

Port Elizabeth Workers Join Bus Boycott

NEW AGE

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Tens Of Thousands In Magnificent Gesture Of Solidarity

From Govan Mbeki

THE WHOLE BUS BOYCOTT SITUATION HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED BY THE DECISION OF THE WORKERS OF PORT ELIZABETH TO BOYCOTT THE LOCAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN SOLIDARITY WITH THEIR COMRADES IN THE TRANSVAAL.

At dawn on Monday, tens of thousands of Coloured and African workers in the Port Elizabeth area walked to work. Old and young converged on the city from the four points of the compass.

It was five o'clock when the people began streaming out of New Brighton. The first double-decker bus carried 10 people, the next carried five uniformed police, while the third carried its driver and conductor.

Each bus was escorted by armed police in vans, but the people walked to their work in the most orderly manner and there were no incidents.

By seven o'clock the streets were teeming with people on their way to work. At the entrance to the railway station stood armed police, and an engine belching smoke while it waited for people to fill the empty coaches.

But the people were walking to work.

Along the Uitenhage road from Dr. Phillips to distant Bethelsdorp endless columns walked. On the way nurses in white uniform mingled with the workers as they also walked to the Livingstone hospital.

From Korsten and Schauder Township streamed out Africans and Coloureds. The latter responded to the clarion call issued by SACPO on Sunday evening. In declaring their solidarity with the Africans, SACPO said in the leaflet: "Laat ons saam stap na ons vryheid."

In European residential areas householders came out to witness history disclose what the future holds in store. From Walmer and other areas people walked in sympathy with their brothers on the Reef.

In a circular letter to the Transport Company the ANC states: "In deciding to take this action the people wish to make it clear that they have no quarrel with you and as this action is intended to demonstrate their sympathy with the Reef people they do not intend to enter into any negotiations on the matter."

ANC STATEMENT

Following the statement released (Continued on page 3)

Boycotters Ready To Negotiate — But Fares Must Come Down

JOHANNESBURG.

PROSPECTS of a settlement of the bus boycott will only be entertained by the people on the basis of a return to the old fares.

This has been re-affirmed following last Sunday's meeting between Advisory Board members and boycott leaders in the Transvaal.

The Advisory Boards have hitherto held aloof from the boycott movement, but they invited boycott leaders to attend their meeting on Sunday.

The Advisory Board members told them to remain outside while they debated terms of admission, but the boycotters demanded immediate admission. Eventually the Boards decided to support the boycott, whereupon Mr. G. Xorlfe (Orlando) and members of the Moroka Board departed from the meeting.

DEMANDS

The meeting then resolved to demand:

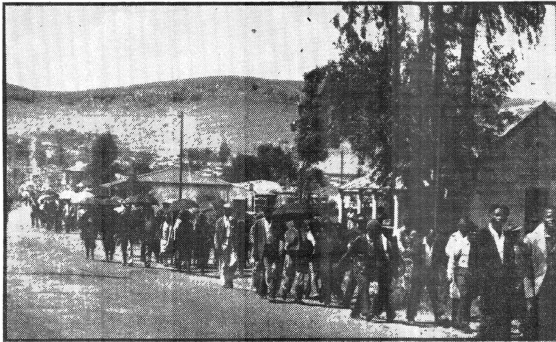
1. A reversion of the recent fare increases to the original level;
2. Direct talks with PUTCO, the bus company involved; and
3. A general increase in wages.

Another resolution condemned the strong-arm measures of the Government and police intimidation.

A spokesman of the Joint Co-ordinating Transport Council said

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20,000 AT FUNERAL OF POLICE VICTIM



ABOVE: Long lines of mourners march through the streets of Lady Selborne. BELOW: Joel Ramothibe's mother is escorted to the graveside.



Mourners Gave Afrika Salute

PRETORIA.

POLICE armed with sten guns were posted at the entrance to the graveyard when the body of Joel Ramothibe, shot by the police in an unprovoked attack on a Lady Selborne bus boycott meeting, was laid to rest by 20,000 people last Saturday afternoon.

The adult population of Lady Selborne turned out to this huge mass funeral, together with people from other Pretoria townships, boycott leaders from Alexandra Township, Moroka, Jabavu, Orlando, Germiston and the other boycott areas.

The mourners walked the four miles from the Bantu Hall in Lady Selborne to the graveyard, the old woman leading in front. The mass guard of honour to the cemetery gave the thumbs-up "Afrika" salute.

Taxis and private cars passing along the funeral route slowed down to a snail's pace as all passengers leaned out to give the Afrika salute.

A wreath from the 156 accused in the Treason Trial was among those placed on the grave.

The Congress flag flew over the grave as the aged father of Joel Ramothibe said: "I thought that my son would be buried by our enemies"

(Continued on page 5)

WORKERS' CONFERENCE DEMANDS £1 A DAY MINIMUM WAGE

JOHANNESBURG.

OVER 300 delegates representing 24,000 trade unionists and many thousands of unorganised workers from over 150 factories, shops and compounds attended the workers'

conference convened by SACTU on Sunday and demanded increased wages.

The resolution declared: "The average wage of £11 monthly is totally inadequate. The cost of liv-

ing allowances which have been pegged since March 1955, bear no relation to the cost of the basic essentials of life, namely meat, bread, vegetables, fruit, clothing,

(Continued on page 3)

NEW AGE IS LIVE THEIR LETTER BOX

EVERY week New Age is made aware of how necessary it is to have an independent weekly newspaper to support the people in their fight against oppression. A constant stream of letters to this effect reaches us from all parts of the Union, South-West Africa and the rest of the world. We have no doubt about the role that the people's newspaper is playing and must continue to play during these historic times.

... An African boards a train for Port Elizabeth on his return to his kraal. For the first time in his life he sees New Age. He says that his eyes have now been opened to what is happening in South Africa. He is no more blind. His blinkers have been removed by the newspaper ...

... In a pondokkie in a small village not far from Cape Town lives Mr. X who is one of our agents. He was set upon one day by a gang of "herrenvolk" thugs

who severely beat him up while on his rounds selling New Age. He subsequently lost his job and was warned to pull down his pondokkie because, amongst other things, he was found with a letter from New Age addressed to him. He was obviously an "agitator." But Mr. X assures us that no amount of intimidation by the authorities or hindings from hoodlums in the streets will stop him from selling New Age to the people because they want it ...

... Another reader describes how he reads and translates New Age every week to the illiterate workers in the locality of his small Karoo dop. Lately there has been trouble about the delivery of the newspaper. He suspects that somewhere along the line it is being deliberately withheld from him. He is checking up locally since he is determined that it should get to him. He says that the people cannot do

without their weekly edition of New Age—it has become part of their lives ...

These are typical examples taken from our mail. Are you prepared to withhold New Age from people like these? And there are thousands of others to whom the people's paper is as much part of their lives as is their daily bread.

Only a very big effort on your part can ensure that our paper reaches them.

Summary of Donations received from Branches period 4th-11th February, 1957:

Cape Town £88.6.7;	Port Elizabeth £1;	Johannesburg: January £40;	Rebecca £5;	Jumble £38;	Rennie and Sybil £10 (in honour of their marriage);	Fordsburg readers £11.1.6;	Bastouland £1;	Friends £13.10;	Ern £20;	Old Friend £50.
Total £268 8s. 1d.										

EDITORIAL

BOSSSES HAVE A DUTY TO SETTLE THE BOYCOTT

THE time has come for all parties to press for a settlement of the bus boycott as soon as possible.

Schoeman's "treat 'em tough" policy has proved an absolute failure. More than that, it has inflamed hostility between white and black, between people and the police, to a dangerous degree.

Persistence in this negative approach to the boycott can only result in disaster, for which the Government will have to bear the full responsibility.

The plain fact of the boycott which no Government blustering can hide is that the African people are living at starvation level and simply cannot afford an increase in fares. If Schoeman and his cronies do not want to acknowledge this, it is nevertheless a fact. The tens of thousands of men, women and children who walk to and from town each day bear witness to it.

The Nationalist answer to the people's pleas is police raids and force in an attempt to drive them back on to the buses. The effect of this futile policy has been only to help Elizabeth the poor of their Reef towns and now finally to Port Elizabeth.

We recall again the words of Pretoria's Manager of Non-European Affairs (Mr. J. R. Brent) when the boycott first started. The root of the trouble, he said, is economic, the Africans can't pay the increases in bus fares, and "the obligation to pay the increases is unquestionably the employers'."

At a time when Schoeman's crack-brained obstinacy is leading the country to disaster, it is the duty of the bus company and all the employers in commerce and industry to reject the Government's lead and enter into direct negotiations with the boycotters. The boycotters are ready to negotiate. If the bosses were to make a genuine offer to the boycott leaders, the whole situation could be transformed and a peaceful solution ensued.

But if the bosses continue to play Schoeman's game and rely on the police to beat the people into submission, the people will then have no alternative but to carry on the struggle to the bitter end. There can be no unconditional surrender. The people are not prepared to starve for Schoeman's benefit.

THIS IS THE WAY THE REMOVALS TAKE PLACE

Last month I was residing at Eureka Estate, No. 9 Qobasha, as a tenant, with my wife and five children. When I came back from work on the evening of July 30th, I found a letter from the Divisional Council of the Cape, ordering me to move to Nyanga by the 31st to open site No. 3021, where I was told to build my pondok.

not to the open veld site 3021, but to 2975, which is half-built.

MILTON DOSIE
Cape Town.

Peter Clarke's Exhibition

An interesting showing of drawings and paintings is on view until March 2nd at Oranje House, 10-14 Upper Darling Street, by a promising young Coloured artist, Peter Clarke. Mr. Clarke has had no formal training, and yet, despite his youth, his drawings have a technical proficiency many of his fellow artists might well envy.

Allied to his ability to draw is a sensitivity of outlook and a modesty and unpretentiousness of subject matter which combine to give the showing a pleasing quality of sincerity.

Most of the pictures are really sketches, drawn directly from life, either in pencil or in brush and coloured inks. The thoughtful characterisation of his too few pencil portraits indicate that this side of his talent should be developed.

Pictures I found particularly interesting were the wistful portrait of Jeffrey Avontuur (No. 23), the swift brush drawing of the "Fishermen" at Simonstown (No. 12) and the delicate, almost Japanese-like "Kitchen Still-life" (11).

For a first showing, Mr. Clarke impresses, but certainly there is a long period of study and growth ahead, which if he approaches it energetically, should take him a long way forward. We wish him success.

J.B.

PROTEST AT EXPULSION OF MR. TYESI FROM P.E.

We have read with consternation and disgust of the despicable action of the Port Elizabeth municipality which has endorsed Mr. B. Tyesi out of the municipal area.

Mr. Tyesi is a man who has given his whole life to serving others, who has fought and won a heroic battle against tuberculosis, who, despite impaired health, has never ceased to play an active part in the struggle for liberation and particularly in the struggle to free African children from the poison of Bantu Education.

We know Mr. Tyesi as the senior cultural club leader in the Cape Eastern area; we know what a magnificent role he has played in establishing and maintaining the New Brighton Club which caters for over 1,000 children whose parents have so outrageously renounced Bantu Education.

The choir established by Mr. Tyesi is known throughout the Eastern Cape. He has enriched the culture of South Africa by his contribution in the sphere of music.

To victimise such a man by the

Boycotters Have A Mighty Weapon

Brave Boycotters! You have a mighty weapon in your hands and it is no secret that the Government fear it. Mr. Schoeman himself said that if you win this fight there is no knowing what you will go on to next.

But because the Government are afraid they are using illegal, desperate measures. Each day brings news of Africans being sent to hospital by the ever-ready gangs and batons of the police, business men being asked to demand "efficiency and punctuality" from tired workers, the never-ending "passes" arrests etc. etc. Your stand has been a setback to the Government.

The Government has many weapons and will use them all. Your strongest weapons are your unity and determination. Use them well you can win

A FRIEND

Nigel.

cynical use of powers under the Urban Areas Amendment Act is a social and moral crime and the Port Elizabeth municipality stands convicted of crime, and furthermore of allowing itself to be used as the tool of Dr. Verwoerd.

Attempts by the Minister of Native Affairs to crush the cultural clubs through police raids, arrests, and prosecutions have failed. Now the attack is being made upon the individual by the most contemptible means: the use of the pass system, a system which degrades not those who are its victims, but those who administer it.

HELEN JOSEPH.
NORMAN LEVY.
ROBERT RESHA.
JAMES HADEBE.

The Day of the Dawn

I shall never forget the dawn of 5th December, 1956, when the aircraft with our leaders crossed the sky for Johannesburg, where they were to appear at a preparatory examination on charges of High Treason.

I'm writing as one in the Liberator's Struggle, addressing my other comrades, telling them that they must remember that day, because it will be part of the history of South Africa in the near future.

I will never forget that day, when, with tears, I saw fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters taken away. My heart was very sore, because those freedom-lovers were those who asked for equal rights. Comrades, the time has arrived when we Youth Leaders must stand and fight for equal rights for Black and White.

Comrades, do not forget the school boycott. We must boycott the schools till we win our victory, because this education which Verwoerd wants the teachers to teach us is bad Bantu Education.

AFRIKA! MAYIBUYE! NGOKU!
ANTI-BANTU EDUCATION
(16 Years Old)

The Kite Is Coming Down

Apart from the Suppression, not of Communism, but of Witchcraft this time, and only God knows what next, the Nats' annual instalment of apartheid legislation has been somewhat upset by the raging bus boycott on the Rand and in Pretoria during the first few weeks of this Parliamentary session.

The simple lesson is: When the individual fed-ups of the masses shall have been put together, then, the cotton twine will be cut, and the kite will surely come down.

During a storm, some birds, hares and other creatures are swept away and lose their lives. But afterwards the green pastures of the fields grow and there is plenty to eat for all that survive.

J. D. MATLOU

Johannesburg.

White Domination Coming To An End

About 30 people joined the ANC at a mass meeting in support of the arrested leaders held here on Sunday January 27.

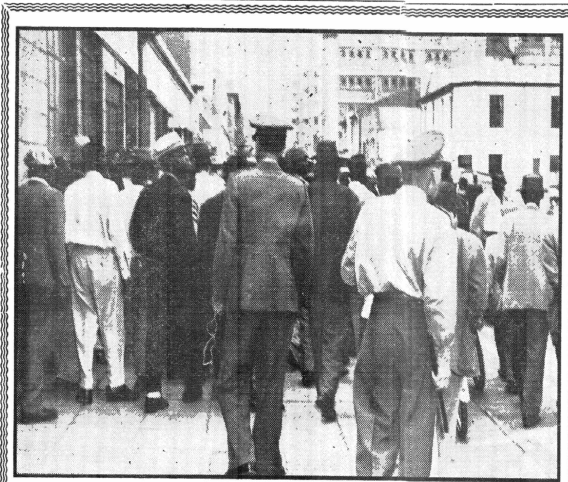
"We will go on demanding till victory is achieved. The Nats know that apartheid, being a 'Faknakalo', will crush itself against the mainstream of our time, which flows away from the old era of imperialism, colonial exploitation, and race oppression to an era of equality and freedom of all peoples," said Mr. J. Ngubue.

"More and more former colonies are achieving independence, and soon others will also throw off the imperialist chains."

Mr. E. K. Tollie, after quoting from the Freedom Charter that the People Shall Govern, said: "Every act of oppression of liberty, every insult to the people, swells the army of those determined to pull down the Government. We, the people of South Africa, Black, Brown, and White, will one day sit around conference tables with our brothers and sisters from all parts of Africa. We shall get there."

A speaker from the audience, Mr. Sojagwa, said the Nats are beginning to realise that the days of White domination are coming to an end.

Mr. K. Baartman presided.
KEKE E. TOLLIE
Worcester



Police disperse crowds outside the Johannesburg Pass Office during last week's trouble.

WHY THERE'S TROUBLE AT THE PASS OFFICE

JOHANNESBURG.

ARMED police dispersed a large crowd of angry workers outside Johannesburg's handsome new Non-European Affairs (Municipal) Department building last week. The workers were demonstrating against continued delays in issuing them with permits to seek work.

Singing Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika they surged forward from the queue in which they had been standing (some of them day after day for two weeks) and attempted to force their way into the courtyard. Driven back, it was alleged some began throwing stones (but not a single broken window was to be seen when a New Age reporter arrived on the scene shortly afterwards).

There was a tense atmosphere as the police, armed with sten guns, revolvers and batons advanced on the seething, excited crowd of over 1,000 men.

"We come here day after day," one work-seeker told our reporter. "We wait from the morning till four o'clock. Then they come out with specials and tell us to come back tomorrow. Always tomorrow! My family is starving!"

"And when you do get in—endorsed out! Another worker chipped in. "Two pounds a month job on a farm."

A pass official standing by opened up a bit when he realised he was talking to a representative of New Age. "I read it every week. But please don't print my name. It'll mean my job."

"The real trouble here is that the system just won't work. As soon as a man wants to change his job, he's got to come here and get a permit to seek work. Even if he was born in Johannesburg. Then down to the government pass office a mile away to the labour bureau. His job doesn't suit, or his boss doesn't like him—all over again. And at any stage he's likely to be kicked out of town."

"The staff here really can't cope, even if they worked hard. They don't. Ninety per-

cent are Nats. You should hear how they talk to these people. I would stand for it!

There's going to be more trouble here, you watch. I'm surprised this didn't happen before."

We thanked him and left.

"By the way," he called us back. "Please don't put my name in New Age."

EISENHOWER DOCTRINE A DANGER TO PEACE P.E. WORKERS JOIN BUS BOYCOTT

JOHANNESBURG.

THE so-called new Middle East policy of the United States is sharply criticised in a statement just issued by the South African Peace Council as a disregard of the United Nations and an attempt to supplant British and French influence over Middle East countries and to gain control of rich oil resources.

The statement says that the key to peace and stability in this region does not lie in the replacement of the influence of one foreign power by another—the idea of "filling" the so-called "vacuum." It lies in the rapid development, economically and politically, of each of these countries under stable and democratic administration, independent of any power groupings.

The greatest danger to peace is the new Middle East policy of the U.S.A. All who are interested in the urgent task of preserving peace in every part of the world feel deep concern at the propagation of this stage by the U.S.A. of the policy which has been called the "Eisenhower doctrine."

It accepted by the Senate this policy will give authority to the American President to use United States military forces at any time under the pretext of "resisting communist aggression against any nation in the Middle East." It will also allow him to spend up to 200 million dollars in this area during the next six months in return for which the U.S.A. will no doubt obtain major economic and military concessions.

The South African Peace Council protests against this policy. U.N.O. has organs which have been

Treason Trial Speeded Up By New Agreement

THE DRILL HALL.

FIVE weeks have ticked slowly by in the hessian make-shift courtroom of the mass Treason Trial and at last the first stage of the proceedings—the handing in of documentary exhibits—promises to be considerably shortened as a result of a Crown-Defence agreement.

Marshaled in large buff envelopes and brought to court in tin trunks, the Crown has about 10,000 documents to hand in to the court: conference reports and resolutions, agenda, press releases, books, journals, New Age, Fighting Talk and Liberation—and duplicates and triplicates and many more copies of all these.

The half way mark in the documents was reached at the end of last week when the Crown announced that it would tender these documents in bulk (though still reading over certain selected passages in some documents) instead of one by one.

For the defence Mr. John Coaker said the agreement was to save time and expense. The defence would admit "only the bare facts . . . that certain documents were taken from certain premises on a certain day by certain persons (detectives). The defence would still reserve the right to cross-examine the searcher in any case it thought fit; it would reserve the right to contest the admissibility of any document.

SPEEDED UP

In the afternoon of this new announced procedure the Crown handed in 600 documents, compared to about 4,000 in the four preceding weeks.

The morning session was drowned out, partly by a heavy downpour. As usual when it rains heavily, the court adjourned to the drum of water on the roof and the disturbed crackling of the loud-speakers.

When the court resumed some hours later Farried Adams, number one accused, found himself sitting in a three-foot square hole cut from the ceiling, and he was forced

to raise the black umbrella belonging to defence counsel John Coaker above his head to ward off the water. The court adjourned for lunch shortly after that.

Documents already familiar in the courtroom continue to crop up steadily; "Hands off Egypt" leaflets; women's anti-pass campaign documents; "Education for Ignorance" (the Congress of Democrats pamphlet on Bantu Education); ANC reports and minutes; Youth Festival posters . . . and lots more.

Sitting next to the prosecutor, members of the Special Branch hand up the exhibits. Every now and then the prosecutor omits one or two seemingly preparing his case as he goes along.

For most of the week, long strings of detectives continued to walk, one after the other, across the front of the court and to the witness box, parading such like horses in the paddock on the day of the race.

ACCUSED'S DENIAL

Earlier in the week yet another suggestion (the second) from the prosecutor that during identifications by detectives the accused were dropping their heads and thus making identification difficult brought a spontaneous outburst of denial from the rows of accused.

The 'Star' reported that the accused had made an uproar in the dock with a "sudden outburst of boing and shouting," but this report was criticised by the magistrate as "highly exaggerated." He added, however, that the accused should refrain from any such exhibition of their feelings in the dock.

FIVE DEATHS IN NEWCLARE CLASH WITH POLICE

JOHANNESBURG.

FIVE deaths and innumerable injuries occurred during police action at Newclare on Sunday when, amidst a terrible thunderstorm, European and Non-European policemen clashed with people in the streets using batons, knieries and axes.

Torrents of water were rushing through the streets sometimes knee high.

Eyewitnesses told New Age they saw some policemen thrust injured and even unconscious Africans below the surface. All the deaths were due to drowning. The bodies were only recovered on Sunday night and Monday morning.

The trouble began on Sunday morning when members of the Matsieng faction of the "Russian" section of Newclare returned from the funeral of a member killed in the previous week's fight against the Masupha faction. The Matsieng told the police Masupha men were hiding in certain rooms. The police van arrived and the police began breaking into the rooms, which were empty. The inmates of the rooms stirred and began protesting, and ultimately stoned the police who left hurriedly in their van to report to the local police station.

That afternoon about 3 o'clock, amidst one of the worst storms ever, the police arrived at Newclare in great force and there ensued the dreadful clash with the people, who allege they were hit indiscriminately.

Mr. Isaac Bokala, one of the treason accused, says the police were armed with axes and other sharp instruments in addition to their usual batons and knieries.

"I saw the police pushing people under the water," said Mr. Bokala. "I have never seen so many police." People were searching all night for the bodies.

used and which can now be used to resist aggression by international force and to distribute economic aid without attaching political or economic strings.

For a powerful State to usurp these functions—and do so when no threat of aggression to the Middle East has been made—cannot lead to great international security in this area.

Workers' Conference Demands £1 A Day Minimum Wage

(Continued from page 1)

transport and rent—the price of all of which have increased . . . "The majority of workers live below the poverty-datum line and are ill and undernourished . . ."

This meeting demands a minimum wage of £1 per day. . . . The meeting declared solidarity with the bus boycotters, pledged support and assistance and demanded acceptance of the people's demands by the bus companies.

Another resolution demanded the immediate withdrawal of the bans on SACTU officials Len Levy and Leslie Massaia.

by the ANC (Cape) last Thursday (February 7) depriving the Government's interest in the Reef bus boycott, the ANC announced through leaflets on Saturday evening that from dawn on Monday February 11 the people of the Eastern Cape will embark on a boycott of buses and trams.

Referring to the 2d. increase in Reef bus fares, the leaflet says it is the economic price which the African is daily being called upon to pay in order to make apartheid workable.

The leaflet states that the people decided to walk in order to save the 2d. to feed their children. It continues thus: "Mr. Schoeman has decided they have no business to save the 2d. They must pay it on the buses in order to prove apartheid is not costly. If the 2d. is paid, millions of Africans will be without a meal while they finance apartheid for the Nationalists."

The leaflet concludes: "It is clear where our duty lies, where our interests as individuals and as a class lie. We embark on this boycott in sympathy with our brothers on the Reef."

NEW WAYS OF PLANNING IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

A GREAT problem facing the socialist countries is to combine overall centralised planning of economic development with mass working class control of industry.

On the one hand meticulous planning by experts is essential if the resources of the country are to be most efficiently used, and on the other hand the working population must be made to feel, and actually be in such a position that they have control over economic life.

In dealing with this problem all the countries of the socialist world are agreed on the necessity for drawing up Plans periodically for the regulation of the economy. The Plans have this much in common that they chart out the rates of increase in the various sectors of industry, but policy differs from country to country as regards the degree of autonomy to be granted to the various industrial enterprises in deciding how their particular quotas are to be arrived at and how the finished product is to be distributed.

Independent Policy

The post-Twentieth Congress period has been marked by the strengthening of the idea in the socialist countries that although each country must develop its own policies in fields such as defence, much can be learnt from the experience gained by others in constructing socialist industry.

Particular interest has been shown during this last year in the system of workers' self-management councils operating generally in Yugoslavia. Here the workers in each industrial enterprise exercise fairly full powers of control over their particular unit of

WORLD STAGE

By Spectator

production. They elect their own directors and managing councils which plan not only what should be produced, within a certain range, with the resources at their disposal, but also the distribution of the finished product. The workers also receive directly a share of the profits made.

The Yugoslav leaders have been criticised for glorifying their own particular system and for suggesting that it is a model to be followed in its entirety by all the socialist countries. At the same time, in varying degrees, many of the socialist countries are trying to assimilate what is useful to them from Yugoslav experience and have embarked on a series of important experiments making for more direct management by the workers of factories and mines.

East Germany

In East Germany workers' committees have been set up in 20 factories of varying types to act as guinea-pigs before such committees are universally introduced in nationally owned plants. This step follows on a special conference of workers called by the Socialist Unity Party towards the end of last year, attended by delegates from nearly 900 of East Germany's most important factories.

At this conference the S.U.P. secretary, Walter Ulbricht, stressed that the most important question was to strengthen the ties between the working class and the state and economic organisations. He made it clear that there was no intention of following the Yugoslav pattern in making factories autonomous. He claimed that this would be impossible in East Germany, a country highly developed industrially with a far-reaching division of labour and system of co-operation between various factories.

"A so-called self-administration or autonomy would lead to economic confusion," he said.

The workers' committees so far set up have been given power to review the factory plan, to control production, to arrange the distribution of premiums for good work, and to deal with important personnel problems. They have the right to elect by all means workers in the factory concerned, with the proviso that at least two-thirds of the committee members are to be from the bench.

In case of a dispute between the works director and the workers' committee, the matter must be re-

ferred to the minister responsible for that branch of industry.

China

In China, the policy is that there can be no pre-conceived idea as to what the best method of workers' control is, and each enterprise is being left to choose whatever it thinks best. Varying degrees of workers' management are being tried out in seven of the major state-owned factories in Peking.

At some of them the workers have elected powers of management through management committees elected by the workers. At others State-appointed directors have full powers, but periodically they meet with workers' representatives who discuss with them production plans and criticise shortcomings in management.

Poland

In Poland the development of workers' councils is proceeding rapidly. Although their success is by no means assured, and some Polish economists have serious doubts, a large section of the working people are known to have great faith in them. They believe that the councils will:

- Deliver decentralised Poland's economic units, industrial distribution and otherwise, out of the hands of bureaucracy.

- Put the working class firmly in control of the means of production and subsistence.

- Create new moral and material incentives which will raise the spirits of the workers, prove to them that under socialism the workers are the boss, release their initiative and inspire them to increase production.

- Minimise the need for cumbersome centralisation with all its inefficiency, wastefulness, abuses and frustrations. The essential central economic plan will be retained, but in a much modified form.

The new law on the formation of workers' councils, passed at the last session of the Szym (parliament) is explicit about the basic form and function of the councils.

Two out of three of the council members, the law says, must be workers. The councils must be democratically elected by secret ballot and must regularly report to a mass meeting of all workers.

Should a dispute arise between the trade union organisation and the workers' council, then the problem should be put before a mass meeting of all the workers.

Their Function

The councils will be the 'factory general managers on behalf of the state.' Directors and their deputies may only be appointed and dismissed by the appropriate state organisation in consultation with the councils.

The kind of activities being developed by some of the councils throws light on their possibilities. The Warsaw Zeran Motor Works, for example, intend doubling the quota of 7,000 motor cars given them by the central planning authority. If they do they will make a considerable profit, some of which will be divided amongst the workers, providing them with a month's extra pay.

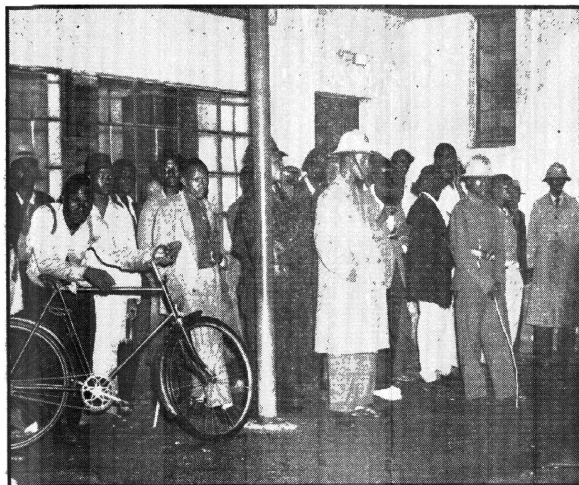
Their overplan scheme depends on an increased steel supply, so they have contracted directly with the Nova Huta foundry to receive the extra steel from the latter's overplan production. Previously such an arrangement would have had to go through a hierarchy of central boards and ministerial authorities controlling the two industries.

Other factories, such as Poland's biggest radio and T.V. producers, are developing direct sales to the customers. They wish to know what the consumer wants.

Experiment

The Polish leaders emphasise the experimental nature of the councils, and stress the need for the 'expert' to be listened to and given a controlling hand. Yet it is felt that if the economy can be built up only with the enthusiastic support of the workers, the unpopularity of the development will be averted.

While the more spectacular political developments in the socialist world have dominated newspaper reports for the last year, it is no exaggeration to say that the unpopularity of developments in the control of industry may prove in the long run to be of more permanent importance.



Thousands of Africans have been detained and arrested for pass offences during the course of the bus boycott in Johannesburg. Here are some of the boycotters under armed guard after their arrest.

"The Police have no interest in the boycott," says Rademeyer; But

"I'LL SHOOT YOU IF YOU TRY TO ESCAPE", POLICEMAN WARNED ME

I WAS caught up in the police blitz last Wednesday. After hearing my argument the policeman who arrested me grimed fiendishly and said: "You can call Berrange." He pulled me out of the car. There was a lorry pulled up next to the road with already a dozen or more people arrested for pass and poll tax offences.

I had a book in my hand. When I turned to hand it to my friends in the car, the policeman kept close behind me and warned: "I'll shoot you if you try to escape."

The time was about 6.30 p.m. Some minutes earlier we had driven up Harrow Road into Louis Botha Avenue. The small Renault made the run down Louis Botha—home of a sound and splendid style. There wasn't much traffic on the road. The stream of marchers had thinned out. I learn that since the boycott a number of firms have let their workers off early.

Co-operation

We discussed with satisfaction the good spirit of co-operation demonstrated by the lift-givers. We were going the last lap when we came up to the police blockade. A few White uniformed police stood in the middle of the road swinging their arms and directing all motor cars with African passengers to pull up at the side of the road.

Several other police accosted the cars, pushed their heads into the car windows and demanded that the unpopularity of the boycott be explained to them. Scores of Africans were queuing with passes in their hands.

As if it were not obvious, One policeman came up to our car and said to our Indian driver: "Is this your family?" Including myself there were three African men.

A police sergeant nicknamed "Machine gun" was busy lining up the fellows and ordering them to take out their passes.

He let fly one or two blows on those who delayed or fell out of the queue. He sounded really vicious as he recited: "So-and-so—failure to produce valid document. Arrears in poll tax... '55 '56," or alternatively the charge was failure to produce a permit to stay in Alexandra Township. He always had an alternative charge up his sleeve.

I successfully argued about my school pass. Then he asked me for an "exemption tax" and told me that if I continued to argue he would disallow any payment of "admission of guilt" by me. "You are a law student, hey? What law do you know?"

I was not sure whether one of the older men who was with us was being arrested for drunkenness but as we stepped out he was struck and fell like a log to the ground.

Everyone was abusing PUTCO. One fellow endeavoured to express the unwisdom of accepting lifts but was quickly answered: "We shall pay the fines and the tax but shall not ride the buses."

Kwela Kwela

Presently a troop carrier (kwela-kwela) came and we were transferred to it and taken to the Wynberg police station.

There was a special office for taking the particulars of the people arrested in the blitz. I later

"We Came Here To Learn, Not To Take Out Pass Books"

SCHOOLGIRLS AT VENTERSDORP REFUSE PASSES

From Robert Resha

THE issuing of Reference Books to African women in Ventersdorp brought the Boitsoso Secondary School to a standstill last Friday. There were no classes. About 120 girls left for their homes to consult their parents whether or not they should accept Reference Books.

On Thursday morning two trucks from the Native Affairs Department entered the Boitsoso Secondary School for the purpose of issuing Reference Books to the students girls. The Governor of the school asked the officials for a letter from the local Native Commissioner authorising them to issue Reference Books to the students. This they did not have. They then left to go and get this letter from the Native Commissioner.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

In the evening at about half past eight while the students were at the Students' Christian Association meeting, the principal came and asked to talk to the girls only. The boys left. He told the girls that the Native Commissioner had informed him that the girls would be issued with Reference Books the following day. Those who did not have 3/6d. would be taken to Ventersdorp on February 28, to get their Reference Books.

The girls wanted to know whether it was compulsory for them to take the Reference Books. The principal said he did not know but that could be explained by the officials in the morning. The girls then told the principal that they were not going to take the Reference Books until they had consulted their parents.

They asked the principal to give them their return tickets so that they could proceed to their homes the following day.

In reply the principal asked the girls to be cool. He told them to wait until the officials were there and if the officials were agreeable he would give them their return tickets.

UP EARLY

At 3 a.m. on Friday morning the girls were all up. They went to the principal's house and asked him to give them their return tickets. They could not wait until the officials of the Native Affairs Department and police were there. The principal told them that it was too early, they should go and sleep he would see them at school.

Going back to the hostel, the girls started to sing a new song com-

posed on the spur of the moment "AZITHWALA I PASI" (we do not carry the passes). They went round the school singing. Entering their hostel they started packing.

By 8 a.m. the girls were all walking to the station for their trains. The boys came, pledging their solidarity with the girls, the boys said: "It is not right that you should go now before the officials come. Hear what they are going to say, then you can go home."

The girls answered "We do not

COD Backing For Bus Boycott

JOHANNESBURG.

A resolution of sympathy with the bus boycotters was passed at a Congress of Democrats meeting held in the St. Luke's Hall, Johannesburg, last week.

The resolution applauded the unity and discipline of the boycotters, and protested against the police and state intervention on the side of a private company.

Speakers at the meeting were Mr. Nzo, the secretary of the Co-ordinating Transport Council, and Mr. Michael Harmel. Mr. Nzo pointed out that the majority of Africans in industry and commerce earned less than £15 per month and they lived below the breadline as a result. It was thus impossible for them to bear increased transport costs. He retorted allegations of intimidation by pointing out that the Boycott Committee in Alexandra, of which he is chairman, consists of 20 people. It was "ridiculous" to suggest that it could intimidate 40,000 bus-users.

Mr. Harmel spoke of the nervousness of the Natal workers, and said that they imagined themselves as an army of occupation in conquered territory. The giving of lifts to the boycotters was an act of defiance against the Government, he said. Race relations were improved by those Europeans who did so.

The meeting was attended by over 1,000 people from all over the Western Cape and opened with the choir singing Freedom songs. A busload of supporters came from Worcester.

Three car loads of Special Branch members were also present, but there were no incidents.

The chairman, Mr. Zolly Malinde, called on people in Cape Town to make their stand in support of their leaders by joining the Congress movement.

Issuing a warning to the Coloured people, Mr. Henry Naudé, SACP chairman, said: "We must learn the bitter lesson from the sufferings of the African people, and realise that although the yoke of the oppressor has rested lightly on us in the past,

increasing legislation is being made to press us down.

"Africa is on the march, and the Coloured people should wake up and join their African comrades in their building up of a united front to smash this vicious power-mad Nationalist Government."

will be manhandled by the police. We have seen these things happening before and we are taking no chances. We are going home. We will come back and tell you what our parents have said. We came here to learn not to receive Reference Books."

GIRLS ADAMANT

At this stage the principal came. He told the girls that the Native Commissioner had said the Reference Books would be issued not at the school, but at their respective homes. But the girls were adamant. They asked the principal to allow them to go to their homes. They were afraid to stay.

The principal then said: "If you go then you are no longer quarrelling about the issue of Reference Books; you are fighting my education." The reply from all the girls was that they were quite satisfied with the school and education. "We will come back."

The principal having refused to give them their return tickets, money for single tickets was collected at the station and when the train arrived they all boarded it.

On Thursday and Friday Reference Books were being issued to women in Uitkyk Location, about ten miles from Ventersdorp.

BISHOP SADDENED BY LOUW DISTORTIONS

A WELL-ORGANISED political demonstration fostered by leading Communist and other left-wing organisations. With the aid of workless township thugs and other elements an iron discipline has been imposed on the Bantu, many of whom are not willing to participate in the boycott; a number of Bantu have been assaulted . . .

That's the Fortnightly Digest of South African Affairs "reporting" (mainly for overseas consumption) on the bus boycott.

The Digest hopes by such twisted reporting to deceive the overseas reader, who does not know the facts—for instance:

1. The boycott is not a political demonstration, but a simple underpaid that they cannot afford a 25 per cent increase in transport costs . . .
2. It was not "well-organised," being largely a spontaneous mass decision arrived at at a few days notice.
3. It is not "fostered by Communist organisations." The African National Congress, which elsewhere in the same Digest is blamed for the boycott and described as an "extremist left-wing" organisation "with Communist sympathies," is well-known in this country as a broad body including and led by men and women of widely varying political views.
4. The statement about "workless township thugs" imposing "iron discipline" is sheer abuse, without a single fact to support it.
5. Not a single African has been assaulted in connection with the boycott—except by the police.

There you have five misstatements in two sentences—not bad going. And ten out of 32 pages in the current issue are devoted to the boycott.

The Fortnightly Digest is published by the State Information Office in Pretoria. It is sent, free of charge, to selected addresses all over the world.

The current issue has distorted many readers including the Bishop of Johannesburg, who last week described his version of the boycott as "a sorry distortion of the facts." He added: "I am saddened to read of the description of the leadership of the boycott given by the authors of the statement, because from personal knowledge of those organising the boycott I know that they are neither 'thugs' nor 'Communists' but ordinary decent people concerned with the welfare of their community."

British Support For Defence Fund

LONDON.

An appeal to the British Labour Movement "to subscribe generously in defence of those who are in the front line of the battle against racial discrimination" has been sent to the British Press by Morgan Phillips, the general secretary of the British Labour Party.

"Members of the British Labour Movement have long condemned South African apartheid and racial discrimination in all its forms," states the appeal. "Now there is a clear opportunity to supplement words with action."

The appeal calls for financial aid for the Treason Trial Defence Fund as a matter of urgency.

At a public meeting called by Christian Action and addressed by Father Huddleston in London last week, over £1,200 was raised for the Fund.

Mourners Gave Afrika Salute

(Continued from page 1)

because I am poor, but the Congress will be unbroken and unbroken, I hope this will not end with my son."

A police officer by bury Ramothibe was refused by his father.

But men who were present at the night watch over the body were raided for permits and several were arrested.

Reef boycott leaders who travelled to the funeral by bus were stopped by the police and traffic inspectors, the bus emptied and the men told to proceed on foot. The bus was then guarded by police in troop carriers.

This story, said the judges of the New Age competition, "has an exciting vitality and freshness. It is a rich portrayal of life in an African township."

Though set in Port Elizabeth's African township of New Brighton, this is a tale of everywhere, of Alexandra township or Orlando, of Lady Selborne or Sophiatown or District Six. It is a story of hard life and sudden death, of the tragedy which may overtake any man at any time in the African townships today, where poverty and oppression breed desperation, violence and crime.

NEW AGE CAN TELL

INSIDE the room a youth was stripped to the waist. He expanded his muscled chest, shrugged his broad shoulders and put on his nylon shirt. Over the shirt he pulled on his tattered cardigan then reached for his jacket and soon he put it down and looked at it for some moments. At the edge of his mouth was a cigarette dangling, almost a stub. He took a last deep pull from it, filling his lungs. He took out the cigarette, allowed it to fall on to the floor and crushed it under his foot. He blew the smoke out. Then he watched the smoke-rings sail across the room. The loneliness in that room haunted and seemed to torture him. He hitched up his pants and then made for the door.

As he shut the door behind him he felt a pang of hunger; never before, he said to himself, would he would return to get some food before he would go out again to spend the whole night with other boys.

It was a summer's evening. The day was Saturday, which is always a half-holiday for the black citizens of South Africa. And it was moonlight. The roads seemed like ribbons of moonlight. The evening was cool and the air smelt sweet. This sweetness might have come from the sleeping flowers implanted in the gardens of the inhabitants of the location. A cool, gentle breeze was blowing along, making everybody feel physically and mentally fresh. Although the moon retained her whiteness a small red spot in the centre was clearly visible.

Muni, bare-headed, ambled heavily as though fatigued along the side of the road, with hands thrust deep into his trousers' pockets. After a short walk, he turned round a corner and entered a "certain" street.

In the doorway of a corner house, a girl was swaying to the tune of soft jazz music from a radio gram. He could hear the moan of saxophones, the soft but distinct clanging of drums. He watched the movements of her waist. She whistled to her. She returned his whistle. He was about to turn and enter the gate of the yard when she opened the door into the house and closed the door. He felt disappointed but nevertheless he resumed his journey. He looked back to see whether she was there again. No she wasn't there. He cursed that door, cursed his luck. . . . He walked down the moonlit street, thinking about her. And in this street he came across these . . .

There was a group of young men and women singing traditional songs and clapping their hands around a circle. Muni idled over and watched. Inside the circle some young men performed traditional dances. Not far from the traditional dancers under an electric standard a group of juvenile delinquents were as busy as bees,

the dice were rolling and pennies were tricking. To them there was nothing particularly dishonest about these pennies. There were quite a few "pigeons" being plucked. He went towards them. He knew most of the players and returned their greetings. The stake was too high for some. And those who had no means to roll the dice was not in the mood for playing that day. Then he produced a battered cigarette from some obscure source beneath his tattered cardigan and asked:—"Gotta match to spare, chum?" Without looking up the other one said, "Ia" and produced a box of matches from a coat pocket. Muni lit his cigarette; exhaled a cloud of smoke and returned the box.

"Thanks palie," he said.

Leaning against a near-by tree he saw a young man and his girl looking at a warm embrace, talking about their love affairs and their future doings, he thought. There was a never-ending stream of passing people—groups of men and women milled up and down, talking aloud and laughing.

Muni's gaze passed down the street. A drunkard was coming, swaying about and singing his riddle and never-ending songs. A little further down he spied some houses, from which people were coming out and others going in. At that gates stood some sentinels who were busy watching carefully for any sign of police. He knew that the whole place reeked of throbbed while the shebeen queues were busy dishing out the notorious concoction—"pineapple brew." The whole place reeked of it. The house was packed to overflowing. Those who were already highly intoxicated and became rowdy were severely admonished to keep quiet or march out. Undoubtedly he knew that inside those houses, quite concealed from the passers-by, was love and hate, life and death.

Apart from all these, down on the corner of the street he observed under an electric standard a group of elderly men sitting in that he did not look up at the sky or the post. But he did see on the stoep of some houses near-by that there were young men and girls, students of the local schools, reading some books. These young men and women he recommended during week-ends in the location. In short the night was of the first rank. This was Jabavu Road, one of the busiest streets during week-ends in the location. In veracity it was well known for its business. In spite of it all it was reputed to be the richest street

in New Brighton. There was in it that warmth of happy throbbing hearts; "Life" . . . a question with out an answer . . . next door to life there's that answer without a question . . . "Death."

ABRUPTLY there was a burst of violence. The dice stake had reached its spitting point. A big husky, evidently drags-drunk, who seemingly had lost a great deal of money in the game, emerged from the stake, made an intricate dance and moved towards the group of on-lookers. He picked upon a younger fellow. He was undoubtedly at the highest pinnacle of real drags drunkenness. "Hand over my Zuka," he

by Jimmy T. Matyu

said in a mottled language. "Which Zuka . . . but?"

They burst into a motley of languages, to which the young man resorted as a lingo of theirs. The big fellow talked quickly and incessantly accusing the young man of failing to give him his money. The game had stopped. All were eyeing the two.

"Yes! You Tsotsi," said the big bully.

"I am not laughing . . ."

"I'm gonna show you."

Both antagonists stared at each other. With a furious curse, the bully lunged forward and struck a mighty blow on the youth's head. As the youth fell he grabbed at the bully's clothing. Together they went down, they rolled on the ground. This was going to be the real thing, it was going to be a fight to the finish . . . the fittest only would survive.

He raised his fist in the air. It clenched a gleaming steel blade. The hand soon came down with a mighty force, the youth's chest was the butt of the blow. The blade came up again, but this time it was drenched in human blood. The bully was shrieking curses even to the youth's paragon.

The youth attempted to rise. An expression of pain and agony disfigured his countenance. He looked dazed but soon pulled himself together. He was again with hatred and anger. He gazed a few yards from him stood the man who had stabbed him. His own chest was all blood. "You have finished me . . ." he cried. He jerked one foot in an effort to move, but collapsed. Two youths came nearer. "He is dead!" they shouted. The man had claimed another victim, another human soul.

All the excitement stopped. And then the singing stopped. The political arguments ceased. The

students on the house stoeps set aside their homework. They all ran to the fight scene. All their attention had suddenly been attracted to the bloody scene. People gathered in a little group round the corpse. And the word went echoing grimly down and up the street. A single, but a hoarse and hurt-feeling syllable: "MURDER!"

Blood gushed out like a fountain of water from the youth's chest wound. The murderer was caught, stopped from running by the elderly men. In vain he struggled to free himself. There was pandemonium as voices cried out among women. "Let us make an end of him because he has killed a child." The elderly men stopped the rushing mad women. The women wanted to finish him off quickly. But some of the people were petrified, unable to utter a word. The crowd still surrounded the status of Queen Victoria. Some of the students ran to get help, to telephone for an ambulance and for police . . .

A white sheet covered the deceased. It was soon smeared all over with red blood. The body swam in a pool of blood. . . . Death cometh swift among human folk. Never can tell when it will come. And when it comes, it comes swifter than an arrow shot from a bow . . .

"Who's he?" asked a young girl.

"Muni is his name," answered another voice.

Muni . . . Muni was now swimming in a pool of blood. And Muni had been wrong in thinking that he would soon come home unscathed. Fate had decreed otherwise, as fate would. Muni was the loser.

"Go and tell his parents," said one woman.

"Where does he stay?" asked another.

"At No. 25 Pezula Street," answered another young man.

There was a volley of questions from all sides, asking how the murder came about; what were they fighting for; whether he was really dead; how old he was or was there a chance of his surviving. And they were all told it was about a mysterious sixpence. Cries of "Money is the root of all evil," came from the watchers. Someone remarked: "Only yesterday we were burying the daughter of Mr. Rabe. She was stabbed to death by a married woman." Another . . . "A dead body is not dear from the railway line dividing New Brighton and Dassie Kraal."

A sixpence and death. Very trivial. But it is a succession of trivialities which spells the ruin of mankind. Was it not dear from Muni's questions that the man had mistaken him for somebody else? A mistaken identity, a tragic mistake. Maybe Muni had resembled his (the bully's) adversary. And these anti-social acts are usually perpetrated under the time

worn pretext that the criminal was either drunk, insane or stupefied by opium.

A WEEPING mother forced her way through the mass and someone said, "Oh, that's his mother." . . . "make way, here comes his father." The face of the stunned mob was ashen with pity and shame. The crowd moved aside to make a passage for the parents to pass. They fell into an unbearable hysteria of sobs by the side of the corpse. The mother seemed to have lost her senses. Such was her state of agony that she tore her clothes and hair. She swooned. Some women attended her. It was to no avail that some friends attempted to comfort the weeping father and to draw him away from the deceased son. He held the corpse reluctantly.

"Oh, I know these people," a woman cried. "They live at Pezula Street, this was their only child." So saying, a bystander wiped off a tear.

An ambulance came simultaneously with the police van. "Move back," said the police sergeant in a loud authoritative tone. And the crowd slowly shrank back, and the police asked questions. They entered the statements they obtained in their little note books, made measurements on the ground and the ambulance soon left with its tragic load.

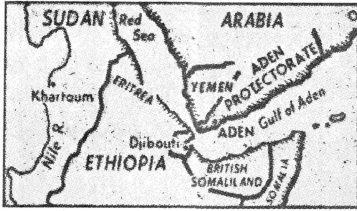
Statements were taken from a few persons, some drew back in silence. They were afraid to say what they had seen. They were afraid of becoming crown witnesses or of being victimized by the killer. Death often strikes from the blue and no one can tell when it will come. There was a talk to their respective homes . . . talking still about the dreadful sight. There was no longer the argumentative political group, the laughing, shouting or clapping of hands gleefully. There was now sadness and weeping. The street was soon deserted. There was a deathly silence. The following day was the Sabbath day. Many were not thinking of it. They were thinking of the blue Monday.

The moon emerged from behind the dark heavy cloud. The moon was white. The little red spot had vanished. The bird of ill omen and breeder of bad luck, the owl, was not there. Nobody could tell where the red spot and the owl were. Never can tell when they would be there again. Jabavu Street was no longer alive now. People who had milled up and down the street were not to be seen anywhere. A black cat running across the street, with her mate in full pursuit, were the only signs of life.

YEMEN - ANOTHER ARAB COUNTRY MOVES AGAINST IMPERIALISM

LONDON.

THE Government of the Yemen has announced its intention of taking up in the United Nations the question of British aggression against her territory. The announcement comes as a sequel to attacks recently conducted from the neighbouring Aden Protectorate in which British jet planes and ground forces were used against villages inside the Yemeni border.



The Yemen is an Arab country covering an area of some 40,000 square miles in the south-west of the Arabian peninsula. It has a population of about 3.5 million, overwhelmingly Arab. The main occupations are the production of coffee and cattle-breeding. Textile industry is beginning to develop under the Yemeni Government's plans to develop industry; plans are also afoot for road, railway, port and aerodrome construction.

But, as in most of the Middle Eastern countries, the smell of oil is not absent. The Yemen, in addition to valuable deposits of gold, silver, lead, copper and iron, is also now known to have oil.

VICTIM OF AGGRESSION

The Yemen has repeatedly been the victim of foreign aggression, first by invasion by the Turks in 1517 until the end of the First World War, when for the first time the people won state independence. After that in the first half of the nineteenth century, Britain began to show an interest in the country, and seized the area around Aden in 1842.

The country is governed by a theocratic monarchy headed by the King or Imam, Yahya, who, though his father was murdered in February 1948 by pro-British agents because of his leadership in the struggle against imperialism, is himself a national leader.

The Yemeni Government resolutely opposes foreign interference in its affairs. As its Deputy Premier, el-Badr, stated recently, "it opposes participation in military blocs and is against colonialism."

Adjacent to the Yemen lies Aden, a typical British possession split into a Colony and Protectorates. The latter are administered indirectly, but none the less secretly, by Britain, through the offices of Arab tribal leaders subservient to Britain. Aden Colony itself follows the time-honoured pattern of all British possessions. The Governor and Commander-in-Chief are, of course, British, as are the entire Executive Council, the Legislative Council, established in 1949, has fourteen members, all except four of whom are British.

TRADE

The main money-raiser for the British is mercantile trade in the Port of Aden. But (and here again comes the whiff of oil), "British Petroleum decided to open a refinery with a output of 5 million tons of oil a year has greatly increased the economic—and strategic—value of Aden." (Financial Times, 15 January).

In the Protectorates, 90% of the population depend on farming, but to quote the same sources: "The land is dry, and cultivation depends on irrigation, which is not very far advanced."

Up to the eighteenth century, Aden Western Protectorate was part of the Yemen. The present Yemeni Government is now demanding the return of its territory to the Yemen and the Protectorate, and at the same time claims sovereignty over much of the Protectorate.

CRITICISM

Commenting on the recent British military attacks on the Yemen the London Times, mouthpiece of the Tory Government, said: "There is no doubt that the use of modern

aircraft against primitive tribesmen is disquieting. It is defended today in Aden as it was before the war on the north-west frontier of India and in Kurdistan, as being the most effective, humane method of asserting order in districts where infantry cannot penetrate.

The basis of this action appears to be to quote the Times again, to show the Yemenites that "there is no intention of abdicating our responsibilities or of admitting any part of the absurd Yemeni claim to the whole of Aden colony and Protectorates."

It seems clear at the same time, however, that in addition the action is being used to crush "dissent

tribesmen," i.e. those dissatisfied with British rule in the Protectorate. Further, it may not be unconnected with the growing demand for national independence in Aden, and with the strikes which swept the colony last year. For Aden, Singapore and Cyprus have been declared by British Government spokesmen to be the key fortresses of British imperialism in those parts of the world, and that in itself constitutes a grim threat to the people of Aden should they other ideas.

The small country of the Yemen, joined in a defence treaty (April 1956) with Egypt and Saudi Arabia, may play a key role in the fight for national independence of all the Arab peoples.

LUTULI RECORD PLAYED AT LONDON MEETING

£1,200 Collected For Treason Trial Defence Fund

A SUM of well over £1,200 was collected for the Treason Trial Defence Fund, a smuggled recording of the voice of Chief Lutuli was played, and Father Trevor Huddleston and Fenner Brockway, the Labour M.P., spoke at a dramatic meeting in support of the treason suspects in London on February 4.

The meeting was attended by over 3,000 people. Other speakers were Canon Collins and Mr. Gerald Gardiner, Q.C., who attended the opening of the treason trial on behalf of Christian Action and a number of legal organisations in Britain.

Mr. Gardiner gave a clear and simple explanation of the anti-people legislation passed since 1948 in South Africa, and described the Freedom Charter and its aims. Another speaker, Mr. James Callaghan, Labour M.P., described the treason trial as political and denounced vigorously the cant of racial superiority.

Apartheid, he said, was the enemy of democracy. The Nats were fearful for the future. They were unable to come to terms with the advancing peoples of Asia and Africa, so they proposed to sit on them for as long as they could. But they were fighting a losing battle.

RECORDING

A recording of the voice of Chief

Lutuli, one of the suspects, which was smuggled out of South Africa, was played at the meeting. Chief Lutuli, one of the "unprecedented human suffering being brought about by apartheid," said:

"But yet we are not despondent. We are encouraged in our struggle for freedom by seeing our stand of opposing apartheid vindicated by the justice of our cause and the undoubted growth of the freedom front in our country."

The recording was introduced by the Chairman, Canon L. J. Collins. He spoke of the trial as "what we might call a Reichstag Trial" and appealed for people to contribute to a cause which very closely concerned them.

Father Huddleston said South Africa had never in its history been a democracy and there was no chance of its ever becoming one as long as there was racial discrimination there. The non-whites had no constitutional means of bringing pressure on the Government, as in a democracy.

FRANCO GOVT. SHAKEN BY BUS BOYCOTTS

Madrid Workers Join Barcelona In Protest Demonstration

LONDON.

SOUTH Africa is not the only country in which the people, denied other forms of protest, have been taking part in a transport boycott during these last few weeks. Following on a fifteen-day tram boycott in Barcelona, the working population of Madrid, the capital of fascist Spain, have organised a mass boycott of all trams and buses and of the underground railway service.

The tram boycott in Barcelona was sparked off by an increase in tramfares which the poverty-stricken workers were unable to pay. Full support for the boycotters came from the students at Barcelona University, who staged sympathy demonstrations in which portraits of the Spanish dictator General Franco were ripped to pieces. This aroused the wrath of the authorities, who allowed no form of protest against their avowedly fascist rule. The University was closed down, and 67 students were thrown into gaol.

In Madrid long, silent processions of workers are tramping many miles each day to and from their places of employment. The trams pass them by empty, presenting a strange contrast to their usually heavily overcrowded appearance.

FARES RAISED

In this city the fares on the underground were recently raised, and the workers have resorted to the boycott to prevent a similar in-

crease threatened for tramfares from being put into operation.

The background to the boycotts is the serious economic difficulties in which the workers find themselves. The cost of living in Spain has been mounting rapidly, and the two wage increases forced last year by serious popular discontent have proved (being based on the miserable basic wage) small compensations for the workers.

Power cuts caused by droughts in autumn increased the anger of the workers and led the spending by the government of vast sums of money on grandiose schemes of no benefit to the mass of the poor.

GOVERNMENT ALARMED

The government is seriously alarmed at the boycotts. The protests have been well organised and disciplined and, according to the London Times, "in some ways more subversive than the periodic outbursts of street discontent or even than the prolonged strikes in the industrial north last spring."

There have been similar protest boycotts before (in Madrid in 1951, for example), the Times continues, "but there is always in Spain the feeling that one day a spark will start a fire—and a fire that will get out of control. So every symptom of discontent is watched (by the authorities) with exaggerated anxiety, particularly if it appears in Barcelona, where the spirit of revolt is strong."

Adding to Franco's difficulties at the moment is the wrangling over who is to succeed him that is going on between the Monarchists, representing an aristocracy amongst the most reactionary in Europe, and the ruling fascist Falange Party.

The compromise by which the young Prince Don Juan, who was to be trained to succeed is now less welcome to the Monarchists, who prefer his father, Don Juan. The Falange, however, wants neither father nor son.

Foreign Aircraft Over Indonesia

DIAKARTA.

Foreign aircraft which have recently been invading Indonesia's territorial air have been identified as based on Cocos Islands and Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, according to documents and photographs in the possession of the Indonesian authorities.

It is reported that the SEATO has been investigating the matter. It has been shifted to these islands, which were formerly governed by Britain but now come under Australia's jurisdiction.

It is only one hour's flight from Christmas Island to Java, the main island of Indonesia. The Cocos Islands were formerly a base from which the Dutch command sent agents into West Java during the last world war.

EQUALITY

The last speaker, Fenner Brockway, M.P., said that unless the British people stood for the right of any member of the human family to equality of opportunity they would be failing in their duty. That meant that it would be hypocritical to condemn the South African Government for racial policies while similar policies were in force in British territories such as the Protectorates, Central Africa and East Africa.

The collection held raised £1,200, with the silver coins as yet uncounted. Christian Action has set itself a target of £20,000 for the Treason Defence Fund, of which £3,700 has so far been raised in Britain alone.

SPOTLIGHT on SPORT by Robert Resha



DON'T CAGE US IN!

THIS was the heading of a leaflet issued jointly by the ANC Youth League (Transvaal), Transvaal Indian Youth Congress, SACPO Youth and COD Youth, protesting against the fencing of the Non-European section of the pavilion stand with high wire netting at the new Wanderers ground in Johannesburg.

"We are furious at this humiliation and are forced to go through in order to see cricket. Cages are for animals—not for us," reads the leaflet. "We refuse to be a party to such blatant discrimination on the part of Wanderers Club. We call upon non-whites to boycott the grounds until this highly indecent cage is removed," concludes the leaflet.

THE REPLY

In reply to this leaflet Mr. Geoff Treadwell, president of the Transvaal Cricket Union said that if the boycott is deliberate the Union will automatically open the stand to Europeans. He further stated that the Europeans could certainly use extra seats.

"Mr. Treadwell went on to say: 'If we receive any official complaint we shall give it serious consideration and may be prepared to lower the fence a trifle.'"

In despite the statement by Mr. Treadwell that they have received no official complaint, whatever that may mean, and the fact that if there is a deliberate boycott the Europeans could certainly use extra seats, the chairman of the Wanderers Club, Mr. G. C. Beaton found it necessary to explain.

He said that the six ft. diamond-mesh fences were put up not to keep the Non-Europeans in, but to keep the Europeans out. To justify this high wire fencing he went on to show that 4ft. 6in. wire fencing was put in front of the open stands for Europeans, and police were stationed in front to prevent people going on to the field.

NO JUSTIFICATION

I must say, in my opinion the officials have failed to justify the erection of a cage for the non-white spectators. It would sound logical if they said the cage was a sign for the M.C.C. to see where the non-whites were seated. But to say it was put up to keep the Europeans out is sheer nonsense.

I was there in November when

RACING AT ASCOT

The following are Damon's selections for the racing on Saturday:
 Farewell Invitation Free Handicap: MARION ISLAND, Danger, De Klerk's Selected.
 Three-Year-Old Handicap: BRIGHTNESS, Danger, Stellar Lady.
 Ascot Handicap: DE KLERK'S SELECTED, Danger, Barn Owl.
 Maiden Plate: BEACON FLAG, Danger, Link Boy.
 Juvenile Plate: MOUZELLE, Danger, Finer Finish.
 Moderate Handicap: ALCAZAR, Danger, Numanalot.
 Progress Six: CASTLE JANUS, Danger, Pay Hour.
 Progress Five: DOUBLE CATCH, Danger, Chorus.

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LIST BULLDOZER IN TOP GEAR

EVENTS in Parliament have been moving swiftly in the past few weeks. The Nationalists have put their bulldozer into top gear, and the United Party their old jalopy into reverse, while the Labour-Liberal group finds it increasingly difficult to make its voice heard.

The pace at which the U.P. is submitting to apartheid is quite appalling. Its record for one week is as follows: it refused to support Mr. Hepple's plan for a national convention of all races; it refused to support Mr. Lovell's Bill to re-use the vote to the Coloured people; it refused point-blank to discuss the bus boycott; it backed-pedaled out of the "blood apartheid" debate; through Mr. John Cope it expressed strong disapproval of the Labour proposal to include non-white farm workers and domestic servants in the provisions of the Wage Act; and through Dr. Louis Steenkamp, that crypto Nationalist in Opposition in clothing it expressed devotion to social and residential apartheid and the colour bar.

Little wonder that the Minister of Native Affairs, observing a second Nationalist Party arid where the Opposition normally sits, accused the U.P. of "pretending to the electorate that stands devotion to social and residential apartheid and the colour bar."

Terror Tactics

The U.P.'s unconditional surrender on apartheid must be regarded as one of the reasons why the Government has used terror tactics so brazenly in the bus boycott. With renewed intensity, Government propagandists are propounding their fascist slogan that on racial matters all White men must speak with one voice.

As the General Election approaches, the position will worsen. It is the urgent duty, therefore, of U.P. supporters and others, whose stock of their position, are they going to remain silent while Sir de Villiers Graaff assists Strijdom in dividing South Africa into two hostile camps of Whites and Non-Whites?

National Convention

Anyone who wants to find out exactly what is happening in Parliament should read the Hansard report of the debate on the Labour motion for a multi-racial national convention.

Mr. Hepple should be congratulated for putting forward the idea to Parliament. He pointed out that the main message was isolated from the Non-Whites and that it bore no relation to the realities of the situation in South Africa. His speech was forthright and sensible.

Two points, however, require comment. Mr. Hepple referred to the White section as enjoying a "normal democracy." Is this true? The Nationalists, with a minority of votes, won 94 of the 156 seats in the 1953 General Election. As I was at the voting system in the Union is wholly undemocratic.

Secondly, Mr. Hepple, probably unintentionally, created the impression he was concerned about a "futile" at the rising might of "Black nationalism." I am sure that in his case it was just an error of style, rather than an incorrect approach; but there are progressives who have a tremor in their voices when discussing the wave of militant anti-Nationalist sweeping through the Non-White people.

Surely, the thing to do is to

welcome it, not suggest ways of controlling it and leading it into futile by-paths.

Turned It Down

The Liberal Party supported Mr. Hepple's motion, but the two big parties, the U.P. and the Nationalists, turned it down. The U.P. is in the sorry state when it will not agree even to sitting around the same conference table with the Non-White leaders.

Mr. Waterson, the U.P.'s main speaker, said "the idea of a national convention is now impracticable, and in respect of the major problems between the White and Bantu, the proper approach is that

LOOKING AT PARLIAMENT

laid down in the stated policies of the United Party." Mr. Waterson added that, a couple of years ago, instead of taking our ideas to a respectable conference, we published them as United Party policy—it is the cheapest, bad, worth in this country and a document which may well become historical.

Good grief! Have you by any misfortune read that document? I have, and I find it difficult to imagine anything vaguer, or more fatuous, or more evasive, and imbecile.

Dr. Verwoerd replied that would not only be "futile," but "positively dangerous"—meaning that, even if the Government agreed, it would not be a conference table with Non-White leaders; it would not yield an inch.

He added: "It is an idea of introducing an era in which the Non-Europeans would no longer be in the position of a ward, but would be in a position to decide the future of both Black and White in South Africa."

The message is clear: Dr. Verwoerd is resolved to treat all Non-Whites permanently as "wards," and who ever heard of a guardian consulting his little "ward" about the big problems of the future?

The debate was a revealing study in attitudes. If you couple it

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with Sir de Villiers Graaff's speech in the debate on Mr. Lovell's Coloured vote bill, then there is no need to probe any deeper to find out what makes the U.P. tick. The whole emphasis of "Div's" speech (everyone calls him "Div") is to find out what makes the harm being done to the Whites by the Nationalist Government's treatment of the Coloured people.

One final word: was it necessary for Mr. Hepple to include in his motion the following sentence: "That this House consider plans for the proper utilisation of the human and material resources of South Africa, including the implementation of the report of the Tomlinson Commission?" I presume Mr. Hepple was pleading for the development of the Reserves, which is all right-thinking people support; but why ask for the Tomlinson Commission's report, that hotch-potch of Nationalist nonsense, to be implemented?

I do not want to sound carping for right and justice. He has become the real leader of the Opposition there, always ready to put up a fight on a matter of principle. I am sure he won't mind my drawing attention to some slight blemishes on what otherwise I consider one of the best speeches we have heard this session.

C.P.E.

Orchestra Tour

NEW YORK.

Arrangements have been completed for a 25-city tour of the U.S. by the Prague Symphony Orchestra in 1958. The 100-member orchestra, led by Karel Ancerl, will be the first from Eastern Europe to visit the U.S.

HELP SELL NEW AGE!

New Union Formed

PIETERMARITZBURG.

At a large meeting of laundry and dry cleaners workers recently, a trade union of Laundry and Dry Cleaners Workers was formed. It was decided to seek affiliation with SACTU and the national union. A provisional committee of seven was elected pending another meeting expected to be addressed by the head office, and the adoption of the constitution.

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