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EDITORIAL

Your involvement in a trade union may be because of a personal problem. But the moment you have joined the trade union which is stimulus to collective bargaining, you are looking into any problem as problem for the mass of our workers' lot. A problem that has perhaps been fought against since the early stages of industrialisation in this country.

Therefore it is worth realizing from the onset that all our workers' problems will only be successfully confronted when we are able to organise ourselves into a solid bloc. This is the only way our demands can be made felt.

Now is the time to initiate for ourselves what we believe would be the normal situation. Let us not wait for tomorrow. All the workers' needs must be fought for now; because our workers' rights are being violated now. We must create a union movement now.

In as much as we need our pay increased and other attached benefits, we must not lose sight of the fact that in this country only a CHANGE in industrial legislation will change our situation.

AROUND THE UNIONS

METAL UNION

The Metal & Allied Workers' Union is at present conducting shop steward courses on Tuesday and Thursday every week and as a result of these courses the organisers find that from the factories where there are these shop stewards there are very few workers who come to the Union's offices with complaints because most of them are dealt with by their shop stewards in the factories.

On the 30th August 1974 the Union Secretary received an invitation from Non-Ferrous Metal Works' Management to come and have some discussions so as to clarify some points on the Union's representation of the workers.

On the 6th September 1974, the Secretary, together with one of the Organisers of the Union, went to N.F.M.W. where they had discussions with the Director, Mr Lazarus and his Associate. After the Director had perused the matter that had been written to him previously asking Management to recognize the Union, he seemed to be interested in the Union's benefits, enquired about the system used for collecting Union subscriptions and also how the firm would be expected to work if it were to recognise the Union. He also pointed out that they had a Works Committee but that most of its members were also the Union's shop stewards as they had pointed out at a previous meeting that they wanted the Works Committee to be replaced by a Shop Steward Committee also stating he was not against this move.

After a long discussion he pointed out that N.F.M.W. would like to be the pioneer in the Metals Industry in Natal to recognise the Black Trade Unions but also that he was anticipating hardships with SEPSA and other employers' groups. He requested the Secretary to furnish him with information and names of the factories where they have signed agreements with the other Unregistered Unions.