

NOV 26 1954
REFERENCE

FOR PRESS FREEDOM

To-day you are reading a new paper for the first time. It is a slim sheet of four pages only and it makes its debut in a South Africa full of anxiety for the future. From such small papers and not from the great vested press interests has always come the fighting flame in defence of Press Liberty. You may remember in after years reading New Age for the first time. Reader, help it now to stand in the storm, to grow and to champion the rights of independent opinion.

NEW AGE

No. 1, Vol. 1.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1954

PRICE 3d.

NATS ARE SWEEPING ASIDE ALL FREEDOMS

Advance Suppressed in drive to Police State

CAPE TOWN.

WITH the issue of NEW AGE to-day as a democratic people's paper a new challenge is being made. It is to hold at least one sector of the front against the relentless drive of the Nationalist Government towards the dark conception of a one-party, one language republican dictatorship of the police-state order. All liberties are being swept aside without formality. True to the pattern of events in such countries as Italy and Germany, the opponents of Nationalism are being attacked one by one, and invariably under the pretext of "suppressing Communism."

New Age has been welcomed by wide circles, particularly of those in the Trade Unions and the popular organisations of the national groups. They are first in the line of attack and New Age will open its columns to them as a platform for their rights and a voice for their grievances. But there should be no complacency and no surrender. The attack on Advance was also an attack on the whole of the English Press and through them on the freedom of information as a whole in South Africa.

THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE NATIONALIST CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION HAS SUCCEEDED IS ONLY TOO CLEARLY TO BE SEEN IN THE SPINELESS REACTION OF THE DAILY PRESS. WHEN THE WATCH-DOGS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY FALL ASLEEP OR SLINK AWAY FROM THEIR TASK, THEN ALL THE PEOPLE ARE IN DANGER.

THE FOLLOWING ARE A SELECTION OF THE MANY MESSAGES RECEIVED IN THE SHORT TIME SINCE THE DECISION WAS TAKEN TO FOUND NEW AGE:

African Congress Calls For Protest

JOHANNESBURG

"The African National Congress strongly condemns the banning of Advance by the Nationalist Government," says a statement issued by Mr. O. R. Tambo.

"We know that this popular people's newspaper was the most outstanding champion of democracy and the most outspoken critic of the present regime. It has fearlessly brought to light concealed evil acts of individuals and reactionary groups in the country.

"Advance believed in equal rights for all people, irrespective of colour or creed. It has consistently propagated the truth. That is the reason why the Advance has been banned.

"This inroad into the freedom of the press and violation of all principles of democracy must be met with fearless opposition. We call upon all our branches to protest."

20 Million Japanese Against Bomb

LONDON.

Since March, 20 million Japanese have signed a mass appeal for the unconditional banning of atomic weapons. In many working-class areas over 70 per cent. of the entire population have signed and the united peace movement is developing on an unparalleled scale. The death of Kuboyama as a result of the U.S. H-bomb at Bikini gave the peace drive tremendous momentum.

DEMOCRATS GREET NEW AGE

IN Cape Town this week democrats and progressive organisations welcomed New Age as the only effective answer to the Government's blow at the freedom of the press when it summarily banned Advance last week.

● MISS R. LAN, Secretary, Food and Canning Workers' Union:

The banning of Advance has come as a further blow to the working class of South Africa. The Government today is making desperate attempts to stifle the workers' protests against oppressive laws, against the banning of their leaders and against the ever-rising cost of living.

Advance was the workers' most powerful weapon in building their organisations and voicing their protests. The workers today must rally to the defence of their paper.

At the same time, we welcome the new paper as the only effective answer to the Government's attempt to stifle the workers' voice today.

● The Secretary, Cape Town Peace Council:

We of the Peace Council protest strongly at the banning of Advance. We greet the new paper and wish it every success in the struggle for peace and democracy in South Africa.

Advance has been one of the few newspapers to support and give publicity to the efforts of the Peace Council.

As the weapons of war become more and more destructive, threatening the whole of our civilisation, so does the fight for peace become more important.

All over the world people fighting for just this—the maintenance of world peace, the banning of A and H bombs and peaceful co-existence between countries with different economic systems—are being treated with suspicion and harried by those forces fostering the cold war.

Advance took its stand with those who want no more war, those who see in German rearmament a threat to world peace, and those who in South Africa are fighting for a decent and democratic life for all.

The opposition press has remained silent. Let them not think that they are safe. An attack on one is an attack on all.

● Mr. JOHNSON NGWEVELA, well-known African leader from Langa, Cape Town:

It is said that in our country we have freedom of speech, but the laws which were passed in Parliament recently show that there is no such freedom.

It is clear that by banning Advance the Minister wants to prevent people from expressing their opinions freely and openly. This is a fascist way of oppressing the people, but the people of South Africa will never accept such a policy.

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EDITORIAL

WE SALUTE YOU

BY what must be considered an arbitrary and despotic act, the Nationalist Government has chosen, without a hearing or the right of defence, to silence the voice of a legal newspaper. No grounds were given, no charge was ever brought against Advance.

In the state of tension and anxiety brought about by the increasingly intolerant and threatening behaviour of the Government, many voices once firm in the cause of freedom have grown silent. The suppression of the only completely independent people's paper in South Africa has sent a shiver through the country but has not raised the storm of protest and struggle that would have been signs of a vigorous democratic society.

But it is against the conscience of freedom-loving men and women to stand by and see their rights, won over centuries of struggle, snuffed out.

FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS

While men live they will strive for freedom. Their voice can and must be heard unless we are to be marched blindfold into a new age of tyranny and enslavement to false ideals. Nine out of ten South Africans reject this fate; they cherish dreams of a new age of freedom, happiness and fulfilment for all.

For these reasons a newspaper dedicated to the service of the South African people has been founded and makes its bow today. The gap made by the suppression of free journals can never be filled and the injustice cannot be righted until their liberty is restored in full. New Age will be what its readers and supporters make of it and its strength can come only from their unity and the knowledge of a just cause.

AIMS OF NEW AGE

So far as this paper will have any declared aims, they may be expressed as follows:

FREEDOM for all men and women in South Africa.

FREEDOM of conscience, of the Press and speech and of assembly and movement.

DEMOCRACY and the restoration of the rule of law in South Africa.

PEACE between all races and between nation and nation.

EQUAL political, social and cultural rights for all and the removal of discrimination on grounds of colour, race or beliefs.

We salute you, people of South Africa! New Age will fight fairly and justly. It will use every inch of existing rights and at the same time it will struggle for the extension of those rights so that all people of goodwill may have a hand in shaping their own future.

R. K. COPE.

Verwoerd Strikes Again

JOHANNESBURG.

Mr. Alcott S. Gwentshe, the East London leader of the African National Congress Youth League, who was recently deported to the Transvaal, has been deprived his exemption from the pass laws by order of the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr. Verwoerd, in a recent Government Gazette.

Others who have had their exemption cancelled by the Minister are Messrs. J. J. Conco, Alfred Moe-ketsi, Paul Mbongwe, Amon Nkele-beni, Alfred Radebe, Phineas Sibiya, Anderson Thangeni, David Vilakazi and Gideon Vilakazi.

Americans Against Preventive War

NEW YORK.

Average Americans have more common sense than their warmongering leaders, according to a Gallup poll on the question—"Should the United States go to war against Russia now, while we still have the advantage in atomic and hydrogen bombs?"

The result was: 76 per cent. disagree with the idea of a preventive war; 13 per cent. agree; 11 per cent. have no opinion.

ADVANCE WAS MURDERED BY NATIONALISTS

—Says Brian Bunting

THE proclamation published in the Government Gazette last week prohibiting the printing, publication and dissemination of "Advance" reads as follows:

"Under and by virtue of the powers vested in me by section 6 of the Suppression of Communism Act as amended I do hereby prohibit the printing, publication and dissemination in the Union of South Africa and the territory of South-West Africa of the publication called 'Advance'."

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."

The proclamation was signed on October 12 by the Governor-General, Dr. E. G. Jansen, and countersigned by the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart.

NO EXPLANATION

Why? The Gazette gives no explanation. The Suppression of Communism Act gives four grounds on which a publication may be banned. When the Guardian newspaper was banned, the proclamation issued by the Governor-General stated the grounds on which action had been taken against it. True, the Guardian had previously disputed those grounds, and denied the charges levelled against it by the Minister's committee of three; but at any rate, the Guardian had some idea of what the Government had against it.

Not so Advance. From beginning to end of this sordid business, the Government has given absolutely no indication of why it has taken action against the paper. Our offices and the homes of many people connected with Advance were raided by the police on August 31. Many of the documents removed during those raids are still in the possession of the special branch of the police, but still neither we nor the public at large have any idea of what the police were looking for, or of what they found.

GOVERNMENT HAS NO CASE

What could they have found

New Age has invited Mr. BRIAN BUNTING, former editor of Advance, to contribute an article on the suppression of his paper. In this hard-hitting article he points out that those who fail to take up the challenge of the Nationalists and who blind themselves to the present dangers are themselves aiding and abetting the Government on its march to an outright police state.

Guardian has been banned before, the banning of Advance must be fought to the bitter end.

Those who accept tyranny because they have become conditioned to it, who blind themselves to crime because others and not they themselves are the victims—these are either slaves or the accomplices of the Nationalists.

The road to outright Nationalist dictatorship and the republican police state can be paved with the compromises and acquiescence of those who were too indifferent or too frightened to fight back.

Where then are the editorials in the "Opposition" Press condemning the suppression of Advance? The Cape Argus, the Cape Times and other newspapers which were so eloquent in their defence of a free Press when the Guardian was banned in 1952, today preserve a discreet silence and pretended that nothing untoward has happened. Where are the protests of the political leaders who boast they stand for the preservation of Western democracy against the assaults of totalitarianism? In the "Opposition" camp, all, all is silence.

COURT ACTION

In the belief that the banning of Advance was illegal, we intend to seek redress in the courts. But we are not so naive as to believe that, with a Government as contemptuous of law as it is of democratic rights, Press freedom can be preserved in the courts alone.

As the final guarantors of basic human rights, we turn, as we have always turned, to the masses of the people, to the African miners, to the Indian industrial workers, to the Coloured artisans, to the farm workers, to their European allies—freedom, peace and security can only be won through the liberatory movement. The answer to the tyranny of Swart, Strydom and Co. lies in the organisation and unity of the people in militant struggle against fascism.

Let us go forward, into the New Age, with unwavering determination and confidence in the justice and final triumph of our course.

BAN ON YOUTH LEADER

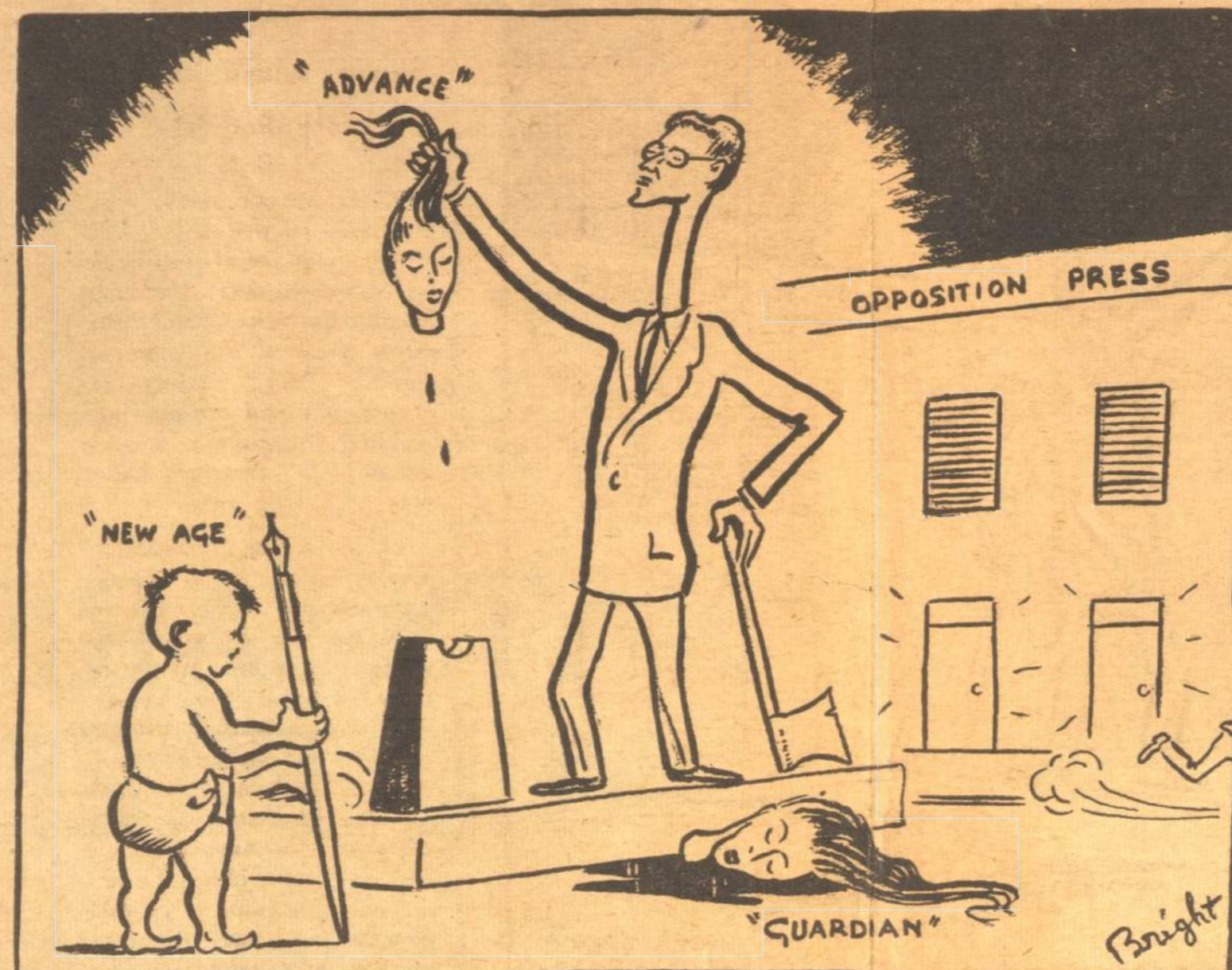
JOHANNESBURG. Latest of the unending flow of banings and banishments issued by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart, is one directed against the Indian youth leader, Mr. Ahmed M. Kathrada. He is volunteer-in-chief on the executive of the Transvaal Indian Congress as well as secretary of the S.A. Indian Youth Congress. The Government notice orders him to resign from a number of organisations and to take no part in others. There are 38 organisations altogether. Another cyclostyled notice forbids him from attending any gatherings for two years.

Congress of People In Cape Town

CAPE TOWN. The Cape Town Congress of the People held a very successful conference last Thursday evening when some 30 delegates elected a working committee in furtherance of the campaign. The conference also passed a resolution condemning the rearmament of Germany as a step towards another world war. A second resolution protested against the banning of the people's leaders.

Brakpan Boycotts Beer and Buses

BRAKPAN. Africans of Brakpan, protesting against rent increases, and demanding that the Council implement its undertaking to employ African drivers on the location bus service, embarked on two boycotts last week; of the municipal bus service and the municipal beer hall. By the week-end both boycotts were proving highly effective, the people observing them in a disciplined and orderly manner.



NOT ONE, NOT ONE, NOR THOUSANDS MUST THEY SLAY BUT ONE AND ALL IF THEY WOULD WIN THE DAY.

DEMOCRATS GREET NEW AGE

(Continued from page 1)

The Advance was the only paper in South Africa which expressed the feelings of the people, especially the oppressed sections. I greet New Age and trust that it will meet the people's needs in the same fighting spirit as Advance.

At the same time, I want to warn all other newspapers to voice their protests against the banning very vigorously, as this action will not stop only with Advance.

This stabbing of Advance must be taken in conjunction with the Press Commission appointed to investigate all the Press.

I protest against this unjust attack on our freedom. Advance played an essential part in bringing about better race relations and the unity of all the workers and oppressed people for freedom in our country.

I salute New Age as a counter to the Government's blow at the freedom of the Press.

● Mrs. GLADYS SMITH, chairman of the Cape Housewives' League, whose members were staunch supporters of Advance:

It is both undemocratic and unjust to ban a paper because it opposes the apartheid policy of the Government and fights it its own way on behalf of the poor, oppressed and disfranchised. It shows that those in power are afraid of any opinions other than their own—that they are afraid for the truth to be known.

● Mr. LEN WARDEN, people's candidate in the forthcoming Cape Western Native Representatives' elections:

The banning of Advance is another example of the Government's contempt for the people and for all normal processes of democracy. Advance was the only paper which was recognised as their own by the African people fighting for their freedom. That is why Swart banned it.

The Minister need not think he will stifle the voice of the people merely by banning Advance. The liberation movement will fight on, despite all the restrictions which the Minister may wish to place in its way.

I welcome the appearance of New Age and give it my warmest support.

ALL IN DANGER

● Miss RAY ALEXANDER, banned trade unionist:

This brutal attack on the Advance is a new step in the direction of the

destruction of freedom—in the destruction of the freedom of the press.

Although this is not the first attack on the freedom of the press, this brutal attack spells danger to the freedom of all the press. Let no one who believes in freedom of the press have any illusions about that.

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World Journalists on Advance Ban

CAPE TOWN. "The attacks upon your periodical as well as those inflicted upon the Guardian can be considered only as attempts to stifle the voice of the democratic press of the Union of South Africa," cables the secretary-general of the International Organisation of Journalists, Mr. Jaroslav Knobloch.

Expressing its "indignation" at the police action against Advance and "the persecution to which you and your collaborators have been subjected," the I.O.J. says: "Our organisation always raises its voice against every attempt to liquidate the freedom of the Press, and thus protests also against the attack on Advance, which had no other crime but that it defended the cause of peaceful co-operation and friendship between all peoples."

No-One Safe In S. Africa

CAPE TOWN. In a statement to the Press, the directors of the banned newspaper Advance warn that nobody is safe in South Africa to-day.

"There can only be one reason for the banning of Advance—its outspoken criticism of the policies and Nazi ideology of the present government, and its consistent and fearless championship of peace, democracy and the just cause of the oppressed peoples of South Africa."

"By banning our paper, the Nationalists once again give notice that they are determined to crush—by any and every means—all opposition to their evil and dangerous policy."

"Apart from the question of the Freedom of the Press, the method used to suppress our paper is a flagrant and dangerous violation of all accepted principles of justice. Since the raid on our offices we have not had even a pretence at a hearing."

"A committee of three, whose identity is unknown to anyone except the Minister of Justice, sat in secret judgment upon our paper, at some time or place also unknown to us. This committee (we assume one was appointed in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act) no doubt made certain accusations against us upon which the Minister acted. But we, whose rights have been so callously trampled upon, have been denied both the knowledge of these accusations and the right and opportunity of defending ourselves."

"It should be clear that no newspaper, other publication, or even any individual, is safe while such travesties of justice can be perpetrated in our country."

"The Freedom of the Press is indeed the life-blood of democracy and the dictatorial suppression of Advance is a warning and a challenge to all democratic South Africa and one which must be met by the united resistance of every anti-Nationalist. Craven fear of tin-pot dictators will save no one and can only lead to complete capitulation as, it seems, has already happened to the so-called 'opposition' press."

"We strongly deprecate the continual raids on newspaper offices and vigorously protest against the banning of Advance."

"We maintain the freedom of the press should be preserved at all costs."

● The Cape Area branch of the Textile Workers' Industrial Union:

South Africa's workers are on the road to freedom and such vicious acts as the banning of the Guardian and Advance will never succeed in the long run.

We welcome New Age to speak for us.

TRANSVAAL LEADERS DENOUNCE NAT. BAN ON PEOPLE'S PAPER

Capricious

CAPE TOWN. Asked to comment on the banning of Advance, Mr. Harry Lawrence, United Party M.P., told our reporter that he was not prepared to make any statement until he had more facts from the Minister of Justice.

"On the basis of what is before the public at present, I am not prepared to make a statement. Whether one agrees with the Act or not, the Minister has certain powers under that Act and it remains to be seen whether he acted capriciously or not," said Mr. Lawrence.

RETREAT FROM FREEDOM

CAPE TOWN. "All those who understand the value of freedom in thought, speech and writing, not least we publishers and distributors of books, will always have to stand firmly together in opposing restrictions on freedom wherever attempted," Mr. George Laurence, director of a South African firm of publishers, said at a Cape Town Rotary Club meeting last week.

Reminding Mr. Laurence of his statement, New Age asked him to comment on the banning of Advance. Mr. Laurence beat a hasty retreat.

The statement had been "lifted up" out of a long discussion, Mr. Laurence said. In any case he was not referring to the Press when he made it.

Non-Europeans In Shops

CAPE TOWN. A deputation from the Cape Housewives' League last week interviewed the personnel manager of a large Cape Town store on the question of employing Non-European shop assistants.

This is the second store manager the League has interviewed in recent weeks.

The store management was in sympathy with the idea, the deputation was told, but did not consider it practical at present, as it would "cause friction among the staff."

"We feel that such 'friction' can be overcome and we are going to continue to press for our just demands," Mrs. G. Smith, League chairman, told New Age.

"We need more openings for our children."

African Women's Conference

JOHANNESBURG. The African National Congress Women's Section will hold its fifth annual Transvaal conference at the Mahlangu Hall, Alexandra Township, on Sunday, November 7.

A circular from Mrs. M. Kopo, provincial secretary, says: "The Nationalist Government has launched an open attack against the African National Congress and its leadership. More discriminatory and oppressive laws are being introduced to intensify the misery of our children. Husbands are being separated from their wives; children from their parents by the vicious application of the new pass laws, which are now threatening the African women."

"This situation calls for a vigilant and more conscious outlook among the women today. A challenge has been thrown to the women-folk."

RESIST APARTHEID TYRANNY

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent.) THE banning of Advance was condemned in strong statements by three people's leaders here—Mr. Walter Sisulu, Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and Mr. Moses Kotane.

Mr. W. M. SISULU:

The banning of Advance is a serious move which affects the freedom of the press to an alarming extent. It must be remembered that various Cabinet ministers and many Nationalist Members of Parliament have in the past attacked the English-language newspapers on the grounds that they are "creating hostility between Europeans and Non-Europeans."

There can be no doubt that this outspoken democratic journal was banned because it severely criticised the Government and exposed the Nationalists to a degree no other paper has done.

The Suppression of Communism Act, as is well known, is a principal weapon of the Nationalist Government to silence its political opponents. This latest example of its use will come as a shock to democrats in South Africa and throughout the world.

Dr. Y. M. DADOO:

The banning of Advance in an arbitrary fashion by the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart, is a deliberate and calculated fascist attack by a police state on the democratic organ of the oppressed peoples of South Africa in particular and the freedom of the press in general.

No democrat, no patriot, no opponent of the unjust policies of the present Government can view this attack with equanimity. The attack on Advance is a base attempt to destroy the very basis of democracy—to plunge the country into the vortex of darkness and stark reaction.

It is a grim challenge to all that we hold dear and sacred. If the United Party is worth its salt it should oppose this mean action with whatever strength remains in it. If the trade union movement is truly the champion of the vital interests of the workers it should oppose the ban by the might of the united power of the working class.

If the Liberals are not merely paying lip-service to the cause of Democracy they should prove their worth by putting up a last ditch battle in defence of the people's paper.

If the Churches are true to their professions of Christianity they should become the torch-bearers for the preservation of the Freedom of the Press.

RELENTLESS STRUGGLE

As far as the Non-European people and their national organisations are concerned, it is their bounden duty to conduct a relentless and determined struggle to save their precious organ of Freedom—their own paper, without which the struggle against apartheid tyranny will be so much the more difficult.

Let it not be recorded in history to our shame and disgrace that we allowed our invaluable paper to be destroyed by a band of fascists in the year 1954, when the heroism and bravery of the common people the world over are so successfully combatting and eliminating the evils of reaction, colonial oppression, racial discrimination and imperialist war-mongering.

Defend the Advance! Let us speak together of freedom! Afrika!

Mr. MOSES KOTANE:

This is a shocking action. When the Guardian was banned,

there was at least some pretence of a sort of mock-impartial investigation. Specific charges were levelled; the paper was given, at least, the formal opportunity to reply.

Now even these pretences of democratic and judicial procedure have been dropped. There is a police raid, followed by a curt announcement that the paper is banned. This is fascism naked and unashamed. The emerging police state becomes more and more careless about maintaining the clothing of democratic decency.

The oppressed people of South Africa will have to fight bitterly for the precious right to a free and independent press.

RAND PROTEST

The following statement was issued by the Johannesburg office of Advance:

The banning of Advance is a further serious inroad on the freedom of the press, a further step towards a police state and a complete blackout of uncensored news and forthright criticism of the Government.

It is quite obvious that the Government had already decided to ban Advance and that the recent "investigation" was a mere formality. The paper has not been banned because of any contraventions of the Suppression of Communism Act. Had we broken the law we should undoubtedly have been prosecuted. Our real "crime" was our outspoken condemnation of Nationalist policy and administration: that is why we have now been silenced as the Guardian was silenced before us. Clearly, Mr. Swart and his colleagues cannot tolerate criticism. Their appetite for suppression and bans grows from week to week. This should be a warning to all who value the freedom of the press and free debate of public affairs. We of Advance feel we have committed no offence but will fight the truth. The truth is mighty and will prevail.

Whites Losing Race for Education?

JOHANNESBURG. Only 11 out of every 1,000 plateau children reached matriculation reported Die Transvaler recently. In urban schools, only 6.3 out of every 1,000 Afrikaans children reached matric, as against 14 in every 1,000 English children.

Die Transvaler expresses great alarm at these figures because, it says: "The white man can only retain his position of leader if he is intellectually equipped for it. . . . The non-Whites are avid for education. According to the above figures, the Whites, alas, are not. . . . As the Whites drop to the lower and lower level of education, while the non-Whites aspire to a higher and higher level, the day will approach when the non-Whites catch up."

Threat to Mrs. Gool

CAPE TOWN. Mrs. Z. Gool, well-known Cape Town City Councillor, has been "named" under the Suppression of Communism Act.

Mrs. Gool has stated that the naming is completely unjustified and that she is taking legal advice on the matter.

Mrs. Gool is now liable to be expelled from the City Council by the Government.

ALL-RACIAL TRADE UNION CENTRE BEING FORMED

Co-operation is Keynote

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent.)

A CONFERENCE of trade unions representing workers of all races will be held this year, probably in December, to establish a new trade union co-ordinating centre which—unlike the Trades Union Council—will be open to all organised workers' unions. Trade Unions are now being approached to take part, according to a statement issued last week by Messrs. L. Masina and O. A. Olsson, joint secretaries of the Co-ordination Committee which has been established to carry out this purpose. The statement reads:

"As a result of the formation of the S.A. Trades Union Council and the subsequent dissolution of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council (1949), delegates of 14 unions which opposed the dissolution met in Durban in their individual capacities. They felt that effective unity cannot be obtained where any section of the Trade Union movement is excluded from participation, and that the untimely dissolution of the Trades and Labour Council had resulted in removing the only common meeting ground open to all trade unions.

"They decided therefore to make every endeavour to create a new body to further the principles embodied in the old Trades and Labour Council constitution, which has stood the test of nearly 30 years of trade union experience.

"A committee, to be known as the Trade Union Co-ordination Committee, has been established, with headquarters in Johannesburg, to carry out this objective. It has local representatives in Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth. The first meeting of this committee was held on Tuesday, October 19, and a course of action agreed upon.

ALL-RACIAL BODY

"Trade unions will be approached to indicate their approval of the principle involved and their desire to participate in a conference to be held before the end of this year to decide upon the formation of an all-racial body.

"The committee feels that as little delay as possible shall occur in the formation of this body in order to avoid a hiatus in inter-union co-ordination and in order that the

be achieved on matters which affect all sections."

A number of unions have already expressed their desire to participate in the formation of the new body, including some which have hitherto stood aloof from all existing co-ordinating bodies.

DEPORTATION THREAT

During the past week members of the special branch of the police have visited a number of "named" people who were not born in South Africa and have asked them details of their country of origin, nationality, date of arrival in the Union, etc.

It is believed the information is being compiled by the police with a view to the implementation by the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart, of his recent threat to deport "named Communists."

body may play an effective part in combatting undesirable industrial legislation mooted by the Government.

"In this respect it is stressed that the desire of the committee is complete unity in the trade union movement, and it will endeavour to co-operate with any other body which, though differing on constitutional principle, is pledged to the same end. There is a great measure of common interest between the trade unions associated with this movement and those participating in the work of the Trade Union Council, and it is sincerely hoped that close co-operation will

Big Business in U.S. Comics Threatens All Children

LONDON (Airmail).

THE British Government has at last been compelled to take notice of the flood of American comics which has now reached a turnover in this country alone of over £2 million. For years parents, local authorities, educationists and hundreds of societies struggled to protect children from the rising tide of horror, sex and crime in comics. Successive Governments have refused to act on the pretext that they could not interfere with the "liberty of the Press."

Protests came to a head last week when the question was raised both in the House of Commons and by a Church of England deputation to the Home Secretary headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. They pointed out the American comics were "vicious, sexy and sadistic" and were a demoralising factor on children's minds. This has been known for years and the relationship between U.S. comics and juvenile crime is noticeable.

The new Home Secretary, Major G. Lloyd George, admitted he had seen some comics and had no doubt

something would have to be done about them.

The turnover of these comics in Britain is 80 million a year or rather more than 6 million a month. But in the United States itself sales of comics have now reached the staggering figure of 100 million a month.

What the author Geoffrey Wagner calls "this steaming pudding of horror, sex, vice and moronic fantasy," has become the staple reading matter of modern America.

Latest survey figures show that 98 per cent of all children from 8 to 12 read comics; 80 per cent of all adolescent boys and 81 per cent of all adolescent girls; and 41 per cent of all male adults between 18 and 30 are comic addicts.

Comics are big business. With a turnover of 120 million dollars a year in the U.S. they not only have a powerful influence on the printing and publication trades but are becoming an important factor in the paper industry.

Warden's Election Campaign Makes Good Progress

CAPE TOWN.

"I am very pleased with the progress of Len Warden's election campaign," Mr. Greenwood Ngotyana, secretary of the Cape Western Vigilance Associations and Advisory Boards, told New Age this week.

Mr. Ngotyana said that everywhere Mr. Warden was being met with wonderful enthusiasm.

"At the Kayamandi location, Stellenbosch, close to 400 voters gave Mr. Warden a unanimous vote of confidence last week, and he had an equally inspiring reception at the Strand a few days later, where only one African opposed the vote of confidence," Mr. Ngotyana said.

"I was particularly impressed by the speeches from the floor at these meetings. It shows that our people have a very good grasp of the political situation in South Africa."

Charlie Chaplin's Politics—'One of those Peacemongers'

LONDON.

"The only political thing about peace-mongers," Charlie Chaplin to give away £2,000 of his Inter folk of Lambeth, the borough added with a smile: "I don't have Peace

me is that I am one of those told Londoners when he arrived national Peace Prize to the old where he spent his childhood. He to apologise for accepting the Prize."

But he spoke seriously when he recalled the destruction of war to which he is bitterly opposed.

"I saw London knocked about a bit and I don't want to see it knocked about much more," he said. "Win, lose or draw, it does not make any difference.

PEACE — I LIKE IT

"Peace is evidently an anathema to some people but not to me. If anybody quarrels about peace, then we agree to disagree. Peace—I like it. And if that is political then I am political."

Charlie's next film is going to be a laugh against America. His

satire on Hitler and Nazism, "The Great Dictator," was unforgettable and this time the searchlight of fun and ridicule with its serious underlying meaning will be turned to the land of McCarthy and Eisenhower.

But Charlie Chaplin himself maintains the satire will be handled in a "very healthy way." He also thinks it is going to be very funny!

At present he is working on the script and will continue when he returns to Switzerland. In the film he will be back again as the "little man with the moustache and walking stick." But this time, he says, it is "the little man rather respectably dressed."

German Rearmament is Path To Third World War

South African Peace Call

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent.)

"ONCE again, the insane folly of the 1930's is being committed by the leaders of the Western nations," declares a strong statement by the S.A. Congress of Democrats opposing the rearmament of Germany. Once again, Western Germany is to be rearmed for the specious purpose of "containment of Communism." Again—the Hitler generals—Kesselring, Speidel—are being licensed to ravage a world which is still unrecovered from their last war."

The statement says the alleged German "guarantees" of good behaviour will allay no fears; the Hitler guarantees to Chamberlain at Munich were still remembered.

The Congress of Democrats calls for "immediate reversal of decisions to rearm West Germany. In this case we are not alone. Nowhere in this world is there a country where the common people would not vote overwhelmingly NO! to a referendum. In West Germany itself, amongst those who suffered worst from the world-conquering appetites of the Wehrmacht—the German trade union movement—there has been an overwhelming vote against their own rearmament, as cannon fodder for a new crusade against the East.

NOT TOO LATE

"Let people everywhere make their voice heard, before the siren shrieks again. 'No arms for West Germany! It is still not too late.'"

"Soon the Jackboots will be marching again."

A penny pamphlet issued by the S.A. Peace Council under the above title also powerfully exposes the rearmament plan. Recalling the horrors of Nazi brutality, the pamphlet asks, "Have we forgotten so soon?"

"Have we forgotten the sacrifices of the millions of South African and other United Nation lads who went out to do battle against the Nazi tyranny?"

"Have we forgotten the 5,500,000 people murdered in Auschwitz and Maidanek concentration camps? The ruthless massacre of the Jewish people in Germany and throughout Europe? Do we not remember Lidice, Coventry, Stalingrad?"

NAZI LEADERS

The pamphlet goes on to answer the suggestion that the Adenauer Government consists of "good, democratic Germans" by turning the spotlight on Dr. Adenauer ("a personal friend of Mussolini") and his Cabinet. One by one it exposes the past Nazi record of Preusker, Schroeder,

Kraft, Schaeffer, Globke, Oberlander, Storch and other Bonn leaders. "Do these men strike you as being good, democratic Germans who are fit for the responsibility of raising 'the largest army in Western Europe'?" it asks. "Or as a gang of blood-stained criminals who ought to be locked up?"

"These hard and calculating men are not building their army to fight America's battles or any one else's battles. They have one aim in mind, which they have never ceased working and planning for. It's the old, old dream of German imperialism, world conquest and world domination: 'Deutschland Uber Alles.'"

"And to achieve that aim they will not hesitate to plunge mankind into World War Three: a frightful atomic conflict in which the noblest works of man—perhaps mankind itself—will be destroyed."

The pamphlet ends with a call to campaign for peace and against rearmament. Copies are available from P.O. Box 10528, Johannesburg, or from the Cape and Natal Peace Councils.

CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE

MASS MEETING

on the

GRAND PARADE

CAPE TOWN

SUNDAY, OCT. 31, 1954

AT 3 P.M.

PROMINENT SPEAKERS — LET US SPEAK TOGETHER OF FREEDOM!

Issued by the Cape Western Action Council for the Congress of the People, Box 4552, Cape Town.

Rand Students Resist Autocratic Rule

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent.)

OVER 850 students of the Witwatersrand University have already signed a petition protesting against the new draft statute for the Student Representative Council, which will have the effect of depriving the students of all effective say in the running of their own affairs.

Drawn up by a sub-committee of the University Council consisting of the Principal, Professor W. G. Sutton, and Professors Harlow and Le May, the new statute is a model piece of autocracy. It gives the Principal the right of veto over all decisions of the S.R.C. It gives the University Council the power to take over the funds of the S.R.C. or to dissolve it at any time and not to hold new elections for a period of a year. It declares that the S.R.C. "shall carry out the policy and decisions"—not of the students who elect it, but "of the University Council."

The University Council consists largely of Government and municipal appointees; it has a few representatives of the senior staff and past students, none of the student body itself.

STUDENTS WANT FREEDOM

The Students' Representative Council asked that the draft statute be

amended to provide for the democratic powers and freedoms under which it has hitherto functioned and which are common to higher educational institutions in most parts of the world.

This request was refused.

The students petitioned that the matter be deferred, for most of them are now busy with exams, and they could not give the matter consideration at a general meeting until the new academic year begins. This petition was also refused. Professor Sutton said he was not interested in the views of "a crowd of students."

Despite preoccupation with exams, Wits students are enraged at this invasion of their rights to conduct their own internal affairs. Nearly all the students' cultural and faculty councils have expressed their opposition.

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