

40,000 Strike, Demonstrate

Against Passes For Women

From Michael Harmel

JOHANNESBURG.

PENT-UP anger and resentment against permit raids and the inclusion of women in the hated pass system seethed past boiling point when 15,000 men and women streamed in from the City's Western Areas to the biggest City Hall steps demonstration we have seen since the Nationalist Government came to power.

They had come to the City Hall to back up a seven-man deputation from the Anti-Permit Committee, and they sang songs and listened to speakers outside, while the Mayor promised their leaders all

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A general view of the huge crowd in front of the Johannesburg City Hall with (inset) a group of demonstrators carrying the ANC banner.

AND THOUSANDS MARCH IN CAPE TOWN



Behind banners demanding "Freedom of Worship and Freedom of Association," thousands of people of all races marched side by side through the streets of Cape Town last Saturday in protest against Verwoerd's Native Laws Amendment Bill. At a mass meeting after the march the Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev. T. J. Savage, said: "We must protest. If necessary we must disregard the law. We must obey God rather than men. It is a matter of duty."

NEW AGE

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Congresses Launch Economic Boycott Of Nat. Products

JOHANNESBURG.

THE African National Congress has been joined by the Indian Congress, the Congress of Trade Unions, the Coloured People's Organisation and the Congress of Democrats in a nation-wide campaign to boycott "certain firms and institutions set up and supported by Nationalist politicians for the specific purpose of advancing the Nationalist cause."

A joint statement issued by the organisations says this is the Congress answer to the "increasingly dictatorial, racialistic" policies of the Government, and particularly its "callous disregard of the economic well-being of the ordinary people as expressed in such actions as:

in poll-tax and its extension to women.

"The use of State repression in an attempt to break the recent bus boycotts.

"The action of the Labour Department in the recent dockers' dispute when it intervened to prevent the employers from granting an agreed increase and brought in convict and other scab labour.

"The persistent refusal of the Government to heed the crying poverty of the working people or to take steps to implement their demand for pay increases and a national minimum wage of £1 per day.

NOT RACIALISTIC

"The boycott will in no sense be racialistic in character or directed

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"The totally unjustified increase

NEW AGE APPEALS TO THE A.N.C.

LAST week's New Age editorial opened with the following passage: "The Nat. Government continues to behave towards the African people with all the ruthlessness and hatred of an invading army in conquered territory." How true this is—the Nats are even threatening to ban the ANC, we are told. Chief Luthuli has appealed to all democratically-minded people to fight against this threat.

New Age has made no bones about where it stands on this issue. We stand four-square behind the ANC in their fight for legality and in their efforts to bring freedom to their people.

We therefore make no excuses this week for appealing to every single member of the ANC throughout the Union to reciprocate by selling New Age in their area.

The ANC volunteers in Cape Town are setting a splendid example in this respect by selling between them over 1,200 copies every week. How about the other centres taking up this challenge?

A young schoolboy in Cape Town has shown the way this week by donating 12/6 to the paper. But in spite of our appeal last week for donors to keep up the good work, every centre has fallen short.

Please make up for this shortfall by straining every effort to collect and send in donations before the end of the month so that we are kept in the clear when the accounts come rolling in.

LAST WEEK'S DONATIONS:

Cape Town:
School Boy 12.6d.; Non Dancers £1.3.9; Jumble £19.7; Sundries £12.3.6.

Port Elizabeth:
Friend £1; Donor £1; Babs 10.6d.

Johannesburg:
Pretoria £6; Don £10; Rub. £1.10; Misc. £20; Friend £15; Jack Boots £1; Joy 10s.; ANC Women Central 4.8d.; J.M. £2; Vic £5.

TOTAL—£97 1s. 11d.



WHY DID UMTATA WOMEN TAKE PASSES?

The women's campaign against the pass laws and the Group Areas Act is gaining momentum. Women from all racial groups are joining in the opposition to these laws.

The purpose of the campaign initiated by the Federation of Women and its affiliated bodies as a prelude to further action, is to collect as many signatures as possible for the pledges to be sent to the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. Verwoerd, demanding the abolition of passes, and, secondly, the signing of a protest by women against the Group Areas Act.

This struggle of the women must not consist of the usual spontaneous, isolated outbursts of opposition in which our forces remain dispersed. If the women are properly mobilised, not only can they make the laws unworkable but in the process they can create powerful women's organisations like those of India, China and other countries which played a major role in the achievement of independence and freedom for those countries.

If this women's struggle against the pass laws and the Group Areas Act does not produce permanent, strong organisations which truly represent the united force of the oppressed women, then it will be a fight only half won.

The attainment of such organisational strength must be the immediate aim of the Women's Federation and the ANC Women's League.

Through these two organisations, women are swinging into action along the East Rand, the West Rand and Pretoria, in Johannesburg including Alexandra Township, the South Western areas, the Western Areas and George Goch, and work has started among the Coloured and Indian women of Fordsbury and Vrededorp.

In Pretoria, during the past few weeks the work of one Indian woman has resulted in hundreds of Indian women signing the

Group Areas protest and a number of anti-pass pledges.

The European women members of the Hillbrow branch of the Congress of Democrats set up tables in the streets and secured several hundred signatures from European women for the protest and the pledge.

In Cape Town the local branch of the Women's Federation and the ANC Women's League have also launched a campaign against passes and poll tax.

What of the women of Natal? We are sure they will not let down the women of other provinces.

The latest areas where passes are to be issued to women are Vrede, Uitenhage, Cradock, Umtata and Standerton. Last week women in Umtata were already taking out passes. Many do not know what they are doing: the campaign has not reached them yet. This must be the concern of every woman.

**BERTHA MASHABA
HELEN JOSEPH**

Joint Secretaries, Transvaal Region, Federation of S.A. Women.

Langa Housing Not Fit For Human Beings

Those who praise the Government for building houses for the Africans don't know what they are talking about. Go to Langa location and have a look at the houses which are built for bachelors. I say straight out those houses are not meant for human beings.

Just imagine taking a man and putting him in a house with a cement table and a cement bed. How can you expect him to live for a long time in this world? Everybody should know that in South Africa the African people are not well cared for.

Windermere.

E.Z.M.

An Appeal To The Coloured People

As a New Age seller, I want to appeal to our Coloured population to give their support to the people's paper. New Age represents the views of the working class in South Africa and is the only one that fearlessly condemns the ideology of apartheid.

There are today 156 brothers and sisters in Johannesburg accused of high treason. In my opinion these people's ideals are the same as those who say South Africa needs a change whereby our government would be for the people and elected by the people, not a partial and dictatorial form of government.

I am now calling upon our Coloured brothers and sisters to sacrifice to the best of their ability for the existence of our workers' paper. If ever there was a time in South African politics when every non-white citizen was expected to show his sincerity in getting the Nationalists out of power, that time has come.

We cannot afford to tolerate any form of partiality, but demand full and equal rights for all South Africans. Things are getting hotter and hotter, but where there is a will, there is a way.

Freedom in our lifetime.
Mayibuye Afrika.

T. ESITANG

Cape Town.

MRA A Shelter For Escapists

No sane person dares join the Moral Rearmament movement, for this is a shelter where all the escapists hide. When Mr. P. Q. Vundla was a member of the ANC he said he would defend his citizenship rights through thick and thin. When he was sacked from Congress he went to shelter in the MRA.

Today the whole world is protesting against the nefarious Bills e.g. the University Apartheid and the Native Laws Amendment Bills which are being put through Parliament by the Government. Only MRA and the Afrikaans universities have not protested.

The capitalists are behind the whole movement. All MRA members enjoy freedom of movement, which is denied to the rest of the population. To them getting a passport is as easy as winking. Who finances this organisation?

My fellow Africans, save Africa. Freedom not serfdom.

A.K.G.

Alice.

Not Prepared To Move

The leader and a hard fighter of Klerksdorp, Mrs. Sophie Moremi, after being arrested for the second time was ordered by the magistrate to leave the proclaimed area of Klerksdorp. The cause of her banishment was that she had demonstrated against the issuing of passes to the African women and fought all the legislation imposed upon the people.

Mrs. Moremi has made it clear to the Superintendent that she is not prepared to leave Klerksdorp, whether they give a permit or not. She told me that if you want to achieve freedom you must be prepared to suffer for it.

When she got out of the pick-up van to enter the charge office a European constable said: "The Klerksdorp queen of the ANC is arrested."

"Onward with freedom, my people," she said. "Struggle and fight for the rights of Africa."
Mayibuye.

MOSTARD MJEKULA

Klerksdorp.

Editorial

THE KNOCK ON THE DOOR AT MIDNIGHT

QUESTIONED by Mr. A. Hepple in the House of Assembly last week, the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart, said it was essential that the police should carry out night raids in African locations.

"The police had to search the locations for people who had no right to be there, for illicit liquor, weapons and for criminals. Obviously, it was at night that they had their best opportunity for finding people for whom they might be looking and while he regretted the necessity for these raids, they were unavoidable."

To a man with the mentality of the Minister of Justice, anything is justifiable provided it furthers the needs of white supremacy. White supremacy means pass laws for Africans, and pass laws for Africans means police raids, therefore police raids in the middle of the night are unavoidable.

Not surprisingly, the logic of this argument does not in the least impress the hundreds of thousands of South Africans who are the victims of these barbaric punitive expeditions. They don't agree with white supremacy in the first place, reject the pass laws and are bitterly resentful of these midnight invasions of their privacy.

In fascist countries, the knock on the door at midnight has become a symbol of authoritarian tyranny. In South Africa it is not often that the people are extended the courtesy of a knock on the door. Most usually the police simply burst in without warning, rip the blankets off sleeping couples and demand: "Waar's jou pas jong?"

These raids are not for criminals, weapons or liquor, as Mr. Swart claims. Of the 14,000 people caught in the police dragnet during the bus boycott in Johannesburg, for example, only about 25 were held for what could be called serious crime. The rest were just victims of the iniquitous pass laws, ordinary people turned into technical criminals because they have no right to be somewhere, or have lost the paper proving their right to be somewhere, or are merely too slow in jumping to the orders of some power-crazed police hooligan.

The raids have one main aim—mass intimidation of the African population. They are terror raids, pure and simple, intended to break the spirit of the people and cow them into submission to apartheid.

How long does Mr. Swart think the people are going to stand for this sort of thing? The tens of thousands of Africans who demonstrated against the permit system in Johannesburg last week; the thousands of women who have twice made a pilgrimage to the Uion Buildings to register their protest; the tribesmen and women of Linokana near Zeerust, and the women of Winburg who burnt their reference books—everywhere the people are voicing their opposition to the pass laws and the police tyranny which flows in their wake.

Mr. Swart must not just sit back and think he can shoot it out with the people. The raids ARE avoidable. Let him give the order that they should be abandoned, and the whole atmosphere in the townships would improve overnight. But if he carries on as he is doing now, South Africa is doomed to race hatred and conflict without cease until he and his fascist laws have been swept into oblivion.

Australian Cricket Tour

Last year the Non-European Cricket authorities requested a fixture against the MCC after the tour programme was announced. They were told that it was too late to alter an agreed schedule.

In the meantime Non-European cricketers proved themselves of first-class calibre by two victories and one favourable draw against a Kenya Asian team whose playing strength approximated to that of, say, Western Province or Rhodesia.

It is, therefore, astonishing that no request for a first-class fixture against the Australians was filed before their tour programme was announced.

Could Mr. Resha tell us whether the Non-European cricket authorities have allowed themselves to be intimidated by Dr. Donges' threats against passports for outgoing or incoming non-white sportsmen, and against travel

facilities within the Union for non-white teams? Or have they just been asleep?

CRICKETER

Port Elizabeth.

President Of Cape ANCYL

Allow me through the columns of your paper to rectify a report on the ANC Youth League (Cape) Conference that appeared in the May Day issue.

Mr. Bennie is not the Acting President of the Cape Province as was reported. He was only asked to read the Presidential Address in the absence of the Acting President Mr. Thomas Sullo.

Yours for freedom,

TEMBA SOBANDLA

Acting Secretary, ANCYL (Cape).

New Police Drive "Provocative And Irritating"

Congresses Launch Economic Boycott

(Continued from page 1)

against Afrikaans business men in general; nor will the boycott be invoked against ordinary business men who may happen to be suspected of Nationalistic sympathies.

"But it will be directed against certain firms and institutions set up and supported by Nationalist politicians for the specific purpose of advancing the Nationalist cause. It is these firms and institutions which the public will be called upon to boycott."

"A sub-committee of representatives of the five organisations has been set up and will conduct a full and impartial enquiry into such information as may be made available to it."

"A list of the Nationalist-controlled products and institutions will be issued as a result of these investigations and this list will be amplified from time to time."

"We call upon all democrats and supporters of freedom to give their whole-hearted co-operation in this campaign."

A.N.C. WARNS OF GROWING HATRED

JOHANNESBURG.

THE methods used in the new police drive against crime and violence were condemned as "ineffective, provocative and irritating" in a statement by Mr. O. Tambo, secretary general, on behalf of the ANC Working Committee.

"Whenever a public outcry is made, the South African Police invariably react by intensifying raids for passes, permits and poll tax, in the course of which hundreds of innocent people are arrested," said the statement.

This tends to deceive the public into believing that the real problem is being tackled, whereas in fact whilst the raids are being carried out, the assaults and robberies go on.

"The police regard the pass as the sole criterion of guilt or innocence."

"The ANC protests most solemnly against the raids and demands the adoption of efficient non-discriminatory methods to suppress lawlessness. We warn the country, as we have repeatedly done in the past, that the present police methods serve to aggravate the already strained and embittered relations between black and white in this country."

Conferences To Protest Against Native Laws Bill

CAPE TOWN

A large turn-out of the public is expected at the conference called by the African National Congress (Cape Western Region) at the Woodstock Town Hall on Sunday, May 26, to protest against the Native Laws Amendment Bill and other legislation introduced by the Government during this session of Parliament.

A number of prominent personalities have already agreed to attend. Mr. Leo Marquard, President of the Institute of Race Relations, and Mr. Alex Hepple M.P. will speak on the various provisions of the Bill, and others who will be present include Senator W. Ballinger, Professor B. Beinart and representatives of the National Union of South African Students and other organisations. Speakers from the ANC will lead discussion on the proposed increase in the poll tax, and its extension to women.

Branches of the African National Congress all over the Western Cape will be represented at the conference. The organisers have stressed, however, that the conference is not limited to official delegates but is open to the general public.

The conference, which is due to start at 10 a.m., is expected to last all day. Refreshments will be provided.

JOHANNESBURG

The people of the Transvaal will demonstrate their opposition to Verwoerd's iniquitous Native Laws Amendment Bill at a mass conference to be held here next Sunday, May 26. The conference will take place at Freedom Square in Sophiatown.

Resolutions objecting to such laws as the Group Areas Act, the Bantu Authorities Act and the rest of the apartheid legislation are being prepared and will be presented to the delegates at the conference.

The conference is sponsored by the Congresses and the Federation of South African Women.

PROFILE OF A PEOPLE'S M.P.C.—BENNY TUROK

From Alex La Guma

SEATED between Annie Silinga and Len Lee-Warden in the Drill Hall in Johannesburg is short, bespectacled, cheery Benny Turok, accused No. 97 of the Treason Trial, who is due to be declared African Representative for Cape Western in the Cape Provincial Council this week.

Born of Russian parents in Libau, Latvia, in 1927, Benny has come to be one of the most popular of the 156, and with everybody who has associated with him in Congress circles. This is because of a genial disposition, an easy jocularly and the fact that he has succeeded in adopting the world outlook of the working man.

Benny started school at the Hope Lodge School (which is now the Hewat Training College for Non-European teachers) in Roeland Street, Cape Town. Thereafter he went to Cape Town High and SACS. He attended the University of Cape Town and graduated as a land surveyor.

"My home was always a hive of political activity," said Benny. "My father was interested in Jewish workers' affairs."

At 'varsity he played an active part in student political life and then and afterwards participated in the work of the Modern Youth Society in Cape Town.

In 1953 he was in London, where he served on the London Festival Committee of the World Youth Festival. Later he attended the Third World Festival of Youth and Students in Bucharest, as a representative of the Modern Youth Society, also visiting Budapest and Warsaw.

Back in South Africa he became an organiser for the Congress of Democrats and when the campaign for the Congress of the People was launched, organiser for the Cape Western COP Committee.

In September 1955 he entered the trade union field to organise the bag workers, metal and timber workers. The workers took him immediately, and on the occasions when I had the opportunity of accompanying him to factories, I discovered that "Comrade Benny" had gained the faith and confidence of all the workers, Coloured and African, with whom he was associated.

He helped to organise three strikes for better wages and work-



ing conditions. The union office was always swarming with workers eager to gain his help and advice. He is a fearless and efficient organiser. I have heard him talking to factory bosses over the telephone on behalf of his unions and verbally rapping them over the knuckles for any injustices to their employees.

At the Congress of the People he introduced the clause of the Freedom Charter: "The People Shall Share the Country's Wealth."

Later in 1955 he was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act from attending all gatherings for a period of five years. But he continued his trade union work because the workers wanted him.

He is married to Mary Butcher, one of the first women to be banned under the Suppression Act and one of the first women defiers to take part in the 1952 Defiance Campaign. They have two sons.

Benny is entering the Cape Provincial Council, unopposed, to represent the African people. He is not in agreement with the undemocratic nature of this sort of representation, but the Africans nominated him and he will go to the Council to champion the Freedom Charter and the cause of liberation and equality for all—Europeans, Coloureds, Africans and Indians.

Perhaps the Opposition realised that they could not find a better man than Benny. They are right.

I know him and I'm sure he'll stick to his guns.

Nat. Products Disappear From Shop Shelves In Eastern Cape

From Govan Mbeki

PORT ELIZABETH.

A LITTLE over two months ago the ANC (Cape) embarked on an economic boycott of Nationalist products and Nationalist-controlled finance institutions.

As soon as the announcement was made officials of the Sakekamer hurried to make public statements that the boycott would not have any effect on them.

Recently New Age conducted an investigation on the effects of the boycott on certain products which appear on the list. The most immediate effect was on the five brands of cigarettes which head the list. The traders who were interviewed at New Brighton said that of the five brands, two in particular had been very popular. A small trader said that before the boycott he had been selling 2,000 a week of each of these popular brands.

As soon as the announcement to boycott was made the traders in the locations immediately ceased placing orders. After the eight days grace given them to dispose of Nationalist products, their shelves were completely cleared of Nationalist cigarettes. All those who were interviewed said that their businesses had not suffered, as the demand for substitute brands immediately grew.

Asked how they managed to dispose of jams and canned fruit in the limited time of eight days, the trader replied that the ANC had been very considerate in the application of the boycott and had given

the traders an extension of time when they asked for it.

INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE POLICIES HIT

An insurance company that has been doing rolling business selling industrial policies for which premiums of 6d. to 1/- weekly are collected, has been one of the hardest hit. This type of policy has been linked up with burial facilities whereby the policy-holder may be buried in a decent coffin and his remains conveyed in a hearse when he dies.

A members of the ANC Working Committee told New Age that the boycott of these Nationalist insurance companies has enabled the Congress to study the practices connected with their activities among the African people in the locations, and they were able to reach certain conclusions.

Representatives of the insurance company and burial society have been trying to arrange meetings with the leaders of the ANC with a view to assuring them that they are not under Nationalist influence.

At the time of writing representatives of the firms that produce some of the most popular cigarette brands are supplying free packets of the cigarette. When two of these itinerant salesmen came into a trade union office they persuaded the trade union officials to smoke the brand which they described as nice.

When people who had accepted the free packets got to know that they were Nationalist products they threw them away with evident signs of revulsion.

DURBAN WORKERS INDIGNANT AT DISMISSALS

DURBAN.

sider this proposal.

WORKERS at a large textile mill in Durban volunteered last week to go on short time when a hundred of their fellow-workers were laid off work, owing to 'a recession in trade.' Among those dismissed were shop stewards, union executives, and men who have given over 20 years' service to the company.

On Friday, May 10, 100 workers at the mill were given their dismissal. They were informed in their letter of notice that there had been a recession in trade, and that the company (a large company, with branches in every part of the Union) was therefore forced to terminate their services temporarily.

A meeting of about 300 workers employed at the factory was held at very short notice, and the spokesmen were instructed to tell the management that every worker was willing to work short time in order that no worker need be dismissed. The management refused to con-

There was a 90 per cent attendance at the factory meetings in which this decision was reported back to the workers. The workers felt that the employers were being unreasonable, and on that account immediately banned all overtime work and bonus incentive work. They instructed their spokesmen to try to settle the matter amicably through the normal channels of the Industrial Council of the industry concerned.

The next week, on Friday, May 17, a further 90 workers were given their notice.

Indignant at this dismissal of their fellow-workers, workers at nearly every textile factory in Durban have volunteered a levy of 2/6 per week to help those who are unemployed. Indian workers, who are under an unemployment benefit scheme, have insisted that any welfare fund must include African workers.

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