

## INSIDE AMERICA

### Meet Me in Las Vegas . . .

THE American city of Las Vegas, Nevada, is famous for its gambling houses and quick divorces. Now it has a new attraction for dollar-happy tourists—atom bomb testing.

The posters are up all over the U.S.A. inviting Americans to come to Las Vegas to witness the Atomic Energy Commission's test programme which is being extended through the summer tourist season.

The New York Times states that tourists can take their choice. They can either go on special bombwatching expeditions or else they can watch from Las Vegas itself, 65 miles away from the testing site.

The former is advised, for although from Las Vegas "sometimes enough of a flash is visible to permit a person to say that he has 'seen an atomic bomb,' it is not the same as viewing one from relatively close range, which generally is a breath-taking experience."

The only disadvantage about the tests from the tourist's point of view is that they are held at dawn. But the gambling houses have an answer to that one—they have organised special all-night gambling parties which end when the tests begin.

Shades of Sodom and Gomorrah!

### Hollywood's Own Whodunnit!

**WHO is Mr. Rich?** Hollywood has produced a real life mystery which it has been unable to solve.

It all started when the President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts announced that blacklisted screenwriter Michael Wilson could not be considered for the Academy's "Oscar" for the film story he had written, "Friendly Persuasion."

Wilson's 'crime' was that a few years ago he stood by the Fifth Amendment to the American Constitution in refusing to answer questions put by the Congressional Un-American Activities Commission.

Undeterred by the Academy's attitude, the American Screenwriters' Guild voted Wilson the top film writer of 1956. At a huge banquet to honour the

occasion, Groucho Marx, the master of ceremonies, poured scorn on the Hollywood magnates for refusing to give screen credits to Wilson.

Referring to the new film "The Ten Commandments," Marx quipped: "The producers were forced to keep Moses' name off the writing credits because they found out he had once crossed the Red Sea."

The Academy was not worried at this laughter at its expense. The film it favoured as having the best story was a beautiful one by any standards. Called the Brave One, it was about a Mexican boy and his bull. The author—a certain Mr. Robert Rich.

Came the evening when the award was to be presented—Mr. Rich did not turn up. He sent a note instead saying that he was only an accountant, that he had not written the story and that he could not come because his wife was about to have a baby.

A pall spread over the Academy directors. Mr. Rich could not be traced. Was Robert Rich the nom-de-plume of one of the Hollywood Ten who had been blacklisted after they had all refused to testify before the Un-American Activities Commission?

An enterprising reporter for Variety, the entertainment trade magazine, put the question squarely to one of the Ten, Dalton Trumbo: Are you Robert Rich?

"Hell, no," was his reply. "I'm Dalton Trumbo. Robert Rich is Michael Wilson."

All right, but did Trumbo write the Brave One?

"I couldn't afford to say I didn't write the Brave One," said Trumbo. "It's too good."

"It has no murder, no dope addiction, no seduction of innocent girls, no gunfights and no perversion. In fact, I don't know how it got on the screen."

Trumbo revealed further that the movie studios had been buying from the Hollywood Ten on the black market for many years, and that a number of scripts nominated for awards had been written by the "terrible" Ten.

Meanwhile the Oscar for the Brave One has been stored away in a Hollywood vault, waiting for Mr. Rich to turn up to claim it.

## DURBAN A.N.C. OFFICE RAIDED

DURBAN.

THE Durban office of the African National Congress was raided by the Special Branch on Thursday, August 8, at half past four in the afternoon. The Natal Indian Congress office, across the passage, was closed at the time, and when the detectives tried the door they found it locked.

No arrests were made during the raid, and nothing was taken away. A report in the local press the next morning stated that Captain Lamprecht, officer in charge of the Special Branch, Durban, had said that the raid had been made for a specific purpose which he could not divulge.

Selborne Maponya, acting provincial secretary of the ANC in Natal, told New Age that he was in the office a about 4.30 in the afternoon, talking to several other ANC members, when two detectives of the Special Branch walked in. They did not stay longer than ten minutes,

and during that time they searched quickly through the drawers, the filing cabinets, and a brief case. Before they left, he asked them what they were looking for, and one of them replied that that was their secret.

Mr. Maponya said that the search had not been a very careful one. "They gave me the impression," he said, "that they were looking for something conspicuous that wouldn't be easily missed." When offered a chair at the beginning of the raid, one of them said: "No, I don't think we'll be long."

Within a very short while, reporters from the local press arrived at the office to enquire about the raid, though they had not been informed of it by Congress.

The detectives told Mr. Maponya that the police had received reports of ANC intimidation. Mr. Maponya replied: "You know we don't intimidate people. Those who complained were probably looking for a job with you."

# THE CHANGING FACE OF CHINA

LONDON.

CAPITALISM in China is practically dead, but the capitalists are still alive. Quietly, peacefully, but not without intense discussion, one of the greatest transformations the world has ever seen has taken place there, for now social ownership of the means of production and exchange in that country has almost completely replaced private ownership.

The remarkable fact about the change is that during the process the lives of nearly a quarter of humanity were radically changed without violence or bloodshed.

### THREE STAGES

When the People's Republic of China was set up in 1949, industry was almost completely in private hands and the countryside was largely still feudal.

1. Certain key sectors of industry were immediately nationalised and the mines, factories and railroads abandoned by the Chiang Kai-shek elements were also taken over by the State. But apart from this, the bulk of industry and the whole of commerce was allowed to remain privately run by the capitalists.

Land reform in the countryside broke the power of the feudal landlords, but private ownership of the land continued as the land was redistributed to over 100 million peasant families.

In addition there were many millions of handicraftsmen who owned their own tools and produced for the market.

2. During the period 1949-1955 the socialised sector of the economy made great advances, but private ownership was by no means abolished.

In the field of industry the socialist sector was rapidly developed by means of extensive investment, some capitalists were bought out and many concerns were run jointly by the state and capitalists.

In 1954 the target for the gradual takeover of private industry by the state was set at fifteen years.

Similarly, on the land, although quite a few co-operatives were set up in these six years, they accounted for only a small percentage of the total number of farmers. The target for the transformation of agriculture to a co-operative basis was put at about 10 to 15 years.

3. At the end of 1955, however, it was decided to speed up the process drastically and last year a great peaceful revolution took place.

These figures released by the Chinese Statistical Bureau show how extensive the change was:

**ON THE LAND**—by the end of 1956, no less than 120,000 peasant households or 96% of the national total were in co-operatives. Of this number, more than 190 million or 88% of the national total were in co-ops of the more advanced type.

Far from disrupting production, this changeover produced an increase in the household income of more than three-quarters of the farm workers as compared with 1955.

**INDUSTRY**—70,000 industrial enterprises went over to joint state-private ownership last year. This accounted for 99% of industry which at the beginning of the year still remained in private hands.

**HANDICRAFTS**—by the end of last year 5,000,000 or 92% of Chinese handicraftsmen were in co-operative handicrafts producers' organisations.

Taking the gross industrial output of the country as a whole, state-owned industry accounted for 55%; joint state-private industry for 27%; co-operative industry for 17% and individual craftsmen and capitalist industry for only 1%.

**COMMERCE**—here the picture is similar, 85% of the people formerly working in private shops were at the end of the year working in

joint state-private shops, co-operative stores, co-operative groups, or state-owned shops.

### NO RESTORATION

The methods used to achieve this gigantic changeover were consultation, discussion and persuasion, and the incentive offered to the 500 million people who participated were greater material prosperity and social well-being.

It was the success of this transformation which led the Chinese leaders to state earlier this year that class struggle had fundamentally come to an end in China, and which led to the formulation of the policy of "letting all flowers blossom."

But the Chinese leaders have emphasised that although the economy is now almost fully socialist, many people still retain capitalist ideas, and that these people will not be allowed to try to reinstate capitalism in China.

## SOVIET UNION—CEYLON

### STRONG NEW FRIENDSHIP

LONDON.

RELATIONS between Ceylon and the Soviet Union entered a new phase recently with the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries and an exchange of ambassadors.

Presenting his credentials to Soviet President Voroshilov in the Kremlin, Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, the new Ambassador from Ceylon to the Soviet Union, said:

"We in Ceylon follow with great interest and admiration the tremendous successes achieved by the Soviet people in many spheres.

"Your friendly attitude and hospitality of which we have heard so much from the members of several Ceylon delegations which have recently visited the Soviet Union, makes me confident of the success of the important mission entrusted me," he continued.

"I shall do everything in my power," he stressed, "to strengthen the ties of goodwill and friendship which—and I am happy to note this—already exist between our two countries."

Voroshilov replied in equally warm terms and assured the Ceylon Ambassador of the utmost understanding and assistance from the Soviet Government.

This new friendship between the two countries follows on the defeat of the pro-American Government in Ceylon last year and the return to office of a Government pledged to a policy of positive neutralism and friendship to all countries.

### Economic Aid

Following on the exchange of ambassadors, talks have been held between representatives of the two countries on possible Soviet economic aid to Ceylon.

A Soviet Government delegation is to visit Colombo soon to discuss details of such proposed aid.

Trade between the two countries is also to be stepped up. The Soviet Union will provide much-needed capital goods for Ceylon's construction, in return for rubber and tea.

### Old Friendship

LONDON.

The King and the Foreign Minister of AFGHANISTAN have just completed a two-week state visit to

the Soviet Union.

The trip would contribute towards the strengthening of the long existing friendly relations between the two countries, the Afghan paper Anis commented.

The paper recalled that the USSR was the first state to recognise Afghanistan after it had won independence and that Afghanistan was the first state to recognise the young Soviet State.

The paper added that despite differences in political systems and ideology between the two countries, nothing could impede their growing friendship and good neighbourliness.

## JORDAN — OH SO FREE!

No political parties (dissolved).

No Parliament (indefinitely adjourned).

No trade unions (banned).

No students' association (illegal).

No public meetings (forbidden).

No opposition newspapers (all five closed down).

No civil rights (replaced by martial law)—

Jordan has joined the free world



(Group photo of the new Jordanian Cabinet.)



## Metal Workers Unite

JOHANNESBURG.

AS a first step towards the formation of a National Union of Metalworkers, unions in the industry in the Transvaal, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Natal have established a "Committee of United Metal Workers' Unions," which will make joint representations to the employers and conduct a nation-wide organising drive in the industry.

The Transvaal African Iron and Steel Workers' Union has changed its name to the Metal Workers' Union (Transvaal) and the Iron and Steel Workers' Union in Port Elizabeth has also adopted the name Metal Workers' Union (Cape Eastern) in the interests of unity and uniformity.

The new co-ordinating committee, established with the assistance of the Congress of Trade Unions, has sent a memorandum to the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation and to the National Industrial Council, demanding a general increase in wages for all workers in the industry and a minimum wage of £1 a day. Thirty days annual leave, a forty-hour week and direct negotiations with the constituent unions are among other demands presented by the Committee.

The Memorandum is signed on behalf of the four metal workers' unions by Messrs. N. Sejake (Transvaal), B. Turok, M.P.C. (Western Cape), W. Mkwazi (Cape Eastern) and B. Nair (Natal).

The memorandum rejects the Agreement concluded last October, on the grounds that none of the unions nor their members were consulted, or their demands considered, and its provisions for Non-European workers are "shocking" and "unjust."

The Committee has launched a mass petition campaign among the workers in support of its demands.

## VERWOERD'S "PARADISE" A HELL ON EARTH



JOHANNESBURG.

VERWOERD'S "model" township, Meadowlands, which is extolled by the Government as a paradise, is fast proving to be a hell on earth for its residents. For such petty offences as late payment of rent, the people are being fined and even jailed. Residents complain that while people are in jail for these offences their possessions are sold up by the authorities.

Widows are evicted on the death of their husbands. Residents who put up visitors without permission are fined amounts up to £25.

Last week, 30 people were arrested in routine raids, for failure to pay fines imposed for late payment of rent. Bail was fixed at £15 and these people had to pay a £2 fine or face im-

prisonment for two months.

Also during last week a widow, Mrs. Serui, was notified that she should quit her home in Meadowlands. She was not asked whether, despite her husband's death, she wished to go on living in the house and would be able to pay the rent.

Widespread resentment has been caused by the taking of fingerprints of rent defaulters called to the township office.

The rent issue is generally a burning one in this township. People complain that they are paying economic rents for sub-economic homes. Moreover, when a child starts work he has to pay a lodger's fee of 7s. 6d. to live in the township and the policy is to compel young unmarried men to stay in hostels even though their parents have houses in Meadowlands.

**HELP SELL  
NEW AGE!**

## ARNOLD'S XMAS HAMPERS

5 Progress Buildings, 154 Commissioner Street  
Johannesburg

*Warning To All Customers - Please Take Note!!*

The closing date for the last payments is November 1st and under no circumstances are we going to accept late payments. Those customers who are lagging behind with their payments are now warned that they must speed up their payments.

**LUXURY SWEET PARCEL—LUXURY SWEET PARCEL**

We are still taking orders for these luxury £1 sweet parcels, an ideal Xmas treat for the whole family. Customers are hereby notified that they must place their orders before August 31st. After that date we shall not be accepting any further orders for sweet parcels.

**DOLLS — DOLLS — DOLLS**

Customers are invited to come and have a look at our sample range of Dolls. Orders for Xmas can be placed now. You are advised not to delay, for those who leave it for later on may be disappointed.

## TEXTILE WORKERS' MEETING

DURBAN.

A mass gathering of textile workers in Durban sponsored by the Textile Workers' Union (Durban Branch) and the African Textile Workers (Durban Branch) is planned for Sunday, August 25. Among the guest speakers will be Adv. M. D. Naidoo, of the Natal Indian Congress, and Mr. Alan Paton, of the Liberal Party.

One of the objects of the meeting is to demonstrate the feeling of the workers regarding the delaying tactics adopted by employers in arriving at an agreement on the Industrial Council. The Textile Wage Agreement expired during 1955, and the union has been trying to negotiate for a new agreement ever since then.

There has been no increase of the basic wage in the industry since 1951. One of the original demands of the union was that the cost of living allowance should be 80% of the basic wage, but since 1955 the cost of living has risen further, and the union is now asking for a cost of living allowance which is 112% of the basic wage.

## BOSSES IGNORE £1 A DAY MEMO

JOHANNESBURG.

OVER a month ago the Congress of Trade Unions drew up a memorandum which put up a cast-iron case for all-round wage increases, especially for unskilled workers, with a minimum of £1 a day.

The memorandum was circulated to a number of leading organisations of employers, including the Transvaal Chamber of Industries, the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Mines and the Transvaal Agricultural Union.

Only the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce has thus far had the courtesy to acknowledge receipt of the document.

"While interested in the matter of Non-European earnings," writes the Chamber, "it is not a registered employers' organisation, nor does it deal with specific requests or demands relating to conditions of employment." The letter suggests that "statutory machinery" would be "more appropriate" for handling the SACTU proposals.

### WORKERS' CONFERENCES

The National £1 a Day Committee is pressing forward with its plans for organising regional workers' conferences in preparation for a National Workers' Conference. The East and West Rand regions will hold their conferences on August 25.

### OPTICIANS

Wolfson & De Wet, F.N.A.O. (Eng.), Qualified Sight-testing and Dispensing Opticians, 4 King George Street (between Bree and Plein Streets), Johannesburg. Please note Change of Address  
Phone 22-3834  
20% Reduction to Africans

### CONGRATULATIONS

We, the staff of Arnold's Xmas Hampers take pride in congratulating our dear friend Miss Vivienne Peteni who has been promoted to the rank of Sister. We wish her luck in her promotion which has been earned through determination and hard work.

### KLAFF'S CYCLE WORKS

82 Harrison Street, Johannesburg

Issy Heyman wishes to thank "New Age" readers for the support they have given us in the past.

Shop closed as from 15.8.57.

### TREASON TRIAL

Group photograph of the accused  
10" x 8"—5s. each.  
20" x 16"—30s. each.

Available against cash with order at all New Age offices or from

**ELI WEINBERG  
PHOTOGRAPHER**

11 Plantation Road, Gardens  
Johannesburg  
Phone 45-4103

At Durban a local £1 a day committee, representing the local Congresses and the Liberal Party has been set up, and it is planned to hold the Durban Workers' Conference in December.

An appeal has been made by the national committee for volunteers to come forward to help organise workers' committees in factories and other places of employment, as the basis for trade union organisation. Lectures will be given to those who agree to come forward for this work, and the work will be systematically organised and checked. Hundreds of workers have already signified their keenness to organise by filling in forms circulated by the Congress of Trade Unions.

**Have YOU made your  
contribution to our  
next shipment of  
newsprint?**

## NOTICE

The price of New Age has been increased to 6d. a copy as from the issue of May 2, 1957.

The new subscription rates are as follows—

South Africa and the Protectorates:

21s. a year  
11s. a half-year  
6s. a quarter

Overseas: 25s. a year

## Turfontein Racing

Following are High Treason's selections for Saturday:

12 noon: 1. Devon Chimes; 2. Sten Gun; 3. Queen of Paarl.

12.35: 1. Legal Love; 2. Flinters; 3. Arab Saint.

1.10: 1. Tundra; 2. Spectra; 3. Regina.

1.55: 1. Convallaria; 2. Tyrollean Lad; 3. Prime Mover.

2.35: 1. Storm Ballet; 2. Lady Brilliant; 3. Ace Pilot.

3.15: 1. M. Togatus; 2. Bridal Way; 3. New Eclipse.

3.55: 1. Saint Razzle; 2. Quartermaster; 3. Clere Story.

4.35: 1. Sir; 2. Disdain; 3. Brave Turk.

5.10: 1. Irresistible; 2. Allegiance; 3. Harley.

Port Natal Handicap:

1. Sea Lord  
2. Oil Gauge  
3. Commonwealth.

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Durban: 703 Lodson House, 118 Gray Street.  
Port Elizabeth: 9 Court Chambers, 129 Adderley Street.  
Pretoria: Mr. E. Ditsel, 978 Swart St., Lady Selborne Location.

Published by Real Printing & Publishing Co. (Pty.) Ltd., 6 Barrack Street, Cape Town, and printed by Pioneer Press (Pty.) Ltd., Forgate Street, Woodstock. This newspaper is a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. New Age offices:  
Cape Town: Room 20, 6 Barrack Street, Phone 2-3727.  
Johannesburg: 102 Progress Buildings, 154 Commissioner Street, Phone 22-4625.  
Durban: 703 Lodson House, 118 Gray Street, Phone 6-8897.  
Port Elizabeth: 9 Court Chambers, 129 Adderley Street, Phone 6-7000.



**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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