

26th. June, 1950:

This day has made history in South Africa. In 1950 when the African National Congress decided to stage a One Day Strike, the General-Secretary was in my room early in June. The proposed date was 14 June. In view of the fact that that date of 14th. was too near after consultation between Walter Sisulu, myself and Henry S. Msimang a date 26th. June, was fixed and Dr. J.S. Moroka was advised by telephone.

Soon after the meeting of big officials of both African and Indian Congresses met in my room 318 Grey Street to finalize the arrangements.

Drs. Moroka, Dadoo and Naicker, Walter Sisulu, Bertha Mkize, Diliza, Mji, M.B. Yengwa, Jacob Mkize and myself discussed the whole affair.

I decided not to take part because as I informed them I did not want to lead people who had no confidence in me such as the members of the Youth League who had succeeded to dictate terms to the officials of the Congress.

I informed them that my leadership was different from those who were led by the group whatever their views. I believe in having the final say in all matters and in keeping my inner Cabinet of action unknown to the outside world. How can I plan a riot with my enemies who may at any time make sworn statements against me.

As a Chief officer I must know my men which at present I do not know. Mr. H.S. Msimang undertook to lead the Protest Day. I undertook not to interrupt them - which I did.

The day passed off without any incident. There were those who lost their jobs. H.S. Msimang lost his job from the AMCA (Pty) Ltd., C.D. Ndwalane lost his job from the Licensing Department of the Durban Corporation. Many poor Indians lost their jobs dismissed by the Durban Corporation. Many of them lived in the Magazine Barracks of the Municipality.

In 1951 the day passed without incidence.

In 1952 the Congresses again decided to defy certain laws. At the time of writing hundreds of people are in jails some waiting trial some convicted.

In Natal up to the time of writing the leaders have not led the defiance but they have lost Mr H.S. Msimang who has resigned from the Congress because he has accepted a Government job. He is a Court Messenger in the Native Commissioner's Court, Pietermaritzburg.

Chief Lutuli the President for ~~the~~ Natal is busy organising. They have claimed that they are now ready for action, but up to the 31st. July, 1952, only have not moved.

Up till now I believe that this decision of the Congress is ill-advised because those who believe in it are very few and will not influence the Authorities. After they have done all this they will lose their employment. The Government may decide to silence the leaders indefinitely and also remove the leaders from towns to rural Areas where they will be forgotten by Congress men.

The question is whether after this wave of defiance, the Congress will be again be a force to be reckoned with. Men who are at the Head of the Affairs are not experienced people. Right from the President-General to the General-Secretary they are new in the Congress. They have not even finished three years in office, they have not established themselves. Here they are committing their Congress to that decision which must in the ordinary way should be backed up by masses of people.

A One Day Strike is an ideology that works well for well organised people. Defiance of Unjust Laws must be done by well organised masses who must go to jails and in jails refuse to work as groups.

Our Congress ^{themselves} employs lawyers to defend them instead of submitting them to pains of imprisonment gladly. Yes this is a stage further. Only history will tell in the years to come. Most of those men are in their 30s and 40s. I am unfortunate because I am in the end of the 50s. EXPERIENCE is the best teacher!

It was 5-30 p.m. 30th July, just when I finished the above paragraph when my friend N.J. Ngcobo handed over to me a copy of the Daily News with a report that all offices and homes of officials of the Natal-Indian Congress, African National Congress had been raided and searched by the C.I.D. men throughout the Union.

Certain documents were removed. Detectives of the C.I.D. had conducted a swoop of the non-European Political offices and Trade Unions.

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