

Introduction

In this edition we look at some of the remarkable developments on the labour front in the East Rand.

Key features of the massive strike wave which swept the area during the last six months of 1981 are covered in an article by Baskin. Although he is primarily concerned with exploring the background causes of worker militancy, Baskin emphasizes that the developments on the East Rand go beyond the dramatic manifestation of management-labour conflict in the form of strike action. 'Strikes themselves are not the sum total of labour activity'. The various forms of organisation that emerge out of such conflict are central to the long term consolidation of worker strength.

One such organisational response on the East Rand is to be found in the FOSATU-based Germiston shop-stewards' council - the focus of a second article by the above author. Here Baskin describes the rapid growth of this new organ of worker power which is faced with the problem of simultaneously having to expand and consolidate organisation.

Also in this edition is published the full text of the address delivered by FOSATU general secretary Joe Foster at the Federation's Congress earlier this year.