminent and he watched Shanghai in the days when "death had begun to cast its shadow in the place . . . Refugees were dying like rats and no one seemed to care about their fate. All civic sense had departed . . ." The diplomatic corps became more and more jittery in those days and in time they took to their evacuation ships and steamed out of old China.

Panikkar left too, for a brief interlude in India and Burma, but soon he was back again in China, the accredited representative to the new government. He came with not a little apprehension. "I knew I was entering a strange and new world . . . All my training had been in the liberal radicalism of the West." As against this, he records that he had a deep feeling of sympathy for the Chinese people, a desire to see them "strong, united, powerful . . . to proclaim the message of Asia resurgent."

MAN WITH A MISSION

Panikkar saw himself as a man with a mission: to prove to Mao Tse Tung that a neutral position was possible, and that, as he puts it rather crudely, the world need not be divided into two camps of the Faithful and the Kafirs. He nowhere records the course of this self-chosen mission, but he played an important role in the difficult and prolonged negotiations to bring peace to Korea in the days when events showed the futility of British and United States attempts to settle issues in the Far East without the greatest Far Eastern power of all—China.

At the centre of Korean war developments and negotiations, Panikkar gives an intimate picture of that crisis, including his historic midnight interview with Chou En-Lai which led to his telegram warning to the United Nations that China would have to intervene if the American troops crossed the 38th parallel.

His was an important role also in the cementing of Indo-Chinese friendship in those early years.

Rather strait-laced in the rarefied atmosphere of diplomatic protocol and official receptions, Panikkar's chapters leave one hungry for more of the palpitating life outside the embassies and legations: in the villages, with the land reformers, among the national minorities.

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES

Between the duty calls on this or that legation he does give eager thumbnail sketches of China's top leaders. He describes also a tour to Yenan ("It was only when we got into the plane that we were told that the airstrip had not been used for many years and had to be specially prepared on instructions from Mao Tse Tung to enable our plane to land there"); and a visit to the Tunghuang Caves in the Gobi Desert where fabulous Buddhist paintings and a rich hoard of ancient manuscripts had been discovered, giving evidence of early Indo-Chinese cultural contact.

Leaving his post for another in Egypt, Panikkar sums up his impressions of New China. He applauds the release of new energies, the new life given to old forms of artistic expression, the first unified central government of China; but, lest the preceding 12 chapters should have led any

reader to think that he has abandoned his "liberal radicalism," his final paragraph flies his flag for all to see. Changes yes; an irresistible desire by the Chinese people to move forward, certainly. But the means to employ these very desirable ends are of a kind which "revolts the free mind." And yet, with the exception of one paragraph just before this, Panikkar the historian has marshalled no evidence to show this and one is left with the impression that Panikkar the diplomat is determined not to be deprived of his own pre-conceived prejudices. R.

CHINA PHOENIX

By Peter Townsend. Published by Jonathon Cape. 25s.

If Panikkar's diplomatic round and training kept him rather withdrawn from the life of the people in China, Peter Townsend's work and boundless enthusiasm for the new immersed him deep in it. Townsend went to China in 1941 with a Quaker Ambulance Unit, and he later worked with the Chinese Industrial Co-operatives in all parts of the country.

"Thrown into Chinese society and exposed to the shocks of Chinese life" (before the People's Government) Townsend early formed the impression that in China Revolution was preferable to No Revolution. After Japan's defeat people drew hope from promises by Chiang Kai-shek of democratic assemblies and a constitution. But change did not come in Kuomintang China. "The carpet baggers flocking east by every available plane and river boat drove home the fact that 1945 was of the same base metal as old Yesterdays. It was still this: runaway conscripts pulped with bamboo poles, ashen faces of starving men, the exactions of landlord-officials."

How then was change to come? asks Townsend. Those who talked of change of heart, or 'step by step,' or benevolent dictatorship or foreign capital and supervision, all of which added up to a continuation of the status quo, lived in a warm and relatively secure world. Those who lived in the tumbledown houses chose the other road. It led to Yenan, the centre of successful, armed revolt, the capital of the part of China where agrarian reform was the bedrock of a social programme. They did not go because they chose violence and civil war, rather because all other routes were blocked.

Townsend, too, went to Yenan. He also watched the crumbling world of the Kuomintang, the antics of Chiang Kai-shek's government on a trapeze, the first steps on the road to recovery.

SPLENDID PROSE

A stickler for stories of real people, drenched in his familiarity with the peasant landscape and the early beginnings of popular government in China, Townsend's splendid prose gives a vibrant, vivid account of the stirring of the new forces.

He omits nothing. There is one well-written chapter after another: on birth control, the new marriages, the reform of prostitutes; on religion, on secret societies and superstition; on the press and the campaigns against illiteracy; on industry and the workers; on flood control; on municipal government, the civil servant, the village leader; the co-operatives and peasant mutual-aid teams. Townsend can simply not let go and, if anything, one is left feeling a little bloated as at the end of a grand banquet: unequalled food, but one did eat a little too much!

Not since the days of Agnes Smedley (with perhaps the exception of Jack Belden's "China Shakes the World") has a book on China as good as this been written. R.

PASSES FOR WOMEN

(Continued from page 1)

books for women. It will still be a matter for the local authorities to decide today.

Again this is not so.

Originally, before the 1952 amendment, influx control of African women was at the discretion of the municipalities which had to ask the Governor-General to promulgate their right to apply this influx control section of the Urban Areas Act. It was precisely because the Government was dissatisfied because local authorities did not use this right that the Act was amended to make the operation of this control obligatory on the municipalities.

It is no longer at the discretion of the municipalities whether this clause is used or not. It has passed out of the hands of the municipalities. It is now the duty of any policeman, if he suspects that a woman is in the area without permission, to arrest her.

In practice, this clause is not yet in full operation in most parts of the country. But the application of the 1952 amendment by municipalities in the Western Cape, particularly Cape Town, has provided a warning for the rest of the country.

Thousands of African women in the Western Cape have already been arrested and prosecuted under this section of the law, and many have been deported out of the area. Homes have been broken up, husbands separated from wives, parents from children. Political leaders like Mrs. Annie Silinga have been victimised.

Similar action has been taken in Krugersdorp in the past few years, with arrests, prosecutions and deportations of women.

Johannesburg decided not to impose the influx control regulations until the pass books had been issued to African women by the Government, and other cities are probably also waiting until the system can be carried out in full with the aid of the reference books.

WHO CAN STAY?

The effect of the influx control regulations is that only certain categories of women will have a right to be in an urban or proclaimed area.

These are women who were born in the area and are permanently resident there; or women who have lived there continuously for 15 years or been in the same employment for ten years; and women whose husbands satisfy these conditions. In practice it will mean mostly that only women who have been in the city since 1937 will have the right to remain.

Any other women have to obtain special permission to be in the area,

and without the permission are liable to arrest and deportation.

The Government estimates that it will be a matter of some years before all African women are issued with pass books.

Till that is done, influx control and other control measures will possibly be piecemeal and difficult to enforce nationally. But the end effect is certain: African women will taste the bitterness of the pass laws suffered all these years by their menfolk, and they too will experience the raids, the arrests, the police rough-handling and ill-treatment, the imprisonment, and the deportations from the cities that are the lot of the pass-bearer.

Under the law as it stands today there must be hundreds of thousands of African women who are in the urban area illegally. As the issue of pass books starts, so too will begin the hunt for the offenders and the start of action against them.

This is what the Government is trying to hide from the African people. But all their comforting and extravagant re-assurances are worth nothing. It is the law that counts, and the women can judge by what happens to their menfolk just what is in store for them.

That is why they are up in arms, determined to fight passes for women to the bitter end.

Death of Solly Jooma

JOHANNESBURG.

The Transvaal Indian Congress and New Age extend sympathy and deep condolences to the family of Mr. S. I. Jooma, whose tragic death took place in Johannesburg last week.

Solly Jooma was a member of the working committee of the Transvaal Indian Congress and a well-known Middleburg Congressman. He served a prison sentence as a defier in the Duncan batch. He was also a well-known sportsman.

He leaves a wife and four children.

Tvl. Peace Council Annual Meeting

JOHANNESBURG.

The annual general meeting of the Transvaal Peace Council will take place on Sunday, January 22, at 10 a.m. and will be devoted to a report on the Peace Assembly held last year, and on future campaigns, among them one for disarmament. The meeting will take place at 37 West Street, Johannesburg.

NATS' SINISTER PLANS FOR 1956 SESSION

PARLIAMENTARY SURVEY
by
Peter Meyer

The 14 men from the north have come down to Cape Town again. Six months plotting in Pretoria, six months plotting in Cape Town. This is known as Parliamentary democracy.

Meetings are held in the secrecy of the Cabinet conference room. Racism is brewed and dictatorship fomented. This is known as the volkswil.

For light relief, Mr. Strijdom and Mr. Strauss play a guessing game. Mr. Strijdom won't tell Mr. Strauss what is in his new "sovereignty" Bill, and Mr. Strauss won't tell Mr. Strijdom when or how he is going to challenge the Senate Act. Baby talk.

THE PATTERN

The Speech from the Throne, as Mr. Strijdom's programme is elaborately named, sets the pattern for the session. It begins by commenting on the grave attempts of the "Western" nations to preserve "Western" civilisation and it hails the admission of the German Federal Republic to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as the principal step in this direction.

It deplores the failure of the Foreign Ministers to reach agreement on fundamental issues (and almost adds "We told you so"), it warns that the "dangerous situation" in the Middle East is of the "greatest importance" to the Union, it recalls with a smirk its walk-out from the United Nations, and then it goes on to say how happy and prosperous everyone in South Africa is.

The sting is in the tail. We are going to get a Bill which will rob the Coloureds of their vote and repeal the Entrenched Clauses; another Bill will amend the Arms and Ammunition Act; the vicious Official Secrets Bill, published in a Government Gazette last year, will be passed; and the Industrial Conciliation Bill will come back in its full glory.

The Nursing Act will be amended—apartheid for nurses. Applications for the establishment of Bantu authorities "have been received from all the Reserves." Also, "to ensure the better administration of certain laws relating to Natives and to facilitate the application thereof, appropriate amending legislation will be introduced."

That old defender of democratic rights, Mr. Swart, Minister of Justice, gave notice of a Bill "to consolidate the laws relating to riotous assemblies and the prohibition of the engendering of feel-

ings of hostility between the European and Non-European inhabitants of the Union and matters incidental thereto, and the laws relating to certain offences." As if the Suppression of Communism, Public Safety, Criminal Law and Riotous Assemblies Acts were not enough!

The basis of the session is, again, apartheid. And the necessary laws to stop people opposing apartheid will be introduced. But a new emphasis is being thrown on military matters. It is not sufficient to have the police force in fighting trim: the Army must also be brought up to scratch.

A Nat M.P., Mr. B. van der Walt, moved a private Member's motion which reads: "The Government should consider the advisability of introducing a comprehensive and co-ordinated scheme for civil defence in the Union."

NO MATURITY

The one advantage of the annual opening of Parliament is that it knocks sideways the pleasant chatter about the Nationalists becoming more "mature" and "moderate." No doubt Opposition businessmen and the Nationalists are being drawn closer to each other, and financial difficulties are being smoothed out, but the annual flood of savage apartheid laws and repressive police legislation continues unabated. The 1956 session is a sinister one, indeed.

What makes it all the more alarming is that the Parliamentary Opposition is doing virtually nothing to focus attention on the advance of fascism. Critics (I admit to being one of them) who have prophesied the rapid decline and fall of the United Party, are being told: But, look, it is still a big party and it is still going strong. It is going to challenge the Senate Act, and fight the new Bill.

Well, let us see what the Opposition is doing so far. The Labour Party has a motion on practical economic issues, and if it lives up to its record at the last session, it will not evade the apartheid debates. The Bekker party has gone over completely to the Nationalists and is literally trying to out-Nat the Nats.

And the U.P.? Thirteen of its members gave notice of private Member's motions on the opening day. Not a single one deals with apartheid. Only in Mr. Strauss's motion, point (e), is there a general reference to the "hollow propaganda cry of apartheid." Mr. Strauss criticises the Population Registration Act and the Group Areas Act, but I'm sure his mind is not on the welfare of the non-White citizens. He dislikes the Population Registration Act because it makes Whites carry passes; and he dislikes the Group Areas Act because he fears it will interfere with the labour of White employers.

NOT A WORD

For the rest—not a syllable about apartheid. Mr. Moore wants decimal coinage; Mr. Cope wants to amend the Post Office Administration and Shipping Combination Discouragement Act, 1911; Mr. Lawrence wants immigrants; Mr. Russell is worried about delegated legislation (but he voted for the Public Safety and Criminal Laws Amendment Acts); Sir de Villiers Graaff is looking after the farmers, Mr. Waterson after the

Public Service (Heaven help them), Mr. Pocock after pensioners; Mr. Durrant is probing into the Unemployment Insurance Fund; Mr. Bowker wants more telephones, and Mrs. Solomon has her motherly eye fixed firmly on women's affairs.

This omission of apartheid is not accidental. It is part of the U.P.'s new policy (yes, another new policy) to "keep the Natives out of politics, for goodness sake."

This is going to be the grand no-apartheid session, as far as the U.P. is concerned. There's the embarrassment of the new Bill dealing with the Coloured vote, but once that is over Mr. Strauss's stalwart men will get down to a really good job of practical politics, that phrase so popular with business men. The Industrial Conciliation Bill, the other apartheid laws? Strauss will find a way around them. And then back to "practical politics."

I must make a point of going to Parliament to hear Mr. Cope move his motion on the Post Office Administration and Shipping Discouragement Act, 1911. Good, constructive stuff, Mr. Cope. The sort of stuff the Rand Club likes to read.

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SOME STATISTICS

Figures recently issued show that the Soviet Union is now producing in a matter of days what it took a whole year to produce when the Soviet state was founded.

A year's production of electricity in 1920 is now produced in one day; pig iron—a day and a half; coal—eight days; oil—twenty days; sugar—seven days.

One single hydro-electric station, that at Kuibyshev, to be opened shortly, will generate 11,400 million kilowatts—six times as much as that produced by the whole of Czarist Russia.

The Soviet Union is today producing three times the quantity of industrial goods that it was in 1940 when the Nazi armies attacked. The real wages of Soviet workers are now double what they were at that date.

The North Atlantic Treaty

Organisation countries are now spending about 65,000 million dollars a year on armaments—twenty times as much as was being spent before the Second World War.

In the ten years since the war there were 43,700 strikes in the U.S. compared with 20,000 strikes in the ten-year period before the war. A total of 27,300,000 workers came out, compared with nine million, and 445 million working days were lost, compared with 142 million.

At the end of last year there were 3,230,000 officially registered as totally unemployed in the United States, and according to trade union figures there were over 5 million jobless. In addition, 13,400,000 others were on short-time.

Bid To Deport Mrs. Matomela?

PORT ELIZABETH.

Two location superintendents recently called at the home of Mrs. Florence Matomela, who has been ordered by Minister Swart to resign from the ANC and other organisations.

The following are some of the questions she was asked: Where were you born? Have you ever stayed out of Port Elizabeth for any length of time? Who now manages the land which was owned by your father in the Kingwilliamstown district? Have you any interest in it?

Are you a member of the ANC? Did you take part in the Defiance Campaign? Have you a permit to live in Port Elizabeth? For how long have you been living in this house?

Similar questions were put to Mr. Matomela who was born about 50 years ago in Aberdeen Street, which is now in one of the best suburbs of Port Elizabeth. At that time it was occupied by Africans.

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