

"CALL OFF YOUR POLICE, MR. SWART"

NEW AGE

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CONGRESS CALL ON RIOTS

JOHANNESBURG.—"CALL OFF YOUR POLICE, MINISTER SWART! CANCEL THE SHOOT-TO-KILL ORDERS TO THE POLICE! STOP THE NEVER-ENDING RAIDS!"

This was the cry that went up from the Congress movement here last week, following on the killings and riots over recent weeks in P r t Elizabeth, Germiston, Bergville and on the Witwatersrand.

The African National Congress, joined by the Indian Congress, the Coloured People's Organisation, the Congress of Trade Unions and the Congress of Democrats, issued an urgent call to the Minister of Justice to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry into the causes of the clashes and disturbances in which many lives have been lost and many injured.

The ANC statement said the police raids for taxes, passes, beer and so on are conducted in a most provocative manner and are the detonators of the clashes.

"The serious situation which had arisen in the form of hostility between the police and the Non-European people was caused by the deterioration in race relations due to the racial policies pursued by the Government.

"The complete disregard for the comfort and privacy of the people is clearly indicated by the fact that the police should imprison people in a beer hall and demand their tax receipts.

"HUMILIATION"

"The humiliation to which hundreds of people, who are arrested for passes and subjected daily, by being handcuffed and ordered to

stand in long queues for many hours, creates a feeling of indignation in almost every African and right thinking person."

The position had been greatly aggravated by the instructions which gave the police the right to open fire on unarmed people in public places, as a result of which many innocent people are injured or killed, it added.

Bus Boycott in Brakpan

In Brakpan where bus fares have been increased from threepence to fourpence for adults and from penny to twopence for schoolchildren, the people have started a bus boycott. After the first few days the boycott was in full force. The people are demanding a return to the old fares.

BUS BOYCOTT BEGINS IN CAPE TOWN

THOUSANDS RESPOND TO SACPO'S CALL

CAPE TOWN.—"This meeting of citizens of Cape Town decides to boycott all buses from tomorrow," said the resolution enthusiastically adopted by a huge meeting called by the South African Coloured People's Organisation on the Grand Parade last Sunday.

The resolution marked the beginning of the campaign to smash the apartheid which was introduced on routes of the City Tramways and Golden Arrow Bus services this week.

On Monday morning, there were pickets at the terminuses of the apartheid bus routes and thousands of people refused to ride in the buses.

Not only Non-Europeans but also Europeans were among those who walked to and from work rather than ride in the apartheid buses. Offers to provide lifts for bus boycotters were made by many Europeans, including members of the Black Sash.

Volunteers were asked to contact Mr. la Guma at No. 5 Albertus St., Cape town, or to telephone 30337.

An official of the tramway company confirmed that traffic on some routes (he would not specify which) had been noticeably reduced as a result of the boycott.

THE PARADE MEETING MARKED THE FIRST OCCASION IN CAPE TOWN WHEN

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ENCOURAGEMENT

The pickets who stood at the termini of the apartheid routes in the centre of town were dogged by members of the Special Branch, but received plenty of support and encouragement from the public.

Many workers got up an hour early this week so that they could walk to work instead of taking a bus.

By Monday evening, after only one day of boycott propaganda, thousands of workers had decided to join in. Bus queues in the centre of town were noticeably emptier than usual. Many workers, men and women, were walking home. Others packed the trains, which were crammed to bursting point with workers who normally travelled by bus.

ONLY A BEGINNING

In an interview with New Age, Mr. A. la Guma, SACPO President, emphasised that the boycott campaign was only beginning.

"We didn't expect 100 per cent success on the first day," he said, "but the response we received was excellent. The people of Cape Town have shown they are prepared to fight back against the Government's racist madness.

"However, much more remains to be done. WE NEED 1,000 VOLUNTEERS IMMEDIATELY TO CARRY THE BOYCOTT TO EVERY CORNER OF THE PENINSULA, ON TO EVERY BUS ROUTE. EVERYBODY MUST BE PERSUADED NOT TO RIDE IN THE BUSES FOR ANY PURPOSE WHATSOEVER."

Winburg Women Burn Their Pass Books

"We Have Been Tricked"

JOHANNESBURG.—Winburg is the little Free State town chosen by the Government for the first issue of pass books to African women, and Winburg is also the first place where the women have hit back—and hard.

On Monday, April 9 a silent procession of several hundred women walked from the location to the Magistrate's Court, their pass books collected in a large bag, or carried in their hands.

They wanted to see the Magistrate, they said. They had been told the books were not passes. "But we have examined these books and we are convinced that they are passes." In union, the voices of the women added, "We do not want the passes!" Flanked by C.I.D. members and interpreters and court officials the Magistrate finally came before the women. He refused to take the pass books back and used some of the old arguments for their acceptance. When he saw he was getting nowhere he turned on his heel and went back into the court.

THEN THE WOMEN PLACED THE PILE OF PASS BOOKS ON THE GROUND BEFORE THE COURT, POURED A BOTTLE OF PARAFFIN OVER THEM AND SET THE PILE ALIGHT.

TERRIFIC SHOCK

The burning of the pass books has given the little town living in the valley a terrific shock. There is a tenseness and restlessness among the people, in the town and the location alike.

All last week Winburg was swarming with Special Branch detectives, called in from Ladybrand, Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, Ficksburg, Senegal, Ventersburg and Kroonstad. African detectives have been going from house to house, trying to sow fear, trying to intimidate the women, and their husbands and their families.

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Women's Leader Gets Gaol Sentence



Mrs. Elizabeth Motingoe, secretary of the Transvaal ANC Women's League, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for being in Winburg location without a permit—see page 3.



SACPO executive member Katie Hess persuades an intending passenger on the Kloof Street bus not to break the boycott. Thousands of citizens obeyed SACPO's call from the very first day and have refused to patronise the apartheid buses.

BA 320.06 NEW

A MATTER OF HONOUR

It has taken us six weeks to collect only £945 2s. 2d. of our £10,000 target. That is very far from being good enough. By now (working on an average basis) we should have collected £2,727, which means that we have fallen behind schedule to the tune of £1,782.

The £945 acknowledged so far has not even been sufficient to pay current expenses, with the result that our debts are accumulating alarmingly. The strain on our very limited credit facilities is now near breaking point and, as we pointed out last week, we shall not be able to continue beyond the end of May UNLESS YOU FULFILL YOUR OBLIGATIONS TO NEW AGE AND THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT. This proviso applies with equal force to every single one of our readers, and to every single democratic organisation in our country.

We refuse to believe that the task of saving New Age is beyond the resources of decent people in South Africa. We are convinced that if every individual and organisation were to do their share we would raise that £10,000—and more.

Let us repeat, once again, how you can play your part in this vital campaign. You can

● For a start, make the biggest personal donation you can afford, and then follow up with a regular

monthly donation from then onwards. (The cheque for £100 and the Postal Order for 1/- are equally important measured in terms of sacrifice!)

● Take out a collection list. (These are available at all our offices.)

● Attend all our functions, meet your fellow readers and supporters, enjoy yourself and help our funds at the same time.

● Keep a New Age collection tin in your home.

● Organise a dance, a tea-party or some other function in aid of New Age.

● Give us your old clothes and anything else suitable for jumble sales.

● Volunteer for regular, active work for New Age.

IN SO FAR AS ORGANISATIONS ARE CONCERNED, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING—

● Make us an immediate donation from your funds.

● Acquaint all your branches, and all your members, with the importance of New Age and the necessity for defending our paper at all costs.

● See that money for New Age is collected from your individual members through the medium of collection lists, special drives, etc.

● Organise special functions on behalf of New Age.

● Find agents and subscribers among your members for our papers

● Keep us supplied with news about your organisation and events in your area. Let us, too, have your criticisms and suggestions.

● Appoint a member of your committee who will see that it will be attend to New Age affairs.

● KEEP NEW AGE ON YOUR AGENDA.

We ask all our readers to study carefully the figures we have given above. They affect the honour of every South African democrat; they are a challenge to each and every one of us.

MEET THAT CHALLENGE—KEEP NEW AGE GOING!

THIS WEEK'S DONATIONS

Mrs. Eccleston (Sheffield) £20; T.J. 9s.; Anon. 10s.; B & B £5; Anon. 5s.; K.W. 10s.; H & B £2; Bennie £1; Mr. O (Readers' Pennies) 2s.; Dinner £2.2s.; Rummage (C.T.) £16.13.1; Musical Evening £2.16s.; Collection List (Friend) £3; Friends (P.E.) 5s.; Capie 5s.; Syd JB; Jumble (Jhs.) £13; Collections £4s.; Anon. £2s.; Friend £4; Zack & Susan £1; Izzy £4.13; Wolfe £2.

Previously acknowledged — £786 14 7
Total This Week — 158 7 7

TOTAL TO DATE — £945 2 2

Editorial

STOP THIS KILLING!

There have now been eight bloody clashes between police and Africans within the last seven weeks. (See "The Nats Call This Peace" on page 3.) At least 17 people, Black and White, have been killed and an unknown number injured, some seriously. Damage to property to the extent of thousands of pounds has been caused.

Yet the Government does not think the situation serious enough to worry about. They refuse to appoint any commissions of enquiry and persist in giving the police a free hand to deal as they please with such situations whenever they arise.

They are arising more and more often. Yet Nationalist apologists continue to pretend that the racial situation has never been better. Thus on March 23 Mr. B. J. Vorster, Nationalist M.P. for Nigel, said in a press interview that "relations between all sections in the Union had never been as good as they were today." Apparently in his eyes a bloody clash between police and Africans once a week is a record of which any supporter of apartheid is entitled to be proud.

Mr. Vorster also made the disgusting remark that it was Nationalist policy towards the African to "turn him into a good kaffir again," in contradiction to the British who "want to make of him a black Englishman." When one looks at what is happening in the country under Nationalist rule, one wonders whether Mr. Vorster is of the opinion that the only "good Kaffir" is a "dead Kaffir."

South Africa is today not only a police state, but an armed camp where undeclared war rages between the ruling clique and the mass of the population. The police are ever-ready to resort to shooting. Their excesses are tolerated, nay even encouraged, by a Government which has consistently refused to put a stop to them because it considers force indispensable to the maintenance of White supremacy.

Examine the causes of each of the clashes which have occurred in the last seven weeks and it will be seen that in nearly every case it is either the policy of the Government or the use of extreme force by the police which has touched off the explosion. The pass laws, Reserve system, the beer hall system, the bans on meetings—these are the cornerstones of Nationalist policy, these are the sources of intense resentment and grievance among the people. The Government, however, far from taking African opinion into account, is determined to suppress every manifestation of opposition.

If the police were to surround the Alhambra cinema (for Europeans only), barricade the exits, and systematically screen every patron to make sure he had paid his income tax, one can imagine the outcry which would be made by press, politicians and public alike. Yet this sort of thing is done to the African people every day, and they are expected to grin and bear it. If they don't, they may be shot down, even though they may be innocent.

And Mr. Vorster says: "We are trying to turn him into a good Kaffir."

The Nats claim that it is only apartheid which can bring racial peace. Yet our daily experience proves it is apartheid, and the police enforcement of it, which sooner or later lead to violence and bloodshed.

Clearly, only the extension of equal rights to all South Africans can ever bring about racial harmony and co-operation of all for the benefit of the country. Democratic-minded South Africans owe it to the men and women, Black and White, who have been killed or whose bodies have been broken in these perpetually-recurring clashes to hammer home this lesson with ever-increasing intensity.

As a first step towards peace, all South Africans who have a shred of conscience must join forces without delay to call a halt to the Government's race-mad policy, and to insist that the police terror under which the mass of the people live is brought to an end immediately.

Russia was free. But her back was still bent, the will was still weak.

It required a non-Russian, a man of steel, a Stalin, to help the soft Russian body becoming gradually more powerful, to infuse discipline and self-discipline into the frustrated, weakened body-politic. Stalin played a tremendous role in taking Russia to the place which she occupies now. He had to be thrown out, not only because to accomplish a certain mission, which he triumphantly did. But the real Russian physiognomy had to be exhibited as soon as conditions, inside and outside,

demand. With now a straightened back and powerful will, Russia had to come into its own at last. The collective will of the born and bred in the Mir—village community persisting till the days of the October Revolution—had to reassert itself, after having been at times lost in the whirl of colossal events and developments.

By the way, "Mir" means not only village community, but the universe and also peace—this seems to be the real holy trinity of the true Russian.

OBSERVER

Cape Town.

WE MUST NOT FALL INTO THE BANTU EDUCATION TRAP

Let us not cease to expose the evils of Bantu Education to our people. If we give it a chance it will establish its roots deep in the minds of our people. We hear even some of the educated hailing it with high terms of commendation in the Bantu propaganda magazine sponsored by the N.A.D. officials.

The aims of this vicious Bantu Education are:

1. To de-Africanise the Natives of South Africa as to destroy their common national feeling of solidarity, to establish a spirit of racial hatred in them by ethnic grouping schools. The object is to make an African realise his inferiority to the White man, and to make him crave for superiority over other Africans of a different tribe.

2. To prepare the labourers for unskilled manual labour on the farms where they must work for the farmer's advantage. We must be taught how to harvest, count bags of potatoes and manias, serape or construct a dam, water crops. Only in this way will we be an asset. An educated African is a liability to a farmer because he will demand better wages and conditions.

3. To prepare an African child for work in the mines. Films will be shown to the children explaining how mine workers can get rich. This will not be true, but is a means of recruitment. The object will be to make an African feel he may not hold a pen but that his duty after school is to work and pick or a heavy hammer for the benefit of the mine owners.

4. To teach the child how to scrub the floor of the missus and to wash dishes for her; how to polish the shoes of the white man. This is to make the African know that he must remain dirty and that the clean are white men only.

5. To teach the child how to carry spanners, etc. for white mechanics in factories and to sing barbaric songs when moving heavy things.

6. To teach an African child how to become a policeman who carries not a gun but a baton who should not arrest a white man because a white man can never make a mistake, who is expected to terrorise his own fellow Africans.

Verwoerd's commandments are: To the teacher: Thou shalt indoctrinate thy children. To the supervisor: Thou shalt enslave thy labourers.

To the policeman: Thou shalt incarcerate those who refuse to be indoctrinated and enslaved. We must repudiate this Bantu Education from all sides.

M. C. BOSHELLO Johannesburg.

Workers Don't Want Overtime

Your article in the April 5 issue on Overtime and More Profits For the Boss was most interesting. Such an article is very useful—it helps the workers to back up their struggles against increasing exploitation by the bosses.

I would like to take the argument in the article a bit further. The vast majority of South African workers get only 1½ on basic wages for overtime, this being laid down in the Factories Act. This means they actually get less money per hour for overtime than for ordinary time, because they get no cost of living on overtime. For example, Jack Magazi gets 1½ per hour basic pay. Cost of living allowance amounts to about 50% i.e. 6d., making 1½ per hour. On the other hand 1½ of

the basic wage is 1/4 i.e. 2d. less than for ordinary time.

Thus the bosses are scoring in two ways, by getting cheaper labour after ordinary hours, and spreading his expenditure on 1½, etc. over a longer working day.

For this reason many workers are refusing to work overtime and are waging a constant struggle to get the bosses to pay at least 1½ basic for overtime.

The need is for SACTU to start a national campaign for the incorporation of Cost of Living allowance into basic pay, and demanding 1½ on this wage for overtime. The bosses have been getting away with this super exploitation for long enough.

BEN TUROK Cape Town.

On the Russian Character

The latest events in Russia represent a continuation of the modified policy begun since Stalin's death. In the beginning one could not help observing a greater relaxation in regard to ethnic affairs, the difference being in the almost total absence of rigidity which appertained till then. Of course, there is no new foreign policy; the foreign peace posture of Stalin remains the same. But there is a total absence of stiff pride, and this represents elements of the true Russian character, now gradually coming to the fore everywhere. Any change from previous tendencies, whether in one-man-rule—still in force—or otherwise, means that the true Russian character is gaining ground.

My view is based on historical facts. Russia has never been able to do as she liked; she never had the freedom for some centuries she was ruled by a dynasty which more and more was German in pedigree, outlook, non-understanding of the Russian and brutal selection. For at least half a century she was cruelly treated by the autocratic Tsar's German-led bureaucracy (Baltic Barons, Russo-Germans). As these prevented the emergence of the real Russian way of life. The 1917 Revolution spelt the death-knell of German rule, and from now onward Rus-

"JUST AN INCIDENT"— Police Officer's Verdict On Western Areas Shootings

JOHANNESBURG.—Following last week's clashes in the Western Areas, 24 Africans were taken to hospital, six with bullet wounds; a seven-year-old European boy had to have his left eye removed after he was hit by a stone; 13 Europeans among them six policemen had to be treated for injuries in hospital—and yet a senior police officer described the affair as merely an "incident."

For some hours after trouble had started at the beer hall on the border of Western Native Township and Newclare nobody could pass safely through these streets. After armed police had been rushed to the scene and had opened fire on the Africans, crowds from the townships gathered to stone passing trams and cars.

HOW IT STARTED

The trouble started late in the

afternoon when a team of tax collectors decided to raid the beer hall for poll tax payments. A force of about 200 police were called in to cordon off the beer hall. In the hall, just before closing time, an announcement was made that all men should leave the hall with their tax receipts in their hands.

Officials jostled the crowd inside the hall to leave, and the pass collectors blocked all exits so that none

could escape the tax raid. The result was a general commotion and a charge to get out of the hall which infuriated the crowd. A number were trampled at the exit, others jumped over the fences, still others started to fling their beer mugs. The police started a baton charge to disperse the crowd, and firing opened later.

Three or four lorry loads of Africans were arrested for tax infringements.

Crowds continued to gather, and then, it is believed, a story went the rounds that an African child had been knocked down by a car.

Trams and cars were blocked and police guards had to be provided for the transport passing through the area. The windows of a number of passing vehicles were shattered and a number of passengers injured.

Most Africans wounded in this clash were discharged from hospital after a few days. Still in the ward, however, is fifteen-year-old Simon Bore, with a bullet wound in his leg.

On the afternoon of the clash he left Western Native Township to see his mother in Sophiatown. He was about six streets from the main trouble spot when a bullet hit him. More shots were fired at him as he lay on the ground till he was pulled into a nearby house by a passing African.

Other residents who found themselves in hospital with head injuries or bullet wounds were equally innocent bystanders who had not even been near the beer hall that day.

THE NATS CALL THIS PEACE

CAPE TOWN.

There have been eight bloody clashes between Africans and the police during the last seven weeks. Here are the details:

February 23: "Five Police Killed in 'Berg Daga Raid: Location Gang Fights With Hostages. Mutilated Bodies Found by Rescue Party."—Cape Times headlines.

February 24: "The Police Kill Two in Natal Manhunt: 21 Arrests."—Cape Times headline.

March 14: "Detectives Attacked in Natal Daga Raid: Native Shot Dead."—Cape Argus report of a clash in the Fort Shepstone district.

March 19: "40-minute Gun Fight on Goldfields Against Native Mob."—Cape Argus headline.

March 24: "One African shot dead, 3 policemen and 2 Africans hurt in a 'riot' in New Brighton."—Cape Argus.

April 9: "Rand Police Open Fire on Native Hostel Riot: Four Killed."—Cape Argus headline. The clash followed a four-week boycott by the Africans of the food served in the hostel.

April 13: "Seven Whites Injured in Rand Riot."—Cape Times headline. The disturbances followed a police raid for tax receipts on a beer hall in Western Native Township. In addition to the Europeans injured, about 20 Africans were admitted to hospital.

April 15: "Four Natives Die in Rand Riot: Wild Scenes in Location Beer Hall."—Cape Times headline.

And What is The Government's Reaction?

March 23: Relations between all sections in the Union had never been as good as they were today.

—Mr. B. J. Vorster, Nationalist M.P. for Nigel, in a press interview.

May we remind you that next Monday is the deadline for messages for publication in our special May Day issue?

Make sure your message is printed by sending it in early.

A.N.C. MEETING IN GERMISTON BANNED

GERMISTON.—The Riotous Assemblies Act was invoked to ban an African National Congress meeting called for Sunday at Freedom Square or at any other place in the Germiston magisterial district.

The meeting was called to protest against Bantu Education (it is one year since the boycott of the schools began on the 15th of June), also against passes for women, the removal of Germiston location to Natal Springs and the police shooting at the Robert Strachan Hostel.

Following the clash at the Robert Strachan Hostel where police firing resulted in the tragic deaths of four African residents and a number of others were wounded, 23 Africans men were arrested on charges of public violence and six others later held "on suspicion."

The public violence trial opens at the Germiston court on April 24.

The five wrecked offices at the hostel bear witness to the fury of the hostel crowd when the actions of hostel and municipal police forced a group of men to scab on the food boycott which has been conducted with great discipline since March 12.

PRESSURE

Reports given to New Age say that a late-shift of men returning to the hostel on the night of Saturday 7th was threatened with assault by a group of hostel police if they did not take food from the hostel

kitchen, despite the one hundred per cent boycott.

A fight started when this group entered the kitchen.

A fire was started in part of the hostel. This was brought under control by the fire brigade and was already over when a police force arrived on the scene and opened fire with sten guns and rifles.

One resident was shot through the head as he peered out on the police below from a window high in the hostel building. A bullet below the window pane bears witness to this.

A hostel official conducting pressmen and visitors through the hostel after the shooting was asked about the bullet hole high in the window of the building and his comment was "Well they were just shooting anyhow..."

Two other men were shot in a passage in the hostel building leading to their room.

Of the four men lying in hospital under police guard one was shot through the head, another has a bullet wound in the abdomen, a third has a bullet wound in the thigh and the fourth was shot just above the knee.

THEY PREFERRED TO GO TO JAIL

JOHANNESBURG.

Thirty African textile workers from Rooodepoort found guilty of conducting a go-slow strike have decided not to pay their fines in order to serve their prison sentences.

Prosecuted under the Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act, the 30 were sentenced to a fine of £10 or four weeks in jail, three-quarters of the sentence being suspended.

The 30 announced that they declined to pay the fine; they would serve one week in jail.

The prosecutor thereupon proposed that the court grant an order for the fine to be deducted from their pay envelopes. The workers refused to give their consent to this. Their families were in court during the trial and watched the 30 walk off to a man, to the cells.

These workers from the Rooodepoort factory have been demanding stipulated rates of pay instead of just the bonus system and id. increase in their bonus rate. The factory pays wages lower than the rate obtaining in similar Johannesburg factories.

VISSER FOR TRIAL ON MURDER CHARGE

JOHANNESBURG.—Constable W. G. J. Visser of the Fordsburg police was last week committed for trial on a charge of murdering Solly Jooma, the prominent Indian Congressman and sportsman, who was found battered to death in a Fordsburg street on January 14. Visser pleaded not guilty.

The magistrate said he agreed with Visser's defence lawyer that there were great discrepancies between the evidence of the Crown witnesses, and that there was a likelihood that the charge might be reduced to one of culpable homicide or "even less."

The magistrate said he would like to see the defence to a higher court to decide. He said he agreed also with the defence that one of the most important factors in the case was the "bad feeling" between Visser and Jooma over an action for damages instituted by Jooma against Visser and the Minister of Justice, following an assault on Jooma by Visser.

During the preparatory examination hearing last week the district surgeon said that the cause of Jooma's death was fracture of the skull, or cerebral haemorrhage. He described multiple injuries to the head and bruises and lacerations on other parts of the body which, he said, could have been caused by the heel and cap of a boot and a large finger ring which was later identified by one of the witnesses as belonging to Visser.

The district surgeon said under cross-examination that death could have been caused after a heavy blow and a fall on to a concrete surface.



This is Solly Jooma, former leading member of the Transvaal Indian Congress and well-known Indian soccer player, who was found battered to death in a Fordsburg street on the night of January 14.

50 DELEGATES ATTEND CAPE ANC CONFERENCE

CAPE TOWN.

Thirty-five delegates plus 15 observers from 15 branches in the Western Cape attended the African National Congress conference in Kensington last week-end. Three members of the Special Branch of the police kept watch outside the conference hall.

Opening the conference, the chairman, Mr. Mtshali, emphasised the danger of section 10 of the Urban Areas Act and the misery it had already caused by breaking up families. He also warned the conference about the Government's intentions in opening up a mass concentration camp at Nyanga, and advised that prompt action should be taken to resist mass deportations.

"There are two roads before us," the chairman said, "The one leads to freedom for the people. The other leads to hardship and shame. We must close our ranks and deal with it as one enemy."

"Those of our members who do not carry out the directives of the A.N.C. are directly helping the Government. We must sift out such

elements and put them in their proper place."

Conference decided to take steps to co-ordinate the work of branches in the Western Cape under the direction of the Cape Western region. Conference also decided to do its utmost to implement the Freedom Charter in co-operation with other freedom-loving people's organisations.

PASSES FOR WOMEN

A resolution was passed pledging to fight passes for women, and it was stressed that the campaign should be conducted on such a scale that it led to the rescue of African men from the pass laws as well.

Resolutions were also passed protesting against the Nyanga removals and pledging to campaign against the introduction of bus apartheid together with the other organisations of the people.

Fraternal greetings were sent to the conference by the South African Coloured People's Organisation, the Congress of Democrats and the Congress of Trade Unions.

CAN CAPITALISM CURE ITSELF OF SLUMPS?

World Stage By Spectator

ONE of the facts in the history of the capitalist world until the Second World War—a fact noted and commented upon by economists of both the right and left wing—was that severe slumps, with terrible unemployment, have tended to occur roughly every ten years.

The cycle of boom and slump was not seriously affected by the first world war, which was followed by a world economic crisis in 1921 which affected unemployment in Britain for example, to 15% of the total number of workers available for employment.

JO'BURG HUNGER MARCHES

The great depression of the early 1930's kept one in every four or five workers out of a job, and in Johannesburg, though the effect of the slump was to some extent cushioned by the favourable position of gold production, there were hunger marches and demonstrations by unemployed workers, led by the Communist Party.

At no time between the two world wars did the world unemployment rate fall below 10 per cent. Even in 1938, on the eve of the Second World War, a serious crisis was developing.

Some progressive economists, pointing to the ten-year cycle of the past, or to the three-year interval between the end of the first world war and the first post-war slump, have perhaps been over-zealous to see a serious economic crisis a few months of every year there have been signs of distress on the New York stock exchange.

In fact, however, the world economic picture since the end of the Second World War has been, on the whole, considerably different from that after the first war.

UNEMPLOYMENT LOW

Compared with 1918-1939 unemployment figures which ranged from 10 to 25 per cent at the worst, unemployment figures since the last war have been low.

In the U.S. it has averaged 4 per cent, or about 3 million of the civilian labour force. In the crises of 1948 to 1949 and 1953 to 1954 it rose to about 6 per cent. But it has never reached the scale of the 1930's.

In 1938 the official figure for the unemployment in the U.S. stood at 19 per cent. World figures for the middle of last year were:

Britain	—	—	11%
U.S.A.	—	—	4
West Germany	—	—	4
Italy	—	—	11
Belgium	—	—	5
Japan	—	—	2
Soviet Union	—	—	0

Italy remains the weakest of the capitalist powers, and this is expressed in the high unemployment rate. Though France does not release official unemployment figures, they are not considered to be high.

The unemployment figures are reflected in the fact that there has been in general a fairly steady annual increase in industrial production:

INCREASE IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

During Soviet Union	U.S.A.	Britain
1947	23	8
1948	26	12
1949	24	(decrease) —
1950	24	10
1951	17	5
1952	11	4 (decrease) —
1953	11	7
1954	11	7

Some of the partial crises which have occurred are indicated by the ups and downs. 1951-2 the textile industry in most industrialised countries suffered a severe setback in sales and production was reduced; the next year there was a mild recovery in the engineering industry, and Britain's motor-car export troubles began. In 1953-4 steel and coal production began to level off in Western Europe.

But none of these troubles—though symptomatic of the contradictions of domestic capitalism—has been in any way comparable with the horrors of the slumps of the years between the two wars.

The right-wing economists have not been slow to crow that their theories have solved capitalism's ills, as they have crowded during the boom which has followed every slump.

mic troubles. What were those factors? All of them are a direct result of the dreadful destruction of the war.

The war destroyed whole cities which had to be rebuilt; it created an enormous food shortage—and it had destroyed huge segments of the industries of Europe which could make good the world's needs.

But eleven years of creative effort have now replaced what the six years of destructive effort wrought—all but the lost lives, broken bodies and twisted minds.

The cities have been rebuilt. The world food shortage has been replaced by huge "surpluses" of food which cannot be released for sale without a "catastrophic" fall in prices.

While millions in the world remain hungry, the food is piled up in huge refrigerators—for the capitalists dare no longer treat the hungry with the contempt of the pre-war years, when food was burnt or thrown into the sea, in order to keep prices high.

The destroyed factories of West Germany (whose steel output now exceeds that of Britain and Japan, of France and Italy combined) are running and their owners are busy cutting off a slice of the world market for themselves.

Additional factor delaying the crisis has been the need for big investments in machinery and equipment to rejuvenate the factories which had, in the main, been unaltered since the boom of 1929, to prevent them from being obsolete in the competition with their rivals who were building from the ground up in the defeated countries.

And hovering over everything was the huge capital investment in that most lucrative of all temporary slumps—armaments expenditure.

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Each country is trying to export more and import less, and this, of course, is leading to a colossal struggle for markets.

There are a large number of other typical signs of an approaching crisis—signs which have been present shortly before each crisis of the past:

● A very sharp increase in the profits of the biggest firms. (Profits of the U.S. steel monopolies in 1955 were double those of 1954.)

● A slowing-down in the rate of increase of industrial production and the increasing accumulation of stocks of goods which cannot be sold—exemplified most noticeably in the motor-car and textile industries.

● The increasing accumulation of surplus stocks of goods which cannot be put on the market without a "catastrophic" fall in prices (though of course millions are hungry who could eat it if it were not in the interests of capitalism to keep prices up).

● Huge increases in purchases on credit. (Half the increase in consumption in the U.S. in 1955 was financed by hire-purchase. 22 per cent of the average U.S. family income is spent on consumer repayments.)

There are some measures open to the western powers to delay the horrors of crisis. Among the most obvious, is the rejection of the U.S. order hamstringing their trade with the Soviet Union, China and the People's Democracies.

But capitalism can never get round the most fundamental contradiction—if the bosses are to make their profit they have to pay the worker less than the value his labour produces, and if they do that it follows that the workers as a whole cannot earn enough to buy back what they produce, and goods which cannot be sold will accumulate in the storehouses. In other words, as long as there is capitalism there will be slumps.



This is one of the photographs of waterlogged roads in Clairwood which was submitted to the Mayor of Durban.

20,000 INDIANS LIVE IN "SCANDALOUS CONDITIONS"

Durban Mayor Invited to see Clairwood for himself

DURBAN.—The Mayor of Durban was recently invited by the Clairwood Branch of the Natal Indian Congress to accompany Congress representatives on a tour of inspection of their area so that he could see for himself the "scandalous conditions" under which the population of over 20,000 has to live.

In a letter addressed to the Mayor, the Chairman of the Branch, recalling numerous appeals to the City Engineer and Town Clerk for improvements in the conditions of the roads and other civic amenities, states: "Clairwood is one of the most neglected areas in so far as civic amenities are concerned. Our main complaints are about the shocking conditions of the roads."

The letter states that the surface of almost all roads is uneven and swampy with pools and puddles after rains. There are no kerbs. Overgrown weeds and shrubs at the roadside give the district an untidy appearance.

"What is required is permanent macadamised roads with proper guttering and channelling to cope with the rain and also concrete pavements for pedestrians to use."

"Montclair, which is an exclusive European suburb and which has been developed only recently on the border of Clairwood, has no problems with its civic amenities. All roads are macadamised, lighting is up-to-date, there are several parks in the area and generally it is a well-kept modern suburb. But Clairwood, which is a much older suburb and contributes very much more in rates to the Council than Montclair, has to put up with roads covered with ashes, with not a single park or playground for its 20,000 inhabitants."

"Our Branch," continued Mr. Moodley, "will at its next meeting consider what further steps are to be taken."

"In my opinion, however, whilst continuing to agitate for better conditions for the people, we shall have to step up our campaign to rally the people of our area around the Freedom Charter. It is only by winning the demands contained in this historic document, particularly the franchise, that we can eradicate the numerous injustices that are perpetrated against the Non-White peoples of this country."

Armed Police Patrol Peddie Area

PORT ELIZABETH. After the people of Oeto Location in Peddie recently had told the Native Commissioner to remove all the school furniture from the buildings which they themselves had burnt, armed police have been patrolling the area. By day or night they look for places where people are likely to hold meetings. They have gone to the extent of combing forests to discover whether meetings are held in defiance of the ban on meetings of more than 10 people.

A dipping foreman who is regarded as a Government stooge has incurred the most severe public censure. His home is as good as quarantined. Nobody goes to his home. Old and young refuse to speak to him. If he rises to preach in church the people walk out. If he stops to ask for water to drink, nobody gives it to him. "He should go and stay with the Native Commissioner and Verwoerd," said one man.

Commenting on the reply of the City Engineer, Mr. L. N. Moodley, the Secretary of the Clairwood Branch of the N.I.C., in a statement to New Age said the City Engineer seemed to think that he was doing the people a favour by making minor repairs to the roads. Thousands of pounds annually were paid in rates to the City Council by the Non-European ratepayers in Clairwood.

"What we have asked for is that the funds derived from the property owners of our area be used to improve our district."

Because thirty club leaders from the Eastern Cape were prevented by travel restrictions from attending the Group Leaders' Conference held in Alexandra Township in January of this year, the A.E.A. decided to send the Cultural Clubs Committee to Port Elizabeth at Easter—Robert Resha, Norman Levy, Helen Joseph, James Hadebe, and Bernard Marewa.

Purpose—to organise a conference of Cultural Club leaders to discuss club problems, to develop closer co-operation between clubs and leaders, to arrange demonstrations of handicraft and club activities, to discuss papers on various subjects related to cultural clubs.

The recent ban on meetings in Port Elizabeth made it impossible to hold the conference there, and the decision was taken to resort to Uitenhage, where the ban does not operate. Successful approval of the Coloured Congregational Church brought the use of a large hall in the Coloured area, generously provided by the Pastor and the Coloured congregation. ANC, Uitenhage Branch, enthusiastically

"WE WILL NOT CARRY PASSES" —

Klerksdorp Women Tell Native Commissioner

JOHANNESBURG.—The African women of Klerksdorp location did not go to work last Thursday. From that town and district over 400 women marched to meet the Native Commissioner to tell him point blank that they were determined not to carry passes.

They minced no words. "If the Minister of Slave Affairs Dr. Verwoerd sends you pass books, know that they are meant only for you and the European ladies. We will not carry them," their spokesman told the Native Commissioner.

This protest swept up in a matter of three days when African women living in the quarters of the Stilfontein mine were instructed to take out permits under section 10 of the Urban Areas Act. Women went out of work for longer than three days and not reporting to the authorities were told they would be excluded from the area.

Hundreds joined the protest march to the Native Commissioner but before the women could enter the town they found the road blocked by a force of police drawn from Klerksdorp and Potchefstroom. They could go no further and decided to wait at the roadside and insisted if they were being stopped from going to the Native Commissioner, he should come to them. Shortly after, he did.

A meeting was then held in the road. The ANC Women's League of Klerksdorp handed over a letter to be transmitted to Verwoerd. It said they were not prepared to carry any kind of slave paper in their pockets. "IF YOU FORCE US TO TAKE PASS BOOKS WE SHALL BURN THEM IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES!"

Pass your copy of NEW AGE to your friends

POLICE OUTWITTED BY CULTURAL CLUB LEADERS

Conference opened on Wednesday, April 4 with 21 club leaders from 6 different clubs, and continued throughout the day, adjourning at 10 p.m. after an open session on "Cultural Clubs and Home Education" attended by some 100 parents and ANC members in addition to the Club leaders.

On Thursday morning Conference re-opened at 9.30 a.m. At 9.35 the Location Superintendent with a member of the Special Branch arrived and summarily ordered Helen Joseph and Norman Levy to accompany the Superintendent and the Special Branch detective to the Superintendent's Office. A posse of 12 Municipal Police arrived at the hall, demanding names and addresses of all leaders and organisers. They were informed that they were not recognised as police. A S.A.P. sergeant and 5 armed European police then arrived with the Location Superintendent and



WIDE RESPONSE TO DR. NAICKER'S CONFERENCE CALL

DURBAN. "I got an early copy of the 'New Age' in which your call for an 'All-In' conference on the Group Areas is announced. May I congratulate you on getting so far with the matter, and I hope that it may be so successful that even the walls of Jericho will start to crack," states the Rev. Arthur W. Baxall, Secretary of the Christian Council of South Africa, in a letter addressed to Dr. G. M. Naicker, President of the Natal Indian Congress.

The Conference, which is being called by the Natal Indian Congress in an effort to rally the broadest possible united front of the peoples of Natal against the plans of the Government and local authorities to enforce Group Areas, is receiving widespread support from all sections of the people.

In an interview with New Age, Mr. N. T. Naicker, general secretary of the movement in Uitenhage, expressed so profoundly shocked and disgusted the minds of the Non-European people, and even a section of the European population, as the

Government's declared aims under the Group Areas Act. The statements, Ministerial decrees and Government proclamations which have recently appeared in the press in regard to the declaration of areas, zoning proposals, permits for traders and permits for employment under the Act have challenged the conscience of South African democrats of all sections of the people.

"Natal, which has the highest concentration of Indian people, is particularly concerned by the Government's real motives behind the Group Areas Act and it is in order to rally the broad masses of the people that this 'All-In' Conference is being called."

"This law strikes at the very heart of our livelihood, let alone progress and advancement. There is no doubt that delegates from the different organisations participating in the Conference will endeavour seriously to consider and formulate a well-defined, clear and united answer to the Nationalists," concluded Mr. Naicker.

Two carloads of Special Branch from Port Elizabeth arrived at Mrs. Joseph and Mr. Levy left the location office, and detectives followed their every movement in Uitenhage. interviewed not only the hotel manager, but the proprietor of the garage where Mrs. Joseph's car was being serviced, and finally trailed the car closely for the full 20 miles from Uitenhage to Port Elizabeth, where a fortuitous and fortunate coincidence enabled the little red T.J. car to elude its pursuers and to seek shelter in a garage for a further check-up which produced interesting results!

Back in Uitenhage, the Location Superintendent and the C.I.D. extended their intimidation tactics to the Pastor of the Coloured Church informing him that the conference organisers were Communists—because they had used the thumbs-up sign! The Pastor was then informed

further that henceforth he must obtain permission from the Location Superintendent before he could lend or rent the hall—the community which owned and had built the hall was no longer to control it.

But all this police intimidation and unwarranted interference had no effect upon the conference of club leaders, for after intensive re-organisation, conference re-opened triumphantly early the following morning with an increased roll of 31 leaders representing 10 clubs catering for nearly 4,000 children!

And conference took on the pattern of so many of the clubs reported there—the roof was the sky and the floor was the veld and the walls were the hills of the Eastern Cape.

Without a hall, without benches, but inspired, resolute, conference delegates scheduled, completed its work, and club leaders dispersed to their areas with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

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Mr. L. Lovell, Labour M.P., addresses the bus apartheid protest meeting on the Grand Parade last Sunday. On the right is SACPO President Mr. A. la Guma.

Bus Boycott Begins In Cape Town

(Continued from page 1)
THE LABOUR AND LIBERAL PARTIES HAD BEEN PREPARED TO JOIN IN MILITANT ACTION SPONSORED BY THE CONGRESS MOVEMENT, AND THEIR SPEAKERS WERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMED BY THE CROWD.

Speaking for the AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, Mr. D. Ngunyena pledged the support of Africans for the campaign. "SACPO must be congratulated on the fine lead it has given in this struggle," he said. "The way to smash apartheid once and for all is by militant action with the African, Coloured, Indian and progressive Europeans standing united."

"PLAIN INSULT"

"Bus-apartheid is a plain insult to my fellow human beings," said Mr. Leo Lovell, LABOUR PARTY M.P., speaking in support of the stand taken by SACPO. "I am not prepared to help place the stigma of inferiority on the Non-European. It is time that white people who do not want the Government to represent them came to meetings such as this in their thousands."

Mr. Lovell continued: "Outside Parliament the Government does not outnumber us. The only way to deal with this Government is to unite not only the Coloured people, the whites or the Black people, but ALL the people."

Mr. Archie Sebeko, bringing a message of support from the South African CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS, said that SACTU would take the boycott call to all affiliated unions, and to factories.

Speaking on behalf of the LIBERAL PARTY, Senator Ballinger said: "The Government lives by prejudice. It imposed bus apartheid as one of the ways of 'protecting' the Europeans. But the vast majority of Europeans have no objection to sitting next to the Coloureds." He urged European car owners to give lifts to bus boycotters, and called upon the people to carry out their boycott quietly.

"As a Coloured woman and a working mother I know the full meaning of apartheid," said Mrs. Gladys Smith, for the South African FEDERATION OF WOMEN. "We must stand united to smash apartheid on the buses and everywhere else."

BUS BOYCOTT IN U.S.A.

Speaking for the CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS, Advocate Lionel Forman described the effects of the boycott of apartheid buses which was taking place in Alabama, U.S.A. "No Coloured person has used the buses in Montgomery, Alabama, for the past six months," he told the crowd. "As a result the bus companies are losing enormous profits, and the whites are paying higher fares."

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The chairman of the meeting, Mr. A. La Guma, said that the boycott campaign was just starting. Although one hundred per cent success was not expected immediately, SACPO was confident that the people would rally as the campaign got under way.

He called for volunteers to come forward to assist in the organisation of the campaign, and at the close of the meeting the press of people offering assistance was so great that another meeting had to be held immediately in a nearby hall.

A number of people offered their cars for use in the campaign.

UNITY MOVEMENT

Across the road in the Drill Hall, the Unity Movement was holding a meeting on the Coloured Advisory Council. "That is also important," commented a member of the audience. "It is a pity they aren't united with us taking part in this direct action against apartheid."

A leaflet by the Congress of Democrats, headed "Our Ticket To Trouble," was distributed at the meeting and to bus users through Cape Town during the week. The leaflet protests against the introduction of apartheid and urges the people to "demand our right to live and travel as we please."

Cecil Williams' Passport Confiscated

JOHANNESBURG.



Returning to the Union after visits to China, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and other countries, Cecil Williams last week had his passport confiscated by a Special Branch detective stationed at Jan Smuts Airport.

He had already completed all immigration and customs formalisms. Cecil Williams told New Age, and his baggage was stacked in the air-ways bus, ready to leave for the Johannesburg terminal, when the detective decided to remove the suitcase from the bus and examine them. He asked Williams if he had any "Documents" in his luggage and then carried out a perfunctory search. He then announced that he had decided to confiscate Williams' passport and a writing pad on which was written a list of all the countries Williams had visited. No search warrant was produced and the detective could give no reason for confiscating the passport except that it might be "used as evidence."

Mr. Williams told New Age the following day: "I'm delighted to be back in South Africa. I have feelings of the utmost confidence—despite storms, appearances to the contrary—that the progressive

struggle in South Africa is going to achieve successes in an astonishingly short time."

Apart from studying theatre productions and travelling widely in China, the Soviet Union, Poland, France and England, Mr. Williams also spent some days, on his way home, in Senegal, the Ivory Coast, the Gold Coast, Nigeria and the Belgian Congo. "The advance to freedom and independent statehood of the peoples of Africa," he said, "exposes the policies of the South African Government for their utter futility and stupidity."

Classifications Appeals

Start

JOHANNESBURG.

The Race Classification Appeal Board started its sittings in this city last week—but being closed doors.

A large room in the Government pass office has been allocated for the hearings and several hundred appeals are now due to be heard.

The first cases heard in private session appeared to be those of Europeans appealing against their classification as Coloured persons.

The Board sessions will continue for several months.

DURBAN WOMEN FIGHT COUNCIL'S PASS SCHEME

DURBAN.—"We want to make it quite clear that the City Council cannot force us to carry the so-called letters of privilege they wish to introduce for African women in the City," said Miss Florence Mkhize, Vice-Chairman of the African National Congress Women's League, Durban Branch, addressing a meeting of women held at Cato Manor.

"The Native Affairs Committee wants to introduce this pernicious measure in order to pave the way for the extension of the pass laws to women, and we must organise and oppose this dangerous move."

Calling on the African women to rally to the call of the African

National Congress against the extension of the pass laws, Miss Mkhize said: "We do not have to be reminded of the way our menfolk are treated by the police during their numerous police raids for passes. Children and homes are broken after every such raid and we must not allow this danger to spread with the women also having to carry passes."

A delegation of three was elected at the end of the meeting to meet Mr. S. Bourquin, the Chairman of the Municipal Administration, to inform him of the feelings of the African women of Durban on the proposed "letters of privilege."

NOT THEIR FAULT

The delegation, which consisted of Miss Mkhize, Mrs. Catrina Ndlovu and Miss Elizabeth Nala, were told by Mr. Bourquin during their interview, that the Native Administration was not really responsible for this move, which had been forced upon them by European ratepayers' organisations and The Durban and District Housewives' League.

Mr. Bourquin assured the delegation that he would present their views to representatives of these organisations who are meeting the City Council to discuss this matter.

"The ANC Women's League has decided to write to those organisations which are pressing for the introduction of these 'letters of privilege.'"

"We shall ask these organisations to meet our representatives so that we can inform them of our feelings on this question," said Miss Mkhize.

Women's Leader Gets Gaoi Sentence

JOHANNESBURG.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mottinge, secretary of the Transvaal National Congress Women's League, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment without the option of a fine, for being in the Winburg location without a permit.

An appeal was noted, and she was granted bail of £40, on condition that she reports to the Marshall Square police station once a week.

Mrs. Mottinge was arrested in the morning of April 9, near the office of the superintendent of the location. She was taken to the charge office and asked if she had £2. She said she did not.

She was immediately brought to court, where a large crowd of women had gathered.

She was found guilty of the permit charge. The magistrate was about to pass sentence when a message was brought to the prosecutor who then said to the magistrate: "The accused is understood to be involved in the trouble outside . . ."

Mrs. Mottinge was then sentenced to two months' imprisonment without the option of a fine.

WINBURG WOMEN BURN THEIR PASS BOOKS

(Continued from page 1)

The first arrests and court prosecutions took place immediately. By the day after the pass burning ten people had already been arrested—eight women and two men. At the end of the week a further 34 were brought to the charge office for "investigation."

The ten were picked up one by one, some fetched from their places of work, others intercepted on their way to their location homes.

SENTENCED FOR THEFT

Brought to court immediately after arrest, three were promptly sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine, and on charges of common theft!

They are: Mrs. Latic Seitshis, aged 46, sentenced to four months imprisonment; Mrs. Evelyn Tsimbe, aged 25, sentenced to three months imprisonment; Mrs. Evelyn Thebe, a woman of over 70 years, sentenced to four months imprisonment, also without the option of a fine.

The case of five women and two men has been postponed to April 18, although their attorney was in court to defend them. The reason given was that one of the Crown witnesses was not present.

All seven were refused bail. Among them is Mrs. Sepea Kgabale who has an infant of eight months old, and Mrs. Elizabeth Tsie, a widow who has four children aged three, four, six and nine years respectively.

Mr. D. Lukele of Messrs. Mandela and Tambo asked that these two women, at least, be granted their own recognisances or on bail so that they could make arrangements for the care of their children.

The court refused. The magistrate also refused to permit Mrs. Kgabale's infant to be brought to her in prison so that she could feed it.

Mrs. Tsie, her daughter Miss Susan Tsie, Mrs. Kgabale, Mrs. Winnie Mantje, Mr. Donald Tlile and Mr. Simon Motce all face charges of theft of passes. Mr. Motce faces an additional charge of unlawful collection of fines. Mrs. Mantje is charged further with inciting people to commit theft.

It is thought that by the time the seven are brought to trial additional incitement charges will probably be preferred against them.

Now, the campaign of reprisals has started up. Women are being threatened with dire punishment if they have destroyed their passes and do not go to the authorities to be issued with duplicate copies. Some women, it is reported, have already been frightened into paying 15s. 6d. each for a second pass book.

Other women, it is understood, have been called to the charge office to make statements to the police.

The team issuing the pass books was again at Winburg during last week.

INDIA, as a result of the visit of Soviet Vice-Premier Mikoyan, has entered into an agreement with the U.S.S.R. in terms of which the latter country will build a million-ton steel mill in Central India, supply in addition a million tons of steel (almost a third of the country's imports under its second five-year plan). Together with shipments of cement, coal-mining and other machinery, this will bring a Soviet credit balance in New Delhi of between one and two-hundred million pounds sterling.

MALAYAN CHIEF MINISTER. Tunku Rahman has announced that he has received a letter from the Malayan Communist Party calling for new talks to bring about peace. Only condition imposed by the Communists is that they should be permitted to exist openly and legally like other parties.

'WE ARE PREPARED TO STAY OFF THE BUSES FOREVER!'

Common Struggle Unites People of Cape Town and Montgomery, U.S.A.

There is a strong link this week between the brave and determined people of the city of Montgomery in Alabama, U.S.A., and those of Cape Town. The Negro citizens of Montgomery, struggling for human rights and human dignity, have boycotted the city's apartheid buses for six whole months. In their fight for the same human rights and dignity, the people

of Cape Town, led by the South African Coloured People's Organisation and with the backing of the whole Congress Movement, began their struggle against bus apartheid this week.

Here is the story of the boycott as told by a popular Negro journalist, **ABNER BERRY**, writing from the city of Montgomery itself.

A LONG an invisible battle line running through this Confederate capital there proceeds a war of attrition.

On one side is dug in roughly one-half of the population, estimated variously at 42,000 to 60,000 Negroes who are determined to be men and women—citizens of a democratic United States.

On the other side stand the minions of white supremacy led by the White Citizens Councils, political descendants of the "restored" Confederates who established "white rule" over Alabama in 1900. ("Establishment" cannot connote the blood, terror and murder which accompanied the process through which the "Southern way of life" was "restored.")

Fatal Shooting

The battle was joined on Dec. 5, 1955, the 55th year of "white rule," after seven arrests of Negro women and children, and the fatal shooting of a Negro man, on city buses for not giving up seats to white passengers.

When the seventh woman, Mrs. Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old seamstress, was arrested and fined last December, the Montgomery Negro community cried out as one individual: "Enough!" **LESS THAN 20 NEGROES HAVE BOARDED A CITY BUS SINCE THEN.**

The Montgomery City Lines, a subsidiary of the National City Lines of Chicago, has been running at half-strength, with fares raised from 10 to 15 cents, losing an estimated \$3,000 daily.

WHITE officials, businessmen and professionals have no way of knowing what the war is all about, having no line of communication with the Negro community and never having had to face the truculent brutality of a bus driver-cop. They cannot understand why Negroes are standing fast in their demands for (1) courteous treatment, (2) a first come, first served seating plan, and (3) the hiring of Negro drivers for the predominantly Negro routes.

When Negroes asked the City Commissioners (all of them members of the White Citizens Council) for a licence for a Negro-owned bus service, Mayor W. A. Gayle answered:

"We stand firm in our position that the white people of Montgomery are not going to be coerced by the threats and demands of the Negroes now or any other time."

That was on January 25. On January 30 a bomb exploded against the porch of Rev. Martin Luther King's home. Rev. King is the leader and spokesman for the boycott movement. Two days later a bomb was thrown at the home of J. N. Nixon, a former state president of the NAACP (National

Association for Advancement of Coloured people).

Negro leaders kept the fight within the bounds of law and order following the bombings. But the Negroes upheld the stakes, and in answer to Mayor Gayle's call to the white supremacists to "stop pussyfooting" (i.e. to "get tough"), they began an all-out effort for first class citizenship. A case was begun in federal court to restrain the City Commissioners from enforcing the segregation laws and from practising illegal interference in the affairs of Negro citizens.

"I agree with Mayor Gayle," 29-year-old Rev. Richard David Abernathy told a boycott mass meeting. "We've got to stop pussyfooting and let the white man know that we want first class citizenship. And the time is now."

Reverend Abernathy is a husky World War II veteran and pastor of the Coloured First Baptist Church. He advised his listeners in the crowded auditorium not to hide the fact that they stood for integration and not to deny membership in the NAACP.

"Why, whenever I am asked for identification now," he related, "I pull out my NAACP membership card." And after a slight pause he emphasised, to the accompaniment of shouts of approval, "Let's stop pussyfooting!"

MAYOR GAYLE and Police Commissioner Clyde Sellers knew the mass of Negroes were really speaking through the eloquent young minister—God's trombone, as a Negro poet has written. For on the scene of the first bombing the city police could not get their "move on" order obeyed.

"We just aren't scared of white folks any more," Reverend King told a mass meeting. "There is a new Negro . . . with a new spirit. This Negro is not a white man pictures him to be."

A Revolt

There is no mistaking that what the boycott leaders call "the bus protest" is in reality a determined revolt against the daily assaults on the Negroes' personality, individuality and dignity. The "Southern way of life" in which the white supremacists view the Negro as a "boy," a labourer and a servant, never as a man and a citizen, is being challenged.

There are a few Montgomery white citizens who understand this. Fred D. Gray, who at 25 is the legal counsel for the boycott movement and the NAACP, will tell you that there are whites giving valuable under-the-table support. And there has been a spate of letters in the Montgomery Advertiser from white citizens stressing the justice of the Negroes' demands.

The regular Monday and Thursday mass meetings are really mo-

bilizations, not only to continue the boycott but to instill the idea of first class citizenship as a legal and moral right. People begin arriving for the 7 p.m. meeting at 4:30; at 6 there is standing room only. The gathering is suffused with dynamic religion, love of democracy, and the joy which can come only from certainty of victory.

Hymns To Marching

Songs

Hymns which open the meetings become marching songs; prayers bring inspiration and the assurance that righteousness will tri-

NOT since "white rule" made its comeback beginning in 1875 has the Negro so confronted the ruling whites. And never has the Negro been so united.

"We're cemented together," a woman said in addressing the church meeting. She was right. For here was a movement which included all Negroes—men, women and children. No leaflet or letter summoned people to meetings; no literature explained its principles; no demonstrations or picket lines were needed to enforce its discipline. Yet no Negroes were riding buses; car pools functioned and more than \$200 was paid each day to keep them moving. Every meeting over-

tiser. That is the White Citizens Council objective: Perpetuation of "white rule." And no matter how much they may say they are for law and order, "white rule" cannot be enforced except through illegal means, and violent ones at that.

These are open threats but the white supremacists claim they are appeals for a return to the "racial harmony" and "peace" that existed before the boycott began. Reverend Abernathy had a stirring answer to such appeals:

"We don't want our women abused by drivers. We don't want a colored 'black town' as they are hanging on a strap over an empty seat . . . We're tired of being pushed around.

"We don't want to purchase peace at the price of our dignity and manhood—that is too high a price to pay."

WHERE will it end? The White Citizens Council which controls the government of Montgomery is preparing every weapon to force Negroes to accept second class citizenship.

"We are prepared to stay off the buses forever," is the unanimous answer of the Negroes.

They Stand Firm

They are at one with Miss Autherine Lucy in her insistence upon the right to attend the University of Alabama. They are standing fast for enforcing the U.S. Supreme Court decision against school segregation and the 1944 decision against the "white primary." They are fighting for the Union with the moral weapon of their religion, the legal weapon of the law of the land and the political weapon of the democratic ballot.

"They have given an irrevocable 'We will!' to Reverend King's exhortation:

"FROM THE MIDST OF POVERTY AND PERSECUTION, FROM THE MIDST OF BOMBS AND TENSIONS, FROM THE MIDST OF OUR COMMUNITY AND FROM THIS AUDIENCE—STAND FAST!"

Wiese Again Remanded

CAPE TOWN.

Jan Ben Wiese, 29, a European detective stationed at Woodstock police station, was remanded to April 26 when he appeared in the Magistrate's Court last week at a preparatory examination into an allegation of murder.

The case arises out of the death on March 7, from a bullet wound in the chest, of Omar Arend, a Malay boy of 15, who is alleged to have been shot in the Woodstock change office.

No evidence was led. Bail of £200 was allowed to stand.



Apartheid signs, like this one in the U.S.A., appeared in Cape Town buses this week.

umph over evil. Sermons are speeches, eloquently delivered, on the art of practical living in a democracy. A portion of a prayer delivered at one meeting: "I attended in the Day Street Baptist Church went:

"Hear me, Lord. Don't desert us now in our hour of need. Protect us, Jesus, as we walk these dangerous streets going about your work . . . You see what we're up against, Lord. Don't turn your back on us. Go with us and stand by us. Have mercy, Jesus."

There is no hatred, no bitterness expressed, for, in the words of Reverend King, "We are working for the betterment of the Montgomery community. We'll turn evil into an advantage."

Racist Threats

It is against this movement that city and state officials, lacking legal and moral grounds, have turned to the subversive White Citizens Councils. They have brought Sen. James O. Eastland to the State Auditorium to stir the racist passions against law and order, and they are openly threatening to cut the Negro vote.

"There will be white rule for as long as the eye can see," predicted the "Montgomery Adver-

BUS APARTHEID ISN'T POLITICS, SAYS

U.P.

WHEN the bus apartheid bomb burst in Cape Town last week, the Nationalist daily, "Die Burger," asked Mr. S. F. Waterston, M.P., chairman of the Peninsula Council of the U.P. for his views. Mr. Waterston snapped: "Why must we make a political matter of bus apartheid?"

PARLIAMENTARY SURVEY By PETER MEYER

There you have it. With the Coloured vote out of the way, the U.P. has been relieved of an embarrassing duty. It can be seen more clearly now that the U.P.'s defence of the Coloured vote, feeble though it was, was the last link between Mr. Strass and the anti-apartheid movement. The link has been severed, and it is merely a matter of time before the U.P. slithers the last few yards down the slippery apartheid slope.

"Die Burger" continued its inquiries among other United Party M.P.s, but they all "reacted evasively to the question whether they supported bus apartheid." Mr. H. G. Lawrence was cornered, but he said that "he was so busy yesterday that he had not been able to give any thought to bus apartheid." "Die Burger," in search of "liberalism" in the U.P., drew a blank.

NO MORE EXCUSES

It is true that, year after year, the U.P. has betrayed the anti-apartheid struggle, but at first it made excuses for its betrayals. Each sell-out was explained away as a "special" case, an exception. Almost imperceptibly, the U.P. then entered a stage where it tried to make excuses for itself, it is trying its hardest to convince Nationalist voters that it is not opposed to apartheid.

In this regard, the 1956 Parliamentary session has been particularly significant. All the burning apartheid issues have been ignored by the U.P., and if it were not for the Labour Party and the "Native Representatives" one would think that there was no such thing as an apartheid clash in South Africa.

No one in the U.P. has seriously raised the matter of the vicious "reclassification" of the coloured population. Or the forced re-

movals of African communities. Or the hideous injustice of the Group Areas Act as it swings into operation. Or the mass "diversion" of Africans (pass offenders, "foreigners," etc.) to the farms. Or the extension of the farm prison and "outstation" system to feed hungry farmers with human bodies.

Nor has anyone gone into the wave of police brutality, where lusty young constables sometimes seem to regard every prisoner as fair game. No one has breathed the words "Special Branch" or protested against the snoopings and intimidations. No one seems to care about the banishment of African leaders removed 1,000 miles from their families. Nor about the deportation of African mothers from the Western Province. Nor about the pending wholesale hand-out of passes to African women.

The U.P., deliberately, ignores all these things which are happening under its nose. It is actively assisting the Nationalist Government in erecting an iron curtain between the Whites and the Non-Whites in South Africa.

DAINGEROUS ROLE

The U.P. is playing a much more dangerous role in politics than ever before. It is not merely selling out itself, but to justify its sell-out it is trying to discredit and destroy progressive White opinion. In 1958 it will try to eliminate the Labour Party and other minority groups; and meanwhile it is doing its best to canalise White public opinion and turn it against the views expressed by the minority White parties and progressive Whites.

There are any number of good citizens in the ranks of the United Party. They surge forward eagerly now and then to form movements like the Torch Campaign and the Black Shack League. Some break away and join the minority groups, but the majority remain within the U.P., hoping against hope that Mr. Strass will give them more militant leadership. Some do not then to form movements like the Torch Campaign and the Black Shack League. Some break away and join the minority groups, but the majority remain within the U.P., hoping against hope that Mr. Strass will give them more militant leadership.

To make sure that no progressive movements arise within the U.P., Mr. Strass is endeavouring to destroy the minority groups which set the wrong example by their own people. In this respect, he is aiding Mr. Stridom considerably in disciplining the White population to accept apartheid.

CALL OF C.O.D.

In view of this situation which has developed, the call of the Congress of Democrats to progressive Whites could not have come at a more appropriate time. It is an urgent call for the mobilisation of all progressive opinion. Both Mr. Stridom and Mr. Strass are out to destroy this progressive opinion, and group

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the Whites in one camp.

If Mr. Stridom and Mr. Strass succeed in erecting their iron curtain between the White and Non-White groups in South Africa, it will be a grave blow to the progressive movement. But it can be avoided—if progressive Whites hearken to the call of the Congress of Democrats.

Starting this week New Age presents **Spotlight on Sport**, a weekly sports round-up, presented by the well-known African leader **ROBERT RESHA**.

IS MOKONE BEING SIDE-STEPPED?

Like any big boxing upset, there is to this day talk wherever one goes of the unexpected defeat of Elijah Mokone by Jason Radebe in the Cape Town City Hall last month.

You see, it was never expected that Elijah Mokone could be beaten by anybody in the light-weight division—in this country, that is. And what is more, very few people thought of Jason Radebe as a worthy challenger. Even promoter Tiger Kid Shalk must have had his plans jolted for he had lined up fights for Mokone after the Radebe scrap.

What was really the matter with Mokone the night he was beaten? Was the smooth, fast, elusive, clever and strong-punching Mokone out of form? Was he perhaps still affected by the illness that was reported to have caused the postponement of the fight? Was it because he parted with his manager and was therefore badly "psyched" when he saw his former manager in the opposite corner? Or was Jason Radebe too good for him?

It was reported that Mokone had said that he had injured his hand early in the fight. Radebe too, injured his right hand in the fight. So where do we go? Perhaps no one except Mokone knows the answers. But he too can give the answers inside the ring. A return fight would settle all doubt as to who is the better fighter. Where and when a return would materialise is a matter for the promoters.

It is already in the air that arrangements are afoot to match the new light-weight champ, Jason Radebe, with Leonard Mlambo in Cape Town some time in June.

Why Mlambo? Is Mokone being side-stepped? It has transpired that Mokone's contract to fight Radebe did not provide for a return fight in the event of Mokone being defeated. While that does not justify the side-stepping of Mokone, this will be an object lesson not only to Mokone but to all professional boxers that boxing is business, and the new champ wants to make money while the going is good.

HERE IS A THOUGHT

On Easter Monday, Bloemfontein had her first Non-European professional boxing tournament. The show was at the Bochabela Arena, Bloemfontein. It was a good show. It was well organised.

Among the crowd of nearly 3,000 people who packed into the arena, there was a good number of Europeans. I do not quarrel with their presence at the tournament; on the contrary, I'm happy that they were there. After all, they are human beings like any non-white.

LETTER BOX

Make Freedom Charter Our Constitution

We, the black people of South Africa have been made prisoners in the land of our birth. But now these prisoners together with their friends have adopted the Freedom Charter which gives freedom to all people—black and white.

My branch will fight to make this Charter the constitution of South Africa.

M. MEMELA
Secretary, Newclare Branch of the African National Congress, Durban.

What About It, Young Democrats?

The "Young Democrats," a group of young girls and boys, have been working hard at a magazine and other activities and would be extremely pleased if other towns in the Union started such groups and became branches to help in South Africa's struggle for equality and freedom.

The "Young Democrats" believe that all, young and old, should help to bring peace and freedom and racial harmony into our country.

Yours,
A Young Democrat,
BARBARA HARMEL

TRUE SPORTSMANSHIP

In Cape Town, Van Riebeeck's Day, April 6, was celebrated in accordance with the desires of all true sportsmen. On this day, African European baseball team played against a Coloured side. The big crowd that saw the match was thrilled from start to finish. Every good move received the applause of the entire crowd. For instance there was the European player Kiewetter who made the crowd roar with his big hitting. There was the pitcher, also a European, who thrilled the spectators with the guile of his deliveries from the mound.

The Coloured player Douglas Lomborg was on top form and so was Sylvester in fielding. The Europeans deservedly won 9-5.

ANOTHER TEST FOR SOUTH AFRICA

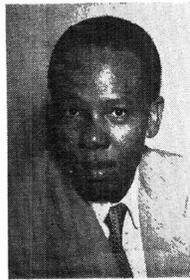
Like the South African Soccer Federation, the Inter-Race Cricket Board to which are affiliated the Malay, Coloured, Indian and British Cricket Unions, is applying for membership of the Imperial Cricket Council, a body which controls the cricket in the Commonwealth.

According to the rules of the I.C.C., any association wishing to become a member must be recommended by two member associations and two-thirds of the members present at the meeting of the Council must vote in favour.

I do not think it will be difficult to find two sympathetic countries to recommend the Inter-Race Board. India and West Indies should be in a position to do that or even the M.C.C. as a matter of principle should do it. But will it be possible to get a two-thirds majority voting in favour of the Inter-Race Board? Do not forget our African brother-in-arms members. Let us wait and see.

Racing at Ascot

The following are Damon's selections:
April Handicap: 1. DIALLAGE, Minger, Let's Dine.
Maiden Handicap: 1. COREWOOD, Danger, Sarop Singh.
Ascot Handicap: 1. NEUHAVEN, Danger, Arava.
Progressive Five: 1. LUCILLE, Danger, Santor.
Progress Five: 1. RYNON, Danger.
De Klerk's Best: 2. YONDER, 3. STAKES: 1. H. E. AMOS, 2. BLET, Danger, Coal Train.
Maiden Plate: 1. FONDLE, Danger, Local Lass.
Progressive Stakes: 1. SEA MYTH, Danger, Tenterhook.
Juvenile Stakes: 1. BEN HUR, Danger, Flying Rocket.



Robert Resha.

"Defend the Vote"

Conference this Week-End

CAPE TOWN.
A "Defend the Municipal Vote" conference is taking place this Saturday, April 21, in the Library, City Hall, at 3 p.m.

The conference, which has been convened by the Cape Town region of the Federation of South African Women, will be attended by delegates of many organisations not only from Cape Town, but as far afield as Paarl and Worcester.

"The purpose of the conference," Mrs. Gladys Smith, the President, told New Age, "is to rally the people in protest against the Provincial Council's plan to deprive the Non-Europeans of their municipal franchise rights."

"Invitations have been sent to all the City Councillors, and we hope to have some of them on our platform."

"The Cape is the only place in South Africa where Non-Europeans have the right to vote and the right to be elected to municipal councils. We must defend this right."

"The people of the Cape must embark on a well-planned and sustained campaign to defeat the plans of the Nationalists to enslave the Non-European people. We demand the right of equal citizenship in the land of our birth."

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R. C. LOUW, Secretary.

Oceana House, 24 Lower Burg Street, CAPE TOWN.
Phones: 2-6835, 3-5339.

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