

# 'WE WILL RESIST ANY ATTEMPT TO MOVE US!'

JULY 3 1958

## NEW AGE

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### 20,000 Durban Indians at Huge Rally

FROM BRIAN BUNTING

DURBAN.

**LEGAL** action to contest the Group Areas Proclamations for Durban and a mass petition to Parliament were two courses of action announced to the mass protest and prayer meeting attended by about 20,000 people at Curries Fountain last Thursday, June 26.

The meeting was the most impressive since the resistance campaign of 1946-47. And but for the ban on the attendance of Africans and the fact that Indian workers were not able to be present, the size of the crowd would have been very much greater still.

"The proclamations of June 6," said the chairman of the meeting, Mr. J. N. Singh, "have the immediate effect of making large areas owned and occupied by our people immediate group areas for White ownership. In some areas like the Beach and the Upper Berea, we have to vacate within a year. In the other areas the sword of Damocles hangs over the heads of our people. The areas of Cato Manor, Riverside, Prospect Hill, the Lower Berea, Bellair, Hillary and others are

proclaimed future White occupation areas."

This meant that occupation and ownership might remain with the present occupants during their lifetime, but they could not pass on their properties to their heirs and would ultimately be forced to sell at much below the present market price.

"In Durban as a whole," Mr. Singh said:

- "Indians will ultimately lose 6,658 acres of land and 4,626 dwellings valued at £4,548,620.

- "Coloureds will lose 28 acres and 59 dwellings valued at £55,480.

- "Africans will lose 60 acres and 117 dwellings valued at £20,340.

"These values are municipal rateable values and it is no exaggeration to say that the market value of losses is £30,000,000."

A total of 81,000 Africans, 7,000 Coloureds and 65,000 Indians would have to move, as compared to only 3,000 Whites. If the working areas in the centre of Durban and Clairwood were declared White a further 54,000 Indians, 6,000 Coloureds and 44,000 Africans would be affected.

"Durban will be denuded in the ultimate analysis of almost the whole of its Non-White population. Over a quarter million Indians, Africans and Coloureds will have to be thrown out.

(Continued on page 2)



'WE WON'T MOVE!'—THEY SAID.

## SLUMP IS CREEPING UP ON

### SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG.

That slump is creeping in upon us. The ugly facts are being kept off the front pages of the daily newspapers but the Transvaal's clothing industry is in the grip of the worst slack period since the depression days of the 'thirties.

There seems to be a superstition against talking about the jobless and the businesses that have come crashing in case panic hastens a coming recession—as though tight lips could shorten the unemployment queues or bring back boom conditions.

But a drop in wages as a result of unemployment and much more, short time in this important industry is beginning to hit trade and business generally.

Nearly a third of the clothing factories in the Transvaal—the centre of the cut, make and trim industry—have laid off workers for periods ranging from a few days each week to several weeks at a time. Since January 6,590 workers of the total labour force of 17,500 in this province, has been on short

time. This is about one in three workers partly laid off.

This last month 2,000 workers, divided almost equally between European, Coloured and African workers, have been on slack pay. This is four times the figure for normal periods.

AUGUST TEST

While this is the usual slack season in the garment industry the crucial test will come in August. If production does not start to hum again and Christmas orders do not inject new life into the trade factories will begin to dismiss workers outright and the industry will be in the thick of a really nasty crisis.

And if the clothing industry takes many other industries and trades a big knock in two months time the danger signs will be flickering for too.

For a while the blow to the clothing industry is being cushioned by the private dole system or slack pay fund administered by the industrial council. Established in 1954, the last bad slack period for the industry, the fund is built on worker and employer contributions and each worker is entitled to draw half of his normal pay packet (as long as the amount does not exceed £3.7s.1d.) for 30 working days.

But with the heavy calls on it this year the clothing industry's slack pay fund is paying out twice as fast as the money is coming in, and next month will be paying out even faster. The fund will not be able to hold out much longer at the present rate.

Unemployment benefits are paid out only where workers have been unemployed for seven consecutive days so the slack pay fund stands by those workers who are at their machines one day and off the next, as factories try to stagger their orders through lean periods.

TRADE UNION ACTION

The slack crisis is now so acute in the clothing industry that the Garment Workers' Union supported by the Trade Union Council last week began to press hard for an amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act to provide relief for workers on slack time.

A union deputation saw Department of Labour officials last week and a memorandum is going forward to the Minister.

A worker on short time is in a similar position to the unemployed worker, the union argues. He is available for work but has not been put off by his employer.

The short time crisis is growing too big for a private fund to handle, and the government must step in, is the demand.

(MORE SLUMP EVIDENCE—PAGE 3)

### TRAIN DISASTERS

#### Who is to Blame?

This question is on the lips of the whole country after three tragic train smashes on the same line, involving hundreds of injured and dead.

Last Thursday's accident on the Orlando line—10 dead, 49 injured—shocked the Reef and raised an outcry among the African population shortly afterwards.

The first thing investigated by the Railways and the police was possible sabotage. They found none. But the teeming population of the townships around Johannesburg have their own reasons—and probably the right ones—for the catastrophes—OVER-CROWDING OF TRAINS, AND JAMMED SCHEDULES.

The sight of suburban trains packed to the doors and windows, rocking perilously along the permanent way is a common sight on the Rand, and passengers take their lives in their hands when going on an ordinary journey of a few miles.

That the accidents happened at times when the trains were packed with passengers points directly at overloading, something which could be prevented by a better service and more trains. This is the opinion of workers who have to use trains every day.

## NEW AGE TO CLOSE?

THE response to our appeal for 200 readers to guarantee £5 per month is beginning to trickle in—and the operative word is "trickle."

Supporters of New Age do not yet seem to understand the seriousness of the position. If you give us the support we have had in previous crises we will not go under. BUT IF YOU FAIL THIS TIME WE WILL HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN.

Among the first to respond to the five pound a month guarantee is our old friend Paul Joseph who works in a furniture factory and whom we know come what may will collect that five pounds and pay it in every month. Mary and Bennie Turok have also re-

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OUR TIP FOR DURBAN JULY—Page 8



## NEW AGE LETTER BOX

### MORE LETTERS ON RELIGION

I WOULD like to comment on letters appearing in the Letter-box concerning Christianity. Religion is a general term meaning the recognition of and obedience to a supreme being. There are many ways of worshipping this Supreme Being and Christianity is only one.

The true way to worship is through your parents and ancestors who created you. Christian worship is just a fashion, and so in it there is ostentation hypocrisy and pride. It is also a fraud. If you want people to accept Bantu Education, Bantu Authorities, Suppression of Communism and Public Safety laws, teach them Christianity.

We will forget the role played by Christianity in the subjugation of the Africans and in the confiscation of their land during the military and missionary conquest of the Cape. It indoctrinated the minds of the Africans and contributed to their destruction and enslavement.

Christianity has successfully taught the African to be passive to all indignities and to endure all injustices in the hope of rich reward in the "World to come." It is because of this Christianity that Africans accept their lowly and inferior position in life. It is why apartheid has to be established to ensure that Africans believe in their inferiority.

Mokakube Charles Boshelo.  
Johannesburg.

#### Church and Politics

The ministers of religion are politicians. Because the Government tells them to, they preach politics in their churches telling the people not to be against the law of the land. They tell our

mothers to take passes and to hate Congress because it is a "communist organisation."

God promised Moses the Land of Canaan for the sons and daughters of Israel to enjoy freedom of the land in this life, not in heaven.

Religion is politics, else Dr. Malan would not have been a Cabinet Minister, nor would the church be ruled by politicians.

There is nothing that is not politics, and nothing that is not religion. All people shall enjoy freedom on earth.

Mayibuye Afrika.  
Anti-Western Civilisation  
Bloemfontein.

#### Expulsions Supported

I wholeheartedly support the action of the ANC Transvaal Working Committee for the expulsion from the ANC of Messrs Leballo and Madzunya, because the purpose of the two gentlemen is to disrupt the entire movement of the ANC and furthermore, to change the existing constitution of our organisation in order to suit their purpose.

If the two gentlemen feel that the ANC policy of collaboration with other racial groups is wrong it is advisable for them to form an organisation of their own in which they will have the opportunity to preach hatred, frustration, racialism and other racial feelings.

Let us have nothing to do with these racialistic leaders and stand firm behind our leaders who are fighting for freedom, all irrespective of colour, race and creed.

South Africa is a common place for those who live in it.  
Mayibuye Afrika.

JAMES J. MALIMABE  
Ficksburg, O.F.S.

#### Exiled Leader Writes

I am at my sister's place after a good journey from Cape Town. On the 10th June, on my way to the Bloemfontein Location, I saw more than five hundred women in a queue waiting to take pass books. I asked a man when the women had started to take pass books and was told, from one month ago.

I arrived at Wepener to find my sister poor and starving. She does not know how she will feed me and I shall have to be here for a month without tea or coffee or smokig until I can earn some money.

JACK MOSIANE  
Basutoland.

#### MR. TIMOTHY MORETSELE

and six other men were found guilty of undermining the authority of the State in the most recent Sekhukhuleni trial arising out of anti-Government protests in the Reserve and were sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

They will take their case on appeal.

#### Huge Durban Group Areas Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

"We would like to make it clear that we who have had no say in the making of this barbarous law, and who are totally opposed to the Act and the principles and aims of its originators, will not at any stage acquiesce in its implementation. We must give the authorities a clear answer.

"We must not do anything which will allow our people to be shifted en masse from their homes. We must not sell our life's savings which are our homes. We must with all the strength at our disposal resist any attempt to move us. Our rallying call must be: 'Over our dead bodies.'" (Applause.)

(SEE ALSO PAGE 3)

## THE NEW PARLIAMENT

THE new Parliament is about to begin its activities.

The ladies and gentlemen who sit in our Parliament do not represent the people of our country. They represent one-half of one-quarter of the population.

Nor are they an exceptionally distinguished group of ladies and gentlemen. Very few of them indeed stand out for their brains, humanity or contribution to the common good.

In the circumstances therefore, one might expect this to be a modest Parliament, one which would act with hesitation and humility.

In fact, of course, it will not. It will act brashly and arrogantly. It will pass oppressive and harsh laws without a thought for the misery and hardship that will result.

More wives will be torn from their husbands by the pass laws. More families will be uprooted from their homes, more shopkeepers bankrupted, more professional men impoverished, by the Group Areas laws.

The freedoms which remain will be further whittled down. Laws to muzzle free speech, to shackle the press, to distort education will hatch in wicked-brains.

And there will be another patch-up law to permit a special court for the treason trial, to add to last year's law to allow inadmissible evidence. One wonders if, in the event of an acquittal, Parliament may not simply pass a law to say that anyone accused of treason shall be found guilty of treason.

**But the laws which this Nationalist Parliament will pass are not signs of strength but of weakness. Those who have the confidence of the people do not require oppressive laws. And those who have not the confidence of the people cannot keep themselves in power indefinitely by means of oppressive laws.**

South Africa will one day reach a stage when the people can no longer, and will no longer, bear the weight of oppression.

Then the undistinguished ladies and gentlemen of our Parliament will be sent back to their farms and homes, and men and women representative of all the people of South Africa will take their places.

## NEW AGE TO CLOSE?

(Continued from page 1)

sponded with alacrity—each giving five pounds per month. In addition to a few more individuals who will be turning over a greenback every month, the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress are not only becoming guarantors but have pledged themselves to collect £50 within the next month.

What we find almost as pleasing as this response from some of our readers is the fact that the appeal has had the effect of starting up a friendly rivalry between the Durban and Johannesburg Indian youth for sales of New Age. Already the Johannesburgers are selling 360 copies weekly. There is no reason to suppose that Durban will not exceed this of course. But what about the SACPO youth taking up the issue? What are they waiting for?

As yet there has not been a great response from the ANC branches to Chief Lutuli's appeal to sell New Age. We invite this organisation to get in touch with our various offices and let us know what quota they want. This applies too to all the Congress organisations. With an all-out effort by the Congress movement our sales can go soaring up to last year's figures and easily surpass them. This will be the answer to the Government who are doing everything to muzzle and suppress the liberatory movement in South Africa.

But in spite of these early signs of awakening among our readers the response is nowhere near as effective as it has to be. In fact our Johannesburg office has had to take a loan of a few hundred pounds to tide it over this month's commitments. That is how bad it is. We are therefore appealing to all our supporters to rally round us. Don't say "it is the old, old story." Of course it is. But we expect you to see that we are kept going as long as it is necessary to fight for freedom in our country.

We do not regard your association with us as a temporary flirtation. On the contrary, we regard your support for us as your permanent and very necessary contribution to the deadly struggle which we are waging to prevent the torch of freedom from being extinguished completely in our country.

#### Last Week's Donations:

**Cape Town:**  
London Committee £30,  
Anonymous 10s., J.Z. 7.6d.,  
Jumble £5.10, Old Timer £5,  
Ally Sisters £1, Anonymous 10s.  
**Johannesburg:**  
Joe Colis £127, Northern  
Natal £31, Playboy £3, Western  
Native Township Resident  
10.6d.  
**Port Elizabeth:**  
Doc £1, Babs 10s., Friend £5.

# JOB RESERVATIONS THREAT

## Why are the Trade Unions Silent?

By ALEX LA GUMA

CAPE Town's major trade unions are still silent about a dangerous-looking circular that was issued to industrialists and businesses in the Western Cape from the office of the Industrial Tribunal in Pretoria.

The circular says that the Tribunal intends making investigations into the "present position and future prospects in regard to employment in all undertakings in industries, trades and occupations" in the Western Cape with reference to:

(a) the supply and demand of European and Non-European employees other than unskilled workers;

(b) THE DESIRABILITY OF MAKING INVESTIGATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH UNDERTAKINGS ON INVESTIGATIONS UNDER SECTION 77 (OF THE I.C. ACT) SHOULD BE MADE. (This is the Job Reservations Clause.)

The whole questionnaire is obviously prepared to gather information from employers to assist the Tribunal when deciding to

make enquiries into industries with the view of reserving jobs for the different races.

#### NOTHING TO SAY

Approached by New Age some weeks ago for comments on this circular, the Building Workers' Union had nothing to say except refer us to Mr. E. A. Deane of the Furniture Workers' Union. Mr. Deane had no comments to make except that he had circularised all trade unions in the Cape for a meeting to discuss it. Their silence must be contrasted with the Chamber of Commerce's criticisms of the circular!

UP TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATIONS OF SUCH A MEETING.

The Food and Canning Workers' Union, the Sweet Workers' and the smaller unions in the Western Cape told New Age that they had received no invitations to such a meeting, and it is believed that the matter has been put in abeyance.

Mrs. L. Abrahams, secretary of the Canning Workers said: "I trust that all unions will be vigilant against any threat to their livelihood. There is a danger in waiting

until the last minute before anything is done to defend their right to work and to earn a living.

"The workers should give the Government no chance to implement its apartheid policy in their employment."

The questionnaire from the Industrial Tribunal probes into the rates of absenteeism among different racial groups, and into their standards of efficiency.

Another question addressed to employers asks: "WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECTS, IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD A DETERMINATION BE MADE FOR THE RESERVATION OF WORK FOR WHITE PERSONS IN RESPECT OF ANY OR ALL YOUR ACTIVITIES ON THE QUALITY, REGULARITY, ADEQUACY, COST ETC. OF THE SERVICES RENDERED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY YOU?"

It becomes obvious from the contents of this questionnaire that Minister of Labour De Klerk has plans for the future of industries in the Cape, but it must not be left to the bosses to answer his questions, but for the workers to give an emphatic "NO!" to job reservation.

## NEW AGE 3rd SHORT STORY COMPETITION

A LARGE number of entries have already been received in our 3rd short story competition. Previous prize-winners and runners-up are well represented among them, several having sent three or four entries.

There is still time for YOU to enter. Closing date is July 31st. Even if you do not win, the judges will give you their comment on your story.

The judges are Harry Bloom, Uys Krige and Dr. R. E. van der Ross.



Queue of the unemployed.

## EVIDENCE OF SLUMP DANGER IS GROWING

### JOHANNESBURG.

While the clothing workers are feeling the tightest unemployment pinch (see page one) other industries are affected too; as this quick survey by New Age shows:

**TEXTILE FACTORIES.** Of 12 Johannesburg textile mills (most of them fairly small) only two are working normal time. The other 10 are on short time. Since AMATO, the largest textile mills in the Union, was placed under judicial management hundreds of workers have been retrenched and others are on short time (*New Age*, last week). Uitenhage textile firms are also hit by coming-depression conditions and Durban mills are short of orders so are not working to full capacity.

**LEATHER FACTORIES.** One in ten leather workers in Johannesburg are unemployed. One factory went insolvent and closed down. Numbers of the country's 16,000 leather workers are on short time.

**THE MOTOR INDUSTRY.** At present there is a shortage of skilled mechanics but the industry expects a laying off of workers in the next months by the huge assembly plants in Port Elizabeth.

**THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY.** In Natal engineering firms are working a lot of short time. There is some unemployment among operatives. Under the ratio system in the industry for every artisan out of work five unskilled workers lose their jobs.

In the **JEWELLERY INDUSTRY**, a luxury trade, there are a number of out-of-work polishers.

**FURNITURE FACTORIES** have retrenched in some instances. With 60 skilled journeymen out of work this is the highest figure of unemployed skilled men since the end of the war.

Workers in a number of other industries, though they are not on short time are feeling the pinch nevertheless, because fewer and fewer factories are working overtime these days. Many working families made ends meet with overtime pay. As their earning capacity is reduced retail stores take a knock and recession conditions spread.

### Hunger and Cold Face P.E. Workers

As the prices of foods, such as dried beans, condensed milk and

vegetables spiral up, the low paid workers are being hit from two directions. Not only are their families battling to keep going on the very low wages, but the greater threat now is retrenchment.

Some of the largest industries are laying off workers by the hundreds. The motor industry, Tyre industry, Textile industry and many smaller ones are either laying off men or threatening to do so in the next few weeks. For the Africans who are not even entitled to draw Unemployment Benefit the position is bleaker.

While they are faced with the threat of starvation the Council is also threatening to raise the rent. At the same time some workers are facing the grim prospect of

providing accommodation for their families whose shacks are being demolished in the slum clearing operations.

So stark is the poverty of the workers that even Council Officials have made public statements in which they appeal to Europeans to donate the "junk in their back yards" for which they have no use. It is required to help build shacks at the site and service Scheme.

It is a dreadful sight to see children huddled around dying fires, without fuel, without blankets, without shelter. And how bitterly cold are the nights.

But the Council is boasting that it is clearing the slums at a record pace. It is a question of values.

## Congresses, N.I.O. and Liberals Together in Durban Campaign

THESE are some of the points made by speakers at the Durban Group Areas Mass Protest. (See page 1.)

**MR. P. R. PATHER**, President of the Natal Indian Organisation:

The Group Areas Act is un-South African in its character, because it interferes with my personal freedom and my freedom of thinking. We ask the Europeans of Durban not to kow-tow to the Government. If they stand firm, the Group Areas Act will be demolished.

**DR. BABOOLAL**, President of the Durban Combined Indian Rate-payers' Association:

The Group Areas Act will not bring justice and equity to the people of South Africa. It is a negation of all democratic principles, involving the ruthless uprooting and exploitation of the Non-White peoples. For how much longer are we Indians expected to develop virgin areas until the time comes for us to be uprooted again when our land is wanted by others?

**PROFESSOR HANSI POLLAK**.

I speak on behalf of many Whites who are deeply hurt and shocked by these proclamations. The Group Areas Act is the most deplorable of all the deplorable laws in our Statute Book. It is vicious in its conception, disastrous in its effects.

It is based on the idea that people of different racial groups cannot live together without friction, but the effect of its implementation is exactly the opposite of what is claimed for it, for it greatly increases racial friction and disharmony.

**CANON A. H. ZULU:**

The African sympathises very deeply with you from real personal knowledge, because he knows from his own experience what this will mean to you and your children.

**MR. ALAN PATON:**

This Act is an evil Act, and the day will come when it is struck from the Statute Book. Who is it that creates racial hostility—those

who protest against evil laws or those who make them? We will not rest until policies based on discrimination are uprooted from our national life.

A number of messages of support from individuals and organisations were read to the meeting, including one from Chief Lutuli pledging the full support of the African people



Canon A. H. Zulu.

for any action which the Indians might take to oppose the Proclamations.

A resolution passed unanimously at the end of the meeting called on the Government "in the name of human decency and justice to de-proclaim forthwith the areas covered by the proclamation of June 6 so that our people can be saved from the tremendous human suffering which must inevitably result from the uprooting of tens of thousands of people."

The resolution also called on the Durban City Council to join in this appeal to the Government.

## ANOTHER AFRICAN LEADER EXILED Greenwood Ngotyana Refused Permission to Work

CAPE TOWN.

WELL-KNOWN African leader, Mr. Greenwood Ngotyana, was forced to leave Cape Town last Tuesday after he had been refused permission by the Native Administration authorities to take up employment here.

Mr. Ngotyana, one of those acquitted of charges of high treason last year, had been, before his arrest in 1956, secretary to Mr. L. B. Lee-Warden, M.P. Mr. Lee-Warden required Mr. Ngotyana's services again after his acquittal. But the authorities will not permit the M.P. to employ Mr. Ngotyana, whose file has been endorsed "Not to be employed in Cape Town."

Mr. Ngotyana had been living in the Cape Peninsula since 1943. He has a wife and two children.

**TO REMOVE ALL AFRICANS** On leaving Cape Town Mr. Ngotyana told *New Age* that a high official in the local administration had told him that it was the policy of the authorities to aim at removing all Africans from the Western Cape. The Government is satisfied that there are enough Coloureds to do the cheap labour.

Commenting on this Mr. Ngotyana said, "I wish to issue a warning to all Africans in the Western Cape. Already the Government has been making attempts to decapitate the political movement, the ANC, by deporting many of its leaders from the area. They believe that by getting rid of the leaders they will leave the Africans powerless to resist the onslaughts being made on them."

"The African people must not

give in, but strengthen the ANC and new leaders must emerge to take the places of those removed by the Government. The African people have a right to live wherever they please and must be prepared to defend that right.

"I ask the Coloured people and European democrats to stand by the African people in their struggle for justice and freedom, and to close their ranks against those who wish to create racial friction and animosity in order to foster apartheid."

**ANC PROTEST**

The Cape Town branch of the ANC has voiced strong protest at the removal of Mr. Ngotyana and

other African leaders from the Cape. "They have been removed because of their political activities," said the Secretary of the branch. "The ANC will continue to work for the repeal of the Urban Areas Act and all oppressive laws."



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