WORLD STAGE BY SPECTATOR

SOUTH African newspapers have given no hint of the wave of protest throughout the world at a recent article in the U.S. magazine "Life" in which U.S. State Secretary Dulles made, in the words of the London Times headline, "AN ASTONISHING DISCLOSURE"

Dulles stated that three times in the last 18 months the U.S. had been ready to order out her bombers and plunge the world into an atom war and that each time this had led to a "communist retreat." He claimed also that had the British not let him down, the same tactics would have been used at Dien-Dien Phu and Viet-nam independence prevented.

Both Dulles and "Life" seemed to consider this portrait of Dulles as a strong diplomat and "thriceblessed saviour of world peace" ("Manchester Guardian," Jan. 12) to be a most flattering one. But the rest of the world was horrified at the picture.

In India there was a strong move to call off Dulles' proposed state visit—a move which had the backing of no less a paper than the conservative Times of India, which declared Jan. 13: "Coming straight from the SEATO conference (in Pakistan), the main subject of which would evidently be negotiations from 'positions of strength,' Dulles would hardly be able to derive the benefit from the standpoint of greater understanding when conducting talks with the Prime Minister of India."

The newspaper "Blitz" put it more bluntly: "Go by all means to Pakistan or your 'Portuguese' province of Goa! Or to your stooges of SEATO, but spare us—and yourself—the embarrassment.

With heavy sarcasm the "Manchester Guardian" headlined its story of Dulles' reaction to the storm he had aroused: "PAINED ASTONISHMENT AT AN UNLOVING WORLD." "He consented," it said, "to be blown up into an American hero; for that purpose he sat for a flattering portrait in one of his favourite magazines; and now he is bruised

and disenchanted by his discovery that a large part of the world has recoiled from his image.

The U.S. State Department, which is notorious for its complete lack of understanding of world affairs, has, as a result of the world reaction, come to realise what a shattering effect the article has had.

• It "defaced, if it did not actually destroy the image of President Eisenhower as the leader of moderation and peace, able to exercise a salutory veto over the headstrong excesses of American policy," said the "Manchester Guardian." "Now we are given the quite contrary picture of the President as the resolute colleague of Mr. Dulles in flourishing the atomic bomb." Said the "Times": "Many will be astonished at the extent to which Mr. Eisenhower is now seen to have concurred with his Secretary of

• Secondly, it "went a long way towards confirming the accuracy of one of Russia's salient criticisms. Russia has often accused American policy of threatening atomic war. Mr. Dulles now boasts that it is an essential principle of his policy to threaten atomic war . . . He believes the normal route of American policy is along the edge of the precipice. Is that what President Eisenhower means when he talks about the middle of the road?" added the Guardian.

• It showed the contempt in which the United States holds its "allies." "The United States, according to the portrait for which Mr. Dulles has sat so obligingly, stands at the summit of leadership, with the Allies performing their most useful functions when they respond with swift agreement to the wisdom and courage of Washington," the Guardian

• It has angered Britain on the eve of Eden's pilgrimage to Washington, and London has complained that "Mr. Dulles' revelations with their overtones of British bad faith, provide a graceless and provocative prelude to his meeting in a few days with Sir Anthony Eden and Mr. Selwyn Lloyd."

BEHIND THE BLUNDER

What is behind Dulles' almost incredible blunder? The reason is not difficult to find. This is election year in the United States. Mr. Dulles, eager to get in with propaganda which (he thinks) will endear him and the Republican Party to the American voters, was blind to its possible effect on the rest of the world.

Nor has the Democratic Party, against whom the progaganda is chiefly aimed, remained silent!

They have challenged Dulles, on his facts and accused him bluntly of lying. For Mr. Dulles' story of Communist retreats under Dulles' threats are blatant untruths.

Senator Humphrey (Dem. Minnesota), a member

of the Senate foreign relations committee has already said that if this "distortion of history persists" he will move for the publication of what Mr. Dulles told the Senate in secret about the events in question. He roundly declared in the Senate that the Secretary of State was causing "untold trouble" with America's allies in a "fraudulent reassertion" of an abandoned policy of massive retaliation.

"Trouble seems to be brewing for Mr. Dulles," the Times remarks drily.

Dean Acheson, Dulles' predecessor at the State Department, was also not slow in stirring the brew. Criticising Dulles' policies Acheson said it was difficult to find any area in which events of the past few years had moved to the American advantage. The United States had lost the initiative in the cold war, and was drifting away from its Western allies. Strength had been ebbing rather than waxing in Europe. Germany was drifting dangerously, France was torn by discord, and relations with Britain had become "distant and formal." Acheson urged (also, of course, as election propaganda) that the U.S. should free itself from a cramped, dangerous, and immobile position in the Far East. "Whatever our policy is, it should not be different from the policies of our allies."

FOREIGN OFFICE CAUTION

British Foreign Office comment has, as usual, been cautious. At first no comment was made because the article "did not necessarily represent the views of Mr. Dulles on all points," but the same day Dulles cut this excuse away by accepting the views attri-buted to him by "Life." The Foreign Office was then authorised by Eden to state that there had never been any agreement by Britain to support an atom war in Viet-nam and that there was therefore no question of her having "backed out," as Dulles claimed she had done.

What stands out most clearly from the exchange poise the world on the brink of atomic war-war which will mean the destruction of his own country world. And in this he is abetted by a President who publically pretends to follow a "middle-of-the-road" policy in order to win the support of the American electorate which wants war as little as does the rest of the world.

Another Picture

corrupted political system from which the world turned in disgust. As if fate had timed it just to that time. I went to the police Justice van Winsen ordered that the she was an intelligent girl who bring out the sharpness of the contrast, the press stations in Bellville, Parow and wife remain at Bonnytown pending knew her own mind. She did not carried during the same week the news of the U.S.S.R.'s sixth five-year plan with its breath-taking They could tell me nothing. Then The return date of the rule nisi In her affidavit, the tailor's wife proposals for a new society, based on the biggest

increase in prosperity any nation has ever known. The peaceful atom is to be the vast new force in morning that the tailor learned the stated that he had married the 16- where she stayed till February. Soviet industry—and its partner will be a great in- reason for her removal—that she year-old girl by Native custom in 1955 crease in automation. With these as a basis, widespread technical developments are planned.

Increased production in heavy industry which pro- under the Children's Act. duces the means of production will remain the foundation of the economy. But in addition:

and office staffs will rise by 30 per cent. Incomes of knew that her grandmother was not such by all her relatives and collective farmers will be up 40 per cent. More than five million new flats and houses will New Age. be built-more than twice as many as were built during the past five years. There will also be in-

creased state loans to people who want to build their own houses. There will be free compulsory education for all | al, the tailor was told by Mr. J. B. | Smith, Bellville Child Welfare Comchildren until the age of 17 years, and there will be Smith, Commissioner for Child Wel- missioner, that he intended refer-

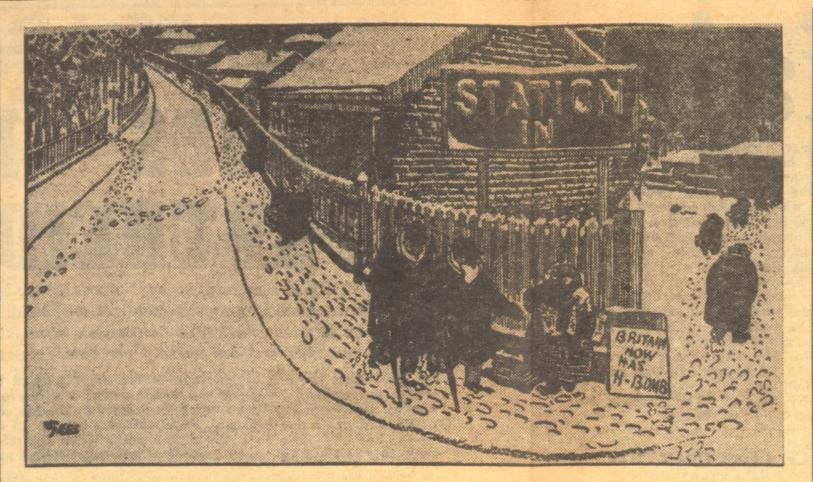
higher scholarships. Expenditure will be increased on social insurance, well and that she was not in jail. in Johannesburg, nor was he ever pensions, aid for large families, higher maternity He was told to wait until further present at any inquiry relating to benefits, improved conditions for women workers, information arrived from the Pro- his wife held under the Children's longer maternity leave.

The number of theatres and cinemas will be increased by 30 per cent, colour television introduced. Additional rest homes and holiday centres will be built and more and longer free holidays provided for workers.

The people will eat 85% more meat and fish, 70% more sugar, three times more milk, eggs and dairy pro-

Electricity production will go up by 88 per cent, and the world's biggest hydro-electric station will be not feeling well, had headaches ject to the provisions of the Childbuilt at Bratsk.

The planners declare: "The Soviet Union now has all the necessary conditions for accomplishing in do other work. peaceful economic competition and in the shortest possible time, the main economic task of the Soviet The day she ran away, the police Union which is to overtake and surpass the most came to the house several times. developed capitalist countries in production per head The first Sunday after that they attorney, described an interview by S. Kahn and Co.) appeared for Port Elizabeth: 9 Court Chambers, The City Council decided to de-



"Warms the cockles of your 'eart, don't it? Now we can all bomb one another." Giles in the London Daily Express.

TRADE UNIONS CAMPAIGN AGAINST I.C. BILL

JOHANNESBURG.

The trade unions and orgacountry are warming up to the nounced. campaign against the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill. written to six Members of Parlia- "The aim of the Government is Signatures to the protest petition are coming in from the factories and a number of region this Bill. The M.P.s are Messrs. L. based on race and so destroy the tories, and a number of regional trade union conferences are

Inis Bill. The Mr. S are Messis. E.

Lee-Warden, A. Hepple, L. Lovell, basic principle of trade unionism, which is unity of all workers irreh. Davidoff, W. Stanford and Mrs. in the offing, in preparation for SACTU's first national conference in Cape Town in March.

ary 5. All organisations have been invited to attend.

on February 12. The date of the Port Elizabeth service and prohibit the workers nised workers all over the conference is shortly to be an- concerned from striking.

local committee of SACTU has part in elections.

In Johannesburg there will be a and White workers and permits the conference of the SACTU local division of existing unions along "We re-affirm that only the strongest united action of all

ter, chooses to specify.

MASS OF STRUGGLING

HUMANITY

Until a few years ago there was

Durban will hold a conference, 3. The Minister may declare any industry or occupation an essential

4. No union will be allowed to In Cape Town, the Cape Western | affiliate to a political party or take

SACTU opposes the Bill for the The Bill would prevent common posed removal of the African peofollowing reasons, states the letter: action of European and Non-Euro- ple from Goodwood and demand-1. It prohibits the forming of pean workers, something which the ing that the Government provide new unions of Coloured, Indian, trade union movement has always proper housing for all people, irre-

committee and affiliated unions at racial lines, thus infringing the ba- strongest united action of all The meeting also demanded the the Trades Hall on Saturday, Febru- sic principle of Unity of workers. workers irrespective of race can immediate repeal of the Urban 2. The Minister is to have the halt the Nationalist Government in Areas Act which is a "measure depower of prohibiting African, Col- their programme of introducing signed to demoralise the African oureds and Indians from doing any Apartheid legislation, which brings women, destroy African family life class of work, which he, the Minis- more poverty and oppression to the and turn Africans into a community toiling people of South Africa." | of wanderers."

Opposed

CAPE TOWN.

At a lively and enthusiastic public meeting in Athlone last Sunday, 18 people joined the ANC and 30 signed the Freedom Charter.

Goodwood Removals

Among the resolutions adopted spective of colour, race or creed. was one protesting against the prospective of race, colour or creed.

BECAUSE SHE WAS

AFRICAN APPLIES FOR COURT ORDER

CAPE TOWN.—An African tailor of Elsies River, whose 16-year-old wife, it was suggested, might be European, was last is the fact that the man responsible for America's week granted a temporary interdict in the Cape Town Supreme Court restraining Mr. B. J. Smith (Commissioner for Child foreign policy believes that it is good diplomacy to Welfare at Bellville) from sending his wife to Johannesburg for an inquiry in terms of the Children's Act.

The tailor told New Age that his wife was removed from his home without his knowledge and taken to Bonnytown (a place together with a substantial part of the rest of the of safety) in Wynberg, on November 22 last year.

In the next five years wages of industrial workers understanding in the family, as I a Native and has been accepted as and friends.

DID NOT KNOW WHERE SHE WAS

bation Officer in Queenstown.

It was only after he had consulted being kept.

"The first Sunday after that I went to see her at Bonnytown. She was not happy. The girls there told me that she cried almost every day. I went to see her every Sunday after that until she ran away."

"I took her back to Mr. Smith. would not allow me to see her." he, together with Counsel, had re- the tailor.

"I was not at home when they | A sequel to these events was the cently had with the girl in Bonnytook my wife away," he said. granting in the Cape Town Su- town. When I came back in the after- preme Court last week on the ap- She "was extremely agitated and noon a fellow-worker in the tailor- plication of the tailor of a tempo- upset. She was in a very nervous ing shop told me a European man rary interdict, restraining Mr. state and said that if she could not

was fixed for Wednesday. And it was only the following In his petition to Court, the tailor old, she went to live in Tarkastad, was alleged to be white and was Orlando on the 28th July, 1955. He | "Although I am light complextaken away pending an inquiry had paid her father £80 as lobola, ioned, all my life I have lived as a and still owed him £40.

present at our wedding," he told friends. He would never have marthat she was European.

On the morning after her remov- never been given notice by Mr. fare in Bellville, that his wife was ring the matter to the Commissioner

"Apart from the fact that she is an attorney that the man was able ordinarily resident within the reto discover where his wife was spondent's jurisdiction (Bellville) and not in Johannesburg, it is unjust that your Petitioner's home be broken up and that she be separated from him.'

His wife's detention at Bonnytown, the tailor submitted, was "i legal, irregular and invalid." He further maintained that he in a position to support his wife She ran back home, to Elsies adequately, and in fact does so. He

River. She complained that she was denied that his wife was at all sub-

need of care. EXTREMELY AGITATED In an affidavit, Mr. H. J. Saacks, Advocate I. J. Bleiman (instructed) West Street,

and a European lady had taken my Smith (the respondent) from send- get out of Bonnytown and rejoin wife away. He could not tell me ing his wife to Johannesburg for her husband, she would commit LIFE'S interview with Dulles painted a portrait of a diplomatic representative of a diseased and fare office in Bellville.

IFE'S interview with Dulles painted a portrait of why. He said I must go to the Well-an inquiry in terms of the Child-suicide. We did the best we could ren's Act.

said that when she was five years

Native and have always regarded "I thought she had been taken To the best of his knowledge and myself as being a Native and have away because of some private mis- belief, she had lived all her life as been so regarded by my relatives

light complexioned, she regarded ried her had he the slightest doubt herself as a Native, lived as a Native with my father in Tarkastad, He submitted that in law he was and was never regarded by anyone his wife's legal guardian. He had at Tarkastad as being anything other than a Native."

> She stated further that all her brothers and sisters regarded themselves as Africans. She went to an African school.

NOT IN NEED OF CARE

"I am definitely not a child in need of care. I am a married woman under the personal guardianship and custody of the applicant of whom I am very fond and who shows me the utmost consideration. He is in a position to maintain me | Every day could be a good day and | that the riots broke out such masses adequately and in fact he does so.

"I have no desire or inclination to be treated as a European. In Please help us keep our hard-hitfact the life of a European is completely foreign to me. I would feel completely out of place amongst Europeans . . .

"It is my fervent desire that I Remember our addresses: and pains in her side. Nevertheless, ren's Act and that she could in any should be allowed to continue liv- Cape Town: Room 20, Chames Weeks of agitation for improved she was made to scrub floors and way be described as a child in ing with applicant as man and wife at Elsies River and be regarded as Johannesburg: No. 5 Progress the signing of petitions which rea Native which I humbly submit | Buildings, 154 Commissioner St.

Our helpers in England have once again given proof of their consistent efforts on our behalf. A letter received today says that old route. there is £40 on the way, with For nearly 15 years the Council The City Council stubbornly re- part, he added, and return with more to follow! That really is a has ignored requests from the Non- fused to convert the testing grounds only one crossing to contend with, splendid effort, and our hearty thanks to all who helped in that factory central bus rank and facilities to end the hardships and danties to end the hardships are the hardships and danties the hardships and danties the hardships are the hardships and danties the h

happened this morning. A com- the shocking conditions existing at plete stranger—a young Euro- the present Non-European bus pean man-walked into our office ranks in town. and gave us £2. He dashed off Instead of drawing attention to before we had time to thank him this urgent problem, the leading properly. An old friend also dailies gave much publicity to the walked in with £50 he had pro- ridiculous complaints of two Euroday ended well.

one that should be followed by fumes caused them discomfort. all those whose I.O.U.'s we still hold. A promise is only worth something when it has been fulfilled, so will all those whose I.O.U.'s are still outstanding please make an effort to pay up one central bus rank for Non-

est my optimistic opening lulled was thus described by the 1949 anyone into a false sense of se- Riots Commission: curity, just remember that keep- "Virtually all services available ing our eight-pager going will to Natives and Indians debouch in require the concentrated effort of one spot. Traffic regulation in this EVERYONE if we are to sur- congested area is primitive and invive. If every day was like today, effectual, and no provision is made all would be well, but unfortu- for the protection of passengers nately we have more lean days from the elements or for their conthan fat ones, and the ends-of- venience. At rush periods this locathe-months continue to be a lity presents the spectacle of a mass

it is up to you, PERSONALLY, of irritable human beings provided to see that it is so.

ting eight-pager going full force. have been made, the position is Make your contribution to our more or less the same today. struggle today! F. CARNESON.

Buildings, Barrack Street. Durban: 6 Pembroke Chambers, 472 manding the re-organisation of the

bus rank. 1 129 Adderley Street. centralise the Non-European bus

termini in spite of the fact that the trians are unnecessarily delayed, Congress, supported by the majo-Because a few European house- rity of Non-European bodies, opwives complained last week that posed this plan. Indian buses were a nuisance, the

City Council, against all expert advice, diverted 225 buses to a new route causing a major traffic crisis and inconvenience to thousands of testing ground, adjacent to the Victoria Street Bus Terminus, be The Traffic Department, Road added to the rank in order to pro- Mr. P. M. Harry, secretary of Safety Organisation, and the vide an area large enough to ac- the Natal Passengers Transport Em-Mayor, were amongst those who commodate the buses and necessary ployees' Union, in an interview condemned the City Council's ac- shelters. Numerous alternative sites with New Age said that it was tion, and such chaos was caused by were offered for the testing ground, clear that the only solution to the the new plan that after one day all which is undeniably the most suit- problem was the addition of the the buses were sent back to their able place for the Non-European testing ground to the Victoria

Another heart-warming incident gers suffered by them because of gers, drivers and traffic.

must now rise at 4.

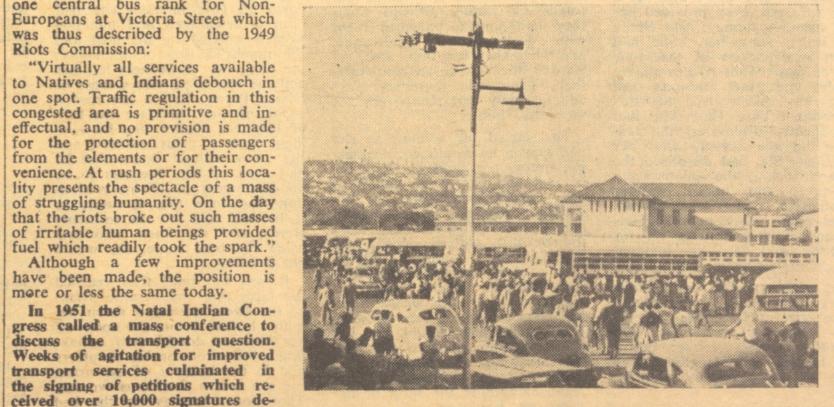
Secondly, there is greater danger mised at our Xmas dance, so the pean women that their gardens of accidents to pedestrians, partiwere littered with rubbish from cularly school children, who now incidentally, the latter example is passing Indian buses, and that have to cross busy intersections to get to their buses.

is so severe that buses and pedes- this basic need of the people."

The Natal Indian Congress, today supported by the Natal Mercury and traffic experts, has proved beyond doubt that these problems could be eliminated if the testing The Congress suggested that the ground and Victoria Street rank were combined into one central

Street rank. Buses could then de-

and pedestrians. Firstly, the Non-Europeans have Mr. Harry added: "Let us remind to walk much longer distances to the City Council and the European their buses and many workers who public that the Indian and African formerly rose at 5 in the morning transport workers perform one of the city's most vital tasks in providing the sole transport for at east 60,000 Non-European workers ily, workers upon whom our instries and essential services depend. And they are providing this transport because the City Council Thirdly, at peak hours congestion and the S.A. Railways have ignored



The Non-European bus rank at Winterton Walk. This photograph was taken at 4.30 p.m. By 5 p.m. the crowds had grown to many hundreds.

An African

THE town of Bloemhof has little to recommend it. In summer it is hot and dusty; a dreary outcrop of red brick and corrugated iron. In winter the only change is in temperature—the dust and dreariness persist. Even the most loyal of its five hundred inhabitants would scarcely have considered it a suitable setting for a miracle, but one did, in fact, occur. On a Christmas morning, in the Bloemhof Great Church, Tant Alie received a visitation from the Lord.

Tant Alie's full name was Mevrou Adela Johanna de Jager. To-



gether with her son Gideon, she managed the farm "Houtkop" several miles from the town, and for fifteen years she had never missed a service at the Great Church. She was a large woman -"well formed" she called itand she felt the heat more than most people. Because of this, she found the crowded Christmas service oppressive, and she would mop her face and shift uneasily on the hard pew, counting the minutes, until, the last hymn sung, she could emerge to the street. The memory of her sin would stay with her for weeks afterwards, and many times she would pause in her day's work to ask God's forgiveness for her in-

On this Christmas morning, her discomfort was greater than usual. The perspiration stood out in little drops on her broad red forehead, and she frowned and rubbed the damp palms of her hands against her skirt. "Magtag," but it was hot! She pursed her lips, almost as if she were about to whistle, but she did not whistle. Instead, she expelled her breath in a sharp "Tch" and, staring crossly at the shiny varnish of the pew back, she thought again of the discovery she had made earlier that morn ing. It had worried her then, and it worried her still.

Eight months previously, there had been in Tant Alie's employ a kitchenmaid, one Hetttie. This was not her real name, for Tant Alie was not in the habit of using her servant's baptismal namesshe called them by names which were short and easy to remember, and it was an arrangement she had found highly satisfactory. Tant Alie had been kind to Hettie. She had fed her, found her a place to sleep, even provided her with spending money. And Hettie had stolen from her. She had stolen two packets of tea, four bars of soap-Tant Alie could remember the exact amounts-and one of Tant Alie's silver "apostle" teaspoons. That Tant Alie had subsequently discovered the teaspoon did not serve to allay her suspicions. She had dismissed the girl and, locking the spoons away had taken unto herself another kitchenmaid, who, she hoped, would prove more reliable. Hettie, unrepentant, had set off for the town, and Tant Alie had not thought of her again.

But now—and this was the discovery which had served to mar the serenity of Tant Alie's Christmas—Hettie had come back. Gideon had seen her that very morning, talking and laughing with some of the picannins near the dairy.

She had done it on purpose, of course. It was her way of humiliating Tant Alie, of undermining

her authority. Like the serpent in the Garden of Eden she was probably at that very moment sowing the seeds of wickedness and discontent, but now there was no Angel of the Lord to drive her with his flaming sword into the wilderness. Tant Alie sighed, her eyes still staring at the pew in front.

The dominee entered, but she did not look up. To live as she did . . . to suffer so . . . With no one to turn to but God. Her kaffirs losing their respect for her. Government restrictions robbing her of even her small measure of authority over them. Who could tell how it would end! All her kaffirs now regarded a monthly wage as theirs by right, even the smallest and laziest herd boy. And this was Government doing. That a picannin, ten years old, should be paid five shillings for looking after the cattle, seemed to Tant Alie a scandalous state of affairs. And that was not the worst of it. There was even—and she knew this for a fact—a Government school in the town where kaffirs were taught to read and write. Tant Alie knew from experience that it was impossible to educate a kaffir. She knew this, but the Government did not, and she was quite content to wait and let them find it out for themselves. How she would laugh when that happened!

The dominee was reading the text for the day. The pew was narrow and Tant Alie uncomfortable. She could feel the material of her dress sticking damply to her body and she moved heavily. With faint, almost imperceptible regret, she fixed her eyes on the book in her hand and prayed a little, quietly to herself. When she rose for the hymn her bearing was devout.

"Sinners contrite gain eternal reward

In the kingdom of Heaven and the sight of the Lord."

sang Tant Alie, keeping her voice soft, and listening to its tone. She was saving her full volume for the last two lines.

"And Satan is banished from here evermore

That all men together the Lamb

may adore."
Upon the word "adore," her voice rose so triumphantly that the ostrich feather in her hat seemed to quiver in appreciation and Gi-

quiver in appreciation, and Gideon, from his seat in the choir looked across at her admiringly. Even the dominee turned his head to smile, and Tant Alie was flattered.

Of all God's ministers, Dominee Muller was her favourite. He was a stern man, and his congregation respected and feared him as they respected and feared the forces of Nature, which, when they had sinned, punished them with droughts and hailstorms, and when they had done well, rewarded them with clement weather. Tant Alie regretted often and fervently that there were not more like him.

He started his sermon as she had known he would do, recounting simply and tenderly the story of that first Christmas, and Tant Alie gazed peacefully at the whitewashed walls of the church and thought of God. She found the familiar pattern of his sermons infinitely soothing, though their content was not always sofor Dominee Muller spoke as readily of Hell as of Heaven, and his descriptions of the torments of the damned would set her shivering with delicious fear. He was speaking of Sin at that moment, and she sat hopefully upright, smoothing the satin of her dress over her knees.

"There are, among us," said the Dominee, "many who are the

. By JOAN GIFFORD

enemies of God. Hating Him, they seek, in their wickedness, to desecrate this, His Day, with sinful and idle pleasure-seeking. With blasphemy and paganism, with the glitter and folly of baubles, they seek to draw us away from Him. They have tempted us with worthless trinkets and like the unjust steward we have made ourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness.

"Is it possible we have sunk so low that the vulgar glitter of a Christmas tree is more to us than the worship of the Lord? Are our children so corrupt, their thoughts so contaminated, that the name of Our Heavenly Father means less than that of a legendary Father Christmas? Have we allowed such evils to enter our lives unchallenged—to flourish there unchecked?"

He looked directly at Tant Alie and although the sins were not hers, she felt uneasy. Could it be that Gideon . . . He was over thirty and no longer a child, but could he not once have had these thoughts of which the dominee spoke? Perhaps when he had been younger . . . But no! Her face quivered as she thought of it.

"The sins of the wicked are insidious. They flourish like an unclean thing, in the dark, and no sun shines on them. Beware ye sons of men, for the Devil has many guises. Beware, lest he catch you unawares, for like a weed which grows and multiplies, destroying all else,"—Tant Alie shuddered—"so this evil, which has



been planted amongst us, will, in the end, destroy us. I say to you: Rise up and crush this thing. Destroy it before it is too late—and you are destroyed by it."

Tant Alie could listen to no more. Thoughts of the weed, the Devil, Christmas trees, and Gideon's possible sin, rose up and danced in her mind like shapes in a nightmare. She closed her eyes.

It was then, at that very moment, in the midst of all the heat and confusion, that Tant Alie received her Call. In the Bloemhof church, on that hot Christmas morning, God spoke to her, not, of course, in words, but by a means infinitely more subtle and powerful. One moment she had been a bewildered and unhappy woman worried by the heat and the manifold sins of humanity; the next, her wickedness left her and she was filled with a sense of Divine Power. Before her rose a vision of God, his face the face of Dominee Muller, and his eyes filled with a great sadness, and she knew without doubt that he had need of her. She was to be his instrument of Divine retribution—she knew this as surely as if he had told her in so many words, and she knew also that when the time came, she would not fail him.

It was not until they reached the farm that she became aware of the sweat streaming down her body. In her room she took off her dress and dried herself, sprinkling a little scent on her shoulders and in the hollows of her arms, for she was a fastidious woman. That done, she lay on the bed and indulged in the luxury of contemplation. Closing her eyes, she tried to recapture the ecstacy

of that moment in the church. But nothing came—she felt a little hungry, that was all. She heard voices, but they were of this world, the hoarse and raucous voices of picannins playing in the yard beyond her window. Heaving her body clumsily off the bed, she opened the shutters, and was on the point of ordering them away, when she saw something that puzzled her. On the ground, in the centre of the group, was a very small tree. It stood in a little tub, and its branches were hung with a number of coloured balls. For a moment she was at a loss to explain this phenomenon. She had seen trees of this kind before in the town shops, but how had one come here? It was all very strange. She leaned out of the window to see it more clearly.

Then she remembered two things. First, she remembered the return of Hettie. These trees were sold in the town. Hettie had come from the town. To Tant Alie, it was abundantly clear that this then must be Hettie's tree—and she was angry.

She had reached the back door before she recalled the second thing. Had not Dominee Muller spoken that very morning, of Christmas trees? Had he not instructed Tant Alie to destroy these things? She knew now that the thing in the yard was without doubt a Christmas tree, and her anger grew stronger and more righteous. She thought again of how God had appeared to her in the church, and she knew that the destruction of this tree was the task which he had set for her.

"So soon, my Lord, so soon," sang the heart of Tant Alie, and her eyes burned with fervour.

In her petticoat, she bore down on the group of picannins. She swooped upon the tree, her face radiant, and tearing each shiny ball from its perch, crushed it to dust on the dung-spattered ground. When there were no balls left, she snapped the tree in half, and threw the pieces into the furthest corner of the yard. Then she turned to the picannins.

"Bring me," she said to the smallest one, "the sjambok from behind the kitchen door," and he did so. Because he was little, and because the evil had probably not entered too greatly into his soul, she gave him only three strokes, but to each of the others she gave six and her arm was filled with a strength that was not her own. The Lord was in her—she was indeed the Lord and she dealt with these miserable sinners as He had with the money lenders in His temple.

She spoke no word. When she had finished she made her way back to the house, the siambok held firmly in one plump hand. In her room she paused, very calm and very happy. It was done. It was over. The softness of the



pillow as she laid her head on it was infinitely caressing and she was very tired.

In the kitchen Hettie flirted with the cook boy.

He was showing her with many flourishes exactly how Tant Alie had beaten the picannins.

She was thinking about Tant Alie in a petticoat. Together they smiled. Judges' comment: "This could have been a terrible story, the irony searing, a scathing comment on the perversion of man's religion when warped, amongst other things, by racial prejudice. Instead it is merely quaint and not quite convincing. The dice are too heavily loaded against Tant Alie. We do not believe in her. The irony doesn't come off. Tant Alie is belaboured with a hammer, not pierced again and again with the sharp rapier point of true ironic insight. The idea of her destroying the Christmas tree has great possibilities . . ."

Next week: "The Shattered

ffair

Dream," by M. Mashigo.

RACE CLASSIFICATION SCANDAL

(Continued from page 1)

But it is in the homes of the Coloured people that the real tragedies are being enacted.

In Pretoria last week I visited the home of a couple where the husband had been classified African and the wife Coloured and where such strain had been introduced into their relationship that a divorce seemed imminent. In another home the father had been classified African, the mother Coloured. What would their baby—to be born shortly—be? Would they lose their right to freehold in Lady Selborne?

In every house I entered the first topic was Coloured classification and the race tests.

The tests and the Appeal Board hearings are a nightmare among Pretoria's Coloured people. People go in dread of informers who might appear before the Boaord to give evidence against them and say: 'I've seen Africans going into their home more than once'; or 'He speaks Sechuana.'

As one man classified African because he speaks Sechuana said: "I can speak a little Arabic but that doesn't make me an Arab."

Some families are hiding from their friends and neighbours because they have "failed" the tests. Others are racking their brains and looking for advice on what a Coloured really is and what evidence they must produce to prove their case; others are trying to find the money needed for legal assistance. Many already feel helpless and at the mercy of the classification officials and the Race Board. Others are angry but looking for a way out.

The Coloured people have never known such misery and anxiety before.

O.F.S. Women Oppose Pass Laws

BLOEMFONTEIN.

A mass meeting to protest against passes for women was held by the ANC Women's League at Freedom Square, Bochabela location, Bloemfontein recently, presided over by Mrs. Ivy Mafora, the President of the Women's League.

Mrs. Mafora said the Government planned to issue the reference books for women in the Free State in the near future. They had decided to start in the Free State because they thought it the weakest province, but they had reckoned without the African National Congress. She called upon all the women of the Free State to stand together to fight the pass laws.

Other speakers were Mrs. M. J. Mothakoana, the treasurer, and Mrs. J. C. Motshabi, the secretary of the Women's League. The meeting was attended by several hundred women who agreed unanimously that they would not take the passes.

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