NEW TAXES A CRIPP

THE proposed increase in African poll-tax is one of the most shocking things that this Government has done.

It comes at a time when the bus boycott on the Rand and in Pretoria has shown that the African people are incapable of shouldering any more economic burdens; when the Association of Chambers of Commerce has called for a general inquiry into the living conditions of the urban African thus reflecting widespread White interest, even sympathy, in the economic plight of African workers; and when a nation-wide campaign has been launched by SACTU for a minimum wage of £1 a day and an immediate allround increase in wages.

When one probes into the reason for the proposed poll-tax increase, it is revealed as a piece of calculated oppression. It is deliberate, cold-blooded provocation.

PAY TWICE

The Government's chief aim in increasing the poll-tax is to further the idea of a separate "Bantu economy," that is, an economy within the country's overall economy. In practice, this will mean that the African will contribute twice to the State's coffers.

Although the Government is reluctant to admit it, the African labour force is the backbone of the country's economy. Most other White economists recognise this elementary fact. The contribution made by the African workers to the general welfare of South Africa far exceeds any other single contribution. That is the first point to bear in mind.

The next point is that the Africans, according to Dr. Verwoerd, Minister of Native Affairs, himself, contributed between £30 and £40 million to the Treasury annually in indirect taxes and in other ways. I would say this is an underestimate. The fact is that every time the African buys a packet of cigarettes, say, he is contributing to the Treasury, because included in the price of cigarettes is a Government tax.

In these two respects, therefore —as a worker contributing to the prosperity of the country and as a payer of indirect tax-the African worker shoulders his responsibilities as a citizen, just like any White man.

Now his poll-tax is to be raised. He will be subjected to a taxation system which, compared with the one applicable to Whites, is cruel and oppressive. The proposed changes mean that, instead of the customary poll-tax, a graded tax or income-tax, similar in pattern to the one payable by Whites but much more severe, will be applied to the African population.

Here is an example of what this will mean in practice: Every African man over 18, even if he earns nothing (even if he is unemployed), will have to pay at least £1 10s. a year under the new proposals; whereas non-Africans escape with much lighter taxes.

NEW SCALE

Up to now, every African man over 18 has paid £1 a year polltax, regardless of his income (there are a small number of actual income-tax payers), plus 10s. a year hut tax if he is married and his home is in the Reserves. This 10s. a year hut tax remains, and the new scale of poll-tax is as follows (tax payable by African women in brackets):

INCOME

Up to £15 a month Between £15 and £20 a month Between £20 and £25 a month Between £25 and £30 a month Between £30 and £35 a month More than £35 a month

If one compares this tax scale with the income tax paid by non-Africans, the gross unfairness is apparent. An unmarried White man must earn £25 a month before he starts paying tax; a married White man can earn up to about £40 a month without paying tax, and in addition if he has children the level at which he starts paying tax is pushed much higher.

But the African is given no such consideration. If, say, he is unemployed for the whole year and his income is nothing, he must still pay at least £1 10s. a year; if he is married he is not entitled to any tax reductions; if he has children, he is not entitled to any tax reductions either; and, finally, if he is

Looking At **Parliament**

married and has a hut in the Reserves, he must pay the 10s, hut tax as well.

It will be noticed that African women, too, are to be made to pay tax—and again no provision is made for tax rebates for women who are married or who have children.

The entire African population will feel the burden of this new tax increase. It will hit every African home, whether it is in the towns, the Reserves, or in the platteland.

COMPARISON

It is difficult to draw an adequate comparison between the new tax which will apply to Africans and the Union tax payable by non-Africans. A recent article in "Fighting Talk" (March, 1957) makes the point that "a sounder comparison would be between the poll tax and the provincial persoexempted.'

article states: personal tax is payable by non-Africans who are 21 years or more. Married women are exempted, unless they pay income tax. In the Transvaal and Cape, persons earning £250 or less a year are also exempted, if married. Those with a bigger income are come is less than £150, and £1 if it is between £150 and £250 Few Africans earn more than £250 a year . . . If Africans were taxed on the same basis as other people, exempted in the Cape and Transvaal, and be called on to pay only of his people in the youth 10s. in Natal."

These figures prove that there is no justification whatever for the proposed tax increases, which are revealed as vicious impositions.

MOTIVES

In conclusion, I want to analyse briefly the Nationalist Government's motives in introducing the new taxes (not necessarily in order of merit):

TAX PAYABLE

£1 10s. (nil) £1 15s. (£1)

£2 10s. (£2) £3 5s. (£3) £4 (£4)

£1 for every £60 for men and women alike.

1. An increase in tax on Africans in the Reserves (every African will have to pay at least 10s. more) will force many of these Africans to seek work outside the Reserves to obtain the necessary cash. If they go to the towns, Verwoerd has enough laws to drive them out again. Their only choice will be to go to the mines or the farms—and that, precisely, is what Verwoerd wants.

2. Verwoerd wants to counter criticism from Government supporters that he is spending too much money on the Africans. What a fantastic accusation! The U.P., in its tortuous manoeuvres in the platteland, has egged on Nationalists to voice these criticisms; therefore the U.P. must shoulder part of the blame for the new taxes.

When everything is working smoothly, Verwoerd will be able to turn to his people and say: Look, the Africans are paying for apartheid!

NEED FOR PROTEST

The new proposals will be debated shortly in Parliament and are intended to come into effect presumably at the beginning of 1958. The African people cannot allow this thing to happen to them. It will affect every single one of them-and every single African therefore must make his protest heard.

C.P.E.

People's Padre Passes Away

PORT ELIZABETH.

A three-mile-long line of motor vehicles was the last visible tribute nal tax, from which Africans are which the people of Port Elizabeth paid to the late Rev. W. B. Tshume on Sunday March 31 when his remains were taken from New Brighton to Kleinskool for burial.

The Rev. Tshume, who died from a heart attack at the age of 53, was a Minister of the Bantu Methodist Church, an ex-President of the ANC (Cape) and its Chaplain.

As the hearse entered New Brightaxed on a sliding scale, on which ton the Volunteer Corps, both men the lowest notch is £1. In Natal a and women, in uniform, and flying married man pays 10s. if his in- the ANC flag at half mast led the remains of the People's Padre to the church. At the head of the column were the Cultural Club pioneers in Congress uniform and they carried a banner on which was inscribed they would benefit greatly. Firstly, the ANC Youth League emblem of they would become liable to pay a shield mounted on a cross of a tax at 21 years, instead of 18; spear and a knobkerrie—a symbol secondly, most of them would be of solidarity and strength. The Rev. Tshume had always seen the future

At the main entrance to the churchyard, as at the entrance to the cemetery, his body passed be-neath the fluttering ANC flag by which he had for so long stood.

Paying tribute, the Rev. Mr. Saliso said Rev. Tshume had led a full life, because not only had he led his people in the church, but (pointing outside the church where the volunteers listened from a loudspeaker) the presence of the large number in khaki was testimony that he regarded the attainment of freedom by his people as a condition for a truly religious life. He recalled the occasion when, before thousands, at the mountain (entabeni) he declared his dedication to the sacred cause of his people's freedom.

"He was a people's padre," said Mr. J. Mjo speaking on behalf of the ANC.



Beerhall Boycott

Two businessmen who were alleged to be responsible for selling beer from the boycotted beerhall in the location and nearby business centres are being boycotted by the people of Cradock following a decision by the ANC.

The men were given a chance to explain themselves, but did not attend the meeting. The ANC then decided to boycott their businesses until they are prepared to come and negotiate with the ANC.

Meanwhile, the beerhall boy-cott continues to be 100 per cent successful. So far more than 10,000 gallons of beer have been spilt since the boycott started. The Cradock jail is full of boycotters who refuse to pay their fines and serve their sentences as part of their protest against the beerhall. Some of them have to wear their own clothes in jail because there is a scarcity of prison clothes. They have to wait for other prisoners to be freed before they can get clothes to put on as prisoners:

"The People Shall Govern"; "Our Leaders are in Chains." E. L. VARA President ANCYL (Cradock).

Defeat For Apartheid Candidate

I congratulate the residents of the Bochabela Village for putting Mr. R. Morakile back on the Advisory Board with 341 votes against the apartheid candidate, Mr. W. S. Motlatsi who got only 22 votes.

Last year I warned Mr. Motlatsi that as long as he supported apartheid he would never be elected to the Advisory Board because Africans are totally opposed to apart-heid. This has shown the Nationalists that Mr. Motlatsi has no followers although he always says that he is supported by the residents of Bloemfontein.

Now the results of the elections have shown that he has only 22 followers in Bloemfontein.

Mr. Motlatsi's stupid boast that he was responsible for my being sent here to the Drill Hall does not seem to have won him many

JACOB MAFORA

Drill Hall, Jo'burg.

WORKED FOR 15 YEARS— SACKED ON THE TURN

From Govan Mbeki

PORT ELIZABETH.

SENTENCING each of the 79 workers of P. E. Glueck & Co. to a fine of £2 or 15 days the Chief Magistrate told them that African trade unions are not recognised by the law. Some of the workers tried for trespass at the premises had worked at the same factory for as ployers told them to get out of the factory premises. They arrested and charged with trespass when they waited to have their reference books signed.

The trouble had started after the workers had approached the management and asked him to recognise their union. The manager refused, and according to evidence in court, one foreman started kicking some of the juvenile workers as they were walking to the factory to resume work. At the same time the three youngsters were fired and when the main body of the workers drew the attention of the manager to the brutal treatment of the juveniles they were told to go. The workers then claimed that they should, at least, be paid their normal weekly wage which they would have drawn on the morning of the following day. As they had not been paid at 5 o'clock on the Thursday afternoon they left and returned the following morning to collect their weekly wage and also to have the "Discharge" column of their reference books signed. But they were arrested.

THEY FORFEIT WAGES

Passing sentence the Chief Magistrate said that in so far as they did not work on the Thursday afternoon they were at law regarded as deserters and would therefore forfeit their wages for the week and their holiday pay too. And in so far

as they returned to the factory the following morning, even though they had come to get their dis-charge, they were guilty of trespass, and were sentenced to a fine of £2 or 15 days in jail.

When one of the workers who had spent 14 years working for the firm went to the pass office to get a workseeker's pass he was told to bring proof that he had worked and long as 15 years. But when they lived in P.E. for more than 10 years dared press for the right to negotias otherwise he would be endorsed lived in P.E. for more than 10 years ate with the employers through their out of the urban area. He went own union representatives, the em- back to the factory to get a testimonial but the management refused to give him one.

> The case has caused a great deal of bitterness amongst African workers in Port Elizabeth.

Turffontein Racing

Following are New Age selections for Turffontein on Saturday. April 13:

First Race: 1. Lady D; 2. Prairie Quail; 3. Moon Game or Waltz. Second Race: 1. Gay Lady; 2. By Way: 3. Unknown Wealth.

Third Race: 1. Frolic; 2. Royal Vanguard; 3. King's Ark.

Fourth Race: 1. Torch Flash or Djakorta; 2. Marsall Avon; 3. Savoy Court.

Fifth Race: 1. Hathi; 2. Headache; 3. Addiction.

Sixth Race: 1. Lone Lay; 2. Thunder Shadow; 3. Majestic.

Seventh Race: 1. Abercorn; 2. Lady Brilliant; 3. Arabian Moon.

Eighth Race: 1. Supreme; 2. Swirling; 3. Little Coin.

Ninth Race: 1. The Imp or Freedom; 2. Deielove; 3. Kathy Winsor.

OVERSEAS RACE

Newsbury Spring Cup: 1. Court Feathers; 2. Nicholas Nickleby; 3. My Foot.

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