# THOUSANDS MORE JOIN BUS BOYCOTT

# PEOPLE'S SPIRITED REPLY TO SCHOEMAN

#### JOHANNESBURG.

THOUSANDS OF AFRICANS DECIDED AT GREAT WEEK-END MEETINGS IN THE REEF TOWNSHIPS TO JOIN THE BOYCOTT OF THE PUTCO BUS SER-VICES IN SYMPATHY WITH THE ALEXANDRA, SOPHIATOWN AND PRETORIA BOYCOTTERS.

This is the answer of the African people to the callous attempts of Nationalist Minister Schoeman last week to break the boycott and further the interests of the employers.



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THEY STILL SAY "AZIKHWELWA"

A huge Moroka meeting, representing the African National Congress, the Vigilance Association and the Advisory Board, decided unanimously that there would be no boarding of the PUTCO buses. On Monday morning the boycott was 100 per cent effective.

In Germiston location, too, a big meeting on Sunday decided to boycott the PUTCO buses, and on Monday morning the buses all travelled empty.

The fares to the south-western region townships have not yet been increased, but the people are boycotting as a gesture of solidarity with the brave men and women of Alexandra, Sophiatown, Pretoria and other areas affected by the penny increase, whose boycott of the PUTCO buses is now in its third week.

#### DISGUSTED

Transport Minister Schoeman's suggestions to an employers' delegation last week that motorists should refuse lifts to boycotters and employers should cut their wages if they came late to work have aroused anger and disgust among the African people and their allies.

A press statement issued by the African National Congress brands the Minister's statement as "calculatedly insulting, inhuman and provccative." The boycotters are not criminals, Congress declares. "Not even in Nationalist South Africa has it become an offence for people to walk to work when their fares rise above their ability to pay. It suggests that the Schoeman statement was made "in the hope of goading weary and troubled people to desperate action, when the oftused baton and sten gun machinery of the Government can once again be put to use." Expressing the confidence that th: boycotters "who have shown such outstanding discipline and gcod sense" will not allow themseives to be provoked, the statement warned the Government that decent South African citizens of all races would not stand by idly "in the face of Government inhumanity and dereliction of its duty." The boycotters would continue to walk; humanitarian people would continue to offer lifts. And, if need be other sections of the population would find appropriate ways of showing their solidarity with the boycotters.

# African Nurses Don't Want Pass Books

#### JOHANNESBURG.

Following widespread reports of the intention to issue reference book passes to African women nurses in municipal clinics, a meeting representing nurses of various clinics decided unanimously they were not prepared to take the books. It is reported that attempts have already been made to press the unrses of the Waterfall clinic, Western Areas, to take passes.

### Defies U.S. Ban

Riding bicycles, walking, hiring taxis, getting lifts—one way or another the African people of Johannesburg and Pretoria are making their way to and from work, facing hardships gladly rather than tamely accept an increase in fares.

# Would Parliament Have Passed The Freedom Charter?



Vol. 3, No. 14

### CAPE TOWN.

PARLIAMENT would have been asked to adopt the Freedom Charter if Mr. L. B. Lee-Warden, M.P. (Africans' Representative for Cape Western) had been allowed to attend the opening of the session last Friday.

But Mr. Lee-Warden was refused permission to absent himself from the "treason" hearing in Johannesburg, and was therefore unable to move a motion to this effect.

Here is the full text of the motion, as Mr. Lee-Warden had

prepared it for presentation to his fellow M.P.s:---

"That this house, recognising that the policy of apartheid is fallacious, repugnant to human dignity and unacceptable to the great majority of the population, calls upon the Government to reverse this policy, cease persecuting anti-apartheid leaders who represent the majority of South Africans and enter into negotiations with them for the implementation of a new policy along the lines of the Freedom Charter and consistent with the noble ideals of human justice and equity."

#### COD STATEMENT

A leaflet issued by the Congress of Democrats to motorists on Saturday morning, headed "Oh No, Mr. Schoeman!", says:

"The fact that tens of thousands of workers are prepared to walk up to 20 miles a day to save a 2d, increase in bus fares shows how terribly close to the hunger-line these people are living.

"But hard-hearted and pitiless Mr. Ben Schoeman, Minister of Transport, cannot see this simple truth. He asks employers to cut the

(Continued on page 3)

#### LONDON.

Wiilliam Worthy, American Negro journalist of the Baltimore "Afro-American," has entered China in defiance of the U.S. State Department's ban on travel to that country.



#### DURBAN.

A mass rally has been called by the Natal Indian Congress for 5 p.m. Sunday, Januarv 27 at the Arya Samaj Hall (Bellair) to protest against "injustice and oppression in this country and to press for the extension of democratic rights on a par with the white section of our country." Speakers from the local branch and headquarters will address the meeting.

In a statement issued to the Press, the Mayville Branch of the NIC states: "All development of the Mayville area has practically come to a standstill since the passing of the notorious Group Areas Act in 1950 by the Nationalist Government."

The statement continues, "We have noticed with shocking alarm the whittling away of our cherished rights as citizens of this country. Not a single year passes without some suppressive legislation being enacted. The status of our people has dwindled to that of a third-rate citizen and facilities in the political. social, economic and educational spheres are so restricted that any advancement is well-nigh impossible."

#### NEW AGE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1957

# ICH SIDE ARE YO

financial struggles it has ever had sacrifice to send us regular donaduring the past few weeks. Our last ARE UNCONSCIOUSLY JOINtwo issues have been eight pages, ING THE VERY RANKS OF which was a very big risk to take, YOUR OWN OPPRESSORS! which was a very big risk to take, but if your response continues to be as poor as last week's, we shall be forced to cut down again to four pages.

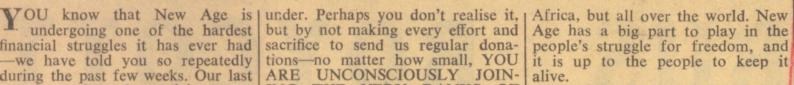
And after that? Imagine the People's Struggle without New Age!

There is nothing the Nationalists would like better than to see us go

undergoing one of the hardest but by not making every effort and -we have told you so repeatedly tions-no matter how small, YOU

> Not a pleasant thought, and one which should stimulate you to dig your hands deep into your own pockets and collect every possible penny in every possible way.

No freedom-lover can deny that more than ever before New Age is needed to give a true picture to the people of events not only in South



WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON? We know, but you must prove it to us!

Cape Town is again ahead with donations, which total £102.12.6 this week. Basutoland, a country OUTSIDE THE UNION, sets an example which should be followed, by sending regular donations-18s. this week. Johannesburg has sent us NOTHING AT ALL. Port Elizabeth, £4.0.6 and Durban £13.11.

This week's total: £121 2s.

Tribute

# **SCHOEMAN'S SHAME**

EDITORIAL

T is hard to find words to describe the callous inhumanity which the Nationalist Government displays towards the African people. Some would have no hesitation in calling it genocide.

Tens of thousands of Africans on the Reef and in Pretoria have been boycotting the PUTCO buses for nearly three weeks now because of a penny increase in fares. Men, women and children in places like Alexandra Township have been walking 18 miles a day to and from work.

Why? To make political propaganda? To show off? Because they are stirred up by agitators or intimidated?

No. Because they are living on the verge of starvation and the penny increase in fares, which adds up to at least 1s. a week more for most passengers, threatens to drag whole families below the breadline.

In fact, most Africans already live below the breadline. A survey on "The Cost of Living for Africans" conducted by Olive Gibson for the Institute of Race Relations, the results of which were published in 1954, showed:

In 1950 family income in the largest wage-earning classes on the Rand was estimated at only 72.4 per cent of the cost of the minimum essentials. By 1954 the figure had dropped to 63.4 per cent.

There is a sharp widening of the gap between income and the cost of the minimum essentials for the lowest-paid workers who form the majority of African workers. While income increased by 24 per cent between 1950 and 1954, the cost of the barest essentials had increased by 32 per cent.

Unless the wages of African workers are increased, said the report, "the grave deterioration in conditions which has been proceeding since 1940 . . . will be accelerated to an intolerable degree."

BUT SCHOEMAN SUGGESTS EMPLOYERS SHOULD CUT THE BOYCOTTERS' WAGES IF THEY COME LATE TO WORK.

#### CANNOT PAY ANYTHING

The Alexandra Bus Commission reported in 1944: "Transport charges in relation to the workers' wages, or even the total family income, are beyond the capacity of the African workers to pay. Indeed, it may be said that they cannot afford to pay anything. They certainly cannot afford to pay anything more in any direc-

AGE BOX



FTER I heard of the arrest A of the treason suspects, it occurred to me that some sort of help is necessary and I drafted the following appeal and took it round to the people:

TRANSIE.

"I know the Johannesburg Fort. I have a good and bitter experience of it. The Union Government has arrested people I know as sincere and honest workers and builders, creators and creatures of the atmosphere and society which is truly South African.

"The people of South Africa have resolved that as their leaders stood for them now they, the people, must stand up for their leaders. All I can do is urge them that they carry on the fight against the satanic and diabolical government action into the factories, the pits, the villages and towns, the farms and docks. "Let the world know that

what Swart has done in the name of South Africa, he has not done in the name of the people.  $I \equiv$ knew before I was thrown out of that country that the South African Government's policy was both foolish and immoral.

"Amongst the detainees one finds Europeans, Indians, Euro-Africans and Africans, indeed a real and true inter-racial society which we, the people of Lusaka, are trying to establish. There we have the people, whose social and human conception we share≣ and cherish, detained in the Johannesburg Fort.

money. I, the proposer, am a very poor man. I therefore put down £1 for this cause. Please

Y. M. LEONARD CHIRWA Lusaka,

WAKE

SPORTS

Northern Rhodesia. 

Unity: Best Weapon

"Let us help by raising the follow suit."

UP THE

COLUMN !

The Western Cape African leaders who are appearing at the "treason" hearing in Johannes-burg send the following tribute to the late Mr. B. A. Levitas:-

We are indebted to Mr. Levitas, M.P.C. for services rendered to the African people in both the Cape Town City Council and the Cape Provincial Council.

His identification with African interests at all times deserves commendation from us and undoubtedly from his electorate and every right-thinking African.

To his family and friends, we convey our sincere condolences.

- G. Ngotyana D. Mgugunyeka J. Mtini J. Busa
- Annie Silinga
- Charles Makhohliso
- J. Mpoza A. Sibeko
- J. Morolong

Western Native Township,

**Freedom Fighter On Trial in Basutoland** 

# **For Freedom**

Let us fight for our freedomfreedom for everybody who lives in Africa, black and white. Africa must really be a land of sunshine for all who live in it. We must eradicate apartheid. Let us all be equal before the law and enjoy equal rights.

Everybody must have a say in the making of laws and Africans must have their own people in Parliament-we do not lack people who can represent us. There is Chief Luthuli and many others.

Furthermore, we want equal payment for every person, white, black or brown, who performs the same kind of work.

Sons and daughters of Africa, do not give up in the struggle. If we pull back, we shall be giving our oppressors more strength to make us slaves. Freedom is there for us, and it is for us to take it. The best weapon to fight with when we want to be free is unity and brotherhood among the inhabitants of Africa.

Let us not hate the white man if he lives in our land, but let him not play the fool with us. Let us all fight together, white and black, for freedom.

Mayibuye! Afrika! Freedom in our lifetime!

MOSES RANTEKANE ANC Youth League. Bethlehem.

I should like to endorse the two points made by your correspondent, J. Jones in his letter about sport.

I quite agree that your paper has given some excellent articles on sport, and also that there has been far too little attention given to non-white sport.

Most South African papers give more than enough sport news, but it sounds strange when New Age talks about our "South African" sides. We know that these sides only represent White South Africa and not the whole population.

There are so many important things happening in non-white sport today. What about the struggle for international recognition? Table tennis, Weightlifting, Soccer, Lawn Tennis, Boxing and Base-ball are all involved. Perhaps New Age could run a series of articles or this very important aspect of sport in South Africa?

"DISCOBOLUS" Port Elizabeth.

> REMOVA FORCED TO NYANGA

Here in Elsies River the Goodwood Municipal inspectors are busy going from door to door telling the people that they must go to Nyanga and build their own houses. Whether they have the materials or not, they have to go. Those who reply that they have no means to build are threatened

that they will have to pay £5 for failing to obey orders. If a person does not go, the authorities write him an official letter telling him

I take off my hat to those sons and daughters of Africa who are now in Johannesburg because of the "treason" charges. If I had wings I would fly and be with them.

Today here in Basutoland we are crying for the three teachers who were expelled from their professional living in 1954. Little children who marched to the Resident Commissioner to protest, were driven off by armed police. 1. that democracy?

Today Basutoland is being sucked out of the hands of its real owners by means of the Moore Report, which the Basutos rejected in toto. Is that democracy?

Now friends let me tell you that on the 21st January appealed to the High Courts of Basutoland against my conviction on a charge arising out of the fight for liberation of our people. I. J. M. MATHIBELA

Basutoland.

#### to move otherwise in 14 days time his house will be demolished.

Then at Nyanga a person is given a site or a piece of open veld and told to pay £1 a month. So he is a tenant of two landlords.

Friends, this is how I have found the life of an African, under the "democratic" government of South Africa.

MATTHEW M. NTABA Elsies River.

tion, except by reducing still further their hunger diet.

Since then rail fares have continued to rise, and now the PUTCO puts up the bus fares. If the Africans couldn't afford to pay anything in 1944, as the Commission said, they can much less afford to pay the penny increase today.

But Schoeman, the Minister of Transport, the one-time railway fireman now turned politician and big-game hunter, treats the boycotters like criminals and makes suggestions to the bosses how to break their spirit. "Cut their pay, don't give them lifts, starve them out," is his line.

On top of everything the Government announces in the Speech from the Throne that it is going to increase African poll tax and make African women pay too, according to the Nat press.

Could man's inhumanity to man be more ruthless? This Government is grinding the faces of the poor without the slightest twinge of conscience.

That is why the Africans are walking on the Rand and in Pretoria. That is why the African people everywhere are learning to fight back against this savage tyranny of apartheid.

To be silent, to do nothing today is to be content to rot forever in a shanty, to eat less than you need, to pay more than you can afford, to see your children hungry and ignorant, to see your loved ones perish from want and disease, to say "Ja baas" to Mr. Schoeman and to be raided in the middle of the night and beaten up by the police without a murmur of protest.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE NEVER WILL BE SLAVES. THE ARROGANCE AND BRUTALITY OF MR. SCHOEMAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL GET THE ANSWER FROM THE PEOPLE THAT IT DESERVES.

Forward to freedom in our lifetime!

#### NEW AGE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1957

# AFRICAN LEADERS IN NEW **INSURANCE VENTURE**

#### **CAPE TOWN**

A N insurance company with a mixed board of directors including prominent European and African political leaders, has been form ed to devote itself largely to the insurance of

#### Africans.

-

The board of directors consists of Xuma. Senator Leslie Rubin (chairman), M1. M. B. Kossew (deputy chairman), Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, M.P., Professor Z. K. Matthews, Dr. J. S. Moroka and Dr. A. B.

# PEDDIE HEADMAN ARRESTED

#### PORT ELIZABETH.

Mr. Alfred Msutu, of Tyefu location, the headman who was deposed police in a van and Special Branch from East London hurriedly whisked him away to Kingwilliamsfailure to obey a deportation order.

New Age learns that when the authorities wanted to serve a deportation order on Mr. Msutu about two years ago they failed to find him.

The arrest of the man whose against the introduction of the Native Trust regulations for the last ten years.

fenced in its mission ground with- terests, including other insurance out consulting them, the people companies, one of which is the immediately boycotted it on the Union Guarantee and Insurance grounds that it was implementing Co., of which the Nationalist though the Church pulled down the Naude, is a director. fence and has transferred the Minister who introduced it, the boycott which has spread to the smaller

Alternate directors are Mr. J. W MacQuarrie, Mr. A. J. Luthuli, Dr. W. F. Nkomo and Dr. M. S. Molema.

Senator Rubin and Mrs. Ballinger are representatives of the Africans in Parliament and executive members of the Liberal Party. Chief Luthuli is the president-general of the African National Congress and Professor Matthews a member of the executive of the ANC. Both are at present appearing at the treason inquiry at the Johannesburg Drill Hall.

Dr. Moroka and Dr. Xuma are former presidents-general of the ANC, but have been out of ANC because he sided with his people affairs for some years. Dr. Molema when they rejected the fencing of is a former treasurer-general of the their location, was arrested on Fri- ANC and has been a leading figure day, January 11, at Peddie. Armed among the Africans in Kimberley for many years. Dr. Nkomo is a prominent member of the Institute of Race Relations. Mr. MacQuarrie town, where he was charged with is a former Inspector of Education.

#### £100,000 CAPITAL

The company is called the African Horizon Insurance Co., and has been launched with an initial capital of £100,000 by African Properties and Industries Ltd., a Cape name has become almost mythical to the people of his location has aroused a great deal of unrest and indignation. The people of Peddie have carried on a sustained struggle Henderson and B. B. Sacks.

African Properties is a holding When the Methodist Church | company with extensive business inthe Rehabilitation measures. Al- Minister of Finance, Mr. Tom

> Although anyone may take out an insurance policy with African Horizon, it will concentrate on in-

has so far come from only two scurces.

Senator W. Ballinger, in a press statement hailing its formation, described the company as "a direct answer to apartheid . . . the first attempt at partnership in the Union.'

The Nationalist columnist Dawie, replying to Senator Ballinger in Die Burger, said: "My brain works differently from

his: I call it apartheid . . . I can see that there is partnership in the sharing of possible dividends, but a company which insures only Africans I call an apartheid-firm, especially when one adds that one of its objects is 'to provide employment for Natives up to the highest level'-in other words positive apartheid."

## THOUSANDS MORE JOIN BOYCOTT BUS

(Continued from page 1)

workers' pay if they come late. He calls upon 'misguided' motorists not to give lifts to the weary and feotsore.

"What a Minister!

"The motorists who give lifts, by these acts of simple kindness and mercy, are doing more to improve race relations than Mr. Schoeman and his friends have ever done.

"We appeal to them-please go on giving lifts!

"It is not illegal or wrong for any private motorist to carry unpaid passengers in his car.

"It is not the Government's business to tell you who you should or should not ask into your car. Don't be intimidated. Listen to your conscience-not Mr. Schoeman!"

#### UNCHRISTIAN

Commenting on Mr. Schoeman's suggestions, the Rev. Douglas Thompson, Springs Methodist clergyman, said he did not see how such statements could be reconciled with the Christian ethic.

Rev. Thompson recalled the

**PROTEST MEETING** 

#### CAPE TOWN.

THE Cape Western "A" branch of the National Union of Distributive Workers has sacked one of its organisers, Miss Philippa Murrell, because she spoke at a meeting held on the Grand Parade last December to protest against the treason arrests.

The meeting, which was held | majority of South Africans agree under the auspices of the Conwith me on this point." gresses, was attended by close on Mr. O. Mpetha, a leading trade 2000 people. A resolution was unionist in Cape Town said the attitude taken up by the NUDW was adopted unanimously reaffirming support for the Congress movement a disgrace to the trade union movewith its policy of equal rights for ment. all people in South Africa regardless of race, colour, sex or belief. "When your fellow-workers are

Calling upon the people to rally to the Congress movement and to stand by their leaders, the meeting demanded the release of "our leaders and the withdrawal of the allegation of treason against them.

words of the Bible: "Come unto Me all ye who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11, 28.)

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"Every act of kindness done unto another is done unto Christ," he said. "There seems to be nothing of this spirit in Mr. Ben Schoeman's extraordinary statement. He says he will not interfere, but his statement itself is an act of interference, against the boycott."

#### **HIGH SPIRITS**

Meanwhile the spirit of the main body of boycotters remains unabated. By the end of the second week, many Alexandra residents had walked over two hundred miles, in addition to putting in six hard days' work each week. With the re-opening of many clothing and other factries the long, long pavement of Louis Botha Avenue shows an increasing proportion of African wo-men amid the endless throng that moves into town at peak morning and evening hours.

Several incidents have occurred of police intimidation of European motorists offering lifts to boycotters. One medical student was told by police that it was illegal to give lifts (which is quite untrue) and his passengers were forced to get out and show their passes. Another woman was warned that her passengers could sue her if she had an accident.

A remarkable feature, showing the solidarity and consciousness of the boycotters, is that motorists disembarking passengers at Alexandra are repeatedly thanked by passersby-cyclists, people who have themselves walked, anyone who is about. And if the motorist happens to respond with a raised thumb, there is a roar of "Afrika!"

#### **YOUTH LEAGUE SUPPORT**

In a statement issued early lastweek the ANC Youth League (New Brighton) "pledges its full support to the gallant timely stand which the people of the Reef have taken in boycotting the Public Utility Transport Co.

"Their non-violent refusal to board these buses shows that they do so because they cannot afford to pay the increased fares.

"We appreciate the difficulties and suffering they incur by boycotting the buses. When a people fight they must, of necesssity, experience human suffering, but as long as they are united their suffering can be but for a time. At this moment the people must use this opportunity of united action against a common danger as a basis for future unity in all things that threaten the wellbeing of the people. "The whole country," concludes the statement, "has its eyes upon the people of the Reef. Their victory will be but one brick in the wall of FREEDOM IN OUR LIFE TIME.

# **NUDW ORGANISER SACKED** FOR SPEAKING AT TREASON

branches still continues unabated.

### **Grand Parade Mass Rally On February 10**

#### CAPE TOWN.

"WE call upon the Government to drop the charge of treason

and to release our leaders. We pledge ourselves to stand by our leaders, to help their dependants and to build a mighty Congress."

This resolution was adopted at a series of highly successful meetings held in the Western Cape over the past week under the auspices of the "We stand by our leaders" committee.

The meeting in Elsies River was attended by about 80 people, while the meeting in Athlone drew an auleaders now on trial.

One of the best attended meetings in years was held at the Kaya Mandi location in Stellenbosch. Collections to support the campaign were taken at all the meetings.

All the local area meetings will culminate in a big mass protest meeting on the Cape Town Grand Parade on Sunday afternoon, February 10, and preparations are being made to ensure that every town in the Western Cape sends a contingent to this meeting.

In addition to regular lunch-hour factory meetings, the "We stand by our Leaders" committee has also revived the traditional Thursday lunch-hour meeting on the Cape Town Grand Parade.

dustrial life insurance and it is intended to canvass mainly among Africans. Mr. Thomas Ngwenya, of Cape Town, a prominent member of the ANC, has been appointed head of a staff of agents, all Africans, who will concentrate on the Cape Town area for the time being.

It is the policy of the company, an official told New Age, to employ Africans at all levels of the company's business wherever possible.

#### LIFE EXPECTATION

The premiums which will be paid by the Africans will be slightly higher than those for comparable pclicies issued by other companies to Europeans, but the reason for this given to New Age by the company official is that premiums are calculated actuarially and account dience mainly of young people who is taken of the fact that the expecalso pledged their support for the tation of life of the average African is lower than that of the average European.

> Asked why the company had sought African political figures for its board of directors, the official said: "In order to ensure that the African policy holders get a square deal". The directors own no shares in the company and will receive no financial benefit from it apart from the normal directors' fees, which may total about £150 a year.

Senator Rubin and Mr. Kossew, as the nominees of African Properties and Industries Ltd., will be devoting their time to the company.

#### COMMENT

Comment on the new company but I know that the overwhelming

#### CRITICISM

A statement issued by the NUDW says Miss Murrell was strongly criticised by the branch committee for having appeared on a public political platform closely associated with organisations being investigated in the present treason trials."

The statement adds: "Miss Murrell was then given the alternative of assuring her committee that she would not again appear on such a public platform or of terminating her services with the NUDW. She chose the latter."

NUDW officials interviewed by New Age refused to comment on the decision.

#### NO RIGHT TO STOP HER

Miss Murrell told New Age she was not prepared to be gagged by the NUDW or anybody else. If she felt something was wrong, she was going to say so, and nobody had the right to stop her.

"My appearance at the protest meeting was in my personal capacity and had nothing to do with my trade union work," she said. "Since when has the NUDW got the right to dictate to me what I do in my private time?

"Recent events should have made it clear to all that the first of democratically-minded task South Africans is to defend their civil liberties against the Nationalist onslaught. I may have offended the NUDW officials by saying that,

Mr. Mpetha added, "What does the NUDW think of workers' solidarity? An injury to one is an in-jury to all."

in trouble, you stand by them," he

said. "You don't sit on the fence

and pretend nothing is happening."

### 8 Fined For P.E. Procession

#### PORT ELIZABETH.

SEVEN out of the eight people who were accused of directing an illegal procession after the monster Tea Party here in honour of the people's leaders on December 30 last, were last week sentenced to twenty days in jail or a fine of £10 each. The eighth man who was charged with participating in an illegal procession was sentenced to 10 days or £5 fine.

They are Alven Bennie, Alfred Baliso, Puzani Mahobe, Sipiwo Meyi, Ben Komanisi, Solomon Ndlovu, Zamindawo Mdlalo and Hetesi Ntibixelwa.

According to the evidence in court, the eight are Congress men. Most wore the volunteer uniform while the others wore Congress brooches.

Mr. C. Jankelowitz, who appeared for the accused, argued that the manner in which the accused left the Moslem Hall was no different from that of people who were going to their homes after a bioscope picture.

An appeal has been noted.

### **New Year Message To** The Workers

#### DURBAN.

In a new year message to Durban workers, Mr. Billy Nair, secretary of the local committee of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, calls for strengthening of the unions and the national Congresses to defeat fascism.

Dealing with the enforcement of the new anti-union I.C. Act, Mr. Nair writes:-

"This is a very decisive year in our struggle for higher wages and better working conditions, for the maintenance of free trade unionism. and in our fight for freedom and democracy in South Africa.

"The Nationalist Government is out to smash every vestige of democracy. They are bent on ruling by force. IT IS ONLY THE PEO-PLE WHO CAN STOP THEM !!

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