

# VERWOERD BILL BANS AFRICAN MEETINGS IN TOWNS

A Woman Is Arrested —  
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The Boycott, Page 3



## DRASTIC INTERFERENCE WITH FREEDOM OF ALL SECTIONS

CAPE TOWN.

DRASTIC restrictions on the freedom of movement and assembly of the African people are contained in provisions of the Bill to amend the Native Labour Regulation Act and the Natives (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act introduced by the Minister of Native Affairs in the House of Assembly last week.

THE EFFECT OF ONE CLAUSE OF THE BILL WILL BE THAT NO MEETING AT WHICH AFRICANS ARE PRESENT MAY BE HELD ON ANY PREMISES IN AN URBAN AREA OUTSIDE A LOCATION UNLESS THE PERMISSION OF THE MINISTER OF NATIVE AFFAIRS HAS FIRST BEEN OBTAINED.

The full clause reads:

"No church, school, hospital, club or other institution or place of entertainment which was not in existence on the first day of January, 1938, to which a Native is admitted or which is attended by a Native, shall be conducted by any person on premises situated within any urban area outside a location, Native village, Native hostel or area approved by the Minister for residence of Natives . . . nor shall any meeting, assembly or gathering to which a Native is admitted or which is attended by a Native, be conducted or permitted by any person on such premises without the approval of the Minister given with the concurrence of the urban local authority concerned, which approval may be given subject to such conditions as the Minister may deem fit and may be withdrawn by him after consultation with the urban local authority concerned, or if he is satisfied that any such condition has not been observed."

Thus no church which was not in existence before 1938 may be conducted in premises outside a location without the Minister's permission.

### OPPOSITION

This section of the clause has already produced strong opposition from church leaders in all centres, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Durban and Methodist and Anglican spokesmen have declared that their churches will be obliged to defy the law if it is passed in its present form, as they may not discriminate against any of their members.

The ban on meetings, however, has passed largely unnoticed in the daily press. What it means is simply that no meeting attended by Africans may be held in any hall anywhere outside a location without the permission of the Minister of Native Affairs.

This prohibition applies not only to meetings conducted by Africans. It applies also to any meeting conducted by members of any other race which is attended by Africans.

Thus if one African were to wander into a United Party meeting in a hall in the centre of Cape Town or Johannesburg the meeting would become an illegal meeting and the organisers would become liable to

prosecution.

Even members of Parliament will be forbidden to hold meetings at

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## Now The Police Also Throw Stones

CAPE TOWN.

STONES were thrown by the police, casual passers-by were assaulted, and people threatened with sten-guns in a clash between

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P.E. BOYCOTT SUSPENDED, BUT

## ANC TO CAMPAIGN FOR £1 MINIMUM WAGE

PORT ELIZABETH.

IN a statement issued over the week-end, the African National Congress (Cape) announced the suspension of the sympathy boycott of buses and trains and the simultaneous commencement of a campaign for a minimum wage of £1 a day and a blanket boycott of Nationalist products and Nationalist finance houses.

This "second phase" of the Port Elizabeth campaign was to start as from Monday of this week.

Paying tribute to the Reef-Pretoria boycotters the statement says:

"The hardships which the people have borne in their grim fight to save 2d. in order to ensure that they do not have to reduce their already meagre subsistence diet has highlighted the inadequacy of the wages paid to Africans in this country.

### SLAVE WAGES

"When the Eastern Cape started walking and defied all sorts of weather, they did so to spotlight all the more the fact that Africans are being paid slave wages. For it could not have been only sympathy that knit together scores of thousands of

workers here, nor vain sympathy that has got tens of thousands to boycott transport in East London. The sheer determination to exist

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## AUTHORITIES MUST NEGOTIATE, OTHERWISE "AZIKWELWA", SAY BOYCOTT LEADERS

From Michael Harmel  
JOHANNESBURG.

ABANDONING Schoeman's dead-end "Break the Boycott" line, the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce last week made the first constructive move to settle the bus dispute when it called on employers to make good the fare increases by paying a weekly shilling transport allowance.

The boycott leaders welcomed the gesture, but pointed out that the major weakness of the scheme was that the allowance was voluntary, and that many employers would not pay it.

Also many bus users not employed in commerce and industry would not get the allowance.

### LOCALISED

The Co-ordinating Council of the Rand and Pretoria points out that the offer only covers Johannesburg and excludes Pretoria, Germiston, and other affected areas; if levied

only for Africans in Alexandra and Sophiatown, it might lead ultimately to the victimisation and replacement of the workers in these areas.

The Council is ready to meet the Chamber of Commerce, the City Council and Schoeman, and make a serious effort to eliminate the difficulties and settle the dispute.

MEANWHILE THE DECISION WAS ENDORSED AT MASS MEETINGS IN ALL BOYCOTT AREAS: AZIKWELWA! THE BOYCOTT GOES ON.

A big fleet of PUTCO buses was

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## Workers' Victory At P.E. Factory

PORT ELIZABETH.

A FACTORY foreman at the Union Spinning Mills fired 16 Coloured women because they objected to the promotion of an anti-union woman to the position of supervisor in their department. When the rest of the workers—African and Coloured—heard of this they stopped working the following day and refused to enter the factory unless the woman was immediately demoted. The workers also insisted that if she remained in the factory she should become a member of the union.

Over 300 workers stood at the gate while armed police poured out of troop carriers. But the workers told the management they would not negotiate while the police were around.

After the police had left, the management agreed to demote the woman immediately, and the workers returned to their work after a loss of two hours.

# NEW AGE

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP NEW AGE?



# JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

**F**ORTY-THREE POUNDS THREE SHILLINGS. THAT IS ALL THAT CAME IN LAST WEEK, AND OBVIOUSLY IT IS NOT ENOUGH.

We know that New Age supporters have other urgent commitments. BUT NO MATTER HOW IMPORTANT OTHER NEEDS MAY BE, NOTHING MUST BE PERMITTED TO ALLOW NEW AGE FUND-COLLECTING TO TAKE SECOND PLACE.

Our paper is recognised to be absolutely vital in the present struggle—and it would be well to remember that if we have more weeks as bad as this one, it might mean the end of the paper.

Welcome support comes this week from the Natal Indian Congress paper "Organiser."

"... And then there is the campaign for financial support for New Age and for increasing its sales. We should aim at raising £1,000 and increasing the sales of New Age to 5,000 per week," it says.

Already reports have come in from various branches of the NIC indicating that our paper is being extensively sold in areas where previously it had hardly been known.

The "Organiser" then goes on: "... In short, making members means educating and organising the people. In this context we are bound to recognise the enormous value of New Age. Every additional copy of New Age that is read means that one extra person has been brought nearer to our Congress, one more step has been taken towards democracy. Let us then redouble our

efforts to increase the circulation of New Age."

Wherever activity is collectively increased, as is the case of the sales of our paper in Durban, there you will almost inevitably find some outstanding personality who is an inspiration to his fellow men. Such a man is Prem Mistrey of Durban. He sold 750 copies single-handed last week and then went out helping one of the branches of the NIC to sell theirs. That is indeed a labour of love.

## LAST WEEK'S DONATIONS:

Cape Town £19.13.  
Johannesburg: Vic £5; I. £2; Izzy Colls £3; Billy £3.10; Friend £5; Anon £5.  
Total—£43 3s. 0d.



## THE PEOPLE ARE FED UP WITH ADVISORY BOARDS

The 75,000 boycotters of Randfontein, Germiston, Johannesburg and Pretoria have amply demonstrated that the Africans are no longer children on whom any scheme can be imposed with impunity. By braving the heat, cold, and rain they have shown that they are weary of white domination and exploitation. This nation, whatever the cost, is stretching forth to manhood, and has decided to shape its own destiny.

The outburst by Dr. Verwoerd imputing political motives to an issue that was obviously economic, and charging the ANC with intimidating Africans to support the boycott, is another indication that the Europeans do not know us.

Yet another indication was the callous decision of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce to capitulate to the strong-arm methods of Mr. Schoeman and "get tough" with the boycotters. The Chamber should have known that the "boys" and "girls" are up in arms against an injustice and any intimidation would steel their determination.

The ignoble role played by the Advisory Boards is, however, distressing. Despite the people's militancy these collaborators are found in subterranean gatherings conspiring against the boycott. Re-echoing their master's voice they denounce the boycott as political manoeuvring. They are also bent on crushing it. They must be exposed.

The African National Congress has a standing decision against these dummies. It is time it was implemented so that freedom can come in our lifetime.

PETER H. 'MOLOTSI  
Johannesburg.

I wish to declare that I categorically repudiate the actions and statements of certain Advisory Board members, in their handling of the bus boycott issue.

These members have clearly shown that they do not represent the feelings and interests of the people whom they claim to represent. The people of Johannesburg will not forgive those Advisory Boards for not making any protest when PUTCO decided to raise the fares. The people are asking why the Boards called no public meetings. Why they offered no opposition,

Yet these frightened men who have dissociated themselves from the boycott have the audacity to attend secret meetings with Dr. Ray Phillips and the so-called 'responsible leaders'. They have by such actions insulted the African people from whom they did not even care to get a mandate.

I wish to appeal to those Advisory Board members who support the boycott to identify themselves completely with the people. To the cowards I say resign now and give way to the real fighters for freedom.

Finally, no matter how hard our enemies attempt to smash the boycott the people shall not surrender.

Azikwelwa!! Asinamali!!  
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER  
Dube Township.

## Wake Up, Advisory Board!

A few months ago certain men were elected by the people in the location to the Bethlehem Advisory Board. Voters travelled to the municipal pass office in motor cars at no cost. That is why they voted.

But these Board members are not working for us. We are still troubled with the lodgers' permits. The regulations are not written down at the pass office and so we don't know by what laws we are ruled. Female students attending the Bethlehem Secondary School were arrested because they did not have permits. N.A.D. raids take place during the night when we are naked.

The Advisory Board should protest against these things.

JOE MOTAUNG.  
Bethlehem.

## Group Areas Make Enemies

I want you to tell all those people who make group areas that they are making enemies of the African and Indian people by treating them the way they do.

"SUN"  
Durban North.

## Liberal Party And The Franchise

Thank you for publishing my letter in your issue of February 7. In reply to your footnote, I deny that the franchise question was a major issue discussed at the recent Liberal Party Congress. As the Party adopted the universal franchise policy two years ago this would hardly have been necessary.

I think I can claim to be a "Liberal Party spokesman" and furthermore I did attend the Congress as a delegate. Will this do?

VIOLAINE JUNOD

(Miss Junod denies that the franchise question was a major issue discussed at the Liberal Party conference. Is the franchise question then a minor issue? New Age has information that some delegates were gravely disturbed by the discussion on the franchise which took place at the conference. We still can't understand why the Party makes such a mystery of it all.)

In any event, what does the Liberal Party's universal franchise mean? In the House of Assembly on January 24 of this year, the following exchange took place:

"Mrs. Ballinger: What we hope to do in this country is to help to build up a multi-racial community into a strong modern state based on mutual confidence and mutual respect.

"The Minister of Justice: With equal voting rights?"

"Mrs. Ballinger: Yes, with equal voting rights for people who qualify for equal voting rights."

Is this also Liberal Party policy? —Ed.)

## Threatened With Arrest For Reading "Forum"

I am writing this letter to you with a very sore heart. On a recent Monday morning at 5.20 a.m. at Newclare my cousin was apprehended by the police for having failed to produce his pass, which he had accidentally forgotten at work. I was unaware of the fact that he was arrested. All of a sudden I heard somebody calling me. Looking around I saw somebody in a motor car gesticulating at me. I rushed to him and I found him being handcuffed. I asked him what the trouble was. After telling me, he gave me the phone number of his employer.

While I was busy writing it down a European policeman caught me by the neck. When I looked at him he started interfering with my school books until he came across a copy of "Forum" which I bought early in January. He started hitting me and he even kicked me. My "Forum" was confiscated and I was told that if I was found reading "Forum" I would be arrested.

SPENCER TSEBE  
Lady Selborne.

## EDITORIAL

# VERWOERD'S BILL MUST BE STOPPED

MINISTER Verwoerd's Bill to amend the Urban Areas Act takes South Africa yet a step further on the road to the concentration camp.

If this Bill is passed, it will be a criminal offence for anyone to hold a meeting in premises outside a location at which Africans are present unless permission has first been obtained from the Minister of Native Affairs. It will similarly be a criminal offence to conduct any "church, school, hospital, club, institution or place of entertainment which was not in existence on January 1, 1938, if it is to be attended by a Native, unless the approval of the Minister of Native Affairs had first been obtained."

There are many other equally drastic provisions in the Bill.

In other words, the Minister of Native Affairs, Senator Verwoerd, who already has complete control over what Africans do in locations, now wants the power to decide what Africans are allowed to do when they leave a location and visit town. He will decide which churches and cinemas and clubs they may attend. He will decide which meetings they may attend.

The net effect of this Bill will be to destroy most of the few remaining liberties the African people can still be said to enjoy. Once the Bill is passed, their whole lives from the cradle to the grave are to be controlled down to the smallest detail by the Great Panjandrum Senator Verwoerd, the Rainmaker, the White Man God who Knows Best.

The most serious effect of the Bill will undoubtedly be that all hall meetings attended by Africans will from now on be illegal. It can be taken for granted that the ANC, for example, will get no permission from Verwoerd to hold meetings. Furthermore, no other organisation may hold a meeting attended by Africans unless Verwoerd agrees.

If, for example, the Congress of Democrats were to hold a meeting in a hall and one single African were to join the audience, the organisers of the meeting would become liable to prosecution. Not even the representatives of the African people in Parliament could hold meetings of their constituents in a hall without the permission of the Minister. African trade unions would be practically illegalised.

There is only one word for this—it is madness. It is the madness of a dictatorship which has run amuck. It is the madness of men whose insatiable lust for power has destroyed their sense of what is right and wrong.

No country, and no people, can safely entrust their future to the mercies of a politically unbalanced tyrant like Verwoerd. Is one man to be the sole arbiter of the fate of 12 millions?

South Africans of all races and all political persuasions must roar out an indignant "No" to this fantastic Bill. There can be no argument about it. THIS BILL MUST BE STOPPED.

## Hungary And The Soviet Union

# CRITICAL THINKING NEEDED — NOT NAME-CALLING

The charges levelled against me in 'Neighbour's' letter of New Age of February 21 force me once more to write to you.

Firstly, I have nowhere denied that certain elements amongst the Hungarian rebels invited a counter-invasion of armies from Western countries.

Secondly, taken to its logical conclusion the contention that the USSR had to prevent the possibility of the establishment of yet another air-base for use against itself means that the USSR should some time ago have invaded countries such as Britain, Spain and Japan. This argument is obviously not tenable.

The above points constitute differences of opinion between 'Neighbour' and myself. These are entitled to have.

However, 'Neighbour' is not entitled to slander me by suggesting that because I appear not to mea-

sure up to his standards of "a friend of socialism" I am therefore a friend of capitalism. He has no right to assume, as he does in his letter, that anyone who is critical of the action of the USSR in the Hungarian uprising does not, ipso facto, "demand the withdrawal of all troops from foreign lands." In fact I do support such a demand.

The disgusting factor about 'Neighbour's' letter is his use of the Stalinist tactic for silencing unpleasantly critical voices. This consisted of calling all critics "enemies of the people" and thus transferring attention from the criticism expressed to the smearing of the critic. These methods are today political anachronisms. What is now needed is frank and constructive critical thinking—not name-calling.

ALAN LIPMAN  
Durban.



OUT OF ALEXAN-  
DRA'S MORNING  
MIST MARCH THE  
TOWNSHIP'S PEOPLE,  
NINE WEARY BUT  
PROUD MILES TO  
THE CITY WHICH  
WOULD DIE WITH-  
OUT THEM.

HERE NEW AGE  
CAMERA-MAN ELI  
WEINBERG SHOWS  
HOW THEY MUST  
FIGHT EVERY MILE  
OF THE WAY.



## AZIKWELWA!

The buses say Putco,  
Our children say Bread.  
"Make a noose of brown pennies  
And kill the word dead!"—  
Azikwelwa!

So they shot at the word,  
It ran like a hare;  
It flew like a bird.  
Lord, it was everywhere!  
Azikwelwa!

Mercury had winged heels,  
But limping with blisters,  
Hope wings for us, who know  
Clean sores don't fester.

Oh Samson was a strong man,  
He pulled those pillars down,  
By candlelight he bikes and plods  
All the long miles to town.

The word runs like a brown mouse,  
We feed it each night  
With the crumbs of our hope  
And the rind of our pride.  
Azikwelwa!

In the beggar's cupped palm  
A man placed a stone,  
So he reached for his sling  
And aimed it home.

Oh Goliath beware  
Of the David to whom  
You give the stone  
That will fell you down!  
Azikwelwa!



2. She is thrown into the police-van and is soon joined by a young servant-girl, several men. Passes, taxes, who knows what for. A young white policeman, his gun very evident, stands by.

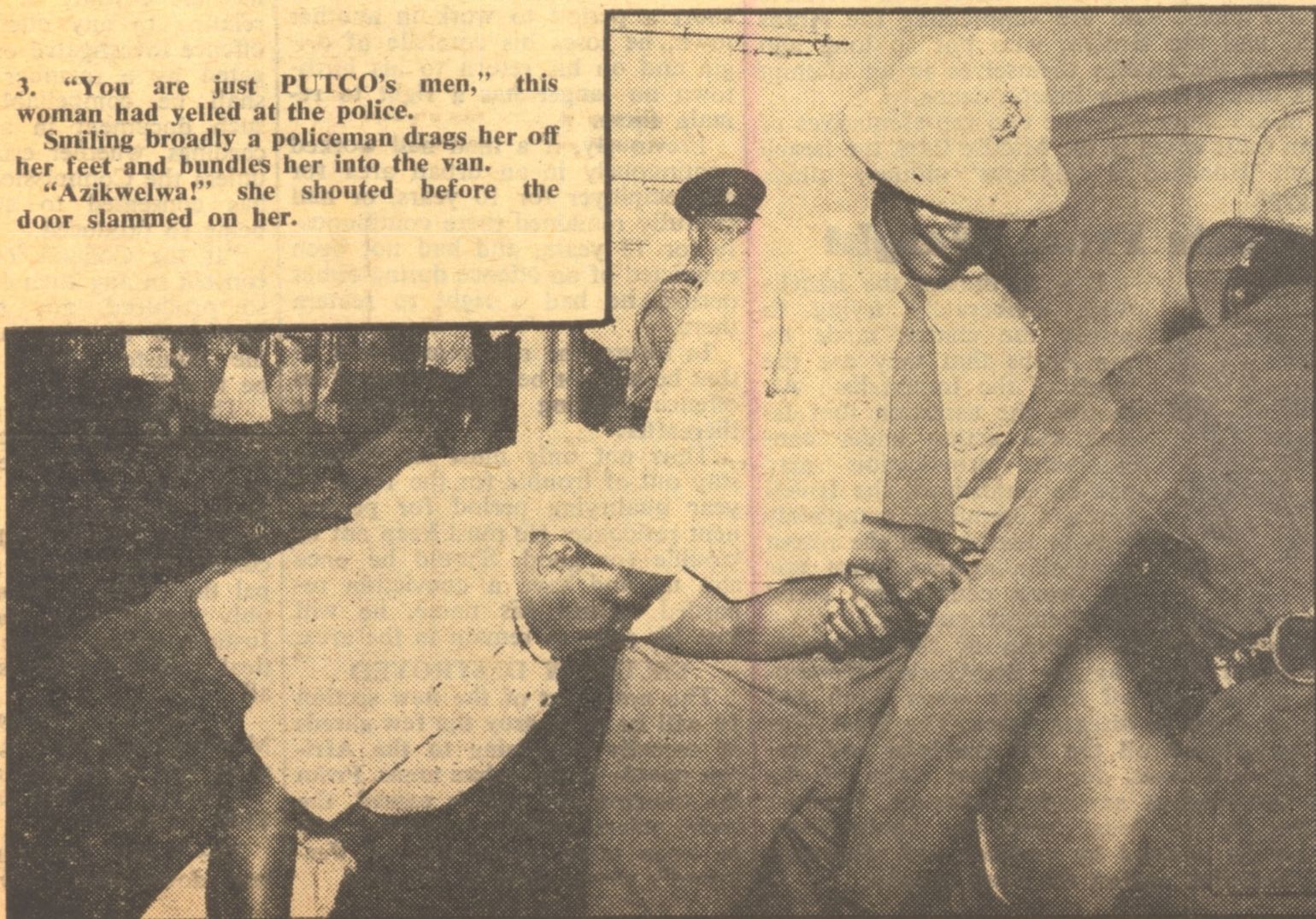


1. The workers are stopped on any pretext and are roughly treated by the police. Last week the police stopped the women and poked through their handbags and parcels.

This woman refused to allow the policeman to touch her property. "You cannot frighten me," she tells him. "We were born under the police. It's passes and police every day of our lives."



3. "You are just PUTCO's men," this woman had yelled at the police. Smiling broadly a policeman drags her off her feet and bundles her into the van. "Azikwelwa!" she shouted before the door slammed on her.



4. And sifting through the police the people march on, grim determination on their faces.



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