

Bantu Education

YET ANOTHER ASSAULT ON THE PEOPLE !

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- The Government has transferred the education of the people to the Native Affairs Dept.
- so that education can be more effectively brought into line with the general system of oppression.
 - so that the Governments' policy of dividing the people along tribal lines can be extended into the schools.
 - so that the majority of our children will be driven out of schools after Standard 11. And with their education cut short, they will be thrown onto the labour market.

HERE IS YET ANOTHER ASSAULT ON THE PEOPLE !

THE MINES, THE FARMS AND THE FACTORIES ARE HUNGRY FOR MORE AND MORE CHEAP LABOUR. TO GUARANTEE THEMSELVES A PLENTIFUL LABOUR SUPPLY THEY WANT TO TEACH US THAT OUR PLACE IN SOCIETY IS THAT OF THE SEMI-SLAVE, THE CHEAP LABOURER. THEREFORE, WE THE NON-WHITES MUST NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING TO US. DARK SKINNED PEOPLE MUST BE LEFT WITH DARK MINDS.

TO ACHIEVE THIS THE PROCESS OF ENSLAVEMENT MUST BE INTENSIFIED. THE EDUCATION GIVEN US SO FAR HAS NOT TURNED OUT ENOUGH CHEAP LABOUR. IT HAS NOT CREATED ENOUGH SLAVE MINDS.

ONLY A THINKING MIND CAN SEE THROUGH THIS PROCESS OF ENSLAVEMENT. AND IDEAS MUST REACH THE MIND THAT READS.

And what does the Congress want us to do !

- Withdraw our children from schools.
- Handicap ourselves further, because our children will not even be able to read and write.
- In other words, assist the Government in their dirty work.

IS THIS NOT THE SAME MISTAKE AS CONGRESS HAS MADE IN THE PAST

The people cannot forget:

The useless adventurism of the one day strikes.

The farce of the Defiance Campaign.

The wild ravings and unfulfilled promises over the Western Areas Removal Scheme.

THESE HAPHAZARD STUNTS, THESE POLITICAL ADVENTURES ARE NO FIGHT AGAINST A PLANNED AND RUTHLESS SYSTEM OF OPPRESSION. We said it then, and say it again.

To fight effectively, to know where to strike, we must understand the process of our enslavement. If we are not to be the tools of our own oppression and the instruments of Government policy we must understand the process of our oppression. We must not let the African National Congress, or its like blind us to the real instruments of oppression. By narrowing our outlook to the class rooms, we do not see the real dangers.

Wherein is the sense in withdrawing our children from the schools, whilst we, the parents are ourselves guilty of maintaining slave institutions like the Advisory Boards? Are we so cowardly that we could shift the burden of the struggle from our backs, onto the backs of our children?

Is the main fight in the classroom, or ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, outside the classroom?

In the Classroom:

Admittedly slave ideas will be put to the children. They have been put to them in the past, and the process is being intensified now. BUT the children will also learn to READ and WRITE and count. This is useful and essential knowledge; mental equipment which will help in the fight against the slave ideas. The man who can read is equipped to arm himself with ideas. The rulers know this, hence their attempt to limit the number of children who will be given any education. To read and to write.... this is USEFUL knowledge.

Outside the Classroom:

We in the School Boards, and in the School Committees DO NOTHING USEFUL to us, but carry out the Bantu Education Policy for our own enslavement.

We in the Advisory Boards and the Bantu Tribal Authorities carry out the slave policies of the rulers.

IT IS THESE BODIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES THAT CONSTITUTE THE REAL DANGER.

These School Boards and School Committees are going to:

- (1) Control and run the schools for the Minister of Native Affairs.
- (2) Put into effect Bantu Education.
- (3) Police the schools, and spy on the teachers and children who oppose slave policies.
- (4) Tax the people to provide funds for slave education.

In short they will be puppets of the Government; the very machinery of our enslavement.

And the role of the Advisory Boards and Tribal Bantu Authorities ?

————— to advise the Government how best to oppress the people.

————— to act as a bridge across which the Government conveys slave ideas to the very homes of the people.

AGAIN WE SAY, IT IS IN SUCH BODIES THAT THE REAL DANGER LIES.

Yet it is the A.N.C. who sends its members onto the Advisory Boards.

It is the A.N.C. who allows its members to sit on the School Boards and Committees.

It is the A.N.C. who, far from taking up a political fight against these dangerous institutions and ideas has become so narrow and twisted in outlook that it connives at the use of hooligans who threaten our children with physical violence.

It is these people who have spread untrue horror stories about the killing of children.

It is these people who are using irresponsible elements to intimidate those men and women who oppose the withdrawal and who want, alongside the rest of the parents to take up the real political fight.

The people must reject such methods. They are not methods that can strike at the enemy.

OUR FIGHT, THE FIGHT OF THE PARENTS, THE FIGHT OF THE TEACHERS, IN FACT THE FIGHT OF THE PEOPLE AS A WHOLE, IS HERE ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, AGAINST SLAVE INSTITUTIONS, THE VERY MACHINERY OF OUR OPPRESSION.....AGAINST SLAVE IDEAS WHICH PREVENT EFFECTIVE STRUGGLE AGAINST OPPRESSION.

We therefore say:

Do not collaborate with the Government in your own oppression.

BOYCOTT the School Boards, School Committees, Advisory Boards, Bantu Authorities and Native Representatives.

Build up the peoples' organisations on a firm, principled basis, so that it will be impossible for any collaborator to divert us from the struggle for full Democracy.

We call upon the people to adopt the policy and programme of the All African Convention and its affiliated organisations, such as S.O.Y.A., and to fight on the basis of the Ten Point Programme of the Convention, which is set out, in full, below.

We know our enemies will say that because we oppose withdrawal we support Bantu Education. How ridiculous this accusation is in the light of the ideas in this pamphlet, and of Point 2 of the Ten Point Programme. Since 1943 Convention has fought for democratic education for all.

This is the peoples' fight.

Convention is the peoples' organisation.

United in the All African Convention, we the people, can march forward to Democracy