

# RAPIDLY MOVING TOWARDS VICTORY AND NEW WORLD

## Freedom Leaders Back "New Age"

From Our Durban Correspondent

"In welcoming New Age I know it will fearlessly champion the cause of the oppressed people in South Africa. It will live up to the spirit of the New Age which is freedom, for the forces of freedom everywhere are rapidly moving towards victory and a new world," declared Chief A. J. Luthuli, president general of the African National Congress, in an interview with New Age this week.

### NEFARIOUS PLANS OF DICTATORS

"In a democratic country, the Press is a strong bulwark of the liberties of the people, and so it is often a thorn in the side of dictators. In carrying out their nefarious plans dictators invariably seek to control or destroy the Press, especially that section of the Press which is independent and fearless," Chief Luthuli went on.

"Advance, true to its name, advanced the cause of freedom in our country by being an uncompromising fighter for all. For that reason alone it was suppressed by the Nationalist Government, whose members are in the forefront of the oppressors and the arch-enemies of freedom."

### JOHANNESBURG'S WELCOME

In Johannesburg, the appearance of New Age evoked warm enthusiasm among democratic circles.

• A message from Mr. Yusuf Cachalia, joint secretary, on behalf of the South African Indian Congress, reads:

"I welcome the birth of the NEW AGE. The publishers of this new weekly have earned the deep-seated gratitude of thousands of conscious readers throughout the country. The liberation movement welcomes it as it fulfills the great task of disseminating unbiased news of events at home and abroad.

"The suppression of Advance indicates that the Nationalist Government is determined to suppress the voice of the people, partly by destroying the freedom of the press. It is to be regretted that the so-called opposition press failed so sadly to raise its voice against the suppression of Advance. It is to the credit of NEW AGE that from its first issue it has maintained the proud traditions of Pringle and Fairbairn. We are confident that it will continue to speak the truth without fear or favour.

"It is for the democratic people of South Africa, of all races, to rally round the NEW AGE so as to defend its existence in the face of tyranny, both by mobilising politically to defend Press freedom, and by giving constant financial support to the paper.

"I call upon the constituent bodies of the S.A.I.C. to render unstinted support to the NEW AGE, and in so doing I wish it long life."

### CONFIDENT

• The Johannesburg Region of the S.A. Congress of Democrats also expressed its "great joy" at the publication of NEW AGE.

"It is good to know that there will be a newspaper which will speak up for right and justice and basic human decency, so sadly lacking at present in our country," stated the C.O.D. "The time when ALL the people of the world will be enabled to live as human beings cannot be postponed indefinitely. The struggle in this country may be hard, but we have every confidence in the future and every confidence in the important role your newspaper will play in this struggle."

• The Council of Non-European Trade Unions, in a message from Mr. Leslie Masina, the secretary, welcomes the birth of NEW AGE, which "will publish the truth about the workers of South Africa that other papers refuse to publish."

"The Council appeals to all workers to support the NEW AGE by selling it and collecting money from the workers to maintain and improve it.

"It is in the interest of the trade unions to defend the freedom of the

press. We know that most newspapers only give the viewpoint of the employers as they are owned and controlled by the employing class.

"We believe that NEW AGE will present the workers' side of the case. "Long live the NEW AGE!"

### CENSORSHIP

• Mr. Peter Beyleveld, national chairman of the Congress of Democrats and Textile Workers' Union secretary, says:

"The Guardian" and "Advance" were banned without trial, without ever having been prosecuted or convicted under any law. Their crime was that of consistent opposition to oppression and apartheid.

"We hope that NEW AGE will carry on the fight against tyranny without fear. The daily Press has been almost silent about the banning of Advance, though they protested about the suppression of the Guardian. The truth seems to be that they are afraid to speak up. Thus suppression leads to a voluntary censorship by intimidation.

dom and justice.

## GESTAPO KNOCK

JOHANNESBURG.

The Rev. D. C. Thompson, who is president of the South African Peace Council, was visited for the third time in recent months by members of the special political police, Lieut. Buitendag and Detective-Sergeant Kruger. They produced a questionnaire demanding personal information from him and demanded that he reply to it. The questions included his place and date of birth, particulars about his parents, wife and children and other information.

Other persons have been similarly interrogated recently. Most of them have declined to answer any questions without taking legal advice, whereupon the police refrained from pursuing the matter.

Concern is felt that the Minister of Justice may be pursuing his recently-announced threats to deport Government opponents born outside the Union.

## Swart's New Move to Smash Trade Unions

CAPE TOWN.

WITH the order issued last week prohibiting Miss R. Lan, acting general secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union from attending any gathering for two years, the Nationalist Government has launched an outright attack on the trade union movement as a whole.

This is the first time a banning order has been served on a trade unionist whose name does not appear on the liquidator's list of former Communists. Since Miss Lan is not "named," the Minister of Justice is not empowered to order her to resign from her trade union.

However, by using section 9 of the Suppression of Communism Act the Minister has, through the backdoor, prevented her from taking part in activities essential to the effective running of a trade union. She will now not be able to represent her union at Conciliation Board meetings, Medical Benefit Fund meetings, committee and branch meetings and trade union conferences.

### FALSE PROMISE

This unprecedented banning notice cancels all the assurances given by the Government to the trade union movement as a whole when the Suppression of Communism Act was debated in Parliament.

Then, Mr. B. Schoeman, Minister of Labour, said: "Neither I nor my colleague (the Minister of Justice) regarded any trade union leader who agitated for improved conditions as a 'Communist'."

The trade union movement, he said, would be protected. "There won't be any danger to any legitimate trade union . . . the Government's object was to get the Communists out of the movement."

These assurances have now been proved completely worthless, as progressives in the trade union movement warned at the time. If the ban on Miss Lan stands, every trade union official is in danger, and the final blow would have been struck at the free trade union movement in South Africa.

Miss Lan, a social science gradu-

ate from the University of Cape Town, was appointed acting secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union in October, 1953, after Miss Ray Alexander had been ordered to resign.

Strongly protesting against the unjustified and sustained attack that has been made on the Food and Canning Workers' Union, the management committee, in a statement, declares:

"This unprecedented attack upon a trade union organisation can only be interpreted as an attempt to destroy our organisation and to deprive the thousands of workers in the food and canning industry of the protection that the union has given them since its inception in 1941.

"We recognise that the union and only the union was responsible for raising wages in the canning industry from the rates of 5s., 7s. 6d. and 12s. 6d. per week to £3 per week and more. It was the union which obtained for the workers annual leave, protective clothing, cloakrooms and limitation on overtime," the Management Committee continues.

"This ban on myself is not only an attack on our union, but a threat to the whole trade union movement," Miss Lan told New Age.

"No trade unionist who stands for higher wages and better working conditions can be sure that he will not be the next to be banned."

## EDITORIAL

## INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION

Last week the British workers won a great victory in the dock strike. They struck against being pushed around by the boss and in future they will not simply take orders when told to do overtime; they will do it only if they want to. It took the employers a month of stubborn folly and tens of millions in losses to learn this one simple lesson. The day is coming when the working men and women of Britain will be strong enough to enforce their rights without the suffering of industrial struggles.

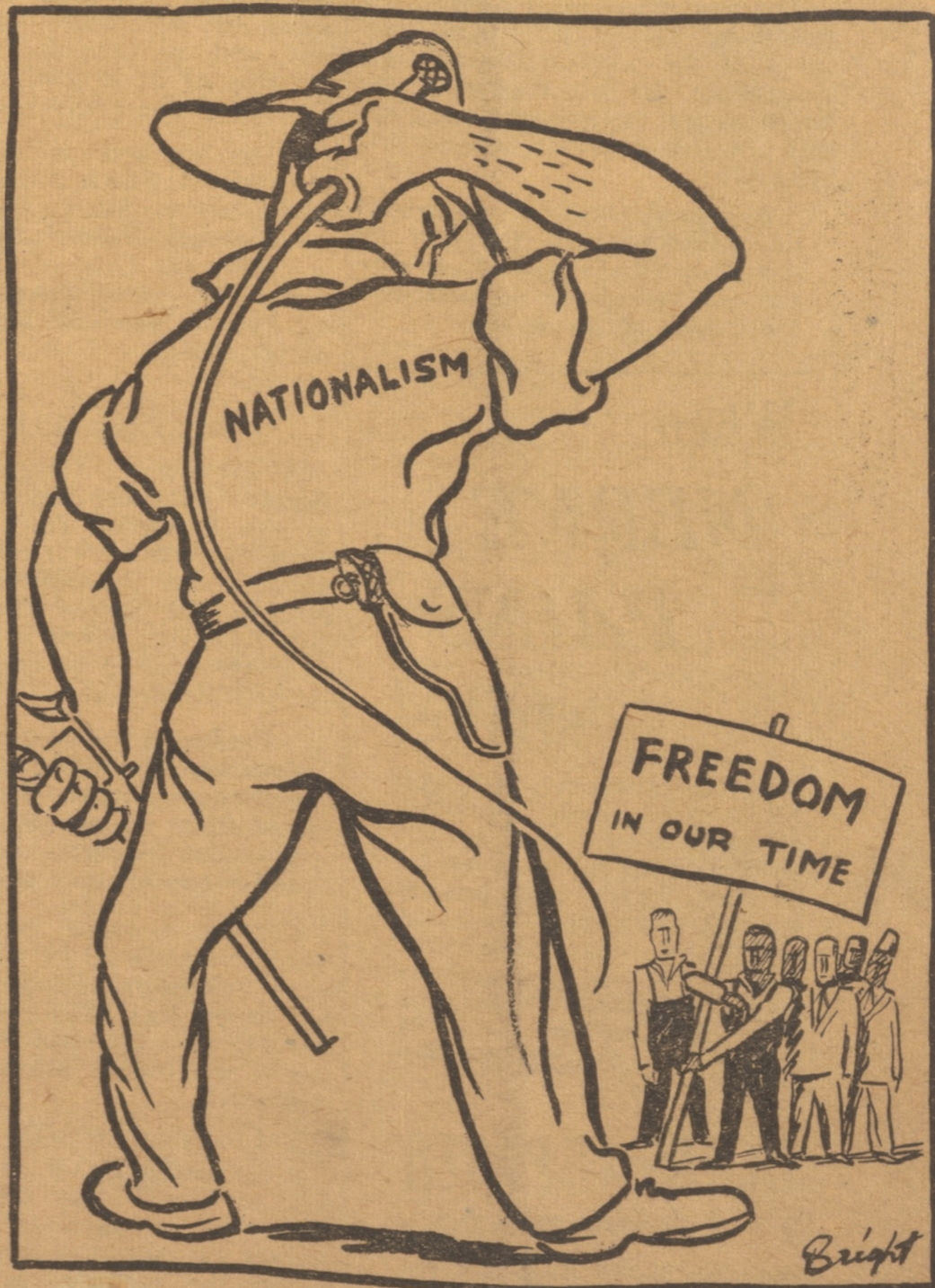
South African workers raise their hats in friendship to the British dockers. The lesson of the strike has a bearing on our situation in this Nat-ridden country. It is the lesson of industrial organisation. The British dockers had to struggle against the official trade union organisation as well as against the employers and Government.

Here, the mass of the workers are faced with similar problems but in a far sharper and more violent form. In the Government they have a political force set on fascist dictatorship, while in the

official trade union leadership all questions are bedevilled by the vicious bias of the colour-bar.

But South Africa's workers will win in the end. In the midst of the darkest night of reaction they can count on the coming of the dawn. Take only one point. In four years from 1947 to 1951 South African industry doubled in machinery, pay-rolls, etc. How was this possible? Through the vast inflowing tide of the Non-European working class. This tide cannot be turned or set in reverse. And it will in time sweep away not only the Nationalists but all other obstacles to the progress of the people. The leadership of the peoples will be tested by its ability to withstand the fascist onslaught on political rights as well as to organise and train the ever-growing masses entering industry.

The Nationalists cannot win. They cannot have a policeman or a spy to watch every opponent in the country. They cannot silence or suppress the voice and the hearts of ten million people marching to freedom.



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