

SEPTEMBER

CAPE WORKERS ARE UNITED

CAPE Town Branch of the Laundering, Cleaning and Dyeing Workers had its quarterly General Members' Meeting on Saturday, 15th September at the Rose Crawford Hall, Salt River. Members from Cape Town, Wellington, Paarl, Stellenbosch, Strand and Worcester attended.

Mr. Ross, National Chairman and Branch Chairman presided. In opening the meeting he said: Apartheid laws are crowding upon us. First the Africans were removed from the common voters' roll, and now the turn of the Coloureds have come. We know how our African fellow workers are being treated—locations, permits, passes, arrests, fines, discriminatory Bantu Education, which is slave education, and the Coloureds and Indians are having the Group Areas Act with its Boards. Our homes are being broken up and we will land up in locations like the Africans. The Coloured Education Ordinance is now being passed on the same lines as the Bantu Education Act. In addition there is the Native Settlement of Disputes Act for Africans, and for all other workers the new Industrial Conciliation Act. Both Acts break up our Unions and seek to prevent workers of all races from uniting and having the right to strike, to defend and advance our standard of living.

He appealed to workers to wake up and realise what is happening. We must see that every worker is a member of the Union. We must join and support those organisations that fight against oppression.

He told the meeting of the Nationalist Party Conference in Bloemfontein which passed a resolution on 13/9/56 to have apartheid in the laundering of whites' and non-whites' garments. These

Nationalists are looking for every way to insult the non-whites. They consider themselves the "Herrenvolk" like the German Nazis did. They, with their Nazi ideology exterminated the Jewish people and our Nationalist fascists are out to exterminate the non-whites.

The meeting heard a member from the Peace Council speaking about the National and Local Peace Convention.

Mr. Leon Levy addressed the meeting about the Union's National campaign to organise all Laundry workers in South Africa into the National Union. He spoke about the new East Rand Agreement which applies to 1,000 workers of all races and whereby higher wages and a sick fund was obtained for them. The Union has been busy organising the West Rand and shall be demanding that it be covered by the Johannesburg Industrial Council Agreement. Port Elizabeth is submitting demands for a new wage agreement, while East London has now organised themselves.

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE I.C. ACT

The provisions of the Act was again explained to the workers. They were reminded that the Laundry Workers' Union is one of the few trade unions that do not uphold with racial discrimination. The meeting condemned the provision for white baasskap as provided for in the case of mixed trade unions and resolved to struggle for real workers' unity and trade union democracy.

The law makes it clear that the intention is to expel, drive out and keep out Coloured, Indian and African workers from jobs which are considered to be "white-man's jobs." Indeed this aim has been repeatedly stated by Nationalists in Parliament and outside.

MINISTER ACTS

The I.C. Act had hardly been passed by Parliament when groups of European workers appealed to De Klerk, Minister of Labour to "protect" them against competition. In Cape Town bus workers and the firemen appealed to the Minister. There is strong reason to believe that the Minister brought pressure to bear upon the Tramway Company and the City Council and blocked the employment of Coloured workers in both cases.

In a comment on the firemen's application the Minister said: "While, at the moment, I have no statutory power to intervene, I wish to draw the attention of employers to the fact that when the new Industrial Conciliation Act comes into force, there will certainly be reservation of jobs, in this and other similar instances,

(Cont. at foot of next column)



CONGRATULATIONS OSCAR

Oscar Mpetha, General Secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers and until this month Branch Secretary of the African Laundry Cleaning and Dyeing Workers' Union, successfully appealed in the Supreme Court, Cape Town, against his conviction and sentence in the Vredenburg Magistrate's Court on April 4th to six months compulsory labour on a charge under the Suppression of Communism Act. His conviction and sentence were set aside by Justice Newton Thompson and Justice Herbstein who ruled that the gathering Oscar attended at Van Riebeeck fish canning factory at St. Helena Bay on February 21st, was not a gathering in terms of the Act.

This is a great victory not only for Oscar and the trade unions but to all democrats in our country.

(Cont. from previous column)

notwithstanding any changes which employers might bring about in the meantime.' (Cape Argus 31.7.56.)

It is evident that the Coloured, Indian and African workers face the biggest threat that has yet arisen to their right to work in skilled and semi-skilled occupations.

It is not the first time that this right has been threatened. Let us recall the colour bar clause in the 1911 Mines and Works Act which aroused the Coloured miners to protest at the denial of certificates of competence on the ground of colour. They complained that they were prevented from working as engine drivers,

(Continued on page 6)

EQUAL RIGHT TO WORK FOR ALL

THE recent appointment of Dr. S. P. du Toit Viljoen as Chairman of the Industrial Tribunal, is the first administrative step towards the working of the new Industrial Conciliation Act. The date on which the Act is to come into force has not yet been fixed in the Government Gazette. The appointment of the Chairman of the Tribunal is a sign that this date will not be far off.

INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL

The plan for a tribunal was put up by the Botha Industrial Legislation Commission 1949-1951. Its official reason was that some such body was needed to "co-ordinate wages and conditions in different industries covered by Industrial Council Agreements and Wage Board investigation."

Trade unionists objected to the Tribunal on the ground that it would break down the system of self rule in industry under which workers and employers arrive at wage agreements, and settle disputes without government interference. Trade unionists realised that government interference would take place on the side of the bosses. It seems, however, the biggest objection to the Tribunal will be its use in raising colour bars in industry.

NEW COLOUR BARS

The Tribunal under section 17 (8), in addition to acting as an Arbitration Board at the request of parties to a dispute or on the Minister's instruction has the specific job of making investigations and recommendations under section 77 of the Act. This is the notorious colour bar section. It

allows the Minister on the Tribunal's recommendation to make "reservation of jobs in any specified undertaking, industry, trade or occupation in any area or building for persons of a particular race and class." Other workers not belonging to that race or class will then commit a crime by doing work which is prohibited to them.

Cape Cotton Workers: Why Did You Fail?

Why did the Department of Labour turn down your application for a Conciliation Board? We are told that when the Department Inspectors came to check to see whether there were more than half the workers who were members of the Union, they found that there were very few who were really members.

WHAT IS A MEMBER?

When you fill in the application form to become a member of the Union, you are only applying to the Branch Executive Committee to consider you as a member. IT IS ONLY WHEN you are ISSUED WITH A MEMBERSHIP CARD, and pay your subs. regularly, that you REALLY ARE A MEMBER OF THE UNION.

So you see, it is no use to pay subs. just for a little while and then forget about it, because the Department says that only those members who pay subscriptions regularly and are up to date are true members of the Union.

THAT IS WHY THE EFFORTS TO GET AN AGREEMENT THROUGH A CONCILIATION BOARD WAS LOST. But it is not lost forever. See that all the workers in your factory become True members. See that you, the workers, build up the strength of the Union in your factory.

IF YOU ARE STRONG, THE UNION IS STRONG AND WE SHALL GET A NEW AGREEMENT.

WORKED 9¼ YEARS WITH FIRM—RESULT: FIRED! REMARKS: "UNSATISFACTORY"

A worker has been with a firm for many years. A good, neat and fast worker. Clean record, never fighting or stealing any of the firm's wealth. One would think that bosses like such a worker.

This is what happened to Victoria Gallant, Emma Bhana and Mary Radien who were employed at Fine Wool Products of S.A. These workers were menders, and their experience in this type of work ranges from 6 to 9¼ years.

One Friday afternoon sometime last month, these workers were called into the Personnel Manager's office and told that they were fired. One of the reasons given was that the firm believed that they were responsible for forcing the other girls to be unwilling to work overtime.

REMARKS: "UNSATISFACTORY"

On their service certificate they were stated to be "unsatisfactory." These three workers were members of the Executive Committee of the Union—Emma Bhana was the Chairman. In the Union's view these workers were victimised.

The Union has therefore asked the Labour Department to prosecute the firm for alleged victimisation. The workers have also applied for a Conciliation Board in terms of section 64 of the Industrial Conciliation Act. The results will be announced in the next issue of Textile Unity.

NIYESABA NA?

Ndive abanye abasebenzi besithi bayika ukejoyina i Union ngoba bazakhg xotwa; ngoko ngenxa yomsebenzi wabo bayoyika ukejoyina i Union.

Masilinge ukuye ezingcunjini zalentetho. Ndithi abasebenzi bayagula, bafuna ukukunjuzwa. Isifo sabo sokoyika esibangwa kukungazi.

Into yokuqala ukuba u basi wako, uyakugxotha ngenxeni yokuba ujoyina i Union wophula umthetho. Unokumbamba ngalonto.

Kodwa u basi wakho akafuni ubengapantsi kwe Union kuba uyazi uzakuba strong xa nizibopha kunye. Uyazi ukuthi ngeke amane akugxotha ngokuthanda kwakhe. Ngoko azame ukukoyikisa, uqala ngokugxota abanye ngentwana encane. Ufuna niqonde ukuba unigxotha kuba nijoyine i Union. Akayenzi ngokucacileyo, ngoba uyazi ukuthi uyakuba wophula umthetho.

UYAMKELENA NGOKOYIKA KWAKHO?

Ewe wamkela kakhulu. Uyazi ukuthi aninakho ukuma ndawonye nizikhusele nivane. Nime okweminwe yesandla unakho ukophula ngamnye. Kodwa manihlangene akanakwenzanto.

Kanti noba ujoyinanga i Union u basi wakho uloko ezakukuxotha. Akangekhe akugarante ngenxeni yokuba ungekho pantsi kwe Union. Kodwa manihlangene nimanandla.

Joyina i Union ukuzikhusela nokukhusela omnye.

UNGQONGQOSHE—UMQUQUZELELI UM FLETCHER UBESI THEKWINI

U ngqongqoshe—Umququzeleli uqede inyanga ethekwini, esiza ngokuququzelela abasebenzi base zingutsheni.

Sifisela ukwazi kumalungu ukuthi "kungani kusalulekile" ukuthi, babe ngamalungu e bandla labasebenzi? Kungani kufanele bayekelele ukudlana bebodwa. Baseke udabi lamaholo angcono nempatho anhle.

I theku linamafektri ezingubo amanengi, ngakhoke leligatsha linakho ukungonyamela wonke amanye amagatsha aleli bandla kungakho ku umthwalo welungu ne-lungu ukuququzelela izikululwane zabasebenzi abasesemnyameni.

Uma ilungu ne-lungu lithola umsebenzi oyedwa, kunga usizo loku phinda phinda igatsha lenu. Ngakho ke ilungu elizotho linambe yonke imihlangano, livuse abafu walo efektri (qaphelisa okwethulwe kubasebenzi abasebenza u kotini ekapa).

Attention All Branches

Isn't there some news which you want published in YOUR PAPER? Come along, let's have the serious comments of your members, the amusing incidents which occur in your factories, the sports achievements of Textile workers.

Our address is P.O. Box 662, Johannesburg.

WIN £2

FILL in the right words in the form below and send it in before 8th November, 1956 to—

TEXTILE UNITY, P.O. BOX 662
JOHANNESBURG.

1. A good Union member pays subscriptions and (2 words).
2. The African Textile Workers' Industrial Union (S.A.) looks after the interests of workers in the (2 words).
3. You can always expect good results if workers are (1 word).
4. Where there is a will there is a (1 word).
5. Unity is (1 word).
6. Mr. is the acting National President of the African Textile Workers' Industrial Union (S.A.).
7. The biggest textile factory in the Union, and in South Africa is (3 words).
8. When workers fight amongst themselves they can never in their fight against exploitation (1 word).
9. A Trade Union Secretary is not only a leader of the workers, but is also their (1 word).
10. An article in this issue speaks of three workers who were dismissed because they were members of the Union. The Union maintains that this is (1 word).

NAME:

ADDRESS:

BUILD YOUR UNION

How do you build a house?—First you lay the foundation—correct. Then you start building up the walls. One brick on top of the other, and cemented together to keep solid. Like this, the walls are built higher and higher, and stronger and stronger. That is how all things which are worthwhile are built. From the bottom—strong and solid. And that is how the Union must grow—step by step. The more hands that we have who are willing to do the work, the quicker it will grow big—and the Union, like the wall, gives all of us protection.

THIS IS HOW YOU MUST BUILD IT

- See that you attend meetings.
- See that you pay your subscriptions.
- See that your shop-stewards give you regular reports.
- See that all your fellow workers are members of the Union.
- See that your Executive Committee meets regularly.
- See that your paid officials visit your factory.
- See that complaints are taken up quickly.
- See that the mistakes which are made BECOME LESSONS TO ALL.



UMANYANO LWE TEXTILE
INHLANGANO YE TEXTILE

TEXTILE UNITY

KOPANO EA TEXTILE

No. 6 (New Series)

OCTOBER, 1956

Organ of the African Textile Workers' Industrial Union (S.A.)

NA U NA LE LETSOALO

Hangata ke utloa basebetsi ba bang bare ha ba batle ho Kena lekhotleng la Union hobane bare ba tsaba ho lelekoa; joale hore batle ba lule mesebetsing ea bona ke molemo hore ba seke ba kena lekhotleng.

Hake re tebe re Kene metsoeng ea taba ena. 'Na kere basebetsi bana baa kula, ba batla pheko. Lefu la bona ke letsoalo, ka ho sa tsebe (me ke lithotho).

Sapele, ha base oa hao a ho leleka hobane u le lekhotleng, O roba molao. O ka mo tsoarisa ho etsa joalo. Hona re ho bitsa hore ke ho hloriga moea.

Empa ho pepeneneng hore base oa hao ha a batle ha u le ka tlasa lekhotla hobane oa tseba hore le ba matla ha le ipupile. Oa tseba hore a keke a etsa boithatelo ka uena. Joale-he O leka ka matla hore a ho kenye letsoalo. O qala ka ho tebela ba bang ka phoso tse nyenyane. O leka hore u khole hore ke hobane u le ka tlasa lekhotla. A keke a etse hona phatlalatsa hobane a tseba hore o tlabe a roba molao.

NA O FUMANANG HA OENA O TSABA

Ee, o fumana tse ngata. Oa tseba hore le keke la ipopa ho ka itsireletsa. Le lula le arohane joaleka menoana e a ka e robang ka bongoe. Empa a keke a robe oa pele—horiealo ke hore a keke ha le kopane 'me le iphemela. Ha se ho itsireletsa feela empa ka hoba joalo le ea natlafala 'me le be le ho otla ho bohloko.

Feela le ha u se ka tlasa lekhotla base oa hao o tla ho leleka qetellong. Ha a ho tsephisi le hore a keke a ho leleka ha u se ka tlasa lekhotla. A keke hobane le oena o le mong oa fokola. Empa ha le e ipupile le na le matla. Mang-le-mang o hlomphe "matla."

Kena lekhotleng o itsireletse 'me le ba bang.



DR. VERWOERD LETS OUT SOME SECRETS

According to a "Star" report, "Dr. Verwoerd has just revealed to the Free State Nationalist Congress that the Natives pay £2,500,000 a year in direct taxation and between £30 million, and £40 million in indirect taxes such as customs and excise duties."

But Dr. Verwoerd does not say how much is collected in other ways. To mention just a few:

- Fines from pass offences and Native Labour Settlement of Disputes prosecutions.
- Transport.
- Entertainment taxes.

And, if this should not be enough, what about the penny-pinching from the African school feeding scheme? The Government withdrew this subsidy. What about the £3 million that the African

workers paid into the Unemployment Insurance Fund and then, they were excluded as contributors to that fund? What about the low wages paid to African workers—the Government takes a share of the profits which the bosses make?

DR. VERWOERD, HOW MUCH DO THESE "FUND-RAISING EFFORTS" BRING TO THE GOVERNMENT COFFERS?

YET WITH ALL THIS MONEY

- The houses provided are of the cheapest sub-economic type.
- Only 15 per cent of the African children can hope to get primary education—and even less get Secondary schooling.

Should we be grateful for the slums which are 'homes,' for the free air, for the gangsterism which (Continued foot of next column)

LINING UP IN THE FIGHT FOR AN AGREEMENT IN THE P.E. WORSTED FACTORIES

The workers you see in the photograph are not posing for just another camera shot. Oh no, they are lined up to help lead their fellow workers to fight for an agreement with Union Spinning Mills and Algoa Weaving, two worsted factories in Port Elizabeth.

WHAT DO THEY DO THEN?

They must make sure that all workers know what their demands are. Okay, workers must say what they want.

After voicing their demands they must now agree on Uniformity. There, every worker must know what that is—if spinners want £1 increase every spinner must know that. Yes, meetings are held until everybody is satisfied.

WHAT ABOUT THE
INDUSTRY?

Workers must look around, too—and see how the Industry thrives. They close their eyes of course in disgust to see the sleek cars of their bosses and their fat salaries—whilst their wages are meagre.

FAMILY BUDGETS

They have to prepare family budgets: How workers live, how much rent they pay—also food, transport, medical, schooling, clothing and entertainment expenditure. This really breaks our hearts because everyone is reminded of our hardships.

FUNDS THEY MUST HAVE

They must raise funds for the fight, by organising concerts, dances, picnics and braaivleis. What these Union Spinning Mills and Algoa Weaving girls are lined up for—is hard work because negotiations are on.

is taking hold of our children, for our starvation or perhaps for the oppressive pass laws which are enforced to 'protect' us.

WHAT DO WE GET FOR THIS MONEY—AFTER ALL ON THE FIGURES GIVEN WE ARE VALUED AT £4½ MILLION PER HEAD—WE ARE INDEED VERY VALUABLE, MR. STRYDOM?



Rich. Man

WHO COMES OFF BEST?

10 per cent Dividend Declared by Amalgamated Laundries,

9 per cent by Advance Laundries on their half-yearly profits!

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAUNDRY WORKERS IN EAST LONDON

who formed a branch of the National Union of Laundering, Cleaning and Dyeing Workers.

The decision of the East London workers is not only a victory to them but to all Laundry workers in South Africa and to the whole trade union movement.

EQUAL RIGHT TO WORK FOR ALL

(Continued from page 1)

Their protests were not heeded and today there are no Coloured, Indian or African tradesmen in the goldfields.

COLOUR-BAR EXTENDED

The legal colour bar was extended by the Native Building Workers' Act of 1951.

Now, it is planned to apply the colour bar to all industries and against all Non-Europeans. Mr. Marais Viljoen, Nationalist M.P. for Alberton, Transvaal, addressing the Tygerberg Sakekamer at Bellville said:

"As on the mines, where only Europeans were licensed to do blasting, so, in factories and municipal services, certain types of work would gradually be made the preserve of Europeans." (Cape Times 8.2.56.)

The Nationalists intend under the I.C. Act to carry on the same dirty fraud and injustice in the field of employment as they are committing under the Group Areas Act in the field of property and residential rights. Against this danger, the workers have their great weapon of trade union organisation. They must mobilise behind the slogan Equal Right to Work for All.

NO COMPROMISE

Coloured, Indian and African workers who see this danger, will prepare to meet it by strengthening their trade unions under a leadership that is determined to fight tooth and nail for the right to work.

On this issue there can be no compromise. For this reason alone the policy of racial domination in the trade unions must be rejected in every form.

PROTECT LIVING STANDARDS

White workers who see in sec-

tion 77 a means of keeping Non-Europeans out of skilled and other jobs will yet learn that treachery does not pay.

Once the workers have been divided into racial groups the way will be opened for an attack on European standards as well as Non-European standards.

We have seen an example of this in the agreement entered into between the Transvaal garment workers and employers. The union leadership which had appeased the racialists by splitting the union along racial lines, was unable to obtain a wage increase for its members. Being weakened by internal division the union accepted a virtual wage-cut for so-called category "B" workers (new hands). They are to get £5 3s. 3d. per week as compared with the old wage rate of £6 14s. 2d. per week paid to the same workers, category "A" (old hands).

By introducing the ideas and methods of cut-throat capitalist competition in the trade union field, the white workers will break down the organisation that have been built so painfully and laboriously during the past 75 years

It must not be expected that the Coloured and Indian artisans will surrender their birthright without a struggle.

Just as the Non-European workers had to learn that the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' was misleading unless coupled with the principle of equal opportunities for all. So, today they will be forced to put in the forefront of the struggle the principle Equal Right TO WORK FOR ALL!

T.U.C. APARTHEID

The S.A. Trade Union Council has a colour bar constitution which denies membership to African trade unions. But the T.U.C. wants to claim that it is "representative" of the whole trade union movement, so as to be admitted to the International Labour Conference.

Moreover, it wishes to destroy SACTU, the only trade union centre without a colour-bar. So it is trying to set up a Liaison Committee on which its representatives can lay down the law to African trade unionists who of course are not "good enough" to sit with white workers in the T.U.C.'s Conferences and Committee meetings.

The African Laundry, Cleaning and Dyeing Workers' Union has rejected this Liaison Committee and it is trusted that all African trade unions will follow its example and not accept apartheid and white baasskap.

MRS. VIOLET HASHE

Mrs. Violet Hashe, Secretary of the African Women Garment Workers' Union, an official of S.A.C.T.U. and a people's leader had been issued with a banishment order by the Roodepoort-Maraisburg Town Council. As a result of speedy united action the order was withdrawn.

This is a victory in our struggle for freedom!

SACTU CONGRATULATES Witwatersrand University students who struck on the 19th September against the Government's proposal to introduce apartheid in the two mixed Universities — Witwatersrand and Cape Town.

LAUNDRY WORKERS HELP TO BUILD SACTU

Our Union is proud of its record in helping to build SACTU. Right from the start, our Union was one of the dissenting Unions which was not satisfied with the racialistic policy of the Trade Union Council and was instrumental with other progressive trade unions in the formation of SACTU. Our Union members hold official positions in nearly every branch of SACTU. Laundry workers on the East Rand are active in making SACTU known to the workers. On the West Rand the workers of the Express Dry Cleaners brought together workers of other industries and formed a local Committee of SACTU.

At Worcester an active Laundry worker has been elected as Secretary of that Committee and we sincerely hope that Paarl will soon follow suit.

At Germiston a local Committee of SACTU was formed last month.

OUR HISTORY

Our Cape Town Laundry Workers' Union has a history. We are one of the oldest unions established by the I.C.U. Who of us remember our pioneers Mrs. F. Johnson, our Chairlady of 1931, and Mr. Shuba, our then Secretary. Who remembers Mrs. Armina Norodien who worked at Nannucci Ltd. and Mrs. Yorke—all foundation members of our Union.

EARLY STRIKES

And who remembers our early strikes, like the one at the Cape Town Power Steam Laundry, Upper Canterbury Street, in April 1931.

You have read the story told by our brother Bishop Mkghe-toa (July issue). Any one of us who knows something about our pioneers, our strikes and record of success please write it down and send it to me or come in to our office and tell us the story of our leaders.

Please help to write our history, so that our younger workers should know how and who built our Union.

Yours,
Bennie January.

WORKERS' UNITY

Vol. 3. No. 17.

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Price 2d.

NEW WAGE BILL ATTACKS WORKERS RIGHTS

NO UNION REPRESENTATIVE ON BOARD

A WAGE BILL has been published. It is to take the place of the existing Wage Act which was passed in 1937 and which in turn took the place of the original Act of 1924.

The two most important changes to be made in law by the New Bill are found in sections 3 and 4. These deal with the composition or membership of the Board and investigations carried out by it. The Board as now constituted consist of 3 members, appointed by the Governor General. Trade Unions and employers have the right to nominate any person for the appointment as an additional member for a particular investigation. If the Minister is satisfied that the groups making the nomination is sufficiently representative, he has to appoint the nominee as an additional member.

THE UNIONS MUST ACT

Trade Unions did not always use this provision. Those who did, however found that the presence of a Trade Union representative on the Board was very useful during the investigation. He could bring to the notice of the Board facts and arguments which would have otherwise escaped their notice in his absence. He could also put up a continuous argument on behalf of the workers which undoubtedly influenced the Board's findings. If not satisfied with the Wage Board's report he could put in a minority report which was of great service to the Union when objecting to the Board's recommendations.

The New Bill does away with this provision. It takes away from the Trade Union the right to insist upon representatives on the Board. The Minister can on his own initiative and after consultation with the Union which he considers principally concerned in such investigations appoint an assessor to represent the workers. But he is not obliged to do so, he has a free hand in deciding which union to consult and the position of the assessor although not defined in the Bill is certainly inferior from a full member of the Board under the present Act. It seems unlikely that the assessor member will be allowed to vote or to put in a minority report.

MORE BUREAUCRACY

The other proposed change also reduces the rights of the trade union. Under the present law the Board must carry out an investigation on application of a trade union of any number of workers in the trade concerned. This is one way of getting the Board to investigate, the other is for the Minister to instruct the Board. In terms of the new Bill, only the Minister has the right to ask the Board to make an investigation.

It is clear that both these proposed changes take away rights from the worker and add to the bureaucracy of the Minister and Civil service.

This is keeping within Nationalist policy which is to weaken the trade union movement and make them powerless or turn them into tools of state policy, which means of course the policy of the bosses. This attack on trade union democracy and self rule was started under the Suppression of Communism Act when many able and loyal trade union members and officials were removed from their posts against the will and wishes of their members. The attack has been continued under the New I.C. Act and Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act which opened the way to large scale and continuous government interference in the internal affairs of trade unions.

AIMED AT ALL

The new Wage Bill is therefore not a new development but only an extension of this fascistic policy.

We must once again emphasize that these attacks do not only aim at the "left" unions or at Non-European unions only. The attack is on the trade union Movement and on the Working class as a whole.

For our part we must see that S.A.C.T.U. and all Unions that can be mobilised will do all in their power to defend trade unions and stop the Nationalists from continuing the policy of destroying the rights for which we and our forefathers have struggled for the past 75 years.

FISH WORKERS STARVE

Recently company reports of fish canning factories show increased profits whilst the fish canning workers on the West Coast are starving.

Our Union, the true friend of the workers, has campaigned for unemployment insurance for the fish canning workers. As a result of our persistent

campaign the Department of Labour has now agreed to grant certain exemptions from Wage Agreement 123 which would help unemployed fish canning workers to obtain benefits. Our Union has agreed to these exemptions and is now submitting claims for benefits on behalf of the fish canning workers.

Who Benefits from the 'Native' Slave Labour Act? NOT the Workers, NOT even the Bosses!

IN THE April issue of our paper, we told you that there were nearly 1,200 African Textile workers who were being prosecuted for alleged illegal striking. Most of these workers have already been fined. Three appeals against the sentences on workers in Roodepoort and Benoni, involving approximately 220 have still to be heard.

Let's see how wasteful in time and money the Native Labour "Slave" Act prosecutions really are:

In Durban, 241 workers went out on strike for only one hour. The firm said that this one hour's stoppage meant the loss of £500 production.

The workers spent a day in court, and lost one day's pay the boss lost one day's production. This must have cost the workers about £200 in wages, and the boss £4,500 in production, (£500 x 9 hrs.). Assuming a 10% profit on production is made, and this figure is rather low, the boss lost at least £450 profit. Thus we have, the workers £200 the boss £450. Whom did it pay to have the court case? Neither the workers or the boss.

In Benoni, 358 workers were involved in a dispute during one shift. The workers spent 7 days in court. How much did the firm lose in production during this time?

This we don't know — but we do know that the firm laid out nearly £2,500 for the workers' fines. This money they are getting back at the rate of 2/6 per week per worker — it will take over six months for the firm to be repaid. But the profit on the seven day's loss of production the firm will never get back.

It seems that the Government by enforcing this law, is causing workers and bosses unnecessary losses. We know what the workers are going to do about it. THEY ARE NOT GOING TO STOP HAVING DISPUTES OVER BAD CONDITIONS, but what are the bosses going to do? Are they going to settle the disputes peacefully with their workers or are they going to run post haste to the Regional Officer of the Native Labour Settlement Board to report every dispute? We must make the bosses realise that disputes CAN and HAVE been successfully negotiated amongst the

parties concerned, and that this "Slave" Act only means unnecessary extra losses both to themselves and the workers.

You can easily see the foolishness of this law. It is like two people who have an argument; then they make friends. A third person, who has nothing whatever to do with the argument suddenly decides that he must interfere. This is the case with the prosecutions. Months after a settlement has been reached over a dispute, the Government decides that they must issue summonses, and thereby restart the whole dispute again and cause more losses.

To the bosses we say that the fight against the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act is as much their fight as the Trade Unions. They lose a lot in the way of production by the prosecutions and they gain NOTHING WHATSOEVER BY THE FINES IMPOSED ON THEIR WORKERS.

WORKERS' UNITY IS YOUR PAPER

READ IT. SELL IT IN
THE FACTORY. DISCUSS
IT. WRITE FOR IT.

BATHO BA BATSO BA HANNE KHETHOLLO

Baruti ba Ma-Afrika ba rutang lentsoe la Molimo fatseng la Afrika e Boroa, ba ile ba bitsa Phutheho ea Makhotla ohle a batho ba batso' hore ho tlo buisanoa ka Peho (Report) ea Mong. Tomlinson, hoba e ne e le eena monna ea ileng a khethoa ke 'Musu hore a ngole libuka ka hore na Khethollo (Apartheid) e ka sebelisoa ka tsela ea mofuta o jonag fatseng lena la rona la Afrika e Boroa.

Phutheho ena e khilo e bile mane motseng oa Bloemfontein ka khoeli ea Mphalane (October) lemong sa 1956 ho tloha ka tsatsi la 4 hona khoeling eo ho isa ho tsatsi la la 6.

Phutheho ena e ne e le kholo hoba ho ne ho ena le batho ba makholo a mane be neng e le barumuoa (delegates).

Phuthehong ena hape ho ne ho teng Mookameli oa Lekhotla la Sechaba la African National Congress e leng Mong. A. J. Luthili, le tsona lihloho tsa Makhotla a Basebetsi (Trade Unions) L. Masina, U. Malika, le Mrs. V. Hashe le ba ban be neng ba enetse Basebetsi ba fats'e la roga.

Baruti ba ile ba ile ba lumela hantle hore ba tla leka ka matla hore ba leke ho tsebisa le hona ho ruta batho hore ba leke ho kena Makhotleng a Basebetsi, hoba ke ona fela a ka tsebang hore a loanele batho ba sebetsang hore ba fumane meputso e metle le hore basebetsi ba ts'aroe hantle moo ba sebetsang teng.

Ho ile ha buisanoa haholo ka Khethollo fatseng la Afrika e Boroa. Batho ba Ma-Afrika ba nang le thuto e phahameng, ba ile ba qaqisa hantle Peho ena e amanag le Khethollo.

HARE BATLE KHETHOLLO

Barumuoa bohle ba Makhotla ohle ba qala ho elelisa hore khethollo e na le kotsi fats'eng lena, 'me bohle na ile ba fetola ka ntsoe le le leng la hore ha ba amohele peho ea Mong. Tomlinson le Ngaka Verwoerd la 'musu oamo hae oa khatello. "Rona batho ba bats'o ba fatse lena ha re batle khethollo, hoo re hobatlang fela ka hore e felisoa."

Ena ke eon karabo eo ba ileng ba e neha hoba ba ne ba lokela ho elelisa hore nako ea batho ba batlang tokoloho e se e fihlile fats'eng la Afrika — e Boroa.

Phutheho ena e il'ea nka setlamo se reng Makhotla ohle a kupuoe hore a rute batho kapa tsona litho tsa ona ka kotsi e tla hlalisoa ke Khethollo. Le hore ha ba batla Tokoloho ba se amohele khethollo moo ba sebetsang teng le moo ba phelang teng.

BASEBETSI IKEMISETSENG

Joale le rona basebetsi ba hlatsoang likobo re lokela hore re jeke ho ikemisetse ho loants 'a moo re sebetsang teng le moo re lulang kapa re phelang teng.

Rona basebetsi re tseba hantle hore na Boreamatlotlo ha ba tsotelle lebala la motho ka tsela e joang na. Ha ba tsote kapa o mots'o kapa o mosoeu, hoo ba ho shebileng ka phahello fela (profit). Hpe te ea tseba hore "Musu oa de Klerk o rata ho kenya Khethollo Makhotleng a Basebetsi.

Joale he ho batlehang ke hore re se: "Ha re amohele Khethollo rona basebetsi."

"BATHO BOHLE BA TLA LEKANA 'MUSONG OA BATHO."

CHELETE EA LEKHOTLA LA TSIRELETSO

Na oa tseba hore mona Gauteng ho na le lekala la chelete ea tsireletso?

Chelete ena ea hore re hahe lekhotla lena e fumanoa ka ho etsa mekete, joaleka ho ba le lipina, litantse, le ho etsa lekhetso ho basebetsi. Khotla lena le tsamaisoa ke Komiti e itseng e khethiloeng ke maloko a lekala la komiti ekholo.

Ereng re le joetse hore chelete ena e sebelisoa joang: Emong oa maloko a rona a tsoanela hore a ee sepetlele a tsoeroe ke sefuba se sehola (T.B.) Lekhotla lena le romela bana ba hae lifeneloana tsa lijo. Emong a hlalisoa ke kotsi moo a sebetsang. Ke mohlolahlai oa bana ba bararo. Khotla la ho patala basebetsi la nka nako e telele ho mo lokisetse. Empa la rona lekhotla la mofa ponto tse hlano. Ha lefu le hlalhetse emong oa maloko a rona, lekhotla le ee le ntse limpho. Tsohle tsena lija mokotla oa lekhotla. Joale re se re setse ka ponto tse leshome hore re qale hape ho haha khotla la rona. Re ipiletsa ho maloko kaofela hore a ntse 1/- Fumanang taba tsohle ka makhetho ho bao eleng mahlo a rona (shopstewards) le maloko a komiti. Thusang khotla la tsireletso hore le tsebe ho le thusa.

ISIVUMELWANE ESISHA

Ngomhlaka 30th September, 1956, kwa ku khona umhlangano wama Shop-Stewards ibandla laba sebenzi bama Londoni, nama Dilayiklini naba guqula imibala yezingubo.

Lomhlangano wawu xoxa ngesivumelwane esisha okufuneka sibe khona ku nyaka ozayo. Ngoba phela lesivumelwane esisebenza ngaphansi kwaso siya phela ku nyaka ozayo.

Ama shop-Stewards a xoxa kha-khulu ngempatho embi ezindaweni lapho e sebenza khona, futhi nange mali ephansi eholwa nga basebenzi, kanti basebenza kanzima.

Futhi kwaxoxwa kakhulu ngaba sebenzi abangafuni ukungena nga phansi kwe bandla, ngoba bayi ngozi kuba sebenzi. Nange ndaba ye phephandaba Iqiniso, ukuthi kuhle ba mafundiswe ukuba bathenge leli phephandaba.

Ukuze bazi ukuthi abanye basebenza kanjani kwe zinye izindawo, no kuthi bahola malini.

Futhi lomhlangano waxoxa ngo-ku qiniswa kwama shop-stewards kuzo zonke izindawo zoku sebenza ukuze ibandla lethu likwazi ukuba namandla. No kuthi ama shop-stewards kufuneka abize imihlangano lapho exebenza khona ukuxoxa ngezinto exikhathaza abasebenzi, no kuza ehovisini le bandla uma kukhona into abanga kwazi ukuyilungisa lapho basebenza khona.

YAGAZINI IQINISO

Lomhlangano wathatha isinqumo so kuthi kuhle ama oganayiza avakashele zonke izindawo zemisebenzi, ukucazela abasebenzi ngezinto ezicelwe kubanikazi misebenzi. Ikhona bayo kwazi ukuthi bazilwele.

No kuthi abasebenzi banga khohlwa ukuthi yonke iminyaka uma ibandla labo licele imali kuba banikazi misebenzi, baye bale bathi

abanamali abenzi inzuzo eyaneleyo.

Loku akusilona iqiniso, basuke nje benga funi uku khuphula imivuzo. Kulo nyaka kufuneka nime ngezinyawo nizimisele ukulwela amalungelo enu, kufuneka abasebenzi babe moya munye. Nino ngakhohlwa ukuthi ayikho into engase niyithole ngaphandle koku yilwela lapha ku lelizwe.

Asakhe I bandla lethu libe namandla.

A LETTER FROM A WORKER

THIS LETTER, which we have had to shorten, shows that the women of today are taking a lead in the fight for better wages and INKULULEKO.

Paulina says . . . "We must profit and learn from our losses — this requires intelligence. The gains which we win are not the important things in life. We are still dreaming of our freedom — but there are many who must still be taught to understand what this fight means. If we are thrown into prison, we must not despair — Prison cannot make us give up the fight. In all experiences and sufferings there is a lesson to be learnt. In hunger, in want, we should do everything for the strength of our unity — and the very strength of our Union depends on the co-operation of every member, and remember, the strength of a chain lies in every link. Let us have faith, courage and confidence in our Union. Pastor Niemöller who was thrown into a concentration camp in Germany wrote to some of his friends saying — 'in the old days I used to be a bearer of the gospel; now the gospel is bearing me'. That is how strong our faith in our cause must be. Let us plant our feet on solid ground, — we should know where we stand — and having the solid ground under us, we MUST WIN. Mayibuye Afrika".



WORKERS AT ADVANCE LAUNDRIES

A factory report back meeting on Bloemfontein Anti-Apartheid Conference.

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Canning Workers tell Bosses "WE CANT COME OUT!"

DEMANDING increases in wages for workers in Transvaal and Cape canning factories, Union representatives told the Conciliation Board that prices had risen steeply since 1953. Workers cannot come out on their wages.

EVERYTHING COSTS MORE

RENTS UP!

Owing to the great shortage of housing many families were forced to leave their old homes and look for new ones at an increased rent. 60 families who had lived for many years at Messrs. H. Jones & Co. (Paarl) property at 6/- per week were told to leave and had to find homes with the municipal housing scheme at 10/6d. per week and private houses at £6.0.0 per month. In addition to paying increased rentals they have to pay for transport which comes to about 8/- to 10/- per week for one person.

MORE FOR TRANSPORT

500 families have been moved from Zuider Paarl to the Municipal housing scheme at Klein Drakenstein and elsewhere as part of the Government's family-destroying apartheid policy. All these hundreds of workers have now to travel long distances at a cost of 10/- per week to them, in addition to having to rise earlier and get home later.

AT BOSSES' REQUEST

The Conciliation Board was appointed at the request of the employers to settle the dispute in the Fruit & Vegetable Canning Industry.

Our Union was represented at these negotiations by our Acting President C. Kilowan, Acting General Secretary Lizzie Abrahams, Vice-President J. Mentoor, Leon Levy our Johannesburg Secretary and D. Joseph our Ashton Chairman. Comrades Annie Adams and J. Fillies are alternates.

Workers all over the country are anxiously awaiting the results of these wage negotiations.

"Equality of opportunity and pay is the only basis for a healthy, united Trade Union movement..."

ALL WORKERS MUST ORGANISE FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

By E. MATAJO

THERE is a crisis of manpower. Whatever may be the possibility of a depression in the future, Industrial expansion has brought about a great shortage of workers for the skilled trades and other jobs that are usually filled by whites.

One need only think of the fuss that has been made in recent months over the employment of Coloured and African busmen, firemen and traffic police.

WORKERS DIVIDED

The latest example of this fear on the part of the white workers comes from Great Brak River near George. Here 109 white women workers went on strike against the employment of 2 Coloured men in the Closing Department.

The employers explained that white workers could not be found for the jobs done by the Coloured workers, but the women insisted that the men should be removed. They had their way, the 2 men are out of a job and the factory is working again pending an enquiry.

P.E. SCANDAL

An even more inhuman case of race prejudice is the expulsion of the 1,360 basket makers of Korsten Port Elizabeth. They are men, women and children from Bechuanaland who belong to a religious

sect and who have been making baskets, cabinets and other furniture. Their industry and ability to find customers for their goods stirred up the enmity of shopkeepers and furniture manufacturers.

To the discredit of the Trade Union movement, the Port Elizabeth Furniture Workers' Union lined up on the side of the bosses and storekeepers with the requests to the Government to deport this community. So, the order has been given and these people have been forced to leave their homes and go back to Bechuanaland.

In spite therefore of an Industrial boom and general economic expansion white workers are fearful of competition from African, Coloured and Indian workers.

This fear arises for different reasons, although they all boil

Canning Industry Pays Off - For The Bosses

"The Co-operative is the largest of its kind in the world and also the biggest in the Commonwealth for Canned Fruit. Its production of canned fruit increased

from 39,389,749 in 1954, to 153,362,200 lbs. in 1955." Mr. G. Whitehead, Managing Director of Langeberg Ko-op. Bpk.

The L.B.K.'s absorption of other canning companies in the Eastern Cape and Transvaal has stimulated H. Jones & Co. to increase its interests. It has extended its factory at Industria, Johannesburg, and built a new factory at Mallelane.

down to an attitude of colour prejudice and race superiority which is dead against the principles of Trade Unionism and working class unity.

BLIND PREJUDICE

White firemen, traffic police, busmen and leather workers are not afraid of losing their jobs or of having their wages and standards reduced. Non-Europeans are being appointed to these jobs because there are not enough white workers and not to take the place of existing white workers.

The fear in the minds of the white workers is therefore that the importance of their jobs and therefore their own importance will suffer if non-Europeans are employed. This is sheer blind prejudice which could arise only in a country such as ours where every human quality is valued according to skin, colour or hair texture.

The Korsten case is somewhat different. It arises from the common fear of being undercut by more efficient or cheaper producers.

What is common to all these cases is the readiness to use legal and political powers to defend privileges and profits.

This is of course the way capitalists always behave, by acting

NEW WAGE NEGOTIATIONS

MORE £. s. d. FOR FISH-CANNERS

Our Union has requested the Wage Board to investigate wages and conditions in the fish canning industry. The Union said:

"The first and only investigation held in the industry was held in 1955 which resulted in Wage Determination 123 of 1955. In 1952 a Conciliation Board Agreement arrived at between the

fish canners and employers granted higher wages for the fish canning workers. That agreement has expired 2 years ago.

"The fish-canning preserving industry has grown for the past 12 years. Many workers are not covered by the Wage Determination and are therefore at the mercy of their profit-greedy bosses."

FOOD COSTS MORE

Union representatives told the Conciliation Board that food prices had risen steeply in the past three years. Here are some examples.

MEAT	1/9d.	2/3d.
BREAD	7d.	9d.
SUGAR	4d.	6d.
BEANS	9d.	1/4d.

FOOD WORKERS PROTEST AT GROUP AREA REMOVALS

10,000 Coloured and Malay people face the threat of transfer from the West Bank of the river and the loss of houses worth £1,000,000 if the proposals of the European "Ratepayers Association" are adopted by the Group Areas Board. The Association wants all non-Europeans removed to the East Bank and their property.

The Paarl Branch of the FCWU is vigorously opposing the proposal. An appeal has been issued by it.

"We here in Paarl are facing a crisis. In this crisis we must not panic nor must we say "alles sal reg kom" and do nothing. If we will do nothing the Government will carry out the wishes of the European Ratepayers' Association and our homes, churches, schools, that we have built up by great sacrifices, will be taken away from us.

"Let us meet, put our heads together and find ways and means of defending our churches, homes and schools".

THE FOOD AND CANNING WORKERS UNION WISHES ALL READERS A MERRY XMAS. MAY 1957 TAKE OUR UNION TO EVER GREATER STRENGTH

in this way, the white workers put themselves on the side of the bosses and not on the side of the workers. The working class is divided and weakened as a result.

What is the answer to this betrayal of working class principles? It is this: Coloured, Indian and African workers must organise on 100% basis to protect themselves not only against exploitation by the bosses but also for the right to work.

Equality of opportunity as well as equality of pay is the only basis on which a healthy, progressive

and United Trade Union movement can be established. Non-European workers must not become disheartened or lose faith in Trade Unionism.

It is not Trade Unionism that is in error. The fault lies with white workers who have not freed themselves from racial prejudice.

Strong and militant Trade Unions will help to show the white workers that they are wrong and so prepare the way for a forward struggle for a happy, prosperous and peaceful way of life.

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