

a short lesson on exploitation

A worker once explained in a simple manner the situation workers find themselves in.

He told us:

" Comrades, the 10 000 workers at our mine produce 300 or 400 tons of iron ore in a month" He took out a sheet of paper and continued : " This represents what we produce , this whole sheet. This is all the profits we have produced in a month. How is this distributed?"

Then he tore the sheet into five equal parts. Of these five parts, he said , " Four go to the foreign capitalist" Thats his profit. "Only only one part stays in

the country. Now this fifth part is also distributed according to the system in which we live, right ? So , from this the government takes almost half for transportation and export expenses, which is another way for the capitalists to make profit, no ? The ore is exported overseas and it is used to manufacture the things which are sold back to us at tremendously high prices. With all this ,the capitalists once again gets almost half of this fifth of the profit that was ours.

Then of the half that remains ,the government again grabs some for

its own benefit and for the following groups: the armed forces , for the salaries of its ministers in the three parliments , to pay for their trips abroad and to pay for its bantustans , etc.

Of the little bit that is left over , the government takes another part for hospitals, for rent and to pay for the system to maintain pass laws etc.

And so they take and keep taking. "From all the money that iron ore brings in, just a little bit remains , a little bit for the wages of the 10 000 workers who mined the iron ore."



THE WORKERS DEMAND A LIVING WAGE

The capitalist class is gaining at the expense of the working class. This is not an accident. It is not something like bad weather. It cannot be explained by the word 'recession'. It is the policy of capitalists to get as much labour power from workers and to return as little as possible in the form of wages. They pay just enough to cover the cost of survival, sometimes less.

SUPPORT SACOS!!

The newly formed TRANSVAAL AMATEUR VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION with clubs from Soweto, Wattville, Lenasia, Bosmont and Fordsburg invites you to attend a Tournament and meeting on Sunday 24th February 1985, at the DAVEY SOCIAL CENTRE ACTONVILLE, BENONI.

(For further information contact R. Badat - Phone 852-7047)