

WORKERS OF PIETERMARITZBURG

It is very unfortunate to see workers coming into the Union Offices only when they have trouble with their employers. It is far more advisable for you to join the union as from now. It will be difficult for the Union to assist you if you join it only when you are faced with problems, despite the fact that you heard about its existence a long time ago. We know that there are clever fools among the workers who always lead the workers astray. You find that workers in Johannesburg and in Durban, as well, earn more than us here in Pietermaritzburg. That is true, it is because of their unity, honesty and courage. They aren't people with two faces and boss puppets among them.

Solution:

There is only one solution, workers, that all of us here in Pietermaritzburg should be united. Our bosses will respect us and will also respect our rights if we are united. Remember that unity is our strength. We Pietermaritzburg workers will succeed if we show unity. Don't deceive yourself by the fact that you are earning more than others at your firm. Don't deceive yourself because of your boss who calls you "a good boy" because you will soon regret. Your children will suffer because they will have not got these privileges that you have.

Workers, today we are working for the whole nation. You, who think for yourself only will regret because you don't know what your future will be.

Which people can join the Union?

It is all those people who call themselves 'workers' irrespective of the job you are performing (qualified or unqualified). Those who are highly educated as well as those who are clever may also join the union. Even those who claim to know better than the others, those who say the union has nothing to do with them.

GENERAL FACTORY WORKERS' BENEFIT SOCIETY AND METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS' UNION, FLEWELMARTZBURG

The Union in Flewelmartzburg has been growing steadily as usual. This week many of the Black workers at the University of Metal joined the Benefit Society because they too know that their strength lies in uniting with other Black workers. There has been trouble with their bosses, and because they are afraid of being fired if they complain too much, they have joined the Benefit Society so that it can represent them and help them.

At Barwood, the Management wants the workers to have a Works Committee, even though they had one before and it didn't work. At a big meeting, the workers said they wanted the Union to represent them, and decided to sign Union members to the Works Committee. The police and S.A. were at the meeting and threatened to charge the Union Officials for holding an illegal meeting. But they took legal advice and have not yet been charged.

A few months ago the Union's red Cortina car was stolen, and recovered burnt. So now the Union has no transport, and as a result was sometimes not able to get to the factories as often as they wanted to. Workers must be patient and understand that the Union Officials can only do their best until they can get another car at the end of August.

Many workers have been coming into the Union Offices, to pay their dues, for advice on legal problems to find out about Workmen's Compensation and, of course, to join the Union and Benefit Society.

A new Union, the Furniture and Timber Workers Union has just been formed. Workers in factories where furniture or any wood products are produced, should come into the Offices to join this new union.