

Port Elizabeth Workers Join

Bus Boycott

Tens Of Thousands In Magnificent Gesture Of Solidarity

From Govan Mbeki

THE WHOLE BUS BOYCOTT SITUATION HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED BY THE DECISION OF THE WORKERS OF PORT ELIZABETH TO BOYCOTT THE LOCAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN SOLIDARITY WITH THEIR COMRADES IN THE TRANSVAAL.

At dawn on Monday, tens of thousands of Coloured and African workers in the Port Elizabeth area walked to work. Old and young converged on the city from the four points of the compass.

It was five o'clock when the people began streaming out of New Brighton. The first double-decker bus carried 10 people, the next carried five uniformed police, while the third carried its driver and conductor.

Each bus was escorted by armed police in vans, but the people walked to their work in the most orderly manner and there were no incidents.

By seven o'clock the streets were teeming with people on their way to work. At the entrance to the railway station stood armed police, and an engine belching smoke while it waited for people to fill the empty coaches.

But the people were walking to work.

Along the Uitenhage road from Dr. Phillips to distant Bethelsdorp endless columns walked. On the way nurses in white uniform mingled with the workers as they also walked to the Livingstone hospital.

From Korsten and Schauder Township streamed out Africans and Coloureds. The latter responded to the clarion call issued by SACPO on Sunday evening. In declaring their solidarity with the Africans, SACPO said in the leaflet: "Laat ons saam stap na ons vryheid."

In European residential areas householders came out to witness history disclose what the future holds in store. From Walmer and other areas people walked in sympathy with their brothers on the Reef.

In a circular letter to the Transport Company the ANC states: "In deciding to take this action the people wish to make it clear that they have no quarrel with you and as this action is intended to demonstrate their sympathy with the Reef people they do not intend to enter into any negotiations on the matter."

ANC STATEMENT

Following the statement released (Continued on page 3)

Boycotters Ready To Negotiate — But Fares Must Come Down

JOHANNESBURG.

PROSPECTS of a settlement of the bus boycott will only be entertained by the people on the basis of a return to the old fares.

This has been re-affirmed following last Sunday's meeting between Advisory Board members and boycott leaders in the Transvaal.

The Advisory Boards have hitherto held aloof from the boycott movement, but they invited boycott leaders to attend their meeting on Sunday.

The Advisory Board members told them to remain outside while they debated terms of admission, but the boycotters demanded immediate admission. Eventually the Boards decided to support the boycott, whereupon Mr. G. Xorile (Orlando) and members of the Moroka Board departed from the meeting.

DEMANDS

The meeting then resolved to demand:

1. A reversion of the recent fare increases to the original level;
2. Direct talks with PUTCO, the bus company involved; and
3. A general increase in wages.

Another resolution condemned the strong-arm measures of the Government and police intimidation.

A spokesman of the Joint Co-ordinating Transport Council said

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NEW AGE

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20,000 AT FUNERAL OF POLICE VICTIM



ABOVE: Long lines of mourners march through the streets of Lady Selborne. BELOW: Joel Ramothibe's mother is escorted to the graveside.



Mourners Gave Afrika Salute

PRETORIA.

POLICE armed with sten guns were posted at the entrance to the graveyard when the body of Joel Ramothibe, shot by the police in an unprovoked attack on a Lady Selborne bus boycott meeting, was laid to rest by 20,000 people last Saturday afternoon.

The adult population of Lady Selborne turned out to this huge mass funeral, together with people from other Pretoria townships, boycott leaders from Alexandra Township, Moroka, Jabavu, Orlando, Germiston and the other boycott areas.

The mourners walked the four miles from the Bantu Hall in Lady Selborne to the graveyard, the old women leading in front. The mass guard of honour to the cemetery gave the thumbs-up "Afrika" salute.

Taxis and private cars passing along the funeral route slowed down to a snail's pace as all passengers leaned out to give the Afrika salute.

A wreath from the 156 accused in the Treason Trial was among those placed on the grave.

The Congress flag flew over the grave as the aged father of Joel Ramothibe said: "I thought that my son would be buried by our enemies

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WORKERS' CONFERENCE DEMANDS £1 A DAY MINIMUM WAGE

JOHANNESBURG.

OVER 300 delegates representing 24,000 trade unionists and many thousands of unorganised workers from over 150 factories, shops and compounds attended the workers'

conference convened by SACTU on Sunday and demanded increased wages.

The resolution declared: "The average wage of £11 monthly is totally inadequate. The cost of liv-

ing allowances which have been pegged since March 1955, bear no relation to the cost of the basic essentials of life, namely meat, bread, vegetables, fruit, clothing,

(Continued on page 3)

NEW AGE IS LIKE THEIR DAILY BREAD

EVERY week New Age is made aware of how necessary it is to have an independent weekly newspaper to support the people in their fight against oppression. A constant stream of letters to this effect reaches us from all parts of the Union, South-West Africa and the rest of the world. We have no doubt about the role that the people's newspaper is playing and must continue to play during these historic times.

... An African boards a train in Port Elizabeth on his return to his kraal. For the first time in his life he buys New Age. He says that his eyes have now been opened to what is happening in South Africa. He is no more blind. His blinkers have been removed by the newspaper...

... In a pondokkie in a small village not far from Cape Town lives Mr. X who is one of our agents. He was set upon one day by a gang of "herrenvolk" thugs

who severely beat him up while on his rounds selling New Age. He subsequently lost his job and was warned to pull down his pondokkie because, amongst other things, he was found with a letter from New Age addressed to him. He was obviously an "agitator." But Mr. X assures us that no amount of intimidation by the authorities or hidings from hoodlums in the streets will stop him from selling New Age to the people because they want it...

... Another reader describes how he reads and translates New Age every week to the illiterate workers in the location of his small Karoo dorp. Lately there has been trouble about the delivery of the newspaper. He suspects that somewhere along the line it is being deliberately withheld from him. He is checking up locally since he is determined that it should get to him. He says that the people cannot do

without their weekly edition of New Age—it has become part of their lives...

These are typical examples taken from our mail. Are you prepared to withhold New Age from people like these? And there are thousands of others to whom the people's paper is as much part of their lives as is their daily bread.

Only a very big effort on your part can ensure that our paper reaches them.

Summary of Donations received from Branches period 4th-11th February, 1957:

Cape Town £88.6.7; Port Elizabeth £1; Johannesburg: January £40; Rebecca £5; Jumble £38; Ronnie and Sybil £10 (in honour of their marriage); Fordsburg readers £1.11.6; Basutoland £1; Friends £13.10; Ern £20; Old Friend £50.

Total £268 8s. 1d.



PROTEST AT EXPULSION OF MR. TYESI FROM P.E.

We have read with consternation and disgust of the despicable action of the Port Elizabeth municipality which has endorsed Mr. B. Tyesi out of the municipal area.

Mr. Tyesi is a man who has given his whole life to serving others, who has fought and won a heroic battle against tuberculosis, who, despite impaired health, has never ceased to play an active part in the struggle for liberation and particularly in the struggle to free African children from the poison of Bantu Education.

We know Mr. Tyesi as the senior cultural club leader in the Cape Eastern area; we know what a magnificent role he has played in establishing and maintaining the New Brighton Club which caters for over 1,000 children whose parents have so courageously renounced Bantu Education.

The choir established by Mr. Tyesi is known throughout the Eastern Cape. He has enriched the culture of South Africa by his contribution in the sphere of music.

To victimise such a man by the

Boycotters Have A Mighty Weapon

Brave Boycotters! You have a mighty weapon in your hands and it is no secret that the Government fear it. Mr. Schoeman himself said that if you win this fight there is no knowing what you will go on to next.

But because the Government are afraid they are using illegal, desperate measures. Each day brings news of Africans being sent to hospital by the ever-ready guns and batons of the police, business men being asked to demand "efficiency and punctuality" from tired workers, the never-ending "pass" arrests etc. etc. Your stand has been a setback to the Government.

The Government has many weapons and will use them all. Your strongest weapons are your unity and determination. Use them well. You can win.

A FRIEND

Nigel.

cynical use of powers under the Urban Areas Amendment Act is a social and moral crime and the Port Elizabeth municipality stands convicted of this crime, and furthermore of allowing itself to be used as the tool of Dr. Verwoerd.

Attempts by the Minister of Native Affairs to crush the cultural clubs through police raids, arrests, and prosecutions have failed. Now the attack is being made upon the individual by the most contemptible means: the use of the pass system, a system which degrades not those who are its victims, but those who administer it.

HELEN JOSEPH.
NORMAN LEVY.
ROBERT RESHA.
JAMES HADEBE.

The Day of the Dawn

I shall never forget the dawn of 5th December, 1956, when the aircraft with our leaders crossed the sky for Johannesburg, where they were to appear at a preparatory examination on charges of High Treason.

I'm writing as one in the Liberty Struggle, addressing my other comrades, telling them that they must remember that day, because it will be part of the history of South Africa in the near future.

I will never forget that day, when, with tears, I saw fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters taken away. My heart was very sore, because those freedom-lovers were those who asked for equal rights. Comrades, the time has arrived when we Youth Leaguers must stand and fight for equal rights for Black and White.

Comrades, do not forget the school boycott. We must boycott the schools till we win our victory, because this education which Verwoerd wants the teachers to teach us is bad Bantu Education.

AFRIKA! MAYIBUYE! NGO-KU!

ANTI-BANTU EDUCATION
(16 Years Old)

The Kite Is Coming Down

Apart from the Suppression, not of Communism, but of Witchcraftism this time, and only God knows what next, the Nats' annual instalment of apartheid legislation has been somewhat upset by the raging bus boycott on the Rand and in Pretoria during the first few weeks of this Parliamentary session.

The simple lesson is: When the individual fed-ups of the masses shall have been put together, then, the cotton twine will be cut, and the kite will surely come down.

During a storm, some birds, hares and other creatures are swept away and lose their lives. But afterwards the green pastures of the fields grow and there is plenty to eat for all that survive.

J. D. MATLOU

Johannesburg.

Asked To Denounce His Comrades

On the morning of December 10, 1956 the South African Police arrived at my home during my absence and started to search my house. At 7 p.m. the same day they returned to find me in. They asked if I had attended a meeting on October 28 and if I could give them the name of the person who had accompanied me.

I replied that that person was not a midget to be squeezed into someone's pocket without being seen. They had all the power to ask him when they saw him.

On seeing papers protruding from my pockets, they started searching me. The New Age paper and the ANC membership card were confiscated.

I was then threatened and told not to set my foot in the location if I didn't point out the whereabouts of Gert Sibande. The superintendent promised me freedom to enter the location only if I denounce the Congress and resign forthwith.

I am 14 years a Congress member and I do not see how that is possible.

Until Sibande was found I could not go out of the location without being searched. I was suspected of hiding Sibande in the car, in my house, and in my pockets.

Mayibuye.

Standershoop.

JAN GULUBE

EDITORIAL

BOSSSES HAVE A DUTY TO SETTLE THE BOYCOTT

THE time has come for all parties to press for a settlement of the bus boycott as soon as possible.

Schoeman's "treat 'em tough" policy has proved an absolute failure. More than that, it has inflamed hostility between white and black, between people and the police, to a dangerous degree.

Persistence in this negative approach to the boycott can only result in disaster, for which the Government will have to bear the full responsibility.

The plain fact of the boycott which no Government blustering can hide is that the African people are living at starvation level and simply cannot afford an increase in fares. If Schoeman and his cronies do not want to acknowledge this, it is nevertheless a fact. The tens of thousands of men, women and children who walk to and from town each day bear witness to it.

The Nationalist answer to the people's pleas is police raids and force in an attempt to drive them back on to the buses. The effect of this futile policy has been only to help spread the boycott to other Reef towns and now finally to Port Elizabeth.

We recall again the words of Pretoria's Manager of Non-European Affairs (Mr. J. R. Brent) when the boycott first started. The root of the trouble, he said, is economic, the Africans can't pay the increases in bus fares, and "the obligation to pay the increases is unquestionably the employers'."

At a time when Schoeman's crack-brained obstinacy is leading the country to disaster, it is the duty of the bus company and all the employers in commerce and industry to reject the Government's lead and enter into direct negotiations with the boycotters.

The boycotters are ready to negotiate. It is not they who have placed obstacles in the way of a settlement. If the bosses were to make a genuine offer to the boycott leaders, the whole situation could be transformed and a peaceful solution ensured.

But if the bosses continue to play Schoeman's game and rely on the police to beat the people into submission, the people will then have no alternative but to carry on the struggle to the bitter end. There can be no unconditional surrender. The people are not prepared to starve for Schoeman's benefit.

THIS IS THE WAY THE REMOVALS TAKE PLACE

Last month I was residing at Eureka Estate, No. 9 Qobasha, as a tenant, with my wife and five children. When I came back from work on the evening of the 30th I found a letter from the Divisional Council of the Cape, ordering me to move to Nyanga by the 31st to open site No. 3021, where I was told to build my pondok.

Next day I took this paper to my employers and asked for permission to go home and see what would take place. I waited the whole morning till 3 o'clock, when a man came who said he was from Mr. Nomeva. When this man came he did not want to say anything to me but started to empty the house. He took a chair and threw it outside. When he took the second one I asked him: "What are you doing?" and at the same time I brought in the first chair he threw out. As he did not want to answer my question I stopped him with the second chair and pulled him back into the house.

I asked him, "Whose house is this that you simply do what you like without saying anything to me?" By this time a lorry was outside. The man ran out calling for help from the police, but there were no policemen around. After 30 minutes he came with another man and told the boy on the lorry to go and tell Mr. Nomeva that I was fighting.

When Mr. Nomeva came he asked me why I wanted to fight the man. I explained the whole story to him: that the man did not recognise me as the owner of the house, so I had to show him that the house was mine. He must talk to me first before he does anything. Nevertheless, I was moved,

not to the open veld site 3021, but to 2975, which is half-built.

MILTON DOSIE

Cape Town.

White Domination Coming To An End

About 30 people joined the ANC at a mass meeting in support of the arrested leaders held here on Sunday January 27.

"We will go on demanding till victory is achieved. The Nats know that apartheid, being a 'Fanakalo,' will crush itself against the mainstream of our time, which flows away from the old era of imperialism, colonial exploitation, and race oppression to an era of equality and freedom of all peoples," said Mr. J. Ngulube.

"More and more former colonies are achieving independence, and soon others will also throw off the imperialist chains."

Mr. E. K. Tollie, after quoting from the Freedom Charter that the People Shall Govern, said: "Every act of oppression of liberty, every insult to the people, swells the army of those determined to pull down the Government. We, the people of South Africa, Black, Brown, and White, will one day sit around conference tables with our brothers and sisters from all parts of Africa. We shall get there."

A speaker from the audience, Mr. Sojeagwa, said the Nats are beginning to realise that the days of White domination are coming to an end.

Mr. K. Baartman presided.
KEKE. E. TOLLIE
Worcester.



Police disperse crowds outside the Johannesburg Pass Office during last week's trouble.

WHY THERE'S TROUBLE AT THE PASS OFFICE

JOHANNESBURG.

ARMED police dispersed a large crowd of angry workers outside Johannesburg's handsome new Non-European Affairs (Municipal) Department building last week. The workers were demonstrating against continued delays in issuing them with permits to seek work.

Singing Nkosi Sikale! i'Afrika they surged forward from the queue in which they had been standing (some of them day after day for two weeks) and attempted to force their way into the courtyard. Driven back, it was alleged some began throwing stones (but not a single broken window was to be seen when a New Age reporter arrived on the scene shortly afterwards).

There was a tense atmosphere as the police, armed with sten guns, revolvers and batons advanced on the seething, excited crowd of over 1,000 men.

"We come here day after day," one work-seeker told our reporter. "We wait from the morning till four o'clock. Then they come out with specials and tell us to come back tomorrow. Always tomorrow! My family is starving!"

"And when you do get in—endorsed out!", another worker chipped in. "Two pounds a month job on a farm."

A pass official standing by opened up a bit when he realised he was talking to a representative of New Age. "I read it every week. But please don't print my name. It'll mean my job."

"The real trouble here is that the system just won't work. As soon as a man wants to change his job, he's got to come here and get a permit to seek work, even if he was born in Johannesburg. Then down to the government pass office a mile away to the labour bureau. If his job doesn't suit, or his boss doesn't like him—all over again. And at any stage he's likely to be kicked out of town."

"The staff here really can't cope, even if they worked hard. Which they don't. Ninety per

cent are Nats. You should hear how they talk to these people. I wouldn't stand for it!

There's going to be more trouble here, you watch. I'm surprised this didn't happen before."

We thanked him and left.

"By the way." He called us back. "Please don't put my name in New Age."

Treason Trial Speeded Up By New Agreement

THE DRILL HALL.

FIVE weeks have ticked slowly by in the hessian make-shift courtroom of the mass Treason Trial and at last the first stage of the proceedings—the handing in of documentary exhibits—promises to be considerably shortened as a result of a Crown-Defence agreement.

Marshaled in large buff envelops and brought to court in tin trunks, the Crown has about 10,000 documents to hand in to the court: conference reports and resolutions, agenda, press releases, books, journals, New Age, Fighting Talk and Liberation—and duplicates and triplicates and many more copies of all these.

The half way mark in the documents was reached at the end of last week when the Crown announced that it would tender these documents in bulk (though still reading over certain selected passages in some documents) instead of one by one.

For the defence Mr. John Coaker said the agreement was to save time and expense. The defence would admit "only the bare facts . . . that certain documents were taken from certain premises on a certain day by certain persons (detectives). The defence would still reserve the right to cross-examine the searcher in any case it thought fit; it would reserve the right to contest the admissibility of any document.

SPEEDED UP

In the afternoon of this new announced procedure the Crown handed in 600 documents, compared to about 5,000 in the four preceding weeks.

The morning session was drowned out, partly by a heavy downpour. As usual when it rains heavily, the court adjourned to the drum of water on the roof and the disturbed crackling of the loud-speakers.

When the court resumed some hours later Farried Adams, number one accused, found himself sitting in the direct line of a heavy leak from the ceiling, and he was forced

to raise the black umbrella belonging to defence counsel John Coaker above his head to ward off the water. The court adjourned for lunch shortly after that.

Documents already familiar in the courtroom continue to crop up steadily: "Hands off Egypt" leaflets; women's anti-pass campaign documents; "Education for Ignorance" (the Congress of Democrats pamphlet on Bantu Education); ANC reports and minutes; Youth Festival posters . . . and lots more.

Sitting next to the prosecutor, members of the Special Branch hand up the exhibits. Every now and then the prosecutor omits one or two, seemingly preparing his case as he goes along.

For most of the week, long strings of detectives continued to walk, one after the other, across the front of the court and to the witness box, parading much like race horses in the paddock on the day of the race.

ACCUSED'S DENIAL

Earlier in the week yet another suggestion (the second) from the prosecutor that during identifications by detectives the accused were dropping their heads and thus making identification difficult brought a spontaneous outburst of denial from the rows of accused.

The 'Star' reported that the accused had made an uproar in the dock with a "sudden outburst of booing and shouting," but this report was criticised the following day by the magistrate as "highly exaggerated." He added, however, that the accused should refrain from any such exhibition of their feelings in the dock.

FIVE DEATHS IN NEWCLARE CLASH WITH POLICE

JOHANNESBURG.

FIVE deaths and innumerable injuries occurred during police action at Newclare on Sunday when, amidst a terrible thunderstorm, European and Non-European policemen clashed with people in the streets using batons, kierries and Axes.

Torrents of water were rushing through the streets sometimes knee high.

Eyewitnesses told New Age they saw some policemen thrust injured and even unconscious Africans below the surface.

All the deaths were due to drowning. The bodies were only recovered on Sunday night and Monday morning.

The trouble began on Sunday morning when members of the Matsieng faction of the "Russian" section of Newclare returned from the funeral of a member killed in the previous week's fight against the Masupha faction. The Matsieng told the police Masupha men were hiding in certain rooms. The police van arrived and the police began breaking into the rooms, which were empty. The inmates of the rooms arrived and began protesting, and ultimately stoned the police who left hurriedly in their van to report to the local police station.

That afternoon about 3 o'clock, amidst one of the worst storms ever, the police arrived at Newclare in great force and there ensued the dreadful clash with the people, who allege they were hit indiscriminately.

Mr. Isaac Bokala, one of the treason accused, says the police were armed with axes and other sharp instruments in addition to their usual batons and kierries.

"I saw the police pushing people under the water," said Mr. Bokala. "I have never seen so many police."

People were searching all night for the bodies.

EISENHOWER DOCTRINE A DANGER TO PEACE

JOHANNESBURG.

THE so-called new Middle East policy of the United States is sharply criticised in a statement just issued by the South African Peace Council as a disregard of the United Nations and an attempt to supplant British and French influence over Middle East countries and to gain control of rich oil resources.

The statement says that the key to peace and stability in this region does not lie in the replacement of the influence of one foreign power by another—the idea of "filling" the so-called 'vacuum.' It lies in the rapid development, economically and politically, of each of these countries under stable and democratic administration, independent of any power groupings.

The greatest danger to peace is the new Middle East policy of the U.S.A. All who are interested in the urgent task of preserving peace in every part of the world feel deep concern at the propagation at this stage by the U.S.A. of the policy which has been called the "Eisenhower doctrine."

If accepted by the Senate this policy will give authority to the American President to use United States military forces at any time under the pretext of "resisting communist aggression against any nation in the Middle East." It will also allow him to spend up to 200 million dollars in this area during the next six months in return for which the U.S.A. will no doubt obtain major economic and military concessions.

The South African Peace Council protests against this policy. U.N.O. has organs which have been

used and which can now be used to resist aggression by international force and to distribute economic aid without attaching political or economic strings.

For one powerful State to usurp these functions—and do so when no threat of aggression to the Middle East has been made—cannot lead to greater international security in this area.

Workers' Conference Demands £1 A Day Minimum Wage

(Continued from page 1)

transport and rent—the price of all of which have increased . . .

"The majority of workers live below the poverty datum line and are ill and undernourished . . .

"This meeting demands a minimum wage of £1 per day."

The meeting declared solidarity with the bus boycotters, pledged support and assistance and demanded acceptance of the people's demands by the bus companies.

Another resolution demanded the immediate withdrawal of the bans on SACTU officials Leon Levy and Leslie Massina.

P.E. WORKERS JOIN BUS BOYCOTT

(Continued from page 1)

by the ANC (Cape) last Thursday (February 7) deploring the Government's interference in the Reef bus boycott, the ANC announced through leaflets on Saturday evening that from dawn on Monday February 11 the people of the Eastern Cape will embark on a boycott of buses and trains.

Referring to the 2d. increase in Reef bus fares, the leaflet says it is the economic price which the African is daily being called upon to pay in order to make apartheid workable.

The leaflet states that the people decided to walk in order to save the 2d. to feed their children. It continues thus: "Mr. Schoeman has decided they have no business to save the 2d. They must pay it on the buses in order to prove apartheid is not costly. If the 2d. is paid, millions of Africans will be without a meal while they finance apartheid for the Nationalists."

The leaflet concludes: "It is clear where our duty lies, where our interests as individuals and as a class lie. We embark on this boycott in sympathy with our brothers on the Reef."

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