

WORKERS SACKED AT MASTERTREADS

Mastertreads is one of the factories in Cape Town which has an active factory committee with the full confidence of the workers. This committee has already negotiated improvements in pay and working conditions.

The bosses have obviously become afraid of the united workers at Mastertreads. They have tried to divide their unity and break their resolve to struggle. Recently a number of workers were sacked from their jobs at Mastertreads. Management refused to tell the factory committee about the dismissals. The bosses also did not give the dismissed workers their unemployment cards.

The complaints of the workers were taken to management. Management rejected the new demands of the workers. The head of the factory committee was also dismissed. Both he and the workers in the factory rejected the reasons given for his dismissal. They felt that he was being victimised for representing the interests of the workers.

The workers protested strongly about the dismissal of their leader. Management refused to re-employ him and so the workers went on a one-hour strike. The strike was only intended to show management the unity of the workers.

There are two important lessons to be learnt from the dismissals at Mastertreads.

A: Unity amongst the workers in a factory may give them strength to fight on some matters. However the unity in Mastertreads was not enough to prevent the dismissal of workers by the bosses. Unity of all workers in all factories will give greater strength to workers demands. The workers at Mastertreads should organise workers in other factories in order to build a greater workers' unity.

B: The dismissed workers were all Blacks. They have mostly been replaced by 'coloureds'. This does NOT mean that Black workers must see 'coloured' workers as being enemies who have taken their jobs. Coloured workers also need jobs. The bosses have tried to employ jobs. The bosses have tried to employ more 'coloured' workers in order to divide the unity of the workers. They hope to make workers fight between themselves and prevent them from fighting against management. Workers must face this problem with greater energy. They must fight against being divided by government and management into opposing groups of Black workers and Coloured workers. Only by increasing the unity of all workers can the factory committees increase their strength and prevent dismissals of workers by management.

THE WORKERS' COUNCIL - A PREGNANT TRIUMPH.

The forty workers from 15 factories who have been meeting over the last months to form the Workers' Council have brought to form the Workers' Council have brought about a great triumph - but it is a pregnant triumph, and triumph that has yet to bear its fruit.

It is no good having a Workers' Council on paper, or in the imagination - it must become a living force, a force that will make the bosses sit up and listen!

There are two great obstacles to the workers in the Western Cape - the first is

that only 15 factories have joined the Workers' Council. The second is that the African workers are temporarily divided from the Coloured workers. The first obstacle makes it easy for the boss to defeat the workers in his factory - he has nothing to fear from the workers in Cape Town. The second obstacle makes it easy for the boss to use the Coloured worker against the African worker when it suits him, and to use the African worker against the coloured worker when he think he can make mischief in that way. **CONTD.**

The workers cannot deal with all their problems at once, so they should concentrate first on organizing EVERY FACTORY IN CAPE TOWN. They should elect delegates to the Workers' Council as soon as possible, to receive the training that is being given now. Each factory that is already organized, must choose a neighbouring factory to bring with it to the Council. Let us double the membership of the Council from 15 factories to 30 factories in a month! And double it again to 60 facto-

ries by the end of next month!

It can be done - it must be done - if every worker does his duty. Every worker who reads this newspaper:- the the Workers' Council is being formed by your representatives to fight for your rights. Give it every support you can. The freedom of the workers will not be brought to the workers on a plate like your supper - it must be fought for, all the workers together!

TRAINING VITAL IF WORKER COUNCIL IS TO GROW.

It is no easy job for the Workers' Council to grow. The workers of Cape Town are confronted by a management that is united and eager to increase its profits. In order to stand up and shout with a voice that will make management tremble, the workers of Cape Town must unite to help form a Workers' Council. This is no easy task.

One important way in which the Workers' Council can expand is by receiving training. Workers and their representatives must receive training in all fields. They must learn how to organise; they must learn exactly how the factory workers; they must learn the role of workers. It is important

not to underestimate this training. It is only through training that workers can take their next step forward. Training helps them to understand HOW they should act and WHEN they should act when expressing the interests of workers.

What should workers who read this do? If they have a factory committee they should demand of them that they should receive training in the affairs of workers. Factories without factory committees should organise themselves into a committee, go to the Workers' Council, and ask to receive training.

Tell your factory committee to contact,

ADVICE BUREAU
9 BENBOW BUILDING
BEVERLY STREET
ATHLONE.

WHY THE WORKERS NEED DEMOCRACY.

We all know that to be strong we need to stand together. One worker alone cannot stand up to the bosses; even if he joins with all the workers in his factory, he is still sometimes not strong enough to obtain his demands. This is why the Workers' Council has been formed - to join all the factories together so that they can discuss the problems of all the workers in Cape Town and find out ways of uniting together in strength.

Unfortunately all the workers in Cape Town could not sit on the Workers' Council, or it would be too big to formulate plans to carry them out. That is why the workers in each factory elect from among themselves to sit on the Council. He is their representative and, because he is one

of them, he knows the problems of the workers in the factory that elect him. The workers know he faces the the same problems and they do and he will speak about them at the Council. Thus, the Council takes decisions in the best interests of the workers and the workers understand how to act effectively.

The person elected by the factory is the representative of the workers. He is their mouthpiece, speaking with representatives from all the other factories on behalf of all the workers of Cape Town. It is important to remember this : the representative is only one worker, but he speaks for many.

We must be sure that this representative always speaks for the workers who elect him. Sometimes the bosses