

Does the director of planning and finance, Dr. Jacobz, (who gave these reasons) not know that the eligibility for a union to register resides in the colour factor and only the colour factor?

Mr Mthethwa said that the Union has gained a small victory by getting Leyland to agree to talk to representatives of the Union who are employed by Leyland.

Leyland insists on using the existing "legal machinery" to solve labour disputes. But it is not against the law to form an African trade union, or for this Union to negotiate with Management. When all the workers were retrenched, Dr. Jacobz, emphasized that the retrenchment had nothing to do with strikes. There might be correlations between the two events - who knows for sure besides Leyland?

The British Parliament's Committee that investigated the activities of British firms in South Africa recommended that

- 1) All workers get paid above the Poverty Datum Line,
- 2) The Firms co-operate with Black trade unions.

Leyland was listed as a particularly 'bad' employer by this Committee.

Leyland claims to have comfortably satisfied the first recommendation although not even that is 100% sure. Certainly, by the very actions and attitudes towards Black unions they do not intend satisfying the second recommendation.

We hope that Leyland will permit their employees to decide for themselves what sort of negotiating machinery they desire, and then to co-operate with their workers and their chosen representatives

TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Worker Education Programme of the Advice Bureau will start once more in the first week of May. Workers will be notified in greater detail towards the end of this month.

WAGE BOARD TO INVESTIGATE FISH PROCESSING INDUSTRY

The Minister of Labour has announced that the Wage Board is to investigate the wages and working conditions of the Fish Processing Industry. The firms in Cape Town which are involved are:

Irvin and Johnson Fisheries (Woodstock and Maitland)

Sea Harvest Co-operation.

Amalgamated Fisheries

The firms in Hout Bay which are involved are:

Snookies Smokeries

De Gama Visbedryf

Chapmans Peak Fisheries

Hout Bay Canning Company

S.A. Sea Products

Friedman and Rabinowitz.

The Wage Board is a Government appointed body which investigates all aspects of an industry and then decides what wages are to be paid and what working conditions are to be. It first calls for written evidence - in this case the written representations have to be sent to the Wage Board by March 22nd. Later it comes to Cape Town to hear verbal evidence - this date has not yet been announced.

At the Wages Board sittings, the employers are represented, as are the trade unions, (for whites and coloureds). African workers are represented by the Bantu Labour Officer (a White, appointed by the Government).

It is of course, extremely important that all workers have a say in the Wage Board negotiations. Workers should prepare their own evidence and go to the Wage Board themselves to make their demands known. But to do this, the workers must first organise themselves and go to the Wage Board with common, well motivated, demands.

The Wages Commission has submitted written evidence to the Wage Board after conducting a survey of the industry, and will also notify workers of the date and time of the Wage Board sitting so that they will be able to attend. The workers must ask for time off work to attend this sitting, or else send workers who are off to represent them. It is important to remember that no worker can be victimised for giving evidence to the Wage Board - workers must therefore be confident to speak out and make their demands clearly known.

Issued by the Wages Commission
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