



W. H. ANDRIEWS



"THE COLOUR BAR IN CULTURAL LIFE, IN  
SPORT AND IN EDUCATION SHALL BE  
ABOLISHED

-FREEDOM CHARTER.

mosebetsi e neng e le tlasa taolo ea barui kapa baramatlotlo (Capitalists). Qetellong hlopha sena se ile sa qetella se tlatlitsoe ke batho ba neng ba ena le matloana ao ba neng ba reki-sa lijo le liphahlo tse ling li etseng. Hang ka mora tse-na, hone ho ile ha hlaha toants'ane e bohloko pake-ng tsa basebetsi le barui, bo ramatlotlo, kapa ba hiri, empa basebetsi ba ile ba hloloa ntoa ena e eneng e bitsoa ke basebetsi ka bitso la "Chartism". Basebetsi ba ile ba hlolana ka mabaka a bona ba ikarola hlotsoana tse ngata tse ile tsa fapana ka maikutlo tsa qetella li arohane tsa ipopa hlophana tse ngata tse hlokanng thuso. Empa ka ha batho ba bang ba ne ba ile ba kopana, ho theha Makhotla a Basebetsi, ha o oa ka oa tiea hantle hoba ba ile ba lebella hore ba etelloe pele ke batho ba ru-tehileng, ba sa kang ba baruta mokhoa ona oa tsamaiso ea litaba tsa puso (Political Theory) ka mokhoa o phethahetseng.

E ne le hona maqatsing ana ha Francis Andrews a tla

iphumana alokela hoba lekhabunyane (an Apprentice) la mokhatlo oa Richard Garret & Sons Moo a ilong a lokela ho ithuta mosebetsi tšeng. Hobabang ba neng ba sebetse le cena, hone ho le Belmoor moshanyana e mong ea bitsoang Joseph ea neng a kile a tsosa banna ba lekhotla la Litory ka ho leka ho ba loant'sa le sehlopha sa hae. Mokhatlong omong le omong oa batho ba neng loanela basebetsi mohlankana enoa ea bitsoa Joseph Belmoor a o emella.

Ngoana enoa ea monyenyanana William o ile a latela mehopolo ea 'mae malebana le toanelo ea tokoloho ea batho bohle.

Francis Andrews one a ile arolela Kerokeng ea England 'me ka ts'oanelo ona a lokela hoba emong oa lekhotla la Litory. Empa hara batho ba ngata ona a hlompha monna e mong eo ho neng hothoe ke Oliver Cromwell ea neng a loantsana le borena. Ene ele motho ea neng a lumellana le batho bareng borena bofeliso. (French Revolution) empa ha a ka a fumana thuso o hloka halang ho batsoall, ba hae ka mofereferere oa lemo sa 1871 motseng oa Paris. Nakong ena bo ramatlotlo

naheng ea England bana le matla haholo, hobile ho bonahala hore batla ba le batha ba ngata babalatelang Batho ba Phahameng ba naha ea England bana base ba bontsitse hore babatla ho aha le ho tsehetsa Umuso o moholo oa chaba tse ngata tse fapaneng ka ntle ho naha ea England.

Ngoana oa pele oa Francia Andrews ene e le ngoananyana ea ileng a hlaha ka lemo sa 1864, 'me ahlahlangoana ke bana ba babeli baileng ba hlokahala ela masea. Francis ona a phela ka botata joale kabatho ba neng ba fumanehi le ba England mehleng eo. Le ha ene ele motho ea neng a tseba mosebetsi oa chelete, one ae a tlohe a hloke le chelete ekabang pondo moputsong oa hae oa khoeli. Mosali oa hae le eona ona a ntse a thusa ka ho rokela basali ba bang mese le linto tse ling tse itseng tse nang li thusa hoba fumanela chelete e 'ngoe e itseng.

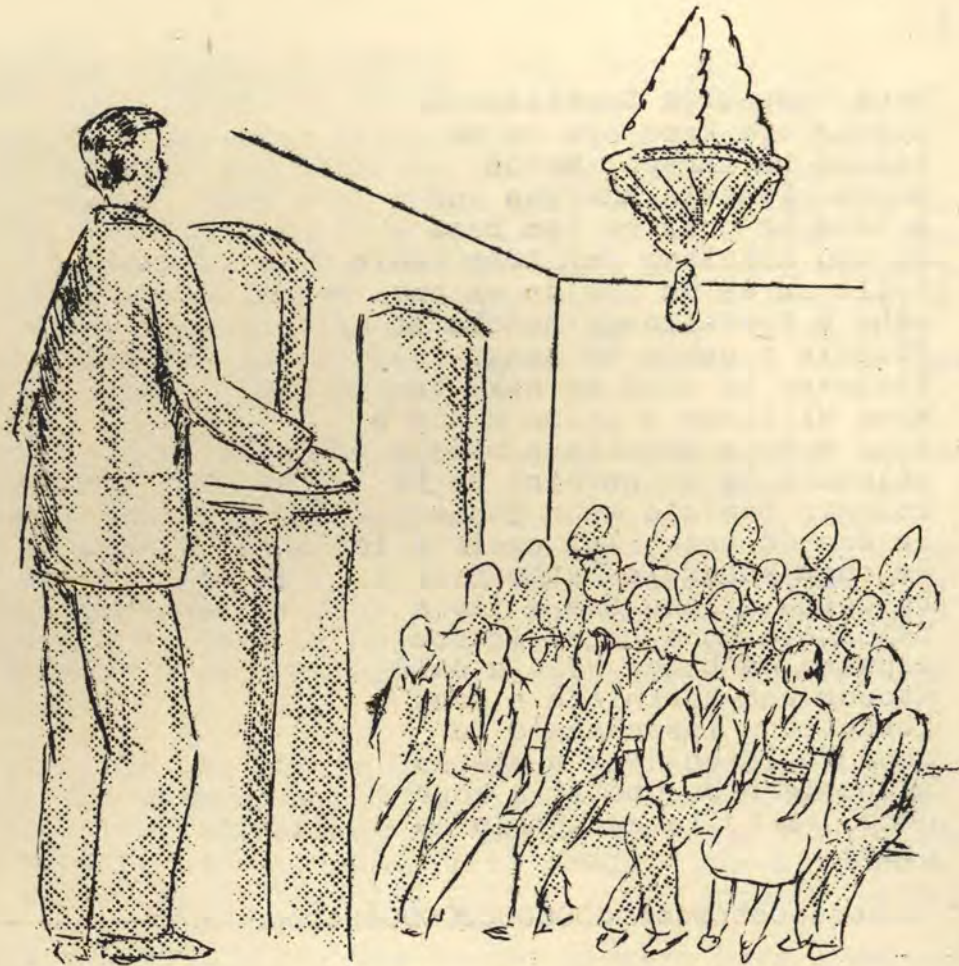
Ka lemo seo William a ileng a hlaha ka sona, baholo ba hae ba ile ba tloha ntlong eo ba neng ba le ho eona, ba eaho eo

na moo ba tlileng ba phela ka mokhoanyana o motle. Ka mora mona William ebile ena monga ntlo ena moo a ileng a holisa bana ba hae ka moko oa motle. Ene ele motho ea ratang ho balla bana libukka a bile a ikemiselitse hobaruta, Litaba tsa bophelo ka nako tseo. Bana bana ba ne ba e ba bone buka ho oa feela hore monamoholo o sa tsoeroe ke boroko, 'me barate ho tseba hore molato keng. E bile le lapa le holang hantle la thabo le sa khathatsoeng ke letho, 'me lekhuliso e ntle eo ba ileng ba holisoa ka eona, le eona e ile ea thusa hoba etsa bana ba nang le hlomphe e ntle. Ka lemo se seng le seng, hone ho ee bo le moketenya oa batho ba motse oo bana bana ba holetseng ho eona, o neng obitsoa ka hore ka mokete oa Cold Fair Green hoba ene ele mokete oneng o etsoa beke tse peli pele ho mokete oa Xmas. Ho ne ho na le molao oreng joala bonue feela moketeng ona



"THE GOVERNMENT SHALL DISCOVER, DEVELOP  
AND ENCOURAGE NATIONAL TALENT FOR THE  
ENHANCEMENT OF OUR CULTURAL LIFE"

-FREEDOM CHARTER.



"THE LAW SHALL GUARANTEE TO ALL THEIR  
RIGHT' TO SPEAK, TO ORGANISE, TO MEET TO-  
GETHER, TO PUBLISH, TO PREACH, TO WORSHIP,  
AND TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN"

- FREEDOM CHARTER

hosa fumaneloa fumellano ea  
mofuta ofe kapa ofe ho ba  
tsoari ba marapo. Monna  
Moholo Francis Andrews one  
a rata ha holo ho isa bana  
ba hae moketeng ona leha feela  
o ile oa ea oa nna oa ea ese  
ntho e tsotelloang haholo ho  
fihlela o eshoa ho hang.  
Katsatsi le leng ka nako ea  
Mmas Williana a utloa monna e  
mong a buoa kamatla a maholo  
malebana le ba sebetso ba li  
Polasi. ene ele hoba kopano  
ea hae ea basebetso ene e le  
ea choa kabakala batho hose  
ts'epahale leha ana a ile a  
baloanela hore ba ekeletsoe  
meputso ea bona. Uile a sala  
ntoeng ena hofihlela a kena  
lekhotleng lasochaba e le  
eena feela ea neng a emetso  
makhotla a basebetso a kopa  
neng. (Qotello ea Khaolo ea  
pele)

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THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF WORKERS' UNITY WISHES

ALL ITS READERS :

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THE

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

COLOURED WORKERS ON STRIKE (Cont. from page 16).

On the 14th December, all 88 strikers appeared in Court on a charge of striking illegally. Five of the leaders were heard first, and although Mr. Sam Kahn put up an excellent fight, they were found guilty and fined £10 or one month. The fine is to be paid off at £1 a week. The rest of the workers were remanded until the 30th January. The heavy fine was indeed a bitter pill. But Xmas being near, and the Conciliation Board having been fixed for the 19th December, and workers being a cheerful lot, there was not an unhappy face among them.

Optimism, just like struggle, always brings its reward. The bosses had had enough. What with the strike, the troubles in the factory, and the low production, they decided to make a peace offering in the form of increases ranging from 4/- to £1 to the various grades. Also sick leave was increased by four days, and the cleaning would in future not be done by the workers as an addition to their ordinary work, but by people specially engaged for the purpose.

The struggle has been a hard one. At times it looked as if all the workers would be dismissed, and for three months they were terrorised by the manager and foreladies. But the workers have won the first round. The agreement will be signed up by the time this article appears in print.

In the writer's view, the Boston workers have answered many questions. They have shown that even young, inexperienced Coloured girls who have had no previous contact with the machinery of the police state are able to stand up against it. The bosses have tried everything, from banning, threats by the inspectors, open police activities, to the Court cases. None of these have succeeded in their purpose. The Bag Workers' Union is stronger than ever before.

Written by:

Mr. Ben Turok,  
23/12/55.  
CAPE TOWN.





"THERE SHALL BE A FORTY-HOUR WORKING WEEK,  
A NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE, PAID ANNUAL  
LEAVE, AND SICK LEAVE FOR ALL WORKERS, AND  
MATERNITY LEAVE ON FULL PAY FOR ALL WORKING  
MOTHERS"

-FREEDOM CHARTER.



question "Do you want to work with us or with the people outside?" and were forced to sign. However the word soon got around the factory, and when more of the girls were called to the office, they refused to go. The atmosphere was tense and the climax was reached when the chairman was called into the office and sacked on the excuse that he had told the workers not to sign the statement.

Immediately, 88 workers got up in a body and walked out behind their chairman. The bosses were greatly perturbed and they attempted to persuade the workers to come back to work, but they were greeted with shouts of "we want higher wages", "free overalls for all" and "down with overtime."

After being out for four hours, the workers were told that their strike was probably illegal, so they decided to go back to work. They were in high spirits, and in a mood that spelt trouble for the bosses. They were determined to fight back.

The strike was followed by a reorganisation in the factory. Workers were moved around and the programme of production was changed. As a result the production began to fall. Whereas they had previously produced 48,000 bags a day, they now only made less than 30,000. At the same time they also refused to work overtime.

After about two weeks of chaos in the factory, the bosses called the inspector in, and he lectured the workers in a most provocative manner. He accused them of going slow and threatened them with three years' jail and £500 fine. The workers were not impressed. The Union produced a leaflet entitled "WE ARE NOT SCARED" which stated "neither the bosses, the inspector nor the police can frighten us." It also gave some details of fines that have been recently imposed on strikers in other centres.

In the meanwhile, the Special Branch were also drawn in to assist in the general intimidation of the workers. As the Secretary was banned, they hoped to find him holding meetings near the factory. So they wasted a whole week of their time in throwing a cordon around the factory at lunch times. The local police also seemed to wake up suddenly and for no apparent reason kept popping up in the vicinity.

(Cont. on page 15).



# STRUGGLES AND VICTORIES OF WORKERS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND ASIA

## Gold Coast Teachers win Improvements.

For the first time in their history, teachers in the Gold Coast went on strike on October, 11.

They drew up a 10-point list of demands for improved conditions for the various categories of teachers, students in training and also against arbitrary transfers of teachers.

The strike was conducted in many towns, especially in Accra where the students of the training colleges demonstrated in solidarity with their teachers. School children also paraded in the streets with blackboards bearing the slogan "We want our teachers back", "Give them better pay".

The Gold Coast teachers went back to work on October 19 after having obtained partial satisfaction of their demands and the assurance that no disciplinary action would be taken against them.

## Algerian workers hit back.

Despite the state of emergency and fierce anti-union repression, the Algerian workers are putting up a spirited fight for their rights and demands. The last few weeks in particular have seen a great number of workers' class actions.

Thus the dockers of Algiers have, since the beginning of November, struck three times in protest against the residential ban on three of their union leaders. On Oranie, 90% of the railwaymen walked off the job in support of their demand for the payment of a 13 month's wage. The stoppages of the railway men lasted, according to district, from November 8-15. The Arzew salt mine workers stopped work on November 12 to enforce payment of the minimum wage. On November 14, 95% of the workers of the Bonna Pipes Company struck for a 30% wage

increase. All the workers of the S.O.P.A.L. Company came out for 4 days against the victimisation of a shop steward. On the same day Oran gas and electric metre inspectors stopped work for one hour forty-five minutes. Workers in small and medium undertakings have also been engaged in action for their demands.

#### Unemployed demonstrate in Khartoum (Sudan)

In Khartoum, on November 3, more than 1,000 unemployed organised by the Sudan Federation of Trade Unions demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Finance. They later handed the Speaker of the House of Parliament a petition demanding work for all unemployed.

#### 35,000 Gold Coast Miners demand wage increase.

On November 20, more than 35,000 miners in all the gold and bauxite mines throughout the Gold Coast stopped work at the call of their trade union, the Gold Coast Mines' Employees' Union. They are demanding a 15% wage increase.

#### Indonesia - A declaration by SOBSI.

SOBSI, the Indonesian trade union centre, issued a declaration on November 11 in view of its approaching 9th anniversary which will be celebrated on November 29. The declaration stresses that despite certain successes gained through the struggle for higher wages, the workers suffer from the high prices of necessities. It therefore calls on them to unite still closer for the success of their economic and political demands. It calls for the close co-operation of all sections of the people to eliminate the economic and political influence of the Dutch imperialists.

SOBSI expresses the hope that, following the general elections, the composition of the Cabinet and Parliament will be changed and the provisional constitution amended to favour an improvement in the life of the people.

On December the 14th, 88 workers appeared in Court on a charge of striking illegally. The five leaders who were taken first were fined £10 each, and the remaining workers were remanded to the 30th December, 1955.

Who are these workers? They are mostly young, gay, eighteen and nineteen year old coloured girls such as one sees anywhere in the streets of Cape Town. Their fight has been a difficult one, and they have emerged veterans after going through a sustained struggle over a period of three months. Their struggle has put heart into their comrades in other factories and shown us all what can be done.

The Boston Bag Co. of Cape Town employs just over 90 young Coloured women and 14 men. Their wages are from £1.17.9. to £3. 5. 9. per week including C.O.L.A. for women, and from £2.16.9d. to £4. 5. Od. for men. However, the years of cheap labour are over for the Boston bosses. None of the workers are prepared to continue to work for such low wages.

In September, 1955, some of the workers approached officials of S.A.C.T.U. for assistance in organising the factory. Within a few weeks regular meetings were called in a house nearby and every week 40 to 50 girls could be seen tramping across the fields of Paarden Eiland and along the streets of Maitland on their way to the meetings.

The Union was growing rapidly, when suddenly the Secretary was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act. But the seed was sown and the workers were determined. The Government's intervention on behalf of the bosses was fruitless. An organiser from S.A.C.T.U. took over the meetings and within a short space of time, application was made for registration and demands were drawn up.

On the 17th October preliminary demands were handed to the employers. The reaction was immediate. They went into a huddle and produced what they hoped to be a crushing blow for the Union. The following day, a number of women workers were called into the bosses office and asked to sign a statement to the effect that they were satisfied with their conditions of work. The workers were very reluctant to sign, but they were threatened with the

(cont. on page :)

# CAN THE CONGRESS HELP?

— by BEN GILES —

The question is sometimes asked by trade unionists: 'Can Congress help us?'. By Congress is meant the African National Congress or the South African Indian Congress or the Congress of Democrats or the South African Coloured Peoples' Organisation. To some of us in the trade unions it seems, at times, as though we have to fight our own battles alone and unaided, and that the Congresses cannot do much to help us. But perhaps that is because we do not often take the trouble to win Congress support for our struggles.

Take, for example, the struggle which is now beginning against the new Industrial Conciliation Act amendments. It is true that this is a threat to the whole existence of our trade unions. And for that reason it is mainly the concern of trade unionists. But trade unionists alone, without the support of other sections of the people, cannot hope to defeat the whole power of the state which is being lined up to push the new I.C. Act down our throats

We trade unionists can campaign; we can struggle; but for victory in that struggle we need allies, who will fight with us.

Can the Congresses help? Of course they can. They represent the politically conscious people of all races who believe in fundamental human rights, which includes the rights of workers to form free trade unions without nationalist interference. The Congresses can rally thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of people, black and white, to fight the I.C. Act people who are not members of trade unions, who perhaps are not eligible for trade union membership because they are shopkeepers, students, professional people, peasants, white-collar workers. And these thousands of people count, and count heavily when it comes to a political struggle to defeat a threatened Act of Parliament. And the struggle against the new I.C. Act, like so many of the battles which trade unionists have to fight in South Africa, is not a struggle of the workers against their own employers.

but it is a struggle of the working class against the Nationalist state which rules for the benefit of employers everywhere. In such a struggle, certainly the Congresses can help.

But will the Congresses help? This is another part of the question. And that surely depends on how we trade unionists put forward our case. Can we persuade the non-trade unionists in the Congresses that this struggle against the I.C. Act is a vital one for them as well? Certainly we can, if we set our minds to it. The I.C. Act is typical of all Nationalist legislation. Its aim is to weaken and disrupt the trade union movement, which is one of the rights and privileges of free countries. Its aim is to forcibly separate the workers into racial camps of apartheid, and to destroy their unity so as to weaken them. Its aim is to entrench white supremacy, and to wrest equality and leadership of the trade unions from the hands of the majority section of the workers, the non-Europeans in many industries.

trade union struggles; only if we too, enlist the support of our trade unions for the struggles which are started and carried out by the Congresses, for the advancement of all the people.

And for these reasons, the Congresses can and should fight energetically to defeat it, as they fight all undemocratic, colour bar legislation of the Government. So far, they have not done so. But the fault is not "theirs" but ours, the fault of the Trade Unionists. We have not made the Congresses aware of the dangers to the democratic cause, that are in this act. And we should do so. We are the people who should explain, inside all the Congresses, the need for them to join actively with the trade unions in fighting this new threat to the people. And if we explain properly, and make non-trade unionists understand that the fight against the I.C. Act is being fought in their interests as well as ours, they will help us to fight. Congress can help but only if we play our part inside the Congresses, bringing our problems to their attention, enlisting their support for our



# Increased Exploitation and Discrimination under Capitalism

## Increased exploitation in the French postal services.

Meeting on November 3 to discuss the demands of postal employees and methods of action to win them, the National Council of the Postal Workers' Union (General Confederation of Labour) strongly condemned speed-up and its effects.

In 1954, as compared with 1948, the number of letters handled increased by 33.5%, periodicals by 11% and parcels by 67.6%; the numbers of postal orders issued rose by 29.67% and postal orders paid on delivery by 38%. During the same period, manpower, far from increasing, dropped from 125,517 to 123,194.

Increased output is not due to mechanisation - for example, out of 20,000 rural rounds only 380 are served with mechanical devices - but to the intensification of labour involving even the complete exhaustion of postal workers. Thus from 1949 to 1954, 35,894 accidents took place in the mail distribution departments and 23,340 among linesmen.

The number of mental cases requiring lengthy treatment and leave of absence has increased by 752% going up from 75 in 1948 to 639 in 1955. (Quoted by the Seine District Office of the Postal Workers' Union)

## Increased Exploitation and Accidents.

From 1947 to 1954 productivity in the mines of Austria increased by 77% in the coal mines, 88% for magnesia and 148% for iron ore.

The number of industrial accidents rose in the same period from 62.95 to 85.83 per 100,000 shifts. (Taken from Oesterreichisches Montan-Handbuch 1955, published by the Ministry of Commerce and Reconstruction).

INCREASED EXPLOITATION AND PROFITS.

: 23

In the United States, the Ford Motor Company has just announced that for 1955 its earnings will be greater than the aggregate of the earnings of the company for the 21 years preceding World War II.

INCREASED PROFITS AND DISCRIMINATION

The distribution of the national income in Northern Rhodesia, where only 3% of the population are Europeans, changed as follows between 1946 and 1953 :-

	AFRICANS	EUROPEANS	FOREIGN COMPANIES (1)
1946	49.7 %	39. 3%	9.3%
1953	30.6%	32. 5%	34.8%

(Taken from Monthly Digest of Statistics, Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland).

(1) i.e. income re-invested in Northern Rhodesia.

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**PASS THIS COPY OF WORKERS UNITY**  
**ONTO A FRIEND !**

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EXTRACT FROM THE APPEAL TO WOMEN WORKERS  
OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

Women workers in industry, office workers, teachers, home workers, women workers in town and country side

You, who live by your wages, want a better life and guaranteed security for yourselves, your children and all who are dear to you.

You have economic and social demands to gain, hopes to fulfil and experience to exchange.

You eagerly desire peace, the essential condition for bettering your life. While acclaiming the recent improvement in relations between states, you know that there is still much to be done to establish a firm and lasting peace and you continue to have anxieties.

But you remember hundreds of millions and you represent a tremendous force capable of transforming your aspirations into reality.

Whatever your nationality, opinions, religious beliefs, age, whether you are a trade unionist belonging to no matter what national centre, or are unorganised, better living and working conditions for you and your families depend on your unity.

**LEARN TO KNOW EACH OTHER !**  
**JOIN YOUR FORCES !**

For this purpose, which meets your wishes, the WFTU has called the first World Conference of Women Workers from June 14 to 17, 1956, the WFTU Secretariat is instructed to ask the Austrian Government to make it possible to hold this conference in Vienna.

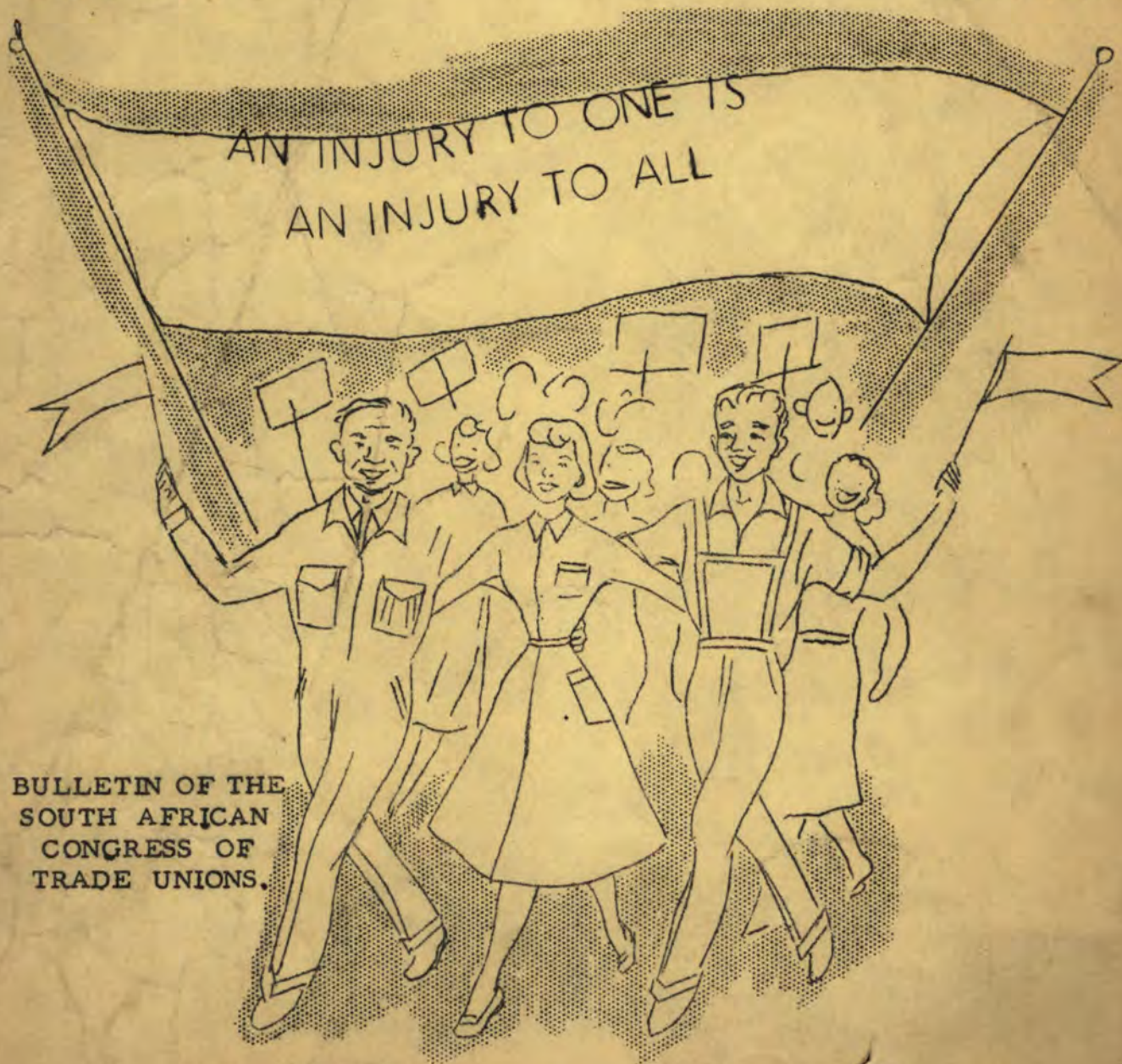
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# Workers

# UNITY

VOL. 1. NO. 4.

AUGUST, 1955.



BULLETIN OF THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN  
CONGRESS OF  
TRADE UNIONS.

# EDITORIAL

## COMRADES - TAKE COURAGE!

Fascist Nationalist oppression is becoming ever harsher. The working people of South Africa are experiencing most severe hardships due to the high cost of food, rent, transport and rising prices generally. The Slave Labour Act and other anti-working class laws are preventing workers from arriving at agreements for improved wages and conditions of work. Our Coloured brothers and sisters lives are being uprooted by the inhuman Population Registration Act. Their jobs are threatened, and poverty and hunger menace them.

The Nationalist Government continues to impose its policy of White Baaskaap on the people and as fascism runs its course, the privileges of even the white workers are threatened. Passports are refused, Trade Union leaders banned, freedom of speech and association curtailed. All in the name of White domination!

Let us take courage from the 7,000 Engineering, Toy, Laundry, Peanut, Textile and Electrical workers who have in the past two months struck work for higher wages and better conditions. Let us be inspired by the 3,000 farm labourers in Nelspruit who risked prison to gain increased wages.

The peoples struggle for freedom is growing. The working people are demanding leadership, trade unions and militancy to fight for a better life. Time and again it has been demonstrated that the struggle for freedom cannot be crushed, but in fact increases with the intensification of oppression and exploitation.

We call upon all freedom fighters to rally to the call of the people. Organise the unorganised workers, assist existing Trade Unions to become stronger and more powerful, acquaint the people with the contents of the great Freedom Charter.

It is now the solemn duty of every class conscious worker and freedom fighter to redouble his efforts in making the South African Congress of Trade Unions a most powerful force in the country, loved and respected by the working people!

# African Engineering Workers

## FLIGHT BACK

Workers in the Iron & Steel Industry are militantly fighting the policy of the employers, acting on Government advice, to sack all workers whenever there is any trouble, or sign of trouble. In a number of disputes which have taken place the workers have shown their determination to fight for recognition of their trade union and the right to collective bargaining.

### African Lamps

At African Lamps, in Industria, the workers told Mr. Nimrod Sejake, an organiser in the Iron & Steel Workers' Union, their grievances. He placed these grievances before the factory management who called the police and had Mr. Sejake arrested. He was removed to the Langlaagte Police station. The one hundred and six workers at the factory immediately protested and there was a stoppage of work. Mr. Sejake was brought back from the police station and the workers were told: "Here he is, he has been released."

The management dismissed the whole staff. They did not drift back to the factory in ones and twos begging for their jobs back, they stood firm. A deputation approached the management and all except two, were re-employed.

### Thermo Welding

There was a protest at Thermo Welding, a Benoni engineering factory, where 19 workers had a day's pay docked for a day when machine adjustments were being made. The factory management prevented the Union organi-

sers from entering the factory, and called the police and officials of the Native Labour Board.

An official of the Native Labour Board offered to see the management on behalf of the workers. He was told: "We don't know you. We have never seen you before. How is it we only see you now?"

The workers made it clear that they wanted the union to negotiate on their behalf. When the workers left the factory the police arrived and arrested one of them. He was told that he is responsible for the trouble and was taken off to the police station, where he was charged for striking illegally. Bail was fixed at £20.0.0d.

The workers and the union managed to raise the bail four days later. When he was released his fellow workers were standing by to welcome him. The workers were dismissed from their employment. They stood firm and were later reinstated.

### African Pressing & Die-Casting

At African Pressing and Die Casting an African woman worker was dismissed. Her fellow workers immediately protested and she was reinstated.

### Wickmanns

An engineering firm in Brakpan, Wickmanns, dismissed three workers. Their fellow workers stood by them and protested. Their employer then reinstated the dismissed workers. These actions by the workers in the Iron & Steel industry are an inspiration to the whole working class. By such actions the restrictive labour laws of the country can be made ineffective.

# TRADE UNIONS - YES - AND CONGRESS TOO! - By Ben Giles

Last week, dozens of Coloured workers in the Transvaal were in danger of being thrown out of their jobs; they were being "reclassified" as Africans in terms of the Population Registration Act, and were faced with demotion from skilled and semi-skilled jobs to the jobs of labourers. The Congress movement stepped in, and started a campaign of protest and objection; mass meetings of the threatened Coloured people have been held; the attention of the press has been focussed on the matter; the Government officials, who were almost certainly acting illegally, have been forced to make a partial retreat. If the threatened Coloured workers manage to preserve their jobs, it will be due to the fact that the Congress movement has come to the rescue.

There is a moral in this, for trade unionists especially. Because we often hear people ask: "Why should I be a member of Congress when I am already a member of my union." The answer is that the Congress movement is the watchdog of the rights of the oppressed peoples, and the leader of the peoples' campaign for greater rights and liberties, for equality, for the Freedom Charter. Your trade union has been built up with the aim of forcing your employers to concede better working conditions for you, better wages, shorter hours, paid holidays and things of that kind. It has been built up in the best way possible for that purpose, on the basis of one trade union opening its ranks only to workers in one single industry.

But the Congress movement is wider than this. When the workers struggle must be fought not just against one group of bosses in a single industry, but against a whole system, against a Government or against a whole ruling class, the best form of organisation is not one restricted to a single industry, but one which embraces everyone who can be encouraged to struggle against the Government or ruling class. The best organisation for that purpose is one which is open to the workers of all industries, which is open to the housewives and the farmers of the reserves, to the professional people, the school-teachers, the shopkeepers and the merchants. Such an organisation is the Congress, whether it be the African National Congress of the S.A. Indian Congress, or the S. A. Coloured Peoples' organisation. It is not a rival of your trade union, but its most powerful and valued ally, its assistant in every struggle for rights and for justice. Through the


Congress movement, trade unionists are able to enlist the support of all the oppressed and suffering people in the campaigns and struggles of the trade union itself.

It may then be asked: "Why do we need a trade union, if once we have a Congress which we can join?" The answer is that the things which the workers of industry need, and only the workers of industry, cannot be fought for and won unless the workers organise and unite their ranks, stand together in their greatest strength to struggle for them. When it comes to a fight on the wages we earn, then we workers - and only the workers - are able to strike a blow at the employers by threatening to refuse to work. For action such as this, the non-industrial workers, the shopkeepers and peasants and students and teachers who make up the Congress movement can only assist, they cannot fight as we can. When we struggle on any of the issues which affect only one factory, or only one industry - on the question of abusive foremen, on questions of underpayment, on questions of working hours and dismissals and holidays, we industrial workers are the only front line troops; the others can only support us, assist us, back us up. And our fighting organisation is our trade union.

Why then do we often find our trade unions discussing larger political questions, problems of campaigns against the Government and its laws which are not the concern of trade unionists alone? Why do our conferences take resolution on matters which affect the whole country, not just the workers of one industry? It is because we are workers; and even on these larger political matters in which the Congress movement is vitally interested, we have a special point of view - the industrial workers' point of view. And our point of view is not always that of the shopkeepers, or the teachers. Our point of view is the point of view of those who have no property stakes in the country, of those whose only property is their hands and their ability to put those hands to work. Sometimes we find that others, even though they are as oppressed as we are, have different points of view because they have property - a shop or a farm or a taxi of their own. And that property often makes them think about things differently from us. Where we ask ourselves only: "Will this help us to win greater rights, better standards of living?" the others ask: "Will this not perhaps mean that we lose our property?"



And so it sometimes happens that where we workers are bold, ready to act and sacrifice for what we want, other - even amongst our Congress allies - hesitate, hold back and retreat. That is why it is necessary for us, the industrial workers, always to discuss these matters for ourselves, and to decide our own point of view, the point of view of the working class. That is why it is necessary for us always to see that our own working class point of view is put forward strongly and determinedly in the broad political field in which the Congress movement works. And that is also why it is necessary for every trade Unionist to be a Congress member and an active Congress worker, so that the working class point of view and the working class policy is not ours alone, but is accepted by the whole Congress movement, and all classes in the Congress movement go forward under our, working class slogans.



## Toy Workers demonstrate against their bosses

On Friday 12th August, 1955, Toy Manufacturers with great boasting showed S.A. toys to Trades. The Union took this opportunity to tell both the manufacturers and the Trades what the Toy Workers wages and conditions were.

With posters and leaflets we told them: "We are glad that you all admire our work but we want our cause for higher wages supported. We are not prepared to have our living standards 'Japped' and we are not prepared to sweat for starvation wages."

We went into the exhibition hall where the bosses were busy entertaining the Trades with champagne, whisky, eats and good fellowship.

This grand party was held at the expense of the workers and we trust that a few of the manufacturers will note it.

One boss told us that he knew that there were two manufacturers who were blackening the names of the others by paying scandalously low wages and treating workers badly. We told him that if he did not want his name blackened he should fight in the Employers Association for recognition of the Union and a wage agreement, and until he does this, he too, will be tarred with the same brush.

We made it clear that it was only the beginning of the campaign and that we will be fighting for wage increases and better working conditions not only in the factories but in the shops to the public and through all democratic organisations.

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**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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