

405

'AQ 5'

*2nd hand sketch by [unclear] 1/15*



# THE WORKER

The past few months have seen increasing repressive state action against the workers' struggle. The state has especially singled out the independent trade union movement. There have been arrests, detentions and bannings of union leaders and rank and file members.

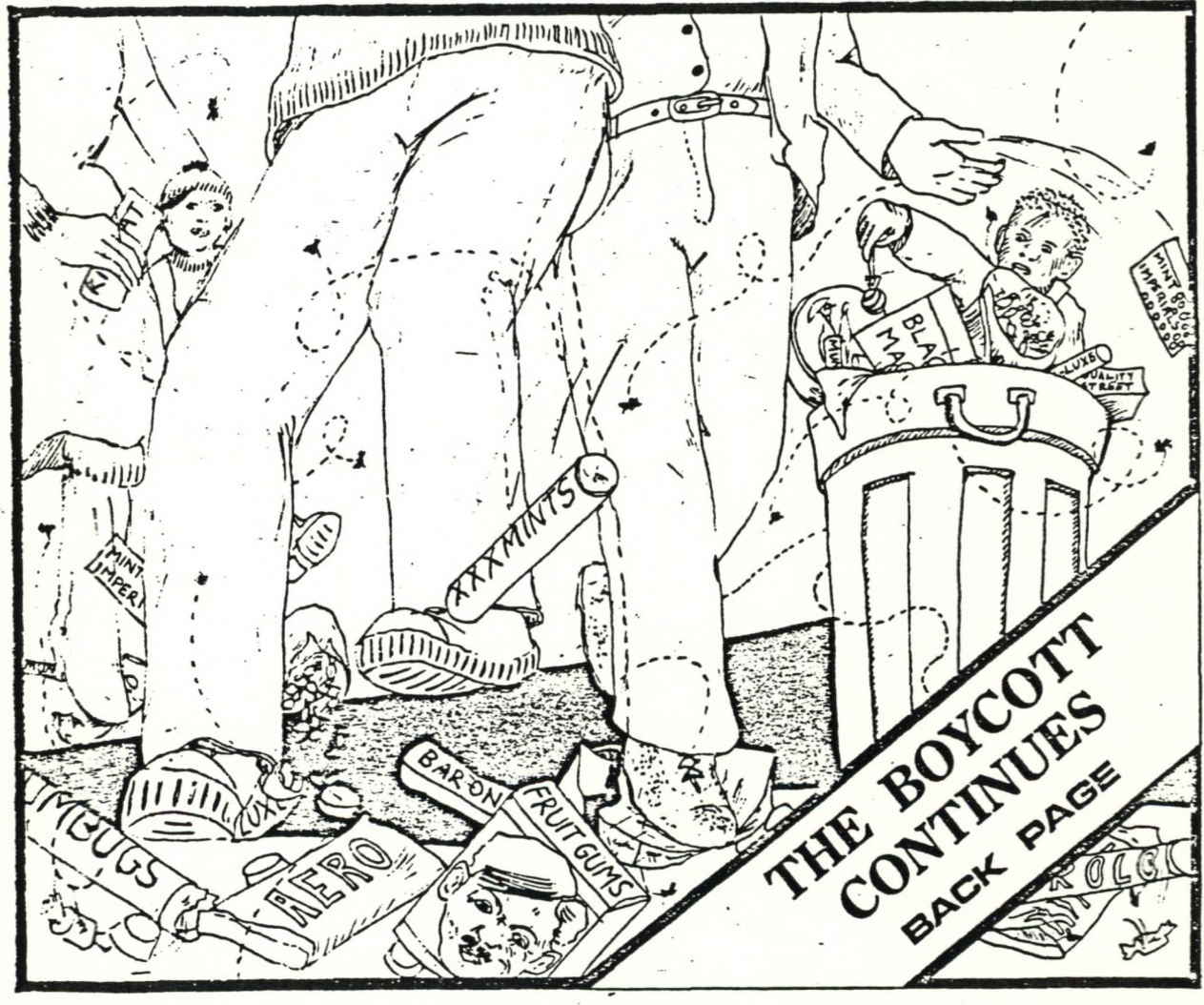
At this very moment the state is busy debating new forms of legislative

control over the independent trade unions. The workers realise that under these conditions of constant attack what is needed is greater unity in the struggle.

It is therefore significant that a meeting of all progressive trade unions representing the working class in South Africa took place in Cape Town on August 8 where it was re-

solved to form a united front against these attacks by the state.

The decisions taken at this gathering are of historic significance to the workers' struggle. THE WORKER fully supports them and calls on all workers to align themselves with the progressive trade union movement in its struggle for a free and democratic South Africa.



# SAAWU: THE MIDWIFE OF CHLORIDE WORKERS

The workers of the East London area were, prior to the advent of S.A.A.W.U., completely untrade unionized. This did not mean that they were in a 'cocoon of silence'. They had a burning desire to make their being felt as was evidenced in the wildcat strikes of 1974. The workers were no longer prepared to suffer in silence. S.A.A.W.U. acted as a midwife to the East London workers who were pregnant with long suppressed grievances.

Chloride, which is a British owned battery manufacturing company, 'crossed the sea' in 1954 to establish a branch in South Africa. This bears out the saying that "capital is always in love with labour". We are sure that the company wanted to make super profits out of cheap black labour in this country.

The company has predominantly black workers the so-called white workers are either artisans or overseers.

In the first years the black workers of the company had no form of representation. Black workers were regarded as commodities which had to produce wealth for the bosses. There were handpicked black section-leaders who paraded as worker representatives. These people had no worker interests at heart, they were just transmitters of the management's commands. This lackey-system remained in force until 1973.

## "Liars committee"

In 1973 what appeared to be a turning point in worker - management relationships took place. The Liaison Committee was introduced. Workers were at first pleased with this development; they thought the days of their drab existence were now over. For the first time in their lives they thought they had their own body. But they were soon to be disillusioned with this system. They discovered that the Liaison System was like 'milking a bull'. None of their grievances were ever taken up but instead workers experienced more and more repression from management.

The workers became completely disgruntled with this 'liars committee' and were no longer prepared to vote it into power. But the management fell back to its handpicking ways. This was the situation until 1980.

S.A.A.W.U. came into being in 1979 with the sole purpose of organizing the toiling masses of our country. We at Chloride looked upon S.A.A.W.U. as the only remedy to our situation.

We began organizing the workers early in May 1980. It was during this time that the strike broke out at Mdantsane Special Organization. This strike led to the union coming into conflict with

the Ciskei authorities. The national organizer of S.A.A.W.U. was detained. This made our organizing at Chloride very difficult as the workers now feared intimidation by the Ciskeian authorities. We had to explain to them that the Ciskeian government was an extension of the South African government and that its task was to prevent the workers from becoming organized. We told them not to be fooled by Sebe's statement that trade unions in the Ciskei were redundant because the Ciskeian government itself was a trade union.

## Education

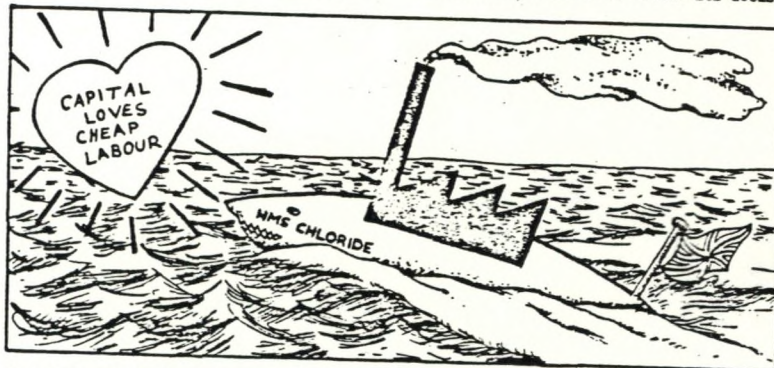
Through education and perseverance we won the support of the workers. Soon we had organized over 80% of the workforce of Chloride.

On the 8th of June 1980, we elected our workers' Committee. The election of the

He even tried to meet the now defunct Committee.

When he did this the workers became restive and threatened a work stoppage. He was given an ultimatum to get off the factory premises by a certain hour. The Liaison Committee was also instructed by the workers to stage a walkout from the meeting. He was left a disgruntled and dejected man and since then he never been seen at Chloride again.

The Liaison Committee now prepared a letter of resignation and the workers prepared a petition demanding such immediate resignation. A fellow worker was found typing this letter and petition during lunch time on the 13th of June, 1980. These were confiscated by management and the said worker was fired the following day. The unity of the workers was now put to the test as this was a naked challenge by management however, having read the mood of the workers, decided to revoke its decision.



Workers' Committee meant the burial of the management-backed Liaison Committee. Our management was informed of the election but at this stage they flatly refused to recognise the Workers' Committee and rejected out of hand the idea of working with it. They maintained that the Liaison Committee was the only viable channel of communication between management and the workers. The irony of this was that members of the Liaison Committee had actively organized for the union and were serving on the Workers' Committee. Management did however open its doors to our officials for negotiations.

While doing this it also attempted many tactics and tricks to tame the workers. A certain Mr L. Khumalo jetted all the way from Johannesburg to prevail upon the workers. He championed as industrial relations consultant but to our dismay we realized that he was pro-unionism but his actions pointed otherwise. We could see that S.A.A.W.U. was not to his liking and he tried to avert workers from joining it.

The members of the union now experienced heavy harassment from management. We were called 'instigators', insubordinate....in fact every type of accusation was levelled against us. But this never deterred us. It was during this time that something cropped up which was to have an important bearing on our future relations with management - this was the dismissal of a fellow worker, Oriya.

## Recognition

The other workers donned tools in solidarity with him. This event compelled the reluctant management to negotiate with the authentic worker representatives. We had lengthy discussions with the management but we unfortunately could not get it to reinstat Oriya.

Between June and November crucial discussions were held between SAAWU and the management of Chloride over the recognition. During th

Continued, page 3

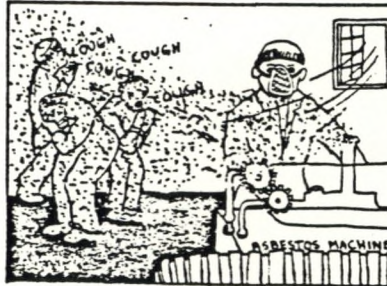
# DUNLOP FACTORY FLOOR REPORT

The workers at Dunlop Flooring began organizing themselves in November last year. This was not an easy task as many workers did not know about trade unions. We also met many problems from the bosses. When the bosses noticed that the workers were organizing themselves they began to victimize union members. They also promised to sack workers who joined the union. Eventually about 60% of the workers became members of the union and a Workers' Committee was elected.

It was while the workers were still organizing themselves that the pension issue cropped up. A draft bill about proposed changes to the pension scheme was published. The bill threatened to prevent workers from withdrawing their pension contributions until after they have retired. This made the workers angry. They gathered in the cloakroom and demanded to see management. They wanted back their pension contributions.

Management refused, saying that the only way people could get back their money was by resigning.

Soon after this the workers were given forms with vague information which they had to sign if they wanted back their contributions. Some workers unsuspectingly signed only to find out that they had signed their own dismissal. As a result, 27 workers were sacked. It was now that the workers realized the importance of a trade union because when they had called on the Liaison Committee to intervene it could not solve the problem.



Again the workers assembled in the cloakroom and called upon the Liaison Committee to resign stating that they wanted to elect their own Workers' Committee. The members of the Liaison Committee agreed to resign but management intervened. It did not want the Liaison Committee to resign.

Certain members of the Liaison Committee were not in favour of the dissolution of the committee, thus giving the committee much less power in the issue of resignation.

It accused some workers of being 'ring-leaders' and of being 'bought' by outside organizations to disrupt work at the company. It also tried to convince workers that the Liaison Committee looked after their interests.

Those workers who were accused of being ring-leaders were subjected to more threats and victimization. Management issued forms to the workers to sign in which the policy of the company was described. It has said that any workers who disagree with it must take his or her belongings and leave Dunlop.

This bullying tactic of management has not however closed the eyes of the workers to the problems at Dunlop. One worker who worked as a press operator said that three of his fingers were completely cut off in 1974. According to him he was only paid £300.00 as compensation. He says that he is afraid to take legal action because he may be dismissed.

In July last year another worker was caught by a dangerous machine. He also lost a finger. He was however paid out very little in compensation.

Another worker said that he was caught by a machine while working and his arm was broken. His fingers were also badly injured which resulted in the failure of those nerves. He was only paid £89.00 and, when he returned to work, he was made a chargehand.

The workers here are also exposed to many dangers. Asbestos which is used at Dunlop on a large scale is the source of diseases such as T.B. Although workers who operate the asbestos machines are masked, the spreading of asbestos filings to other departments is common. No adequate protection is offered to these workers by management and many become contaminated by these filings. The workers are also X-rayed only irregularly - only when one is employed. There are no mid-year or annual examinations to check workers under these conditions.

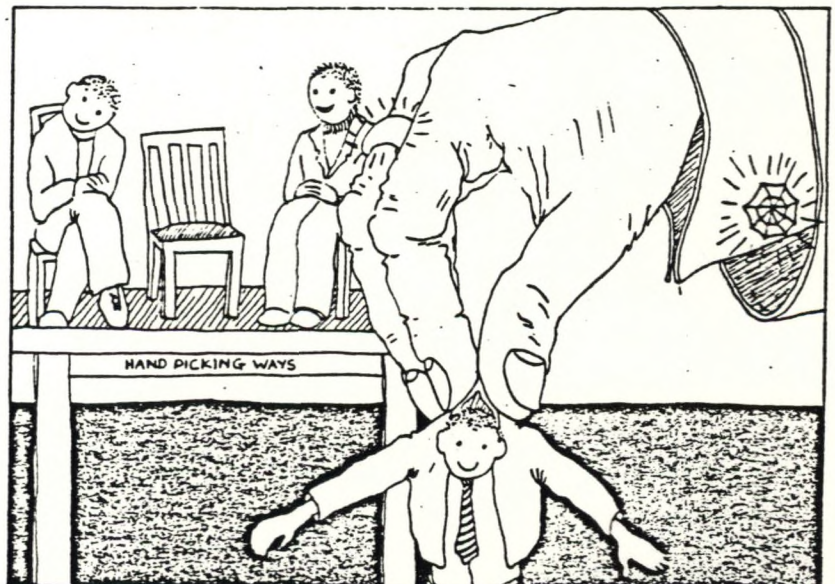
The workers at Dunlop Flooring must fight for recognition of their Workers' Committee. It is only a Workers' Committee genuinely representative of the Workers which can effectively take up their problems.

## CHLORIDE CONT.

time the attitude of management decidedly changed. It seemed to be prepared to deal with any union if it could prove representativeness of the workers. Arrangements were made for an in-company election to ensure that democracy was practised. This was to be monitored by S.A.A.W.U. and the management of Chloride. A referendum was meanwhile held and more than 93% of the workers supported the union. The negotiations with management were wound up and on the 11 November 1980 S.A.A.W.U. was recognised by Chloride as the representative trade union of the workers.

This was a significant victory for worker unity and strength. The in-company elections were held and the old committee was returned en bloc.

We want the workers to know that the signing of the agreement was not an end in itself but a means towards an end. No sooner were we serving on the committee than a lot of problems cropped up. We will discuss these problems and the attempts we made to solve them in the next edition of the newsletter.



The last few months have been marked by a wave of worker struggles in the motor industry. These struggles have involved thousands of workers and have revolved around demands for a minimum wage, the question of union recognition, resistance to proposed government legislation on pensions and supportive worker action. THE WORKER here comments on these struggles and the lessons which the workers can learn from them.

It is claimed that certain unions which have been involved in a number of these worker struggles in the motor industry have increasingly been alienating themselves from the workers for what workers describe as their 'pro-management stance'. The workers say that instead of representing them these unions protect the bosses. The unions are NUMARWU and UARWU - both affiliates of FOSATU.

## REGISTERED

Both unions are registered and have representation on the Industrial Council. Early in 1981 these two unions merged to form one single non-racial union - the largest single union in the trade union movement.

The union has been involved in disputes at Toyota, Sigma and Leyland.

At Toyota a victory of the workers was later turned into a defeat. The workers here went on strike last Oct-



ober over an instruction by management that they complete a certain laid-down quote of work or face dismissal.

The workers said that the quote was 'unreasonable' and refused to accept the instruction. They said: "Management is always trying to catch up production this time of the year and they push the workers too hard."

The union involved here was the Metal and Allied Workers Union - an unregistered union which management refused to recognise. This refusal by the workers to accept the instruction of management led to the

# New wave of shakes the

dismissal of 116 workers. A week after the strike all 116 workers were however back at work.

Management also agreed to recognise the union. Only two months after this victory half the workforce of the company was sacked for going on strike. The strike was caused by the dismissal of eight workers who refused to work overtime. According to management overtime is normally voluntary but the company could insist that workers come to work.

In negotiations with the union, management told it that it would not take back the eight workers but would consider whether to reinstate the 130 workers who stopped work in support of them.

The union rejected this proposal of selective re-employment. Management remained intransigent and the dispute ended with 123 of the workers who were dismissed losing their jobs.

## SIGMA

On 9 April, 1981, 4000 workers at Sigma Motor Co-operation went on strike demanding a wage increase to R2 an hour. They also demanded the recognition of their union NUWARWU.

Management later dismissed the workers for not returning to work. This mass dismissal sparked off worker anger and led to one worker being shot by a motorist. A week later management told the workers that they could apply for re-employment. Over 2000 workers rejected this offer of re-employment and demanded re-instatement.

Management then agreed to meet with the union to discuss the strike. It said after the meeting: "The meeting was definitely not a negotiating meeting. The company would only negotiate with people who represented the majority of the workforce and the union did not." Meanwhile, the company began employing scab workers. Women made up the majority of the applicants.

On 23 April 2000 workers agreed to re-apply for work while talks continued with management. The workers had been given until the 24 April by management to re-apply for their jobs without loss of service benefits.

The following day the strike at Sigma was ended. Management and the union reached an agreement which was expected to lead to wage negotiations



Firestone strike

between them. It said further that it would re-employ most of the workers although some would lose the jobs.

In the course of the strike the workers had elected a committee of 20 to represent them. Management now wanted to victimise this committee by refusing to re-instate 18 members of the committee.

At this stage management and the union were in the process of negotiating. The members of the committee could not, however, take part in talks. The workers then decided to end the negotiations. Over 2000 workers demanded that the Committee of 20 be re-instated before negotiations could begin. This resolution

## RE-INSTATE

was passed by the workers after they discovered that in the talks between management and the union the position of the members of the committee was not discussed.

The workers made their stand clear they recognised the committee members as their rightful representatives. Management had said that they would only enter into talks with the union on working conditions and disputes.

# worker action motor industry



ected the proposed Pension Act

The union had apparently also made an agreement with management that only joint press statements would be released thus it could not be established if the issue of the committee was discussed.

The union was forced to end its negotiations and demand the re-instatement of the 'Committee of 20' as a condition for further talks. Management later issued an unclear statement on the position of those workers.

The union then made the statement that while the union considered the issue fundamental it was not the condition that would delay negotiations or the implementation of the agreement. The talks between management and the union over wages however broke down.

Following this Sigma unilaterally announced new wages for the workers.

## P ELIZABETH

The past four years have seen intensive worker struggles in Port Elizabeth. It has also seen the emergence of a new union MACWUSA as the first opposition to the two well established unions in the area, UAWU and NUMARWU. MACWUSA broke away from the United and Allied Workers Union because of the reactionary role Macwusa alleged the strikes at Ford

towards the end of 1979. Only a few months after its formation it has had to play a leading role in worker struggles in the motor industry. At the beginning of the year a dispute broke out at Firestone over proposed changes to the pension scheme. This led to 1500 workers going on strike. After the

strike 160 workers were dismissed.

MACWUSA decided to take up the dismissal of these workers. The members of the union at Ford and General Motors resolved not to handle Firestone tyres until the workers were re-instated.

On 18 May two workers at Ford were suspended for refusing to handle Firestone products. The day after this there was a walkout by other Ford workers in sympathy with their stand. The following day the workers of General Motors also came out in support of the two dismissed workers. They however also listed some of their own demands.

## NEW PHASE

On 21 May the strikes spread to Firestone. Hundreds of workers failed to report for shifts. By the end of the week over 3500 workers were out on strike.

These strikes of the three manufacturing giants are highly significant. They have heralded in a new phase in worker struggles - direct supportive worker action.

The workers translated the slogan 'A DISMISSAL TO ONE IS A DISMISSAL TO ALL' into concrete struggle.

The workers have learnt from this that their greatest weapon against their bosses is collective working class action.

On 3 June the strike was called off by the union. The workers agreed to return to work a week later. On the Monday that the workers returned there seemed to be some confusion over the terms of settlement. It was then revealed that there had been no written agreement.

If this is true the union must correct it. It would result in worker demoralisation if their great show of worker solidarity ends in a defeat.

## stop-press

SAAWU (East London) wants to inform all its members that it has changed its premises. The offices are now on the first floor of the Union Arcade Building Union St./Terminus St.

SAAWU intends establishing industrial health and safety councils in all its branches to assist workers in fighting for improvements in conditions affecting health and safety in their places of work. Medical and health expertise will be needed. Anyone who is available to help is welcome.

The Unemployed Workers Union was launched on April 25 in order to investigate problems encountered by unemployed workers and to discuss possible solutions with them. Up to now there has been very little progress, but SAAWU intends calling a mass-meeting of unemployed workers to introduce the Union to them then.

THE WORKER AGAIN CALLS ON WORKERS TO SEND LETTERS AND ARTICLES FOR THE NEWS-LETTER. IN OUR NEXT EDITION WE WILL FOCUS ON THE CISKEI AND THE MEANING OF SO-CALLED INDEPENDENCE

# BOSSSES ON THE WARPATH

SINCE SAAWU BEGAN ORGANIZING IN EAST LONDON RECALTRANT BOSSES HAVE FIRED OVER 1 000 WORKERS. DESPITE HARD-WON VICTORIES BY WORKERS AT FACTORIES LIKE CHLORIDE, JOHNSON AND JOHNSON, BUFFALO TIMEERS, K & M AND ARK GARMENT, THERE HAVE BEEN SETBACKS AT THE HANDS OF THESE INTRANSIGENT BOSSES.

THE WORKER HERE TRACES THESE STRUGGLES

SAAWU began organizing workers in the East London area early in 1980. Its successes have been overwhelming. SAAWU has organized workers in well over 30 industries and has a membership here of over 15000. But the bosses have tried everything to stop this growth in worker organization. The state has also repeatedly come to their assistance but in spite of mass dismissals, victimisation and detentions the determination of the workers to become organized has grown increasingly stronger.

We shall now focus BRIEFLY on some of the struggles which show management's opposition to this growth.

MDANTSANE SPECIAL ORGANIZATION.  
This was the first company organized by SAAWU. MSO employed more than 700 workers. SAAWU gained more than 80% membership in this company. The company refused, however, to recognise the Workers' Committee which was democratically elected. On 22 October, 1980, the workers went on strike over this refusal of management to recognise the Workers' Committee.

SATV.  
Here SAAWU had 73% membership. The union submitted the democratically elected Workers' Committee to management. Management rejected the Workers' Committee. It also dismissed three workers who had been organizing the workers in the company. Later a further 11 workers were dismissed following a dispute between the management and the workers over the pension criteria for workers. The management at SATV have made their stand clear. They will obstruct all attempts by workers to become organized. They believe they can do this by dismissals and intimidation.

#### NCI.

SAAWU had a membership here of over 97%. The Workers' Committee was then submitted to management. Management refused to recognise it and

instead tried to impose a Works Committee on the workers. The workers however saw the Works Committee as puppets and management's stooges. The workers in the company came out in support of those workers and the management then fired the members of the Workers' Committee. The workers in the company came out in support of those workers and staged a sit-in. Management called the police and 128 workers were arrested. They were charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act and later found guilty as charged. Each worker was fined R20. Immediately an appeal was lodged. On 27 March, 1981, the workers at NCI won the appeal.

Management, however, still refuses to re-instate the workers.

#### RAYLITE BATTERIES.

The union had a membership here of about 70%. When the Workers' Committee was submitted to management they, however, refused to recognise it. On 6 August, 1980, the workers protested against the state Liaison Committee system. The management persisted in its refusal to recognise the Workers' Committee. It told the workers that if they were not prepared to accept this decision they could leave the company. The workers refused to go back to work. Shortly after this they were baton-charged by the police while still on the company premises.

Two union officials, T. Gqweta and S. Njikelana were later arrested by the Cambridge Police on their way back from negotiations with the management. Mr. T. Gqweta was later charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act, but the charge was dropped.

The company refused to re-instate the workers. Later four members of the Workers' Committee were arrested and also charged under the Riotous Assemblies Act.

#### BORDER BOXES.

The democratically elected Workers' Committee was here also submitted to management. Management however refused to recognise the committee. The workers went on strike after management dismissed the chairman of the Workers' Committee. All the workers were then dismissed.

The next day many of the workers returned to work without any of their demands being met.

#### TOTEM DESIGN.

The workers here were unorganized

before they joined SAAWU. When the democratically elected Workers' Committee was submitted to management they refused to recognise it. The reasons were that they were members of the Industrial Council.

On the 12th of February about 85 workers staged a one-day strike in protest against proposed legislation on pensions. The following day the workers were suspended for a week but later re-instated.

#### EAST LONDON FURNITURE INDUSTRIES.

The management here tried to impose a parallel furniture union on the workers. The workers rejected this union and submitted their own democratically elected Workers' Committee to management. Management refused to deal with this committee when presented management with the grievances of the workers.

The workers were dissatisfied with this and decided to down tools. When they returned to work the following day they were told by management that they were all dismissed.

#### WERNER BROTHERS.

Management here threatened to move the firm to another place when the workers found out that the workers had joined the union. This happened after the workers had submitted the Workers' Committee to management. The workers feared that management would carry out its threat and did not press their demand for recognition of the Workers' Committee.

#### SIGN AND PLASTIC (TRACE INDUSTRIES)

When the workers here submitted the democratically elected Workers' Committee to management, it responded by dismissing the workers who were members of the union after making pretences of preparedness to cooperate with SAAWU.

#### TURNER BROTHERS.

After having mobilised the workers here the union submitted the Workers' Committee to management. Management refused, however, to recognise the Workers' Committee.

A dispute arose when three workers were dismissed by management. The other workers decided to walk out in support of the dismissed workers. Management then dismissed all the workers. Some workers later refused to work without any settlement of the dispute.

Continued on page 7

# Bosses on warpath

## DORBYL.

When the workers here submitted the Workers' Committee to management, they claimed that they could not recognise it because they, an engineering industry, were bound by an industrial agreement.

## DISTILLERS CO-OPERATION.

The management here wants to impose a parallel union on the workers. At present there is a lot of bickering between Saavu members and those of the Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers Union though Saavu enjoys majority support here.

It therefore refused to recognise the Workers' Committee which was submitted to it.

## A. J. NORTH.

When the Workers' Committee was submitted to management the company asked for three months before it considered recognising it. It wanted to see if SAAWU had been 'intimidating' workers to join the union. It also said that its Works Committee would in the mean time still remain in operation.

In May the workers staged a sit-down when management would not discuss the dismissal of a worker with the Works Committee. When talks did finally take place two Committee members were sacked by management for allegedly 'instigating' the sit-down. The entire workforce then walked off the factory premises in support of these workers. They were fired by management on May 21. The union is considering legal action against what it claims has been victimisation of workers.

## WEAVERS HOTEL.

The management here was furnished with the validated membership of the union. The management then agreed that the workers could elect a Workers' Committee but before this took place it dismissed the workers who were members of the union. It has threatened to dismiss any other workers who join the union.

## HOOVER LIMITED.

Management here said that it would recognise the union if it was truly representative of the workers. The union furnished it with a validated membership and also submitted the Workers' Committee. Management agreed to regard the Committee as an interim committee until it recognised the union.



The management later refuted this relationship by retrenching workers without consulting the Workers' Committee. It has warned the workers to expect further lay-offs or retrenchments.

## EVERITE LIMITED.

Management here was furnished with the validated membership of the union. The Workers' Committee was also submitted to it. It seemed to be moving in the direction of recognising the Workers' Committee. Management then, without warning, dismissed two workers who they said were 'instigators'. The workers in the company came out in support of these workers. Management then dismissed all the workers in the company and replaced them with scab labour.

It is clear from all this that management has been deliberately obstructin the workers in their attempts to organize themselves. This has, however not stopped the workers from joining the union. It has instead shown workers that the only interest of the bosses is profit even if this means starving workers. To make these big profits the bosses must prevent the workers from becoming organized.

The union has declared this year to be the year of WORKER ACTION AND UNITY.

# Workers letters

## comrades

We were dismissed by the management of B.E.B. when we presented our grievances to them. What puzzled us was that although the grievances presented to the management were from all the workers, the management wanted to know who had written them. It even threatened to sack the members of the Liaison Committee we had sent to it if it did not reveal the names of the persons who had drawn up the list of grievances.

B.E.B. did not have a union. Management wanted to force a parallel Tucsa union, the Furniture and Allied Workers Association on us. We however realised that this union was only for our employer. We already had membership cards of this union, but we gave them back to our employer when we saw that this union was of no use to us. We then joined S.A.A.W.U. because it was a union FOR workers.

Fellow workers the history of harassment of workers by management is long. This happened to us in November 1930. B.E.B. had a workforce of about 200 which produced goods worth about R32 622 per day. This is not including the lounging department, which alone produced goods worth R21 261 per day.

The workers however were only given R40.00 which with deductions, works out to R37.00 a week. Workers, there is much one can say about workers under the yoke of exploitation.

Fellow workers let us unite in the name of S.A.A.W.U. Let us unite under the yoke of exploitation and oppression. Our strength lies in the unity!

POWER TO THE WORKERS!





# National and international support for W-R workers

## PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN ALLIANCE

It is now six months since the 500 workers at Wilsons were unfairly dismissed. Management has remained intransigent and refuses to reinstate the workers. Instead it has been collaborating with the authorities in an attempt to break the organization of the workers.

The state has not been slow to respond. It has shown again that its task is to protect the interests of the bosses and to disorganize the workers. Its hirelings, the Ciskei Security Police, have conducted a campaign of victimization and intimidation against the workers. They detained over fifty workers from Wilsons including almost the whole of the workers committee. These workers have been released and court cases are pending.

The workers of East London have come out in strong support of the unfairly dismissed Wilson workers. In a mass meeting they resolved:

- boycott all products manufactured by Wilson Rowntree as well as decline to handle any raw materials delivered to Wilsons
- approach their various unions to support the Wilson workers by whatever means possible
- approach their various managements and request them to write to the management of Wilsons stating the worker's deploration of Wilsons high-handed action. They also demand that Wilson's management review its decision and reinstate all the workers unconditionally

S.A.A.W.U. put out a call to all progressive organizations to support the struggle of the workers at Wilsons. It has appealed to them to form **BOYCOTT COMMITTEES** in their

areas to co-ordinate the boycott of all Wilsons products. The call of the union for national solidarity and support for the workers of Wilsons has received a massive response from workers, students and community organizations in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban and elsewhere.

The struggle of the workers at Wilsons is receiving international attention. Trade unions, international organizations and even individuals from overseas have come out in support of the Wilson workers. We list here some of these international support groups:

- The I.U.F., a federation of trade unions representing millions of workers sent a telegram to the parent company in England protesting against the dismissals and demanding that they intervene and

unconditionally reinstate all the workers.

- The Solidarity Committee (Canada) sent a telegram to the union condemning the attacks on the workers. They say that they will continue to mobilize the support of Canadian workers.
- A letter was sent to Amnesty International by the Luxemburg trade unions urging intervention against the detention of the workers.
- The Transport and General Workers Union sent a letter to Barron, Chairman of Rowntree Mackintosh, expressing their concern over the 500 workers who were dismissed. They say that these dismissals are seen by them as an unacceptable threat to black workers in South Africa. They call for the immediate reinstatement of the workers and full recognition of the union.
- A letter was sent to the South African Government by members of the Union ABVA-

KABO in Rotterdam expressing their concern over the detention of workers. They call upon the government to immediately release the workers.

- The Waterside Workers of Australia sent a telegram to the Ciskeian government appealing for the release of the workers detained
- The Provincial Federation of Worker's Unions of Piacenza (Italy) also sent a letter urging that the workers be released or charged.
- A number of letters have also been sent by overseas sympathisers appealing for the release or indictment of the workers detained.

In the face of all this national and international support the management of Wilson Rowntree still remains intransigent. This can only be explained by its fear of a genuinely representative Workers' Committee at Wilsons. Management would rather have its Sweet Workers' Union than a Workers' Committee democratically elected by the workers themselves. It knows that its union will not demand high wages, better working conditions and fair Labour relations.

The workers at Wilsons have resolved to remain out for as long as management remains intransigent. They demand the unconditional reinstatement of all workers and the recognition of their Workers' Committee. They demand also that all the workers who have been detained are immediately released. They know that they have the support of the whole Working class in South Africa of all progressive organizations and of the international workers organizations.



**XXX**  
**HOT AERO**  
 MUMBO JUMBO  
**HUMBUG**  
**SMARTY**  
 CRAZY POPS  
**MINT IMPERIALISTS**  
**JOLLY ROT**

NO, SWEET TA

**Collection Number: AK2117**

**DELMAS TREASON TRIAL 1985 - 1989**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* **Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:* **Johannesburg**

**©2012**

***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 the collection records 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 a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.