

ALL EYES ON BLOEMFONTEIN CONFERENCE

NEW AGE

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Will Represent All Shades Of African Opinion

CAPE TOWN.

"I AM quite certain that the forthcoming all-in anti-apartheid conference in Bloemfontein is going to be one of the best conferences ever held," the Reverend A. L. Mncube, general secretary of the Interdenominational African Ministers' Federation, told New Age this week.

Idamf has had a magnificent response to its invitations to the conference which will take place from October 4 to 6 in the Paradise Hall, Bochabela Location, Bloemfontein. Almost all organisations invited have signified that they are sending delegates and large numbers of individuals will be present.

"We are not aiming at forming any new African organisation, but we intend to form a liaison between the different existing organisations," said the Reverend Mncube.

"At present each organisation attacks Government policy on its own, and we feel we must be united on this point."

Nine papers are scheduled to be read at the conference which will be officially opened by the Mayor of Bloemfontein next Thursday morning, after the inaugural address by the Reverend Z. R. Mahabane, president of Idamf.

The first paper to be read will be "Bantu Population in Rural Areas," by Mr. Oliver Tambo, acting general secretary of the African National Congress.

This will be followed by "Bantu Population in Urban Areas" by Mr. R. H. Godlo of East London, and "Concept of a national home for the Bantu" by Dr. A. B. Xuma.

Friday's programme is even heavier, and begins with the "Economic implications of the Tomlinson Report" by Mr. S. Ngcobo, M.A., B.Econ., of Fort Hare University.

Then comes "Native Reserves" by the Reverend T. S. Mbete, governor of the Institution of Bensonvale, in Herschel, Cape.

"Africans in European areas in the year 2,000" is the next paper

(Continued on page 8)

Result Of New
Age Short
Story
Competition

— See Page 4



Students of all races took part in the Wits protest strike last week.

RHODESIAN "EMERGENCIES" SPOTLIGHT FEDERATION CRISIS

Workers' Spirit Unbroken

(From Simon Zukas)

LONDON.

THE declaration of an "emergency" and the arrest of African miners' leaders in Northern Rhodesia has now been followed by the declaration of an "emergency" in Southern Rhodesia to deal with the railway strike.

But these terror tactics have completely failed to crush the spirit of the workers, and signs are growing that those who forced through Federation against the wishes of the people have dug their own grave.

The African liberatory struggle, with its strong working-class basis, has grown rapidly since Federation, and it is more than doubtful that hysterical declarations of "emergency" are going to have any effect in preventing that growth.

The numerous and continuous attempts to weaken the trade union movement—and particularly the African Mineworkers' Union and the Congresses of the three countries in the Federation—have failed.

WHITE MINERS CONCEDE

The degree of unity achieved, especially by the Mineworkers' Union in N. Rhodesia has been spectacular, and realisation of the union's power forced the reactionary European miners last year to agree to permitting Africans to do some skilled work.

But the companies were quick to attempt to exploit this Afri-

can victory by trying to drive a wedge between the Africans doing skilled work and the unskilled workers. The higher paid skilled workers were to be drawn into a Staff Association whose aim was to weaken the trade union.

After the partial defeat of the miners' strike in 1955 the companies forced an agreement on the union that its membership would be limited to the daily-paid workers (who comprise the vast majority) and that the monthly-paid workers would belong not to the union but to the staff association.

FORCED OUT

When the upgrading of workers into new jobs began the company arbitrarily decided that all those who were to get the better jobs were to be paid on a monthly basis. Those accepting promotion were therefore automatically to be forced out of their trade union!

The worker was at first allowed to choose whether he wanted to remain on daily pay or to go on to a monthly basis, but when it became clear that the vast majority, in order to stay in their union, elected to continue on a daily basis—despite the obvious disadvantages—the choice was withdrawn.

Then even such jobs as concrete-mixer attendant or trench-digger suddenly became "staff" (Continued on page 8)

STUDENTS PROTEST AT APARTHEID

JOHANNESBURG.

DESPITE threats of disciplinary action by the University authorities over 1,000 students of the Witwatersrand University withdrew from lectures for an hour last Wednesday as a protest against the Government threat to introduce apartheid into mixed Universities. Some lecturers voluntarily cancelled their lectures as a mark of solidarity with the students.

Using special powers, the University acting president vetoed the students' resolution calling for non-attendance at lectures. He advised speakers invited by the students to address their protest not to speak. But the students stood firm and carried on with their protest.

At a lunch-hour meeting in the Great Hall Bishop Reeves and Dr. Ellen Hellman congratulated the students on their "impressive demonstration" (Continued on page 6)

GOVT. PLAN TO INCREASE AFRICAN POLL TAX

Nat. Strategy For Next Election

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DOWN MY STREET

SOME sort of "newspaper booby prize for 1956" should go to The World, formerly the Bantu World. It was The World that broke the news that Tshekedi Khama had been exiled, but he hadn't. He'd merely taken his sons to school in Britain. It was The World that tumbled on a secret conference of the Transvaal African National Congress to depose President Moretsele... but the conference was neither planned nor held. It's The World that turns up ghosts and tikoloshe's with impressive regularity... but who can argue about them!

Week after week these strange stories roll off the Press, each more fanciful than the last. Letters of repudiation seem to have no effect. Sometimes they are published, other times not... but the news hounds of The World go gaily on their rounds.

Last week The World carried under a five-column banner headline on the front page the sensational "news" that the African National Congress was throwing its doors open to all races under its new constitution. Grave warnings of this impending "disaster" were expressed by "many Africans bitterly opposed to the new move" and from an N.A.D. official—unnamed—who feared that Congress was losing its national character.

The fact is, however, that the old and new constitutions are identical on this membership point. Both the old constitution and the new open the A.N.C. to anyone who accepts its principles.

What has The World to say about that?

African people, they say, will never get used to the way the police are arresting women these days. Last Sunday the van was overfull with raid victims, and the last woman picked up in a beer raid had to cling to a window, crouched on the running board, her free hand clutching the scale of beer that was to be the evidence of her crime.

SORRY to introduce a jarring note into Johannesburg's Festival year, but I must confess that the universal enthusiasm over the Chamber of Mines £3 million loan to the City Council for African housing



Banned leader WALTER SISULU contributes an article to this issue of New Age on the Ministers' conference in Bloemfontein next week—see page 5.

doesn't overcome me. Philanthropy is all very well, but this is not even a gift: it's charity at 5 per cent (4½ to be exact)... and it's African sweat labour in the mines that has given the Chamber this £3 million and so many more.

I WONDER what the band of 50 students who heckled the Bishop of Johannesburg at the anti-apartheid meeting at Wits set out to prove? That they could make more noise than the 1,000 against student apartheid? The superiority of White culture? Their good manners?

MUCH to his embarrassment, Mr. Strijdom—or his Minister of External Affairs, Eric Louw—will shortly receive an invitation to attend Ghana's Independence Day celebrations on March 6, 1957. Dr. Nkrumah is making sure that diplomats from many countries attend on that great day when the Gold Coast becomes Ghana, and independent.

IN Britain the conviction is rapidly spreading that over the Suez Canal issue Britain has made some of her biggest blunders since the Boer War. It was all very well trying to argue in the last century that where vital resources are developed by British and French capital they can never belong to the people in whose country they lie.

But that works many things, as a columnist wrote in Bevan's "Tribune." "The oil of the Middle East is said to be a vital interest for the people of this country. And so it is. But British coal is a vital interest for the people of Italy who have no coal of their own. We are not very good at providing it for them. Would we stomach Italian managers in our mines, or Italian garrisons in South Wales?"

CITIZEN.

Editorial

In Nkrumah's House

NOBODY except the Tory diehards can regret the announcement that Britain is to grant the Gold Coast independence within the Commonwealth on March 6, 1957. On the contrary, all who have at heart the cause of African independence and advancement will welcome it.

One does not yet know, of course, on what terms the Gold Coast will get its independence. If the British Colonial Secretary's announcement means merely that the Gold Coast will enjoy home rule but Britain will still be responsible for foreign affairs and defence, then it is no independence at all. But if it means that the Gold Coast will be as independent as India or South Africa, then undoubtedly this will be a turning point in the history of Africa.

It is true Britain may only be bowing to the inevitable. She may be making a big show of giving away graciously what she cannot keep in any case. She may have her plans for keeping a tight grip on the Gold Coast by other means, notably economic pressure. She may be confident that she can rely on Nkrumah to follow her lead obediently.

Nevertheless, Britain's way in the Gold Coast is to be preferred to her way in Kenya, Cyprus or Malaya, where the demand of the people for independence is being met with bullets, barbed wire and bayonets. It will be a moment of great achievement for the African people, not only in the Gold Coast but also throughout Africa, when an African Government in a former colony can take its first decision knowing that there is no imperialist power to veto it.

Above all, the emergence of the Gold Coast as an independent state will greatly weaken the position of the Strijdom Government at the other end of the continent. It will be a lesson for the Nationalists that the Black man is quite capable of running his own country without interference from the White man bosses; it will be a source of encouragement for our own people in their long struggle for liberation.

For the people of the Gold Coast itself, March 6, 1957, will be not the end but only the beginning of their fight for freedom. The mass of the people of the Gold Coast still live in abject poverty and illiteracy, and the Nkrumah Government, though it has paid lip service to socialism, has done little enough in all conscience to raise their living standards.

For the African people of the Gold Coast to enjoy the fruits of their independence, they will have to continue the fight for social justice in their own country, and for real independence from imperialism which can only be brought about by economic and industrial development of their country. For as long as the Gold Coast is dependent on one crop, cocoa, and for as long as the only outlet for that crop is the British company of Unilever, for so long will the Gold Coast's independence be as illusory as that of Liberia, which for all practical purposes is a dependency of the United States.

What the Gold Coast needs, in fact, is a Freedom Charter corresponding to that which has been adopted by our own Congress movement. If our thinking has so far been ahead of our achievement, at least we know that when our day dawns, we will have a sound foundation to build on.

It remains to be seen what is going to happen in the house that Nkrumah builds. The indications so far are that the issue is very much in doubt.

IN Alexandra Township the kwelakwela is a common sight, but the



MORE WORKERS SHOULD READ NEW AGE

New Age is the only newspaper that speaks the minds of the African, Coloured, Indian and European peoples. Particularly the minds of the Non-Europeans. The workers of this country. But how many workers themselves read New Age every week? Do the factory Non-European workers who are mostly youth worry to read New Age every week?

I went to some factories one Friday afternoon to sell copies of New Age.

SURPRISE

I was surprised to see that those factories employed more women than men. "New Age, the workers' newspaper here," I said. But the young women passed by me, and went to buy some oranges at the lorry which stood near the factory. At last one of them came, also going to buy oranges. "New Age," I said. She quickly turned and said, "New Age?" "Yes," I replied. "Give me a copy." It was only after she had bought a copy that others wanted to know what was this newspaper.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

In my opinion I think the first person to be blamed is our Father and Mother "the ANC." For I think it should be the duty of the

ANC branches to see that their community do read newspapers, and the right newspapers too. This I suggest could be done by getting a weekly supply of New Age which must be sold to the people in their community.

The second person to blame is the worker himself. He or she reads New Age by himself or herself as an ordinary newspaper. I think New Age should be read as a newspaper, an adviser, messenger and organiser.

As an adviser New Age tried to explain how the African should avoid getting into trouble through the series entitled "Law and the Layman."

As a messenger New Age can be sent to you anywhere. And as an organiser New Age preaches unity of the races. It explains the Freedom Charter to the masses.

If we want to see New Age read, we must see that not only the father and mother at home read it. But we must teach our children that they must read it too.

BIG COMPLAINT

The biggest complaint against New Age in the locations is its lack of pages for African languages. Every person who cannot read English and has a neighbour who is a reader of New Age will

say: "from what my neighbour tells me it is a very good paper, but why not include our languages?"

This cry we must take seriously. New Age must be read in all places—by all classes of people. In fact with pages for African languages New Age would easily spread to the Protectorates.

'PART-TIME AGENT'

Johannesburg.

(Why do we print only in English? Because our readers are not only Africans but also Indians, Coloureds and Europeans, and English is a sort of common language for all sections. Furthermore, if we were to print in an African language, which one should it be—Xosa, Sesuto, Zulu? And who would pay the extra cost—it is much more expensive to print in an African language than in English, because most printers do not know the African languages. For all these reasons, though we would very much like to give our readers what they want, we regret that so far it has proved impossible.)

We heartily endorse what "Part-time Agent" has to say about New Age sales. What about it, ANC branches?—Ed.)

Do You Want a Pen-friend Overseas?

If there are any readers of New Age who are interested in corresponding with people living in overseas countries, please would they write to the address below and we, the Young Democrats, will supply them with the addresses.

BARBARA HARMEL.

47, High Road, Gardens, Johannesburg.

Never Use The Word "Kaffir"

The word "kaffir" is an Arabic word which means unbeliever. It was never used by the African people themselves. To the Europeans the Africans were formerly known as kaffirs, but the name is not now used, however, and we should never adopt it in speaking of the African people. It is an insult.

E. M. M. NKABINDE
Brakpan.

Some Forms Of Terror

Honestly it is heart-breaking to hear that there are some people who wrote letters to Dr. Verwoerd, the head of the Native Affairs Department, that we want Bantu Education and African women must carry passes.

Passes are compulsory to men and now passes for women mean that anyone not white can be molested by the police at any place or street at any hour and the passes demanded.

Education is under fire. African teachers are being sacked and fined for the sole crime of conducting classes for African children. Raids on homes, Government police at public protest meetings, and arrests are the most common things to African people in their own land of birth. Summary transportation to a selected area are only some of the milder forms of terror.

Sons and daughters of Africa let us be united and of one voice. United we stand, divided we fall.

Away with Bantu Education!
Away with passes!

MISS M. NGAKE

You Need New Age, New Age Needs YOU!



OUR appeal for urgent assistance to meet the newsprint crisis has met with a swift response from some of our readers. This can clearly be seen from the way donations have jumped from the £91 acknowledged last week to the £329 received this week.

IT IS THIS SPIRIT, AND THIS SPIRIT ONLY, WHICH CAN SAVE NEW AGE — AND WE WANT A LOT MORE OF IT!

There are still many, many readers who have not yet responded to our appeal. If you are one of them, please do not keep us waiting long for your declaration (in £.s.d.) that you, too, are determined to keep New Age alive. Lip service to your paper is no longer enough. We expect you to **DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, and do it quickly.**

We repeat: if we do not order newsprint soon, New Age will soon be without the paper on which to print the news you want.

Whether we shall be able to do so in time **DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON YOU.**

Mr. Oliver Tambo, secretary-general of the African National Congress, alleges he was unlawfully arrested and assaulted by the police at Engcobo in the Transkei last week. On his way home to Libode, where he was due to spend his holiday, Mr. Tambo spent a night in Engcobo, but as he was driving out of the town he was stopped by a C.I.D. car. The police demanded he produce a permit to visit the Transkei — where he was born. An argument ensued and Mr. Tambo alleges he was hit about the face and placed under arrest. Shortly afterwards he was released at Engcobo's charge office. The African National Congress has sent a wire of protest to the Minister of Justice, the Transkei authorities and the Paramount Chief of Tembuland.

GOVT. PLAN TO INCREASE AFRICAN POLL TAX

Nat. Strategy For Next Election

JOHANNESBURG.

A SUBSTANTIAL increase in Poll Tax possibly even doubling that tax and a blanket tax on all African women of a certain fixed income level will be the main apartheid legislation next session.

This new tax burden on Africans will also form an important part of the pre-election scuffling between the Nats and the U.P. The enforcement of the new taxation will be tied up with the issue of reference books to both men and women, so the speeding up of the issuing of passes to women must come.

tween whites and non-whites that that was not practicable.

This stiffer taxation of Africans, for which legislation will be necessary, can be chalked up as the first direct fruits of the United Party's "Kafferboetie" campaign against the Nats. On the platteland the U.P. has been hard at work on this main plank of their pre-election campaign.

quarters had the Nats worried for a time. So Verwoerd this month undid years of patient labour of the State information propagandists who tell the world how well South Africa looks after African welfare, by quoting figures showing that African direct and indirect taxation is not only paying for their own services, but is carrying white services, too.

LEAFLET

Delegates to the Transvaal Nat congress last week found an anonymous leaflet tucked under their car windscreens urging them before leaving Pretoria to look at Vlakkfontein Location to see the Bantustan Verwoerd is building there.

Each Saturday for months, Die Transvaler, the Nat organ here, has produced a supplement of facts and figures showing how much the Nats are really doing for the whites! Now the Nats have been jabbed by the U.P. into their first new public act to prove that they are not "Kafferboeties."

NATS ON THE READY

The Government has built 5,000 houses for Africans at a cost of £2 million, Nat delegates were told. Eight African schools have been erected and 13 more are being built. If the Nat Government gets back in 1958 by 1960 there will be more Africans in Vlakkfontein than whites in Pretoria, said the leaflet. This campaign of the black bogey in reverse, with the cry "the Nats are doing too much for the Africans," initiated from U.P. head-

The general election may still be 18 months off, but the Transvaal congress of the Nationalist Party, staged for 4,000 enthusiastic, hard-bitten Nat delegates (described by one political commentator as resembling Third Reich rallies) showed the Nats are already on their toes for the starter's pistol. Their election campaign will be officially launched on November 1, and already H.N.P. headquarters are looking for full-time organisers for 60 of the 68 Transvaal seats. Only 8 "jingo" fortresses like Houghton, Parktown and Hillbrow in Johannesburg will be left alone. "Stryddae" this year produced record collections for party funds and it is clear the Nats are getting substantial amounts from English moneybags and the business world.

The function of Nat organisers will partly be the preparation for the new delimitation. The Nats are aiming not only to snatch 12 new seats from the U.P. but are also making a dead set to poll more votes in all constituencies.

NAT CONGRESS

Last week's congress gave many signs that this party did not reach its zenith with the 1953 election, but can still soar to greater heights. But there must be and will be variations in their propaganda bogeys and election themes. The glossy printed congress agenda sported the usual savage demands for more absolute apartheid. Alberton and Kempton Park branches want the scrapping of May Day as a workers' holiday, because of its "Communist associations."

Resolutions asked for the speedier implementation of the Group Areas Act, also university apartheid. Heavier sentences for non-whites with firearms were demanded, also that locations should be fenced to keep down crime.

"The unhealthy monopoly Native traders enjoy in Native areas and locations under the protection of Town Councils" should be ended, said another. There should be a law to compel landowners to occupy their land themselves and have it managed by whites not Africans, said another branch, and even Minister Swart had to tell a branch demanding the prohibition of social intercourse be-

THE NEW REPUBLIC

But apartheid vote catchers in the old form are wearing a little thin, so now apartheid aims are becoming part of a broader agitation for a republic. Under a "Boererepubliek" with a new constitution, which will give Nats the powers they want to sweep aside the interference of the courts, the rule of law and all "foreign traditions," apartheid will at last become possible the way all proper Nats want it. That is the theme and its variations piped at last week's congress will be heard with ever greater force as the months go by this year and next. Behind the huge Nat machine a feeble United Party is ploughing with its anaemic version of the Nats own black bogey propaganda of eight years ago.

SAIC To Take Group Areas Act To United Nations

JOHANNESBURG.

The South African Indian Congress is to take to the United Nations the acts of plunder committed against Non-Whites under the Group Areas Act.

U.N. member states are to be called on to bring pressure on the Union Government to "stop robbing, impoverishing and persecuting the Non-White people on the altar of apartheid."

This is a decision of the SAIC Executive which met at Durban recently. A comprehensive memorandum on the drastic implementation of the Group Areas Act will be sent to all UNO member states and the sponsoring countries of the Afro-Asian conference who will be called on to take steps, in conformity with the United Nations Charter, to "call a halt to the outrages of the South African Government."

The SAIC conference will take place in Johannesburg on October 26, 27 and 28 this year.

"In Trade Union Offices men have stood with tears streaming down their faces when told that no jobs could be found for them."

UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION GROWING WORSE

CAPE TOWN.

Unemployment is hitting Cape Town hard. According to official figures the position has worsened over the past months and there are no signs of improvement. A total of 4,800 workers were reported unemployed at the end of August, but these figures do not give a full picture of unemployment, since many workers who lose their jobs do not register for various reasons.

African workers are hit hardest. At Langa large crowds gather daily for permits to seek work. A total of 2,417 Africans were reported unemployed at the end of last month, in comparison with 1,000-odd at the end of July.

Many of them, newcomers from the starving countryside, have come to the city in the hope of earning enough to rescue their families from the rigours of starvation and taxes. But they discover that the "goose that lays the golden eggs" have died.

At the unemployment bureaux in Athlone and Cape Town long queues of Coloured workers wait to draw unemployment benefits. Many more have already exhausted their drawings from the fund and are on the streets looking for work. Each morning large numbers gather outside factory gates applying for jobs.

WORSENING

"The worsening state of affairs is helping to undermine the bargaining powers of the trade unions," Mr. B. Turok, trade unionist, told New Age. "Workers are unable to enforce their demands for higher wages while there are so many others unemployed. They can be sacked and easily replaced. Bosses are becoming

highly selective in putting off and taking on workers. Many old hands who have been employed with firms for years and who earn top wages have been dismissed and replaced by others who have to start from scratch with low wages."

Mr. Turok also mentioned that there are fears among workers that unemployment will increase after the Christmas season when retrenchment might really start in all industries.

Close on 700 building workers are reported out of work, and corridors outside the union offices are thronged with men waiting for news of unemployment.

In the furniture industry 300-odd men are reported unemployed. "There is no sign of improvement in the situation," Mr. A. E. Deane, secretary of the Cape Furniture Workers' Union, told New Age. "Everybody is just hoping that the position will change for the better. Firms are getting no orders because people just can't afford to buy furniture."

POTENTIAL

"There is a potential market of ten million Africans in the country," Mr. Deane said. "If they were

given the opportunity to rise above the cheap labour level they would be only too glad to be able to buy furniture and other necessities."

Three furniture factories are on short time, involving approximately 300 men who lose 1 or 1½ days per week. No tradesmen work on Mondays. At one factory only 6 apprentices and a few labourers out of a staff of 85 were working.

Mr. H. J. Arendzi, a furniture worker, said: "I have been unemployed for the last four months. Before that I barely managed to keep my wife and three children by doing odd jobs. I have drawn all my benefits and my position has become critical."

Tragedy has entered into the lives of many workers.

In trade union offices men have stood with tears streaming down their faces, weeping openly when told that no jobs could be found for them. People have been ejected from their homes because they are unable to pay the rent. Union funds have dwindled because contributions have fallen, and many officials have made loans out of their own pockets to assist destitute workers.

Everywhere there are complaints of "hard times." Capitalism's crisis is looming again.

Basutoland Doesn't Want Chaplin

MASERU, Basutoland.

At a meeting called by the Basutoland African Congress recently, over 500 people unanimously supported the Paramount Chief's protest against the appointment of a Union national as the Resident Commissioner for Basutoland.

The meeting pledged itself to oppose the appointment at all costs and appealed to "all Basuto to stand and oppose this tricky appointment and also to fight for a fully-fledged legislature for all and over all."

(In spite of strong opposition, Mr. A. G. T. Chaplin, a Union national, was last week ordered to proceed to Basutoland to take up the post of Resident Commissioner.)

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