

wider meeting of Johannesburg unions together with the political organisations. The final call, from FOSATU national executive, was for Transvaal workers to attend the funeral; for employers to pay bereavement leave; and for workers unable to attend the funeral to take some form of protest action. This call was made only the weekend before the funeral (Tuesday).

FCWU: Unity is Strength

At the NEC meeting of 30.3.85 of Food and Canning Workers Union (FCWU) and African Food and Canning Workers Union (AFCWU) it was decided that the two unions should amalgamate as FCWU. This decision is in accordance with the 1984 Conference mandate and the policy of the union since its inception, that it should operate as one irrespective of race.

The situation of having two unions was forced on us by the government's policy of not recognising union rights for Africans. When the government finally changed its policy and decided to recognise unions for African workers it did so on terms not acceptable to us. The two unions remained separate in law whilst acting as one in practice.

When forming one registered union the following was taken into account:

- (i) We no longer consider it justified to continue as two unions in name and one in practice
- (ii) In deciding whether to be registered or unregistered, we had to recognise that only slight differences exist between the two and the benefits of being registered are greater than the disadvantages of not being registered, while the benefits of not being registered are less than the disadvantages of being registered.

(FCWU communique, April 1985)