

before in detail and every case is a human tragedy of one kind or another. In the Black Sash offices we only see a fraction of a percentage of the total number of people who are victimised by the pass laws.

Every African person in the country is victimised in this way, some of them being more fortunate than others in being in the right place at the right time so that their limited rights under the law are recognised and offer them a limited security.

There are no arguments for the maintenance of migrant labour and influx control which can outweigh the moral arguments for their total and immediate abolition. The policy of

separate development offers no solution. Since it was formulated and put into practice, the pass laws have been intensified particularly by the 1968 labour regulations.

The future of Black people is visualised as being a constant pool of available cheap labour for the White economy. The difficulties of the urban Africans have been spotlighted and discussed recently in many different quarters but the problems of rural people are just as great and just as much the result of White oppression. Poverty, deprivation of opportunity and a denial of the rights of many apply to all the Republic's Black people, both urban and rural.

Athlone

November was surprisingly busy at the Athlone advice office with attendance records the highest they have been the whole year.

Twenty-one of the miscellaneous cases were inquiries from men about pension funds, workman's compensation claims or unemployment benefits; 8 were housing problems; 10 couples were seeking permits to reside together, the husband in each case being residentially qualified in the area; another 10 cases concerned young people born in the Cape Peninsula and seeking to establish their rights of residence, permission to take out their reference books and be employed in the area.

Nearly all the contract workers interviewed were distressed by discrepancies between their contracts as they had understood them at the time of signing, and actual conditions encountered at work.

Thanks to the intervention of our attorney, we had success with Mr. Jonas Bevu, who was divorced in 1970 and was still the lawful tenant of his Guguletu house when he married a young woman in January 1972. She was here illegally at the time of the marriage.

She has achieved permission to reside in terms of Sec. 10(1)(c) not by virtue of Dr. Koornhof's offer to brides but because she returned to Umtata in February and waited for visiting permission which she got a month later, then joined her husband legally in his legal accommodation.

She was given only short extensions as a "visitor" until our attorney contacted the authorities and her marriage certificate was

produced. Hosts of the other couples with the Bevu's problem are prevented from residing together by the husband's obligation to pay rent in "single" quarters.

In the fourth group we can also report one "legal" success, and can hope for others. Gordon Nongauza was told that as he had been away from the area for several years, he must take out his reference book at Tsomo and get contract work from there.

Acting on our advice and supported by our attorney, he collected documents proving his birth in the area and the record of his schooling, which showed that his absence had been for schooling purposes only. He returned annually for holidays and although his name did not appear on any rent card, relatives could testify to his continued "home base" in Cape Town. Now he has permission to live and work here, where he belongs.

The absurdity and iniquity of contract workers not having copies of their contracts, to which they can refer, is constantly apparent. A group of five men came to Cape Town on contract as night watchmen under the impression that they would be on duty for nine hours every night, basic pay R9,60 a week, and overtime for anything extra.

It transpires that they do a 12-hour shift six nights a week with no overtime. This is the hard and usual beat of night watchmen. Their position is in particular need of improvement. But all contract workers should be able to check their contracts without being told that if they want to complain they must sign an "agreement" cancelling the contract.

These men have not returned to us and may still be doing their watching.

M. MK., a labourer less than half-way through his contract with a building firm, was similarly dissatisfied and was whipped off to DBA by his irate employer when he queried the terms of the contract. He had rashly absented himself from work for two days, and found himself signing the "agreement", out of work and so far without even money for his train ticket home.

Enlightened employers exist and it is encouraging to know of their efforts. In apply-

ing for a specific man as a contract worker, one employer was asked by the official why this man was so keen to come to Cape Town. The employer explained that he had only earned R3 a week working in a country town. Official — "what do you propose to pay him?" Employer — "he will start at R15 a week." Official — "That is enticement."

But this is the sort of employer who can rescue the unenticing image of South Africa in the wide world today and who is helping genuinely on the home front.

THE Minister of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr. M. C. Botha, said today he could honestly declare that, despite localised outbursts now and then, there was no vindictive hostility on the part of the Bantu peoples towards the Whites in South Africa.

The Minister, in a Day of the Covenant speech at Grootfontein, near Bethal, said this state of affairs was largely due to the positive attitude adopted by the authorities towards the Bantu peoples, namely to assist them in every way in their development and to grant them their self-realisation.

Provocative and offensive statements should not be made and deeds committed which offended Bantu self-respect.

The Star. December 16, 1973.

THERE is a third side of this question. African students have turned their backs on Nusas and formed Saso: in July, Non-White leaders met at Edenvale to form the Black People's Convention. Following the American example, these people have shown that two can play the segregation game. I am not aware that the Government has welcomed these moves as proof that its policy has made Black converts; but if it did so, the words would ring hollow. It is not converts that have been made, but enemies.

Arthur Keppel-Jones. The Star, November 15, 1972.

WE SHALL ask no one for permission to ensconce ourselves in a laager again, least of all the English Press.

Dr. Wentzel Du Plessis. Sunday Times. December 17, 1972.