

SOUTH AFRICAN
MAY 23 1957
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Bus Truce in Danger

JOHANNESBURG.

WHAT is going to happen when the Chamber of Commerce £25,000 fund to subsidise the PUTCO fares, which now enables the people of Alexandra and other areas to ride at pre-boycott fares, is exhausted?

Many people are anxiously asking this question.

There can be little doubt that if the people are faced with increased fares, even if it is the heart of winter, they will boycott the buses again with a bitterness that may well create a highly explosive situation on the Witwatersrand.

Anxious to avoid such a situation, various interested parties are making strenuous efforts both to extend the present arrangement beyond the original three-month period, and to reach a permanent solution to the difficult problem of transport for Africans.

The Chamber of Commerce is appealing for donations from business concerns and individuals to augment its special transport fund.

The Johannesburg City Council has under discussion a scheme to take over the PUTCO service as a going concern and to run it as a subsidised community service.



Under the trees at Linokana over 200 women of the Baphurutsi tribe held a meeting to welcome those women who had been arrested and charged with destroying passes. A number appeared in court and were found guilty last week.

A TRIBE FIGHTS FOR ITS FUTURE

People's Resistance To Verwoerd's Laws

From Tennyson Makiwane

LINOKANA, Zeerust District.

TENSION among the Baphurutsi tribe in the Zeerust area is still high following the recent demonstrations of the people against Verwoerd's laws and the Government's reprisals.

Seventeen Africans in this district, all but four of them women, were last week fined a total of £580 for destroying women's pass books. An appeal has been noted. Ten other women were found not guilty and discharged.

The charges arose from the recent tribal demonstrations against the exile of Chief Abraham Moiloo and the issuing of passes to women.

Several score tribesmen are still awaiting trial on charges of arson following the burning of the Bethlehem Church whose minister advocated passes for women. Seven houses belonging to Government supporters were also burnt.

Later in May there is also to be the trial of a number of tribesmen charged with conspiracy or incitement to commit murder, arising from allegations that four government supporters were sentenced to death by a tribal court for their activities against the people.

UP IN ARMS

Today the people of Linokana are up in arms. They want their chief back; they don't want passes for women. Once again the authorities have struck a rock. The keen wind of resistance is blowing. The people are prepared to fight.

- The women are determined not to carry passes. Even a crown witness in the pass-burning case, when asked if she would carry a pass, told the court: "Decidedly not."

- A shop belonging to an Irish trader who has been in the reserve since the Boer War has been boycotted because he allowed NAD officials to use it as a depot for issuing passes.

- Not a single child out of an enrolment of 1,170 has attended school since the chief was deposed at the beginning of April.

- A police patrol keeps a constant vigil in the reserve.

- The women hold meetings daily and right through the Linokana reserve one is greeted with shouts of "Halitsewe!" (We don't carry passes.)

WOMEN'S MARCH

On the day of the pass-burning cases, last Friday, the women (Continued on page 2)

POLICE TERROR TO FORCE WOMEN TO CARRY PASSES

—PAGE 2



The "Great Place," former residence of Chief Abraham Moiloo, who was deposed and forced into exile because he refused to implement Verwoerd's laws.

Non-European Doctors Resign In Protest

MARITZBURG.

Eight Non-European doctors of the Edendale Hospital have resigned in protest against the new discriminatory salary scales which have been applied to them.

According to a statement released jointly by the doctors the discrimination is based not on experience but on colour. The statement continues: "We see no reason why the Natal Provincial Administration has decided to introduce this discrimination, except to remind us of our colour and to humiliate us. Under such circumstances it is impossible for us to discharge our duties with respect and dignity."

The new salary scale gives increased salaries to European medical officers, leaving the Non-European doctors on the same scale as before—irrespective of experience and qualification.

The new scale will give a European doctor one year after qualifying £90 a year more than his Non-European colleague will receive after four years' experience.

CRISIS IN FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY

PORT ELIZABETH.

The footwear industry in Port Elizabeth is again in the grip of one of those cyclic crises which afflict the capitalist economy at occasional intervals like epileptic fits. Hundreds of workers are being laid off and faced with a bleak future as one of the biggest footwear factories here closes one department after another.

This factory alone employs about 500 Coloureds, some of whom have worked continuously either in the footwear industry or in the same factory for the last 15 years.

The retailers are unable to absorb the products of the factories as they cannot dispose of them fast enough to clear the large quantities of stocks that are piling up in the warehouses.

On the other hand the workers in the footwear industry are unable to buy the products of their own sweat and labour. The prices are too high and the wages too low.

NEW AGE

Vol. 3, No. 29

Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper

NORTHERN EDITION

Thursday, May 9, 1957

6d.

£1 A DAY CAMPAIGN

Mass Workers' Rallies on May 19

JOHANNESBURG.

REGIONAL rallies are to be held throughout the country on May 19, in furtherance of the Congress campaign for higher wages for all workers. Mr. Leslie Massina, secretary of the Congress of Trade Unions, has asked Congress

branches to respond to SACTU's call by setting aside this day to call all workers to come to mass meetings in townships everywhere,

- to hear a full explanation of the "ASINAMALI—SIFUN' IMA-LI" campaign;

- to give SACTU a mandate to approach the main employers' associations—the Chamber of Industries, Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Mines—with a request for immediate all-round increases in the wages of all workers and a national minimum wage of £1 a day;

- to enable the workers to fill in forms applying, through SACTU, for trade union membership and to take more forms to enrol their workmates and neighbours too.

Tables are to be provided at all these rallies, and forms made available, so that the workers can be enrolled immediately.

The regional rallies will be preparatory to the building up of big central workers' rallies in all the main towns of the Union in the near future. The date for the central rallies is still to be announced.

Mr. Massina told New Age that emphasis should be placed at all rallies and other campaign activities on the formation of Workers' Committees at all factories, shops, compounds and workplaces.

(See "A Matter of Life and Death," page 5.)

POLICE TERROR TO FORCE WOMEN TO CARRY PASSES

More Protests Against Verwoerd's Bill

DURBAN

ARCHBISHOP Dennis E. Hurly, speaking to a capacity audience of 600 at the Elizabeth Brooks Hall Y.M.C.A., said that white South Africa had for too long accepted as right and just anything which maintained the primacy of the White race.

The meeting was held to protest against the Native Laws Amendment Bill and "other restrictive measures." Among the other speakers were Dr. Coopan, Professor H. Pollack and Rev. Zulu.

"In the fantastic outpouring of restrictive legislation that is culminating in the Native Laws Amendment Bill we see what segregation means and what apartheid really is. A mirror is being held to our faces mercilessly," said Archbishop Hurly.

Apartheid was being demonstrated in all its evil reality and White South Africa had no excuse for a false conscience.

"Worse than the much discussed Church Clause are the provisions in the Native Laws Amendment Bill which aim at the suppression of all social and cultural contacts between Africans and non-Africans," said Archbishop Hurly.

"There is no finer method of forcing animosity and prejudice between two groups than by abolishing communication between them."

Rev. Zulu said that if the White and Black races could not be reconciled the future of South Africa was "Black indeed."

CAPE TOWN

TWENTY churches, religious organisations and welfare bodies unanimously resolved at a meeting in Cape Town on Saturday to make a united stand against the Native Laws Amendment Bill.

The Bill was a threat to all multi-racial organisations, said the resolution adopted, and "each and every one of the organisations represented here should lend its full support to any one or more of them singled out for attack by the Government under this Bill."

The organisations represented were:

The Anglican Church, the Anglican Women's Association, the Baptist Church, the Baptist Women's Association, the Black Sash (Cape Western Region), the Congregational Church Women's Association, the Congregational Church, the Civil Rights League, Cafda, the Cape Mental Health Society, Nusas, the National Council of Women (Cape Town branch), Nyanga Clinic, the Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Women's Association, Shoreco (UCT welfare organisation), the Society for the Protection of Child Life, the Society of Friends, the S.A. Institute of Race Relations (Cape Western region) and Toc H.

The meeting followed an earlier meeting convened by the Institute of Race Relations where a resolution had been adopted pledging those present to co-operate in a campaign against the Bill with all those organisations and individuals whose principles were outraged or whose work was affected by the Bill.

All political bodies, however, including the Congresses and the Liberal Party, were excluded from the second meeting.

Assaults, Prosecutions, Follow People's Defiance

BALFOUR, TRANSVAAL.

"YOUR husbands will be fired from their jobs and those who have businesses will have their licences cancelled if you refuse to carry passes." "When you are ill no doctor will be allowed to attend to you unless you have a pass." "When you die we shall give you no place of burial."

These grim and fantastic threats have been made by the Balfour local authorities in a desperate bid to force African women to carry passes. The NAD team that issues the pass books has been in the area recently.

ACCORDING TO THE WOMEN, A LOCAL DOCTOR LAST WEEK REFUSED TO TREAT THE SICK CHILD OF AN AFRICAN WOMAN WHO HAD REFUSED TO TAKE OUT A PASS.

That is not all. Women have been brutally assaulted by the police and several have been arrested and convicted.

PREGNANT WOMAN BEATEN

One woman, Mrs. Johanna Zimu who is pregnant alleges that while she was still sleeping in her house one morning two European and one African police burst in and she was given a blow in the stomach with a baton.

This reign of terror was unleashed on the women following their rejection of passes at a mass meeting called by the magistrate to persuade them to take out reference books. Having failed to convince them, the magistrate left, leaving the police to take over the meeting.

The local police sergeant told them that he would show them the identity card carried by his wife and when the women refused even to see it he resorted to threats.

The women stood firm. When the NAD team came round only two women, the wives of African ministers of religion, took passes.

Then came the terror. Women were assaulted in their houses and in the streets by the police.

GROUP ARRESTED

One night a group of nine women who had been to see one of their leaders was arrested and charged with holding a demonstration in the streets.

The following morning the rest of the women of the location marched to the superintendent's office to demonstrate their solidarity with those arrested. One of their leaders Mrs. Mngomezulu told New Age: "We went there to find out what the charges preferred against the arrested were. We, as women, had taken a pludge that if it is a matter related to passes, we would all surrender ourselves for arrest."

They were, however, forbidden to approach near to the office and were told to wait at a distance, where someone would come to explain. While they waited forces of African and European police arrived in vans and surrounded the women, driving them to the office of the superintendent. When they demanded to know why the others had been arrested the police ordered them to leave. As they dispersed the police attacked them with batons and knobkerries.

Mrs. Mngomezulu alleges that she was knocked down by a knobkerrie and was saved from further punishment by an African policeman who stood over her and prevented the others from assaulting her.

The nine women arrested for holding a demonstration were fined £5 each, after being detained in jail for six days.

Asked whether the women were still determined not to carry passes, Mrs. Mngomezulu said the women would not be intimidated but 'we are battling against great odds, we

are in tears. The church, and our husbands faced with the prospect of losing their jobs, are pressing us to carry passes."

T.M.

A TRIBE FIGHTS FOR ITS FUTURE

(Continued from page 1)

marched through the streets of Zeerust shouting anti-pass slogans and giving the Afrika salute. All space in the Native Commissioner's court was taken up by the accused, so the public assembled outside.

The following day 200 women gathered at the Kgotla (Great Place) to welcome those who had come from jail. So heated were the women that the New Age photographer, mistaken for a police informer, was nearly assaulted and saved himself by shouting "Afrika!"

Only seven people in the entire

Reserve have been found who support the government and defend the deposing of the chief and the issue of passes to women. During the days when the tension was at its highest pitch the people settled their food needs very simply: they went into the fields of the collaborators and reaped what they needed.

THIS BEAUTIFUL RESERVE, LINOKANA, THE PLACE OF MANY SPRINGS, IS RINGING WITH CRIES OF FREEDOM. THE RECENT EVENTS ARE A KICK IN THE PANTS FOR VERWOERD'S POLICIES.

"DON'T DO THE NATS' DIRTY WORK," ANC APPEALS TO THE CHIEFS

From Govan Mbeki

IN an open letter addressed to the Chiefs, headmen and former Bunga Councillors the ANC (Cape) says: "By the acceptance of the Bantu Authorities Act in the name of the people you betrayed a trust—a sacred trust.

"The Africans everywhere cannot believe that when you accepted the Act you understood only one side, the false side, of the picture which was presented by the officials of the Native Affairs Department."

The ANC was referring to the confidence which was abused by the Chiefs when they accepted the Bantu Authorities Act without consulting the people whom they represented at the Bunga.

On Tuesday, May 7, Drs. Verwoerd and Eiselen, the Minister and Secretary of Native Affairs respectively, accompanied by a group of NAD officials, were due to address the first session of the Transkei Territorial Authority. This body consists of government-appointed stooge chiefs to replace the Bunga.

In its open letter the ANC appeals to the Chiefs, headmen and former Councillors to realise that they are allowing themselves to be used as tools in the furtherance of Nationalist oppressive apartheid policy.

The letter says:

"You know that the Act will not bring your people any good. You know that all the talk about the establishment of industries for the welfare of your people is a Big Lie. You know that no Chief is going to be allowed to rule in the interests of his people. You know that you

are going to carry out all the oppressive measures on the instructions of the Native Commissioner.

"Above all you know that you yourself will benefit nothing except honeyed deceitful words by allowing yourself to be a tool in the hands of the Nationalists. Yes, you lose your respect and become degraded for doing the dirty work of being the hangman of your people's

nationhood.

"But it is still time to do the only manly and decent thing—to refuse to be the tool of the Nationalists in their drive to enslave the 10 million Africans including you and your children. Tell the Nationalists to do their dirty work themselves."

New Age understands that these open letters have reached a number of their targets.

Durban Office—New Address

As from 1st May, 1957 is
703, LODSON HOUSE,
118, GREY STREET
(opposite Saville Street)
DURBAN
Telephone No. 68897

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 Afrikaners

TIME TO WAKE UP!

In last week's issue we urged you not to let the flow of donations to New Age dry up, because if you did, then the increase in the price of the paper to 6d. wouldn't help a bit.

You didn't take the warning to heart, and sent us only £117 last week.

Let us repeat again, in all sincerity,

that if we don't maintain donations at the level we have reached in the past, then we will face disaster at the end of this month.

We aren't the only paper to go up to 6d. recently. Most other weekly papers are already selling at 6d. Two Cape papers went up to 6d. last week. But in addition to their sixpences from sales, just look at their advertising revenue. It is advertising revenue that makes the big papers pay. And it is your donations that have to replace advertising in our financial set-up, because big business won't support us.

SO DON'T BE A SIXPENNY ALL-DAY SUCKER. GET CRACKING NOW AND HELP GET IN THE MONEY WE MUST HAVE TO PAY OUR BILLS AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

LAST WEEK'S DONATIONS:

Cape Town Office:
May Day Party £9.11.6; Sundries £48.8.1.
Johannesburg:
M.B. £5; Sally £10; TIYC £4.8; Trud. £8; Harry £5; R.R. £3; Izzy £4; J. £15; Bob £5.
TOTAL—£117 7s. 7d.

NOTICE

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

Readers are given one month after that in which to take out or renew a subscription to New Age at the old rates: 11s. a year for South Africa and the Protectorates, 15s. overseas.

As from June 1, however, the subscription rates will be increased to:

South Africa and the Protectorates:

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

Overseas:

25s. a year

"History will never forgive our generation if we fail now to come together to save South Africa," says MOSES KOTANE in this second instalment of his article on the political situation today in which he explains

HOW TO BUILD A UNITED FRONT

The Nationalist Party is becoming increasingly isolated and mistrusted by the people. Even in the Dutch Reformed Churches and in the heart of the Nationalist Party itself, doubts and fissures are developing. Forced, by the logic of history, to reconsider racial discrimination in the light of fundamental Christian teachings, leaders of the Dutch Reformed Churches are beginning to grasp the unlimited evil of apartheid. Bitter newspaper quarrels between Die Vaderland and Die Transvaler, and the exit of the leading Transvaal Nationalist, Dr. Wassenaar, reflect profound misgivings among the Nationalists over the reckless and perilous policies of the Strijdom-Verwoerd-Swart Nazi leadership.

Towards Unity

WE see many different movements and campaigns at work in our country at the present time.

● There is the campaign launched by the South African Congress of Trade Unions—with the full backing of the ANC and its allies—to recruit 20,000 unorganised workers into trade unions in order to win immediate wage advances for all workers and a national minimum wage of £1 a day.

● There is under consideration a national campaign to boycott the products of Nationalist-controlled firms: a process which has already begun in the Cape.

● There are campaigns against Group Areas, University Apartheid, passes for women, Native Laws Amendment Bill, deportations, censorship, bans. Liberals and churchmen, students and professors, Labourites and Congressmen, trade unionists and employers . . . all of them, each in their own way, and for their own reasons, are campaigning against this most unpopular of all Governments.

There is no need to regret this diversity of movements and campaigns, or to regret this multiplicity of efforts. For we are each travelling in the same direction—against apartheid tyranny—and our paths are bound to converge.

Advanced democrats and socialists will seek to participate in all these movements of protest and resistance, and in each of them to strive to bring to the fore the positive needs and demands of the people, for:—

- Full citizenship rights;
- The right of a full say in the government of our country;
- Freedom of organisation;
- Freedom of speech;
- Freedom of assembly;
- Freedom of movement;
- Freedom of worship;
- Freedom from fear;
- The right to education and learning;
- The right to engage in any trade, occupation or profession;
- The right to buy, acquire or occupy land anywhere in South Africa.

The Freedom Charter

It will be readily conceded that as far as the Non-Whites in this country are concerned all the above fundamental human rights—so ably and adequately stated in our Freedom Charter—answer the demand of the hour and express the needs of the situation. By putting them forward we cannot rightly be accused of being abstract, irrelevant or of raising questions which could very well wait for later. In fact some of them need to be shouted and repeated all the time and everywhere.

At the same time, we must recognise that in this great crisis which looms before South Africa, it has become a matter of great urgency to bring together the many and divergent elements which are genuinely opposed to the Nationalist Government, and to the evil of racialism which made such a Government possible. A way can and must be found to build a united front of all who are seeking a new beginning for South Africa, including those who at present are not prepared to accept the challenging vision of the Charter.

Of course there are some anti-Nationalist Europeans, and one must include among them the leaders of the United Party, who have not yet awakened to the elementary fact that the Non-European people are an important factor—the essential factor—in South African politics; that without the Non-Europeans there can be no escape from fascism, no shaping of a better future. Such people, who seem never to have heard of Nehru, Nkrumah or Mao Tse-Tung, cannot realistically be thought of as forming any part of a practical anti-Nationalist front; they will not unite with their Non-White neighbour to put out the fire which is destroying both our houses, and we cannot wait until they awaken from their delusions.

But, apart from these political idlers and dreamers, there are millions of South Africans, White and Non-White, who have eyes to see that our country is facing a crisis which threatens to destroy us all, and that only our common efforts can avert it.

HISTORY WILL NEVER FORGIVE OUR GENERATION IF WE FAIL NOW TO COME TOGETHER TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA.

Our Chance

We have a chance to do so now, which may not recur. Last year at Bloemfontein the most representative gathering of Africans—the majority section of our population—came together on the invitation of the African Interdenominational Ministers' Federation. That conference showed its statesmanship and its freedom from narrow racialism by calling for an inter-racial gathering of all South Africans.

The response was immediate and heartening. The Liberal Party, the Labour Party, the African National Congress, the national organisations of the Indian and Coloured people, the Congress of Democrats and the Trade Union Congress have all endorsed the proposal and are prepared to attend. There can be little doubt that once the date and venue are announced and invitations sent out, a far wider response can be expected from non-political, church, academic, commercial and other bodies.

It would be politically incorrect to expect such a conference to adopt so far-reaching a programme of reforms as the Freedom Charter. It could and should however, reach agreement and find common ground in opposition to apartheid and all its ugly creations; in demanding an immediate improvement in the political, economic and citizenship status of the Non-European peoples, and the establishment of political, religious, civic and personal liberties for all.

It could and should lay the basis for a great united movement of all sections of our population that could sweep the Nationalists from office and open the way for a great democratic advance in South Africa, lift the shadow of fear and insecurity from our country, so that the fearful ravages of nine years of Nationalist rule may be wiped out, and live only in our memories as a nightmare warning of the effects of unbridled racial arrogance.

ONLY THUS CAN THE GREAT CRISIS BE RESOLVED IN FAVOUR OF THE PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE, AS THEY HAVE SHOWN IN THE BUS BOYCOTTS AND IN MANY OTHER PLACES, ARE READY AND MORE THAN READY FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION. WHAT IS WANTED IS COURAGEOUS, UNITED AND DECISIVE LEADERSHIP.

BEN TUROK RETURNED UNOPPOSED?

CAPE TOWN.

It looks as though Mr. Ben Turok has been returned unopposed as Africans' Representative for Cape Western in the Cape Provincial Council. At the time of going to press, New Age was informed that the electoral officer had received only the one nomination.

Nomination day was May 1. It is possible, however, that another candidate was nominated in some distant centre in the electoral area, and that his nomination has been delayed in the post.

Candidates are given 21 days from nomination day in which to accept nomination. If nobody else has been nominated, Mr. Turok will be declared elected at the end of this period.

Mr. Turok, one of the accused in the treason trial in Johannesburg, stood on the platform of the Freedom Charter.

GERMISTON LEADER CONVICTED

GERMISTON.

Mr. Timothy Rampai, one of the four Natalspruit Advisory Board members banished by administrative order of the Germiston City Council (under section 29 of Verwoerd's Urban Areas Act) was convicted in the Magistrate's Court here on May Day of failure to obey his banishment order. He was sentenced to three weeks imprisonment, on the conclusion of which the Magistrate authorised a police officer to escort him out of the area.

Appearing for Mr. Rampai, Adv. George Bizos (instructed by Messrs. Mandela and Tambo) said that he had not been given a proper hearing, and that the Manager of the Non-European Affairs Department of the Council had misdirected the Councillors on a point of law at the time, by telling them, wrongly, that Mr. Rampai would have the right of appeal against their decision.

Mr. Rampai has appealed against this judgment. In the meantime, his bail will be allowed to stand, provided he does not attend meetings. Mr. Rampai, who is a lay preacher of the Apostolic Faith Mission, will, however, be allowed to preach—provided his sermons are not "controversial."

NON-EUROPEAN NURSES REJECT NEW BILL

JOHANNESBURG.

In a press statement the Non-European nurses on the Witwatersrand emphatically reject the Nursing Amendment Bill.

The nurses state: "We are opposed to all racial discrimination in the nursing profession because we feel that it would lower the status and standards of the profession and would be injurious to the health of people in South Africa who depend upon efficient nursing services."

The statement points out that the Bill will have the effect of forcing the South African nurses to contravene the international code of nurses and violate the best traditions of the nursing profession.

Declaring that "We consider the Non-European nurses of South Africa to be competent to participate directly and fully in all the affairs of the nursing profession" the statement proposes that the present element of discrimination in elections to the Nursing Council and representation on the board of the Association of Nurses, should be completely removed.

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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