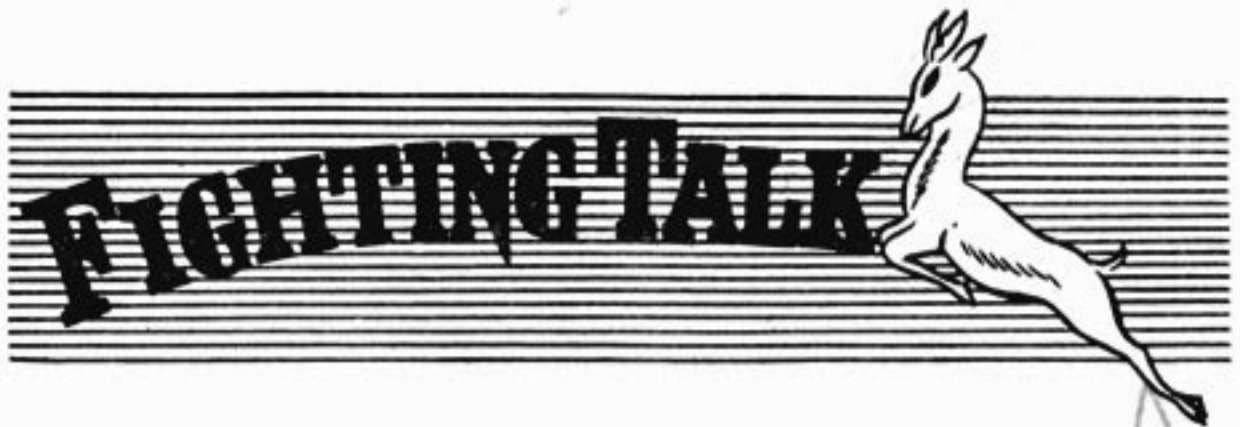


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Vol. VIII. No. 10.

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION.

Redaksioneel

DIE DEKMANTEL

KLASIE HAVENGA is 'n man van beginsels. Altans dit is wat mnr. Havenga en sy volgelinge graag wil hê dat die kiesers moet glo. Die teenwoordigheid van mnr. Havenga in die regering word dan ook steeds voorgehou as waarborg vir die behoud van die demokrasie in Suid-Afrika.

Klasie Havenga is die man op wie die mantel van wyle Generaal Hertzog geval het, 'n mantel wat onder andere as waarborg dien dat die regte van minderheidsgroepe in Suid-Afrika beskerm sal word.

En van hierdie minderheids groepe is die Kaapse Kleurling bevolking, en die stemreg wat hulle tans geniet is 'n gevestigde reg wat terug dateer na die tyd toe vrye regering toe gestaan is aan die ou Kaap-Kolonie, 'n gevestigde reg wat deur die Nasionale Konvensie erken is, 'n gevestigde reg waarvan wyle Generaal Hertzog steeds geweier het om te torring, 'n gevestigde reg wat Dr. Malan eenmal in sy veelsydige politieke loopbaan wou uitbrei om die kleurling vrou in te sluit.

Dieselfde Dr. Malan wat eenmal so as kampvegter vir die kleurling stemreg opgetree het, en dieselfde Mnr. Havenga, op wie die sogenaamde mantel van Generaal Hertzog geval het, het nou na 'n jaar lange skyngeweg wat

alleen bedoel kan wees om die publiek 'n rad voor die oë te draai, besluit om na willekeur veranderinge aan te bring in hierdie gevestigde reg van die Kleurling bevolking.

Onthou dat hierdie besluit geneem is sonder raadpleging met die Kleurlinge en sonder dat hulle medewerking of toestemming op enige wyse probeer verkry is, en met die volle wete dat hulle bitter teen so 'n stap gekant is.

Die twee groot manne van beginsel van die Nasionale en Afrikaner partye doen hierdie stap onder voorwendsel dat dit tot voordeel van 'n groep mense is wat nooit daarom gevra het, en wat soos ons reeds gesê het bitter daarteen gekant is. Vir ons klink dit na Politieke huigelary op sy ergste.

Om terug te keur tot Mnr. Havenga en die mantel van Generaal Hertzog, moet ons aanneem dat hy nou die mantel waarop hy blykbaar so trots was verwerp het, of het sy liefde vir die Nasionalisme van die gesuiwerde Nasionale party hom gedwing om eindelijk in sy ware kleure te voorskyn te tree. Persoonlik dink ons dat hierdie tweede gevolgtrekking die regte is.

Reeds na sy Brakpanse toespraak het „Fighting Talk" gewaarsku dat Mnr. Havenga as sogenaamde kampvegter vir die kleurling en Naturelle stemreg blote politieke oëverblindery is, en dat sy teenwoordigheid binne die regering geensins dien as waarborg dat die gevestigde regte van minderheidsgroepe

beskerm sal word, of dat die demokratiese beginsel gehandhaaf sal word nie. Ons het destyds as rede aangevoer dat Mnr. Havenga geensins in beginsel van die Nasionaliste verskil nie. Wat die afgelope week gebeur het bewys maar net hoe reg ons was.

Klasie Havenga sal in die geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika onthou word. Hy sal onthou word as die man wie se optrede blank Suid-Afrika skuldig gemaak het aan politieke trou-breuk, in die ergste graad. Hy sal onthou word as die man wat die naam en ideale van een van Suid-Afrika se grootste manne (Generaal Hertzog) gebruik het om die blanke publiek van Suid-Afrika 'n rad voor die oë te draai.

Gaan Suid-Afrika toelaat dat Mnr. Havenga hulle op hierdie wyse in die oë van die wêreld skade aandoen? Dit hang af van wat elkeen van ons wat glo in die demokrasie in die volgende paar maande gaan doen. Ons weier om te glo dat die Nasionale regering in Mnr. Havenga in hierdie saak die breë volkswil vertolk, en doen 'n beroep op U, geagte leser, om hulle dit op ondubbelzinnige wyse aan die man te bring.

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YOU'RE TELLING US

Letters to the Editor



The United Party and the Urban Voter

I WAS delighted to see in your last issue of "Fighting Talk" a forthright letter to Mr. Strauss from a group of Ex-servicemen. It contained much honest thinking and an admirable analysis of the needs and attitudes of the farming and the urban communities.

The idea that the United Party should frankly set out to become an urban industrial party is an excellent one. It would then have far greater cohesion and unity of mind than it has now. The fundamental fault of the Party to-day is that it tries to cater for too wide a range of opinions and attitudes, from hot reactionaries to liberals. It cannot speak with one voice except negatively in opposition to the Nationalists. Thus it is that it seems so difficult to get the United Party to produce a constructive policy. If it limited its scope and ceased to appease rural voters, it would immediately be in a position to fashion a progressive and constructive policy. At present it falls between two stools and tries to offer a political home to farmer and industrialist alike despite the fact that their aims for the future of South Africa are fundamentally divergent.

Industry is undoubtedly more progressive than agriculture and is becoming more so as the industrialist begins to realise that he needs efficient labour — thus the need for decent homes and schools for Africans — while the farmer blithely continues along the old, inefficient path, bolstered up by subsidies from a farmer's government. A Party which drew its inspiration from the cities would not only result in a progressive industrial policy, but in a progressive native policy and, surely, even a progressive agricultural policy. That would be an immense step forward in South Africa.

There are, however, a few words of caution which I feel constrained to utter. It would be fatal if a direct attempt was made to play the city-dweller off against

the farmer. What is needed in South Africa is a clearer appreciation by the farming community of the value of secondary industry and other city businesses, not a sharp antagonism between town and country. While the United Party should set out to become an urban industrial Party, it should not do this by creating two camps. In some measure that would be unavoidable but the right tactics could minimise the rift and maintain the goodwill of many farmers.

One must not forget, too, the solid core of the United Party voters in most rural constituencies. These supporters who are overwhelmed by Nationalists in their constituencies, are far more solid in their support of the United Party than most city-dwellers who have never had to endure the hostility which United Party supporters in the country have met with in every walk of life. These supporters are worth their weight in gold and the Party should not forsake them. It has no need to do so, for one can presume that they are enlightened voters who would see, if they were sympathetically handled, that the United Party can be much more effective and much more likely to achieve a better South Africa if it honestly shaped its policy to meet the urban and industrial voter.

Finally, a warning must go out that a policy which failed to appeal to the worker in industry as well as the owner and shareholder, would be bound to fail. A rift between worker and owner would be even more disastrous than a rift between town and country. It should not, however, prove difficult to frame a policy which would be to the

best advantage of both groups as both have as their ultimate desire a country in which industry can flourish progressively. The United Party has failed lamentably in the last few years to appeal to the working class while the Nationalists have made much headway on the spurious claim that they are a workers' party. A new United Party policy would have to appeal to the workers if it was to have any hope of success.

These are matters which will have to receive careful consideration. They do not present insuperable difficulties and are certainly no grounds for condemning the basic idea which is undoubtedly a good one. The Springbok Legion has done the country a service by bringing the matter into open forum and I trust that it will not let it rest at that.

Yours etc.,

D.E.

From: K.N., Zululand.

Please find enclosed postal order for 5/- sub. When I am in a better position I will send you 25/- as a Life member. I am glad you are keeping up the good work, as you are about the only ones left against the Nats. and their tripey policies.

Not only the Legion but each one of us must fight against what the Nats. stand for or we shall go under.

I wish I could do more but I live and work far out in the wilds. Wishing you all the best and a better future,

Yours etc.,

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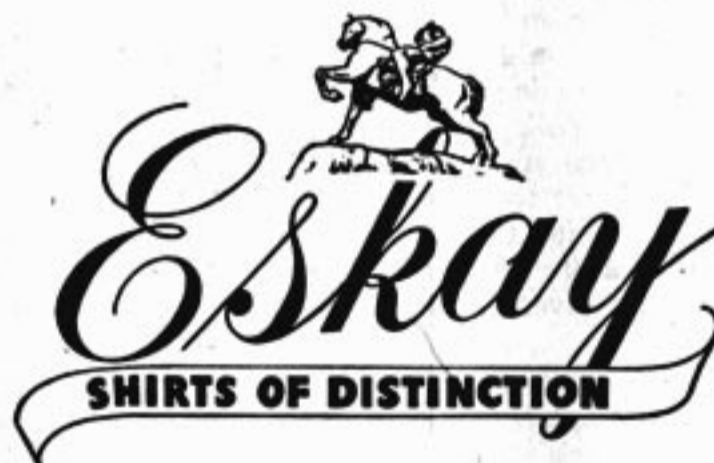
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One Man's Meat

by Herby

ALL THE KING'S MEN:

I HAVE never been able to understand a peculiar feature of "the American way of life." That is, the perverted pride with which they exhibit to the world and themselves the shortcomings and corruption of their politicians, and the phoney basis for many of their democratic institutions.

"All the King's Men" is a recent example of this. It portrays the rise to power of a self-educated "hick" who starts off with great ideals and ends up most corrupt of them all, after using and ruining all the people with whom he came in contact.

The picture was extremely well directed and the characters portrayed were very real, but the story left me feeling somewhat sick in the stomach. There was no moral indicating that honesty is the best policy, but a sort of cynical acceptance of the fact that most public figures are a lot of pigs and that the only fight is to keep other pigs from getting to the trough. There was an undercurrent of defeatism, as though this procedure is inevitable and there was no attempt to disguise the utter contempt of the party hacks for the ordinary people whom they regarded as voting fodder, to be swayed and misled as the situation demanded.

One hears a great deal of talk these days of moral Re-Armament, and it would appear that American public life offers an ideal field for their efforts. A picture such as this must inevitably to some extent reflect the realities of American life, or else it would not have been hailed as one of the best pictures of last year. "All the King's Men" is based on the life of Huey Long, who was shot, at the end of a fantastic career of racketeering, in 1936. His death apparently did not mark the end of an era since as recently as a couple of months ago a large-scale racket, involving the police force of New York, was exposed. This circumstance lends some point to the production of pictures such as "All the King's Men", but then the intention and the emphasis should be very different. In the political field this picture occupies the same position as the pictures during the period of Prohibition, which glorified the gangster and his "moll." For this reason it fails as an incentive for a clean-up of public life in America and may one day be regarded as an interesting museum piece depicting the depraved customs and habits of "the bad old days."

LEGION STATEMENT ON WEICHARDT

NOTING the appointment of Mr. Louis Weichardt as Provincial Organiser for the Nationalist Party in Natal, the Executive Committee of the Springbok Legion has issued the following statement:

We are no longer surprised to find the actions of the Nationalist Party contradicting their leaders' speeches. Latest example is the appointment of Mr. Weichardt as party organiser, at a time when Dr. Malan in Durban is assuring his audience of the Nationalists' adherence to democratic principles.

Mr. Weichardt appeared on the political scene between the wars as a peddler of the Nazi ideology, which in essence was a plan for a dictatorship and the emergence of a herrenvolk with the inevitable persecution of minority groups. Mr. Weichardt was a salesman of anti-semitism. In fact to this day his Greyshirt Movement is remembered solely by its pre-occupation with anti-Jewish propaganda.

Hitler destroyed the German people by doing with his hands what the words of his mouth denied. The Nationalists appear to be using the same technique to destroy the progress the Union has made over thirty years.

We detest Mr. Weichardt's teachings and condemn the Nationalist Party for appointing to a responsible position a self-confessed enemy of democracy.

Johannesburg.

29th September, 1950.

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Should Married Women Work?

A THOUGHT-PROVOKING ANSWER TO AN AGE-OLD QUESTION

by LESLIE ARMSTRONG

"SHOULD women work?" One would have thought that this topic had been decently buried by debating societies twenty years ago but it apparently still lingers on. Today, with few exceptions, all women work before marriage and there are few industries that could carry on efficiently without them.

There is perhaps more point in asking the question, "Can a Mother hold down two jobs adequately?" i.e. can she cope with the work at the office and the work at home, the paid and the unpaid employment. For many women there is no choice; they have to manage the two jobs to help keep the family alive. For some women there is a choice, but many of these prefer working and running a home to the housewife's role, proper. The more highly skilled and trained the woman is, the less will be the attraction of peeling potatoes and wiping babies' noses in Suburbia.

Changes in society, and wars in particular, have forced women out of the kitchen into industry, and by and large women like the change. The structure of the home cannot remain unchanged while all the world outside is changing. When a Mother leaves her children to go out to work, she changes the traditional structure of the home radically, she changes the relationship of husband and wife, of mother to children, and of father to children.

In Victorian times when the father worked anything from ten to fourteen hours a day, his participation in household duties was negligible. At the same time, by virtue of being a bread-winner, he was the undisputed master of the house. Today, when husband and wife both put in a forty-hour week, and often earn similar wages, who is master of the house, who is to do the household chores, who looks after the children? Whereas in Victorian times the position and status of each member in the family was clearly defined, today this is not so. A new family structure is developing, but it has not yet been stabilised. It is a structure in which man and wife attempt to share an equal partnership, in an unequal struggle to restrain and control the surging rights of children. Democratic government has

forced its way into the homes as it has done in society. It is a healthy development, but we are not yet clear on how this domestic parliament should be run

One sees this change in structure and function most clearly in the family where the mother goes to work. "Can it work?" I think the answer is, "Yes, if certain conditions are favourable." The most essential of these is a high level of co-operation and understanding between man and wife. Household duties must be shared and men must take over tasks which the Victorian male might have scorned, such as bathing, dressing, feeding children, taking them to school, putting them to bed, being a motherly type of father, but being no less a man. The working mother, for her part, must remain a mother, a wife, a housekeeper while holding down her outside jobs. If she neglects her home in favour of her jobs, both husband and children will go astray.

The proper care and training of children is perhaps the greatest problem in such a working partnership. There is no doubt that children lose a lot in the home where the mother is away all day. In a badly run working home, the most likely forms of problem behaviour amongst children will be a lack of discipline, too much independence, precocious development, scant regard for parents, inadequate nutrition and, sometimes, delinquent activities. But in clinical work one finds a large proportion of problem children who come from homes where the mothers do not go out to work. It is true that the problems are of a different kind, timidity, anxiety, overattachment to the mother, effeminacy, etc. and the diagnosis is often "too much mother." One has often to advise such mothers to go out to work in order to give the children a chance.

It seems clear, therefore, that the cause of problem behaviour in children

is not inevitably linked with whether the mother works or not, but rather with the nature of the relationship between mother (and father) and the child. Where the working mother is a capable organiser, has real affection for her children, and belongs to them when she is at home, there is every chance of her rearing a pride of healthy, well-adjusted children. Such children often show a remarkable degree of responsibility and independence which stands them in good stead in later life.

One wonders whether the new home, in which both mother and father work, is not producing a new personality, a personality that is better adapted to the struggle for survival in modern civilisation. It is perhaps too early to tell.

Attention Theatre-Goers!

Taubie Kushlick is to produce a play "Power Without Glory" by Michael Clayton Hutton, at the Library Theatre, Johannesburg, from November 7th to November 11th. The Dramateers are putting on the play, giving their services free and all proceeds are to come to the Alexandra Anti-Tuberculosis Association. Tickets can be obtained from the offices at 14, Asher's Buildings, Joubert Street, Johannesburg, and all donations sent there will be gratefully accepted.

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COMPROMISE — OR BETRAYAL ?

AT last we know where Mr. Havenga stands — he is on the Nationalist side of the fence.

He is on the side of people who, quite callously, are depriving 48,000 Coloured people in the Cape Province of their vote that they have had for nearly a century.

He is on the side of people who are establishing Afrikaner "baaslap" at any price.

He is on the side of people who have disregarded every basic human liberty and who have tried to stifle free thought everywhere in the country.

History will have its own version of these two politicians — Mr. Havenga and Dr. Malan — who have sat down cynically to take away the franchise rights of 48,000 human beings.

But Mr. Havenga and Dr. Malan will be judged not only by history: the world today has its opinion of them. Every Non-European in South Africa will have weighed up the agreement, and so will every European who is not imbued with the Nazi thoughts of the Nationalist Party.

It cannot even be claimed that the step is being taken in the interests of White civilisation: Dr. Malan and Mr. Havenga know better than anyone else that the reason why the Coloured voters are to be deprived of their vote is because they do not vote for Nationalist candidates.

The Nationalists make no bones about this. They calculate publicly, on platforms and in their newspapers, how many extra seats they will win if the Coloured vote is abolished. They maintain that Coloured voters hold the balance of power in about six Cape constituencies. That means the Nationalist majority in Parliament is increased by 13. One can almost see the Nationalist leaders counting the Coloured voters as they disappear into the pit of a "separate roll".

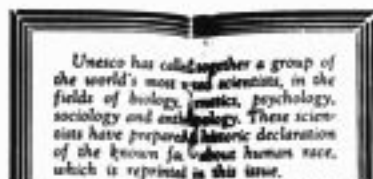
It is not even worth considering the details of the agreement. All that matters is that the Coloured people are to be taken off the common roll. The number of their European representatives and the other frills are of no importance.

No doubt Dr. Malan and Mr. Havenga believe that the Coloured people are going to accept this attack on a century-old right. They are mistaken. It has taken the people of this country a long time to realise that they are dealing with Fascists, and that Fascists have to be fought, but now that they realise it they are going to call a halt.

One good thing will flow from the agreement: we will not hear so much about Mr. Havenga's stand for Hertzogism. We will not hear so much cant and be subjected to so much hypocrisy. The great farce is over.

A question that arises is: Why in the first place did Mr. Havenga raise any objections to the Nationalist's proposals? The agreement that was reached could have been concocted at any time. Why then stall for more than a year?

Mr. Havenga's own newspaper has given the answer. It stated that before the South-West Africa elections, the Afrikaner Party held the Government "in the hollow of its hand," but that



★ Unesco offers this declaration as a weapon — and a practical weapon — to all men and women of goodwill who are engaged in the good fight for human brotherhood. Here is an official summary of the conclusions reached in the declaration:



★ In matters of race, the only characteristics which anthropologists can effectively use as a basis for classification are physical and physiological.

★ According to present knowledge there is no proof that the groups of mankind differ in their innate mental characteristics, whether in respect of intelligence or temperament. The scientific evidence indicates that the range of mental capacities in all ethnic groups is much the same.

★ Historical and sociological studies support the view that the genetic differences are not of importance in determining the social and cultural differences between different groups of Homo sapiens and that the social and cultural changes in different groups have, in the main, been independent of changes in inborn constitution. Very small changes have occurred which were not in any way connected with changes in racial type.

★ There is no evidence that race mixture as such produces bad results from the biological point of view. The social results of race mixture, whether for good or ill, are to be traced to social factors.

★ All normal human beings are capable of learning to share in a common life, to understand the nature of mutual service and reciprocity, and to respect social obligations and contracts. Such biological differences as exist between members of different ethnic groups have no relevance to problems of social and political organisation, moral life and communication between human beings.

Lastly, biological studies lend support to the ethic of universal brotherhood: for man is born with drives toward co-operation, and unless these drives are satisfied, men and nations alike fall ill. Man is born a social being, who can reach his fullest development only through interaction with his fellows. The denial at any point of this social bond between man and man brings with it disintegration. In this sense, every man is his brother's keeper. For every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main, because he is involved in mankind.

since the elections the Government holds the Afrikaner Party in the hollow of its hand.

Is that the explanation? Does one stand on principles only when one has a weapon with which to bargain?

Decent-minded citizens will be glad that the whole sordid bargaining is over, and that the double-talk and hypocrisy have come to an end. Fascism has one quality: it is always naked.

Now the Coloured people and everyone else who is not a Nationalist know where they stand and where Mr. Havenga stands. He is their enemy. He is no longer the "moderating, restraining influence." He is a Nationalist and he is supporting the herrenvolk ideas of the Nationalist Party. He is one of those people who believe that everyone else is wrong, and that only the Nationalists the ware Afrikaners, are right.

What thoughts are passing through Mr. Havenga's mind? He surely does not believe that history will treat him kindly! He has no place in the hearts of Nationalist-minded Afrikaners — Mr. Strydom and other Government leaders have seen to that. And, since his betrayal, he has no place in the hearts of non-Nationalists. The entire Non-European population will henceforth regard him as their enemy. Was it worth it, Mr. Havenga?

The attack on the Coloured franchise is the first attack on the Constitution in letter. This is the beginning of outright Fascist rule. From now on no measure will be too extreme.

This is where the real fight begins. The defence of the Coloured vote is the biggest call to arms yet. This is where every South African, who has any

decent feelings, who has any respect for democracy, who has any belief in human rights, must help to fight.

Even if you are an everyday citizen with no particular political leanings or desire to become involved in "disputes"; even if you feel you have no great knowledge of political events — remember:

48,000 Coloured people in the Cape have the right to vote on the common roll. They have had this right for nearly 100 years. Next session the Nationalists will try to take this vote away from them.

Remember that the reason why the Nationalists are taking away the vote from the Coloured people is because the Coloured people have sense enough not to vote for them. Why not your vote then? Why should you be safe? Why should the Nationalists allow you to keep your vote if you do not vote for them?

The Coloured vote issue is the call to arms. It must be defended if all other human rights are to be protected. THIS IS IT.

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THIS C.O.L. BUSINESS (2)*The Gripes of Wrath*

"WHEN I came out to this country," Joe was saying, "it was in a Jewish immigrant ship and we were packed in like sardines. There was a woman in our cabin, I was a kid at the time, and she used to bring food out from the dining saloon and hide it in the cabin. It was her mentality, you see. She'd spent so many years wondering where the next crust was coming from, that she kept on hoarding every little scrap she could lay her hands on."

"I begin to feel like that woman," Joe went on, "and I expect most working people do too. Dammit, I'm now earning what was once considered a good screw and Lily is working as well, yet we never seem to make any progress. Talk about putting a deposit down on a house! about as much chance as putting a Persian carpet down on the kitchen floor."

"And talking of kitchens, you should see ours — just enough room to swing a kitten and do you know how much we pay a month? £12 for a miserable bachelor. I said to Lily it must have been built for a very thin bachelor without any clothes. However, all this talk about c.o.l., most people forget that in South Africa it seems to be the accepted fact that a man must pay out anything up to one-third of his wages in rent, whereas in civilised countries they reckon no man should pay out more than one-fifth of his wages in rent. They forget that, when they talk about cost-of-living allowances."

"Mind you," said Joe, "between the two of us we manage to eat all right, nothing fancy-snency, but Lily's a good cook and when that man, can't remember his name, but the minister who's responsible for the shortage of meat, when he throws an occasional piece of sirloin at us, we eat smartly. But, did I tell you we went out to a restaurant for our wedding anniversary — ja, three years now! — and, hell man, if I hadn't had a couple of quid overtime in my pocket, Lily would have had to pay her own way. Disgrace it is. Lily had some chicken and I fancied a pigeon. Well, it wasn't enough for more than three mouthfuls, but very tender, I will

say. So Lily's chicken was 7/6 and my bloody pigeon was 8/6. You could have knocked me down with the pigeon's tailfeathers! Anyway, these restaurants can't cook vegetables, ruin them."

"What about ciragettes?" asked Joe, as he handed me a Gold Strike. "Used to get fifty for 1/10, now they're 3/6. If you work that out, that's 100 per cent. increase, as near as doesn't matter and matches are up nearly the same. And why should I cut down my smoking? I don't drink or go horseracing. Let the Government tax all the bets and the winnings on horseracing and bring down the cost-of-living a bit that way. A man can hardly afford to go to the bio. these days. They've put up the prices: usually it's cheap, mucky first half and they ram these film-ads down your throat for half the evening . . . an expensive pastime."

"But what does get my goat," said Joe in a moderate tone of voice, is this newest idea of the City Council to put up the tram and bus fares. As if it isn't enough with increased train fares, increased postage, bloody income tax, now the municipality must come along and put up the tram fares. And who pays? We do, the suckers. God, it makes my blood boil. Damn government says it's out to protect our interests, we, 'The People.' Well, why do they raise their revenue from the likes of me? Hell, I'm no socialist, let alone a communionist, but fair's fair. Look, man, if they put tea up 3/6 a pound, Mr. Flookempush of Houghton just doesn't mind. He probably drinks whisksoda in any case, but we have to cut down our tea drinking. 'Nough to turn a man to 'rotgut'."

"Would be funny, wouldn't it," asked Joe with a frothy titter, "if we reach a stage here like they had in Germany after the war — nobody had any money, nobody had any food — oh yes! Le Roux's the man's name, the wolf in sheep's clothing! — so the people had to sell their family jewels and cameras and watches and china to get some skoff and cigarettes took the place of cash as currency. Black market rampant. Anyway, couldn't be much worse than it is

now. Only thing with these Nationalists, black market prices seem to be the normal, accepted thing. I've been having a go at my trade union about the cost-of-living. We set up a commission and sent letters and a deputation to Mr. What's-isname? the Minister of Labour? Ja, Schoeman, he's sentenced us all to *hard* labour with no overtime rates, seems to me."

"Very interesting the figures our commission produced. I remember they reckoned that in ten years the all-over increase in food is 95 per cent. Staggering, isn't it? The average price increase in men's clothing is 123 per cent. and in women's clothing 153 per cent. I told Lily she'd have to cut down her undies. She said she daren't cut them down any more, she wouldn't be decent! She's a yell, that kid! Another thing: even the Government admits that average prices have gone up 60 per cent. since 1938 — more like 160 per cent.! — but the present cost-of-living allowances payable by regulation represents roughly 40 per cent. of the basic wages. So how do they reckon we make up the deficit? They're mad and blind and cruel, shouldn't be allowed to rule the country."

"Incidentally, did you see about the meeting in Bloemfontein last week of the Afrikaans businessmen? Damned funny, you know they started up in business with capital from the Reddingsdaadbond — money collected from the Afrikaner people with the main object of providing employment for Afrikaners and, I suppose, of cutting down the big profits that the English-speaking capitalists make and making life generally cheaper for the Afrikaner worker. And what's happened? The Afrikaner is turning out to be just like every other business man — he has to make a profit, even though it's at the expense of the Afrikaner worker. So now they're talking a lot at their Bloemfontein meetings about 'service' to the people!! Nasty consciences they've got, but I didn't see any proposals to cut prices or profits. Perhaps the Afrikaners will still get a lower cost-of-living. Well, if that happens, I'll do what the Irishman did, I'll

(Continued on next page)

● *Spotlight on*



EDUCATION

EDUCATION is very much in the news these days what with Supreme Court judgments, strikes by parents and scholars, new policies for High Schools and the hosts of other matters in the headlines bearing upon the process of putting knowledge into unreceptive young heads. There are many who are vaguely aware that all is not well with our education system and that there are tendencies at work which do not bode well for the future. Few, however, realise just how serious the position is and how vital is the need for the whole system to receive review as soon as possible.

That the position is serious is due largely to the lack of interest displayed, particularly by the English-speaking South African, in education. Unless the Public acts as watchdog, officials and pedagogues of one sort and another are capable of so deforming the system (if for no other reason than that they are too deeply immersed in it) that it becomes worse than useless. That is the danger which faces us to-day.

It should surely be axiomatic that an educational system should have an aim. And yet what is the aim of our educational system? What that aim *should* be is obvious: to produce people capable of making the most, individually and in community, of the democratic way of life. If we wish South Africa to be a democracy we must educate our children for democracy. There is plenty of evidence, unfortunately, that we are not doing this and that our educational system is slowly being fashioned, both deliberately and by acts of omission, to produce citizens who will fit meekly into the pattern of dictatorship. The democratic citizen needs, above all, to be able to think for himself. Our system makes no attempt to meet this requirement. Teaching is being standardised more and more and children are being spoon-fed more and more. They become receptacles for potted knowledge which develops only their memories — they do not understand, nor can they interpret or reason out for themselves. The teacher is merely the most convenient channel for conveying this potted knowledge. He is no longer an individual whose aim is to bring out the best characteristics in his pupils. Initiative, scepticism, curiosity, imagination, interest — these which should be the virtuous assets of the product of good education — are singularly

lacking. Instead we have the product who is the ready victim of dogma, propaganda, prejudice and rationalisation. Such a man is a passenger in democracy. When the educational system is so constructed that the great majority of its products are just such 'sheep', democracy hasn't a hope.

That is the danger in South Africa. It is aggravated by the deliberate intention of some people to make our schools produce 'sheep'. The whole purpose of Christian National Education, however sweet-sounding its superficial aims might be, is to mould children to become docile members of a dictator state. Admittedly, Christian National Education has lately received some official setbacks but we should not blind ourselves to the enormous headway the pernicious doctrine is making through the efforts of individual headmasters and teachers imbued in it. In many a school, particularly the Afrikaans-medium schools in the Platte-land, teachers are employing the methods and working towards the aims of the Christian National doctrine. So great is their patience and persistence and so weak our opposition that we will one day be presented with a fait accompli.

Again the position is aggravated by the shortage of school-buildings and of English-speaking school teachers. The conditions of service and the lack of social approval, do not make teaching an attractive career. The result is a mediocre profession sadly lacking in much that should be fundamental in the good teacher. Now that the compulsory numbers of years at school has been increased by one or two years for the average pupil (from 1951), the schooling population will be so greatly in-

creased that the shortage of good teachers will be all the more serious. This policy is linked with another that can only serve to lower the standard of higher education — all children on reaching their fourteenth year are to be promoted to High School from whatever standard they happen to be in — the dull boy who has reached only Standard Three by the time he is due to turn 14 will find himself catapulted into Standard Six at a High School which he will then attend for three years before being mercifully released. Oh! mass education what crimes are committed in thy name!

A public Commission of Enquiry whose report will not be shelved is the immediate need. Without some such action, all our efforts to maintain the democratic way of life in South Africa will fail because our children will not be educated to live in a democracy.

THIS C.O.L. BUSINESS

(Continued from previous page)

change my name from O'Toole to de Kock."

"No, ta," said Joe to my offer of a cup of tea, "better save your money. With the price of tea and coffee going up again, I can see we'll be staging not hunger marches but thirst marches. What a game! Perhaps Dr. Donges will have a kind thought for us mugs, English and Afrikaner, when he comes back from UNO. I believe you pay 12/- a steak there and 7/- a haircut, but by god! you should see their pay packets. But I suppose Dr. Donges will get everything on the cheap. Just like it, isn't it, like it says in the Bible, to him who's got a bellyful already the Lord giveth a whole heap more."

"D'you want to hear that story about 'Rubinstein plays tonight?', asked Joe, as he got to the door.

"No, thanks Joe, another time," I said.

So Joe went away and left me thinking.

ROUND-UP

by

VIC EDDY



THE KLAAS STRUGGLE

I DON'T know for how long Mr. Havenga expected to get away with the myth of his "adherence to principle", but by his latest action regarding the compromise on the Cape Coloured franchise issue he has exposed himself more thoroughly and more permanently than anyone could have done for him. I am not quite sure what "Hertzog idealism" means, but if that is what constitutes Havenga's idealistic halo, then it is about time that Hertzogism too was exposed. How he is going to wriggle himself out of that one is a matter between himself and his (sic) conscience. One thing, however, remains cruelly indisputable. The Malan-Havenga marriage has been finally consummated by a strong bond of hatred, racialism, oppression and downright fascism.



THE NEXT STOP IS YOURS!

LET us focus our attention for a brief moment on the latest proposal of the Johannesburg City Council. That austere body has decided that the costs of running two separate tram and bus services in the same city are far too great. Since the absentee landlords of Johannesburg's Suburbia are not prepared to pay more rates and taxes, and since apartheid is, after all, apartheid, the Council has decided to place the whole of the extra expenditure on the shoulders of the lower-income groups — the tram riders like you and me. Never has the sham of apartheid and the utter impracticability of its implementation been so neatly pin-pointed. Johannesburg's experiment in miniature has given

a pointer to the disastrous effects it is going to have when practiced on a large scale. And the sensible alternative is, of course, unthinkable, in this great city. True, Cape Town and Durban practice "mixed" travelling without any noticeable effects on the health of their citizens. But Joh'burg is something else again. Here, we are told, the people would sooner pay the increased fares than share a bus with a non-European. Besides, Strydom wouldn't like it.



CRY HAVOC

SOMEONE "in the know" has told me that the filming of "Cry, the beloved country" has been subjected to the strictest censorship by the Government. It seems that all the passages in the book which are likely to give the slightest hint of adverse race relations in this country have been either deleted or worse still, amended. Well, it was too good to be true that even Mr. Alan Paton's mild book would be filmed in South Africa without pasteurisation. I don't know what Mr. Paton thinks about it, but if I were Zoltan Korda I would have built my kraals and shantytowns at Elstree rather than sacrifice much more important realism.



A QUESTION OF PEACE

WITHOUT desiring in the least to raise a hornets' nest, I would like to comment briefly on America's determination to "protect" Formosa against a possible invasion from the Chinese

Mainland. I wonder how many of us realise that such an incident would inevitably lead to the most horrible war that this earth of ours has yet seen. Some thought, that, eh? Bearing that in mind, I would say without hesitation that the reluctance of the other Western countries to support the United States in such an adventure is highly commendable. After all, Formosa is Chinese territory, Chiang Kai-Shek has been discredited to most people as a corrupt head of a corrupt regime and a civil war is an intensely personal business, as the Americans should know. The defeat of Chiang Kai-Shek by the Communists is a fait accompli and we may assume therefore, that interference in the civil war on the pretext of defending a potty little island like Formosa is motivated by something far more substantial than mere idealism and considerably less altruistic.



CLERIHUEW-(Y)

Dr. Jansen's last act as politician was to ruin the Nats' position by appointing Louis to spread their hooley.

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BRANCH**ITEMS**

THE work of the sub-committees was quite seriously affected last month by the absence of some of our best Legionnaires, such as Gerry McKenzie and Rica Hodgson, due to "virus" flu. At present, however, with Jack Sachs back from his leave and everybody fit and rarin' to go, everything promises to flow more smoothly.

One form of Legion activity which hardly ever fails to go down well is the production of play-readings. A few weeks ago we had the successful "All My Sons" reading at the Carlton, which Cecil Williams produced. Poor Cecil nearly went crazy replacing Bruce Anderson (detained at Ixopo filming "Cry the Beloved Country") at the very last minute. Fortunately he was able to replace him with Issy Schulman, who did a really good job of characterisation. The whole of the starstudded cast were fine, and we were subsequently approached by a well-known charity to produce it as a full production for them, but unfortunately we had to refuse.

It was regrettable that we had to cancel our September Three-in-One at the last moment, due to the very late withdrawal of the speaker who was to address us. However, the October function held in conjunction with the Mercury Players, was extremely successful. Acted readings of 3 one act plays were presented, and most enthusiastically received by the hundred odd people present. The plays were nicely varied, with Sartre's grim "The Respectable Prostitute," followed by the moving little radio play by Norman Corwin, "To Tim at Twenty", and Noel Coward's flippant "Hands Across the Sea" to wind up with. Legionnaires Vance Brown, Joe Podbrey, Monty Berman, Saidee Prager and Sheila

Houstan were amongst the players, reminding us how much acting talent we have in the Legion.

We have a little sub-committee consisting of Joyce Fowler, Saidee Prager and Roy Cousins who were responsible for the arrangements. Congratulations to them, and may they arrange many more such evenings.

Our next production will be an acted reading of "Deep Are the Roots" by Arnaud d'Usseau and James Gow, on Friday, 10th November at the Library Lecture Room. Cecil Williams is producing.

We are temporarily losing the services of some of our best types due to overseas trips. Felix Coetzee leaves shortly on a visit to Italy and Mr. Hart is at present on his way to Europe. After listening to Cecil Williams' lengthy dissertations on where and what to eat, he ought to be able to find his way about Europe by the names of the Restaurants.

It was pleasant to see Mrs. Ken Kirkwood here on a visit from Durban. She said that according to the newspaper critics the Durban production of "Home of the Brave" was not a success. We are sorry to hear this but it is a reflection of the high standard reached by the Legion's company in Johannesburg.

The jumble sale held last month was a great success, so we are organising another. If you have any clothing to spare, no matter in what condition, we will be very glad to have it.

The birth of a daughter to Paula and Roy Cousins reminds us how many such blessed events have occurred in

Legion circles in the last few months. Jack and Eileen Isacowitz, Jack and HESSIE Sachs, Monty and Myrtle Berman have all increased their families recently, and it has been suggested that this is the easiest way of swelling the ranks of our progressives.



Roy Cousins, Springbok Legion organiser, does a lot of theatrical work for the Legion

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