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B.Ed.

"Education by Dictation"! That's what Father Martin Jarrett Kerr calls it and how right he is! Dictate, indoctrinate, don't let the children think for themselves - that's Bantu Education. And the tragedy is that the undermining of the children is a slow pernicious indiscernible process. It doesn't show in a year, or two years. It will take a generation before we can really see what Verwoerd has done to the children. And he may be gone by then, but the evil that he has done will live after him. (And there is no good to be interred with Verwoerd's bones!) Meanwhile nearly two years have passed and parents' minds have been lulled "At least the children learn to read and write" they say, and the long term damage passes unnoticed. But there is a core of resistance, small enough but as yet indestructible - the cultural clubs. Over 4,000 children on the Reef and in the Eastern Cape and they have some 40 club leaders who have so unbelievably managed to cope with the children - and God knows how they have done it! No buildings, no desks, no books, for the clubs are not - must not be schools. How many of us could, day after day, year in and year out, handle these vast numbers of children in such conditions? The average number of children to each club leader is over one hundred! And for pay, these patient people must be content with a sporadic pittance - a sort of "Now you see it - now you don't!" system. But the club leaders carry on. And as long as the parents of four thousand children still declare their opposition, the fight against Bantu Education will go on. It is a question, however, how long the clubs will be able to continue on the present hand-to-mouth basis. If go they must because they are crushed by Verwoerd's merciless legislation, that is no victory for him. But if they disappear because of the neglect of the Congress movement, then that will be Verwoerd's triumph.

LATCHKEY CHILDREN! How long will it be before European working mothers are faced with this problem, already so acute overseas where millions of school children must come home every day to an empty house and a closed door. This is not a question of creches and nursery schools for the children of working mothers - that's another problem and a very real one, with the Government refusing subsidies, the Municipality closing nursery schools - and the Education Department paying out £20 a year for a white child, £10 a year for a coloured child and nothing at all for an African child! But the latchkey child is the school going child - what of him? European housewives are warned that the domestic servant is disappearing from South Africa - (she wants

to work in the factory 8 hours a day and for cash wages instead of working 16 hours a day for a "nice room and all found" and a few pounds a month!) South Africa, you are only forty years out of date. This happened in Europe with the first world war when the domestics became munition girls and never went back to the basements, the steep stairs, and the attics. But is the "latchkey child" really something new to South Africa? What about the hundreds of thousands of non European school children who come home to empty, closed houses, to play in the streets - if streets you can call them.

"IT WASN'T ME". But it isn't a child saying this, its the police. A microphone is found placed overnight in a hall hired to the African National Congress for a conference. And it wasn't exactly a skilled job; a few holes drilled in the roof, and a microphone fastened above there - with plasticine! Was it perhaps done by a father, who had this strange medium in his pocket? Perhaps he was taking it home to his children? A child's toy to be used for such a purpose? At least it may indicate that even policemen have family lives - but then, of course, it wasn't the police who put the microphone in the roof. Or so they say.

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**FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN 1954-1963**

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