

# ITALIANS MOVE FURTHER LEFT

## Chances of Unity Stronger

As is usual when the left-wing wins successes in Italian elections, the Italian Ministry of the Interior has managed to delay the issue of the results to permit the Press to publicise unofficial reports of "huge communist losses."

**THE ACTUAL FIGURES SHOW A DEFINITE ADVANCE TO THE LEFT AND A CRISIS OF THE CENTRE COALITION PARTIES.**

The combined Communist and Nenni Socialist vote showed a substantial increase. Though the Communists lost 50,000 votes in a total of 6 million (less than 1%) this was more than made up for by a 700,000 vote gain for the Socialists. In the words of Time (June 11): "One Italian voter in three was still voting the Communist line."

In Rome, Milan, Turin, Florence, Genoa and twenty other major towns in which the Christian-Democrat-led centre coalitions had held control, they lost their majorities and will have to rely either on support from the right or the left.

The extreme right, which formerly controlled seven major towns, has lost all but two—Naples and Lecce.

The country-wide shift to the left has also been reflected within the coalition of centre parties itself, the Saragat Socialists and the Republicans gaining at the expense of the Christian-Democrats.

The Socialist and Communist call for an 'opening to the left' and their offer to support the centre parties on a minimum programme of reforms in local government have been rejected by the Christian-Democrats.

But the right-wing Socialists, led by Saragat, have caused a sensation by agreeing to enter into discussions on such a programme. Until now they have made it a condition for any such discussion that Nenni should break his friendly relations with the Communists.

In Bologna, biggest city under Communist control, the Communist mayor increased his vote by 35,000 and completely routed his Christian-Democrat opponent. Though his party has a majority without their aid, the mayor has invited the right-wing Social-Democrats to participate in his government.

# WEST GERMAN SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS SWINGING TO PEACE POLICY

## Call To Discuss Re-unification

**BERLIN.**—An important indication of the enormous public pressure in West Germany for a reversal of Adenauer's war policies was a surprising speech in Hamburg last week by the right-wing Social-Democrat Deputy Speaker of the West German Parliament, Carlo Schmidt. He called for an end to the 'policy of strength' and its replacement by collective security and peaceful reunification of Germany.

Ten thousand people cheered as Schmidt accused the government of pursuing a policy of strength as if nothing had changed in the world political situation since 1950.

As a result of his visit to the Soviet Union last year as a member of the West German official Government delegation, Schmidt

said he believed the Soviet people's viewpoint was: "We want to live in peace; every war endangers what we have created."

### NO BLUFF

His audience applauded when he told them: "Today the Soviet Union is so strong that it can renounce all diplomatic bluff. There is no doubt it says what it means," and Soviet notes and statements should be taken to mean what they said and no doubt should be thrown on their honesty.

He was again acclaimed when he urged that a reasonable "modus vivendi" be established between the two parts of Germany. Why, asked Schmidt, should not a committee be elected, consisting of an equal number of representatives from both parts of Germany, to negotiate on reunification?

All political parties must participate in such elections, and he stressed it would be a political mistake for the West German Government to ban the Communist Party.

# 20 Year Jail Sentence On U.S. Communist Leader Quashed

## New Atmosphere in the Courts

**NEW YORK.**—An important indication of the defeat of America's worst reactionaries is the fact that for the first time since the cold war began, progressives are beginning to win successes in the U.S. courts of law.

The U.S. Supreme Court by a 3—6 vote has quashed the sentence of 20 years imprisonment imposed by a Pennsylvania court on Communist leader Steve Nelson, who had been convicted of sedition.

Said Chief Justice Warren: "Out of all the voluminous testimony, we have not found, nor has anyone pointed to, a single word indicating a sedition act or even utterance against the Government of Pennsylvania." In any case, the court held, the states have not the right to pass their own sedition laws.

The decision is a vindication of the stand taken by two judges—Black and Douglas—who at the height of the cold war in 1951 gave a minority judgment against the conviction of Communist Party secretary Eugene Dennis and other members of the central committee who were sentenced to—and served—five-year terms of imprisonment.

Justice Black said at the time, "Public opinion being what it is, few will protest the conviction of these Communist petitioners. There is hope, however, that in calmer time, when present pressure, passions and fears subside, this or some later court will restore the First Amendment liberties to the high preferred place where they belong in a free society."

### QUESTIONING, INDIGNATION

The "anything goes" attitude adopted towards police harassment and persecution of Communists is increasingly being replaced by questioning and indignation.

When FBI agents arrested Michael A. Russo, New England Communist leader, without a warrant, they got a tongue-lashing from the bench for "extraordinary and improper tactics which could have international and local repercussions."

And when Communist Party chairman, William Z. Foster, who is over 70 years old, has a serious heart complaint and was certified by government doctors to be unable to stand trial, was persistently brought back every six months or so for a new medical examination, the judge finally lost his temper. "This man has been brought to court seven times and each time the prosecution has been told that

he is ill and unlikely to improve. If you bring him back again you will be perilously close to contempt of court," he told the state attorneys.



J. EDGAR HOOVER

When Montana Communist leader John C. Hellman was arrested, fascist FBI chief Edgar Hoover issued a statement saying what a dangerous red he was. It was the same type of statement that Hoover has in the past issued almost as a matter of form with every such arrest in the past. But this time Federal Judge William Murray said Hoover's statements "are wrong, they are not in accord with the principle of trial in a court, and I condemn them in the strongest terms."

He regretted that he was just a visiting judge at that court. "If this case had been in my division, immediately that I saw such a statement, Mr. Hoover and his agents would have been called before to me to account for such un-American, unfair tactics."

Apparently Hoover hasn't realised yet that times have changed.

Probably the biggest blunder he has pulled was to launch a campaign vilifying lawyers who defend Communists in court. He described them as "dupes" of the Communists. So blistering and so unanimous was the comment of bar associations throughout America, making it clear that it was the duty of every lawyer to appear for, and do his utmost to assist, any Communist facing a court charge, that Hoover was forced to retract the statement.

## Asian-African Trade Union Meeting Proposed

**TOKYO.**—The president of the three million strong General Council of Trade Unions of Japan, Mr. Totaro Fujita, has sent a letter to the main trade union centres of Asia and Africa proposing the holding of a friendly discussion between Asian and African trade unions.

He expresses the opinion that it would be "very helpful" if trade unionists of Asia and Africa "regardless of their political views and the nature of the organisation they belong to" could meet to discuss problems common to the Asian and African worker—"national independence, peaceful co-existence, prohibition of atom and hydrogen bombs, protection of the rights and living conditions of the workers, etc."

It is proposed that the meeting should be convened in October, 1956. The venue should be chosen with the consent of the trade unions concerned.

## AMERICAN CRABB?

**LONDON.**—Labour M.P. Konni Zilliacus has put forward a new theory about who was responsible for sending Frogman Crabb to spy on the Soviet cruiser which brought Bulganin and Krushchov to Britain.

"The most likely explanation was that he had on this occasion been employed by the U.S. Secret Service with the complicity of their contacts in the British secret service," said Zilliacus at a London meeting last week.

He cited evidence of comparable U.S. secret service activities revealed at a recent French treason trial.

Prime Minister Eden obviously didn't know about the U.S. action, Zilliacus suggested. His silence when he found out would be explained by his fear to arouse the immense anti-U.S. feeling which would inevitably have followed such a disclosure.

## Support For India's Foreign Policy

**NEW DELHI.**

His party would like to join hands with every other party, including the ruling Congress, "for the development of the economy of India and for ensuring a life of prosperity for our masses," declared Ajoy Ghosh, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, last week.

There was a good deal of agreement on foreign policy between his party and the Congress Party, he said.

"We accept the objectives of India's second five-year plan," said Ghosh, though, he added, there were certain areas of disagreement on the plan's execution.

Membership of the party is now 125,000—an increase of 35,000 since 1954, Ghosh said.

## British Housing Minister Impressed

**LONDON.**—Mr. Duncan Sandys, British Minister of Housing, who has just returned from a visit to the Soviet Union has expressed himself "very much impressed by the tremendous efforts by the Russian authorities everywhere to improve the beauty and amenities of their cities."

"There is no doubt that they are really going flat out at a tremendous effort and cost in materials and labour, replanning, rebuilding and laying out afresh," said Mr. Sandys.

# PAKISTAN DICTATOR OUSTED

**LONDON.**

General Iskander Mirza, who for the second time in two years recently assumed personal dictatorial rule in East Pakistan, was last week forced by public pressure to restore the constitutional government of East Pakistan, and revoke his proclamation by which he suspended the constitution and took over the administration there.

The new presidential decree brings the United Front back to office—a big victory for the people of Pakistan.

General Mirza was appointed military dictator in East Pakistan once before, in 1954. On May 26, 1956, as President of Pakistan, he

again assumed supreme power himself.

On both occasions, the essential reason for the coup was the same: the elected Parliament of East Pakistan was too progressive.

In an election in 1954, the first they had had, the people of East Pakistan threw out the Moslem League and elected a group of parties called the United Front, which the Communist Party supported though it was not a member.

Within two months the United Front Government and the East Pakistan Parliament were suppressed and landlords' rule reimposed through the person of

General Mirza who was made military dictator.

Later General Mirza became President of Pakistan and the United Front having been split by intrigues, an attempt was made to reform a United Front Government from which most of the Left Wing were excluded.

Last month Mirza permitted this Government to recall the East Pakistan Parliament for the first time since it was suspended in 1954.

But even the new "purged" United Front refused to toe General Mirza's reactionary U.S.-puppet line and the Governor of East Pakistan at once suppressed the Parliament again.

## SPOTLIGHT on SPORT

by  
**Robert Resha**



## Steward Monageng

Last Saturday officials of the South African Amateur Athletic Association travelled from Johannesburg to Welkom, Free State, to time South Africa's wonder runner, Steward Monageng, in a race in which he had three pace runners.

Steward Monageng created a sensation among sportsmen in this country and double talk in the ranks of the athletic officials when in a record-breaking performance he clocked 13 mins. 54.7 seconds for the three miles in the S.A. Bantu Athletic meeting last month.

Running in bitter weather with a sharp biting breeze, Monageng did the distance in 16 minutes 4.2 seconds. This might be disappointing to those who were looking forward to Monageng either doing it again or breaking his own record.

But there is much more than meets the eye in the affair of the 25-year-old African runner.

Firstly, Monageng did not see the reason why he should run again—this time for fun, just to entertain some officials of the S.A. Amateur Athletic Association.

Secondly, there is the fact that the other three pace runners were those he had outpaced last month: to him the whole affair was a mockery. But what he resented most was the fact that officials of the association doubted his performance.

I daresay that had it not been for the fact that his employers were interested in his running and that some people talked him into it, Monageng would not have entered the track last Saturday afternoon.

## WHY ALL THE FUSS?

It is difficult to understand what is in the minds of the Athletic Association officials.

As far as I am concerned there was never any need for them to test Monageng. At the Bantu Athletic meeting he was timed by well-known experienced European time-keepers. Why was it ever necessary to re-time him?

If he had to be timed at all, why was J. Roberts, the man who holds the South African record, not taken to Welkom to pace Monageng? It is only against a runner of Roberts' standard that one would be in a position to compare Monageng's performance.

Already Wally Hayward is reported to have said: "I would be very much inclined to forget Monageng as an international prospect."

That is exactly what the officials have been praying for. There is no doubt Monageng's performance embarrassed them. How were they going to include him in the South African team to the Olympic Games—because he is Black?

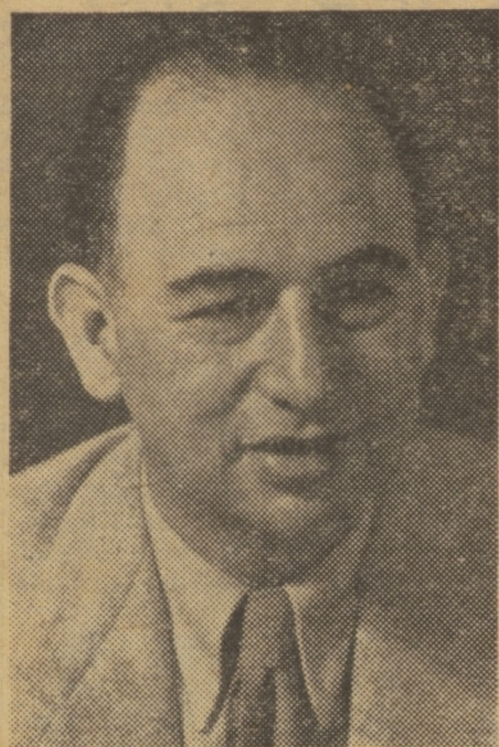
In fact, even Wally Hayward had suggested previously that this great South African product could be included in the Nigerian team to the Olympic Games because his home is in Bechuanaland.

One would have thought an experienced athlete like Hayward who during his hey-day competed with Black men, would fight for Monageng's record to be recognised by White South Africa, and that he be included in the South African side to the Olympic Games.

In spite of Monageng's performance last weekend there is no doubt that in Monageng South Africa has an athlete of great talent. For one thing, Monageng is a very consistent runner.

This is his record for the three miles during the last two years:

28/2/54: 17 mins. 17 secs.  
29/8/54: 16 mins. 32 secs.  
28/11/54: 15 mins. 58.1 secs.  
7/3/55: 15 mins. 49.6 secs.  
28/8/55: 15 mins. 41 secs.



Mr. Harry Bloom, who represented the non-colour-bar South African Soccer Federation at the FIFA conference in Lisbon last weekend.

29/11/55: 15 mins. 2 secs.  
16/12/55: 14 mins. 40.6 secs.  
26/3/56: 14 mins. 34 secs.  
12/5/56: 13 mins. 54.7 secs.

On this record many will agree that Monageng, damn his colour, is South Africa's best athlete and could, with some vigorous training, become a world beater.

I would say that Monageng's Saturday performance should not be taken into consideration at all, and if the officials are not satisfied then they should put Monageng with Roberts in the trials for the Olympic Games.

Until then, in our view, Monageng is South Africa's three-mile champion.

Bravo, Monageng!

## Table Tennis

The decision of the International Table Tennis Federation to recognise the (non-colour bar) South African Table Tennis Board, and not the (Europeans Only) South African Table Tennis Union, has made South Africa's racialists run frantic.

This decision is considered bad for South Africa, not only for the Whites, but also for the Blacks.

In some quarters, it is said that the Non-Europeans are themselves unhappy about the decision. This is not only wishful thinking, but also shows lack of knowledge of the aspirations of the Non-European sportsmen.

The South African Table Tennis Board was formed long after the all-White S.A. Table Tennis Union. The reason was that the Union refused to accept Non-Europeans as members of the Union.

Later on, the Board applied for membership of the international body. And because its membership is open to all table tennis players it received the recognition of the world body.

What this decision means in theory has been put across by the *Rand Daily Mail* in its sub-leader of June 9:

"If a team of European table tennis players now wants to undertake a tour abroad, it will have to apply to the Non-European organisation for official approval."

But it means in practice, for table tennis is a practical game, that no team will leave this country and go abroad unless it is a South African team. Whether the team will be White or Black is not important; as long as it represents the country it will be good enough.

(Continued at foot of next col.)

## WHO WON THE WORCESTER BY-ELECTION?

Major Piet van der Byl (United Party) has found comfort in the outcome of the by-election at Worcester. He told a "highly successful United Party bazaar" in the Wellington Town Hall last week that the by-election result had come as a shock to the Nationalists, but had heartened United Party supporters, "who realised that the tide was now turning in their favour."

This is one way of looking at it. The Nationalists have a different method of calculation. They point out that, although their majority of 1,340 was exactly the same as in 1954 and although each candidate polled 85 more votes, more Coloured people voted for the United Party this time, and the United Party's White voters therefore decreased. The Nationalists claim that their candidate polled two-thirds of the White votes.

## THE LAST TIME?

Worcester may have been the last occasion on which the Coloured people voted on the common roll. By the 1958 General Election, they will have been removed from the roll. And not only that, but a re-delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies is due next year, and the Nationalists, as we know, usually derive considerable benefit from a re-delimitation. How Major van der Byl can find solace in such a situation is beyond me.

Admittedly, the Nationalists are not jubilant over the Worcester outcome. Nationalism is not content with majorities: it demands undisputed baasskap. For that reason, one can expect an intensification of racist propaganda. The Nationalist Press is already urging a revision of strategy.

Worcester, therefore, provides two pointers. One is that, in its drive to eliminate opposition, the Nationalists will now step up their vicious campaigns and possibly bring in new issues; and the other is that, clearly, the United Party regards the outcome at Worcester as confirmation of the value of its policy of swallowing apartheid and wooing Nationalist votes.

The Parliamentary debates in the past few weeks have provided abundant evidence of the intense pro-apartheid campaign the United Party is waging throughout the country, particularly in the platteland. This is not merely surrender to apartheid, but active dissemination of its vile propaganda.

## VERWOERD SMIRKS

While Dr. Douglas Smit (U.P.) raged at the Natives' Prohibition of Interdicts Bill, Dr. Verwoerd was smirking. He was able to show that some of the major United

(Continued from previous column)

The Non-Europeans are not clamouring for Non-European players to be included in the team to make it a South African side. Their approach is in the best sporting traditions: that the players must be selected on merit. So that the colour of the players selected will not be important.

The *Rand Daily Mail* also came to the conclusion that the Federation is "Heading for a rumpus that may end any attempt at international control of sport."

Personally, I think that the international body is founded on sound principles: "No colour bar in sports." Because the Federation puts the principle into practice it is going to have a long life and its control of table tennis will be recognised by the world except for one or two countries like South Africa.

As I see it, the decision is likely to destroy the game in this country among the Europeans who might feel it is better to remain unhappy and without exercise rather than enjoy a game of table tennis with my black brothers.

Party-controlled municipalities are behind him on the complementary Natives Urban Areas Bill, which provides for the banishment of Africans by municipalities. Dr. Verwoerd read affidavits from municipal officials in Port Elizabeth that "a dangerous atmosphere exists which must be eliminated as a matter of urgency," and that "a wave of defiance, arrogance and contempt for law has set in."

Dr. Verwoerd told the Assembly that the Town Clerk of Port Elizabeth had written that unauthorised meetings were being held in the locations by leading members of the African National Congress, which had often been dispersed by the police. Dr. Verwoerd also quoted from letters written by officials of the East London municipality (the very city which Dr.

official policy of the United Party-controlled town and city councils.

## ELECTION PATTERN

The pre-General Election pattern, therefore, is pretty clearly defined. The two big parties, Nationalist and United Party, are engaged in a contest to see who can capture the votes of the most race-obsessed Nationalists. The United Party, instead of winning the support of anti-Nationalists on a programme of opposition to Nationalism, is swinging its whole campaign into exploiting the alleged grievances of Nationalist voters. Strauss tours the country demanding a better deal for farmers, the abolition of various taxes, etc., and everywhere his minions are criticising Dr. Verwoerd for the amount of money the Nationalist Government is "spending on the Kaffir."

It is a disgusting, dangerous game. Not only will it boomerang on the United Party and cause it to lose even more seats at the next General Election, but it will spread even more prejudice and racialism among the already prejudiced White electorate.

Once again, this focuses attention on the recent plea by the Congress of Democrats for the mobilisation of progressive White opinion. Once again, it emphasises the urgency of rallying all progressive Whites and checking the joint Nat.-U.P. drive to wholesale racialism. The racialists must be prevented from driving all Whites into Strijdom's laager of hate.

## PARLIAMENTARY SURVEY

by  
**PETER MEYER**

Smit represents in Parliament. Other municipalities which he mentioned were Germiston and Pretoria.

## HOUSING

In an earlier debate, the manner in which Dr. Verwoerd replied to criticisms of the Interdicts Bill (it prohibits Africans from getting interdicts restraining officials from carrying out removal orders) would have made any stranger to Parliament believe that the Nationalist Government's main concern is to see that Africans occupy all the wonderful new houses which are being built for them(?), instead of sticking obstinately to their unhealthy hovels.

I quote from the "Cape Argus" report of Dr. Verwoerd's speech: "The Government were told that it was their responsibility to provide adequate living conditions for the Native community and in fact they undertook to provide these conditions. But when a suitable area was established it was found that certain squatters would not move. There were various reasons for this refusal to move and generally they were purely selfish reasons. A town council would go to the trouble and expense of providing an adequate location for the Native people, only to find that certain squatters would not move and action had to be taken to compel them to move."

## SITE AND SERVICE

"Adequate location" indeed! What Dr. Verwoerd really means is: Site-and-service! He is busy rounding up the African people, destroying what little they possess in the way of a home, and dumping them in vast labour camps, with nothing but the bare veld, a few water taps and latrines to welcome them. When they refuse to go, and appeal to the courts for protection of their rights, they are obstructing schemes for "adequate living conditions" and causing "irreparable losses to the local authorities in their attempt to provide improved living conditions for the Native community."

And this is the sort of inhumanity which the United Party-controlled municipalities are not only condoning, but apparently even demanding.

It is no exaggeration to say that the United Party-controlled municipalities are assisting in the application of the apartheid laws on a big scale. Measures which were rejected by the United Party in Parliament are now part of the

## Mavuso Remanded

JOHANNESBURG.

The case of John Mavuso, who was recently arrested and charged under the Suppression of Communism Act, was remanded to 2nd July, 1956. Mr. Mavuso is one of the Alexandra Township African leaders suffering the five-year ban imposed by the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart.

## BIRTHS

GOLDMAN.—To Andra and Gerald, a son, on June 10 at Delherbe. Both well.

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