

S. Africa labor raises voice

Black federation demands end to apartheid

By Nathaniel Sheppard Jr.
Chicago Tribune

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—A powerful new federation of black labor unions indicated Sunday that its first order of business was to demand that the government lift a state of emergency covering many black townships and to begin to dismantle apartheid.

Speaking at a rally attended by an estimated 10,000 people in Durban, Elijah Barayi, newly elected president of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, said that if the government does not eliminate pass laws within 6 months, the new "super union" would call on blacks to burn their passes.

Pass laws, one of the most hated symbols of apartheid among blacks, require all blacks over age 16 to carry documents that show they are entitled to be in a city. Failure to carry the pass is grounds for immediate arrest.

Barayi also demanded that the government release Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the outlawed African National Congress, upgrade the status of black women and remove police and military troops from scores of black townships, where a state of emergency has been effect for more than 4 months.

"We are not going to be passive. We have been passive for quite a number of years," said Barayi, who added that work sickouts, traditionally a form of black protest, would be encouraged by the 500,000-member union, which was formally established on Saturday.

Barayi said the union fully supports disinvestment in South Africa, and he called on the government of State President P.W. Botha to step down.

The union is the largest black-led labor movement in the white-ruled nation. It adds an important voice to the rising

chorus of discontent over government policies—most notably from big business, which has been uncharacteristically critical of the government in recent months.

A group of influential Afrikaner and English-speaking business leaders met with Botha last week to press for an acceleration of reform efforts. The group reportedly told him that failure to speed up political reform and to end racial separation would cause a flood of international sanctions against the country.

About a dozen countries have withdrawn their diplomatic representatives from Pretoria, and the United Nations Security Council has called for voluntary economic sanctions by member nations.

In the United States, colleges, universities and employee retirement funds have cut back on South African investments by \$292 million this year, according to a study by the Investor Responsibility Research Center, a Washington organization that monitors business activity in South Africa.

A few months ago, foreign banks, mostly American, refused to roll over millions of dollars in short-term loans to South Africa. The government announced that it could not repay the loans, and this sent the value of the rand plunging to an all-time low [35 cents, U.S.]. This further angered business leaders, already concerned with the spread of black consumer boycotts of white businesses around the country.

Strained relations between government and business began to show after Aug. 15, when Botha made a long-awaited policy speech that failed to contain reforms business leaders expected and thought were necessary. Several meetings between the government and business leaders have failed to yield promises of change called for in the business community.

Last month, a delegation of disgruntled English-speaking business executives flew to Lusaka, Zambia, against government wishes for talks with the banned African National Congress, which is trying to topple white rule by force from its position in exile.

Two weeks ago, executives of leading American and South African companies met in London to formulate a joint strategy for fighting apartheid. They have since put steady pressure on the government to speed up reform.

On Sunday, a group of 186 American companies doing business here urged the government to take "urgent steps to lower tensions in the continuing educational crisis" that has caused school boycotts by about 1 million black students in the last year and a half. A significant aspect of the most recent meeting between government and business leaders was the participation of Afrikaner business leaders, a group heretofore staunchly supportive of government policy.

In other developments, a black boycott of white businesses in the Port Elizabeth area has been called off until April, while a black boycott of white businesses in Pretoria was to begin Monday.

The boycott in Port Elizabeth, in the Eastern Cape, was called off after organizers were released from detention, police and military troops withdrew from black townships in the area and local businessmen agreed to press for reform.

The Pretoria boycott was called after at least 13 people died in clashes with police last week in the neighboring black township of Mamelodi, where residents were protesting the presence of security personnel in the township.

More than 900 people have died in black protest in the last 22 months.

Together... but still poles apart

By David Breier

PRESIDENT P W Botha and Chief Gatsha Buthelezi met for the first time in four years this week. But while their personal relations appear to be less hostile, their political views are still poles apart.

They met privately in Stellenbosch for the first time since their last acrimonious meeting in 1980 when Mr Botha, then Prime Minister, was reported to have pointed his finger at Chief Buthelezi.

Chief Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu, has since boycotted meetings between homeland leaders and Mr Botha. He has said that he would not "break bread" with Mr Botha until they settled their differences.

The Chief Minister was unavailable for com-



■ Botha



■ Buthelezi

ment, but a spokesman said Chief Buthelezi indicated at the meeting that he would continue to have nothing to do with anything that fell within the "four corners of apartheid".

This meant he would refuse to participate in the Cabinet committee, which is considering black constitutional development. It would also mean that Inkatha, the movement headed by Chief Buthelezi, would not participate in local government elections.

"The two leaders

agreed to differ on important issues," the spokesman said.

The greatest single gap between Chief Buthelezi and the government is the fact that Chief Buthelezi still refuses to accept independence for KwaZulu as he believes the homeland is an integral part of South Africa.

KwaZulu authorities are believed to be suspicious that Pretoria may resume its bid to hand Ingwavuma to Swaziland.

Mr Botha has said the discussions were "open-hearted".

**Daily News
Reporters**

THE 500 000-strong trades union federation, Congress of South African Trades Unions, will call on its members to burn their passes unless the Government scraps pass laws within six months.

It also called on Britain and the United States to disinvest in South Africa.

Cosatu was launched in Durban at the weekend bringing together 29 unions.

The newly-elected president, Mr Elijah Barayi, issued the six-month ultimatum at a rally attended by about 8 000 people at Kings Park yesterday.

"Cosatu is giving P.W. Botha six months to get rid of the pass laws.

"If this does not take place we are going to burn our passes.

Black people would choose where they wanted to stay and work and

Pass books: unions give PW 6 months

would defy laws that prevented them from doing this.

Cosatu, he said, was in favour of disinvestment.

He attacked homeland leaders whom he said had been wasting money to fly all around the world to fight disinvestment while they couldn't even pay peoples' pensions.

Interviewed afterwards, he said disinvestment would work towards the dismantling of apartheid provided it was fully applied and pressure was brought to bear on South Africa by the United States and

Britain.

"They are favouring South Africa and claim that it is the black man who is going to suffer, but if it is properly applied everyone would suffer and that would cause the Government to change.

"It is better that we all suffer together rather than just a portion of the community — let us rather all suffer."

Cosatu, he said, would force the Government to dismantle apartheid by taking action along the lines of the mass stayaway in November last year.

"Our message is that we are no longer going to be passive. We have been passive for a number of years. We must now be seen to be taking an active part politically and socially. There is no longer going to be any difference between the black person on the shop-floor and the black person in his political life."

He said Cosatu would definitely fight the battle for blacks to have a share in political power in South Africa because the federation was committed to non-racialism.

Asked whether he saw Cosatu as the organisa-

tion taking over the fight of the ANC in the struggle against apartheid, Mr Barayi declined to comment.

He said, however, that the federation perceived itself at least as closing up the vacuum left by the ANC.

He also demanded the immediate lifting of the state of emergency and the withdrawal of troops from the townships.

A message of support from the president of the exiled South African Congress of Trades Unions, Mr Stephen Dlamini, was read out at the launch.

Cosatu also received messages of support from the British Labour Party, the International Confederation of Free Trades Unions, the Commonwealth Trades Union Council and from worker groups in the United States, Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Israel, Australia, Japan, Finland, Norway, Canada and Zimbabwe.

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Nearly half of births in Chicago to unwed mothers

CHICAGO (UPI) — Unwed mothers delivered nearly half of the babies born in Chicago last year, a *Chicago Sun-Times* examination of state Public Health Department records showed.

Single mothers gave birth to three-fourths of all Black babies and one of every five white babies in the city.

"It's frightening," Robert Washington, dean of the Uni-

versity of Illinois' School of Social Work, told the newspaper in a recent edition. "We've got a social epidemic."

A national rise in unwed mothers is notable "even among middle-class white girls" but is most prevalent among poor Blacks, he said.

"You simply cannot avoid the fact that poverty generated the condition," Washington said.

"We are creating an underclass culture.

"There is some denigration of values here, too ... but it's hard to talk values when you're hungry. Values are for middle-class folk who have jobs.

"For the underclass, values are considered a luxury. I don't condone that, but that's the reality."

Dennis Hogan, an associate

professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, said his studies of teenage mothers found a greater willingness among Black females to have children without being married.

A key reason is a "shortage of young Black men who would be economically good husbands," Hogan said. In the inner city, he said, young men are more likely to be unemployed, in prison or in

the military.

"Our society is changing," said Linda Miller, director of the state Parents Too Soon program, a counseling and health-care program designed to combat teen pregnancies.

Of 53,906 births in Chicago last year, 25,493 or 47 percent of them were out of wedlock - 19,496 to Blacks, 5,865 to whites and 132 to others.