

BULLETIN OF THE
TRANSVAAL
COMMITTEE
OF THE
CONGRESS OF
THE PEOPLE

**FORWARD TO
FREEDOM**

**WE MARCH TO
KLIPTOWN**

Its the last lap now.
25th, when the Congress of
Kliptown.

We must put all our
energy and drive into this
last lap to make the Con-
gress of the People the
success we want it to be.

**WHIP UP
THE
PEOPLES'
FEELINGS**

You, brother and
sister volunteers,
and your Congress
branches, must
canvas, canvas and canvas
until everyone in your area
becomes not only aware but
enthusiastic about the
C.O.P. Whip up the peoples'
feelings at public meetings,

IT IS NOW



TO THE CONGRESS
OF THE PEOPLE
RALLY! RALLY!

May 17th, 1955.

real monster ones!

Your delegates have
been chosen by now - or
haven't they? If not,
no time must be lost in
getting this job done.
Of course, there is also
the little matter of
finding the travelling
and food expenses for
your delegates. If the
support of the people has
been won, they will pay
up with a smile. They
did so at the time of the

Defiance Campaign, if you will remember.

RISK And now a special
UNPOPU- word to volunteers
LARITY on the Rand. Dele-
gates from the Rand

will not be put to much ex-
pense in travelling to Klip-
town. It is the clear duty
of Rand volunteers to co-
llect money in an organised
fashion to pay for the
running expenses of the
C.O.P. Money must be sent

in from now on to the C.O.P.
Provincial Committee at Box
11045, Johannesburg. Risk
making yourself a little un-
popular by asking for money
right, left and centre!

There is a request to be
made to all Congress Branch
committees. In view of the
little time left to us,
please form a special sub-
committee of three people to
deal with C.O.P. matters
exclusively. These three
must make C.O.P. their baby.
They must nurse this baby
till it grows into a giant,
who will blaze the way to
freedom in our lifetime!

HISTORICAL DAYS
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JUNE 25TH and 26TH

THE AREAS IN ACTION

SCPHIA-
TOWN The whole area
has been divi-
ded into blocks which
are being canvassed to
elect delegates to
C.O.P. and collect
money. They are
arranging a big public
meeting to endorse the
candidates, as well as
other public meetings.

MOROKA,
JABAVU
AND
ALEX. Have been divi-
ded into blocks
for canvassing.

In each of these areas
the A.N.C. Branch has

appointed the three people
to ~~use~~ use C.O.P. in their area.

FORDS-
BURG,
NEW-
LANDS,
AND
OPHIR-
TON House to house can-
vassing has been
started, and meet-
ings are being
called at which dele-
gates will be elec-
ted and demands
brought in.

BELLE-
VUE;
HILL-
BROW
AND
YOUTH A house to house
canvas in these areas
has been started,
and a public meeting
is being arranged.
Money collected.

This is all good news, and we congratulate those branches who are working so hard.

But we are sure there must be many more centres where work is being done that we have not heard about, and many others again where very little is being done.

So we say - if you are organising for the CWP let us know what you are doing and how we can help you.

If you are not doing work, START NOW! What we want is - DEMANDS! DELEGATES! MONEY!

On the back page of this bulletin you will find a report form. Fill it in and let us have it please!

CONFERENCES

all over the place.

Special conferences to elect delegates were held over this last week-end at Benoni, Sophiatown and Moroka.

The Transvaal Indian Youth Congress held its annual Conference at the same time.

Reports of all these conferences will be featured in the next issue of the bulletin.



at the

TRADES HALL

OF COURSE!

WHERE ARE THE TRADE UNIONS?



Preparations for the holding of the Congress of the People must be made in our factories too.

Apart from getting Trade Unions to sponsor the Congress, it seems that no serious attempts have been made to activise these trade unions. Trade Union journals have not carried articles on the Congress of the People. No insistence has been made that workers' demands should be included in the Freedom Charter.

LINK UP WITH DAY TO DAY ISSUES It is essential to activise Trade Unions in the preparations for the Congress of the People. It is the duty of progressive Trade Unionists to do all they can to see that this is done. The Congress of the People must be linked up with the day to day issues which Trade Unionists are constantly taking up on behalf of their members. Union organisers must get their members to discuss and frame the demands which the working people want incorporated in the Freedom Charter. Discussions

must be provoked during the tea breaks, lunch hours, in buses and trains when going to and from work and at Union meetings.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES Shop stewards, committed members, Union officials and factory leaders should be workers' delegates. These delegates will talk of the hardships and struggles of the working people. The workers' demands must be put forward by these delegates for incorporation in the Freedom Charter.

IF YOUR TRADE UNION HAS NOT ALREADY DONE THESE THINGS, ASK YOUR TRADE UNION ORGANISER TO ARRANGE A MEETING AT YOUR FACTORY WHERE DELEGATES CAN BE ELECTED, AND DEMANDS AND MONEY COLLECTED. OR GET YOUR SHOP STEWARD TO DO THIS - FAILING THAT, DO IT YOURSELF! CALL THE WORKERS TOGETHER AT LUNCH TIME, SPEAK TO THEM ABOUT C.O.P., ELECT YOUR DELEGATES AND ASK THE WORKERS WHAT DEMANDS THEY WANT IN THE FREEDOM CHARTER - NOT FORGETTING YOUR OWN. AND PASS THE HAT ROUND FOR MONEY - YOU'LL GET IT!

COME ON ALL YE GOOD WORKERS!

With less than 6 weeks to go before the 25th June, it is now our urgent task to discuss final preparations for the great day in the Transvaal.

We must discuss how much work has already been done, how much more remains to be done, how many delegates we have, and the thousand and one other details which will help to make this Congress the success it can and must be.

For this reason the Provincial Committee has called a special preparatory conference, to be held at the

TRADES HALL,
KERK ST.,

on

SATURDAY, MAY 21ST

at 1 P.M.

PLEASE SEE THAT YOUR
BRANCH IS REPRESENTED
AT THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference is open to all active Congress workers, so come along in your thousands and help to make this a big success. WE NEED YOUR IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS? AND REPORTS ON WHAT THE PEOPLE YOU KNOW ARE SAYING AND DOING ABOUT THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE.

"WE LUST FOR A SQUARE DEAL"

Here is a letter from a friend in Pretoria, one of many from all parts of the country:-

"Temperatures are running very high at the thought of these oppressive laws people are to undergo... Yet people are all civilised regardless of colour or creed.... We cant stand the oppression any longer, as we lust for a square deal. Let the charter express the demands of us :il that we seek for the country, people and children as a whole. Onward together!"



CALLING ALL RESIDENTS

OF LADY SELBORNE

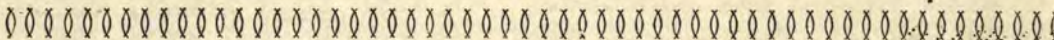
A meeting has been arranged to take place in Pretoria on Sunday, May 22nd to discuss the Congress of the people. It will be held at 10 A.M.

At this meeting delegates will be elected, and demands brought in.

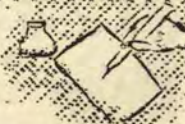
In order to make the meeting a success you, people of Pretoria, must get about among your fellow residents, talking to them about the Congress and inviting them to come along to the meeting on Sunday 22nd.

There will be prominent speakers from all over the Rand to tell them about the support which the Congress is getting in other areas, and help plan the campaign in Pretoria.

REMEMBER THE TIME AND PLACE!
SUNDAY 22ND MAY, MOFFAT SQUARE,
LADY SELBORNE
AT 10 A.M.



TO YOUR FRIENDS ON THE FARMIS



Many of you must have relatives or friends in the country in places where little is known about our great Congress

town or village about it

Ask them to send as many delegates as they can, and send in their demands. They should also collect money - at least enough to pay for their delegates.

Write to these people, or send them a copy of a letter which you can get from head office. Tell them about the Congress and ask them to talk to other people in the

And let us know which areas you have covered.

The following poem, written by John Alwyn the Worcester peoples' leader, who was imprisoned this week for "statutory Communism", was sent shortly before he was taken to serve his eighteen months' sentence:-

FROM MY HEART

From the depths of great oppression,
I write to you from my heart.
White and Black, listen!
The voice of the Congress of the People
must be heard.

The future of our land looks black.
The employer is robbed of his labour;
The African taken away from his family,
By heartless legislation.

What lies at the end of the road?
Must it be blood and tears,
According to our history?
The call of the Congress of the People
spells a warning:

Strife can be avoided
Only when White and Black
Work together in our land,
in harmony.

South Africa, my South Africa,
You have a place to live,
And food for all our people.

Non-Europeans, you must not judge
As so many white men judge,
But hand in hand work together,
With all who stand for equality.

Long live freedom in South Africa!

(Translated from Afrikaans).



A Branch Visitor will CALL

Arrangements are being made to send somebody from head office to each of the branches of the 4 sponsoring Congress organisations, to help them plan their work in the best way. So when your visitor comes to your branch meeting, tell him what your difficulties are and let him help you to overcome them.

But don't wait for the Committee to send somebody along to push you into doing work! The people are with us in our demands for Freedom in our Lifetime. All we have to do is go to them and tell them how to go about achieving it in an organised way.

Use your initiative, and get out to the people around you. But let us know what you are doing. Here is a form you can fill in, and send to this committee.

NO. OF PEOPLE CANVASSED.....

NO. OF BLOCK MEETINGS HELD.....

NO. OF DELEGATES ELECTED.....

MONEY COLLECTED.....

DEMANDS COLLECTED.....

.....

CONTACT WITH COUNTRY AREAS:.....
(GIVE NAMES OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES)

Bewysstuk No.
Gekry by.....
Deur.....
Te.....
Datum.....
Verwysings No.

A. M. 30 ①
10/10/55

BULLETIN OF THE
TRANSVAAL CONSUL-
TATIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE A.N.C.
T.I.C. S.A.C.F.C.
AND C.O.D.

YOUR COPY
This bulletin will be published every month, and if you want to make sure of getting your copy regularly, send 1/- to the Transvaal Consultative Committee, c/o 37 West St., Johannesburg. This will entitle you to 6 copies of the Bulletin by post.



12th October, 1955.

No. 1

FOR A BETTER LIFE

The Freedom Charter is a live document - the testimony of the people of South Africa to be free. It is a fighting document - the charter of the struggle for freedom. It embraces and co-ordinates all the struggles of the people. Springing from the demands of the people, it contains their deepest aspirations; is the picture of the South Africa they want. No single aspect of the struggle for freedom has been left out. Every campaign waged by the people against oppression and exploitation has its place in the Charter. And for the Charter to have meaning, it must be related to the day-to-day struggles of the people.

THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT!

This section of the Charter brings to mind the grim housing conditions under which we live - the shantytowns of Morka, Jabavu, etc., the slums of Vrededorp, District Six, Tsolo, Cato Manor, etc; the blind hovels on the farms and the shacks along railway lines -- the breeding spots for disease, crime and despair.

"Slums shall be demolished, and new suburbs built where all have transport roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres;"

These words of the Charter tell of the homelessness of most of the people; of the crowded conditions;

of people living like animals on mountain slopes; of forced removals from their homes on to bare veld; of fraudulent schemes like the "site-and-service"; of removals of people from their lands because of their colour.

"All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed, and to bring up their families in comfort and security;"

"Unused housing space shall be made available to the people;"

The system under which people are forced by Government and Municipal laws to live surrounded by barbed wire; under which people are not permitted to visit relatives or friends without a permit; is a criminal injustice against human dignity.

"Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished and laws which break up families shall be repealed."

Insecurity haunts the lives of most of our people, particularly the non-Europeans. Rising rents, soaring food prices, unemployment... these things make life one long struggle for existence. The future is uncertain; police break into homes; children are torn away from their parents; the people work hard for little pay and on the farms,

For a Better Life: (Contd.)

labourers have been beaten to death by cruel farmers. The position of the old and the disabled is pitiful. Old-age pensions are a mockery, easily withdrawn at the whim of a government official. The disabled are reduced to begging. Ours are the knock-kneed, pot-bellied, hungry children who perish in the squalor and poverty. The land grows enough food to feed everyone; the people work - but they starve.

"Rent and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry!"

"The aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;"

Medical services are inadequate. There are far too few hospitals and clinics. In the country areas there is often no medical assistance of any kind for miles and miles. Expectant mothers stand for hours waiting to be attended to; patients are discharged before their time to make room for others; patients sleep on floors because of the shortage of beds.

"Free Medical Care and Hospitalisation shall be provided for all with special care for mothers and young children!"

Rest leisure and recreation are denied the majority of the people. Parks and playing fields are mostly for Europeans only. Social centres are few, and sport is almost exclusively the right of Europeans. Ours are the children who roam the streets for nothing better to do - for the absence of youth clubs and recreational centres.

"Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all!"

All these are empty declarations if they remain on paper. The message of struggle must be taken to the people; the people must know of the awakening of which they are part; the people must see themselves in the Charter, and in the Charter must strive to realise their wishes. The people are strong. The people are invincible. The Charter must be taken to everyone. It must be made known. A million signatures must be collected before June 26th, 1956.

LONG LIVE THE FREEDOM CHARTER!

MEETING WEEK

07-22 OCTOBER

We, the active workers in the Congress movement, have the sacred duty of bringing the Charter to life. We can do this by getting every man and woman to support it, and to show their support by endorsing it. For this purpose, apart from taking the Charter from house to house, large and small meetings must be held at every possible opportunity.

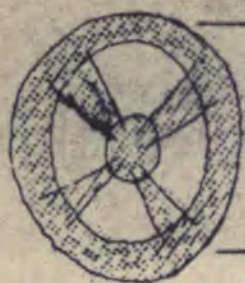
You are asked to make the week 17TH TO 22ND OCTOBER "Meeting Week", and to hold as many meetings as possible during that week. Hold meetings in public squares, in halls, in private houses, at lunch hour with your fellow-workers - at every possible opportunity talk to people about the Charter, and ask them to show their support by endorsing it.

THERE IS NOT MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE THE 17TH. CONGRESS BRANCHES, CALL YOUR MEMBERS TOGETHER IMMEDIATELY AND SEE WHAT PUBLIC MEETINGS YOUR BRANCH CAN ARRANGE DURING THAT WEEK!

SIGN NOW!

FREEDOM CHARTER





Editorial

The Congress of the People, the most representative gathering of South African people ever held in this country, is over - and June 25th and 26th will go down in our history as the time when people of all races - African, White, Coloured and Indian - came together to draw up a Freedom Charter - a Charter for a peaceful and happy life for all South Africans.

But, as has been pointed out in Mr. Hutchinson's leading article, the Charter without the support of the people of South Africa remains nothing but a string of beautiful words.

For this reason the Consultative Committee of the A.N.C., T.I.C. C.O.D. & S.A.C.P. decided to launch a campaign for 1 million signatures in support of the Charter.

OUR PRESENT TASK. And this is our present task - to speak to our workmates, neighbours and friends about the Charter, and to get them to show their support for it by signing it.

STRENGTHEN OUR CONGRESSES This is the way to strengthen our Congresses - whichever one we belong to - whether it be the African National Congress, the Transvaal Indian Congress, the Congress of Democrats or the S.A. Coloured Peoples' Organisation. We must encourage people not merely to sign the Charter, but to join their Congress and become active members of it.

Every struggle of the people - whether it be against the Bantu Education Act, the Senate Bill, the Population Registration Bill, demands for better working conditions - all these things have their place in the Charter.

NOT A NEW ORGANISATION. This is not a new organisation, but a culmination of All the demands of All the organisations making up the Congress Movement, and all our grievances, into ONE DEMAND - the demand for the implementation of the FREEDOM CHARTER!

COPIES for YOU and
YOUR BRANCH

Copies of the Freedom Charter are available from all Congress Branches, or from 37 West Street, Johannesburg.

The price is £1 per thousand to branches, and 1d per copy to individuals.

They cost money to print, and unless YOU provide it we have no means of getting it!.

TRANSVAAL'S
TARGET



Every member of the four Congresses - A.N.C., T.I.C., S.A.C.P.O. and C.O.D. - must collect 50 SIGNATURES for the Charter by DECEMBER 31st. It can and must be done.

The target for the Transvaal is 100,000 by the 1st January, as part of the final target of 1 million by June 1956.

④

AM 30.

The Case of
**JOHN
ALWYN**

The Transvaal Consultative Committee has added its strongest protest against the savage sentence of 18 months imprisonment imposed on the Congress leader, John Alwyn.

HIS
"CRIME"

Alwyn's "crime" was to advocate the defiance of unjust laws during the Defiance Campaign of 1952. For such "statutory" communist, Congress leaders in other areas were given suspended sentences, at the time.

With Alwyn however, the Department of Justice did not see fit to prosecute for 2 years, and when it finally did, the Magistrate treated him with the utmost harshness.

The injustice John Alwyn has suffered will not be forgotten by the people. It adds another bitter pill to the many which they are not prepared to stomach.



**FORWARD
TO
FREEDOM**

BULLETIN OF THE
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SULTATIVE
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THE A.N.C.,
T.I.C.,
S.A.C.P.O.
AND C.O.D.

**ANSWER THIS
QUIZ!**

How many sections is
the Freedom Charter
divided into?

What are the sect-
ions?

In order to talk to
people about it, we
must know it our-
selves.

MEMORISE IT!

No. 2

24th November, 1955

1,000,000 SIGNATURES FOR THE CHARTER = 1,000,000 CONGRESS SUPPORTERS

The Freedom Charter was adop-
ted by the Congress of the People
at Kliptown on June 26th, 1955.
It was unanimously acclaimed by
that great assembly as voicing
the just demands of the people of
South Africa for Land, Liberty
and Peace.

The Joint Executives of the
four Congresses have endorsed the
Freedom Charter. So have the
Transvaal A.N.C., at their
Conference; SACTU, and the Womens'
League.

**IT'S OUR
ALTERNA-
TIVE**

The National Congress
Consultative Committee
has launched a drive for
one million signatures for the
Freedom Charter. This campaign
is not a separate campaign. It
is the Congress answer to
apartheid oppression. When we
fight an issue we put forward
the Freedom Charter as our
alternative.

All Congress branches
should, therefore, immediately
undertake the following:-

- 1) Obtain copies of the Charter in all the languages of the people. Every Congressman should have a Freedom Charter in his house.
- 2) Read the Freedom Charter at Branch meetings.
- 3) Request speakers and propaganda material from the Provincial Congress Consultative Committee.
- 4) Learn the contents of the Freedom Charter so as to be able to repeat any section of it as the occasion demands.
- 5) Discuss the Freedom Charter on every possible occasion.
- 6) Translate the Charter into local terms. For example, in Evaton the A.N.C. must rally and lead the people in the bus boycott by showing them the prospects which the Freedom Charter opens to them. The Indian Congress must fight the Group Areas Act by rallying support for the ideals of the Freedom Charter. Coloured people must defend their rights and liberties - as they are set out in the Freedom Charter. The Congress of Democrats must reply to the United Party's bankrupt policy with the Freedom Charter.

(contd. Page 2)

1,000,000 Signatures for the Charter - 1,000,000 Congress Supporters
(contd. from Page 1)

But above all else, the completeness and integrity of the Freedom Charter must be translated into the daily Congress activities. Each particular daily task, and every small event, must be put into its true perspective in the liberatory struggle by conscious reference to the terms of the Freedom Charter. This will train us to be integrated in our outlook, consistent and courageous in our work, and will prevent isolationism.

- 7) Begin explaining the Charter to the people in the area - house by house, - block by block.
- 8) Win signatures for the Charter. Ask people to indicate their approval by signing the Freedom Charter. This of course does not make them members of Congress; but it does make them Congress supporters. These are the people who must be persuaded of the necessity of joining the Congress movement and so helping in the realisation of the Freedom Charter.
- 9) Return full signature forms to the office and ask for more forms.

The Transvaal has been allocated the task of collecting 100,000 signatures by the New Year. We have collected 2,000 already. That means 98,000 left - and 40 days to get them!

We need 2,500 signatures a day. Each Congressman must, therefore, win 10 signatures EVERY day of the week and 20 on SUNDAY. We can, and must, reach our target.

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!
LONG LIVE THE FREEDOM CHARTER!
FREEDOM IN OUR LIFETIME!

NEWS FLASHES

FROM THE BRANCHES

Last weekend the first meeting of the Regional Committee was held, and many Congress Branches were represented. SACPO and COD were, unfortunately, not very well represented and will have to do better at the next meeting!

It was decided to set up a Regional committee with 1 representative from each branch, and there were many useful suggestions, particularly about the importance of holding lectures and discussions on the Freedom Charter, to enable Congress members to learn to understand it and be able to explain it to others.

Please see that your Branch has a representative at the next meeting of the Committee!

S.A.C.T.U. Members and organisers are busy collecting signatures for the Charter at factories.

A.N.C.: Alexandra is going full steam ahead with the signature campaign. The area has been divided into blocks, and ANC members are busy canvassing for signatures from house to house.

Germiston has 1,000 signatures. Natalspruit has about 300. Many branches have been visited by members of the Co-ordinating Committee, and are busy planning their drive for signatures.

T.I.Y.C. Is offering a free trip to Cape Town for the first person to collect 1,000 signatures.

S.A.C.P.O.: Had a collection drive and got hundreds of signatures.

C.O.D.: Hillbrow has had 2 tables at busy street corners, and Bellevue 1. Hundreds of people signed.

There will be a national day for collecting signatures in the first week of December.



-3-
SECTION 6...

"ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS"

At the United Nations today, the representatives of the Governments of the whole world are appealing to the Government of South Africa to restore to the people their legitimate human rights.

For that matter, the vast majority of the people in South Africa have never enjoyed their full rights - the fundamental democratic right to vote for the people who govern them has always been denied to the majority of South Africa's population.

And today, even that sham of democratic government is in danger of being lost. The new, enlarged Senate means that the Nationalists have a completely free hand in Parliament, and what opposition there is will become completely ineffective. By a joint sitting of the House of Assembly and the Senate, the Nationalist Party will have an overwhelming majority and can introduce whatever devilish legislation they may choose to.

The Law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to publish, to preach, to worship
Our people cannot organise themselves so that they can speak with one voice against injustice and declare what it is they desire for themselves and their children lest the government let loose amongst them the terror of armed police. The Government has tried by the most ruthless means to prevent the people from voicing their opinion and organising to improve their conditions. Over the past 3 years scores of our leaders have been "banned" - banned from being members of and participating in the activities of a formidably long list of organisations.

Trade Union secretaries have been ordered by the Government to leave their jobs, their livelihood. People have been banished to isolated parts of

the country, and forbidden to move out of those areas. Public meetings have been swooped on by members of the C.I.D. and on several occasions armed police, and the names and addresses of all people present taken - together, in many cases, with personal property.

Over the past few years several newspapers - The Guardian, The Clarion, Advance and several others - have been banned.

.... and to educate their children.
The right of our children to education has never been recognised by those who govern our country. Our children are either condemned to ignorance and poverty, or to the poison of Bantu Education, which has been devised to teach African children how to become willing slaves. And yet Education is compulsory and free for all European children.

(contd. next page)

OUR WOMEN ON THE MARCH

October 27th was another landmark in South African history. For the first time, women of all races filled the arena at Union Buildings, Pretoria - some in tribal costume, some in modern clothes, - but all with one idea - **TO WIN FREEDOM IN OUR LIFETIME!**

They were hindered in every possible way - refused permission for the special buses which were to take them to Union Buildings; refused permission to see the Cabinet Ministers, or to hold a meeting - refused tickets on the trains to Pretoria - but still they came, singly and in groups, spurred on by their determination to achieve their just demands.

*The Government says:
PASSES FOR AFRICAN WOMEN
What is your answer?
RALLY THE PEOPLE!*

Section 6: (contd. from Page 3)

The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law;

Every other day we hear of our people being dragged from their beds in the middle of the night by armed police, searching for liquor or a dozen other things. The C.I.D. now have the authority to seize, without even a warrant, publications which they consider might be "treasonable"!

All shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from province to province, and from South Africa abroad;

In the land of our birth we have not the right to travel freely from one part of the country to another within its borders. We must carry on us a number of "passes", "permits", "identification cards" and dozens of other scraps of paper.

We cannot even come to a town to look for work without a permit, we cannot be out of doors after 9 o'clock without a special pass,

More and more people of all shades of political opinion, and of all races, are being refused passports to travel overseas by the arbitrary decision of the Minister of Internal Affairs, and to travel without one is now a punishable offence.

Pass Laws, Permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

Today the pass laws have been extended to children, to womenfolk, and to Coloured people and Europeans (by means of identification cards). Daily our people are being humiliated, their families are being broken up, because of the operation of these Pass Laws.

Our people are being deprived of their means of livelihood through the heartlessness of the makers of the Group Areas Act.

Our Government is turning a deaf ear to the pleading of the peoples of the world. But the **PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA HAVE RESOLVED AND WILL ENSURE THAT "ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS!"**



FASCISM STALKS IN HILLBROW

The brilliant sun plays on a bright yellow poster, proclaiming the dearest wishes of our people. Two cheerful ladies standing at a table call on passers by to add their names to the list of citizens who heartily approve of the Freedom Charter.

These two Congresswomen are exercising the democratic right of organising the people to work for their concept of a better life. But it is not to be - where do they think they are?

The agents of a worried-stiff government pounce on the table with the typical arrogance of the fascist mentality. Have they warrants? Whatever for? We have all the power in the world! Hand over your lists and lets be done (shades of the highway robber, you'll agree).

Your protests go unheeded, for it is a language not understood, this appealing to reason and decency. The lists are grabbed and the mailed fist of fascism has struck again.

Are such goings-on to be tolerated? Never! The people must be roused, their anger canalised. Rally them behind the Freedom Charter, fellow Congressmen!

Under the section "All Shall enjoy equal human rights!" the Charter says: "The law shall guarantee to all their right to organise".

The struggle is on! We shall carry it through till victory is ours.

what progress?

Let us know what your Branch is doing. Maybe you've had some bright ideas for getting support for the Charter which no-one else has thought of. Let others share it through this Bulletin. Do write in and tell us of your activities.

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THE A.N.C.,
T.I.C.,
S.A.C.P.O.,
AND C.O.D.

**FORWARD
TO
FREEDOM**

See you on
SATURDAY
at
GERMISTON
SEE
PAGE
2

Vol. 2, No. 1

1st March, 1956.

EDITORIAL.

DEATH *to the* PASS LAWS

The Government's wish to foist passes on women presents the Congress Movement with the ideal opportunity to wage a campaign against passes in general.

Since the pass system assists the Government in enforcing its basic cheap labour policy, it cannot be expected that the Government will abandon it without offering the maximum of resistance. Therefore, the struggle against passes must be regarded as a long-term one, which in the end will threaten the Government with defeat.

It falls upon the shoulders of the womenfolk to lead the present phase of the struggle against the pass laws. No doubt they will do it as well and effectively as they did it in the Free State in the 30's. The menfolk must not fall behind, but rally behind the women and give them every support.

The men must also develop a campaign against their existing passes, so that a mighty joint campaign of men and women comes about. The final aim of the campaign must be to end the pass system and the Government which imposes it.

WHAT MUST BE DONE?

The important question to be asked at this stage is: "What must be done?"

Firstly the people must be told what passes for women implies and why these passes must be resisted. Alan Doyle in his article, "The Special Confer-

ence of the A.N.C.", in the February issue of "Liberation" has this to say: "It is the task and the function of the A.N.C. to give leadership and inspiration to the people in their struggles; not to give orders. We make ourselves particularly ridiculous when we issue orders that the people do not (because we have not explained them, or because they are not ready) follow. Let the A.N.C. go out and explain to the women (and to the men) what passes will mean and why they must be fought. Let us organise the people."

To organise the people in this campaign does not mean simply to tell the women not to carry passes. If in certain areas they refuse to carry passes it will surely strengthen the campaign, but it must not be thought that such action constitutes the beginning and end of the campaign.

MANY FORMS OF STRUGGLE.

The struggle against the pass laws must take every form possible, in order that the maximum number and strongest blows shall be delivered in the fight against the Government's policy. There must be meetings, demonstrations, petitions, resistance, and other forms of struggle which the people are sure to evolve themselves.

Exactly which form of struggle must be employed will vary from area to area. The choice of the form of struggle must be left to the leaders in each area. They are the best judges of what the people in their area are capable of doing at any particular stage.

FORWARD TO THE FREEDOM CHARTER!

Congressmen and women, our duty is clear! The people must be organised for the struggle against passes. So teach them and lead them in the fight till victory is ours! The pass laws shall be defeated! The "FREEDOM CHARTER" will become the law of our land!

Congress ACTIVITIES

BENONI

A highly successful Regional Conference was held in Benoni on Sunday, February 26th. All the branches of the East Rand were well represented.

This A.N.C. conference discussed tactics in regard to campaigns against passes for women and Bantu Education.

Certain speakers emphasised the need for co-operation with the Coloured people living in Benoni and Germiston. It was suggested that the A.N.C. should give assistance in strengthening the branches of the S.A. Coloured Peoples' Organisation in these areas.

One speaker stressed the need for using the Freedom Charter in Congress work. He said it should be used to unify and mobilise the different sections of the people. The Freedom Charter must not be regarded as a special campaign, but must be popularised in all Congress work as the Congress policy. Signatures for the Charter must be collected on every possible occasion.

GERMISTON

The women of Gemiston plan to stage a public demonstration against passes on March 3rd. Women and men of all the Congresses are asked to join in the demonstration.



DO YOU READ ENOUGH?

All workers in the Congress movement must recognise their responsibility to learn as much as possible about political affairs, for the better one's understanding and knowledge of politics is, the better decisions is one able to make. An essential part in the success of any of our campaigns rests in the correctness of the decisions our leaders take.

Help yourself and Congress by studying all you can. There are several publications which are easy to get. They include:

"New Age"

"Congress Voice"

"Liberation"

"Fighting Talk"

"S.A.C.T.U. Bulletin"

If you should experience any difficulty in obtaining any of these publications please let us know and we will do something about it.

WITHDRAW the CHILDREN from VERWOERD'S SCHOOLS!

Bantu Education has been forced on the African people for almost a year already, a vicious unprincipled attack on African children, on tomorrow's FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM. And the African people have one weapon to meet this attack, but in these circumstances it is potentially a most powerful weapon, capable of defeating and destroying Bantu Education. It is the weapon of boycott, and especially the boycott of Bantu Education schools by the withdrawal of children. This and this alone can make the Bantu Education Act unworkable.

The boycott of school boards and committees by the African people is important, for this can destroy Verwoerd's claim that Bantu schools are "community" schools and that they are welcomed by the African people. But non-participation of the parents alone will not put an end to Bantu Education, for the schools do not depend upon the school boards and committees and can in fact function adequately without them.

EQUALITY TO ALL MEN!

The withdrawal of the children from the schools is the real reply to Bantu Education. If the schools can be emptied - not dramatically, sensationally on a particular day, but gradually, even if it takes years - then Bantu Education must fail and can be replaced only by education which is acceptable to the African people - education which shall bring to the African child, as to all other children, his rightful heritage of knowledge, of the consciousness of himself as equal to all men.

To withdraw the children from school, from opportunity to acquire through formal education the important weapons of reading, writing and arithmetic, must be a serious decision for the African parent. It is a difficult decision to face, for either answer must entail sacrifice. Shall the child remain in school, to be indoctrinated, poisoned with the insidious fatal conception of racial inferiority, herded into "ethnic groups" but able to read and write, to speak a little English and Afrikaans, equipped with the tools of education? Or shall the child be withdrawn from school because Bantu Education is dangerous, poisonous; to have no formal school education is better than bad education, that is to be turned into an enemy of national liberation, of Congress and of our people.

WITHDRAWAL DOES NOT DEPEND UPON CULTURAL CLUBS!

For this is the almost intolerable decision that must be faced by every African parent conscious of the true context and purpose of Bantu Education. And the decision must be made on this basis; the possible provision of alternative education should not be, cannot be a factor in this decision. The existence of a private school, the existence of cultural clubs, the organisation of home education - these provisions themselves do not make Bantu Education bad and "boycottable". Nor does their absence make Bantu Education acceptable. Too often the decision becomes clouded by these considerations and parents rationalise the retention of their children in Bantu schools on the ground that there is no boycott in their area, that there are no private schools, no cultural clubs, no system of home education for teaching the three R's! But if there had been a private school for every Bantu school the Bantu schools would have been emptied long ago! It would not have been necessary to call for a boycott.

And the provision of cultural clubs for the training of the children, for the constructive occupation of the hours when they would otherwise be in school, depends upon the boycott, upon the withdrawal. The withdrawal does not depend upon cultural clubs, although these clubs will obviously stimulate and encourage withdrawal by parents who have still to be convinced of the evils of Bantu Education.

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WITHDRAW THE CHILDREN FROM VERWOERD'S SCHOOLS! (CONT).

THE PARENTS MUST BE EDUCATED!

Home Education? Again it follows withdrawal. Nor can there be any guarantee by the African National Congress, or the African Education Movement, that clubs and home education will be provided, for then alternatives must stem from the parents themselves once the children have been withdrawn. They cannot function in a vacuum; their very existence depends upon the determination of the parents to work together for their children. Boycott of schools demands courage, and organisation but also demands personal example.

The education of the African parents is the immediate task of Congress members. Parents must be shown that the purpose of the Bantu Education system is to instal in African children a desire and a willingness to be oppressed, persecuted and insulted. It aims at making the African children hate the Congress, national liberation, the Freedom Charter, and Land, Liberty and Peace! It aims to instil in the African child a love and respect for Verwoerd's inhuman and devilish treatment. And it must not be allowed to succeed. Verwoerd must not be allowed to poison the minds of our children.

T H E O N E E M B R A C E S T H E O T H E R

In 1956 the liberation movement calls for the intensification of the school boycott. This can only be achieved by extensive propaganda and personal contacts. Cultural Clubs will have great propaganda value for they show how alternatives can be provided, whereas in 1955 hundreds of parents decided to withdraw their children without any foreknowledge of what could or would be done. But the boycott must depend upon the conviction of the parents, a conviction that will only be achieved by persistent and patient education. As the people come to accept the Freedom Charter, so will the task of education for the school boycott become easier, for the one embraces the other.

THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND OF CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED.



AWAY
WITH
ALL
PASSES!

EMPTY
VERWOERD'S
SCHOOLS

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TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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