



SAAMTREK

VOICE OF THE WORKER

FIRST FLOOR - III, UNION CENTRE
31, PRITCHARD STREET - JOHANNESBURG
TELEPHONE 33-6777/8 - P.O. BOX 4719
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "UNIPUBLISH"

SPONSORS: SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL
PROPRIETORS: UNITY PUBLICATIONS (PTY.) LTD.
Member: Audit Bureau of Circulations of South Africa Limited

Our Ref: B. 1954.

10th January, 1956.

Mr. A. Hepple, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Hepple,

Bank Guarantee - Messrs. Hayne & Gibson.

I enclose for your information, copy of a letter Ref. B. 1953 dated 10th January, 1956 which we have sent to our solicitor and which is self-explanatory.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank you most sincerely for the splendid manner in which you at all times assisted Saamtrek.

Had it not been for the fact that you provided the bank guarantee to the printers, Saamtrek would probably have been forced to cease publication long ago. The Board of Directors and all supporters of Saamtrek are indebted to you for the splendid manner in which you at all times assisted the paper and thank you most sincerely.

Our Solicitor will no doubt make early arrangements to relieve you of the responsibility of the guarantee. Our only regret is that we were not in a position to do so much earlier.

With very best wishes and trade union greetings.

Yours sincerely,

P. Huyser
MANAGER.

Our Ref: B. 1953

10th January, 1956.

Mr. M. Zimmerman,
Solicitor,
7th Floor, Libertas,
Marshall Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

Bank Guarantee - Messrs. Hayne & Gibson.

We enclose our cheque No. 577690 dated 31st December, 1955 for £ 500. 0.0 (Five hundred pounds) and shall be pleased if this amount can be invested as a Fixed Deposit with the South African Trade Union Building Society, and the amount of £ 500. 0.0 (Five hundred pounds) previously handed to you, as a Fixed Deposit with the Southern Building Society.

Kindly arrange with our bank, Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) Commissioner Street East Branch, to provide a guarantee of £ 1,000 (One thousand pounds) to our printers, Messrs. Hayne & Gibson in respect of our printing account in terms of Article 10 of the enclosed Agreement. The £ 1,000 invested with the Building Societies can be used as security to the bank.

The printers guarantee is at present being provided by Mr. A. Hepple, and we are anxious to relieve Mr. Hepple of this responsibility as soon as possible.

Kindly return the Agreement to us.

Yours faithfully,

MANAGER.

BARCLAYS BANK (DOMINION, COLONIAL AND OVERSEAS)

(REGISTERED AS A COMMERCIAL BANK)

WITH WHICH IS AMALGAMATED

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

TELEGRAPHIC ADD.
HEIGHTEN,
Johannesburg

HOSPITAL HILL,
(Cor. Kotze & Quartz Sts.),
JOHANNESBURG,
TRANSVAAL.

12th March, 1956.

Mr. Alex. Hepple, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Hepple,

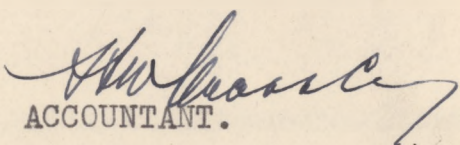
GUARANTEE T.W. HAYNE LTD.

We refer to your letter of the 16th January, 1956, and advise that the above guarantee has now been cancelled and we are accordingly returning the S.A. Permanent Mutual Building and Investment Society Fixed Deposit Receipt No. J35596 for £1,000.--.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this document.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.


ACCOUNTANT.

DIRECTORS:

A. S. AIKEN *A. C. BARNES *R. E. FLEMING *A. T. DUDLEY *CAPT. DEREK FITZGERALD *C. FITZHERBERT *A. L. GRANT
*VISCOUNT PORTAL *J. S. CROSSLEY *HON. G. C. GIBBS *SIR ERIC G. MACTIG H. F. OPPENHEIMER *F. SEEBOHM

*BRITISH

With the Compliments

of ~~the~~

Bob Seared.

Witwatersrand Baking
Employees' Association

also!

Please let me
have your candid comment.
any impression made will
also be useful.

Wheatlands,

448, Commissioner Street,

Fairview,

103, SOVERSET RD. Bob.

Johannesburg.

KENSINGTON

Telephone 24-6127

wife to

25-1864.

ALEX. HEPPLER. M.P.

15th February, 1956

Mr. Bob Bennett,
103, Somerset Road,
Kensington,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Bob,

I've been so very busy in recent weeks that it was quite impossible to read the Saamtrek which you specially sent me for comment.

After I had read your article in the Rand Daily Mail and wired my congratulations, I found it was a reprint of the one in Saamtrek. It was an excellent effort, Bob. You put the case frankly and clearly. I hope the apathetic rank and file will take note of your warning. Saamtrek needs plenty of stuff like that.

The issue of Saamtrek itself was good. I do not know if you can keep up a twelve page issue, but a paper like that should have a very wide appeal. The make-up was first class. While we were debating the Industrial Conciliation Bill in Committee on Monday night, many Nationalist members were busy reading Saamtrek. It was a good idea to send it to all members in the way you did. Of course, many just threw it aside, but it was worth the effort because of those who did read it. They didn't like the voting analysis on the front page. The voting list is something that should be drummed into all trade unionists. It could well be repeated when the Bill passes the Third Reading.

Keep up the good work.

Yours Sincerely,

ALEX. HEPPLER. M.P.

~~HEPPL~~ BENNETT
103 SOMERSET ROAD
KENSINGTON
JOHANNESBURG

CONGRATS ON YOUR EXCELLENT ARTICLE SATURDAY'S MAIL

HEPPL

A. HEPPL

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. CAPETOWN

103, Somerset Road,
Kensington,
Johannesburg.
Sunday, February 19, 1956.

Mr. Alex. Hepple, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
Cape Town.

Dear Alex,

Many thanks for your letter of the 15th. February.

Your wire congratulating me on my article in the "Mail" was very much appreciated. It is ~~the~~ little kindly thoughts like these that gives us the encouragement and incentive to "carry on" in these trying and difficult days.

Saamtrek: Your views were most interesting. I congratulated Urquhart on the excellent make-up of the paper. It was, in my humble opinion, the best issue of the paper since the T.U.C. took over the sponsorship just over a year ago. You can rest assured that the names of the members who vote for the Third Reading will be displayed in bold type on the front page of Saamtrek. While we are still having our worries to put the paper on a sound financial basis, and a twelve page issue is going to take some time, there is no doubt that the paper is becoming better known. I see a reference is made to Saamtrek in the last edition of Hansard (No. 3). Another, and most important matter, is that the "family" running the paper is a very happy one. The Editor, the Editorial Board and the Manager are all pulling their weight. The whole atmosphere is pleasant and congenial. This augurs well for the future of the paper. There is not a Saturday morning ~~that~~ passes that the Editorial Board does not meet. On this question of the future of the paper please give me your views as to how we will be affected in relation to no politics in trade unions, bearing in mind that the T.U.C are the official sponsors of the paper. The curse of this damned legislation is that the definitions are usually so wide that if you are not guilty of one thing you are of another. This is a matter that is causing the Board some concern, so the sooner you let me have your views the better. This makes our discussions on Forward all the more important. Who knows Alex? One must plan far ahead these days.

Well old friend...keep up the struggle. The work is not going to get any less. The path is going to be stony and of worry there will be plenty. But we who have known adversity will not shirk in our determination to make our beloved South Africa a better and happier land for us all.

Yours sincerely,

Bob.

Die Burger

8. Mynwerkers 3/4 Wil Geen Party Hê Nie'

(Van Ons Randse Verteenwoordiger)

JOHANNESBURG.—Die mynwerkers is heeltemal tevrede met die bestaande politieke partye en stel geen belang in 'n nuwe werkersparty nie, het mnr. Daan Ellis, hoofsekretaris van die mynwerkersbond, gister aan Die 'Burger' gese.

Mnr. Ellis het kommentaar gelewer oor berigte wat die afgelepe tyd in 'n deel van die Engelse pers verskyn het waarin verklaar word dat sekere vakbondleiers onderhandelinge voer om 'n nuwe werkersparty te stig.

Mnr. Ellis het gese dat dit skynbaar 'n poging is van linksgesinde vakbondleiers en ander anti-regeringsgesindes om die ou Arbeidersparty te laat herlewe.

Hulle probeer om op die gevoel van die werkers te speel met die kreet dat hulle vir die werkers staan. Verkiesings het egter bewys dat daar in Suid-Afrika geen plek vir klein politieke partye is nie.

Mnr. Ellis het gese dat die Mynwerkersbond geen beginselbesware teen die Wet op Versoening in die Nywerheid het nie. In sy geheel raak dit nie die mynwerkers nie die grondwet van die bond maak buitendien nie voorsiening vir nie-blankes in die vakbond nie.

1st. March 1956

Mr. R. Bennett,
103, Somerset Road,
Kensington,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Bob,

Since last writing you, we have got ~~xxx~~ back to debating the I. C. Bill and the issue of political action has come up. The Nats., inside and outside the House, are ridiculing the wide publicity that has been given to a report that the TUC now intends launching a political party. They point out that in all the years when political action was legal, the unions (or the majority of them) kept well away from politics. They ask why the unions threaten political action only now that they cannot. In addition, some of the Nats. are jeering that this talk of a new party is in fact a vote of no confidence in the good old Labour Party. I must say that I agree with the criticism which is being made.

How did this silly talk arise? I can't see how it will help your cause. Idle threats merely make a laughing stock of the TUC. After all, whoever started this sort of talk, must have had in mind what sort of party they wanted and what it would stand for. It couldn't exist merely with a narrow t. u. appeal. It would have to have a policy of such matters as the Group Areas Act, the Constitution, the Republic. If, as most of the TUC leaders always emphasise, so many of the rank and file are Nats., how will a t. u. party satisfy both them and those with the opposite view.

Before this talk gets out of hand I think your Executive should have a serious discussion, examine all the implications, and then issue a reasoned comment. By the way, I got the Minister to give an assurance that if the political taboo interferes with criticism through Saamtrek, he will amend the Act. He was a bit vague, so lets wait for the printed Hansard to get his actual words.

Regards,

L
OWIE - Spinasbeet, 6d. pakkie.
L
OWIE vir Compagnie, die suiver-
organiese messtof wat seewier be-
vat. Vir resonder groente, moer-
blomme en smakkiker vrugte, gebruik
Compagnie: 3 pd., 2/-; 15 pd., 8/-; 50
pd. 13.6. 100 pd., 25/-

ALEX. HEPPLE. M.P.

27th February, 1956

Mr. Bob Bennett,
103, Somerset Road,
Kensington,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Bob,

Thanks for your letter of the 19th inst.,
contents of which I read with interest.

You ask about the implications of the
"no-politics" Clause in the I.C. Bill and how far it
will affect Saamtrek. My own view is that as Unity
Publications is the owner of the paper and the unions
are merely shareholders, they cannot individually be
held responsible for its political contents.

However, the matter is so important that I
think you should get Counsel's opinion, just to be
on the safe side.

Regards,

ALEX. HEPPLE. M.P.

P.S. Please check on the guarantee with I.W. Hayne.
I have still had no advice from my bank that I have
been relieved of my liability.

Thanks,

A.H.

ALEX. HEPPLE. M.P.

23rd April, 1956

Mr. R. Bennett,
103, Somerset Road,
KENSINGTON.
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Bob,

I've just seen this week's Saamtrek and am sorry to see that I have made the headlines in a most unfortunate way. I enclose copy of a letter I sent to Tommy Rutherford before Saamtrek came to hand.

I would like a line from you on the subject.

With kind regards ,

Yours faithfully,

ALEX. HEPPLE. M.P.



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Our Ref: B.2627

21st January, 1957.

Mr. Alex Hepple, M.P.,
House of Parliament,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Hepple,

Is it not possible for you to write me a weekly summary - or review, rather - of Parliamentary debates, for publication in SAAMTREK under your own name?

More or less on the same lines as those you did for SAAMTREK when Dawie Couzyn was Editor. It could be very short, touching only briefly on the main subject of debates.

It could even be, if you have the inclination (and time, of course) for it, in the form of a very personal and heart-to-heart chat with the readers of SAAMTREK (who are mostly members of S.A. Trade Union Council affiliates) about your impressions, your hopes, your fears etc. regarding political trends and events in South Africa.

If your reviews (about two to three typed - double spacing - foolscap pages) are posted by airmail on Saturdays in Cape Town they should be here not later than Tuesday mornings so that I can use them for that week's issue of the paper.

Meanwhile I will see to it that you receive a copy of SAAMTREK regularly in Cape Town. Your articles can be straight talk right from the shoulder, but I would prefer as much humane warmth, simplicity and tact in them as you can see fit to muster under very adverse conditions - politics being what they are at the moment.

Wishing you and Mrs. Hepple a very happy stay in Cape Town and hoping to get a favourable reply from you at your earliest convenience.

Best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely, *Hennie Jonker*, EDITOR

28th. January 1957.

The Editor,
"Saamtrek",
P. O. Box 4719,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Hennie,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 21st. instant, which I received on Friday. I shall be delighted to do a weekly column for "Saamtrek", my old friend.

I enclose my first contribution, which I have quickly done for your next issue. Knowing all the difficulties regarding politics, I have started off by telling your readers the basis upon which I shall be writing. I think I should be controversial, because it has been shown overseas that controversy is ~~ix~~ a good circulation builder. Of course, I shall exercise tact and judgement, and always bear in mind that I must be sure that many will agree with me, so that for every one who complains, another will rush to my defence!

The main thing is that "Saamtrek" should get a slant on Parliament which the daily press sonceals. Each week I shall fill in the gaps, so that your readers get a good picture. Naturally, I am not adverse to your suggestions and will always be glad to have advice to brighten up my efforts.

I am sending this per "Express", so that you get it to-morrow.

Give our regards to everyone. Hope you and Dulcie are enjoying married life.

Sincerely Yours,

ALEX. HEPPLIE, M. P.

Article sent 4/2/57 with letter
letter to follow JH

R. Bennett.,
103, Somerset Road,
Kensington.
Johannesburg.
Sunday, Feb. 24, 1957.

Mr. Alex. Hepple, M.P.
House of Assembly,
Cape Town.

My dear Alex,

You will probably have received our last issue of Saamtrek announcing our demise as ^a weekly paper by the time this letter reaches you.

We fought a losing battle from the start, hampered by lack of finance, overheads out of all proportion, difficult people to deal with, and finally the appointment of Hennie Jonker as Editor, all played a part in the paper "folding up". Don't misunderstand me about Hennie. I like the chap tremendously, he is sincere and has many likeable qualities, but when he entered into competition with the "War Cry", "Southern Cross" and the "Watch Tower" by his religious writing and quotes it undoubtedly hastened the end of the paper. But its no use "crying over spilt milk" or on what might have been. I am going to concern myself with the future.....and what of the future?

We, the T.U.C. have decided to sponsor a monthly magazine in the place of Saamtrek and I have been appointed as the Editor of the new publication. It will appear under the name "Unitas", latin for unity as you are aware. I am not terribly enamoured with the name but it was the best we could do in the circumstances. Any other name would have meant a translation, and a paper with a double-barrelled name was out of the question.

I enjoyed your articles in Saamtrek tremendously, written in forthright style and in the language we workers understand they were a sheer delight to me. While on the subject of writing will you write for the new "mag", with this difference giving me permission to use a nome-de-plume if I think fit? I know its a hell of a lot to ask but I also know Alex Hepple is a understanding "feller". One article I would like you to write for the first issue of Unitas is "Is There Still Time?" bringing out with your able pen the great need for the white workers to take a greater interest in the economic plight of the African workers, and what a devastating effect economics have on race relations etc etc. Write, if you will, as a South African with "his ear to the ground". But old friend there is no need for me to tell you the theme I would like you to develop. If you will do an article for me make it 500-600 words in length, and I must have it back for the first issue by MARCH 7. What about it Alex?

P.T.O.

Keep up the good work. You have earned all the boquets from the daily and weekly press and the House would be a mighty lot quieter without the Member for Rosettenville. The U.P. have certainly reduced somnolency to a fine art.

Drop me a line immediately letting me know if you will oblige. If you do not fancy the idea of a nome-de-plume don't hesitate to say so.

Give my regards to Girlie and to Leo Lovell, Hymie Davidoff and any of the other "lads" you meet.

All the best Alex.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Bennett



SAAMTREK

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Easter file

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Our Ref: B.2692

5th March, 1957.

Mr. A. Hepple, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

*Replied 7/3/57
ask to send
to h.p. offices*

Dear Alex,

The Central News Agency returned a number of parcels containing unsold copies of your book, "Trade Unions in Travail". I thought you would like to have these copies for distribution as you see fit. If you are interested please let us know where they should be sent.

You have probably heard the news that Saamtrek has closed down and that it will be replaced by a monthly magazine, UNITAS. I sincerely hope that they will not make the same mess of UNITAS as they have of Saamtrek.

I shall be leaving the employ of Unity Publications at the end of the month, and shall be pleased to hear from you before then.

Hoping you are keeping well. Kindest regards to Girlie,

Sincerely yours,



SAAMTREK

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Easter file

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I shall be leaving the employ of Unity Publications at the end of the month, and shall be pleased to hear from you before then.

Hoping you are keeping well. Kindest regards to Girlie,

Sincerely yours,

Saamtrek

ALEX. HEPPLER. M.P.

8th March, 1957

Mr. R. Bennett,
103, Somerset Road,
Kensington,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Bob,

When I sent you the article for the first issue of "Unitas" the other day, I had no time to write you fully.

First of all, let me say how sorry I am that Saamtrek has gone. But I knew there was only one ending, and I often told you so. The organisation was top heavy and the overheads out of all proportion to the revenue.

I still believe that there is room for a good, political, trade union paper. Everyday there are important events which concern workers and their unions but are not reported in the press, or badly reported.

What will happen to Piet? Anyway, now that something has to take Saamtrek's place, I see that poor old Bob has to roll up his sleeves as usual.

I shall be glad to help in any way you may think I can be useful. Don't hesitate to call on me.

Good Luck with your Conference.

Kind regards to you and Hilda,

ALEX. HEPPLER. M.P.

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