

CAPE TOWN

NOTICE TO ALL WORKERS:

All the members of Western Province Workers Advice Bureau are invited to the Annual General Meeting to be held on 26.10.75, Sunday, at the B.E.S.L. Hall, Klipfontein Road, Athlone at 2 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Minutes of the last AGM
2. Executive Report
3. Reports from Workers Committees.
4. Financial Report
5. Election of Office Bearers
6. Constitutional Amendments.
7. Resolutions from Workers Committees.

TUCSA AND THE UNSKILLED WORKER.

We read in the newspapers of the 23rd September that a delegation of trade-union organisers of unskilled workers in Durban had been refused permission to participate in the TUCSA Conference. **

We read also that participating in the Conference were trade-union organisers of unskilled workers from the Transvaal and elsewhere.

This is a strange situation! Why did TUCSA admit some representatives of unskilled workers, and expel others!

The newspapers said that the delegation from Durban had been expelled for technical reasons. TUCSA had originally invited delegates from each of the unskilled unions in Durban, but these unions have formed their own umbrella organisation, called the Trade-Union Advisory and Co-

Ordination Council (TUACC). TUACC accepted TUCSA's invitation on behalf of all the unskilled unions belonging to it.

When the delegation arrived in Cape Town, they were told by the TUCSA officials that they could not be present in the name of TUACC. Each union had to be present in its own name. And before these union representatives would be admitted, they would have to get proof from their unions in Durban that they were in fact the true representatives. Urgent telegrams were sent back to the union offices in Durban, asking for confirmation. Telegrams came back, informing the TUCSA conference that each union organiser from Durban was a true representative of the union. But TUCSA refused to admit them. The TUCSA officials did not debate the question of their admittance in the presence of all other delegates to the conference. The matter was hushed up as far as possible, and the organisers from Durban were told to leave.

We cannot accept that TUCSA acted in good faith. If TUCSA really wanted the Durban delegation at the conference, they would have been prepared to overlook a technical complication and

**Footnote: TUCSA stands for the Trade Union Council of South Africa. Skilled workers are able to organise themselves into legally recognised trade-unions. Some of these trade-unions have come together to form an umbrella organisation called TUCSA, to which they all belong.

admit the delegates. So why were they, the Durban delegates, told to pack their bags, while other delegates of unskilled unions from the Transvaal and elsewhere were allowed to remain? We believe that TUCSA did not want the Durban delegation to participate because they would have exposed TUCSA's two-faced attitude towards the organisation of unskilled workers. We can only understand TUCSA's attitude towards the organisation of unskilled workers once we understand the attitude of skilled to unskilled workers in S.A.

Skilled workers in S.A. have entered into an alliance with the employers. This two-sided bargain means that:

1. The skilled workers (some of which have full political rights; others have only the right to recognized industrial organisation) agree to support the employers in keeping unskilled wages down. Low wages are maintained by depriving unskilled workers of political and social rights, and more particularly, the right to organise into legally recognised unions. Organisation of unskilled workers on a wide scale would assist them greatly in fighting for higher wages. To prevent this, the employers prevent organisation.
2. The fact that unskilled wages are so low means that profits are high. Some of these profits are given to the skilled workers in return for their support. So skilled workers are well-