

P.O.Box 2419,
JOHANNESBURG.

29.1.1954.

Alex. Hepple, M.P.,
c/o House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN, CAPE PROVINCE.

Dear Alex.,

Just to keep you informed of developments:

I have today put in my resignation to the Chairman of the Board as I can no longer tolerate the continual interference in editorial work from Piet. He has reached the stage where not only must he read my editorial articles before publication, but where he even wants to tell me which items must go on which particular page. On Wednesday afternoon he wanted me to scrap the article in this week's Saamtrek, comparing ~~the~~ Mein Kampf with the Bill, and instead of it to publish a complete and undigested extract from Mein Kampf together with a complete and undigested extract from The Road to a new South Africa. As we were on our deadline I refused to remake the page. As the extracts ran to several closely typed pages and contained a great deal of irrelevant matter, it would in any case have been ridiculous. Whatever the merits or demerits of his suggestion, I cannot accept interference of that nature when I have to work under pressure and short-staffed as we are. Since the Board meeting at the beginning of December, I have reduced contributors' payments by £50 a month which means that I must do all my own reporting, etc.

If I am to be the Editor I must be left in peace when I'm at work.

It has also reached the stage where he is telling me that I must do this and I must do that, editorially. This morning things came to a head when he told me that the current issue was a wash-out and that if the paper is edited the way I am doing it, it's not worth continuing with it. He wanted to know why certain articles had appeared on certain pages and not on other pages. I told him that I will decide where articles are to appear. He said that on that basis things were "finished." I said that on any other basis I would have to tender my resignation. ~~He~~ said I ~~could~~, and I did.

I have been trying to co-operate to the fullest extent with our Editorial Board. I am prepared to discuss policy there and to carry it out in co-operation with them. The Board asked that it would like to see what I wrote on the Bill and I agreed to that. It asked for a number of things to appear in this issue of Saamtrek - they have all appeared. I handed articles on the Bill to Piet, but it seems to me that there is no end to this trend and that what ~~they~~ want is not co-operation and consultation but dictation. No editor can work like that. Either they have confidence in me or they have not.

So now it is up to them. If they are prepared

to put a stop to Piet's interference, I will withdraw my resignation. If not, I cannot stay on.

Yours sincerely,

Dawie

Regards to Gielie

1st. February 1954.

Mr. D. Couzyn,
P. O. Box 4719,
JOHANNESBURG.

Private

Dear Dawie,

Just a quick note to say I have received your letter of the 29th. ultimo and am most distressed at the news of your resignation. I had hoped that you and Piet ~~would~~ ^{would} pull together, especially as it was I who first raised the question of the division of responsibility between the Editorial and the Management sides.

I do not ^{know} what action the Board has taken as a result of your letter but I do hope that you have withdrawn your resignation. As far as I am concerned, I strongly oppose any interference in the Editorial Department; I believe that the Board of Directors (or, its delegated authority, the Editorial Board) must lay down policy and thereafter leave the journalistic application of such policy to the Editor and his staff. I shall say this officially if I am called upon to express my opinion. In the meantime, this is for your own information. If there is any way in which you think I can help, please let me know.

Regards and good luck,

ALEX. HEPPLE, M. P.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
CAPE TOWN.

15th. February 1954.

The Manager,
Barclay's Bank (D. C. & O.),
Kotze Street,
Hospital Hill,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

GUARANTEE IN FAVOUR OF MESSRS. HAYNE & GIBSON, LTD

Last year you issued a Guarantee for £1000 i. f. o. Messrs. Hayne & Gibson, Ltd., of Doornfontein in respect of the current account of Messrs. Unity Publications (Pty.) Ltd., of Johannesburg.

The Guarantee expires on the 6th. March next and I shall be glad if you will renew it for a further period of twelve months on the same terms and conditions as before.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

ALEX. HEPPLE, M. P.

ALEX. HEPPLE, M. P.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
CAPE TOWN.

15th. February 1954.

The Manager,
Unity Publications (Pty.) Ltd.,
P. O. Box 4719,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

re: GUARANTEE - HAYNE & GIBSON. LTD.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 9th. inst., enclosing copy of reminder from Messrs. Hayne & Gibson, Ltd., that my guarantee for £1000 is due for renewal on the 6th, March.

I shall instruct Barclays Bank to make the necessary arrangements but I take this opportunity to request the Board of Directors to give their earnest consideration to the following matters, which arise as a result of our experience during the past year:-

1. As the motor car, which was ceded to me as security, is a wasting asset, special care must be taken to keep the car in good order and condition. It should be under the personal control of the Manager and never used for other than strictly business purposes. It must be fully insured.
2. That as and when circumstances permit, the Company should endeavour to provide additional security in order to reduce my liability.
3. That the Printer's account be paid in terms of the contract and ~~xxxxx~~ whenever the account exceeds the Guarantee, I should be informed accordingly.
3. That should there be any change in the control, management or policy of the Company, I reserve the right to cancel my Guarantee immediately and the Company undertakes to release me of all liability under the Guarantee forthwith.

I shall be pleased ~~in~~ if you will place this letter
- before -

ALEX. HEPPLE, M. P.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
CAPE TOWN.

Unity Publications (Pty.) Ltd.

15th. February 1954.

- 2 -

before the Board and let me have their decision as soon as possible.

I hope that things are going well and that you are getting plenty of advertising.

With regards to all,

Sincerely Yours,

ALEX. HEPPLE, M. P.



SAAMTREK

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

107 Union Centre,
30 Pritchard Street,

FIRST FLOOR - ~~PROGRESS BUILDINGS~~
156, COMMISSIONER STREET - JOHANNESBURG
TELEPHONE 23-9475/6 - P.O. BOX 4719
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "UNIPUBLISH"
PROPRIETORS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (Pty.) Ltd.

Our Ref:

B. 357.

9th February, 1954.

Mr. A. Hepple, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

Guarantee - Hayne & Gibson.

We are enclosing for your information, copy of a letter dated 6th February, 1954, from Messrs. Hayne & Gibson, which is self-explanatory.

Since you were kind enough to have furnished the Guarantee, it is only proper that we refer the matter to you, in order that we may have your comments for the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

UNITY PUBLICATIONS (PTY) LTD.

PJH.EB

COPY/EB.

HAYNE EN GIBSON

6 Februarie 1954.

Die Bestuurder,
Saantrek,
Progressgebou,
Commissionerstraat 156,
JOHANNESBURG.

Waarde Heer,

Soos aan u bekend is, is ons gedek vir die druk van u koerant tot 'n bedrag van £1000. Die waarborg verval op die 5de Maart en ons sal baie bly wees indien u die nodige stappe sal neem om die waarborg te hernu voor die tyd.

Op die huidige oomblik staan u rekening op ongeveer £1150 wat dus £150 oor die gewaarborgde bedrag is. Ons sal dit besonder op prys stel as u die rekening op minstens £1000 kan bring voordat ons die volgende uitgaaf moet aflewer, d.w.s. Woensdag, 10 Februarie.

Ons voel seker dat ons dit net maar moet noem en die saak sal onmiddellik in orde gebring word.

Graag verseker ons u van ons beste dienste,

Hoogagtend,

Die uwe,

(GET.) M.V. JOOSTE.
BESTURENDE DIREKTEUR.



SAAMTREK

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

107, Union Centre,
31, Pritchard St.

FIRST FLOOR - ~~PROGRESS BUILDINGS~~
~~136, COMMISSIONER STREET~~ - JOHANNESBURG
TELEPHONE 23-9475/6 - P.O. BOX 4719
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "UNIPUBLISH"
PROPRIETORS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (Pty.) Ltd.

Our Ref:
B. 394.

16th February, 1954.

Mr. Alex. Hepple, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

re: Guarantee - Hayne & Gibson Ltd.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 15th February, 1954, and enclosure, and wish to advise that it will be placed before the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

A further communication will be addressed to you in due course.

Thanking you.

Sincerely Yours,

UNITY PUBLICATIONS (PTY) LTD.

PJH.EB.

Saam Trek

ALL LETTERS TO BE
ADDRESSED
TO THE MANAGER

BARCLAYS BANK (DOMINION, COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS)

(Registered as a Commercial Bank)
WITH WHICH IS AMALGAMATED

Telegraphic Add.
"HEIGHTEN"
Johannesburg.

The National Bank of South Africa Limited

DIRECTORS

- * A. S. AIKEN
- * A. C. BARNES
- * R. E. FLEMING
- * A. T. DUDLEY
- * CAPT. DEREK FITZGERALD
- * C. FITZHERBERT
- * R. W. FOOT
- * A. L. GRANT
- * VISCOUNT PORTAL
- * J. S. CROSSLEY
- * HON. G. C. GIBBS
- * SIR ERIC G. MACTIG
- * H. F. OPPENHEIMER
- * F. SEEBOHM
- * BRITISH

IN YOUR REPLY
PLEASE QUOTE

HOSPITAL HILL.

Johannesburg.

18th February, 1954.

Alex. Hepple M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN C.P.

Dear Mr. Hepple,

GUARANTEE IN FAVOUR OF MESSE HAYNE AND GIBSON
LIMITED.

With reference to your letter dated the 15th of
this month, the expiry date of the above guarantee has been extended
for a further twelve months, to expire on the 5th March, 1955.

Yours faithfully,

[Handwritten Signature]
MANAGER.



SAAMTREK

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

FIRST FLOOR - PROGRESS BUILDINGS
156, COMMISSIONER STREET - JOHANNESBURG
TELEPHONE 23-9475/6 - P.O. BOX 4719
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "UNIPUBLISH"
PROPRIETORS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (Pty.) Ltd.

22 February, 1954.

Mr. Alex. Hepple, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPETOWN, C.P.

Dear Alex.,

Just a few lines to let you know how things are going at our end.

We are no longer in the T.L.C.'s Board Room - but moved one floor up and our address is now 220 Union Centre Bldgs. If you should want me on the phone, make use of the T.L.C.'s phone - 33:1705 - since we haven't got a phone of our own yet.

Bobby was in this morning and gave your message. I realised that the planes inland would be heavily booked, but it was only because of the extreme urgency of the matter that I got in touch with you. However, I was very sorry that you couldn't come up. Bob took the copies of the Leather Worker that you wanted.

The N.E.C. of the T.L.C. met this morning to discuss Saamtrek's financial position - but I don't think much more will come of it than what resulted from the N.E.C. meeting last July, when you and I addressed the members.

The Saamtrek Board met on Saturday morning. We discussed the very grave situation in which the paper finds itself. There are a number of private sources which Dulcie and Piet are trying to tap, and the Bishop seems keen to help us. The end of this week should show, however, whether we can survive, and if nothing has materialised, we shall be compelled to close down.

In the meantime the Garment Workers' Union has agreed to take over the distribution of their paper which means that we can dispense with three of our Africans who act as sellers and messengers. Until our position is cleared up I'm not replacing Maxie who, much to my regret, is leaving me at the end of this month.

To the N.E.C. this morning, Piet made a very good speech emphasising the popularity of the paper in the factories, the wonderful basis we have established and the tragedy of a possible collapse. He paid great tribute to you for the sacrifices you have made and stressed that we have an obligation to yourself. He also again raised the question of your book with them. Freddie Kalk of the Motor Employees (who, as you know, have a lot of money) was made to feel thoroughly ashamed at the low level of support from his Union. The others round the table have no money except the Garment Workers' Union who pledged another £1,000 provided the Motor Employees were prepared to put in £2,000.

But despite that - it is the old story all over again with the T.L.C. issuing a strong circular calling for support, and with some of the N.E.C. members prepared to accompany myself to general meetings to address the members. As we left the meeting, I remarked to Piet that only his efforts could save us if he could succeed ~~if~~ in obtaining the necessary £5,000 which we need from private sources. That is how I see it.

It is naturally very demoralising for us who have put so much sweat and tears into establishing the paper to work like this - not knowing from day to day what will happen.

I feel that basically we are in a much stronger position than last July since we have established our circulation and it is only a matter of capitalising on it. We are again meeting the A.B.C. (Audit Bureau of Circulations) this week, and will, I hope, soon be a member. If Piet can be relieved from scraping and scrounging from finding ready cash, the paper can be built up as a paying proposition and we will be able to pay a dividend. Other trade unions are ready to enter our circulation scheme, but we can't afford to have them. If we had money our circulation could be 40,000 very soon.

Dear Girlie,

Thank you very much for the questions and answers which are arriving regularly. We have already made use of some of them and will this week make use of more. Bettie sends her best regards.

Dear Alex.,

Have you and other Parliamentarians being receiving post-cards which the Anti-Banning Committee, of which I am Secretary, has been issuing to the public? (We are running a solitary campaign to try and fight Schoeman's new Bill, and I am trying to help answer Schoeman's question - WHO DO YOU REPRESENT? - by showing that there is popular support for the magnificent fight you put up in Parliament). Some of the post-cards are addressed to Swart urging him to withdraw the Bill, and others go to Parliamentarians urging them to fight the Bill.

Our Anti-Banning Committee has been ignored by most of the trade unions and I am left with only a handful of extreme left wingers. I believe that the Labour Party has also rejected our invitation to send a representative to the Committee. I am very disappointed in this. It is true that we are taking up only one little angle of the fight - the Suppression of Communism Act - but it would have been useful to co-ordinate with the Labour Party. A big fight is developing on the Industrial Conciliation Bill and if Saamtrek still exists, I will try my best to contribute towards that fight. If Saamtrek is down the drain and there is anything I can do, I will naturally do it in my personal capacity. So you see it is not as if I can only see one angle of the struggle.

I have reached a stage personally where I'm prepared to co-operate with anybody who is prepared to do a job of work to stop the terrifying process manifesting itself in our country.

Sorry to bore you with all these personal attitudes but one needs to do some unburdening sometimes.
Best of luck in your Parliamentary work.

Sincerely,

Dawie



SAAMTREK

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

107 Union Centre, 31 Pritchard St.
FIRST FLOOR - ~~PROGRESS BUILDINGS~~
~~158, X COMMISSIONER STREET~~ - JOHANNESBURG
TELEPHONE ~~22-9770/6~~ - P.O. BOX 4719
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "UNIPUBLISH"
PROPRIETORS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (Pty.) Ltd.

Our Ref:

B. 409.

25th February, 1954.

Mr. Alex. Hepple,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

Board of Directors "Saamtrek"

Your letter of the 18th February, 1954 in which you advise that due to pressing business at Parliament, and difficulty in obtaining plane bookings, you would be unable to be present at the meeting of the Board of Directors on the 20th February, 1954, was placed before the Board at their meeting, and I have been directed to advise you that the Board deeply appreciates your suggestion that you may be able to attend a meeting on the 4th or 5th March, 1954.

I am directed to advise you that it will not be necessary for you to come to Johannesburg on either of these dates.

The reason why your presence was required at Johannesburg on the 20th February, 1954, was due to the very difficult financial position of the paper, and we have only been able to publish the last two issues with the greatest difficulty. We are trying our utmost to keep the paper going, but we are experiencing the greatest difficulty.

We will forward to you, the minutes of our last two meetings at an early date, from which you will be able to ascertain the position much better.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

PJH/EB.

UNITY PUBLICATIONS (PTY) LTD.

DIRECTORS: C. REHM A. SCHEEPERS P. J. HUYSEN A. HEPPLE A. GELB



SAAMTREK

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

107 Union Centre, 31 Pritchard St.

FIRST FLOOR - ~~PROGRESS BUILDINGS~~

156 ~~COMMISSIONER STREET~~ - JOHANNESBURG

TELEPHONE ~~33-2135/36~~ - P.O. BOX 4719

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "UNIPUBLISH"

PROPRIETORS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (Pty.) Ltd.

Our Ref:

B. 420

25th February, 1954.

Mr. Alex. Hepple,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

Guarantee - Hayne & Gibson

Your letter dated 15th February, 1954, was considered by the Board of Directors at a meeting held on the 20th February, 1954, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:-

- 1) that a letter be directed to Mr. A. Hepple, expressing the Board's deepest appreciation for his very fine gesture; and also that Mr. Hepple be advised that the Board will comply with the conditions set out in his letter, but in fairness to Mr. Hepple, it should be pointed out that as the guarantee is provided for a specified period, it will not be possible for him to cancel the guarantee during the period of operation.
- 2) that Mr. C. Rehm obtain an inspection report on the condition of the motor car from Messrs. Sydney Clow, and make a report at an early meeting of the Board so that the Board can comply with the conditions as set out in paragraph 1 of Mr. Hepple's letter.

Yours sincerely,

UNITY PUBLICATIONS (PTY) LTD.

PJH/EB.

ALEX. HEPPLE . M.P .

1st March, 1954.

The Manager,
Unity Publications (Pty.) Ltd.,
P.O. Box 4719,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

Just a reminder, in case it has been overlooked, that you must advise the Companies' Office, on the special forms provided, of the change of address of the Company.

The forms are obtainable at Hortors or other stationers.

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,

ALEX. HEPPLE . M.P.

ALEX. HEPPLER, M. P.

3rd. March 1954.

Mr. D. Couzyn,
c/o Unity Publications (Pty.) Ltd.,
P. O. Box 4719,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Dawie,

Thanks very much for your letter of the 22nd. ult. Its a great pity that while the circulation of Saamtrek is climbing towards the 40,000 mark and its contents maintained at a high standard, we should be suffering financially. Of course, the fact of the matter is that we are reaping the whirlwind of someone else's sowing a year and more ago. It is because I believe that Saamtrek must be kept alive at all costs that I renewed my guarantee. I can assure you that I can ill afford the financial risk but what does mere money matter when so much is at stake. I appreciate the way you and Piet are doing your bit. The tragedy is the inertia in the trade union movement. That too, is the result of actions of years ago.

Although I have not got the full details, I have been watching (through Saamtrek and the daily press) the progress of the so-called Unity movement. Is it surrender to the conservatives? Or is it really going to be a ~~xxx~~ sincere attempt to fight for trade union independence and the freedom of association of all workers? It will be useless if the proposed "Cape Town Committee" will merely concentrate upon fighting those few clauses in the I. C. Bill upon which they can get complete unity. What is at stake is not merely a few radical changes in the existing law, but a complete ~~XXXXXX~~ assault upon trade union freedom and the traditional rights which are the life blood of workers' organisations.

I suspect that Schoeman will greatly modify the original draft Bill. I base my assumption upon two things - firstly the Federation's willingness to co-operate with others on the Bill; and secondly a remark made to me by Schoeman in private that he will "have 90% of the unions backing him when the final Bill comes forward". When I suggested to him that he leave the Bill over until next year he replied that that would leave us too much time to agitate against it! This

- is private -

Mr. D. Couzyn

3rd. March 1954.

is private and not for publication. I am very anxious to be kept informed of the Unity discussions and will be glad if you will keep me informed, especially of stuff that will not be published.

The M. P.'s have been flooded with your cards but I regret to say that most of them just throw them aside. However, it certainly has kept the House aware of the fact that there is some opposition outside. As to be expected, the Mats. are very cynical, continually boasting that their bannings and taboos have the full backing of the electorate - "Look at our election victory!", they cry. I myself have received about fifty of the cards. One weakness, of course, which has been commented upon, is that those who sign give no address. My own attitude is that no matter how little it is, as long as some effort is made to fight back, there is hope for the future. While the results may not be evident now, every bit of work we do has its repercussions. My only cry to the T. U. leaders is "Please do something!".

I'm sorry that my book is going so slowly. It is also a sign of the times. But I'm not despondent. Our cause is right. We shall see great victories, too.

In conclusion, let me say that if the trade unions decide to put up a real fight on the I. C. Bill, Saamtrek has a big job before it. First of all, the paper must run a series of analytical articles on the main provisions; it must conduct a circulation-building and propaganda campaign amongst the workers in the factories; it must be the public's chief source of information and it must prod the nervous leaders. I hope they will give you the chance to do these things. Hou moed.

Girlie joins me in sending our regards to you all.

Yours,

23/3/54 Pardon the Bitterness - it was a
very difficult time for me.
Please destroy after reading.

Saamtrek

BOX 4719

JOHANNESBURG.

8.3.54.

Dear Alex.,

So we have come to the end of the road.. It is very painful and it is the second time it has happened to me, but you can be sure I will never again allow myself to be made a fool of. Twice have I allowed idealism to take me out of my regular journalistic career and a secure job, once with Die Nuwe Stem and once with Saamtrek, believing that my enthusiasm for a progressive workers' publication was shared by enough other people to assure its continued appearance, but on both occasions they turned out to be purely electioneering rackets used by capitalist supporters of the United Party to try and get the voters to vote anti-Nat. On both occasions the unions failed to support the venture and on both occasions the capitalists withdrew their support immediately after the elections. Well, one lives and learns.

The board having suggested that I waive my right to two months' notice, and I having accepted that, I will be leaving Saamtrek at the end of the month. Hennie has accepted also one calendar month's notice. I am only very sorry now that I allowed Carl to persuade me at the end of January to withdraw my notice (2 months) as that would have meant the same as what is happening now -- except that I would not have been the one taken for a ride. At the time I told Carl I was reluctant to withdraw my notice, as I remembered what happened in the case of Olsson. You persuaded him to withdraw his notice, but so intent were certain persons on his departure that he left on due date anyway.

I very much suspect that a "device" has been used on me too. Had Jannie lived, he would have continued to extend his protection over me, but alas his death has altered more things than this. While I was on leave Piet and Dulcie already suggested to the NEC of the TLC that I should be replaced. Piet went so far as to suggest my successor -- Hugh Waterfield -- not knowing that he would quarrel with Waterfield also. Dulcie said that if I was not prepared to agree to certain changes they would have to get rid of me. This I have from three different sources -- two of which could have been in touch with one another, but the third source was entirely independent.

Well, I have agreed to all their alterations, but it doesn't seem to have helped. Eventually in January Piet started on the question of editorial policy. By forcing the issue I defeated the attempt, but it seems to me that the "economic" troubles of the paper have come in handy as an alternative method of getting rid of me. Johanna has been their instrument. She has been insisting that everyone get the sack, in case the paper has to fold up. She was afraid that if the paper folds up in the middle of the month, they would be ~~xxxx~~ liable to say six weeks ~~kax~~ notice money to Hennie and more to me. I tried to dissuade her, telling her that if they are trying to save the ~~paper~~, public confidence would be so shocked at them ~~paying~~ giving notice to their editorial staff, that people would consider it futile to put their money into it. I agreed to accept, for both myself and Hennie, one ~~month's~~ calendar month's notice at any time the paper has to fold up. I thought this was the decision of the Board meeting of Feb. 26, but Dulcie and Piet assured me I was mistaken and that we had actually all been placed under notice. I phoned Anna this morning, who could not remember what the position was, but Johanna agreed with Piet and Dulcie's interpretation. Those were the only four persons present at the Board meeting... and three are agreed, so I have accepted the position and have given Hennie one calendar month's notice (to expire on April 8) which he kindly accepted. I accept that I have had my month's notice, ending at the end of March.

So there we are. In the meantime -- three months after Piet's appointment -- we have some marvellous filing systems and I am sure the books are almost in order. Endy has been replaced by Mrs. Burns and she has been trained by Piet. We have moved and are resettled in our new premises. I understood that Schuman of the T.L.C. was to do our books at the expense of the TLC but Dulcie and Piet have found such terrible things against him that Mrs. Burns (paid by Saantrek at £64 a month) has had to replace him. Unfortunately all this activity has kept Piet so busy that he has hardly had an opportunity of going out to canvass adverts. Last week was to have seen the long-awaited patch on clothing bosses but other work and his case meant that he could go out only one day. Today he was out but assures me that things are practically hopeless. There seems to be no hope for Saantrek (perhaps things will look up after I am gone).

You have been the one ~~ray~~ ray of light in the darkness ~~and had~~ kept me from utter disillusionment. But I doubt whether there are many like Girlie and yourself. I want to thank you people for the wonderful way in which you have come to the assistance of Saantrek time and again and I greatly admire the spirit that even now animates your letters.

Daniel

19/3/54

(5)

Rest in
TU unity file

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

(like the Burger)

Die Transvaler also wrote two leading articles on the collection of money overseas. We have treated it lightly in our comment. I might have added that collections were made in Holland, Germany and even Russia during the Boer War to help the fight for freedom in this country. Papers like Die Transvaler have forever remained grateful for this help (especially towards Germany). The fight for freedom knows no borders. If it was honourable to collect money for that struggle in 1902, we can accept money from Christians in England who want to help our workers' struggle now. A great proportion of these workers are descendants of persons who were ruined by the Boer war and the subsequent economic exploitation. We are continuing the same struggle...in many instances against the same money power that brought about the Boer War. It is a pity that instead of helping us in these struggles, many children of the Republics, who have done well for themselves, are seeking to introduce legislation to intensify exploitation.

In any case we have ^{long} been trying to get money from overseas trade union centres as well, and in England John Collins (whose appeal appeared in full in the Manchester Guardian) has for some time been interested in raising money for us, because of his contact with Solly.

It was not Saamtrek who approached the Bishop, but the TLC in the shape of Piet and Dulcie. The idea was that he help raise £5,000 which we need to survive. I don't think that was specifically to be raised in Britain. He has extended his appeal to Britain -- good luck.

I don't think the publicity can do us harm. The Manchester Guardian has standing. The reports and cuttings will help us also to raise money in South Africa, because a bishop has ~~seen~~ seen fit to associate himself with us. South African Press Attaches from all parts of the world are now demanding copies of Saamtrek.

We have a bigger circulation than either Die Transvaler, or Die Burger, and I don't think our readers will be greatly perturbed at Die Transvaler's antics.

As far as red herrings are concerned -- there are fatter ones.

(((((((((((((((())))))))))))))

I inclose a letter I wrote on the 8th, and then carried around in my pocket because I had no proof for my fears.

Best of luck and carry on the good work,
Regards to Girlie.

Dawie

~~UNIT PL~~ SAAMTREK

Tuesday

Dear Alex.,

Piet yesterday apologised to me and we have agreed to forget the whole affair and think no more about it.

Carl had spoken to Piet earlier in the morning, though I'm not supposed to know this. However, that makes no difference. I'm very pleased that the whole thing has been settled this way and not at a Board meeting and it is a tribute to Carl's tact and levelheadedness.

Quite a storm in a teacup, but it could have been very harmful.

Regards,

Dawie

Monday.

Dear Alex.,

Further to my earlier letter.

Carl Rehm called me in and promised me that the Board would meet and that it would be re-affirmed that the Editorial and Business Departments are autonomous and that Piet shall not interfere. *Carl* asked me to withdraw my resignation *Man of course,* *Man* and I have done so, subject to the outcome of the Board meeting. It is very unfortunate that you are not here and that Anna is also going to Capetown. I am not very keen on the Board meeting being held before she is back. I have not yet informed any of the other Board members of what has been happening.

Will keep you posted.

Regards

Davie

SAAMTREK

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. - POSKANTOORTELEGRAAFDIENS.

T. 27.

This form and envelope should accompany any enquiry.
Hierdie vorm en koevert moet alle navrae vergesel.

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#M1 34

TO HEPPLE ASSEMBLY CAPETOWN

JH B

SENT.
OORGESEIN.

PLEASE PHONE ME AT HOME 622369 TONIGHT VERY IMPORTANT = DAWIE + ~~622369~~ +

ALEX. HEPPLE. M.P.

16th March, 1954

The Editor,
"Saamtrek",
P.O. Box 4719,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Dawie,

The Cape Times yesterday published a report from London that the Bishop of Johannesburg had appealed for the raising of £5000 in England for Saamtrek.

As to be expected, Die Burger is playing the story up this morning, with the comment that in having to seek help overseas, the T. & L.C. reveal their utter lack of support in South Africa.

I don't think it the brightest idea to seek financial aid from such sources. It may prove to be the fat red herring to divide the workers again when we come to fight the Industrial Conciliation Bill.

Whilst not seeking to interfere, may I suggest that if a reply is to be made it should merely stress (a) the enormous cost of running an independent workers' newspaper, and the extreme difficulty of getting support from the big advertisers who are chiefly employers, with interests opposed to those advanced by Saamtrek, a workers' paper.

(b) That our appeal for financial support went to many people and we welcome aid from anyone sympathetic to the cause of improving the lot of workers of South Africa.

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,

ALEX. HEPPLE. M.P.

T. U. UNITY -

Box 4719
JOHANNESBURG.

19 March 1954.

Dear Alex,

Thankyou ever so much for your letter of yesterday and of March 16.

As foreshadowed in my telegram, things turned out allright at our board meeting, otherwise you would have heard from me ere now. I plead, however, rush-period paralysis.... putting the paper to bed, etc.

At the board meeting (tuesday lunch time) were present: myself, Carl, Piet Dulcie, Anna and Johanna. Gelb let me down, with subsequent apologies.

Carl opened the meeting with a recounting of the position leaving out any mention of his part in trying to get me replaced. (The decision, according to my information, that Hennie should be approached, was taken in Carl's presence. The others were Dulcie, Piet, and Johanna.) In his discussions with me Carl had however pretended complete ignorance about the replacement scheme. He is very much in Dulcie and Piet's pocket, but is not very steadfast of character and can be pushed this way and that which is disastrous for the trade union movement at this juncture. (More of this later).

I then spoke, telling them that I had not come to Saamtrek for money, not because I was destitute, not because I was banned from my old position...but had left higher pay and security because I had felt it my duty to respond when called upon. I told them how Jannie and I had spoken about this thing even when I was still working for Die Vaderland. I also told them that before agreeing to come I had made sure that Saamtrek was not a E.S.S.-venture but was firmly rooted in the T.L.C.

I urged them to withdraw our notice and said that if the paper folded up we would not claim notice money. (I said that Hennie, who was not present, would also vouch his acceptance of this in writing. They finally asked me also to put my offer in writing!)

I did not mention about their underhand scheme (of which I must emphasise Anna Scheepers was ~~xx~~ completely ignorant) and negotiations with Hennie. (These negotiations are, by the way, a breach of my contract which states that I am the sole channel of communication between the Board and my staff).

Piet and Dulcie looked very crestfallen throughout the discussion, did not once open their mouths.

Anna then spoke and supported me, stating that she thought my offer very magnanimous and that they should accept it. Johanna, more cautiously, followed her lead.

Carl then said that as the real thing that mattered was what the Garment Workers thought, seeing that they had the greatest moral right to express an opinion after having given most support to the paper, the Board as a whole should agree to the proposition.

That was done. (Carl let the cat out of the bag by summing up: that it was no less than right that if anyone should be replaced - I mean dismissed - it should first be Hennie, seeing he had only come later-on).

but I must I have always had great faith in Carl's fairmindedness, say this episode has somewhat shaken that faith.

The Board then discussed a financial report from Piet... which was very gloomy.

Alex., I thank you for the moral backing a received from you in this affair and for the words you wrote to Carl. I don't think the trouble is over though. I am getting very little co-operation from Piet and Dulcie. I have not replaced Maxie which means that Hennie and I now do all editorial typing and all the library and other organisational work which she did. I have, however, a lot of editorial correspondence piling up and I asked for the use of Piet's secretary, Mrs. Burns, for half-an-hour's dictation. As you can see, my editorial typing is not clean enough for correspondence. This was refused me this morning on the grounds that Mrs. Burns has very much work ~~ix~~ to do and cannot take on more. What am I to do? By dispensing with a typiste I have tried ~~to~~ to save money, but if the organisation is so rigidly departmentalised the position becomes impossible. I remember all the work my typiste and I myself have done for the business side. I am supposed even now to be preparing the forms for entry into the A.B.C. If I must write my own correspondence there would be ~~no~~ time for that. Kenneth, my African clerk, is behind in his newspaper cutting and filing work, yet I have not so far stopped him from spending two days a week on newspaper deliveries.

I said to Piet I could not understand his refusal. He said I could speak to Carl about it. I said to him we could co-operate on minor administrative questions and I was against running to Carl with such things. He would not budge.

This little incident might bore you, and I apologise, but I want to show you that there is a slow poison working here which will, time after time, bubble up to the detriment of the paper. Now don't say, "I told you so. You have only yourself to blame". I'm still convinced that Piet's work on the business side is essential to the survival of the paper, and given the same situation as we had in November, I would again fight just as hard for his appointment.

Some of the trouble springs from the fact that Piet and Dulcie are filled with bitterness against the left because they have attacked her and are standing in the way of a link-up with the right-wing groups. They would like to see this bitterness reflected in Saamtrek. They would like to see not a word of publicity for the unions that have expressed lack of confidence in the A.E.C. My policy is to represent the T.L.C. as a whole and not to take notice of the scrap between the wings. Someday I think the wisdom of that will be recognised. I want to diminish ~~the~~ the growing split in the T.L.C., not help it along. Saamtrek must be a bridge canalising all opposition against the trade union policy of this Government -- whether from left or right. Furthermore it must be a bridge between the workers of the various racial groups. It must give them a feeling of common economic interest and struggle. It must build confidence, also among non-white workers, who form the great mass of the industrial workers, that we are fighting for them.

Or else.....what will the developments of the future be: a terrible split between most white workers and the non-whites. You know where that will lead.

Yes, this policy has become too left for them. But it is the policy on which Saamtrek was launched and it stands outlined in my contract. Therefore I must be got out.

Bettie has asked me why I want to stay where people don't want me. Why not clear off. It would be easy. Well, the answer is that I have come to do a job of work which I would like to see completed.

If I go, it will be after Saamtrek has folded up, and there is no reason why it should, if people are prepared to work.

UNITY COMMITTEE

The unity committee was formed originally as a means of short-circuiting Downes and McCormick who were, as executives of the Federation, not carrying the idea of unity forward to the satisfaction of the others.

When the committee first discussed plans it was stated that under no circumstances would McCormick be let into it and it was even stated that he would not be invited to the All-In Conference. But the annual conference of the Federation changed that. The Federation decided that the All-In Conference must be called not by the Unity Committee but by the new Federation of Federations in which Downes and McCormick figures. This would naturally let them back into the picture and defeat the attempt to isolate them. The Federation decided that only if this Super-federation was not formed in time, would it join an All-In Conference convened by the Unity Committee.

After the failure, two Monday's ago, to bring this Super-federation into immediate existence (as some organisations, including the T.L.C. had to refer the constitution to ~~the~~ ^{their} membership) there must have been intense activity behind the scenes from

Downes and McCormick, because the very Federation boys who were previously opposed to their inclusion on the Unity Committee came and persuaded the T.L.C.'s N.E.C. to allow McCormick onto the committee. There were assurances, however, that he would be kept in place and disciplined if necessary. The Garment Workers agreed, although Anna, I believe, had spoken against.

(They were previously adamant that he be excluded.) Now I hear that the Garment Workers have second thoughts on their wisdom in including George and are very worried about it, because they fear disruption on his part.

It also seems certain now that the tentative feeling that African unions should not be invited will become reality. The invitations for the All-In Conference has not yet gone out and I don't want to jump to conclusions prematurely, but it seems pretty certain.

The T.L.C. can escape responsibility for such an action because they are not issuing the invitations. Those will go out in the name of the Unity Committee. The T.L.C. delegates can even put their position right by pressing, on the Unity Committee, for no colour bar (as far as Africans are concerned, that is), because they are in the minority and the others on the committee will overrule them. The position will then be that the T.L.C. can walk out (and ruin chances of an all-in conference including the right wing unions) or remain associated (thereby precipitating a split-away conference on the part of the left). What I mean is that in that event the left will organise another all-in conference where Africans will be represented. It must be made clear that the T.L.C. delegates on the Unity Committee do not represent the T.L.C. there but are there in their "personal" capacities.

Thus the Africans can be excluded (and that is 80 per cent. of the workers, although unorganised) with the T.L.C. officials retaining their lily-white blamelessness. If the lefts react strongly, they will be the ones to be criticised.

This strategy is justified, I feel, if the All-In Conference will then achieve real action and opposition on the part of the registered unions. But will it? How far will the drift to the right continue? How far will McCormick be able to outmanoeuvre them? Will he stage a walk-out at the A.I.C. and therefore further complete the picture of disunity? Should he have been given that opportunity

— continued: 23/3/54

I hear George has already expressed his dissatisfaction at being a mere member of the unity committee (not the chairman). Coull and Murray are the joint general secretaries, but it is expected Dulcie will do the work. Let us hope that this so annoys George that he gets off the committee. That is hardly likely, though, for in the meantime his union (Engine Drivers and Firemen) at a meeting yesterday decided to accept in principle the idea of attending the all-in conference. At the same meeting A.D. Lee, who some regard as more dangerous than Schoeman, appealed for more co-operation among the trade unions. (What does that mean?)

It is a pity the trade union leaders would not follow Walker's advice of isolating McCormick and Downes. *(What I meant earlier in this letter was about Carl's lack of steadfastness, was that this development could have been prevented. Jannie would never have permitted McCormick on.)*

WORKERS COUNCIL OF ACTION

You have probably seen a report in Saamtrek about the Workers' Council of Action. When I spoke to its organisers they emphasised that it was a rank and file movement (actually under chairmanship and secretaryship of rank and file textile workers) and not an attempt to set up an alternate co-ordinating body. Their main fear is that nothing but talk will emerge from the All-In Conference and they want to start rank and file agitation against Schoeman's Bill by means of house-to-house canvassing, pamphlets, meetings etc. They have no colour bar in this campaign. *(Possible exclusion of Africans from A.I.C. is an important reason why they have gone ahead with this.)*

The position is however quite differently pictured in last Friday's Advance. After a most inaccurate and contradictory article from Michael Harmel on the TLC situation -- it seems that **Advancers** trying to grab at anything to beat the T.L.C. -- follows the report on the Action Council, presented in such a way that it appears to be an alternate co-ordinating centre.

I have spoken to the organisers of the **Action Council** -- who are mainly the textile workers' officials and members -- and they repudiate the Advance report *picture*,

Dulcie and Piet were very angry at the publicity the Action Council got in Saamtrek. I replied that if they were really going to work against the Bill they deserved publicity, and if they at any stage turned against the TLC in their propaganda, the position could be reviewed. In the meantime they are still members of the TLC and any good work among their members should be regarded as good news.

When the left unions have criticised the TLC's NEC, they have been told that they should criticise their real enemy -- Schoeman. Now that they are doing that, they should not be frustrated.

The Advance angle has however made it difficult to continue giving them publicity.

What do you think of the position?

ANTI-Banning COMMITTEE

This committee working without the assistance of the trade union movement (or the L.P.) has sent 20,000 post cards to Swart and to Parliamentarians protesting against the Suppression of Communism Amendment Bill. This is a conservative estimate. We printed 40,000 cards and have only

3,000 on hand. We did not hand them out in bulk, but only as they were called for. From one small table on the City Hall Steps along we sent off 3,000 cards. Please try to get this response mentioned during the debate in the Senate. *There has hardly any publicity so far.*



SAAMTREK

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

FIRST FLOOR - 107, UNION CENTRE
31, PRITCHARD STREET - JOHANNESBURG
TELEPHONE 33-6777/8 - P.O. BOX 4719
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "UNIPUBLISH"
PROPRIETORS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (PTY.) LTD.
SPONSORS: SOUTH AFRICAN TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL.
Member: Audit Bureau of Circulation of South Africa Limited.

Our Ref: B. 1141

25th October, 1954.

Mr. A. Heppel,
401, Marble Arch,
Hillbrow,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Notice of Meeting.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on 15th October, 1954, it was decided that a further meeting of the Board be held not later than 26th October, 1954.

You are accordingly advised that a meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 26th October, 1954, in the Board Room of the South African Trades & Labour Council, First Floor, Union Centre, 31, Pritchard Street, Johannesburg, which you are earnestly requested to attend.

The South African Trades & Labour Council (1949) have advised that at the Council's Fifth Annual Conference held on the 6/7th October, 1954, the following resolution was adopted:-

- 1) That the S.A. Trades & Labour Council (1949) be and is hereby dissolved, the winding up of its affairs be completed by the 31st October, 1954 or as soon thereafter as possible.
- 2) A committee composed of the present available members of the National Executive, and one member representing dissenting unions be hereby appointed to wind up the affairs of the S.A. Trades & Labour Council (1949).
- 3) That the assets of the South African Trades & Labour Council (1949) be transferred to the South African Trade Union Council.

The Council sponsors "Saamtrek" and it will be necessary for the Board of Directors to decide the future of the paper, and to transact such other business within the scope of the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

E. B. B. B.

UNITY PUBLICATIONS (PTY.) LTD.



SAAMTREK

DIE STEM VAN DIE VOLK

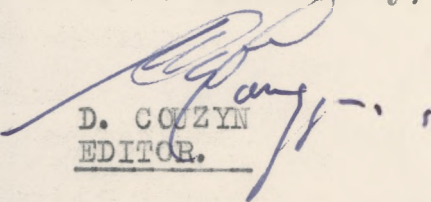
EERSTE VERDIEPING - ~~PROGRESSAGROUN~~
~~COMMISSIONERSTRAAT 156~~ - JOHANNESBURG
TELEFOON ~~23-9475/6~~ - POSBUS 4719
TELEGRAFIESE ADRES: „UNIPUBLISH“
EIENAARS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (Edms.) Bpk.
Union Centre, 31 Pritchard St.,

13th November, 1954.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter sent by myself to-day to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Unity Publications (Pty) Ltd.

Yours fraternally,


D. COLZYN
EDITOR.

Mr. A. Hepple, M.P.,
601 Marble Arch,
Goldreich Street,
Hillbrow,
JOHANNESBURG.



SAAMTREK

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

FIRST FLOOR - 107, UNION CENTRE
31, PRITCHARD STREET - JOHANNESBURG
TELEPHONE 33-6777/8 - P.O. BOX 4719
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "UNIPUBLISH"
PROPRIETORS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (PTY.) LTD.
SPONSORS: SOUTH AFRICAN TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL.
Member: Audit Bureau of Circulation of South Africa Limited.

Ref. E 1177

15th November, 1954.

The Chairman,
Unity Publications. (Pty) Ltd.,
108 Union Centre,
51 Pritchard Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I wish to confirm that at the special meeting of the Board of Directors of Unity Publications (Pty) Ltd. held in the Board Room of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council, Union Centre, Johannesburg, on Tuesday November 9, 1954, I drew the attention of the Board to the following:-

- a) That the letter of the Interim National Executive Committee of the South African Trade Union Council, written to Unity Publications (Pty) Ltd. in pursuance of decisions regarding the sponsorship of Saamtrek, taken at its meeting of November 5 as a result of certain offers made by Unity Publications (Pty) Ltd in a letter signed by yourself, dated November 4, 1954, contains a reference to accepting sponsorship provided this would give the Trade Union Council "full control of editorial policy", and that the said letter also makes reference that sponsorship would involve "some change of policy".
- b) That, in the absence of any qualifying provisions referring to broad policy of Saamtrek and the method of the administration of such policy, acceptance of the sponsorship by the S.A. Trade Union Council on the above conditions would constitute a breach of the Memorandum of Agreement between Unity Publications (Pty) Limited and myself, at present in operation.
- c) That the aforementioned Memorandum of Agreement between the Board and myself contains the following clause:

"6. THAT the parties agree that the broad policy of the newspaper shall be -

(a) to give/...

- (a) to give trade unions and workers of South Africa full support in their fight for better conditions, trade union rights and full democratic rights;
- (b) to inculcate a trade union and labour tradition among the workers of South Africa;
- (c) to support a progressive policy towards all sections of the working people without any distinction;
- (d) to oppose all attacks on liberty.

"7. THAT the carrying out of the policy in terms of the foregoing paragraph shall be determined by the Employee in consultation with an Editorial Committee representative of the Trade Union Movement to be appointed by the Employer.

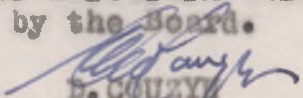
"8. THAT the Employee shall have the right to veto the publication of any item in the newspaper and the Editorial Committee shall have a similar right."

- d) That hadly if the appointment of an Editorial Committee is offered to the new South African Trade Union Council on the conditions of my contract as set out above, will the Board of Directors be acting in conformity with my contract.

I also wish to confirm that I asked that my strongest objection to any such breach of my Agreement with your Board be minuted.

Finally, in clarification of the above, I wish to state that I am not objecting against your Board offering sponsorship to the new South African Trade Union Council or any other body and I am also not objecting to the S.A. Trade Union Council being given authority to appoint an Editorial Committee. The Board as my employer has the fullest right to appoint whenever it wishes as an editorial committee, as long as such committee is representative of the trade union movement and operates on the basis above outlined. I am only concerned with the carrying out of the terms of my contract and the maintenance of the policy on which the Board founded Saamtrak and within the framework of which I agreed to become Editor-in-Chief. I insist that these terms be honoured by the Board.

Yours faithfully,


D. G. GUY
EDITOR

Mr. A. Hepple

For your information

With the Editor's Compliments



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

TELEPHONE 23-9475/6
P.O. Box 4719

FIRST FLOOR
PROGRESS BLDGS.
COMMISSIONER STREET
JOHANNESBURG



SAAMTREK

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

FIRST FLOOR - PROGRESS BUILDINGS
156, COMMISSIONER STREET - JOHANNESBURG
TELEPHONE 23-9475/6 - P.O. BOX 4719
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "UNIPUBLISH"
PROPRIETORS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (Pty.) Ltd.

~~New Address: Union Centre, 31 Fritchard St., Jhb.~~

Ref: E: 1184

19th November, 1954.

The Chairman,
Board of Directors,
Unity Publications (Pty) Ltd.,
Union Centre, Fritchard St.,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of November 17, Ref: B.1183, to hand, in which you ask me to confirm arrangements following my dismissal by your Board.

I confirm Paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of your letter as a correct reflection of the Arrangements made at the Board meeting of 16th November.

Regarding Paragraph (a) I wish to point out that it was not "agreed" between myself and the Board that I should be dismissed. I insisted that the terms of my Contract should be carried out in connection with the upholding of the policy on which Saamtrek was founded and the method of administration, in the switch-over of sponsorship and the Editorial Committee from the dissolved S.A. Trades and Labour Council to the newly-formed South African Trade Union Council. Although you conceded the possibility of upholding Clause 5 of my Contract, which gives the right to myself and the Editorial Committee to veto the publication of any item in the newspaper, you stated yourself unable to uphold Clause 6, which lays down the broad policy of the newspaper. In this regard, Sub-section (c) was particularly pointed out by yourselves, namely:

"To support a progressive policy towards all sections of the working people without any distinction".

During the lengthy discussion your Board did not suggest any alternative policy for Saamtrek, but it was repeatedly stressed that I should agree to the entire abandonment of my Contract and take "potluck" as far as the policy of the new Body was concerned. This I was not prepared to do and your Board consequently took the decision to give me two months' notice of termination of my Contract, which I had no alternative but to accept in terms of Clause 17 of my Contract.

It is correct that I agreed that the notice would come into operation as from November 16, 1954, expiring on January 15, 1955.

Further/...

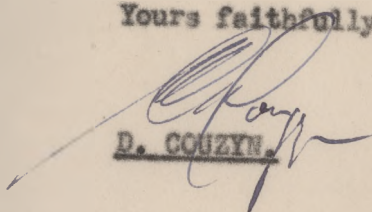
19/11/54.

Further regarding Paragraph (a) of your letter, the Contract between myself and Unity Publications (Pty) Ltd. was actually entered into in terms of a decision of the Board of Directors at a meeting held on 12th August, 1952 and not on June 22, 1953 as stated by you. This latter date refers to the renewal of my Contract. As both my own and your copies of the renewed Contract are in your possession, the clauses as quoted by myself are given the numbers which they have in the original Contract.

At the renewal, all the clauses of the old Contract remained, except for a number of consequential alterations resulting from my waiving at the time of the provision requiring advance deposit of my salary in Trust.

Further to Paragraph (d), may I state that during the period of notice of termination of Contract, it is required that no breach shall occur unless and until my responsibilities have been ended and arrangements re payment in lieu of notice and arrears are finalised.

Yours faithfully,



D. COUZY

T.U. Editor Won't Swallow Apartheid — Sacked

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent)

Mr. Dawie Couzyn, the editor of Saamtrek, has been sacked because he refused to be a party to the abandonment of the policy of the paper as demanded by the directors on transferring sponsorship to the new S.A. Trade Union Council.

The directors emphasised that the previously defined policy of Saamtrek was now unacceptable, especially the clause pledging "support for a progressive policy towards all sections of the working people without any distinction."

They demanded that an editorial committee appointed by the S.A.T.U.C., including Messrs. Downes, Crompton, Rutherford, Budd and Bennett, examine and sanction all editorial matter before publication.

The policy of Saamtrek, as defined in the contract between Unity Publications, the company established by the S.A. Trades and Labour Council, and Mr. Couzyn, who has been editor since its inception, states the paper will "give the trade unions and workers of South Africa full support in their fight for better conditions, trade union rights and full democratic rights;

"Inculcate the trade union and labour tradition among the workers;

"Support a progressive policy towards all sections of the working people without any distinction;

"Oppose all attacks on liberty."

At a prolonged meeting of the directors, Mr. Couzyn said he could not depart from the policy as laid down in his contract. The directors then proposed he should abandon his contract and continue without one.

Mr. Couzyn declined to accept these conditions and he was thereupon given two months' notice in terms of the contract.

Saamtrek owes its continued existence in no small measure to the efforts of Mr. Couzyn who, during the two years of the paper's existence, carried on often single-handed in the most difficult circumstances.

Saanbek

New Address 220 Union Centre,
Pritchard Str. Johannesburg.

E. 1197

1 December, 1954.

The Chairman,
Board of Directors,
Unity Publications (Pty.) Ltd.,
108 Union Centre,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I understand that a meeting of the Board of Directors of your company took place at Union Centre yesterday and that at this meeting matters vital to my Editorship were discussed.

NOT
I was notified of this meeting and only confirmed the above information this evening.

May I draw to your attention that in this omission your Board has committed a breach of my contract, clause 12 of which states: "That the Employee shall be notified in advance of all Board Meetings of the Employer or meetings of its nominees, and shall have the right to attend and speak at all such meetings."

Although your Board gave me notice of termination of contract on November 16, this period of notice only expires on January 15 and the contract stands until that date, unless breached. In my letter - E.1194 - dated 19 November, I specifically stated that during the period of notice it is required that no breach shall occur, unless final arrangements re ending my responsibilities and and payment of arrears and amounts due have been completed.

Yours faithfully,

D. Coetzee
D. COETZEE

and
From our Durban
Signs are growin
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