

NEW AGE

SOUTHERN EDITION

Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper

Vol. I, No. 19

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1955

PRICE 3d.



Hundreds of Cape Town citizens last week demonstrated their sympathy with, and support for, the African women who are threatened with deportation under section 10 of the Urban Areas Act by signing a petition at tables such as the one pictured above. More signatures are still being collected by the Women's Anti-Pass Committee, and it is intended to hand the petition to Mr. Len Lee-Warden for presentation to Parliament.

LANGA FAMILIES MAY BE MOVED

City Council gives in to Verwoerd

CAPE TOWN.

AFRICAN FAMILIES ARE NO LONGER SECURE IN LANGA AND MAY BE MOVED FROM THEIR HOMES, THEIR GARDEN, THEIR CHURCH, SCHOOL AND ALL OTHER AMENITIES TO A BARE HOUSE IN NYANGA.

This is the meaning of the City Council's surrender, last week, to the Minister of Native Affairs, on the question of extending the Nyanga location, Mr. B. A. Levitas, M.P.C., told New Age.

After a bitter all-day debate last Thursday, the Cape Town City Council rescinded its previous resolution and agreed to Verwoerd's proposal that African families be moved from Langa to Nyanga, and that Langa be converted to a hostel for "single" men only.

The Council also agreed by 26 votes to 12 to waive its previous proviso that the Minister must take all financial responsibility for the setting up of the extended location.

"While the Minister said in Parliament last year that he would help local authorities who co-operated with him, there is no written assurance that families will not be moved from Langa before all the necessary amenities have been provided in Nyanga," said Mr. Levitas.

8 PAGES AGAIN NEXT WEEK

If the Nationalists got any comfort from our announcement last week that we were being forced to come down to four pages, here is news to sink them in gloom once more.

So generous and swift has been the response of our readers that we are able to return to eight pages from OUR VERY NEXT ISSUE!

But the cardinal point remains—sudden bursts of support in times of crisis are not enough. What is required is a regular contribution from every democrat—and it is the task of the people's organisations to ensure this.

If you want our eight-pager to continue SEND US A REGULAR DONATION.

CIGARETTE BOYCOTT — COMPANY DEPUTATION TO A.N.C.

DURBAN.—The success of the boycott of U.T.C. cigarettes throughout the Union has resulted in a second appeal from the management to African Congress leaders in the Cape to call off the boycott.

It is understood that the management will send a deputation, if this has not already been done, to Prof. Matthews, Acting President of the African National Congress, to discuss the ending of the boycott, but they have made no offer to settle the dispute in Durban.

Officials of the Durban Tobacco Workers' Union informed me, however, that unless the employers agree to take back all the strikers and to recognise the union, not only will the boycott on U.T.C. cigarettes

continue, but it will spread to Bloemfontein and the three Protectorates.

The struggle of the Durban U.T.C. strikers has caused such widespread sympathy in the Protectorates that

it has been decided, in discussions with the leaders there, to extend the boycott to all the Protectorates.

Meanwhile strikers are still being victimised by the authorities and whenever they are caught by the police U.T.C. is telephoned in order to ascertain whether or not the worker is a striker. If he is, the word "striker" is written on his pass.

VERWOERD PLANS TO PUT CITY AFRICANS IN CAMPS

Huge Police-Controlled Shanty Towns

JOHANNESBURG—Minister Verwoerd has now succeeded in forcing his site and service scheme on Johannesburg, and the plot by central and local authorities to abandon their housing responsibilities toward African citizens is now under way.

Shorn of its fancy phrases, the scheme means simply that on stands allocated to them in controlled townships African families must build their own homes. Where they are to obtain the materials or money is their own worry. The inevitable result will be huge police-controlled shanty towns.

The Minister of Native Affairs has spent the last months bludgeoning municipalities into accepting his scheme. He now reports "co-operation" from Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, and particularly Pretoria.

Verwoerd told the Johannesburg City Council bluntly that if they did not adopt the site and service scheme they would receive no money for housing from the National Housing Commission.

To municipalities with which he is pleased he is brazenly awarding "prizes." He has approved a £250,000 bonus for economic housing to Pretoria because it is "getting on with the job" of the site and service scheme.

CONTROLLED CAMPS

The Chief Information Officer of the N.A.D., in a statement that the stage is now set for the "clearing up of all slums," pointed to Meadowlands and to the department's top priority work to "clean up" the scattered squatter camps on the perimeter of the large cities. Here one cat has slipped out of the bag. The site and service schemes are intended to centralise these Africans in controlled camps.

In fact, control, and not decent housing, is one of the Minister's prime considerations.

He has others. The Minister is starting to extend his omnibus control of all Africans to African housing.

His Apartheid Empire has designs on all African administration. The shape of things to come was hinted at by Dr. F. J. Language, manager of Brakpan Non-European Affairs, in an address to the Durban conference of administrators when he suggested that the day would come when the Central Government, through Dr. Verwoerd's department, would take over the administration of all African affairs in urban areas.

The history of negotiations between Dr. Verwoerd's department and the Johannesburg City Council shows how this scheme was foisted on the largest city in the Union and how Dr. Verwoerd got his way.

When first confronted with the site and service scheme and the threat that if it did not co-operate housing grants for the Council's normal house-building would cease, the Johannesburg Council submitted a slightly improved scheme to the N.A.D.

The Council proposed that the services be not rudimentary but of

a permanent nature, and should include a piped water supply and waterborne sewage to each stand.

The Government insisted on a pail service and the reduction of water reticulation to a minimum. There will be communal pipe stands at intervals.

The minimum essential roads will be built. . . . Sufficient street lighting will be provided to make control effective.

The Council suggested that loan funds be made available from National Housing Loan funds for Africans to build or buy their own houses. The Council suggested a minimum figure of £100 in the

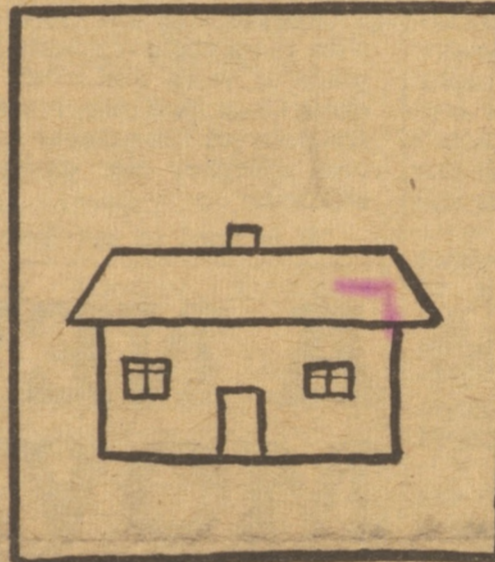
ourselves if we think it will be found by the Minister," said Mr. Cutten.

The Minister's bluff should be called, and he should be told that his housing promises were not worth the paper they were written on.

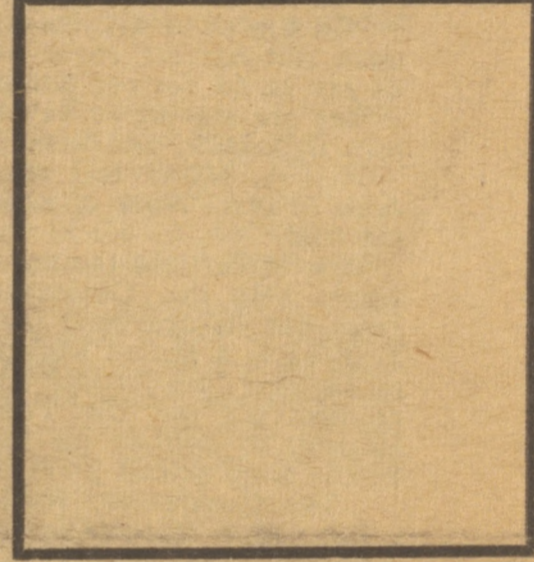
Mr. Cutten said he doubted whether even the proper services costing £7½ million pounds would ever be found.

Johannesburg is being pushed to lay out 50,000 sites under the scheme. The city has now agreed to lay out the first pilot scheme of 10,000, and work is expected to begin almost immediately.

The onus on the Government and municipal authorities to build—a responsibility accepted by every civilised country in the modern world—is being abandoned.



HOUSE—OLD STYLE



NEW STYLE (Site and Service Scheme)

form of building materials. The Government limits the amount to £35.

The sum is totally inadequate, but even so there is no clarity on where this money is to come from.

At their monthly Council meeting councillors made it clear they had no option but to accept the Government scheme.

DOES NOT BELIEVE MINISTER

Mr. Cutten said—"We had to accept the site and service scheme or nothing. . . ." He added—"Perhaps if I had been in any kind of control I would have said nothing."

Once the site and service scheme was established, said Mr. Cutten, he did not believe the Minister would provide money for proper housing.

It was calculated that if the temporary shacks were to be replaced by permanent homes £20 million would have to be found. "We bluff

Under this scheme Johannesburg's housing for Africans will become huge, derelict shanty towns. Moroka and Jabavu are shocking enough, but all the site and service townships will be copies of these squatter camps. The poorest section of the population will have been made to house itself.

'ONE ROOF, TWO DOORS TWO WINDOWS

JOHANNESBURG.

Under Verwoerd's site and service scheme, each site occupier is supposed to receive an amount of £35 at the outset, to help him build.

There seems to be a special magic in this figure of £35. Why £35, and not £45, or £30?

After some research we have been able to discover the possible origin of this figure.

More than 25 years ago the Bloemfontein Municipality had a housing scheme under which it advanced £35 to enable Africans to buy building materials other than bricks for a four-roomed house.

Our guess is that some official in the Native Affairs Department, with an elderly uncle in Bloemfontein, in a flash of inspiration, recalled this.

But this official was never introduced to economics and the theory of changing prices, or he might have realised that what could be bought for £35 in 1929 is far more likely to cost £135 in 1955.

FOOTNOTE: Mr. A. J. Cutten told the Johannesburg City Council that £35 today would pay for no more than an iron roof, two doors and two windows.

Collection Number: AG2887

Collection Name: Publications, New Age, 1954-1962

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

©2016

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.