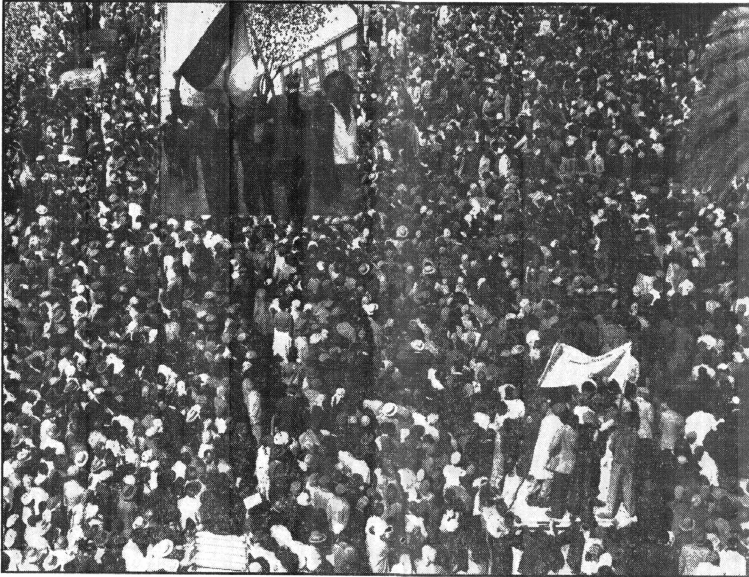


# 40,000 Strike, Demonstrate

BA 320,05 NEW

S 87/115



## Against Passes For Women

From Michael Harmel

JOHANNESBURG.

PENT-UP anger and resentment against permit raids and the inclusion of women in the hated pass system seethed past boiling point when 15,000 men and women streamed in from the City's Western Areas to the biggest City Hall steps demonstration we have seen since the Nationalist Government came to power.

They had come to the City Hall to back up a seven-man deputation from the Anti-Permit Committee, and they sang songs and listened to speakers outside, while the Mayor promised their leaders all

(Continued on page 8)

A general view of the huge crowd in front of the Johannesburg City Hall with (inset) a group of demonstrators carrying the ANC banner.

# NEW AGE

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## Congresses Launch Economic Boycott Of Nat. Products

JOHANNESBURG.

THE African National Congress has been joined by the Indian Congress, the Congress of Trade Unions, the Coloured People's Organisation and the Congress of Democrats in a nation-wide campaign to boycott "certain firms and institutions set up and supported by Nationalist politicians for the specific purpose of advancing the Nationalist cause."

A joint statement issued by the organisations says this is the Congress answer to the "increasingly dictatorial, racialistic" policies of the Government, and particularly its "callous disregard of the economic well-being of the ordinary people as expressed in such actions as

in poll-tax and its extension to women.

"The use of State repression in an attempt to break the recent bus boycotts.

"The action of the Labour Department in the recent dockers' dispute when it intervened to prevent the employers from granting an agreed increase and brought in convict and other scab labour.

"The persistent refusal of the Government to heed the crying poverty of the working people or to take steps to implement their demand for pay increases and a national minimum wage of £1 per day.

### NOT RACIALISTIC

"The boycott will in no sense be racialistic in character or directed

(Continued on page 3)

## AND THOUSANDS MARCH IN CAPE TOWN



Behind banners demanding "Freedom of Worship and Freedom of Association," thousands of people of all races marched side by side through the streets of Cape Town last Saturday in protest against Verwoerd's Native Laws Amendment Bill. At a mass meeting after the march the Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev. T. J. Savage, said: "We must protest. If necessary we must disregard the law. We must obey God rather than men. It is a matter of duty."

# NEW AGE APPEALS TO THE A.N.C.

LAST week's New Age editorial opened with the following passage: "The Nat. Government continues to behave towards the African people with all the ruthlessness and hatred of an invading army in conquered territory." How true this is—the Nats are even threatening to ban the ANC, we are told. Chief Lutuli has appealed to all democratically-minded people to fight against this threat.

New Age has made no bones about where it stands on this issue. We stand four-square behind the ANC in their fight for legality and in their efforts to bring freedom to their people.

We therefore make no excuses this week for appealing to every single member of the ANC throughout the Union to reciprocate by selling New Age in their area.

The ANC volunteers in Cape Town are setting a splendid example in this respect by selling between them over 1,200 copies every week. How about the other centres taking up this challenge?

A young schoolboy in Cape Town has shown the way this week by donating 12/6 to the paper. But in spite of our appeal last week for donors to keep up the good work, every centre has fallen short.

Please make up for this shortfall by straining every effort to collect and send in donations before the end of the month so that we are kept in the clear when the accounts come rolling in.

### LAST WEEK'S DONATIONS:

**Cape Town:**  
School Boy: Non Dancers £19; Jumble £19.7; Sundries £12.3.6.

**Port Elizabeth:**  
Friend £1; Donor £1; Babs 10.6d.  
**Johannesburg:**  
! Pretoria 5/6; Don £10; Rub. £11.0; Miss £20; Friend £15; Jack Bloo £1; Joy 10s.; ANC Women Central 4.8d.; J.M. £2; Vic £5.

TOTAL—£97 1s. 11d.

## An Appeal To The Coloured People

As a New Age seller, I want to appeal to our Coloured population to give their support to the people's paper. New Age represents the views of the working class in South Africa and is the only one that fearlessly condemns the ideology of apartheid.

There are today 156 brothers and sisters in Johannesburg accused of high treason. In my opinion these people's ideals are the same as those who say South Africa needs a change whereby our government would be for the people and elected by the people, not a partial and dictatorial form of government.

I am now calling upon our Coloured brothers and sisters to sacrifice to the best of their ability for the existence of our workers' paper. If ever there was a time in South African politics when every non-white citizen was expected to show his sincerity by getting the Nationalists out of power, that time has come.

We cannot afford to tolerate any form of partiality, but we must stand full and equal rights for all South Africans. Things are getting hotter and hotter, but where there is a will, there is a way. Freedom in our lifetime. Mayibuye Afrika.

T. ESITANG

Cape Town.

## MRA A Shelter For Escapists

No sane person dares join the Moral Rearmament movement, for this is a shelter where all the escapists hide. When Mr. P. Q. Vundla was a member of the ANC he said he would defend his citizenship rights through thick and thin. When he was sacked from Congress he went to shelter in the MRA.

The whole world is protesting against the nefarious Bills e.g. the University Apartheid and the Native Laws Amendment Bills which are being put through Parliament by the Government. Only MRA and the Afrikaans universities have not protested.

The capitalists are behind the whole movement. All MRA members enjoy freedom of movement, which is denied to the rest of the population. To them getting a passport is as easy as winking. Who finances this organisation? My fellow Africans, save Afrika. Freedom not serfdom.

A.K.G.

Alice.

## Not Prepared To Move

The leader and a hard fighter of Klerksdorp, Mrs. Sophie Moremi, after being arrested for the second time was ordered by the magistrate to leave the proclaimed area of Klerksdorp. The cause of her banishment was that she had demonstrated against the issuing of passes to the African women and fought all the legislation imposed upon the people.

Mrs. Moremi has made it clear to the Superintendent that she is not prepared to leave Klerksdorp, whether they give a permit or not. She told me that if you want to achieve freedom you must be prepared to suffer for it.

When she got out of the pick-up van to enter the charge office a European constable said: "The Klerksdorp queen of the ANC is arrested with a permit." "Onward with freedom, my people," she said. "Struggle and fight for the rights of Africa." Mayibuye.

MOSTARD MJEKULA  
Klerksdorp.

## Editorial

# THE KNOCK ON THE DOOR AT MIDNIGHT

QUESTIONED by Mr. A. Hepple in the House of Assembly last week, the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart, said it was essential that the police should carry out night raids in African locations.

"The police had to search the locations for people who had no right to be there, for illicit liquor, weapons and for criminals. Obviously, it was at night that they had their best opportunity for finding people for whom they might be looking and while he regretted the necessity for these raids, they were unavoidable."

To a man with the mentality of the Minister of Justice, anything is justifiable provided it furthers the needs of white supremacy. White supremacy means pass laws for Africans, and pass laws for Africans means police raids; therefore police raids in the middle of the night are unavoidable.

Not surprisingly, the logic of this argument does not in the least impress the hundreds of thousands of South Africans who are the victims of these barbaric punitive expeditions. They do not agree with white supremacy in the first place, reject the pass laws and are bitterly resentful of these midnight invasions of their privacy.

In fascist countries, the knock on the door at midnight has become a symbol of authoritarian tyranny. In South Africa it is not often that the people are extended the courtesy of a knock on the door. Most usually the police simply burst in without warning, rip the blankets off sleeping couples and demand: "Waar's jou pas jong?"

These raids are not for criminals, weapons or liquor, as Mr. Swart claims. Of the 14,000 people caught in the police dragnet during the bus boycott in Johannesburg, for example, only about 25 were held for what could be called serious crime. The rest were just victims of the iniquitous pass laws, ordinary people turned into technical criminals because they have no right to be somewhere, or have lost the paper proving their right to be somewhere, or are merely too slow in jumping to the orders of some power-crazed police hooligan.

The raids have one main aim—mass intimidation of the African population. They are terror raids, pure and simple, intended to break the spirit of the people and cow them into submission to apartheid.

How long does Mr. Swart think the people are going to stand for this sort of thing? The tens of thousands of Africans who demonstrated against the permit system in Johannesburg last week; the thousands of women who have twice made a pilgrimage to the Union Buildings to register their protest; the tribesmen ad women of Linokana near Zeerust, and the women of Winburg who burnt their reference books—everywhere the people are voicing their opposition to the pass laws and the police tyranny which flows in their wake.

Mr. Swart must not just sit back and think he can shoot it out with the people. The raids ARE avoidable. Let him give the order that they should be abandoned, and the whole atmosphere in the townships would improve overnight. But if he carries on as he is doing now, South Africa is doomed to race hatred and conflict without cease until he and his fascist laws have been swept into oblivion.

# MASS CONFERENCE

called by the African National Congress (Cape Western Region)

- NATIVE LAWS AMENDMENT BILL
- WOMEN'S ANTI-PASS CAMPAIGN
- POLL TAX
- OTHER UNJUST LAWS

at the WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL on SUNDAY, MAY 26 commencing at 10 a.m.

Speakers:

Mr. Leo Marquard, Mr. Alex Hepple, Mr. Z. Malindi  
Mrs. M. Sidinile and others



## WHY DID UMATATA WOMEN TAKE PASSES?

The women's campaign against the pass laws and the Group Areas Act is gaining momentum. Women from all racial groups are joining in the opposition to these laws.

The purpose of the campaign initiated by the Federation of Women and its affiliated bodies as a prelude to further action, is to collect as many signatures as possible for the pledges to be sent to the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. Verwoerd, demanding the abolition of passes, and, secondly, the signing of a protest by women against the Group Areas Act.

This struggle of the women must not consist of the usual spontaneous, isolated outbursts of opposition in which the forces remain dispersed. If the women are properly mobilised, not only can they make the law unworkable but in the process they can create powerful women's organisations like those of India, China and other countries which played a major role in the achievement of independence and freedom for those countries.

If this women's struggle against the pass laws and the Group Areas Act does not produce permanent, strong organisations which truly represent the united force of the oppressed women, then it will be a fight only half won.

The attainment of such organisational strength must be the immediate aim of the Women's Federation and the ANC Women's League.

Through these two organisations, women are swinging into action along the East Rand, the West Rand and Pretoria, in Johannesburg including Alexandra Township, the South Western areas, the West Areas and George Goch, and work has started among the Coloured and Indian women of Fordshurg and Vrededorp.

In Pretoria, during the past few weeks the work of one Indian woman has resulted in hundreds of Indian women signing the

Group Areas protest and a number of anti-pass pledges.

The European women members of the Hillbrow branch of the Congress of Democrats set up tables in the streets and secured several hundred signatures from European women for the protest and the pledge.

In Cape Town the local branch of the Women's Federation and the ANC Women's League have also launched a campaign against passes and poll tax. What of the women of Natal? We are sure they will not let down the women of other provinces.

The latest areas which passes are to be issued to women are Vrede, Uitenhage, Cradock, Umatata and Standerton. Last week women in Umatata were already taking out passes. Many do not know what they are doing: the campaign has not reached them yet. This must be the concern of every woman.

BERTHA MASHABA  
HELEN JOSEPH

Joint Secretaries, Transvaal Region, Federation of S.A. Women.

## Langa Housing Not Fit For Human Beings

Those who praise the Government for building houses for the Africans don't know what they are talking about. Go to Langa location and have a look at the houses which are built for bachelors. I say straight out those houses are not meant for human beings.

Just imagine taking a man and putting him in a house with a cement table and a cement bed. How can you expect him to live for a long time in this world? Everybody should know that in South Africa the African people are not well cared for.

B.Z.M.  
Windermerre.

# New Police Drive "Provocative And Irritating"

## Congresses Launch Economic Boycott

(Continued from page 1)

against Afrikaans business men in general, nor will the boycott be invoked against ordinary business men who may happen to be suspected of Nationalist sympathies.

"But it will be directed against certain firms and institutions set up and supported by Nationalist politicians for the specific purpose of advancing the Nationalist cause. It is these firms and institutions which the public will be called upon to boycott.

"A sub-committee of representatives of the five organizations has been set up and will conduct a full and impartial enquiry into such information as may be made available to it.

"A list of the Nationalist-controlled products and institutions will be issued as a result of these investigations and this list will be amplified from time to time.

"We call upon all democrats and supporters of freedom to give their whole-hearted co-operation in this campaign."

## A.N.C. WARNS OF GROWING HATRED

**JOHANNESBURG.** THE methods used in the new police drive against crime and violence were condemned as "ineffective, provocative and irritating" in a statement by Mr. O. Tambo, secretary general, on behalf of the ANC Working Committee.

"Whenever a public outcry is made, the South African Police invariably react by intensifying raids for passes, permits and poll tax, in the course of which hundreds of innocent people are arrested," said the statement.

This tends to deceive the public into believing that the real problem is being tackled, whereas in fact whilst the raids are being carried out, the assaults and robberies go on.

"The police regard the pass as the sole criterion of guilt or innocence."

"The ANC protests most solemnly against the raids and demands the adoption of efficient non-discriminatory methods to suppress lawlessness. We warn the country, as we have repeatedly done in the past, that the present police methods serve to aggravate the already strained and embittered relations between black and white in this country."

# Nat. Products Disappear From Shop Shelves In Eastern Cape

From Govan Mbeki

PORT ELIZABETH.

A LITTLE over two months ago the ANC (Cape) embarked on an economic boycott of Nationalist products and Nationalist-controlled finance institutions.

As soon as the announcement was made officials of the Sakekame hurried to make public statements that the boycott would have no effect on them.

Recently New Age conducted an investigation on the effects of the boycott on certain products which appear on the list. The most immediate effect was on the five brands of cigarettes which head the list. The traders who were interviewed at New Brighton said that of the five brands, two in particular had been very popular. A small trader said that before the boycott he had been selling 2,000 a week of each of these popular brands.

As soon as the announcement to boycott was made the traders in the locations immediately ceased placing orders. After the eight days grace given them to dispose of Nationalist products, their shelves were completely cleared of Nationalist cigarettes. All those who were interviewed said that their businesses had not suffered, as the demand for substitute brands immediately grew.

Asked how they managed to dispose of jams and canned fruit in the limited time of eight days, the trader replied that the ANC had been very considerate in the application of the boycott and had given

the traders an extension of time when they asked for it.

## INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE POLICIES HIT

An insurance company that has been doing rolling business selling industrial policies for which premiums of 6d. to 1/- weekly are collected, has been one of the hardest hit. This type of policy has been linked up with burial facilities whereby the policy-holder may be buried in a decent coffin and his remains conveyed in a hearse when he dies.

A members of the ANC Working Committee told New Age that the boycott of these Nationalist insurance companies has enabled the Congress to study the practices connected with their activities among the African people in the locations, and they were able to reach certain conclusions.

Representatives of the insurance company and burial society have been trying to arrange meetings with the leaders of the ANC with a view to assuring them that they are not under Nationalist influence.

At the time of writing representatives of the firms that produce some of the most popular cigarette brands are supplying free packets of these cigarettes. When two of these itinerant salesmen came into a trade union office they persuaded the union officials to smoke the brand which they described as nice.

When people who had accepted the free packets got to know that they were Nationalist products they threw them away with evident signs of revulsion.

## Conferences To Protest Against Native Laws Bill

### CAPE TOWN

A large turn-out of the public is expected at the conference called by the African National Congress (Cape Western Region) at the Woodstock Town Hall on Sunday, May 26, to protest against the Native Laws Amendment Bill and legislation introduced by the Government during this session of Parliament.

A number of prominent personalities have already agreed to attend. Mr. Leo Marquard, President of the Institute of Race Relations, and Mr. Alex Hepple M.P. will speak on the various provisions of the Bill, and others who will be present include Senator W. Balingier, Professor B. Beinart and representatives of the National Union of South African Students and other organisations. Speakers from the ANC will lead discussion on the proposed increase in the poll tax, and its extension to women.

Branches of the African National Congress all over the Western Cape will be represented at the conference. The organisers have stated, however, that the conference is not limited to official delegates but is open to the general public.

The conference, which is due to start at 10 a.m., is expected to last all day. Refreshments will be provided.

### JOHANNESBURG

The people of the Transvaal will demonstrate their opposition to Verwoerd's iniquitous Native Laws Amendment Bill at a mass conference to be held here next Sunday, May 26. The conference will take place at Freedom Square in Sophiatown.

Resolutions objecting to such Bills as the Group Areas Act, the Bantu Authorities Act and the rest of the apartheid legislation are being prepared and will be presented to the delegates at the conference.

The conference is sponsored by the Congresses and Federation of South African Women.

## PROFILE OF A PEOPLE'S M.P.C.—BENNY TUROK

From Alex La Guma

SEATED between Annie Silinga and Len Lee-Warden in the Drill Hall in Johannesburg is short, bespectacled, cherry Benny Turok, accused No. 97 of the Treason Trial, who is due to be declared African Representative for Cape Western in the Cape Provincial Council this week.



One of Russian parents in Ljuba, Latvia, in 1927, Benny has come to be one of the most popular of the 156, and with everybody who has associated with him in Congress circles. This is because of a genial disposition, an easy jocular and the fact that he has succeeded in adopting the world outlook of the working man.

Benny started school at the Hope Lodge School (which is now the Howa Training College for Non-European teachers) in Roeland Street, Cape Town. Thereafter he went to Cape Town High and ACS in attending the University of Cape Town and graduated as a land surveyor.

"My home was always a hive of political activity," said Benny. "My father was interested in Jewish workers' affairs."

At 'varsity he played an active part in student political life and then and afterwards participated in the work of the Modern Youth Society in Cape Town.

In 1953 he was in London, where he served on the London Festival Committee of the World Youth Festival. Later he attended the Third World Festival of Youth and Students in Bucharest, as a representative of the Modern Youth Society, also visiting Budapest and Warsaw.

Back in South Africa he became an organiser for the Congress of Democrats and when the campaign for the Congress of the People was launched, organised for the Cape Western COP Committee.

In September 1955 he entered the trade union field to organise the bag workers, metal and timber workers. The workers took him immediately, and on the occasions when I had the opportunity of accompanying him to factories, I discovered that "Comrade Benny" had gained the faith and confidence of all the workers, Coloured and African, with whom he was associated.

He helped to organise three strikes for better wages and work-

ing conditions. The union office was always swarming with workers eager to gain his help and advice. He is a fearless and efficient organiser. I have heard him talking to factory bosses over the telephone on behalf of his unions and verbally rapping them over the knuckles for any injustices to their employees.

At the Congress of the People he introduced the clause of the Freedom Charter: "The People Shall Share the Country's Wealth."

Later in 1955 he was banned under the Suppression of Communism Act from attending all gatherings for a period of five years. But he continued his trade union work because the workers wanted him.

He is married to Mary Butcher, one of the first women to be banned under the Suppression Act and one of the first women defiers to take part in the 1952 Defiance Campaign. They have two sons.

Benny is entering the Cape Provincial Council, unopposed, to represent the African people. He is not in agreement with the undemocratic nature of this sort of representation, but the Africans nominated him and he will go to the Council to champion the Freedom Charter and the cause of liberty and equality for all—Europeans, Coloureds, Africans and Indians.

Perhaps the Opposition realised that they could not find a better man than Benny. They are right.

I know him and I'm sure he'll stick to his guns.

## ELSIES RIVER WOMEN'S LEADER CONVICTED

CAPE TOWN

Mrs. Mokoroilo, the African women's leader of Elsies River, was last week convicted in the Bellville Magistrate's Court of being in possession of a dangerous weapon.

The charge arose out of a police raid on the Marabastad area on Wednesday night last week, in the course of which the police burst into her home, where she lives with her husband and two sons. When the two sons who are bachelors, could not produce their passes quickly enough to satisfy the police, they were roughly handled and the girls woke their parents. Mrs. Mokoroilo grabbed an axe and went into her sons' room. She was very angry, thinking her home was being invaded by scoundrels, but was eventually persuaded to go back to bed.

Soon after a second policeman entered the pondokkie and on being told that the old lady had held an axe in a threatening manner, he went into the bedroom and tore the blankets off Mrs. Mokoroilo. Mr. Mokoroilo was thrown to the floor and his wife was told she

was under arrest and ordered to dress.

In court next day Mrs. Mokoroilo pleaded guilty to the charge of being in possession of a dangerous weapon, and was fined R5. She was also remanded in custody on a charge of not being in possession of a permit to stay in the area.

### ON DEPUTATION

Mrs. Mokoroilo was a member of the deputation which a fortnight ago interviewed the authorities of Goodwood to protest against the removals from Elsies River to Nyanga. A few days later she was given notice to leave the area.

Her sons Phillip and Samuel were also given notice to move to Nyanga, despite the fact that Samuel is suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and has a letter in his possession from the Elsies River Clinic stating that any exposure to which he might be subjected as a result of the removal would mean a deterioration in his condition.

He was given three days to move. He has no money and a reasonably dry building site. He has no money to buy materials to build a new home at Nyanga.





# WILL PARISIANS SEE THE REAL AFRICA?

By TENNYSON MAKIwane

ACCORDING to the newspapers, Alfred Herbert, the producer of the musical shows known as "African Jazz and Variety" which have had a run in the leading cities of the country before both Black and White audiences, is planning to take his troupe overseas. They hope to tour Paris and Great Britain giving concerts. If this comes off it will definitely provide a unique opportunity for South African Non-European artists to present local talent abroad.

For this reason it is better to say a word or two about them now—rather than afterwards.

The variety nature of this show brings together an all-in caste consisting of leading Non-European entertainers in the country. Yet it still cannot be called "African Jazz." What will be rendered overseas is popular commercial jazz music reproduced by African musicians.

**DOROTHY MASUKA**—the leading soloist in Alfred Herbert's "African Jazz and Variety" troupe. Will she be a second Ella Fitzgerald in Paris? Or will she reach greater heights by just being herself?

some of the Township stuff. They needn't hear the words, but they will SEE them.

This, of course, does not mean that it is impermissible for Africans to sing English, American and other music.

Already in the "African Jazz and Variety" shows there are outstanding items like "Baby, It's Cold Outside" whose rendering by Satchmo and Louisa Emmanuel is world-class.

There are also the Woody Woodpeckers without whom there can be no talk of "African Jazz." These boys are so cute that even when rendering such discredited songs as "Fangango!" they make the "Baas" and the "Missus" pay for the time they did not call, and whilst their sides ache with laughter they are actually laughing at the vindictiveness of the Baas and the laziness of the Missus.

Jim kipha lo nyon, Jim washo lo nyon, stock-ings ka lo Missus.

Artists who will go overseas and take with them something really "African" will do so amidst our applause.

# UP MY ALLEY

OF late the headlines of Johannesburg's dailies have been reading like those of Chicago in the heyday of Al Capone, John Dillinger and the hectic days of illegal booze.

Businessmen and messengers walk in fear of their lives and their cash since armed mobsters, prowling the granite canyons of the golden city, have launched what verged almost on a gangster reign of terror over the last few weeks. Messengers on their way to the banks have been held up and robbed; the look-out at a drive-in restaurant was "coshed" and all the cash taken; a merchant tailor was knocked out, losing £800 to armed thugs; an Indian lawyer was held up; houses have been broken into, £2,000 worth of Scotch whisky was the haul of another gang after beating up and stabbing an African watchman. "Another Armed Robbery—and Vicious Assault," shouted The Star last Wednesday evening.

To counter the wave of crime the top-brass of the cop-department have sent into action a special mobile police squadron, plus a "ghost squad" of plainclothes men mingling with the public in Johannesburg's crowded thoroughfares.

"We have decided on this move to provide increased protection to the public," trumpeted Colonel J. Olivier, chief of the Rand CID in the best imitation of J. Edgar Hoover himself. "With immediate effect and working around the clock the squadron will round up loiterers and suspected criminals in every part of the city." But like everybody in authority in this fair land of ours, his story doesn't ring true.

A society based on suppression, violence, armed force, poverty and unemployment creates violence, bloodshed, gangsterism and murder. Bad schools produce bad pupils.

bred in the slum-ridden districts of the East Sides, Harlems and little Italies of every city. Crime and vice breeds where there is poverty and filth, where proper home-life and education are non-existent and unemployment is rife. Add to all these conditions the frustration and misery caused by pass laws, permit systems, the colour-bar that denies the Non-European people advancement and a proper place in society, and you will see the breeding ground of South Africa's underworld. A gangster is not born, he is created by a reactionary social system.

WE had a brush with Col. Olivier's "ghost squad" last Friday. My colleague, Tennyson Makiwane, and I were strolling down Commissioner Street when an oaf in plain clothes elbowed Mr. T.M. and snarled: "Pass, man, Pass."

We may be on trial for treason but I'm sure we don't look like suspicious characters. Tennyson grinned and hummed "All day, all night, Mariamne" and showed the cop the Certificate of Merit with which all treason accused have been issued by the Clerk of the Court. The "ghost" glared at the paper, glared at us and handed it back.

**THIS ROUND-UP OF "LOITERERS AND SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS" HAS TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING ELSE BUT ANOTHER SERIES OF PASS-RAIDS — IN FANCY DRESS.**

AND sticking to cops. Said General Rademeyer, Commissioner of Police, of this Security Branch: "We have better tech-

niques now. We do not have to rely on stories. We can do better than that."

The General ought to pop in at the treason enquiry and hear some of his boys giving evidence.

## Torch Charged With Criminal Label

CAPE TOWN. The Torch Printing and Publishing Company, represented by its secretary, Mr. C. C. Cooper, its directors, Mr. C. E. Kies and Dr. G. W. Maurice, and the address Mrs. J. Meissenheimer, have received summonses to appear in the Cape Town Regional Court on July 3 to face a charge of criminal libel.

The charges have been brought against the Torch and its officers in connection with a report published in the Torch shortly after the dismissal of the executive members and officials of the Cape African Teachers' Association. The Crown alleges that the report was "false, scandalous, malicious and defamatory" and "with intent to injure and insult or maliciously contriving and intending to injure the teachers in their good names, copy the Certificate of Merit with which all treason accused have been issued by the Clerk of the Court. The "ghost" glared at the paper, glared at us and handed it back.

The dismissed teachers referred to in the Torch report were Messrs. L. Sihlali and B. Jordan, formerly of the Lamplough Secondary School; Mr. N. Honono, formerly principal of Nonura Secondary School; and Mr. J. L. Mkantane, formerly principal of the Fort Maian Secondary School.

Dr. Yussuf Dadoo, former President of the South African Indian Congress, has been banned for a further five years from attending gatherings in the Union or South West Africa. In terms of a previous notice he is prevented from taking part in the activities of the S.A. Indian Congress and many other organisations.

Sonny Pillay, the Indian vocalist and one of the leading soloists of the troupe, would probably receive better applause than Nat King Cole were the two to remain behind the curtain and have a go at the same song.

Another soloist who styles himself "Satchmo" sings in the Louis Armstrong tradition and when he sings "Blue Berry Hill" it sounds less coarse and much sweeter than the original version as sung by Louis Armstrong.

However, nobody will ever be Louis Armstrong. He is a great, with his hoarse voice just because nobody else sings like him! The same applies to Nat King Cole—he has got his own style and has built his reputation around it.

Joey Maxima, talented as he is, will impress nobody overseas. All he has succeeded in doing is imitate, accurately, the American singer Sammie Davies Jr.

## The Record and I?

The two applies to the women vocalists—from the Dolly Rathebe to Dorothy Masuka. Their dream seems to be "I sing this song just as it is on the record." The technical flaws inherent in learning music by ear are well known and the ability to improvise is completely undermined.

But there are the "two" Dorothy Masukas—the one who aspires to be an Ella Fitzgerald and the one who likes the popular and devastating Dorothy who, when she is herself, sings with such feeling, mobilising her entire body arm, legs and everything, that she tears the audience off their seats. This is when she sings some of her own compositions and yells proudly "in spite of your drunken habits, I still love you." (Into yam nyaiyathand).

The Manhattan Brothers rose to the position of today's leading entertainers after revolutionised their style the minute they sang about the "Jane" in the audience whom every gal recognised as possibly herself, whilst the men sulked and cursed when they heard the words: "I remember the last fatal day when my (lobola) kaal were driven out of my kraal, . . . come back to me, Jane."

## The Way To Kill

Let Dorothy "kill" those passionate Parisians with

## HOMES INVADED BY POLICE IN WINDERMERE RAIDS

From Henry Naudé

CAPE TOWN. Barking dogs and shouting children heralded the approach of two carloads of policemen as they charged among the pondokkies and shanties of Windermere in their usual Friday morning raid last week. These raids have become regular features of the area and the people in the area are indignant at the callous treatment of their persons and property by the police.

While a number of Africans watched, the policemen, all in plainclothes and armed with crowbars and steel rods, went into action. Obviously picking some pondokkies at random they entered and commenced to break open and overturn the makeshift furniture of the unfortunates.

Ignoring the locks on some houses of people who were at work they smashed open doors and windows and peered into every nook and cranny of these humble abodes in their search for liquor.

Having satisfied themselves that there was nothing to be found they would move on to the next block of houses and start all over with their smash and grab methods.

The Minister of Justice says the police are there to protect all sections of the public. The people living in the pondokkies and squatter of Windermere have come to regard the police rather as destroyers, who have no respect for the rights of people with black skins.

WHERE IS YOUR DONATION ?

# "SOVIET CULTURE IS THE HERITAGE OF ALL"

—Says ILYA EHRENBURG in a review of its achievements and shortcomings since 1917



creative act, all this is transmitted gradually from the columns of the newspapers into the consciousness of millions of people and helps to transform it.

## Literature . . .

IN Soviet society books have become an indispensable necessity. Books are everywhere, in everyone's hands, even on the underground, on the buses, at the factory-bench. "Readers' Conferences" are organised in the most remote corners of distant provinces. Paper production is inadequate to satisfy this hunger for books.

"People will stand in queues for whole evenings in order to subscribe to the collected works of their favourite authors. The biggest part of the print of any book goes to the public libraries. One has to understand how to interpret the figures. Balzac's books have been published in seventeen languages in editions totalling 93 million copies in the Soviet Union. This means that there are at least 100 million readers of Balzac.

"It was a long and weary process to make culture available to the people. We made mistakes in this regard; sometimes we lapsed into confusion, or we marked time, but all in all I believe we chose the right way. Things were a little easier in those fields where our predecessors and our best traditions were able to help—as for example, in literature and music.

Thousands of readers began their literary development with the

Ilya Ehrenburg, the distinguished Soviet novelist, reporter and critic, is one of the world's cultural figures today. At a recent meeting of the European Cultural Association he delivered an address on 'Some Aspects of Culture in the Soviet Union,' extracts from which we print here.

aid of Pushkin and Gogol, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, Chekov and Gorky. Certainly there are things that are difficult to understand in the verses of Mayakovsky. If his verses find their way into the hearts of thousands of readers today, then it is thanks to Russian poetry. Pushkin helps in an understanding of Mayakovsky.

## Architecture . . .

"IN the West much more is said about our shortcomings than about our successes. You may know that many very ugly buildings in a great number of cities were erected in our country. Many architects displayed a lack of taste and feeling for proportion in the decoration of buildings.

"Between 1920 and 1930, the "constructivists"—the disciples of Le Corbusier and the ardent veneration of the Bauhaus—were the dominant tendency. These "constructivists" and the foreign architects we invited erected ultra-modern buildings.

"What was the reason for their failure? At that time we lacked sufficiently good building materials. But the makers' structure demands were a high quality material. The houses built in "constructivist" style were rapidly covered with stains and cracks.

"It must be added also that these buildings were constructed in the same fashion as manifestos are drawn up—the principles are exaggerated to the highest degree. The architects reckoned neither with the climate nor with the surrounding landscape. The buildings looked dismal and were called 'colossal'.

"As a reaction to all this, an eclectic architecture of woeful taste predominated for a certain time. This period can now be regarded as ended.

"And now we can perceive how the taste of society has developed. It is not simply that the Government condemns certain buildings on the ground of excessive and wasteful expenditure. It is also because the people have become more cultivated and exacting. They demand an architecture which is more reasonable and which corresponds to the needs of our time.

## Painting . . .

"IN the immediate years after the revolution the academic painters held themselves aloof. The first to accept the revolution were the cubists and abstract painters, that is, the Cubists and the "Suprematists" (the "abstract" artists as we then called them). It was they who decorated our towns, and I still remember the looks of repugnance and hatred on the faces of ordinary people when they gazed at the huge globes, squares, triangles and cubes.

The reaction to these excesses was a long and painful. One could see in these towns certain pictures by Soviet painters and I personally could never quite understand what art there was in them. They depicted parades, portraits

which looked like coloured photographs, genre pictures which were very neat but which lacked composition, coloured drawings which looked like prints.

"How have Soviet people learned to acquire a better appreciation of painting? They have visited many museums and gazed on many masterpieces in wonder. The general development of culture is also reflected in the development of artistic taste.

"Six or seven years ago I visited a workers' settlement near Tambov. In the canteen there hung a brilliant painting by Kotschalovsky, *The Elder Tree*. The management decided to remove this picture and to replace it by a bad one depicting workers casting steel. The workers protested energetically and demanded that they be allowed to retain the original picture. In my opinion this small episode speaks volumes.

"An exhibition of French paintings—from the Impressionists to the present—was held this summer. It drew a great crowd of visitors. People discussed the paintings. The entries in the Visitors' Book and the debates testify to a great advance in the taste of the average Soviet citizen.

## Taste

"THE problem of the dissemination of culture presents us with many difficulties. It cannot be regarded as right to divide literature and art into two compartments—one for the experts and the other for the rest. I believe that every writer and artist wants to be understood.

"Poems are not crossword puzzles and paintings are not riddles. To acquire the culture enjoyed by the "elite" and that of millions of ordinary people can become a task and a dangerous.

"Walt Whitman plays a great role in the poetry of the twentieth century. I can conceive of no conflict from the dialectic-technique of Ernest Hemingway. In spite of this, the average American reads neither Whitman nor—until recently—Hemingway.

"I do not believe by any means that every work of art can be understood and accepted by everybody or even by the majority. Immediately it appears. It is clear that symphonies of Shostakovitch, the landscapes of Sarian, the poems of Mayakov are not easy to understand.

"It seems to me that taste must be cultivated and that different kinds of writers and artists representing different kinds of taste exist (if this fashionable word is permitted) in our country and that this is a guarantee of progress.

"I think that the painter in the audience when Mayakovsky read his poems. His strange expressions, his refusal to adhere to a classical method seemed absurd to most people. But it would be entirely absurd to seek to close the development of poetry with Mayakovsky.

"We discuss with one another

frequently. So do the scientists, the biologists and the philosophers, the historians and physicists. Academician Sobolev wrote recently in *Pravda*:

"The deadly enemy of any advance in science is dogmatism, the substitution of a truth proclaimed once and for all, or in other words dogmas, in place of genuine scientific investigation. This kind of dogmatism has not been eliminated from our scientific circles by any means.

"One can say the same thing in relation to all fields of culture.

"I have already stated that a certain dogmatism was apparent in our scientific work and that we had much that was stereotyped in our works of art. But if we give consideration to the great phenomenon which constitutes Soviet culture it would be false to concentrate our whole attention on this or that detail and to forget that the essential feature of our cultural development is the drawing in of the whole people into cultural life.

"All our failures cannot be explained by this. What is certain, however, is that all our successes stem from this.

## Exchange

"BEFORE the war the books of many Western writers appeared in translation in our country. Amongst them there were also those who were so foreign to the taste of our readers as Proust and Joyce. However, during the cold war, any kind of cultural exchange with the West became extraordinary. This course is indispensable to us—is now being re-examined again.

"In the last few months books by Mauriac, Hemingway, Caldwell, Sartre, Moravia, Roger Vailland, Carlo Levi, Remarque and others have appeared. Exhibitions of French and Belgian modern art

## Victim of Atomic Radiation

LONDON.

Atomic radiation has claimed yet another victim in Japan. Mrs. Some Ozaki, the wife of a factory worker, died early this month from the effects of radiation produced by the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki 12 years ago.

Mr. Ozaki exposed herself to the radiation when she visited Nagasaki a week after the bombing in order to search for the remains of her relatives.

have been arranged; English theatre companies have been our guests and we were represented at the French and Italian film festivals. Contacts are being established between our scientists and those of the West.

"Cultural isolation is always dangerous. It signifies a stopping of the blood circulation. The roots of culture lie deep in the homeland, yet every culture, no matter how pronounced its national character, is universal.

"I think that cultural exchange is also a necessity for the people of the West. There are not only limits of space; there are also limits of time. It is in the homeland, yet in every century, one can be both a son and one cannot turn one's back on it."

## SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNISM ACT THROWN OUT IN CANADA — Supreme Court Ruling

LAST month there was great rejoicing amongst democratic-minded Canadians; they were celebrating the Supreme Court decision declaring Quebec's Padlock Law unconstitutional.

Officially entitled "An Act to Amend the Criminal Code Against Communist Propaganda" the Padlock Law, as it was called, was enacted in 1937. Introduced at a time when organised labour in Canada was showing increased militancy, the law contained these main provisions: no home in Quebec could be used to disseminate Communism or Bolshevism; Quebec's attorney-general could padlock any home or establishment for a maximum of one year if convinced it was being used for such purpose; no one could publish or distribute any leaflet, pamphlet, circular or newspaper propagandising communism; distributors or publishers were subject to three-year minimum prison terms; police could confiscate all such material.

Ostensibly aimed at "Communist propaganda," the Quebec Government for 20 years stretched the law to terrorise trade unions and even mildly liberal organisations and individuals. In its early stages it was used especially against Jewish, Ukrainian, Russian and other minority organisations.

The police raided organisations, private homes and institutions and jammed the basements of police stations with confiscated books, periodicals, literature and private correspondence. From the Jewish Cultural Centre, for example, they removed 2,000 volumes of literature, including the Jewish classics.

Strong protests came from trade unions, civic organisations, churchmen and newspapers. They condemned the law as an infringement of Canadian democracy.

Many times the issue was fought out in the lower Courts without success. Finally a special trust fund was set up with the backing of the Canadian Congress of Labour, to finance an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. The case of John Switzman, whose flat had been padlocked, was chosen as a test case.

Switzman's landlady sued him for non-payment of rent and other damages during the time his flat was padlocked. Switzman's defence was based on the contention that the Padlock Law was unconstitutional.

By an 8-1 majority the Canadian Supreme Court upheld his contention. Yet one more 'Suppression of Communism Act' has gone by the board.

# ANNIE SILINGA WINS HER CASE



The Appeal Court in Bloemfontein gave judgment last Monday in favour of Mrs. ANNIE SILINGA, who had appealed against her conviction for remaining in Cape Town for longer than 72 hours without the permission of the local authority.

Mrs. Silinga had argued in her defence in the lower court that she had resided in Cape Town continuously for more than 15 years—the period required to establish her right to live in Cape Town without a permit in terms of the Urban Areas Act. The lower court held, however, that her period of residence had been interrupted because during two seasons she had gone to Paarl to pick fruit.

The Appeal Court has now overruled this decision. Further details will be given in New Age as soon as possible.

## Kenya Demands

LONDON.

Five of the six Asian elected members of the Kenya Legislative Assembly have issued a statement declaring their support for increased African representation in the Council.

## NOTICE

The price of New Age has been increased to 6d. a copy as from the issue of May 2, 1957.

Readers are given one month after that in which to take out or renew a subscription to New Age at the old rate: 1s. a year for South Africa and the Protectorates, 15s. overseas.

As from June 1, however, the subscription rates will be increased to:

- South Africa and the Protectorates:
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  - 11s. a half-year
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## 40,000 STRIKE

(Continued from page 1)

help in their campaign for justice.

He said that the Western region—Newclare, Sophiatown, Western Native Township—were outside his Council's jurisdiction. Verwoerd's Native Affairs Department was in charge. But he had already asked for a suspension of permit raids, which had been agreed to by the police.

He suggested the Africans accept a sort of identity card, similar to that proposed for Europeans, failure to produce which on demand should not render the holder liable to arrest.

### BEGAN EARLY

The Day of Protest began early in the morning when organisers began calling the people to gather at Freedom Square. By 8 a.m. a huge crowd, estimated at up to 30,000, had gathered in the Square for a meeting, after which special buses started carrying people into the city. At the city terminus processions were formed and banners denouncing permits and pass raids the people marched to the City Hall.

The demonstrators, including many women with babies on their backs, made a remarkable impression at the City Hall. Red-armed women were seen to maintain order. Many Europeans expressed their sympathy with the crowd.

Many people who were unable to obtain transport came, late, or stayed in the township. There was what amounted to a general strike in Sophiatown, Newclare and W.N.T., though many workers had permission from their employers to take the day off.

Mr. J. Gaetsiwe, secretary of the Anti-Permit Committee, estimated that at least 40,000 workers stayed away from work on Thursday.

The Committee will consider the Mayor's suggestions and the next step in its activities at a special meeting this week.

### REPORT BACK

Reporting at mass meetings in Sophiatown and Newclare last Sunday, speakers from the Committee told the people that the Mayor had promised "to help us at all times."

The people expressed gratitude for the co-operative attitude of the Mayor, but expressed themselves as being totally opposed to any documents whatever for women. Even a paper saying that she was born, or legally employed, in the City, would become a pass as soon as she had to produced on demand on pain of imprisonment.

## U.S. BANKRUPTS

NEW YORK.

The number of U.S. bankrupts is expected to reach 72,000 for the 12 months ending 30th June, breaking the 1932 record of 70,049.

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# WANTED: AN EXPOSE OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH

THE Commissioner of Police, Major-General C. I. Rademeyer, stated solemnly last week that the Special Branch called it the "Security Branch" and that specialists who dealt exclusively with Communist and subversive activity, "I don't want to quarrel with General Rademeyer over the use of the word 'specialist' (although I had always thought of a specialist as someone who at least was able to make a few notes intelligently), but the pious announcement that the Special Branch spies only on Communists and subversive agents cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged."

General Rademeyer's statement is incorrect, even bearing in mind that "Communist" has a special meaning of its own among policemen and that a subversive agent is someone who opposes the Nationalist Government.

### MRS. GILLICUDDY

But does even General Rademeyer, Mr. Swart, the Cape year-old Mrs. Gillicuddy, who runs a Railway bookstall in East London on a commission basis, falls under either of these headings?

No. Yet the Special Branch set a trap for Mrs. Gillicuddy who, apparently, was in the habit of speaking her mind on the subject of the Nationalist Government to the "Specialist" who was a docket in the police files on Mrs. Gillicuddy.

This is not the first time that the fact has been disclosed that the suppression of Communism Act is used as much against non-Communists as against former members of the Communist Party of South Africa, and that the Special Branch spies itself as much with non-Communists as with listed Communists, if not more.

The point is an important one to many because when the Suppression of Communism Act was passed, many people shrugged their shoulders, and said, "It won't harm me." Today they too are in the net.

With monotonous regularity, the event repeats itself during every Parliamentary session. As new Nationalist laws flow into Parliament, various individuals and organisations take a quick glance at them, and decide that they will not be affected—until the day comes when they are affected. WHEN WILL SOUTH AFRICANS LEARN THAT THERE IS A LAW FOR EVERY ANTI-NATIONALIST?

Mrs. Gillicuddy's "crime"—as revealed in Parliament last week—was that she spoke (or was outspoken) to passengers from the mail boats about South Africa's racial problems. The Special Branch wanted a report on her and the Railways System Manager gave her a severe warning. When the matter was raised in the Assembly by Dr. Douglas Smit, Mr. Swart defended the action of both the police and the System Manager.

Thousands of newspaper readers, no doubt, were shocked to discover that fully-grown policemen go about spying on 69-year-old pensioners, and so they should be. But the progressive movement in South Africa could tell even more alarming tales of the activities of the Special Branch.

It is a pity that the Assembly did not lift the black cloak that conceals the activities of the Special Branch. Mr. H. G. Lawrence had some long-overdue comments to make on young policemen who terrorise the public, but surely some M.P. should have taken the opportunity provided by the Police Vote of having a good, hard look at the Special Branch? As Mr. L. Lovell (Labour) said: "Who in South Africa today is safe from the acts of the Security Branch?"

It is high time the public learnt what these "better techniques" are to which General Rademeyer refers so boastfully.

## NATIVE LAWS AMENDMENT BILL

This Bill was passed finally by Parliament last week, and presumably it will be promulgated shortly. By the time it reached the final stages in the Senate, its author, Dr. Verwoerd, was in an impatient and arrogant mood. He kept the elderly

meekly off their heads to be chopped off. Cape Town's protest march was one example of the public's determination to call a halt to Dr. Verwoerd.

## UNIVERSITY APARTHEID

One cannot deny that the open universities, from their Chancellors down to first-year students, have been campaigning actively against the university apartheid Bill. Thousands of words of protest have been spoken and written; meetings and demonstrations have taken place—with more to follow. Deputations have called on the Minister, and students at Fort Hare have reunited with students at the "White" universities. But is it enough?

A deputation, headed by ex-Chief Justice Centlivres, Chancellor of Cape Town University, which called on the Minister of Education, Mr. Viljoen, last week, was told that the Minister would not discuss the principle of university apartheid with them. The deputation left after 15 minutes.

What next? The Nationalists, obviously, are determined to pay no attention to any of the protests.

The students and teachers at South Africa's anti-apartheid universities might well ask themselves whether the time hasn't come for them to plunge themselves into a broader comradeship to fight the defeat of apartheid. It is becoming terribly clear that, at the present rate, protests will be made, the Bill will be passed (the final stages are being held over until next year), and that will be that.

A major united onslaught on the Nationalists is called for if this Bill is to be stopped from becoming law.

C.P.E.

## Looking At Parliament

Senators sitting up until well past midnight just to that the Bill could be speeded through Parliament.

In the Assembly, the Government moved the closure four times to cut short the debates, and then, in the Senate, Dr. Verwoerd forced the Senators to sit late on three occasions.

As Dr. Verwoerd left the Senate, triumphant at the passage of the Bill (with 77 Senators ready to shout "Ayes," could he have had any anxieties about the outcome?), he was "warmly congratulated by Government Senators, and in the Lobby Government Members of the House of Assembly and the wives of Government Parliamentarians rushed to shake his hand."

The churches, clubs, schools, hospitals, places of entertainment, private homes and meeting places where White and Non-White have been in the habit of meeting and mixing, can await the axe, wielded by the victory-flushed Minister.

But many are not going to wait

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