

10 REASONS WHY I Refuse TO CARRY A PASS. by MRS. LILIAN NGUYI

As a citizen and a mother I refuse to carry a pass for the following ten reasons, says Mrs. Ngoyi:

1. To take out a pass is to insult and destroy African womanhood. The pass is evil.
2. For not having a pass in order I could be arrested and sentenced to jail - my children left at home without food or care.
3. The pass could deprive me of free movement. If I carry a pass I would have to get permission before I went anywhere. I would have to report at the pass office wherever I went.
4. The curfew laws will affect me as they do already today. To visit my friends, to go to the cinema I have a night special.
5. I could be endorsed out of Johannesburg as a "vagrant" or "won't work native woman". That is what they do to our men and they could do it to me or any other woman.
6. I will not be able to choose a job freely. The Labour Bureau will do that for me. I will be at the mercy of employers and, pressed by the horror of being "endorsed out" forced to accept low wages.
7. Pass Laws will bring deportations from the city -- even forced to work for "melie pap" on farms.
8. What will we not suffer at the hands of brutal police? Arrested on some pretext or other of a pass not in order, and then at the mercy of the police

9. Not I, but a pass official will rule my life. I will not have the right even to travel freely to a wedding in another town, to a funeral, to see my relatives?

10. There is no abolition of passes, only greater hardship. To me an identity card is a pass. I refuse to carry one!

"WOMEN IN CHAINS" is a pamphlet issued jointly by the A.N.C. Women's League and the Federation of South African Women. Brilliantly written it clearly exposes the broken pledges of the Government; the "cold-blooded inhumanity" of the extension of pass laws to women. It tells of the struggle of the women of the past against passes and their victories will be an inspiration. This booklet is a MUST to all engaged in the struggle against pass laws.

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Yes! "WOMEN IN CHAINS" must reach every woman, enter every home!

Lowestuk No.
 Carry by *Hona Leoy*
 Dear *Miss Wines*
 To *37 Winc. St. Johannesburg*
14/56
 Mervyns No. *22*

SPECIAL CONFERENCE

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tunate that at the time of going to press no adequate reports had been received.

The people must realise that the fight against the pass laws is going to be a long drawn out battle. The pass system is the foundation of the whole cheap labour system in this country, and the ruling class will not easily give up; but victory over the pass system in general will be a turning point in the history of this country; it will mean the end of the cheap labour system. To achieve this it must be clearly understood that the struggle for passes is not the fight of the women alone. It is a fight for every African, man and women and every right thinking South African. Our victory must mean the overthrow of the ruling class.

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OPEN LETTER TO CHIEFS

REJECT BANTU AUTHORITIES!

(5)

"We must reject the Bantu Authorities Act. Let the Nationalists administer their own dirty laws and face the wrath of the people." Thus reads the Open Letter to the Chiefs sent out this month by the A. N. C. Working Committee.

The Letter on the Bantu Authorities Act reads:

"Year in and out, laws are made whose sole object is the tightening of the shackles on the people; the crushing of their hopes, and the frustration of their legitimate efforts to liberate themselves.

The Bantu Authorities Act is one of that treacherous collection of laws.

Dr. Verwoerd claims that the Act was made for the benefit of the Africans; in that it will restore tribal life; increase the powers of the Chiefs; and increase the responsibility of the Africans in their own affairs to enable them to develop according to their own traditions.

These are shamelessly deceptive claims.

The real purpose of the Bantu Authorities Act is to create an administrative machinery for the intensified oppression of the people.

The Nationalists have made so many vicious and revolting laws against which the people have protested and struggled, that they now fear to enforce them directly themselves. They now want to shift the burden of enforcing stock culling; Bantu education and passes for women to the chiefs who will thus become the immediate instruments of the suffering and misery of their peoples.

thus to set brother against brother, and foment spying and bitter strife within the tribe. All those distrusted by the Government will be eliminated, and those who prove faithful to the Government will be promoted.

The Chiefs will thus become the first objects against whom the people will direct their wrath.

The Nationalists will use the chiefs as a shield in another way. Every evil law which they will make against the people will be under the excuse that it has been requested by the Chiefs, even though the chiefs have in fact made no such requests.

Far from increasing the powers of the Chiefs, the act will reduce the chiefs to policemen. They will have to carry out Dr. Verwoerd's orders without question.

Instead of being independent, the Chiefs will be hounded by the Native Commissioners to see that they carry out their orders to the letter.

The Bantu Authorities Act is not intended to, nor will it restore the unity of the tribe. Instead it will divide and disrupt the tribe. The government hopes to encourage among the Chiefs a jockeying for position,

will be promoted.

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The Bantu Authorities Act is intended to split the tribes into smaller, hostile and weaker units.

The Act is intended to create strife and division among the various tribes. The solid courageous unity of the African people against the Nationalists is one force which the Nationalists fear. Through the Bantu Authorities Act the Nationalists are trying to dissipate the energy of the people on imaginary tribal differences.

When the Nationalists contemptuously made the Bantu Authorities Act against the protests of the people, they consulted nobody. Today, when they want to implement the Act, they pretend to consult the Chiefs. Dr. Verwoerd has been running all over the country, making gifts of Bibles to Chiefs, and trying to clothe his wolf in a sheepskin. But the people are alert and will not be deceived.

WE MUST REJECT THE BANTU AUTHORITIES ACT. WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE USED AS TOOLS AGAINST OUR OWN PEOPLE. LET THE NATIONALISTS ADMINISTER THEIR OWN DIRTY LAWS AND FACE THE WRATH OF THE PEOPLE.

WHAT YOU SHOULD READ:

* ISIZWE - produced in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth (2 Malakane Street). The January issue carries articles in English and Xhosa on "The Year of the Charter - 1956"; "The Middle East Crisis"; "The Bantu World Furore"; "African Women - a new political force" and "The Freedom Charter and the 1949 Programme of Action."

* LIBERATION - produced from P.O. Box JHB (10s annual subscription) is a copy. Carries in its Feb. issue:

* FIGHTING TALK sold at 6d a copy (annual sub 7s 6d from P.O. Box 1355) carries in its March issue articles on: Famine in the Reserves by G. Mbeki.

The I.C. Bill and Trade Unions for Freedom by E.R. Braverman. Negro Equality, not Jim Crow by U.S. writer Louis E. Burnham. Kruschov's speech on Soviet foreign policy.

The Sudan's way to independence. African Nurses against Apartheid. Lobengula by Mosupetsi, in a series on African personalities from history.

M.K. Mpho on "A dark people in a dark Continent."

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESS BULLETIN. IT MUST CARRY YOUR NEWS AND YOUR VIEWS. Each Congress Branch should appoint someone to act as special Congress Bulletin Correspondent. Send us news items each month. Let us have your suggestions, your criticisms! Not enough vernacular? Too few long articles? We want to hear from you and we want you to help improve this Bulletin.

THE "GOOD BOYS" COLUMN

by Mabilwana Resha.

(5)

"BANTU-BANTOE", the publication of the Department of Native Affairs, which this department has the cheek to call "the mouthpiece of the Bantu" is hard at work seeking out among the African people those, who for personal gain, or ambition, or because they are estranged from the real peoples' movement and have not the courage to join the battle for our rights, have sold their soul to apartheid.

Each month "Bantoe" prints a few letters of praise from Africans for apartheid, or the Bantu Authorities Act or Bantu Education.

Let the people know these of faint heart!

This is what Ph. Mamogobo of Middelburg says, "The Bantu Education Act has been accepted whole-heartedly by our people for the simple reason that it is the concretisation of this policy and given our people a new found pride in themselves. Our wish is to live as a happy, cheerful and contented people. Bantu Education is one of the mediums through which this aim can be achieved. We have accepted the responsibilities granted to us under this Act and we are today standing in the service of our own people. We have at last been allowed to identify ourselves with our own people's needs and aspirations without endangering the harmony that exists between the Bantu and European in this our beloved country.

J.R. Mlate of Pretoria writes "Let us reason and understand one another and go ahead and have our own emblem "BANTU FOR BANTU" which means Our country must be founded on the work of the Bantu themselves.

all we Bantu engage in this tug of war to make ourselves a Bantu Nation under our good Government. Let us thank this Government, more especially the Honorable Minister and Secretary for Native Affairs and their Staff and try to mould the Bantu by the following Acts which we thank the Government for introducing:-

1. Bantu Education Act.
2. Bantu Authorities Act.
3. Urban Areas Act.

We also thank the Government for:-

4. (a) Labour Bureaux.
(b) Employment Officers. to send us where there is work to be done and thus to end Tsotsi-ism.
5. Expansion of Native Townships.
6. Constantly sending inspectors for labour to the mines, farms, and industries to acquaint us with the plans of Government.
7. We thank the Government for the improvements in our areas.

We wish this Government to carry this torch to the future.

* * * * *

Now to conclude my letter, let

HARD WORDS to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Open Letter to

Mr. P e l a .

Dear Mr. Walter P e l a ,

"The World" of February 27th, carried a report of its interview with you in which you are reported to have said that the African Chamber of Commerce, of which you are the Secretary, has been offered financial aid by several bodies and organisations including the South African Bureau of Racial Affairs (SABRA).

I welcome the formation of the Chamber as an organisation which, amongst other things, will serve as training ground for the African trader in this complicated machinery of commercial undertaking. But I would like to pose a few questions to you in order to ascertain the trend of development of your Chamber:-

Seeing that SABRA is generally regarded as an instrument of the Nationalist Government, are you convinced that its offer of financial and other aid is genuinely in the interest of the African trader? Do you believe that an organisation like SABRA entertains the idea of widespread business undertakings by Africans on a large scale, or does it see in the Chamber an organisation that can be used to popularise the policy of Apartheid among the African people?

Is it not common knowledge that SABRA'S main function is to propagate and vindicate the concept that Africans, as a backward and inferior race, should not be regarded nor ever be allowed to become an integral part of the present South African society? Is it not a fact that from this unscientific concept flows the Nationalists' policy of economic Apartheid which advocates the enforcement of the so-called parallel or separate development of races. In other words, Africans should be removed out of the so-called European areas and be segregated into the Reserves, where it is claimed they will be left to develop on their own lines, and only be allowed to enter the Urban Areas for the purpose of serving the needs of the

white people?

Is it possible, in the light of these circumstances, that such an organisation can offer any assistance to your Chamber without any political motive behind such an offer?

I have no doubt that your clear and unequivocal reply to these questions will afford the public to take a clear gauge of which way your Chamber is drifting.

John Motaung.

Springs.

BANNED AGAIN is
Nelson Mandela,
one-time Tvl. Pre-
sident who was ser-
ved with notice
banning him from
gatherings and from
Congress and other
bodies, and con-
fining him to Jo-
hannesburg FOR
FIVE YEARS!

NEW LAWS TO GRIND THE PEOPLE.

Under the Nationalists intensified tyranny and oppression are goading the people to desperation. Day by day, the opposition of the people is stiffening.

Thus the native Commissioners and the Police who are the watchdogs of the Government are again using

notorious Native Administration Act of 1927, the Riotous Assemblies Act, and more recent but equally vicious laws to try to smash the movements of the people, isolate their leaders from them and stop the struggle for freedom.

During the 'twenties", when the African National Congress had the support of the majority of African chiefs and their tribesmen, it was the Native Administration Act which was used by the Government of the day to try to break the influence of Congress in the rural areas. In contravention of all "Native Law, custom and tradition" the Native Administration Act made the Governor General the supreme chief of all Africans. He thus has autocratic powers to depose and deport even hereditary chiefs, and also headmen and tribesmen. This "supreme chief" in whom is vested all these dictatorial powers never comes into contact with the African people over whom he has been made a demi-god. He does not know how they live and what their miseries are! The only time their existence as human beings is brought to his notice is when he is called upon to attach his signature to an order deposing or deporting a Chief or a headman, or a leader of the African people, who, in the eyes of some Commissioner or police officer, is guilty of an act of "disloyalty" - because he refused to participate in the oppression and exploitation of his own people. Such victims are accorded no formal trial in a court of law. ON the contrary, they are snatched away from their families and their homes and land, and dumped in a place where their lives can be made as miserable as possible.

An Act such as this is indeed a dangerous weapon to be placed in the hands of a political sadist like the despotic Dr. Verwoerd, Minister of Native Affairs, who in a very short space of time has been responsible for the break-up of African families, and the deportation of many to remote areas in the countryside.

EXILED!

We all know some of the Governor-General's and Dr. Verwoerd's victims now languishing in exile: Gwethshe, Lengisi, Monare, Sibande of Bethal, Yengwa, Mrs. Silinga (deported under the Urban Areas Act) Chief Paulus Moplei and many others.

BLOCKING THE WAY TO THE COURTS

NOT satisfied with the despotism of this Act, Dr. Verwoerd is now piloting a new Bill through Parliament, a Bill, which, if allowed to find its way on to the Statute Book, will deprive the African people of a vital and fundamental democratic right. This is the Natives (Prohibition of Interdicts Bill). This Bill is intended to prohibit the law courts from granting any order holding up the removal or ejectment of Africans from the cities, their land or homes.

NEWS OF Africa.

In the FRENCH CAMEROONS the Government tried to crush the national movement (The Unions des Populations du Cameroons) following its demands for immediate steps towards self-determination and independence. When the United Nations agreed to hear this movement's petition, the British Government plotted with the French to prevent their spokesmen leaving the Cameroons. And the U.N. visiting mission which went to the Cameroons later refused to meet the peoples' representatives or accept their petition. Now it has been announced that 20,000 petitions from the French Cameroons - more than the total of all hitherto received from all Trust Territories - have arrived at United Nations headquarters in crates, bundles and boxes. In the French Cameroons the fight goes on!

In the SPANISH ZONE OF MOROCCO, in the first strike since General Franco made himself dictator, Spanish Moroccan workers brought four iron mines to a standstill and won a 35 per cent wage increase. The striking workers joined an independence demonstration during the strike.

The SUDAN GOVERNMENT has received congratulations from General Eisenhower and Marshal Bulganin.. and recognition of the new State has been granted by nearly 30 foreign powers.

In the BELGIAN CONGO the govt. has rounded up about 200 members of the Kitiwala sect, an offshoot of the watchtower movement.

In KENYA official statistics to end of December 1955 show that since the beginning of the Emergency 10,173 have been killed. Of these only 37 European members of the "security forces" have been killed and 512 Africans. Civilians killed were 32 Europeans, 24 Asians and 291 Africans. All the rest were Kikuyu and other tribesmen.

The director of the Red Cross Overseas branch recently toured the Kikuyu areas. She records.. "starvation is now controlled but death still occurring due to gross sub-nutrition..."

A battle in a papyrus swamp near Naivasha went on for 19 days. It was believed that there were 70 "terrorists" (Times of London report) in the swamp. The strongest forces used for any operation outside the forests for many months was assembled. It included in all over 2,000 troops and 1,000 Africans. Also R.A.F. planes and helicopter.. also bulldozers and petrol sprayers and small craft of the lake. The mortar bombardment was estimated unofficially to have cost about £20,000 at £6 or £7 for each bomb (This works out at about 3,000 bombs). It was announced that of 70 Africans estimated to be in the swamp, about 30 had escaped and only 15 to 20 were still hiding! The final communique, after the siege of the swamp was raised, said nine food stores had been destroyed, and one rifle recovered.

In a Nairobi security operation at the end of January Kenya forces arrested nearly 1000 Africans in Nairobi.

NYASALAND.

Mr. Wellington Chirwa, one of the African representatives in the Federal Assembly of the Central African Federation said that the people of this country were being treated like second-class citizens in their own country, and wanted to contract out of the Federation. They wanted their own self-government.

A.N.C.

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9

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10

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11

The Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill now before Parliament is an anti-trade union act designed to divide the trade union movement and to introduce apartheid into industry. The act is designed to place the control of the trade unions in the hands of the Nationalist government.

FIGHT AGAINST PASSES IS ON!

ORANGE FREE STATE IS UP AND COMING. In the fight against passes for women several big meetings have been held in Bloemfontein. In one of these meetings 75 people joined the A.N.C.

Bethlehem is the most active branch in this province. Not only have meetings been held here but organisers have gone out to other areas to educate the people on the evils of the pass laws. Ficksburg which was the strongest branch of the A.N.C. in the Free State in 1950 is also awake.

The Free State Executive Committee with the assistance of Bethlehem volunteers is reviving the Lady Brand, Thaba Nchu branches. New branches are being started at Brandfort and Arlinton.

A womens' League Branch has been formed with Mrs. Mafuru (wife of J.B. Mafura, the Free State resident) as president.

TRANSVAAL

The mass regional conference for women held on February 26th and March 4th, were successful in some parts of the Transvaal. In Benoni the conference was well attended. Klerksdorp the conference was in the open air but the people defied the rain to listen to both the president and secretary of the Transvaal.

Ermelo had the biggest conference in the history of the Eastern Transvaal. 500 people came from various towns to attend conference, Bethal, Morgenzon, Kroomdraai, Standardton, Middelburg and many others.

Other Provinces

There have been no reports from other provinces but unofficial reports show that a lot of work is being done every where particularly in the Eastern Cape and Durban.

We hope that in future the provinces and regions will send their reports to be published in the Voice - their mouthpiece.



FEDERATION-CONFERENCE

The Transvaal Region of the Federation of South African Women held a very successful conference in Johannesburg this month. Women from all walks of life, nurses, teachers

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Up to now Africans victimised by local officials could seek a reversal of orders made against them in the courts. Now this right to challenge autocratic rule in a court of law where the victim can have legal representation is to be removed.

No matter how blatantly illegal an order may be, as long as it is an order "purporting to have been issued by a competent authority" (this is the wording of the Act) the courts are made powerless to intervene, and any order they may make will have no effect.

The effect of the act will be that as soon as a removal order is made, the African or group of people involved will have to obey it

Immediately. Local authorities will thus have the power to play havoc with the rights of all Africans under their control.

It should be clear to every believer in freedom that Dr. Verwoerd is arming himself in advance against the inevitable reaction of the African people, in alliance with other democratic and anti-Nationalist forces, against the vicious anti-democratic acts operating against the people.

These are the measures against which the A.N.C. struggles. As the people organise the government trembles. Again and again it uses Parliament to make new oppressive laws, it enlarges the police force, takes new powers unto itself.

But the peoples' movement continues undaunted. The power of the people will end this earthly hell that the Nationalists are making of the land of our birth.

AGAINST THE PROHIBITION OF INTERDICTS BILL !

PARLIAMENT THIS MONTH

As usual, this month in Parliament has seen an increase in laws and a decrease in the rights of the people; an increase in the powers of the Ministers and the authorities, and a fresh series of attacks on the security of the people.

NATS. DEPRIVE THE COLOURED OF THE VOTE

The Nationalists passed the South African Amendment Act at a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on February 27th. The purpose of the Act is the removal of the Cape Coloured people from the common voters' roll. The immediate victims of the act are the Cape Coloured people by the A.N.C. and indeed all democratic South Africans realise that this Act is yet another step towards entrenching the Nationalists as dictators in this country.

The United Party has threatened to challenge this act in court. The A.N.C. issued a call to all people to protest against this new attack, and to strengthen the only real opposition to the Nationalist rule: the liberatory movement.

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

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