

EDITORIAL.

The principal aim of this labour movement is to unify. The very word UNION means UNITY. It is a unity between workers. A unity between unions, and a unity between all groups that support the workers' struggle for a just wage, a permanent home and trade union rights. It is in the light of this basic principle that we comment on an incident that threatens this unity.

BUTHELEZI - DLADLA SPLIT :

After the failure of splitting the Zulu people by Hlangwa and Shakas Spear, forces have been at work to effect a more dangerous split. That there have been differences of opinion between Chief Gatsha Buthelesi and Mr B.I. Dladla everyone knows. That this difference has been engineered into attempting to split the Zulu people, indicates that people not interested in unity have been at work.

It is the duty of our leaders to realize that these forces are at work and that they will exploit them in order to weaken the struggle of the Black man for human rights.

Two important duties should be stated:

1. The duty of the people not to be split by the personal squabble of their leaders.
2. The duty of the leaders not to divide their people by fighting amongst each other.

In the light of the first duty: the workers and their unions should not be divided because of what has taken place. It is common knowledge that Chief Buthelesi supports Trade Union rights for Black workers. Furthermore it is known that Chief Buthelesi directed the Union representatives to deal with the Minister of Community Affairs in 1973. That Minister, the Hon. B.I. Dladla, has been supported and trusted because he represented Chief Buthelesi. In the eyes of the workers and in the eyes of those unions, there was never any difference between the two men: B.I. Dladla was the chief's man on labour. The union accepted him as such. That there has been a split between the two men and a change of cabinet should not involve the unions in the politics of homeland governments. It is important for them to continue working with the Minister of Community Affairs whoever he may be, albeit with the reservation that perhaps separate development is being taken a little too seriously.

A CALL FOR SUPPORT

Since the end of 1972 African workers have come to Bolton Hall and joined the General Factory Workers' Benefit Fund. During 1973 five Unions for African workers were formed and many thousands of workers have joined these also. Together, the Benefit Fund and the Unions at Bolton Hall now have 25 000 members and in Pietermaritzburg there are another 5,000 members.

All along the White Government has not been in favour of the Unions although they could not stop them because they are perfectly legal. Instead they have tried constantly to harrass the Unions in many ways.

They have sent spies to Union meetings.

They have visited Union organisers and Committee members at their homes, often late at night, to ask questions and frighten them.

They have taken workers out of factories during working hours and taken them away to the police station for long interrogations.

They have used petty technical points of law to charge Union officials and to take away Union Record cards.

Piles of pamphlets have been left at factory gates and busstops. The pamphlets say the Union are working with management and are stealing the workers' money but there is no signature on the pamphlets. The Unions think that the pamphlets were written by the same people that are causing all the other troubles.

Now the government is trying to get the Unions out of their office because those offices, they say, are for Whites only.

In spite of all the efforts of the government the Unions are fighting on. But they have asked the Wages Commission to let the workers know in **ISISENZI** what their enemies are trying to do. It is clear that the enemies of the workers are trying to destroy the workers' trust in their Unions and in **THIS** way to destroy the Unions. The Unions call on all workers to stand united. If workers are together the battle may be hard but victory is inevitable.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The black workers of South Africa are not alone in their struggle for fair wages and better living conditions. There are people all over the world who are aware of the problems faced by South African workers and who support them when they can.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The International Labour organisation (ILO) had its conference in Geneva, Switzerland during June. The ILO is an organisation of trade unions from all over the world and every year they meet to discuss matters affecting workers in the different countries. Every year, too, there is the problem of who is going to speak for the S.A. workers. This year Lucy Mvubelo, Secretary of the Garment Union in Johannesburg went as a representative of South Africa. But delegates from other African countries criticised her strongly and did not allow her to speak at all. They did not like her because she came as a representative of TUCSA and they say that TUCSO is an organisation which helps only White workers, not Blacks. The only organisation which was allowed to speak for South African workers was SACTU (South African Congress of Trade Unions). This organisation was organising African workers into Unions as from 1955 until it collapsed in 1967 when its leaders were banned. It now operates outside South Africa, speaking for the workers here.

During the Conference many people attacked conditions in South Africa. They said that they should do all they could to destroy apartheid and migrant labour which makes life so difficult for workers here.

AMERICAN COAL IMPORTS

On the 22nd of May this year a big fuss began because the United States was buying coal from South Africa. The United Mineworkers Union in the United States criticised this saying that the reason why South African coal was being bought was because it was cheap. It was only cheap, the Union said, because South African miners were paid such low wages. They said that the miners were treated like slaves.