

SECTION 9. - "There shall be houses, security and confort."

HOUSING:Introduction.

1. Speakers should note that of all local issues Housing probably is the best point on which to win over people. Speakers should make a point of reminding audiences that good housing can be achieved for everyone. A few photos or newspaper cuttings showing good blocks of flats help to convince people now living in pondoks that life can be better when we win freedom. Paint a picture of a better life to come - on earth, not in heaven.
2. South Africa now ranks as one of the countries in the world with the worst housing problem due to rapid industrialisation and the failure of UP and NAT Governments to build houses for the people. Thus we need 350,000 by 1962 to catch up with the shortage. We build 4,000 a year. Or in other words we are nearly 100 years behind schedule. (by comparison England has a 15 years backlog, USA 19, Germany 23. South Africa at 100 years is about the Worlds worst).
3. Some figures about S.A. Housing. Average European house costs £3,000. Average African £3000. 20,000 European houses built last year, 3,000 African. European housing costs £31 million last year, African £1 million. An African house has NO floors other than mud, no ceiling, no internal doors, no running water, no lights, in fact it isn't a house but only a shelter of the thinnest brickwork.
4. Cape Town, the liberal City. We need 20,000 Coloured houses, Council built 500 last year. Backlog therefore of 40 years. Try putting it this way in your speech. "A coloured worker who gets married at 25 years old and applies for a Council house will get it when he is 65".
This is life under the NATS.
Council last year built 240 African houses, rent £2-10 per month. An African worker earns £12 per month, rent is £2.10.0, transport £1 and more, leaving £8.10.0 to feed, educate and clothe his family. Durban built 216 African houses last year. Rent £3. per month. Durban needs 24,000 African Houses alone. Indians are even worse off and no plans are under consideration for them.
Cape Town is now concentrating on building "Concentration" type hostels, 4,000 units being built last year. Rent £1. No wives or families allowed. This is the break up of the African family and the breeding ground for social vices. 17,000 Africans are planned to be moved to Nyanga this May, and then screened for staying in Cape or deportation. No houses to be built at Nyanga for two years - maybe never. Move to take place at beginning of winter in Army lorries. Forced removal and destruction of pondoks. This must be our major campaign from now on. Stress this.
5. Can we solve the housing problem under the Nats or UP. No. Never.
6. Why not: Because of the system of National and Class oppression operating in S.A. It is vital to relate all our social evils to the policies of the Nats. The Nat policy is War in the international field and oppression at home. The following figures will help you prove this.
The Government spends one million pounds each year on African housing, BUT
It spends £25 million a year on the armed services.
This figure was £9 million before the Korean war. Therefore it follows that if the Congress movement mobilises for Peace the money saved can be used for housing. Peace is vital to solve the housing problem.

This £25 million could build 60,000 houses a year at current prices for Africans, thus catching up on the housing shortage in five years.

In South Africa the Government spends £12million annually on the police. This figure was £7 million before the Nationalists came in. The increased national and class oppression in our country means a direct cut in social services including housing. Thus £12 million on police and only £1 million on housing for Africans. This £12 million could build 30,000 African houses.

Similarly the "modernisation" of the S.A. Navy, now costing £18 million could build 45,000 African houses. In fact the housing shortage could be overcome in a short time given Peace and a People's Government serving South Africa.

IT IS CLEAR THAT WAR AND RACIALISM MEAN AMONG OTHER THINGS BAD HOUSING FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE. PEACE AND RACIAL HARMONY MEAN AMONG OTHER THINGS GOOD HOUSING AND A BETTER LIFE.

7. Site and Service schemes is the answer of the Nationalists. What is Site and Service? For "site" the Nats. mean "bare veld" For "Service" the Nats mean lavatories at intervals of 200 yards.

Site and Service means new slums for old. It means moving people from one area to another. It does NOT mean better housing for the non-white people. In fact in towns like Port Elizabeth housing has been cut down and Site and Service schemes planned to replace the housing schemes.

*. Why has the Government chosen this method of "rehousing" our People?

Firstly so that they can better control the people in one spot. There they can screen the people, issue and check passes, control their political activities. In a site and service camp you will have to obtain permission to hold a meeting, have visitors - even African visitors? you can be moved from site to site as the camp commandant desires. You will have even less freedom than you have now.

Secondly, the government wishes to take away the land of the African people as at Lady Selbourne in Pretoria where the Africans have freehold rights over their own land.

Thirdly, it wants to move Africans and Coloureds away from European areas and give the land to Europeans for factory and housing growth.

9. Our demands: WE OPPOSE REMOVAL SCHEMES.
LET THE PEOPLE LIVE WHERE THEY WISH.
BUILD HOUSES FOR THE PEOPLE AT LOWER RENTS.
WE OPPOSE THE FENCED-IN CAMPS IN WHICH THE
NATS WANT THE PEOPLE TO LIVE.
WE OPPOSE ALL LAWS WHICH BREAK UP OUR FAMILIES.

10. Speakers should stress that not only Africans are affected.

The policy for Cape Town has been stated quite openly by the Government and councils.

- First: Move Africans to Nyanga from the "black spots"
Second: Move Africans and their families from Langa to Nyanga for screening.
Third: Langa will be a bachelor town until more Africans have been deported from Nyanga.

Then COMES THE TURN OF THE COLOURED PEOPLE.
HOW WILL THE GOVERNMENT "SOLVE" THE COLOURED HOUSING PROBLEM?
By moving the coloured people first to Langa and later to Nyanga.

This can be fought by all sections - by workers, by professional men, by coloured house-owners who will lose their homes and land under the Group Areas Act.

Add to this ACTIVITY NOTES ISSUED BY ELSIES RIVER A.N.C.
"WHY WE OPPOSE REMOVALS."

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RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

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