

# BANTU EDUCATION SHOCK FOR PARENTS

**NEW AGE**

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## Children Barred From Schools in Urban Areas

From Govan Mbeki  
PORT ELIZABETH.  
THE decision of the Bantu Administration Department to enforce strictly the provisions of the influx control regulations has dealt a crippling blow to secondary education.

In a circular letter issued towards the end of last year school boards and principal teachers in urban areas were instructed to refuse admission to children coming from outside the urban area in which the school is situated. This is affecting the secondary schools most unfavourably.

### MAY CLOSE DOWN

In some urban locations there is only one primary school from which the pupils for the secondary are drawn. In such areas the schools are threatened with closure. In almost all these secondary schools 75% of the pupils enrolled come from peri-urban areas and the reserves.

In the smaller towns such as Grahamstown, Kingwilliamstown, Queenstown and Kokstad the effect of the order has been to reduce the number of those to be admitted when the schools reopen to so small a number that some class rooms will not be occupied. The only justification for keeping these schools open will be to allow the pupils in the second and third year to complete their education.

Also according to the grading of the Standard VI passes into first, second and third class, only first class passes are to be allowed to

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## VOTE DEPUTATION SEES ADMINISTRATOR

CAPE TOWN.

TO disfranchise the Cape Coloured municipal voters would be grossly mischievous in its effects on all groups and would place the administration of civic affairs in the complete control of Europeans with consequent lessening of inter-racial goodwill and understanding.

This was the tone of the memorandum submitted to the Administrator of the Cape Province by a deputation from the Committee for the Defence of the Non-racial Municipal Franchise.

Those on the deputation were ex-Chief Justice Van Der Sandt Centlivres, Mr. Barney Desai (SACPO vice-president), Councillors H. E. Parker and E. A. Deane, Mrs. M. G. Roberts and Mr. H. A. Wright.

### NO SUBSTITUTE

"The proposal to establish local boards for Coloured Group Areas would provide no substitute for the existing civic rights," the memorandum stated. "It would have no effect in obviating the injustices and hardships.

"We are entirely opposed to the Group Areas Act and its implementation and we do not believe it to be capable of implementation without the grossest injustice to the non-white peoples, and indeed to many members of the white group too."

Even if the Act was implemented, the memorandum said, the most it could do would be to bring about some measure of separation between Coloured and other groups. The vast bulk of Coloured residents would continue to work outside such areas and there would be no separate Coloured economy.

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The deputation that protested to the Administrator, Dr. du Plessis, against his Coloured vote plan: from the left, Mr. B. Desai, ex-Chief Justice Centlivres, Councillor H. E. Parker, Mrs. M. G. Roberts, Councillor E. A. Deane and Mr. H. A. Wright.

## VIRGINIA RIOTS—MINERS ALLEGE BEATINGS BY POLICE

An on-the-spot report from Tennyson Makiwane  
VIRGINIA (O.F.S.)

OVER 200 African miners here were arrested after the riots on Tuesday of last week which were one of the biggest disturbances ever experienced on the Free State goldfields.

The workers, charged with public violence, are now awaiting trial in Ventersburg jail.

The cause of the trouble, according to many mineworkers interviewed by New Age, was the bad treatment meted out to the workers. Mine police, instructed by an induna who was in charge of the Basuto section, made a daily practice of assaulting the workers with sticks and belts when they woke them up for duty.

The workers complained directly to the compound manager about this sort of treatment, but obtained no satisfaction.

### DEMANDED MEETING

On the Tuesday afternoon a large batch of underground workers refused to go on duty

and demanded a meeting to redress their grievances.

"We are underpaid yet we are forced to work at the point of a stick," said the workers.

The manager and indunas attempted to pacify them but the mine police began to molest the workers. As a result the indignation of the workers knew no bounds.

### ATTACKED

Infuriated, they attacked the mine police and indunas. The compound manager ran and locked himself up in one of the offices.

The workers were hacking at the door with picks when South African police reinforcements arrived on the scene.

Meanwhile the windows of all the offices were broken with stone-throwing and a store-room and its contents were burnt. A truck and a car belonging to one hated induna were set alight.

The police made several baton charges on the workers and one worker was shot through the leg, but an ugly blood bath was prevented when one police officer shouted to his men: "No shooting."

Further infuriated by police action, some workers went on to

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## Conference of Women's Federation

JOHANNESBURG.

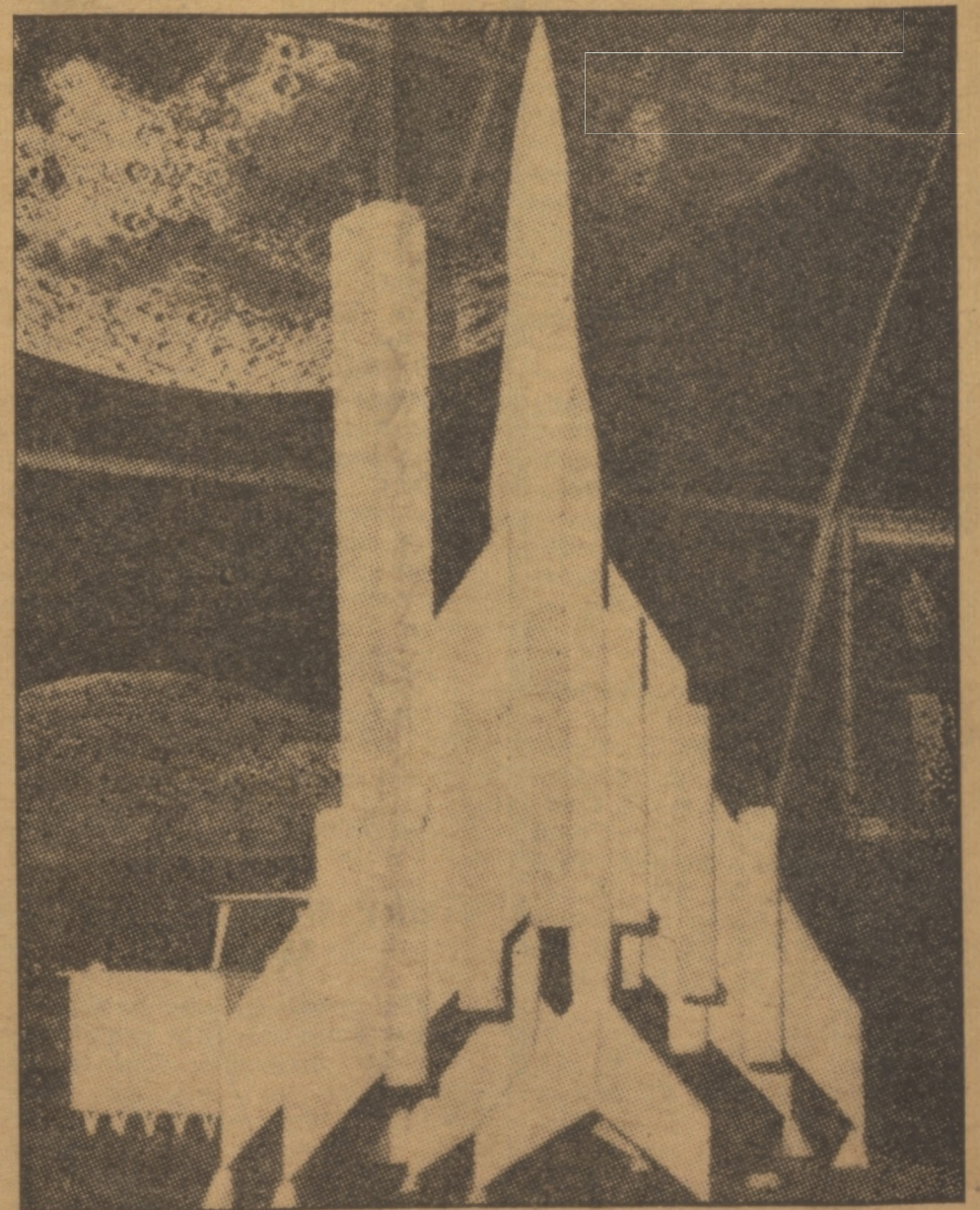
Thousands of women of all races are expected to attend the conference of the Women's Federation in the Transvaal at the Gandhi Hall on January 25. The conference will last the whole day.

The women delegates hope to register the most formidable protest to date against the proposed ban on mixed meetings. Should the ban succeed, future meetings of the Federation, which has a White and Non-White membership, may not be possible.

It is also hoped that from the conference a new militant phase in the anti-pass struggle will emerge.

Other matters due for discussion are the Group Areas Act, with particular reference to the hardships imposed upon Indian children whose schools have been removed to areas many miles from their homes.

The conference will be opened by Father Jarrett-Kerr.



This is the model of the Soviet moon rocket now on display at a space travel exhibition in Prague.



## LIBERALS MUST DROP THEIR ANTI-COMMUNISM

The Liberals should not hesitate to co-operate with each and every group that is fighting for freedom.

What motivates me to say this is the attitude the Liberals adopt concerning the Communists.

The Liberals have one thing in common with the Communists — the upliftment of the artificially poor, the spearhead of the whole venture being our Congresses.

The Liberals should also remember when Hitler's Germany threatened the world Communist Russia and capitalist Europe joined forces against the monster that aimed at destroying both of them.

So these two should for the present bury their differences and spare no time in their fight for human rights. They may settle their accounts later.

W. M. KOBO.  
Port Elizabeth.

Like the Africanists and Unity Group, some Liberals are now busy destroying rather than constructing. Some among the Li-

beral leadership fume and foam at the mouth at the mere mention of Communism, Socialism or the Soviet Union.

They are dead afraid of being mistaken for Communists and so they have constitutionalised themselves against this disease, but still fearful they rub it in every time — outside their printed constitution.

At the time when Verwoerd is pleading with his Western world for better "understanding" of his most respectable and most reactionary of all such Western governments, these Liberals are falling over each other in their protestations that in fact it is THEY who are the real missionaries who fight against the evil of Communism or any such ism.

It appears that these Liberals have now become part and parcel of the Western, particularly American-British, Cold War machine which, sensing the way the African giant is turning, are putting everything in their efforts to prevent the real culprit from suffering by deflecting the wrath on the Africans' nearest friends.

Come on, real and sincere Liberals, stop this dangerous nonsense and do the good and true thing to the people whose vote you seek.

OBSERVER.

Cape Town.

## Cape Nurses Boycotted Apartheid Conference

In a letter headed "Non-European Nurses will never accept apartheid" in your issue of January 1, Mrs. Mvabaza on behalf of the Federation of S.A. Nurses writes that

"Although a number of Non-Europeans recently met in Pretoria and Cape Town as apartheid branches under the South African Nursing Association . . ."

If Mrs. Mvabaza is referring to the Conference convened by the S.A. Nursing Association for Coloured Nurses which was scheduled to take place at the Retreat Hotel, Cape Town, just prior to the Conference for White nurses, then she has been misinformed, for it did not take place. The venue was changed at the last minute to Pretoria and according to the latest S.A. Nursing Journal, only three branches were represented, Pretoria itself being one of them.

Mrs. Mvabaza's letter gives the impression that Non-European nurses in Cape Town have supported apartheid by attending such a conference, but in fact when the S.A. Nursing Association endeavoured some time ago to hold a meeting to discuss the formation of a separate branch for Coloured nurses, in Cape Town, it was boycotted.

NANCY DICK.

Cape Town.

## Away with Starvation Wages

The money-greedy employers, whose main aim is to exploit the workers, used their foul tactics in order to intimidate the workers. Towards the end of last year some firms dismissed a huge number of workers, in the hope that they will refrain from playing a part in the trade union movement.

This move by the employers

has encouraged the workers to join trade unions, for they have seen that their salvation lies in their Trade Unions. "Trade Unions make us Strong." The response of workers to Trade unionism this year has been doubled.

Let us fight exploitation, and gain higher wages which will lead us to a decent way of living. Away with starvation wages, for we are dying of hunger.

H. K. SINANA.  
Port Elizabeth.

## TWO SOUTH WEST AFRICANS ARRIVE HOME

On December 4, 1958, Mr. Toivo and I left Cape Town, being seen off by two well-known Special Branch Africans, one of whom remarked that Mr. Toivo should "carry on the struggle." Some of our A.N.C. friends on the station told us that this particular chap had meant what he said.

Leaving Cape Town on Thursday one arrives in Windhoek on Sunday morning. We knew that men from the local C.I.D. would be at the Windhoek station to meet us, so we decided to break our journey at Keetmanshoop where we were received by many of our friends there.

So we are back home with a mission. One thing which we cannot hide is our declaration of war against oppression, exploitation and any form of humiliation and White baasskap.

The struggle for liberation in South West Africa has so far been centred around the United Nations and politics have always been on a tribal basis. Our resolution for New Year is to work for the national unity of the various tribes in S.W.A. and concentrate on the organisation of the people at home into a strong political force.

This is no easy job but we are confident that with determination and inspiration from the All-African People's Conference we shall surge forward to ultimate liberation.

JARIRETUNDU  
KOZONGUIZI.  
Windhoek, S.W.A.

## Unity Movement Boycotts The Fight, says Former SOYA Official

A CHARACTERISTIC feature of all All-African Convention Conferences ("Unity Movement Breaks Up," New Age, last week) is the lack of reports on activities of the organisation. As usual, not a single delegate at their conference last month showed hands soiled with political mass activity.

In the Rand bus boycott, the women's pass resistance movement, anti-group areas, and many other struggles, the AAC has remained deaf and mute.

Not a single word was uttered as a directive to launch the AAC into mass activity in future. Absenteeism and non-commitment in the political mass struggle still remains a marked feature of the AAC and the rest of the "NEUM."

Freed from the atmosphere of mass activity, the AAC Conference unsurprisingly becomes a holiday where newspaper-fed "intellectuals" meet to make speeches and spawn a hundred and one theories all unrelated to mass activity, point fingers at each other in a holier-than-thou-art fashion and, at the end, go back home a disunited "Unity Movement" to carry out nothing but strictly professional careers as school teachers.

## EDITORIAL

## PARLIAMENT AND THE TREASON TRIAL

NEXT week a new session of Parliament opens in Cape Town—and a new session of the treason trial in Pretoria.

There is a direct connection between the two events.

In Cape Town Premier Verwoerd will appear before an all-White Parliament to show the country and the world how to govern in the interests of Europeans only. Arrogant with his election success, he will feel called upon to outdo his two predecessors, Malan and Strijdom, in his unswerving determination to push ahead with the apartheid programme. This must be a Verwoerd session, bearing the Verwoerd stamp, the unmistakable sign of divine inspiration. It will be a session marked by Nationalist inflexibility and contempt for the mass of the people. We can quite safely expect the worst.

In Pretoria the leaders of the disfranchised four-fifths of the population, who have earned the Government's displeasure because they have dared to ask for votes for all and the right to sit in Parliament, will appear on trial again, charged with treason. There will be only 30 of them this time, but another 61 are due to appear in April.

The juxtaposition of these two events epitomises the conflict which racks our country. On the one hand, the upholders of White supremacy foregather with a fanfare of trumpets to make the laws that all must live and labour under. On the other hand, the men and women who have led the fight for freedom and equality which constitutes the only real opposition to Government policies, are placed on trial for their lives.

We are not at liberty to discuss the issues in the treason trial, but we can say this: if the 156 who were arrested on December 5, 1956, were to take the place of the 163 who sit in the House of Assembly, South Africa would find relief from its racial torment. Group areas, the pass laws, population registration and job reservation would be swept away. White supremacy would be replaced by democratic rights for all, fear and hatred by co-operation, and harmony.

**With the Parliamentary opposition tamed, a great responsibility now rests on all true democrats to do everything in their power to strengthen the mass opposition outside Parliament which is the only force capable of bringing about a change. This is not the time to sit mesmerised while the magician Verwoerd performs his tricks. Let us renew our pledge to stand by our leaders who are on trial; and let us show that we mean business by raising to new heights the struggle for democratic rights which they have so clearly marked out for us.**

## Not Miracles But Hard Cash

The holiday season is now definitely over, and life is back to normal again — if anything can be called normal in this race-ridden, Verwoerd-cursed country.

And life, except for the brief periods of festivity when we throw our cares overboard, means struggle. In our country, hard and bitter struggle to maintain and defend the human values which the Nationalists are doing their best to submerge.

This will be a tough year for everyone, and not least for New Age. We shall have to fight to keep our paper in circulation; harder than ever before, judging by present portents.

The tendency to take New Age for granted the belief that the paper "will manage somehow or other," must be knocked on the head. Not miracles but hard cash is what keeps our paper going.

New Age is, as always, entirely in your hands. To survive, we shall need every penny you can spare, and all the help you can give us in other directions, including circulation.

You can make 1959 another year of victory for our paper — or, through neglect, a year of shameful defeat.

IT IS UP TO YOU!

### THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS

Cape Town:  
A. H. £1 1s., S. M. 2s., C. G. £1, G. M. 9s., J. & H. £50, Sacred River £5, S. A. £2, C. R. 10s., Ally Sisters £1, Chem £1 1s., Latke £2, Premier 10s., J. S. £1, M. W. 10s., R. P. £1, F. S. £1, Harry £1, Robot £1, M. G. £1, B. £1, A. B. £2, Engel £1, Dr. K. £1, S. R. 10s., Anon £5.

### Johannesburg:

Playboy £3, H. P. R. £3, Judy £5, Parkwood £1, Bobby £5, Xmas Box £25, Collections £7 10s., Issv £2, Jeppe 2s.

### Port Elizabeth:

Doc £1, Zenzile 2s., Friends £7 10s.

TOTAL—£141 17s. 0d.

necessity move along the road to splits and splinters, isolation and sectarianism, and finally death. The masses should not be deceived by the apparent split in the NEUM. There is still a factor that will unite the Anti-Cad and the AAC. And this is nothing but their common practice of non-commitment, which they call "non-collaboration" and their common absenteeism which they call "boycott."

EX-SECRETARY

Sons of Young

Africa Branch,

Johannesburg.

## Black Supremacy

The Nationalism of the Africanists is narrow, shallow and chauvinistic, for example they want to substitute Black oppression in place of White oppression. Who wants oppression? No one. Who wants tribalism? No one.

The A.N.C. is concerned with a multi-racial Africa and not with one racial group, hence its adoption of the Freedom Charter by the four active Congresses. Thus they want equality, freedom and brotherhood irrespective of colour, race or creed.

DAVIDSON KAKANA.  
Bizana, E. Pondoland.

# Stiff Battle Likely When Treason Trial Re-opens

"In Our Lifetime" Means 5 Years, Says Crown

**THE treason trial opening in Pretoria next Monday will see yet another vigorous defence attack on the Crown's indictment.**

The Defence this week was served with a set of particulars by the Crown in answer to their request. The particulars number 14 pages together with an annexure and four schedules amounting to 500 pages which refer to meetings, speeches and documents to show the existence of the alleged conspiracy.

## IN OUR LIFETIME

One important allegation in the indictment in this trial of the 30 is that the achievement of the objects of the Freedom Charter by the accused in their lifetime necessarily involved violence. Among questions sent to the Crown, the Defence asked: "What is meant by 'in our lifetime'?"

The accused, some of whom are still in their twenties, will probably be staggered to see that the Crown reply to this question is **FIVE YEARS!**

The Crown says this expression 'in our lifetime' was used on

numerous occasions by the accused and was intended to mean and was accepted by the Crown to mean a maximum period of five years from June 26, 1955, onwards.

There are a number of differences between this indictment and previous ones and the most important is the greatly increased emphasis placed by the Crown on the element of violence. In the old indictment it was alleged a special corps of Freedom Volunteers was recruited and organised. To this is now added the allegation that the Volunteers were "to be prepared for acts of violence."

To the allegation of advocating the Marxist-Leninist doctrine are added the words "in which doctrine there is inherent the use of violence to establish a Communist State." In the section of the indictment dealing with the C.O.P. and Freedom Charter it is now alleged the achievement of the charter demands would "necessarily involve the overthrow of the state by violence."

The lawyers judge therefore that the Crown has accepted the contention that violence is an essential element in the crime of treason and his will apparently be the

central issue in the trial.

Of the 30 accused, 21 reside in Johannesburg, 8 come from the Eastern Cape and one from Natal. There are no accused from the Western Cape, the Free State or for that matter Pretoria, where the trial is being held.

Up to now nothing has been heard as to whether the other 61 accused, who were covered by the first indictment, will be re-indicted or not. Their trial is due to start in April.

The names of the 30 are:

Farid Adams, Helen Joseph, A. M. Kathrada, Leon Levy, Stanley Lollan, N. R. Mandela, Leslie Massina, P. Mathole, Pat Molaa, Joseph Molife, M. Moolla, P. Moretele, P. Nene, Lillian Ngoyi, J. Nkadimeng, Duma Nokwe, R. Resha, P. Selepe, Gert Sibande, W. Conco, T. E. Tshunungwa, S. Mkalipi, C. Mayekiso, W. Mkwazi, B. Ndimba, J. Nkampeni, F. Ntsangani, T. Tshume, Simon Tyiki and W. M. Sisulu.

## BANTU EDUCATION

(Continued from page 1)

continue with secondary education. On this basis the 1958 examination results showed that of the 70% who passed less than 5% obtained a first class pass, while about 40% obtained leaving certificates.

### IT'S THE LAW

But when it became evident that there would be hardly any new recruits, the secondary schools were instructed to admit even the third class passes although these are normally regarded as failures. Yet still for the first time in the last 5 years the urban secondary schools have far more accommodation than they know what to do with.

Parents are besieging headmasters who tell them that they have room but are prevented from admitting pupils who live outside the urban areas. In some areas parents have taken up the matter with the local school inspector, but everywhere the reply is: "It's the law. What can I do?"

The net result is that children in certain areas are being forced to swell the army of cheap labour that is increasingly being directed to the farms as unemployment increases in the industrial areas.

Children in the Walmer, Veeplaats and Kleinskool areas are unable to gain admission into the two secondary schools at New Brighton. The same conditions prevail for children whose homes are within a radius of two miles of the town, such as in the locations around Queenstown, Kokstad, Kingwilliamstown and similar towns.

According to the enrolment some of these schools are going to lose their grants within the first quarter. The retrenched teachers will have no choice but to join the ranks of the working class, as is already happening with scores of primary school teachers in the Reserves.

The number of the teacher-tramps is also being increased by the students who qualified at Fort Hare at the end of the year and are unable to find employment.

### LABOUR SQUADS

Meanwhile the humiliating aspects of Verwoerd's slave education are being enforced vigorously. Recently school children spent nearly a fortnight in a labour camp in the Kingwilliamstown district. They were constructing a road for the BAD officials who wanted to visit new schools in the area. Teachers and sub-inspectors supervised these road squads.

## NEW ZEALAND ATTACK ON S.A. TOUR PROPOSAL

**AN** all-out attack on the proposal to exclude Maoris from the New Zealand rugby team to tour South Africa in 1960 has been made by the New Zealand paper "The People's Voice."

In a feature article headed: "South African Rugby Tour—New Zealand's Opportunity to fight Racism," the paper says: "Either we set a standard of decency with which the South African rulers must conform; or they set one of bestiality with which we must conform."

"We can only say: The New Zealand All Blacks for 1960 will be chosen on merit, regardless of whether Pakeha or Maori. South Africa can accept this team or there will be none . . ."

"Our rugby moguls say that nobody can understand the problems in South Africa unless they have been there. Does anybody need to have the

slightest doubt that the key to understanding what is happening in South Africa is the fact that a handful of white masters are terrified that the majority of the population want democracy in their own country? And that the South African Government is a government of the white masters employing vicious, fascist measures to keep the black majority from getting that democracy? . . ."

"The working people of the world have a duty to bring pressure on the South African Government and to condemn it as a fascist government. We in New Zealand have a special opportunity."

"There must be a campaign big enough to see that the leaders of the New Zealand Rugby Union are not permitted to disgrace New Zealand by making any concession to the fascist theories of a decadent ruling class."

## "Stand Firm on Meetings Ban", Citizens urge Jo'burg Council

JOHANNESBURG.

**LAST** week opposition was still mounting to the proposed ban on mixed gatherings here. Scores of telegrams were sent by Johannesburg citizens to the mayor and the city council urging them to assist in the defence of the freedom of association. Some of the messages demanded that a public meeting of the people of the city be convened. Meanwhile to consolidate the opposition to this threat proposals were being put forward for the calling of an all-in conference of progressive organisations.

### GOVT'S CASE

From his hospital bed where he underwent a minor operation, Minister of Bantu Administration De Wet Nel lashed out at the English press and the City Council claiming that he had been misrepresented. Asked by New Age to clarify the position Mr. Prinsloo, chief information officer, said:

"The Minister's ban referred to gatherings." He (the Minister) had then defined the types of gatherings he was referring to.

Asked what those gatherings were Mr. Prinsloo replied impatiently: "Your newspaper knows, the Rand Daily Mail also knows, everybody knows the meetings referred to."

There was no sense in issuing banning notices in respect of certain houses, he said, because the people concerned would hold the meetings in the next house.

Many leading people, however, feel strongly that even if the ban only prevented house parties, this was in itself a serious inroad on the personal liberties of the people. Self-respecting citizens would be subjected to endless "snooping" by the police.

A European family would be liable to prosecution for merely INVITING AN AFRICAN TO TEA OR DINNER.

### CONGRESS VIEW

Amongst the organisations which issued statements last week were the A.N.C., the C.O.D. and the Federation of South African Women.

The ANC statement states inter alia:

"This is an interference by the Minister which not only affected the rights of the Non-Europeans but those of the Europeans as well. This invasion of personal

liberties was both reckless and irresponsible. It was recognised by all decent people that, far from endangering the peaceful co-existence of the people, the mixed gatherings enhanced racial harmony and understanding."

**COD:** "The enormity of what the Minister proposes has not yet become apparent to everyone. Under the ban it was not only mixed parties that would be prohibited but mixed meetings as well. The people should not allow the government to get away with this further infringement of our rights."

The statement of the Women's Federation was couched in similar terms.

There is likely to be legal action for damages against the Minister by some or all of the 13 individuals named as persons who held mixed social gatherings at which "excesses" took place. One of the thirteen will probably institute proceedings to start with as a kind of "test case."

This Thursday too Johannesburg's City Council has a deputation to see the Minister in Pretoria.

## Bastion of Democracy

Eighty members of South Korea's parliament barricaded themselves in the Assembly chamber for six days last week in an attempt to stop a new Syngman Rhee fascist law designed to silence all opposition.

It took a small regiment of armed police to eject them—eight members of parliament being so badly injured that they had to be taken to hospital. With the eighty opposition members now out of the way the rest of parliament unanimously adopted the law.

## Sacco and Vanzetti

A bill introduced into the Massachusetts (U.S.A.) legislature asks for a posthumous pardon for the two working-class leaders, Sacco and Vanzetti, who were put to death in that state in 1927 on a framed-up charge of murder.

The bill was introduced by Representative A. J. Cella to correct "an historic injustice." The execution of Sacco and Vanzetti caused an international furor which has made their names synonymous with injustice.

## SACPO Challenges Golding on Group Areas

"Let the People Pass Judgement"

CAPE TOWN.

**THE S.A. Coloured People's Organisation has challenged Mr. G. J. Golding to hold a meeting in Athlone and state his case to the Coloured people on the question of Group Areas. Mr. Golding recently proposed to the Group Areas Board that all races other than Coloureds be barred from a cinema in Athlone.**

In a letter to Mr. Golding SACPO gives him until the 16th of this month to reply to the challenge.

Referring to the Golding petition submitted to the Board asking that Whites, Indians and Chinese be refused occupation of an Indian-owned cinema in order to prevent a white business group from leasing it, the SACPO letter says:

"We refer you to your statements and that of the Coloured People's National Union made at your conference in the Woodstock Town Hall when you opposed the Group Areas Act in toto and claimed to be the friend of all people and especially the Indian community. Surely it must be difficult to reconcile your two attitudes?"

### NEED FOR UNITY

All sane people clamour for unity in the ranks of all non-whites and in particular in the ranks of the Coloured community, SACPO stated. The people of South Africa are under heavy pressure from the Nationalists. If parliamentary votes are not being tampered with, it is business rights, the right to work, municipal rights, and others.

"How is it possible for you and your associates to claim meagre business rights, entertainment, trading or residential rights at the expense of another social group? And that under the cloak of the Group Areas Act, one of the most hated pieces of racial legislation ever enacted in this country?"

"Perhaps what is more dangerous, you give the impression that your action enjoys the support of the Coloured people, which we of course dispute."

### TO PRETORIA

Mr. Golding's petition, together with a similar one circulated by Franklin Joshua and Harold Moses, has been sent to Pretoria by the Group Areas Board. A counter-petition opposing the racial proposals was too late for consideration by the Board.

"We feel that it is necessary for the people to be given an opportunity to pass judgment on this matter," Mr. R. September, Secretary of SACPO told New Age. "That is why we are challenging Mr. Golding to come to Athlone to state his case. If he fails to answer the challenge we will hold our own meeting and then we will see whether the Coloured people support Mr. Golding's stand or ours."

The SACPO meeting will be held in the Gleemoor Town Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 8 p.m.

**FOOTNOTE:** The Alhambra Theatre last week advertised a baby competition for "prospective (European) parents" in connection with the showing of the film "Rock-a-bye Baby."

Telephoned by New Age, the manager said he was not aware that this advertisement was causing offence to Non-Europeans, more particularly at a time when African Consolidated Theatres had started a controversy by applying for a permit to operate a theatre in the Coloured group area of Athlone. However, he undertook to discuss the matter with his principals.

Thereafter the advertisement ceased to appear in the press. Telephoned again by New Age this week, the manager said the ad. was dropped in deference to the Non-Europeans.

With the "treason" trial re-opening on Monday it is interesting to look back forty years to the first

South African case in which black men and white stood together in the dock in

# THE "TREASON CONSPIRACY" TRIAL WHICH FAILED

**I**N July, 1918, the homes and offices of eight progressive leaders, African and European, were raided and they were arrested and held without bail for twelve days after the prosecutor had described them as dangerous conspirators.

Here is the story of the background to their arrest and trial.

In July, 1917, the country's first African working class organisation, the Industrial Workers of Africa (I.W.A.) was formed in Johannesburg. Its slogan was "Si funa konke" — "We want everything."

In December of that year a conference was called to discuss Non-European trade union unity. The first of its kind it was attended by representatives of the A.N.C. (Tvl.), the A.P.O. and the I.W.A.

I.W.A. members made up the majority of the audience, taking up one whole side of the hall. On the other side sat the members of the A.N.C. described by a newspaper as being "more sedate and middle-class looking." Coloured workers and a few white socialists. The Conference appointed a multi-racial committee of workers to draw up a scheme for future cooperation.

## Boycott

Two months later the African miners on the East Rand launched a boycott of the mine concession stores. Prices had doubled during the war years, while wages remained unaltered, and the workers directed their protest against the storekeepers and their rising prices. The result was a solid boycott of the stores by the thirty to forty thousand Africans on whom they depended for custom.

Attempts to break the boycott by fomenting inter-tribal fighting failed, and the boycotters remained solid.

The I.W.A. and the I.S.L. joined in issuing 10,000 leaflets in Zulu and Sesotho to the boycotters.

The leaflet began: "Workers of the Bantu race! Why do you live in slavery? Why are you not free as other men are free? Why are you kicked and spat upon by your masters? Why must you carry a pass before you can move anywhere? And if you are found without one why are you thrown into prison? Why do you toil hard for little money? And again thrown into prison if you refuse to work. Why do they herd you like cattle into compounds? WHY?"

There was only one way of deliverance, the leaflet said: "Unite as workers, unite! Forget the things that divide you. Let there be no longer any talk of Basutho, Zulu, or Shangaan. You are all labourers. Let Labour be your common bond."

A call was issued to the workers to come to a mass meeting:

"The fight is great against the many pass laws that persecute you and the low wages and the misery of existence." And then the famous final words of Marx's Communist Manifesto rang out for the first time in Zulu and Sesotho: "Workers of all lands unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains. You have a world to win."

The authorities then, as now,

believed that the Communists were the cause of the boycott. The Rand Daily Mail called for the imprisonment of these "ill-balanced and fanatical socialists of the baser sort." It was before the days when Moscow was blamed for everything, so the Natal Mercury saw "the sinister influence of the Industrial Workers of the World notoriously financed by Germany."

In actual fact, the socialists had not known anything about the boycott until it was on, and although they gave it their support they took the view that it was misdirected — it was not the concession stores who were the enemy so much as the Chamber of Mines.

## Sewage Strike

The concession store boycott failed to achieve its purpose, but the workers were now ready for action, and this was sparked off by one of Johannesburg's first African strikes — that of the city's 150 collectors of lavatory buckets,

By

## Lionel Forman

in those days before Johannesburg had waterborne sewerage.

The strikers were arrested and the magistrate, McFie, sent the workers back to work under police escort. He told them: "If you attempt to escape and it is necessary you will be shot down. If you refuse to obey orders you will receive lashes."

Even the European press was shocked, and it is an indication of how strong public feeling was that when the International committed the most blatant contempt, describing MacFie as "a bear on the bench" and "a capitalist jackal," no action was taken against it.

## A.N.C. Meeting

The African National Congress called several protest meetings at the various police stations of the strikers. The A.N.C. leaders still tended to be behind the rank and file in the strength of their sentiments however. At one meeting the A.N.C. secretary proposed the adoption of a petition to the Governor-General asking for remission of the sentence passed on the "misguided strikers," but the meeting would not agree — and in fact adopted a resolution favouring a general strike. A detective taking notes was ejected from the meeting.

A resolution demanded an all-round pay increase of one shilling a day and a resolution for support of that demand was adopted in spite of the opposition of the official A.N.C. leadership. Among the speakers was the socialist T. P. Tinker, one of those who had been active in the formation of the I.W.A.

At the strike call the government was afraid and rattled its sabres. Soldiers were mobilised and marched through Johannesburg. The white trade unions acted true to form. They invited MacFie to a meeting of the Trade Union Federation, at which he called for the organisation of the

white workers into a Defenced Force to act against "a possible Native rising." He said that the Africans' wage demands would not have been dreamt of but for the "sinister encouragement of certain whites."

So alarmed were the white trade unions that, shortly after MacFie's address to them, the Federation sent two of its leaders to see the Minister of Defence to offer to raise special labour battalions.

Nevertheless, moved by the strength of the national protest against the MacFie sentence—and the representations of the Chamber of Mines which was fearful of the possible effect of the dissatisfaction on their recruiting of African labour — the Minister of Justice indicated that he did not support the sentence and the workers were released.

This was a tremendous victory for the national movement.

## Strike

But at the protest meetings the call for a protest strike against the sentence of the bucket strikers had been combined with the demand for a pay increase of 1s. per day.

As a result of the release of the bucket strikers, the A.N.C. called the strike off, but at certain mines the workers either did not know this or disregarded it, and came out as originally planned, on the morning of June 28, 1918. By afternoon their strike had been defeated by massive police and military intervention.

The effect of the Rand strike was felt throughout the country. In Durban African dock workers put forward wage claims for the first time, though they did not succeed in winning any concessions.

## Police Raids

Arrests and police raids followed swiftly on the heels of the Transvaal strike. Eight progressive leaders — D. S. Letanka, L. J. Mvabaza, J. D. Ngojo, H. Kraai and A. Cetyiwe (all A.N.C. officials) and Bunting, Tinker and Hanscombe (leading I.S.L. members) were raided and arrested.

This trial was in many ways an embryo of the present treason trial, says a former secretary of the A.N.C., T. D. Mweliso, in his "Black Folks Who's Who": "For the first time in South Africa members of the European and Native races, in common cause united, were arrested and charged together because of their political activities."

Letanka was the vice-president of the A.N.C. (Tvl) and Secretary since the A.N.C.'s foundation, of the Council of Chiefs. Mvabaza was later one of the members of the 1919 A.N.C. deputation to the King. Both were founders of newspapers later merged into *Abantu Batho*, of which they were managing directors.

Ngojo, Kraai and Cetyiwe were members of the old I.W.A., the latter being active in the Cape Western A.N.C. in after years.

All the accused were held in jail for twelve days before being allowed bail, an earlier application in the Supreme Court being refused when the accused men were

described by the prosecution as "dangerous" and the charge as "very serious," almost amounting to one of "treasonable conspiracy." They were charged with incitement to public violence.

The main crown witness was one Luke Massina, who had been sent into the I.W.A. by the Native Affairs Department and paid £4 10s. 0d. per week for his efforts.

## Case Collapses

But Massina's case was an illustration of one of the government's biggest handicaps at all times in its struggle with the liberatory movement. As spies it must employ Africans. But the actions and policies of the liberatory movement are so appealing to any African that no one of intelligence and integrity can fail to be won over by them. Only the most miserable specimen of Non-European-hating government as a spy on Non-Europeans, Massina turned out to be not such a miserable specimen.

An unsuspecting prosecutor led Massina through all his evidence-in-chief in which he alleged that the accused had incited the public to violence.

Then under cross-examination Massina repudiated his entire evidence and described to the court how the statement from which the prosecutor had led his evidence had been written out for him by the police. "All that evidence was false," said Massina calmly.

He was arrested for perjury but the crown must have been reluctant to let the whole story come out and he was never tried.

In spite of the breakdown of the crown case, the magistrate committed all eight accused for trial, but the Attorney-General declined to prosecute.

Thus it was in the closing days of the First World War that the first bonds of unity between democrats of all races were forged.



The ANC leaders charged after the 1918 strike: Left to right: J. D. Ngojo, A. Cetyiwe, L. J. Mvabaza, H. Kraai, Unknown, D. S. Letanka. (Anyone who can identify the unknown man is invited to write and tell who he is.)

# ZULULAND IN STATE OF UNREST

## Night Raids, Police Assaults On Women Alleged

By DAVID EVANS

**G**OVERNMENT policies in Zululand are causing erosion. It is not the erosion of the soil, about which one so frequently hears from the Government. No it is not that — but a deep and dangerous donga of discontent is creeping steadily across the country engulfing more and more Zulus as the months go by.

I had always been told by Whites . . . in the Cape, on the Rand . . . and finally in Natal that the Zulu was not "politically conscious . . . except when the agitators get at him."

I have just returned from a tour of Zululand with a Zulu linguist and well-known trade unionist Melville Fletcher — and I deny that statement. We made no

speeches, but we spent six days asking questions about Government policies in Zululand. The answer was inevitably hostile to the rulers.

### PEOPLE'S COMPLAINTS

Here are some of the allegations made without any soliciting from us:—

(1) At Kwambonambe near Empangeni "foreigners" from other parts of the country including Natal have been told to go by the Government. Some of them have lived there up to 10 years. According to Kwambonambe-born Africans the "newcomers" have caused no trouble, have settled smoothly into community life. Most have the permission of the chiefs to live there.

(2) The area is subjected to raid after raid — usually at night — and residents to the probing light of torches and the rasp of rude questioning. Reasons for the raids vary . . . tax, passes, liquor — the well-known list.

(3) Women have been told to take out passes by a certain date or go to jail.

(4) Women it is alleged have been raped by European policemen at pistol point during the night.

(5) Arrested women have had their "inhlokos" cut off by the police.

(6) There is culling of cattle.

### CATTLE CONFISCATED

(7) Cattle which are dipped and which do not shed their ticks after the first dipping are confiscated and sold by the Government.

The owner is paid the cow's price but this does not compensate him for the calves and milk it would have yielded.

(8) Government handling of local problems is causing strife.

(9) Europeans in Empangeni complained that their African labourers were being raided frequently for petty offences as a means of acquiring cheap convict labour for farms elsewhere. We were told that one bull-

dozer driver, worth £45 a day to his employer, was arrested because his bicycle bell was out of order. Where Africans were found without passes it was usually useless to ask permission to fetch them from hut or home.

(10) A resettlement scheme which aims at moving people from their village between Heatonville and Empangeni — where they have lived since the time of Mpande — is causing resentment. The new land where they will be sited — beyond the White Umfolosi — is said to be sour and infertile.

(11) A tribesman from Nongoma told us that wattle planted at the request of the Government was not being purchased by the Government as promised.

(12) There is disillusionment with chiefs who have "sold out" to the Government. Traditionally Zulus have respected and accepted the discipline of their chiefs. But more and more are now stripping of their power and are now mere nouthpieces for the Government.

**FOOTNOTE:** Thokozile, wife of Cyprian Bekezu, Paramount Chief of the Zulus, has left her husband. She is opposed to the Government's policy of issuing pass books to women, and has defied her husband's instruction that all Zulu women should take out pass books.

Thokozile disappeared with all her belongings from the royal kraal three weeks before Christmas and is reported to be staying with her brother, an Anglican priest, at Endhlozani, in Swaziland.

## VIRGINIA RIOTS

(Continued from page 1)

the main roads and allegedly threw stones at passing cars.

### INJURIES

Eleven workers sustained injuries and are now in hospital. Also in hospital is one induna badly injured after a clash with the workers.

A few indunas have tendered their resignations and want to go home. The manager is suspended at present.

The trial is due to start on January 24.

# Come Back Tomorrow

By MARTIN RUSSELL

**I**T was a grey day. It was the sort of day which is without particular light but is consistently flat and heavy and dull. The sky, a low ceiling of greyness, was lifeless and there was no breeze. It was not hot, nor was it cold.

Philip was the only person amongst the line of walkers who moved with any delight. The others plodded without joy, their eyes full of inward secret thoughts. Only one youth, a loose-limbed gangling creature, laughed a bitter derisive laugh and no one stopped to hear it.

This was the day Philip had been waiting for. He had polished his shoes, and his suit had been flattened beneath his mat. The ragged edge of his one shirt was sore around his neck — but soon he'd replace it with another. He'd buy a yellow one; one he'd seen with blue arrow-heads printed upon the chest, and a chequered cap with a red peak, and new socks — and Venus, Venus in the blue and white packet that flattened in his trousers into a wad of card and tobacco and rice paper.

Now there would be no more afternoons sitting in the sun behind Peter's. He had always gone there because although it seemed pointless being there, there was purpose in being pointless together. Together one felt a common sympathy. There were even fragments of degraded satisfactions in being worse, in having less money, in having only recently lost one's woman. Apathy was an art. It involved an elaborate understanding of techniques and nuances. It was the contemporary urban adaptation of praise songs and folk poetry. Above all it was something in which one participated with others and for this reason alone it was a treasured warmth. Sheltered, one became sort of protected and guarded and secure.

When Agnes had left — creeping away, it seemed, in the night, for she had not been there in the morning — Philip had felt empty. He didn't mind her going. In some ways he was glad but he was empty too. One thing was that there was no one there when he came back in the evening, so that the room was still and silent and unmoved as if it resented his entrance. He missed her roundly warm body at night and that he could no longer sleep in their mutual sweat. No it wasn't going to bed, it was waking that was bad. It was waking and finding oneself alone with no one to push out first from beneath the blanket so that one could hide away again comforted in the memory of sleep. Ah, there was no one to get angry with, and it wasn't the same waking and being angrily full of sleep and loathing when there was no live thing to put it upon.

When she'd gone he had spent more time behind Peter's, sometimes finding a girl there to sleep with, finding her carelessly, sleepily, lazily; just searching around long after curfew and stumbling against her and getting close up against her, and staying.

Now he'd find himself a real new girl with one of those thin things under her blouse so that when she walked in the sun you could see her nipples pushing up the material like two little pink hills. She'd have that pink powder too on her face so that she didn't shine, and tall shoes so that she walked nicely. He'd

buy her a few things as well, a few bright things like she might want so that she'd walk close next to him, holding his arm in that sort of leaning defenceless way he'd seen girls walk with their men. She'd not be like Agnes, shoeless without any decent clothes except his old vest. She'd be the sort of woman men would stare at and shout things at. And they'd try to catch at her arms and he could have the joy of telling them things. Hell, and he'd walk

shirt. When he got near the white houses and walked past the cars and down towards the town, he began to feel he was really "on the way." He watched the men who walked by him considering the merits of their clothes. "The trouble with whites is that they wear such dull dirty coloured clothes.

"Look, just look man, at that tie. No colour, no life, just a funeral strip around his neck."

He felt gay. All these people and cars and the noise. He walked faster. His eyes moved more quickly casting glances at white ankles and hats on brown heads. All this bustle and a-doing and think of all the money. Men earning £3 a week and being real men. He saw the American Out-fitters. Look at that red shirt, man, a good colour. But faster he walked. He'd laze by those windows later, thinking, considering, deciding.

He came to the doorway and swung into it. He suddenly remembered, oh yes, now. So he bent his head a little and stopped walking and crept and looked shuffling looks with his eyes. The big red white man behind the desk said: "If it's work John, no. Come back tomorrow, there may be something."

Ah, it's good, he said, as he lifted the gritty clay pot to his lips. It's good to be back. It's rotten in town. All the noise and all the whites thinking they're good in their shiny clothes.

"Hey," he shouted to Peter, slouching sleeping against the corrugated iron, "where's the girl Jessie today?" And they all laughed warmly with a friendly togetherness.

# UP MY ALLEY

**A** COLOURED character called Kearns has his optics focussed on a job as S.A.'s first apartheid diplomat to one of those "black states" way up north.

My, my Mr. K., we didn't know that pal I.D. was handing out that kind of job these days. Don't know yet whether boss Verwoerd has lent an ear to your suggestion, but if he doesn't there are still wonderful opportunities open to you as a chief cook or bottle-washer with the compliments of the CAD.

**THEY** say that Little Nel's ear operation has made him still harder of hearing the outcry over his ban on mixed gatherings.

**AND** that it would have made sense if he'd applied the ban to dominee's garages, too.

**A** GENTLEMAN breezed into our office all the way from the You-Es-Ay the other day. He's an ex-S.A. citizen and now a dyed-in-the-wool Yankee with a visiting card that says: Martin E. Mullins, Noo Jersey.

Friend Mullins said that he couldn't recognise the old home town for all the apartheid signs that have sprung up over the last three-and-forty years since he's been away.

And somewhere during his visit to his relatives between Cape Town and P.E. he was interviewed by two gentlemen in plain clothes "from a Government department."

Well, what do you know about that? The good old Southern African hospitality.

**U.S.** weather report: Fair to fine with light radio-active fallout.

**S**O much for the "free world." In England a Hungarian refugee was discovered trying to sell her national assistance book (which apparently helps hungry Hungarians to get grub) TO HELP PAY HER FARE BACK TO HUNGARY.

**D.R.C.** Bible-puncher M. A. Meiring said the other day that various missionary bodies claimed that the safety of the

**THEY** have to make do with stiff doses of apartheid instead.

**H**UBBY, Chief Cyprian, they tell me, reached for his assegai when he discovered that his better half refused to play ball in the Great White Chief's passes-for-women tournament.

**C**ome, come, chiefy, if you have to go on the war path, let it be on her side. Matrimonial harmony is worth more than all the pats on the back you can get from the B.A.D. boys for beating their tom-toms.

**O**NE cabinet minister to another: See you later, separator.

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