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PRICE 6^D.

EDITORIAL.

A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY

THE problem of the soaring cost of living is one which faces all of us, wage earner and businessman alike, so that there is no need to labour the point. It would serve a far more useful purpose to examine some of the factors involved and see what can be done about it.

Basically the problem is this — the cost of living has risen, in relation to pre-war prices, by between 53% (Government figures) and 75% (Trade Union figures). Wages have inevitably lagged far behind, so that workers of all races, but more particularly non-Europeans, who have at the best of times lived below the bread-line, can no longer come out. Ignoring the personal hardships involved, there remains the effects of this on the economy of the country. Curtailment of purchasing power means restriction in output, which results in workers being thrown out of their jobs — a further curtailment of purchasing power, and so on in a vicious downward spiral to a complete slump.

In the nature of things, industry and commerce are not capable of affecting a countrywide trend such as this. The dis-equilibrium is too violent, and mark-downs and clearance sales would have little or no effect, as shown by the pathetic and incredibly naive effort known as "Louwcol". This being so, there remains only the Government as an agency which could take the necessary measures to stop the rot.

Their history in this sphere is not particularly impressive, and having regard to the vested interest they represent, the prospect of their taking drastic action is not rosy. In their policy toward

the Trade Unions, they have shown a consistent anti-labour bias, while their handling of import control was marked by ineptitude and complete lack of consideration for the effects of their policy on the employment capacity of industry. In many aspects of their struggle to retain power, the Government has shown a degree of irresponsibility, and this attitude is evident in their handling of the serious threat to the living standards of the workers.

The present situation can be faced in two ways. The cost of living allowance can be increased — a useless method in the long run, unless prices are frozen, or alternatively, attempts can be made to increase the real wealth of the country by increased efficiency and increased production, the benefits of which must be equitably shared. As a mark of good faith with the workers, the C.O.L.A. should for a start, be consolidated into the basic wage, so that this ever present threat of possible wage cuts is removed.

Many aspects of both production and distribution are either excessively profitable or uneconomically expensive, and would bear searching investigation with a view to rationalisation, the benefits again to be fairly shared. Price control is essential.

But the basic problem is that of the productivity of the workers. South Africa will never be rich until the best use is made of our labour force. Unskilled, unwilling and dissatisfied migratory labour can never be the foundation of a sound economy, and since Apartheid implies all that, the Government, should it succeed (apart from their difficulty

in defining it) in implementing it, will be dooming us to chaos and poverty.

There is nothing to show that the Government is either capable of, or willing to seriously tackle this burning problem. They are primarily concerned with retention of power, and thus dare not antagonise the farmers, landlords or industrialists, by controlling prices. The very existence of the Nationalist Government is part cause of our economic ills, for the flow of overseas capital has dwindled almost to nothing since they came to power. But above all, their pre-occupation with racialism makes them incapable of bringing about that condition of an efficient labour force, without which South Africa must eventually starve.

The Nationalist Party Government stands for Apartheid, for isolation from world capital, for subjection to the greed of landlords and farmers. The Nationalist Government stands for poverty. The Nationalists must go. And YOU must help to get them out.



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YOU'RE TELLING US



Letters to the Editor

Die Redakteur,
„Fighting Talk,”
Johannesburg.

Geagte Vriend,

Berig word dat daar op 24 Januarie 'n vergadering van Randse Afrikaners en van verteenwoordigers van Afrikaanse liggame belê is om 'n afvaardiging te kies om die Minister van Verdediging te nader met die oog op die stigting van 'n Afrikaanse regiment aan die Rand.

Dat daar so'n verlange sal wees, is nie onverstaanbaar nie. Maar daar is myns insiens 'n belangrike beginsel op die spel: Kan dit toegelaat word dat die U.V.M. uit aparte Engelssprekende en Afrikaanssprekende regimente bestaan?

Volgens die nuusberig het die verlange na 'n Afrikaanse regiment sy oorsprong by die jonger lede van die onlangs gestigte skietkommandos. Skynbaar het hierdie penkoppe nie die heeltemal natuurlike samewerking tussen Engelssprekende en Afrikaanssprekende in die afgelope oorlog ervaar nie.

Nietemin, ek dink die blote feit dat so'n voorstel gedoen is, behoort tot oordening te stem.

Eerstens, behoort hulle wat met onderwys belas is te wonder of aparte skole nie gaan lei tot aparte regimente nie, tot 'n Verdedigingsmag wat wanneer die uur van nood daar is sy bevel moet kry van Engelssprekende en Afrikaanssprekende kolonelle en kommandante wat op 'n rasse-grondslag reeds met mekaar oorhoop lê.

Die Verdedigingsmag self moet hom dit afvra of sy bestaande regimente — op die Rand veral — voldoende voorsiening maak vir die Afrikaanssprekende. Dit skyn my belaglik b.v. dat ons op hierdie stadium nog „Skotse” regimente in stand hou. Of, wat dit betref, „Ierse” regimente. Laat die Verdedigingsmag nou eenmaal daartoe oorgaan om sy regimente so in te stel dat beide Afrikaans- en Engelssprekende in elke regiment kan tuisvoel. Doen weg beide met die Skotse rok en die velbroek.

Die onlangse byeenkoms by die Voortrekkermonument het bewys dat Afrikaner nasionalisme besonder sterk is.

Versoeke vir 'n aparte regiment ens. bewys dit ook. Dit skyn my dis 'n feit waarvan kennis geneem moet word. Soos Suid-Afrika vandag inmekaar gesit is, gaan enige organisasie, of hy nou die U.V.M. is of die Springboklegioen, eensydig en lamleendig wees indien hy nie so ingerig is dat die Afrikaner in hom tuisvoel nie. Dit lyk of *Afrikanerskap* nog lank gaan duur as iets apart van *Suid-Afrikanerskap*. Dit volg egter glad nie dat 'n persoon wat sterk „Afrikanerbewus” is, nie 'n aktiewe lid kan wees van alle organisasies nie. In die politieke veld is hy tans hoofsaaklik 'n aktiewe lid van konserwatiewe of reaksionêre organisasies. Progressiewe organisasies is geneig om merendeels van Engelssprekende inslag te wees.

Dat daar sterk Afrikaner nasionalisme in Suid-Afrika is, is nie propaganda nie, maar 'n feit; net soos dit 'n feit is dat Afrikaans- en Engelssprekende met mekaar goed oor die weg gekom het in die U.V.M. in sy „finest hour.”

Dis myns insiens tyd dat alle organisasies met 'n progressiewe politieke uitkyk terdeë kennis neem van Afrikaner nasionalisme. 'n Progressiewe organisasie kan nie verwag om die Afrikaner te trek en te hou indien sy atmosfeer uitsluitlik Engels en vreemd is nie. Ek weet die Springboklegioen het nog altyd hierdie feit besef. Tog dink ek dat dit nie voldoende beklemtoon kan word nie.

A.B.

Home of the Brave

The Springbok Legion,
Main House,
Main Street,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sirs,

In view of the interest taken by you in the play “Home of the Brave” and in view of the campaign organised by you against the South African Government's banning of the Hollywood film production of the play, I, although by no means professional, give you a review of the play after having yesterday

been present at what was technically the premiere of the film in Bulawayo, there having been two earlier performances on Sunday evening and Monday afternoon.

The Hollywood film production of the play ‘Home of the Brave’, has been presented in Bulawayo at the Twentieth Century Theatre. On this film has been conferred the rightful distinction of a scheduled run of one week. This in Bulawayo is a distinction which is shown to few films and only an insignificant number of Hollywood productions. The decision to run the film for 7 days has received the full support of the Bulawayo public, who have filled the cinema at every performance, and who in no way signified any disapproval of the purpose of production, thereby calling the bluff of the Union Government's contention that the film would cause racial friction.

The hero of the production is a Negro, Mossel by name. His acting and the acting of the other players was commendable. The story maintained its interest throughout. These points combined with what is an unapologetic presentation of a controversial subject ensured the popularity of the film.

Hollywood has produced something better than ‘The Iron Curtain,’ but, as good as it is, it cannot escape criticism. The conclusions of the film is the reconciliation of a victim of society to that society. The society is one which permits racial discrimination and which condones the Klu Klux Klan. The ultimate result of discrimination is not reconciliation but revolt; and to the extent that this fact was disregarded, so did the film fail as an artistic achievement, the essence of which is truth.

“We hope that Hollywood, the home of propaganda, will take notice of the moral behind the box office success of this film and the financial failure of ‘The Iron Curtain.’”

I am,

Yours sincerely,

JOE ARMCHAIR.

Bulawayo.

*Letters and contributions
to “Fighting Talk”
are welcomed*

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One Man's Meat

By HERBY.

BROWNE OFF NATIONALISTS

LIFE sometimes deals some funny hands, as this true story will illustrate. It concerns two girls, the daughters of a Dominie who is in his spate time (or maybe he is a spare-time Dominie) is a prominent Nationalist. Anyway, these girls went to the Cape Coast for a holiday. And, as girls will, they lay in the sun for hours, and developed a 100 per cent. 35 h.p. tan. In fact they became the most wonderful golden brown. The holiday, as holidays will, drew to an end, and they went to the station to book their return passage. The stationmaster looked them over, and offered them genuine Apartheid seats in a coloured coach. They protested the purity of their European blood, but the official was adamant. He had to use his discretion, and to him they looked Coloured, so Coloured they had to be. The girls argued and pleaded, and he finally promised to see what he could do for them.

When they rolled up to catch the train they found they had been booked in a Coloured coach. They stayed where they were.

I heard there's a Railwayman whose face is very red, while several Nationalists are quite browned off!

FASCISTS BY ANY NAME—STINK

The Fascist mentality crops up considerably in all its naked hatred of the masses, and smug belief in its own inherent superiority.

A Dr. Monnik, president of the S. Afrikaanse Akademie is the latest contributor to the growing pile of evidence indicating that Nationalists are Fascists. He delivered a lecture on Sterilisation of undesirable elements in the population. Briefly, the marks of the Fascists are these. Firstly, by considerable mental gymnastics he passes from the problem of over-population to that of physically and mentally deficient people. He proceeds to equate the poor with the deficient, and implies that only the working masses produce defectives. He forgets for instance that some of the Royal families of Europe bequeath to their offspring the disease of Haemophilia or uncontrollable bleeding. Furthermore,

history is studded with Royalty as mad as hatters.

He deplores that society defeats "Natural Selection" by assisting the people during epidemics or famines. Again the obsession that the poor are the least fitted to live. In fact, were Dr. Monnik and other gently nurtured Herrenvolk subjected to the living conditions of Africans, they would die like flies.

To quote "I mean the sort of humanity" (which he blames) which revolts when the provision of food to Native school children and scholarships for Native medical students at white universities is stopped, or when there is talk of birth control among the backward, or the sterilisation of the feeble minded." Nor again the blind hatreds which lead a supposedly scientific man to equate the first two — feeding of children, and scholarships, and the last.

He twists the fact that there are cultured and educated people **ONLY BECAUSE** there are a multitude of poor whose labours provide the wherewithal

to support such culture. In his opinion the masses are ignorant of what is being done for them by those lucky enough to have the leisure and wealth to become educated. To the Fascist mind, there is no inconsistency in running a system which keeps the masses poor, uneducated and unhealthy, and then blaming them for it. As though poverty were the most pleasant state, and disease and degradation the height of their ambition. The masses want the better things of life, and despite Dr. Monnik and his ilk, they will get it.

He suggests two solutions — that people be educated according to their station in life (a sort of eternal worker, drone, Queen Bee set-up) and secondly by birth control and sterilisation to ensure that only "desirable elements" be allowed to increase. By "desirable elements" I presume he means his own sort, but this is open to doubt. I have only read one more blatant exposition of the Nazi outlook on this topic. That emanated from Nazi Germany during the Spanish Civil War, and hailed the mass bombing of cities as a good thing eugenically, as workers' areas were more densely populated than those of the rich, and therefore more workers (undesirable elements) would be blotted out.

Makes you puke, doesn't it!



RUSS PRIESTLEY

"How come you didn't win any of those posthumous awards in the last war, Daddy?"

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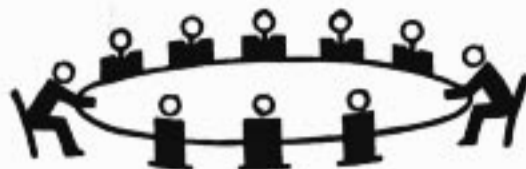
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THE democratic structure of South Africa, never strong at any time due to the many restrictions and discriminations that make the base of democracy in this country so shaky, is being threatened as never before by the policy and actions of the Nationalist Government. In their attacks on democratic rights it is the Government's declared intention to convert the trade union movement, one of the bulwarks of democracy, into a movement that will not bear any resemblance to democratic trade unionism. One would have to look into the records of Mussolini and Hitler and their Corporations and Labour Fronts, which were established under fascist regimes, to replace the illegalised and destroyed trade union movements of Italy and Germany, to find out what the trade union movement will be, if the Nationalists succeed in getting their way in their path of ruin for trade unionism in South Africa.

THREE METHODS OF ATTACK

Three methods are being applied to further their anti-democratic policy in the trade union movement. Firstly, by means of administrative actions, the screw is being put on, and hardwon trade union rights are being undermined and attacked. Secondly the Nationalists are relying on their fifth column in the trade union movement, guided by Dr. Albert Hertzog and Company, who, playing on the prejudices of misguided Afrikaans-speaking workers, are doing their utmost to follow up their successes in the Mine Workers' Union, and capture the control of other important trade unions for a pro-fascist policy. Finally the Government by means of legislation some of which already enacted, but the main items still to follow, intends to launch a broadside attack on trade union rights to destroy every vestige of democratic procedure in the workers' movement, that is so vital and necessary in the struggle for the economic protection of all workers.

Let us examine these three main spheres of anti-trade union attacks that are being sponsored by the present Nationalist Government.

THE TRADE UNIONS AND THE STATE

Administratively, the Government has declared its support for the splinter coordinating trade union council with headquarters in Pretoria, and whose constitution has a colour bar, by giving this breakaway body representation in various capacities, including the Industrial Legislation Commission etc. Unions have complained at the long delays that take place in the publication of industrial agreements, and the Minister of Labour has delayed the Garment Workers' agreement, because he does not agree that this union should have the right to affiliate to the S.A. Labour Party. Now another union has been forced to drop the "closed shop" clause because the Minister frowns upon what he calls "mixed unions" that is unions with European and non-European members, such as the Durban Liquor and Catering Union, which has successfully fought for the European and Indian workers in that trade, and whose agreement was held up because of his mixed membership. The implications of this Ministerial threat are so far-reaching as to cause concern in many unions, because of the existence of a large number of registered trade unions with "mixed" membership.

ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE

In many unions insidious attempts are being made all the time to undermine the existing trade union movement, especially unions which adopt progressive policies and which take up a stand on behalf of the non-European workers. The powers that be are aided in this work by all sorts of agents, some of these of a most disreputable character. The attack on the Garment Workers' Union and the resulting appointment of a Commission indicate the line taken to secure official condemnation of the policy of this democratic Union. The attacks on the S.A. Trades and Labour Council and the breaking away of a number of unions is due to the pressure being exerted by pro-fascist elements to destroy the Trades and Labour Council, which is regarded as being "communistic" and/or "Liberalistic" and in the way of the Nationalist getting control of the workers and

bringing about more measures of apartheid between white and non-white trade union members. This unity of workers, irrespective of their colour or race is something that sticks in the gizzard of the Nationalist politicians, and is a threat to the whole conception that the various people in South Africa will be able to overcome their prejudices and work together for their common good.

Hence in all unions attempts are being made to capture the control of the machine, and now the latest step is the printing of special newspapers, for mining, building and clothing workers, with the promise of more papers for other sections of workers to follow. These weekly papers are published under the guidance of Dr. Albert Hertzog who is a protagonist of the Labour Front idea, of the employers and the workers being in one trade union, in short of fascism, as practised in Germany and Italy.

But the main attack is still to come. By means of legislation the Government is out to split the trade unions into racial organisations, interfere in their democratic rights of collective bargaining, say who shall be their officials, and to even take the drastic step, if it suits them, to illegalise any trade union, under the cloak of fighting "communism." Maybe this will be considered to be alarmist or far-fetched. "It can't happen here," as they said in America. But it can and it will happen here. Make no mistake about it. Unless the trade unionists wake up now and defend their rights now, without waiting for the Nationalists to train their big guns on them in the way of legislative measures, they will wake up one morning and find their organisations just non est, with a Fuhrer in charge dictating what shall be done. The threat to the trade union movement is a threat to the whole democratic movement, to the livelihood of the South African workers, who would suffer irreparable harm and untold miseries if these nefarious plans succeed. The time to act in defence of trade union liberties and democratic rights is right now. Tomorrow may be too late.

TWO FASCIST BILLS BEFORE THE HOUSE

....ONE TO STIFLE OPPOSITION

AT the opening ceremony of the present session of Parliament the Speech from the Throne indicated that the Government intended to introduce measures against Communism during the session.

It was a bare statement of the intention and gave no indication as to the nature of the measures to be introduced or whether they would be in the form of a new Bill or an amendment to an old one. Since then there has been much speculation as to the form and content of the proposed legislation.

Some have expressed the belief that the form of this legislation will be a Bill to ban the Communist Party and that its content will contain powers to the Minister to ban or declare illegal such organisations as he in his discretion considers to be "Communistically inclined." It is believed by this school of thought that the Minister will also have discretionary power to restrict or penalise individuals as "Communists" and to confiscate and close up newspapers and journals guilty of making "communist propaganda," and to penalise those responsible. It is feared by those holding these views that the vagueness of the Bill, who is a "Communist" and what is "Communist Propaganda" will make it well-nigh impossible for organisations such as the Trade Unions, the Springbok Legion, Race Relations and similar bodies to carry on their legitimate functions, and in fact that a situation will be created where it will not be possible for any organisation or individual to oppose the reactionary policies of the Nationalist Party, to criticise the Nationalist Government or to attempt to obtain improved wages and conditions for the workers and other sections of the community, without the serious risk of being dealt with in terms of the Bill.

Another section believes that the Bill will take the form of section 98 of the Canadian Criminal Code which was repealed in 1938 and which was similar in content to the above but does not specifically name Communism.

Others, again, think that the legislation will take the form of an amendment to the Riotous Assemblies Act, to give the Minister wider powers.

All, on the side of democracy, are

agreed that this legislation, whatever its form or content, while ostensibly directed against the Communist Party and its members, is to be used to attack and destroy opposition to the Nationalist Party and its Government.

All of us fear that this legislation will be used to ban organisations inimical to the establishment of a Fascist Republic and the anti-democratic policies of the Nationalist Government, that it will be used to suppress legitimate criticism of the inadequacies, and to restrict and otherwise victimise individuals who in the "opinion" of the Minister are "communists," "Guilty of communist activity" and of "making communist propaganda." The abuses and elastic interpretations of existing legislation that have already taken place can leave us in no doubt as to the danger inherent in such measures.

Apart from this approach to the proposed legislation there is another. The intention to restrict or ban the Communist Party alone, if given effect, is a direct attack on the democratic structure of the country. It is a departure from the principles and practices bought with the blood and lives of millions of people, not only in our own country but throughout the world. It opens up an era of political insecurity for individuals and groups for it opens the way for similar action against other political parties and movements. Many people and groups, who or which normally support democratic principles, both in the political parties and outside of them, because of their antipathy to the Communist Party are inclined to support measures against it, should learn from the de-

(Continued in foot of next column)



"I shouldn't worry too much old man, Mavenga is with us as soon as he gets a ruling from the Speaker."

YOU CAN PREVENT THEM FROM BECOMING LAW

velopments in Germany in the years of the Nazi Government. What is permitted against the Communists can be used against them when and if they are considered an obstacle to Nationalist domination.

It is not only the duty of those professing to be democrats to oppose this legislation but it is necessary as being directly in their interests and for their own protection.

....THE OTHER TO FACILITATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

IN his speech from the throne at the opening of this Session of Parliament, the Governor-General indicated that a Population Registration Bill would be amongst the measures placed before the Session. Although the details of the Bill are not known, its general content and purpose have been made apparent by announcements by Dr. Malan in the past.

As long ago as November, 1948, Dr. Malan announced that the Government intended to introduce, as part of its Apartheid policy, a system of national registration under which every individual in the State would carry an identity card. He said subsequently that the intention was to make everyone distinguishable by race. He added that the cards would show "certain details concerning the individual, some still to be decided upon."

This proposal was hailed by the Government Press and when it met with a barrage of criticism from the rest of the country the counter-argument used by the Nats, was that the Registration of Citizens and the carrying of passes was enforced in some European democratic countries.

That is the picture. What have we got to say about it before the Government thrusts passes upon us? First, we want to say this: we admit that identity cards are carried in overseas countries — but for a very definite purpose. In Holland and France identity cards form the basis of rationing, in England they exist to facilitate the extensive social services in which the citizen participates. In no democratic country do people have to carry passes as a means of racial discrimination.

Registration is not needed in South Africa either for rationing or for social services. What, then, is it required for?

It can only be for political purposes: in brief, to put the people into clearly defined sections: black, coloured and white (perhaps white will be divided into Afrikaans, English and Jewish).

This being the case we feel we must make abundantly clear the possible dangers, but beyond that we cannot go, for we realise that it is not every official who will make use of these "passes" for purposes of discrimination. But discrimination there will be. Whenever you consult the Civil Service on any matter, you will have to produce your pass — otherwise why have passes? It is then possible that you will be discriminated against. Maybe you won't get a flat from a Controller because your pass says you are English, or supplementary petrol because you're a Jew, or import permits or any of the hundreds of other things, the issue of which lies at the discretion of bureaucracy. It is even possible that passes might have secret marks on them to indicate who are "agitators" or "saboteurs"; two words which, in South Africa, have become synonymous with "critic of the Government."

These are the dangers; the advantages, a possible aid to the apprehension of criminals but otherwise none. Your task is clear: when the Bill is tabled you must exercise your democratic right to criticise, a right no less fundamental to the ordinary citizen than to members of the opposition in a Parliament. Stop the Bill from becoming law!

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ORGANISEER VIR DIE STRYD WAT VOORLE

DIE besluit van die Nasionale Uitvoerende Komitee om 'n intensiewe organisasieprogram van stapel te stuur, asook die besluit om weer 'n voltydse organiseerder aan te stel, moet verwelkom word. Dit is inderdaad verblydend om te verneem dat die Legioen se finansies in so 'n mate verbeter het dat daar uitvoering gegee kan word aan bogenoemde besluite.

Ons wil egter hier graag die volgende feit beklemtoon, en dit is, dat as 'n program tot reorganisasie alleen op 'n gesentraliseerde poging moet berus, d.w.s. op die N.U.K. die Nasionale Kantoor en die voltydse Organiseerder dit weinig hoop op sukses sal hê.

Liewer moet die drang tot 'n beter organisasie van die individuele lede self kom, alleen dan bestaan daar sekerheid dat die oproep van die sentrale gesag met welslae bekroon sal word.

Ons kan egter aanneem dat die N.U.K. bewus is van die feit dat so 'n drang wel bestaan en dat hulle besluit daarop gegrond is. Talle briewe van oor die hele Suid-Afrika en Suidwes, selfs uit die kleinste plattelandse dorpie het dan ook die afgelope tyd die Nasionale kantoor bereik, en almal dui daarop dat die behoefte vir wyd verspreide netwerk van takke van die Springbok Legioen algemeen deur lede aangevoel word, dit is om aan hierdie behoefte te voorsien dat daar besluit is om 'n voltydse organiseerder aan te stel wie se taak dit sal wees om in noue voeling te bly met die takke. Die stigting van takke en wat meer belangrik is die instandhouding van die takke, kan egter nie op die skouers van een man gelaai word nie. Dit is veral hier waar die individuele lid sy deel moet bydra, en dit is hierdie bydrae wat 'n organisasie of invloedryk en sterk maak of swak en ondoeltreffend.

Dit is geloof in die beginsels van die Legioen wat oud-Soldate manne sowel as vroue gedurende die oorlogsjare toe die Springbok Legion gestig is in hulle duisende laat lede word het, en dit is dieselfde geloof in dieselfde beginsels wat die organisasie gedurende die tydperk van kwynende belangstelling in die na-oorlogse tydperk in stand gehou het. Dit is ook dieselfde geloof in die beginsels waarvoor die Legioen staan, nl. dat rasse verdeeldheid die wortel is van meeste van ons probleme, en dat as manne en vroue wat deur toestande in die leer in 'n geleentheid gestel is om mekaar te leer ken, met die gevolg dat 'n onder-

linge gevoel van eenwees en saamhoort tussen hulle ontwikkel het, in 'n geleentheid gestel kan word om hierdie uitkyk binne 'n organisasie van hulle eie in die burgerlewe oor te dra; sal ons Suid-Afrika 'n oncindige diens bewys, dat die organisasie sal herlewe, en voortgaan tot grootse take in ons stryd om rasse-samewerking en instandhouding van die demokrasie.

In die stryd vir sy beginsels was dit dikwels vir die Legioen nodig om homself in die politieke arena te begewe, en dit is juis op hierdie gebied waar hulle die meeste teenkating op die hals gehaal het. Daar is mense wat eenvoudig nie kan verstaan waarom dit vir 'n organisasie wat onafhanklik staan van die party politiek nodig is om homself op politieke gebied te begewe, selfs al stry hy vir beginsel wat so 'n belangrike rol speel in die party politiek van die land.

Dit is tog immers vanselfsprekend dat 'n organisasie wat tot stand gekom het as gevolg van 'n sekere drang by mense om uiting te gee aan 'n sienswyse, moet bots met politieke partye wie se beleid

teenstrydig is met daardie sienswyse. 'n Voorbeeld hiervan is die vyandskap tussen die Nasionale Party en die Springbok Legioen.

Die Nasionale Party het sy bestaan en sukses te danke aan die uitbuiting van rasse-sentiment, terwyl die Legioen lynreg daarteenoor staan. 'n Botsing is dus onvermydelik.

Die na-oorlogse tydperk het 'n onvermydelike slapte en lamheid gebring in die geledere van die progressief denkkendes, onvermydelik omdat dit hulle uitgeput gelaat het in hul grootste stryd teen reaksie, en dit het aan reaksionêres die geleentheid gelaat om op die voorgrond te tree, soos so duidelik geblyk het in die oorwinning van die Nasionale Party in die 1948 verkiesing.

Met die terugkeer egter van toestande soos ekonomiese slapties, begin die progressief denkende weer te ontwaak, en omdat die gedagte rigting van die reaksionêre teenstrydig is met die leer van vooruitgang van die mens sal hy vanselfsprekend plek moet maak vir diegene wat strewe vir vooruitgang.

Dit is op hierdie onbetwisbare feit dat die Springbok Legioen hulle organisasieprogram moet baseer, en dit is ook as gevolg hiervan dat elke lid sy deel moet bydra om te help om die organisasie sterk te maak vir die stryd wat voorlê.

HERE'S TO EDUCATION

A rich man shocked his friends and relations once when he announced that on his death he would leave all his money to education.

His family, aghast, immediately called on the old man's lawyer and begged him to use his influence to get the will changed. The lawyer promised to see what he could do.

Eventually, the old man died and to their great delight, the family found themselves the sole heirs to his vast wealth. Delightedly they clustered round the lawyer, asking how he managed it.

"Well, it's like this," said the lawyer. "Although your father loved education, he himself was not an educated man. He didn't understand the use of words. When I told him that in the course of education boys and girls matriculate together, he began to have doubts; then when I told him that the boys and girls share the same curriculum, he began to splutter with rage, and then when I mentioned that before getting their degrees the Professor examines their theses, he tore up the Will and shouted "To hell with education!"

Mrs. Hodgson on C.O.L. Deputation to Minister

Mrs. Rica Hodgson, wife of our General Secretary, and a prominent Legionnaire on her own account, has been appointed as a member of the delegation which will be sent to Cape Town to interview the Minister on the cost of living. This delegation, which is organised by the Housewives League in co-operation with other organisations, consists also of Mrs. Jessie McPherson, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Preller and Mrs. K. le Grange.

The mass meeting of Johannesburg citizens which met on the 14th February decided that a delegation should be sent to Cape Town.

*Know your
Organisations — No. 5*



THE BRITISH PEACE CONGRESS

The organisation this month is the British Peace Congress, whose Conference, recently held in London, was attended by fraternal delegates from the Springbok Legion. The following main resolution, passed at the Conference, explains, adequately, the function of this organisation.

WE, the 1,159 delegates to the British Peace Congress held in London on the 22nd and 23rd October, 1949, representing men and women in all parts of Britain, active workers in the Labour movement, trade unionists, co-operators, teachers, doctors, lawyers, artists, scientists, clergy, housewives, pensioners and young people, declare:

War today is unnecessary. War is not inevitable. Peoples with different social systems can live side by side in peace. Any future war will be catastrophically destructive, especially to the people of Britain. Secure peace and abounding prosperity which are the vital interests of the British and all other peoples lie within the grasp of men and women today.

A campaign of active propaganda for a Third World War is being carried on by a handful of powerful privileged interests in America and Western Europe. Baseless fear and hatred are being roused against the Soviet Union, repeated Soviet proposals for full discussion and settlement of outstanding differences are derided and rejected. The building of military blocs in contravention of the United Nations' Charter, the initiation of an arms race, and the establishment of widely-spread offensive air bases, threaten the maintenance establishment of widely spread off-peace.

Britain can play a decisive role in combatting all such plans for war, and in ensuring the victory of the principles of international co-operation through the United Nations. The people of Britain and the world have the strength, if

they have the will to defeat the instigators of war. The triumph of the popular forces in China, ending a long period of conflict and oppression, brings a powerful reinforcement to the ranks of peace. We welcome the growing strength of the supporters of peace in all countries, as shown by the World Peace Congress of 600,000,000 people, the World Youth Festival in Budapest, representing 57,000,000 young people, the programme adopted by the World Federation of Trade Unions, the great Peace Congresses in New York, Mexico City, Sofia, Moscow and other capitals, the overwhelming vote of the Scottish T.U.C. instructing its General Council to conduct an active campaign for peace, and the organisation of the Asiatic Women's Conference in Peking.

We therefore resolve to strive for:

1. Friendship between peoples of all countries and particularly of Britain, China, France, the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R., treating none as enemies except the instigators of war.

2. Immediate reduction of armaments, the banning of the Atom Bomb and the destruction of all stocks together with control to prevent their further manufacture.

3. Support for the United Nations' Charter, and resistance to all pacts and blocs tending to weaken it.

4. Immediate end to the war in Malaya, full freedom of all colonial peoples, and resistance to every form of the doctrines of racial superiority, fascism and anti-Semitism.

5. Support to democratic and peace-loving Germans and Japanese in eradi-

cating from their countries all forms of fascism and militarism.

6. An end to the armed support of the Greek Government by Britain and U.S.A. Cessation of economic, financial and diplomatic support for Franco Spain.

7. Instead of a declining standard of living, increasing economic and political dependence on the U.S.A., the raising of the living standards of the people by increased reciprocal trade with the non-dollar areas, particularly the Soviet Union and the Peoples Democracies.

8. Development of science, art and culture for the health and happiness, and not the destruction, of mankind.

We pledge ourselves to work individually and through our organisations for peace.

We pledge ourselves to take part in building a great movement to fight at every stage the fomentors of war.

We appeal for the support of all who love their country and desire the victory of peace.

Mothers: Your children need peace.
Young people: Your future depends on peace.

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SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIVE POLICY AND COMMUNISM

By the Rev. Father Trevor Huddleston, C.R.

(Reprinted from the "Star", by kind permission of the author.)

THOSE who have read Alan Paton's masterpiece, "Cry the Beloved Country," will perhaps remember the words of the young Native priest towards the close of the book: "I have one great fear in my heart, that one day when they turn to loving they will find we are turned to hating."

It would be well if every European in South African pondered these "grave and sombre words." For there lie within them the profoundest truth; the most serious warning and — for those who have ears to hear — the surest voice of prophecy.

The speeches of the Native leaders at Bloemfontein recently, which are apparently being studied carefully by the Minister of Justice and are rumoured to be the subject of further discussion between Mr. Swart and Sir Percy Sillitoe, should be a surprise to no one.

But what should cause concern to everybody in this country is the reaction of the Minister; for it has all the elements of a perversity, a blindness to fact and an unrealistic appraisal of the situation which — in the long run — can lead us all to disaster.

When, coupled with Mr. Swart's approach to the problem, we read that the Secretary for Native Affairs sees "little need to worry about frustration, and still less to pay heed to strange and mostly comfortless doctrines passed on . . . by people who know little and care less of our way of life," it is hard not to despair.



FOR what are the facts? They are so simple, and so glaringly obvious, that it seems almost banal to state them again.

They are, first of all, that the implementation of a purely negative policy of apartheid — with the myriad pin-pricks and insults to human dignity which it involves — has itself created more effectively than anything else could have done a sense of frustration and bitterness of the most far-reaching kind. This frustration, which Dr. Eiselen declares does not need worrying about, is the most self-evident factor in the Native

problem to-day. And it owes little or nothing to Communist agitation.

Secondly, that the over-all situation is more explosive than it has been since the abortive mineworkers' strike of three years ago — a hundred times more explosive as the recent riots at Western Native township, Randfontein and Krugersdorp quite clearly show. And there is not a shred of evidence to prove that this explosiveness is due to the direct interference of Communist agitators.

Thirdly, that relations between the Native and the police have never been worse. And when such a situation develops, the resort to force is more dangerous than the lawlessness which it is supposed to check.

Here again, it is not the Communist agitator who has brought us to such a pass — it is discriminatory legislation applied with ruthlessness and quite unjustifiable harshness.

It is true that Dr. Eiselen admits the gravity of the housing situation in urban areas — as well he may. But it is a little hard to see why he does not relate the appalling problem to the frustration he refuses to worry about. After all, 57,000 homeless families in Johannesburg municipality do not heed the thrust of Communism to make them embittered — they only need to see, as they do every day, the spacious houses and the lovely lawns of their European neighbours.

It is not, apparently, considered possible that to deprive black children of a school meal while white children enjoy one, may be a sufficient cause for the Native to feel frustrated. He should rather undertake more zealously the full responsibilities of parenthood — even though he and his wife together are not earning a living wage.



BUT facts are not all that is needed. Opinions too can be of value. And

at the risk of being branded a "fellow-traveller" or worse, I would like to give my own considered opinion of the Bloemfontein speeches and their consequences.

It is clear now that a Communist witch-hunt is about to begin. It is reasonably clear too that "Communist" will be used to cover the activities, the words, the speeches of anyone who attempts to voice the grievances, to express the frustration of the Native people. To meet the rising tide of Native nationalism, the policy of repression: the trampling under foot of the right to freedom of speech and freedom of the Press: the pursuit of totalitarian methods in all their naked horror, is to begin.

I write as a Christian priest, not as a politician, as one to whom the underlying philosophy of Marxian Communism is as abhorrent as it is to the Prime Minister himself. But with all the conviction I can muster I would plead with those in authority to think again before embarking on this fatal policy; and I would plead too with all Europeans of good will to raise their voice against it.

In speech after speech at the Monument celebrations we were reminded by our leaders of our responsibility — our Christian responsibility — for the Native peoples in South Africa. These speeches are the sheerest hypocrisy if the Government now adopts more sternly repressive measures than ever.

Is there yet time for co-operation between the white and black races in this country? I confess I doubt it gravely. Yet the alternative to some such attempt is something that none can face lightly. We are living in the shadow of a great fear — those of us who care for South Africa. And as Alan Paton so truly says:—

"When the dawn will come,
of our emancipation.
From the fear of bondage
and the bondage of fear,
Why, that is a secret."

But it is no excuse for sitting still.
As we sow: so shall we reap.

Vic Eddy's **ROUND-UP**

THANKSGIVING SPEECH

AMAZING, the interesting things that come out during a Parliamentary debate. Even when it's such an apparently dry subject as Additional Estimates. For instance, a member queried an amount of £300 and received the amazing explanation that this sum was paid by the Government to send the B.E.S.L. delegation to Canada. There's a thing, hey? When I wrote about this Canadian Conference some time ago, I marvelled at the sudden political orientation of the B.E.S.L. when they passed a resolution calling for the banning of communism in the British Empire. Strange, isn't it, that an anti-soldier Government is prepared to support an ex-servicemen's organisation to the tune of £300. Perhaps the resolution had nothing to do with it, but what a horrible taste this "toenadering" leaves in the mouth of every ex-serviceman, Legionnaire, B.E.S.L. or otherwise.

ON THE UP AND UP

IT is gratifying to see that the South African public has at last decided to do something about the cost of living, and the campaign that has been started by the Housewives League and other organisations, including the Springbok Legion, promises to develop into a first-class row. The blame and the responsibility is undoubtedly the Government's. It must be clear to everybody that it is sheer impossibility to please the rich farmers, industrialists and landlords as well as the consumers. So far only the former have been satisfied with this state of affairs and it has been entirely in their interests that price control has been hopelessly inadequate to prevent the soaring of food and rent prices and the cost of practically every commodity necessary for decent living. Here is something that the Nats. can't possibly wriggle out of.

NEWCLARE

THE recent serious outbreak of violence in the Johannesburg locations has been analysed by almost everybody, including politicians, and it is amazing how almost on every occasion the direct

cause and root of the trouble has been carefully avoided, or glossed over. It is so easy to fall prey to a hysterical outburst of race hatred and fear that even the more responsible elements of the community have found it difficult to avoid this in one degree or other, but a calm and objective approach will reveal the outstanding and fundamental truth. The rioting is the answer of an unorganised and uneducated people to a series of oppressive and provocative actions on the part of the authorities that dates back many many years. This provocation has been given additional fuel in the past two years with the increasing police raids and the deportation of countless Africans to the farms on the slightest possible pretext. It is enough for an African to have his pass slightly out of order for him to be bundled off to the platteland. Add to that the abominable conditions obtaining in the locations themselves and the official policy of apartheid and you have enough dynamite to start dozens of riots. Unless this issue is faced clearly and squarely by everybody, the problem will never be solved. Indeed, we may expect more bloody and more organised race riots.

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS

BY the time you receive this copy of "Fighting Talk", the British General Election will be over and done with and the result will be there for everyone to see, analyse and post-mortemise. I don't want to fall into the trap of prophesying the result, but I would like to submit the point of view that the ordinary British voter finds himself in something of a predicament, as anybody would be who finds himself faced with the horror of the "two main party" system. Invariably the two main parties differ but little from each other, especially in matters of foreign policy, and this is especially true in the case of Labour and Tories in Britain. Labour's home policy also leaves much to be desired as far as the progressive Britisher is concerned. For, what is the use, he may well ask, of nationalising a major industry and then paying excessively handsome compensation to the former owners? Still, the British Labour Party could be a progressive force if its rank-and-file took the interest in it that the present chaotic world conditions demand.

INCIDENT IN THE PSYCHIATRIC WARD

The story is told of how an army psychiatrist was boasting to his fellow-officers that his job was the simplest of all. "Nothing to it, old boys", he said, "I don't have to think at all. It's my patients who have to do the thinking."

A few days later he was given the task of examining three dejected-looking recruits. To the first one he said: "Look, I'm going to mention a subject to you and I want you to tell me what it suggests to you. This will enable me to assess to which army job you are best suited."

The recruit said he understood. The psychiatrist fetched a paper and pencil and seated himself opposite the recruit.

"Now", said the doctor, "what does your mind conjure up when I say 'the creamy foam?'"

The recruit thought for a moment and then answered brightly "Well, Sir,

I think of the sea, with the breakers crashing against the rocks."

"Hm", said the psychiatrist, noting it down. "Very good."

To the second recruit, he said, "What does your mind conjure up when I say, 'the creamy foam?'"

Recruit No. 2 coughed politely and then answered: "Well Sir, I'm afraid all I can think of is a mug of cold beer."

"Ye-es, I see," said the psychiatrist, noting down the answer on his paper.

Then he turned to the third one. "Well now what do you think of when I say 'the creamy foam?'"

The third answer came immediately. "I think of girls, Sir."

"Girls?" exclaimed the psychiatrist, "why on earth should you think of girls?"

"Well," said the other, blushing slightly, "to tell you the truth Sir, I think of very little else!"

BRANCH**ITEMS**

THE increased political activity in Parliament and elsewhere has been reflected in the various activities of the Branch. The cost of living which is a bone of contention to everybody, has given rise to a campaign sponsored by the Housewives League, to which the Legion has given its full support. The Branch Committee has decided to participate in this campaign in whatever capacity we may be called upon to do so. The mass meeting held in the Johannesburg City Hall on the 15th, on the cost of living, was well attended by Legionnaires and the results of the meeting have already been given publicity in the daily press. We look forward to an intensive campaign which will require the active assistance of all branch members.

CECIL ON LEAVE

Cecil Williams, who needs no introduction to anybody, left this month on an eight-months' trip overseas. Although nobody will begrudge him this well-deserved holiday, it is nevertheless hard



CECIL WILLIAMS promised to return.

on the organisation to have lost, albeit temporarily, such a capable and popular official. A farewell party in his honour was held by the Branch, at which Jack Hodgson made a short but admirable speech, echoing the sentiments of all, and presented him with a gift sub-

scribed by all active branch members. In his reply, Cecil promised faithfully to come back, not only to the country but to the organisation, and we know he means what he says.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Johannesburg Branch will be held on the "Three-in-One" night, namely the third Monday in March. Not only will the new Executive Committee be elected there, but also delegates to our Seventh National Conference. Resolutions are invited from all Groups or individuals, and must be submitted in the first place to the Branch Committee. Members are reminded that this is the most important meeting of the year as far as the Branch is concerned and a full attendance is highly desirable. Don't forget,

March 20th, 8 p.m. at the Library Lecture Room.

Talking about Groups, the Branch Committee has decided to publish in "Fighting Talk" a full list of Group Secretaries and their addresses. Members are urged to make use of this list with a view to becoming active in their Groups and so helping our organisation along. The list is given below:—

North - Western Group: Vance Brown, 56, 4th Avenue Parktown North.

North - Eastern Group: Jack Sachs, 24, Eliana Court, 9th Street, Norwood.

Central Group: Miss Trudy Richter, 81 Castle Blaney, Leyds Street, Joubert Park.

Hillbrow Group: Dr. Percy Cohen, 22 Millson House, Twist Street, Hillbrow.

Yeoville Group: Jack Hodgson, 7 Welwyn Court, Bezuidenhout Street, Bellevue.

Southern-Suburbs Group: Gerry Mackenzie, 49 Carter Road, Forest Hill.

Doornfontein-Judiths Paarl Group: Helmuth Friedland, 66, 2nd Avenue, Bez. Valley North.



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