

# Laws on conscientious objection are inhuman

From ROLFE EBERHARD (Claremont):

PEOPLE who are unwilling to participate in the violence of the SADF and who are not universal religious pacifists face a mandatory jail sentence of six years (if they have done no prior service).

A bill clarifying this (because of conflicting court interpretations) is at present being considered by Parliament without so much as a murmur of protest from the public and press alike.

I would like to register my abhorrence of this legislation which seeks to criminalize individuals who cannot, because of conscience, serve in the SADF. Moreover, the severity of the sentence is equivalent to, or more severe than, sentences often imposed for capital offences.

The effect of this legislation is to force people, against their conscience, to serve in the SADF or to go into involuntary exile. This elimina-

tion of the freedom of choice and the dignity of a clear conscience is a severe abrogation of civil liberty.

Phillip Wilkinson, giving evidence before court in his trial for failing to report, stated: "I am a Christian, brought up in the beliefs of the Catholic Church. I am committed to peace and to working for a better future for all South Africans.

"I abhor violence and have consciously not used violence myself since childhood. I have been brought up to respect all people, regardless of their colour, sex, religion or status. I believe that all armies legitimize the use of violence and dehumanize the enemy.

"I refuse to be conscripted into the SADF."

I support the above statement and call on the government to reconsider its inhuman laws concerning conscientious objection. People should be given the freedom to choose whether they are willing to fight in the SADF or not.

## COs inadequately catered for in SA

From PETER KANTOR, CO doing six years' community service (Claremont):

CONTRARY to Willem Steenkamp's contention (Cape Times, May 19) that conscientious objectors (COs) are catered for by the 1983 amendment to the Defence Act which introduced the present CO system, this amendment has made life much more difficult for most objectors. Whereas they were faced with an effective jail sentence of 12 months before 1983, they now face a mandatory six-year sentence.

The CO system only "caters for" religious pacifists. Most COs object on moral and philosophical (compared with religious) grounds, and even among religious COs, few are pacifists (ie will not fight in any armed force).

The number of COs actually classified in terms of the system is negligible. Between 1983 and July 1986 only 755 COs were classified, less than 0.2% of people called up over that period.

Clearly the system is designed to deter COs by prescribing punishment for all — even those which it "caters for".

Over 80% of applicants who are classified by the government's Board for Religious Objection have to do "community service" for one-and-a-half times their

maximum possible outstanding military service.

There are those in category III, the only non-military option among the possible categories. They have to serve in one stretch in a government body at army pay. For most this means six years, while military servicemen, on average, in fact serve only three years (Defence White Paper, 1985).

The Defence Act provisions are grossly unreasonable compared with the standards of western countries — eight of the 21 member states of the European Parliament do not have conscription.

All those that do conscript allow objection on broader grounds than the narrow religious pacifist grounds of South Africa.

Only in Greece and Denmark is alternative service longer than two years, and in most of the countries it is less than one-and-a-half times the length of military service. None of the countries confine alternative service to government bodies, and nowhere are COs sentenced to as much as six years in jail.

People convicted of serious offences involving violence often receive sentences shorter than six years, while COs are jailed for refusing to take part in violent activities. It is also ironic that people jailed for politically motivated

violence have recently been released for renouncing violence.

Legislation which punishes people for their sincere beliefs blatantly denies the democratic right of freedom of belief. Not only is it morally untenable but it also makes no sense in terms of strategy. It forces people to leave the country or to join the army as unco-operative participants in what they perceive as an unjust war.

Where conscription exists there is a right to conscientious objection. CO includes the right, even the responsibility, to serve society in positive, constructive ways which give witness to one's deeply held beliefs, free from punishment or criminal sanction.

I agree with Willem Steenkamp that the period of alternative service should be shortened "very considerably" and that non-religious COs should get the same treatment as religious ones.

This week parliament is considering the Defence Amendment Bill which tightens up the wording of these harsh provisions. We hope that this Bill will not be passed and that parliament will use the opportunity to create a more humane law which does cater for all sincere COs.

Inquiries: Conscription Advice Service at 650-2827.

CAPE TIMES 1987-06-06



# 'Tied to the State'

By MOIRA LEVY

FOR ten months lawyer Mr Dawie Bosch worked at an advice office serving the Boland townships around Ashton and Montagu. Before that he taught literacy skills to farmworkers, travelling around the wine farmlands visiting labourers and their families.

But all that ended in August last year. Today Bosch works as an assistant in the Cape Town City Council.

It is a situation that strikes him as ironic. For Bosch was exempted from the SADF to do "community service" in terms of the provisions of the Defence Amendment Act.

And yet this meant he had to leave his post as counsellor and legal adviser to the rural farming communities to take up a job as a "professional as-

sistant" in the City Council's Planning Department.

His main grievance, he says, is not to do with pay or working conditions. He says he wants to do "genuine community service".

The approximately 25 Section 3 conscientious objectors who have formed the Community Services Group in Cape Town feel strongly that they could put their skills and religious commitment to better use in social and welfare organisations, including semi-state departments like Child Welfare, Nicro or Iscor.

They want to be out there, serving the community as teachers, lawyers, religious workers and doctors, and not be "tied down to a six-year stint of non-community service, or service to the state bureaucracy".

Mr Paul Sturrock, who has been working in an



They refuse to serve, from left: Rolfe Eberhard, Peter Kantor, Neels Theron, Dave Walker and Gavin Weir.

administrative post in the City Treasurer's Department, would prefer to be doing "Christian work, relating to people on a personal level".

Another objector, Mr Roy Jackson, said: "We would like to help people. That is the issue. There are many areas of need where we could be of

use."

He would like to work as a counsellor at a care centre or advice bureau — that is if he cannot work in his chosen profession.

Jackson is a teacher, but in spite of four years experience he was removed from his post when he was granted objector status.

The objectors say many government officials apply community service as if it was punishment.

Another Section C conscientious objector, Dr Neil Myburgh, says many of the objectors are married and "the present conditions make it difficult to start a family".

According to the De-

fence Amendment Act, they are meant to serve one and a half times the length of normal duty. But they point out that the average soldier serves only 48 percent of his camps, according to the Defence White Paper of 1986.

"We don't mind serving for longer than enlisted

men, but we strongly object to being discriminated against."

The Department of Manpower has pegged their salaries at that of a private. A matriculated objector earns R177,32 a month, and sometimes he continues to earn that for six years.

Unlike the enlisted soldiers, religious objectors have to pay tax. They do not have access to the free health service provided by the army, and yet they do not receive medical aid.

Says objector David Schmidt: "The board is at pains to say that it has provided a real alternative for religious pacifists.

"Yet the main thrust of the 1983 Defence Amendment Act was not to provide alternatives. It was to crush conscientious objection by providing very heavy prison sentences for all non-religious objectors."

## Jail

Objectors who do not have religious grounds for refusing to serve in the army face a possible prison sentence of one and a half times the length or normal duty — that amounts to six years in jail.

Mr Francois de Villiers, chief of liaison of the Department of Manpower, said the department would not communicate with objectors through the press. He said they should send their complaints in writing "and they will receive the necessary attention".

## Limited rights

THE Defence Amendment Act of 1983 allows limited legal rights to refuse to serve in the South African Defence Force.

Exemption is only granted on religious grounds, and it is up to the objector to prove to the Board for Religious Objection that his principles will not allow him to perform military service.

Religious objectors have three options:

They may be granted non-combatant status and serve in the SADF in a capacity that does not involve using or carrying weapons.

They may perform non-combatant, non-uniformed service which means participating in the army, but not carrying weapons, or wearing SADF uniforms or doing any "maintenance tasks of a combatant nature".

Finally, they may be granted non-military, community service status. This is granted if the applicant can show that his religious beliefs cannot allow service of any kind in any army.

These applicants, the Category 3 conscientious objectors, are employed, usually in state or local authority offices, for one and a half times the normal length of military duty.

For six years they work at jobs they do not want, in careers they did not choose, occasionally in towns or cities that are far from their homes and often at the salaries of army privates.

By the end of last year there were 342 Section 3 conscientious objectors in South Africa.

The National Community Service Group, a body of about 50 Category C conscientious objectors, has branches in each province. The Cape Town Community Services Group, formed in December 1985, held its first annual general meeting last week.



Natal Mercury 19/8/87

THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PREVENT...



MINORITY GROUP  
MATING OTHERS!



# sex hostel slammed

## THE FORUM

letters to the editor

### Religious objectors do serve

SIR — The Natal Mercury of August 8 carried a news report that the Minister of Manpower, Mr P du Plessis, said that the religious objector was a person '... who refused to serve his country'.

This distortion of truth cannot go unchallenged and I would like to make the following points:

● A religious objector is

not a person who refuses to serve his country. He is a person who recognises that there are other and equally valid ways of serving one's country other than in the SADF.

● Military service is one among a number of forms of national service, and not the only one.

● The State itself has recognised this fact and has

made provision for officially-recognised religious objectors to perform community service in State, provincial and local authority departments.

● Religious objectors who have done no previous military service face six years of continuous community service, at a private's rate of pay. Unlike military servicemen our pay is subject to taxation, and we receive no medical aid or study and exam leave benefits.

● We do not object to the hardships placed upon us by the path we have freely chosen. But we do ask that the Minister acknowledge that we have and are serving our country as much as any other citizen.

RELIGIOUS OBJECTOR

### Corporal punishment

SIR — In fighting for the abolition of corporal punishment in schools, Professor Holdstock of the University of the Witwatersrand states: 'Not only will the quality of our education improve, but we are certain to reverse the trend of family and social violence in our society'.

The Catholic Education Council of England and Wales, the Church of England and the Free Church Federal Council have come out against corporal punishment, to abolition has church backing.

Why not abolish corporal punishment and thereby reduce friction between and within races, caused by aggression.

T E MILLER

Durban

### Whose idea?

SIR — It would be of interest to know which of the super, highly-paid top civil servants researched the feasibility of the Granny Bond scheme and recommended it to his minister.

In the business world the perpetrator of a similar fiasco would surely lose his job. Indeed the chairman of the company also would probably resign.

F J B ATKINSON  
Park Rynie

### Why not Courtesy City?

SIR — I refer to the Idler's column on July 28, specifically with reference to Glynis Horning's definition of manners, or rather that of her headmistress.

Would it be too much to suggest that Durbanites set a new trend — one of being the most considerate city? PE claims to be the friendly city. Well, I've spent time there and that's a claim which does not appear very obvious to me.

I've lived in a few cities in this country and I suppose they all have their problems. I'll skip the recriminations and illustrations of recent inconsideration by motorists, pedestrians towards one another, men and women towards one another and younger and older generations towards one another.

Maybe we'd solve many of our problems in political areas, traffic, home situations, inter-personal relationships and a host of other areas.

I know I'm not saying anything new, but I guess one more voice in the wilderness might be heard by at least a few. Durban — Courtesy City.

CORRESPONDENTS are reminded that letters of an acceptable length will be given preference in The Forum columns.



Daily News 11/9/87

---

### **Sentence remissions announced**

CAPE TOWN: The State President, Mr P.W. Botha, has approved a one-year remission of sentence to prisoners who were members of certain Defence Force units at the time of their convictions. The remission is in honour of the 75th commemoration of the South African Defence Force. A statement released today also announced the remission of sentences by military courts to one month, excepting religious and other objectors.—Sapa

---

# Meeting on religious objections to military obligations

**Daily News Reporter**

THE chairman of The Board for Religious Objection, Mr Justice J.W. Edeling, will be one of the main speakers at a meeting at St Thomas' Church Hall, Musgrave Road, Durban, tomorrow night.

He will speak on the workings of the board which hears applications from religious objectors who are opposed to doing military service.

Instead they can apply to do community service as an alternative and have to apply to the board for permission.

Sharing the platform will be a person, who has not yet been named, who is doing community service.

There will be a question and answer session, according to a spokesman for the Conscientious Objectors' Support Group which is staging the meeting.

---



Natal Mercury 19/8/87

THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PREVENT...



MINORITY GROUP HATE  
NATING OTHERS!



sex hostel slammed

## THE FORUM

letters to the editor

### Religious objectors do serve

SIR — The Natal Mercury of August 8 carried a news report that the Minister of Manpower, Mr P du Plessis, said that the religious objector was a person '... who refused to serve his country'.

This distortion of truth cannot go unchallenged and I would like to make the following points:

- A religious objector is

not a person who refuses to serve his country. He is a person who recognises that there are other and equally valid ways of serving one's country other than in the SADF.

- Military service is one among a number of forms of national service, and not the only one.

- The State itself has recognised this fact and has

made provision for officially-recognised religious objectors to perform community service in State, provincial and local authority departments.

- Religious objectors who have done no previous military service face six years of continuous community service, at a private's rate of pay. Unlike military servicemen our pay is subject to taxation, and we receive no medical aid or study and exam leave benefits.

- We do not object to the hardships placed upon us by the path we have freely chosen. But we do ask that the Minister acknowledge that we love and are serving our country as much as anyone else is.

RELIGIOUS OBJECTOR

### Corporal punishment

SIR — In fighting for the abolition of corporal punishment in schools, Professor Holdstock of the University of the Witwatersrand states: 'Not only will the quality of our education improve, but we are certain to reverse the trend of family and social violence in our society'.

The Catholic Education Council of England and Wales, the Church of England and the Free Church Federal Council have come out against corporal punishment, so abolition has church backing.

Why not abolish corporal punishment and thereby reduce friction between and within races, caused by aggression.

TE MILLER

Durban

### Whose idea?

### Why not Courtesy City?

SIR — I refer to the Idler's column on July 28, specifically with reference to Glynis Horning's definition of manners, or rather that of her headmistress.

Would it be too much to suggest that Durbanites set a new trend — one of being the most considerate city? PE claims to be the friendly city. Well, I've spent time there and that's a claim which does not appear very obvious to me.

I've lived in a few cities in this country and I suppose they all have their problems. I'll skip the recriminations and illustrations of recent inconsideration by motorists, pedestrians towards one another, men and women towards one another and younger and older generations towards one another.

Maybe we'd solve many of our problems in political areas, traffic, home situations, inter-personal relationships and a host of other areas.

I know I'm not saying anything new, but I guess one more voice in the wilderness might be heard by at least a few. Durban — Courtesy City.

SIR — It would be of interest to know which of the super, highly-paid top civil servants researched the feasibility of the Granny Bond scheme and recommended it to his minister.

In the business world the perpetrator of a similar fiasco would surely lose his job. Indeed the chairman of the company also would probably resign.

F J B ATKINSON

Park Rynie

CORRESPONDENTS are reminded that letters of an acceptable length will be given preference in The Forum columns.

NIKKI

for more than a year.  
'Since the Minister of Law and Order has repeatedly stated that the unrest is under control, these people should all be released — and if there is evidence of any offences having been committed they should be charged in the courts.'

Yesterday's list contains the names of Janet Cherry of the End Conscription Campaign in Port Elizabeth and Russell McGregor, the 1985 SRC President at the University of the Western Cape, both of whom were released last week.

+1  
Mercury 8/8/87

## Objections to religious objectors

THE Department of Manpower was having difficulty placing religious objectors in positions because many people were not in favour of being served by objectors, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said yesterday.

Replying to the debate on his vote of the Budget, he said he was giving attention to the placement of religious objectors. It was not always easy to find them suitable positions because of the opposition to religious objectors by some people.

Mr du Plessis said these people had his sympathy because he could understand why someone would not want to be taught by a teacher, for example, who refused to serve his country. — (Sapa)

Mercury 8/8/87



Malcomess: Do you not agree that they are very God-fearing people?

An Hon member: that has nothing to do with it.

Malcomess: of course it has.

a scrap of difference  
in Africa. [Interjec-

an elephant had a  
uld not believe this  
ced no such thing  
showed him an  
d seeing it but he

That like Arrie

ct that Black trade  
th Africa and hon  
hat when a given  
one has to decide  
may either leave it  
dangerous radical  
recognise it and in  
ve it in an orderly  
sibilities for com-  
ttlement. Let me  
ar saw over 1 200

ND: What about

the hon member  
o him and he will  
n. Could he stifle  
e. [Interjections.]

re taken to the  
councils settled  
f one es into  
were decided by  
D by conciliation  
by the Industrial  
er 5 000 disputes  
were nearly all

on is that trade  
ment machinery  
settling disputes.

here today. A  
out strikes. The  
strike statistics  
estern World—  
as held up here  
CP as the model  
trade unions.  
tely lower than  
s.]

We must not permit this illusion prevalent in current gossip about there suddenly being many strikes in South Africa to prevail. The number of strikes which took place in 1986 did not exceed those in 1973 by much.

We should be grateful to this new labour dispensation because it creates an opportunity to defuse a situation. It provides an opportunity for discussion and communication; something which is not only NP policy but accepted all over the world. There is obviously a great deal of tub-thumping and threats and the Press also enjoys the threat of strikes because they are newsworthy. Nevertheless this is an inseparable part of a game which we must see taking place in creating a balance between the bargaining powers of employers and employees.

Every system in South Africa aimed at giving employers total power will lead to revolution; and every dispensation in the country giving complete power to employees will just as surely lead to revolution. One has to strike a balance in life to enable people to bargain.

These matters are troublesome and unpleasant. They are difficult and trying and take up time but there is no other formula except that of bargaining to bring about stability and peace in this country.

The Labour Relations Act is criticised as supposedly benefiting only trade unions and workers but that is absolutely and simply untrue. The same protection that applies to trade unions applies equally to employers in terms of the Labour Relations Act.

Black trade unions are held up to us as a bugbear but they are a reality we have to live with. Let me say today that the department and the National Manpower Commission and I continuously monitor developments in the labour field, also those manifested by findings of the Industrial Court. We constantly keep a close watch on the situation so that the bargaining balance, the balance of power between employee and employer is not disturbed. That is why I shall be coming to Parliament shortly with proposals to amend the Labour Relations Act, amendments aimed at the improvement and better regulation of the situation as well as the restoration of balance to it.

[This is linked to what I want to say in reply

HOA

to the hon member for Durban Central. I want to thank the hon member for his compliments to the Department of Manpower.

The hon member also posed a question concerning industrial relations in the Public Service. I want to say that the whole question of trade union rights and other right in the Public Service falls under the hon the Minister in the State President's Office and at present the Commission for Administration is considering that matter.

As far as farm workers are concerned I have said repeatedly that the position of farm workers is being discussed with organized agriculture.

Mr P H P GASTROW: For how many years?

The MINISTER: The period of time is not important. What is important if one wants to effect change—and I am continuously busy with that—one must do it gradually by convincing people and not by forcing people. My intention is not to disrupt agriculture. I will therefore only apply measures to farm workers which I can negotiate and agree on with the South African Agricultural Union which is the recognized body for organized agriculture in South Africa.

The question of public holidays—I am replying to the hon member for Durban Central—is under investigation by the President's Council and I suggest that their report be awaited.

The hon member also mentioned the optimal placement of religious objectors. I can assure the hon member that their placement is also receiving constant attention. I must also mention, however, that to place those persons is not easy because there are many members of the public who object to being served by religious objectors. I have sympathy for those members of the public.

Mr D J N MALCOMESS: That is not very nice of them.

The MINISTER: Whether or not the hon member regards it as not nice, I have said what I have said. If there are people who refuse to allow their children to be taught by religious objectors who are not doing their duty by their country on the border, I have sympathy with those people. [Interjections.]



# Donate to flood relief, Schwarz urges MPs

Political Staff

Members of Parliament should each donate a portion of their February salary to the flood disaster, said Progressive Federal Party MP for Durbanville Mr Harry Schwarz.

It would not be a bad idea if members of Parliament, instead of voting on the people's money, acted as a body to give a portion of this month's salary to the Disaster Relief Fund, said Mr Schwarz during the Additional Appropriation Bill second reading debate in the House of Assembly yesterday.

It would be a gesture to the public of South Africa which would show that we are not just talk about disaster relief but put our money where our mouth is," he said. He suggested about 10 per cent of each MP's salary could go to the

## Provision

Mr Schwarz called on the Minister of Manpower and Labour Mr Pietie du Plessis to make provision for the unforeseen additional expenses that had arisen as a result of the floods in the northern and the Free State. Mr du Plessis said an amendment was not nec-



Harry Schwarz: let's put our money where our mouth is

essary now and that the money needed for flood relief could be handled administratively in the last month of the fiscal year.

Replying to Mr Schwarz's suggestion that MPs contribute to the

flood disaster fund, Mr du Plessis said there were moves in the National Party caucus to approach NP MPs and there had also been negotiation among parliamentary whips to include MPs from other parties.

# State land for all people, says PFP

State land was held on behalf of all the people of South Africa and not for one section of the population, said the effect of the State Land Disposal Bill, Mr Rupert Lorimer (PFP Bryanston) said yesterday.

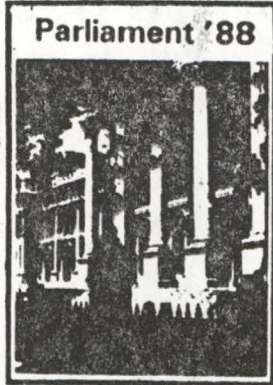
Proposing the second reading of the Bill in the House of Assembly, which was supported by the opposition, he said it had the effect of enabling the transfer of power to dispose of State lands from the Minister of Public Works and Land Affairs to a committee in the Minister's Council of either the House of Representatives or Delegates.

"We regard this as an ugly piece of apartheid legislation which also further entrenches the Own Affairs concept."

The PFP's approach was that State land was held on behalf of all the people and not one particular population group.

The money acquired from disposal of State land should go into the Treasury and not to the Own Affairs administrations.

Replying to the debate, the Deputy Minister of Land Affairs, Mr Japie van Wyk, said the Bill broadened the concept of Own Affairs. — Sapa.



## Religious objectors are 'a real problem'

Minister of Manpower Mr Pietie du Plessis said yesterday in the House of Assembly that he personally did "not have much sympathy" with religious objectors doing "alternative national service" and that using these people was "a real problem".

### NOT WANTED

"People don't want them or anything to do with them," he said.

He was replying in committee stage debate on the Additional Appropriation Bill to questions from Mr Arrie Paulus (CP Carletonville) and Professor Nic Olivier (PFP Nominated).

"People" did not want anything to do with the objectors because they did not do military service.

"I will put them into jobs, but I won't go out of my way to do things on their account," he said. — Sapa.

The Government paid out R650 000 towards a conference of the Young Presidents' Organisation (YPO) held in South Africa last year, the Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr George Bartlett, said in the Assembly yesterday.

Replying to questions from Mr Clive Derby-Lewis (CP nominated) on the committee stage of the Additional Appropriation Bill, he said the YPO was an organisation of "top management people", and delegates to the five-day conference in October had included people from 46 countries.

The Government had decided the conference should be supported "in the interests of trade promotion in South Africa".

It was to SA's credit that such a conference was held in this country.

## Vote-catching teachers 'rewarded with a

An unemployed woman teacher had been given a permanent teaching job in Phoenix after helping to garner 15 votes from her family for the National People's Party during the recent Tongaat by-election, Mr Pat Poovalingam (PRP, Reservoir Hills) said yesterday.

In the second reading debate on the Additional Appropriation Bill for the House of Delegates he said a female temporary teacher who was laid off in November last year had been recruited by a senior official in the education department to assist in the election campaign.

The senior official was named as Mr AK Mohammed.

### REWARDED

Mr Poovalingam said the woman had garnered 15 votes from her family for the NPP and, soon afterwards, was rewarded with a permanent job at

## Fin for 'wa

When Mr asked how tion could on ference of th then "arri Africa and tance" the Finance, M Plessis, sai ence had no It had be well in ad R650 000 v means" the the confere Governmen



Mr Pat Po the Phoenix Education. "I want to er this is pr cent conduct The Minis tion and Cul sie Ramduth ers were en permanent ing to the ne partment at Sometime teachers w cruited from administrati ted the req the job. — Sa

## Additional funds for all Houses of

Bills for the additional appropriation of funds for the financial year ending March 31 1988

spent on Ed Culture. R3 about 16 per than the o



## FAR-REACHING CHANGES FOR NCSG?

National Committee met in Johannesburg in mid-October 1989

The possible linking / merging of the National Community Servers' Group (NCSG) with a general Peace and Anti-War organisation or other similar organisations is on the cards.

The National Committee of the NCSG met recently in Johannesburg to discuss this and other matters. The meeting was attended by Martin Birtwhistle of Durban and Dawie Bosch of Cape Town.

### NCSG, COSG to merge?

All regions are requested to discuss the issues and options below - and others.

At the national meeting the following possible advantages of a merger with the general organisation were discussed:

- the desire of members to be involved on a broader front may be more easily fulfilled; we may be able to muster a much greater force from the ranks of CSs in order to reach NCSG objectives;
- facilitate outward-looking work;
- a sub-group could still focus on CS to ensure that CS issues receive attention.

Disadvantages:

- weaken our possible input to Manpower & Defence, which may help (really?) to create an equitable solution re "national service" / accommodation of concerns of objectors;
- some NCSG members may only be prepared to be involved in NCSG.

Other possibilities:

- The bulk of members can get directly involved in the general organisation, while a task force remain responsible for NCSG.
- If the Conscientious Objectors' Support Group is to remain an independent organisation, NCSG may merge with it. COSG works to support COs (CSs being COs, of course).

### Regional Reports

Durban CSG has lost quite a few old members, who completed CS (Community Service) or stopped performing CS. It is mainly a support group, but many members are keen to get involved in the broader anti-war front. Since we have received any response to our very reasonable and toned down requests and proposals, some members feel that the only way we would be able to get any response from the authorities is to make them angry.

It seems likely that a group will be formed in Pietermaritzburg. PMB members: phone Patrick Vorster at Grey Hospital's McDonald ward.

Cape Town continues - after initial committee elected in April stopped functioning a new one was elected in July. Continue with preparing

memo's, but regional meetings now focusing more on support and discussion.

Johannesburg/Pre-toria region has not functioned for a while. On 12 Oct. the Nat. Committee convened a meeting in Yeoville to discuss reactivating the region, if there is interest. A small but stimulating meeting was held and resolved that a braai would be held end of November for old NCSG "activists", where a general regional meeting in mid-January may be planned. If you know anyone in Transvaal who may be interested, ask them to contact Alan Goddard at 6150044, 61420916

Martin will investigate whether there is a need in the Eastern Cape for setting up NCSG groups. If you know any CSs in the area, please contact Martin at 031-442518.

### Memoranda

Conditions of service + regular negotiation with Manpower: Last communication in April. Chip Snaddon of CT to write to Manpower.

Length of service: Last memorandum sent in September. Defence referred it to the Van Loggerenberg Committee. Dawie Bosch to write to Defence, saying that the matter needs urgent action since many members have done more than their share in service. Natal to galvanise churches' support and action in this regard.

Scope of service: Last memo 1986/87. Natal to draft letter to orgs. asking them to write to Defence in this regard. All regions, especially Natal to contact at least 2 organisations per month. Volunteers needed.

Alternative service for all COs: Durban to prepare a section on this for inclusion in our submission to Van Loggerenberg.

Van Loggerenberg Committee: Defence has set up a committee to investigate SADF "manpower needs"; also looking at length of service and alternative service. Cape Town is preparing a comprehensive but concise draft submission, and will enclose the ± 400 pages of memos and letters sent up to now. All regions: please discuss this draft and send comments to CT.

A C T I O N I

Action: For all practical purposes, we have only done paper work up to

### Support grows for Dave

David Schmidt, a "Community Server" from CT, has done about 5 years of his 6 years of CS and will stop serving end Oct. He states that he served under duress because of his objections against military and alternative service in the present context. "My decision to refuse to render any further service does not represent a change in my attitude but rather its fulfilment." Many CSs share his feelings and want to plan effective supportive actions. Regions are encouraged to make suggestions in this regard. To start off - Natal wants to send handwritten personalised letters to all MP's. Any volunteers?

now. We need some action now. All regions: Suggestions, suggestions!

### Money

R6000 is available nationally for use before March 1989 - so if you can organise more effectively with a bit of money, get your region to submit a budget soon to Richard Shorten in Durban. Get your ideas for '90-91 to your treasurer - the '90-91 budget must also be submitted soon.

### Dovelink

Gideon Strauss, the editor of Dovelink, will be asked to set deadlines for all 1990 editions. All regions should appoint a correspondent, and submit regional news. [Some people aren't very happy with the name - if you are one, we want suggestions.]

### Membership drive

Michael de Wit from Cape Town is entering all useful info from the completed membership forms into a Database. Once done, we would be able to extract useful statistics, as well as addresses etc. He will also send out invitations to CSs to join as names and addresses become available. Please give a list of CSs you know and their present addresses, to your secretary to be forwarded to CT.

Membership forms should be completed yearly, to ensure that our data is up to date. If you have not completed a form recently, please do so now. A membership form was hopefully sent to you with Dovelink. If not, get a form from your secretary.

Dawie Bosch  
National Secretary

### Annual conference

Planned for 6 - 8 April 1990, Modderpoort, S-OFS. BE THERE.

Next meeting of National Committee: 17 - 18 February 1990.



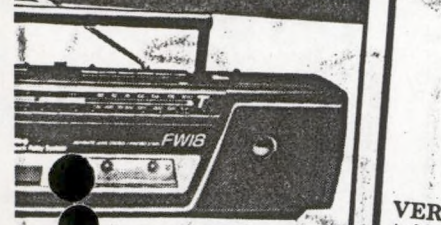
# RYSE!

**ics X800**  
**OUSTEL**  
 neer  
 le instemmer  
 atiese draaitafel  
 rsterker  
 ndspeler

**90** Verkoop Prys  
**1999**  
 Deposit  
**200**  
 Maandeliks  
 oor  
 24 maande

kyfspeler opsionele ekstra **999**

**onal**  
**RAL KASSET**  
 dop  
 ne  
 kafiese effenaar  
 rekere



**499**

GREY PERSPECTIVES OKL43615/A10264/A

# DP's se moreel is 'skoklaag'

**PATRIOT, Virginia:**

Ek skryf hierdie brief op versoek van 'n paar dienspligtiges wat van die operasionele gebied teruggekeer het. My stiefseun is een van hulle.

Ons hoor gedurig van hoogwaardigheidsbekeers van die geweldige hoë moreel van ons soldate op die grens. Ouers kry ook sporadies briewe van offisiere wat vir ons daarvan vertel en dat ons, as ouers, die seuns moet onderskraag.

Iemand is besig om

iemand om die bos te lei — doelbewus of onwetend, ons weet nie, maar die feite is verkeerd.

Van die soldate self sal maar min klagtes ontvang word om die volgende twee redes: vrees vir wraak, en omdat swak toestande maar aanvaar moet word omdat dit "net" vir twee jaar is en hulle maar moet vasbyt.

Nee, die moreel is laag! Dit is skokkend laag, en om dit toe te smeer help niemand nie. Nie die offisiere nie, nie vir ons as ouers nie en belangrik-

ste van alles — nie die soldate nie.

Die afbreekproses van gees en moreel by die jong dienspligtiges begin by die basiese opleiding, waar sekere onder-offisiere, behep met hul eie belangrikheid en misplaaste gevoel van mag, daarop uit is om die jongmense te verneder, fisiek te terroriseer en uiteindelik daarin slaag om hulle geestelik so te knak dat hierdie jongmanne weldra alles haat wat met hul diensplig te doen het.

Hierdie tingodjies begin die aftakelingsproses. Hoekom dit nodig is weet nógter alleen.

Vra enige ouer na die verskil wat gesien word in sy seun se karakter en siening van wanneer hy met sy diensplig begin tot ná sy eerste paar maande in die Weermag.

Ek, as ouer, was geskok om by my eerste besoek aan die opleidingskamp die volgende op die verliesbeheerbord te sien:

## Feite

Aantal selfmoordpogings vir dié maand.

Die demoraliserende fase begin wanneer die seuns grens toe gaan.

Ek wil ook graag 'n paar feite noem:

Ons seun en van sy vriende was van die 27 November 1987 tot 24 Maart 1988 in die operasionele gebied. Ons het 'n mooi bewoerde brief van sy bevelvoerder ontvang om te sê dat goed vir die seun gesorg sal word en dat ons 'hom morele ondersteuning moet gee en dat ons hom (die bevelvoerder) enige tyd kan skakel vir raad en/of hulp ensovoorts.

Die volgende het gebeur:

● Ons het drie pakkies gestuur. Twee pakkies van R125 het verlore geraak. (Die pakkies was geregistreer). Die pakkies wat ontvang is, was oopgebreek en net die helfte van die inhoud was nog daarin.

● 'n Brief het 'n maand geneem om daar te kom.

● Verskeie briewe het verlore geraak.

● I.D.-boekies; bankboekies en foto-albums moes deur die soldate ingehandig word. Toe die seuns huis toe kom, is ongeveer 80 van hulle meegedeel dat al die dokumente verlore geraak het! Die seun kon nie eens geld gaan trek by die bank nie!

## Kersfees

● Die seuns se Kersfees was treurig: geen pos of pakkies nie.

● Verskeie kommunikasies met die bevelvoerder of sy personeel was

## Reünie

DIE Hoërskool J. A. Malherbe bied 'n reünie aan vir alle oudlede van vandag tot Sondag begin reeds vanaand om 19h00 'n verskeidenheidskonsert wat en Rina Hugo die gaskunstenaar van die feesvieringe is die 19h00 in die skoolsaal aangebied van Onderwys in die Vrystaat, daal, is die eregas by hierdie navrae kan mnr. E. A. V. Hoërskool J. A. Malherbe, ge 014342-3151.

## Lig op ons pad

HY beskut jou onder sy vleuelveilige skuilplek. Sy trou beskermte. — Psalm 91:4

## Lig op ons pad

GOEIE dinge is seldsaam. — Plal (circa 427-347 na Christus).

## Haal bussies van die pad af

**MEV. C. VAN ROOYEN, Imperanipark A22, Ficksburg:**

My voorstel om die hoë sterftesyfer op ons paaie teen te werk, is soos volg: neem die baie bussies en kombi's wat as taxi's gebruik word en vir ander motorryers 'n gevaar is omdat hulle jou van die pad af wil druk as jy probeer verbygaan, self van die pad af.

Stel dan weer treindienste in. Die paaie sal dan nie meer so vol verkeer wees nie en sal bejaardes weer 'n kans kry om oor Paasfees en Kersfees veilig na hul kinders te ry.

## Is ons al so slap?

aanvaar dit is normaal dat veral sekere blankes so dink?

Die gewetensbeswaardes beweer dat burgeroorlog in die land woed. Dit is vir my juis 'n aanduiding dat hulle nie weet waarvan hulle praat nie.

As belastingbetaler wil ek graag weet hoe Vrystaatse Universiteit teen die betrokke mense wat studente aan die UV is, gaan optree, asook hoe die SA Weermag gaan handel met hierdie dienspligtiges wat sy gesag ondermyn.

Ek het self gewetensbeswaar as my kinders aan die grens doodgeskiet word om mense soos hierdie nege te beskerm. Dit is 'n skandale!

**VERBAAS, Bloemfontein:**

Ek is verbaas om te sien dat niemand (behalwe die Adjunk-minister van Verdediging, Die Volksblad, 21 April) op die gewetensbeswaardes brief (4 April) gereageer het nie.

Het ons mede-Suid-Afrikaneers so slap geraak dat ons net eenvoudig

*Voelers blad 28/4/88*



is egter só oorheersend belangrik dat wag verkieslik is bo 'n haastige, verkeerde aanstelling.

# Terrorisme

Die mense oor wie die vlieg- tuigkaping gegaan het, was dus nie idealistiese vryheidsvegters of strydere teen ongeregtigheid nie, hulle was geharde terroriste en moordenaars.

Omdat die kapers (tydelik?) weggekom het, is die uiteinde van die drama nie heeltemal bevredigend nie. 'n Mens sou graag wou sien dat hulle teregstaan vir hul wandade.

Tog kan die feit dat hulle hul vasgeloop het teen 'n internasionale granietmuur nie weggerede- leer word nie. Hoe die kapers hul saak ook al wend of keer, hulle het nie in hul doel geslaag nie en dus misluk.

Vir toekomstige kapers moet die feit gewis as afskrikmiddel dien. Die saak het bewys dat internasionale terrorisme wel betreffend beveg kan word as 'n internasionale gemeenskap geleedere kompromisloos sluit.

# Misplaaste argumente teen diensplig

**WYNAND BREYTEN- BACH, Adjunk- minister van Verdediging, Ministerie van Verdediging, Posbus 47, Kaapstad:**

Die argumente wat in die brief "Beswaar teen diensplig" (Die Volksblad, 4 April) aangevoer word waarom diensplig nie vir 'n klein groepe linkse aanvaarbaar is nie, is totaal misplaas.

## Kloue

Die stelling dat Suid-Afrika in die kloue van 'n burgeroorlog is, is onwaar. Die skrywers stel ook hul onkunde van die SA-Weermag se teenwoordigheid in SWA/Namibië en optrede in Suid-oos-Angola duidelik ten toon. Die argument ten gunste van alternatiewe

diens vir gewetensbe- swaardes in 'n "End Conscription Cam- paign"-slagspreuk wat reeds holrug gery is.

Suid-Afrika is nie in 'n burgeroorlog betrokke nie — dit weet elke regdenkende Suid-Afri-

gerde geweld van swart teen swart. Dit het plaas- gevind in die vorm van intimidasie en moord. Die SA Weermag en SA Polisie sou hul plig ver- suim het indien hulle eenkant en onbetrokke gebly het. Die SAW is in

bied van Suidwes- Afrika/Namibië omdat die SAW verhoed dat Swapo enige suksesse be- haal.

## Waardering

Die SAW lewer 'n reu- se-bydrae tot vrede, sta- biliteit en ontwikkeling in Suidwes. In sommige gevalle is die SAW die enigste organisasie wat mediese dienste aan die plaaslike bevolking le- wer. Groot waardering word in hierdie verband deur besoekers aan die gebied teenoor die SA Weermag betuig.

Dit val my op dat die ECC en ander gewetens- beswaardes skitter in hul afwesigheid om eni- ge soortgelyke dienste aan die mense van daar- die gebied te lewer. In- dien dit sou wees wat die ECC bedoel met alter- natiewe diens, misluk hulle ook totaal op hier- die gebied.

Verder is die ECC die inwoners van SWA/Na- mibië en die Republiek 'n verduideliking ver- skuldig met betrekking tot Swapo en die ANC se geweldpleging teenoor die plaaslike bevolking.

## Verblydend

Dit is vir my werklik verblydend om te weet dat die meeste Suid-Afri- kaanse jongmense hulle aan die kant van die SAW skaar. Hul insig en begrip vir die proble- me en oplossings daar- van is vir my 'n riem onder die hart. Wanneer ek dit sê, praat ek van eerstehandse kennis vanweë my nou kontak met hulle regoor die land.

Die SAW het 'n rol te speel in die ontwikkeling van Suid-Afrika omdat hy as lid van die veilig- heidsgemeenskap daar- toe bydra dat 'n gunstige klimaat geskep word vir vooruitgang en ontwik- keling. Aan elke verant- woordelike landsburger wat in die SAW 'n bydrae lewer tot voordeel van Suid-Afrika, wil ek my persoonlike dank oordra.

Die SAW se bydrae gaan nie ongesiens verby nie. Suid-Afrika en sy mense — swart, wit, bruin en Indiër — het hoë waardering daar- voor.

## Briewe

Die Volksblad  
Postbus 857  
Bloemfontein 9300

kaner. Deur sulke stel- lings te maak, beklem- toon die skrywers hul totale onkunde met be- trekking tot die revolu- sionêre aanslag op Suid- Afrik en sy inwoners.

## Moord

Die onrus wat in 1985 'n hoogtepunt bereik het, was grootliks SAKP / ANC - geïnsti-

die swart woonbuurte ter ondersteuning van die SAP. Hulle is daar ter beskerming van die inwoners van wie die meeste slegs verlang om in vrede te woon en te werk en om hul lewens- gang normaal te bedryf.

Aanprysing vir die SAW se optrede en teen- woordigheid in swart woongebiede word daag- liks ontvang. Die meeste swartmense is onteen- seglik ten gunste van die SAW se stabiliseren- de invloed. Dit is 'n ECC- mite dat die SAW nie welkom in die swart woonbuurte is nie.

## Booshede

Die ECC propageer hierdie mite omdat hy die revolusionêre en ra- dikaliste na die mond praat. Ek kry die indruk dat die ECC die SA Weer- mag uit die woonbuurte wil hê sodat geweld- naars hul booshede en intimidasie teen die swart gemeenskap onge- hinderd kan voortsit. Wat wil die mense hê? 'n Herhaling van die ge- beure van 1985?

Die SAW is 'n steen des aanstoots vir Swapo in die operasionele ge-

## Saak vir gewete

J. F. VAN AS, Posbus 4349, Bloemfontein:

Ek merk dat die leier van die Nasionale Party voortgaan om advertensies in die koerante te plaas om of die NP se beleid te verduidelik of dit aan te beveel. Die jongste, wat ook in Die Volksblad verskyn het, handel oor die begroting.

# MARKERKE AYRES

HENRYSTRAAT 52A BLOEMFONTEIN.

depot te Henrystraat 52A  
f van alle handelaars en  
emfontein en omgewing.

fstowwe

aad

e  
g  
i  
n  
n  
  
v  
i  
o  
d  
k  
n  
w  
w  
  
h  
h  
o  
r  
i  
D  
n  
e  
p  
r  
g  
e  
n  
o  
u  
it  
  
sk  
be  
gir  
pol  
sel  
gin  
  
Re  
  
D  
van  
bet  
die  
D  
elle  
voo  
  
I  
t  
  
ANTI  
fonte  
  
Die  
gewo  
blad,  
mens  
Tabak  
Die T  
'n me  
self te  
rook a  
lik, in  
wêreld  
vryhei  
om 'n  
neem  
hom k  
berou!  
tien d  
het, is  
dan d



**Collection Number: AG1977**

**END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

©2013

**LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.