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PRICE 6^D.

OP die bloedige slagvelde van Abisi-
nië, Alamein, Castiglioni en me-
nigte ander, het ons onbetwisbaar die
reg verdien om 'n sê te hê in die sake
van ons eie land." Met hierdie woorde
het „Sailor“ Malan Vrydagaand by die
fakkels-optog deur die Aksie Komitee
van Oudgediendes gereël die bewerings
dat Oud-Soldate as 'n groep nie aan
die politiek behoort deel te neem, die
nek in geslaan.

Weliswaar is daar nog mense wat
volstaan met hierdie bewerings, terwyl
hulle redeneer dat aangesien 'n soldaat
vrystaan van deelname aan die party-
politiek, Organisasies van Oud-soldate
hulle ook behoort te weerhou van in-
menging met party-politieke sake. Daar
word egter algemeen vergeet dat blote
gewilligheid om te gaan veg gedurende
'n oorlog die mees politieke daad is
wat enig iemand kan verrig.

Die afgelope oorlog is gevoer teen
'n verderflike ideologie, naamlik, Nazis-
me, en die soldaat wat deelgeneem het
aan daardie stryd het dus nie bloot
geveg om sy eie land te beskerm en
te verdedig nie, maar ook om 'n poli-
tieke sienswyse, naamlik, die demokra-
tiese lewenswyse te behou. As sulks het
hy deelgeneem aan die politiek.

Die huidige regering het gedurende
die oorlog in 'n groot mate die ideologie
waarteen ons as Oud-gediendes geveg
het, met woord en daad ondersteun.
Ons het dus tenvolste die reg gehad
om die party as sulks as deel van ons
vyand te beskou. Sedertdien het die
party niks gedoen of gesê wat ons daar-
van kan oortuig dat hulle van sienswyse
verander het. Ons behou daarom die
volste reg om voort te gaan om hulle
op konstitusionele wyse as vyand te be-
veg, en daar bestaan geen enkele logiese
rede waarom ons ons self nie kan or-
ganiseer vir die stryd nie.



May, 1951.

Volume IX. No. 5.

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION.

Die duisende Oud-gediendes wat ver-
lede Vrydagaand voor die Stadshuis van
Johannesburg vergader het, het daar
ook eenparig so 'n organisasie geëis. Een
van die voorstelle wat eenparig aan-
geneem is versoek alle Oud-gediendes
en hulle organisasies om mee te werk
om ontslae te raak van die Nasionale
regering. Om ontslae te raak van hier-
die regering is die enigste wyse waarop
ons die demokratiese lewenswyse waar-
voor ons gedurende die oorlog bereid
was om te sterf kan behou.

Die reuse demonstrasie in Johannes-
burg was egter nie genoeg om hierdie
regering, daar geplaas deur 'n minder-
heid van stemme, te oortuig dat hulle
nie die breë volkswil verteenwoordig nie.
Die wil van die volk is woorde wat al-
leen deur hulle gebruik word as rook-

skerm waar agter hulle skuil om ons
grondwet te verkrag, en om die demo-
kratiese beginsels te verwater, totdat
ons eindelijk die toestand bereik wat in
die vooruitsig gestel word deur Dr.
Otto du Plessis in sy voorgestelde Re-
publikeinse grondwet. Dit moet onthou
word dat dieselfde Dr. Du Plessis vandag
'n vertroude amptenaar van die rege-
ring, en hoof van die Suid-Afrikaanse
reklame departement, is.

Die Organisasie moet uitgebrei word.
Oud-soldate in die ander stede en dorpe
van Suid-Afrika moet Johannesburg se
voorbeeld volg, totdat daar uiteindelik
so 'n storm van verontwaardiging ver-
eis dat dit selfs deurdring tot die wete
van Dr. Malan en sy regering. Ons eis
'n algemene verkiesing, sodat ons kan
afreken met hierdie vertrappers van in-
dividuele regte, en ons moet dit aan-
hou eis totdat selfs die regering ver-
plig is om gehoor te gee daaraan. Ons
moet bymekaar staan, elke man.

(Written by P. Beyleveld, 37, Main
House, Main Street, Johannesburg.)

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YOU'RE TELLING US

Letters to the Editor



THANK YOU.

The Springbok Legion,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

I feel it my duty to express to you my bountiful thanks for the great service you have rendered to me.

I have received the re-marriage gratuity on April 20th and a further assurance that arrangements are being made for the payment of the children's allowances at our local post office. I have also received the forms for the Educational Grant.

I am only sorry that you are so distant as there are some points that I am not quite clear about. I shall always appeal to you for help and guidance. In the meantime receive again my very grateful thanks for all you have done.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs.) S.A.M.

Warrenton, Cape.

THE GENERAL'S VIEWS

BELOW you will read extracts from a letter that appeared in most of the Union's newspapers. The letter speaks for itself. In addition, it expresses admirably the point of view held by the Legion since its inception ten years ago on ex-servicemen's political obligations: To the Editor.

Sir,—Up to the present no protest has been made by the two most important ex-servicemen's organizations — the B.E.S.L. and the Moths — against the Coloured franchise Bill. The governing bodies of these organizations justify their abstention from participation in the nation-wide protests on the ground that they are non-political and therefore do not interfere in party politics.

But this issue has become beyond all doubt a moral issue, not purely party political.

In proof of this let us go back 20 years when the possibility of any future Parliament taking action as outlined in the Bill now before the House was under discussion.

"HONOURABLE AFRIKANERS"

The then Prime Minister, General Hertzog, and prominent Nationalist politicians, in expressing their views that the protection of Section 152 of the Act of Union could not be taken away stressed that they spoke not as politicians but as honourable Afrikaners.

Who have done more to bring honour to South Africa than the men who fought in the two world wars? Who, therefore, have a better right to plead that our honour be not tarnished?

In World War I over 700 non-European South Africans gave their lives, not a few in the Cape Corps, whose fighting qualities were highly praised by Lord Allenby. In the last war many hundreds of others gave their lives. Yet the political right which the Coloured man has enjoyed for nearly 100 years is now to be taken away from him.

Today we are heading straight for serious

trouble. If the present Bill becomes law it will light the fuse to a pent-up mass of emotionalism that may explode with tragic results.

We who have experienced the horrors and tragedy of war and civil strife will be failing in our duty if we do not add our voices to those crying "Halt!"

I know the arguments about the likelihood of losing members and losing favour with the Government, thus prejudicing efforts on behalf of ex-servicemen in such matters as pensions, etc.; but surely it ill becomes men who have risked their lives in the fight for freedom and justice to fear the consequences of taking a stand in this matter.

If we fail to do so we shall be false to the memory of our comrades who gave all in fighting for justice and freedom; and to me, and I feel sure to the majority of ex-servicemen, our oft-repeated pledge "We will remember them" will, in future, lack sincerity.

I plead for action now not as individual ex-servicemen but with the full weight of our powerful organizations, of both of which I am a member.

J. MITCHELL BAKER,

Lt.-General, ret.

George.

... and here is a letter, written by a Cape Town resident, to the editor of the "Argus". The letter was not published:

The Editor,

Cape Argus.

Dear Sir,

I read Lt.-General Mitchell Baker's letter about the ex-service organisations and the Franchise Bill with great interest and entire agreement. But I would like to ask him why, feeling as he does, he does not support the Springbok Legion, as well as the B.E.S.L. and the Moths, as the Legion is up to date the one ex-service organisation that has taken a fearless stand against the present retrogressive pro-Nazi trend in our country and has protested vehemently against the Coloured Franchise Bill.

For these reasons the accusation of being a communistic organisation has often been brought against the Legion, reasons so obvious to anyone who can THINK that it amuses me — and possibly amuses the Nats, more — to find how few people can think and how many are gullible.

I am not, and never have been, a Communist (agreeing with Lin Yutang that a holy cause is always a dangerous thing, since, when a cause is holy, the means to achieve it inevitably become vile) but have been a member of the Springbok Legion ever since I was up north, where I helped a bit to get it going, and definitely support it, as it is

the only organisation in this country that has consistently stuck to the ideals for which the last war was supposed to have been fought.

Yours sincerely,

F. E. POCOCK.

(Thank you, Miss Pocock.—Editor.)

TWO POINTS OF VIEWS

The two letters printed below appeared in the Johannesburg Star. **MEMORY OF THE FALLEN.**

Sir,—It is deplorable that the Springbok Legion should have been allowed to desecrate the memory of the fallen with politics.

It will not help by one iota the unfit and semi-fit military pensioners, who receive a disgracefully small pension.

EX-59370.

SPRINGBOK LEGION'S "SYMBOLIC ACT."

Sir, — May I reply to "Ex-59370" about the Springbok Legion's action in symbolically entrusting to our fallen comrades South Africa's Constitution?

The Cenotaph is our memorial to 10,000 South African men and women who gave their lives in the most momentous political struggle of our times — the struggle to rid the world of the bestial Fascist system and to secure the democratic way of life.

Enlisting was the most "political" action servicemen ever performed.

Ex-service men have a moral obligation to carry on the same struggle to achieve the ideals for which the war was fought. Men and women in the Springbok Legion accept that obligation.

Justice in the form of adequate pensions for the war-disabled will remain in jeopardy as long as a Government that was hostile to the soldiers and their ideals remains in power.

We do not desecrate the memory of the fallen. Because we honour their memory and their sacrifices, we carry on their struggle where they had to leave off

CECIL WILLIAMS,

General Secretary,

Springbok Legion.

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Will You Carry A Torch ?

THE Torch procession which took place in Johannesburg on the night of May 4th was a demonstration of the fact that large numbers of ex-soldiers still believe in the things for which they fought in World War II. It is evidence of the fact that they are prepared to fight for their beliefs.

More than ten thousand marched in the procession. Thousands more stood in the crowds that lined the route and about twenty to twenty-five thousand people, including the marchers, took part in the meeting at the City Hall Steps.

The response from centres other than Johannesburg indicates that the Ex-servicemen of Johannesburg are not alone. Pretoria sent a strong contingent, and the East and West Rand were well represented. Port Elizabeth Ex-servicemen had a meeting on the same night. Press reports give the attendance at six thousand. This is a beginning. Make no mistake about it. It will go on until the things for which we fought and for which so many of our people died are safe.

The Government Press has tried to play the whole thing down. They have tried to imply that this is the work of subversive elements and that the Springbok Legion is one of them. By implication they have tried to say that press photographs of the March and the Meeting are faked. They have said that it was badly-organised and poorly supported. They cannot get away with it! The next effort will show even more conclusively that Democratic South Africa has awakened, because for every one who marched there were four fainthearted ones who did not and who kicked themselves afterwards. Next time they will all be there! Are you one of them? Will you carry a torch for Freedom?

The march was organised by Ex-service men and women, among whom were members of the Springbok Legion. To the implied charge that our participation is subversive and discreditable to the movement we reply that we are EX-SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN.

In earning that status we gave the most tangible evidence of our loyalty to South Africa that can be asked of any individual — we put our lives between the shores of our country and its enemies!

The Government Press has tried to belittle the demonstration by labelling it "political" and by trying to insinuate that respectable people should not have anything to do with it for that reason.

Of course it is political! The attack on our democratic liberties and the Constitution of our Country is political and our defence of these things must be likewise.

But if politics in South Africa is a cesspool, it is because the Nationalist Extremists in the Government have made it so. Well, we had plenty of dirty jobs to do in World War II, we are not afraid of a little dirt and we do know how to clean out a cesspool! If our hands get dirty and our battle dress a little begrimed, our cause is honest and the dirt will wash off.

As Ex-servicemen and women we will give the most effective answer we can in the coming months. We will take up the Torch of Freedom in our tens of thousands. We will mobilise ourselves

and every democratic South African around the demand for an IMMEDIATE GENERAL ELECTION. The Springbok Legion will play its part. It will not be a small part. We will rally Ex-servicemen to the War Veterans' Action Committees.

The cause of the Veterans' Action Committee is our Cause! It is the Cause of every Ex-soldier! Will you carry a Torch for Freedom? Will you pledge yourself to take every constitutional step in the interests of our country to enforce an immediate General Election? Will you come in and help with this Task? Write to Box 4088, Johannesburg.

We have only one battle to win and the slogan is "ORGANISE! ORGANISE! ORGANISE!"

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION? WHEN LAST DID YOU ENROL A NEW MEMBER? HOW LONG AGO IS IT SINCE YOU SENT IN A DONATION? DO YOU READ "FIGHTING TALK"? DO YOU LIKE IT? HAVE YOU ANY CRITICISM EITHER OF OUR JOURNAL OR OF LEGION POLICY? WRITE TO US. IN THE MEANTIME MAKE USE OF THE ATTACHED MEMBERSHIP FORM.

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A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

FRIDAY, May 4th will be a day that democrats of South Africa will long remember. The torches that were lit that night have kindled the flames of opposition to this Fascist Government.

For a week before the actual march, ex-servicemen, irrespective of their organisational affiliations, rallied to the call of the War Veterans' Action Committee. H.Q. was set up in a caravan at the corner of Pritchard and Von Wieligh streets, and ex-servicemen rolled up in their hundreds to "sign on" for the march. Much laughing greeted the Route Form that was given to those who signed on and the whole atmosphere was one of "preparing for action". Guards were mounted — just in case!

Perhaps the best way to describe the march itself is to give you the feeling of the organisers at about 18.30 hours. There were about 100 people standing about in usual army fashion. Q.M. torches, assisted by two O/R.'s, was frantically filling same with a black looking substance. A great deal of shouting and cursing was heard from this quarter and the feeling of tense excitement was beginning to permeate the whole area. Within the next hour, the scene had changed to unbelievable proportions. The street was a dense mass of human beings, a few torches flickered, and banners were indistinguishable. The S.M. kept barking over the loudspeaker for ex-servicemen to fall in and to await the order to move off. Finally at 19.40 hours the procession moved off. The torches having been lit, there was a sudden wave of light, which illuminated the enormous crowds that lined the route.

The scene as the procession wound its way along the route, will long be remembered by those who marched and by those who were spectators — an endless sea of fire, interspersed by large banners. The voices of the men and women who sang as they marched, the cheering of the onlookers created a situation charged with emotion, bringing to life the plans laid only one week before.

An even more magnificent sight was

the arrival of the procession at the City Hall. Slowly the darkness lit up as the head of the procession arrived at the City Hall. The sea of flames created an impression of a meteor lighting up the whole area. As the marchers reached the enclosure tremendous cheers, peal upon peal, greeted the final picture. As Group Captain Malan appeared the cheers were deafening, and continued for several minutes, as if this man represented to the thousands before him a consolidation of the hope and the desire to fight again for the ideals they had fought for six years before.

When the cheering had died down, a minute's silence was called for, to remember those 10,000 comrades who had given their lives in this self same struggle. And in that silence came the words of the poem "The Young dead soldiers". 25,000 people with bowed heads listened in silence. Who knows what each thought, who knows what tears were shed by some mother or wife, who indeed but those who knew those young dead soldiers?

Then came the speeches, from five speakers. Each speech, especially Group Captain Malan's, received tremendous cheers. Each speech told us from a different aspect that we were still not finished with the enemy that we defeated on the battlefield six years ago.

And finally the rally ended, except for this. We are resolved that we shall fight by every constitutional means this menace. That resolution was our answer to the Government. It was the call that those who have sat at home, and done nothing, have been waiting for. It was the challenge, the gauntlet that ex-servicemen flung down at the Nationalists' feet.

And the Nationalists have responded. They responded by the only method that they have ever known . . . deception. They have tried to belittle this march. They have withheld from their readers the truth. Perhaps the press commission will find the reporting of this meeting an interesting issue with which to challenge the Government controlled press.

PERSONALIA

A WELCOME visitor to Johannesburg recently was DOUG CHAPMAN, who in '45 and '46 was the secretary of the Legion's Johannesburg Branch. After moving to Cape Town he was restless, it seems, until he was back in harness doing a constructive job for ex-soldiers. The Branch Committee in Cape Town jumped at the opportunity of appointing Doug. as manager of S.L.I.C. (the Springbok Legion Industrial Centre at Claremont), a sheltered employment project for disabled Coloured ex-soldiers.

The Johannesburg Central Group quickly grabbed Doug. as a speaker for their fortnightly meeting and he most interestingly revealed a hundred different aspects of Sheltered Employment which the outsider never hears of. Doug. is doing a splendid job and with ROY DUPREEZ, at one time General Secretary in our National Office, Doug. is doing a fine job for some of our war-time friends.

VANCE BROWN'S face has been familiar in Legion circles for many years. Even when he put up a hirsute camouflage on his upper lip, we still recognised him and welcomed him. This year he is not serving on the National Executive Committee. I think he hoped that he would have a little more urgently-required time to devote to his business interests, but life today just isn't like that. There's always a job to be done somewhere!

LET me introduce you to a first-class Legionnaire — who is not even a member of the Legion. ETHEL FRIEDLAND is one of our best workers. She is Helmut Friendland's wife and with Helmut she regularly attends Group meetings, Branch Three-in-One's and is always ready to sell flags, tickets, jumble or what-have-you. I must say I have a great admiration for the wives of our members, who identify themselves with their husbands' favourite organisation.

FREEDOM.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." —Art. 19 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

HAVE a suggestion to make to the Committee which is in charge of the Tercentenary Celebrations which are being held next year to mark the 300 years which have passed since Jan van Riebeeck first set his foot on the shores of Southern Africa. My suggestion has to do with a change of place names to symbolise the dark days through which our country is now passing. For 300 years we were privileged to call the Cape, which his ships first rounded, the Cape of Good Hope. And for 300 years despite all our trials and tribulations that same symbolised for all South Africans that we lived in a land of hope and among a people who could rely upon each other's assurances and looked forward to the future in confidence and in faith.

But today the wells of freedom are being poisoned. The lust for political power — that ugliest of all lusts — makes a mockery of the pledged word, makes a lie of assurances given in good faith, and shakes the foundation of our democratic way of life in South Africa while hope is slowly being strangled.

No longer have we the right to call the gateway to our land the "Cape of Good Hope". Let us call it again by its ancient name, "The Cape of Storms", for South Africa has indeed become a land of storm because of the ruthlessness and tyranny of its Government.

To some of us, of course, what is now happening comes as no surprise.

Let me recall to mind the days when thousands of South Africans voluntarily left these shores to man the fortifications of freedom, on far-flung battle lines up north. Between the Nazi hordes and our liberty we placed our frail bodies so that South Africa should remain free and so that the painful struggles of our forefathers to retain in their hands the democratic weapons of struggle—the right of free speech, — the right of public assembly — free access to the courts of our land — should not be wrested from our hands and the hands of our children. I want to pause for a moment to emphasize that these weapons of democratic struggle were political things — the fundamental pillars of a free democracy. The aim of our enemies was to take these weapons from our hands, so that they could impose upon our happy land a system of Government which crushed minorities and denied them rights; which regarded education as a means of forcing our children's minds into a pattern imposed by the State and which thwarted all opposition to the Party in power. One system was based on what is known as the British Parliamentary system — theirs upon the New Order — dictatorship of a political party.

But while we were up North we were not unmindful of the Fifth Column way back in the Union who hated the things we loved and fought for, and who plotted for the things our foreign enemies desired.

Now they are in the seats of power. Are we surprised at what they are busy doing? They never made any secret of their intentions.

They proceeded to agitate in those years for a Republic — not a republic based on the broad will of the people — a democratic republic — No! A republic, to use the words of Dr. Otto du Plessis, now an important functionary

Leo Lovell's Speech at the Torchlight Demonstration

of the Government, Director of Information Services of the Union, based upon the new order which he described in these terms:

1. The New Order is conducted by a totalitarian conception, that is a disciplined system of Government in which all power is concentrated in a party or a leader, who is the personification of the whole nation and who interprets through his will the view of life or ideology of the nation.
2. What ever the result of the war may be — it is clear the pre-war democracies will be superseded by a New Order, not only in Europe alone but throughout the whole world.
3. Nationalist Afrikanerdom longs for the death of that system (democracy).

Dr. Malan in March 1941 from an address given at Stellenbosch said:

"One can look at it in this light: that perhaps 80 to 85 per cent of the 'New Order' has been taken up in the Nat-

Ons Vir Jou, Suid Afrika



Part of the huge procession in Johannesburg on May 4th when ex-servicemen demanded an immediate general election.

ionalist Party Progressives which the Party will carry out IN LETTER and IN SPIRIT when it comes to power."

This is one of the promises which the Prime Minister will without any doubt fulfil, because in the fulfillment of this promise his Party will become the dictators of South Africa. The other promises which were made, to observe the

spirit of the Entrenched Clause, to guarantee the votes of that minority whom we call the Coloured people — those have been broken because they stand in the way of the dictatorship of the Nationalist Party.

But this storm against the proposed violation of the letter and spirit of the constitution does not gather only be-

cause the rights of the coloured minority are to be diminished. It gathers because the rights of all of us have been curtailed and threatened.

Government members of Parliament have repeatedly told us that only the Coloured vote and the language rights have been entrenched. They remind us that our own liberties are at the mercy of a bare majority. Do we need to be reminded? Under the Suppression of Communism Act the right of free access to the Courts has already been diminished.

Not one single South African, be he white, coloured or black, has any legal remedy if the lusting fingers of a Minister close round his throat and leave the red smear upon it. Not one single South African has any redress if a policeman, authorised by the Minister, enters his house to interrogate him either by day or by night. Under that same act the Minister prepares his black lists in secret. Will we permit the Minister to place upon his filthy lists the names of ex-servicemen who once graced the nominal rolls of South Africa's finest regiments?

And what of the franchise rights of other groups in South Africa? Already the Citizenship Act has postponed the vote of British immigrants for a further three years, and we are not forgetful of the statements made by important members of the Government that in the New Order of things only the national elements of the people shall have a say. The non-National elements, the English-speaking elements, the Jews, the loyal Afrikaners, they will have no political rights in the future republic.

I have heard it said that it is wrong for ex-servicemen to participate in politics. Was it wrong, then, for those of us who are now ex-servicemen to have participated in that fight for a free democracy which was in danger from the German and Italian Nazis? There are some who said it was. They are still saying it. They wish to disown us with a sense of guilt. Are we to feel guilty because we fight for the rights of free men? Are we still prepared to fight for a free and democratic South Africa? Will we stand by silent and supine when our Constitution, the lifeblood of democratic Government, is being assaulted? If we are silent now we shall have forfeited our rights to speak forever after.

No, my friends, those who loved and cherished our New enemies are now in the seats of power. This is the same fight we fought against the enemy from within our gates. This time we fight from within. No armies now face each other so that friend and foe are distinguished



Leo Lovell, M.P., whose courageous speech is printed here.

by their uniforms. No! The attack comes in a more treacherous and insidious way like a thief in the night. It comes in the form of legal quibbles. It plays upon our fears, our dislikes and our prejudices — dislike of groups other than our own and fears between black and white, dislikes between Jew and Gentile, prejudices between Catholic and Protestant, fears of Communist aggression. It comes under the cloak of apartheid and fighting Communism. And while we are numbed by our fears, panic-stricken by our prejudices and our eyes are averted from our hard-won liberties comes the stab in the back.

And now I want to ask you a few questions.

Are you satisfied with the assurances of the Prime Minister that the English language will never be attacked?

Are you satisfied with the pledges of the Prime Minister that the freedom of the Press, the English press, will never be attacked?

Are you satisfied with the assurance that a republic will not be proclaimed by a bare majority?

Are you prepared once again to march to safeguard those things which you hold dear?

(Continued on next page)

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False Figures

THE Nationalist Government will use every means, whether honest or otherwise, to justify its Non-European policies, and during the last year Dr. Geyer, Union High Commissioner in London, stated that "official figures show that annual State expenditure per head of the Black population on educational, medical and social services, is nearly fourteen times as high in the Union as in the British African Colonies." The Prime Minister and Mr. Sauer have also quoted figures to prove this contention. It appears that these statements were based on figures supplied by the Union State Information Office.

The Institute of Race Relations, to whom acknowledgement is made for the information that follows, obtained from the State Information Office the statistics upon which the High Commissioner, Dr. Malan and Mr. Sauer based their statements. Close examination of these "Statistics" revealed certain rather peculiar facts.

EXPLANATION.

For the Union, figures for expenditure on native education, medical and social services and on agricultural development have been given. In respect of the other territories the State Information Office was not as careful in compiling the information, and certain services have either been entirely excluded, or have been proved incorrect on investigation. For example, for Southern Rhodesia, the cost of medical and social services and on agricultural development **HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED AT ALL.** Similarly for Nyasaland and Kenya the figures for education alone are given, but compared with the whole range of services in the Union.

For Basutoland the figure quoted for medical and social services is £13,818 whereas the figure obtained by the Institute from the Resident Commissioner's office is £86,486. For Swaziland both the education and medical and social service figures are understated to an enormous extent. This deception is not all. To the Union figures, **THE TOTAL COST OF THE NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TO THE EXTENT OF OVER £3,000,000 HAS BEEN ADDED** — as a service for Africans!

S.I.O. RELIABILITY.

On evaluation of the complete and correct information in respect of all the territories we find that the average figure for the five British Administered territories is 18/3 per head and for the Union it is 37/8 per head, instead of an average of 3/- per head compared with 41/6 per head as stated in the documents from the Information Office.

In other words instead of 14 times as much it is only twice as much. So much for the reliability of the State Information Office and for allegedly factual statements made by responsible persons in the Union Government.

However, the Institute goes further with this investigation, and asks whether it would not be more honest and objective, to compare the percentage the expenditure on these services forms of the total revenue available in these different territories. This analysis which is set out in the following table is most revealing.

	Percentage of Africans in population.	Percentage of Revenue spent on services for Africans.
South Africa	67.8%	8.8%
S. Rhodesia	94.3%	16.5%
Kenya	97.1%	24.6%
Basutoland	99.5%	35.0%
Swaziland	97.9%	34.4%

In other words of the 5 territories enumerated, the African in the Union receives by far the least share of the total revenue available in his own country, as compared with Africans in other territories.

The conclusion to be drawn from this analysis, therefore, is not whether the Union Government is spending more or less than other territories on services for Africans (this comparison, even if honestly drawn, is only of academic interest) but whether the Union is spending enough to ensure that the African people have adequate health services, adequate educational and vocational opportunities etc., so that the country as a whole can reap the full benefit of a healthy, educated and trained population.

ONS VIR JOU, SUID-AFRIKA

(Continued from previous page)

I have been asked to sum up tonight's demonstration. There are some who will say: "What can it achieve?" To them let me answer: One thing it has already achieved, it has kept alive and given new vigour to the spirit of challenge in the breast of all who have come here tonight. It has fanned the spark of hope which those who hate us are seeking to extinguish — not only amongst us but among thousands who are with us tonight in spirit.

There are some who say that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. Let me remind you that we ex-servicemen know that liberty demands a higher price. Last time we were asked to pay the price of liberty its cost to us was the lives of 10,000 of our comrades. What will it cost us this time? Do you recognise that this fight is the same fight we fought not so long ago? Will you shirk your duty now? What is your duty? Do not leave this fine gathering satisfied that you have struck the telling blow for liberty. See that you inundate the Cabinet with telegrams of challenging protest. Demand a general election — demand from the leaders of your organisations that they throw themselves and you into this fight and if you lose this round do not despair. There will be other rounds, which we shall win.

But remember that only if you do all that a man can do to fight when his liberties are threatened will you be able sincerely to sing:

"ONS VIR JOU SUID-AFRIKA."

BRANCH**ITEMS**

THE point has often been made that, in common with most other organisations, the Legion does not give its rank and file sufficient work to do; that, in fact, only our N.E.C. are really conscious of the part the Legion plays in combating Fascism.

Well, there certainly is no cause for complaint on that score over the past few weeks in Johannesburg. Legionnaires did a wonderful job of work enrolling ex-Servicemen for the Torchlight Procession staged by the War Veterans Action Committee. In spite of the cold weather they manned tables for long stretches and spent anything up to twenty-four hours at the caravan headquarters of that committee. Allan Lipman and Bernie Arenstein even got their bosses to let them off work for a couple of days so that they could work for the Committee.

In Germiston Bill Bush and Stan Campbell did a lot of work to ensure that Germiston would be well represented in the procession. Dave Katzeff was similarly active in Pretoria and generally our Reef members did a very good job indeed in this campaign.

What a wonderful night it was! I doubt if a Legionnaire who was not sick, lame or disabled was not there. It is doubtful if any description could convey the excitement, the exhilaration, which pervaded the procession and the meeting. Even the inadequacy of a couple of the speakers (and the fact that there were too many of them) could not dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd, who made it quite plain that they are not prepared to sit quietly by while everything they fought for is destroyed. Apart from the fighting speech of ex-Senator Dorf de la Rey the best thing to come from the platform was from a Legionnaire, namely Leo Lovell's speech, which was the most courageous, honest and pertinent delivered on a public platform for some time past.

There was a good attendance at the April Three-in-One, where Solly Sachs spoke on "The Suppression of Communism Amendments Bill." The importance

of this bill and its predecessor cannot be overstressed, since they destroy the last vestiges of Democracy in South Africa, and Mr. Sachs was able to open the eyes of many who had failed to realise this.

After tea there was a playreading of Shaw's "Passion, Poison and Petrification." If the production fell a little below the usual Legion level it is small wonder. The producer, Cecil Williams, had been packed off to Capetown on more important matters in the middle of his arrangements and some of the cast had to be replaced at the last moment due to illness. Nevertheless the audience was amused and the cast deserves a vote of thanks.

Joyce Fowler in particular earned our gratitude for the hard work she put in. Actors are supposed to be temperamental people and, confidentially, quite a few of them are, but the manner in which Joyce gets on with the job with the minimum of fuss, no matter how great the difficulties, reflects very much to her credit.

JUMBLE SALE.

The Johannesburg Branch is holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday, 2nd June. **JUMBLE URGENTLY NEEDED.** Please bring in your old clothes to the Office or phone 33-0975 and we will arrange to collect.

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION, PLEASE.

GERMISTON COLOURED BRANCH.

Under the able chairmanship of Mr. F.W. Abrahamse the Legion Branch convened a meeting to investigate the long-standing dissatisfaction of Coloured people in the Germiston Location over the problem of Housing. High rents and overcrowding are standing grievances. The meeting decided to call a more representative gathering with members of the Church organisations, the Templars, the A.P.O. and trade unions in order to plan a forceful presentation of the Coloured people's views to the Germiston Town Council.

Before the Branch meeting closed the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"That we, the Germiston Cape Coloured Branch of the Springbok Legion, resolve at this meeting held in the E.C. Church on May 7th, to protest against the Government's intention to remove the Coloureds from the common roll in the Cape. We regard such intentions as Fascistic and contrary to the principles of Democracy."

GROUP ACTIVITIES.

The Central Group members have learned with great regret that Henry and Mackie Pereira will shortly be leaving Johannesburg for permanent residence in Cape Town. A farewell party is being arranged for Monday evening, 28th May, when a Quiz Contest will bring members of the Yeoville Group into opposition with members of the Central Group.

Mr. H. G. Hurford has accepted the chairmanship of the Central Group in place of Mr. Pereira.

The first meeting of the newly-formed Judith's Paarl Group was held on April 25th, when Cecil Williams initiated a long and valuable discussion on 'War and Peace'. About a dozen members attended, including some old members who hadn't been seen for a long time.

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS?

1. Name the Nationalist M.P. who advocated extending the franchise to Cape Coloured women.
2. Who is the South African Minister of Lands?
3. What was the nationality of the child adopted by the Prime Minister?
4. Are there any orphans in South Africa?
5. What international organisation is known as WHO?
6. Name the three parliamentarians who recently resigned government positions in Britain.
7. On what grounds did they resign?
8. What political rights have Cape Coloureds in Natal?
9. How many representatives have the Indian community in the Senate?
10. When and where was the South Africa Act passed?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 15.

THE DAY I CRIED EUREKA (3) (concluded)**YOUR LAST CHANCE**

In the first article in this short series I said there are four basic civil rights — freedom of speech, movement, association and organisation. In the second article I showed that the terms of the Suppression of Communism Act and the latest Amendments make it possible for the Minister of Justice to take away your freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, freedom of the press and freedom of movement. Gaan voort!

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION.

In the eighteenth century in England the Established Church tried to suppress the new Nonconformist sects by making it unlawful for members of the sect to assemble anywhere within a radius of five miles of a town. Mr. Swart goes further. He makes it illegal for you and your friends to meet anywhere, if the subject you are going to chat about might possibly be construed as having any relation to 'any of the objects of Communism'. (See the previous article for the dangerous looseness of this definition of Communism. Do you remember the Act does not talk about the 'objects peculiar to Communism'?)

Under the Act it is permissible for any Tom, Dick or Harry, authorised by the Minister, to enter your home and ask you what you're up to. Already detectives have been making enquiries into meetings that have been held in private homes, meetings that have nothing whatever to do with Communism.

(And, before I forget it, do you know that detectives have made enquiries at bookshops about customers who have bought certain non-communist books?)

FREEDOM OF ORGANISATION.

If the Minister is satisfied (how does he become 'satisfied'?) that an Organisation has had anything to do with 'any of the objects of Communism' — still the same loose definition — then he may proclaim that organisation as an unlawful organisation and it will then be 'liquidated'. How does this affect the Labour Party with its policy of nationalisation? an international club that preaches the brotherhood of man? an ex-service organisation that has as part of its policy the Four Freedoms of the United Nations?

.It makes you think, doesn't it?

MY INNOCENT YOUTH.

There are one or two other aspects of this legislation that should be commented on, since they are in flagrant opposition to accepted procedures in

civilised, democratic countries. For example, what about this business of 'retrospectivity'? Do you know what it means?

In legal matters it means that a new law can be made to work backwards, thereby deeming you to be guilty of an act, which was lawful at the time.

Supposing they make it a criminal offence to waste paper, you won't complain if you're had up for throwing your newspaper in the dustbin. But supposing they charge you for not saving your newspaper in 1948 or for throwing away the wrapper round the first civvy

shirt you bought in 1945, wouldn't you be mad? Well, that's what they're doing with this amendment to the Communist Act.

They are proposing to authorise the Governor-General to deem you to be a Communist today, IF you were a communist at any time in your life, even if in the meantime you've changed your mind about communism and are now a staunch supporter of the 'free enterprise' system.

No matter! you are not allowed to change your mind . . . you are guilty of being a communist. Heavens above, it is impossible even to write about these things without getting mad at the whole fascist trend of this pernicious Act.

NO APPEAL TO THE COURTS.

Another thing that even by itself makes you shudder is the fact that, if you are 'deemed' or 'named' or whatever it is: if your organisation is found 'guilty'; if your newspaper is called 'communist' . . . there is no appeal to

(Continued on page 15)



On Saturday, April 21st members of the Legion solemnly placed a flag-draped coffin in front of the Johannesburg Cenotaph. The act symbolically placed the Constitution in the safe and sacred keeping of our fallen Comrades.

OPERATION, "TORCH COMMANDO"

NOTHING since the war's end has stirred ex-servicemen and women so much as the Torchlight Procession in Johannesburg on May 4th. The whole democratic movement in South Africa has felt a wave of optimism, a boosting of morale, which has in turn resulted in totally unexpected enthusiasm in all quarters for the ex-volunteers' next move — **THE TORCHLIGHT COMMANDO!**

It must be understood that this sudden wave of high-pressure activity among our old comrades is an unprecedented realisation that ex-soldiers **HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO TAKE DIRECT ACTION IN THE BROAD POLITICAL SPHERE.** And unmistakably they have decided to do so.

SECOND STEP.

At the Torchlight Meeting certain resolutions were passed, the most important one being the pledging of ourselves to take every constitutional step to enforce a General Election. The War Veterans' Action Committee has decided on a striking means for conveying the resolution to the leaders of the various political parties in Cape Town. A 'Torch Commando', consisting of jeeps manned by representatives of ex-service groups in the different centres, will set off at appointed times from Pretoria, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

In all these centres War Veterans' Action Committees have been set up,

which are organising Torchlight Demonstrations, at which resolutions will be passed and entrusted to the Torchbearers, detailed off to join the Commando.

FEEDER SERVICE.

In addition to the meetings and send-offs in the larger centres, arrangements are being made to bring in the 'will of the ex-soldiers' from smaller centres. Already ex-servicemen in Pietersburg, Brakpan, Benoni, Kroonstad, Potchefstroom — to mention Transvaal towns alone — have started their organisation to hold meetings, pass resolutions and send off their own particular 'feeder' commando.

ROUTES.

The convoy setting out from Pretoria will call at Johannesburg, then Kroonstad and then make for Bloemfontein, where, before entering the town for a Torchlight Demonstration, the convoy will be joined by the Natal convoy, which by that time will have left Durban, passed through Pietermaritzburg, Newcastle and Ladysmith, collecting resolutions on the way.

In the meantime a jeep will have been cheered on its way from East London, whence it will be received in King Williams Town. From there it will reach Port Elizabeth for a night meeting. Oudtshoorn is the next scheduled port of call. Finally all convoys will meet outside Cape Town on Sunday, 27th May, in time for the monster demonstration that the Cape Town War Veterans'

Action Committee is laying on for the evening of Monday, 28th May.

IN CAPE TOWN.

After the Monster Parade in Cape Town a selected delegation will convey the Ex-Servicemen's resolutions to Dr. Malan, Mr. Havenga, Mr. Strauss and Mr. Christie. We have no doubt whatsoever that the leaders of the parties will have no alternative but to be tremendously impressed with the earnestness and sincerity of the ex-service protest against the Separate Representation of Voters Bill and its consequent violation of the Constitution.

YOUR JOB.

We print below the names and addresses of key persons in the local War Veterans' Action Committee. Get in touch and offer your services. There is work to be done. See that you attend the meetings as advertised, carrying your **TORCH!** Get all your ex-service pals to go along with you and don't forget that all **CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS** are eagerly welcomed. Legionnaires have a special responsibility in **GIVING A LEAD.**

Johannesburg: Mr. L. Kane Berman, P.O. Box 2898.

Pretoria: Mr. D. Katzeff, 309 Potgieter Street.

Maritzburg: Mr. R. Mason, P.O. Box 100.

Durban: Mr. G. G. Ford, c/o. Blamey & Holgate, 378 Smith Street.

(Continued on page 15)

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Legion Sends Representative To See Mr. Strauss

— CECIL WILLIAMS

AT a special meeting of the Executive Committee, convened by the Chairman, a decision was taken to send a Legion member to Cape Town to present the Legion's views on the political situation to Mr. Strauss and Mr. Christie, the leaders of the Opposition Parties. I was detailed off for the job.

Flying to Cape Town in company with Mr. Strydom, Dr. Gluckman, Mr. Oppenheimer and Mr. Maree, I took the opportunity of discussing with the Nationalist M.P. for Newcastle the point of view that removal of the Coloured voters to the common roll did in fact reduce the value of the Cape Franchise. When I described the same action, if it were to be applied to the European women voters of South Africa, giving them, for example 10 representatives in Parliament in place of the 159, whom they help to elect today, Mr. Maree did not have a ready come-back.

LOBBYING.

I had been instructed by the Legion's Executive to press members of Parliament of the United and Labour Parties

ANSWERS:

1. Dr. Malan.
2. Strydom.
3. German.
4. Yes.
5. World Health Organisation.
6. Bevan, Wilson, Freeman.
7. Uneconomic rearmament programme.
8. Providing they are qualified, vote in Parliamentary and Provincial Council elections.
9. None. (Nat. Gov. rescinded 'Representation of Indians Act in 1948').
10. Sept. 1909—London.

QUESTIONS ON PAGE 12.

OPERATION "TORCH COMMANDO"

(Continued from previous page)

Port Elizabeth: Brigadier Coy, P.O. Box 3074.
East London: Dr. A. C. G. Frere, 13 St. Peter's Road.
Cape Town: Mr. R. K. Hallack, 28 Mostert Road, Observatory.
Bloemfontein: Mr. Arnott, c/o. P.O. Box 234.

to reinforce their struggle inside Parliament by mobilising the reserves that lay outside Parliament. I pointed out that people were suffering an enormous feeling of frustration, for the simple reason that, looking ahead, they could see the debate, however magnificently fought, ending in an arithmetical victory for the Government. In addition, I suggested, there was a distinct possibility, not to be underestimated, that public agitation could reach such a pitch that people would be clamouring for the Government's resignation.

In discussions with members of the House — over innumerable cups of coffee and endless cigarettes — I found a ready response to our point of view. Already there was a feeling in the U.P. that the resentment of the people had to be canalised and made vocal.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

Finally I saw Mr. Strauss who carried on the tradition of cordiality and inter-

est in the Legion's viewpoint, which had been started by General Smuts. Mr. Strauss said that his Party was prepared to fight the Government's intentions tooth and nail. Already, he said, he had had discussions with his organisational committee on the subject which I had raised with members in my discussions. He agreed wholeheartedly, when I reminded him of something General Smuts had said to us, to the effect that there would come a time in the life of this Parliament, when an issue would present itself around which the whole country could be mobilised in a fight to shake the Government loose. I urged him to accept the view that the issue had arrived.

AFTERMATH.

I am satisfied that the Legion's discussions with members of Parliament came at an extremely opportune time. We do not suggest, of course, that our representations were the only factor taken into consideration by Mr. Strauss, but to me it is plain that opinions from outside Parliament are carefully taken into account by the people who run the Labour Party and the United Party.

YOUR LAST CHANCE . . .

(Continued from page 13)

the courts. You are guilty to the 'satisfaction' of the Minister of Justice. I suppose the thought strikes you that a cabinet minister with these powers might be very tempted to use the weapons against his political opponents. There's always that danger, isn't there? Whereas, we never have any fears that a Judge in a court would allow his judgement to be swayed for political reasons.

SUMMING UP.

I've said enough for the least politically-developed citizen to realise that this attempt by the Government to suppress Communism has been devised in such a way as to give the Government the power to suppress all OPPOSITION TO ITS OWN POLICIES. The United Party and the Labour Party, both wholeheartedly opposed to communism, fought this legislation tooth and nail. Why? because they realise that their own liberties are at the mercy of their political adversaries.

ARE YOU CONVINCED?

If you are convinced that your standing as a free man in a democratic country is in peril, then you must do something about it. I know it is easy for an individual to think that he alone can have no influence on the Government: it is easy to think, 'Ach! I've never been a commie, I'm all right' . . . but the truth is that not one of us is all right. Take your pen today, therefore, and write a straightforward letter to your own member of Parliament and at the same time send a copy of the letter to the Prime Minister.

Let the people in Parliament know that you do not approve of this frontal attack on our democratic institutions.

Talk to other people and get them to write letters too. And in your Church, your trade union, your teachers' association, your women's organisation, have the matter discussed and persuade the organisation in its own interest to PROTEST.

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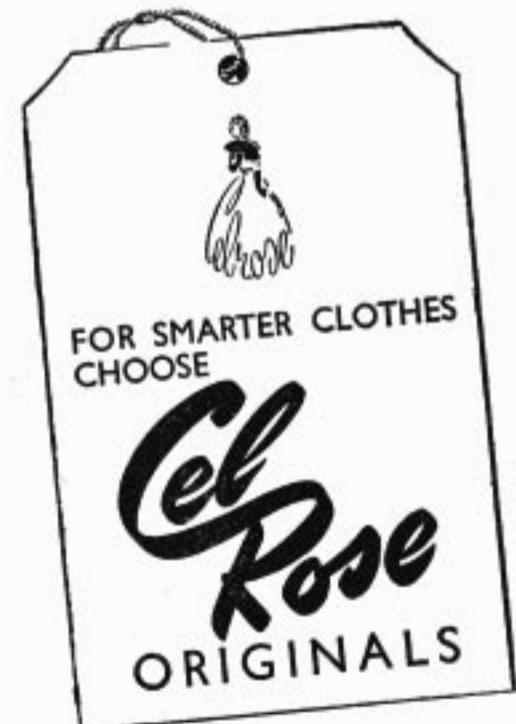
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