

Women Are Deported

JOHANNESBURG.

A preview of what will happen to African women under the pass laws is seen every day in Vereeniging where the location and municipal authorities, busy with a "clean-up" of the location are daily holding inquiries into women in terms of the Urban Areas Act, and endorsing them out of the area.

Women who have trivial convictions against them—the equivalent in many cases of traffic fines imposed on Europeans for parking offences—are brought forward for investigation into them as "undesirables." Those who have been fined for liquor offences and who are said to have had visitors without permits in their homes are being deported from their families and their homes in Vereeniging.

The proceedings and subsequent deportations mercilessly disregard the family life of these women, and it was in fact stated in the Native Commissioner's Court, in one case where there was danger of husband and wife being separated by deportation orders: "In this court we are not interested in the preservation of family life!"

Where cases are not defended the enquiries are extremely rapid and though the women against whom there are liquor convictions have already served prison terms and paid fines for their infringements of the law, these convictions are brought against them once more and used as the justification for their deportation from their homes.

KEEP BUS APARTHEID OUT!

—Sapco Call

CAPE TOWN.—"Keep Bus Apartheid out of Cape Town" is the heading of a leaflet distributed all over the Peninsula this week by the South African Coloured People's Organisation.

"For years the Nationalists have tried to upset the way of life which Cape Town has chosen for itself. They have passed the Group Areas Act to enforce residential segregation and ruin the Non-Europeans economically. Now, to suit their own prejudices, they want to force

bus apartheid upon the citizens of Cape Town, who never asked for it . . .

"This is dictatorship forced upon the citizens of Cape Town from the outside."

SACPO denies that the Europeans, any more than the Non-Europeans, want bus apartheid. "Nobody except a handful of Nationalists has asked for it."

Warning that if bus apartheid is introduced in Cape Town, SACPO will call upon all the passengers, European and Non-European, to boycott the buses. The leaflet goes on: "We at any rate are not going to take this invasion of our rights lying down and will fight to the end to defend our freedom."

Women's Federation 10th Anniversary

JOHANNESBURG.

In a circular issued last week, the Transvaal regional committee of the Federation of South African Women invites individuals and organisations to send messages of greeting to the Women's International Democratic Federation on the occasion of its tenth anniversary.

"In fighting against passes for women and for the rights of our children to proper and full education and care, our task is immeasurably strengthened by the support of women of other countries, through the W.I.D.F.," states the South African Federation.

"We are not fighting alone—140 million women of 66 countries will watch us, support us, give us their encouragement. They know oppression in South Africa is a threat not only to all Africa, but to the world."

Messages of greeting to the W.I.D.F. may be sent care of the Federation of South African women, Box 10876, Johannesburg, which will forward them.

Special Branch Strike-Breakers

JOHANNESBURG.

"The Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act, far from serving to settle disputes is only helping to aggravate them," Mr. Leslie Massina, secretary of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions told New Age recently.

The Native Labour Officers and the Special Branch of the Police, which is called in immediately there is any dispute or negotiation in a factory, are "trying to intimidate not only the workers, but also the employers, and of course the union officials and organisers," said Mr. Masina.

They interfere to try to stop employers recognising or having any dealings with unions they have negotiated with over the years. Called in to mediate in a dispute and to represent the workers' case they invariably see the employers first. When they do face the workers, the latter almost invariably refuse to give them a hearing. Union organisers have in recent weeks been warned off premises, told they are not "recognised" and threatened with arrest.

At a Johannesburg laundry last week police were called in to arrest a woman who refused to accept 24 hours' notice and demanded one week's notice, and the chairman of the factory committee who refused to approve the 24 hours' notice.

The workers protested en masse when the police removed the woman worker and their chairman. The chairman was subsequently released and no charge was preferred against him.

The police, the Special Branch and Native Labour Officers were called to this factory to try unsuccessfully to cow the workers.

Similar interference has been seen in recent months in the textile, food and canning, toy, dry cleaning and iron and steel industries.

(Continued from previous column)

The questions drawn up for the test were not stiff, Mr. Bender said. "We just ask them about their own little area, the prominent places there. No nonsense, we don't ask them stupid questions."

I asked whether some of the questions were on doctors' surgeries. "Their own Native doctors," was the reply. "But I'm told one question was about Dr. Shapiro's surgery." "Oh yes, but everyone knows him. He's been there about forty years."

"And the question about the Chinese woman shop-keeper and what else she does?"

"That woman is the biggest gambler, well-known to the police and everyone. They all know she plays fah-fee!"

"So the correct answer to the question about what else she does besides run a shop, is that she plays fah-fee?"

"Yes."

Which side does Dr. Xuma's house face?

(Continued from page 1)

test, and asked only that the questions should not be printed in the paper, because "that would break us down completely."

Mr. Bender admitted that he himself had drawn up the questions with the help of a Government social welfare worker for Sophiatown who had been there "for years and years and years."

"The questions are all quite reasonable," he said.

TEST DESCRIBED

A young factory worker described the test. He was sent to Room 47 in the Market Street Pass Office, he said, and there several officials seated before tables were interrogating Africans before them. The queue stretched outside the door, and only a few Africans were in the room at the time.

"There was shouting, like always in the pass office," said the young man. "They (the officials) can never talk softly to a man. They can never ask you twice in case you don't hear. They just say 'Jong, jy hoor nie' and give you no marks for that question, but go on to the next one."

"The first question I was asked was 'Which is the biggest Chinese shop in Sophiatown?' and then 'How many doctors are there in Good Street?'"

"Other questions were: 'Where does Dr. Xuma stay?' 'Which side does the door (of his house) face?'"

"Where is Digger's hall?" "How many Indian halls are there in Sophiatown?"

"Where does Dr. Shapiro stay?" "How far is his house from Victoria Road?"

"Where is Speedy Printers in Sophiatown?" "Is there any shop around there?"

"Who is the oldest Chinese woman shop-keeper in Sophiatown?" "What does she do besides her shop business?"

NOT INTERPRETED

These questions are put in English or Afrikaans, our informant said. While he was there he did not hear them being interpreted into any vernacular.

But before his eyes he saw a man

fail the test and this person was told that as he could not answer enough questions correctly, he did not "know Sophiatown" and could not be a resident there. Those who fail the test are told they may not remain in Sophiatown—or move to Meadowlands—and they must report for work outside the area.

"I was afraid that if I could not answer the questions I would be sent out to a farm," said the young worker. "I was scared all the time."

Others try to prove they were born in the area by producing their birth certificates. But even this does not always do the trick!

There is the case of the African woman who brought her son to the pass office for registration and was told she must prove he was born in Sophiatown. She returned the second time, with her son and his birth certificate. A policeman at the entrance said: "Mama, your son will be arrested." "God will help me," she replied, "He is my son."

BOY ARRESTED

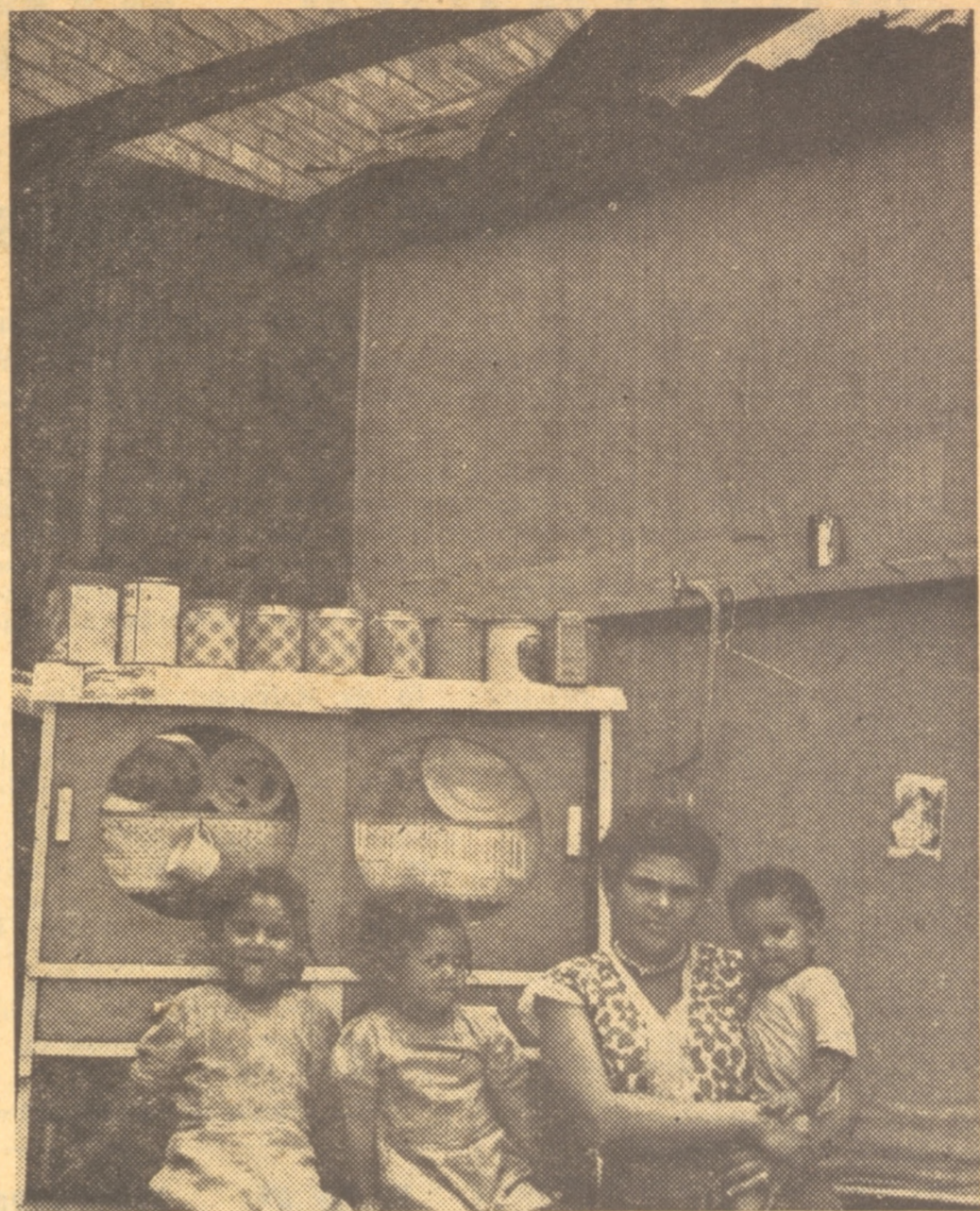
The officials queried the birth certificate. This was not the boy to whom it referred, they told her. This boy was not her son. The youngster was taken into custody and the woman had to leave the pass office without him.

Mr. Bender of the Natives' Resettlement Board told New Age his officials did not dispute birth certificates. "No, we don't do that."

He said he knew his officials were querying a birth certificate in which an address had been altered and a baptismal certificate where a date had been changed but otherwise birth certificates were not disputed. But as the registration of African births was not compulsory many could not produce documents, and the department was therefore "waiving" this requirement. "Then we test them on their knowledge of the area in which they grew up." Many Africans he said, had the practice of "pawning their children off to grandparents, and then when they reached the age when they could earn a few bob, bringing them back into the area."

The test was therefore to establish whether they had really grown up in the area.

(Continued at foot of next column)



ROOF TAKEN FROM THEIR HOME!

JOHANNESBURG.

because they have nowhere else to go.

Benoni's Town Council is clearing slums in the Coloured section of the location. The open drains, the tumble-down houses, the shacks in the overcrowded yards have been an eyesore and a menace to health for years. No one knows that better than the people who live here.

But the last few weeks have seen the Council's view of slum clearance: landlords have been ordered to demolish their condemned properties, but no alternative accommodation has been offered to the people living in them.

So Mrs. Smith and her family (pictured above) had the house-breakers descend on them last week and the roof removed from their kitchen while they were in the house. The doors and windows were removed for good measure.

Now their house is open to the sky; and the dust, and the filth and the heat, and still the Smiths have no place else to go.

The S.A. Coloured Peoples' Organisation is organising protest meetings and demanding an interview with the town authorities, and the provision for alternative housing for these people.

SACPO Leads Fight For Coloured Homes In Benoni

The Benoni Town Council is to be asked to receive a deputation to plead the plight of Coloured residents being ejected from homes in the Indian Bazaar, some of whose houses are being pulled down about their ears.

The Council has threatened the Indian landlords that drastic action will be taken against them if they fail to clear Coloured families out of their properties. The Council has told these landlords that their site leases will be cancelled unless they co-operate with the Town authorities.

The properties in which the Coloured families are living have been condemned as slums but the Coloured families living there do so

To this question of alternative accommodation the Town Council appears to have no answer. It has not offered the Coloured families homes in Benoni's Coloured township.

The South African Coloured People's Organisation says in its memorandum to the Benoni Council: "We cannot stand by in silence whilst Coloured families are in danger of being rendered completely homeless. Today the plight of hundreds of Coloured families living in Benoni has become unendurable. Faced with the lack of adequate housing facilities they were compelled to seek temporary accommodation as sub-tenants in the Asiatic Bazaar. Many have lived for a long period in Benoni. A recent survey showed that over twenty per cent of the Coloured families in the Asiatic section have lived there for more than 16 years. Thirty-nine per cent have lived there for more than five years."

These people, says SACPO, occupy their present slum homes for only one reason: they have no other place to go. We urge the Town Council to realise that to be even indirectly responsible for the eviction of these families, of these mothers with young children, is to accept responsibility for a crime against humanity itself.

SACPO urges that threatening pressure on Indian standholders should be withdrawn until adequate alternative homes have been found for the Coloured tenants.

Mass meetings of Coloured residents in Benoni have protested strongly against the ejection of the Coloured families.

The issue has become so pressing in Benoni that the Nationalist Coloured organisation Die Kleurlingvolksbond has itself held public meetings at which it has been urging the Coloured families to leave their homes and squat in the open. SACPO's fight is for the retention of the people's homes until alternative houses are provided for them.

SACPO has already won the right of two families to remain in their houses for the meantime.

TEACHERS DISMISSED

Struggle For Reinstatement

CAPE TOWN.—The newly-amended Cape Education Ordinance claimed its first victims last week when two senior school teachers, Messrs. W. P. van Schoor and B. M. Kies, were summarily dismissed. Mr. van Schoor has been a teacher for 21 years and Mr. Kies for 14.

Mr. van Schoor was dismissed because, it was alleged, he made statements which created antagonism amongst the Non-Europeans against the Europeans, in his presidential address to the annual conference of the Teachers' League of South Africa last June. These statements, it was further alleged, were calculated to "impede, obstruct or undermine" the activities of the Cape Provincial Administration and the Native Affairs Department.

Mr. Kies was dismissed because he published these statements as editor of the Educational Journal, the official organ of the Teachers' League.

The T.L.S.A., protesting strongly against the dismissals, has announced its intention to contest them legally.

The Mowbray Parent-Teachers' Association has also protested against the dismissals, demanding the repeal "of all such arbitrary legislation which makes it possible for the Administration to dismiss teachers in this manner."

Mr. van Schoor and Mr. Kies were charged on several counts of arousing racial antagonism. Amongst the statements with which they were charged was:

"The rejection of individual freedom, which includes freedom of speech and criticism, is the cornerstone of the police state; it was the late Adolf Hitler who said that '... the individual has no rights apart from his function as part of the state.'"

BIRTH

Reddy. To Nyanam and S.V., a bonny daughter. Both well.

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struggle for, the reinstatement of the two teachers."

AFRICAN TEACHER

Last week also, Mr. Milton Quwe, teacher at the Bantu Community School, Elsie's River, was dismissed from his post.

"I knew as long ago as 1954 that I most probably was to be one of the first victims of Bantu Education, because of the views I expressed to the then Circuit Inspector on the shortcomings of this evil thing styled Bantu Education," Mr. Quwe told New Age.

The Elsie's River Branch of the African National Congress has written to the School Board concerned asking the reasons why Mr. Quwe was dismissed. The ANC also conveyed the protest of Elsie's River parents at the dismissal of a highly qualified teacher.

"The League demands, and will

A.N.C. REJECTS COLOURED VOTE ROBBERY

Must Not Pass Without Challenge

JOHANNESBURG.—In their steps to install themselves permanently as the dictators of the country, the Nationalists have destroyed the rights of the people stage by stage, says a statement issued by Mr. O. R. Tambo, secretary-general of the African National Congress, on the Bill to disfranchise the Coloured people.

This Bill, now tabled before the Joint Houses of Parliament, takes away the last political rights of the Non-Europeans. The Bill is to amend the entrenched clauses of the South Africa Act by fraudulent means. "The Nationalists are prepared to disregard even their own (White men's) laws as long as they can stay permanently in office. Should they suspect that they might not succeed in any general election they would, with impunity pass an Act to keep themselves in office!"

"Although the majority of the people, White and Black, as well as eminent men of law, have constantly rejected this way of taking away Coloured voting rights, the Nationalist Government has arrogantly decided to force its way and shamelessly call its dictatorship the 'Will of the people.'"

"The Senate has now been made an institution representative of the Nationalist Party, and this makes the Parliamentary elections a mere farce. The judiciary has been interfered with, first by packing the Bench with Nationalist supporters, and now by the present Bill which deprives the courts of their testing rights. The running of the country has been placed in the hands of Nationalist Party committees which give their members arbitrary power to rule unhindered by any democratic institutions.

"The country must be warned once more to understand that the issue in this Bill is not merely the removal of the Coloured people's voting rights. It has more fundamental implications than that. The Nationalists have been taking away the rights of the people stage by stage, destroying the rights of individuals to such an extent that people are being accustomed to this dangerous development. Further proof of this is the eclipsing of the judiciary by the introduction of the

Prohibition of Interdicts Bill by the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. Verwoerd, which will empower the authorities to act against Africans without interference by the courts.

"It has now become difficult to protest against this or that law. Yet we cannot allow a single measure to pass without challenge. To stop these measures and the Nationalist march to Fascism we cannot depend on the Parliamentary struggle, but on the mobilisation of all anti-Nationalist forces in the country. In this, a lead can be given only by the Congress movement."

Canning Workers' Resolution For March 1st

CAPE TOWN.

The Food and Canning Workers' Union has submitted for discussion at the first annual conference of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, which opens in Cape Town on March 1, a strong resolution denouncing the Nationalist Government's Industrial Conciliation Bill.

The Bill, is a fascist measure aimed at the destruction of free trade unionism, says the resolution, which calls upon conference to "pledge itself to work unceasingly for the repeal of this measure and for the establishment of progressive and democratic industrial legislation that will ensure to all workers irrespective of race, freedom of trade union organisation and employment."

Pass your copy of
NEW AGE
to your friends

MORE PAY FOR M.P.'s?

LET us be frank: the Coloured vote fight will not be lost when, in the next few weeks, the joint sitting of Parliament passes the South Africa Act Amendment Bill. The fight was lost last year, and the year before that, and on all the other occasions when the Parliamentary Opposition adamantly refused to join forces with the working masses.

The joint sitting is merely the formality, the "coup de grace." It is difficult to say precisely when the defeat occurred. My date is June last year when the Senate Bill was passed; others might make

PARLIAMENTARY SURVEY by Peter Meyer

it a little earlier or a little later.

This explains the listlessness in Parliament and among the Opposition electorate preceding the start of the joint sitting. They all knew that they should be getting excited, but somehow they just couldn't do it. The long years of appeasement had taken their toll.

I have heard it argued that Strijdom has so brow-beaten the Opposition that they are incapable of rousing enthusiasm on the S.A. Act Amendment Bill or any other issue. But this is not true.

I wish you had been in the House of Assembly when the M.P.s were discussing a proposed pay rise for themselves: eager men, alert, with the glint of battle in their eyes. There's plenty of life in the old dog yet—you just have to know where to kick it.

SECRET PACT

It is difficult to get to the bottom of the pay rise story, but reading the various newspaper accounts it appears that the facts are as follows:

At the end of the last Parliamentary session when (to quote an Opposition newspaper) the Government and the Opposition should have been locked in mortal combat over the Senate Act, the Whips of the different parties got together and, with the approval of the respective party caucuses, drew up a secret agreement for a pay rise. The rise was to be in the form of a "session allowance," not a salary increase. The M.P.s argued that Public Servants got a special expenses allowance while they are in Cape Town and there was no reason why they should not get the same, or just a little more, say, £300 a session. The M.P.s already get £1,400 a year, of which half is exempt from taxation.

The terms of the secret agreement were that the session allowance would simply be paid by the Government without the matter being discussed in Parliament. Obviously the M.P.s knew just how popular the move would be at that time. The allowance would be paid retrospectively for the 1955 session only, and then this year's legislation could be introduced and the whole thing put on a proper footing.

TOOK FRIGHT

Unfortunately when the matter was raised this year, the United Party took fright, and although it did not reject the proposal entirely, it suggested that the matter should be referred to a select committee, thus putting the onus on the Government.

The Nationalists, naturally, were indignant, and the Minister of Justice made a statement in the House. All the parties put forward their points of view and the whole affair ended unhappily. But if I know my M.P.s they will find a way yet.

I was thinking of this terrific interest in money matters when a headline caught my eye the other day: "35 out of 159 M.P.s attend debate on the cost of living." Whose cost of living? Not their own, of course, but the working man's.

The M.P.'s main argument in favour of a pay rise is that they have difficulty in making ends meet on £1,400 a year. No doubt they are right. But what about the millions of South Africans who not only cannot make ends meet, but are positively suffering on a fraction of that income?

The M.P.s want an ideal state for themselves, but deny it to others!

Another argument is that, if salaries for M.P.s are too low, only the wealthy will be able to afford to stand for election. It is correct that most Parliamentarians are men with other incomes, and that a number of them are very wealthy, but are the ordinary salaried M.P.s a "better type" as they modestly claim to be? I haven't noticed it. They are pretty much alike, these M.P.s, rich or "poor."

COST-OF-LIVING

The debate on the Labour Party's cost-of-living motion was a revealing affair. Mr. Hepple, the Labour leader who moved the motion, spoke sincerely and presented a good case. His motion was a worthwhile contribution to Parliamentary affairs. But all around him Members were dozing or staring blankly into space. Although several Cabinet Ministers are directly concerned with cost-of-living issues (Transport, Agriculture, Finance, etc.) only the slow-moving Dr. van Rhijn (Economic Affairs) and one or two other Ministers were in their seats.

But the most piquant touch came when the U.P. put up its chief speaker—Mr. H. Oppenheimer, of E. Oppenheimer and Sons, gold and diamond merchants. Mr. Oppenheimer presumably was chosen because of his intimate knowledge of workers' problems. I waited breathlessly, but in vain, for Mr. Oppenheimer to recount some anecdotes from the days when he was on the dole.

"Die Burger" commented on Mr. Oppenheimer's speech, and remarked that like his father, Sir Ernest (who was also a Parliamentarian once), Mr. H. Oppenheimer sticks to matter-of-fact subjects and leaves politics alone. Sure. Money has nothing to do with politics.

The Industrial Conciliation Bill is ploughing its way slowly through the Assembly, clause by clause (there are more than 80 clauses). The struggle on the Opposition side is in the hands of the Labour Party, Native Representatives and a few U.P. types who have that "friend of the working man" look about them.

What must one do? Laugh or cry?

New "Fighting Talk"

"Israel's Arms Crisis" is the title of a straight-talking article in the latest issue of "Fighting Talk," now on sale. The writer deals with the "hornet's nest" roused in Zionist circles by the Czech arms deal with Egypt, and declares that as long as Anglo-American imperialism has its hold on the Middle East there will be strife and bloodshed there.

On the same page, Basil Davidson also contributes an article on the Middle East.

Alan Doyle writes on the Forgotten Million of the Protectorates; P. Anthony discusses the opposition to the Senate Act and there is a short story by D. A. Leonard.

"Fighting Talk," price 6d. is obtainable monthly from P.O. Box 1355, Johannesburg. Annual subscription is 7s. 6d.

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PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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