

WORKERS IN CHAINS UNDER NATIVE DISPUTES ACT

191 WORCESTER WORKERS FINED FOR ILLEGAL STRIKE

CAPE TOWN.

A total of 191 Worcester African textile workers were last week found guilty in terms of the Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act of taking part in an illegal strike, and were sentenced to a fine of £16 each (or 80 days); £12 (or 60 days) being suspended for three years.

The 8 juveniles included in the number were fined £16 (or 80 days) each, £14 (or 70 days) being suspended for three years.

The charges against 42 accused were withdrawn on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

The case arose out of a strike of about 1,200 Coloured and African workers of the Hex River Textile Mills in March, as a result of which the workers received substantial wage increases and other concessions.

Four additional alleged strikers, Mr. J. Ndamoyi, national president of the African Textile Workers' Industrial Union, Mr. J. Busa, Mr. B. Baartman and Mr. S. Gwintsa,

together with Miss Mabel Jones, secretary of the Worcester African Food and Canning Workers' Union, are being charged with inciting to strike.

Their case has been remanded to May 18, and they are out on £50 bail each.

Legal argument for the defence in last week's case was that the accused had stopped work because they had been promised an increase. This defence was rejected by the Court.

The magistrate allowed the accused till May 12 to pay their fines.

New Age has been informed that the Textile Workers' Industrial Union is appealing to all members in the Western Cape to contribute towards the payment of the fine.

The case was heard in an exhibitors' hall in the Worcester show-ground, because of the large number of accused. Many workers stayed away from work to be present at the hearing.

Employer Paid Their Fines

JOHANNESBURG.

Thirty African textile workers at the Roodepoort Wolnit factory, sentenced to prison for contravention of the Native Settlement of Disputes Act, had their fines paid against their will by their employer three days after they went to jail.

Unable to continue production, this factory employer paid the fines which he is now deducting from the workers' pay envelopes. This the workers are disputing as they never agreed to it.

Charged With Attending A Gathering

JOHANNESBURG.

Mr. J. Mavuso, prominent Alexandra Congressman, was last week arrested in the township and charged with attending a gathering in contravention of his banning order. He is now out on bail of £50.

Magistrate Warns Against "Agitators"

JOHANNESBURG.

"Don't go listening to outside people wandering about with brief cases and neatly dressed. I saw some of them walk around here today," said Roodepoort's Chief Magistrate, when he found 16 African textile workers guilty of taking part in an illegal strike.

All 16 are employed at the Wolnit factory, and this is the second batch of workers from this factory sentenced for taking part in an illegal strike during the last month.

After telling the workers that someone was "misleading" them, the magistrate sentenced four to a fine of £15 or six weeks' imprisonment, and others to a fine of £10 or four weeks' imprisonment, all sentences being suspended. Several juveniles (under the age of 19) had their sentences postponed for one year.

The charges under the Native Settlement of Disputes Act arose from incidents in the Wolnit factory on October 28 last year when workers went to see the managing director, they said, to ask him to explain their norm for bonus work. Dr. Visser, the managing director, told the court the workers had asked him for a wage increase, and that their bonuses be incorporated in their basic wage. He had told the workers, he said, that he would give them a reply, but he did not say when he would do so.

In the witness box the factory employer said he had not laid any charge against the workers for a work stoppage.

Transvaal Indian Youth Congress

"Since May Day, 1955, the world has seen great changes—changes for the better and changes for the worse. In the arena of world politics the forces of peace and progress have won gallant victories. The whole system of exploitation is crumbling, but the system that knows no exploitation has become a living and dynamic force.

"South Africa has seen the mirror of the future—the FREEDOM CHARTER—but also the firm establishment of a Fascist State.

"Let us—young and old—on this International Workers' Day, rededicate ourselves to hasten the dawn of the New Age. Let us fan the flames of Freedom.

"MAYIBUYE AFRIKA."

ANC YOUTH LEAGUE NEW BRIGHTON

The days of capitalist ruling class who massacred hundreds of workers on May Day as is the case today, are numbered. Year by year together with other workers throughout the world shall we commemorate May Day. Forward, workers, the future is yours.

TEXTILE AND AFRICAN TEXTILE WORKERS' UNION (P.E. and Uitenhage)

Let us remember May Day as a day dedicated for the renewal of workers' pledge to fight together side by side until liberty and equality are realised for all mankind.

CONGRESS OF MOTHERS (P.E.)

On this the Workers' Day let us pledge ourselves as mothers to fight until the future for our children is worth living. Forward in the struggle against women's Passes.

SACPO (P.E.)

No laws however oppressive can dim the light that guides the common people against injustice. Let us renew our pledge to secure freedom, justice and equality for all.

MPAKAMISI MHLABA

That in other countries the workers are joyously celebrating the workers' victories throughout the years should urge us on to greater activity so that we win Freedom which is our heritage.

A.N.C., RETREAT BRANCH

We greet May Day that the workers of the whole world may win freedom and peace.

WOLFIE KODESH

May Day greetings and good wishes to friends and workers throughout the land who are struggling for better working and living conditions and for a united, democratic South Africa.

D. Tloome, J. B. Marks, W. M. Sisulu, D. W. Bopape, G. Maeka, L. C. Joffe

On May 1, 1956, we greet the international working-class and oppressed peoples throughout the world.

Unity of the workers and oppressed people of our country will achieve the defeat of the fascist Nationalist Government and contribute to the struggle for peace against the imperialist warmongers.

THE CAPE TOWN BRANCH— CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

sends hearty May Day greetings to workers everywhere. May your solidarity and strength be greater than ever. Forward to Freedom!

350 TEXTILE WORKERS CHARGED

JOHANNESBURG.—The 350 African textile workers from the Amato Mills who appeared in court again last week on charges of striking illegally, marched in procession to the court, giving the "Afrika" salute, singing liberation songs and shouting slogans.

This was the second day of their trial, held in the open air because no court is large enough to accommodate all the accused. Three further court days have been set aside for the hearing.

Hours were again spent numbering and sorting out the 350 workers. Seven workers who were absent were found guilty of contempt of court and sentenced to fines of £10 or six weeks imprisonment.

The senior foreman at the mills,

the first of four witnesses for the Crown, told the court that on December 2 he told two African workers he was dissatisfied with their work. He took their work tickets out, and then the two workers passed him and did not respond when he called them.

Cross-examined by Mrs. S. Muller (appearing for the 350) the foreman said the two workers were employed to fill cans in the mill. It did sometimes happen that there were not enough cans.

The foreman denied that he had discharged the two workers. He had said that if they did not do their work properly he would take steps against them.

After the stoppage which followed the incident with the two workers the foreman said he had told the workers to return to work. He denied having said "You can sit here the whole night. I am not losing anything: the boss is losing."

The case is continuing.

MORE MAY DAY GREETINGS

Food and Canning Workers' Union and African Food and Canning Workers' Union

Greetings to all Workers and Freedom Fighters. On this the Workers' Day we renew our determination that no power on earth is strong enough to stop us from marching to a better social order. Let unity be strength.

ARNOLD SELBY, NEW AGE OFFICE, JOHANNESBURG

This May Day finds us facing further onslaughts on our class by the Fascist rulers. We find them contemplating further restrictions and oppression on us. This May Day finds us still as determined as ever to win freedom; we have not been broken by Fascist brutality but have in fact grown stronger. The Settlement of Disputes Act (Native Labour Act) has so far been successfully resisted, the women are determined that the restrictions of the pass laws shall not be imposed upon them. Everywhere we,

the common people are making a stand against the Fascist beast. On this May Day let us resolve to increase our efforts to overthrow the Fascist and make the Freedom Charter the law of the land.

Long live May Day. Long live the working-class. Forward to Freedom.

NATIONAL UNION LAUNDERING, CLEANING AND DYEING WORKERS (P.E.)

Greetings to all workers of South Africa. Unite for your right to organise. May we go forward in the struggle for real liberty, equality and world peace.

GLADSTONE TSHUME

May this May Day bring about solidarity and determination for the realisation of our Freedom Charter. We must get strength from the banning of meetings and shootings of our comrades as they are signs that the fascist beast is now desperately clinging on to ebbing life.

GEE SEA

Greetings to the workers. May May Day renew the fight for better conditions for all and a happy future for all.

S.A.C.T.U. (P.E.)

We salute our Workers' Day all men and women who are devoting their time and energies to the liberation of mankind. Forward in the struggle for lasting peace.

THE TRANSVAAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

greet all congressmen and workers and salutes the struggle everywhere for the realisation of the Freedom Charter. On this May Day 1956 we congratulate the gallant struggle of our women against passes. We call on democrats everywhere to dedicate themselves to winning 25,000 more signatures by June 26th, required to reach the Transvaal target. The Charter is our insurance against passes and Bantu Education! Forward to Freedom! Mayibuye Afrika!

The Witwatersrand Branch, National Union of Distributive Workers sends greetings this May Day to all workers. In doing so we appeal to all trade unions to seek the means for closer unity between all workers so vital in these most troubled times.

A.N.C. NEW BRIGHTON

The Government is displaying fear of the People's Movement for full and democratic rights. We must take heart from this and be ready to advance. All who believe in the brotherhood of man must join the workers in their forward march to happiness and progress for all people.

Long live the workers' day.

A. P. MATI

In the midst of the worst manifestations of fascism in this country let us in celebrating the Workers' Day resolve to close our ranks and march forward together to FREEDOM.

P.E. NON-EUROPEAN MUNICIPAL WORKERS' UNION

Against the laws that seek to enslave us let us unite. Let May Day renew in us a determination to assert the workers' rights.

SO MANY APARTHEID BILLS!

So many apartheid Bills pour into Parliament every session, that even if the United Party wanted to deal with them thoroughly (which it doesn't), it would be hard-pressed. By the end of the session, the Opposition is groggy. Little enough attention has been paid to the contents of the Bills; even less to their cumulative effect.

Owing to the unavoidable non-appearance of this column last week, there is a whole list of apartheid subjects requiring mention:

Separate Representation of Voters Amendment Bill

Here is proof, if anyone needed it, that the removal of the Coloured vote was not an isolated attack, but only the beginning of a campaign to apply apartheid in all its vicious forms to the Coloured people.

Strijdom has spoken about a "national home" for the Coloured people; Dr. Donges has said that Coloured students will be segregated in their "own" university; bus apartheid has begun; Coloured women are to be deprived of the municipal vote.

Now the amending Bill gives Dr. Donges the right to interfere drastically in the political affairs of the Coloured people.

The Vote Act provided for four White M.P.s and two (White or Non-White) M.P.C.s to "represent" the Coloured people. Some people thought it would be left at that. But the amending Bill states that the two M.P.C.s must also be Whites, and it changes the composition of the Coloured Advisory Council, so that instead of being an elected body it now consists of 12 elected and 15 nominated (Government) members—a Government majority. The 27 members of the Council must all be Coloured persons.

SEGREGATION

By this neat piece of apartheid, Dr. Donges is segregating the elected White representatives of the Coloured people and the elected-nominated Coloured representatives. The six White M.P.s and M.P.C.s will not even be allowed to attend the meetings of the Coloured Advisory Council. The intention is to destroy what influence the elected Whites might exert, and to deprive them of any claim to be the mouthpiece of the Coloured community. Ironically, the stooges this time are being sought among the Coloured people themselves.

The fact that the M.P.s and the Provincial Councillors will be elected, does not guarantee that they will be true representatives of the Coloured people. In the first place, these six posts are not open to the Coloured people themselves. Also, many Whites who are true friends of the Coloured people will not be able to stand for election, because of the shackles put on them by the Suppression of Communism Act. But the fact remains that the six posts will be elected ones, and

Dr. Donges is taking no chances. Dr. Donges' plan is to by-pass the elected White representatives, and the Coloured Advisory Council has been created for this purpose. But even the Council is not being given any status. Dr. Donges makes it

Parliamentary Survey by Peter Meyer

clear that the Department of Coloured Affairs, with Dr. I. D. du Plessis at its head, is to be regarded as the first and most important mouthpiece of the Coloured people.

DISTRACTION

The Coloured Advisory Council is there merely to distract attention from the elected Whites in the Assembly and Cape Provincial Council. The Council will be dominated by the nominated Government members; its "working committee" of five will have three Government members; and it will give the Government advice when "requested." It will have no powers whatever.

Mr. Hepple (Labour) said that Coloured persons who accepted nomination on the Council would be "stooges" and "collaborators." They would be paid £10 a month each to betray their people. Mr. Hepple said he was sure the Coloured people would expose collaborators and treat them with the scorn they deserved.

Does the attack on Coloured political rights end here? I think not. After the 1958 General Election, there will be three "Native Representatives" and four "Coloured Representatives" in the Assembly. Then, presumably, the Nationalists will start agitating against this "bloc" of seven on the grounds that they might one day hold the balance of power between the two big White parties and thereby endanger White civilisation. Exactly this argument was used to take the Coloured people off the common roll. What then? One remedy for the Nationalists would be to expel the three "Native Representatives." Strijdom hinted last year that their position would have to be "reviewed." Another remedy would be to allow the "Coloured Representatives" to vote only on minor issues in the Assembly. The idea of a restricted vote is popular among the Nationalists.

Bantu Education Amendment Bill

It provides that (a) the Minister may determine the conditions for the registration of African schools; (b) the Minister may refuse or cancel registration if the school is "not in the interests of the Bantu people."

In his speech in the Assembly, Dr. Verwoerd explained some of

the conditions under which African schools will be allowed to exist. One of these conditions is that there must be no "political agitation."

The other conditions, too, will provide Dr. Verwoerd with the excuses he needs to refuse to register schools or to shut them down. He wants complete, rigid control of "Bantu education" schools. Press reports have confirmed the disclosure in "New Age" recently that African teachers are being hounded out of their jobs. The "Cape Times" says the Government is carrying out a "purge" of African teachers, and already 26 have been forced to leave their posts.

An intensified drive against cultural clubs is certain; and although the Catholic schools seem safe for the moment they, too, are under Dr. Verwoerd's watchful eye. It has become urgently necessary for African parents to redouble their efforts to defeat Bantu Education before it is too late.

Native Administration Amendment Bill

Speaking on this Bill, Dr. D. L. Smit (U.P.), said it was "part of a systematic campaign to place the Minister of Native Affairs above the law." The Bill extends certain provisions of the Natal Native Code to the Cape. Mr. Walter Stanford (Liberal Party) said the Natal Native Code was "a horrible anachronism of a barbaric age that had been imposed by the White conquerors of Natal on the Africans who were completely under the African chiefs."

A statement by the S.A. Institute of Race Relations, quoted in the Press, makes the point that the Bill is part of the plan to help restore decaying tribalism to its former strength (but with Dr. Verwoerd as the Supreme Chief). The Bill will enable Verwoerd to punish chiefs for disobedience without taking them to court; to impose collective fines on tribes and communities without trial; to arrest, detain and imprison Africans who are "dangerous to the public peace."

The Institute statement says: "Even more than the Prohibition of Interdicts Bill, it would mean that an official, authorised by the Minister can punish any African at any time, and the latter will have no legal redress of any sort, and no recourse to "habeas corpus."

Industrial Conciliation Bill

This monument to apartheid has been passed by the Senate and will become law as soon as it is promulgated. A large section of the trade union movement in South Africa should bow its head in shame for its revolting capitulation to De Klerk.

Club Leaders Arrested

PORT ELIZABETH.

Mr. and Mrs. Hewana, both of them Cultural Club leaders at Kleinskool, were arrested when ten detectives swooped on them last week while they were conducting club activities. Their case has been remanded to June.

MAY DAY GREETINGS TO ALL WORKERS AND DEMOCRATS
From
MARITZBURG LOCAL COMMITTEE OF SACTU.

African Textile Workers' Industrial Union (Durban Branch)

Long live May Day and the unity of the working-class! We call upon all South African workers to stand firm and defeat all attempts to deny them the right to organise into free and independent unions.

WILL HE BE THE FIRST AFRICAN TO PLAY PRO. SOCCER IN BRITAIN?

The first non-white from South Africa to play professional soccer in Britain may be Steven Mokone of Pretoria. Some time in July Mokone will be flying to England to play for the Third Division side, Coventry.

But of course he may still be beaten by David Julius, another non-white of Johannesburg who is also keen to play professional soccer in Portugal. All that Julius is waiting for is a letter from a Portuguese club telling him to come over.



Steven Mokone's educated boot controls the ball.

But with Mokone it is different. The 23-year-old Pretoria lad is just waiting for his passport. He has already signed forms with the English club.

It will be the realisation of a lifelong ambition for Steven Mokone when he enters paid soccer. This lad who plays for the Home Stars team of Pretoria, has always yearned to play in the best company of footballers.

Back in 1952 as a student at the Ohlange Institution, near Durban, Mokone attracted attention when playing for the famous Bushbuck of Durban during weekends. He was selected to play for Natal at inside right and later represented the Africans.

But the honours that Mokone received made him more ambitious. He thought to himself that if he could be chosen for the African side in the Federation games, then he had some talent to make good in higher grade soccer—and that meant overseas.

So it may be that in a few years Mokone will make a name for himself like other South Africans in British soccer—Bill Perry, John Hewie and others.

British Boxing

British professional boxing is in the doldrums. This fact was heavily underlined on Tuesday night in London. On that night Don Cockell, British and Empire heavyweight champion, was knocked out in two rounds by the Tongan from the Friendly Islands, Kitone Lave. And Jack Gardner was stopped in two rounds by Jamaican Joe Bygraves. Then Kid Gavilan, the Cuban Hawk, and former welterweight champion, stopped Peter Waterman's unbeaten run of 33 fights.

But that is not all. South Africa's Jimmy Elliot had also ended the winning streak of Pat MacAteer a few weeks before.

The most laughable thing about the whole affair is that Cockell and Gardner had been booked to fight for Cockell's titles on May 28. And the fights with Lave and Bygraves were taken as "warm-up" fights.

Now, it would be very silly to match these two, for who wants to see them fight. The British Board of Control should have declared Lave as the new Empire champion after his fight with Cockell. There are no overweight fights in the heavyweight division and Cockell was knocked out within the scheduled distance of ten rounds.

Alternatively, the two non-whites, Bygraves and Lave should be matched for the Empire title. But I know this will never happen because somehow the British always regard Empire titles as their property. Already Jim Wicks, who manages Jake Tuli in London, is reported to have said that he will protest if the two non-whites are matched for the Empire title. He says that he has a good white heavyweight in Jim Cooper who should be considered.

ROBERT RESHA.

There cannot be any FREEDOM without PEACE. There cannot be any PEACE without FREEDOM.

THE MARITZBURG PEACE COMMITTEE

Extends Greetings of PEACE AND FREEDOM to all workers on MAY DAY, 1956

ON THIS MAY DAY NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS (Pietermaritzburg)

SENDS GREETINGS OF SOLIDARITY TO ALL FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

VICTORY FROM TYRANNY IN OUR LIFETIME!!

Racing at Kenilworth

The following are Damon's selections:

Autumn Thousand: 1. SHALVAH; 2. True Aim; 3. Tinsmith.

Wynberg Mixed Handicap: 1. McDEVA. Danger, Call Girl.

Kenilworth Mixed Handicap: 1. LINOTYPE. Danger, Rangpur.

Juvenile Maiden Plate: 1. CONVERSATION. Danger, Supernal.

Juvenile Trial Stakes: 1. CROWN WITNESS. Danger, Gentian.

Kenilworth Stakes: 1. DAILY DIP. Danger, Makila.

Wynberg Stakes: 1. OUTSIDER. Danger, Volunteer.

Maiden Plate: 1. COURT. Danger, Gregarious.

PLEASE

Removed from Johnny's brown van on Saturday night—1 Bundle New Age, 1 Motor Jack, 1 Diary and 1 Short Story. Any information which would help in the recovery of personal effects will be gratefully appreciated. Contact Ma's, 7a Junction Rd., Salt River. Thank you

SYMPOSIUM

- DOES THE U.S.S.R. THREATEN AFRICA?
- THE HORRORS OF WAR
- VISTAS OF PEACE

Robing Room, City Hall
Wednesday, May 9, 1956
at 8.15 p.m.

All Welcome — Admission Free

Issued by the Cape Town Peace Council, Box 2706, Cape Town.

Published by Real Printing & Publishing Co. (Pty.) Ltd., 6 Barrack Street, Cape Town, and printed by Pioneer Press (Pty.) Ltd., Forgate Street, Woodstock.

Collection Number: AG2887

Collection Name: Publications, New Age, 1954-1962

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

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