

Why is this? The workers did not have the unity that is necessary for a strike. But the main reason was they did not have a trade union. If they had a union, the strike may not have been necessary, because the union would have negotiated with the bosses and made known the voice of the workers. The lesson for Cape Town workers is that a strike is the last resort. The first step is to form a workers' committee. When this is strong, turn it into a trade union. Then the trade union can talk to the bosses for you and fight the battle for higher wages in the best way.

6. WORKERS' SEMINAR

The "Wages Commission" at the University has organised a workers' seminar to be held on the 9th, 10th and 11th March. The seminar begins on the Friday night and finishes on Sunday night. At the seminar, workers will be told of the different laws, of how to form works' committees, of how to negotiate with their bosses.

We suggest that you get together with your fellow workers at your place of work and elect a representative to send to the seminar. Your representative should come to the Western Province Advice Bureau (before the 9th of March) where we will give him more details about the seminar.

7. WORKERS GET CHANCE TO GAIN HIGHER WAGES

Workers in every industry have been given the chance to get higher wages by the Minister of Labour. He has ordered the Wage Board to review the Unskilled Labour Determination. This Determination does not cover all workers, but it will be used as an example to other industries. So if wages are increased in this Determination then wages will go up for everybody.

In December 1971 the Minister announced that wages for the Unskilled Determination would be from R11. Now the Wage Board will review these wages and decide on increases. But first it will ask for evidence from interested parties.

IF YOU ARE COVERED BY THE DETERMINATION AND IF YOU WANT HIGHER WAGES THEN YOU MUST MAKE YOUR DEMANDS TO THE WAGE BOARD.

Who is covered by the Determination? Office cleaners, messengers, demolition workers, excavating or levelling workers, workers making fertilizer, grease, electricity, gas, animal food, tanning, night soil removers, scrap metal and many others.

If you do this sort of work, it is YOUR wages that the Wage Board will be reviewing. How can the Wage Board give you good wages if it does not know what you want?

The Workers' Advice Office will assist workers in making demands for higher wages for this Determination. Your factory will be visited, and information distributed. But if you want to make demands of the Wage Board, come to the Advice Bureau and we will help you.