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Halt the Drift to Fascism on April 15

“REJECT NAT. TYRANNY AT THE POLLS ON APRIL 15”

People's Congress Election Call

JOHANNESBURG.

The Nationalists who have planned to introduce a dictatorship in South Africa must be routed by the voters at the polls on April 15, says an election leaflet issued by the recently formed South African People's Congress here.

Through the Public Safety Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act the Government has brought the country "to the edge of fascist dictatorship," says the leaflet.

These Acts "surrender to the Cabinet the very powers that the Reichstag voted Hitler in 1933 . . .

"Between us and naked dictatorship stands one thing — and one thing only: The power of the people to call a halt to martial law fascism.

"On April 15th we must call that halt."

(Continued on page 8)

T.L.C. CALLS FOR PROGRESSIVE GOVT.

PORT ELIZABETH.

WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN DRAWING TOWARDS ITS CONCLUSION, A STIRRING CALL TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO REJECT THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT AT THE POLLS ON APRIL 15 WAS ISSUED BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL WHICH CONCLUDED HERE LAST WEEK.

"We the organised workers of South Africa, gathered together in the 4th Annual Conference of the South African Trades and Labour Council, solemnly indict the Government with having failed in its duty towards the workers of South Africa" stated a Declaration submitted by the National Union of Distributive Workers and unanimously adopted by the conference.

1. In the economic sphere, the promise to reduce the cost of living had been unfulfilled and the cost of living had continued to soar out of all proportion to the meagre in-

creases in the wages of the workers. For State employees cost of living allowances had been pegged and for other workers they had increased at a much slower pace than had the

prices of consumer goods, rentals and public services. Taxes had risen steeply. Price controls had been relaxed.

PENSIONS

There had been no increase in workman's compensation and very little in pensions and unemployment benefits.

Instead of trying to introduce the 40-hour week promised in 1948, the Government had done everything it could to make the workers work harder and accept the repugnant system of piece work and incentive bonuses. Housing, schools and hospitals had been neglected.

"2. In the field of trade unionism the Government has not hesitated to implement its policies against the interests of the workers. Interference in the domestic affairs of trade unions, hitherto regarded as inviolate by previous Governments, has become a regular feature of the Government's activities. Leaders have been removed from office and prohibited from any further trade union activity. Threats have been made to introduce legislation to effect the compulsory division of trade unions on racial lines.

"3. In the field of civil liberties the attacks made by the Government on the rights of the individual, the threats against the courts, and the attempt to destroy the constitution are too numerous to require further elaboration.

"4. Race relations between European and Non-European sections of

(Continued on page 5)

Workers' Plea for Peace

PORT ELIZABETH.

At the Trades and Labour Council Conference last week, a resolution was passed requesting the Government to take part in the termination of the Korean War, an International Convention outlawing weapons of mass destruction and the seeking of negotiated rather than dictated solutions to all outstanding problems between nations.

In moving the motion Miss Ray Alexander, a delegate of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, said that in the capitalist countries the workers suffered by war preparations. "Only by fighting for peace can the workers of the world enjoy the fruits of their labour."

The struggle for peace, she said, was for all mankind. If the workers united in this struggle there would be no war.

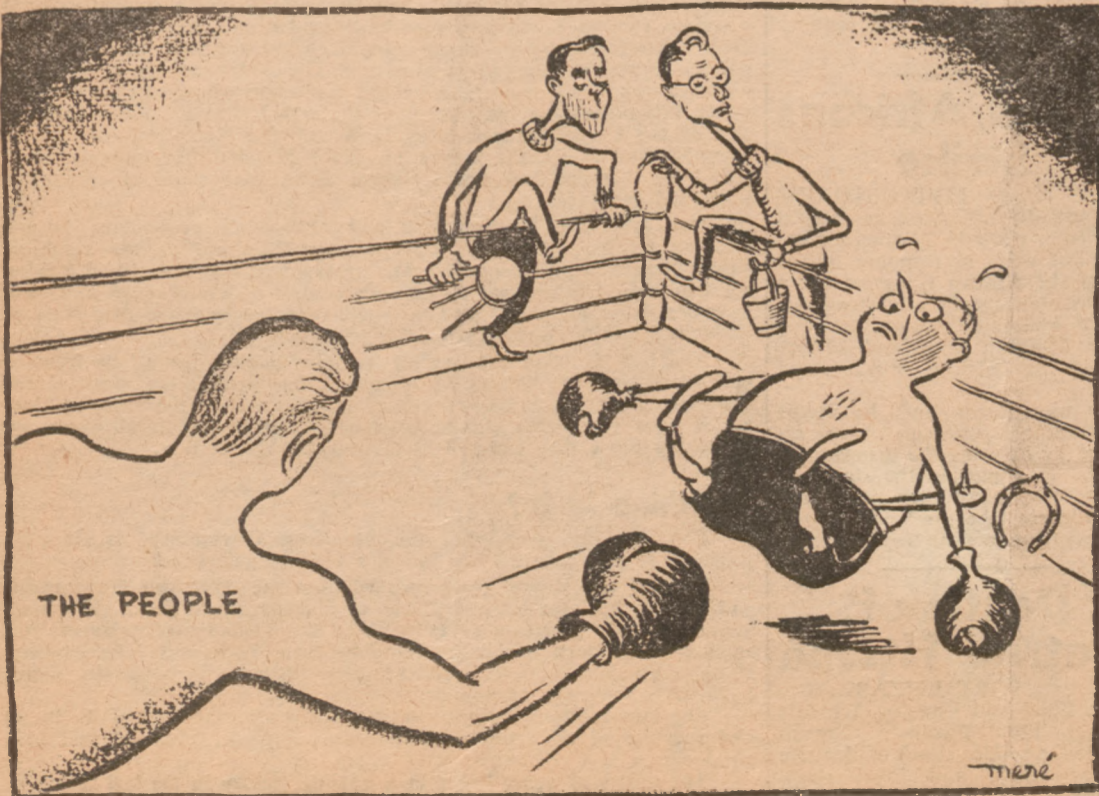
"Most of the war talk is from the American capitalists who want to continue the tension for fear of a depression," said Miss Anna Scheepers, a delegate of the Garment Workers' Union. "If people could see, as I have, the destruction caused by the last war, and how little has been done to rebuild, everyone would be shocked at the thought of another war."

Korea Cease Fire Demand

LONDON.

The Australian and Indian Peace Councils last week opened drives for an immediate cease-fire in Korea and no extension of the war to China.


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U.S. GERM WAR ATTACKS CONTINUE OVER KOREA

One-Sided

JOHANNESBURG.

Although the Mineworkers Union claims that it has no party-political affiliations, the "Mineworker," its official organ is always full of praise for Nationalist politicians.

Dr. N. Diederichs, chief of the Reddingsdaadbond, company director and Nat. candidate for Randfontein, is described in a recent issue of the paper as "the worker's champion."

Also held by the paper to be worthy of the mineworkers' vote is Mr. M. J. van den Berg, former Nat. M.P. for Krugersdorp and a candidate for the same seat in the election.

Sprinkled in the columns of the paper from time to time are words of praise for Minister of Labour Schoeman, labour "expert" Dr. A. Hertzog and other Nat. nominees.

So far no United Party candidates have qualified for support from the "Mineworker."

LONDON.
IN spite of the new wave of hope created by the possibility of peace in Korea, following the latest cease-fire proposals of the Koreans and Chinese, the U.S. Air Force is continuing to rain down thousands of tons of bombs on the towns and countryside and is dropping germ bombs on a large scale.

The captured U.S. airmen revealed that the American germ warfare policy was to drop bacterial containers mixed in with conventional bombs in order to conceal their use. However, checked and scientifically authenticated cases of germ bomb attacks have continued throughout the early months of this year up to as late as March 13.

The Central Telegraph Agency of North Korea has reported that between January and mid-March there were over 60 detected germ raids by U.S. planes over a wide area including Pyongyang, the capital, and practically the whole of the Northern provinces. This fits in with the known military aim of the U.S. Supreme command to maintain a "contamination belt" across the country in an attempt to prevent supplies reaching the front.

Starting from January 6 this year, planes dropped flies, mosquitoes, spiders and other infected insects in Kangwon Province and three days later they made a thick distribution of spiders and small beetles at a locality in Hamkyong Province to a density of 20,000 per square metre.

On the following two days planes dropped the same types of insects over two areas in the Northern Provinces and over Wonsan city.

More attacks were made on January 17 and 20. In the 10 days from February 2 groups of fighter-bombers and bombers dropped over city and country areas large quantities of rats, flies, cabbage insects and other infected pests contained in paper bags wrapped in tin foil.

In the first half of March American planes carried out 27 detected germ war missions, including several attacks on Pyongyang.

In addition to the use of germ-laden insects and small animals, the attackers also dropped infected foods. One example was the discovery of biscuits dropped by U.S. planes over an area of three acres of Hamshung city. The biscuits and other foods evidently meant to tempt children. Laboratory tests proved them to be infected with virulent bacteria.

Federation is Threat to Peace

LONDON.

Federation of Britain's central African colonies against the wishes of the African people is an issue endangering peace in the opinion of British organisations fighting for racial and international harmony. Last week a deputation representing 40 organisations affiliated to the National Peace Council took a protest to the Minister of State for Colonies protesting against the Federation Plan. Another delegation led by the Liberal peer, Lord Stansgate, called at the Colonial Office to oppose the scheme at a time when the majority of Africans do not support it and are without democratic rights.

N.Rhod. Africans Strike

LIVINGSTONE

Thousands of Africans stayed away from work in Northern Rhodesia last week in response to the call of the African Congress for a two-day stoppage in protest against Central African federation.

The Mufulira mine had 80 per cent. of its African workers on strike.

The mine bosses and heads of Government departments have retaliated by ordering the dismissal of all who took part in the stoppage, but in many cases they have been compelled to take the workers back because there are no replacements.

Death of Beatrice Ntsepe

PORT ELIZABETH.

The Food and Canning Workers Union. Port Elizabeth Branch mourns the sudden death of Beatrice Ntsepe, staunch and loyal shop-steward at Messrs. H. Jones and Company.

Clarion Call

The Peace Offensive

Never has the West been caught so off-balance as by the Chinese and North Korean peace overtures of the last two weeks.

We are being told by our daily papers that fundamental changes in policy are being introduced behind the Iron Curtain now that Stalin is dead; that the "fat boy" Malenkov has abandoned the barren policy of toughness laid down by his predecessor; that the Chinese and North Koreans are accepting the demands of the United Nations in Korea; that the chances of world peace are brighter; and that, as a symptom of all this, Mr. Vishinsky is smiling and affable at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

What has really been happening, of course, is quite the opposite. A careful examination will show that far from the East having changed its mind, it is the West that has done a somersault.

Exchange of Prisoners

First of all, let us take the peace offer. It started with a suggestion from the United Nations that sick and seriously wounded prisoners of both sides in Korea should be returned. To this the Chinese and North Koreans replied: "Willingly. But why not start the truce talks again and bring the whole war to an end as soon as possible?"

This immediately placed the American Government in a dilemma. They could not refuse such an offer without clearly indicating to the world that they were not interested in a cessation of hostilities. Moreover, they were under terrific pressure from inside America for the Korean war to be brought to an end. And don't let us forget it was the pledge that he would "bring our boys back from Korea" that won Eisenhower the Presidential election last November.

On the other hand, a lame acceptance of the Chinese offer would result in American "loss of face"—an Oriental disease to which Occidentals show an extraordinary aversion. Hence the terrific press campaign to represent the coming peace talks as a climb down on the part of the Chinese and North Koreans.

Who Started First?

As if the East, for the first time, had become seriously interested in peace. Who, one might ask, has been more insistent on peace during the last few years than the Russians, Chinese and North Koreans? On whose initiative has the banning of weapons of mass destruction and the whole question of disarmament been discussed at U.N.O. if not the Russians?

It is precisely in Russia, the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe, China, North Korea, that practically the whole adult population have signed petitions calling upon the Big Five powers to come together and settle their differences by negotiation.

The press is suggesting Malenkov has brought about a revolution in Soviet foreign policy by proposing that the capitalist and socialist states should live together—"co-exist"—in peace. But in almost every one of his statements since the end of the war it was Stalin who insisted that the two systems could exist side by side without war.

His only condition was that both sides should have an equal interest in maintaining peace, should respect the integrity of all nations big and small, should stand by their pledged word and their international treaties of friendship, and should cease interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. Granted these conditions, he said, there was no reason why either side should have recourse to war.

There has been no change that I can detect in Soviet or Chinese foreign policy since Stalin died. The only difference is that for the first time the Western press is revealing to its readers what that policy is.

Not Ready for War

What has happened to make the American Government more interested in talking peace today than it was, say, six months ago? Perhaps one of the most important reasons is that the United Nations simply are not ready for war. Their forces in Korea have just suffered a serious reverse, being driven back about 25 miles in one sector. Van Fleet has revealed before Congressional committees that the U.N. army has inadequate supplies of ammunition. The American use of bacterial warfare, now again confirmed by the testimony of captured American pilots, has roused the indignation of the world. The European counterpart of the United Nations army in Korea (the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) is, in the words of Field Marshal Montgomery in a speech in America last week, bogged down in a mass of committee work and red tape.

Moreover, the Western war and armaments programme is not bringing results. America's European satellites are on the verge of bankruptcy (Britain's financial year, for example, has just closed leaving the Churchill Government to face an overall deficit of £436 millions). Europe's dollar exchange position is still reported by the United Nations Economic Affairs Department to be precarious.

The U.S. Government, for all its atom bombs, for all its frenzied bellowings over the "Voice of America", has neither the material nor the psychological resources to mount a major war at the moment. And the Korean war is no sideshow—already American casualties are approaching those they suffered in the Second World War.

Anything In It?

Can one say, then, that the American Government is sincerely prepared to talk peace? Or is it just a bluff to gain time?

Perhaps one should really ask whether the American Government and the big business interests it represents, can afford peace. The mere mention of a resumption of talks about the exchange of prisoners has resulted in a stock exchange slump in New York and Johannesburg. Rubber, tin, lead, zinc, copper and other "strategic" commodity shares have "shed" millions of pounds.

The international financiers whose profits are made out of the blood and sacrifice of the common man are in a panic. That in itself is a good sign.

The policy of peace has won a notable victory in the last fortnight.

CHANTICLEER.



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The members of the deputation from Nyanga Vigilance Association which interviewed the Divisional Council of the Cape last week are, from the left, Mr. W. Nkomo, Mr. M. Ntshona, Mr. Wilson Pike, Mr. B. P. Bunting, M.P., Mr. Zacheus Msusa and Mr. William Jacob.

NYANGA AFRICANS OPPOSE RENT INCREASES

CAPE TOWN.

AN objection against the election of the Nyanga Advisory Board last December was voiced by a deputation from the Nyanga Vigilance Association which interviewed the Cape Divisional Council last Tuesday.

The deputation complained that the people of Nyanga had not had adequate notice of the election, with the result that no one attended the nomination meeting. Four nominations were received later, and the four men concerned were declared elected to the four seats on the advisory board. The bulk of the people, however, had played no part in the election, and the present advisory board was regarded as unrepresentative of the location.

In view of the fact that nobody had attended the nomination meeting, it was contended by the Vigilance Association that the provision in the regulations for calling for nominations had not been carried out. The deputation asked the Council to declare the elections null and void and hold fresh elections.

The Council replied that it had no power to unseat the Board. If the Vigilance Association felt it had a case, it could petition the Supreme Court or an order declaring the elections invalid. The Council itself would take no steps in the matter.

RENTALS

The deputation also protested at the fixing of a rental of 10s. a week for the new two-roomed dual-occupancy houses when the existing four-roomed houses in the location were rented at 7s. 6d. a week.

The Council replied that it incurred a loss of £60 a year on each house at Nyanga, and had to do something to increase the revenue from housing schemes.

The Vigilance Association deputation, and later in the day a deputation of women from Nyanga, also protested against the fixing of a rental of £1 11s. 4d. a week where the combined income of all the members of a family was £15 or over.

If transport costs were added to the rental in these cases, families would be paying out almost 75 per cent. of their income on rent and transport. Most families at Nyanga would fall under this rule, the deputation pointed out, and the people would simply be unable to live on that basis.

The chairman of the Divisional Council said the Council would make representations on this point to the National Housing Commission.

Both he and other members of the Council, however, said they were disappointed the African people were not more grateful to them for what they had done in the way of housing for the African people.

CO-OP. PARTY CONDEMNS RACE OPPRESSION

LONDON.

Repressive policy against Africans in both Kenya and South Africa was condemned by the annual conference of the Co-operative Party held at Southsea last week-end. The Co-operative Party is an important constituent of the British Labour Party.

On the subject of South Africa, speakers severely criticised the Malan Government and a unanimous resolution opposed the racial discrimination practised in the name of "apartheid." The resolution also protested against the arrest and persecution of outstanding leaders of the trade unions and the democratic people's organisations. It called for the release of arrested leaders.

Concerning Kenya, the Co-operators condemned the British Government's use of the Mau-Mau as an excuse for destroying the Kenya African Union, the recognised political organisation of the Africans in Kenya.

A resolution adopted by the conference stated: "While we condemn acts of terrorism, we believe that the cause of the present unrest in Kenya is not alone the activities of the Mau-Mau but that it is the consequence of the urgent problems of land, hunger, poverty, lack of housing and the absence of political rights for the native peoples in that country."

A.N.C. Conferences

JOHANNESBURG.

Three days before the General Election, African National Congress members will meet in eight Witwatersrand Pretoria regional conferences to discuss the new pass registration system and the Group Areas Act.

The regional conferences will take place on Sunday April 12.

The conferences will be held in Benoni, for the East Rand, Lady Selborne, Pretoria; the West Rand; Kliptown for the Orlando, Moroka, Jabavau area; Alexandra Township, Evaton for the Evaton-Vereeniging area; Sophiatown for the Western Areas, and in the centre of the city at the Trades Hall.

"PEACE SCARE" CAUSES U.S. POLICY CRISIS

Conditions Ripe For Great Economic Slump

NEW YORK.

THE mere prospect of a cease-fire in Korea has slashed billions of dollars from the share lists of Wall Street and sent the quotations on the world's stock exchanges of industrials, base metals and other key armaments counters moving sharply downwards.

The probabilities are that the U.S. Administration will play for time over the Korean cease-fire negotiations in order to find some new way out of the position. Only a major diplomatic and political defeat for the whole of American war policy could force the Eisenhower Government to turn back on its drive to build up the war coalition against the Soviet Union and extend the area of hostilities in the Far East.

DIFFICULT CORNER

The Washington leaders are in a difficult corner. While the Soviet peace move, coming one after another, have not allowed the U.S. diplomatic and propaganda services to recover their balance and have brought throughout the world a sense of relief and relaxation, the real causes of the war drive have actually been accentuated.

The falls in the share and commodity markets are precisely the things which the Republican leaders want to prevent. Every big recession in shares and commodities brings with it the fear in New York financial circles of the world depression which had been hanging over the capitalist system ever since the end of the war.

The answer to similar falls in the past has been to indulge in war scares and the stepping up of armaments both in America and abroad through various "aid" schemes. By 1950 these measures were failing and a new and far more dangerous scheme was launched in the shape of the Korean War.

The Korean war boom has now faded away just at a time when the U.S. financiers need a bigger scare and boosted armaments spending—not a threat of peace.

Added to the critical dangers of starting off a depression at this juncture, is the general development of economic relations in the United States which has in the post-war period concentrated not only finance and industry but farm-

ing land into the hands of the giant trusts. The net result is that fewer people have an interest in the war policy. The political uncertainties consequent on a depression are all the more frightening.

SYSTEM WEAKENED

The U.S. leaders represented in the present Congress and the Government have gravely weakened the system and made it liable to a more violent and uncontrollable slump than anything seen in 1920. They cannot afford to let the present peace scare turn into a slump.

Economic dangers are most clearly seen in the farm situation in the U.S. At the present moment Government stockpiles of key farm produce are crammed with a surplus valued at over 2½ billion dollars, while prices of four out of the five basic crops have fallen between 13 and 17 per cent. below the level of manufactured products. In the last six months alone average farm prices have dropped 10 per cent. And this had nothing to do with the "peace scare".

FARM CRISIS

From the end of the war up to 1950 the net income of American farmers fell by four billion dollars, resulting in severe distress among the smaller land holders and labourers, millions of whom were driven from the land. The lowest point was reached in the first half of 1950. Then came the Korean War.

The 1951 farm income had gone up by half a billion; but in 1952 it began to fall again and at the present rate of decline will fall this year far below the pre-Korean level. In the five years up to the end of last year the poorer farmers and labourers were squeezed out at the highest rate in American history. In 37 years up to 1947 the drop in farm employment was a million but in the last five years alone it reached 1,400,000.

The main burden has fallen on the Negroes and poor farmers of

the South. In five years Negroes have been driven off 4½ million acres of land and the number of Negro farmers has declined by 16 per cent. The number of white farmers in the South has declined 6 per cent.

In contrast, land occupied by the giant plantation and ranching trusts has increased in the same time by 20 million acres.

Farmers were recently promised by Eisenhower that falling beef prices would be plugged by an Armed Services procurement of 120 days beef supply. This was an obviously crude attempt to win some kind of support on the land for the war policy. Even then, Mr. O. V. Wells, chief of the Agriculture Department's economic bureau, could only promise that military spending would be a factor in determining whether farm prices "get more or less acute".

The farmers have learnt by more than one bitter experience that war only appears to help them temporarily but is their ruin in the long run. A typical poll of farmers in the State of Iowa showed that 68 per cent. of those questioned were in favour of either pulling out of Korea immediately or of continuing with the cease-fire talks, while only 17 per cent. supported the continuation or extension of the war in the Far East.

WON'T-WORKS FLEE FROM E. GERMANY

LONDON.

Some 98 per cent. of people running from East Germany are not genuine refugees, but are an assortment of spivs, crooks and men and women who are not prepared to do a day's hard work, says the Berlin correspondent of the London News Chronicle, Mr. Bruce Rothwell, in an article exposing the tales of a mass flight from political persecution. He writes: "Of every hundred crossing, two are genuine political refugees, 20 cannot stand living in East Germany any longer, 10 are farmers whose land is being collectivised, or businessmen whose factories are being expropriated. Thirty-five more are civil servants and pensioners who can get their pensions at a better rate in the West and 25 are criminals, anti-social misfits or, as officials list them, adventurers."

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TRADE UNIONS REJECT APARTHEID

Brighter Prospects For Unity

PORT ELIZABETH.

"ANOTHER co-ordinating council has been formed which I am convinced will eventually become the permanent co-ordinating body of this country," said Mr. J. J. Venter, President of the Trades and Labour Council, at the annual conference of the T.L.C. last week.

He was referring to a meeting of trade unions within and outside the Trades and Labour Council which was called on March 25 to consider the formation of a body to deal with important matters affecting trade unions.

"There are issues affecting the trade union movement which are very vital. We have come together on these issues in particular the statement by the Minister of Labour that he intends to enforce apartheid in the trade union movement.

"This issue affects large organisations which are not affiliated to this Council, but which for many years have had mixed trade unions."

SCHOEMAN'S BLUNDER

Mr. Venter said that although differences did exist among trade unions Mr. Schoeman's attempt to split the trade union movement on colour lines had resulted in unity between all trade unions and those differences had disappeared.

Mr. Venter told the conference that it must not be concerned with side issues any longer. It was the duty of everyone to work towards the object of establishing a united trade union movement in South Africa. The trade union movement could not do its duty towards the workers if it remained divided.

The necessity for maintaining the principle of a single, united trade union movement embracing all workers, and condemning the existence of colour bars in industrial legislation was emphasised in a resolution moved by the Food and Canning Workers' Union.

NEW BILL REJECTED

The resolution, which was carried unanimously, stated that "this conference deplores the announcement by the Minister of Labour

that he intends to introduce the Native Labour (Settlement of disputes) Bill with the object of isolating Africans from the rest of the trade union movement and prohibiting them from organising into free, independent and democratic trade unions.

"Conference rejects the Minister's plea to adopt apartheid and declares its determination to resist this and every other effort to destroy the age-long tradition of working-class solidarity and inter-racial brotherhood."

This re-iteration of the established policy of the Trades and Labour Council may well serve as a reminder to those seeking "unity at all costs" and prevent unity being established on a policy so weak that it would be a betrayal of the progressive movement to the forces of reaction.

Fraternal Greetings

PORT ELIZABETH.

"I hope the South African Trades and Labour Council will not leave the path of developing the undeveloped," said Mr. D. Tloome, the fraternal delegate from the Non-European Trade Union Council at the annual conference of the T.L.C. held here last week.

At a time when every effort is being made to weaken the trade union movement, he congratulated the Council for taking a bold stand and presenting a solid front in the face of attempts to divide the Trade Union movement.

Mr. Tloome thanked the Trades and Labour Council for its co-operation with his Council in the organising of classes for Non-European trade union organisers which had started in Johannesburg recently.

Fraternal greetings were also brought to the conference by Mrs. J. McPherson, Senior Vice-President of the Labour Party, on behalf of the South African Labour Party. She expressed the hope that in the coming general election delegates would support the United Front and do everything in their power to oust the Nationalists.

The following telegram was received during the first day of the conference: "Best wishes T.L.C. conference. British workers keenly interested conference results. Let unity courage guide deliberation. Totsiens Solly Sachs."

TITO ANNOYED BY TRUTH

LONDON.

Tito's radio spokesmen are extremely annoyed with the B.B.C. because news broadcasts from London mentioned his bullet-proof car and said in the British Museum he had been watched by the public in silence. In fact Tito was surrounded everywhere he went by almost complete silence. But Yugoslav commentators sent to London to report the visit (through B.B.C. microphones) had described the loud cheers which greeted Tito everywhere.

They Want Peace

LONDON.

The following is the text of a letter sent to the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace by a group of people in Pireus, Greece:

"We, the inhabitants of Keratsini district of the Prefecture of the city of Pireus, who live in the Kokkinovrachos, Amphiali and Ikonio areas, in houses built of sun-baked bricks or in caves which were created by craters, who have no water conduits in our areas, who even have to buy water from traders who bring them in barrels drawn by oxen, and who have not yet the experience of having our houses lit by electricity — we demand Peace.

"We who live in areas such as Analipsis, where the roofs of the houses are made of tarred felt and the floor is earth — we demand Peace.

"We who live in the 'Evghenia' area, who live in houses destroyed by the war, who have no electricity although we ourselves work in the electric power station in Pireus — we demand Peace.

"We, the inhabitants of the St. George area, a unique area, without streets and without schools where the traders were obliged to close their shops because of war taxes and the poverty of the population.

"We, ordinary working and labouring people, we believe in Peace with our might. We do not want war! We want to be left in Peace to build up our ruins, to heal our wounds, to teach our children to live no longer in caves and in prisons but in human habitations. We demand Peace! We see in you the fighters in the advance guard of the immense army of Peace, who will never allow the arms' merchants to batten on our blood.

"We send you our greetings and we assure you, in signing this, that we shall struggle relentlessly for Peace."

For the inhabitants of the Keratsini-Pireus district, Al. Pitsilinskos, Mayor of Keratsini, Ioskimidis Chr. trader, Troussias, contractor.

Then follow 105 signatures, including those of the seven municipal councillors.

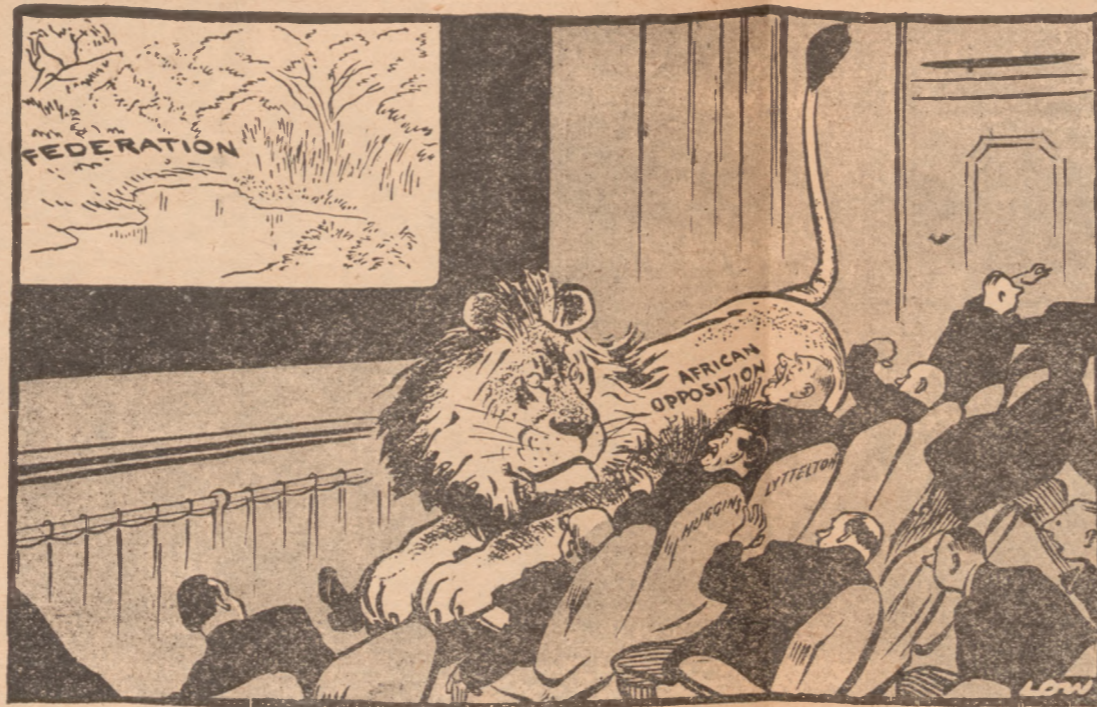
CANNING WORKERS' CONFERENCE

PORT ELIZABETH.

The annual general meeting of the Food and Canning Workers' Union and the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, Port Elizabeth branches, were held last week. Members of both unions turned up in full force. The auditors' reports, which were endorsed by the meeting amidst great applause, showed that for the period from June 30, 1951 to Sept. 30, 1952, there was a substantial increase of income over expenditure.

The meetings were addressed by Mr. F. E. Marquard, President of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, Mr. D. Jaantjies, Vice-President, Miss Ray Alexander, General Secretary, and Mr. O. Mpepha, General Secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union.

Miss A. M. Coe was re-elected secretary of the Port Elizabeth branch of both unions.



LION ON YOUR LAP

(With acknowledgements to Low and the Manchester Guardian.)

"UNORGANISED WORKERS MUST BE ORGANISED"

PORT ELIZABETH.

THE danger to the trade union movement in South Africa from the presence of large numbers of unorganised workers was continually stressed at the annual conference of the Trades and Labour Council held last week.

Mrs. J. Wolfson, Chemical Workers' Union, asked what had been done for the thousands of workers who were entering the towns to supply rapidly expanding industry with labour.

Following appeals her Union had received from all over the Union to organise African workers of many trades and occupations, Mrs. Wolfson recommended that the incoming National Executive Committee undertake as an immediate task the organisation of African workers directly or indirectly.

Miss D. M. Hartwell, the Joint General Secretary of the Trades and Labour Council had done considerable work in helping to organise African workers and in assisting already existing African trade unions. She called upon delegates at the conference whose unions had been assisted in such ways to bear her out.

Copies of a memorandum submitted to the General Manager, S.A. Railways and Harbours Administration by the S.A.R. and H. administration by the S.A.R. and H. (Non-European) Workers' Union were distributed to delegates at the conference. In the memorandum are outlined and the official recognition of the union is demanded.

S.A.R. CONDEMNED

Following Mr. Ngotyana's appeal a resolution was passed by the conference condemning the action of the South African Railways Administration in victimising members and officials of the Railways and Harbour Workers' Union and demanding their re-instatement.

Miss Hartwell reported that the Trades and Labour Council had already requested the Railway Administration for an interview on the question of victimisation.

VICTIMISATION

Assistance the South African Railways and Harbours (Non-European) Workers' Union had received from the Council during the past year had strengthened the Union, said Mr. Greenwood Ngotyana, the Acting Secretary of the Union. He appealed to the conference for help against victimisation of union members by the Railway authorities.

The authorities officially recognised the Railway Non-European Staff Association, which, said Mr. Ngotyana, was a stooge organisation formed by the Administration and did not represent the interests of the workers.

In his opinion the Administration was trying to suppress the Union because of a fear that the union would expose to the workers the primitive rates of pay they were receiving, the shocking conditions under which they work and their lack of bargaining power.

Mr. Ngotyana told the conference that the victimisation of union members at Durban, East

New T.L.C. Executive

PORT ELIZABETH.

Mr. J. J. Venter was unanimously re-elected President of the South African Trades and Labour Council at the Council's conference in Port Elizabeth last week.

Mr. C. Rehm and Mr. P. Huyser were re-elected Vice-Presidents.

The following were elected to the National Executive Committee: Mr. J. Daniels, Mr. J. R. Altman, Mr. D. J. Schutte, Mr. W. Goldberg, Miss A. Scheepers, Mr. M. Kagan, Mr. B. Weinreb, Miss J. Cornelius, Mr. E. Weinberg, Mr. W. Kalk, Mr. F. Kalk, Mr. S. Rosenblatt and Mr. B. J. Erasmus.

Unemployment Act Should Cover All Workers

PORT ELIZABETH.

A RESOLUTION demanding that all workers be included under the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, and that the present method of granting exemptions be abolished, was moved by the National Union of Distributive Workers at the annual conference of the Trades and Labour Council.

In moving the motion Mr. J. R. Altman (N.U.D.W.) said that all workers irrespective of race or earning capacity had the right to unemployment insurance. The advantages of having only one fund were that administration costs would be lowered, the covering of all workers could be better ensured and seasonal workers need not contribute so heavily as their weight would be carried by many more workers than worked in a single industry.

Mr. Greenwood Ngotyana (S.A.R. and H. Non-European Workers' Union) spoke in favour of the motion, stating that "Railway workers have suffered a lot because they are not covered". Those who were victimised had received no benefits from the Labour Department, nor were they covered by any contributory pensions scheme provided by the Railways Administration when they were discharged.

"This situation should not be allowed to continue," he said, "since it constitutes a threat to the security of the workers and their dependants."

A counter-motion was moved by the Garment Workers' Union, to the effect that exemptions under the Unemployment Insurance Act should be granted, but only to industries which had established Unemployment Insurance funds which entitled workers to receive benefits not less favourable than those provided for in the Act.

Finally a compromise motion was adopted which stated "That this conference agrees in principle with the fact that all workers be included under the Unemployment Insurance Act and that the matter be referred to the National Executive Committee for final drafting".

ENSLAVEMENT

"Recognising that this movement towards Fascism will lead to the destruction of the trade union movement and the enslavement of the working-class, this Conference undertakes to arouse South Africa to the realisation of the danger facing them, to organise a mighty anti-Fascist movement aimed at the repeal of the Suppression of Communism Amendment Act and similar legislation, and to work for the establishment of a progressive and democratic South Africa."

Mr. J. J. Venter, President of the Trades and Labour Council, said he was not prepared to support the formation of a movement outside the framework of the Trades and Labour Council.

"This is a pious resolution which will never be acted upon"

A resolution of the National Union of Laundering, Cleaning and Dyeing Workers calling for a go-slow strike of indefinite duration in all affiliated unions if the banning orders were not withdrawn was, on the advice of head office, withdrawn.

Despite recommendations from the National Executive committee that no further resolution on the Suppression of Communism Act was necessary, the motion by the Food and Canning Workers' Union was moved. It stated that the administration of the Suppression of Communism Amendment Act was evidence that the present National Government was rapidly moving towards a fascist dictatorship.

because it can't be done. I'm not prepared to support anything outside the trade union movement."

Further, he said there was no time for side issues which would distract people from the main issues, namely, the establishment of unity within the trade union movement.

Miss Ray Alexander (Food and Canning Workers' Union), who moved the resolution, informed Mr. Venter that he had misinterpreted it and that by the words "mighty anti-Fascist movement" was meant a campaign within the trade union movement. She agreed to alter the wording accordingly, as there was no intention of organising a separate movement.

NO FURTHER

"We have discussed this resolution at various conferences, but today we find we have got no further in the struggle against the Suppression of Communism Act," said Mr. Frank Marquard (Food and Canning Workers' Union). "The fact remains that if we don't start now as workers to stand up against the Act, everyone at this conference will be banned and their unions will be replaced by company unions."

Mr. Marquard appealed to delegates to support the resolution "because the time has come for you to put up a bigger fight than in the past in order to maintain free trade unions."

THE APARTHEID DILEMMA

JOHANNESBURG.

Passengers in a train travelling into Johannesburg last week witnessed an incident that highlighted the apartheid dilemma.

As the train stopped at Grosvenor Station an African domestic servant carrying a European babe-in-arms got into a third class carriage. But she was seen by the ticket examiner and put off the train a minute or two later.

As the train pulled out of the station she was seen standing on the platform, the European infant and its feeding bottle still in her arms.

No one knows how she solved her problem. To try to travel in a first class compartment, for which the infant qualified, would have met with certain ejection. And trying the third class compartment was also breaking the apartheid rules.

Perhaps there should be a regulation that European infants should learn to travel on their own in trains!

"WORKERS MUST FIGHT FOR FREE TRADE UNIONS"

MILITANT STAND AGAINST SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNISM ACT

PORT ELIZABETH.

IN a resolution submitted by the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers of South Africa to the annual conference of the Trades and Labour Council held here last week, the Suppression of Communism Act was condemned as a grave danger to the free trade union movement. The resolution was carried and conference called for the repeal of the Act and the withdrawal of the orders served in terms of it.

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"This is a pious resolution which will never be acted upon"

"REJECT NAT. TYRANNY"

(Continued from page 1)

the community had deteriorated hopelessly and between sections of the Europeans had grown gradually worse.

SOLEMN DUTY

"IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING WE CONSIDER IT OUR SOLEMN DUTY TO REJECT THE GOVERNMENT'S APPEAL FOR A RENEWAL OF ITS MANDATE BY THE ELECTORATE, AND WE DECLARE UNEQUALY THAT THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT HAS FORFEITED THE RIGHT TO GOVERN THIS COUNTRY."

In addition, the declaration contained a call to all workers to strive towards the achievement of a future Government with a programme designed to further the interests of the people of South Africa, which would undertake:

(a) To repeal all anti-democratic measures introduced by the present and past Governments.

(b) To restore the civil rights of the individual.

(c) To extend democracy and democratic rights.

(d) To reduce the cost of living.

(e) To provide adequate housing, schools and hospitals for all.

(f) To introduce industrial legislation which will safeguard free trade unions and the principles of free collective bargaining for all workers.

(g) To restore confidence in the future of our great country South Africa.

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COLOURED VOTERS CAN GET THEIR OWN BACK ON DONGES!

CAPE TOWN.

JUST as in the Western Cape, the Coloured vote in the constituencies which fall under the Worcester and Port Elizabeth electoral offices will play an important role in the forthcoming election.

The figures for the Worcester electoral district are as follows:

Constituency	European voters	Coloured voters
Swellendam	9,461	693
Worcester	10,360	1,271
Caledon-Bredasdorp	9,618	1,162
Ceres	9,379	740
Moorreesburg	9,721	672
Namaqualand	8,955	559
Piketberg	10,083	241

The Coloured vote is of particular importance in Worcester and Caledon-Bredasdorp. In both constituencies more than 1,000 Coloured voters are on the roll, and in both keenly-contested election battles between the Nats and the U.P. are being waged.

In Worcester Senator J. R. Carinus is held to have a big chance of unseating the Minister of the Interior, Dr. T. E. Donges. The Nats won the seat with a majority of only 718 in 1948.

The Nationalist majority in Caledon-Bredasdorp (formerly Bredasdorp) was only 259 in 1948. So that if every one of the 1,162 Coloured voters goes to the poll on April 15, the U.P. has a good chance of regaining the seat.

If any Coloured voters voted Nationalist in 1948, they were probably to be found in the rural constituencies, where to some extent they were under the influence of their employers. As a result of the Nat. record during the last five years, this may not be so important a factor on this occasion.

Port Elizabeth Electoral district:	European voters	Coloured voters
Constituency		
P.E. Central	11,937	243
P.E. North	11,974	483
P.E. West	11,126	941
P.E. South	10,712	913

	voters	voters
Oudtshoorn	10,068	413
Mossel Bay	9,733	633
Graaff-Reinet	9,3988	630
Somerset		
East	9,825	232
Cradock	9,617	414
George	10,227	907
Albany	10,320	257
Humansdorp	9,497	273
Uitenhage	11,007	715

In the constituency of Port Elizabeth West a United Party candidate was elected in 1948 with a majority of 1,412 votes over the Nationalist candidate. Thus the 941 Coloured voters can be an important factor in keeping the Nationalist out of this seat.

The same applies to Port Elizabeth North, where the U.P. majority in 1948 was only 944 and where the Coloured vote is 483.

In Uitenhage the majority by which the Afrikaner Party candidate was elected in 1948 was 691. In this seat the number of Coloured voters, 715, is greater than the Nat. majority.

EGYPT'S HOMAGE TO STALIN

CAIRO.

Egypt's military dictator, General Naguib, paid a glowing tribute to Stalin on behalf of the Egyptian people when he visited the Soviet Legation to express his sympathy. He wrote in the Legation register: "I offer my sympathy and that of my compatriots to the Soviet people. Your country has lost one of the heroes of its history who won the love of his people by serving them to the last moment of his life." In a press statement he added: "The power and glory Stalin brought to his country during the second world war were unforgettable, as was his love for the policy of peace."



Over 600,000 residents of Peking held a mass memorial meeting at Tien an Men Square on March 9, 1953, to pay their last respects to Joseph Stalin. Similar meetings took place in other centres of China.

Why Non-Europeans Supported Defiance Campaign

Dr. Njongwe's Statement To Court

PORT ELIZABETH.

THE following statement was made in the Supreme Court by Dr. J. L. Z. Njongwe after he and 14 others had been found guilty of an offence under the Suppression of Communism Act recently:

"We have been charged and found guilty of an offence under the Suppression of Communism Act. In view of the declared purposes of this Act at the time of its passage, namely, that it would be utilised to put an end to Communist activities in the Union, I feel it necessary, on behalf of the accused, to bring to the notice of the court our reasons for supporting the campaign for the defiance of unjust laws as devised by the Joint Planning Council of the A.N.C. and the S.A.I.C.

"Needless to say, none of the accused denies having supported and diligently pursuing the defiance campaign. But it must be emphatically stated that our adoption of this scheme was based on a sincere desire to alleviate the suffering of our people. This campaign was preceded by forty years of protest, deputations and honest endeavours to bring to the notice of various governments, the sorry lot of our people. All these efforts evidently bore no fruit.

"Almost as a last resort, the A.N.C. turned to the civilised weapon of defenceless people which was first devised and whose potency was proved in South Africa by Mahatma Gandhi. With the historical example of Gandhi before us, we turned to passive resistance largely because it secured results without creating bitterness between the contenders. The fact that today, in South Africa, the father of 'non-violence' could even technically be regarded as a Communist, is one of the reasons why from the outset we undertook through what we considered a legitimate pressure

technique to secure the repeal of the Act under which we have been found guilty.

"Regarding this Act and all others mentioned in the joint planning council report we feel it right to say that they were symbolic of all that is reactionary and uncivilised in our society. We know that basically South Africa is already built on the integration (and not the segregation) of the population politically, socially and economically into one polity. Recently, it is true, certain forces are attempting the hopeless task of reversing this trend.

"Whilst we did not consider that the repeal of these acts would in any way amount to an overthrow of the fundamental structure in South Africa, we knew it would provide relief for a people who, in recent years, have reached the point when, like the proverbial camel, they require only a single straw to break their back.

"We feel called upon to reiterate our firm conviction that harmony, peace and social progress in South Africa cannot rest permanently on a basis of restrictive legislation. The practical application of the principles contained in the declaration of human rights of the United Nations, of which our country is a member, is the only sure and certain foundation for democracy, prosperity and racial peace for all irrespective of race, sex, colour or creed."

All the accused were sentenced to 9 months imprisonment, suspended for 3 years.

EISENHOWER MADE TO LOOK FOOLISH

NEW YORK.

President Eisenhower's declaration that he would repudiate the "secret clauses" of the Yalta and Potsdam Agreements concluded by previous U.S. Governments with the U.S.S.R. has fallen rather flat. Eisenhower admitted he had never read the terms of the Yalta Agreement and did not know what its terms were. But he accepted the advice of his Republican advisers including Mr. Dulles, in making his statement on repudiation.

It was only after he had delivered his "State of the Union" message that he perused the Yalta Agreement and found, to his embarrassment, that there were no "secret clauses" in this or the Potsdam Agreement.

In the face of this absurd situation, the President's staff sought to persuade disappointed Republican congressmen to forget "the dead past," face the future and be content to indict the U.S.S.R. for alleged misinterpretations of the wartime treaties.

Call for Support to Durban Flood Victims

The Natal Indian Congress has made an urgent appeal to the public to give generously in cash and kind to the victims of the recent floods in the Sea Cow Lake area. The Relief Committee that has been established, says Congress, deserves the wholehearted co-operation of all sections of our people in its humanitarian tasks.

Over 200 Indian families have suffered at Sea-Cow Lake, because of the failure to provide safeguards against floods to an area which provides vital food supplies to Durban.

The public and the authorities, continues the statement, should rally to the needs of the victims, for the cause is one "which transcends artificial racial and colour barriers".

The Congress is of the opinion that the Municipal authorities should give a lead in providing relief, just as it has done in the past when, for instance, people were left destitute after the tornado on the Rand. "If our country can help victims of the floods overseas," says the statement, "we can with equal magnanimity help victims on our very doorstep".

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ON PARADE

LIMELIGHT — ANOTHER CHAPLIN MASTERPIECE

By SAM KAHN

French T.U. Leader Escapes Police

LONDON.

At a time when the French Prime Minister is on a begging visit for dollars in the United States, his Government has opened a drive against trade union and communist leaders, apparently with the idea of demonstrating to President Eisenhower and the F.B.I. that they are also good witch-hunters.

Among those arrested on framed-up "security" charges are Lucien Molino, assistant secretary of the General Confederation of Labour, Andre Tollet, secretary of the Paris Trades Council and Andre Stil, editor of l'Humanite.

The secretary of the C.G.T., Benoit Franchon, for whom warrants had also been issued, gave the police the slip and issued a reply to them from his hiding place through the columns of the press.

"I know that the millions of the French working class approve and rejoice at the fact that I was able to slip through the clutches of the police," he wrote.

"And that is the only judgment that counts for me. When the police of a Government that cynically violates its own laws tries to get hold of us, we do all in our power to escape."

In 1896, reviewing the first showing of "Lumiere" in Paris, Maxim Gorky forecast the inevitable corruption of the film under capitalism.

"Rather than serve science and aid in the perfection of man it will serve the Nizhni Novgorod Fair and help to popularise debauchery . . . There is nothing in the world so great and beautiful but that man can vulgarise and dishonour it. And even in the clouds where formerly ideals and dreams dwelt, they now want to print advertisements — for improved toilets, I suppose."

For years, Hollywood, at any rate, has been doing its best to live down to Gorky's remarkable prediction. Our own "Americanised" cinemas have been flooded with Hollywood films in which gangsters, murderers, corrupt politicians and crooked business men, bigots and hypocrites appear as the main heroes in the celluloid cult of blood, sex and brutality.

No Departure

If Charles Chaplin's latest film "Limelight" is again a break from the Hollywood tradition, it is none the less no departure from the Chaplin tradition.

Genius is the only word to use about Charlie Chaplin, and "Limelight" gives the younger generation a chance to see that genius towards the end of his career. For nearly forty years Chaplin has been identified as the

little man, the down-trodden social outcast, the humble impoverished victim of a society marred by brutal contempt for the individual. In his efforts to stay alive, to steal himself a meal, a cigar, a handful of change, a moment of love, a feeling of dignity, Chaplin with his baggy pants and crooked cane, is a universal figure who wrings out of evil and misery the very humour and sadness of living.

His victories are marked by sympathetic laughter, his defeats by an overwhelming poignance. Trace the characteristics of his work and you will find that from film to film there is a solid inter-connection and from one period to the next his satire becomes sharper, more profound and more specific.

Social Perception

This growth in social perception runs like a straight line through his early two-reelers such as "The Immigrant", "The Count", through such later films as "The Kid", "The Gold Rush", "The Circus" through the relatively modern productions like "City Lights", "Modern Times", "The Great Dictator", "Monsieur Verdoux" and the current "Limelight."

Through them all his heroes and villains are the same social prototypes, with minor variations. His little man buffeted about by society, makes up for his material

lacks with a deftness, agility and resourcefulness that has endeared him to the common folk of every country.

These natural abilities he has used for nearly 40 years with great zest to make a sucker out of the law, to puncture the conceits of the wealthy, to mock and satirise the pompous and the overbearing.

Throughout all these years Chaplin never forgot his own bitter childhood, part of which he spent in the workhouse. As in real life he dreamed of splendour and wealth, so in films his out-cast tramp always took refuge in a dream world where the little hero owned vast estates, married his ideal young love and had plenty to eat, drink and smoke.

Challenging Fate

In his modern films, his hero makes a noteworthy departure from the past. His hero is no longer the unwilling, helpless and understanding victim of society. It is not enough to kick the cop or the cafe proprietor or the banker in the tail; he must also compete for a share in the spoils. Instead of submissively accepting fate, he determines to challenge it. Instead of dreaming about a cushy world, he sets out to fashion it.

Although his baggy pants and derby-outsize shoes have given way to striped pants and the cut-away coat, he is still the little man. The pantomime of his past finds expression in the dialogue of the present.

"Limelight" shows the old comic genius combined with a deep affirmation of human values. In Calvero, the ageing music hall comedian, who is the film's hero, Charlie and Chaplin are united. Theresa, the beautiful young dancer whose life Calvero has rescued from despair, falls in love with the old Calvero and asks to marry him. But now at the end of his days, Calvero is seeking to end his life in dignity. He refuses to play the part of the love-sick old fool. He expresses his love by nursing her to a triumph in the ballet. For this he wins as a reward his own last triumph in which he and his audience are united again. And then while he lies dead in the wings, his beautiful protegee dances on.

The Life Force

Chaplin's theme is the continuity of life, an allegory of youth and age, and the grandeur of human consciousness. The sun, he quips, may shoot forth flames 250,000 miles long, but the sun is not as miraculous as man. It cannot think.

The moralising of Calvero may seem excessively out of character at times but though the things he says are sometimes banal, he imbues them with truth and nobility.

Everyone will discover aspects of his favourite Chaplin incarnated in this film, but "Limelight" is more than an anthology of the comedian's art and less than a biography of his own career—though it is often directly personal. The emphasis is on tragedy, but the final scene includes great comedy, with all Charlie's old magic.

From beginning to end he has composed it beautifully and his

POLICE ATTEMPT TO 'FRIGHTEN' PRISONER

Operated Lift Up And Down Over Him

CAPE TOWN.

Evidence that third-degree methods had been applied to a prisoner by the police in order to extort information was given during a trial in the Cape Town Regional Court last week.

The accused in the case was John Landsman, who was eventually fined £100 for attempting to steal proprietary and patent medicines from his employers, Messrs. Petersen Ltd., a Cape Town firm of wholesale chemists.

Landsman's activities were discovered by a director of the firm and a private detective, who kept watch on the roof of the firm's factory one night. The private detective called the police, who arrested Landsman.

The private detective gave evidence in court that the police had struck Landsman on the body with their fists and kicked him in the groin.

A European police constable, cross-examined by the defence, said Landsman had been put under a lift, and the lift had been operated up and down over him in order to obtain from him the name of an African who was alleged to have helped him.

The constable said this was done to frighten Landsman and not to hurt him. He said he "did not exactly see him being hit".

Landsman, giving evidence, said he had arranged to help an African transport goods and was directed by him to a lane at the side of Petersen's factory.

The police tried to make him tell who "the other man was". They hit him and put him under a lift while they worked it. As a result he was still having treatment at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Following a report of the evidence in the press, the District Commandant of Police, Lt.-Col. C. H. Kelley-Patterson, said a departmental inquiry would be held. If it was established that a criminal act had been committed, the papers would be forwarded to the Attorney-General.

If the evidence revealed a breach of police regulations, the matter would be dealt with departmentally.

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YEAR OF WAR ON QUIBBLE

LONDON.

Fighting has been continuing for nearly a year in Korea on the American pretext that prisoners of war should not be compelled to return to their own countries. But it was again pointed out by the China News Agency this week that on July 1, 1952, the U.S. chief negotiator, Gen. Harrison, proposed Paragraph 51 of the Draft Armistice Agreement: "All prisoners of war in the custody of each side at the time this armistice Agreement comes into effect shall be released and repatriated as soon as possible."

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People's Congress Election Call

(Continued from page 1)

The leaflet accuses both the Government and the Opposition of conducting a conspiracy of silence on the martial law Acts. "The conspiracy of silence prepares the ground for a Nationalist victory at the polls . . . The Nationalists are being speeded on the road to absolute dictatorship by the silence and tacit consent of the spokesmen of the main opposition party.

"To win on April 15th the conspiracy of silence must be broken. The supporters and upholders of democracy must drag into the open the Martial Law Act and its threat of fascist dictatorship. They must encourage the United Party to come down firmly, with both feet, in the democratic camp.

"They must press the United Party to recant its support for Martial Law and the rule of the lash. They must force the United Party to fight without appeasement against the threat of home-grown fascism.

"This is the way forward for all South Africa's democrats, to the defeat of the Martial Law Act, to the ousting of the Nationalists."

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A group of priests seek safety against a wall in a working-class district in Rome when riot police went into action to break up a demonstration protesting against the De Gasperi Government's new electoral law. Some 2,000 people were arrested.

FRESH APPEALS FOR LIVES OF ROSENBERGS

LONDON.

PRESSURE on the American Government to change their determination on the death of the Rosenbergs has become a severe embarrassment and is adding to President Eisenhower's difficulties at a time of crisis in U.S. international policy.

In Western Europe particularly, the appeal for the lives of the two victims of cold war mania has aroused profound emotions as the peoples of France, Italy and other countries see their civilised traditions threatened by the legal debacle of the Rosenberg case.

In a public statement on the case, the Chief Government Attorney of France, M. Andre Mornet, said:

"I have a very painful impression, a lingering doubt, about the testimony in the Rosenberg case. The inequality of the treatment of the defendants in this case disturbs me greatly because it seems that a brother confessed and sent his sister to the death house in order to escape with a light sentence.

"This is a drama that transcends all frontiers. It is taking place in a country whose influence is so important to our history, and whose love for the rights of man is akin to our own."

M. Mornet presided at the trial of Marshal Petain.

Another outstanding statement expressing the sentiments of the French people has been made in a letter from Gen. Le Petit, a leader of the French forces of Resistance at the time of the liberation of France from the German Nazis.

"I join all the men and women who believe in justice and human dignity to ask the President and the Supreme Court of the United States to honour the great people and themselves by granting to Ethel and Julius Rosenberg the grace that the world calls for with its fervent and ardent voice."

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Oust the Malan Govt.

DURBAN.

"Though we cannot vote we hope that all Coloured and European voters will register their contempt for the Malan Government by ousting them on April 15," said Mr. D. Seedat at the annual meeting of the Overport Branch of the Natal Indian Congress, held recently. "South Africa must not remain an island of fascism in a world where the forces of peace and progress are powerful," he said. "We must do our share in this world-wide struggle." The form of struggle would have to change so that the people could prepare themselves for any onslaught by the Government in terms of the Martial Laws.

Resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the Group Areas Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Act and the Public Safety Act were passed unanimously. A further resolution calling upon the City Council to improve the Victoria Street Bus Rank without delay was also carried.

At the meeting Mr. R. Rajcoomar was elected President of the branch and Mr. K. Moonsamy was elected secretary.

NIGERIA'S FIRST WOMAN M.P.

LAGOS, NIGERIA.

The House of Assembly of Western Nigeria, one of the three regions into which the country is divided by the new Constitution, has unanimously adopted a motion asking the Lieutenant Governor to appoint a woman member of the House to represent special interests.

The new Constitution gives no democratic rights to women either to vote or to stand for election. This will be the first time Nigerian women will have any measure of representation in the legislature.

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A Nigerian's Viewpoint

From Wilfred Ikole, Nigeria:

I am a West African who views with concern the poisonous racialist propaganda which is being used all over the world to separate the black and white working peoples.

Africa is now at the turning point. She is no longer a wash-hand basin for the Imperialists. Day by day the Africans are being driven into a great realisation that Africans will not participate in a future war as allies of the Imperialists.

Today, the world is facing a great disaster: white and black could live like brothers, but the vile slogan "Africans are anti-White" is being used by Imperialists to cause more misunderstanding among races. The entire world needs a reconstruction built on true socialist lines, to end the domination of one nation over another. The black man hates no one for his race; he is a born socialist. Therefore, race hatred should be wiped from the face of the world.

The Imperialists are trying to create a racial war between black and white, which we emphatically do not want. We hate no one, but the Imperialists hate us because of the natural wealth of our countries. We have been defenceless, but our saviour is coming—the united might of our working peoples and the brotherly aid of the working peoples of the world.

The Imperialist aggressors will be repulsed.

Forward Africa, and march to victory!

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