

SWART BANS WILLIAMS



CECIL WILLIAMS.

FOLLOWING closely on his banning of Congress of Democrats' chairman, Abram Fischer, Mr. C. R. Swart, Minister of Justice, last week issued peremptory orders to Legion National Chairman Cecil Williams, ordering him to resign from the Springbok Legion, the Congress of Democrats and the Peace Council. For two years, Williams has been banned without reason from attending any gathering whatsoever anywhere in the Union.

Mr. Williams has answered Swart's ban with a typically forthright and uncompromising statement of his faith in democracy, and his hatred of all the Nationalist Party stands for. His letter to the Minister reads:

"I acknowledge receipt of your two notices prohibiting me from attending gatherings for a period of two years and calling on me to resign from the Springbok Legion, the Congress of Democrats, the Civil Rights League, the Transvaal Peace Council, etc. It gives me pleasure to inform you that I consider these proscriptions to be of a temporary nature only, since history abundantly shows that purblind, reactionary attempts to stop the growth and spread of ideals tending towards the happiness and security of mankind have always failed, without exception.

My association with the above-mentioned organisations indicates that I have taken my stand on the invincible principles and practices of democracy; on an acceptance of the fact that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights; on the basic civil liberties of freedom of speech, movement, association and organisation for all men; on the paramount necessity and possibility of preserving world peace through the instrument of negotiation between the nations. For these ideals you choose to stop my mouth.

In so doing, you give notice to South Africa and the world that you stand for none of these things: on the contrary that you fear the extension of

democracy; that you arrogantly reject the common humanity of all mankind; that you are prepared tyrannically to divest South Africans of their most precious liberties to secure your own ends; that you will in advance commit South Africa through military alliances to a third world war rather than use our country's influence to avert war.

I repeat my belief that my banning will not be for long.

I am surprised that you and your Party have not learnt from your own experience. You gave moral support to the Nazi tyrant who defied the principles of democracy and destroyed civil liberties. I am proud that I played a small part along with hundreds of millions of democrats to prove the Nazis and your Party wrong. Events in Asia and Africa since 1945 bring further proof that your doctrine of racial superiority has no scientific, moral or practical basis. Throughout the world mankind's organised and expressed will-for-peace is overcoming the dangers of world war.

For these reasons and because of my faith in the sturdy growth of democratic conviction in the white and non-white peoples of South Africa, I know that your gags and bans will not silence the voices of democracy, nor halt the march forward to liberty, racial harmony and world peace.

Yours faithfully,
CECIL WILLIAMS."

Proud Record!

Was born in Cornwall, England, spent his first four years in sight of the Witwatersrand's minedumps: then schooling in England, returning to South Africa to take an arts degree and teaching diploma at Wits. University.

Spent six years teaching at the Pretoria Boys' High and King Edward VII schools. Was well-known as a radio announcer and actor in Johannesburg. Before enlistment toured the Union as leading man to the Gwen Frangcon-Davies — Marda Vanne theatrical company.

Joined up in the S.A.N.F. and soon became C.O. of a secret operations station near Saldanha Bay. From there was sent north as the naval member of the S.A. Radio Observers' Unit. Moved far and rapidly round the Mediterranean, from Algiers to the 6th Div., poised for assault on Florence: To the invasion of the South of France, in the midst of the Jerries' obstinate stand in Marseilles and Toulon. Following an assignment in Britain, forced his way to Greece in December '44, when it was no longer a war against the Germans but against the patriotic Greek forces.

After V-E Day was seconded to the South African Army School of Education in Florence, where later he became O.C. During this period he supplemented the staff's exhilarating lectures on Civics and Politics and South Africa's "problems", by recruiting and organising for the Springbok Legion, as a result of which the Legion at home appointed him National Executive representative in the C.M.F. Was instrumental in organising a Regional Conference of Legionnaires in Rome. On the boat coming home, he signed on another 132 recruits.

Two months after demob. he became a Legion employee and has worked with the Legion ever since. Has represented the Legion on the Executive of the National War Memorial Health Foundation and on the extinct National Joint Ex-Ser-

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FIGHTING TALK

Vol. 9. No. 9. SEPT., 1953. Sixpence.
(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

THERE is a theory — I hear it often — that white South Africans are incapable of progressive action, because race prejudice has been bred too deep in their flesh and spirit.

Every time I hear the theory,

I THINK OF BRAM FISCHER

It would be comforting to say that he is a typical European South African. Would that he were. But Bram is something rare in the South African scene, although his roots and traditions are so closely woven in the fabric of South Africa's history that, if one were to search for a true "son of South Africa," one would need go no further.

How far the family traces its ancestry back, I do not know. Ancestry beyond living memory does not count for much in South Africa. I know that Bram's grandfather was a burger of the Orange River Republic, served in the Republican government under President Brand, and rose to be President of the Republic himself in the days when South Africa was changing from a geographical expression towards nationhood. I know that Bram's father was, like Bram today, a barrister, and one who rose to the highest rank — Judge President of the Orange Free State.

Bram could, if he had so chosen, have followed the family pattern, gaining high political and social honours for himself. He has all the attributes which go to make a cabinet minister or diplomat: personality which attracts people to him, and makes him the most popular and best liked figure in whatever circle he moves; powerful connections, both in his own right and, through his wife, with the family of J. C. Smuts; a tremendous capacity for conscientious and painstaking work, coupled with a keen and logical mind.

But Bram's chief attribute is none of these. It is his complete and undeviating honesty, which impels him to do what he knows is right, regardless of the personal difficulties and disabilities it may entail. All his life he has unhesitatingly followed his conscience and his honest belief; and the trail has led him away from the high and lucrative honours that would have fallen to a lesser man.

From his student days at Oxford, the trail led him steadily towards complete and unstinting participation in the struggle for the brotherhood of man. As a member of the former Communist Party, Bram sought none of the easy ways of satisfying his conscience; never willing to claim special consideration because of his special status or special social circumstances, everything demanded of every member was willingly undertaken by Bram, whether it were soap-box oratory on the City Hall steps, meeting with tiny groups of illiterate labourers in ill-lit backyard rooms, or hand-

ing out leaflets at a bus-stop or factory gate. It was typical of him and of his whole life that when, in 1946, he stood trial on the charge of assisting an illegal strike of African miners, Bram pleaded guilty because he believed in the essential justice of the miners' action, though he himself had been in the Game Reserve throughout the period of the strike.

Typical of him, too, that in 1951, when threatened with "listing" under the Suppression of Communism Act, with all its attendant victimisations, he joined with several others to write to the Minister of Justice:

"We decline to make . . . representations. The Suppression of Communism Act . . . deprives the most outspoken opponents of your Government of their freedom of speech and organisation, and of any legal remedy against persecution by the state . . . Your Government, incapable of solving the fundamental social and economic problems of South Africa, has passed this legislation in order to preserve a narrow, backward and primitive social system, based on race and class oppression. You are attempting to silence first us, but ultimately all critics of your regime."

There is a prophetic ring to that letter, written two years ago almost to a day. Bram refused to be easily silenced, though the penalties for speaking out for the ideas he holds were patent and heavy. While the Government cried "War!" Bram took up the cudgels for peace, once again following the unpopular road of conscience, campaigning ceaselessly and at great personal cost for an end to the Korean massacre, for Big Power negotiations to settle all international differences. For two years he pitted his voice and his energies against press and politicians conditioning the world to accept first "cold war" and later holocaust. Largely through his efforts and activities there emerged the Transvaal Peace Council, and now, with wider support and more representative backing, the South African Peace Council of which he has been elected Vice-President.

For another man, that alone would be

enough. But not for Bram. He has found time and energy—made time and energy—to launch and lead the Congress of Democrats, to carry on a struggle against South African racialism, and to hold out a hand of comradeship and alliance to his non-white fellow citizens who strive for democratic right and liberty.

This is the man on whom the Minister has served summary bans — dictatorial orders to resign from the organisations to which he belongs, and to stay away from all gatherings for two years . . . "First us, but ultimately all critics of your regime." If the ban on Bram Fischer goes unchallenged, the writing on the wall is there for all the critics of the Nationalist regime. For who amongst the critics can claim to be a better or a truer son of South Africa than this man they seek to gag?

It is no paradox that Bram, who all his life has fought "unpopular" causes, has more friends than any man I know. Not just the usual run of friends — the old school and college mates, who remember his ever-ready help and friendliness; nor just his professional colleagues, who know and appreciate his genuineness and sincerity; nor even merely his close and personal friends who respect and admire him. But he has friends far and wide in this land, many of them people who have never seen him, people of all races and political views, who know this man for what he has done and stood for, and for his fearlessness and selflessness in promoting their happiness and liberty at the expense of his own.

It is time for those friends, all of them everywhere, of all colours, to show that friendship today if they have never done so before. Not in expressions of regret, for Bram has no regrets. But in determined action to reverse the bans which have been placed on him, and to restore his voice and his activities to the democratic cause which South Africa needs so deeply.

Here is a South African of the finest kind. But the steel muzzle which has been placed on him will not be removed unless every one of his friends does what he can, now and without hesitation, to force the Government to retract, and to let his voice of honesty and hope for our future once again ring through the land.

L.B.

KOREA AGAIN?

By A. R. LIPMAN.

"MAKE it Permanent," the August editorial in this journal, carried a stirring message welcoming the Korean truce as a major victory for the forces of peaceful humanity, but warning against the likelihood of fresh horrors. Indo-China and Germany were suggested as possible explosion points, as indeed they were and are, but during the month of August the powers who prolonged the holocaust of modern warfare in Korea have redoubled their efforts to launch that war once more on the Korean people.

For eighteen months an anxious world has been waiting for agreement between the warring parties; for weeks we all worked and prayed for the day when at last the rain of steel and fire would cease and men emerging from their fox-holes, women from their ruined houses, could raise their eyes skywards without fear. For eighteen months nappalm-scarred children have played amongst the ruins constantly in danger of sudden and horrible death — whilst trumped-up issues held up the truce negotiations. Now, barely two weeks after the signing of the truce, the hard-won peace is being threatened and the very negotiations, for which the truce has been established, are being prejudged, and thus pre-influenced, as almost certain to end in failure.

ALERT

The common people of the world have won a great and far-reaching victory over the handful who thirst for the pro-

fits and super-profits of war or who are driven by the "logic" of outmoded social and economic systems to "inevitable" war or economic collapse. But we are to be callously and ruthlessly cheated of the victory, if we do not remain alert to the dangers that threaten the new peace. A brief survey of the Johannesburg daily newspaper, the "Rand Daily Mail", over the month of August reveals a host of threats and open promises of a renewal of the hostilities in Korea — the reader can well judge for himself how we are being psychologically prepared for the outbreak of the war in that most unfortunate peninsula.

QUOTATIONS

Friday, August 7th.

Announcing that General Mark Clark, Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations forces in Korea, is to retire, the "Mail" says, "General Clark said he favoured the use of any and every weapon at the disposal of the *United States*, (my italics A.L.) if the Communists violated the Korean truce."

Saturday, August 8th.

Headlines: "U.S. and South Korea agree on peace talk 'Walk-out move': will leave conference if the Communists do not negotiate in good faith" — John Foster Dulles and Syngman Rhee agreement.

"Allied Prisoners died in thousands," say United Nations reports — from United States sources, while in the same paper and on the same page this appeared: "prisoners show little bitterness

— Commonwealth P.O.W.'s in good health" — from British sources.

"Communists warned by 16 nations — we will resist a new attack." In that event (a new attack) the sixteen nations said they probably could not confine their hostilities within the frontiers of Korea."

Tuesday, August 11th.

Speaking on the 16-nations-pact in the House of Assembly, Dr. Malan, after explaining that South Africa was a signatory to the pact, said: "In regard to the foregoing declaration, I desire to make it clear that the Union, in concert with other like-minded states, remains determined to maintain the system of collective security."

Saturday, August 15th.

"Dr. Syngman Rhee said today (Friday 14th) that he had decided to postpone for a time (my italics A.L.) efforts to unify Korea by force."

"U.N.-Korea pact is safeguard against treachery — Churchill" — headline. The pact is a "warning to the communists" that a breach of the Korean armistice on their part might extend the war." In a statement the Prime Minister said that the warning was agreed to in 1951 as the best of many alternatives considered to protect the U.N. forces against a Communist breach of the armistice. Other alternative warnings considered and rejected were a blockade of China and the bombing of Chinese communications.

Monday, August 17th.

"Washington — Mr. Walter Robertson, President Eisenhower's special envoy to Korea, said last night that the U.N. should use all weapons including the *atom bomb* (my italics A.L.), if the Communists re-opened the fighting in Korea."

Friday, August 21st.

"The Soviet Bloc with Mrs. G. Sakoninova-Carklova, of Czechoslovakia, as its spokesman said, that the threat of South Korea and the U.S. to walk out of the political conference (to settle the Korean problem—A.L.) after 90 days was contrary to the truce agreement."

Saturday, August 22nd.

Cleveland (Ohio) Friday, 21st.—"The U.S. should threaten to 'wipe the Communist leaders from the face of the earth unless every American P.O.W. was returned immediately, Senator Joseph McCarthy said last night." "The time has come to notify the world that on the day Red China walks into the U.N., the U.S. walks out," said Senator McCarthy.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO LIFT THE BAN ON WILLIAMS & FISCHER

1. Wire the Minister of Justice, demanding a removal of the ban.
2. Wire your M.P. to intercede.
3. Urge your organisation to send a round-robin or protest petition to the Minister and the Press.

DO IT YOURSELF!

GET YOUR FRIENDS TO DO IT!

DO IT NOW!

(Continued on next page)

KOREA AGAIN?

(Continued from previous page)

No-one could call the contents of these quotations tactful attempts to build up an atmosphere of mutual faith and confidence, but two factors emerge from them that are far more sinister than the threat to a disputing party with whom one expects to negotiate to reach agreements.

The first is the attempt to prepare the people for a possible, nay certain, recommencement of the shooting war in Korea. This is done quite simply by stating that the Communists will show "treachery" and we must prepare for it. The fact that Syngman Rhee has been the chief stumbling block to the truce and, to judge by his own statements, is longing for more war is not mentioned. To a world, strongly suspicious by this time as to who really wants peace in Korea and who does not, the pacts and agreements must smack of setting the stage for another "incident" (probably no longer confined "within the frontiers of Korea") into which we shall be rushed, not really knowing who the aggressor party was.

The second important factor relates to the principle of negotiations as a method of settling international disputes. This simple and reasonable idea has always been the basis of the appeals of the World Council of Peace. Today it seems that aroused public opinion, guided by the forces for peace, is leading the shyest Governments into the paths of negotiation. Our extracts from the "Mail" show the frustration of warmongers forced to negotiate by circumstances and popular pressure but really preferring the path of war. Thus they attempt to sabotage the hopes of millions that negotiations can achieve the peace we all need.

COMPROMISES

Manoeuvres must not be allowed to hold up agreement between the Powers any longer. If the Powers propose today to come to an agreement, this must not be for the purpose of making later conferences ineffective by imposing preliminary conditions. Negotiations can never be fruitful if they are preceded on one side or the other by preliminary delimitation of possible concessions. The very object of the negotiations is to define possible compromise and to determine possible concessions. The threat by John Foster Dulles and Syngman Rhee to walk out of the political Conference can be interpreted only as an attack on the very principle of negotiation.

The victory of the people is a con-



A scene from "The Comedy of Errors": photo by courtesy of "The Drum."

crete fact but is is not a sweeping victory; signs of the relaxation of international tension are still very small. Hope and optimism must not lead to a slackening of effort. Peace does not depend only upon diplomats and Governments. The action of the peoples remains the determining factor and upon the people depend the ability to bring about meetings, to hasten the course of negotiations, to prevent acts of sabotage and to clear away obstacles.

The victories and fight for peace, the hopes of these last weeks give us grounds for great pride. They lay on us an increased responsibility. Millions of men and women, relieved of fear and mistrust, want to be guided towards Peace and towards Friendship.

Ex-servicemen and women who know full well the horrors of war must accept this responsibility gladly and rally the people to give a firm "No!" to the question, "Korea again?"

REVIEW —

“THE COMEDY OF ERRORS”

By C. G. WILLIAMS.

HAD he been in the University Great Hall audience, when the Baretti Players presented Colin Romoff's production of the "Comedy of Errors," I am sure Shakespeare would have enjoyed himself as wholeheartedly as I did. For Shakespeare was never a namby-pamby as far as fun on the stage is concerned, witness the plot of the play under review, the play-within-a-play in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", the Dogberry and Verges episode in "Much Ado," Launcelot Gobbo's antics in "The Merchant" and so on. Shakespeare stretched probability of situation and character to the outside edge — anything, as we might say, for a laugh.

And laugh we did in the University Great Hall. We laughed at the perplex-

ing complications of the play, at some of Shakespeare's saucy language, at the additional humour which the players added by the acting of their parts and there was cause for laughter at incongruities, as one laughs at a schoolboy acting, for example, Kate, the Shrew.

In an interval a friend remarked that our laughter was patronising, because the players were Africans, a remark which I rejected. There was, I thought, nothing patronising in my attitude. Certainly the audience was more than usually tolerant of language and histrionic deficiencies, which is a far cry from being patronising.

I was most conscious, of course, of the immense amount of hard slogging that Colin Romoff must have put into

this production. Apart from cutting the play to its plot-essentials, finding a cast, and finding times and places for rehearsals, he had the heavy task of imparting to the players the scope of the play, the relation of the parts to the whole, the concepts of character. Above all, he had to teach the actors to speak the lines with understanding and with clarity. If the diction in places was not up to standard, he is, notwithstanding, to be applauded for achieving with success the difficult aim he had set himself.

What is remarkable is the amount of genuine acting ability which some of the players revealed. For instance, I thought that Geoffrey Tsebe, Elliott Kekana, Patrick Maloao, Alexander Hlapo, Hilda Phahle and Tommy Ramakgopa all contributed more than a mere delivery of Shakespeare's words. Even in the foreign language of English they showed an appreciation of the meaning of the lines and of their emotional values, so that there was a clear distinction between the personalities of the two Antipholuses: Aegon showed a moving degree of sorrow and hopelessness. I am sure that when these actors and actresses perform a play in their own language, they will surprise us by their sensitivity and their technical ability.

The thought uppermost in my mind as I left the theatre was how rich South Africa's cultural life will be when all our cultural resources are exploited. Opera, ballet, film-making, play productions, all will flourish, when we allow them to. There will be ten theatres in Johannesburg instead of two: there will be an opera season of South African performers (and South African operas): there will be professional, permanent ballet companies, variety companies and there will be no danger of the municipal orchestras of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban disappearing.

Colin Romoff has pointed out the road and taken us a little way along it. Congratulations to him, his players and all the other members of his pioneering team.

REVIEW —

THE FIRST BORN

THE NATIONAL THEATRE — CHRISTOPHER FRY.

CHRISTOPHER FRY has so far shown himself to be a master of the English language. The beauty and felicity of his lines have charmed and delighted playgoers. He has shown himself, too, a considerable craftsman in the field of dramatic construction and character drawing. With "The Firstborn" one hoped that he was to show a talent for allying the other gifts with a nobility of dramatic theme. He has made the essay, but in my opinion has failed.

In the character of Pharaoh of Egypt, it seems, he has set out to show that lust for power inevitably destroys a tyrant's humanity. In the figure of Moses, it seems, he has attempted to show that a leader of a people's liberatory struggle is torn between his duty to his people, demanding ruthlessness in face of the oppressors, and his personal feelings of revulsion from bloodshed and death.

The weakness in the play, I thought, was that, instead of a powerful, blazing conflict between Moses and Pharaoh, they never came to grips with each other — or hardly ever. Consequently, the play unfolded its story at an ambling pace, unrelieved by the clash of big personalities, the clash of opponents, the clash of ideologies.

I was disappointed in Mr. Schach's production. I had the impression that he had been pushed for time and had not,

therefore, devoted his usual care to character interpretation and the technical features of grouping and movement.

Patricia Prior, as Teusret, Pharaoh's daughter, gave us a great deal of pleasure by her youthful, trusting, impetuous, mercurial girl. Both in repose and in motion she was lovely to watch.

Leon Gluckman brought to the part of Moses an exceptional dignity, a brooding sorrowfulness and, apart from occasional lapses, a sustained sincerity and maturity. More than any other player, he spoke his lines with beautiful clarity, using his vocal range to excellent effect. In appearance he was impressive, his gait dignified and his gestures controlled and eloquent. Occasionally I suspected that Gluckman was replacing sincerity with vocal mellifluity, a dangerous trap which he must take care not to fall into. Apart from this, however, his performance was moving and proved of inestimable strength to the production as a whole.

The rest of the players did less than justice to themselves, for in varying degrees they fell badly away from the prime prerequisite of a dramatic artist, an invoked, simulated, if you like, sincerity, a projection of an inner conviction without which there is no reality, no life in a performance.

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OF LIFE AND DEATH

If you hate war then you must join the South African Peace movement. It's as simple as that. This was the uncomplicated theme expressed at the first South African National Peace Congress, which took place at the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on the 22nd and 23rd August.

The Conference could not have been convened at a more propitious time. With the uncertain armistice in Korea, the savage fighting in Malaya, Indo-China and Kenya, and the inflammable situation in the Middle East, one thing stands out beyond contradiction — the world is sick to death of wars and most unenthusiastic about new ones. There has never been a time when war was so universally detested and feared as it is today.

Small wonder. The question of war has become literally a question of life or death; not merely to the soldiers in the field but to everyone and anyone. And since life is precious to all, to African miners and to European stockbrokers, to domestic servants and to D.R.C. Predikants, to washerwomen as well as to professional politicians, it is easy to see why an organisation pledged to fight for Peace is an organisation with the broadest appeal of all.

There were over 275 delegates at the Conference, representing the members of a variety of organisations, political, religious, cultural and social, totalling close on 300,000. Among the political groups, the Labour Party and the Congress of Democrats were well in evidence, while the African National Congress, the Indian National Congress, the Springbok Legion, and several trad-

unions and a number of religious organisations were all adequately represented. Then, of course, there were numbers of delegates from the existing Peace Committees throughout the country.

CHAIRMAN BANNED.

Among the well-known South Africans who attended were Prof. J. Gillman, Mrs. Jessie McPherson, Mr. Nelson Mandela, Mr. Debi Singh, Rev. D. C. Thompson, Dr. Guy Routh, Mr. Cecil Williams and Capt. Robert Oakes, to mention only a few.

Adv. A. Fischer, Q.C., who was to have played a leading role at the Congress, was prohibited at the last minute from attending, when he received a letter from the Minister of Justice ordering him to resign from the Peace Council. His message to the Congress, was, however, heard by the delegates by means of a wire recorder on which his voice had been recorded prior to the meeting. It was a moving demonstration and testified to the courage and faith of a man who refused to succumb to the pressure of the Government's repressive legislation.

The Congress devoted its time to the broader aspects of World Peace. These aspects were divided into four sections, as follows:—

- (1) The World Today.

- (2) Africa, Colonisation and War.
- (3) The People and Peace, and
- (4) The Peace Movement in South Africa.

POLICY.

On each of these aspects of War and Peace, two speakers delivered papers which served as introductions to the general discussion that followed. Resolutions arising out of these sections were adopted by the Congress and will serve as the general policy for the newly-elected Peace Council. Other resolutions dealing with more specific issues confronting the world today were referred to the incoming Council for implementation.

Here is the resolution on World Peace adopted by Conference, which arose out of Section No. 1:

"We delegates, at the foundation Congress of the South African Peace Council, affirm our resolute conviction that mankind can avert the horrors of a third world war.

We declare that there is no problem of international relations that cannot be resolved by negotiation, given the overriding recognition by all parties of the necessity of peace, and determination to arrive at a settlement without resort to force. We believe that the existence of different social and economic systems in various countries in no way constitutes a barrier to friendly and mutually advantageous relations between them.

We resolve to strive with all our might to win the majority of the people of South Africa to become conscious partisans of peace; a section of the world-wide union of the peoples against war.

We call on all South Africans of goodwill to join with us in this task."

There can be little doubt that the existence of a World Peace Council with its affiliates in about 83 countries, including South Africa, has been an effective check to a new world war. It has conditioned millions of men and women to a conscious will for Peace and the outlawing of war as a means of settling inter-state and international disputes. If that is so, then it is equally true that the existence of a National Peace Movement in this country can have a similar effect on the minds and actions of us South Africans.

There can certainly be no nobler cause and no more urgent task.



Some of the delegates at the South African National Peace Congress.

THE RIGHTS OF MEN

AT the last session of the United Nations General Assembly a commission was appointed to inquire into racial discrimination in South Africa and to determine whether that discrimination amounts to a violation of the United Nations Charter.

The Union Government has refused to allow the commission to enter South Africa for the purpose of hearing evidence. The Commission is therefore sitting in Geneva and has invited all interested persons to submit written memoranda if they cannot appear before the commission to give evidence.

The Springbok Legion and the Congress of Democrats have submitted a memorandum to the commission. The memorandum was hastily prepared, as the commission gave very short notice of the date by which evidence had to reach it. Nevertheless, the memorandum is an impressive document.

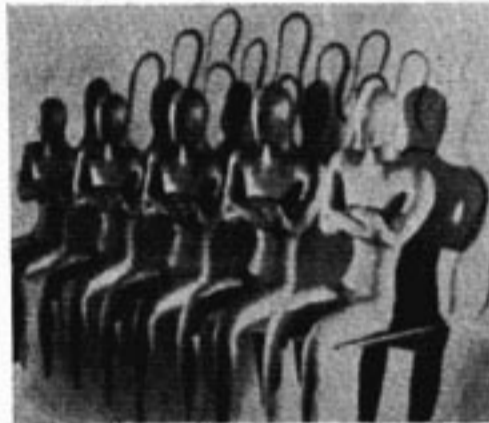
It is based upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was recently adopted by the United Nations. Each article of the Declaration is taken in turn and compared with the existing position in South Africa. The result is devastating. It emerges that South Africa is at present contravening, not just one or two, but all thirty articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Not a single one of the freedoms regarded by the United Nations as fundamental is fully available to all the peoples of South Africa.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.

The memorandum shows that most of South Africa's violation of fundamental rights arise out of racial discrimination. In many cases, rights are conceded to whites but withheld from blacks. In the increasing number of cases in which all South Africans are being deprived of their rights, the undemocratic laws are usually enforced more stringently against the Non-Europeans.

Some of the Articles of the Universal Declaration become almost incomprehensible when applied to South Africa, so completely do their basic premises differ from the situation in South Africa. Article 8 of the Declaration requires that everyone should have the right to an effective remedy in the courts for acts violating his fundamental rights. In South Africa, as the memorandum points out, "there is no effective remedy . . . for such violations, since these violations themselves are protected by

takes it for granted that laws exist to protect the rights of the citizens. How is it to be applied to a situation in which the weight and force of law." Article 8 the laws are themselves violations of those rights?



STATISTICS.

Article 7 of the Universal Declaration states that all persons are entitled to equal treatment before the law. In dealing with this provision, the memorandum quotes some interesting statistics which have not previously been widely publicised. In 1944, of all Europeans convicted of serious crimes, 21.34 per cent. were sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine. For non-Europeans, the equivalent figure is 43.52 per cent. Corporal punishment was imposed in 3.53 per cent. of European cases and 11.24 per cent. of non-European cases. On the other hand, postponed or suspended sentences were imposed upon 28.93 per cent. of the Europeans convicted, as compared with 7.64 per cent. of non-Europeans.

In conclusion the memorandum urges the United Nations Commission to find:

"(1) that racial discrimination exists in

almost every field of South African life;

"(2) *this racial discrimination constitutes a breach of the principles of the United Nations Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;*


"(3) *that this discrimination is a source of mounting racial hostility inside the borders of the Union, threatening the development of internal strife and disturbance;*

"(4) *that this race discrimination has become a source of conflict between the Government of the Union of South Africa and the Governments and peoples of other lands who subscribe to the principles of the United Nations Charter and are members of the United Nations Organisation;*

"(5) *that this racial discrimination, therefore, is no longer a question purely of South African domestic jurisdiction, but requires immediate and careful attention by the United Nations Organisation in order to fulfil the obligations placed on the Organisation by its Charter, to maintain world peace and to extend and develop national and international relations which are necessary for its maintenance;*

"(6) *that an obligation rests on the Union Government, systematically and forthwith, to diminish and remove all the laws and practices which are based on racial discrimination;*

"(7) *that an obligation rests on the U.N.O., and all its member states, to use their influence, prestige and authority to promote respect for fundamental human rights in the Union of South Africa, without racial discrimination."*

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!! IT'S DIFFERENT !!

BEASTS GONE MAD! by Jean-Paul Sartre

THE Rosenbergs are dead and life goes on. That is what you wanted, isn't it? Only yesterday we were their comrades and you have killed them as fast as you could so that we should only be their survivors. You count on time to make us every day a little more forgetful, a little gaudier toward them to make you seem a little less cruel. Of course it will cost a little: there will be broken window panes in your embassies. But you will put in new ones and, with a little luck, the cops will shoot on the European crowds and we'll have brand new corpses all our own to turn our thoughts away from your two.

You already played that trick on us with Sacco and Vanzetti and you won. This time you want.

On one point you will win: we want to harm no one; the horror and contempt you awake in us we refuse to turn into hate. But you will never make us swallow that the execution of the Rosenbergs was nothing but a "regrettable incident", or even a judicial error. It was a legal lynching which means a whole nation with blood and which once and for all lays bare the bankruptcy of the Atlantic Pact and your inability to lead the Western world.

Let me tell you what your mistake was: you believed that the murder of the Rosenbergs was a private settling of accounts. A hundred thousand voices cried out: "They are innocent." And stupidly you answered: "We are punishing two of our citizens according to our laws. It's none of your business."

Well, now, that's just it — the Rosenberg case is our business: innocents who are sent to their death are the business of the whole world. The spokesman of the Vatican himself was saying only last Thursday "Civilization has before it a choice on which depends its acquittal or its condemnation." Everywhere people cried out to you: "Watch out! You judge yourselves in judging them; we shall have to decide whether you are men or beasts."

Do you understand now why we begged you for a new trial? When we asked for justice for the Rosenbergs we meant also: "Make sure that your cause is just." When we begged you to spare their lives, it meant also: "Spare your own." Now that we have been made your

allies, the fate of the Rosenbergs could be a preview of our own future. You, who claim to be masters of the world, had the opportunity to prove that you were first of all masters of yourselves. But if you gave in to your criminal folly, this very folly might tomorrow throw us headlong into a war of extermination. No one in Europe was duped; whether you gave life or death to the Rosenbergs was the measure of whether you were preparing for peace or world war.

There had been the sinister closing of MacArthur, the bombings on the Yala, McCarran's cops: each time you double-crossed Europe and stood alone. And yet, your friends kept a small hope: if our governments were not able to get across their points of view it was because they disagreed among themselves. It was because France had not stood by England, it was because they were not backed by the people. But yesterday, it was the whole of Europe that moved as one—its masses, its priests, its cabinet ministers, its heads of state—to ask your President to make the simplest gesture of humanity.

We were not asking you for dollars, nor for armaments, nor for your soldiers; only for two lives, two innocent lives.

Have you even understood the scope of this extraordinary truth? Class conflicts, the oldest bitterness—all were set aside: the Rosenbergs had produced European unity. One word from you, and you too would have reaped the benefits of this unification. The whole of Europe would have honored you. You answered: "To hell with Europe." Very well. But don't come to us any more with talk of an alliance. Allies consult one another, talk matters over, make mutual concessions. If you answer "No" when all we ask you is not to dishonor yourselves to no purpose, how can we believe that you will allow us to speak out when our larger interests are at stake?

Us, your allies? Cut it out! Our governments today are your domestic servants. Tomorrow our people will be your victims. It's as simple as that. Of course you will come out with shameful excuses: your President couldn't grant clemency to the Rosenbergs, he had to lighten the load in order to impose his will in Korea. In Korea? When are you kidding? He is being mocked every

day there by his own generals and by old Syngman Rhee.

And what sort of country is this, whose statesmen are obliged to commit ritual murders so that they should be forgiven for stopping a war?

We know now what kind of weight we amount to in your scales. On one side you put the world—on the other, McCarthy. When the Rosenbergs sat in the electric chair, the scales were down on the side of McCarthy.

Do you believe we are going to die for McCarthy? Bleed from every artery to give him a European Army? Do you believe we are going to defend the culture of McCarthy? The justice of McCarthy? That we shall let Europe be turned into a battlefield so that this blood-stained inebriate can burn books? Please understand this right now: Never shall we hand the leadership of the

western world to the murderers of the Rosenbergs.

You say that McCarthy will pass and that you are secretly planning his downfall? So what then? Your McCarthy has millions of heads. Chop one off and a hundred will sprout.

Look—I have before me on my table a photo taken last Thursday in Washington: well-fed and well-dressed men, elegant young women, are marching by asking for the execution of the Rosenbergs. In the foreground a young and pretty girl carries a sign: "Fry them and send the bodies to Moscow."

You saw these people walk in your streets at the very moment when a man and his wife were living their last hours in prison, when two desperate children were asking in vain that their parents should be returned to them. You saw them laugh, shout, wave their signs

Yanks See Themselves As Others See Them

In a recent column by Hearst writer Victor Riesel, he deplors the fact that "we couldn't win a popularity contest with a loudest swam in any country. No one knows really why — but one thing is certain. We're disliked. We're resented. Some psychiatrist will have to explain why."

Mr. Riesel goes on to show how our civilian construction workers are treated like pariahs on the streets of Iceland. "The phrase 'Jousy Americans,' says Victor, "is standard jargon." When an American GI enters an English pub, these present turn their backs on him. In France and India buses carrying American construction workers are stoned. In Japan, farmers turn out with straw mat flags — traditional symbols of farmer opposition — to protest our confined presence in their country. Beatings and physical assaults of all kinds are common in all these countries, with local authorities doing very little to afford police protection.

Things have come to such a pass in England, Riesel notes, that even a paper like the TRIBUNE, Bevan's mouthpiece, editorially begged its readers "not to turn on their heels in railroad stations when our men asked directions."

Riesel says he is bewildered by all this. So perhaps it is necessary to explain to him that the war ended eight years ago, and our air bases and our soldiers have long ago worn out their welcome. Furthermore, nobody wants to be "yanked" into war — and it wouldn't seem to require the digging of a psychiatrist to understand why.

For years now they have been carrying signs all over the world saying "Yank, Go Home". Maybe they really mean it.

(Reprinted from "Yer's Voice.")

and banners — and there wasn't one among you to go and bash their heads in. Decidedly there is something rotten in America.

Don't tell us these are only a few excitable persons, irresponsible elements. These are the very masters of the country, for it is to them that your government has given in. Do you remember Nuremberg and your theories on collective responsibility? Well, today it applies to you. You are collectively responsible for the death of the Rosenbergs, some for having sponsored this murder, the rest for having suffered it. You have allowed America to become the cradle of a new fascism. It will be useless to explain to us that this single murder is not comparable to Hitler's mass exterminations. Fascism is not defined by the number of its victims but by the manner in which they are killed.

And why this rage unleashed against a man and a woman about to die? Why this hatred which has dumbfounded the world?

Why—because you had got the notion they wanted to take your bomb! You will not rest until you are the only ones capable of blowing up the earth. President Eisenhower counted in tens of millions the innocent victims of the Rosenbergs: each one of you feels already that he is one of the dead in the war to come. Dead people it is who asked for death, last Thursday, for the thieves of the atomic secret.

Unfortunately, when we look at you from Europe we see you neither as innocents nor as corpses. We see lost two innocent corpses — your victims. As for the atomic secret, it is the fruit of your sick imaginations: science develops everywhere at the same rhythm, and the manufacture of bombs is a mere matter of industrial capacities.

By killing the Rosenbergs you have quite simply tried to halt the progress of science by human sacrifice. Magic witch-burns, auto-da-fés, sacrifices — we are here getting to the point: your country is sick with fear. You are afraid of everything: of the Soviets, of the Chinese, of the Europeans. You are afraid of one another, you are afraid of the shadow of your own bomb. Some allies we have!

Jean-Paul Sartre, the world-famous French novelist and playwright is, as everyone knows from his books, anti-Communist. We are, therefore, glad to reprint here his article, written after the execution of the Rosenbergs and published in the New York National Guardian, since it is in effect an answer to a critic of "Fighting Talk" who accused us of being "mechanically anti-American."

The Editorial Committee of "Fighting Talk" urges its readers to make a determined effort to procure publications which guarantee a "round view", a vision of "both sides of the question."

And you want to lead the way for us! You are dragging us into war through terror — a war you would promptly lose through panic at the first bombardment. I know there are brave people in your country: the lawyer for the Rosenbergs, for instance, this very man who was saying yesterday: "I am ashamed of being an American." Justice Douglas, whom you are no doubt going to persecute. The people of the Rosenberg Committee, hundreds of thousands of others. But what can they all do but head towards martyrdom?

And then there are the masses — still basically healthy, although befuddled by you. There are the Negroes whom you oppress. And above all, there is that small voice which was stifled yesterday, yet which can be heard better than your ranting — the voice speaking these wonderful words: "We are young, and we do not want to die, but we cannot pay this price for our lives."

After all, the Rosenbergs are Americans — and if we can still have some hope, it is because your country gave birth to this man and this woman whom you have killed.

Some day, perhaps, all these people of goodwill will cure you of your fears. We hope so, for we have loved you.

Meanwhile do not be astonished if we cry out from one end of Europe to the other: "Watch out! America has the rabies! Cut all the ties which bind us to her, otherwise we will in turn be bitten and run mad!"

SCHOEMAN SCABS!

THE Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Bill is a shocking piece of draft legislation, no matter what criterion of judgment one uses. More than any other Bill or Act yet framed, perhaps, it exemplifies the incredible depths of race prejudices to which our legislation has sunk. Consider this brief exchange between Mr. Davidoff and the Minister of Labour during the Committee stage of the Bill:

Mr. D. "... this clause (forbidding strikes and lock-outs) could deprive European workers of the right to strike under the I.C. Act.

Minister: "If they are sympathetic strikers, yes.

Mr. D.: "The strike is the one weapon the workers have to improve their conditions."

Minister: "I am not touching that (!)"

The above exchange, it is emphasized, was part of a debate on a clause in the Bill categorically depriving the vast majority of South African workers of the right to withhold their labour under any circumstances whatever. And yet the Minister says, "I am not touching that (right)."

The inference is clear: the Minister does not regard the African as a "worker" — any more than he would regard an ox as a "worker" — because he does not regard him as a man. He is a beast of burden, a creature without wit or moral sense, who shall merely toil and labour beneath a yoke designed to quell his savagery.

AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS.

This attitude is implicit not only in the Minister's incredible retort, but in almost every clause of the Bill itself.

In substituting ministerial decree for traditional conciliation the Bill implies that the African is incapable of reasoned conduct or argument and is unable to judge that which is in his own best interests. But in being charged with a breach of the terms of the Bill, it presumes him guilty unless he can prove himself innocent. In the same way, if one found an ox standing beside a broken fence, one would "presume" the ox to be guilty of breaking it. The "crime" of "instigating" a strike carries a very heavy penalty (£500 or 3 years or both) for it is a serious offence, is it not, for one to encourage a wild beast to vent its savage anger!

At no place in the Bill does it take cognisance of African points of view or opinions, for, in excluding all Africans from the I.C. Act and in withholding

recognition from African trade unions, it stifles all such expression of opinion before it can be voiced. It would almost seem as though the Minister resents in the African the human faculty of speech and is impelled to deprive him of his tongue.

If this attitude were confined to the Minister and his henchmen one could, maybe, dismiss it as a strange mental disease gnawing at the brains of the men in the Government benches. Unfortunately, however, the disease seems to have spread to all sides of the house. It was painful, for example, to read of Mrs. Ballinger, who by all that she has said and done before, might have been presumed to know better, referring to the Bill as "a step in the right direction." Mr. Davidoff himself, in his contribution to the discussion, seems to have been less concerned with the deprivation of the rights of the many as with the preservation of the privileges of the few. Thus he concentrated his attention on that clause (clause 13) which empowers the Minister to apply certain orders under the Bill to European workers too. Mr. Davidoff is, of course, rightly concerned with the fact that the Bill, if it becomes law, represents a threat to the living standards of all wage earners irrespective of colour. But mere logic must, surely, inform him that the only way to secure living standards is to extend the full rights of Trade Unions to all sections of the working class.

MR. TIGHY.

Of the contribution of the United Party members to the debate, there is little to be said, and one says that little with shame. Mr. Tighy set the tone when he stated that his party considered the

threat of the Trades and Labour Council to appeal to the United Nations against the Bill most "unpatriotic, un-South-African and ridiculous."

If the import and purpose of this Bill is, in fact, "patriotic and South African" who, among men of decency and goodwill, would wish to be "South African". But let Mr. Tighy and his ilk bring dishonour and derision down upon themselves with their peculiar brand of South African patriotism. We have another brand of our own, a patriotism which is based on the dignity and right of all South Africans. And it is because we believe that our patriotism is the kind which is still dear to the vast majority of South Africans, that we are convinced that this Bill, even should it become law, will last no longer than the vicious men who made it.

And that is not very long.

PROUD RECORD—Continued from page 1)

vices Committee. Was appointed to serve on the Government's Committee of Inquiry into the conditions of ex-service farmers on the irrigated settlements. Two years ago the Legion's National Conference elected him National Chairman.

His interest in play-productions continued and he co-produced with Bruce Anderson "Home of the Brave". Subsequently he presented the challenging "Deep are the Roots" in Johannesburg and Cape Town, followed by "Montserrat" and "Liliom." Recently gained high honours for his production of "Winterset" for the Johannesburg Repertory Players.

As Vice-Chairman of the Congress of Democrats has played his part in the development of that organisation and, as an Executive Member of the Civil Rights League (Witwatersrand) made a big contribution to that organisation's campaign against the removal of the Coloured voters from the common roll.

His favourite quotation from the poem, "The Young Dead Soldiers":

"We have done what we could,
But until it is finished, it is not done.
We have given our lives,
But until it is finished, no one can know
What our lives gave.



THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

WE are making progress towards the New Organisation! The shape of it is beginning to emerge. It can be seen in the establishment of new Congress of Democrats Branches and in the joint activity of the Legion and the Congress. New branches are being established as rapidly as funds and organising personnel permit. The latest report reflects twelve branches in Johannesburg, one at Benoni and one in Durban. Arrangements are underway to establish branches in Pretoria, Vereeniging and Germiston. The potential on the Reef and in Johannesburg is by no means exhausted and there is every prospect of more branches being established in the coming weeks.

An organiser is now in Port Elizabeth and there should be a branch there by the time this issue of "Fighting Talk" is available to readers.

The Democratic League in Cape Town has amended its constitution to bring it into line with that proposed for the new organisation. It is undertaking a recruiting and organisational programme and will be sending delegates to the conference which is to constitute the New Organisation in October.

NEW MEMBERS.

The organised membership is creeping up. It is now in the vicinity of 500 members, excluding whatever has been done by the Democratic League. Until now no real emphasis has been placed on recruiting members. It has been placed on organising branches. All those who are interested are now being invited to become members. Legion members and others who wish to join should apply to the Legion office for membership application forms.

The General Meeting of Johannesburg Legion members resolved to accept a major responsibility for bringing the new organisation into existence. Members present contributed £101 towards the project.

The General Meeting of the Johannesburg members of the Congress of Democrats adopted a similar resolution and members present made a contribution of £105.

All the Branches have undertaken to raise £40 each through fund-raising activity towards the target of £3,500, estimated as necessary to complete the project. Already some of those branches

have begun to make good their undertaking.

It is in the joint activity perhaps, in its nature, form and variety, that the shape of the new organisation can best be seen.

ACTIVITY.

In the month that has elapsed since the two organisations committed themselves to the task of bringing into existence a new National organisation they have undertaken joint activity in respect of a considerable number of issues. There have been joint protests and campaigns. Some have involved little effort and some required the exercise of all our resources. Evidence was submitted to the Land Tenure Advisory Board opposing the application of the Group Areas Act to Nylstroom and Brits.

The Legion and the Congress have embarked on a campaign to enlighten the white citizens of Johannesburg as to the moral implications, political, economic and social consequences of the Western Areas Removal Scheme and to mobilise them in opposition to it.

Evidence in opposition to the removal of Brian Bunting from Parliament was submitted to the Select Committee which was set up in terms of the Suppression of Communism Act.

Protests were made to the Minister of Labour against the Native Labour Disputes Bill. Protests were made to the Minister of Finance against the Bread Tax.

The Legion and the Congress participated in the Conference to establish a South African Peace Movement.

UNITED NATIONS.

Evidence was submitted to the United Nations Organisation Commission Investigating Racialism in South Africa. (Copies of the memorandum submitted are available to members at a nominal charge of 2/6 each).

The Legion and the Congress are now undertaking a campaign of protest against the attacks on civil liberties.

Protests have been lodged against the Banning of the Chairman of the Congress, Mr. A. Fischer, the Native Education Bill, and the powers of the Minister of Native Affairs in respect of the leasing of land to churches, as

reported in the "Rand Daily Mail" of 20th August.

These are some of the many things that have been taken up and about which something was done.

The shape of the new organisation looms out of the future. It is an organisation founded on the firm rock of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: an organisation working in alliance with the African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress, and the South African Peoples' Organisation, capable of making an even greater impact on the present trends and of winning growing numbers of white South Africans to the struggle for Democracy, real democracy, in South Africa.

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FOR BUNTING AGAINST the BUNDESTAG

The following memorandum was submitted to the Select Committee appointed by the Government to enquire into the position of Brian Bunting, M.P.

The Springbok Legion of Ex-servicemen and women protests strongly against the proceedings of the Select Committee appointed to enquire into the position of Mr. B. P. Bunting, M.P., in terms of Section 5 (i) of the Suppression of Communism Act.

We protest, firstly, because we reject the principle that legislatures are entitled to decide what political opinions shall be permitted and what opinions shall be prohibited. We regard freedom of speech and opinion as the cornerstones, not only of parliamentary democracy, but of civilisation itself. For these reasons, we are totally opposed to the Suppression of Communism Act in all its provisions.

Secondly, we regard the present proceedings as a particularly grave violation of democratic principle, because they strike at the rights, not only of the member of Parliament concerned, but also of all his constituents. A member of Parliament does not go to Parliament merely for his personal ends, nor is his right to sit and speak there a merely personal right. It represents the right of his constituents to have a voice in the government of the country. A vote which can be exercised only to choose a member regarded by the ruling party as politically orthodox is a mockery of the vote. An electorate whose representatives are submitted to a political censorship is for all practical purposes disfranchised.

We contend that the present proceedings take the violation of democratic principles still further than did the expulsion of Mr. Kahn from the House of Assembly. Mr. Kahn was elected to the House as a candidate of the Communist Party. While we do not concede that this fact afforded any valid reason for his expulsion, it nevertheless differentiates his case entirely from that of Mr. Bunting. Mr. Bunting was elected as an independent, long after the Communist Party had been dissolved. If he had advocated Communism in his election propaganda or in the course of his activities as a member, he would have been prosecuted. In fact he did not do so and can be brought within the ambit of the Act only by reason of his past associations.

The implications of the present proceedings are, then, that anybody who has once belonged to a party which the government subsequently sees fit to ban, remains a political outlaw for life. The religious persecutions of four hundred years ago did not go to this length and nothing of the kind has ever been known in a country purporting to be a parliamentary democracy.

In conclusion, we wish to record our conviction that Parliament has no authority to embark upon proceedings of this kind, because by so doing it strikes at the very source of its own right to govern. The right of Parliament to rule depends upon its claim to represent the

will of the electorate. If it takes to itself the right to veto the choice of the electorate, to set bounds to the wishes the electorate may express, it destroys its own foundation. It becomes a usurper, self-appointed and self-perpetuating obeyed only while it has power to enforce obedience.

The expulsion of one member among 159 may seem a trivial matter, yet it represents the crossing of the line between two irreconcilable alternatives. Either Parliament exists to represent the people's will, whatever that may be, or it seeks to be master of the people and to rule by no authority but its own. The expulsion of Mr. Bunting will be a signal that the South African Parliament has chosen the latter fatal course.

For these reasons we call upon the Select Committee to terminate its proceedings immediately.

VOTE FOR PEACE!

Issued by the Peace Councils of South Africa.

There is a new and dreadful threat to the people of South Africa in the event of another world war. The centre of South Africa's industry and its most populous area — the Witwatersrand — has become, through its production of uranium for atom bombs, a direct target for bomb attacks on a mass scale. Our concern in fighting to maintain peace now has a greater personal urgency.

We South Africans believe that war can be prevented. There is no problem between nations that should be settled by armed force. There is no problem that cannot be settled by negotiation.

Nothing must now stand in the way of the Big Powers coming together to settle their differences peacefully and to seek peaceful solutions to all matters of dispute between them. We earnestly request the Government of South Africa to press for and support Big Power talks and to use its offices in all ways to prevent war.

We call on the people of South Africa to support this principle and to join in the world-wide demand that the horror of war should be wiped forever from this earth.

SIGN this ballot form.

Do you think the South African Government should press for and support negotiations between the Big Powers to settle their disputes peacefully?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Undecided.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Undecided.
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Signature.....		

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BUT TO BE YOUNG!

AT last our time has come! For years we have had to satisfy ourselves by listening to the exciting stories of the small band of South Africans who have been lucky enough to carry the green-and-gold at the Youth Festivals in Prague, Budapest and Berlin. We have had to capture, second-hand, the atmosphere of vast cultural and sporting gatherings, drawn from the young people of every land under the sun, in the midst of an irresistible surge of feelings of peace and inter-nation friendship which have drawn people from all over the globe to those Youth Festival centres.

Now, in our own small way, we will be able to start living through such a festival for ourselves, in our own home town. On September 26th and 27th, the Youth Festival message of Peace, Friendship and Racial Harmony will be translated into the reality of experience at the first South African Festival week-end camp.

On the Saturday afternoon when the Festival starts, there will be massed choirs, singing the songs of democratic youth of all lands; runners carrying messages of greeting from many parts of the Transvaal will arrive at the camp. Dinner will be served at international restaurants, and to follow it up in the evening there will be a concert of folk-songs, folk dancing, poetry and traditional drama. For the youngest and fittest, all-night dancing, with a braaivleis to keep the flesh from flagging, goes on from 11 p.m. till the sun comes up.

And on Sunday morning there is sport. Football, athletics, hockey on a strictly non-racial basis will be the main activities, and, just for the laughs, a "Youth vs. The Rest" soccer match exclusively for those who have never played the game before. Several Legionnaires nearing decrepitude by Youth Movement standards are slated to represent the Veterans in one of the morning games.

And — all this and pageants too. A grand pageant of solidarity with the young people of all lands will wind the week-end up. Youth — so the organisers are at pains to point out, especially for Legionnaires — is an elastic term; the festival is "open to the young in spirit, even though not qualified by the tenderness of their years". An invitation to participate is open to all Legionnaires, details from the office. Praise the Lord, and pass the applications.

EYEWITNESS

This is how a Legionnaire writes of the World Youth Festival in Bucharest, from which he has recently returned:

"Those hot dusty streets, the swarms of people suddenly clustering around something interesting, like ants suddenly diverted by a lump of sugar. The gaiety, spontaneity and lust for life implicit in the warm handshakes and interest in other people's worlds A whole country participated with us. It was not only youth's occasion, but a time for enjoyment of a whole people, and in particular, a whole city. This was particularly in evidence the way they crowded into every theatre, every place of amusement, every hall and sports ground. We, the visitors, saw our share of the shows; but we did so with the local people. Then, on the final day, the crowds were so thick in the streets down which we were marching that on some occasions the whole procession was reduced to walking in single file, shaking hands and exchanging slogans, wishing each other good luck and goodbye.

Things were different . . . being in one of the most backward areas of Europe, and seeing what they can do in so short a time, and comparing it with home, thinking of the things we shall be able to do; because the amazing part is we are more highly industrialised than they, and do have some resources they lack, although apparently there is not much in the way of raw materials that has to be imported"

APPEAL TO YOU . . .

THE banning of our National Chairman, Cecil Williams, brings fascism to the very doorsteps of our Organisation. It is a grievously tragic commentary on our times that it should be possible for an organisation, composed of men and women who threw everything they had into the struggle against nazism, to be attacked by a government composed of men who at the time called us "red lice".

But the Legion, with its twelve years of unrivalled activity in the world-wide cause of democracy, must not falter for one instant. From our own ranks must come the new energies, new voices, new resources. When the Allied fortunes were at their lowest, we spurned the suggestion of a 'negotiated peace', and we held on and fought back to final and complete victory. The pattern of resistance, of hanging on and taking up again the offensive, applies equally to the democratic forces in South Africa today.

The Springbok Legion appeals to every single one of its members to stand firm on our basic principles, to encourage others to do likewise and to support the Legion more vigorously than ever. In this respect we invite you to give a token of your good faith by making an immediate, substantial contribution to the Legion's 'Fighting Funds'. Make a gesture in appreciation of Cecil Williams's years of sincere and selfless work, of his two-year leadership of our honoured and honourable Organisation. We appeal to you carefully to assess your financial potential to give to the Fund as generously and quickly as you are able. The struggle goes on . . . with **YOUR** help!

**SUPPORT
the
RED CROSS**



Dear Sir,

The un-signed article "Speaking for the Natives" in your July issue calls for comment. Your informant writes that the Liberal Party "has taken up the white man's burden", that "by all accounts it already has a handful of non-European members," but that "it is a far cry from this to the claim that the Party represents the viewpoint of non-Europeans generally . . ." Later on he says that "Unlike the Liberal Party, the Congress of Democrats claims not to speak FOR but WITH the non-European people . . ." And further on he writes about the "traditional trend of white South African politics, be they the U.P., Nat. or Liberal Party variety." For good measure the Labour Party, too, is thrown into the pot in the next paragraph.

Having had a good grounding by reading a lot of the Goebbels variety of this sort of journalistic cant, I need hardly ask your informant for his authority to state that the Liberal Party claims to "speak for the Natives." He has, of course, NO FACTS to substantiate his theories. Nevertheless, he presents his phantasies as facts and proceeds to draw his conclusions, as if his premises were true which they are not. He makes claims for the Liberal Party which this party has never made itself and he throws the Liberal Party into one pot with Nats., U.P. and Labourites, as if there were no differences between the three older parties and the new Party.

I protest against this kind of cheap journalism which smells too much of the practices of the totalitarian press (the bigger the lie, the easier will it be believed) to find room in "Fighting Talk". As you have allowed your informant almost a whole page for his unfounded assertions, you should, in all fairness, publish the Congress Resolutions on the Party's relations with non-Europeans which I enclose.

Yours sincerely,

GERHARD COHN.

IN DEFENCE OF LIBERALS

1. This Conference of the Liberal Party of South Africa expresses its profound sympathy with the aspirations of all non-European peoples for their economic, social, educational and political advance and their desire for liberation from those restrictions and humiliations which should not be suffered by any human being.
2. This Conference deplores the fact that non-Europeans enjoy no adequate constitutional means of expressing their just grievances and having them redressed, and the Party pledges itself to work for the provision of such constitutional means.
3. This Conference protests against the Government measures which are making it increasingly difficult for the leaders of the A.N.C. and other non-European organisations representative of the non-European peoples, to discharge their responsibilities to their members and to the country. The Party considers the existing policy of rendering non-European leadership ineffective to be both unjust and dangerous to us all.
4. This Conference regards individual membership of the Liberal Party as compatible with membership of the A.N.C. as at present constituted.
5. This Conference recognises the importance of consultation with all representative non-European organisations, and of collaboration wherever this is possible and necessary, and instructs the National Committee to set up forthwith machinery to carry out these recommendations as speedily as possible.
6. This Conference suggests that this machinery should be both National and Regional in character, but that public pronouncements should be made or approved by the National Committee.

The Party protests against the restrictions placed on the movements of ex-Chief Lethuli, the President of the African National Congress and objects to the description of the President as an inciter of feelings of racial hostility.

Sir,

Permit me to ignore reader Cohn's abusive tone, which serves only to prove that he writes with more heat and less careful consideration than the author of the article in question. Temper misleads his judgement.

Every national political party, after all, stakes its claim to governmental power; and the basis of that claim is that the party should speak not just for its own members but for the country and the nation as a whole. In this sense, every political party in South Africa claims — by its very existence if not by its words — that it speaks for the nation, including the eight million black men who are the majority of the citizens. The Liberal Party cannot, and does not, claim that it is the premier organisation of the majority of the South African citizens, nor does it claim to have arisen in response to the needs and desires of that majority. In the circumstances, every time the Liberal Party advances its claims to state office, it is claiming to "speak for the natives", in the same colour-blind arrogance as enables the older parties to stake the same claims with even less justification.

Can reader Cohn advance a single good reason why the Liberal Party's policy of a 'qualified' vote for non-Europeans is not merely a variant of the "traditional trend of white South African politics", which recognises that black men exist, but regrets that things being what they are, only second-class, "qualified" citizenship can be extended to them.

Finally, may I make it clear that the anonymity of the article referred to was the fault of the Editor, and not the writer.

Yours, etc.,

L. BERNSTEIN.

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GOING OUR WAY

Sir,

I must apologise for not replying to your circular earlier, but the position is bewildering. I have had to give up my seafaring on account of ill-health, but have recovered sufficiently to attend meetings, etc.

For a number of years I have been more interested in economics than politics. It seems to me that no difference has existed between the policies of one Minister of Finance and another. They have all kept the people slaves to the money-lenders. Until we have a Government with sufficient courage and knowledge to enable it to establish state issue of currency and credit, the rich, as now, will be getting richer and the poor, as at present, getting poorer.

In regard to the need for a national organisation among whites, I am in entire agreement with you. There is no question of doubt that the two major political parties in Parliament have no intention of stopping the growth of fascism in South Africa . . .

Well, I must close, hoping that we shall achieve something to enable us to stop the drift back to the dark ages.

Yours, etc.,

CHARLES B. MUSSARED.

Cape Town.

STOP THE DRIFT

Sir,

After reading the article, "Forward to the Offensive," I am thoroughly convinced of the necessity and practicability of the new national democratic organisation that the Legion is trying to bring about. The article reflects exactly

my own feelings that there ARE white South Africans who believe in and are prepared to practise the policy of full equality — and many more than previous years have led us to believe. I am with you 100 per cent.

Yours, etc.,

Cleveland.

R. G. BASSON.

TOO FAR?

Sir,

A reply to your leader in the July issue of "Fighting Talk".

The main point is you ask the acceptance of equality without qualification for all adults regardless of colour or race. That, it seems to me, is going too fast. For I fear you will at once incur the opposition of a large number of those who are opposed to the present fascist regime, yet are not prepared to go beyond a civilised qualification . . .

My personal opinion is that there should be qualifications for all voters. There are quite a few 'white' as well as non-white Europeans who are incapable at present of having or expressing an opinion. But it is not a question of colour but of competency.

Yours, etc.,

E. H. BAZELEY.

Grahamstown.

(Who judges competency and with what criteria? In S.A., where educational opportunities are not equally available, is it democratic to deprive the 'un-educated' of a say in the government? Illiteracy has not yet been accepted in Europe as a disqualification for the franchise. The argument of 'competency' was used throughout the 19th cen-

tury and has been used so far in this century to withhold the vote from the working-class — and from women, as a group!.)—Editor.

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Col. William H. Neblitt, who has retired after 34 years in the Army, exposes the hoax of the "red menace" in a book entitled, "Pentagon Politics." Col. Neblitt, an air base commander under MacArthur, and a former National President of the Reserve Officers Association, speaks bluntly.

He charges the Pentagon with conducting a fear campaign that "has succeeded beyond the fondest hopes of the General Staff", and "has converted these fears into military control of our nation . . .

"Peacetime conscription puts every man of military age under the control of the Pentagon. If the Pentagon and certain politicians can keep the fear of communistic aggression fresh in the

public's mind a few years longer, all our men of military age and many of our women will belong to the professional armies. We will then be a military state similar to that of Hitler's, with which he terrorized the world.

"All of us should know that the Pentagon's claim, that our government is in danger of being overthrown by a communistic revolution here at home, is nonsense. War with Russia is extremely unlikely . . . The fear of a Russian attack will pass as soon as the public understands that the fear under which we live was generated by the Pentagon to frighten Congress into authorizing our big professional army . . .

"The power of the military caste must be curbed at once."

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Unless otherwise stated, J. Podbrey, 5 Somerset House, Fox Street, Johannesburg, is responsible for all political matter in this issue.