

# LOCKED UP FOR WANT OF A JOB

## Unemployment Problem Getting Out of Hand

THE scourge of unemployment is sweeping through South Africa. Reports from all centres tell of thousands of men and women walking the streets desperately in search of a job.

The latest official unemployment figures—for the first two months of this year—show that over 25,000 European, Coloured and Asian workers are jobless.

THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE THE HIGHEST FIGURE SINCE THE WAR.

And it doesn't tell the whole story. Thousands of unemployed workers don't register with the Dept. of Labour and so don't figure

in the statistics. And African workers are not registered anyway.

So the real total of unemployed is far bigger—perhaps two or three times the official figure. Perhaps more.

Meanwhile what does the Government do about it?

- It passes laws reserving the best jobs for Europeans only.

- And it treats unemployed Africans like criminals, locks them up for work on the mines, farms and quarries at starvation wages.

Then it boasts that the proportion of workers unemployed is amongst the lowest in the world.

THIS IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. HUNGRY WORKERS MUST BE FED, FOUND JOBS. THE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS DEMAND ACTION NOW, NOT PROMISES.



This is no jail, and no detention camp in Rhodesia or Nyasaland. These are South Africans who want work—some even HAVE jobs—but they are locked up in an old mine compound in Johannesburg and told: "Work on a mine or in a quarry—or else we'll send you home within three days."

**MAY DAY MESSAGES FROM Moses Kotane SACTU — page 4**

# NEW AGE

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### New Farm Labour Scandal

## TWO DEATHS WITHIN TWO MONTHS

JOHANNESBURG.

HAIR-RAISING details of a new scandal in farm semi-slavery, enough to move South Africans hardened even to Bethal, are coming to light here following the escape from a farm of a number of men shanghaied on to it under the pass laws and laws affecting "foreign Natives."

The farm is in the Heidelberg district. African labourers kept on the farm against their will charge that

- Beatings were the order of the day.—"I worked on the farm for 9 months and there was not a single day from Monday to Saturday that assaults did not take place," said one man.

- Workers were deliberately given cuts on the feet with hoes

to try to prevent them from running away.

- Workers are under guard all day in the fields and are locked up all night. They are locked in continuously from Saturdays at about 6 p.m. to Monday mornings.

- Boss boys carried out the assaults but also the farmer and several of his sons.

The statements bring to light for the first time that within two months of each other, two labourers died after beatings on the farm and were given rough burials in the graveyard on the farm. One affidavit is sworn to by the African who saw the first death in the fields, made a coffin out of planks and placed the body of his friend in it. Neither a doctor nor the police were called in.

An African who went on to the farm to try to take news of his wife to a labourer held there was chased

off by the farmer's son driving a jeep at him till he threw himself against the fence.

An urgent court application arising from conditions on this farm is expected this week.

### British Back Economic Boycott

The London "Tribune," organ of left-wing Labour, has devoted its latest issue to the South African economic boycott of Nationalist products.

The main headline on its front page is the slogan "BOYCOTT SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS"—and the paper prints a list of Nationalist products which its readers are asked not to buy.

## Jobless Africans Treated Like Criminals

JOHANNESBURG.

FIGURES, like facts, are not supposed to lie, but who can trust the official figure for African unemployed in Johannesburg?

Johannesburg's non-European Affairs Department gave New Age the figure of African unemployed at present as 435! Yes! Four hundred and thirty-five. This is what the official pass office and labour bureau figures show.

Even officials are surprised at the low figure, and admit it.

AND TO TOP IT THE OFFICIAL FIGURES ALSO SHOW THAT THERE ARE 400 VACANCIES FOR DOMESTIC SERVICE IN THIS CITY.

So, it could be argued, there is really no unemployment at all. If not for the fact that the 435 out of jobs want work in commerce and industry and not in kitchens and gardens, Johannesburg would have no unemployment worth noticing!

No worker or trade unionist, indeed no Johannesburger is prepared to believe there are only 435 Africans out of jobs.

**NOT THE TRUTH**

For it is as clear as daylight that the official figure does not reflect the true position.

The queues at the pass office are longer than ever. Every employer turns away more men looking for jobs than he has for years past. Crowds of workers queue for jobs at the factory gates every morning.

The records do not show everything. What of the figures showing how many men are being endorsed out of Johannesburg because they cannot find work?

What of the numbers of men, arrested in the never-ending pass

raids, who go to jail? For in South Africa to be unemployed is a crime. What of the numbers of men

(Continued on page 3)

### United Front Committee Set Up In Johannesburg

Among the first actions of a new fourteen-organisation-strong co-ordinating committee formed here last week-end will be public campaigns to expose the Government frauds of the Bantustan Bill and university apartheid.

The formation of this committee under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, is the culmination of efforts going back some time to cement closer co-operation between anti-Nat organisations.

Among the fourteen bodies whose 30 representatives came together to form their committee are the Black Sash, Liberal Party, Labour Party, Federal Party, African National Congress, Indian Congress, Federation of South African Women, S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, S.A.C.P.O., the Congress of Democrats and certain student organisations.

The fourteen bodies set up a steering committee to call them together when necessary, also a sub-committee to tackle the question of low wages and prepare for a public campaign on "the deplorably low wage levels of unskilled labourers of all races."



## NEW AGE LETTER BOX

### Treason Men Protest At 16 Death Sentences

In the same Court in which 61 people accused of treason assembled in Pretoria on April 20, 16 Bapedi men and women of Sekhukhuleni were, a week earlier, sentenced to death. We wish to express our deep sense of shock at the sentences imposed on these people.

Their trial, and the trials of the other Bapedi, are a direct result of the imposition of "Bantu Authorities" on the people of the Reserves. The Government uses this wicked scheme to deprive the inhabitants of the rural areas of all semblance of democracy; the stooge "authorities" are the means whereby the Government robs the people of their means of livelihood—their land and their cattle. This robbery is in the interests of the imperialists, because it drives the people to starvation, and thus forces them to seek work on the mines and farms.

The people of Sekhukhuleni

### Beaten By Police Because They Knew Banda

Two Nyasas working in the area of Johannesburg Louis Botha Avenue were arrested in Bedford View last week because they failed to produce the special pass for Bedford View area. After being asked by Bedford View police if they knew Banda they were all beaten up so they could not work after paying their fine of £2.

These Nyasas are members of the NANC Johannesburg Branch. We would like to know if there is any reason why these Nyasas should be beaten and assaulted. Is it a sin if any Nyasas know Banda, the leader of NANC?

Nyasa people on the Rand and the whole of S.A. are peaceful and honest. Only the law of S.A. makes them to be arrested as they are not allowed without pass and permit to remain in S.A.

KONDI KULISEWA  
Johannesburg.

and of all the other reserves require our strongest assistance and support. We urge all Congress members, democrats, peace-loving people and humanitarians to take immediate action in order to demonstrate their solidarity and sympathy with the condemned Bapedi and to demand their immediate reprieve.

Yours, etc.,

(Signed) G. T. Sibande (President, ANC Tvl.), George Peake, J. Modise, F. Modiba, T. Mqota, O. Motshabi, L. Ngoyi, A. Mahlangu, P. H. Simelane, A. Nogaya, J. Makue, B. Seitshiro, D. C. Thompson, D. A. Seedat, M. Tshabalala, L. Kepe, W. Mati, A. la Guma, E. P. Moretsele, S. Shall, S. Tyiki, Fish Keitsing, S. Dlamini, B. Hlapane, T. Musi, B. Mashaba, P. Nthite, S. Molope, P. Molaoa, A. Chamile, Sonia Bunting, Fred Carneson, W. Mini, R. Press and other names undecipherable.

### TRADE UNION SUPPORT

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Executive Committee of the Metal Workers' Union (Tvl.) on the 18th April, 1959.

"The Executive Committee of the Metal Workers' Union declares its fullest sympathy and support for the sixteen Bapedi men and women sentenced to death in the Supreme Court, Pretoria following their opposition to the imperialists' Bantu Authorities.

"We express our firm support for all the people of the reserves struggling against the acts of the capitalist government which seek to take away their land and cattle and to deprive them of all appearance of democracy.

"We assure them of the workers' firmest friendship and support in their demands for land and democracy."

SECRETARY  
Johannesburg.

### ONE ANSWER TO FASCIST HOOLIGANISM

LAST Thursday night a gang of Fascist hoodlums broke into and wrecked the offices of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, disfiguring the walls with their filthy slogans, symbols, and threats of violence.

Had they been present to test the reaction of those who saw the results of their work, the criminals would not be very happy. Anger there was, and a quiet determination that, sooner or later, those responsible would be made to answer for their crime.

The responsibility rests squarely on all who preach and practise racial hatred and discrimination, from the ivory-tower Professor with his bloodstock theories to the smooth-tongued Cabinet Minister justifying a new act of robbery.

Acts of violence and intimidation against working-class and democratic organisations are no new political tactic. Violence has been used, justified,

condoned or discreetly ignored by every ruling-class which feels its days are numbered.

We should not be surprised at what happened at the Food and Canning Workers' Office. We should be alarmed—and take steps now to counter strong-armed vandalism.

The best counter, now and always, is a well-informed and democratic public opinion, aroused to the dangers which such political tactics represent to the people of our country.

It is precisely here that New Age can and will play a crucial role—providing we can keep our paper going.

GIVE YOUR ANSWER TO THE KLU KLUX KLAN AND OTHER RACIAL MAFIACS BY HELPING US.

EVERY PENNY YOU GIVE US WILL GO STRAIGHT INTO THE STRUGGLE TO DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS AND YOUR ORGANISATIONS.

GIVE NOW!

### GOVT. HOSTILE TO CANNING UNION

The Minister of Labour, speaking on the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill in Parliament last week, referred to the amendment to prohibit strikes in factories where perishable products were handled.

He said: "As a result of the influence of an unfriendly labour union 11 strikes had occurred in such factories during the past five years. No Whites, but only Coloured people and Natives took part in these strikes."

Who is unfriendly, the union or the Government? We say that the Government is unfriendly to us and we have reason to say so. The Government has banned 8 (eight) of our trustworthy, tried, and hard-working leaders, Ray Alexander, Frank Marquard and others, who have built the union.

Our union has been in existence 18 years. Yes, we had strikes but we have also negotiated agreements with employers. The wages and conditions of the workers before our union were despicable. We earned 7/6d., 12/- and 15/- per week, worked day and night during the season without proper rest, we had no annual holiday or sick leave pay, we were hit and sworn at by the foremen.

Our union has been responsible not only for increasing wages, getting annual leave and sick leave pay, but we have also taught the foremen to treat our workers as human beings and not as animals. We would never have achieved all this, if it would not have been for the battles we conducted. Through our united action we have taught the bosses and foremen to respect us.

This Government has not crushed our union by banning our leaders nor will it crush the workers' determination for a better and happier life.

MRS. L. ABRAHAMS  
General Secretary,  
Food and Canning Workers'  
Union.

### Fight For Freedom

I went to Jo'burg and entered an African location. The first words that were to be heard were "What is a coolie doing here?"

What does that word mean? Our black race should unite and fight for freedom.

DISGUSTED  
Port Elizabeth.

## THE MOST WONDERFUL DAY IN THE HISTORY OF KIMBERLEY

Despite the threatening attitude of the police surrounding the Galeshewe Communal Hall, ready with guns and batons, Africa Day was the most wonderful day in the history of Kimberley. A two-mile candlelight procession led two-thirds of the community to the hall.

So irresistible was the procession that all followed it. There were members of the African Dingaka Association with their drums echoing through the village; there were members of many denominations, and various sporting and social organisations were all well represented.

The happiest moment of the night was when Dr. A. E. Letele, from the so-called treason trial, stood before the people, explained the meaning of the Day and expounded the Freedom Declaration.

For seven hours people sang and danced traditional dances and men and women paraded in national dresses.

Speakers explained that it was not hate day, but a day to think of the past and future of Africa.

A speaker from the Kimberley African General Workers' Union said that workers should unite and

### EDITORIAL

## WE DON'T WANT THE KU KLUX KLAN IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE ransacking of the office of the Food and Canning Workers' Union in Cape Town is a work of dastardly hooliganism which will be condemned by all right-thinking South Africans.

Two years ago the offices of New Age were wrecked by fire. The police were called in, but the instigators were never traced. Last year shots were fired at New Age columnist Alex la Guma. Again the police were summoned, but with no result. Now a trade union office is ransacked and obscene Ku Klux Klan slogans are scribbled on the walls. A number of Cape Town citizens receive threatening letters and phone calls.

We do not suggest there is the same hand behind all these outrages. But it is clear a new element is creeping into our political life—an element of violence organised by those who feel that without violence White civilisation is doomed.

All we can say is: If this is the only way White civilisation can defend itself, then it were better if it disappeared altogether from the face of the earth.

There is no doubt that in the last analysis it is the policies of the Nationalist Government which are to blame for these outrages. It is the Nationalist Government which organises race discrimination and thrives on race hatred. It is the Nationalist Government which bases itself on police rule instead of the will of the people. Unable to persuade by reason, it is inevitable that the more brutish in the Nationalist ranks should resort to force in an attempt to counter the ever-growing opposition to their policies both at home and abroad.

With passions rising on both sides of the colour line, the likelihood is that incidents of the sort that occurred last week will recur more and more frequently unless steps are taken to stamp out this menace immediately. Public opinion must demand that the thugs who ransacked the Food and Canning Workers' office be tracked down and punished with the utmost severity of the law. We cannot tolerate the Ku Klux Klan or any similar monstrosity in this country.

Above all White South Africa should be warned: If you tolerate this hoodlum element in your midst, you will be the worst sufferers. Two can play at this game if necessary, and the Whites are hopelessly outnumbered if it should come to outrages committed in the dark. If private violence is now to be added to the burden of public violence which the Non-Europeans already have to bear, it is too much to expect that they will take no steps to defend themselves or even to retaliate.

In the long run, however, the only cure for the evil of racial violence is the reversal of the barbaric policies of apartheid and the creation of a South Africa in which all our peoples, educated and trained in a spirit of tolerance, will work and live side by side in peace and harmony. The Freedom Charter points the only road forward. All other roads lead only to chaos.

protest against job reservation as it is an enemy to the comradeship that built the trade unions.

Among the laws attacked was the Suppression of Communism Act, which refuses the right for men to speak the truth. It was described as a modern technique of persecution by slander. A form of torture invented by the Nazis in Germany, perfected by America's Senator McCarthy and now imported from America to South Africa by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart.

J. R. MABE  
Kimberley.

### EASTERN CAPE

Over 500 Youth Leaguers from outlying branches of the Eastern Cape attended a mass youth conference held at Uitenhage on April 17 and 18, 1959, to celebrate Africa Freedom Week.

Specially prepared papers were read.

The President of the ANCYL, Mr. G. Hlwana, spoke on Africa Day, the secretary Mr. D. Nangu on Trade Unionism, Mr. Z.

Nqini on African Nationalism, Mr. S. Ndzube on Imperialism and Colonialism, Mr. M. Mfawze on Apartheid and Baasskap, Mr. S. Nxele on the Role of Youth in the Liberatory Movement, Mr. Z. Manvube on the Significance of the Pan-African States, Miss Norawuzana on Passes for Women, Mr. J. Koya on the Defiance Campaign and Mr. T. Sobandla on the Freedom Charter.

Resolutions were passed—  
● Calling upon the youth of South Africa to rededicate itself in the struggle for the emancipation of the oppressed people of South Africa.

● Pledging support for the struggle of the people of Rhodesia for freedom, not Federation.

● Calling upon the entire membership of the CYL to disregard the activities of the Nationalist-supported Pan-Africanist Congress which aims at destroying the real liberation movement—the African National Congress and its allies.

● Pledging support for Africa Day as the symbol of our liberation struggle.

TEMBA SOBANDLA  
for secretariat  
ANCYL (Eastern Cape Region.)

# 3 SHOT, 39 ARRESTED IN KROONSTAD FLARE-UP

## Police Raids, Pass Laws To Blame

JOHANNESBURG.

AT least three Africans were shot and 39, among them 34 youngsters, are in prison awaiting trial after trouble in Kroonstad's Old Location, yet that Free State town is trying to act as though nothing untoward has happened there, and not a word has seeped into the national press.

The trouble broke on the night of April 2 but it was only last week that a New Age reporter, sent to get an on-the-spot report, managed to fit the pieces together.

The shooting in the location, during which flying bullets hit African passers-by, including one woman, was done by White officials, but no one seems to know why.

Of the three hit by bullets one young man is still in hospital, a woman was treated in hospital for a flesh wound on the arm, and a third person is understood to be in police custody.

### BLOODSTAINS

After the incidents, police and officials are reported to have used third-degree methods on several persons in an attempt to extract information from them. One African showed the New Age reporter a pair of trousers, worn the night of his questioning, that are stained with blood.

Background to the trouble, the people say, is the never-ending police raids and a new type of raid this year on residents in arrears with their rents. In the past householders who owed the Council for rent were warned to pay up. This year they are visited by police and arrested and the daily and sometimes twice-daily police raids cause much bitterness in the Old Location.

When Advisory Board members asked the acting Native Commissioner why those in arrears with rent were being arrested, they were told the end of the Council's financial year was at hand and £300 in arrear rents had to be collected.

### LONG HOURS

The people are also deeply resentful of the hours they have to queue for permits to seek work. They queue in the early morning but by the time they get their permits it is past noon and there is no time left to look for jobs, they say.

Complaints to the Location Superintendent were ignored.

On February 22 the residents voiced their grievances at a meeting with Mr. De Vries, the manager of the Non-European Affairs Department. The very evening of the meeting there were more arrests for rent arrears.

Mr. De Vries had undertaken to meet the residents again and during March, they said, they tried to meet him. He was invited to attend a re-

sidents' meeting on April 1, but the Advisory Board was told he was away from Kroonstad and in Durban attending the SABRA conference on that day.

To the April 2 meeting came seven other Europeans, officials and police, some displaying revolvers prominently.

### SHOTS HEARD

A Mr. Dominee said he would speak to the police to stop the raids but the meeting grew impatient as the people shouted angrily: "Speaking to them is no good. What will they do?"

Residents said they no longer had confidence in the NAD. Shortly afterwards the meeting began to disperse, and not long after that shots were heard.

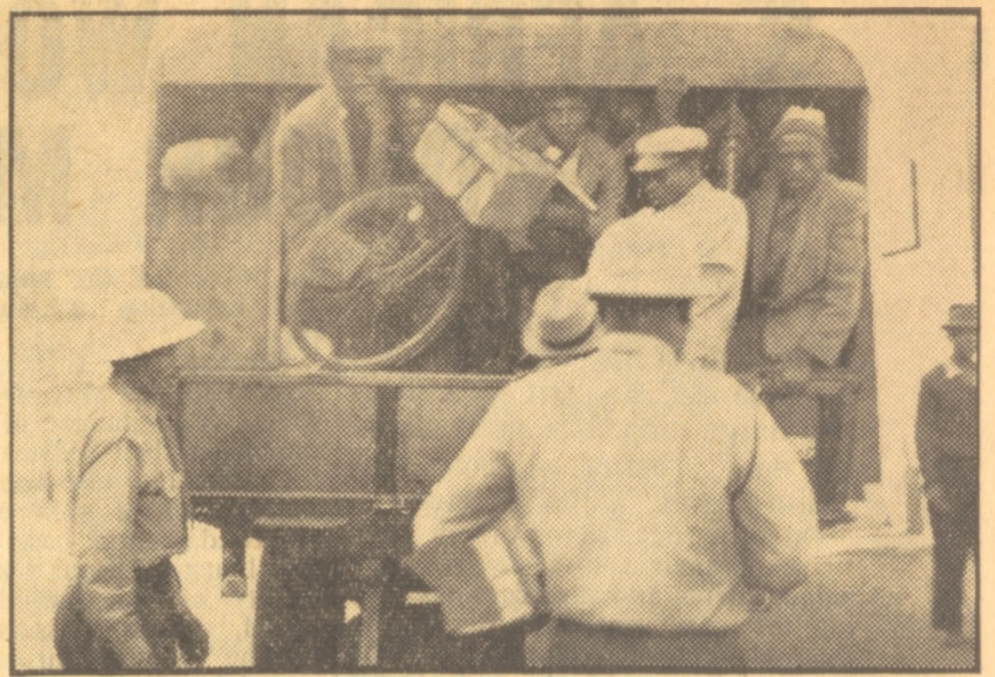
The shooting came out of the blue, the people said.

One woman said she saw a European get out of a small car and fire towards a group of people near the meeting hall.

After the shooting, window panes of the post office and the Bantu Social Centre were smashed and post office telephone wires cut. Some cars were also stoned.

Then came the 39 arrests and the charge of incitement against them, due to be heard in court on May 5.

Meanwhile the Old Location is still seething.



At the District Labour Bureau these men are piled into a police truck—bicycle and all in this case—and taken to the old mine compound.

## AFRICANS TREATED LIKE CRIMINALS

(Continued from page 1)

who are pushed on to the farms and mines?

### WE TUMBLE ON TURF SHAFT COMPOUND

The figures tell only half the story, less even than half.

Last week New Age hit on one of the missing clues to this puzzle.

Men who go to the pass office to fix up their passes and look for jobs are being locked up in an old mine compound—Turf Shaft—that was part of Robinson Deep mine and has been taken over by the Government to be used for one of its pools of men being forced out to work on the mines and in quarries.

Turf Shaft compound lies less than a mile from the centre of the

city, at the approach to Booyens. Here we found the old compound buildings fenced in (the fence is new) and behind the locked gate and the wire are workers who are told they have three days to decide to accept work on a mine or a slate quarry. If they refuse they will be sent home to the places where they were born.

### HOW DO THEY GET THERE?

How do these men get into this Turf Shaft compound?

From the queues in the Johannesburg pass office they are referred to Room 53 in the Market Street Government pass office, which is the District Labour Bureau. Being sent to Room 53 seems to be as bad as being endorsed out of the urban area. Once in the clutches of Room 53 you no longer have any say about the kind of job you will do.

Your are not handcuffed as you leave Room 53 after being told work will be found for you, but your pass book and those of the other men in your batch are in the clutches of your police escort, and your name and number are marked down. From Room 53 you are ordered into the back of a green G.G. truck standing ready outside the building.

There is no ugly purple stamp "Endorsed out of the urban area of Johannesburg" disfiguring your pass book—not yet.

There has been talk of "finding you a job".

So the men pile into the truck and less than ten minutes later it turns into the compound at Turf Shaft and you are behind the locked gate and in a new government lock-up.

### LOCKED IN

No arrest really. No charge. But you are locked in. There is a police guard. You are given no chance to find your family or fetch your things.

Work is offered you. On the mines. At a slate quarry for 4s. 6d. a day. If you have not taken work at the end of three days you are sent home into the country.

At times there are as many as 90 men in the compound. Truck loads of new arrivals reach the compound every day, sometimes twice a day.

In the Turf Shaft compound New Age found one man who worked for an insurance company and was being transferred from the company's Potchefstroom office to Johannesburg. At the pass office he had produced letters from the Potchefstroom location superintendent and from his employers asking for his registration to be transferred. The letters were ignored. As he hung about behind the fence in the Turf Shaft compound he had with him his brief case containing the insurance forms he uses in his work. He was being offered work on a mine.

How many of the men not shown in the official unemployment figures are rushed through Turf Shaft compound each week?

# DURBAN PLAN FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' UNION

SENATOR De Klerk's claim at a meeting of white workers in Germiston last week, that the number of people unemployed in South Africa was "still the lowest in the world," does not correspond with the facts, according to leading trade unionists interviewed by New Age.

On the very day the Minister of Labour addressed the Germiston workers, Colonel K. Rood, Chairman of the Union Steel Corporation, the second largest producer of steel in the Union, in a statement to the press said that in the last six months his Corporation had to retrench 1.5 per cent of the total European labour force and 10 per cent of its African labour.

In Durban, on the other hand, where the population is almost equally divided between White, Indian and African, unemployment has already reached alarming proportions.

According to a recent statement by the chairman of the S.A. Chambers of Commerce, over 25,000 Indians are unemployed. African unemployment figures are not available as African workers who cannot obtain employment are automatically deported to the reserves.

So serious is the problem that the Department of Labour recently sent down a special representative from Pretoria to investigate the position in Durban.

### UNEMPLOYED UNION

The Natal Indian Congress at the last meeting of its Secretariat called for urgent consideration by its Working Committee of the need to form a union for the unemployed and for immediate mass work to bring the problem of unemployment to the fore.

In the meantime, the South African Congress of Trade Unions has already begun preliminary work in the direction of forming a union for the unemployed workers. Last

week it enrolled over 150 members and established a 20-man committee to carry out a plan beginning with a mass demonstration of the unemployed through the streets of Durban on May Day.

Unemployment will be the theme of the May Day meeting to be held at the Bantu Social Centre, Beatrice St., Durban, on Friday, May 1, at 5.30 p.m.

New Age is informed that SACTU intends raising the matter of unemployment with the Joint Executives of the four Congresses with a view to getting the matter discussed on a national level so that a nation-wide campaign can be launched around the slogan: "Jobs for All!"

### MASS CAMPAIGN

A report submitted by the Labour Committee of the Natal Indian Congress suggests that the programme for such a campaign should include mass meetings and demonstrations and that the demands of the Congress movement should be:—an immediate increase in wages of workers and freezing of profits so that the purchasing power of the people can be increased and thereby bring about greater output;—the abolition of the industrial colour bar and the immediate ending of the white immigration policy of the Government;

—the opening of avenues of employment for Non-White workers in the civil service by the Municipality and Provincial Administration.

—the amendment of the Industrial Conciliation Act to include Africans and the repeal of such provisions as job reservation;

—the extension of agreements covering urban workers to those working in the rural factories;

—the payment of unemployment insurance for a full year of unemployment and the extension of the Act to cover African workers.

## Jobless Roam Benoni Streets

UNEMPLOYMENT has caught Benoni, biggest single industrial town on the East Rand, by the throat. Hundreds of African workers are roaming the streets of this town in search of jobs as firm after firm retrenches.

During March and April four large engineering firms between them sacked nearly 400 workers. One factory threw 180 workers out in one day. A milling company closed down altogether, leaving over 200 workers stranded. The people of Benoni, who have not yet recovered from the severe blow of the sacking of 1,500 African workers by the Amato Textile Mills in February 1958, are desperate at this disappearance of jobs. Many European workers are also affected.

### EXTENDED PERMITS

Besieged by this army of work-seekers Benoni's pass registration office has been compelled to grant permits to seek for work for periods of up to one month. Formerly they were issued for 7 days only. But still there are no jobs. On the contrary, more and more workers are being retrenched, even by smaller firms. Influx control regulations impose severe restrictions upon workers who find employment in other districts of the East Rand.

Hundreds of workers in Daveyton and Wattville townships cannot pay their rents and are heavily in arrears because their breadwinners are out of work and the plight of the families of the unemployed is getting steadily worse. Closing their eyes to this, however, the municipal authorities continue to harass the residents by ejecting them from their houses or serving more and more notices of ejection to come.

New Age spoke to many work-seekers who have been looking for work for over three months. They

are a picture of hopelessness and despair.

Mbuti Cetyiwe, an iron and steel worker for many years, said: "For three months I have waited at the factory gates. My children are starving. I do not know what will happen to me and my family if I do not strike a job this month."

Many other workers echoed the same dejection and pessimism.

The Benoni Advisory Board is pressing the Town Council to renew the fight for the lifting of the influx control regulations.

A direct result of the unemployment in Benoni has been a marked increase in cases of assault and robbery in the Townships.

## Unrest in Cape Town

INCREASED unemployment has resulted in unrest among the thousands of jobless workers in the Peninsula. On Monday morning disturbances broke out at the Labour Exchange offices in Langa location where 1,500 African workers have to report daily in the hope of getting work.

Tired of rotting in the endless queues, feelings are running high. Last week a deputation of workers marched to the location superintendent, Mr. Rogers, to lodge their protest.

He told them he could do nothing about it. Jobs were scarce.

Workers in other industries are also concerned about the unemployment position and price rises. The Management Committee of the Food and Canning Workers' Union passed a resolution last week protesting against the increases in the price of bread, fish, rice and records.

"Wages are being cut," the resolution said. "Yet prices continually go up. How are workers expected to make out?"

The Union is demanding a further increase in cost of living allowances to meet the price rises. The last c.o.l.a. increase was granted in 1953.

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