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# FOSATU WORKER NEWS

## REGISTRATION— THE BIG TEST

THE TEST IS COMING.

FOSATU has made its position quite clear. We believe that the law should not divide workers by race. Workers must be allowed to join the unions of their choice.

FOSATU affiliates are only prepared to register as non-racial unions. Sometime in February all FOSATU unregistered affiliates will apply for registration as non-racial unions and the Minister will have to decide whether he wants to advance to retreat. The registered National Union of Motor Assembly Workers will apply to open its ranks and the unregistered United Automobile Rubber Workers and Allied will start a three way merger to form a new non-racial union for the motor industry. Even if the application for registration is successful this will be a complicated process taking time.

So step one is the Ministers decision. If it is yes we start the process of registration which as we have just said will take some time.

### The Non-Racial Stand

If the Minister says no to non-racial unions then FOSATU believes that the next challenge will be that for management. Will they continue to talk to FOSATU if we refuse to be part of racist legislation? What would registration be worth if it merely continues to be part of the apartheid laws?

Foreign companies have hid behind the laws of the land for too long. Even the Codes of Conduct have only had a small effect. Surely the foreign companies cannot



refuse to talk to unions who are not registered because they take a non-racial stand. If they do, then the evidence will be clear for all to see - foreign investment hides behind and benefits from apartheid.

### Registration does not mean Recognition

However, the most important point of all is that registration does not mean recognition. Recognition only comes from organisation and workers strength in struggling for their rights.

Management have used registration as an excuse not to deal with strong unions, just as from 1977 they used the Wiehahn Commission as an excuse.

DONT'T WAIT FOR REGISTRATION - ORGANISE FOR RECOGNITION since nowhere in the history of the workers struggle has any change of law led to the recognition of worker strength.

## THE FORD STRIKE

On the 9th January, 1980 a settlement was reached which ended the Ford Strike in Port Elizabeth. However, the effects and lessons of the Strike will not end that easily. There are many lessons to be learnt.

For the Union its clear that our need is to build stronger, clearer Shop Steward leadership to provide the lead in these situations. Workers interests will always be best served by their own organisation but if this organisation is weak then it will be swept aside. For employers the lessons are clear. The position of Black workers is still bad and leads to great frustrations. Weak and stooge union will never deal with these problems and if employers support them they can expect more problems in future.