

# FIGHTING TALK

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION

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## "EASE MY HEAVY BURDEN"

ALL political change springs from someone's dissatisfaction with things as they are. Social, political and economic changes are man-inspired and man-engineered. We cannot lay to our souls the unction that the gods or Jahveh or God are responsible for the pleasing and unpleasing social and political phenomena of our times. No rational man will glibly accept Professor Dart's "scientific" thesis that trade slumps are dependent on the activity of sunspots; Today we would even rewrite the first sentence of the Bible to read: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with Man and Man was the Word.

Jesus Christ, Oliver Cromwell, Abraham Lincoln, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Ilyitch Lenin, Nkosi, Adolf Hitler, Winston Churchill and Jomo Kenyatta were not and are not the instruments of a God desiring change, good or evil. They were and are in their time the symbol, the crystallisation, of a desire for change fixed firmly in the minds of specific identifiable groups of human beings.

It must be recognised, then, that political changes in South Africa have come and will come from the desires of human beings for those changes, from men and women whose dissatisfaction with things as they are can no longer be contained.

Even in the asking, therefore, the question is answered: what changes are coming — who will bring them about? The majority of white people in South Africa are praying nightly that there will be no change, let everything be as it was fifteen or twenty years ago, please God. The majority of coloured people in South Africa are saying, in ever more determined accents, that things cannot go on as they are: changes there must be and changes there will be . . . now.

It is inevitable that the changes will come and come rapidly, for we are confronted with the burning dissatisfaction of eleven million people, dissatisfaction with their food or lack of it, their homes or lack of them, their education or lack of it, their jobs or lack of them, their health or lack of it, their domestic security or lack of it, their human dignity or lack of it, their liberty or lack of it.

Let us not delude ourselves that we have only to remove some leaders, some agitators, shove them in prison and all will be quiet. There will be Nkosis and Dadoos and Lethulis and Sisulus and Njongwes as long as there are ghettos, passes, private gaols, shantytowns, indignities and insults. As long as men are burdened with unbearable loads of misery, so long will they insist on discharging those burdens.

Many people blinker their eyes to this. They try and explain away disagreeable facts by fairy tales or by ocre tales of the kind so crudely narrated by Minister of Justice Swart. But the unaccommodating facts remain. Housewives can no longer get domestic servants cheaply — because African men believe their manhood is for something bigger than polishing floors and peeling potatoes. The gold mines

are running below capacity level because African men are refusing to work nine hours a day for something like three shillings; refusing to be destroyed by pulmonary phthisis for a gratuity; refusing to be shut off from the amenities of society; refusing to be parted from their families; refusing to be denied the right to organise in trade unions.

The facts are there in the report from the Secretary of Native Affairs regarding African Labour Bureaux. How revealing the statement that from the whole of the Orange Free State there are demands for 1,300 farm workers. But from the Bethal District alone there are demands for no less than 1,100 farm workers. Are the Bethal farmers learning? The African men have learnt that it is no life to be contracted to a farmer in the Bethal District. Exposure after exposure have told the world that here men are treated like animals, like slaves: quarters, food, health services are beyond describing, so revolting they are. In this part of the world it appears a farmer believes he OWNS the bodies of his workers and can destroy those bodies at whim. And despite all Government-planned coercion, the Africans are resisting and the Bethal farmers are short of 1,100 workers.

Vainly trying to turn back the forces of human nature, the Government, with the connivance of the Johannesburg City Council, are now planning their most blatant piece of effrontery. They propose to grab hold of 90,000 men, women and children, wrest them from their homes and throw them out on to the bare veld, miles away from their places of work. Do they seriously believe they will be allowed to accomplish what in war time was called the "forceful removal of populations?" The facts of history give the answer — an unmistakable NO. And a resounding negative came from the meeting of the people concerned when they met in Johannesburg to lay the foundations of their campaign against the Western Areas Removal plot.

The example of the African people in these days can give heart to European democrats who face the threats of heavier and unhappier burdens from a fascist government. Throughout history men and women have rejected the ancient Greek dooma: When men have borne what they can, they will bear what they must. The records of mankind have shown that, when men have borne what they can, they have refused to bear any more. So far and no further, they have said, and they have risen up, thrown off their burdens and made a better life.

The European in South Africa, not so heavily burdened, can ensure for himself a better life, by joining with the non-Europeans to throw off the oppressors and their insupportable loads. When Mr. Worldly-Wiseman tried to talk Bunyan's hero out of his campaign, telling him that he was a little mad, Christian replied, "I but seek ease for my heavy burden." Finally Christian threw down his burden. So have men done throughout the ages. So are men and women doing today in our own land.

*The World of Science***THE FIRST REVOLUTION**

By "ABACUS"

THE actual beginnings of civilisation depended on the mastery of a number of crafts which, taken together, turned man from a food-gatherer into mainly a food-producer. The basic crafts were the domestication of animals, agriculture, horticulture, pottery, brickmaking, spinning, weaving and metallurgy. These steps toward the mastery of man's environment led to the beginning of settled communities, to urban life. They constituted such a revolution in man's way of life as to justify the title the "First Technical Revolution", which occurred roughly between 6000 and 4000 B.C. It was in the River Valley cultures of the Tigris-Euphrates, Nile, Indus and Yellow River basins that these "tools" of science came to be fashioned.

The earliest civilisation came from Sumer, a plain no larger than Denmark, lying between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers near the Gulf of Persia, recently raised above the sea by river silt. These records of the Sumerians show that even then they were conscious of the great antiquity of their culture, that they had legends forming part of a long mythological history. One of those legends concerned a great flood which may be identical with the Biblical flood.

Long before 3000 B.C. the Sumerians had learned to drain the marshes and irrigate the delta by canals. The soil was so rich that a surplus of food was easily produced with the result that the community soon expanded into larger and larger urban units which could support numbers of artisans and labourers. Before long the Sumerian civilisation covered the whole of Mesopotamia between the two Rivers.

Archaeologists believe that by 2500 B.C. Egyptian and Mesopotamian cultures were influencing one another along the Fertile Crescent — a zone, having the shape of a crescent running along the Mediterranean coast of Phoenicia (Lebanon and Syria) then between the Two Rivers, (Tigris and Euphrates) up to the Persian Gulf.

At present we know more of the Egyptian civilisation — so much of which was preserved in stone — than we do of the Sumerian civilisation, but we are continually discovering facts about the Babylonian (Sumerian) civilisation which astonish us, although their cities (built of brick and adobe) have, as the Bible says, become "dust unto dust."

**WRITING TABLETS.**

The cuneiform (cuneus — a wedge) writing was invented by the Sumerians. Taking advantage of an inexhaustible supply of clay all around them, they invented the use of clay tablets for working purposes. The marks were made with a reed and when the clay was dry (or, better still, baked) remained legible for

a long time. Thousands of tablets have been found in an excellent state of preservation. Obviously the type of writing material available decided the nature of the script to be used. Papyrus would have been destroyed very quickly by the Mesopotamian climate.

It is interesting to learn that, although Cuneiform writing seems clumsy and difficult, yet by 1500 B.C. it was used by all the nations of Western Asia and continued to be used until the time of Christ.

The Babylonian period of civilisation was remarkable for its astronomical and mathematical achievements. Its number system has two characteristic properties:—

- (a) it is sexagesimal — based on 60 (our system is based on 10);
- (b) it uses a place-value notation.

*The second property is especially remarkable and of great historical importance, because it is very likely that from it originated the place-notation system which we use today. The sexagesimal system is still with us in the measurement of angles and the reckoning of time.*

On reaching 60 the symbol for unity was used again (we use 1), but by the manner of the placing of the figures the invention of further new symbols was obviated. Notwithstanding these advantages, it is found necessary when reading the tablets to know the context before deciding whether, say 2 represents  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 2, 20 or 200. The weakness of the system lay in its lack of a symbol for zero.

All numerical calculations were performed by means of tables "written" on tablets of clay. There are tables for multiplication, division, squares, square roots and cube roots, dating back to about 1900 B.C.

**ALGEBRAIC PROBLEMS.**

There is even a tablet which answers the question: to what power must a certain number, say  $a$ , be raised in order

to yield another number? This problem is identical with finding the logarithm to the base  $a$  of a given number. In comparison with our concept the only missing element is the selection of a common base and it is clear that these ancient mathematicians were very close to an important discovery but failed to take the final essential step.

In addition to these Table Texts archaeologists have found numerous "problem" texts which were evidently used in the schools.

One of these texts deals with Pythagorean numbers of the type  $a$  squared plus  $b$  squared equals  $c$  squared. It is the oldest preserved document in number theory. Several tablets deal with excavations of all shapes and sizes, the area and volume of the hole as well as wages and the total cost of the work. Another deals with inheritance — the division of property among brothers.

The area of a circle was calculated by squaring the circumference (approximately, of course) and dividing by 12. They had a complex system of weights and measures, closely interrelated.

The Sumerians' achievement in algebraic processes was almost uncanny — more than sufficient to daze students of today.

Before we leave this slight excursion into a fascinating field of study, we should note that Babylonian Culture continued to grow for 1,000 years after the Egyptian Culture had been eclipsed. It was thus in contact with and, in fact, the cultural rival of the ancient Greek culture which developed from the Greek towns which lay along the Coast of Asia Minor.

**THE IRISH HAVE A WORD FOR IT**

From the *Irish Times* of April 10, 1953:—

"The papers are constantly reporting the killing of Africans while 'resisting arrest, 'failing to halt' or 'attempting to escape'. These are terms which Irish people remember as synonymous with sheer murder by British forces and police of unarmed Irishmen and women. The recurrence of such expressions in reports from Kenya has a sinister ring in Irish ears. Whatever the happenings, it has become evident that the mass of the people are against the present regime. Most of the penalties have been inflicted for 'refusing to give information'. This was also a standard 'crime' in Ireland thirty years ago."

# A LAW TO THEMSELVES

WE are now living in a state where the people can virtually do what they like, when they like, how they like, to stop "unrest, defiance and Communism." The Minister of Justice has said so himself in his address to more than 200 police officers and men from all over the Rand.

In this country everybody is free to do as he likes provided it is not against the interests of the small ruling clique. Dissatisfaction with conditions imposed upon the large majority of the people by the government ("unrest"), the use of the only means available to them to express their dissatisfaction ("defiance"), anything at all contrary to the policy of the government ("Communism"), can be dealt with by the police in any way they think best.

We quote the reply of the Commissioner of Police: "We know now that the boot is on the other foot. We will get no more 'please explain' demands when we have acted. It is for the Minister to explain our actions."

"We are grateful for this. When trouble comes, we will know how to deal with it."

In the light of this quotation let us see how the police have acted when they were restrained by the possibility of having to "explain". Let us take a few random examples.

In 1946, during the strike of African gold-mine workers, most brutal methods were used by the police in suppressing the strike. Many workers were killed and many more wounded.

The Tobacco Workers had intended holding a meeting showing their solidarity with the striking miners. The meeting was forbidden and, as the workers were peacefully walking away, the police baton-charged them. Many people were badly beaten, including pregnant women.

## "SHOT GUN LAW"

On May Day, 1949, police shot and wounded African workers in Alexandra who were showing their opposition to the government by a one-day strike.

After the Torch Commando demonstration in Cape Town, police baton-charged and dispersed demonstrators who had congregated near the House of Assembly.

When the Garment Workers held a meeting in Johannesburg to protest against the banning of Solly Sachs, the police baton-charged the crowd, women being their main victims. People were knocked down indiscriminately and beaten while they were on the ground.

## "NO EXPLANATIONS"

We remember the Springbok Legion meeting in September 1945 when we organised a demonstration against the Nats.' provocative "Victory Kimberley"

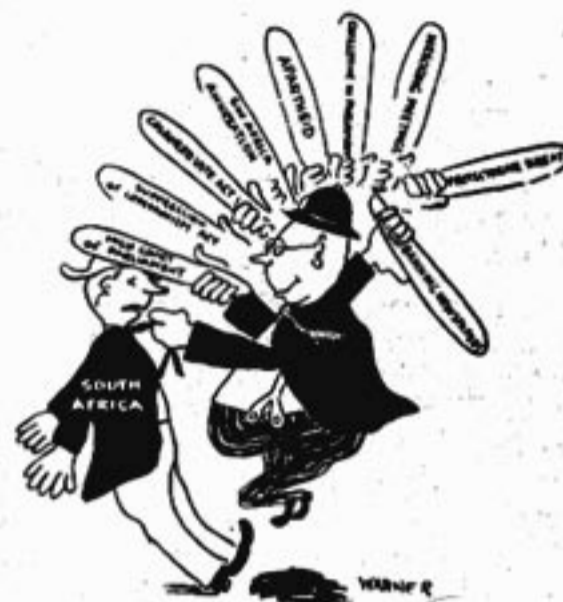
conference at the City Hall. Police baton-charged the crowd and were utterly indiscriminate in their attacks.

Swart says, "The public has the right to expect protection and the maintenance of law and order from the police." But who is the public if not the Garment Workers, if not the members of the Torch Commando and the Springbok Legion, if not the African workers?

Now the police do not have to "explain." Now the public must also "protect the police themselves" by allowing no criticism of their actions. If this is how they have acted in the past, can we conceive what will happen when there is no longer this necessity to explain?

It is quite possible that in the near future a striker, be he European or Non-European, will be considered a defier and dealt with accordingly. An African protesting against his garden being dug up during a beer raid could be shot as a defier. It may happen that when the time comes that Europeans are compelled by law to carry passes, that certain numbers of them may hold a meeting to express dissatisfaction. There is nothing to stop the police from mercilessly assaulting them. The many reports we have even now of police mishandling individuals in their charge will be increased a hundredfold.

Just how elastic the term of defiance can be and will be is shown in the interpretation of the Coronation Day inci-



dent in Pretoria. European hooligans attacked African spectators merely because they were standing on the same square, although even the police admitted that they had every right to be there. The Nationalist press labelled their presence as an act of defiance. Five Africans were charged for disturbing the peace.

## POLICE METHODS

At the moment the Government is concentrating on Non-European opposition. They have started with one group — Hitler did too. But soon their attacks will encompass all freedom-loving people. The day is very near when all forms of opposition to the Nationalist Government will be put down by the police using whatever methods they think fit. Knowing our Police Force, we can foresee the nature of those methods.

By these means of intimidation the Government hopes to smash all traces of democracy. It is by these means that it hopes to banish all opposition. Swart has put the law into the hands of the police. Who needs protection—the public or the police?

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# THE PEOPLE PLAN PEACE

OVER the week-end August 21, 22 a congress is to be held in Johannesburg to afford people holding different, and even conflicting, opinions on the issue of world peace an opportunity of expressing their viewpoints and of finding common ground for united action. In South Africa today the majority of people are undoubtedly opposed to war, but to date there has been no opportunity for people representing differing trends of opinion to meet and discuss their ideas.

The initiators of this Congress, the Transvaal Peace Council, are confident that a decisive start, such as the Congress will provide, can lay the foundations of a national mass peace movement, able to move the indifference of our Government to the issue of peace or war.

Why is it felt that this is the correct time for the summoning of a Peace Congress in South Africa? What are the factors that lead one to believe that the Peace Movement, which has not yet become a movement capable of gripping the imagination of the masses, has indeed this potential? The answers to these questions lie in the study of how recent developments in international relations, in the continent of Africa and in South Africa itself have awakened people's interest in active work for peace.

## NOW BEARING FRUIT

Workers for peace the world over note with deep satisfaction that the simple ideas urged by the World Council of Peace and its reasonable proposals are beginning to bear fruit. A new situation has been created, symbolised by the closeness of peace in Korea at the time of writing, a situation that calls for redoubled effort. Recent events have won millions of men and women to the idea of *negotiation* as an instrument for settling international disputes and differences. The movement for peace has shown that people's efforts can achieve a relaxation of international tension to the benefit of all.

This profound change in international politics has not failed to have its effect on South Africa and a National Peace Congress could now crystallize the new interest in peace and translate this passive interest into active struggle against those forces that still oppose, directly or indirectly, the relaxation of international tension.

As for Africa, most observers are agreed that throughout the continent the peoples are beginning to feel their enormous latent strength in their opposition to colonial exploitation. Through their everyday experience they are realising

that the peaceful co-existence of the capitalist and socialist systems offers the most favourable circumstances for their emancipation. The prospect of wars, on the other hand, means intensified exploitation of labour and natural resources, increased recruitment of levies for *corvées* and foreign service, more frequent seizure of bases, delayed realisation of liberty and further repression . . . on the grounds of "security". This awakening of the people of Africa, as epitomised in the recent struggles in Morocco, Tunisia, Kenya and the growing opposition to *Central African Federation*, has not failed to have a deep effect on South Africans of all classes and colours.

## WAR PLANS.



South Africa's tie-up with the war plans of other countries and the Government's own war-like policies are of great concern to us; more especially since the Government's drift to fascism is showing people that the struggle against fascism and the struggle for peace are directly linked. South Africa's participation in the Korean War (costing in terms of money alone, £3,000,000 per annum), our advance commitment to the Middle-East Defence Pact, our demand for the incorporation into the Union of the British Protectorates, our disregard for the decisions of U.N. and, more recently, our undertakings in the field of uranium production, are all decisions taken by a Government which is also responsible for the "anti-communist" crusade — in plainer terms, the 'anti-democratic' campaign.

Not only is the drift to war warming up for us, but the cost of living is rising while living standards are rapidly dropping due to the world-wide armaments race. Bad housing and reduced educational facilities are undermining the health and cultural standards of our people, while our agricultural wealth is being washed away before our eyes by

soil erosion. In spite of all this, 12 per cent. of our budget goes to "defence" and much more is spent on war preparation in ways not revealed by budget reports.

On the political plane it is not necessary to enlarge on the Government's pro-war policies and actions. Suffice it to mention that large groups preparing for war in the Western Bloc do not look askance at the Nationalists' colour policies. Those who want war know full well that attacks on the unity of peoples in South Africa (such as the Group Areas Act) fit into their plans, for they know full well that a democratically-united South African people would not support a war to suppress and enslave other colonial peoples.

These, then, are the pressures that are being brought to bear in various degrees of intensity on all classes and national groups in South Africa. It is the aim of the forthcoming Congress to build unity in the achievement of the common denominator — the universal desire for peace.

To ensure that as many shades of opinion as possible will be heard at the Congress a Preparatory Committee has been set up to *organise the Congress*. Supporting the committee are organisations with varying outlooks such as the South African Union of Democratic Students; the African National Congress (Transvaal), the Transvaal Indian Congress, the Springbok Legion, the N.U.D.W., the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions, the Congress of Democrats, the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress and the Students' Liberal Association.

Support for the Congress has been obtained from prominent individuals. This list includes the Rev. Holt, Dr. Nhlapo, Editor of the 'Bantu World', Dr. Joseph Gillman, Doreen Mantle, the stage and radio actress; Leon Gluckman, the actor and producer; Dr. J. M. Dadoo, Dr. G. M. Naicker, Acting President of the S.A.I.C. and President of the N.I.C.; J. B. Marks, Walter Sisulu, Secretary of the A.N.C.; Mike Muller, trade unionist; and the writers, Doris Lessing and Phyllis Altman. These are a few names chosen from a list representing many differing shades of opinion.

To guarantee free expression of opinion, participation in the deliberations

(Continued in next column)

## "SPEAKING for the NATIVES"

In their own peculiar way, the Liberal Party has taken up the "white man's burden", just when it was getting too heavy for the United and Nationalist Parties to carry. Whereas in the past, every South African compound manager and pass-office clerk claimed to "know the native" and was, therefore, well fitted to speak for and on behalf of him, today it is hard, almost impossible, for any but the credulous to believe that an upholder of 'baasskap' and white supremacy speaks for even the most backward blacks. The job of speaking for the native has fallen on new shoulders.

True the Liberal Party has a more plausible claim. In its constitution there is no colour-bar to membership. By all

(Continued from page 4)

of Congress is open to all those who believe that the peaceful co-existence of different social systems is possible and necessary and that all outstanding problems between states can be settled by negotiation. In terms of the above definition there are few, except outright warmongers, who cannot express their ideas at the tribune of the Congress.

The broad representation of opinion at the Congress is undoubtedly to be the yardstick by which we can measure the success of past peace work in South Africa and the hope for truly nationwide peace work in the future; and this depends on the efforts of every single person in this country who believes in the cause of peace. What then can you as a peace supporter do?

- (a) Approach leading people in your town or area and ask them to endorse the Peace Call. (Churchmen, professional people, authors, artists, scientists, trade-union leaders, political leaders, etc.).
- (b) Get any organisation of which you are a member to endorse the peace call. Trade Unions, Sports, Youth or Women's organisations, national organisations, etc.).
- (c) Hold discussions with friends and neighbours, at your place of work, whenever you can gather a group of people together, and get them to elect delegates to Congress.
- (d) Invite Peace speakers to come to your organisation or area to address meetings on the importance of the Congress.
- (e) Organise socials or functions to raise money for the Congress.
- (f) Write to the Secretary, Transvaal Peace Council, P.O. Box 10528, for any further information you may require.

accounts it already has a handful of non-European members in its ranks and hopes to attract more. No doubt it speaks on behalf of this handful, and represents their point of view equally with that of their European members. It is a far cry from this to the claim that the Party represents the view-point of non-Europeans generally, or even of a strong body of non-European opinion. If the Camera Club claimed to speak for fishermen because one of its members owns a rod, the absurdity would be patent. But the centuries of colour-bar thinking of European South Africans has conditioned them to the belief that non-Europeans are incapable of independent thinking; and that accordingly, one or other group of Europeans must speak "for" this unspeaking, unthinking mass. Whose claim then can be better than that of the Liberal Party, which has its non-European members to lend colour to the theory?

### WHO SPEAKS?

It is a hard truth for white South Africans to learn, but learn it they must, that the non-European people are capable of speaking for themselves. Not only individually, but more particularly in organised mass expressions of opinion. It was easy at the beginnings of the Defiance Campaign to accept the much-quoted Government theory that the Campaign was the work of "agitators", speaking only for themselves. The experience of the Defiance Campaign, the tremendous and unprecedented support it evoked from the non-European people prove otherwise. Today, for all but the most hard-bitten die-hard, it is apparent that the initiators of the Campaign, the African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress, speak for more than their own leaders, or even their own members. They speak for and with the voice of the widest cross-section of non-European opinion that has ever received organised and united expression in our country's history.

If there is any body in South Africa that can claim to speak for the non-

European people, it is the African and Indian Congresses. And, accordingly, if there is to be any body of Europeans in South Africa that can claim with truth that their policy is the policy which is favoured by the majority of our inhabitants, it must be a body which recognises this fact.

### CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

The Congress of Democrats comes closest to doing that. Unlike the Liberal Party, it claims not to speak *for*, but *with* the non-European people as represented by the African and Indian Congresses. The basis for its claim is a close liaison with these Congresses, close co-operation and even alliance with them on immediate campaigns amongst all sections of the South African people. This approach which has permeated all its thinking since its foundation six months ago makes the Congress of Democrats something unique in South African politics — a body of Europeans which not only opposes the colour-bar in its legislative form, but breaks sharply with the traditional colour-bar-inspired fallacy that Europeans are fitted, by education, birth or "western tradition" to speak for non-Europeans.

In taking this stand, the Congress of Democrats has let a fresh wind in to blow through the South African political scene. But it has as yet a long way to go before it challenges powerfully the traditional trend of white South African politics, be they of the United Party, Nationalist Party or Liberal Party variety. The Congress of Democrats requires to be launched publicly, amid a fanfare of publicity, on a nation-wide scale at a national conference. Until this is done it will not be regarded seriously as a challenger for the allegiance and support of progressive, European democrats who today lean towards the Liberal and Labour approaches.

And until it is done, it will not be possible to claim that the Congress movement, which stands for equal rights and opportunities for all races in South Africa, speaks for and represents all races. It is vital to our future that such a claim can be made, thus bringing into one camp all the Africans, Indians and Europeans who favour democracy for all, so that the developing racial conflict can be turned aside and the impending struggle for non-European liberation can be fought not against the Europeans as a community, but against the fascists and reactionaries who hold it back.

# BLACK SPOT FEVER

BY ELWOOD C. CHOLMONDELEY.

YOU can say what you like about Jakkals de Wet; but, without him, I can tell you things wouldn't be what they are with the Party these days. Although he modestly shrugs it off, he was the man who first thought of getting dead men to vote, way back in 1926. And a few years later he thought up the idea of getting fake applications for postal votes filled out by his own supporters.

I always tell him that if he'd only patented the ideas in those days, he'd have made himself an independent fortune in the last five years. I think he's always felt a little bitter that the party leaders never recognised his services with, say, a Cabinet post. But after all he hardly needs the money these days, what with the success he's had in getting his farm subsidised and getting prisoners to work it from his private jail. Not to mention a bit of I.D.B. on the side.

But the trouble really arose when Jakkals returned from his visit to America. Somehow he'd got the idea into his head that there's only one place for a man to live if he's got real money and a taste for cocktails and a well-turned ankle; and that's in a pent-house. His heart was set on a pent-house, and he spent all of two weeks interviewing estate agents, builders and caretakers about it.

He soon found out that Johannesburg isn't New York. It seems every building had a pent-house of sorts on its roof. But everywhere the native servants were in occupation of it. Some kink of the Johannesburg town-planners, apparently, had reserved the roofs for natives. As he went from place to place, old Jakkals got madder and madder, until one day when he was fit to burst, he suddenly struck oil. Or rather Solly Glick, who's not known to his friends as Solly the Gonif for nothing. And Solly, with a quick eye for an easy few quid, agreed to fix him up with a pent-house on the roof of Solglick Heights. For a month while he discussed plans, north aspects and the roofscape gardening.

But that only lasted for a month. Then he decided to pay a visit to the building and see how the work on his pent-house was going along. They tell me he nearly had a stroke there on the twelfth floor when he discovered that his pent-house was on the floor over the native quarters. He cursed, raved and threatened to "chuck Solly off the roof". He told him what he had always thought of Jews and foreigners and unassimilable elements who thought it was right that a kaffir should live closer to the ground floor entrance hall than a white man. Solly, who is not easily scared off when there's a profit sticking out, tried to explain to him that a white man should be closer to heaven than a black, even appealing to his political conscience and pointing out his duty to see that, at all costs, white men should be above blacks physically, no less than financially and politically.

Jakkals stalked off in a rage, threatening to sue Solly into the ground, and have his naturalisation papers cancelled in addition. For a fortnight he was like a bear with a sore head, but the frenzy

for a pent-house had entered into his blood, and he canvassed every one of the speculators and building-owners again, desperately.

Finally, he met Constanides. Now Nick had worked his way up from a fish-and-chips barrow at the Sophiatown bus terminus by hard work, fast thinking, and by sticking to his pennies as though they were glue. When Jakkals first approached him he thought it was a gag. Then the thought crossed his mind that a pent-house would be cheaper to build than a lot of servant's rooms, and would pay rent for all time where servants only cost him wages. They settled the deal over a cup of coffee, with the clear understanding on both sides that there was to be no natives' quarters whatsoever, neither above nor below the pent-house on Niccon Court.

For a few months while Nick's builders rushed the place up, peace reigned supreme. Jakkals blossomed forth into a benign philosophic gent, spreading philanthropy in a small way here and there. The Party branch got a new filing cabinet, and a danger-money fund to foot the bill for dead voters at the next election. We also got a few I.O.U.'s from Jakkals for various funds we had going, and of course we all thought we'd have no difficulty in collecting on them.

We changed our minds about that rather suddenly when the pent-house was finally finished. We all went to the opening party, and were on hand when Jakkals dramatically drew back the curtains and said proudly: "Just look at that view." We did. There was nothing to be seen except a watery grey winter sky, and a complete circle of natives' rooms on all the surrounding buildings, most of them with newspaper on the windows in place of curtains, and the washing hanging up on a sagging line outside.

Just as I was hoping that no one would mention it, Maggie de Wet opened her big mouth and said what we were all thinking.

For a moment there was a deathly silence; and then Jakkals, his rose spectacles smashed beyond repair, suddenly burst. He screamed about Jews, foreigners and bloody Greek dagoes. He cursed Englishmen and Rooineks who planned the town, and put natives outside his lounge windows. He exploded about "loyal Dutchmen" who manned the Government and did nothing about keeping the kaffir in his place. When I crept away, he was still cursing, and banging the floor with his walking stick.

The meeting of our Party branch the next day was a pretty dismal affair. We all realised that those I.O.U.'s were lost to us, and our dead-voters' fund was not likely to get anywhere near big enough to win us the seat. We were like drowning men, clutching at any straw that was likely to pull Jakkals back into the fold and settle this pent-house business. Finally in desperation, we agreed to send a deputation to the Minister to ask him to clean out all the natives from the roof-tops. But we didn't really believe that there was any hope that he could or would act.

Well, now we know different. You must hand it to Dr. Verwoerd. He's got his ear close to the ground, and knows what the people are really thinking. It wasn't a week from the time our deputation saw him before he was off on his campaign against "locations in the sky." Jakkals is back again in the branch, though it was touch and go that we lost him. And he's come to light with another idea that the Party will live to honour him for. I can tell you.

Confidentially, and off the record, he's hit on a scheme which will really bring the money rolling in. You've heard of these "captive planets" the American scientists are fooling with, things that just revolve round and round the earth in outer space in exactly the positions the scientists puts them. Well Jakkals sees this as the solution to the question of where we put our servants after they clear them from the roof-tops. Dr. Verwoerd has promised his support, and the scheme is being secretly discussed by the National Housing Commission and the Land Tenure Board, and even the City Council is thinking of revising its Group Areas scheme to make provision for it.

Only this time, Jakkals is going to patent it, with all proceeds for the Party strydfonds. So just you watch Hospital at the next election!

# OVER THEIR LIVE BODIES

by "Stalag 3"

PROBABLY not since the outbreak of the Korean War has the cause of peace suffered more serious reverses than in the last days of the month now ending. The execution of the Rosenbergs, the rioting in East Berlin and now the treachery of Syngman Rhee have gone far to undo the slow and painful efforts of the Soviet, Chinese and British Governments to ease world tension.

But it is with the situation in Korea that the world must concern itself, if peace is still to be preserved. For it is there that the "hot" war still rages, and there are many who feel that the other events in America, and Europe are linked, not haphazardly, with the peace negotiations in Korea.

It is unnecessary at this stage to review all the tortuous twists and turns in these negotiations over the past two years. It is on the prisoner-of-war question that negotiations have turned during the whole of this year and much of last. That issue was solved earlier in the month, thus clearing the way for a cease-fire. It is this part of the truce agreement that Syngman Rhee has wrecked. His action assumes an immediate and terrible importance because of the Chinese contention that he acted—indeed, could only have acted—with American connivance.

Now, what is the prisoner-of-war issue, and how does American stand on it?

The issue first became an issue when the Americans and her allies conceived the principle of distinguishing between those prisoners who were loyal to the state on whose behalf they had taken up arms, and those who for various reasons, it was contended, had forsaken the North Korean cause and had expressed a desire not to be repatriated to their homelands.

Such a distinction, be it said, is something quite new in the annals of international law. In terms of the Geneva convention laying down certain rules for the treatment of P.O.W.'s, all combatant prisoners were to be repatriated immediately upon the cessation of hostilities, regardless of their own wishes, even if expressed. The reason for such a rule, is, surely, quite clear. In as much as prisoners of war are completely in the power of the armed forces holding them captive they are unable, by any reasonable means, to express their will fairly. In other words, since they are unable to express their wishes except through the mouths of those who hold them in their power, there is no way of being sure that their wishes are, in fact, expressed freely rather than under duress.



## TO END THE DEADLOCK.

It was, then, upon this principle that the negotiations originally broke down some eight months ago only to be resumed at the end of May after Chou en Lai, the Chinese leader, proposed an immediate exchange of sick and wounded P.O.W.'s. This proposal was designed specifically to end the deadlock—a deadlock fraught with the danger that a failure to arrange a cease-fire would result in the spreading of the war to the Chinese mainland and perhaps throughout the world.

Meanwhile, towards the end of last year, the representative on the U.N.O. of the Indian Government had offered a compromise proposal to the effect that at the cessation of hostilities all P.O.W.'s concerning whose wishes any doubt existed should be placed in the custody of and be interrogated by certain neutral powers, to be agreed upon by the belligerents. It should be noted particularly that at this meeting the U.N. Powers agreed to the Indian proposals, while those powers supporting the North Korean forces still took their stand on the Geneva convention.

When, therefore, the Chinese and North Korean delegates to the resumed negotiations offered a compromise which meant virtually an acceptance of the Indian proposals, one could have expected no further difficulty. It was then, however, that American reaction became so transparently treacherous as to earn the mistrust of even her allies. For no sooner had the Chinese and North Koreans accepted the Indian proposals, than the American negotiators made new demands.

What were those new demands? Why,

precisely that the prisoners-of war, unwilling to be repatriated, *should not be placed in neutral custody, but should be released on the spot*—wherever that might be. It was precisely this proposal which for the first time since the war provoked Churchill into an open and public protest against American policy, and it was because of this protest on the part of his chief ally that Eisenhower apparently climbed down and ordered that the negotiations proceed on the basis of Chou-en-Lai's compromise offer.

And so we reach the final stage. Notice these points:

- (a) Syngman Rhee's act of treachery is identical to that proposed by the Americans on the resumption of negotiations;
- (b) the Americans, knowing full well that it was Rhee's intention to sabotage a truce, if he could, placed the P.O.W.'s in question under South Korean guards;
- (c) The Americans now express themselves at a loss to know how to deal with either Rhee or the escaped prisoners. (By contrast they were never in doubt as to how to deal with the prisoners on Koje Island!)
- (d) On three specific occasions in the past the American High Command has sabotaged the peaceful settlement of the war:—
  - (i) When, in defiance of the stated U.N. war aims, the Americans, in 1951, pursued the retreating North Koreans beyond the 38th parallel, (ii) when, in the same year, they compelled Chinese intervention by bombing the Yalu River power installations and (iii) when they originally created the P.O.W. impasse by defying the Geneva Convention.

Surely, in the face of the above, the Chinese contention that the Rhee clique acted with the tacit approval and, perhaps, at the instigation of the Americans, is fully justified, indeed unanswerable!

There is only one way to deal with the situation now. The U.N. Organisation must intervene actively; must warn the Americans that, should the war be resumed as a result of their acts of commission or omission, they shall forthwith be branded aggressors and shall pay the full price for this treachery.

# Now is the Time for All Good Men . . .



ON instructions from the Legion's National Executive Committee we sent our members last month a letter which broached a matter of great importance to Springbok Legionnaires in particular and the progressive movement in general. Briefly, Legion members were asked to state their attitude to a proposal that a new national democratic organisation be formed in South Africa, the Springbok Legion, the Congress of Democrats and perhaps a Democratic League taking the initiative.

We have received numerous expressions of opinion, which, incidentally, have given us a good deal of encouragement, for the letters have manifested the continuation of a strong interest in and attachment to the Legion. So far it cannot be said that the letters give a clearcut answer to the question: Shall the Legion continue as before or shall the Legion be a principal agent in bringing into existence a new organisation?

Let us analyse the question in greater detail than was possible in the letter we sent to our members.

## DEMOCRACY OR FASCISM?

We believe that the people of South Africa are called upon today to make a choice between full democracy and full fascism. Upon the choice made rest our hopes for racial peace and economic prosperity for many years to come. There can be no doubt that the majority of South Africans are longing for the domestic tranquility which only democracy can bring. The gigantic problem is: HOW is democracy to be achieved? Let us look at the facts.

We have a government in power with a majority so large that there is no prospect of their downfall by an adverse vote in the House. It must be remembered, too, that the Nationalist Government long ago jettisoned the democratic parliamentary convention of allowing, as far as possible, legislation to be influenced by the views of the Opposition. In Parliament, therefore, we can exert little or no influence on the Nationalist Government.

In the electoral sphere we are equally powerless, for what with the S.W.A. vote, the leading and off-loading, the clever drawing of constituency boundaries, the Nationalists can win any general election with as few as 35 per cent. of the votes cast. We can anticipate, too, the removal of the Coloured voters, the removal of the Native Representatives, an increase of Nationalist voters as young people qualify each year for the vote and the possible lowering of the voting age to 18 years. In the electoral sphere, therefore, Opposition European voters are virtually as disfranchised as non-Europeans.

The struggle for democracy will not

be won in Parliament or in a general election. Only the will of the people, expressed outside of these limits, can destroy fascism and entrench democracy.

In this context, let us be quite clear that "the will of the people" means the will of all the people, regardless of colour or race.

Now then, in assessing the prospects, we find the inescapable demand for an organisation that is going to gather in all those Europeans, who accept the validity of the policy of "full equality", who recognise the pattern the struggle will take and who recognise that they must ally themselves with the non-European people.

The Springbok Legion is almost the right organisation for the job, but it has one drawback: its membership is restricted to ex-servicemen. A suggested solution is that the Legion should hold a national conference and open its ranks to all. A disadvantage is that the Legion has been so thoroughly smeared over the past five years that we would come up against a reluctance on the part of people to join. Moreover, in the minds of potential recruits the Legion would remain an essentially 'ex-service' organisation. It should be noted, too, that the Legion in the past two or three years has not been successful in enrolling new members. Is it likely that it will be able to enrol any new ex-servicemen?

Another organisation — at present restricted geographically to the Witwatersrand — is the Congress of Democrats, an association which stands for "full equality" and which — and this is an important point — is accepted on equal terms by the African National Congress and the South African Indian Congress. The C.O.D. suffers from some limitations. At present its membership is small,

by Springbok Legion Chairman CECIL WILLIAMS

it is largely unknown to the public, it has no full-time staff and no organisational magazine. There are, however, no limits to its recruiting potential.

In Cape Town there is the Democratic League, an organisation very similar to the Congress of Democrats.

## UNITY IS STRENGTH

Does not the conclusion become inescapable — there are solid groups of Legionnaires

escapable that these three organisations should pool their resources in order to make one national, strong organisation, avoiding thereby overlapping and duplication of effort? It is no more than realistic, moreover, to recognise that the number of Europeans waiting to find energy, money, literature etc., on a multiplicity of organisations.

In considering the proposal as Legion-

## VETS' VOICES



HERE are two specimens of letters received at National Office in connection with the proposed new organisation:

Dear Friend,

A few lines in response to your circular regarding the future of the Legion. The general conclusion reached is but the natural one in view of existing circumstances. It may be all to the good. Certainly by reforming the disposal of our troops to meet changed conditions, the Legion will be serving the ex-servicemen and, conversely, the ex-servicemen will be serving the country probably in a more effective manner. After all, the servicemen joined up to fight fascism; now he must do the same at home.

The people — now the elections are over — must be taught not only not to relax their efforts, but to renew those efforts. And let us be quite clear what we mean by Democracy . . . it is usually a dangerously vague concept. For instance, the present Opposition is by no means democratic to my idea.

. . . . Shall be interested to know the final decision. All power to the excellent fellows who have directed the Legion so far.

Yours, etc.,

E. H. BAZELEY.

Grahamstown.

Dear Sir,

I have given a great deal of thought to your circular letter dated the 15th inst., but, knowing little of the Democratic League and the Congress of Democrats, it is extremely difficult for me to express an opinion other than that the Springbok Legion should not sacrifice its identity as an ex-servicemen's organisation. I feel that a combination of the three organisations would still not bring into being a sufficiently powerful body to serve our anti-fascist needs, while it would eliminate that thorn in the Nationalist side — the Springbok Legion. Let us rather continue our present struggle despite the many difficulties. In so doing we are still at liberty to co-operate with any other organisation to the fullest.

Yours etc.,

A. BIET.

Cape Town.

naires, we must measure the needs of the situation, rather than be swayed by an understandable attachment to the Legion's past history. Some Legionnaires have expressed the view that many of our members, who have been inactive for a long time, will be more attracted to a new organisation, which can embrace non-service people as well as ex-service men and women. Such an organisation, it is felt, will have more hitting power, greater recruiting potential and will prove to be, with the non-European people and their organisations, the only dyke against the floodwaters of fascism.

I would like to give a sketchy picture of how I see this new organisation coming into existence. In the first place, I do not visualise a rather lukewarm coming together of two or more organisations to form the new association, as if it were a mere matter of adding so many Legion members to so many Congress of Democrat members and saying, "Now we have something new." Not at all! What we have to become aware of is that the sorry result of the General Election has released large numbers of people from their previous unwilling allegiance to the United Party.

## THE U.P. REVEALED

For years numerous progressives have supported and worked for the United Party, viewing it as an alternative to the Nationalists. But today the United Party stands revealed as a party without political policies or moral principles and incapable of winning an election. Eastwile supporters, therefore, have no competition in looking for a new political group which offers realistic policies. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of such people — potential recruits to the new organisation we have in mind.

How do we get our policies across to them? It is our responsibility to meet these people in all the main centres, invite them to sincere discussions and pledge them to active support for and participation in the new organisation. They in turn become the recruiting agents for their friends, so that in each centre — before ever the organization is constituted at a national conference themselves into the struggle is not so great that we can afford to dissipate and non-service progressives working together towards a new association with

a policy of 'full equality'.

The Legion's Executive Committee is firmly convinced that there exists a pressing need for this new organisation; it likewise is convinced that the Springbok Legion must play a decisive part in creating the new body, and is actually making it a vital, inspiring, growing, realistic political force. This presupposes that the majority of the Legion's active members will devote their energies to the new group. The Executive Committee is not of one mind on the issue of whether the Legion should lose its independent identity within the new organisation or whether it should, after assisting in the birth of the new group, continue to exist as an independent body, even if much reduced in the way of staff, membership and activities.

It seems to us, therefore, that our members are required to clarify their ideas on the following items:—

- (a) the need for a South African organisation founded on the policy of full equality, recognising the limitations of parliamentary struggle and recognising that there can be no colour bar to divide democrats;
- (b) the obligation on the Springbok Legion to play a decisive part in creating such an organisation;
- (c) the future of the Springbok Legion.

In asking its members to express their opinion on this question, the Legion is appealing, not to "intellectual" critics, but to those members who want to find the best means of adding their practical contribution to the great task that confronts us.

We are proposing to send a Legion spokesman to the main centres of the Union in order to discuss the matter personally with our members. In the meantime, commit your thoughts to paper: voice your approval or disapproval; let us have your alternative proposals. Only so, can we be confident that whatever we do does in fact reflect the wishes of our members.

## AMERICAN SENATORS.

REPUBLICAN Senator John S. Cooper (Ky.), a former U.S. delegate to the U.N., in an interview reported in the N.Y. Times, said the Eisenhower Administration must make concessions in order to achieve real peace in Asia. He insisted that if the U.S. adopted a "strait-jacket attitude" and did not yield on some points, there could be little hope for any permanent settlement.

Democratic Congressman Arthur Klein (N.Y.) reported receipt of 15,000 approving letters one week after his press statement calling for an immediate ceasefire in Korea.



# DON'T DAMN 3D

A FEW months ago the world of commercial cinema was turned upside down by the showing of "Bwana Devil". Mobs rushed the box-office, the big Hollywood Studios cancelled or reduced their schedule of productions and famous producers outdid each other in speculating, boasting and prophesying about the new sensation, "3-D". At the time of writing only one genuine three dimensional feature film has been shown in South Africa, but enough factual information has reached us to allow us to examine the types of three-dimensional film being made and their likely effect on the industry.

As far back as 1877 two Viennese pioneers animated a three-dimensional image of an athlete performing the high-jump. In 1896 a Frenchman, Grimoire-Sanson, patented an apparatus by which ten projectors threw panoramic images on a large circular screen. In the 1930's we saw the M.-G.-M. stereoscopic short films which were viewed through coloured glasses. In 1946 the Soviet Union produced a full-length stereoscopic version of "Robinson Crusoe". And in 1951 British producers used various methods to make three-dimensional films for the Festival of Britain.

Hollywood, and the world in general, was curious and interested in these experiments, but not terribly excited. The impact of the recent full-length 3-D films might be explained in a number of ways. Hollywood had been hard hit by television. It was going through one of its periodic stages of creative exhaustion and was eager for some new "sensation" to exploit. But if the producers had been confined to stereoscopies of the type used in "Bwana Devil", it is doubtful if 3-D would have had more than a passing novelty value to them.

This "natural vision" film was made by a system of employing twin cameras and projecting two images simultaneously on to the screen in superimposition. It is viewed through polarised glasses which themselves create a psychological barrier between the individual and the image. It is disconcertingly artificial in its composition, and anything but natural to the viewer. Everything advances, nothing recedes. An American critic correctly commented: "It protrudes".

Two other types of third dimensional film appear to have far greater scope. Cinemascope looks to be the most interesting, both aesthetically and economically. A huge concave screen, two and a half times the normal size, dominates the auditorium in order to accommodate images which approximate to the human eye's frame of vision. A panoramic effect is achieved by dis-

ortion and rectification, the camera's wide-angle lens giving a distorted image, which the compensation lens on the projector makes natural.

Cinerama operates on a similar principle, using a concave screen, but very much larger — six times the normal size. A triple screen is used, the centre one flat, the side panels curved, upon which 3 projectors throw three simultaneous images, creating one large one. This system is still technically imperfect.

Cinemascope and Cinerama have an obvious appeal for the big studios today. The films that have made most money have always been the big spectacles, such as "Birth of a Nation," "Gone with the Wind," "The Greatest Show on Earth," "Quo Vadis" and "Samson and Delilah." When Cinerama arrived in New York (with a programme of shorts, including travel scenes, ballet, etc.) the climate of American film production was variable and receptive. The answer to the difficulties was being met by a return to the kind of film ("Quo Vadis") with which no other medium could compete. Cinerama, or a less costly version of it, seemed to offer the chance of making such films on an even more spectacular basis.

The new enthusiasm is not for an imaginative adjunct to the medium, but for an extra process of physical sensation. The flat sound film has been in existence for only twenty-five years, and its possibilities have by no means been exhausted. The Cinemascope film will need time to develop aesthetically. In

the meantime, the immediate prospects for the filmgoer of sensibility are pretty grim. We can expect a wave of dull, vulgar spectacles and shockers. Twentieth Century-Fox are making "The Robe", de Mille plans "The Ten Commandments", Columbia are making "Fort Ti", an action story, and Warner Bros' "House of Wax" you will probably have seen by now and judged (and sentenced) for yourselves.

In Europe, thank goodness, repercussions from a production point of view will probably be slower, for there is less capital for the manufacture of equipment. The exhibitors in Britain are busy equipping their cinemas for "the new sensation," and Rank's organisation is making over a number of theirs for cinemascope — an expensive undertaking.

Dore Schary, head of M.-G.-M., commented recently: "I believe that worldwide audiences will, in the next couple of years, help us to determine which films we should make in third dimension . . . The public, as always, remains the final arbiter." The public's arbitration cannot be felt until the novelty wears off. After that time, two possibilities remain. One is that the flat screen will still be found to attract customers for certain kinds of film, and that Cinemascope will be used in the ratio that colour is now used to black and white.

But if the public likes ice-shows so much that it almost completely neglects the legitimate theatre, then one can see a vital division occurring in the cinema. With all the major companies devoted to big-screen production, the flat film might become an "art-house" attraction. Horrible thought — we might finally see stereoscopic images on a vast circular screen.

One final warning: don't be misled by local cinema advertisements into believing that the current "panoramic wide-screen" attractions, with "panophonic" sound have anything to do with third dimension or any of the systems mentioned in this article.





It is over. President Eisenhower and his heartless ministers have had their way and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg have been obliterated. A loud groan went up from the whole world when the news was flashed abroad. For many there had been a hope, albeit a faint one, that in the face of universal opinion the American Government would relent and would not wreak their horrible and senseless vengeance on a helpless young couple, their sons and their families.

But we should, of course, have known better. The American judiciary has always been a crude but effective weapon in the hands of Big Business there. This last act is but a culmination of dozens of cases in which people have paid with their lives and liberty for crimes they could never have committed. The murder of Joe Hill, for example; the life sentence on Tom Mooney in 1916 on a trumped-up charge of bomb-throwing; later publicly admitted but not until Tom had served 22 years; the legal lynching of Sacco and Vanzetti in 1927 on a charge which even the most ardent Yankee Doodler couldn't substantiate; the persecution of the Scottsboro boys which began in 1932 and which hasn't ended yet; the endless torture of Gerhard Eisler, Howard Fast and other political leaders and, but a few years ago, the framing, "trial" and execution of Willie McGee, the bewildered young Negro who went to the Chair not even knowing what crime he was supposed to have committed. In all these cases, the evidence presented was such that no South African magistrate, let alone a Judge, would have convicted a dog!

And the Rosenbergs? The prosecutions entire case rested solely on the accusation levelled against them by Ethel's brother, David Greenglass. In all civilised countries, it is unheard-of that a person or persons can be convicted only on the say-so of a fellow-accused. It does not require a great legal mind to

appreciate the abuse to which such a procedure could lend itself. Let us be quite clear about this. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were slaughtered as a warning to all Americans that Peace, Democracy, Justice and Tolerance are words that are no longer acceptable to the bomb-happy ruling clique in Washington D.C. War and the Iron Heel of monopoly capital are its aims and objects for as long as they can get away with it, and woe to those who endeavour in any way to thwart these aims.

But unfortunately for them, the "ayes" have it. The vast majority of men and women on the face of the earth have "had them in a big way" and are determined that their plans will be thwarted. The portents are plain in every capital of the world. Peace, Bread and Justice are the slogans to be seen on the walls of Europe and Asia. We shall survive in spite of Dulles and Eisenhower and their cronies.

Perhaps the best epitaph to the Rosenbergs could be the one written to Sacco and Vanzetti by Malcolm Cowley in his

poem "For St. Bartholomas' Eve":  
*Beyond the chair, beyond the bars  
 of day and night, your path is free;  
 yours is an avenue of stars:  
 March on, O dago Christs while we  
 march on to spread your name abroad  
 like lashes in the winds of God.*

\* \* \* \*

"SAY NOT THE STRUGGLE . . . ."

To return briefly to the local scene, isn't it confounding how the United Party consists of men chronically incapable of seeing further than their disjointed noses? Perhaps it is unfair of me to judge the entire party by the utterances of Messrs. Durrant and Coetzee, but in the absence of an official rebuttal to these two "toenadering" gentlemen, what else are we to believe?

It would be interesting to see what support the U.P. is afraid of losing.

In the meantime, Badenhorst Durrant and Blaar Coetzee must be considered politically unreliable and should resign immediately as M.P.'s. Their constituents can't trust them.

## A WOMAN'S WORDLY GOODS

It is not only the "man of property" that finds moving from one home to another such a business. Even the man of comparatively small means is perplexed by the accumulation of his possessions over the years and the problem of how to minimise the number of lorry trips. This kitchen stuff, pots, pans, basins, baths, brushware, crockery, tins and jars (some of it old, though very useful) how much to discard, how much to pack in the cases for removal? Then the infinite care to be taken with the furniture to be moved to avoid scratches, breakages, etc. Quite a trying, nerve-racking business.

There is, though, a large section of our population who are not faced with these problems. Towards the end of each month or the beginning of a new month, you have seen African women on the move. The dilapidated suitcase, or tin box, the bundle of blankets tied together with a string or old strap, balanced beautifully on a woman's head, conveys a story plainly enough. This woman is leaving her job as a domestic servant and with her job goes her home, a room in someone's backyard. All that constituted her home, with the exception of the iron bed, coir mattress, little table, and maybe a chair, is there on her head, all fitting into a suitcase. It is never possible to tell from her face whether the uprooting has been upset-

ting or worrying. If she is not going to another job, what are her resources, her assets? She will live somehow because people do — friends, families, will not let her starve. But it gives food for thought to realise, as you watch the lonely woman walking out of the side gate, that months, even years, of patient labour for a so-called "good" mistress have enriched the servant with no more of man's worldly goods than will pack into a tattered suitcase. And the irony is more galling if you happen to overhear the aggrieved, injured tones of the "good" mistress complaining of the black woman's ingratitude!

"Ungrateful creatures, lazy good-for-nothings, did not appreciate a good home and good food." It would be useless to point out that Lena never once sat on the beautiful lounge suite, or that all the lovely edge to edge carpets meant to her was that they had to be cleaned. Useless to point out that Lena helped to keep that home lovely, cooked the good food (of which she did not always partake) until she had enough of drudgery and nagging. So easy for her to leave or be sacked. What was her stake in it all? One suitcase of clothing, a few blankets — what a price for loyalty. "Stupid unappreciative girl — she was leaving so much behind — she had to much to lose," goes on the "good" woman's voice.

## U.S. VETS COME UNDER FIRE

In South Africa the police raid the offices of the Springbok Legion. In the United States the Post Office Solicitor impounds all copies of a recent issue of a veterans' peace magazine that had been delivered to post offices for distribution throughout the country. The forces of international reaction are firmly in the saddles of government both in South Africa and in the U.S.A. Consequently, we can anticipate an increase in the number of reactionary bannings, raidings, impoundings, proscriptions and such like, all directed against the forces for peace and democracy.

In the States there is a fine group of ex-service men and women who have formed the "Veterans for Peace" movement, which issues a monthly magazine, crammed full of information and comment on the factors affecting World Peace. "Vet's Voice", as the magazine is titled, is an admirable publication. Its articles, cartoons, exposures, criticism and snippets of facts provide first rate material to the fighters for peace. "Vet's Voice" over the past two years has opposed films intended to whitewash the Nazis, has organised "Artists-for-Peace" exhibitions, has opposed racial discrimination in the U.S. forces, has exerted itself to bring the Korean war to an end, has opposed vigorously the re-arming of Germany, the release of Nazi war criminals, the re-instatement of Nazi officers and politicians into the military and political set-up of Western Germany. Veterans for Peace have supported the universal demand for a Five Power Peace Pact, have propagated the concept of 'negotiation rather than war', has conducted a campaign to "Bring our Boys Home from Korea" and another campaign to compel Eisenhower to fulfil his election pledge to bring an end to the war in Korea. Could anyone have a finer record?

And what happens?

The Post Office Solicitor refuses to carry the magazine through the U.S. mails. Why? Because he is of the opinion that 'the general tenor' of the magazine is likely to have a subversive (sic) effect and to interfere with recruitment into the armed services. To such lengths can the appalling thirst and hunger for war carry the war-mongers in America!

An article elsewhere in this issue of "Fighting Talk" draws attention to the link between the plot to unleash a third world war and the plot to deprive people of their civil rights, particularly that of Free Speech. The two movements are complementary. As long as people have

the freedom to express their detestation of war, so long is it wellnigh impossible for the war-mongers in the Republican government, on Wall Street and in the Pentagon to declare and wage a war. The converse is true: without the freedom and the means to canalise people's rejection of war, the forces for peace are rendered impotent and men and women are shipped like cattle, to battlefronts, while the non-combatant citizens are left powerless before the threat of atom-bomb extinction.

Hence the impounding in America of "Vet's Voice", hence the silence of the daily newspapers on the worldwide struggle of little people to preserve peace, hence the withdrawing of passports from delegates to peace conferences — activities indulged in, not only by the United States government, but by the Governments of South Africa, Great Britain, Austria and others.

But all to no avail!

The voices for peace cannot be silenced: daily the volume of clamour for peace grows louder, stronger, more in unison. The filthy swine in all countries who plot for war, who plot for Fascism will meet their fate. Already they are dangerously hysterical with the frustration of their plans by the commonsensible men and women of the world, but it will not end there. These plotters against mankind will one day — and soon — have to answer for their crimes to the people of the world. Let them take heed. Not for ever will we permit the early release of war dogs, of the criminals against humanity.

To our American comrades in the fight for peace, we say: Impoundings of your magazine cannot stop the noblest of all fights — your words will reach the willing ears of your compatriots, despite the attempted gags and blinkers. Keep on with the struggle. You . . . and we . . . are sure to win!

### "Hands Off the Legion!"

The following letter has been received from the British Ex-Service Movement for Peace:

"With reference to your letter of June 10th, you will be pleased to know that even prior to receiving your letter, the London press had featured the attack upon your organisation with the result that protests were sent in by our London Area Committee and our National Executive Committee.

"Further at our National Conference held over the week-end 13 and 14 June, the following resolution was passed unanimously and has since been forwarded to the High Commissioner at South Africa House.

"This National Conference of the E.S.M.P. deplors the action taken in searching the H.Q. and confiscating records on June 4th last, against the Springbok Legion by the Criminal Investigation Department (Political Section) of the South African Police. This action is unwarrantable interference in the legitimate affairs of an ex-service organisation and a complete negation of their democratic rights.

"We would like to say that at this moment our organisation and all our members extend to you and your members the hand of comradeship and full support in your fight."

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## NO IMPORT CONTROL ON RED-HUNTING

SOUTH Africa's latest import from the United States appears to be a ship-load of McCarthyism. The recent case of Mr. le Roux, Police College lecturer who lost his job for "dangerous thinking," is exactly the sort of thing that has been going on in America for years.

When anti-Communist legislation was introduced, both in the U.S.A. and in the Union, eccentric people like the Springbok Legion warned the public that Communists would not be the only victims of this sort of legislation. These warnings were ignored, were regarded as a covert defence of Communism, and the hunt for reds was duly set in motion.

rights to an alleged Communist, or to

Today, the warnings are coming true. The hunt for reds gradually turns into the hunt for pinks, then into the hunt for insufficiently zealous anti-reds. The proscription of Communism gradually turns into the proscription of open-mindedness. Men are victimised, not because they support Communism, but because their opposition to Communism is not so fanatical as to close their minds to all criticism of the *status quo*. So we find American librarians purged for having Communist books on their shelves, "Voice of America" broadcasters sacked for quoting authors who are critical of the "American way of life", newspaper editors grilled for suggesting that the witch hunt is going too far. So we have a lecturer at the South African Police College sacked for meeting non-Europeans, doubting the efficiency of the "Suppression of Communism Act" and failing to denounce Americans for having unsegregated universities.

### THE NET

We can offer Mr. le Roux this measure of comfort in his distress — he will not be the only one. The net will be cast wider and wider, and the process can be stopped in only one way — by the repeal of the "Suppression of Communism Act" and the reconstruction of complete freedom of thought. The longer this step is delayed, the more difficult of achievement it will be, for when the witch-hunters once really taste blood, they react with an animal frenzy to the slightest opposition.

This is illustrated by the latest development in the Rosenberg case. Judge Douglas, of the United States Supreme Court, has held, not that the Rosenbergs are innocent or that espionage is a good thing, but that their execution should be postponed until a new argument which their lawyers have discovered has been presented to the Court. For this temerity, a Democratic Congressman has demanded "amid loud applause" the impeachment of Judge Douglas. It becomes a crime, then, to afford ordinary legal

suggest that there may be anything to be said against the penalty imposed on him.

It is fortunate that democracy is a tough and hardy plant which has a way of sprouting up again in spite of all the witch hunters' prunings. Even in America, not all opposition to McCarthyism has yet been silenced. In recent weeks, several blows have been struck for freedom which may possibly indicate a revival of American democracy. One of the most important was the acquittal of Professor Owen Lattimore on a charge of perjury.

Senator McCarthy has evolved, over the years, a neat technique for dealing with his victims. He has them haled before his Committee, where they are asked, "Are you a Communist?" If they refuse to answer, they are charged with contempt. If they answer "Yes", they are charged with "teaching or advocating the overthrow of the Government." If they answer "No", they are charged with perjury. The perjury charges come before juries who have been told by the newspapers that the accused is a Communist and that anyone who says he is not had better be careful. The juries usually convict.

### COURAGEOUS RULING.

This process was applied to Owen Lattimore, who is not a Communist or anything like it. The charge was that Lattimore had perjured himself in denying that he was a sympathiser and supporter of Communism. The judge acquitted Lattimore on the grounds that this charge was too vague and nebulous to be proved in a court of law. This ruling has by no means defeated the persecutors, who will doubtless find some other way of "getting at" Lattimore. But it was a courageous ruling to give in the present climate of American opinion. The will to defend democracy can never be stamped out altogether. It is our duty to rally that will now; in South Africa, and to call a halt to our local McCarthy's before they get into their stride.

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## FILM REVIEW:

## "THE QUIET MAN"

"THE Quiet Man" is one of those rare, delightful films whose apparently simple charm disarms even the most analytical critics. It has no fundamental truth to reveal, no revelation of human character to analyse, no important aspect of society to portray, and it is not a brilliant exercise in film technique to delight the connoisseur, but it is captivating intellectuals as much as the indiscriminating film fan.

John Ford is one of the few film directors whose names are fairly well-known to the public. His successes date back to the silent films. In the 1930's he made a series of brilliant pictures, including "The Grapes of Wrath", "The Informer", "Young Mr. Lincoln", "The Long Voyage Home", "Stage Coach" that put his name alongside that of D. W. Griffiths as the most influential in the historical development of picture-making. In 1948, however, he grew disgusted with the commercial set-up and the difficulties of attempting to maintain his standards and he formed his own company, for whom he has churned out unambitious Westerns. It was a case of, "To hell with Art — let's make some money!" And, if one considers the tiny proportion of cinema audiences who appreciate something better when it is offered, who can altogether blame him? He paused once to try an "Art" picture, and it was about the worst he ever made, "The Fugitive". But stories of the pioneers who opened up the U.S.A.'s Western frontiers are often fine screen material, and Ford's interest has often been caught, with excellent results — "Wagonmaster", for example, was an outstanding film.

There was a suggestion that "The Quiet Man" was to be Ford's swan-song. There is no doubt at all that it was a labour of love. Ford returned to his native Ireland to make the film and it is immediately obvious that the country we are shown is an idealised picture by a returning and wealthy emigrant. The technicolour camera beautifully captures the soft variety of colours of the picturesque countryside, constantly delighting the eye and in no small measure melting the critical senses of the viewer.

Ford's approach is perfectly suited to his story, which is of a retired prize-fighter who returns to Ireland to buy a home and settle down. The property he buys is coveted by the brother of the girl with whom he falls in love. When they marry, the brother who is head of

the family, refuses his sister her dowry. Her husband refuses to fight for it because in his last professional fight he had killed his opponent. Finally he is brought to the point of overcoming his reluctance and the resulting battle is just about the most glorious, hilarious barney ever seen.

Ford uses a simple, direct style that is nonetheless highly skilful in its control of pace and mood. The casting of the dozen Americans brought to Ireland is most suitable. John Wayne, the 'quiet' man, Maureen O'Hara, the bride, Barry Fitzgerald, the marriage-broker, Victor McLaglen, Ward Bond and Arthur Shields, the two priests, all gave first class performances. The local characters are played to perfection by members of the Abbey Theatre.

Perhaps the single factor which best

explains the inescapable charm of this film is the feeling of meeting real people. One can agree that the characters have been somewhat idealised and yet, although so richly drawn with Irish eccentricities, there is never any danger of these people deteriorating into caricatures. The film is frankly escapist, since we have no picture here of the Ireland which really exists, but the temptation to succumb to its good-humoured romanticism is well-nigh irresistible.

There are many unforgettable moments, such as the scene after the wedding night fight between bride and groom, when the unknowing marriage-broker stumbles into the battered bedroom, stands amazed and finally breathes, "Impetuous . . . homeric!"

Here is a film that you really will enjoy. R.C.

## YANKS SAY "PEACE!"

## 4 OUT OF 5 WANT PEACE.

A recent Gallup Poll in the United States revealed that 78 per cent. of Americans are in favour of a meeting between Churchill, Eisenhower, and Malenkov to iron out their difficulties.

*The Cleaver*, organ of the Armour Local, CIO Packinghouse Workers, advises its readers to "Keep after our politicians and see that they don't betray us for the profits of big business."

The paper referred bitterly to the stock market dip over peace prospects and declared: "Here we have living proof that to Big Business, war is a profitable proposition. They fear peace, for to stop the flow of blood on the battlefield is expected to cut down the super-profits they reap from the horror and death of war."

The Local warned that "the millionaires may be trying to figure out new gimmicks to continue the fighting even after the Chinese and North Koreans terms of repatriation of prisoners."

The International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union, in a 10-point resolution titled "World Peace — A Must," called for cease-fire in Korea, Indo-China, Malaya and Africa; peace talks between Eisenhower and Malenkov; disarmament; outlawing of A- and H-Bombs.

## A COUPLE OF INDUSTRIALISTS.

Steel Magnate Ernest T. Weir, taking off on a trip to Europe, declared: "The people of the world — Russia, China, the U.S.A. — all want peace. It's up to the leaders to pay attention to that . . . Either we'll get somewhere with peace or we'll drift into war, and the next one will be final."

"It is Weir's firm opinion," reported the Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph*, "that the chances of real peace are good."

And J. F. Lincoln, boss of Lincoln Electric Co., one of the world's biggest manufacturers of electric welding equipment, wrote the *Cleveland Press*: "I, for one, would be much better satisfied if we could save our sons in Korea and completely lose the 'face' and also the heads of all the people who have been responsible for this holocaust in Korea."

# APEX

SALAD AND COOKING  
OIL

• • •

THE COOK'S BEST  
FRIEND



Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your circular of the 15th June and enclose my answer. I feel, however that I should give you a few of the thoughts which motivated my "no".

I think that as long as we are allowed to exist, we should not voluntarily give up our identity as an ex-service organisation. As long as we are that, we can at least say that we are entitled to fight for democracy now, as we did in '39-'45. Of course, others should fight now just as well, but I can see the Government immediately jumping on this new organisation, labelling it "communist" (not that they didn't try it on us in the past) and thus rendering it useless from the word go. But at the same time what influence the Legion had in the past will be lost, as it will have disbanded. A more promising solution seems to me that our members, who are able to expound our ideas well, should join existing bigger and well organised, more or less democratic organisations like the Labour Party and the U.P.

Of course I have not heard all your arguments and, on the other hand, these are only my first reactions, so I may change my ideas after the proposed meeting, but in the meantime I disagree.

Yours etc.,  
H. J. LANGE.

Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

I agree with the proposed move. I have not been an active member of the Legion for some time, because there have not been enough of us here in Pretoria to keep a branch going and to make any impact on the various situations as they have arisen. And that is my main reason for supporting the proposal. Although there are not enough of us Legionnaires to keep a branch going, I am pretty sure that, if we added to our strength the few progressive non-service men and women here, there would be enough of us to have a little branch. In any case, I believe that the situation in Pretoria applies to many other parts of the country — not enough Legionnaires alone, but enough progressives to support a branch of one national organisation. I hope you go ahead with the scheme and you can count me in.

Yours etc.,  
J. T. FELDMAN.

Pretoria.

\* \* \* \*

Dear Sir,

We Africans are taking a great interest in your new organisation, because you say that you recognise the non-Europeans as allies. I am certain that the white people will not knock this Nationalist government, but like the war we all fought together, we must fight together to see that every man, woman and child can live with proper conditions—enough to eat, somewhere to live, without disease, and schools for our children, no passes for white or black and jobs.

Yours etc.,  
C. A. MASEHLA.

Orlando.

## "I WAS IN KOREA"

Calvin Smith, of Springfield, Massachusetts, a 'Korean Veteran' wrote to the *Cornerfield Daily News*:

"... Peace in Korea is closer than ever. It should be a time of anticipation and optimism... However, the reverse seems to be the case.

"The newspapers report that Wall St. is worried about an impending decline in the economic stability of the country... the top officials in the country have expressed nothing but skepticism; and I have yet to see any sign of hope in the... truce talks.

"... I saw men from the front being evacuated who had been maimed, shot and crippled beyond belief... This is a time to be thankful that the war may be near an end. No matter what comes after the shooting stops, it will be better than losing lives on a battlefield."

Korea veteran Harold T. Steen, of San Antonio, Texas, to the *Army Vet Times*:

"I was in Korea for 18 months... My opinion as to the question, should we have announced agreement with the UN go all out for victory or putt-putt along in search of a negotiated peace? No, we shouldn't go all out for victory. I believe the Korean situation can be settled through a negotiated armistice.

"True, we have been just putt-putting along, but one step has been accomplished, that of the release of the young men in the Communist P.W. camps. The Communists have made one step forward. In due time an armistice can be negotiated..."

## TOWARDS PEACE

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom asked all its chapters to send letters and telegrams to President Eisenhower urging immediate cease-fire in Korea and American-Soviet negotiations.

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