

The Workers' Council is not specially protected from this danger. It is only too easy for power hungry opportunists to fake their loyalty to the workers and thus gain election to the Workers' Council, or more likely, they do not risk elections, but simply arrive at the Workers' Council the self-appointed delegates of their factory.

With clever gestures and silver tongues, they will try and divert the workers from their tasks. When the workers want to take action, these pompous gentlemen will propose letter-writing. When the workers want to help fellow-workers fighting the boss, these gentlemen will take refuge behind long speeches to propose "caution".

Such are the men who would kill the Workers' Council with their "kindness". The only protection against such confusion-mongers is vigilance. Do not leave all the decisions to your delegates; make sure you know what they are saying in the Workers' Council; make sure that you are not ignorant of all Law, so that these gentlemen can outwit you; make sure that your delegates are completely under your control, with no grand ideas about their own importance. And above all - elect only those fellow-workers who you can trust to press forward the workers' struggle.

MATANZIMA REJECTS TRADE UNIONS

The Chief Minister of the Transkei, Kaiser Matanzima, has at last made it clear what his opinions about trade unions are. In a speech last month, he said:

"My government has consistently taken the stand that trade unions, with all their potential disruption, are undesirable and even harmful in a developing country".

It is worth noting a number of things. Firstly, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Marais Viljoen, proudly used this speech of Kaiser Matanzima's in the Parliamentary debate on labour.

It seems that Kaiser Matanzima's stand agrees with National Party policy.

In the same debate in Parliament it was mentioned that top executives in Anglo-American were also not in favour of trade-unions, and it was said that South Africa's system of labour relations was ideal for South Africa.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS NOW BEING USED

At long last, the Advice Bureau is to issue membership cards to the 5,000 workers who have already joined, and now is the opportunity for all the workers who have not yet joined, to do so immediately.

Membership cards will only be issued on Saturday mornings. This is because the Advice Bureau has so much work during the week, especially dealing with complaints. So each factory committee must appoint one or two of its members to come to the Advice Bureau office in Athlone to collect membership cards. If it is possible bring a list of workers who wants cards with you - this will save time later.