

LAUGHTER AT THE "TREASON" ENQUIRY, SO

MAGISTRATE THREATENS TO CONTINUE IN ABSENCE OF ACCUSED

DEFENCE ADVOCATE REBUKED

From Lionel Forman
Drill Hall, Johannesburg.

THERE was laughter in the court at one stage during the evidence of a detective at the "treason" enquiry last week—so the magistrate warned the accused angrily that if this happened again he would consider having them removed and having the trial continued in their absence.

A heated exchange between the magistrate and defence advocate Mr. Vernon Berrange followed as the result of a rebuke addressed by the magistrate to Mr. Berrange.

The incident occurred during the cross-examination of Detective Isaac Sharp on notes which he had made. Asked by Mr. Berrange "Do you write your notes consecutively or do you leave gaps and then fill things in?" Sharp replied "I write consecutively."

Berrange: You have the time 2.30 noted?—Yes.

Berrange: All the names of the people who arrived are written below the line on which the time 2.30 appears?—Yes.

Berrange: But some of those people actually arrived before 2.30?—Yes.

Berrange: So you could not have written everything consecutively?—I filled in the time afterwards.

Berrange: But did you not say you wrote everything consecutively?—No.

Magistrate: You did say it. Sharp: Well then I did say it. (Laughter in Court.) Sharp: There's no need to laugh. (Renewed laughter.)

MAGISTRATE INTERVENES

This was the stage at which the magistrate delivered a lecture to the accused, warning them that he could continue in their absence. He then addressed Mr. Berrange.

"I have noticed that you are sometimes inclined to put your questions in such a way as to raise a laugh," he said. "I don't say you did it this time."

Berrange: Would your worship be so kind as to tell me at the time? Magistrate: It was not the present occasion.

Berrange: Then I would appreciate it if the matter was raised at the time. Is your worship administering to me a rebuke? Magistrate: That is so.

Berrange: Then I wish your worship would raise it at the time. Magistrate: I found it convenient so do so at this stage.

QUIT EGYPT MEETING

A detective, Benedict Myimbana, gave evidence of a public meeting at the Broadway Cinema, Fordsburg last November, called to protest against the invasion of Egypt.

Berrange: Where were you sitting? Myimbana: I was sitting right in the front.

Berrange: Where was Sgt. Sharp sitting? Myimbana: He was sitting behind me. Both of us were sitting at the back of the hall.

Berrange: But you have just said you were at the front. Myimbana: I meant I was in front of Sharp.

Berrange: Nobody mentioned Sharp. I put it to you that you were not sitting in the hall at all—you were standing outside next to the door.

Myimbana: I was in the meeting from beginning to end.

Shown the first page of his notes the witness examined them and said they were made while he was in the meeting. Then separately he examined pages 2 and 3.

"I took down these notes while I was sitting inside the meeting" he said after each examination.

Mr. Berrange then read from pages 1, 2 and 3, showing that they noted the arrival of people at the meeting and the numbers of the cars in which they arrived.

Mr. Berrange: Do you still say

you wrote these notes inside the meeting? "I wrote those pages while I was outside."

Magistrate: You now say they were written outside?—Yes.

Berrange: Do you still say you wrote the notes inside?—(No answer.)

Berrange: Yes or No?—(No answer.)

Berrange: Yes or No?—Some were written outside.

Magistrate: Are you trying to say portions were written inside and portions outside?—It is possible.

Magistrate: (sharply) What is possible?—I took some down before the meeting started.

Magistrate: You have already told the court that pages 1 and 2 were written inside the hall.—It is possible that I said it.

Magistrate: It is not possible. You did say it.

WHAT TIME WAS IT?

There was some difficulty in ascertaining the time the meeting

EVIDENCE OF CAPE MEETINGS BEGINS

EVIDENCE of Transvaal meetings has now been completed, and last Thursday evidence of Cape Town meetings began.

The first Cape speeches to be reported were those made by Messrs. Len Lee-Warden M.P., George Peake and Greenwood Ngoyana at the Strand in 1954.

This is Sgt. Johnson's report of the speeches at this two-hour meeting in its entirety:

"Lee-Warden: The present government wants to rob you the Africans, they want to take away your education. If you stand together and fight this government in the struggle you will defeat the government. We are preparing for the C.O.P. which will be held in Johannesburg next year.

George Peake: The present government is oppressing us. We want support for the next big conference of C.O.P. Greenwood praat hierna in Xosa.

Adv. Slovo (cross-examining): Lee-Warden must have spoken for nearly an hour?—Yes.

Slovo: Why out of everything he said did you pick these few words? Johnson: It was an attack on the government. It is my duty to bring to the attention of the government any political attack which I consider important.

LIKE THE RAND DETECTIVES, CAPE TOWN SPECIAL BRANCH MEN VLOK AND WHITE AGREED THAT ALL SPEAKERS EXPLAINED THE NEED FOR RACIAL HARMONY AND THAT MUCH THE SAME LINE WAS TAKEN AT MOST

OF THE MEETINGS THEY ATTENDED.

"Many times at ANC meetings I have heard non-violence advocated. The same applies to meetings of other Congresses," Vlok said.

TAILOPPICES:

SHORTEST CROSS-EXAMINATION

Last week saw the shortest cross-examination of a detective since the proceedings began.

Mr. Berrange: When you go to meetings do you go with the object of seeing if any offences are being committed?"

Detective Mollson: I don't understand.

Berrange: No further questions. I just want the court to appreciate how much you do understand.

THE MISSING SPECTACLES

Detective Moseleli Maselala enters the box. Prosecutor: Will you read from your notes. Maselala: I can't your worship. The man has gone away with his spectacles.

Magistrate: Your spectacles? Maselala: His spectacles. Magistrate: Whose spectacles? Maselala: His spectacles. I use his spectacles.

Magistrate (to Prosecutor): Does this man wear spectacles? Prosecutor: I'm afraid he does.

Clerk of the Court: (Takes his own spectacles from his pocket.) Try these.

Maselela: Puts on the spectacles, finds them satisfactory, and the case continues.

started. "It began at 2 p.m." said Detective Constable Van Heerden.

"It began at 2.30 p.m." said Myimbana.

"It started at 1.20 p.m. said Sgt. Isaac Sharp. A little later in his evidence he corrected himself. "The meeting actually started at 2.30" and a short while later he declared: "The meeting was opened at 3.10 p.m."

Mr. Berrange: Do you make a distinction between a meeting opening and a meeting starting?

Sharp: When I say a meeting opens I mean that people start singing. When I talk of a meeting starting it is when the Chairman declares the meeting open.

PEOPLE'S LEADERS BACK NEW AGE

(Continued from page 1)

behalf of the 30,700 workers affiliated to SACTU we reaffirm our solidarity with NEW AGE. NEW AGE has helped every worker, organised or unorganised. It has stood on the picket lines during strikes; it has comforted strikers in the gaols; it has told of workers' struggles and victories the world over.

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LAST WEEK'S DONATIONS:

Cape Town: £46.10.

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Johannesburg: Vand Co. £10; Lucky Girl 10s.; Fordsburg Colls. £1.1.6; T.I.V.C. Collections £9.3.9; Ray £16.

S. £5; Furniture £5; M. £5; Lucky 13 £5; Garment Workers £1.8; M.M. £5; Izzy Colls. £6.5; Another New Sympathiser £125; R.R. £3.

TOTAL—£305 19s. 9d.



The procession of mourners at the funeral of the late Chief Msutu was over 3 miles long. At the head marched an old man carrying the skin of a black sheep which was slaughtered for the ceremony.

THOUSANDS MOURN PEDDIE CHIEF WHO DIED IN EXILE

From Govan Mbeki

PORT ELIZABETH.

LATELY you were openly antagonistic to duly constituted authority and you actively opposed the application of laws, including the Bantu Education Act, 1953, enacted by Parliament. You connived with agitators who are opposed to measures designed to promote the welfare of the Native population, and you assisted them and took part in the holding of unlawful meetings."

These were the terms of a letter written by the Native Commissioner, Peddie, setting out reasons for the deportation of the late Chief Ndlovu Msutu. The letter stated that the reasons are based on information furnished, but did not state the source.

The letter was read at the great funeral of a great people's chief and leader who died in exile in the district of Vryburg on April 2, 1957.

WOULD RATHER DIE

Six months ago, on September 28, 1956, Chief Ndlovu Msutu attended a meeting at the Native Commissioner's Office at Peddie where he, together with other headmen, had been called. When he

was pressed to accept Government policies to which his people were opposed, he said that he would rather die than do that, stated Mr. Robert Mgxwati, his chief counsellor, as he addressed over 2,000 people at the graveside on the life and struggles of the man who stood by his convictions and upheld the torch of freedom unto death.

In measured tones the white-haired counsellor in his seventies recounted the bitter struggles in which the Chief had stood by his people in spite of Government pressure, and when all the other chiefs and headmen had yielded to the pressure of the Native Affairs Department officials, Turning round to look at Ndlovu's home, where many a meeting has been held, he paused while thousands of anxious eyes were fixed on him.

"When we asked Ndlovu Msutu to stand firm," he went on, "we also assured him that we would rise or fall with him. He has honoured our decision and paid with his life. Let us make a solemn pledge here and now not to let him down by betraying the cause of freedom for which he has paid so dearly."

There was a murmur of indignation when the people were told



The hole in the wall of his home through which the body of Chief Msutu was taken.

that the Native Commissioner failed to answer the question put to him by Msutu's 19-year-old son: why had he not brought his father home when he was ill?

Other speakers included a representative of the ANC (Cape), Mr. Hanam Mfocane and the veteran fighter Evangelist Solomon Nongubo, who has spent many a month in jail.

TRADITIONAL RITES

Because of the high esteem in which Chief Msutu was held, the funeral brought together in glorious harmony the past, present and the future. The old traditional rites were observed for the burial of a chief. A hole was broken through the wall of his home so that those who are sworn to absolute loyalty to the Chief (Amafa Nankosi) and the people's cause should crawl out while bearing the Chief's body. A black sheep had been slaughtered and its skin was spread in the grave where his remains were laid, after his proxy (one of the dedicated Counsellors) had lain on his back in the grave before the coffin was lowered. A minister of the Church conducted the funeral service, while the ANC volunteers who are dedicated to one loyalty—national liberation—were in the vanguard representing the future. They were drawn from Port Elizabeth and Peddie itself. Leading the large mass of people in singing: "Let Ndlovu Msutu's name be honoured," were red-blanketed women who served jail sentences in the Defence Campaign.

Collaborators ostracised

Scarcely a hundred yards from Ndlovu's home is the home of Sontswayimba Msutu, who has been appointed headman by the Native Commissioner. His father and Ndlovu's are brothers, yet neither he nor his family attended the funeral. For collaborating with the Nationalist Government he and his family are completely ostracised. At Peddie they make the life of a collaborator a thorough misery.

Until his release a few weeks before his death Ndlovu had lived with Joe Lengisi, who has been allowed to return to Engcobo where he was born.

FOREIGN NEWS ROUND-UP

INDIAN COMMUNISTS DOUBLE THEIR VOTE

THE final results of the recent elections held in India show that while Congress maintains a substantial majority in the central Parliament and in all but two of the State Assemblies, sweeping gains have been made by the Communists, who emerge as the most powerful of the opposition parties.

All seats in the Indian Parliament have now been filled, except for six from mountain districts at present snowbound, where polling is likely to be postponed until June. Six more seats are reserved for members designated by the legislative Assembly of Kashmir.

Out of the 488 seats filled, Congress holds 366, Communists 29, Praja Socialists 18, Scheduled Castes Federation 7, Dissident Socialists 6, Jan Sangh 4, and various sectional parties and independents 58.

The Communist Party has more than doubled the number of votes polled in the previous elections in 1951-52. Contesting 115 parliamentary seats it polled over 11 million votes against five million at the last elections when it contested 69 seats and won 26. Its share of the total poll has risen from 5 per cent to 9.8 per cent.

The Congress Party, which contested all but a few seats on both occasions, has polled 54 million this time, 46.5 per cent of the total poll; compared with 47 million votes and 45 per cent last time. The Praja Socialists' vote dropped from 17 million last time, when they contested 400 seats and won 20, to under 12 million in 115 constituencies.

For the first time the Communists will be represented in the Legislatures of every State.

The victory of the Communists in the Kerala State came as a great shock to the Congress. Despite the fact that they threw all available resources into their campaign in the

State, they were unable to prevent the Communists from securing an absolute majority.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

A JOINT communique has been issued by a five-man French Communist Party delegation and leaders of the Yugoslav League of Communists after a week of talks recently held in Belgrade and Ljubljana.

The talks were "very useful and positive" after the interruption in their relations, it was declared, laying the basis for the "re-establishment and development of normal fraternal relations between the two Parties."

On Hungary the Parties agreed that despite different interpretations of the Hungarian events it was necessary to support the revolutionary workers' and peasants' Government of Janos Kadar, in the interests of the Hungarian people, of peace and Socialism.

The two Parties agreed on the "great importance" of the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party. They said that co-operation between Communist Parties and Socialist countries, which represented an "immense force" with great importance for peace and development of Socialism, must take into account "different experiences in the building of Socialism and the national characteristics of individual countries."

"Differences in views which exist on individual questions should not, in the opinion of the delegations, represent an obstacle to the achievement of normal and successful co-operation" on questions on which there was agreement between the two Parties.

"We categorically reject all attempts at undermining these basic principles as well as dogmatic and mechanical application of experiences of one Party or Socialist country to another."

STATE VISIT LONDON. The Soviet President, Marshal Voroshilov, is due to pay a State visit to Indonesia next month.

MEANWHILE, in Warsaw a joint communique has been



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Ben Tshume, the new Chief of Volunteers, addressing the large gathering at the unveiling ceremony.

The People Honour Nangoza Jebe

PORT ELIZABETH.

ON March 23, 1955, a sten gun barked in the quiet of the night at Embizweni Square, New Brighton. A few minutes later two men lay wounded on the ground, and about a hundred yards away under an electric light lay the body of a young Congress Volunteer in uniform. It was Nangoza Jebe; he had been mortally wounded by the police shooting.

On the following day the police issued a statement that they had acted in self defence while they were dispersing an illegal procession.

On March 30 over 30,000 people, 12 to 15 abreast, marched solemnly behind the coffin which was borne shoulder high by uniformed Volunteers. At the head of this historic funeral procession flew, at half mast, the tricolour banner of the ANC.

On the first anniversary of the funeral the ANC (New Brighton) decided to unveil the simple tombstone which was made possible by the efforts of the Youth League. Owing to the funeral of the Rev. Tshume on March 30 the ceremony was postponed to April 7.

Three hours before it started New Brighton was once again alive with people coming from

all directions—the men in their tunics, the women and the Pioneer children from the Cultural Clubs in khaki shirts and wearing woollen ties knitted in the Congress colours. At Maduka Street, where a vast throng had gathered 12 months before to listen to speeches over the remains of the young Volunteer, thousands gathered not only to commemorate the anniversary and take part in an unveiling ceremony, but also to renew the pledge to live and die for the same noble ideas and goals in whose pursuit the young Nangoza had laid down his life.

But even the memory to the dead is a frightful thing in the eyes of a government that from fear rules with fear. The District Commandant, accompanied by the Station Commander, came and ordered that there should be no procession.

As one speaker after another recounted the dreadful conditions in which the African lives, told of new legislation now before Parliament, called upon the people to rally to the banner of the ANC to fight Nationalist oppression, men and women were overwhelmed and tears rolled down their cheeks.

Thousands of people walked to the cemetery for the unveiling ceremony—but there was no procession.

GOVT. SMARTING UNDER BOYCOTT DEFEAT

BETWEEN Monday and Thursday last week, before climbing into their new Cadillacs to get in some huntin' and fishin' during the Easter recess, the Cabinet managed to do more damage than usual to the welfare of the country. Lack of space prevents detailed discussion of their activities. I must confine myself to the main features of the week:

BUS BOYCOTT

One of Johannesburg's commerce chiefs has been meeting the Minister of Transport, Mr. Ben Schoeman, to discuss the future of bus transport for Africans on the Rand. The talks serve to highlight the Government's role in the bus dispute. Its contribution during the long, critical weeks of the boycott was to bully, threaten and obstruct. When the negotiations were taken out of its hands by employers and private individuals and brought to a successful conclusion, it sat on the sidelines and sniped.

The credit for the present breathing space goes to the boycott leaders and to the employers and individuals who followed the democratic method of negotiation, while Mr. Swart's policemen stood in the background swinging their batons. But what happens next? Will the Government co-operate in using the three-month breathing space to achieve a lasting settlement? Mr. Schoeman's attitude gives no grounds for optimism.

Schoeman, in reply to Graaff, said that a full inquiry into the economic and other circumstances of the African people which gave rise to the boycott, was not considered necessary. The furthest the Minister was prepared to go was to say that wage determinations for unskilled (i.e. African) labour on the Rand and in Pretoria would receive priority when the Wage Board's programme was prepared in terms of the provisions of the Wage Act of 1957. Graaff replied that Schoeman was not being helpful, because the Wage Board's procedure was laborious. A Wage Board determination covering all unskilled workers on the Rand—each group of workers would have to be dealt with separately—could

take many, many months.

Schoeman threw more cold water on the hopes that had been raised. It was quite possible, he said, that the boycott might break out again.

Obviously, the Government is smarting under the defeat it has suffered. From the start, it treated the boycott as a "trial of strength"; if the boycott must be regarded as such, then clearly the African people emerged triumphant from the "trial of strength"—although

Looking At Parliament

they never gave this particular twist to their perfectly justified protest against an unjust increase in fares.

The Government now can follow one of two courses: either it can obstruct attempts to achieve a lasting settlement, provoke a renewed boycott, and engage in another trial of strength (which is what some of its wild men are urging it to do); or else it can use its positions—a position enjoyed by none of the other "interested parties"—to alleviate the economic plight of the African people and thus prevent fresh outbreaks.

Will the Government be so reckless as to reject the path of co-operation, the path of peace?

UNIVERSITY

APARTHEID

The original university apartheid Bill having been withdrawn, because it was a hybrid Bill affecting private rights (and thus requiring a special procedure), the new Bill was introduced last week. It merely postpones the transfer of Fort Hare to Verwoerd's department, and of the Non-European Medical School in Durban to the Department of Education. The reprieve is very, very temporary.

The Bill now before Parliament gives the Government the right to refuse to admit any Non-White students to the "mixed" or "open" universities (like Wits and U.C.T.) as from January 1 next year. In practice, Non-White students probably will still be admitted, because the Non-White "universities" have not been built yet—although it is suggested that the Government will peg the number of Non-White students enrolling at Wits and U.C.T. to prevent a beat-the-ban rush.

The Government report on the kind of Non-White "universities"

that should be established was published last week and it threw light on what Dr. Verwoerd has in mind. The cost of these universities will be ridiculously low—and therefore obviously inferior. A limited range of subjects will be available to African, Coloured and Indian students. There will be no instruction in dentistry, engineering or architecture, and a variety of other subjects are omitted from the curriculum. The only medical training will be at the Durban school.

The Non-White "universities" are exactly what we feared they would be: indoctrination colleges where the Non-White student will be trained as a permanent servant of White baasskap. Apart from the Durban medical school, which will be open to all Non-Whites, Coloureds will be separated from Indians, both will be separated from Africans, and Africans themselves will be separated according to their "ethnic groups"—Zulu, Xhosa and Sotho.

NATIVE LAWS

AMENDMENT BILL

Finally, I want to recall a revealing exchange between Mrs. Ballinger and Dr. Verwoerd during the debate on the Native Laws Bill.

Mrs. Ballinger had expressed concern over the instability of the urban African's life, and Dr. Verwoerd replied: Africans would get rights in their own areas. In the European areas they would be purely in the service of the Europeans, even though they remained there for a generation or two. Their security was not to be found in the European area. They could not get permanent rights there and they could remain there only so long as the Europeans were able to accept them.

Dr. Verwoerd has said this sort of thing before, but this time he proclaimed it during a debate on a Bill which closes probably all the loopholes for entry by Africans into the towns. There does not seem to be the slightest doubt that when the Native Laws Amendment Bill becomes law, the African people can expect a new reign of terror to drive them out of the towns.

C.P.E.

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Bloemfontein ANC Leader Acquitted

BLOEMFONTEIN.

The charge against Mr. Billy Mokhonoana was withdrawn by the Public Prosecutor in the Bloemfontein Magistrate's Court last week.

Mr. Mokhonoana, who is an artist, was arrested on February 18 in connection with the bus boycott. It was alleged that he was responsible for the printing and distribution of boycott leaflets which did not bear his signature as required by Section 7 of Act 14 of 1934.

The charge was withdrawn without any evidence having been led and Mokhonoana was discharged.

A Son For Stella Damons

PORT ELIZABETH.

Stella Damons, the trade union leader who has been appearing at the treason inquiry in Johannesburg, has given birth to a son here.

She was given permission to be away from the inquiry from March 29. "I arrived back in Port Elizabeth just in time to have my baby," she said.

Durban Textile Workers Back SACTU Policy

DURBAN.

WELL over 800 textile workers filled the Avalon Cinema to capacity when the annual general meeting of the Textile Workers' Industrial Union of S.A. (Durban Branch) was held on Sunday, March 31, 1957.

The meeting began in a very tense atmosphere with an opposition faction, which included a number of non-union members and hooligans, trying their best to create a disturbance in order to force an adjournment. However, the majority of the workers took a firm stand and refused to allow the meeting to be disrupted. The major portion of the business was completed before the meeting terminated.

An overwhelming majority returned Mr. R. J. Singh as Chairman for the third term running. Mr. R. Chin was elected Vice-Chairman and Mr. Mannie Moodley Treasurer. The former Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. Issacs, and Miss Amy Carters were elected Joint Secretaries.

Mr. Alec Wanless, the former

Secretary, did not stand for election.

The new officials have been elected on their stand for maximum unity with all workers of all races and have pledged to play their full part in the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions. Further, the workers have pledged to work in co-operation and equal partnership with the African Textile Workers.

BREAKAWAY GROUP

Officials of the union interviewed by New Age stated that there was apparently a break-away section in the union, headed by a certain small group of workers who are mainly concentrated at the Afritex Mills.

Miss Carters stated that there is no hope of the National Union recognising this group, who represented only one sixth of the total membership, and registration for them would be strenuously opposed. She added that it was possible this group would apply for affiliation to the South African Trades Union Council.

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