SIR ANTHONY LDEN'S resignation has hardly behind-the-scenes manoeuvres — the degree of American pressure, factionalism amongst the Tories and so on - are at present a matter for speculation, the overall reason for Sir Anthony's debacle is

The attempt by the British and French colonialists to restore their position in the Middle East has resulted in a complete rout in the face of the massive opposition of the anti-colonialist forces of the East and the Socialist world. The "dragon" of anticolonialism has unchivalrously smitten Sir Anthony.

NEW KNIGHT IN ARMOUR

Now a new knight in armour has appeared to rescue the people of the Middle East from themselves. President Eisenhower has dedicated himself (his sixth dedication in a year) to lead an American crusade in the area to protect the holy places and oil wells from anti-imperialist "infidels". Unfortunately for him the people he is out to save deny their distress and view with alarm his threatened protection.

The Syrian newspaper Alqabas writes: "The practical interpretation of the contemplated American action indicates that the United States wants to pursue a new kind of imperialist policy based on intervention in the affairs of free countries.'

Abdullah Rimawi, the Jordan Foreign Minister, has been equally outspoken. Stating that his government would pursue a policy of neutrality, he told a press conference recently that Jordan rejected any

WORLD STAGE

By Spectator

new colonial influence and would not receive economic aid given with political objectives. His government rejected completely any idea that the vacuum created in the Arab world by getting rid of Anlgo-French imperialism should be filled by another great

Referring to the question of using United States armed forces in the Middle East, Khaled Mohieddin, editor of the Egyptian newspaper Al Messa, queried: "Why did not the President ask for such exceptional powers when the treacherous tripartite attack was launched against Egypt?"

The Burmese English language newspaper Burman, concludes that the U.S. means to carry the White Man's burden which the British, French, Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish have let down so reluctantly only recently.

NEHRU'S CRITICISM

Adding his voice to the criticism, Indian Premier Nehru told the annual conference of the Indian National Congress Party: "If in reality there is a power vacuum in West Asia it has to be filled by the countries of West Asia themselves through their strength, unity and progress."

The fact is, as the British and French have learnt

and as the Americans too must learn, that the peoples of Africa and Asia are no longer passive or unwilling spectators of what happens in the international arena. Through their growing "strength, unity and progress" they are actively tipping the scale against imperialism. At an ever increasing rate they are removing the last of the imperialist fetters, and refusing to be drawn into the cold war they are presenting a powerful united front to the forces of colonialism and war.

A good index of this increased strength is the growth of Afro-Asian membership of the United Nations since 1945. While the combined North and South American membership has remained static at 22 nations, Asian representation has increased from 3 to 13, African from 4 to 8, and that of the Middle East from 6 to 9.

WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Another indication of growing co-operation amongst the Asian people has been the convening of the highly successful Asian Writers' Conference recently in New Delhi. For the first time in history writers from 17 countries in Asia met together. The tone of the conference can be gathered from the statement unanimously agreed to by those present.

It declared that the conference was a symbol of the new spirit of emergent Asia - the spirit of freedom and dignity of man; of the new consciousness of Asia, proud of its glorious cultural heritage and

of a new determination to build a full life of spiricome as a surprise. Though the details of the tual and material richness and plenty for all its peoples.



At a special round table conference held afterwards to discuss ways of promoting cultural contact between East and West, Dr. Johnson, from the Gold Coast, was given a prolonged ovation when he declared that the continent of Africa was on the move and that in the coming years the Africans would be speaking themselves with their own voices and demanding their rights.

The leader of the Chinese delegation Mao Tun, who earlier had been cheered as he presented gifts to the famous Indian novelist Mulk Raj Anand, said: "We Asian writers never discriminate against the cultures of the West, nor do we consider the traditions of our own national cultures as the only worthwhile traditions in the world. On the contrary, we are of the opinion that all cultures which are beneficial to mankind can transcend national boundaries and that both the people of Asia and the people of the West are the rightful inheritors of all the best culture of mankind."

CHOU'S TRIUMPH

So frequently was Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai and a happy one — sad, because be given a public farewell. He greeted by huge crowds of welcome that our daily the people of Worcester had to say quoted the work done by the Rev. press seems to have regarded his recently concluded farewell to a leader who had shown triumphant goodwill tour of various Asian nations his true colours in the national as having no news value. Yet the fact that 200,000 liberatory movement; happy, bepeople packed the stadium at Dacca, in Pakistan, cause he was going to his home giving three tumultuous cheers for the Chinese Pre- town Pretoria, where his energies mier at the instance of their own Prime Minister and ability would have full scope. Suhrawardy, was surely worth reporting. Though there has for a number of years been close friend- ANC in Worcester, Mr. G. ship between the governments of India and China, the government of Pakistan has until now maintained a hostile attitude to the Peking government. The aggression against Egypt had as one of its results the growth of a huge wave of anti-colonial feeling in Pakistan, reflected in a great desire to consolidate Asian unity.

At a giant reception arranged for Chou, Ataur Rahman Khan, Chief Minister of East Pakistan was speaking for all but a handful of his people when he said that the visit would "open up an everflowing death of Mr. B. A. Levitas, a Cape stream of understanding and everwidening contact Town City Councillor and member between the two peoples". Indeed, he was speaking of the Provincial Council representfor all Asia when he said that "China has taken a ing the African voters of Cape great lead in exploding and exploding forever the Western. Mr. Levitas took the place myth of "Asiatic backwardness" up by the Western conquerors."

ON OKINAWA

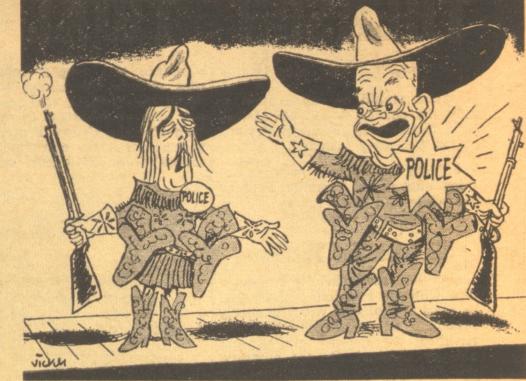
It is not only the great nations of Asia that are During his many years of public standing up to colonialism. The people of the little life in South Africa, Mr. Levitas The other speaker was the Rev island of Okinawa have given the American occupa- identified himself with the interests J D. Same who spoke on behalf tion troops a shot in the eye by electing as Mayor of the African people. He was for of all the churches. of Naha Mr. Kamejiro Senega, Secretary-General of the People's Party, which is demanding an end to the Native Affairs Committee of "To all christians what ever their American occupation of the island and its return to the City Council and after the ex- creed may be, the messsage of the

The Japanese General Council of Trade Unions has sent a protest to the U.S. has urged the Prime Minister to help stop U.S. interference with the city's right to autonomy.



In the face of the growing strength and unity of the peoples of Asia, certain circles in the West are using every means at their disposal to sow discord. The Indonesian Government has charged the Western press and news agencies with giving tendentious reports, often in the form of incitements about the situation in Central and Northern Sumatra where of hard labour at the Fort He women's League. uprisings against the central Government have been of hard labour at the Fort. He reported. In a broadcast over Radio Republic Indo- was sentenced on September 17 to He also asked that the African nesia the Government called on the Indonesian peo- one year's imprisonment (of which Special Branch at this critical mople to rally so as not to leave any opportunity to be four months was suspended) for at- ment should now be our informers taken advantage of by any foreign countries.

The emergence of a powerful Asian solidarity is a religious nature, but unauthorised "Your hope, Africans, is not in there for all to see. The policy of Ike and his admi- meetings are prohibited in Gra- Parliament; it lies with you b nistration of meddling in the affairs of the peoples ferred from Grahamstown Prison In response to his appeal, some of the East will meet with the same resounding re- to the Johannesburg Fort in order of the 500 people who attended buff that greeted Sir Anthony's attack on Egypt. to face the treason charge.



"Anything you can do Ike can do better" -With acknowledgments to Vicky in the New Statesman.

TO REV. MNCUBE

WORCESTER A public farewell meeting to the Rev. A. L. Mncube, the general secretary of the Interdenominational African Ministers' Federation, was held under the auspices of the Worcester branch of the African National Congress on the Kwezi Square ground on January 6.

The Acting Secretary of the

New Age regrets to announce the n the Provincial Council of Mr. Mncube and congratulated him fo

who was prepared to fight for a

progressive policy. Public life is the poorer for his Nationalist Government. passing. To his family and friends New Age extends its sincerest condolences.

ONE OF THE ACCUSED NOT OUT ON BAIL

JOHANNESBURG wrong."

One of the 156 accused in the He appealed to the people to Grahamstown. The meeting was of ment. (Applause).

Opening the meeting, Mr. K. B. | Mpinda, told the gathering that in Baartman, chairman of the branch, the history of Worcester the Rev. said the occasion was both a sad Mncube was the first minister to



REV. MNCUBE

Fred Carneson, who was expelled being one of the officials who by the Minister of Justice under helped to convene the most imthe Suppression of Communism portant All-In Conference held at weather took over and the court Bloemfontein last year.

pulsion of Mr. Sam Kahn from the Bloemfontein Conference must be City Council was one of the few an acceptable one — it is the formation of a united front to fight against the vicious laws of the

"The time has come when all creeds are working together for one common end - Freedom. The fight | Later in the day the defence is the same, that of bettering of | | made an application for permishumanity, though the weapons are sign for the accused to be different. It is for this reason that | | allowed to remove their coats. | | the ministers of all churches should | | The court adjourned for five | | | join hands with the people to tell | minutes while they did so. the government when it is doing

trial, Port Elizabeth Congressman join their trade-unions, the Afri-Mr. Simon Mkalipi is not out on can National Congress and the

tending an illegal meeting at about the activities of the Govern-

WHAT THE ACCUSED ARE DOING IN COURT

gathered on Wednesday and were kept away from the precincts of

the Drill Hall by a cordon of

500 armed police. Nine African

women and one man were

arrested for allegedly "creating a public disturbance," and were

removed in a lorry, singing free-

dom songs as they were driven

through the streets to the police

On Thursday and Friday the

proceedings continued with the

same monotony, although the

The general impression gained

from the hearings to date is that

the prosecution has even now not

completed its preparatory work.

Many of the documents written

in the African languages are still

being translated and typed, after

being in the possession of the

It is rumoured that the Crown

has a total of something like

10,000 documents to introduce

into the case. At that rate the

hearing is going to take a long,

police for more than a year.

weather was cooler.

JOHANNESBURG.

FOR dreary, tedious days the 156 accused in the treason rial have been sitting on their new Public Works Department chairs listening as the Crown hands into court the contents of the filing cabinets of the African National Congress and the Congress of Democrats, seized in 954 and 1955 police swoops.

Picked out for emphasis have been the Freedom Charter, the Call to the Congress of the People, and public statements on the aims of the Congress of Democrats.

Some of the documents were nanded in more than once. Others were not read but were nerely handed in, even though in ome cases described by the prosecutor as he did so as "not nportant.

One exhibit was a poster of wo words, "SPEAKING TO-GETHER." The detective in the witness box said the poster was found on a door in the office of the Congress of Democrats.

XMAS CARDS

Also handed in were two Xmas greetings cards.

A document chosen for special emphasis and reading in full at he start of the third day of the proceedings was "The political line of the F.O.S.U." (said by he Crown to be the Friends of he Soviet Union). This lengthy document dealt amongst other ings with the Japanese attack on Manchuria and the League of

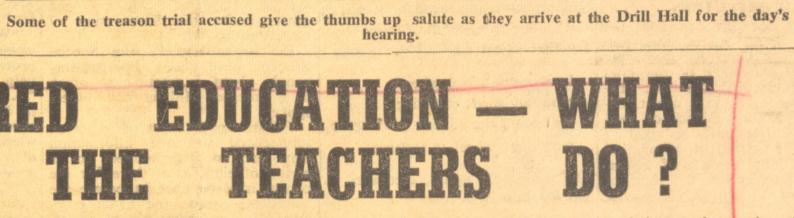
For the most part the court listened to the routine correspondence and press statements issued by the national organisations There were blank membersh orms and invitations to socials There were memoranda and pamphlets on Bantu Education documents setting out the Congress objections to the Western Areas Removal scheme, speeches elivered at sessions of Congress of Democrats conferences, ninutes and agenda of public onferences, messages from Chief

The first day of the resumed oreliminary enquiry last week found Johannesburg in the grip of a heat wave. After Advocate Berrange, for the defence, had delivered his sizzling attack upon the Crown's allegations, the wilted in the face of a perspiring ordeal which lasted for the rest of the day,

Through all the handing in of ocuments the 156 accused sat n discomfort. Lulled by the heat which reached 87 degrees in the fternoon, and the monotony of he proceedings, many dozed off. became impossible to focus attention on what was taking place. Others struggled to keep | awake, worked at crossword puzzles, read, or cooled themselves with improvised fans. ARRESTS

Outside considerable crowds





THE two-day conference held in Cape Town last week by the Teachers' League of South Africa and the Parent-Teachers' Associations to discuss the report of the Coloured Education Commis-

A large number of teachers and parents attended. The conference took the form of papers delivered by selected speakers, followed by discussion from the floor. A high standard of debate was maintained throughout, and every aspect of "Coloured Education" was thoroughly and systematically dealt with.

interesting affair.

The contribution from the audience, and particularly from the, ing to claim their equal. parents, was most encouraging. There is no doubt that enlightened Coloured opinion fully realises the dangers of the Coloured Education Commission's proposals, and is ready to oppose all attempts to foist an inferior education on the Coloured child.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

"We cannot defend the present system of education based on apartheid and inferiority, for our demand is for a democratic system of equal state school education for all in South Africa," said the President of the T.L.S.A., Mr. W. P. van Schoor, when he opened the conference.

"Only the abolition of the colour-bar system in education the Government hoped that the and in politics, in fact, in the en- Coloured Affairs Department tire social system, can bring us would serve as the hub of the freedom in education and freedom wheel controlled by the Commisas human beings."

Mr. Van Schoor said the Coattack on the education of their will be in vain," he said.

children was part of the attack on the whole status of the Coloured purpose was to prepare the Non-European child for inferior status.

Mr. A. Slingers said that behind this special education plan sion was an extremely was the fear of the herrenvolk-

NAUDE

minded Whites that they would be unable to maintain their "baas- and racial exclusiveness. The re- and full citizenship not an inch skap" over a people who were solution opposed the transfer of maturing politically and threaten-

NOT ENOUGH SCHOOLS

Many speakers deplored the absence of compulsory education for Coloured children. Each year tens of thousands of children of school-going age never saw the inside of a school and thousands of others were educationally starved because of overcrowding in the schools and the consequent lowering of standards. Even now the admission age for non-whites was raised at a time when it was lowered for Whites.

Mr. A. C. Jordan, of the Cape African Teachers' Association, drew attention to the parallel between the attacks on the status of "The defence of the education the Africans which began 20 years of our children implies not only ago, and the attacks on the Cothe struggle against Eiselen-De loured people today. He warned Vos-Malan poisoning of the the Coloured people to learn minds of our children. It de- from the bitter experience of the mands much more than this: it African people, whose political, demands the abolition of the social and economic development whole colour-bar system in South was threatened by the Bantu Education Act.

Councillor R. E. Viljoen said sioner for Coloured Affairs, Dr. I. D. du Plessiss. "Unless we can loured people were aware that an smother the C.A.D., all our efforts

loured people who were prepared lead. That means coming out inpeople, and was linked with the to serve the C.A.D. and who were to the open, and the tragedy of it attack on the Coloured vote. The already indicating their willing- all is, how many teachers are preness to accept nomination to the pared or able to do that? Coloured Advisory Council. The Government would lean heavily on this body to implement its plans against the Coloured people particularly the Group Areas Act.

the Government. In conclusion the conference passed a resolution rejecting the report of the Coloured Education Commission and condemning an educational system which was designed to create within the nonwhite child ideas of inferiority Coloured schools to the C.A.D. and warned the Coloured people against the imposition of a special tax to pay for the education of

Those who served on these bodies

must be exposed as the agents of

their children.

It would be a pity if the fight of the delegates against the threat of the Coloured Education Commission were to end with the brilliant discussion of this conference; yet somehow one fears that may be the case.

WHAT NEXT?

One would have expected that,

the buck to the parents.

they will expect the teachers also good such as ours."

Speakers attacked those Co- to take their stand, to give the

WORKING CLASS

Above all, the conference was conspicuous by the absence of our working class, the man in the street. The bulk of oppresssion lies on the shoulders of the workers and the struggle cannot go forward without the workerss.

The isolation of our teachers and other professional people from the working masses will bring their struggle for equality nearer the goal. The struggle against apartheid must be broadened to embrace all sections of the people before we can hope to achieve our aim of freedom in our lifetime.

Areas Act Causes Fear And Tension

DURBAN. "We are in grave doubt as to the

implication that the Group Areas once the issue had been clearly Mr. H. S. Singh, chairman of the revealed, an active campaign Friends of the Sick Association, in would have been planned, a positive line of action placed before the people so that they could effectively oppose the Government's plans. The question people bound to be a very real feeling of are silently asking the organisers residential insecurity. . . . Have but what have you decided to do we any guarantee that alternative about it — besides boycotting the living accommodation will be forthcoming? Will people be dumped cut of sight and out of mind, to Behind all the talk of non-col- struggle for themselves as best they may? How are people, already unlaboration and boycott, one had able financially to maintain themthe feeling that the teachers, hav- selves at a satisfactory level of food ing in mind their position as ser- intake, to bear increased transport vants of the state, were passing charges without lowering of physical health? . . .'

"The Act has and will increas-We can be sure the parents will ingly produce uncertainty and unnot sit back but will be ready to rest and a state of fear and tension demonstrate their opposition in no which is a most unfavourable atuncertain manner — but naturally mosphere for work for the public

LIBERAL CONFERENCE CALLS FOR UNITY IN STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID

CAPE TOWN

THE Liberal Party will associate itself with other progressive organisations on specific political issues, and "generally in furtherance of its ideals". This was unanimously decided by the 3rd National Congress of the Party, which met in Cape Town last weekend.

sion taken at the Natal Congress ence on resistance to apartheid.

About 80 delegates of all races and from all the provinces attended the Congress. Mr. Alan Paton was re-elected National Chairman and Prof. Leo Kuper and Mr. Peter Brown were re-elected Deputy Chairmen.

CONSTITUTION

A draft constitution for the future of South Africa was presented to the Congress, providing for: Equal protection of the laws to all without discrimination; protection against arbitrary arrest, detention or exile; freedom of residence and movement; the right to own property; freedom of opinion and expression; freedom of assembly and association; the right of equal access to the public service on merit.

This draft constitution, which has not yet been made public, will be considered by a special com-mittee of the Party during the coming year.

POLICE ASSAULTS

The Congress protested strongly against "the increasing number of assaults by members of the police force, particularly against nonwhites, and the failure of the authorities effectively to suppress the use of unlawful violence by the police", "the existence of an increasing number of petty statutory oflences for which an increasing number of Africans are arrested, fined or imprisoned", and the "continual disparity between sentences on whites and non-whites".

A further resolution called on all members of the Liberal Party to render vigorous support to the Treason Trial Defence Fund.

Another resolution expressed the desire of the Party to establish closer relations with working-class men and women of all races by actively co-operating with trade unions, enrolling workers as party members.

The Liberal Party decided that it would contest seats in the next General Election. The number of seats fought would depend on the amount gathered by a special fundraising drive to be launched soon by the Party.

SECRET SESSION

It is almost impossible to assess the significance of the Liberal Party conference since all the proceedings, except for a public meeting at the opening, were held in camera.

It is believed, however, that there was serious disagreement on the franchise question. Delegates from the Cape were adamant on a qualified franchise, while the Transvaal and Natal favoured equal franchise rights for all. To avoid a possible split in the Party, no final decision was reached at the plenary session of the conference. The "draft constitution for the future South Africa", quoted above, does not appear to contain a franchise clause.

Natal delegates, it is believed, wanted the deletion of the clause in the party constitution dealing with "totalitarianism", but no decision

The Congress affirmed a deci- was reached on this point either. Suez, Hungary and other intercf the Party in October to support national affairs were not even disfully the call of the IDAMF Con- cussed, as far as can be gathered, ference for a multi-racial confer- and the Liberal Party has issued no statement on foreign policy.

THE TURNING WHEEL

Let's get that heavy wheel a-turning, Rolling down on Freedom Road; Roll along towards the future, Let that wheel take all our load.

Look ahead, look ahead, Now my heart is lifting. Pull your share, pull your share, Now that wheel is shifting.

The road goes uphill, comrades. Up the hill of sorrow. Count them, comrades, every whip-lash-

We'll remember them tomorrow.

Look ahead, look ahead, Now my heart is lifting. Pull your share, pull your share,

Now that wheel is shifting. That wheel is mighty heavy, brothers, But once it moves it can't be stopped; Many on the road will join us,

All rememb'ring those who've dropped. Look ahead, look ahead. Now my heart is lifting.

Now that wheel is shifting. Port Elizabeth.)

Pull your share, pull your share,

Union Leader Subpoeanaed

PORT ELIZABETH

Miss Lily Diederick, a trade union leader, has been served with a subpoena to appear before the local Magistrate on January 19, at the request of the prosecutor, to give evidence in order to assist the prosecutor to bring a charge against Raymond Mhlaba and others under the Suppression of Communism Act.

it is alleged Mhlaba and others spoke.

period of eight days, thereafter the person may be brought before the "You insist that I live ten m magistrate again, and again committed for a further period of imprisonment if he refuses to give information.

East Cape ANC Regional Report

PORT ELIZABETH At a recent regional conference of the African National Congress held somewhere in the Eastern Cape discussions took place on the effect of the high treason arrests on the organisational efficiency of the branches.

the Queenstown national confer-

port of the arrested leaders and of unity that is abroad among the delegates pledged themselves to African people in this year, 1957 step up the drive for the FREE- a portent of great things to come. DOM DEFENCE FUND. It also Congress of the People song from discussed at length methods of improving organisation.

leaflets justifying the fare increases on the grounds of their increased costs. But the people quickly recognised inaccuracies. For example the leaflets claimed that drivers earn £9 per week, but only a few are paid that amount (about 6 out of 150). The average wage is

(Continued from page 1)

PUTCO has issued propaganda

PUTCO's pleas of poverty have been countered by facts circulated among the people by the People's Transport Action Committee, uniting the ANC with other organisations in the townships.

£6 14s. a week.

For example, according to the S.A. Financial Year book (1956), PUTCO's profits rose from £75,000 in 1953 to £101,000 in 1955 — a return of 15.9 per cent on its issued capital of £637,500. PUTCO directors are not doing badly — they include Mr. Raymond Steyn, also director of 62 other companies, Mr. J. M. Beveridge, a director of 40 other companies, and Mr. P. R. Botha, who has 28 other director-

ships. An editorial in the Rand Daily Mail presents the central issue fairly and squarely.

"When men are prepared to walk For several weeks the Special eighteen miles a day to register a Branch have been interrogating protest of this sort no one can people about a meeting at which help being impressed," it writes. .. To a man who earns from £3 to £5 a week (and the average is Failure on the part of a person about £3 10s.) an increase of 1s. a subpoenaed to give information week, plus an increase in the fare may lead to imprisonment for a of a wife who goes out to work, is

> "'You insist that I live ten miles from my place of work' he says. 'Very well. You cannot increase my transport charges."

PEOPLE'S UNITY

That is the basic question, and the suggestions in the newscolumns of some newspapers that the people are intimidated by tsotsis and pickets is too fantastic to warrant a moment's consideration In fact pickets are hardly to be seen. They are hardly needed. The unity among the people is overwhelming.

Never was a great boycott organised with so little trouble and fuss. In fact, to anyone who remembers The regional conference also dis-cussed some of the resolutions of tions of the Alexandra bus boycott a decade ago, the present extraordinary demonstration is a won-

> EMPLOYERS CONCERNED Johannesburg employers are se- Prof. L. Kuper, Natal.

ricusly concerned at the continuance of the boycott. A joint committee has been established representing the City Council and the Chambers of Commerce and Indus-The committee interviewed representatives of PUTCO, and its chairman, Dr. Boris Wilson, met the African boycott leaders who told him the people were determined to refuse to travel in buses until the fourpenny fare was re-

BUS BOYCOTT STILL SOLID

The committee met the Road Transportation Board on Monday, and was seeking to interview the Minister of Transport on Wednesday. The deputation to the Minister includes the Presidents of the Chambers of Commerce and Indus-

Meanwhile mass meetings in Alexandra, Sophiatown and other areas affected by the increases unanimously resolved on Sunday to centinue the boycott. Amid loud cries of "Azikhelwa", the meetings applauded speakers expressing unyielding opposition to the PUTCO increases.

DEFENCE NATAL **LEADERS**

DURBAN

Six Natal leaders of the Civil Liberties Defence Committee were last week issued with summonses to appear in the Durban Magistrates Court on January 28, on charges of unlawfully taking part in or attending a meeting or assembly of Africans without the prior consent of the Mayor of Durban, as required by a 1933 provincial notice.

The charges arose out of a meeting on December 6 last when individuals from all walks of life attended a meeting of the Civil Liberties Defence Committee, called to consider means of assisting those who had been arrested.

The persons charged are: Adv. H. F. Mall, Vice President of the N.I.C.; Dr. M. K. Hathorn, Chair-The conference declared its sup-ort of the arrested leaders and of unity that is abroad among the Florence Mkize, Secretary of ANC Women's League; Mr. Selbourne Maponya, Acting Secretary of ANC; Mr. Alan Paton, National Chairman of Liberal Party; and

HE PEOPLE ARE WALKING THEY CANNOT AFFORD

YOUNG man sits back on an office chair, thoroughly enjoying himself. He is a former cleaner who had been employed by the Public Utility Transport Corporation but has now come as a member of a deputation sent by the Alexandra people to interview the management of the company about the rumoured bus fare increases.

By Tennyson Makiwane

He confronts his former boss with this statement, which he repeats three times: "But, Mr. Frith, the workers cannot afford to pay." Mr. Frith replies, "You are all wearing suits." His former office cleaner retorts: "Do you want us to wear sacks?"

In a nutshell he expressed the feeling of the thousands who have decided to boycott the buses and endure great hardships rather than pay increased fares The slogan "Asinimali" (we have no money), together with the slogan "Azik-

helwa" (we don't ride the buses), is on the lips of everybody.

DETERMINED

As the mass of men and women, young and old, flow out of the townships in one mighty stream they have determination written all over their faces. They walk, cycle or use whatever object has the slightest semblance of conveyance—anything but the P.U.T.CO. buses.

One cannot but be moved by the spirit of old women with blisters on their feet joining in the boycott. "They keep digging out money from us when they know full well that we receive low wages," said the old woman walking along with us. She told us she had meant to board the municipal buses operating between the European suburbs and the town, but she changed her mind and decided to walk all the way.

Your fears that exhaustion

might compel these boycotters to give in are soon dispelled. When we first settled in these townships, they tell you, we walked to and from our work places and we are prepared to do so now rather than pay any more money.

NO GOING BACK

There is no going back, the people say. That, said one man, would be like winning £1,000 today and throwing it away to-

The argument that the fare increase only amounts to a penny is dismissed by the people with contempt. "We don't sleep in town," they say, and that means an increase of twopence a day, which is a lot.

Old grievances against the general inefficiency of the P.U.T.CO. service have cropped up. The P.U.T.CO. makes us stand in queues like prisoners for hours. "We must have more buses," runs the argument.

Hardly anyone believes the story that the service runs at a loss. The people point out that luxury cars are being used by the company for its inspectors to travel up and down the route. Moreover, they say the P.U.T.CO. has done away with conductors and bus fares are collected by the drivers.

GOOD TEMPER

So far the boycott has been characterised by the people's good temper. There has been virtually no need for pickets and no hostility has been shown to P.U.T.CO. employees. Crime in the township has been curbed as a result of the political enthusiasm.

Tempers rise only when buses stop next to groups of walkers and invite them to ride. The people ask how much the fare is and when the reply comes: "5d." they blurt out: "Drive away."

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