

# THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ARE AIMED AT MAKING THE SCHOEMAN BILL—EVEN WORSE THAN BEFORE

by Ray Alexander



WHEN Ben Schoeman introduced his Industrial Conciliation Bill in May, 1954, he boasted that more discussion and negotiation had gone into it than almost any other law. He also claimed that his "Ministerial Committee" of bosses and trade unionists had supported the whole Bill except for its racial provisions.

Yet Schoeman decided to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, "because," he said, "it is possible to improve it still further." He did this undoubtedly because of the large-scale opposition that developed against what he called a "good Bill, perhaps the best of its kind."

## WILL DESTROY FREE UNIONS

Those who have hoped for an improvement on the Bill will look in vain to the Report of the Select Committee. It makes no recommendation of any value. As far as it is concerned, the Bill will remain a racialistic, undemocratic piece of legislation aimed at the destruction of free trade unionism and the persecution of Non-European workers.

In fact, under the Parliamentary rules the Select Committee had no authority to challenge the general principles of the Bill which the Chairman (Van den Berg, the Labour Party turn-coat) defined as "the protection of white workers, job reservation and apartheid in trade unions."

One wonders why so much time and public money is spent on discussing something that had already been cut and dried.

## MAIN PURPOSE

The main purpose of the Select Committee was to enable the Minister to say that he has given the public every opportunity to consider the Bill.

No Non-European workers appeared. The persons who did give evidence, whether on behalf of the workers or the employers' organisations, were representative of the White supremacy point of view.

## WANT A JOB?— FINGERPRINTS PLEASE

JOHANNESBURG.

TAKING advantage of the demand of many European housewives that African women domestic servants should be made to carry passes, a certain private employment agency in Johannesburg has taken to issuing "Reference Certificates" to the servants of those housewives who join the agency.

An employer who telephoned the agency was told its aim was to "render a service to housewives." The Reference Certificate has higher aims printed on its cover. "We are Building a Better Understanding," it says.

### PHOTO, NUMBER, RACE

The certificate carries the photographs of the African woman who is registered, together with her name and number, and race. Then her qualifications as a domestic servant are ticked off in a column with items such as cooking, quick worker, speak English, praat Afrikaans, answer telephone, polishing floors, and so on.

The housewife joins the agency pays one pound a year for its services. The African domestic servant has to pay the cost of the photograph on the certificate, which is three shillings.

No one tried to challenge the policy of race discrimination contained in the Bill.

All the witnesses objected to some provisions of the Bill. But the criticisms were always presented in terms of European interests, real or imaginary. For instance, when Miss Dulcie Hartwell, the General Secretary of S.A.T.U.C., attacked the clauses for cutting unions into segregated kraals, she argued that mixed trade unions were the only means of maintaining the principle of equal pay for equal work on which the European standards depended.

### MURDER BY DEGREES

Whereas Miss Hartwell and her colleagues of S.A. Trade Union Council were opposed to the compulsory colour-bar union, McCormick of the S.A. Federation of Trade Unions found no difficulty in accepting the Nationalist policy. What he wanted, however, was a "gradual" method of destroying the mixed unions. His policy of murder by degrees did not, however, satisfy his co-delegate, Ellis of the S.A. Mine Workers, who said, "I am of the opinion it should be done as soon as possible."

### MOST VICIOUS

The most vicious racist before the Select Committee came from the Ko-ordinerende Raad in the person of Mr. L. V. van den Berg who had been a member of the Botha Industrial Legislation Commission which led up to the Bill. Mr. van den Berg was slightly contradictory. He found the Bill wishy-washy, he complained. "It left mixed unions in existence and even allowed White and Coloured members to meet together and sit on the same committees."

What he wanted was a law that would give the White workers undisputed statutory "leadership" over the Non-Europeans. Once this was granted he had no very strong objection even to a mixed membership.

### BOSSSES WERE BRIGHTER

The employers' organisation, while showing a better grasp of economic realities than most of

the trade unionists, wished to impress on the Select Committee that the employment of Non-Europeans will increase the employment of Europeans.

The S.A. Trade Union Council finds that the Industrial Conciliation Bill, as it has emerged from the hands of the parliamentary Select Committee, is considerably worse than the previous one.

Mr. T. P. Murray, of the T.U.C. told this to the inaugural meeting of the council's Transvaal Area Division last week.

Mr. Murray said that the views of 150,000 workers (the T.U.C.) had been completely disregarded by the Select Committee.

The Bill in its latest form, said Mr. Murray, was considerably worse than the document before the Cape Town and Durban trade union conferences. "Those conferences were very perturbed then; what they would have been, faced with the new Bill, I don't know."

They at least drew attention to the contradictions between the importance of the Non-Europeans in industry and the colour bar. European and Non-European workers, they said, formed a single labour force; to segregate them

## STRIKERS WIN SWIFT VICTORY

JOHANNESBURG.

A LIGHTNING protest by African and Coloured workers in a dry cleaning factory in Kew Township, near Alexandra, brought a swift victory to the workers last week.

As the factory is outside the Johannesburg municipal area, it is excluded from the provisions of the industrial council of the laundry industry.

Some months ago the entire factory joined the union, but all along the employer refused to have anything to do with the union or to negotiate with the workers.

One day last week the workers presented to the management a list of their demands. They insisted on increased wages, the recognition of their union, the recognition of their factory committee, and their inclusion in the Johannesburg sick fund for the industry. Their ultimatum was so emphatic, and the workers stood so solidly together, that in a few hours the factory management had conceded every one of these demands, and the factory committee had been granted recognition on the spot.

All the workers win a wage increase, some of 5s. 3d. and 5s. 6d. a week, and some as much as £1 a week. The wages in this factory have now been brought into line with the wages in the Johannesburg Laundry Council agreement.

would lead to chaos in negotiations for wages and conditions of work.

The employers were far more critical than the trade unionists of the provisions for reserving occupations to members of one or other race. The attitude was that it could not work without appalling inefficiency and expense.

### COLOUR-BAR CLAUSES

Most of the witnesses objected to the colour-bar clauses, but the Select Committee, like the Industrial Legislation Commission, had made its mind up and was not going to budge. Its report recommends one or two minor modifications as, for instance, that before getting registration an all-white union must represent at least 50% of the European workers in the industry.

The Select Committee's Report, however, is in the main intended to remove the weaknesses that Van den Berg and other racialists complained of in the Bill.

For instance, the Committee recommends:

Once an exclusively White union has been registered for an industry already covered by a mixed union, the Europeans belonging to the mixed union will automatically be excluded from its membership; in other words the mixed union will become, against its wishes, a purely Coloured union.

Also, if the new all-white union has a membership of more than

half the total number of white workers in the industry, the assets of the original union are to be divided with this new union.

The Furniture workers in the Cape will be able to see the pitfalls for themselves. Probably 80% of the workers in the Cape are Coloured. But it only requires half of the European members, i.e. one tenth (10%) of the members, to force a split, compel all the whites to leave the union and claim a proportionate share of the funds.

### MUST BE FOUGHT

The Bill must be fought. But it is clear that the leadership in this struggle will not come from the entrenched white working-class which is concerned not to bring about the unity of all workers, but to defend its own privileged position. Therefore the responsibility for continuing the struggle remains with the skilled and less skilled Non-European workers.

The Coloured and Indian artisans and industrial workers who are affiliated to the S.A.T.U.C. and S.A. Federation of Trade Unions must be made to realise that these organisations exist for the maintenance of White supremacy and that their salvation lies in a militant inter-racial organisation like the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions.

The S.A. Congress of Trade Unions will have not only to organise the unorganised and poorly paid workers in our country to save them and their children from starvation, but will have to lead the struggle of all Non-European workers for the right to work, for the right to live!

Only when all workers, irrespective of colour or race, have the same opportunities to employment will there be real unity of the workers. Real unity must and will come. It is the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions that will have to play this important role in the history of our country to achieve this real unity.

LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF ALL WORKERS. LONG LIVE S.A.C.T.U.!

### BOOK REVIEW

## SOUTH AFRICANS IN THE SOVIET UNION

WITH the South African government imposing ever more restrictions on travel, it is becoming more and more difficult for South Africans to get out and see how the rest of the world lives—especially that part of the world where racialism is outlawed, like the Soviet Union, the People's Democracies and China.

But the denial of passports cannot stop the spread of knowledge or the inter-change of ideas, and in a new booklet "South Africans in the Soviet Union" (price 6d.), the people of this country have an excellent opportunity of hearing what their fellow-South Africans did and saw when they visited behind the so-called "iron curtain."

The booklet contains articles by six South Africans on different aspects of Soviet life, together with an introduction by the Rev. D. C. Thompson.

Writing on Soviet workers, PAUL JOSEPH, a young Indian, declares: "No worker in the Soviet Union faces a dead-end job, or is doomed to unskilled work, denied technical training. Unlimited opportunities have opened up for all."

WALTER SISULU deals with the progress of the once-backward minorities, particularly with his visit to Azerbaijan, in his article "Freedom of Nations."

The Soviet system has "welded together in friendship and brotherhood the peoples of many nationalities," and Soviet experience has "shown that even the most backward peoples can reach high

levels of achievement in a breathlessly short period," are some of Mr. Sisulu's conclusions.

Talking of Soviet education, DUMA NOKWE writes that "Soviet education aims at the balanced development of the physical, mental, moral and aesthetic abilities of the individual."

BRIAN BUNTING found the Soviet people the most cultured in the world, and tells you why.

SAM KAHN made a special study of the position of Jews in the Soviet Union. The Jews he met, says Mr. Kahn, "were indignant and resentful of the accusation made by the ignorant outside their country, that Jews were the victims of anti-Semitism."

In the last article, "Building the Future," RUTH FIRST says that "life seems to change before one's eyes in the Soviet Union," and concludes:

"In the coming decade, life in the Soviet Union will glitter with a new brightness. The Soviet people know this is so because by their own efforts they have broken all records in social and economic progress and there is no reason—except war—why they should not continue to do so."

All contributors stress the Soviet people's passionate desire for world peace.

Readers will find their sixpences well spent indeed.

N.S.

(South Africans in the Soviet Union: Price 6d; Order from Ruth First, P.O. Box 491, Johannesburg. Include 2d. postage.)



The pictures were taken at Doornkop, of the first shacks built at the site-and-service scheme by the families moved from "New Look," a private farm near Moroka. (See report page one.) Graphic illustration indeed that the site-and-service schemes are a blatant fraud for the creation of new slums.

## AN ARTIST IN KOREA

By PAUL HOGARTH

MY first impressions of Korea were of neat and well-cultivated fields under which the scars of war were only faintly discernible from the air. But as the plane approached the airport the crazy pattern of bomb craters became a terrible rash culminating in shattered hangars whose rusted, splintered girders glinted against the morning sun. In every direction lay the ruins of a city; it was as though one had landed on the moon. As the jeep raced along the pitted highway the enormity of Pyongyang's destruction began to be realised. Then one noticed that the desert had, in fact, been built on. Bridges had been constructed; temporary housing, schools, department stores and administrative buildings had been built—by the half million citizens who had returned.

I stayed in the only hotel, a converted department store; a large new one was being built nearby. Below my window a slogan read: 'Everything for the Reconstruction of our country.' Korean housewives, immaculate in their spotless white costumes against the dust and clamour, hurried along with shopping bags with their babies swaddled round their backs. Later, I visited the western half of the city—formerly the Korean quarter in the days of Japanese rule. From the rebuilt Moranbong Theatre which is situated on a height dominating the city, I looked across on to thousands of temporary homes; built on a wilderness where once had stood streets and houses. Here thousands had died as day and night raids brought avalanches of H.E. and incendiary bombs. Fire swept through the congested streets leaving behind a burnt-out desolate plain.

### THEY WEPT

It is said that even Poles and Russians who went through the ordeal of Warsaw and Stalingrad, wept when they looked on Pyongyang after the Armistice talks brought peace. The city was consistently bombed for no other reason than that of being the biggest civilian target; for long after such military objectives as the river bridges, had ceased to exist, round-the-clock raids blasted down every kind of human habitation whether hospital, museum or school. Thousands lived like rabbits in tunnels and shelters. Over 50,000 were killed; the entire city was destroyed.

But in the months after the Armistice talks ended, the martyred city

took on a new atmosphere; firm leadership gave the people the heart to carry on. Temporary dwellings were erected. Willing hands cleared the streets of debris. The foundations of many new buildings were laid. As the work progressed, the people returned and the population rose from 180,000 to over 500,000. Soldiers built schools. A whole educational district is under construction in the eastern quarter of the city with an engineering polytechnic and other centres of higher education. A stadium was built—largely by the voluntary labour of student brigades. An emergency Three-Year Plan aims at restoring essential buildings and services; this will be followed by a Five-Year Plan. In 20 years Pyongyang will be rebuilt; the city having been completely replanned with wide boulevards and parks.

### WORKERS' GIFTS

From early morning there is a ceaseless flow of traffic; across the rebuilt Daidong Bridge, porters with 'everest' carriers carrying everything from drums of oil to great loads of vegetables and timber. New buses, the gifts of Russian, Czech and German workers, trundle by, crowded with girls on their way to the rebuilt textile mills on the far side of the Daidong River. Trucks race by with building equipment and supplies, for the day begins at six on the numerous building sites. Each day there were new faces in the hotel—Russians, Czechs, Germans, Poles and Hungarians—engineers and specialists, arrive to take part in the reconstruction of the country's life. After a day or two, they move on into the interior where they advise on the erection of a new factory, the building of a bridge or a railway. Much assistance has been and is being provided by the U.S.S.R. and other People's Democracies.

On the way to a village outside Pyongyang, I passed the famous Kim-Il-Sung University, built from the donations of rice—the patriotic rice—of tens of thousands of North Korean peasants. Guttered by the Americans, it has been rebuilt and is the landmark for many miles around; its silhouette majestic against the softly purple mountains of the south-west. The countryside around Miam—the village I visited—was golden with the ripened fields of millet and rice. There was singing in the fields, a co-operative had been recently established; its members were harvesting their first crops

of peace.

Back in Pyongyang I was introduced to a group of Korean artists; they had asked me to tell them about art in Britain. They then told me about art in Korea. Of how, after liberation from Japanese occupation, plans were made to develop an art for the people. The war ended work on many ambitious projects and introduced a grim reality for artists. Some went to the front; others recorded the struggle. Artists who had been trained in Europe and who had sought to introduce abstract art became the most powerful of realists. Artists lived in dug-outs and huts; made their own brushes and inks. In summer they worked in the shade of a tree, in winter on the snow. Air-raids made work difficult, at times impossible, but art-exhibitions nevertheless took place, even in much-raided Pyongyang. The people took courage from an art which portrayed their life and their hopes. A new form emerged, that of mobile art-exhibitions which took place in the open air; in congested underground factories.

### BARBARIC DESTRUCTION

After seeing an exhibition of their work, several Korean artists apologised for not being able to show me the ancient collections of Korean Art. Whether the subject was too painful to discuss or out of respect for my feelings, I was only to learn later that there are literally no national art treasures left. With a barbarism reminiscent of the *Wehrmacht*, American forces systematically or wantonly destroyed the ancient cultural relics of the Korean people. They bombed and set fire to innumerable ancient temples, the old tombs with their priceless and irreplaceable frescoes, the pavilions and gate towers which were built many centuries ago. Precious monuments of a rich cultural heritage of an ancient people which often had no relation whatsoever to strategic objectives. Whether a building was protected under the Rules of War or not, made no difference.

But the devastation of this war of aggression, its utter and complete disregard for human life and cultural achievement found more than an equal in the tenacity, the courage and the strength of the Korean people. That the forces of peace in the long run, are stronger than the forces of war.

I will always remember this when I think of Korea.

## "POLICE STATE" LAWS FOR SOUTHERN RHODESIA

SALISBURY.

SOUTHERN Rhodesia is fast catching up with South Africa in the introduction of fascist legislation. This is the comment of political observers on a number of Bills now before the Southern Rhodesia Parliament.

The Public Order Bill has much resemblance to Swart's Public Safety Act, and is aimed at further oppressing the African people.

The Bill gives the Governor power to proclaim a state of emergency if any person or persons take any action "likely to endanger public safety, disturb or interfere with public order, or interfere with the maintenance of any essential service."

"Inciting" persons in essential services to go on strike carries a sentence of up to a year in prison.

### SUMMARY ARREST

The Governor will be able to order the summary arrest of persons whose detention the Minister of Justice deems to be expedient in the public interest.

A fine of £100 or one year's imprisonment or both is the punishment for making statements or doing acts intended to "promote hostility" between sections of the community.

For taking or administering an "unlawful oath" the sentence is up to 20 years in jail; for taking part in a riot or an unlawful assembly, a Rhodesian can go to jail for two years or one year, respectively.

An unlawful assembly or riot is defined as when three or more persons gather to commit an offence or conduct themselves in such a manner as to cause reasonable fear in a neighbourhood.

Such force "as is reasonably necessary"—including the use of firearms—may be used by a policeman of the rank of warrant officer and above, to disperse a "riot or unlawful assembly" and no such policeman shall be responsible for any harm or death caused to any person.

### "FEAR OR ALARM"

Any person who publishes or reproduces any statement, rumour or report likely to cause fear and alarm or to disturb the public peace, is liable to one year's imprisonment. It will be no defence that the accused did not believe the statement to be false.

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Other clauses prohibit the wearing of uniforms "having a political significance" and the display in public of flags having a political association.

In the Subversive Activities Amending Bill, provision is made for the Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs to make an order banning any particular or all documentary information published by any person or association of persons. This means that the publications of any person or publishing house can be banned.

### JOURNALISTS PROTEST

The Rhodesian Guild of Journalists has already written to the Minister of Justice and Internal Affairs, protesting against the inroads into the freedom of the Press.

Prime Minister of Rhodesia, Mr. R. S. G. Todd, has stated that the Bills are intended to bring the security legislation of S. Rhodesia into line with similar legislation recently introduced in N. Rhodesia.

"THE FREEDOM CHARTER is of such importance that from now on it should supersede all other documents or programmes and our chief duty is to rally the people around it," Dr. M. M. Motala, chairman, told a report-back meeting held by delegates of the Natal Midlands Regional Committee of the Congress of the People in Pietermaritzburg recently.

The delegates told the meeting how inspired they were by the enthusiasm of those present at the Assembly, and pledged to work hard towards popularising the Charter and striving for the fulfilment of its aims in their lifetime.

The committee is soon to hold meetings in all areas under its jurisdiction to bring the Charter to the people.

### DURBAN RACING

First Race: 1. Blue Dotte; 2. Headache; 3. Olive Hill.  
Second Race: 1. Gay Gunner; 2. Big Fisherman; 3. Traceable.  
Third Race: 1. Idealist; 2. Spur; 3. True Love.  
Fourth Race: 1. Clive of India; 2. St. Grey; 3. Nemesis.  
Fifth Race: 1. Nagaina Hall; 2. Wayfarer; 3. Corroboree.  
Sixth Race: 1. Labby; 2. Magic Link; 3. Rebate.  
Seventh Race: 1. Fine Figure; 2. Magnet; 3. Onskuld.  
Eighth Race: 1. Stout Effort; 2. Sal; 3. Ballad.  
Ninth Race: 1. Nuptial; 2. Barrist; 3. Bambi.

### BIRTHS

ZUKAS—To Cynthia and Simon Zukas, a son, 19th July, London. All well.

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PROCEEDS IN AID OF NEW AGE

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