

AGRICULTURE - GENERAL

1985

1. Overtime hours - From September to April, the maximum hours overtime per week is 20.

Footnotes

- AREA A: Alberton, Benoni, Bellville, Boksburg, Brakpan, Durban, Germiston, Goodwood, Inanda, Johannesburg, Kempton Park, Krugersdorp, Nigel, Oberholzer, Pinetown, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria, Randburg, Randfontein, Roodepoort, Sasolburg, Simonstown, Springs, The Cape, Uitenhage, Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging, Westonaria, Wonderboom and Wynberg.
- AREA B: Bloemfontein, East London, Kimberley, Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom, Odendaalsrus, Virginia and Welkom
- AREA C: Bethlehem, George, Kroonstad and Somerset West

Superseding w.d. no: 317

McLary 12/1/85 3 *General*

500 tractors to join farmers' protest rally

Pietermaritzburg
Bureau

ORGANISERS of a mass rally in the capital next month to protest against the rising costs of agricultural commodities plan to hold a parade of more than 500 tractors through the streets of Pietermaritzburg.

This was revealed yesterday by the chairman of the Nottingham Road Farmers' Association and member of an ad-hoc

steering committee, Mr Frank Isaac.

'We will be meeting with the City Traffic Department to ask how many tractors they will allow us to take part in the parade. We are looking at a figure of more than 500,' Mr Isaac told the Mercury.

The protest meeting is likely to be the biggest gathering of Natal farmers ever held. About 1 500 farmers are expected to

attend, according to Mr Isaac.

All 106 farmers' associations in Natal had been contacted and all had shown keen interest in taking part, he said.

The meeting will take place in the Pietermaritzburg City Hall on February 7 after a tractor procession from the Royal Agricultural Showgrounds to the city centre at 10 a.m.

The aim would be to publicise the plight of the farmer in South Africa; to show solidarity with the consumer, who is also battling with rising costs, and to present certain proposals to the relevant authorities.

Argus 16/1/85

NATIONAL

3 General

Widespread rain may have broken drought

JOHANNESBURG. — Widespread rain since last night seemed to have broken the back of the drought, an official at the weather bureau in Pretoria said today, and more was expected.

The official said a high-pressure system to the south-east of the country and an upper and surface air trough created the conditions that led to rainfall of as much as 111mm at Schweizer-Reneke in the Transvaal.

It was highly likely that the soaking rain, at a vital time for most summer crops, would continue for at least the next two days.

In the Transvaal, heavy rain was recorded in Warmbaths (77mm), Messina (61mm) and Heidelberg (85mm). The measurements are for the 24 hours to 8am today.

Free State

In the Free State, Bethlehem had 34,5mm and Harrismith 42,8mm. In Natal 60mm fell at Van Reenen, 35,3mm at Ladysmith, 46,5mm at Cedara and 47,5mm at Underberg.

In the Cape 34,8mm fell at Kuruman and 24mm at Mafikeng in Botswana.

Besides breaking the three-year-long drought that has ravaged large parts of the country, the rain has ended a heatwave that caused losses of dam water by evaporation.

Mr Giel van Zyl, head of administration of the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo), said between 22mm and 40mm of rain had fallen "in the nick of time" over the past few days in Bothaville in the north-western Free State.

"The earlier maize plantings have already been devastated but this is welcome relief for the later plantings and changes the whole situation. However, one inch of rain does not make for a recovery. It must now be followed up by good rains," Mr van Zyl said.

Eastern Cape

Mr K P Odendaal, secretary of the East Cape Agricultural Union, said farmers in most parts of the Eastern Cape were pleased with the rain and hoped it would last.

"Things have not normalised yet. But it is heartening to see that the rain is widespread and not isolated as in previous falls," Mr Odendaal said.

Between 43mm and 60mm were recorded over Ciskei yesterday, a spokesman for the Ciskei Agricultural Board said. — Sapa and Argus Correspondents.

Fickle showers bring little relief to Namaqualand

Staff Reporter

DROUGHT still has Namaqualand firmly in its grip in spite of rain this week.

In Garies, which the showers avoided, the only borehole has dried up and water is being trucked in at heavy cost.

More than 100mm of rain is needed to break the drought, say municipal officials in the region. But the highest rainfall was at Upington, where 90mm was recorded this week.

BOREHOLE DRY

The rain, which fell over large portions of Namaqualand, missed the drought-stricken town of Garies, which received only 6mm. The town's only borehole, in the dry Groen River bed, has dried up.

This week Garies municipal workers started trucking in fresh water.

Town Clerk Mr W S Jordaan is negotiating with Provincial officials to install a pipeline from a farm borehole 13km away.

"Each load of 90 kilolitres, a one-day supply for our 1 340 inhabitants, costs us R50 to truck in — certainly a prohibitive price to pay for water," he said.

The dusty little town has always relied on the Groen River borehole.

"Our borehole usually fills up once each year, depending on the rainfall, but as it didn't rain enough last year. It's as dry as a bone now," said Mr Jordaan.

NEED 110MM

Springbok Town Clerk Mr A Ellis said the town received about 13mm rain this week. "We need about 110mm of rain to break the drought," he said.

In nearby Okiep about 20mm of rain fell within a few hours and some of the children, who had never seen rain before, were delightedly dancing in the streets in the downpour, residents reported.

At Kakamas, between 9mm and 17mm were measured at different places after Sunday's storm.

Drought threat hangs over South Africa

Aid for drought stricken farmers

EAST LONDON — Farmers in the Border and North Eastern Cape are facing financial losses that could run into several million rands due to the drought which has taken a stranglehold on the region. Conditions are so serious that all 24 agricultural districts that make-up the region have been officially declared "drought-stricken".

Farmers in the four of the worst hit areas — Bedford, Molleno, Sterkstroom and Indwe — are entitled to state financial aid which covers 50 to 70 per cent of the costs of fodder plus a 70 per cent rebate on transport fees.

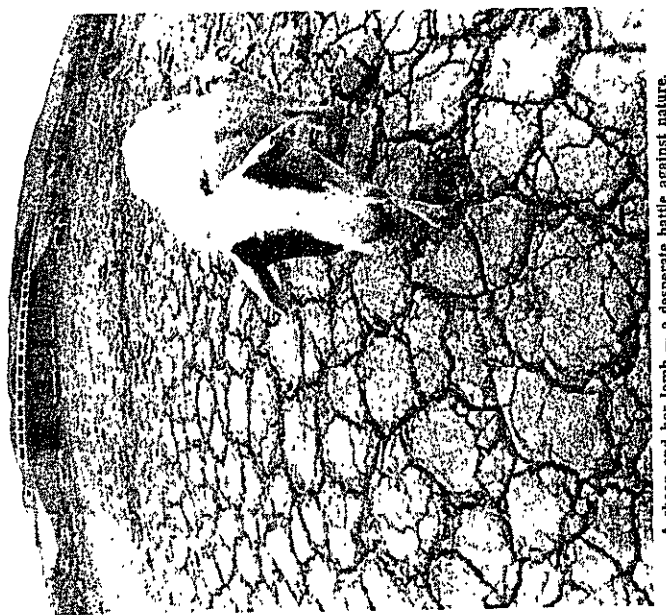
In the remaining districts, farmers qualify for rebates of between 50 and 70 per cent on the costs of fodder alone.

Representatives of the SA Wool Board said sheep farmers in this region, who produce about 15 per cent of the national clip, are likely to be the worst hit by the drought.

Representatives of agricultural unions, who are being forced to sell breeding stock and vir- tually "give away" other animals — DDF



A scrawny beast provides grim evidence of the drought.



A sheep and her lamb — a desperate battle against nature.



Transkei faces crop crisis if no rain falls

UMTATA — If good rain does not fall over the areas of Transkei within seven to 10 days or it will die.

If good rains do not fall at Herschel during the next six weeks, farmers may not be able to plant their winter crops, Mr Moffat said.

The Marubeni project near Qumbu was in "poor condition." If no rain fell within 10 days, a loss was expected. Younger crops were still holding well.

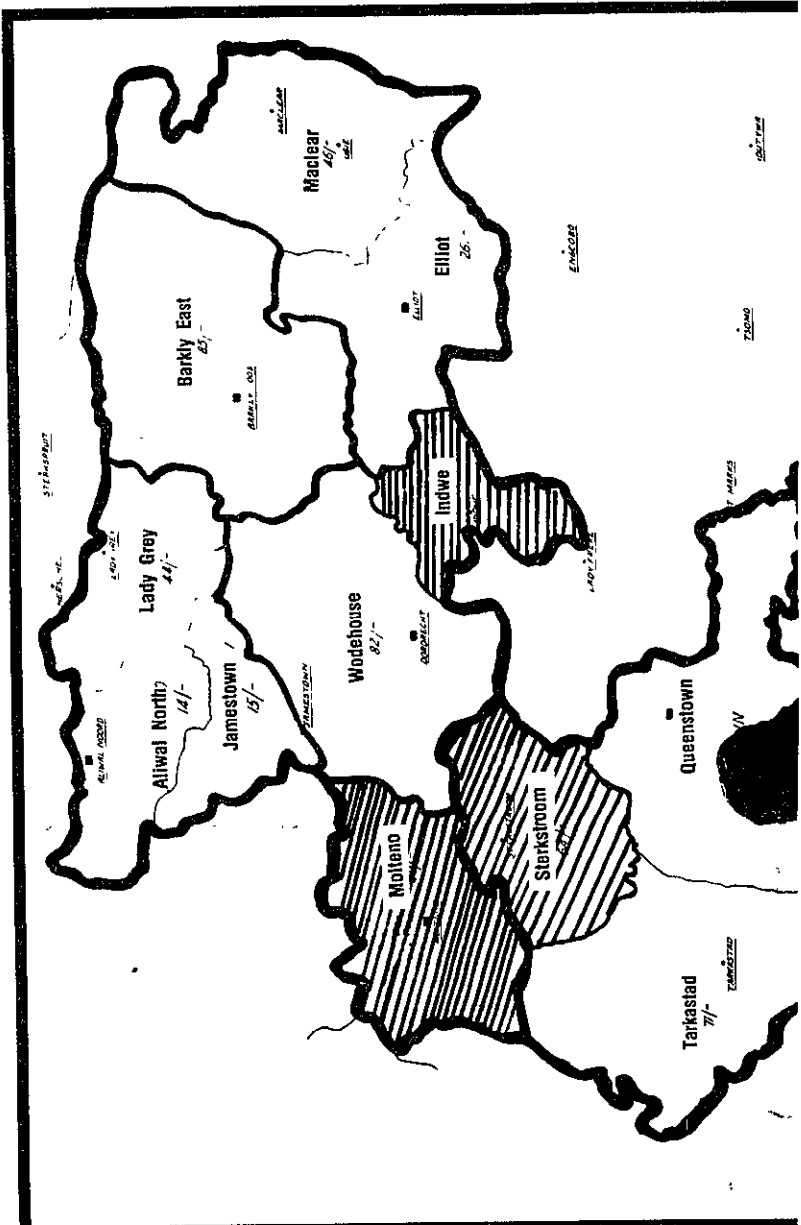
At the Gatyana project near Willowvale, 500 ha of crops were scorched and if rain did not fall soon over the remaining 1,900 ha, yields would be lost.

A small number of crops near Umtata had been damaged by hail, but good rains recently had rendered the crops "fair to good."

Good rains had also fallen over the Nkandwana and Highlands projects near Umtata. The Mtshanyana project near Coffimvaba, the Lusikisiki project, the Lamabasi project in eastern Pondoland and the Mpondomise project near Tsolo.

Maize crops at Nkambath, Umgazi and Dumba were beginning to "fussie" — a critical stage when rain was required.

Mr Moffat said if good rains fell shortly, most projects could still produce 70 to 80 per cent of their original potential. — DDR



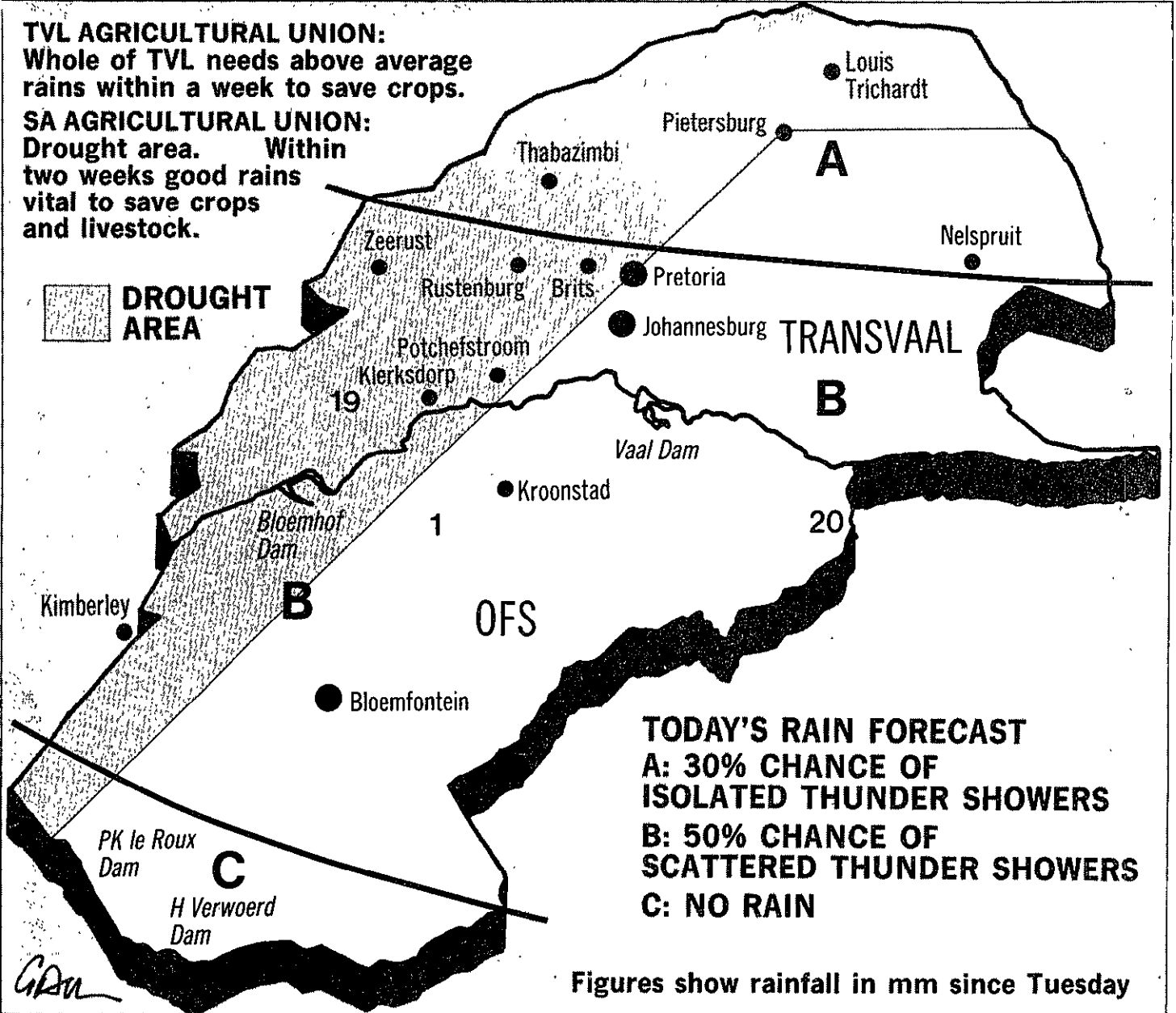
Early loan levy repayment

DURBAN — Taxpayers can "in all probability" expect repayment of the 1978 loan levy a week earlier than expected, the acting Director General of Finance, Mr Gerhard Croeser, said.

3 General

TVL AGRICULTURAL UNION:
Whole of TVL needs above average rains within a week to save crops.
SA AGRICULTURAL UNION:
Drought area. Within two weeks good rains vital to save crops and livestock.

 **DROUGHT AREA**



AGRICULTURALLY the country is infinitely worse off than most South Africans believe because it is only a week away from disaster — unless it receives above average rains.

According to the Transvaal Agricultural Union, there are only seven days left of the rainy season to save crops in the province.

And, according to Mr Gerrie Smit of the SA Agricultural Union, South African food producers face a "calamity" if rain does not

Disaster one week away

By MAURITZ MOOLMAN

fall within a fortnight in the area north of Pietersburg and west of the town. He said every hot day caused incalculable damage to crops because ground moisture continued to drop at an "alarming rate".

And Mr Fanie Hugo, deputy secretary of the Trans-

vaal Agricultural Union, said that the production of fruit and vegetables in the lowveld could be severely affected — especially in the Tzaneen area, if it did not rain within the next week.

He said cattle farmers were already barely maintaining basic stocks.

Mr Hugo said recent optimism for good harvests of maize and sorghum in the Eastern Transvaal had been "radically" affected by the Transvaal heat wave during the past few days.

He said he could not speculate on the effect the drought would have on the prices of meat, vegetable and fruit during this year but added that farmers could withhold stock from

the market when conditions improved.

Cattle farmers might have to use crops planted to feed animals, Mr Human said.

The Fanie Botha dam near Tzaneen was only between 7% and 8% full.

He said earlier crops had been hardest hit by the drought — and farmers debts were accumulating.

Disaster looms for maize crop

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The SA maize crop is "tottering on the brink of disaster" and is expected to be far worse than last year's, says Dr Piet Gouws, general manager of the National Association of Maize Producers (Nampo).

"We will have to import masses of grain, but where can we get the money?" he said.

The causes of the expected crop failure have been the lack of rain and the above-average temperatures experienced during the festive season.

"We went into December without any sub-soil moisture and now with the heat the whole Highveld is affected, with the western Transvaal, our major maize-producing area, an absolute disaster," said Dr Gouws.

"Next 2 weeks critical"

Mr Jan Human of the Transvaal Agricultural Union said: "The next two weeks will be critical." He said the younger plants needed rain and the sun was scorching the seed from the cobs of older plants.

"If it rains and the heatwave breaks, we expect a reasonable harvest, although it will still be below the normal average.

"With the heat, however, the situa-

tion worsens every day."

A spokesman from the North West Co-operative in Lichtenburg said they were at a "critical period" where the weather could make or break the harvest.

"It last rained two weeks ago and the sub-soil moisture is really drying out. If it rains before the end of next week, we could get 80 percent of a normal crop, but otherwise we could lose a great deal."

Increased prices

Prices have also increased lately for farmers, he said.

"Fertilizer was increased by between 21 and 28 percent, Escom will increase its tariffs, we expect a rise in the petrol price and the cost of tractor parts and tyres have gone up. We are going to have an inflation rate of 15 percent and farmers will have to ask for an increase of about 20 percent on what maize they have.

"There is nothing that we as farmers can do — we cannot make rain or stop the rand from slipping against the dollar."

Dr Gouws said he had no statistics on how many plants had been lost in the heat "but I have been speaking to the major co-operative managers and it is a disaster story everywhere".

(2) whether any complaints of ill-treatment were reported to him as a result of such visits; if so, (a) how many and (b) what steps have been taken as a result of these reports?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) (a) 1 611.
- (b) 1 833.

(2) Yes.

(4) 49 complaints of alleged assault.

(b) All complaints are being properly investigated and then referred to the Attorney-General for his decision. In 16 of the 49 cases he declined to prosecute, while the investigation of the other 33 cases has not yet been finalised.

Questions on own affairs for written reply:
 1. Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Education and Culture:—

(1) What was the total amount appropriated in the 1984-85 financial year for White education in respect of each province of the Republic?

(2) What was the total number of White schoolchildren who attended (a) primary schools and (b) high schools in each province of the Republic in the 1984 calendar year?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) Transvaal R924,3 million
- Cape Province R511,5 million
- Natal R244,1 million
- OFS R158,4 million

- (2) Transvaal 340 079
- Cape Province 146 752
- Natal 68 200
- OFS 46 386

601 417 386 952

School pupils: expenditure per capita
 2. Mr H E J VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

What was the per capita expenditure, (a) including and (b) excluding expenditure of a capital nature, on White school pupils in (i) each province and (ii) the Republic in the 1983-84 financial year?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

	(a)	(b)
	R	R
(i) Transvaal	1 463	1 318
Orange Free State	1 773	1 679
Cape	1 868	1 745
Natal	1 685	1 511
Department of Education and Culture	5 871	5 332(0)
(ii) Republic	1 654	1 511(0)

Notes: (1) Excluding training centres for mentally retarded children.

(2) Excluding private schools.

3. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

(1) How many White persons applied for old-age pensions in 1984;

(2) how many of these applications (a) were granted, (b) were refused and (c) are still under consideration;

(3) how many of the refusals were attributable to the applicant's assets exceeding the limits laid down by the means test;

(4) what total number of White persons were in receipt of old-age pensions as at the end of 1984 or the latest specified 12 months period for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

- (1) 13 260.
- (2) (a) 10 150.
- (b) 2 180.
- (c) 930.
- (3) 610.
- (4) 142 968 (as at 31 December 1984).

QUESTIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

- Andrew, Mr K M—
Co-operation, Development and Education, 8, 9, 10
- Barnard, Mr S P—
Finance, 15
- Boraine, Dr A L—
Co-operation, Development and Education, 7
- Law and Order, 29
- Manpower, 7, 8
- Dalling, Mr D J—
Co-operation, Development and Education, 16
- Foreign Affairs, 19, 20
- Law and Order, 26, 27, 31
- Water Affairs, 32
- Goodall, Mr B—
Health Services and Welfare, 36
- Leader of the Official Opposition (see under Slabbert, Dr F van Z)—
- Le Roux, Mr F J—
Mineral and Energy Affairs, 14
- Malcomess, Mr D J N—
Law and Order, 27
- Transport Affairs, 2, 33
- Myburgh, Mr P A—
Finance, 33
- Raw, Mr W V—
Communications, 23
- Trade and Industry, 21
- Transport Affairs, 23
- Slabbert, Dr F van Z (Leader of the Official Opposition)—
State President, 1
- Sayman, Dr W J—
Co-operation, Development and Education, 13
- Soal, Mr P G—
Co-operation, Development and Education, 6
- Law and Order, 29
- Suzman, Mrs H—
Law and Order, 3, 34
- Van der Merwe, Mr H D K—
Co-operation, Development and Education, 15
- National Education, 11
- Education and Culture, 35
- Van der Merwe, Mr S S—
Home Affairs, 4, 5, 28
- Van Rensburg, Mr H E J—
Education and Culture, 36
- Van Zyl, Mr J J B—
Finance, 16
- Visagie, Mr J H—
Trade and Industry, 11

SA-wide rain can break drought

CAPE TOWN 7/1/85
3 Good

JOHANNESBURG. — The drought which is affecting most of South Africa — and which has cost more than R2 000-million in lost crops — may come to an end if the weekend rain which fell over most of the country continues.

According to the Central Weather Bureau in Pretoria, conditions for more rain in the next few days are favourable.

Rain has been forecast for the Eastern Cape, the Transvaal, Natal, the Free State and the Cape north of the Orange River.

On the West Rand, however, the much-needed rain that fell on Saturday had catastrophic effects.

And in Natal a violent tornado struck a farm at Impendhle at the weekend, tearing off the roof, breaking windows and cracking the walls.

Seven workers on the farm Heronvale, belonging to Mr Anton Bryant of Durban, were injured during the weekend tornado, which lasted only a few minutes but wrecked the farmhouse and out-buildings and uprooted massive trees. Employ-

ees' homes on the premises were also destroyed.

In the Transvaal, the rain came in the form of heavy downpours that occurred over most of the province on Saturday. A flash flood hit the Krugersdorp area, causing extensive damage to homes and property.

About 58mm of rain fell in central Krugersdorp between 5pm and 6pm on Saturday.

The highest rainfall figure of 77mm was recorded at De Deur, near Vereeniging. At Swartruggens 20mm of rain fell within 45 minutes.

Potgietersrus had 55mm, and Klerksdorp, Orkney and Stilfontein all reported about 14mm.

Hailstorms

In Pretoria yesterday, thunderstorms caused a number of power disruptions, and 34mm of rain was recorded.

Hail accompanied the storm in the Transvaal, causing severe damage in some areas. Worst-hit was Krugersdorp, where 50cm of hail fell.

A shattering hailstorm hit farms north of Bronkhorstpruit, east of Pretoria, last night.

In another hailstorm on Saturday, hundreds of hectares of maize which would have been worth millions of rands, was destroyed.

Yesterday hundreds of water melons were reported to be drifting on an irrigation dam.

Hailstones "as big as tennis balls" fell in places, and on one farm the roof of a barn collapsed under the strain.

— Sapa and Own Correspondent

● Weather forecast, page 7

Farmers to ask for more in State aid

3 Genad

ARGUS 17/1/85



...lding are President P W Botha, chief whip, back to camera. Ventzel Greyling, Dr Dawie de Hendrik Schoeman, Mr Chris Pienaar, Mr Kobus Jooste, Mr D W ...si.

Price talks

crippled financially by successive droughts.

President Botha indicated that weather was on his mind when he remarked to people leaving the Cabinet room before the start of discussions: "Enjoy the rain."

An important decision expected to be taken by the Cabinet concerns the price of petrol, which motor industry sources expect will rise sharply.

Such an increase would...

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — About R1 000-m in Government aid might be necessary for drought-stricken farmers, the president of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) Mr Kobus Jooste said here.

The SAAU would approach the Government for additional interest subsidies of not less than R1 000-m.

This estimate was based on the situation of farmers before the rains.

Mr Jooste said the SAAU would first wait to see what the results of yields were after the widespread rains before approaching the Government.

Their own interest

He appealed to consumers for understanding that agriculture's continued existence would be in their interest — should the Government decide to grant additional interest subsidies to the agricultural sector.

According to a report on the financial situation of farmers released by Mr Jooste at the Press conference, the position of summer crop producers gave reason for special anxiety.

Although they were receiving certain interest subsidies from the state, the "weighted average interest rate," to be paid by summer crop producers amounted to about 18 percent a year at the end of 1984.

At this interest rate their debt, even in normal production years, would increase further.

A deputation headed by Mr Jooste discussed the farmers' situation and handed a copy of the report to the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis and the Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs, Mr Greyling Wentzel.

The report was compiled by Professor P A Nel of Unisa and Mr A T Davel of SaaU.

Rains soak parched country

CAPE TIMES
17/1/85

3 General

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa's three-year drought could be over. Steady soaking rain is falling over large parts of the country and weather office officials predict the showers could continue for another couple of days.

Until 8am yesterday, rainfall figures of 168mm at Ixopo in Natal and 111mm at Schweizer-Reneke in the Transvaal had been recorded and farmers in the drought-ravaged Northern and Western Transvaal say the rains have come "just in time" to save crops.

Mr Giel van Zyl, head of the National Maize Producers' Organization, said that earlier maize plantings had been "devastated" but the current rains were a welcome relief for the later plantings and could very well have saved the situation. "We just hope the rains keep coming," he said. An official of the Pre-

toria Weather Bureau said a high-pressure system to the south-east of the country, compounded by an upper and surface air trough, led to the high level of rain recorded in some parts of the country.

It was highly likely that the soaking rains — coming at a vital time for most summer crops — would continue for at least the next two days.

The rain will affect large areas of the Transvaal, the Free State, Natal and the North-Eastern Cape.

Widespread rains have fallen over the Western Cape and adjoining areas since the weekend.

In the past three days the weather office at D F Malan has reported the following rainfall: Touws River (0,8mm), Calvinia (28mm), Stellenbosch (2,5mm) and Swellendam (3mm). The

weather office at Beaufort West yesterday reported 60,2mm at Beaufort West, 21mm at Fraserburg, 54mm at Sutherland and 37mm at Prince Albert.

The weather office at George recorded 29,1mm while 12mm fell at Willowmore, 33,7mm at Riverdale and 51,6mm at Mossel Bay. Laingsburg recorded 42mm.

In Natal, the senior agro-meteorologist at Cedara Agricultural College, Mr W H Reynolds, said the rains were "most welcome" and hoped they would continue.

He said Ixopo had recorded 53mm on Sunday and a massive 168mm yesterday. He said the rain was still falling and dams like the Midmar had filled up slightly.

Mr Reynolds said it was a pity the rains had come too late for many of the crops, but those

planted recently would have a good chance.

However, the office of the Minister of Agriculture has reacted with caution to reports that the widespread rains may have saved the maize crop. A spokesman for his office said yesterday that the minister, Mr Greyling Wentzel, would issue a statement only after the crop had been harvested and figures were available.

● In Johannesburg, play in the Lexington PGA golf tournament at the Wanderers was suspended at 1.15pm yesterday, with only six of the 144 players having completed their opening rounds and half the field not having started. A PGA official said first-round play would resume at 9.30am today, weather permitting. — Sapa

BUSINESS BRIEF

Gold (close)	\$302,95
Rand	\$0,4350/60
FT index (close) ..	981,30
RDM 100	902,80

3) General Room 17/11/85

Long drought sparks probe into control board schemes

By GERALD REILLY
Pretoria Bureau

THE National Marketing Council has been instructed to investigate the country's 21 commodity control board schemes, the Deputy Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, said in Pretoria yesterday.

Addressing the Agrocon (Agricultural Outlook) conference, he said although the results could not be anticipated, changes and adjustments could be expected.

The Minister stressed the current sorry plight of the country's agricultural industry.

One of the severest droughts

this century had afflicted vast tracts of land over the past three years.

Other parts of the country had suffered from cyclones.

This, and the fact that substantial quantities of maize had to be imported, stressed the great need for a strategy to provide sufficient food for a growing population.

Until recently, the present high interest rates were "unthinkable", farm debt was not nearly such a pressing problem and, going back a little further, the inflation rate was practically at the same level, or even lower, than the country's main trading partners.

"Never since the thirties has there been such a severe economic recession as the world is now experiencing," he said.

Not only was SA's production adversely affected by the droughts, but agricultural land had deteriorated alarmingly.

Estimates were that in the year 2020 only 1,5ha of agricultural land per head would be available, compared to 5,5ha in 1970.

The seriousness of the situation was emphasised by the fact that only 12% of South Africa's total land area could be cultivated.

● More Reports
— See Business Day

Cape Town-bound train delayed nine hours — wettest January for years

Rail Washaway

AK645 17/1/85
3 General

17/1/85

3 General

Staff Reporters

A WASHAWAY in the Karoo delayed the Johannesburg-Cape Town train by nine hours today as heavy rains fell throughout the country, bringing relief to crop farmers.

The wet weather has brought hopes that dams will start filling and the Pretoria weather bureau is predicting the wettest January in three years.

Unusually heavy rain in the Karoo area damaged the railway line at Slapella, 80km north of Beaufort West, last night. A second line was opened at 1.30am.

By the time it reached Beaufort West, the Johannesburg-Cape Town train was already more than nine hours late. It is expected in Cape Town at 6pm.

The senior district engineer at Beaufort West said trains were running normally, but repairs to the line would continue all day. In Durban, a British Airways flight with 202 passengers aboard and an Air Mauritius flight were diverted to Jan Smuts because of the weather conditions at Louis Botha airport.

A South African Airways Airbus from Johannesburg to Durban was also turned back. Durban passengers at Jan Smuts Airport face a long wait as the Weather Bureau predicts conditions will improve only late tonight or early tomorrow morning.

Transvaal Agricultural Union spokesman Mr. Christo Badenhorst said today Transvaal farmers were feeling "great optimism".

"There are still isolated districts which have not had enough rain. We trust, however, that the wet weather will spread. He said the drought could not be considered broken before dams filled and vital underground soil moisture was re-stored.

Flowing strongly
Official figures put levels of Transvaal dams today at: Vaal, 17.02 percent — slightly down from yesterday, Sterkfontein 78 percent; Hartbeespoort, 28.7 percent.

Water Affairs and Department of Agriculture spokesmen have also warned that the drought has not yet been broken in spite of the rain saving many maize farmers in the western and northern Free State in the nick of time.

"We need at least 20mm of sharp rain and lots of run-off in the Vaal catchment area to start water flowing into the Vaal Dam," said Water Affairs spokesman, Mr. Anton Steyn.

Water is pouring into Natal's dams and the Little Mool River, dry two weeks ago, is flowing strongly.

Homes flooded
Inflow into Midmar in-

3 General

17/1/85

3 General

Teacher dives into river to save youth

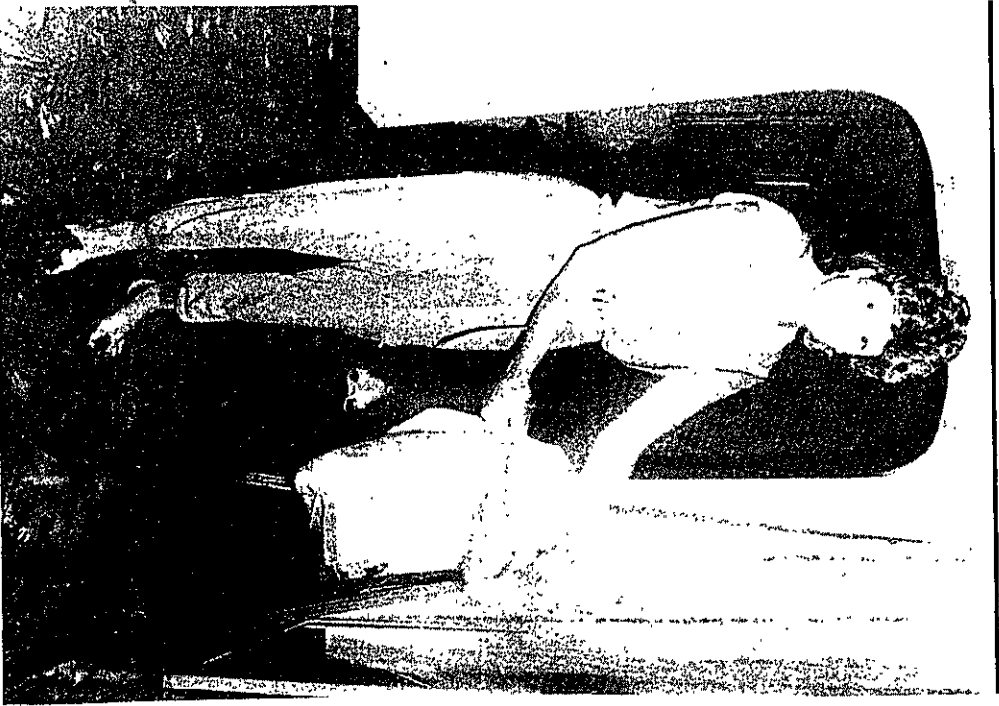
Staff Reporter

A GRAAF-REINPT teacher dived into a river fully-clothed to rescue a schoolboy when heavy rains turned a stream into a "raging torrent".

The rescue at the Karoo town took place yesterday after 50mm of rain fell in 35 minutes.

Mr. David Gaus, 33, who teaches physical education at Lingcom Primary School, was called when passers-by saw 18-year-old Roderick Isbell struggling in the Droe River.

"When I arrived crowds had gathered on both sides of the river. It seemed that the youth had tried to cross the river and had been swept away by the water," Mr.



Mrs Marina Shepherd wrings out a section of curtaining which cost R5 000 . . . the wall-to-wall carpets were white before the flooding.

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Homes flooded

Inflow into Midmar increased from 1 000 litres to more than 12 000 litres a second yesterday and the dam as 90.43 percent full today.

Crop-savvy rains averaging more than 50mm have fallen in the Natal Midlands.

Soaking rain over large parts of the Northern Cape have averted disaster for many maize farmers in the Vaalharts area who were fearing total crop failure.

Kimberley's rainfall figure for the month is 17.3 mm — already more than the total figure for January last year.

By Bam, 102mm had fallen in Rooderpoort, where some homes were flooded. On the West Rand falls between 30mm and 76mm were recorded. Sib-urbs of Johannesburg, recorded between 32mm and 63mm.

Restrictions

In spite of three days' rain in the Port Elizabeth area, there has been little inflow to the city's supply dams and water restrictions will remain in force, according to the city's water affairs department.

● The Df Mahan weather office predicts showers in Cape Town today and tomorrow.

Fine weather is not expected until the weekend. The city had 2mm before Bam today.

So far this month 20.8mm has fallen — almost double the average January rainfall of 10.6mm.

● See Page 2.

Teacher dives into river to save youth

Staff Reporter

A GRAAF-REINET teacher dived into a river fully-clothed to rescue a schoolboy when heavy rains turned a stream into a "raging torrent".

The rescue at the Karoo town took place yesterday after 51mm of rain fell in 35 minutes.

Mr. David Gates, 33, who teaches physical education at Lingosom Primary School, was called when passers-by saw 18-year-old Frederick Isbell struggling in the Droe River.

"When I arrived crowds had gathered on both sides of the river. It seemed that the youth had tried to cross the river and had been swept away by the water," Mr. Gates said.

"The river is normally just a stream, but it was a raging torrent."

"When I saw that he was struggling, I dived in, as I was, and pulled him out," said the teacher, whose physical education training included lifesaving.

Frederick, a matric pupil, was admitted to hospital with minor injuries. He is expected to be discharged today.



Mrs. Marina Shepherd wings out a section of curtaining which cost R5 000... the wall-to-wall carpets were white before the flooding.

SAAU's R1 000m aid plea

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The South African Agricultural Union is to ask the government for R1 000-million to aid farmers crippled financially by successive droughts, the president of the SAAU, Mr Kobus Jooste, said in Pretoria last night.

Earlier in the week, a deputation from the SAAU headed by Mr Jooste discussed the crisis in agriculture with the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, and the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel.

Mr Jooste said at a press conference that no direct appeal for aid had been

made at the meeting and that a motivated submission for substantial assistance would be made in about six weeks' time.

To keep large numbers of farmers in production "not less than R1 000-million" would be needed.

An SAAU investigation submitted to the ministers emphasized that at the end of 1984 farmers were in a critical financial situation, mainly because of drought and punishing interest rates.

Mr Piet Swart, director of the SAAU, said farmers' debts could by now have reached a point between R9 000-million and R10 000-million.

Stock washed away, dams burst in East Cape floods

Argus 18/1/85 3 General

Argus Bureau

PORT ELIZABETH. — Dams burst and hundreds of cattle and smaller stock were washed away and drowned when the Great Fish River flooded.

A cloudburst in the Graaff-Reinet/Cradock area of the drought-stricken Eastern Cape on Wednesday caused hundreds of thousands of rands in damage.

Homes were flooded when more than 100mm of rain fell in less than an hour.

One of those hardest hit was Mr Godfrey Collett of Katkop farm. Without warning, floodwaters hit about 3am yesterday, washing away 300 angora goats and equipment worth an estimated R60 000.

Graaff-Reinet was deluged with 54mm of rain in less than 30 minutes. Earlier in the week shops in the town were flooded.

The centre of the cloudburst was in the Agtersneeu-berg and Grasland Kop areas, where 100mm

of rain was recorded.

The Loots bridge at the entrance to Cradock was closed for several hours while the Great Fish poured over it.

But the rain also brought relief.

"We had three dams washed away," said Mrs Esther Jordaan of the farm Kareebosch in the Agtersneeu-berg. "But at least we think the drought has broken and we can look forward to better times now."

Dam levels rise, maize crop saved after Vaal rain

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — As rain water begins flowing into the Vaal Dam, maize experts have changed their expectations of a "disastrous" crop to predictions which include the possibility of self-sufficiency this year.

The widespread rain of the last few days should increase the Vaal Dam level by three percent to 20 percent, a spokesman for Water Affairs, Mr Anton Steyn, said today.

Continued rains and another 35mm downpour over the catchment area would push the level up 10 percent to 27 percent by the end of the weekend, he said.

GLOOMY

A few days ago, the Maize Board and the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) were gloomy about the maize crop and thought maize would have to be imported this year.

Predictions are now changing and Mr Hennie Nel, general manager of the Maize Board, says he expects 5 000 000 to 5 250 000 tons if widespread rains continue until March.

Meanwhile, farmers in Montagu are counting the cost of flood damage after the Langkloof River broke its banks, destroying farm dams, fences and washing away roads and livestock.

Some farms are still cut off after a cloudburst which brought more than 100mm of rain within hours.

TORRENT

Mr Pieter Wolfaardt estimates about R65 000 damage to his farm, Langkloof, where a torrent of water washed away boundary fences, sheep and about two-thirds of his lucerne land.

Another farmer in the district, Mr J D le Roux, has lost at least 100 goats, his wife, Mrs J H le Roux, said yesterday.

In Upington, municipal workers are clearing broken branches and trees blown down during a storm on Wednesday. Low-lying houses were flooded when an irrigation canal near the Northern Cape town burst its banks.

Reports of damage also came from Cradock, where the Frans Loots Bridge was closed to traffic after water streamed over it, and from Pearston, where houses were flooded and dams destroyed.

81 *

CAPL Times 18/1/85
3 Gamp

Cheers, tears after deluge

RAIN soaked most of the country for the third day yesterday, causing jubilation, a few mishaps, and steadily rising dam levels, as well as hopes for a better-than-expected mealie harvest.

Maize Board general manager Mr Hennie Nel said the steady rains this week had checked the decline of summer grain crops and stabilized the maize harvest.

But he cautioned that a change in the weather pattern could still mean a setback for the anticipated 1985 crop yield of 5,5 million tons.

A copious run-off of water is draining into the main storage dams after penetrating rain over most of the summer rainfall region in the past two days.

In the Eastern Cape, flooding after a storm during which up to 100mm fell over the Agtersneeuberg and Grasland Kloof area near Cradock resulted in some damage.

The torrents broke dams and carried away 300 angora goats and fencing and damaged tracts of cultivated land.

Ixopo, Natal, was deluged by 149mm rain in the past two days, and the Sacred Heart Convent Catholic mission there is cut off by washaways. Houses in the low-lying part of the town are flooded.

In the Peninsula, the wet weather appears to be abating. — Sapa and Staff Reporter

Farmers deep in the red

By GERALD REILLY

Pretoria Bureau

FARMERS' debts — aggravated by three years of drought — have soared to nearly R10 000-million, the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Kobus Jooste, said yesterday.

To service this vast debt burden demanded interest payments of about R1 800-million a year — a crippling burden for most farmers.

This was why SAAU had decided to ask the Government urgently for further farmer aid amounting to about R1 000-million.

Mr Jooste said the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, had been told by SAAU there were two alternatives — either the farmer must be assisted with subsidies or the country's monetary and fiscal policies had to be amended.

He stressed it was important that taxpayers be made to appreciate agriculture's urgent need for help.

"It is in the interests of the country, the consumer and the man in the street that farmers be kept on the land," he said.

Mr Jooste said organised agriculture wanted to get away from subsidies. "We don't want the farmer to be locked into a situation where he is permanently dependent on the State."

This was the long term aim, but in the short term aid was "urgently necessary".

General RSM 18/1/85
③
④

(3) General Mercury 24/11/85

Fresh produce prices anger farmers

Mercury Reporter

FRESH produce farmers in Natal are angry about the enormous disparities between the prices they get for their products and the eventual prices on supermarket shelves.

But both supermarket representatives and agencies say that they are not to blame.

Last week a Howick farmer was paid between 30 c and 34 c a kilogram for his crop of green peppers.

Commission

At the fresh produce market in Flower Road on the Bluff they were sold to dealers at R2 a pocket. On supermarket shelves they fetched, on average, R2 99 a kilogram.

Where does the price

difference go?

According to supermarket buyers, agent representatives and municipal officials it goes into administration costs.

Every product sold at the market has a 12,5 percent commission imposed, which is deducted from the price eventually received by the farmer.

On potatoes and onions 5 percent of the commission goes to agents and 7,5 percent to the municipal market.

Agents get 7,5 percent for fresh fruit and vegetables and the market 5 percent.

This, they say, covers staff salaries, transport, security and administration costs such as stationery.

Mr Peter Hattingh, an agent representative —

there are five at the Durban market — says he is on the side of the farmer.

'The higher price we get for the product the bigger our commission so of course we look after them,' he said.

The commission was necessary to pay for services they offered the farmer.

Wastage

The 'big mark-ups' took place somewhere between the market place and the supermarket shelf, he said.

He pointed out that the supermarket — in which the fresh produce department is a top profit-making area — has to contend with wastage in its pricing structures.

However, many super-

market chains claim they rely on direct deals with the farmer for the benefit of the consumer.

'It pays. We build up good relationships and try to keep prices at a fairly constant level throughout the year and cut out any middleman who would want his share,' said the buyer of one large operation.

'The farmer benefits by getting paid what he

wants immediately and the consumer benefits by getting top, fresh quality.'

Other supermarket chains have giant warehouses from where the fresh produce is distributed to their branches.

As a result, the price the consumer pays has to cover the cost of the warehouse, labour, off-loading, refrigeration and transport to the branch where it is sold.

Fuel blow to farm input costs

2-7/11/81

Business Times Reporters

THE increase of 12c a litre in agricultural diesel fuel will take R162-million a year out of the farming community, says the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

When the diesel subsidy of 4c/l is removed in June it will cost farmers another R135-million a year.

At the current price of R220 a ton, it costs a farmer R440 to harvest a hectare of maize and his return is R482, leaving a profit of R42.

S. Times

Subsidy

The fuel-price increase will boost maize farmers' costs a hectare from R70,50 to R88, reducing the profit at current prices to R24,50.

(S)

Hennie Nel, general manager of the Maize Board, says it is unlikely that a maize subsidy will be paid this year. It has been suggested that a maize price of about R300 will be demanded by Nampo, an increase of 36%.

(S) General

Wheat farmers are in a slightly better position. Dennis van Aard, general manager of the Wheat Board, says the fuel-price rise will lift input costs by 3% immediately, with bigger increases to follow.

(S)

"Last season we increased the wheat price by only 8,5% compared with the farmers' cost increases of 16%. The average return on a hectare of wheat is R375 compared with a cost of R303,5, leaving a profit of R72,5."

(S)

A 3% increase in total costs will push up input costs to R394 a hectare, so that farmers will make a loss of R19 a hectare at current prices.

The average wheat price is currently R260 a ton and seems likely to be raised to more than R300.

TRACTORS AT DAWN!

Angry farmers choose
their 'weapons' for
protest over fuel
price rises a mass
demo in Maritzburg

THE shock increased price of fuel has made a group of angry and frustrated farmers more determined than ever that a "tractor" demonstration and protest meeting which they are planning will be the most vociferous heard in South Africa.

This week the bitter Natal Midlands farmers, who early next month plan to shatter the peace in sleepy Maritzburg as they parade through the centre of town in at least 1 000 tractors, spoke of the reasons which have spurred them to mount their protest.

They lashed out at what they call illegal price fixing, cartels and lack of support from their legitimate representatives — the farming co-ops and agricultural unions.

And this week's shock petrol price increase announcement was for them the final blow on top of a list of grievances that have been building up for several years.

"The petrol increase is the absolute last straw," said Mr Gerrie de Jong, a Howick farmer and one of the organisers of next month's protest.

"When fertilizer companies threatened to increase their price we were talking about one in three farmers going under.

"With the new petrol prices one in two will go under," he said.

By SHAUN HARRIS

To vent their anger at what they call illegal and unfair farming costs farmers were this week making final preparations for their "tractor parade", the likes of which have never been seen before in South Africa.

Early next month more than 1 500 farmers from the Natal midlands, driving at least 1 000 tractors, will parade through the middle of Maritzburg and converge on the capital's tiny town hall for a protest meeting.

And the organisers of the demonstration are having to restrain farmers from outside Natal joining the tractor parade because the numbers might get too big to handle.

"We are getting phone calls every day from farmers in the Free State and Transvaal who support our demonstration and want to join in," said Mr de Jong.

"I wouldn't be surprised if some of them drive their tractors down the national highway to join our demonstration on February 7, although the town hall will barely accommodate the Natal farmers who will be at the meeting."

Maritzburg city police are taking special measures to accommodate the tractor parade.

Senior Superintendent Matin Bekker said one of the city's main roads would be blocked to traffic for an hour on the morning of the demonstration.

"Although the farmers are angry, we have had full co-operation from them.

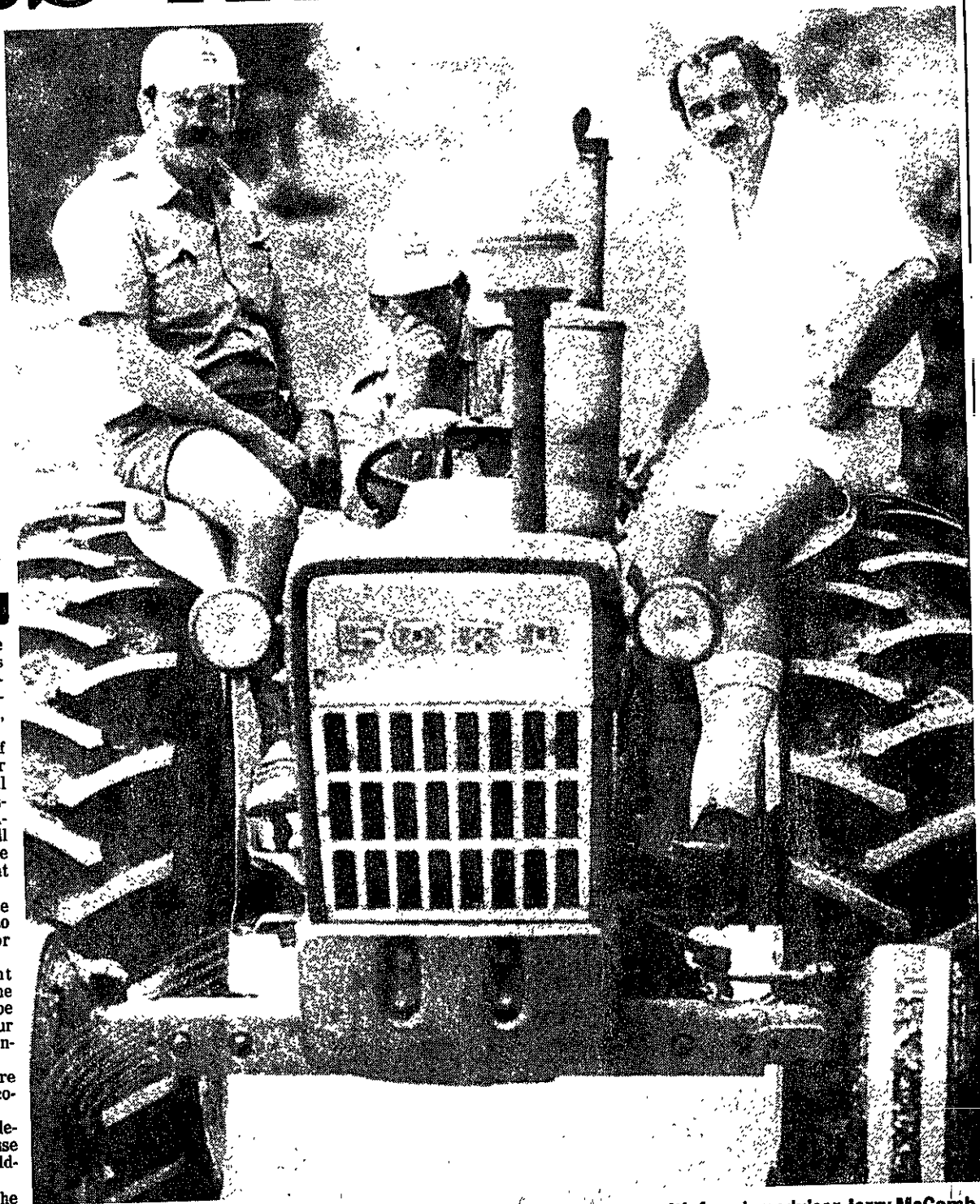
"With their help the demonstration should not cause too much of a traffic hold-up," he said.

The dramatic move by the farmers, traditionally considered to be conservative and long suffering in the face of hardships, has taken many people by surprise.

Many farmers involved in next month's protest expect it to have a ripple effect throughout the South African farming industry, and say they have heard "rumblings" from other provinces where farmers are discussing similar protests.

Mr de Jong said the main aim of the demonstration was to show farmers' "anger and frustration" at rocketing farming costs and to try and work out practical solutions to save the farming industry.

"We are fed-up with cartels and price fixing. The Government always promises to look into these illegal activities, but nothing is ever done about them."



Ready to march on Maritzburg . . . Chrls, left, and Sam Knox, centre, with farming adviser Jerry McComb

Mr de Jong said farmers blamed cartels for the recent increase in the price of fertilizer and animal feeds, and were unhappy about the high cost of farming equipment.

"And what is crippling farmers, especially the smaller and new farmers, is the high interest rates.

Pinch

"There are many farmers who owe more than their farms are worth," he said.

But it is the smaller farmers who say they are really feeling the pinch, and many are being forced to keep their farms going although they have been running at a loss for the past three years.

Sam and Chris Knox have been farming in the Natal midlands for three years, and have not yet made a profit on their farm.

"We are sitting ducks. We can't just sell our farm and move off like somebody else could sell their business or factory — it takes years to get your money out of a farm," Sam said.

He believes fewer controls and more free enterprise is needed if farmers are to survive.

A number of guest speakers from the maize, dairy and livestock producers, as well as Mrs Joy Hurwitz of the Housewives League, will address the protest meeting on February 7.

Farmers threaten fertiliser giants

3
S. Turner
3/2/85

By Don Robertson

FERTILISER producers have been warned of "drastic steps" against them by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) unless they compete on prices, discounts and sales conditions.

Fertiliser producers were forced to increase prices on January 1 by an average of 20% because of rising raw material costs. The SAAU says the increases could cost farmers an extra R100-million a year.

Producers, with the excep-

tion of Sasol, increased prices by the same amount and offered similar rebates.

The fertiliser advisory committee of the SAAU told the Fertilizer Society of SA at a meeting that farmers were not prepared to accept unjustified increases.

The SAAU said farmers had been compelled to cut costs and the fertiliser industry should follow their example.

Fanie van Rensburg, chairman of the advisory committee, says price control on the fertiliser industry was lifted to allow effective competition among producers, "and if this does not happen, the union will have to

take drastic steps".

Daan du Plessis, manager of corporate services at the SAAU, says these steps could include the submission of evidence to the Competition Board of allegations of price collusion.

The Fertilizer Society says the meeting was held to discuss mutual problems. As the society was unable to negotiate on prices, it invited the SAAU to discuss the matter with individual producers.

Friendly

The SAAU appears to be holding fire on confrontation with fertiliser producers, none of which has been approached.

The fertiliser industry, however, insists that it does not fix prices. Referring to the common problem of increased prices for raw materials, producers say it is natural that the cost of the end product should be similar from the various companies. They also point to the competitive position in the Cape where there is a mini price war.

John Skeen, managing director of Kynoch, says the discussions between the SAAU and the Fertilizer Society were amicable and his company is doing all it can to reduce costs.

R225m ^{(3) General} more from ^{S. Times} farm exports ^{3/2/85}

By Ciaran Ryan

THE sickly rand will pull in an extra R225-million in agricultural export earnings this year than in 1984.

In spite of a poor maize season, some farming sectors are doing well. Export crops, such as citrus and deciduous fruit, are expected to be worth 37% more this year purely because of the weak rand, although freight charges will reduce the profit.

Cyclone

Favourable climatic conditions mean that citrus exports will rise by 17% over 1984. A surplus of 150 000 tons of wheat is available for export this year. Last year South Africa was forced to import because drought scorched the crop.

South Africa will export about 28-million boxes — each weigh 15 kilograms — of fruit in 1985, mainly to Europe. Last season's exports were down to about 24-

million boxes because of drought and Cyclone Domoina.

Cameron McOnie, general manager of the Citrus Exchange, told Business Times: "There is good demand for South African exports because of bad harvests in Florida and Spain. Although prices haven't been settled, we expect export earnings to be 20% up on last year's R200-million."

Competitive

South Africa normally exports 60% of the citrus crop. Deciduous fruit, mainly grapes, apples and pears, exports are likely to exceed 25-million boxes which is on a par with 1984.

Louis Kriel, general Manager of the Deciduous Fruit Board, says export earnings are expected to be R420-million in 1985 compared with R360-million last year, largely as a result of the exchange rate.

South Africa's wheat surplus of 150 000 tons will probably be sold to neighbouring states, says Dennis van

Aarde, general manager of the Wheat Board.

"Our wheat is competitive for countries to the north. The landed price of imported maize is about R400 a ton compared with a domestic price of R280 a ton. So we can undercut overseas producers by a large margin."

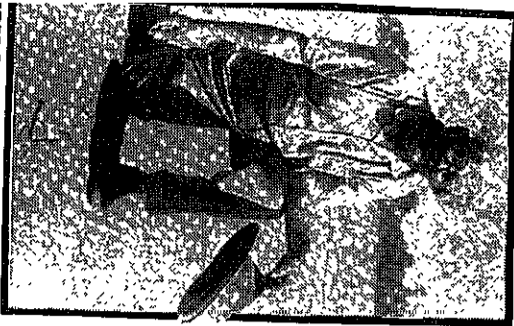
Wheat exports of 150 000 tons at present prices will be worth R42-million.

Wool exports are expected to remain constant in volume terms but to increase in rands by 26%. Latest estimates from the Wool Board project exports of 25,3-million kilograms for 1985 — about the same as 1984. The receipts will be worth about R400-million compared with R317-million in 1984. Wool production is down by 2% on 1984 as a result of the drought.

But the exchange rate does not always work in favour of exporters, says Mr Kriel. "Shipping and promotional expenses must also be paid. The shipping charge for last year's deciduous fruit exports was R88-million and this year it will be about R130-million."

An Ethiopia in the Cape

3 covered
3 2185
C. P. P. v



TOM CARROLL: One of the best surviving farmers.

THOUSANDS of farm labourers and their families are facing starvation because farmers are abandoning their farms in the drought-stricken Vergelee near the Northern Cape / Botswana border.

The workers are left without work or food — and local farmer Tom Carroll has warned that a “second Ethiopia” could develop.

“If something is not done very soon to save these poor people, there could be a terrible disaster.

By PETER AUF DER HEYDE

“I have written to a daily newspaper, suggesting that the people be evacuated, but nothing has been done about it,” he said.

The area’s usual average rainfall is 355mm and it produced 20 percent of the country’s maize, groundnuts, sunflower and sorghum.

Last year the rain level sunk to 127mm and production to 2 percent. More than one third of the farmers have left — leaving behind thousands of labourers.

One worker, Gula Moeng,

has been living on an abandoned farm for over a year.

“The farmer had been here for 52 years, but last year he suddenly locked his house and left for East London,” he said.

“I get R30 a month to look after this place, but there are about 30 people living here, so we face great difficulties.”

Two other people living on the farm also receive R30, but nobody is sure for how long this would continue.

“If we don’t get the money, I don’t think any of us could survive,” said Mr Moeng.

Mr Carroll said many farm workers went to another farm

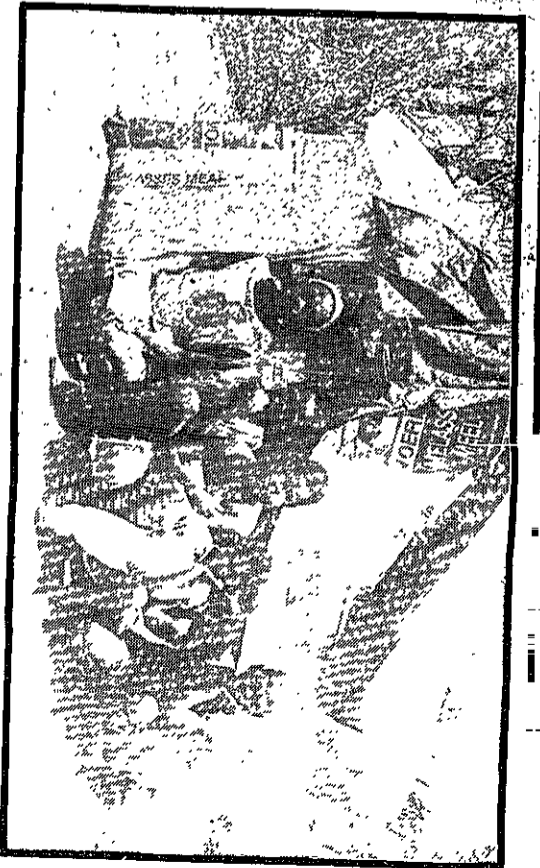
once their landowners left.

“But three years of drought and crop failures have crippled many of the remaining farmers. They don’t know for how long they can continue feeding the unproductive workers,” he said.

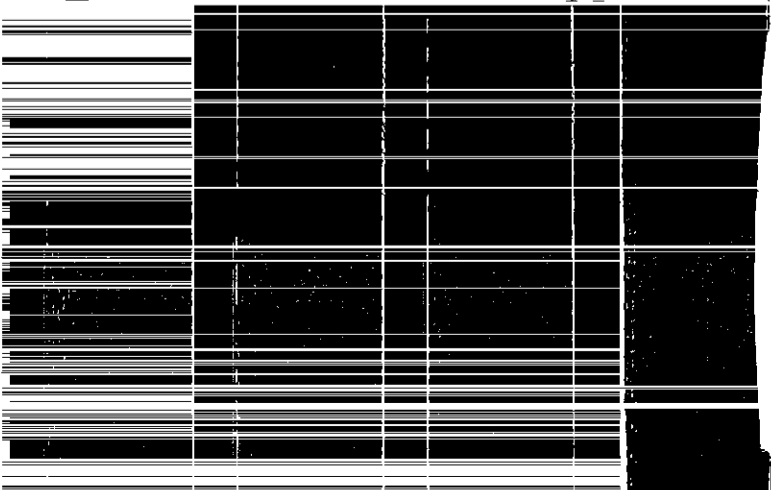
Mr Carroll warned that the situation would get even worse by winter.

Last week’s rains came too late to save the maize and groundnuts.

“Only outside intervention can save the thousands of starving workers now,” said Mr Carroll.



Facing starvation: The kids of the jobless farm workers at Vergelee.
Pix: AFRAPIX



7/2/85
Howard regulations Q.601.31
 28. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many Blacks in (a) the Sandton municipal area and (b) Alexandra Township were charged in 1984 with offences relating to (i) identity documents, (ii) influx control and (iii) curfew regulations?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a)	(b)
(i) 1 263	170
(ii) 961	347
(iii) None	None

30. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many serviceable patrol vehicles (a) with and (b) without radio equipment installed are stationed on a daily basis at the (i) Sandton, (ii) Bramley, (iii) Wynberg/Alexandra and (iv) Lombardy East police station?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a)	(b)
(i) 3	—
(ii) 2	—
(iii) 2	2
(iv) 3	1

The crime prevention unit is still being used daily on crime prevention and patrol duties.

Sandton: special crime prevention unit

31. Mr D J DALLING asked the Ministers of Law and Order:

With reference to his reply to Question No 42 on 8 February 1984, how many arrests in respect of each specified type of suspected offence were effected in 1984 by the special crime prevention unit stationed in Sandton?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Murder and attempted murder	15
Rape	4
Housebreaking and theft of household goods	8
Illegal possession of fire-arms and ammunition	31
Theft of motor vehicles	6
Theft from motor vehicles	37
Possession of stolen property	9
Sexual assault	37
Possession of pornographic material	15
Fraud	9
Possession of and dealing in dagga	1
Possession of dangerous weapons	71
Possession of and dealing in prohibited concoctions	16
Bribery	136
Trespassing	1
Registration and production of documents/Foreign Blacks entering urban areas	283
Contravention of the Road Traffic Ordinance	4 507
Pointing a fire-arm	41
Crimes Injuria	1
Stock theft	2
Escaping from custody	7
	2

Sandton: pollution of rivers/streams

36. Mr D J Dalling asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

Whether his Department took any action in 1984 in regard to the pollution of rivers and streams which flow through Sandton; if so, (a) what action, (b) in respect of which rivers and streams and (c) with what result?

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

Yes.

- (a) and (b) The hon member is referred to the reply by the Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries to his question 35 (for written reply) in 1984. The action in respect of the rivers and streams mentioned in that reply is being continued.
- (c) The results of the monitoring and sampling in 1984 again revealed no

significant deviation from normal water quality.

7/2/85
Howard Q.601.33
 Air hostesses
 37. Mr D J N MALCOMMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(a) How many applications to train as air hostesses were received in 1984 from (i) Whites, (ii) Coloureds persons, (iii) Asians and (iv) Blacks and (b) how many of these applications were successful in respect of each race group?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(a)	(i) 2 601
	(ii) 123
	(iii) 90
	(iv) 1 138
(b)	(i) 322
	(ii) 1
	(iii) 3
	(iv) 0

3
Howard Q.601.33
 Land and Agricultural Bank: loans
 50. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Finance:

(a) What was the total amount of loans granted to farmers by the Land and Agricultural Bank as at 31 December 1984 and (b) to how many farmers had these loans been granted?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (a) On 31 December 1984 farmers were indebted to the Land Bank for the total amount of R1 884 405 506 under long-, intermediate- and short-term loans.
- (b) The foregoing total debt is in respect of 42 675 loans granted by the Land Bank to farmers. Joint loans, which were granted to two or more farmers.

make up a large percentage of these loans.

7/2/85
Howard Q.601.34
 Internal Security Act
 53. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) How many persons are detained at present under section 29 (1) of the Internal Security Act, No 74 of 1982?
- (2) whether any such persons have been detained for longer than three months; if so, (a) how many and (b) for what period in each case?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) 135 Persons as on 31 January, 1985
- (2) Yes.

(a)	(b)
59.	1 for 225 days
	1 for 170 days
	2 for 163 days
	3 for 133 days
	1 for 130 days
	1 for 129 days
	4 for 128 days
	2 for 121 days
	10 for 120 days
	1 for 119 days
	10 for 112 days
	1 for 111 days
	1 for 100 days
	17 for 102 days
	1 for 99 days
	3 for 97 days

Note: Five cases in which 56 persons are involved are already in the possession of the attorney-general for a decision. The investigation of two cases in which three persons are involved, has not yet been concluded.

Internal Security Act

56. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) How many visits to detainees held under section 29 of the Internal Security Act were made by (a) inspectors and (b) magistrates in 1984;

to teacher training; the present position in regard to teacher training in the Natal Education Department, the financial implications of undertaking teacher training on behalf of another department as well as the Ministers' Council decision in regard to the disposal of redundant facilities were discussed.

Further discussions have subsequently been requested by Dr Dhlomo.

Oudtshoorn: bursaries

6. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

Whether any increase for bursary holders at the education college at Oudtshoorn has been announced this year; if not, why not; if so, (a) what does the increase amount to per year and (b) for which academic years does it apply?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- Yes,
- (a) R400,
- (b) the 1987 academic year and the relevant subsequent years of study.

Agricultural extension officers

7. Mr D G H NOLTE asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:†

- (a) How many agricultural extension officers were employed by his Department as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) (i) for what average period do such officers remain in the employ of his Department and (ii) what are the main reasons for their leaving the service?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

- (a) 149 on 31 May 1987.
- (i) 25,7 years in senior cadre. 11 years in junior cadre.
- (ii) Better salaries and fringe benefits.

For written reply:
General Affairs:

Full-time employees

168. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Communications:

- (1) What was the total number of persons employed in a full-time capacity in his Department as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) (a) how many such persons were employed in each of the eight most senior post levels in his Department, (b) how many of these persons were (i) male and (ii) female and (c) to which population group did each of these persons belong;
- (3) (a) what will be the applicable salaries and/or salary scales of each of the eight most senior post levels in his Department with effect from 1 July 1987 and (b) what financial and other specified benefits will be applicable to each of these post levels as at 1 July 1987?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) 96 941, as at 30 April 1987;

(2) (a)

Post level	Number of persons employed
1	1
2	4
3	16
4	48
5	1
6	76
7	224
8	1

- (b) (i) and (ii) with the exception of one female on post level 7 all the persons referred to are male;
- (c) to the White population group;

(3) (a)

Post level	Salary (fixed)
1	R131 031
2	R 75 990

healthy carriers of the disease (with positive blood tests). However, all these persons are not necessarily contagious and not every carrier will get the disease. Blood tests are also not 100% reliable.

- 1.2 The Stigma and implications of wrongly being labelled as a potential Aids patient are far reaching.
- 1.3 Compulsory notification, with the stigma implied, might drive the disease underground. This will have a contra productive effect on the control of the problem. Compulsory notification is not general policy in Western countries.
- 1.4 An anonymous confidential register of Aids cases is kept at the SAIMR, Johannesburg, under the supervision of experts who ensure that all diagnoses are confirmed and verified. This protects people who suffer or may be suspected to suffer from Aids from unnecessary and unwarranted victimisation and harassment.

- 3 R 63 990
- 4 R 57 600
- 5 R 56 010
- 6 R 50 490
- 7 R 45 030
- 8 R 40 710; and

- (b) (i) an annual service bonus amounting to 93% of one month's salary;
- (ii) a housing subsidy on interest and capital redemption up to a maximum of a housing loan of R50 000, subject to the compliance with certain conditions;
- (iii) varying telephone rental and call concessions; and
- (iv) a car financing scheme for officers occupying posts on the first six post levels. The size of the loans granted varies depending on an officer's grading.

Aids

186. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) is a notifiable disease; if not, why not; if so, how many cases have been recorded in South Africa as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) whether he has received any representations regarding this disease; if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was (i) the reason for these representations and (ii) his response thereto in each case;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No.

1.1 Aids can also be transmitted by

- 1.5 The Minister of National Health and Population Development has the power to take action should it be deemed necessary. The Advisory Group on Aids monitors the situation and advises regularly on suggested management.
- 1.6 By 25 June 1987 a total of 75 cases were diagnosed of which 55 were South Africans.

(2) Yes.

- (a) 25 April 1987.
- (b) Medical Association of South Africa.
- (c) (i) A decision by the Executive Committee.
- (ii) Discussions took place between officials of the Department and the Association.

(2) whether any complaints of ill-treatment were reported to him as a result of such visits; if so, (a) how many and (b) what steps have been taken as a result of these reports?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) (a) 1 611.
- (b) 1 833.

(2) Yes.

(4) 49 complaints of alleged assault.

(b) All complaints are being properly investigated and then referred to the Attorney-General for his decision. In 16 of the 49 cases he declined to prosecute, while the investigation of the other 33 cases has not yet been finalised.

Questions on own affairs for written reply:
 1. Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Education and Culture:—

(1) What was the total amount appropriated in the 1984-85 financial year for White education in respect of each province of the Republic;

(2) what was the total number of White schoolchildren who attended (a) primary schools and (b) high schools in each province of the Republic in the 1984 calendar year?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) Transvaal R924,3 million
- Cape Province R511,5 million
- Natal R244,1 million
- OFS R158,4 million

	Primary School pupils	High School pupils
(2) Transvaal	340 079	213 892
Cape Province	146 752	96 436
Natal	68 200	47 772
OFS	46 386	28 852
	601 417	386 952

School pupils: expenditure per capita

2. Mr H E J VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Education and Culture:—
 What was the per capita expenditure, (a) including and (b) excluding expenditure of a capital nature, on White school pupils in (i) each province and (ii) the Republic in the 1983-84 financial year?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

	(a)	(b)
	R	R
(i) Transvaal	1 463	1 318
Orange Free State	1 773	1 679
Cape	1 868	1 745
Natal	1 685	1 511
Department of Education and Culture	5 871	5 332(0)
(ii) Republic	1 654	1 511(0)

Notes: (1) Excluding training centres for mentally retarded children.

(2) Excluding private schools.

3. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:—

(1) How many White persons applied for old-age pensions in 1984;

(2) how many of these applications (a) were granted, (b) were refused and (c) are still under consideration;

(3) how many of the refusals were attributable to the applicant's assets exceeding the limits laid down by the means test;

(4) what total number of White persons were in receipt of old-age pensions as at the end of 1984 or the latest specified 12 months period for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

- (1) 13 260.
- (2) (a) 10 150.
- (b) 2 180.
- (c) 930.
- (3) 610.
- (4) 142 968 (as at 31 December 1984).

QUESTIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

Andrew, Mr K M—
 Co-operation, Development and Education, 8, 9, 10

Barnard, Mr S P—
 Finance, 15

Boraine, Dr A L—
 Co-operation, Development and Education, 7

Law and Order, 29
 Manpower, 7, 8

Dalling, Mr D J—
 Co-operation, Development and Education, 16

Foreign Affairs, 19, 20
 Law and Order, 26, 27, 31
 Water Affairs, 32

Goodall, Mr B B—
 Health Services and Welfare, 36

Leader of the Official Opposition (see under Slabbert, Dr F van Z)—

Le Roux, Mr F J—
 Mineral and Energy Affairs, 14

Malcomess, Mr D J N—
 Law and Order, 27
 Transport Affairs, 2, 33

Myburgh, Mr P A—
 Finance, 33

Rau, Mr W V—
 Communications, 23

Trade and Industry, 21
 Transport Affairs, 23

Slabbert, Dr F van Z (Leader of the Official Opposition)—
 State President, 1

Sayman, Dr W J—
 Co-operation, Development and Education, 13

Soal, Mr P G—
 Co-operation, Development and Education, 6

Law and Order, 29

Suzman, Mrs H—
 Law and Order, 3, 34

Van der Merwe, Mr H D K—
 Co-operation, Development and Education, 15

National Education, 11
 Education and Culture, 35

Van der Merwe, Mr S S—
 Home Affairs, 4, 5, 28

Van Rensburg, Mr H E J—
 Education and Culture, 36

Van Zyl, Mr J J B—
 Finance, 16

Visagie, Mr J H—
 Trade and Industry, 11

We're spitting mad say farmers

N.M 8/2/85

3 General

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

NEARLY 2 000 furious Natal farmers joined forces yesterday against fertiliser manufacturers, stock feed suppliers, marketing middlemen and the Government in an unprecedented protest that took the capital and the province by storm.

One speaker after another at a City Hall rally raged against the people they felt were responsible for rocketing farm costs and made it clear their frustration and anger had become too great to be ignored any longer.

The city was staggered by the size of the demonstration, which began with the procession of a massive four-deep column of tractors

The centre of town was brought to a standstill as thousands lined the streets to watch the farm vehicles, old, new, large and not so large, roll towards the City Hall.

About 1 000 rumbled down Commercial Road from the Royal Showgrounds in a spectacular procession, with khaki-clad farmers at the wheel, their friends, wives and girlfriends in support and banners bearing slogans highlighting their complaints, prominently displayed.

The parade lasted 40 minutes and was monitored by more than 50 traffic policemen who closed roads leading into the capital's main street.

Resolved

At the end the farmers filed into the City Hall to protest and accuse suppliers and middlemen who market agricultural products of taking them for a ride.

They resolved unanimously to call on the Natal Agricultural Union to convene, within 30 days, a meeting with a delegation from the rally committee, co-operatives and exchanges, to plan a strategy 'to offer Natal farmers maximum joint negotiating and buying power which will in turn reduce costs'

Resolutions were adopted by the farmers who decided to form an action committee.

Organiser Mr Gerrie de Jong said the meeting proved that farmers were united and prepared to take a strong stand against those who, in the past, had taken undue advantage of them.

The meeting felt that unnecessary restrictive laws, rules or regulations that adversely affected the marketing of farm products should be removed immediately.

It called on the Government to remove sales tax and all tariffs, taxes, import duties and licence fees levied on products bought by farmers for food production.

Farmers said they were 'sick and tired' of being told that they had to pay for their way of life.

They saw no morality in manufacturers, industrialists and distributors insisting on returns of between 15 percent and 25 percent on their investments, while farmers were lucky to maintain a return of between 3 percent and 4 percent.

One of the most controversial issues raised at the

Tractors growl their protest



Farmers' Day. Some of the 2 000 who staged a tractor parade through the centre of Pietermaritzburg yesterday protesting rocketing farm costs. The parade closed roads leading to the capital's main street.
Picture by ALAN COXON

meeting was that of cartels and monopolies in South Africa.

Resolutions called on the Government to take immediate action against all price-fixing groups.

The farmers asked the Minister of Trade and Industries to take action in terms of the Maintenance and Promotion of Competition Act of 1979 against 'certain fertiliser companies, the balanced-feed association cartel and other price-fixing groups'.

Summing up resolutions Mr de Jong said that only through resolve and dedicated joint action could they beat 'the giants that are ranged against us'.

'If we stand united and

● TURN TO PAGE 2

Farmers' total debt is more than ^{(3) GEN} R11-bn ^{STAR} ^{5/6/86}

By Sue Leeman,
Pretoria Bureau

South African farmers are now in debt to the tune of more than R11 000 million — and co-operatives are under great financial pressure, according to chief director of the North Western Co-operative, Dr A P Scholtz.

Dr Scholtz told a conference of agricultural co-operatives in Pretoria yesterday that about R2 739 million — 24,6 percent — of farmers' overall debt had been financed by co-operatives.

At the end of 1985, he said, the co-operatives owed the Land Bank a total of R2 739 million, R1 698 of which was emergency aid to farmers.

Dr Scholtz said there were considerable risks for the co-ops in extending this kind of credit and most administered these loans on exceptionally low margins.

Since 1982, there had been a rapid decline in the finances of co-ops, as a result of the emergency aid they were supplying.

For one thing, their own capital now made up only 27,7 percent of their total financing and they were becoming more dependent on loans with ever-increasing interest rates.

'PERTINENT'

"The co-operatives are going to have to ask themselves if they are happy to and capable of continuing to take the responsibility for emergency aid — particularly that of farmers' rolled-over debt.

"This question is particularly pertinent because the Government does not guarantee unqualified security to co-ops for such emergency aid.

"In reality, the co-ops are still held accountable for any claims until they have proved that any credit granted complies with the Land Bank's regulations.

"The bad debt which can arise from this is not taken over by the State."

Dr Scholtz believed that despite this the co-ops should go on financing farmers to the extent they had in the past — but they should look for ways to augment their own capital.

Minister of Agriculture and Water Supplies Mr Sarel Hayward, who opened the conference, said he had initiated negotiations between financial institutions to formulate a clearer strategy for granting credit to farmers.

GREATEST INCREASE

He said the private sector had an important role.

Between 1981 and 1984 agricultural assets increased by 40 percent while its debts rose by 147 percent.

The greatest increase in debt had been among those offering largely short-term credit, such as commercial banks and co-operatives.

Producers were now finding it difficult to meet their debts, even in good years.

Poor financing norms, the unco-ordinated granting of credit and too much liquidity among credit institutions in times of prosperity were some causes.

It was vital for all interested institutions to work out a joint strategy.

He had requested an investigation into merging the Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board.

"These are institutions which provide credit largely on the basis of ability to pay rather than pure security — an exceptionally healthy approach which must be expanded."



Travelling four abreast, about 1 000 vehicles, mostly tractors of all shapes and sizes, rumbled down Commercial Road yesterday bringing the centre of Maritzburg to a standstill as farmers held a spectacular protest against further price increases and to emphasize to the government and the public the plight of farmers.

Spectacular tractor protest

Own Correspondent
MARITZBURG. — The centre of Maritzburg came to a standstill yesterday morning as thousands of people lined the streets to watch a seemingly endless column of tractors roll towards the City Hall to mark the start of the biggest rally of farmers ever held in South Africa. Travelling four abreast, about 1 000

vehicles, mostly tractors of all shapes, sizes and ages rumbled down Commercial Road from the Royal Showgrounds in a spectacular procession to emphasize the farmers' plight to the public and the government. At the wheels were khaki-clad farmers, many of whom had friends, wives or girlfriends lending moral

support. Many displayed prominent banners bearing slogans to highlight their predicament. There was an air of excitement as the crowds of shoppers, office workers and school children cheered the farmers as they moved slowly through the city centre on their powerful machines. The orderly parade

lasted 40 minutes and was monitored by more than 50 traffic policemen who closed roads leading into the provincial capital's main street. Slogans were also posted around the City Hall where the mass meeting took place after the parade. Many slogans bore serious messages such as: "Bankrupt our farmers — starve our

country"; "Monopolies must be removed"; "Curtail cartels" and "Food producers — an endangered species". Others were more humorous. "We work till the cows come home, then they milk us dry"; "I'm down to my last piston", and "This tractor runs on water".
 ●Action call by Natal farmers, page 2

CAPE TOWN 8/2/85 3 Genap

Cape Times 8/2/85

3 General

Springbok gets record rainfall

Staff Reporter

THE area around Springbok in Namaqualand has experienced its heaviest summer rainfall in memory — a total of 17mm on Wednesday and early yesterday morning.

Mr Andries Kotze, a businessman and farmer at Springbok, said yesterday: "Any rain in Springbok is unusual.

"We sometimes do have a little rain as late as March, but never as much as 17mm."

The rainfall had been encouraging to the townspeople as it meant a good winter rain and a bumper crop of spring flowers in September/October, he said.

Not since 1976

Farms in the Bushmanland area of Namaqualand had not had any summer rain since 1976, but on Wednesday the farm Hunetees had had 21mm, Dikbek 26mm, Agenhuis 11mm and Beenbreek 16mm.

"This cannot break the drought, but 14 days after the rain, the grazing will improve and farmers can stop feeding the animals for a while."

The Sandveld area, which is along the coast, had received between 6mm and 20mm of rain.

● The flow of mail from South Africa and Windhoek to Walvis Bay, had been cut off for three days because of rail washaways, a spokesman for the General Post Office said last night.

He said even air mail from Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban destined for Walvis Bay had been delayed, as the last leg of the journey was by train.

The first train to reach Walvis Bay since Monday was expected at midnight last night.

Hail

● Sapa reports that heavy rain, accompanied by hail, washed away fences and caused extensive damage to grazing lands on a farm in the district of Middleburg, Cape, yesterday.

About 38mm of rain and heavy hail fell within 10 minutes in the area.

The Middleburg-Richmond road was damaged in places by the flood.

● A spokesman for the weather bureau at DF Malan said the rain and overcast conditions of the past two days had been the result of a low pressure area from the south-west of Cape Town.

Spilling over

However, hotter conditions and a south-easterly wind could be expected today, with possible showers in the early morning.

Meanwhile, MICHAEL HARTNACK reports that excited Harare residents yesterday flocked to see Lake Macilwaine, the city's main reservoir, spilling over for the first time in three years.

Two months ago much of the 6km-long lake consisted of empty mud flats and water engineers believed it would take many moons of rainy seasons to fill.

The Mayor of Harare, Mr. Oliver Chidawu, said the city's strict water rationing might now be relaxed.

CAPE TOWN

February 9, 1985

NAU

General

agrees to meet farmers

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG. — The Natal Agricultural Union has agreed to meet a delegation of the farmers' rally committee together with co-operatives and exchanges, following Thursday's rally in the capital.

NAU secretary Mr Alwyn Bisschoff said the union was "certainly willing and ready" to respond and was presently negotiating a date for a meeting at which the problems raised at the rally would be discussed.

Strategy

Farmers hope to formulate a strategy which would offer them maximum joint negotiating and buying power which would in turn reduce input costs.

Nearly 2 000 farmers from all parts of Natal descended on the capital to protest at soaring costs which threaten to force them off the land.

They resolved unanimously to request the NAU to convene a meeting with a delegation from the rally committee to be attended by a delegation from farmers co-operatives and exchanges.

Mr Bisschoff, however, described the event as "unorthodox" and "possibly the most unusual manner we have seen of highlighting problems".

"Ultimately one has to sit down at the table to discuss the problems. This is the way the NAU normally functions and I don't want to comment too much on the unorthodox approach", as it was the choice of the organizers.

'Tragic'

Both the NAU and the SA Agricultural Union have been criticized for not supporting the rally.

One of the chief organizers, Mr Gerrie de Jong, said it was "tragic" that even after the meeting, the president of the SAAU, Mr Kobus Jooste, had "seen fit to say this was not the right way to go about things".

Mary 9/2/85 (3) General

Farmers' union to meet protest group

Pietermaritzburg
Bureau

THE Natal Agricultural Union has agreed to meet a delegation of the farmers' rally committee together with co-operatives and exchanges as a result of Thursday's rally in the capital.

NAU secretary Alwyn Bisschoff said the union was 'certainly willing and ready' to respond and was presently negotiating a date for a meeting at which the problems raised at the rally would be discussed.

Farmers hope to formulate a strategy which would offer them maximum joint negotiating and buying power which would in turn reduce input costs.

Nearly 2 000 farmers

from all parts of Natal descended on the capital to protest at soaring costs which threaten to force them off the land.

Unorthodox

They unanimously resolved to request the NAU to convene a meeting with a delegation from the rally committee and to be attended by a delegation from farmers' co-operatives and exchanges.

Commenting on the unprecedented gathering, Mr Bisschoff said the rally had been very well supported and had very aptly underlined the dilemma in which the farmer found himself.

However, he described the event as 'unorthodox' and 'possibly the most un-

usual manner we have seen of highlighting problems'.

'Ultimately, one has to sit down at the table to discuss the problems. This is the way the NAU normally functions and I don't want to comment too much on the unorthodox approach to the event; it was the choice of the organisers,' said Mr Bisschoff.

Cross

Both the NAU and the SA Agricultural Union have been criticised for not supporting the protest rally.

One of the chief organisers, Mr Gerrie de Jong, said it was 'tragic' that even after the meeting the president of the SAAU, Mr Kobus Jooste,

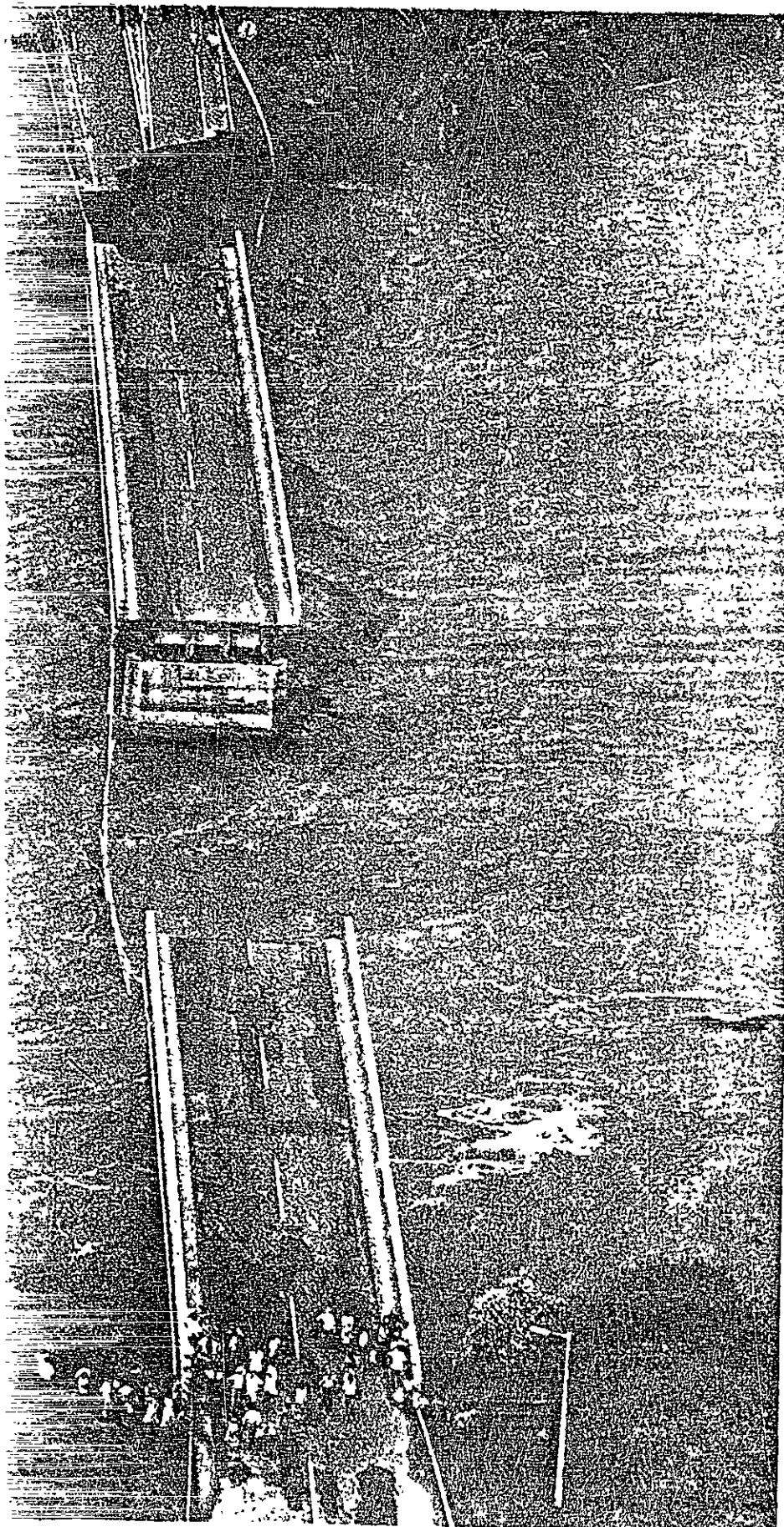
had 'seen fit to say this was not the right way to go about things'.

'If the SAAU is going about the right way of doing things then why are farmers so cross? There must be something very wrong with the system. We are not asking for the world, we just want a fair deal,' said Mr de Jong.

He personally felt elated at the success of the rally, saying that for once farmers were prepared to stand up and be counted.

'The feeling of unity was something too beautiful.'

It has been claimed that the Broederbond exerted pressure on farmers not to take part in the rally.



4 dead, 4 lost in floods

*CME Times
11/2/85
36 cols*

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — At least four people drowned and four are missing after violent rains lashed Natal at the weekend, washing away three major bridges, engulfing hundreds of homes and wreaking havoc on roads.

In what must rate as the heaviest rains to hit the province since Cyclone Demoina, 282,1 mm has fallen in Durban since Thursday — more than double the normal February average — with some falls along the South Coast topping 300 mm.

An all-day police search for a Durban man feared drowned in Cato Manor's Mkunbaan River proved fruitless yesterday. Mr Gert Erasmus disappeared down the raging river after his car was washed off a small bridge on Saturday. His wife Linda managed to escape and was later treated for shock. Police will resume their search for her husband today.

Mamedran Guptar, 14, drowned when he tried to cross a stream on a Stanger sugar farm on Saturday. His body was recovered yesterday.

Mr Kookie Mbambo, 27, is still missing after being washed down the Nkobi River near Margate on Saturday. He was trying to cross the river on his way home from work.

A Margate woman, Ms Selani Mbele, is also feared dead after being washed off the banks of the Mvubazaki River. Her body has not yet been found.

An unidentified black woman drowned on the farm Frasers near Tongaat in the Tongaat River yesterday. The flooded Emona River near Tongaat yesterday swept an unknown black man from its banks. His body is also missing.

An unidentified black woman died in the Nonoti River near Stanger on Saturday. Her body was recovered yesterday.

A black man drowned at Maydon Wharf's Pier 1. Details of the incident are not known.

Areas of northern Natal have only one dirt road link to the outside world after two bridges were washed away by the swollen rivers.

The temporary bridge over the White Umfolosi River, erected after the destruction caused by Cyclone Demoina, crumbled in two places yesterday.

The national road over the Pongola River near Jozini Dam has also been washed away.

'Nothing can be done'

Mr G P Marais, acting Director of Roads in Natal, said nothing could be done until the waters began to subside.

Homes in Scottburgh, Chatsworth, Verulam, Stanger, Tongaat and Umlazi, were flooded at the weekend, leaving people stranded after being forced to evacuate their homes.

Damage of thousands of rands was caused to factories, houses and farms along the Umdloti River in Verulam when the river burst its banks.

Flood waters have devastated farm lands and left hundreds of people stranded near Port St Johns.

over the Mpambiyoni River was washed away at Scottburgh after heavy rains in Natal at the weekend

Tsetse Control : Options dispute

13/2/85 (3-General)

By CHRIS ERASMUS
Science Reporter

A SIX-YEAR-OLD scientific study on tsetse fly pesticides has suggested the possibility that there are known effective alternatives to dieldrin for the control of the flies, in spite of claims to the contrary.

Undertaken in Nigeria specifically to investigate alternatives to dieldrin, the study — published in a respected international journal — says at least three synthetic pesticides belonging to the pyrethroid group are not only many times more toxic to tsetse flies than dieldrin, but are less harmful to other organisms in the environment and do not accumulate in the food chain.

The research was conducted by a group working under a German scientist, Dr U Spielberger, in the Tsetse Fly and Trypanosomiasis (sleeping-sickness) Division of the Federal Livestock Department, Nigeria.

More toxic

It compared various concentrations of the three synthetic pyrethroids, permethrin, cypermethrin and decamethrin — man-made improvements on a widely-used natural insecticide, pyrethrum — to the usual concentration of dieldrin used in ground-spraying of tsetse fly resting sites.

The group found that all three pyrethroids eradicated tsetse flies with one application. All were far more toxic to the flies than dieldrin at concentrations far lower than the three percent concentration used in ground-spraying with dieldrin.

Decamethrin, for example, at concentrations between 0,0375 and 0,075 percent was found to be 40 to 80 times more toxic to the flies. At 0,5 percent concentration, permethrin was six times more toxic and at 0,3 percent cypermethrin was 10 times more toxic.

The managing director of Shell South Africa's chemical division, Mr Ron Land, said he had contacted Shell's London office in connection with the study.

"Although pyrethroids — into which Shell has pioneered research — are effective alternatives to dieldrin for

general agricultural uses, they are not adequate alternatives in the specific applications for which dieldrin is being employed in the Botswanan, Namibian and Zambian parts of the Caprivi Strip."

He said the Nigerian study's results could not have been positive, as the pyrethroid control programme designed for those trials were not developed further in Nigeria or elsewhere.

'Not relevant'

"Also, we have been supplying the Botswanan authorities with cypermethrin, and a derivative of cypermethrin called alphamethrin or Fastac, at no cost for trials. So far these substances have not proved viable alternatives to ground-spraying with dieldrin because the pyrethroids have a repellent effect on the flies, undermining their value as residual pesticides on fly resting sites."

He pointed out that Nigeria and Botswana were environmentally different and therefore the study's results were not directly relevant to Botswana's conditions.

However, the study's authors said their tests suggested the possibility of replacing both DDT and dieldrin with any of the three pyrethroids tested.

Although the pyrethroids were more expensive than dieldrin on a weight-for-weight basis, their much-increased strength against tsetse flies meant the final costs of their use would probably not be prohibitive.

They also said "comparatively little harm was done to non-target organisms in the environment" by the pyrethroids.

One of the co-authors of the study, Mr H H Coutts, was at the time of its publication in 1979 in volume 69 of the Bulletin of Entomological Research, employed by Shell Research Limited at that corporation's Sittingbourne Research Centre in Kent, England.

Mr Land said Mr Coutts was no longer employed by Shell but he was certain that if the study had produced useful results, these would have been taken up and the pyrethroids tested would have been employed eagerly by Shell as alternatives to dieldrin

The company was extremely conscious of the potential hazard to the environment associated with the use of dieldrin and was actively trying to find alternatives for it in the control of tsetse flies, he said.

According to Dr John Ledger, former head of the department of medical entomology at the SA Institute for Medical Research in Johannesburg, who unearthed the study, statements that there was no alternative to dieldrin for ground-spraying against tsetse flies in Botswana and Namibia and against the black sugar cane beetle in Swaziland were unjustified.

"There is just no research that has been done into dieldrin alternatives to combat the black sugar cane beetle, *Heteronychus licas*. The beetle has, however, a very close relative, the black maize beetle *H. arator*, which is vulnerable to at least 12 chemicals more acceptable than dieldrin.

"I would be very surprised if at least several of these would not also be effective against the black sugar cane beetle."

Dr Ledger, now director-designate of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, said the continued easy access to dieldrin was delaying the introduction of environmentally more-acceptable chemicals.

Research

However, Mr Land said research had been done into alternative pesticides to combat the black sugar cane beetle, but again no adequate alternative had been found.

Dr Ledger said the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, together with other major conservation bodies, were unconditionally opposed to the use or sale of dieldrin in Southern Africa.

He was prepared to offer copies of the study to all interested parties, he said.

Mr John Comrey-Greig, editor of African Wildlife, said conservationists reiterated their feeling that South Africa had a moral obligation not to allow dieldrin to be channelled through this country into neighbouring states where controls on its use were more lax than in Southern Africa.

3 Gaard

Floods cause massive damage

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — The deluge of rain during the past six days has caused massive damage throughout Southern Africa, including neighbouring states such as Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana and Mozambique as well as Kwazulu.

The floods in Swaziland have claimed at least six lives. The latest victim was a baby girl who was crushed to death when her family's home in the Manzini district became so soaked with rainwater that it collapsed.

Sapa reports that it has now been raining solidly for a week in Swaziland.

Government officials in Kwazulu are still trying to determine the extent of damage caused by the rain, but are being hampered by communication problems.

Financial help

And in Lesotho, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Vincent Makhele, has held talks with the heads of diplomatic missions in Maseru on flood damage, as the country might need financial help from abroad. The diplomats

will visit the flood-ravaged areas tomorrow.

Areas of Lesotho which have been hardest hit by the floods are parts of Mokhotlong, bordering on Natal and Moleleshoe. Several important bridges have been washed away, isolating inhabitants from the outside world.

In Natal a group of about 20 adults and 14 children, stranded at the Injasuti resort in the Giant's Castle area of the Drakensberg since last weekend, were brought to safety by rope across a swollen stream by Natal Parks Board officials yesterday.

A spokesman for the board said the people had been stranded at the resort when heavy rain turned a usually small stream into a strongly flowing river and a bridge across the stream had become impassable.

Two people elected to stay at the resort yesterday while the others were taken to Maritzburg in Parks Board vehicles.

Earlier this week a man, who had to fly to Australia, had crossed the river by rope strung between the two banks — and it was then decided

to bring the rest of the stranded people out using the same method, the spokesman said.

An unknown number of people in Zululand remained cut off yesterday, and contingency plans had to be made to keep several farmers and a black community in the lower regions of the Mkuze district supplied with food.

The threat of further flooding appeared greatest in northern Natal and Zululand.

The farmers' association at Hluhluwe is making preparations to get food to farmers and blacks isolated by the rising floodwaters, according to the report.

The chairman of the association, Mr Gert Gauche, said at least three farmers had been cut off from the outside world for the past few days.

Blacks in the lower Mkuzi area had also been cut off by the washing away of the Mkuzi bridge. About 26 low-water bridges and drifts have been flooded, and telephones are not working.

Meanwhile the capital of Mozambique, Maputo, has been cut off from the north of the country by the rising flood waters of the Nkomati River.

Yesterday afternoon the flood reached national highway number one, the most important road in the country, which links the capital to the province of Gaza, and then northwards to Inhambane, and eventually Beira.

Yesterday afternoon at least 200 to 300 metres of the road had been washed away between Palmeira and Incoluane, about 110km north of Maputo.

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(Weather permitting)
FISH BRAAI
at
Europa Restaurant
Phone
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Most of the nine are... them to call the police.

THE AGED

ARGUS 20/2/85



Slump a threat to aged, farmers

36 years

Parliamentary Staff

WHITE school fees, the plight of the old and the financial position of white farmers featured prominently in the first "own affairs" debate on the mini-budget in the House of Assembly.

Appealing to the Government not to make "dramatic cuts across the board", Mr Colin Eglin (PFP Sea Point) said the elderly were caught in a "tragic spiral of trying desperately to make ends meet".

Mr Eglin called on the Government to increase pensions by the rate of inflation, to increase the limits set by the means test, to subsidise welfare and medical services for the aged and to lift GST from prescribed medicines for pensioners.

NRP leader Mr Vause Raw, said the elderly were affected "more than any other group".

Referring to the plight of white farmers, Mr Mike Tarr (PFP Maritzburg South) said a quarter of the country's farmers faced bankruptcy.

He said: "At the present interest rates there is no doubt that a large section of our farmers will go to the wall."

Drought aid was not always going to the right farmers and if the Government did not intervene to help farmers struggling financially the country's ability to feed itself would be seriously affected, he said.

Mr Harry Schwarz, Opposition spokesman on finance, said sig-

nificant relief for the aged, upgrading of the health service and the provision of free and compulsory education was necessary for social stability.

Referring to a possible levy on white parents to make up school fees, Mr Derrick Waterson (NRP Umbilo) said the Government had not made clear whether the levies would apply to other race groups.

"This will abrogate the principle of free and compulsory education and will be a terrible burden on a large section of the population," he said.

Mr Watterson said while he agreed that the disparity between population groups must be eradicated, this was not the way to do it.

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DION'S
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Why the farmers are losing patience . . . and showing it

(3) General

The Star Monday February 18 1985

South Africa's hard-pressed farming community is steadily losing patience with government control.

Thousands of farmers are on the brink of financial disaster; and many are turning their backs on official groups representing agriculture.

A recent protest meeting in Maritzburg attended by more than 1 500 Natal farmers was a slap in the face for the Government-backed South African Agricultural Union.

Farmers made it clear at their meeting that they were not satisfied with the way the union was representing their interests; and there was strong criticism of the management of control boards.

The farmers complain that:

● They face a mountain of unpaid debts. The union estimates the national farming debt at well over R9 000 million.

● Protectionist policies have made it impossible for local producers to compete on overseas markets.

By Colleen Ryan, Pretoria Bureau

● There has been a succession of increased input costs, the latest being for fuel and fertiliser.

● Interest rates have soared on loans (perhaps their biggest grievance). Farmers are paying an average 20 percent interest and find it impossible to make a profit on capital investments.

Many farmers blame their plight on Government economic policies and are pushing for freedom from control.

Heading the call for a free market is the breakaway National Maize Producers' Organisation.

The steady support which the organisation enjoys from farmers is evidence of growing dissatisfaction with organised agriculture. The organisation's rebellion four years ago was a severe blow to the Government's control of agriculture.

Now an emerging meat producers' association which criticises

the Government's agricultural policies is threatening the South African Agricultural Union.

The recently-formed Organisation of Livestock Producers has a membership of about 800 and is enthusiastically supported by the National Maize Producers' Organisation.

One of its biggest problems was publicity, but the National Maize Producers' Organisation stepped in and now publishes the Organisation of Livestock Producers' monthly journal for 30 000 subscribers.

The Organisation of Livestock Producers, which is strongly committed to a free market system, took an active part in the Maritzburg protest.

"We want to follow up on the protest meeting by holding a series of meetings for Natal farmers in the next few months," said secretary Mr Roy van der Westhuizen.

He added that South Africa was witnessing an historic change in the attitude of farmers.

"The main catalyst is economic pressure," he went on. "Farmers are feeling the squeeze and they are starting to challenge the agricultural system."

Dr Piet Gouws, president of the National Maize Producers' Organisation, said there would be a growing demand for a free market system in agriculture.

"We will see a determination among farmers for an end to certain influences in agriculture," he added.

Mr Kobus Jooste, president of the South African Agricultural Union, said he was very sympathetic to the plight of farmers. "Farmers are very frustrated and feel they must do something," he added.

Mr Jooste said the Maritzburg protest should not be interpreted as an attack on the union.

"They were telling us they were unhappy and that they wanted us to get a move on," he said.

cleansing and rehabilitation. The Department of Transport is responsible for the prevention and combating of pollution of the sea by oil.

Castillo de Bellver

*8. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether any crude oil has continued to leak from the submerged stern section of the sunken tanker *Castillo de Bellver*; if not,
- (2) whether, according to observations, any crude oil is still so trapped in the said section of the sunken tanker; if so, what estimated quantity of crude oil is still so trapped;
- (3) whether the situation is being monitored; if so, what form of monitoring is taking place;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF MANPOWER (for the Minister of Transport Affairs):

- (1) No, not since 1 February 1984.
- (2) Yes, according to an estimate by the owners/insurers between 60 000 and 75 000 tons.
- (3) Yes, on a monthly basis by Kuswag vessels and on a continuous basis by fishing vessels operating in the area.
- (4) No.

Bonus bonds

*9. Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of Finance:†

- (a) What amount was collected in respect of bonus bonds from 1 March 1984 to the specified date on which sales thereof were discontinued and (b) which amount was paid out by the State in the corresponding period in the previous year in respect of draw prizes and interest?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (a) R77 736 565—up to 31 October 1984.
- (b) Draw prizes and interest amounting to R10 468 700,00 and R10 228 059,28 respectively were paid out during the period 1 March 1983 to 31 October 1983.

†Dr W J SNYMAN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon Minister of Finance, can we then assume that the actual reason for discontinuing the bonus obligation scheme is the relative small difference between the answer on the (a) and (b) parts?

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Handwritten: Members killed/wounded 26/2/85

*10. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Defence:

How many members of the South African Defence Force were (a) killed and (b) wounded in 1984?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (a) 123 members were killed in military operations and training exercises.
- (b) The hon the Leader of the Official Opposition is referred to the reply to part (b) of the written question number 167 of 2 February 1984.

Handwritten: 3 General Handson Surplus foods 26/2/85

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Whether his Department is notified of surplus foods available for distribution amongst welfare organizations; if so, what are the particulars of the procedure followed in this regard?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

No. No person or body is obliged to notify the Department of surplus food products where controlled foodstuffs are involved, the agricultural marketing boards contact welfare organizations directly.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

No. The respective Agricultural Marketing Boards are responsible for surplus disposals and, where necessary, communicate directly with welfare organizations.

Surplus fruit/milk

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Whether any surplus (a) fruit and (b) milk from foreign countries was dumped in the Republic of South Africa during the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available; if so, (i) on what dates, (ii) in which areas of the Republic and (iii) why?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

(a) and (b) Section 56 of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (Act 91 of 1964) provides, among others, that imported goods are deemed to have been dumped if—

“their export price to the Republic is less than the price at which identical or comparable goods are being sold in the ordinary course of trade in any market

in the territory of origin of such imported goods.”

During the past twelve months the Board of Trade and Industries did not receive any application for action against dumping in respect of either fruit or milk.

Handwritten: (1), (ii) and (iii) Fall away. *Handwritten:* Handson Q. 6/1. 254 South West Africa: capital/revenue accounts 26/2/85

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The MINISTER OF MANPOWER (for the Minister of Transport Affairs):

(a) and (b) No. Services in South West Africa are operated as an integral part of SA Transport Services. The profits and losses are calculated scientifically and are based on modern and widely recognized accounting practice and principles.

International airline: agreement

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(1) Whether the South African Airways have reached an agreement with an international airline, the name of which has been furnished to the South African Transport Services for the purpose of the Minister's reply, regarding passengers from Cape Town making use of the services of this airline by travelling as far as Harare; if so, (a) what are the terms of this agreement and (b) why was it entered into;

(2) whether any similar agreements have been entered into with any other international airlines; if so, (a) what

Farmers' debts soar to R9-billion

ARBUS
26/2/85
3 General

By TOM HOOD

DEBTS of South African farmers have soared to more than R9 000-million and the debts of 22 700 — about a third of all farmers — have reached “alarming proportions.”

This is disclosed today in an agricultural survey published by Volkskas, which often claims to be the farmers' bank.

It says the industry's total debt rose by 77 percent in the past four years and the interest burden by 364 percent.

In nine years the total debt burden of farmers has risen from R2 300-million to R9 000-million, owing largely to inflation, high interest rates and the drought.

Commenting in the report, Dr André Louw, the bank's agricultural economist, says inefficient farmers should no longer qualify for subsidies.

“Banks tend to grant relatively easy and too much credit on the value of the land and not on the basis of a client's management capabilities or his ability to pay.

The industry's assets amount to about R40 000-million, so a general debt ratio (liabilities as a percentage of assets) of 22,5 percent can be regarded as favourable. But there is an uneven distribution of the debt ratio.

The debt burden of Western Cape farmers is lower than that in the Transvaal, Free State, Northern Cape and Natal. But almost 27 percent of them have a debt ratio of more than 30 percent, and this is sharply higher than the 15,2 percent for 1983.

The State can hardly afford to help farmers any more, although it could try to use fiscal and monetary policy measures to make agriculture as financially sound and independent as possible, says Dr Louw.

UOL

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*3 General Hansard
Q. Col. 252
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Mercury 27/2/85 (3) General

Natal farmers' debt burden soars to 31pc

Finance Reporter

THE DEBT burden of Natal farmers soared by more than 13 percent last year over the previous year's figures to 31,4 percent, which is regarded as 'critical' by the South African Agricultural Union.

In the Volkskas Economic Spotlight, the SAAU says that a debt burden of more than 30 percent should be regarded as critical for farmers in these times of high interest rates.

The report says there has been a general worsening of the debt position from 1983 to 1984, with the number of farmers whose debts exceeded the critical mark of 30 percent, reaching the alarming proportion of about 22 700.

Hardest hit have been the Transvaal farmers, plagued by drought since 1982, where the debt burden has risen from 29,8 percent in 1983 to 41,4 percent last year and Orange Free State from 27,1 percent to 40,3 percent.

Cape

The Western and Eastern Cape regions also had big increases, with the Western Cape up from 15,2 percent to 26,7 percent and Eastern Cape from 10,9 percent to 16,6 percent.

The number of farmers with little or no debt (a debt ratio of 10 percent or less) declined from 49 percent in 1983 to an estimated 38,7 percent at the end of 1984.

The report says costs have risen far more sharply in agriculture than in other sectors.

It lists the price of fertiliser rising by another 20 percent, fuel for agriculture by 30 percent and says further increases are expected in the prices of tractors, chemicals and animals feeds.

It says that agriculture is in no position to absorb these increases, 'which will inevitably weaken the financial position of farmers even further,' and notes that financial planning and discipline will have to become the watchword in future agriculture with available funds being used more judiciously.

Shell: Dieldrin profit 'miniscule'

CAPE TOWN 28/2/85 3 Affected

By DI MEEK
Environment Reporter

PESTICIDES accounted for more than \$825-million (about R1 640m) of Shell's agrochemical group sales world-wide in 1981, of which at least five percent represented the sale of dieldrin and the closely related chemicals, aldrin and endrin.

However, Shell South Africa have said that their profits from dieldrin are miniscule. A spokesman for the company said yesterday that they did not have figures for sales or profits for dieldrin world-wide. Even if they did they would not be at liberty to make them public.

The figure of \$825-million is given in a publication "Getting Tough, Public Policy and the Management of Pesticide Resistance", authored by two top American pesticide scientists and published late last year by the World Resources Institute in the United States.

Inflation

It is among information gathered from overseas sources including the World Health Organization, scientists and published scientific papers by Mr John Comrie-Greig, editor of African Wildlife Magazine.

Mr Comrie-Greig said that allowing for inflation and at the present exchange rate the 1985 figure for Shell's pesticide sales world-wide could well be in the order of R2 000-million.

"Although Shell has refused to disclose the quantities of dieldrin sold in Southern Africa their sales of dieldrin world-wide by no means contribute a miniscule

portion of the profit," he said.

Mr Comrie-Greig said the multinational oil company was listed as the fourth-biggest supplier of pesticides after Bayer, Ciba-Geigy and Monsanto.

"It seems to me that the real reason why Shell South Africa will not back down on the dieldrin issue is that it would create a precedent world-wide, and eventually lead to the cancellation of multi-million-dollar contracts," he said.

Dieldrin (along with aldrin and endrin) are banned or severely restricted in most Western countries.

Mr Comrie-Greig said the extent of the pesticide problem was clearly illustrated by figures supplied to him by Oxfam, the international famine-relief organization, and the United Nations.

Poisoned

Oxfam estimated that by 1981 there would be 750 000 cases of pesticide poisonings worldwide with pesticides accounting for 14 000 deaths.

But more recent figures from the United Nations suggested that about two million people are poisoned by pesticides each year, particularly in developing countries.

An American scientist had also written to the Wildlife Society and produced evidence which showed that dieldrin and endrin were listed among the pesticides most commonly responsible for poisoning cases in the Third World.

● When asked to comment, a spokesman for Shell said yesterday that Shell South Africa did not have information on

worldwide pesticide sales which involved numerous other companies and suppliers. Similarly they could not comment on the percentage breakdown of worldwide sales.

He said Shell South Africa had already stated that its profits from dieldrin were miniscule. As far as the group was concerned Shell South Africa did not have figures and in any event would not be at liberty to make public what constituted group proprietary information.

He said that in a recent television interview the chairman of Shell South Africa, Mr J R Wilson, was asked whether the continued sales of dieldrin were worth the "hassles" and whether it wasn't much easier to give in and cease supply.

Mr Wilson replied that he had agonized over the question for hours: "If one looks at commercial advantages only, then the answer to that question is clear — no, commercially it just wasn't the hassle.

"Already, in terms of man-hours spent on the issue, it has cost us a few years' profit from dieldrin sales. But then this is not a simple, commercial debate.

Supplied

"I sincerely believe that Shell's responsibility towards the people in Southern Africa outweighs any other consideration. As a company with a highly developed social awareness, our primary responsibility is to preserve the lives and livelihoods of people, and to maintain stable economies in those countries where need is greatest. There is no easy way out."

In reply to questions on how much dieldrin was produced by Shell, and how much was supplied to South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland and other countries elsewhere in the world, the spokesman said this was also proprietary information.

There existed a privity of contract between a company and its customers, and to disclose this information would be in breach of that relationship.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

EXPENDITURE OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARDS, 1983/84

	(a) R	(b) R
Potato Board	2 124 546	689 579
Dry Bean Board	1 890 430	1 525 077
Dried Fruit Board	1 784 771	1 452 007
Egg Board	9 726 982	7 867 201
Karakul Board	440 552	333 301
Cotton Board	8 734 775	8 368 163
Wheat Board	76 046 631	70 355 379
Lucerne Seed Board	111 669	3 146
Maize Board	154 248 876	146 396 211
Oil Seeds Board	10 201 424	6 828 433
Banana Board	1 585 161	417 113
Canning Fruit Board	506 579	207 496
Rooibos Tea Control Board	2 515 445	2 194 403
Deciduous Fruit Board	17 491 618	9 195 566
Chicory Board	1 160 365	595 958
Citrus Board	4 062 663	430 422
Dairy Board	43 455 415	40 318 641
SA Wool Board	23 213 459	20 112 044
Mohair Board	709 544	396 629
Tobacco Board	12 151 950	11 771 118
Meat Board	28 415 383	18 957 105

Sandton: national monuments

59. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of National Education:

- (1) Whether any properties in Sandton have been declared national monuments; if so, which properties;
- (2) whether any properties in Sandton are presently under consideration in this connection; if so, which properties?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

- (1) Yes. The so-called Weber House and the Old Laboratory, both situated on Portion 44 of the farm Driefontein 41 IR, Sandton, were provisionally declared to be national monuments on 22 June 1984. This declaration will lapse on 21 June 1989 if not renewed or altered into a permanent declaration.
- (2) No.

Imports/exports: loss of foreign exchange

134. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What is the estimated loss of foreign exchange suffered by the Republic in 1984

What is the estimated area that was lost for agricultural purposes as a result of urban development in the 1983-84 financial year?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

5 979 hectare situated outside the areas of jurisdiction of local authorities were incorporated with such areas during the relevant period.

Hansen and Q. 61.349
 agricultural production not under control of boards *28/2/85*
 301. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What percentage of South Africa's total agricultural production in the 1983-84 production seasons was not under the control of any board established under the Marketing Act?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

30.53%.

Hansen and Q. 61.349
 production/exports *28/2/85*
 302. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What was the value of the Republic's

(i)	(ii) Quantity pockets	(iii) Total Value R
Potatoes	122 600 x 15 kg	163 820
Oranges	9 500 x 10 kg	9 500
Grapefruit	5 000 x 5 kg	425
Lemons	700 x 10 kg	420
Milkpowder	110 653 kg	162 856
Meat	214 tons	428 058

National Road Fund

319. Mr R A F SWART asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 17 on 15 February 1984, the National Road Fund has been or is to be allocated further from petrol sales for the construction of roads; if so, (a) what total amount has been or is to be so

agricultural (a) production and (b) exports in 1984?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (a) R8 791,587 million.
- (b) All the particulars regarding exports are not yet available but the estimated amount is R1 764 million.

Surplus foodstuffs

310. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

Whether any surplus agricultural foodstuffs grown or produced in the Republic and marketed through control boards were distributed to (a) the underprivileged and (b) welfare organizations during the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available; if so, (i) what foodstuffs, (ii) what quantity of each foodstuff and (iii) what was the total estimated value of the foodstuffs so distributed?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes. In some cases the foodstuffs were distributed free of charge, while in other cases it was made available at reduced prices.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) An additional 1,946 cent per litre which according to esti-
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE following two letters have been addressed to all employees of Shell South Africa on the dieldrin controversy by the chairman of the company, Mr John R Wilson.

AS EMPLOYEES of Shell, you may yourselves have been asked for facts and opinions. I believe that it is vitally important that each one of you, forming as you do an integral part of this company, be fully apprised of the facts to enable you to deal with these queries, and more importantly, to assess Shell's position in the debate.

WHAT IS DIELDRIN? Dieldrin is a well-established and effective pesticide. Its use in agriculture has diminished in recent years because of residue problems, but it has long played, and continues to play, an important role in the field of public health.

In 1981, the use of dieldrin was prohibited in South Africa, but it is currently registered for use in over 40 countries throughout the world, including parts of highly industrialized countries where some specific applications are retained.

Unlike many others, people in the Western world enjoy the fruits of abundance. In the developing world, however, hunger and sickness are all too common. In these countries, pesticides, properly applied, have a part to play in alleviating both.

Shell is fully aware of the life-saving role of certain of its agrochemical products and of the responsibilities of selling these products to developing countries.

There is clearly a need for these chemicals, and the danger to the environment must be weighed up against the indisputable and positive benefits which flow from their use.

Each specific case must be examined on its own merits and it must be decided whether the prime responsibility is one of protection of people and their livelihood or protection of the environment.

THE BOTSWANA QUESTION. The use of dieldrin in Botswana is a matter which has received considerable consideration. The Southern African Regional Co-operation Conference (Sarcus) debated the matter in 1981, and it was agreed that dieldrin is without replacement for certain uses, one of which is the combating of the tsetse fly in Botswana, Zambia and in parts of South West Africa (its use in South West Africa is approved by the South African government).

In humans, the bite of the tsetse fly leads to sleeping sickness, and can be fatal. In cattle, to which tsetse flies are particularly attracted, a debilitating "tryps" infection manifests itself.

Control of the tsetse fly was a major concern in Botswana, where whole areas have in the past had to be evacuated by both people and herds of cattle.

Tourism is a major industry in the north and north-east of Botswana, and both of these vital sources of income would be severely threatened by the uncontrolled movement of the tsetse fly.

Over the years the Botswana government has had advice and assistance from many sources. Epidemiologists, entomologists and other experts have been invited to contribute. The World Health Organization and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations were consulted. The conclusion has always been that dieldrin was the most effective method of stemming the movement of flies.

The application of dieldrin is supervised by officers of the Department of Veterinary Services in Botswana. The product is kept under lock and key at a central depot in Francistown until distribution by the Department to the designated point of use occurs.

Purchases follow public tender, in which a number of competitors bid for the contract. All of the product supplied is clearly labelled, carries comprehensive instructions regarding its proper application, and warnings as to the potential hazards of incorrect usage.

It is against this background that dieldrin was supplied to the Botswana government.

SHELL SAFEGUARDS. Shell subject all their products to rigorous testing in order to ensure that risks associated with correct use are minimized.

It is convinced that these products do not present a health hazard when applied as directed and approved by the local authorities in the countries where they are sold.

Shell takes great care to ensure that proper instructions for use reach the consumer. Quite apart from very careful wording on labels and in sales literature, Shell companies world-wide contribute to education on sound pesticide use by providing technical information, training courses and seminars, and by maintaining close liaison with local government officers.

However, in spite of constant attention to the safe use of products, malpractices which are entirely outside the scope of Shell's control may occur.

Shell states its case on dieldrin

Shell using 'responsibility, caution', says minister

CAPE TIMES

1/3/85

Z. General

THE following statement was made recently on dieldrin by Mr G J Kotze, Deputy Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs:

In view of various reports in the news media in connection with alleged irregularities in the use of the agricultural remedy "dieldrin", I consider it expedient to inform the public in this regard.

All agricultural remedies which are offered for sale in the Republic of South Africa must be registered in terms of the requirements of the Fertilizer, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947). Strict control is exercised as to the safety, suitability and effectiveness of the commodity before registration is granted.

Should it be established at any time that a registered remedy is found to be dangerous to man and his environment, a prohibition is placed on the acquisition, disposal, sale and use of such an agricultural remedy by means of a notice in the Government Gazette.

The continued registration of dieldrin has been found to be contrary to the public interest and the acquisition, disposal, and sale of all agricultural remedies which contain dieldrin as an active ingredient was forbidden with effect from May 1, 1981. On the same date a prohibition was also announced on the use of dieldrin with effect from January 1, 1982.

In terms of the stipulation of Act 36 of 1947, non-compliance with such a prohibition constitutes an offence which is punishable with a fine of R1 000 or two years' imprisonment or both such fine and the

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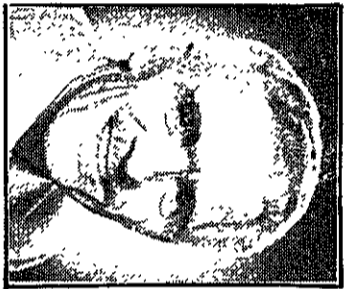
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Mr G J Kotze

the unlawful use of dieldrin is immediately followed up by the inspectors but to date not a single complaint could be confirmed. Farmers and members of the public also voluntarily report the possession of dieldrin after which steps are taken to have it removed. About 600 kilograms have to date been repossessed.

There are allegations that dieldrin enters the country from neighbouring states and the inspectors have consequently visited the border posts at regular intervals to search for dieldrin. The South African Police and customs officials render very good co-operation in this respect and control measures are being carried out on a continuous basis.

The Department of Health and Welfare continually monitors food for dieldrin in other African countries.

Any complaint regarding dieldrin residues and where problems have been experienced in the past, the particulars were transmitted to my department for the necessary investigation. I can, however, state that the presence of dieldrin in products over the past 12 months was indeed very insignificant and of no danger to man or beast.

Allegations have been made that our rivers are getting contaminated with dieldrin by rivers and streams originating in neighbouring states. Not a single case of such suspected contamination has, however, to date been reported to the Pollution Control Division of the Department of Water Affairs, but in the event of such a report the matter will be followed up and investigated immediately.

With regard to the use of dieldrin in other African countries, I can mention that the department and I are aware of the tsetse fly problem in some of these states and that dieldrin is still being used as one of the most effective remedies for this problem by the governments of the countries concerned.

It must be borne in mind that the control and fight against the tsetse fly outside our borders has distinct advantages for the livestock and population of the Republic. The government cannot prescribe to these states what remedies they may and may not use. Even less can the supply routes be served without causing political problems and affecting foreign relations.

I am satisfied that the firm which is presently supplying dieldrin to these states does so with the necessary responsibility and precautions.

As I said before, I want each of you to be in possession of both sides of the argument (you're getting a full blast of the other side from the media) so that you can form your own opinions. I shall deal with some of the more serious allegations which have been made, and give you Shell's responses. I want at the outset to stress that we have not treated this matter lightly. We have carefully weighed up pros and cons. We have tried to view the entire episode in a positive light and to learn from those aspects which could be of value to us in our future handling of dieldrin.

Any decisions we have reached or actions we have taken have been after much debate and consideration. We have weighed up and investigated each accusation, and where there were lessons to be learnt, we did not disregard these.

being propounded, most recently in the Cape Times on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th February, 1985. Further allegations, such as the presence of dieldrin in mothers' milk in Johannesburg, also have no foundation at all.

ALTERNATIVES TO DIELDRIN. Shell has been widely accused of being reluctant to spend money on quests for less harmful alternatives to dieldrin when they have such a ready profit from its supply. It has been claimed, too, that there are at least 30 other compounds which are equally effective, but with none of the side effects.

There are alternatives to dieldrin for most of its previously generally accepted uses. As I said before, however, Shell only supplies dieldrin periodically to specific authorities for specific purposes, one of which is control of the tsetse fly in Botswana and Namibia. There remains, in the campaign to combat this pest, no effective alternative to dieldrin. In Swaziland, it is used for the control of a beetle which attacks the root system of sugar cane. Swaziland's national crop and major export, and the control of ants in citrus orchards.

Here, it is applied every 6 to 8 years to the furrows in which cane is planted. Again, there is no suitable effective substitute. In Botswana, Shell has been actively involved in programmes to test a synthetic pyrethroid, "Fastac", a pesticide with a shorter residual effect as a control measure.

The company has, in fact, supplied this chemical free of charge, and has diverted manpower resources to the testing programme. To date, the tests have not been successful. Pyrethroids emit a pungent odour which repels the tsetse fly, defeating the purpose of its application. Research within the Shell group for effective alternatives is ongoing, and is seen as a priority. In fact, a large proportion of annual turnover is committed to research. Far far more than the minuscule annual profit which the group derives from sales of dieldrin.

SHELL SAFEGUARDS. In my previous note, I outlined the standard safeguards which Shell adhered to in all supplies of toxic chemicals. I told you that technological back-up was always available, and that training courses and seminars were as a matter of course offered to end users. These same facilities were extended to the Botswana government. Where dieldrin is applied in the Caprivi Zipline in Namibia, all applications are under the supervision of Shell.

We have, however, given weight to facts which have come to light recently concerning the possible mishandling of the substance. In addition to continuing close liaison with government departments in the countries to which we supply, we have responded pro-actively by implementing further controls.

Tenders for the supply of dieldrin to responsible authorities will in future be subject to the condition that all empty drums be returned to Shell. This will, we hope, eradicate many of the concerns of environmentalists.

Reacting to reports that dieldrin was being "smuggled" into Natal, our representatives have visited farmers and agricultural associations in the province, stressing that the agricultural use of dieldrin is illegal, and requesting that all dieldrin be returned to Shell on a "no names - no questions" basis, for proper disposal.

We have urged any member of the public who is still in possession of dieldrin to contact any Shell office or depot, whereupon we will arrange to collect the dieldrin and dispose of it.

In Swaziland, where it transpired that dieldrin could be bought "over the counter" from certain suppliers of agricultural products, dieldrin will in future only be supplied to the Sugar Growers Association and the official body of the citrus farmers, and not to individuals.

CHECKS AND BALANCES. In a recent television interview I was asked whether the continued sales of dieldrin were worth the "hassles", and whether it wasn't much easier to give in and to cease supply. I replied that this was a question over which I had agonized for hours. If one looks at commercial advantages only, then the answer to that question is clear - no, commercially it just isn't worth the hassle. Already, in terms of man hours spent on the issue, it has cost us a few years profit from dieldrin sales. But then this is not a simple commercial debate.

I sincerely believe that Shell's responsibility towards the people in Southern Africa outweighs any other consideration. As a company with a highly developed social awareness, our primary responsibility is to preserve the lives and livelihoods of people, and to maintain stable economies in those countries where need is greatest.

There is no easy way out. I want to thank each one of you who has expressed moral support and encouragement for the company viewpoint most sincerely, and to invite anyone who has a concern in this matter to discuss it with me personally. I will keep you informed on further developments.

You will have read snippets of my press releases to the

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Throughout, we have attempted to react in the responsible manner which would be expected from a corporation of Shell's standing.

Now, to some of the issues:

DEATHS AND POISONINGS RESULTING FROM DIELDRIN. Over the past few days, we have seen some startling headlines: "Poison kills hundreds", "Hundreds of poison deaths in SA", "Licensed to poison", "68 deaths a year reported in SA".

In a few instances, notably the first two articles which appeared in the Sunday Star and the Sunday Tribune, the content of the articles which followed bore little if

ly as lenders are called for. The total volume of sales and the profit Shell derives therefrom is minuscule when viewed against our total business, and our stance in this matter is certainly not coloured by commercial considerations.

All future requests for the product will be carefully reviewed on each occasion, but in principle sales of dieldrin will continue so long as there remains a real need for this chemical from responsible governments, and while there are benefits to be gained from its proper application.

A second letter reads: MORE ON DIELDRIN. Since my last note to you the "Dieldrin debate" has intensified. A number of misleading and factually inaccurate newspaper articles and radio broadcasts have been published, which have earned me as much as I'm sure they have concerned you. Shell has tried to address these issues through the press, and its responses have received limited coverage. Sometimes, however, our replies have been ignored, quoted out of context, or not given much prominence.

As I said before, I want each of you to be in possession of both sides of the argument (you're getting a full blast of the other side from the media) so that you can form your own opinions. I shall deal with some of the more serious allegations which have been made, and give you Shell's responses. I want at the outset to stress that we have not treated this matter lightly. We have carefully weighed up pros and cons. We have tried to view the entire episode in a positive light and to learn from those aspects which could be of value to us in our future handling of dieldrin.

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The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

EXPENDITURE OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARDS, 1983/84

BOARD	R	
	(a)	(b)
Potato Board	2 124 546	689 579
Dry Bean Board	1 890 430	1 525 077
Dried Fruit Board	1 784 771	1 452 007
Egg Board	9 726 982	7 867 201
Karakul Board	440 552	333 301
Cotton Board	8 734 775	8 368 163
Wheat Board	76 046 631	70 355 379
Lucerne Seed Board	111 669	3 146
Maize Board	154 248 876	146 396 211
Oil Seeds Board	10 201 424	6 828 433
Banana Board	1 585 161	417 113
Canning Fruit Board	506 579	207 496
Rooibos Tea Control Board	2 515 445	2 194 403
Deciduous Fruit Board	17 491 618	9 195 566
Chicory Board	1 160 365	595 958
Citrus Board	4 062 663	430 422
Dairy Board	43 455 415	40 318 641
SA Wool Board	23 213 459	20 112 044
Mohair Board	709 544	396 629
Tobacco Board	12 151 950	11 771 118
Meat Board	28 415 383	18 957 105

Sandton: national monuments

59. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of National Education:

- (1) Whether any properties in Sandton have been declared national monuments; if so, which properties;
- (2) whether any properties in Sandton are presently under consideration in this connection; if so, which properties?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

- (1) Yes. The so-called Weber House and the Old Laboratory, both situated on Portion 44 of the farm Driefontein 41 IR, Sandton, were provisionally declared to be national monuments on 22 June 1984. This declaration will lapse on 21 June 1989 if not renewed or altered into a permanent declaration.
- (2) No.

Imports/exports: loss of foreign exchange

134. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What is the estimated loss of foreign exchange suffered by the Republic in 1984

What is the estimated area that was lost for agricultural purposes as a result of urban development in the 1983-84 financial year?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

5 979 hectare situated outside the areas of jurisdiction of local authorities were incorporated with such areas during the relevant period.

Agricultural production not under control of boards 28/2/85

301. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What percentage of South Africa's total agricultural production in the 1983-84 production seasons was not under the control of any board established under the Marketing Act?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

30.53%.

302. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What was the value of the Republic's

(i)

Potatoes	122 600 x 15 kg	163 820
Oranges	9 500 x 10 kg	9 500
Grapfruit	5 000 x 5 kg	425
Lemons	700 x 10 kg	420
Milkpowder	110 653 kg	162 836
Meat	214 tons	428 058

National Road Fund

319. Mr R A F SWART asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 17 on 15 February 1984, the National Road Fund has been or is to be allocated further funds from petrol sales for the construction of roads; if so, (a) what total amount has been or is to be so

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) An additional 1,946 cent per litre which according to

allocated and (b) when was it or will be allocated;

whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) An additional 1,946 cent per litre which according to

③ Gerard ~~St~~ D. Disputch

Professors: allow blacks to rent under-used farms ^{2/3/85}

JOHANNESBURG — Blacks should be allowed to buy or rent land from struggling white farmers as part of a rational planning strategy for South Africa.

This call has come from Professor Lawrence Schlemmer and Professor Hermann Giliomee in studies on influx control which they presented to the Coping With City Problems conference held here this week.

Blacks might welcome the opportunity to acquire land, while the estimated 40 per cent of white farmers who were in serious financial difficulties might be interested in sup-

plementing their incomes by letting or selling land to small-scale black producers, the professors said.

The government should consider whether the Land Act of 1913, which prohibited blacks from buying or renting land in the white rural areas, had not become obsolete.

The act was aimed at providing cheap black wage labour to the farms. This was no longer necessary — there was a huge black labour surplus and the number of blacks employed on white farms had actually dropped by 13 per cent between 1970 and 1980.

With its "new commit-

ment to the free-market philosophy" the government should consider whether, on many under-used white farms, it would not make economic sense for smaller-scale production to be carried on by black farmers who bought or rented the land, the professors said.

Prof Schlemmer, a Natal University social scientist, and prof Giliomee, of the department of political studies at the university of Cape Town, outlined a strategy which would balance urban and rural life. It included:

- Buying extra land for black housing near the cities. If this was coupled with a dismantling of influx control, loans

could still be raised overseas. These should be used for site and service schemes at very low minimal standards where people paid low site rentals and could build houses for R1 000 to R2 000.

- Setting up joint state-private sector urban development corporations to provide finance for small loans.

- Applying economic service levies which would limit demand.

- Issuing more lodgers' permits to houses in existing townships where pressure is reduced by the new settlements!

- Limiting overcrowding by a penalty in the service charges of the householder. — SAPA.

Call for full dieldrin probe

By DI MEEK
Environment Reporter

PESTICIDAL poisoning has been seriously under-reported in South Africa, and registered pesticide deaths probably represent as little as 10 percent of the true total, four conservation organizations have claimed in a statement.

The Wildlife Society, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, the Southern African Ornithological Society and the South African National Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation issued the statement in response to the letters sent to the staff of Shell South Africa by the chairman, Mr J R Wilson, and printed in the Cape Times yesterday.

Their full statement is as follows:

Dieldrin: We deplore Shell's decision to continue to supply dieldrin to Southern African states. The chemical is dangerous to the environment because of its longlasting properties and its accumulation in the tissues of animals.

It is particularly lethal to birds of prey and a danger to other animals including man, at the end of food-chains in which dieldrin is known to be concentrated.

The dieldrin being used in Botswana, SWA/Namibia and Swaziland is contaminating the marine ecosystem of the Indian Ocean. This is unacceptable and must be stopped at once.

Unconvincing

Shell's statement that dieldrin is indispensable in combating tsetse fly is unconvincing. The continued availability of dieldrin is postponing the introduction of environmentally accepted insecticides, such as the synthetic pyrethroids of which three kinds were shown to be effective against tsetse fly in Nigeria six years ago.

Similarly, it is unlikely that dieldrin is the only remedy for the black sugar-cane beetle in Swaziland, when in South Africa (where dieldrin is banned) 12 insecticides are registered for control of the closely related black maize beetle.

Despite the fact that dieldrin is banned here for very good reasons, to

our shame the chemical continues to pass through this country to our neighbouring states.

The possibility of accidental spillage in Durban (where it is imported, formulated and packaged) or damage to containers while in transit to end-users, poses an unacceptable threat to the SA environment.

Shell's "concern": If it is no mere advertising catch phrase that Shell is "a company with a conscience"; that "the protection of the environment has always been and will remain a major concern of Shell South Africa"; that the company competes with others when tenders for the supply of dieldrin are called for; that Shell makes "a minuscule" profit from the sale of dieldrin and that there are no commercial advantages in continuing to supply it, then let Shell demonstrate its concern by not submitting any more tenders, and by closing down its dieldrin-formulating facility in Durban.

If other chemical companies then supply dieldrin in Southern Africa, they in turn will have to contend with public condemnation both here and overseas.

Pesticidal poisoning in man: The numbers of deaths of humans caused by agricultural remedies was raised by us, not to imply that dieldrin alone was responsible (although we do have records of mortality caused by dieldrin), but to refute the claims by Shell that end-users of pesticides are fully aware of the properties of this chemical.

In a radio broadcast of 25/1/1985 a spokesman for our organizations claimed that an annual average of 68 deaths caused by pesticidal poisoning occurred between 1966 and 1980, with 113 deaths in 1980.

Shell SA has disputed this, claiming that only six people died in 1980 and that 113 notifications of pesticidal poisoning were recorded that year. Our statement was based partly on the figures supplied by the Central Statistical Services, RSA (1982), but we also took into consideration two other official documents.

Firstly, a publication from the SA Department of Agricultural Technical Services (Wiese Bot, 1973, Entomological Memoir No. 30) stated that 6 000 cases of pesticidal poisoning among farm workers were reported to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner for the five-year period 1962-1966, or an average of 1 200 a year.

Secondly, in a press release from the Department of Agriculture, Mr M V Orban, the registrar of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies, and Stock Remedies Act (Act 36 of 1947) stated that 103 persons died in South Africa between 1 April 1982 and 31 March 1983 from ingesting agricultural remedies.

Investigation

We have conducted a limited investigation into the incidence of pesticidal poisoning in South Africa, in an attempt to resolve the anomalies in statistical reporting.

This has revealed some startling facts which indicate that pesticidal poisoning — a notifiable condition — has been seriously under-reported.

For example, the official figures released for pesticidal deaths by the Department of Health and Welfare for the five-year period 1979 to 1983 total 52.

229 deaths

However, according to our information, 229 cases of death from pesticidal poisoning were recorded by the Johannesburg chemical laboratory of the department in the same period.

Therefore it appears that the Johannesburg laboratory alone registered 4½ times the alleged national total. When pesticide deaths from other areas of South Africa are added to this total, we maintain that reported pesticide deaths probably represent as little as 10 percent of the true total.

We regard this as a matter of national concern and request that an investigation of the situation be instituted by the appropriate medical authorities.

sions in regard to removals no particulars can be given at this stage.

(2) (a)(i) and (ii) and (b) fall away.

Air pollution monitoring points

355. Dr A L BORAINÉ asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(1) Whether there are any air pollution monitoring points in the areas comprising the electoral division of Pinelands; if not, why not; if so, (a) where are they located, (b) what was the average recorded atmospheric (i) lead level, (ii) sulphuric acid level and (iii) level of other specific significant pollutants measured at these points in winter and summer, respectively.

	Summer October '83/ March '84	Winter April '84/ September '84	Summer October '84/ January '85
(i) Lead	0,4	0,88	0,275
(ii) Sulphur dioxide	15,05	14,8	24,7
(iii) Smoke pollution	9,18	24,74	7,14

(2) The results indicate very low levels of pollution in this area so that no further action is deemed necessary.

Commissions/departamental committees

404. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) How many (a) commissions and (b) departamental committees of inquiry were appointed in respect of his Department in 1984;
- (2) whether any of the reports of such commissions and committees have been completed; if so, (a) how many and (b) of which commissions and committees;
- (3) whether any of the reports of such commissions and committees have

Transportation of passengers in buses: insurance

431. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

Whether the (a) National Transport Commission and/or (b) local road transport boards are taking any steps to ensure that, when granting permits for the transportation of Black passengers in buses, the passengers are adequately covered by insurance against death or injury; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

In terms of sections 21(2)(a) and (b) of the Road Transportation Act, 1977 (Act 74 of 1977) and regulation 5 of the Motor Transport Regulations, 1977 the applicant for a public permit must satisfy the National Transport Commission or a Local Road Transportation Board that he is in possession of a certificate of fitness in respect of the vehicle for which a public permit is required. The applicant, is furthermore, under an obligation to insure the vehicle in terms of section 2 of the Compulsory Motor Vehicle Insurance Act, 1972 (Act 56 of 1972) in order to ensure the payment of compensation for certain loss or damage unlawfully caused by the driving of the vehicle.

*3) banded Housand
Coloured/Indian farmers: loans
8.6.1.453 8/3/85*

539. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Finance:

How many loans were granted by the Land and Agricultural Bank to (a) Coloured and (b) Indian farmers in 1984?

(a) Applications received

University	White	Black	Coloureds	Indians
Witwatersrand	890	323	65	345
Pretoria	651	—	—	—
Stellenbosch	451	—	91	—
Cape Town	1 067	319	197	247
OFS	696	—	—	—
Natal	—	346	55	549

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (a) 15
- (b) 25.

Own Affairs:

*Housand 8.6.1.454
Students who qualified as doctors
8/3/85*

30. Mr H E J VAN RENSBURG asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

How many students in each race group qualified as doctors at the end of 1984 at each specified medical school falling under the control of his Department?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

University	White	Black	Coloureds	Indians
Witwatersrand	271	4	4	28
Pretoria	186	—	—	—
Stellenbosch	210	—	7	—
OFS	81	—	—	—

At the University of Cape Town 146 students qualified as doctors but the University could not furnish the information per race group. The statistics of the University of Natal will only be available at the end of March.

*Medical schools: first-year students
8.6.1.454 8/3/85*

33. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

How many applications by students in each race group for admission to the first-year course were (a) received and (b) accepted in 1984 at each medical school falling under his Department?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(a) Applications received

University	White	Black	Coloureds	Indians
Witwatersrand	890	323	65	345
Pretoria	651	—	—	—
Stellenbosch	451	—	91	—
Cape Town	1 067	319	197	247
OFS	696	—	—	—
Natal	—	346	55	549

GERRY DE JONG

Farmer in revolt

Gerry de Jong, a gentleman farmer from Howick, is an unlikely revolutionary. But, at the beginning of last month, he led 2 000 farmers driving 750 tractors in a 4 km procession down Maritzburg's main street. The fired-up farmers were protesting against the power of private-sector cartels and restrictive government practices.

Following huge price increases, De Jong (55) and his followers took on the combined might of the cartels, organised agriculture and the control boards — and came out on top. Now, they're demanding further concessions from major farm input manufacturers.

"Our protest action is a two-edged sword," he says. "Not only are we fighting private-sector cartels, but we're also sending a very strong message to government to remove restrictive and inhibiting regulations that strangle producers and hamper the freer marketing of farm produce."

De Jong says many hygiene regulations are based on First World standards, while at least 50% of SA's black population still lives in rural Third World conditions. First World regulations for milk, including pasteurisation and expensive containerisation, unnecessarily push up prices. Regulations also prevent farmers from selling

"raw milk," from which blacks traditionally make a form of nutritional cheese.

"This could be one of the reasons why blacks die of kwashiorkor, while the Milk Board sits with unsold surpluses," says De Jong. And, in order to protect butchers, the Meat Board prevents cafes selling frozen red meat. As a result, rural blacks buy frozen chicken. "Neither the producer nor the consumer benefits," he says.

Another regulation prohibits the sale of undersized potatoes. "This means that farmers have to destroy good food while people starve," De Jong adds.

The son of a civil servant, De Jong was born and bred in Pretoria. He matriculated at the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool before enrolling for a BSc at the University of Pretoria. But winning a swimming scholarship from the University of Oklahoma after only one year at Tuks changed all that. As a result, he spent nine years studying in the US and obtained a Bachelor degree in business administration and a Masters degree in geology.

Returning to Pretoria in 1960, he started Gerrie de Jong Construction, which in 1970 became the quoted De Jong Holdings. "I built thousands of flats and became well acquainted with the rent-control issue," he says. This helped launch a short political career as NRP MP, from 1977 to 1980. But he soon discovered "that the caucus system kills individuality."

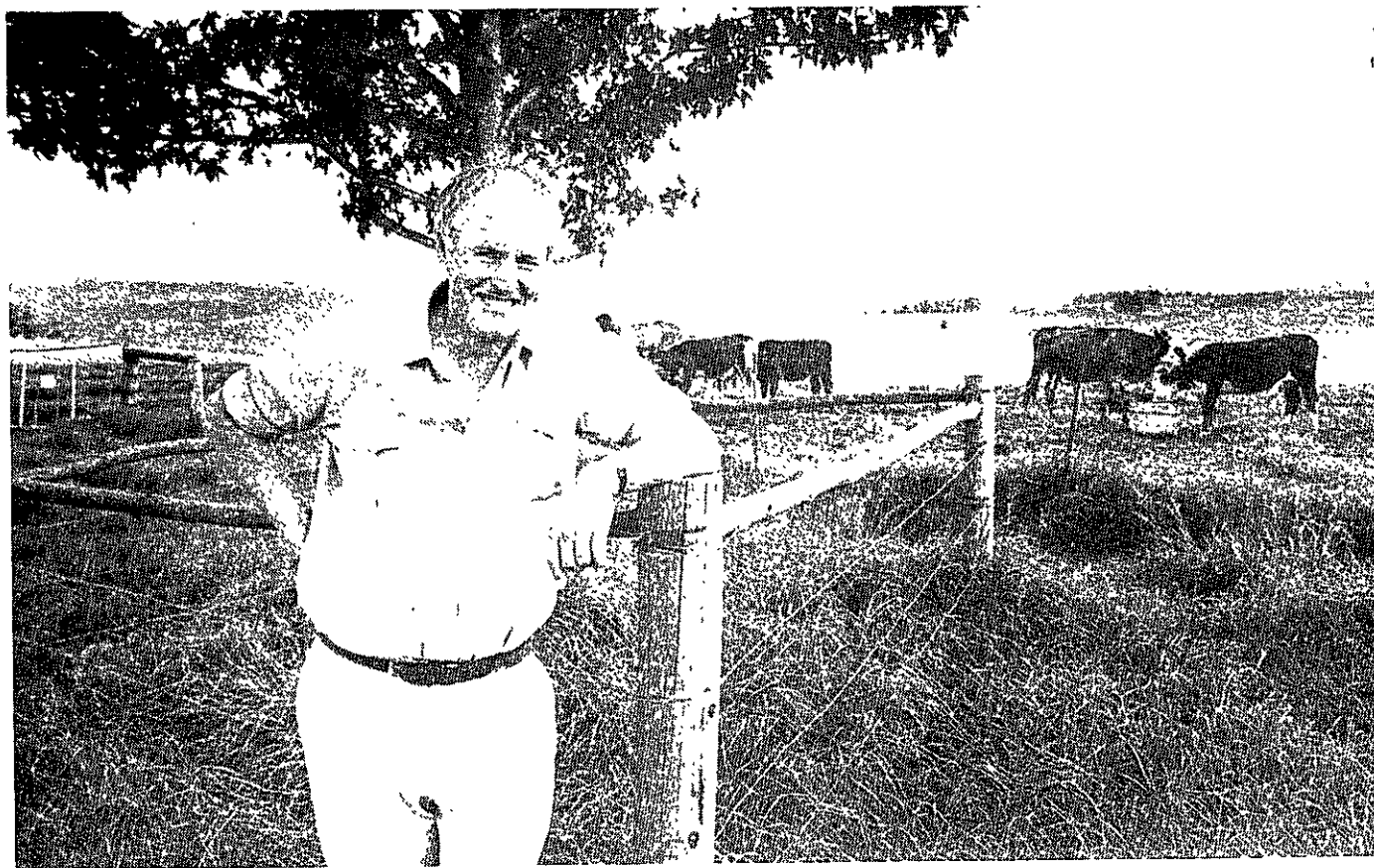
Selling his 1,5m De Jong shares in 1972 for R2,1m to the Ovenstone group, De Jong decided to go farming and bought a 1 000 ha ranch in Natal's Howick district. The "De Jong Ranch" is today "the largest kikuyu grass farm in the world," and 3 000 cattle and 2 000 sheep grow fat on the lush grazing. However, he recently sold it.

This type of specialised farming requires huge amounts of fertiliser (about 1 t/ha/year) and when fertiliser companies announced their joint 24% price hike in January this year, the fat was in the fire. With agricultural chemicals and weed-killers also going up by between 30% and 40%, diesel by 25%, and tractors and implements by a similar 25%, it was more than farmers would put up with.

"The farming sector has steadily been losing its lobbying power against organised commerce and industry, who have used their powerful financial and job-creating clout to twist government's arm in their favour. We hope to restore a measure of balance in this area," says De Jong.

Initially, organised agriculture opposed the protest action, while the Broederbond, according to De Jong, also played a role in trying to stymie the protest. "They thought we were launching a politically motivated attack on government. Various farmers told us they couldn't participate for fear of losing their financial lifeline."

But the protest transcended politics.



De Jong ... leading the great tractor trek down Maritzburg's main street

270 (3) FM 1/3/85

Members of all parties took part in the Maritzburg march. "The latest Natal stand has served to highlight some very important issues, at a time when it is estimated that 17 000 of SA's 70 000 farmers are already technically insolvent," says De Jong.

With reactions to the "tractor protest" still reverberating through the fields, it's clear that farming will never be the same again — at least not in Natal.

JUNE KRITZINGER

Watching the soaps

June Kritzinger, one of SA's most successful businesswomen, has been gearing up for the challenge of running SA's largest discount, toiletry and gift chain for some time now. In April, when Clicks' MD Harry Goldin becomes executive chairman, she'll step into his shoes.

Despite gloomy economic conditions, Kritzinger (37) radiates optimism about Clicks' future. She's already eloquent about plans to add new stores to the group's existing 55. "We're definitely opening six this year, though that could well end up as eight or nine," she says. "In the current climate, premises are becoming available at short notice so we're keeping our options open."

After that, says Kritzinger, the sky's the limit. "We're aiming for 200 stores ultimately. There's huge expansion potential, particularly in the Transvaal, and then there's the Diskom chain we purchased last year. The potential there is equally great."

Overly-optimistic words at a time when the retailing sector is reeling? Kritzinger believes Clicks is poised not merely to weather the storm, but to grow: "We're 20% up on turnover for the first six months of the financial year. Our interim figures will be out next month, and there's no doubt we're still respectably profitable."

Indeed, the company is better off than many. Interest rates are not really a problem as the company's substantial capex programme over the past five years has largely been cash funded. "That means we're not as liquid as I'd like to be, but we're not highly geared, thank God. Whatever borrowing we do have is short term," she says.

Like all other retailers who import, Clicks has obviously been hurt by the forex burn. "Imports account for some 12% of sales which doesn't sound very much," she explains. "But it does, of course, bring in a lot of our profits — one doesn't survive on soap and toothpaste."

English-born, Kritzinger first came to SA almost by accident on a French teaching job. She returned to London — but, after Cape Town, couldn't handle the English winter. Within months she was back in Cape Town, working as a toiletries buyer for Garlicks.

"I wanted to progress but found I wasn't getting anywhere fast. Then I heard that

COLIN HICKLING

As the first *rooinek* mayor of Bloemfontein in 30 years, one would expect Colin Hickling's major task to be smoothing ruffled Afrikaner feelings. On the contrary, Hickling considers harmony between Bloemfontein's Afrikaans and English communities an absolute *fait accompli*.

Hickling (46), MD of the Bloemfontein Board of Executors, says "the English and Afrikaner live in a nice sort of *vrede* and mutual respect here. It represents the true South Africanism we're all striving for. Bloem is a *lekker* place to live."

As the only independent member of the Bloemfontein City Council, and the only non-member of the NP-aligned Action Committee, Hickling served alone for years before being voted mayor on an unopposed ticket.

Hickling is one of the city's greatest fans. His feelings run so deep that he was partially responsible for the creation of a Bloemfontein Old Boys' Club. "I think that many people in the corridors of power have lived in Bloem at some time and can be of use to us in boosting the city's image," he says. "People like Wim de Villiers, Basil Landau and Warren Clewlow are just a few."

He doesn't regard overcoming the language barriers as too difficult a task so presumably his next challenge will be fostering racial harmony.

Those who know him say he believes in non-confrontation and working behind the scenes to achieve changes in administrative attitudes and strategies. But he says he's made a deliberate effort to remain apolitical.

According to Hickling, "Bloemfontein is something of a trailblazer. We were one of the first SA municipalities to allow Coloured Management Committee members to attend our management meetings and they have attended every month for years," he says.



Born in Maseru where his father was a trader, Hickling came to boarding school in Bloemfontein when he was in Standard 3, and has been there ever since.

His priority will be to promote the industrial township of Bloemindustria. "We have very good decentralisation incentives," he explains. "If this gets off the ground it'll create jobs for Bochabella, Bloem's black township."

Though many might disagree, Hickling considers Bloemfontein to be "the total city," and intends promoting it this way.

Jack Goldin was opening a new chain and was looking for staff. I applied and got a job as a buyer when the Clicks chain was started in 1968."

From there, she says, she's been running: "I got onto the treadmill. It got faster and I've never got off." Not that she sees herself as a workaholic. "I work from around 7.30 am to 7 pm, and usually take some reading home at night. But I ride horses at weekends to relax." Also, says Kritzinger, she and her husband, who is legal adviser for an oil company, both enjoy good food and wine. They do not have children.

As for surviving the rough months ahead, Kritzinger says retailers will simply have to get out there and hustle. "We have to create the action ourselves, and follow all possible avenues to get the prices down.

People always find the money from somewhere if you can make it attractive enough," she says. "We simply have to come up with new ideas all the time, because things that worked last year don't necessarily work this year."

She has no immediate plans to change the direction Clicks has taken: "The formula works, and I think we'll stay more or less the same for the moment, although obviously we're always watching trends." If she has any mission, it's to improve communication channels within the group. Having just returned from the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard, she's full of fire about productivity and believes communication is the key.

"There's a tremendous gap between management and staff in SA. We've never

'laughable'

Comparing dieldrin and newsprint

By DI MEEK

Environment Reporter

THREE leading conservation organizations yesterday condemned Shell South Africa for resorting to costly nation-wide advertising to justify its continued production and sale of dieldrin.

Full-page adverts, at an estimated total cost of between R20 000 and R30 000, were placed by Shell in weekend and daily newspapers. The advert took the form of a personal letter from the chairman, Mr J R Wilson.

In the letter Mr Wilson pointed out that even printing ink of newspapers was poisonous and

the production of newspapers involved large-scale pollution and damage to the environment. But, they were vital for communication.

He said Shell didn't like dieldrin any more than other environmental pollutants, such as newspapers and coal-fired power stations, but it reduced diseases and crop losses.

He argued that just as newspapers were a trade-off between environmental damage and social gains so was the use of dieldrin a trade-off between environmental damage and gains in community health and wealth. The difference was that Shell

was working "flat out" on an alternative to dieldrin. When they found an alternative, he guaranteed there would still be newspapers and power stations.

In a joint statement issued last night the Wildlife Society, the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Southern African Ornithological Society, said the comparison of dieldrin to newsprint as a poison was "laughable".

"In pointing out that newsprint is poisonous and that the production of paper inevitably involves environmental damage Mr Wilson hopes to discredit conservationists by implying that they are anti-pesticide and anti-progress.

We are not," they said.

"We believe dieldrin is a filthy environmental contaminant which no self-respecting or allegedly environmentally aware company can associate itself with."

They said dieldrin was banned by many countries including South Africa and they believed Shell was flying in the face of South African public opinion and the spirit of a South African government decision in continuing to supply it to South Africa and its neighbouring states.

They said Mr Wilson had pointed out that in its early history dieldrin was used indiscriminately until tests showed that it was

environmentally harmful. Now, he claimed, it was used with care.

"We point out that the dangers of dieldrin and other pesticides were first detected by conservationists and not by the chemical companies, and that these companies were forced in the 1960s and 1970s by public opinion to put their house in order.

"It is a sad reflection on our society that the vast advertising resources of a multi-national company should have to be mobilised in the 1980s to justify the continued use of this poison and to ridicule rational protest from conservationists," they said. They said that no matter how

dieldrin was applied it inevitably entered the environment and food-chains as a result of wash-off from vegetation and from equipment being cleaned in rivers.

"We believe that effective alternatives to dieldrin exist and that, even if these should be less long-lasting, more expensive and less convenient, at least they do not present long-term hazards to the natural (including human) environment.

"We therefore stand by our earlier statement that dieldrin is an unacceptable environmental contaminant and we call for it to be banned entirely from the Southern African sub-continent."

Reply to De Hoop complaint

APC Thanks 9/3/84
3 Genl
Hill
B.D.

Chief Reporter

IN reply to specific complaints about "unfairness" in the expropriation of their properties by residents in the De Hoop area, the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs yesterday referred the Cape Times to a statement by the Deputy Minister of Development and Land Affairs, Mr B H Wilkens.

In this, Mr Wilkens said it appeared that people were "ignorant of the procedure which is followed with regard to the determination of prices and the process by which property is acquired for government purposes.

"As in normal practice, expert private valuers were appointed to undertake the necessary valuations for the De Hoop project.

Imperative

"These valuers, who operate independently, did intensive market research and submitted valuation reports, taking into consideration recent sales and ruling market prices. The fully motivated reports were submitted to the Community Development Board for consideration and a decision regarding the offers.

"It is the objective throughout to come to an agreement by negotiation with the owners regarding the price. In cases where property is urgently required or where it would appear that an agreement would not readily be reached and it is imperative that the State has possession

of the property at a specific point of time, expropriation is resorted to.

"I wish to stress that negotiations continue in the normal manner even after expropriation has taken place.

"There is great understanding of the situation that some owners are dissatisfied with the prices offered them, and therefore the door is always open for negotiation. This process takes place on a personal basis between the parties concerned.

"This is indeed the only and established line of action. Any owner who is of the opinion that he has not been offered a reasonable price for his property is welcome to submit factual motivation as to why his property is worth more, and I gladly give the assurance that such motivation will be considered carefully.

"I firmly believe this is the correct and only manner to deal with the matter rather than trying to find a solution for the problems by means of the press."

● The office of the Director-General of Public Works and Land Affairs, in replying to complaints at Skipskop that the position of coloured families there had not been clarified, said this was a matter to be dealt with by the Regional Director of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture.

"It has been ascertained from that official that the matter is receiving his attention," the reply added.



Mr Hennie Groenewald of Skipskop: "We're being victimized! The offer they have made me for my farm of 377 ha works out at R180 a hectare, and the worst ground in this area is worth at least R500 a hectare."



Mrs Dinah du Toit: "They want to give us R26 000 for this four-plot property. Where are we going to find another place to stay at that price?"



Mr Willy Norman outside his property in Skipskop for which he has been offered R127 648. Mr Norman claims the property on 0,2 ha is worth well over R200 000.

Anger over 'unfair' De Hoop land deals

Cape Times 9/3/85 36 General

By ROGER WILLIAMS
Chief Reporter



ANGER is mounting among home-owners in the De Hoop area, now being cleared for an Armscor missile-testing range, over the "shabby, inconsistent and unfair" treatment they have received in the expropriation of their properties.

The Deputy Minister of Development and Land Affairs, Mr B H Wilkens, concedes that "there is great understanding of the situation that some owners are dissatisfied with the prices offered them.

"Therefore the door is always open for negotiation."

Mr Wilkens's statement was sent to the Cape Times yesterday after specific complaints from De Hoop had been referred by this newspaper to the Director-General of Public Works and Land Affairs.

Individual complaints referred to were not dealt with in the official reply.

storey house he rebuilt in 1980 Mr Norman said: "My wife and I put everything we had into this place; this was our retirement home, in a

They say no accepted "norm", or yardstick appears to have been used in the valuations in the area and that widely-varying prices have been

a new home for that?" Mrs Du Toit asked.

In the small community at Skipskop, where most residents are pensioners, I was introduced to one dissatisfied property owner after another.

Mr Hennie Groenewald, 38, who owns farmland and holiday shacks, said: "My grandfather was a founder of the settlement at Skipskop. Everything I have is here, and what the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs is prepared to pay me out will not enable me to buy anything comparable elsewhere.

"And no-one has been able to tell me what is going to happen to the coloured families who have been working for us."

Reply to De Hoop complaint, more pictures, page 11



Mr Bob Harman has been offered one of the highest prices for undeveloped property. "I agree that some people have been treated unfairly," he says.

quiet, out-of-the-way area we chose above all others.

"Now, we've got to start all over again somewhere else, with insufficient means to find a place comparable with this one. We all feel that if it is in the national interest that we should move out of here, we must accept that — but then surely it is up to the government to ensure that we are fairly compensated."

Mr Norman and other De Hoop residents say they have been "pushed from pillar to post" in the expropriation process.

offered for properties of comparable size and situation. They also say their properties were not properly surveyed for valuation but were merely "paced out" for size.

In several cases, the payout offered for seaside properties is less than R30 000. A despondent Mr and Mrs Danie du Toit told me at Skipskop they had been offered R26 000 for their four-plot house with three bedrooms and its own water supply — and a four-car garage.

"Where on earth are we going to be able to get

'Shocking'

Property owners in the De Hoop area have told the Cape Times they must be out of their homes by the end of this month. But a number of them, including pensioners, complain that payouts offered by the government will not enable them to buy a plot of land, let alone a new home.

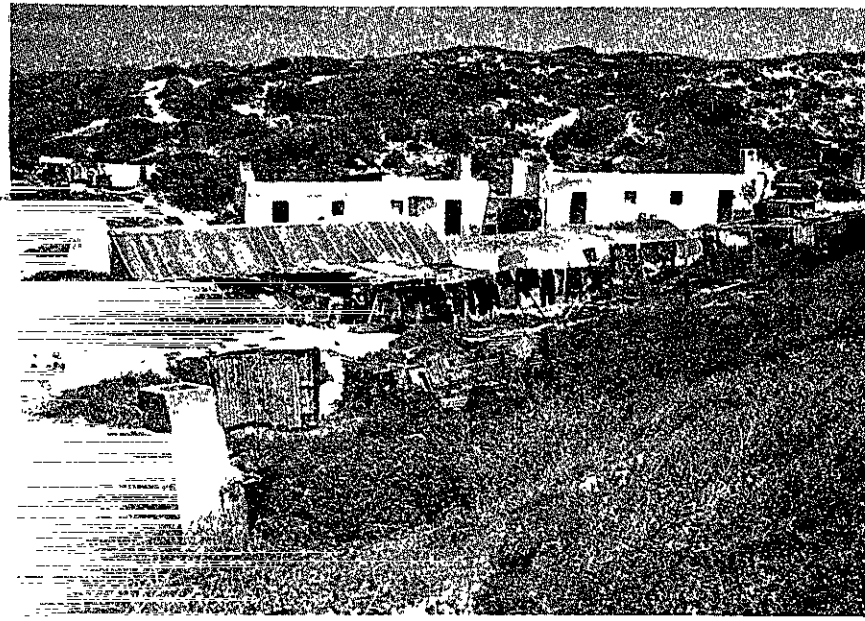
Mr Willy Norman, 64, a resident of Skipskop near Bredasdorp, told me on a visit to the area last week: "The way we have been handled is shocking, to say the least — and the worst of it is that we appear to have no redress."

"We have to be out this month, on compensation offered on a take-it-or-leave-it basis".

Pointing to the double-

ABOVE: Mr and Mrs Willem Nefdt have been offered R27 500 for their five-bedroomed house, plus R8 880 for one hectare of ground. **BELOW:** The payout offered for this 3,3 ha piece of undeveloped land, containing uninhabitable buildings, was R227 000 — or about R69 000 a ha.

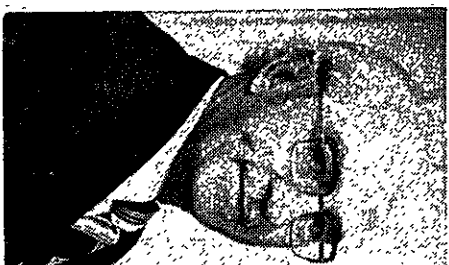
Pictures: Ivor Markman



(190) (20)

De Hoop land: Munnik offers negotiation

3 Grand



Dr. Munnik

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

DE HOOP landowners who were dissatisfied with the prices offered for their properties were "welcome to submit factual information to motivate a higher compensation", the Minister of Public Works, Dr. L. A. P. Munnik, said yesterday.

The minister's statement comes in the wake of mounting anger among home-owners in

the De Hoop area — currently being evacuated to make way for an Armscor missile-testing range — over the "shabby, inconsistent and unfair" treatment they have received in the expropriation of their properties.

Dr. Munnik yesterday acknowledged that he had received representations from landowners in the area complaining that prices offered were too low and that "only a few owners have thus far

accepted offers".

Replying to a written question from Mr. Phillip Myburgh (PFP Wynberg), he said negotiations regarding prices were "constantly conducted on a confidential basis" with each individual owner.

Some owners had applied to the courts for determination of compensation but "even there, negotiation will still be the course to be followed". Dr. Munnik said 64

properties had already been acquired through negotiation or expropriation in the area. A further 24 needed to be acquired for the Defence Force missile site.

However, "in the light of circumstances" it was not possible to indicate what price had been paid per hectare for properties acquired so far.

Dr. Munnik emphasized that representation regarding prices which were offered "are dealt

with on a basis that it is, throughout, the aim to come to an agreement regarding the price with the owner — and he is welcome to submit factual information to motivate a higher compensation.

"Such motivations are considered most carefully and all aspects which may influence the price are taken into consideration." Dr. Munnik said he had also received other representations from landowners in the area calling for:

- The acquisition of land to be abandoned.
 - A right of access or entry to be granted to the owners after the land had been acquired.
 - Owners to be allowed to continue to stay on the land after it has been purchased until such time as it is used.
- These matters, he added, did not fall under his jurisdiction.

23/12/85 BUS. DAY

Agricultural debts may (3) hit R11,5m

LINDA ENSOR and ALAN PEAT

SOUTH AFRICA'S agricultural debt may rise to R11,5 m by the end of the year as farmers face financial crisis and forecasts for wheat and sugar production look gloomy.

The financial position of farmers is severely straitened, although SA agriculture is not at a crisis point yet in terms of production, according to Cornelius Bester, Director-General of the Economic Trends Directorate of the Department of Agriculture.

In June farmers' financial debt rose to R9,5 m and some observers, like Gert Schoonbee of the SA Sentrale Kooperatiewe Graanmaatskappy (SASKO), predict it will stand at R11,5 m by the end of the year.

Interest repayments alone sapped R1,475 m in the 1984/85 year.

Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) agrees with Bester, especially as regards summer grain producers: "After four years of crop failure the financial position of summer grain producers, especially in the western parts of the Transvaal and Free State is distressing" he says.

And the latest estimate on the sugar cane crop for 1986/87 shows an expected drop in cane production and a similar reduction in processed sugar.

Figures released by Rex Hudson, assistant GM of the Cane Growers' Associ-

● To Page 2 →

COAL CONTROL BILL

Pretoria backs off

United private sector opposition to the proposed Coal Control Bill (*Business* January 23) appears to have paid off. The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs (DMEA) has withdrawn the offending draft and, on March 1, will present a revised version to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on mineral and energy affairs.

Chairman Michael Veldman confirms that the committee's request for the public to be given the chance to air its views drew widespread response. He says there were "a vast number of representations" against the draft Bill considered at the first committee meeting last month.

The revised Bill — now known as the Coal Resources Bill — contains important changes, but there is still a widely held view that the latest proposals do not go far enough. Some changes are superficial, an industry source tells the *FM*, and "show more concern with semantics than the needs of the industry."

Since the outcry, the DMEA has met the Chamber of Mines and coal distributors, and Assocom has come out strongly against the proposals.

The revised Bill scraps the much-criticised post of Coal Controller. Indeed, the very word "control" has been scrubbed and is replaced with a more acceptable "regulate."

The new version gives the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs power to regulate coal. But, more worrying for the private sector, is that he will be entitled to delegate the authority "to the Director General or any official in the public ser-

vice." This has raised fears that a "controller" in another guise is still lurking in government's mind.

Another concession to the private sector is the proposed appointment of an advisory committee "which is to be consulted before any powers conferred upon the Minister under this Bill may be exercised."

The committee would include representatives "from all sectors of the coal industry, but primarily from the distribution sector," says DMEA Director General Louw Alberts.

Major consumer representatives, such as Sasol and Escom, are also likely to be included, says PFP spokesman for Mineral and Energy Affairs Brian Goodall.

Alberts stresses that the DMEA will confer with the industry before appointments are made "to get as representative a selection as possible," but much depends on the final composition of the committee. If too many representatives from major distributors who supported the original Bill are included, the whole object could be defeated.

Opponents of government participation in the industry are also concerned about the continued wide powers of the Minister to regulate almost all aspects of the industry.

In defence of the Bill, Alberts says the clauses are designed to cater for the future. He explains: "We are looking at export programmes for 10, 20, 30 years ahead." On the other hand, he adds "the sooner industry can convince the DMEA that it can regulate itself, the sooner we will hand over the reins." And he says he expects the Advisory

Committee to hasten the process.

He refers to conflicts between large and small distributors which highlight the need for regulation. An unregulated industry, with no price control may lead to unreasonable price hikes, which would hit "the small consumer who only wants one bag of coal a month," says Alberts.

However, Goodall, a one-time Standard Bank economist, says the revisions have been made only to make the Bill "less unacceptable." He is particularly concerned at the lack of provision for redress.

FARMERS' REVOLT

Cracking cartels

Flushed with the success of their Maritzburg rally (*Business* February 15), Natal farmers have formed a joint action committee to unite provincial buying power and break private-sector cartels.

Bypassing the traditional SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) because they feel they can get quicker results on their own, the province's 7 000 farmers are planning direct action that could change the face of agriculture in SA.

If they succeed — and they have already forced fertiliser prices back to 1984 levels — other provinces will not be slow to follow. SAAU president Kobus Jooste says he is watching developments with "great interest."

Last Friday, members of the independent rally committee met representatives of the Natal Agricultural Union (NAU), Natal farming co-ops and farmers' exchanges (private companies formed and managed by farmers to act as joint buyers) and decided on three more steps:

- To ask the President's Council (PC) to ensure that government removes restrictive laws, by-laws, regulations and other bureaucratic interference in the free marketing of farm produce. This, they say, will effectively reduce the price of agricultural produce to the consumer;
- To meet Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel early in March to spell out farmers' complaints on restrictive and inflationary measures, as well as the cost-push effect of private-sector cartels on farm input costs; and
- To make separate submissions on the Natal farmers' plight to the SAAU and control boards.

Describing the meeting as "very positive," rally committee spokesman Gerrie de Jong (see *People*) says the PC submission will fit in with its current investigation



Coal distribution ... a new look

Late summer rain ^{3 General} sweeps over country



Picture: PIERRE OOSTHUYSEN, The Argus

Miss Tracy Barber, 21, a marketing trainee, dressed for the showers which fell in the city today.

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Several parts of the country have received late summer rain and the outlook for more is good.

A heavy downpour brought traffic to a halt in Pietersburg's main business centre yesterday afternoon, where streets became rivers and most shoppers had to wade to their cars.

Several Pietersburg shops and homes were flooded when about 60mm of rain fell in just over an hour.

Cattle farmers in the district are rejoicing at the prospect of improved winter grazing. More than 50mm was recorded at Naboomspruit after a 30-minute cloudburst, and many farmlands on the Springbok Flats are waterlogged.

Good rain was also reported from Ellisras, Marnitz and All-days.

Storm damage

Fruit farmers in the Levubu district, near Louis Trichardt, have suffered heavy losses after storms and the Fanie Botha Dam at Tzaneen has risen to 23 percent, its highest level in two years.

Places as far apart as Thabazimbi and Cape Town had rain as a cold front reaching the Cape and a low-pressure system further north combined to break the heat.

The Western Cape weather was expected to remain cloudy and wet all day, a spokesman for D F Malan Malan weather office said.

Rain has been falling since early today and by 8am, 9mm was measured at Cape Point.

Little Karoo

At Willowmore in the Little Karoo, 52mm is reported to have fallen last night.

In the Transvaal, Lydenburg had 34mm, while Kroondal near Rustenburg received a much-needed 25mm.

Welkom in the Free State reported overnight rainfall of 18mm while Bloemfontein had 12mm.

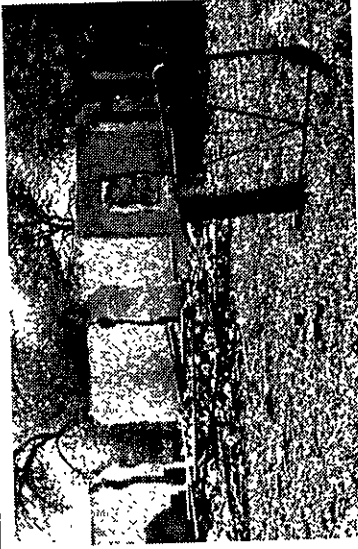
Natal was less well off last night, with most centres receiving only a few millimetres of rain.



The task of improving the roads presents a serious problem.



Game farming provides a viable alternative for struggling border communities.



The exodus from border farms, symbolised by this ruin, has to a large extent been stemmed.

Success at curbing border exodus

General Stan 14/3/85

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — Government efforts to stabilise the country's sparsely-populated northern border region, though hampered by a prolonged drought and the present economic recession, appear to have achieved a measure of success.

This emerged from recent meetings between a Government task force and border committee, which highlighted the following trends:

- The population drain along the border has been checked and there are enough farmers between Ellisras and Messina to consolidate all land into economically viable units, according to Mr Flip Rademan of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning.
- Low interest-rate loans are available for drought-ravaged farmers to restock their cattle ranches now that good rains have improved prospects for reasonable winter grazing.

- Financial help for new border farmers will continue.
- Considerable progress has been made with the improvement of infrastructure.
- There are no serious security problems according to a Defence Force spokesman.

Farmers have been able to convey their complaints to the Government via the task force.

These have centred mainly around alleged administrative delays in the handling of loan applications and a law which only provides for financial aid for border farmers occupying their land.

DILEMMA

Mr Jack Klaff of Messina summarised the dilemma of the border farmer when he pointed out that it costs the average beef producer R8 000 to send 100 cattle to Pretoria or Johannesburg by train. He appealed for the establishment of local abattoirs, and the lifting of certain marketing restrictions.

Brigadier M. Fourie of the Defence Force's North-

ern Transvaal Command pointed out that good co-operation existed between the army and border communities, with a high percentage of reserve force men already involved in military training.

"Cattle thefts and illegal immigrants crossing the border are at present our most serious problems," he commented, adding that the electrification of security fences and extensions to the region's radio network were priorities at this stage.

There is evidence that both Messina and Louis Trichardt have developed notably since being declared official growth points in terms of the Government's decentralisation incentive scheme.

A plan has been devised to make Alldays an important commercial centre within two years. Attention is also being given to Thabazimbi and Ellisras.

However it is clear that the economy will no longer allow for a R100 million handout, such as occurred at the peak of the border exodus in 1979-80. The resourcefulness of border communities to build on the injection they have received, is now a vital factor.

Record rainfall in W Cape

CAPE TOWN
20/3/85
3 General

Staff Reporter

RECORD rainfall figures have been recorded at D F Malan Airport so far this month — just over 400 percent more than the average figure for March.

With winter still round the corner and an "Indian Summer" expected before the cold, wet weather really sets in, dams in the Western Cape are full or near capacity.

The rainfall recorded by the weather office at D F Malan Airport for the month so far is 72,5mm. According to a spokesman, the average rainfall figure for March over 31 years is 14,4mm. Last March 31,9mm fell.

Dams

Dams around the Peninsula reflect the above-average rainfall this year. According to the City Engineer's Department, the Wemmershoek Dam is 74,1 percent full (46,8 percent this time last year); the Voëlvlei, 89,2 percent full (69,7 percent last year); the Steenbras Upper, 100 percent full (92 percent

last year) and the Steenbras Lower, 78,3 percent full (52,8 percent last year).

On Table Mountain the Hely Hutchinson Dam is 66,9 percent full and the Woodhead, which takes its overflow, is 35,7 percent full.

The rainfall figure in Ceres is also a record with about 215mm for March. The previous highest figure for March was 125mm in 1902.

According to Mr Johan Lingenfelder, general manager of the Ceres Potato Co-operative, about five to 10 percent of the potato crop has been badly damaged by the heavy unseasonal rains.

● The good news for Capetonians who are feeling the cold is that today promises to clear with fine weather following, according to the weather bureau at D F Malan Airport.

The cold snap has spread inland during the past two days and the coldest recorded temperatures yesterday morning were at Sutherland (4 deg C) and Touws River (9 deg C).

Good rains save maize and avert need to import more

GOOD rains have saved South Africa's maize crop, averting the need for imports during the 1985-86 financial year.

Official estimates released by the Department of Agriculture show this year's maize crop at 6,7-million tons — a big improvement on last year's 4,3-million tons.

The general manager of the Maize Board, Mr Hennie Nel, said it would not be necessary to import maize for the 1985-86 year.

Higher price

In spite of this good news, consumers are likely to pay more for maize products when the new maize price is announced in May.

The National Maize-Producers Organisation is to meet the Maize Board on March 26 to ask for a higher price. The present producers' price is about R214 a ton and Nampo is asking for R270 a ton.

Nampo economist, Dr Kit le Clue, said farmers needed a big increase to meet soaring production costs.

The Government is likely to agree to an increase but analysts say it will not be as high as the Nampo demands.

Communist

Meanwhile the last few shiploads of imported maize for the 1984-85 year will arrive in South Africa in the next few weeks.

Mr Nel confirmed that 20 000 tons of yellow maize had been bought from communist China as part of the import programme.

He said the Chinese maize cost R18 a ton less than US maize and was of a very good quality. The maize shortfall from June 1983 to today amounted to 4,3-million tons.

● Last year South Africa imported 2,5-million tons of maize at a cost to the taxpayer of R700-million, reports The Argus Financial Staff.

Normal

If the Maize Board's estimate proves correct, the country could see huge savings in foreign exchange.

In a normal year exports of maize earn between R400-million and R500-million.

The higher cost of overseas maize and the transportation cost meant the Government had to pay out R200-million in subsidies last year.

23 000 chicks die as wind destroys batteries

Tygerberg Bureau

THE unseasonably cold, wet weather has damaged fruit and vegetable crops in the Boland and R200 000 damage was caused on a Durbanville farm when wind destroyed five chicken batteries and killed 23 000 hatchlings.

Rainfall in the Peninsula this month seemed to be breaking every record, a D F Malan airport weather office spokesman said today.

So far over eight rainy days, a total of 71,9mm has been recorded. Last March 31,9mm was recorded over nine days and the average for March was only 14,4mm.

Ceres has had record rainfall — 213mm in the past two days which is almost double the record of 125mm in March 1902.

The average March rainfall for the region is 24mm.

Snow fell on Friday night on the Brandwacht and Waaihoek mountains near Worcester and there are fears that the wet weather will rot grapes still on the vine.

Brown rot has already appeared on yellow peaches, and potatoes and onions are also rotting.

3 General Howard
Farmers: loans 25/3/85
735. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) What was the total amount loaned to farmers under the (a) 22-year Land Bank consolidation of debt scheme and (b) 6-year consolidation of debt scheme with co-operatives as at the latest specified date for which figures are available;
- (2) whether guide-lines are laid down for the granting of such credit; if so, what are these guide-lines; if not, in what manner are loans granted;
- (3) what proportion of the above loans represented debts incurred from (a) co-operatives and (b) commercial banks?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) (a) R570,9 million as at 28 February 1985.
- (b) R1 155,9 million production credit was owing by farmers to co-operatives and by co-operatives to the Land Bank under the 6 year scheme on 28 February 1985.

(2) Yes.

22-YEAR SCHEME (Secured by mortgage bonds over farm property)

Only applications received by the Land Bank up to 31 March 1985 from creditworthy drought-stricken crop farmers in the summer rainfall areas are considered for the redemption of:

- (i) one-third of applicant's production credit with his co-operative;
- (ii) one-third (increased to one-half under the 1984 scheme) of his commercial bank overdraft incurred for production credit;

TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 1985

equivalent of 162 650 beef carcasses was imported from the relevant countries under quotas in terms of long standing marketing agreements and the Customs Union Agreement.

(b) R66,6 million.

(2) Botswana, Swaziland and South West Africa.

†Dr F HARTZENBERG: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, what quantity of surplus beef and carcasses is now available in the country?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the hon member must have that question placed on the Question Paper; I shall then be able to give him an accurate reply. [Interjections.]

*41. Mr P R C ROGERS—Defence [Reply standing over] Howard Q. 61. 832
Cross-border relations committees, 26/3/85

*45. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department initiated cross-border relations committees in or about 1982, if so.

(2) whether finality has been reached in regard to the establishment of such committees: if so, (a) how many such committees have been established, (b) which areas do they serve in each case, (c) who are the members of each such committee, (d) how many meetings have taken place and (e) what matters have been dealt with: if not.

(3) whether it is the Government's intention to proceed with the establishment of such committees: if so, (a) when, (b) which areas will they serve and (c) who will serve on these committees: if not.

(4) whether a local informal system of communication is envisaged between citizens of the Republic of South

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 19 March 1985:

Area lost for agricultural purposes

*2. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What is the estimated area that was lost for agricultural purposes as a result of urban development as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS:

It is estimated that since 1652 3,7 million hectares agricultural land was made available for urban development. Since the beginning of 1971 until the end of March 1984 206 369 ha agricultural land was lost for the same purpose.

Mr H H SCHWARZ: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could he tell the House what happened in this respect prior to 1652? [Interjections.]

Beef carcasses

*15. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(1) What was the (a) quantity and (b) value of beef carcasses imported into the Republic in the latest specified year for which figures are available;

(2) what were the countries of origin

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS:

(1) (a) During the period 1 January 1984 to 31 December 1984 the

EVENING POST, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1985

(3) Meat

Meat surplus to be exported

BY SHIRLEY PRESSLY
THE Meat Board was negotiating through a German agent for the export of 12 000 carcasses — an unutilised surplus created through emergency slaughtering during the

addressing a media group which had been taken on an extensive three-day tour by the Meat Board.

Mr Brodin declined to comment further on the export negotiations.

All the costs involved in buying the carcasses at floor price and keeping them in cold storage were financed from the Meat Board's stabilisation fund which consisted solely of contributions by meat

producers.
Mr Brodin said the Meat Board tried to give each breeder fair access to the market.

In granting permits to meat producers the Meat Board took into account the size of the farmer's herd, the size of the grazing land and the grazing capacity.

The farmers also had to give their plot numbers and the Meat Board could

check up if they were giving the correct size of their lands.

Mr Brodin said in times of drought, meat producers were forced to thin out their herds to a virtual nucleus and it was a problem to re-establish themselves once the drought was broken.

Farmers found that their liquidity was poor so that often they could not raise funds against their lands and found them-

selves in a cashflow crisis with nowhere to raise funds. Commercial bank interest rates were too high and loans from the meat co-operatives were pegged at three months which was too short a period in which the farmer could make a repayment.

Livestock farmers, unlike grain farmers, did not receive production loans.

A study by the SA Agri-

cultural Union showed that in 1982 farmers owed R20 a hectare on their land. In 1984 they owed R60 on a hectare and the average value of the land was R140 a hectare.

Mr Brodin said representations had been made to the Government by the SA Agricultural Union to consider the problems of the beef producers.

If beef producers could not afford to re-establish their herds the country,

could find problems with the supply of meat.

The beef price has stayed the same in the last four to five years while producer costs had risen.

Mr Brodin said in 1983 a total of 153 000 more female stock had been slaughtered than the year before and of those 21,7% were pregnant.

Farmers were reluctant slaughter pregnant cows, he said.

Some said, however, that blacks would suffer if American companies withdrew from the country.

Angolan President, Mr

target of R340 000 will be reached when the appeal

(3) ... 21/3/84

Agricultural sector may be able to resume exports

By Frank Jeans
As South Africa's agricultural sector slogs back to recovery after drought disaster, there are already indications that the country could be back on

the export trail this year with food and related products. This would be a welcome reversal, for in 1984, South Africa, for the first time in many years,

imported agricultural products valued at about R500 million net.

Taking into account more favourable climatic conditions since the beginning of the year, grain distributors Kahn & Kahn predict that the maize crop will not be less than 6,5 million tons, assuming that countrywide the average yield per hectare will be about 1,67 tons.

Even if present maize estimates are on the optimistic side, a very substantial rise in the output of grain sorghum is expected and this can be used as a substitute for maize to the extent of about 400 000 tons.

More drought resistant than maize, the grain sorghum crop estimate is 650 000 tons which is calculated on a yield of only 2 tons per hectare.

GROUNDNUTS

A further advantage for sorghum is the fact that a considerably larger area is being cultivated this year than at any time in the past five years.

The groundnut crop is

doing well, with acreage under cultivation about equal to that of 1981-82 and 1983-84.

The yield should be much improved because the growing conditions have been favourable, particularly in the critical months of January and February

It adds up to a confident future for groundnuts, with K&K forecasting a crop of about 100 000 tons, compared with 47 500 tons last year and 61 500 tons in 1983.

Another strong performer is the sunflower crop with a much larger yield than that in 1984 when the seed was ravaged by drought. The current estimate for this commodity is 300 000 tons as against 197 000 tons last year and 201 000 in 1983.

"This figure might, indeed, be pessimistic because there has been a large increase in late plantings which are showing exceptional progress and the sunflower crop could well be in excess of estimate," says Kahn & Kahn.



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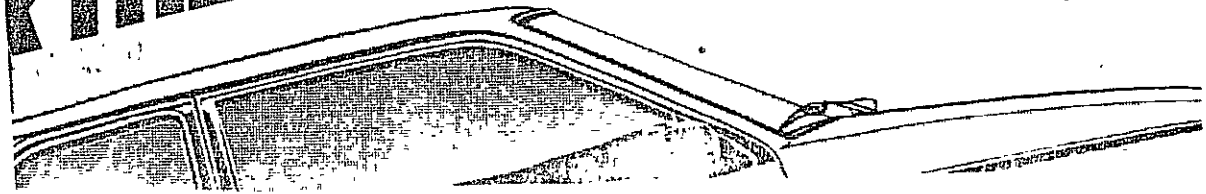
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SA 'becoming a desert'

3 General

Staff Reporter

Albany 4/4/85

SOUTH AFRICA is turning into a desert as stock overloading causes the veld to deteriorate, says Dr C.F. Garbers, president of the CSIR.

Research had shown that by 2050, large tracts in the Transvaal and Natal would be like the Karoo.

Dr Gerbers called for ecological research into the effective use of South Africa's natural resources.

Opening the congress of the SA Society of Animal Production, at Stellenbosch this week, he said: "In the field of crop and horticultural research, our scientists have placed our industry on a level equal to that of most first world countries. But the real problem lies in our veld management situation."

(3) General

DAILY DISPATCH, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1985 — 5

Moorcroft: rethink on aid to farmers needed

GRAHAMSTOWN — The South African farming community was facing the biggest financial crisis it had seen for many years, if not in its entire history, Mr E. K. Moorcroft, PFP MP for Albany, said yesterday.

He was opening the annual Bathurst Agricultural Show. Mr Moorcroft said it would require tremendous energy, determination and foresight with sound planning to rescue the farming community. He said the total farming debt had increased from R1.7 billion in 1974 to R10 billion in 1984, an increase of about 800 per cent.

At the same time, the number of farms diminished from 110 000 in 1960 to less than 7 000 in 1980. The present debt load was on average some R140 000 a farmer.

He said: "Because of rocketing interest rates, this debt load had become increasingly difficult to service, let alone reduce, consequently the total farming debt

has gone up by some 50 per cent in the last two years alone."

Only 38 per cent of all farmers were in a financially sound position.

Mr Moorcroft said the Albany, Bathurst, Alexandria and the Kirkwood area with a debt-to-asset ratio of 15 per cent, ranked second lowest of the 34 agro-economic regions as defined in a recent survey.

Another danger signal was the crucial debt burden falling on the shoulders of the youngest farmers. Mr Moorcroft said in the 25-35 age group more than 50 per cent had debts in excess of 30 per cent of the value of their assets. In the Transvaal, the figure was a "staggering 62 per cent."

He said: "However unpalatable, the government will have to make it plain that the state's obligation is to keep the nation supplied with adequate food and fibre, not to keep all farmers on the land at all cost. Available aid must be

used to keep effective production units afloat."

The state had acted with speed and generosity to provide agriculture with funds, but this had largely been dissipated by the manner in which the funds had been distributed.

"The most sensible approach might be for the state to determine the actual amount of funds which it has available and to channel these through the South African Agricultural Union."

The state should also take "a long hard look" at its total agricultural economic policy, Mr Moorcroft said.

"Increasing government intervention and a greater degree of centralisation through control boards does not appear to be justified."

He said there was little to suggest that control boards had solved any real problems. A proper inquiry was long overdue. — DDR.

leptic, autistic and physically handicapped.
 Training Centres for Mentally Retarded Children—Schools of Industries; Reform Schools.

It is important to note that the schools

- Hearing impaired } an average of 8 pupils per teacher
- Visually impaired }
- Cerebral palsied }
- Specific learning disabled } an average of 10 pupils per teacher
- Epileptic }
- Physically handicapped }
- Training centres for mentally retarded children } an average of 10 pupils per teacher
- Schools of Industries and Reform schools } an average of 15 pupils per teacher

WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 1985

(2) *Wheat*

- (a) Favourable climatic conditions in most of the production areas.
- (b) Exports to neighbouring States and sales of lower grades as stock feed at reduced prices.

Dairy Products

- (a) Due to the adverse effect of the drought on crop production and therefore also on their income, producers turned to dairying to a greater extent than normal.
- (b) Sales at reduced prices from time to time.

Eggs

- (a) Overproduction during spring and early summer.
- (b) Sales of processed products at market related prices.

Rooibos Tea

- (a) Exceptionally favourable production conditions over the past

(b) 196 on 25 March 1985.	(i)	(ii)
(2) (a) 42 as a result of police action and 10 by civilians.	(a) White	3 884 636
(b) 138.	(b) Coloured	— 906
	(c) Indian	— 23
	(d) Black	— 4 240

Note: The figures in respect of Coloured, Indian and Black employees (temporary personnel) mainly represent personnel who are in service against labour provision, ie personnel who are not occupying posts on the approved establishment of the Administration. In respect of the labour figures the situation is particularly subject to changes resulting from service terminations, seasonal employments, etc.

Teacher/pupil ratio

61. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

What was the teacher/pupil ratio applicable in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools in (i) each of the provincial education departments and (ii) his Department as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (a) and (b)(i) The provincial education departments are still administered in terms of the Provincial Government Act, 1961 (Act 62 of 1962) and the teacher/pupil ratio is therefore a domestic matter.
- (ii) The Department of Education and Culture makes provision for pupils with a variety of handicaps. The following types of institutions are included:
 - Schools for special education which include schools for the cerebral palsied, specific learning disabled, sensory handicapped, epi-

770. Mr J J B VAN ZYL asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:†

- (1) Whether the South African Transport Services lent amounts of money to Mozambique from 1 January 1984 to the latest specified date for which figures are available; if so, (a) what amounts, (b) on what dates and (c) at what rates of interest in each case;
- (2) whether the South African Transport Services entered into an agreement with Mozambique concerning the repayment of these amounts; if not, (a) why not and (b) on what basis will the amounts be repaid; if so, (i) when and (ii) what is the purport of this agreement;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Fall away.

Officials

58. Mr J H HOON asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:†

- How many (a) White, (b) Coloured, (c) Indian and (d) Black persons are employed as officials in his Department on a (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

(1) Yes, wheat, dairy products, eggs, rooibos tea, leaf tobacco and beef.

three years and negative publicity regarding the alleged presence of salmonella in certain samples of rooibos tea.

- (b) None, except for higher processing costs.

Leaf tobacco

- (a) Favourable climatic conditions.
(b) Exports at reduced prices.

Beef

- (a) Forced marketing mainly as a result of the drought.

- (b) Decrease in the auction prices and possible sales at reduced prices.

(3) *Wheat*

- (a) Surplus stocks are exported at competitive prices.

- (b) Incidental surpluses are mainly due to favourable climatic conditions.

Dairy products

- (a) Sales at the best prices that can be realized in the market.

- (b) Surpluses are mainly the result of the adverse effects of drought conditions in the northern crop production areas.

Eggs

- (a) and (b) Application of an effective marketing strategy to improve the demand for and the sale of eggs and egg products.

Rooibos tea

- (a) and (b) Marketing quotas were introduced last year, foreign markets were exploited and steps are being taken to enhance

the market acceptance of stocks and new production.

Leaf tobacco

- (a) and (b) Voluntary limitation of production is applied by the producers.

Beef

- (a) and (b) Price- and marketing arrangements to effect an equilibrium between demand and supply as far as possible.

Agricultural products: shortage

363. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

- (1) Whether any shortages of agricultural products exist or are expected in 1985; if so, of which products;

- (2) what in each case are the (a) reasons for such shortages and (b) price implications;

- (3) what steps have been taken or are contemplated in each case to (a) counter the effect of such shortages and (b) avoid them in future?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (1) Yes, sunflower seed (for pressing purposes to provide in the cooking oil requirements) and cotton.

(2) *Sunflower Seed*

- (a) Mainly unfavourable climatic conditions.

- (b) Not quantifiable owing to variable factors such as variation in supply and demand (locally) and price fluctuations on the world market.

Cotton

- (a) Mainly unfavourable climatic conditions.

- (b) None.

(3) *Sunflower Seed*

- (a) and (b) It is customary to supplement shortages of cooking oil by means of imports.

Cotton

- (a) and (b) It is customary to supplement shortages by means of imports.

~~Heena and~~
Alexandra 10/4/85
& G. 1. 1025

424. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

- (1) Whether any civil unrest and/or school boycotts occurred in Alexandria in 1984; if so,

- (2) whether any inquiries have been instituted in this regard; if not, why not; if so, who is or was in charge of these inquiries;

- (3) whether these inquiries have been completed; if so, what were the findings; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that they will be completed;

- (4) whether any action has been or is to be taken as a result of the inquiries; if not, why not; if so, what action?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

- (1) Yes, only a boycott at a school.

- (2) Yes. The governing body of the school instituted inquiries with the chairman of the governing body in charge.

- (3) Yes. The governing body came to the conclusion that the main reason had been the influence which persons and organizations outside the school exercised on the pupils. A further reason for dissatisfaction with the pupils was their demand that money which they

had paid for wood for the construction of woodwork models, be paid back to them, could not be met as the wood had already been used in models which they had not completed.

- (a) and (b) Fall away.

- (4) Yes. A former Inspector of Schools was appointed as acting principal for the beginning of 1985 to restore order.

~~Doctors paramedical personnel - salary scales~~
Hemard & G. 1. 1026 10/4/85
454. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

What are the present salary scales for (a) doctors and (b) paramedical personnel of each race group employed in provincial hospitals?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

Explanatory notes:

1. The salary scales indicated are Public Service scales which, as far as is known, are also applied by the Provincial Administrations.

2. Salary scales for the different population groups are specified up to the point where posts exist.

3. List of abbreviations/symbols used hereafter:

PA: Pensionable Allowance
NPPA: Non-pensionable Professional Allowance
(W): White
(C): Coloured
(I): Indian
(B): Black

(A) Salary Scales: Medical Staff

(All population groups)
Intern (Medical)
R12 030 + 12% PA
Registrar
R18 288 x 849 - 25 080 + 12% PA
+ R11 037 NPPA

- (b) 196 on 25 March 1985.
- (2) (a) 42 as a result of police action and 10 by civilians.
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Amounts lent to Mozambique

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- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Fall away.

Own Affairs:

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The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

	(a) White	(i)	(ii)
	3 884	3 884	636
(b) Coloured	—	—	906
(c) Indian	—	—	23
(d) Black	—	—	4 240

Note: The figures in respect of Coloured, Indian and Black employees (temporary personnel) mainly represent personnel who are in service against labour provision, ie personnel who are not occupying posts on the approved establishment of the Administration. In respect of the labour figures the situation is particularly subject to changes resulting from service terminations, seasonal employments, etc.

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Visually impaired
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Physically handicapped

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WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 1985

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- (a) Overproduction during spring and early summer
- (b) Sales of processed products at market related prices.

Roobos Tea

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†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

3 General Q. 601. 1021
Agricultural products: surpluses
10/4/85

362. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

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Hansen and Alexander 10/4/85 & G. 1. 1025
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- (1) Yes, only a boycott at a school.

- (2) Yes. The governing body of the school instituted inquiries with the chairman of the governing body in charge.

- (3) Yes. The governing body came to the conclusion that the main reason had been the influence which persons and organizations outside the school exercised on the pupils. A further reason for dissatisfaction with the pupils was their demand that money which they

had paid for wood for the construction of woodwork models, be paid back to them, could not be met as the wood had already been used in models which they had not completed

- (a) and (b) Fall away.

- (4) Yes. A former Inspector of Schools was appointed as acting principal for the beginning of 1985 to restore order.

Hansen and Alexander 10/4/85 & G. 1. 1026
454. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

What are the present salary scales for (a) doctors and (b) paramedical personnel of each race group employed in provincial hospitals?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

Explanatory notes:

1. The salary scales indicated are Public Service scales which, as far as is known, are also applied by the Provincial Administrations.

2. Salary scales for the different population groups are specified up to the point where posts exist.

3. List of abbreviations/symbols used hereafter:

PA: Pensionable Allowance
NPPA: Non-pensionable Professional Allowance
(W): White
(C): Coloured
(I): Indian
(B): Black

(A) Salary Scales: Medical Staff

(All population groups)
Intern (Medical)
R12 030 + 1.2% PA
Registrar
R18 288 x 849 - 25 080 + 12% PA
+ R11 037 NPPA

NM 19/4/85
3
General

Farmers offered fertilizer discounts

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

NATAL Farmers have been offered special discounts on the price of fertilizer after negotiations between the Natal Agricultural Union, the chamber of Natal Co-operatives and fertilizer companies.

This was revealed yesterday by Mr Alwyn Bisschoff, director of the NAU, who said two types of discount structures had been negotiated for Natal farmers.

A 17 percent discount on listed price, payable on September 30 1985, would apply in the case of fertilizer purchases by farmers on a direct delivery basis through their co-ops.

This would also apply to co-ops which buy in reserve or buffer stocks.

The second discount structure would apply to consignment stocks to co-operatives for which the following would apply:

Increase

Sales during April less 12 percent less R4 a ton; May less 11 percent; June less 10 percent; July less 10 percent; August less 8 percent, and September less 6 percent.

Mr Bisschoff said that during last December the chamber of Natal Co-ops had become aware that a substantial increase in fertilizer prices would occur this year.

'All the Natal co-operatives were invited to a meeting on January 24 to discuss the possibility of single channel purchases of fertilizer for the whole of Natal.'

KDM 20/4/85
Relief scheme 3

CAPE TOWN. — A relief scheme is to be set up for farmers in the drought-stricken Western Transvaal, the chairman of the Ministers' Council of the House of Assembly, Dr C V van der Merwe, said in a statement yesterday. The scheme, which comes into operation on May 1, will "assist farmers in their daily personal needs and the needs of the family".

Parliament

Board for Indian farmers

Political Reporter

AN Agricultural Credit Board (ACB) to assist Indian farmers has been launched, Mr Baldeo Dookie, Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, announced yesterday.

The new board had been allocated a total budget of R832 000 for this financial year, Mr Dookie said.

He added that it was a "historical development for Indians who had been here for 124 years and for the first time positive steps are being taken to meet their needs in the agricultural sector".

The minister has also appointed five members to the board which will be chaired by the chief director of local government, Mr R N Blumrick.

The five were Mr P R Bodasing, a farmer and president of the Natal Indian Cane Grower's Association; Mr M Naidoo, a farmer from Kearsney; Mr T A Govender of Umzinto who was previously associated with a part-time credit committee with Mr J N Bodasing and Mr Shun Naidoo, who both have a farming background; and Mr H J Backer, director of Local Government, who is vice-chairman.

The ACB will assist farmers, expand farming operations and supervise and undertake research and training.

Additional Agricultural Credit Committees may also be established by the Minister in terms of one or more magisterial districts to make recommendations to the Minister or the board. At present there are seven committees.

RDM 23/4/85

Farmers swimming in debt

Political Staff

(3) gov

PARLIAMENT - Mr Pietman Hugo, Nationalist MP for Ceres and chief Government agricultural spokesman, knows farmers. So he should be the chief of the KWV. And, as head of the Nats

parliamentary group on agriculture he knows how farmers have been hit by the drought.

Stoutly pleading their case yesterday he said: "After three years of drought, farmers are struggling to keep their heads above water."

Minister warns farmers on exploitation of land

N.M. 8/5/85

3 - General

UPINGTON—The wasteful exploitation of land by farmers could no longer be tolerated, the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Sarel Hayward, said here last night.

engage in wasteful exploitation can no longer be tolerated.'

In many areas of the world large areas of natural grazing land had been destroyed.

Mr Hayward said farmers

who practised wasteful exploitation made a 'doubtful short-term economic gain' but would in the long-term not only lose money but their farms as well. — (Sapa)

Opening the 1985 congress of the Karakul Farmers' Association, he said land in karakul farming areas was overloaded by an average of 30 percent.

Too many farmers did not use efficient grazing systems and to change as some had, from pelt to meat production, meant larger flocks which made veld management more difficult.

'The farmer who overloads his veld and disobeys the principles of correct veld management, is busy with wasteful exploitation of resources,' Mr Hayward said.

'He is "mining" his farm, which in the end will be turned into a desert. In the light of the comprehensive Government spending programme aimed at making conservation farming practicable, farming practices that

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Warning on food shortages of the future

African Affairs Correspondent

ULUNDI.—The KwaZulu Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Chief Langaletu Dhlamini, says South Africa may not be producing enough food to feed a projected population of 80 million by the year 2020.

Delivering his policy speech in the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly yesterday, Chief Dhlamini said the country could not rely on imports because at this stage already, 200 million people went hungry in the world every day.

The minister predicted that by the year 2000 the only foodstuff that would be exported from South Africa would be sugar. The rest would be consumed internally.

He emphasised that time was short and that high priority should be given to projects which would provide for the future.

—Chief Dhlamini said more land would have to be made available for KwaZulu.

He said industrial development within KwaZulu was a very urgent requirement, on the one hand, while it was essential to promote intensive development of the rural areas on the other hand, to support as many people as possible.

Referring to the drive of the Chief Minister, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to control expenditure on staff, Chief Dhlamini said his department needed at least eight times the staff it had at present.

—However much he would have liked to support the drive for staff reduction, his department could not do it because of the development of rural areas. This would actually mean job creation at home.

The minister spoke on the importance of conserving the Upper Tugela catchment area and said a special catchment committee had been formed to probe the potential of this region.

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NM 10/5/85

3 - General

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Benefits of E Cape water plan welcomed

PORT ELIZABETH — Yesterday's announcement by the State President, Mr P. W. Botha, that millions of rands will be spent on Eastern Cape water schemes has been welcomed, with some reservations, by spokesmen for the farming, commercial and industrial sectors.

Mr Botha said that because of unemployment in the area, preference would be given to three branches of the Orange River water scheme. He also announced special job creation projects which would create almost 14 000 jobs in the Eastern Cape over the next two years.

Mr Tobie Meyer, chairman of the East Cape Agricultural Union, said the region would benefit from the project, especially in the field of employment.

"In the short term, construction workers will gain from labour-intensive schemes to build canals, for example. And in the long term, increased and improved areas of irrigation will offer more jobs to agricultural workers."

Mr Meyer said that because 33 per cent of all industries were linked to agriculture, industry would also be boosted.

"It is a very positive step, as is any

which creates jobs for the unemployed in the Eastern Cape," he added.

However, Mr Brian Matthews, director of the Midland Chamber of Industries, said that while the announcement would provide long term benefits, it would not create a short term solution to the economic setback in the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area.

"Mr Botha speaks of creating 14 000 jobs, but we do not know where these will be created," he said. "If this number is spread over the entire region the benefits will not be very significant."

Mr Matthews said the Louis Heyl report — commissioned by the MCI, Chamber of Commerce and municipalities of Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage — had recommended in 1981 that the agricultural output of the region be increased. A stable supply of water to the region would not only make this possible, but boost the processing industry as well, he said.

Mr Tony Gilson, director of the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, said first reports of the government's investments in the Eastern Cape's water schemes were encouraging.

"We have felt for some time that one of the ways to stimulate economic growth in the region would be by developing agriculture." — DDC.

200

Enjoying a drink from 1971, the German Consul-General
d very low
ol counts in

General
3
23/4/85

'Food could have cost more'

By Frank Jeans

was 13,9 percent. ^{3 - General} retary of media services of the SAAU.

in the timing of purchases. ^{Stay 13/5/85}

As the big maize price row simmers on, South Africans might take heart from the fact that their food bill in the past year would have been much more if producers of other main items had not held prices.

According to the latest figures from the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), consumers paid 13,6 percent more for food last year, although the inflation rate up to January this year

The union gives a breakdown, for example on milk, which reveals that while the retail price has gone up regularly, the dairy farmer's share per rand spent went down.

In 1978, the producer received 56,6c out of each rand spent on milk. In 1984, he got 51,9c and in February this year only 48,2c.

"It is a fallacy, too, that meat is expensive," says Mr Gerrie Smit, sec-

"The floor price of meat — the minimum at which it can be bought — was lowered by 5 percent in 1984 and producers did not request any rise in 1985.

"In the first quarter of this year, the beef producer received on average R2,29 a kilogram for all grades of beef."

Mr Smit says the public can achieve substantial savings not only in bulk buying of meat but

"The best time to buy is in June or the earlier months of the year," he says, "when meat prices are relatively cheap

"In December and holiday months, when people have bonuses etc, the butchers are well aware that they can buy at any price for it is sure to sell."

South Africans spent nearly 25 percent of their income on food during the year.

Committee to probe Indian farmland needs

Mercury Reporter

A TWO-man committee to investigate agricultural land requirements for Indians has been appointed by the own affairs, Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Delegates, Mr Baldeo Dookie.

They are Mr Y S Chinsamy, a former president of the Natal Indian Cane Growers' Association, and the association's current president, Mr Pat Bodasing.

Mr Chinsamy, who refused to stand for elections to the tricameral Parliament last year because blacks were excluded, said yesterday that he had accepted the appointment as it was a bread and butter issue and not politics.

Restrictions

He said the committee would be making a strong recommendation for the scrapping of the Group Areas Act on agricultural land.

If the Government is sincere in its desire to bring about positive changes in South Africa, it should start by lifting racial restrictions on agricultural land.

All farmers, irrespective of the colour of

their skin, should be allowed to buy agricultural land anywhere, he said.

Indian farmers had lost more than 26 000 ha of farmlands since 1946. Land was needed not only for sugar cane and vegetable farming, but also for the growing of wheat, maize and timber. The committee would be investigating the needs of Indian farmers throughout the country.

Announcing the appointment of the committee, Mr Dookie said it would have to submit a report directly to him within five months.

The committee's terms of reference include establishing the extent of agricultural land expropriated from Indians under the Group Areas Act, land expropriated for the consolidation of national states, the type of farming

in which Indians were now engaged and other types of farming which would be suitable.

Mr Dookie said Indian farmers owned or leased 24 844 ha, but the land shortage was still serious.

In the interim, he said, his department would lease land which would not be used in the next five to 10 years to Indian farmers for 'short-term cash crop use'.

The spectre of unemployment

Argus 15/5/85 (3 general)

THERE is considerable disagreement on how many people are unemployed in South Africa. The situation is not only bad but is getting worse. Black unemployment in particular is soaring.

Because of the recession and the low growth rate, the future looks even bleaker. It is estimated that with a growth rate of 3,6 percent unemployment will reach 21,9 percent in 1987. With a growth rate of 5 percent it will be 11,5 percent.

Every day there are bankruptcies and retrenchments and the list of unemployed grows longer. We are beginning to talk not only of hundreds of thousands but of millions.

At present approximately 408 920 job seekers come on to the market every year, of whom 77,3 percent are blacks. By the year 2000 the figure will increase to 535 000 of whom 83,3 percent will be black and by 2015 there will be 641 000 people looking for work of whom 87,2 percent will be black.

Unemployment should be seen as Public Enemy No 1. It cannot be interpreted as mere statistics in a national growth plan. Behind the statistics are ordinary men and women for whom it has terrifying implications. When unemployment knocks on their door it brings with it companions who are persistent in their cruel demands.

For some it means the loss of dignity and self-worth, the loss of a home, the denial of opportunities for their children or not knowing where the next meal will come from; for thousands it means losing the right

IN the debate on the Manpower vote in the House of Assembly, DR ALEX BORAINE, PFP spokesman on manpower, warned of the dangers of growing unemployment and suggested steps to combat the problem. This is an edited version of his speech.



- "We are beginning to talk of jobless in millions."
- "Behind the statistics are ordinary men and women."
- "The unemployed are mainly among the voteless."
- "A commission on the problems must be appointed."
- "We have to improve training . . . and education."
- "The greatest hope lies in the informal sector."
- "As a matter of urgency the pass laws must go."
- "Of the utmost importance is a social security plan."

● There must be a change in agricultural patterns. This is possibly the only sector capable of absorbing relatively large numbers of workseekers within a fairly short period. The irony is that while agriculture has grown, the number of jobs in this sector has shrunk.

There will have to be a radical redistribution of economic resources. At the moment there is a comparatively small number of large farms with a great deal of capital equipment. What is required is a large number of economically viable farms which rely more on labour than on capital.

● As a matter of urgency pass laws, which are a symbol of the inferior status of blacks, must go. Influx control contributes to unemployment and should be scrapped. Labour mobility is central to the free enterprise system.

● Of the utmost importance is the introduction of a social security plan. This will be highly controversial. There will always be those who will abuse the system but we have to distinguish between socialism and social security. They are not the same.

The reason why Britain and the United States can cope with high unemployment is because there is a social security system which enables families to keep body and soul together.

In South Africa, where first and third worlds rub shoulders, where there is massive poverty, malnutrition and increasing joblessness, it is of the utmost importance that a social security system be introduced without delay.

If we stubbornly reject this, we could put at risk the very fabric of our society and none of us will be untouched.

couraged by better tax incentives to industrialists to move towards labour-intensive investment in urban as well as rural areas.

● Economic growth must be encouraged at every level. Part of the answer to increased growth is increased productivity. But to increase productivity we have to improve training which in turn rests upon the foundation of a sound basic education.

● The greatest hope for job creation lies in the active development of the informal sector, which shows the most scope for expansion and upgrading. It is essential that the entrepreneurial spirit in this more dynamic part of the modern informal sector be nurtured rather than stifled. Instead of breaking down modest shackles being used to operate one-man businesses, instead of bedevilling the informal sector with laws and regulations we ought to be encouraging it in rural and urban areas.

There is no easy and swift solution. Cyclical unemployment is corrected in the normal course of events as the business cycle improves. But structural unemployment, which exists even though there are people who desperately seek work and who have some qualifications which enable them to work, is a problem which demands urgent and serious consideration.

Some initiatives to alleviate the problem are:

● The appointment of an employment opportunities commission to analyse the problems and bring together the best people in commerce, trade, industry, the government, universities and the programme to mount a dynamic programme to foster job creation.

● There must be a planned movement away from a capital-intensive economy to a labour-intensive economy, en-

by businessmen and trade unionists that unemployment is running at more than 25 percent.

There is an increasing mass of people with nothing to do. What better ingredients for demonstrations and mob action? What better fuel to add to our racial tensions when the overwhelming number of unemployed are black and the employers, who do the hiring and firing, are in the main white?

Large-scale and long-term unemployment is a serious problem in any country. But when there are deep-felt political grievances and a highly unequal distribution of income the problem is compounded. It is a price South Africa cannot afford.

One of the primary motivations in the fight against disinvestment is that any more unemployment can only cause greater dislocation and therefore add to the problem rather than resolve it.

to remain in the urban areas and being forced back to homelands where there are no jobs; for many it means leaving school after years of study and preparation with no prospect of employment whatsoever.

When considered, too, that by and large the unemployed are to be found within the disenfranchised sections of our population it takes on serious socio-political implications. No doubt one of the most significant background causes of disbalance in townships is the lack of job opportunities.

Hand in hand with spiralling unemployment is the increasing number of black matriculants coming on to the labour market. Can there be anything more frustrating for one who has been battling against all the odds to find there are no vacancies?

Unemployment fans the flames of anger and resentment in the townships of Uitenhage; it has been estimated

Completely new policy for agriculture needed

Star 14/5/85 3-General

There is more to the current maize crisis than a clash between the Government and farmers over prices.

Numerous reports by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) and the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) have highlighted the severe cash flow problem of maize farmers.

In 1984 income on some 60 percent of farms did not cover costs.

The problem started in the 1980/81 and 1981/82 seasons when maize producers had record crops and were also given a 14 percent increase in 81/82.

Maize producers were now flush with money and spent and borrowed heavily in buying additional land and implements. Interest rates were low and with high inflation additional investment in land seemed a safe bet.

Farmers have also always been insulated against any market forces by the method used in determining the price of maize.

In a nutshell, an annual survey of production costs is made and, on the basis of this, a price is negotiated with the Minister.

In response to strong pressures from the agricultural lobby in Parliament these prices have generally been set above market equilibrium. This has also encouraged expansion of production and shifts to marginal farming areas.

The crunch came in the 82/83 and the 83/84 seasons. Drought combined with market-related interest rates precipitated most farmers into a severe cash flow problem. Price increases of 60 percent over these two years did not help most farmers because they had no maize to sell.

A completely new policy for agriculture and particularly maize is needed. The low farm incomes and low rates of return are simply a symptom of the problem which will not be cured by demands for higher and higher prices.

Consumption of maize has already declined by about a million tons a year and farmers are destroying their own markets.

Resources must be withdrawn from maize production until competitive rates of return are achieved by producers.

Efforts to maintain competitive rates of return by high maize prices will only aggravate the problem in

Mike Tarr, Progressive Federal Party MP for Pietermaritzburg South, a member of the parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture and former senior lecturer in agricultural economics at the University of Natal, looks at the problems that have caused the current mealie war and suggests solutions.



Mike Tarr... "higher prices are not the answer".

the long run and prevent the market from making the necessary adjustments.

Another point is that there has been a substantial change in the structure of agriculture over the last 30 years. Government policy has always been to keep the maximum number of farmers on the land. Farm numbers have declined from 116 000 to 70 000 over the last 30 years.

Size distribution has also become more skewed with some 30 percent of farmers now producing 80 percent of our gross agricultural output.

High prices usually do not help the 70 percent of farmers with low outputs who policy makers often wish to help — rather they provide a strong incentive for the 30 percent of larger, more efficient farmers to expand production and thus aggravate problems of overproduction.

This, in turn, can only be prevented by some form of supply control which is what the maize industry is now asking for with its quota system.

Fixed prices based on production costs have no role in a market economy. These must be replaced by an alternative policy which must move resources out of maize production, reduce price uncertainty for farmers and reduce yield uncertainty.

By doing this, production in marginal areas would be discouraged because prices would invariably drop and, in turn, would bring down land values.

Co-operatives, banks and other lending institutions would not welcome such an event because it would reduce the value of their collateral and many farmers would go broke. Only direct grants from the Government could prevent this — a step which is not acceptable.

A floor price scheme with prices announced well in advance would allow farmers to make their production decisions before the planting season giving them greater certainty.

Tax concessions which favour investment in agriculture should also be changed if we are to take resources out of maize production.

Write-off provisions for agriculture should be the same as for any other sector of the economy.

Buying and selling futures contracts on a futures market would also largely remove price uncertainty and the problems inherent in the seasonal supply of maize.

In the short run these steps would mean hardship for many farmers and land prices would invariably fall. Unfortunately, this will happen sooner or later. We should take the necessary steps now in the long-term interests of agriculture and the rest of the economy to implement sound policies now.

Call for govt to halt rural depopulation

CALL Times 15/5/85
(360000)

Municipal Reporter

PEOPLE will continue to leave the Platteland unless the government improves the rural infrastructure, changes its policy on separate facilities and promotes productivity among the farming community, Mr Eddie Trent (MPC Port Elizabeth Central) told the Provincial Council yesterday.

He said during a debate on rural depopulation that many of the causes of the problem were related to government policy and were beyond the powers of the province to solve.

Mr Trent said farms were becoming less pro-

ductive because "the government's attitude towards agriculture is one of controlling prices rather than providing technical expertise".

"Only by improving farming profit and efficiency can we keep existing farmers on the land and again reach a situation where the subdivision of farms into smaller economic units becomes a viable proposition," he said.

Mr Trent also criticized the government for making it "almost impossible for anyone except a white to invest his capital in a farming enterprise".

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Livestock farmers warned

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The government would not hesitate to take action where land deterioration could be ascribed to injudicious land use, the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supplies, Mr Sarel Hayward, said yesterday during his vote in the committee stage of the budget.

He said the government was determined to make the National Grazing Strategy succeed because of the alarming deterioration of the veld.

"It is now accepted policy that in future no financial aid for land owners would be considered unless the provisions relating to veld utilization and resting are strictly complied with."

In future farmers would have to reduce stock before they would qualify for drought aid.

Areas "not ecologically suited" to livestock farming would be identified. — Sapa

Union launches boycott of shops

THE METAL an Allied Workers Union has launched a boycott of shops in Howick, Natal, to put pressure on local business to persuade BTR Sarmcol, a British multi-national, to negotiate with the union.

In another development about 2 000 workers at Dunlop SA in Durban have threatened to strike this week if BTR refuses to conclude a recognition agreement with Mawu.

This follows Sarmcol's dismissal of more than 900 striking workers almost three weeks ago, and will bring the number of strikers at Dunlop and Sarmcol — both subsidiaries of British Tyre and Rubber — to 2 970.

A Mawu spokesman said workers at Dunlop had agreed to strike if BTR Sarmcol insisted in refusing to negotiate with the union. A strike ballot will be held this week.

Workers at Sarmcol were dismissed for going on an "illegal" strike, according to the company. The union, however, has claimed that the industrial action was legal in terms of the Labour Relations Act.

Mawu also claimed that none of Sarmcol's workers had returned to work and that Dunlop had threatened to seek an interdict to prevent the strike action.

The company's spokesman said about 400 people, most of whom had been laid off by Sarmcol, had been employed to replace the strikers. Twenty of the sacked workers had asked to be re-hired or reinstated.

The company had agreed to sign a preliminary recognition agreement with the union in 1983, but had not negotiated with the union over the strike.

State must help improve farm production — MPC

Nat MPCs 'lag behind' P W

Provincial Reporter
NATIONAL Party members of the Provincial Council are far behind President P W Botha and it is time they caught up, says Mr Rupert Hurly (PFP Claremont).

He told the council yesterday — the first day of this year's main session — that he had been asked how many

Conservative Party members were on the Provincial Council.

"I said 43 (the total National Party complement). If I look at the attitudes here, I can only say that if the State President is giving the lead, that side (National Party members) are behind him ... but very far behind and it is time they caught up."

Provincial Reporter

THE Government is controlling prices instead of providing technical expertise to improve farm production, says Mr Eddie Trent (PFP Port Elizabeth Central).

"Farmers do not need hand-outs...they need technical assistance," he said in a debate yesterday on a motion from Mr R Derckson (NP Beaufort West) calling on the Province to try to stop depopulation of rural areas.

Mr Trent introduced an Opposition amendment saying the Government should assist.

He said the prosperity of country districts was linked directly to the potential of the land and expertise of the farmers, and that "as the district grows, so will the towns".

Expertise

"But the Agricultural Technical Service is hopelessly understaffed and one gains the impression that the Government is controlling prices instead of providing technical expertise to improve the production capacity of farms."

He said more should be spent on training young farmers and research and he also believed opening facilities such as cinemas and schools to all races would boost country towns.

Mr P F de Klerk (NP Graaff-Reinet) said strict regulations could not be met by small country enterprises and stood in the way of the development.

He urged the Provincial Administration to create jobs in country towns.

Mr Rupert Hurly (PFP Claremont), who believed more should be spent by the Government on mining and agricultural research, said: "We believe that the depopulation of the country areas is a serious threat to the whole economic structure, and we believe it is essential that something should be done to reverse the trend of the past 80 years."

Second-tier government plan will dominate debate

Provincial Reporter
IMPLICATIONS of the Government's blueprint for second-tier government is likely to dominate the Provincial Council's no-confidence debate this session.

Progressive Federal Party members will debate in favour of a new form of democratic, non-racial second-tier government with legislative powers.

A motion to this effect from Leader of the Opposition Mr Herbert Hirsch — due to have been debated yesterday in private members' motion time — was withdrawn so the issue could be "fully aired" in the nine-hour no-confidence debate

starting on Friday.

There is increased interest in future provincial government following the announcement of the end of the Provincial Council system next year by Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, earlier this month.

Mr Hirsch said in a statement yesterday that if his motion had not been withdrawn, debate on it would have been restricted to about two hours.

He said it was agreed to withdraw the motion so that "this fundamental and vitally important matter" could be "fully aired" in the no-confidence debate.

COURTS

grandfather: Case re-opens

have been judgment on whether extenuation existed or not.

Mr Justice Thirion said that the case could be re-opened and proceed on May 22 in Vryheid.

Mr Gideon Scheltema, for John Steytler, said that the defence would call a brother and sister, Mr Philip Steytler and Mrs Elaine Combrinck, to testify. Mr Scheltema said they would testify on John Steytler's

relationship with his father.

He said that they felt the full truth of the relationship should be brought out and that they wanted to amplify on the evidence given by another sister, Mrs Brenda Bentley.

Mr Justice Thirion asked why these witnesses had not been called during the trial at Vryheid. Mr Scheltema replied that at the time they did not want to be involved in the case as it might bring the family into conflict.

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Tractor, truck sales slump

(3) General

Farm machinery

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firms reject plea

22/5/87

to cut more costs

AGRICULTURAL machinery manufacturers have turned down a request by Transport Minister Hendrik Schoeman to cut costs to help farmers.

They said their own industry was already suffering huge losses and that further cost-cutting would severely damage it.

Schoeman told manufacturers last week that farmers could no longer afford to pay increased prices for machinery and had a right to insist on lower or more stable prices.

According to manufacturers, cost-cutting has gone as far as it could.

"In some cases we are selling below profit. Without actually laying off staff, we can't cut back any further," said Magnis Truck marketing manager Tony Godycki.

He added that truck sales to the agricultural sector had more than halved since 1982.

Tractor sales had also slumped.

Tractor Manufacturers' Association chairman Robin Phillips said sales for the whole country fell to 423 units in April. Four years ago the industry had record sales of 25 000.

Due to the recession and the drought, these had declined steadily. Last year only 7 000 units were sold and Phillips predicted even fewer sales this year.

"We've all tried to be cost-effective

By CHERILYN IRETON

and increase productivity but, in our sector of the agricultural industry, there are very few buyers."

Despite hard times, Phillips said the industry remained highly competitive with too many suppliers.

"The US market has declined steadily and the European market has shown very little resilience. Because of the state of these markets, major suppliers are trying to maintain their positions in SA.

"They're coming in with all sorts of offers to farmers such as interest-free terms, discounts and overseas trips for buyers. Manufacturers are really doing all they can to stimulate the industry."

Phillips said credit to farmers had been flexible — with both private and quasi-government sectors willing to assist.

"There has been no large-scale foreclosing."

However, National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) spokesman Dr Kit Leclus said farmers were going bankrupt on a large scale and repossessions were increasing daily. The real effect would be felt in "a couple of years" when farmers had to replace equipment.

"Farmers are consuming their capital and are not able to recover depreciation costs."

(3) General Howard
Farmers: loans 25/3/85
735. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) What was the total amount loaned to farmers under the (a) 22-year Land Bank consolidation of debt scheme and (b) 6-year consolidation of debt scheme with co-operatives as at the latest specified date for which figures are available;
- (2) whether guide-lines are laid down for the granting of such credit; if so, what are these guide-lines; if not, in what manner are loans granted;
- (3) what proportion of the above loans represented debts incurred from (a) co-operatives and (b) commercial banks?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) (a) R570.9 million as at 28 February 1985.
- (b) R1 155.9 million production credit was owing by farmers to co-operatives and by co-operatives to the Land Bank under the 6 year scheme on 28 February 1985.

(2) Yes.

22-YEAR SCHEME (Secured by mortgage bonds over farm property)

Only applications received by the Land Bank up to 31 March 1985 from creditworthy drought-stricken crop farmers in the summer rainfall areas are considered for the redemption of:

- (i) one-third of applicant's production credit with his co-operative;
- (ii) one-third (increased to one-half under the 1984 scheme) of his commercial bank overdraft incurred for production credit;

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equivalent of 162 650 beef carcasses was imported from the relevant countries under quotas in terms of long standing marketing agreements and the Customs Union Agreement.

(b) R66,6 million.

(2) Botswana, Swaziland and South West Africa.

†Dr F HARTZENBERG: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, what quantity of surplus beef and carcasses is now available in the country?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the hon member must have that question placed on the Question Paper; I shall then be able to give him an accurate reply. [Interjections.]

*41. Mr P R C ROGERS [Defence] [Reply standing over.]

Howard Q. 601. 838
25/3/85
Cross-border relations committees

*45. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department initiated cross-border relations committees in or about 1982; if so,

(2) whether finality has been reached in regard to the establishment of such committees; if so, (a) how many such committees have been established, (b) which areas do they serve in each case, (c) who are the members of each such committee, (d) how many meetings have taken place and (e) what matters have been dealt with; if not,

(3) whether it is the Government's intention to proceed with the establishment of such committees; if so, (a) when, (b) which areas will they serve and (c) who will serve on these committees; if not,

(4) whether a local informal system of communication is envisaged between citizens of the Republic of South

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 19 March 1985:

Area lost for agricultural purposes

*2. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What is the estimated area that was lost for agricultural purposes as a result of urban development as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS:

It is estimated that since 1952 3,7 million hectares agricultural land was made available for urban development. Since the beginning of 1971 until the end of March 1984 206 369 ha agricultural land was lost for the same purpose.

Mr H H SCHWARZ: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could he tell the House what happened in this respect prior to 1952? [Interjections.]

Beef carcasses

*15. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(1) What was the (a) quantity and (b) value of beef carcasses imported into the Republic in the latest specified year for which figures are available;

(2) what were the countries of origin

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS:

(1) (a) During the period 1 January 1984 to 31 December 1984 the

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The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

by his Department for interest subsidies on mortgage loans of officials in its employ in the 1985-86 financial year?

(1) to (3) No final decision has been taken regarding the settlement of the KwaNgema and Driefontein communities. Certain proposals submitted by the communities are at present being investigated and considered and further discussions with the communities will take place as soon as possible.

Own Affairs:

War veterans' pensions

79. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

How many White (a) male and (b) female persons over the age of 85 years were in receipt of war veterans' pensions as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

(a) 910.

(b) 173.

As at 31 March 1985.

Handwritten: Hansuel G. Col 1603
Mortgage loans: subsidies

80. Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

What total amount has been budgeted by his Department for interest subsidies on mortgage loans of officials in its employ in the 1985-86 financial year?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

R1 421 000.

Mortgage loans: subsidies

83. Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

What total amount has been budgeted

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is to fall under the control of his Department: if not, (a) why not and (b) who is to be responsible for the registration of teachers; if so, which bodies will be involved in the drafting of the minimum requirements for registration;

- (2) whether the (a) handling and (b) maintenance of the register will fall under the control of his Department; if so, which organization or body within his Department will be responsible for this register; if not, which organization or body will control the establishment and maintenance of the register?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION (for the Minister of National Education):

- (1) Yes. The central registering body to be established in accordance with paragraph 4.5.2 of the White Paper on the provision of Education in the RSA, will administratively fall under the auspices of the Department of National Education, but will be largely autonomous, also regarding the laying down of the minimum requirements for the registration of teaching staff.

(a) and (b) fall away.

- (2) (a) and (b) Yes. The establishment and maintenance of the register will be controlled by the above-mentioned central registering body.

New Questions:

- (3) *Handwritten:* General Hamand
Freehold farm-land: facilities
R 1605 28/5/85
*1. Mr P. GSBAL asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

- (1) Whether facilities in respect of (a) agricultural (i) research, (ii) extension services and (iii) credit, (b) the Land Bank and (c) drought-relief schemes administered by the State, are available to Black persons who own freehold farm-land in the Re-

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public of South Africa: if not, (aa) why not and (bb) what facilities are available to these Black farmers; if so, what was the nature of the assistance given and facilities available to such Black farmers during the latest specified period of 10 years for which information is available;

- (2) whether these facilities are similar to those available to White farmers in the Republic: if not, (a) why not, (b) in what respects do they differ and (c) when is it anticipated that these differences will be eliminated;
- (3) whether such Black farmers are subject to the same provisions of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983, as are White farmers; if not, why not;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

There are two categories of Black owned farmland in the Republic of South Africa, namely land in the so-called Black spots and land in the national states.

The provision of services to land owners to which reference is made in the question is a function which vests in each of the national states concerned. Any applicable research results are available to the national states, which transmit these results to Black land owners by means of their extension services (consisting of approximately 1 200 trained agricultural officers). Agricultural credit is provided to land owners by the Departments of Agriculture of the national states, and by their development corporations. The national states furthermore administer their own drought relief schemes when necessary. As far as Act 43 of 1983 is concerned it needs to be mentioned that it is not applicable in the national states but that each national state has its own legislation on similar matters. As far as the Black landowners who possess land in Black spots within the Republic of South Africa are concerned the replies to the questions are as follows:

- (1) (a) (i) Yes.
 (ii) Yes.
 (iii) Yes.
 (b) Yes.
 (c) Yes.

(aa) Falls away.

(bb) Information besides that supplied above is not readily available.

(2) Yes.

(a), (b) and (c) fall away.

(3) Yes.

(4) No.

Hansen
Q. Co. 1607
 *2. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 36 on 19 February 1985, any

(i) A community centre

The clinic section of the health centre
 The first phase of the sports facilities
 Electrification at hostel site
 A selfhelp centre
 Demonstration houses
 Earthworks and a water supply line
 Surveying of residential areas 1 and 2 of Town I

Seating/paying of fares on trains

*3. Mr W V RAW asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether passengers seeking to travel on trains departing after the closing

money has been budgeted for the 1985-86 financial year for the construction of (a) houses, (b) serviced sites at Site C, (c) serviced sites elsewhere and (d) other developments in Khayelitsha; if so, (i) for what developments, (ii) what total amount is involved and (iii) when are these developments due for completion?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

(a) Yes.

(i), (ii) and (iii) R11 532 980 was budgeted for completion of the contract in respect of the erection of 5 000 houses.

(b) No.

(i), (ii) and (iii) fall away.

(c) Yes.

(i), (ii) and (iii) R350 000 was budgeted for the planning of 2 400 sites. The date of completion for the project cannot be determined as yet. Funds for development of the sites have indeed been applied for.

(d) Yes.

(ii) R5 568 621 in respect of all these developments

(iii)
 October 1985
 December 1986
 December 1985
 September 1985
 December 1985
 December 1985
 Already completed

September 1985

of reservations offices at main-line stations are entitled to (a) obtaining seating from the conductor and (b) paying their fares on such trains, if not, why not; if so,

- (2) whether any conditions have been laid down in regard to such passengers; if so, what conditions?

(ii) 1 345.

Fourth quarter—1 January to 31 March 1985.

†The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Transport Affairs):

(1), (a), (b) and (2) Yes. Passengers who purchase tickets from a conductor on a train whilst ticket offices on stations are still open, are required to pay the prescribed booking fee over and above the normal train fare. When passengers entrain at sidings and passenger halts or at stations, when ticket offices are closed, tickets can be obtained from conductors at normal fares.

Hansen
Q. Co. 1609
28/5/85

*4. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(a) How many persons or companies charged with alleged unlawful road transportation during each quarter of the 1984-85 financial year were (i) acquitted and (ii) found guilty and (b) what was the sentence imposed on each person or company convicted of this offence?

†The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Transport Affairs) (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

(a) First quarter—1 April to 30 June 1984.

(i) 138.

(ii) 979.

Second quarter—1 July to 30 September 1984.

(i) 175.

(ii) 1 081.

Third quarter—1 October to 31 December 1984.

(i) 219.

(b) The required information cannot be readily ascertained. It can, however, be mentioned that the fines imposed by the courts, varied between R100 and R2 000 and amounted in total to R772 452.

*5. Mr E K MOORCROFT—Constitutional Development and Planning. [Reply standing over.]

Hansen
Q. Co. 1610
28/5/85
 Orange/Fish/Sundays River Irrigation scheme
 *6. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

(1) Whether additional funds were recently allocated to the Orange/Fish/Sundays River irrigation scheme; if so, (a) what total amount and (b) when;

(2) whether this money will be used to construct the high level canal to Wellington Grove; if not, (a) why not and (b) for what purpose will this money be used;

(3) whether the total area of land available for irrigation purposes under this scheme will be reduced if this canal is not constructed; if so, by how many hectares?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) No, the announcement by the State President on 22 April 1985 of the allocation of an additional amount of R6.5 million was in respect of the Lower Sundays River and the Lower Fish River Schemes.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

(2) No.

- (1) (a) (i) Yes.
- (ii) Yes.
- (iii) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.

(aa) Falls away.

(bb) Information besides that supplied above is not readily available.

- (2) Yes.
- (a), (b) and (c) fall away.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.

Handwritten: Khayelitsha 29/5/85
Handwritten: Q. Co. 1. 1607
 *2. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 36 on 19 February 1985, any

(i) A community centre

The clinic section of the health centre
 The first phase of the sports facilities
 Electrification at hostel site
 A self-help centre
 Demonstration houses
 Earthworks and a water supply line
 Surveying of residential areas 1 and 2 of Town 1

Seating/paying of fares on trains

*3. Mr W V RAW asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether passengers seeking to travel on trains departing after the closing

money has been budgeted for the 1985-86 financial year for the construction of (a) houses, (b) serviced sites at Site C, (c) serviced sites elsewhere and (d) other developments in Khayelitsha; if so, (i) for what developments, (ii) what total amount is involved and (iii) when are these developments due for completion?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

- (a) Yes.
- (i), (ii) and (iii) R11 532 980 was budgeted for completion of the contract in respect of the erection of 5 000 houses.
- (b) No.
- (i), (ii) and (iii) fall away.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes.

- (2) whether any conditions have been laid down in regard to such passengers; if so, what conditions?

†The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Transport Affairs):

- (1), (a), (b) and (2) Yes. Passengers who purchase tickets from a conductor on a train whilst ticket offices on stations are still open, are required to pay the prescribed booking fee over and above the normal train fare. When passengers entrain at sidings and passenger halts or at stations, when ticket offices are closed, tickets can be obtained from conductors at normal fares.

Handwritten: Unlawful road transportation
Handwritten: Q. Co. 1. 1609 28/5/85
 *4. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (a) How many persons or companies charged with alleged unlawful road transportation during each quarter of the 1984-85 financial year were (i) acquitted and (ii) found guilty and (b) what was the sentence imposed on each person or company convicted of this offence?

†The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Transport Affairs) (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

- (a) First quarter—1 April to 30 June 1984.
 - (i) 138.
 - (ii) 979.
- Second quarter—1 July to 30 September 1984.
 - (i) 175.
 - (ii) 1 081.
- Third quarter—1 October to 31 December 1984.
 - (i) 219.

- (ii) 1 345.

Fourth quarter—1 January to 31 March 1985.

- (i) 167.
- (ii) 1 236.

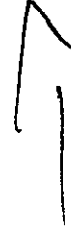
- (b) The required information cannot be readily ascertained. It can, however, be mentioned that the fines imposed by the courts, varied between R100 and R2 000 and amounted in total to R772 452.

*5. Mr E K MOORCROFT—Constitutional Development and Planning. (Reply standing over.)
Handwritten: Orange/Fish/Sundays River irrigation scheme
Handwritten: Q. Co. 1. 1610 28/5/85
 *6. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

- (1) Whether additional funds were recently allocated to the Orange/Fish/Sundays River irrigation scheme; if so, (a) what total amount and (b) when;
- (2) whether this money will be used to construct the high level canal to Wellington Grove; if not, (a) why not and (b) for what purpose will this money be used;
- (3) whether the total area of land available for irrigation purposes under this scheme will be reduced if this canal is not constructed; if so, by how many hectares?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

- (1) No, the announcement by the State President on 22 April 1985 of the allocation of an additional amount of R6.5 million was in respect of the Lower Sundays River and the Lower Fish River Schemes.
 - (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (2) No.



(a) Studies have shown that it is more economical to construct the De Mistkraal Diversion Weir on the Little Fish River upstream from Wellington Grove than the high level canal.

(b) The approved funds will be used to construct the said Diversion Weir. A canal and syphon through the River will link the River with the existing canal at Wellington Grove.

(3) No, the irrigable area of approximately 4 000 hectares originally identified for development will not be reduced.

BI 55 forms

*7. Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

How many South African citizens returning to the republic from visits to countries abroad filled in BI 55 forms during the periods 1 January to 31 December 1983 and 1984, respectively?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER (for the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning):

1983 486 814;
1984 543 133.

Figures relate to South African residents. Data for South African citizens are not available.

Smoking in public places/advertising of cigarettes

*8. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(1) Whether he has recently received any representations from the South African Medical Research Council concerning (a) smoking in public places and (b) control over the advertising of cigarettes; if so, (i) when and (ii) what was (aa) the nature of the rep-

resentations in each case and (bb) his response thereto;

(2) whether he intends (a) introducing legislation and/or (b) taking any other action in regard to (i) smoking in public places and (ii) control over the advertising of cigarettes; if not, why not; if so, (aa) what action and (bb) when;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(i) 3 April 1985.

(ii) (aa) A representative of the Department attended the information seminar on smoking of the Medical Research Council (MRC).

(bb) The Department is at present conducting an in-depth study into the findings and recommendations of the MRC.

(2) (a) I refer the hon member to Hansard of 14 May 1985, columns 6596, 6597 and 6598.

(b) (i), (ii)(aa) and (bb) An answer to this question can only be supplied on completion of the study mentioned in (i)(b), (ii)(bb).

(3) Not at this stage.

Mnr A B WIDMAN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, will it be possible to have any form of legislation submitted to Parliament during this session?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: No, I am afraid not during this session.

~~Q 61~~ Hemard Q 61.
Certain person: arrest/detention
28/5/85 6613

*9. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was arrested and/or detained by any branch of the South African Police on or about 4 May 1985; if so, what date and (ii) at what time, (b) where, (c) why, (d) in terms of what statutory provision was he (i) arrested and/or (ii) detained and (e) what is the name of this person;

(2) whether any members of the South African Police took him to hospital; if not, (a) why not and (b) who took him to hospital; if so, (i) why, (ii) at what time and (iii) to which hospital;

(3) whether this person subsequently died; if so, (a) when, (b) where and (c) what was the cause of death;

(4) whether a post-mortem has been carried out; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom, (b) when and (c) what were the findings;

(5) whether an investigation was held into the death of this person; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom and (b) what were the findings;

(6) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

(a) (i) On 4 May 1985.

(ii) At approximately 12h25.

(b) At Odendaalsrus.

(c) For questioning in connection with public violence.

(d) (i) and (ii) Section 50(1) of the

Criminal Procedure Act, No 51 of 1977.

(e) Phillip Siphon Mutsi.

(2) Yes. (a) and (b) Fall away.

(i) Because he had a suspected epileptic fit.

(ii) At 17h20 on 4 May 1985.

(iii) Provincial Hospital, Odendaalsrus.

(3) Yes.

(a) On 5 May 1985.

(b) At the Phelonomi Hospital, Bloemfontein.

(c) To be determined during pending inquest proceedings.

(4) Yes.

(a) The State Pathologist

(b) On 9 May 1985.

(c) The finding is still being awaited.

(5) Yes.

(a) The Divisional Commissioner concerned.

(b) The docket has been referred to the Attorney-general who instructed that an inquest be held.

(6) No.

~~Q 61~~ Hemard
Swimming pools in townships
Q. Co. 1. 7614 28/5/85

*10. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

(1) Whether the Western Cape Development Board has received any requests to transfer the control of swimming pools in the Black townships in its area to (a) the Cape Town

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

(1) to (3) No final decision has been taken regarding the settlement of the KwaNgema and Driefontein communities. Certain proposals submitted by the communities are at present being investigated and considered and further discussions with the communities will take place as soon as possible.

Own Affairs.

War veterans' pensions

79 Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

How many White (a) male and (b) female persons over the age of 85 years were in receipt of war veterans' pensions as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

(a) 910.

(b) 173

As at 31 March 1985

Hansman G. Col 1603
Mortgage loans: subsidies

80 Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

What total amount has been budgeted by his Department for interest subsidies on mortgage loans of officials in its employment in the 1985-86 financial year?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

R1 421 000.

Mortgage loans: subsidies

81 Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

What total amount has been budgeted

by his Department for interest subsidies on mortgage loans of officials in its employment in the 1985-86 financial year?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

R4 380 000.

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†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

State president:

Kannemeyer Commission: report

*1. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the State President:

(1) Whether he has received the report of the commission of inquiry under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Kannemeyer on the investigations into the shooting in Uitenhage on 21 March 1985; if so,

(2) whether he will Table this report; if not, why not; if so, when?

†The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (for the State President):

(1) No.

(2) Falls away.

Ministers:

Question standing over from Tuesday 21 May 1985:

Teachers: registration

*31. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) Whether the registration of teachers

is to fall under the control of his Department: if not, (a) why not and (b) who is to be responsible for the registration of teachers; if so, which bodies will be involved in the drafting of the minimum requirements for registration;

(2) whether the (a) handling and (b) maintenance of the register will fall under the control of his Department; if so, which organization or body within his Department will be responsible for this register; if not, which organization or body will control the establishment and maintenance of the register?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION (for the Minister of National Education):

(1) Yes. The central registering body to be established in accordance with paragraph 4.5.2 of the White Paper on the provision of Education in the RSA, will administratively fall under the auspices of the Department of National Education, but will be largely autonomous, also regarding the laying down of the minimum requirements for the registration of teaching staff.

(a) and (b) fall away.

(2) (a) and (b) Yes. The establishment and maintenance of the register will be controlled by the above-mentioned central registering body.

New Questions:

(3) *General Hamand*
Freehold farm-land: facilities
*1. Mr P G SBALE asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

(1) Whether facilities in respect of (a) agricultural (i) research, (ii) extension services and (iii) credit, (b) the Land Bank and (c) drought-relief schemes administered by the State, are available to Black persons who own freehold farm-land in the Re-

public of South Africa; if not, (aa) why not and (bb) what facilities are available to these Black farmers; if so, what was the nature of the assistance given and facilities available to such Black farmers during the latest specified period of 10 years for which information is available;

(2) whether these facilities are similar to those available to White farmers in the Republic; if not, (a) why not, (b) in what respects do they differ and (c) when is it anticipated that these differences will be eliminated;

(3) whether such Black farmers are subject to the same provisions of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983, as are White farmers; if not, why not;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION.

There are two categories of Black owned farmland in the Republic of South Africa, namely land in the so-called Black spots and land in the national states.

The provision of services to land owners to which reference is made in the question is a function which vests in each of the national states concerned. Any applicable research results are available to the national states, which transmit these results to Black land owners by means of their extension services (consisting of approximately 1 200 trained agricultural officers). Agricultural credit is provided to land owners by the Departments of Agriculture of the national states, and by their development corporations. The national states furthermore administer their own drought relief schemes when necessary. As far as Act 43 of 1983 is concerned it needs to be mentioned that it is not applicable in the national states but that each national state has its own legislation on similar matters. As far as the Black landowners who possess land in Black spots within the Republic of South Africa are concerned the replies to the questions are as follows:

- (1) (a) (i) Yes.
- (ii) Yes.
- (iii) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (aa) Falls away.
- (bb) Information besides that supplied above is not readily available.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

- (a) Yes.
- (i), (ii) and (iii) R11 532 980 was budgeted for completion of the contract in respect of the erection of 5 000 houses.
- (b) No.
- (i), (ii) and (iii) fall away.
- (c) Yes.
- (i), (ii) and (iii) R350 000 was budgeted for the planning of 2 400 sites. The date of completion for the project cannot be determined as yet. Funds for development of the sites have indeed been applied for.
- (d) Yes.

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 36 on 19 February 1985, any

Handwritten: Khayelitsha 28/5/85
 Col. 1607
 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 36 on 19 February 1985, any

- (i) A community centre
 - The clinic section of the health centre
 - The first phase of the sports facilities
 - Electrification at hostel site
 - A selfhelp centre
 - Demonstration houses
 - Earthworks and a water supply line
 - Surveying of residential areas 1 and 2 of Town 1
- R5 568 621 in respect of all these developments
- (ii) October 1985
 - December 1986
 - December 1985
 - September 1985
 - December 1985
 - December 1985
 - Already completed
 - September 1985

Seating/paying of fares on trains

*3 Mr W V RAW asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether passengers seeking to travel on trains departing after the closing

of reservations offices at main-line stations are entitled to (a) obtaining seating from the conductor and (b) paying their fares on such trains; if not, why not; if so,

- (2) whether any conditions have been laid down in regard to such passengers; if so, what conditions?

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Transport Affairs):

- (1), (a), (b) and (2) Yes. Passengers who purchase tickets from a conductor on a train whilst ticket offices on stations are still open, are required to pay the prescribed booking fee over and above the normal train fare. When passengers entrain at sidings and passenger halts or at stations, when ticket offices are closed, tickets can be obtained from conductors at normal fares.

Handwritten: Howard
 Unlawful road transportation
 Col. 1609 28/5/85
 *4. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (a) How many persons or companies charged with alleged unlawful road transportation during each quarter of the 1984-85 financial year were (i) acquitted and (ii) found guilty and (b) what was the sentence imposed on each person or company convicted of this offence?

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Transport Affairs) (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

(a) First quarter—1 April to 30 June 1984.

- (i) 138.
- (ii) 979.

Second quarter—1 July to 30 September 1984.

- (i) 175.
- (ii) 1 081.

Third quarter—1 October to 31 December 1984.

- (i) 219.

- (ii) 1 345.

Fourth quarter—1 January to 31 March 1985.

- (i) 167.
- (ii) 1 236.

- (b) The required information cannot be readily ascertained. It can, however, be mentioned that the fines imposed by the courts, varied between R100 and R2 000 and amounted in total to R772 452.

*5. Mr E K MOORCROFT—Constitutional Development and Planning. [Reply standing over.]

Handwritten: Howard
 Orange/Fish/Sundays River irrigation scheme
 Col. 1610 28/5/85
 *6. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

- (1) Whether additional funds were recently allocated to the Orange/Fish/Sundays River irrigation scheme, if so, (a) what total amount and (b) when;

- (2) whether this money will be used to construct the high level canal to Wellington Grove; if not, (a) why not and (b) for what purpose will this money be used;

- (3) whether the total area of land available for irrigation purposes under this scheme will be reduced if this canal is not constructed; if so, by how many hectares?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS

- (1) No. the announcement by the State President on 22 April 1985 of the allocation of an additional amount of R6,5 million was in respect of the Lower Sundays River and the Lower Fish River Schemes.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

- (2) No.

CARE TIMES

28/5/85

3 General

Loans 'no solution' for farmers

Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

— Loans and subsidies were not a long-term solution to the farming community's financial problems, the PFP MP for Albany, Mr Errol Moorcroft, said yesterday during the own affairs budget debate.

It would be unfortunate if farmers took emergency aid for granted, and did not see it as a privilege.

"It has been said that improvident farmers, who abuse their farms during the good years and spend their money on fancy cars, beach cottages, and other non-essentials, are usually the first to stand in the queue for hand-outs and subsidies when the hard times come."

In this respect the new grazing strategy, whereby farmers would have to comply with strictly defined conservation practices if they wished to apply for financial aid, was to be welcomed.

If the authorities were able to "identify those who truly need aid, as opposed to chancers, and if they are able to couple aid to strict conservation practices and make this policy work, then the need for large amounts of relief aid will not be necessary in future".

- (1) (a) (i) Yes.
- (ii) Yes.
- (iii) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (aa) Falls away.
- (bb) Information besides that supplied above is not readily available.

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

- (2) Yes
- (a), (b) and (c) fall away.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.

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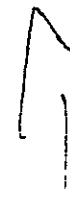
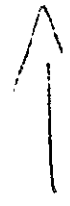
- (3) whether the total area of land available for irrigation purposes under this scheme will be reduced if this canal is not constructed; if so, by how many hectares?

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(a) and (b) Fall away.

- (2) No.



(a) Studies have shown that it is more economical to construct the De Mistkraal Diversion Weir on the Little Fish River upstream from Wellington Grove than the high level canal.

(b) The approved funds will be used to construct the said Diversion Weir. A canal and syphon through the River will link the River with the existing canal at Wellington Grove.

(j) No, the irrigable area of approximately 4 000 hectares originally identified for development will not be reduced.

BI 55 forms

*7. Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

How many South African citizens returning to the republic from visits to countries abroad filled in BI 55 forms during the periods 1 January to 31 December 1983 and 1984, respectively?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER (for the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning):

1983 486 814;
1984 543 133.

Figures relate to South African residents. Data for South African citizens are not available.

Smoking in public places/advertising of cigarettes

*8. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(1) Whether he has recently received any representations from the South African Medical Research Council concerning (a) smoking in public places and (b) control over the advertising of cigarettes; if so, (i) when and (ii) what was (aa) the nature of the rep-

resentations in each case and (bb) his response thereto;

(2) whether he intends (a) introducing legislation and/or (b) taking any other action in regard to (i) smoking in public places and (ii) control over the advertising of cigarettes; if not, why not; if so, (aa) what action and (bb) when;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(i) 3 April 1985.

(ii) (aa) A representative of the Department attended the information seminar on smoking of the Medical Research Council (MRC).

(bb) The Department is at present conducting an in-depth study into the findings and recommendations of the MRC.

(2) (a) I refer the hon member to Hansard of 14 May 1985, columns 6596, 6597 and 6598.

(b) (i), (ii)(aa) and (bb) An answer to this question can only be supplied on completion of the study mentioned in (i)(b), (ii)(bb).

(j) Not at this stage.

Mnr A B WIDMAN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, will it be possible to have any form of legislation submitted to Parliament during this session?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: No, I am afraid not during this session.

Certain person: arrest/detention of 6/1.

*9. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was arrested and/or detained by any branch of the South African Police on or about 4 May 1985; if so, what date and (ii) at what time, (b) where, (c) why, (d) in terms of what statutory provision was he (i) arrested and/or (ii) detained and (e) what is the name of this person;

(2) whether any members of the South African Police took him to hospital; if not, (a) why not and (b) who took him to hospital; if so, (i) why, (ii) at what time and (iii) to which hospital;

(3) whether this person subsequently died; if so, (a) when, (b) where and (c) what was the cause of death;

(4) whether a post-mortem has been carried out; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom, (b) when and (c) what were the findings;

(5) whether an investigation was held into the death of this person, if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom and (b) what were the findings;

(6) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

(a) (i) On 4 May 1985.

(ii) At approximately 12h25.

(b) At Odendaalsrus

(c) For questioning in connection with public violence.

(d) (i) and (ii) Section 50(1) of the

Criminal Procedure Act, No 51 of 1977.

(e) Phillip Siphon Mutisi.

(2) Yes. (a) and (b) Full away.

(i) Because he had a suspected epileptic fit.

(ii) At 17h20 on 4 May 1985.

(iii) Provincial Hospital, Odendaalsrus.

(3) Yes.

(a) On 5 May 1985.

(b) At the Phelonomi Hospital, Bloemfontein.

(c) To be determined during pending inquest proceedings.

(4) Yes.

(a) The State Pathologist.

(b) On 9 May 1985.

(c) The finding is still being awaited.

(5) Yes.

(a) The Divisional Commissioner concerned.

(b) The docket has been referred to the Attorney-general who instructed that an inquest be held.

(6) No.

Swimming pools in townships

*10. Mr K M ANDREWS asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

(1) Whether the Western Cape Development Board has received any requests to transfer the control of swimming pools in the Black townships in its area to (a) the Cape Town

1985 'crisis year' for entire farm industry

3 - General
NM 28/5/85

Mercury Correspondent

PRETORIA—Farmers in increasing numbers throughout South Africa are reaching a point where they have to take the harrowing decision of either holding on to their farms or abandoning them, the president of the SA Agricultural Union, Mr Kobus Jooste, warns.

Writing in the SAAU's official journal, the Farmer, he said it would be a crisis year for the entire industry.

Most of the industry was in the throes of the poorest economical condition since the depression of the 30s.

There had to be a closer involvement of producers and a mobilisation of co-operative powers.

The SAAU had reached a point where radical decisions, avoided in the past because of their highly sensitive and emotional content, would have to be taken.

The dilemma facing hundreds of farmers — of whether to sell out or soldier on — had been forced on them by the most destructive drought since the great depression, a high inflation rate, exorbitant cost increases, historically high interest rate, and sky-high fuel prices.

Added to these, Mr Jooste said, was a massive farmer debt burden which could reach R10,000 million by the end of the year.

Farmers in most parts of the country were struggling financially.

Mr Jooste said the Government also had decisions to take which could have a profound effect on the industry; whether agriculture was being rated at its 'proper' value was one of them.

'The Government will have to devise a way of putting agriculture in the short term on a healthy footing,' he said.

3 Mortgage loans: interest subsidies
R. 601, 163, 28/5/85
 84. Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of the Budget:

What total amount has been budgeted by his Department for interest subsidies on mortgage loans of officials in its employ in the 1985-86 financial year?

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET:

R269 000.

WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 1985

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Teachers' associations/federations

807. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

Whether his Department recognizes, for consultation and negotiation purposes, teachers' associations and federations; if not, why not; if so, (a) which associations and federations are recognized by his Department, (b) what number of teachers are represented by each of these recognized bodies and (c) what criteria are applied by his Department prior to its granting recognition to a teacher organization?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

Yes, the Department recognizes specific teachers' associations, federal and national bodies of teachers' associations and also a registering and professional council for teachers, in terms of section 1(vii) of the National Policy for General Education Affairs Act, 1984 (Act 76 of 1984).

Staff housing subsidies *29/5/85*
R. 601, 1637
 812. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Finance:

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) What total amount was allocated to each specified Department from 1 April 1985 for the payment of staff housing subsidies on a (i) compulsory and (ii) voluntary basis and (b) what total sums were allocated to each Department over the previous three specified financial years?

	R
State President	12 000
Parliament	130 000
Transport	2 592 000
Constitutional Development and Planning	756 000
Foreign Affairs	1 089 000
Home Affairs	970 000
Commission for Administration	540 000
National Education	648 000
Police	18 308 000
Public Works and Land Affairs	6 206 000
Health and Welfare	4 937 000
Administration: House of Assembly	10 570 000
Co-operation and Development	3 672 000
Education and Training	6 410 000
Defence	35 834 000
Manpower	1 512 000
Commerce and Industries	864 000
Justice	4 860 000
Prisons	2 600 000
Agriculture-economics and Marketing	2 112 000
Water Affairs	1 886 000
Mineral and Energy Affairs	1 084 000
Finance	3 780 000
Audit	594 000
Environment Affairs	1 218 000
Administration: House of Representatives	8 704 000
Administration: House of Delegates	12 626 000

When allocating funds no distinction is made between compulsory and voluntary subsidies, because, as I have already indicated in my reply to question number 843, it would only lead to unjustified additional administrative work on the accounting system. The abovementioned amounts van therefore not be divided accordingly.

(b) The following amounts were voted in

the respective main estimates during the past three financial years:

1982/83 : R 38 380 000
 1983/84 : R 45 945 000
 1984/85 : R101 574 000

The amounts were in gross voted on the former Vote: Community Development and not per individual vote as is being done with effect from the 1985/86 financial year.

3 General

FEATURE

Who gets the jam?

If you disembowel your jam sandwich, you will discover three messy components. The bread on the outside is subsidised by the SA taxpayer, ostensibly to keep the cost of living down. The butter and jam are both sold at inflated prices to push the price up again.

The thin layer of butter is sold to you at a fixed price, way above that prevailing on world markets. The pretext is to keep SA farmers in business.

The jam contains sugar which is, likewise, sold at an artificially elevated local price. In this case, the lion's share of the premium is used to subsidise people in Canada, Japan and elsewhere, who are now able to purchase SA sugar at roughly half the cost of its production.

Half a century of protectionism and economic intervention has distorted most farm prices.

Farmers, who follow prices, have been lured into enterprises and systems of production that are both nationally and internationally inappropriate.

Control boards have imposed quotas to prevent even more following suit. And these have trapped them into costly habits and businesses that should otherwise have been relinquished long ago.

It's a mess. Everyone knows it's a mess.

The problem is that no one knows how to get out of it without losing an election. Food prices are politically sensitive; and farmers are politically sensitive animals.

When comparatively free trade gave way to protectionism in the Twenties and Thirties, it all seemed so simple. A fractional increase in the price of food at home seemed to be all that was needed to keep the farmer on the land, and his cross in the right space on the ballot paper.

Nobody gave a thought to the repercussions abroad. Production would be stimulated at home. That was good. A large surplus would be sent overseas to earn foreign currency. That was good. And the lucky importer would be everlastingly grateful for the augmented supply of nice, cheap food. That would be good, too.

Nobody foresaw that the lucky importers would turn the stuff away. Neither did they expect the rest of the non-communist world to start "mixing" their economies the same way for the same reasons. Had they done so, they might never have fouled up in the first

place.

Belatedly, they have discovered the complexities of unscrambling omelettes.

Approximately three-quarters of the EEC budget is now spent annually on maintaining the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy). The name is a euphemism for something which is neither a policy nor common. The CAP's main preoccupation now lies in the administration of steep tariff barriers, which effectively place a penal food tax on Europe

In that case, we would be better advised to accept the dumped produce (and the European subsidies offered with them) than continue flogging a dead farm horse at the expense of our own taxpayers and own consumers.

There would be a transitional stage during which many of our farmers would have to make substantial and, in some cases, drastic structural changes. This is what happened in Australia, where they came to a broadly similar conclusion a few years ago.

But it would not be the end of the world, provided the agricultural input manufacturers were opened up to competition at the same time. Indeed, the long-term outlook for SA agriculture would brighten overnight.

The immediate effect would be seen in a diversion of resources from the production of things like sugar, maize, dairy fat, lamb, nitrogenous fertiliser, diesel engines and complicated herbicides in which we

are not at present competitive.

Most of the land freed would be handed over initially to wool, mohair, beef, venison, groundnuts, seed crops, fruit, flowers and vegetables, at which we are competitive internationally, and the factories would do more processing of cheaper primary produce. This could only be good for our balance of payments.

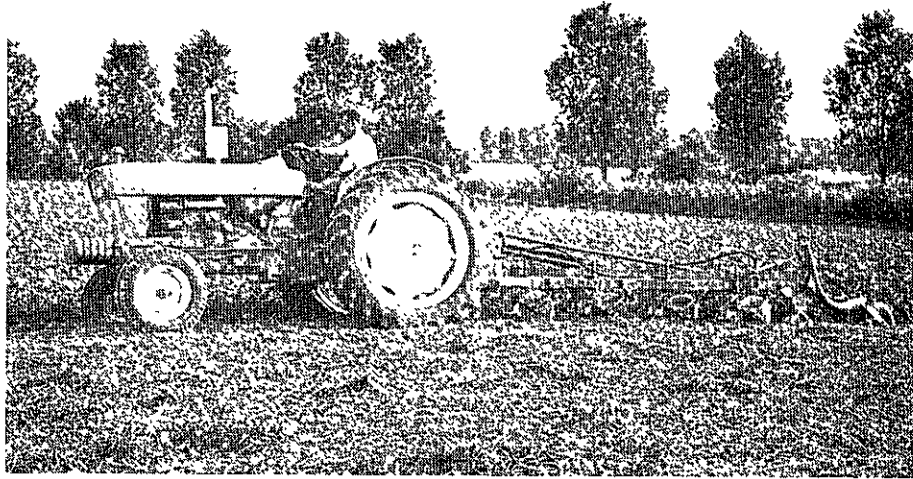
Some of the capital and labour released would doubtless drift into secondary or tertiary industry. But that's where we want it anyway.

As long as the government didn't attempt to channel it into the wrong places, it could only help to make the country more efficient and thereby enhance our national growth rate.

Thence, the long-term payoff for SA agriculture. Even an additional 2%/year on our gnp implies a 37% larger local market than they could otherwise expect by the turn of the century.

That's the sort of thing that peace is made of — and prosperity in town and country alike.

Shortsighted farmers and inefficient manufacturers of farm inputs should not be allowed to delude themselves that they can be made either wealthy or secure by policies that render the rest of the nation poor. ■



Farming ... looking for competitive products

that is used to subsidise food for Russia, so that Russia can make missiles and point them back at Europe. The US employs similar tactics on a similar scale, but prefers, where possible, to pay its farmers to produce nothing.

Before being dumped on Russia, most of the world's surpluses are offered at ridiculously low prices to countries like SA. Our current policy is to refuse them, add to them (at the expense of our own, mainly black, consumers) and then grumble incessantly about the three-pronged threats of inflation, black unrest and Russian imperialism, "which are all part of the total onslaught being waged against us."

We believe it's in SA's interest — strategically, economically, politically, socially and even agriculturally — to break the logjam now, to lower protective barriers and concentrate limited resources on the production of goods and services that we can produce competitively and for which there is demand in the West, where we need friends instead of enemies.

If agricultural protectionism is going to subside, we need no longer fear dumping. If it is going to be intensified, we should now face up to the fact that butter, sugar, eggs and maize will be oversupplied for the foreseeable future.

3 Gen. Farm schools 17/6/85
 HANSHARD Q. : C.W. 1835
 840. Prof N J OLIVIER asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

(a) How many farm schools were subsidized by his Department in 1984 and (b) what was the average subsidy paid per farm school in that year?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

- (a) 5 331.
- (b) Approximately R9 000 per farm school.

Amount spent on advertisements

885. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education:

- (1) What was the total amount spent by the Department of Education and Training in 1984 on placing advertisements for any purpose in newspapers in the Republic;
- (2) what amount was paid to each specified newspaper in the above regard in that year?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION:

- (1) R51 500,68 in respect of the 1984/85 financial year.
- (2) R
 Rapport..... 27 516,22
 Sunday Times..... 23 686,56
 SAAN..... 202,24
 Nasionale Koerante..... 95,66

Occupational differentiation: employment benefits

HANSHARD Q. : C.W. 1835
 920. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Communications:

- (1) Whether, during the process of occu-

(a)

- Staff group
- Administrative and Clerical Staff
- Uniformed Staff
- Telephone Exchange Staff
- Typists
- Telecom Assistants
- Drivers
- Lower graded general, Non-classified and part-time employees
- *Chief Technicians
- *Chief Draughtsmen
- *Senior Lecturers
- *Laboratory Technicians
- *Control Inspectors of Works
- Printing Staff

1 August 1984

(b)

- Data Personnel (Programmers, etc.)
- Data Typists
- Psychologists
- Psychometrists
- Design Artists
- Assistant Press Liaison Officer
- Journalist
- Editor
- Senior Librarian
- Reprographic Manager
- Photographers
- Lithographic Operators
- Language Officers
- Assistant Statisticians
- Restaurant/Catering Personnel; and

9 October 1984

*Occupational-orientated pay dispensations were introduced for these groups on 1 April 1983 and the improvements announced on 1 August 1984 only entailed adjustments that were necessary to retain relative parity with other comparable groups.

(c) 1 January 1984 or the date of appointment if the official joined the Service after the aforementioned date;

(2) no, officials who were appointed subsequent to the dates on which the announcements were made were also eligible for the payments with effect from the dates of their appointments;

(3) no, since in terms of established policy officials who leave the Service for any reason prior to the announcement of any improved pay dispensation are not entitled to a revision of their positions even in the event of such dispensation being introduced retrospectively. As indicated under (1) all staff were informed beforehand of the consequences should they decide to leave the Service prior to an announcement regarding the group to which they belong having been made. In addition, officials who had already given notice of retirement, were approached individually and given the opportunity to postpone their retirement in order to benefit from the increases;

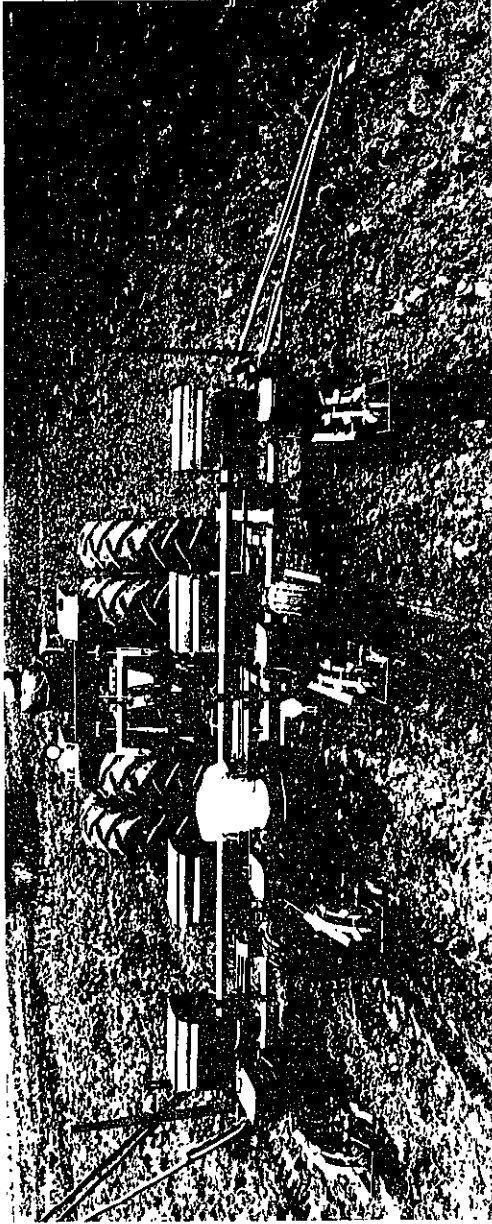
THE DE KOCK commission's recommendation that Land Bank bills and debentures should no longer qualify as liquid assets in terms of the Banks' Act was widely anticipated. Even so, it has once again brought the whole thorny question of subsidised credit to the surface.

De Kock himself has studiously avoided upsetting the farm lobby, presumably because his first priority is to get money supply under control. But he knows better than anyone the likely fate of the commission's recommendation that future interest rate assistance to the farm sector should be financed openly through direct subsidies provided for in the Budget. If the Minister of Agriculture has to ask for it publicly, he won't get the cash.

For starters, the farm lobby is no longer powerful enough in either the Nationalist Party or the new tri-cameral parliament. Secondly, that lobby will almost certainly be weakened when constituency (and perhaps quadricameral?) boundaries are realigned before the next election.

Thirdly, the empty case for cheap credit will be demolished as soon as it is put up for proper debate. The original idea behind interest rate subsidies was to help rehabilitate a mixture of burnt-out farmers and demobbed servicemen at the end of the Anglo-Boer War.

The net was spread to encompass the co-ops and the rest of the



Subsidised credit is on the way out

B. Dew
9/7/85

eration, the less labour they will need in the pudding.

Had it not been for cheap credit (and the policies which encourage our biggest farmers to demand more of it) South African agriculture would have been using smaller tractors on smaller farms. More whites, blacks and coloureds would have been working on the land in smaller teams. Mammoth co-ops would not have bullied as many private Platteland merchants and service industries out of business. The dorps might not have died.

The encouraging thing is that these truths are now recognised within agriculture itself. At a workshop attended by about 70 agricultural economists at the University of the Free State in April, "subsidised credit" was one of the items on the agenda.

When it came up for discussion the chairman simply asked: "Are we all in agreement that it should go?" Receiving no answer, he gave delegates a second chance. "Does anyone think it should stay?" Still no answer. "Next item on the agenda."

There are voices in favour, particularly in the agricultural unions, at the Land Bank itself, and, of course, in the co-ops. But they all know the tide is turning against them. The debate must now shift from policy to strategy. Subsidised credit, for white farmers at least and their co-operatives, is on the way out. But a great deal of hardship and disruption could result if it is excised in the wrong way or removed from the wrong farmers first.

Anyway, the farmers, the control boards, the co-ops and the minister all seem to agree these days that we don't actually need any more production. That's why they hedge themselves about with quotas, permit and coupon schemes to nip production in the bud. It does not stimulate employment any more. Capital in agriculture is now a substitute for labour. Given the fact that we are limiting ourselves to certain levels of production through quotas, it stands to reason that the more capital we encourage our farmers to use in its gen-

individuals in the country. On the way there, two-thirds of it is channelled on preferential terms through a few dozen rather large co-operatives, the biggest of which now boast turnovers in excess of R1bn. It is, at best, debatable whether it stimulates in the aggregate any extra production. Some farmers undoubtedly employ cheap credit to intensify production. Others, however, use it mainly to buy out their more industrious small neighbours, avoid taxation and reap the benefits of capital appreciation.

farming community during the great Depression, when a combination of bad management and injudicious buying at the former threatened to bankrupt the latter. On both occasions it was possible to make out a case for genuine hardship and suggest that access to cheaper capital by a relative poor segment of the populace would benefit the rest of the country by stimulating production, employment and rural development.

The case is now altered. Today most of the subsidised credit goes to perhaps 15 000 of the wealthiest



3 guard

Post Reporter

HUNDREDS of jobs are being created — mainly for blacks — on two multi-million rand water schemes started in the Eastern Cape on May 1.

In the Sundays River Valley, 276 Africans, 19 coloured and 15 whites have been set to work building accommodation and making a start on excavations.

Each month, a further 100 jobs are expected to be created for Africans until the work force totals 600 Africans, 100 coloureds and 40 whites, whose jobs should be secure for some years, according to the resident engineer, Mr Mike Nitzche

This scheme, for which R6 million is earmarked this year and R10 million each year after that, will see the flow from Lake Mentz doubled from 10,5 cubic metres a second to 15 cumecs in 30 months and an ultimate flow of 21,5 cumecs.

EP water schemes bring jobs

An additional 7 000 hectares will be brought under irrigation by the project

The second scheme — a storage dam at Committees Drift — will see an additional 4 000 hectares brought under irrigation (2 000 in Ciskei) and will cost R6,5 million this year. South Africa's share of the total cost is

R40 million. The scheme will also supplement Grahamstown's water supply.

So far, 38 Africans and seven whites are busy on the project — again building accommodation.

By the end of the year these figures are expected to have risen to

100 and 24, respectively.

The Committees Drift scheme will take between three and four years to finish, and the water works alone in the Sundays River Valley between four and five. Both schemes involve three phases — water works, settlement of newly-irrigated land, and production.

Cape Times
22/8/85
3 General

Phase one of new Herschel water scheme on schedule

By JOHN GLEN-LEARY
UMTATA — A R2.7 million water supply scheme in the Herschel area was on schedule, with the first two phases now complete. Mr M. Shaker, acting chief director of engineering services branch of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry reported here yesterday.

He said the second phase of the Herschel rural water supply scheme had been completed with the third and fourth phases now in progress.

It was the first time a project of this nature had been undertaken with a minimum of machinery and was designed to be labour intensive, using the large labour resources available in the area.

He said 4 169 people had been employed during phase two, and a survey conducted among local businesses in Sterkspruit indicated a positive improvement in turnover since the start of the phase two construction which on the average was about 40 per cent.

He said materials not obtainable in Transkei

such as pipes, valves, control equipment etc were purchased from East London and other areas close to Transkei.

Commuter labourers from Transkei were also employed by these suppliers and manufacturers.

Also, a sizeable proportion of wages earned by commuter labourers were actually spent inside Transkei by dependents.

"The Herschel rural water supply scheme resulted from studies undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry during 1977, with the first report submitted to the department by the consulting engineers, Messrs O'Connell, Manthe and Partners, in November 1977.

"After the acceptance of this report, the department embarked on an active construction and development programme to meet the objectives of the scheme," he said.

The first White Paper, Report on the Proposed Sterkspruit Rural Water Supply Scheme was tabled in 1978 and the First Supplementary Re-

port of the Proposed Sterkspruit Rural Water Supply Scheme in June 1980

He mentioned that the objectives of the scheme were to improve health as some 14 communicable diseases were water-borne or suspected to be so, some of the well-known ones being cholera, infectious hepatitis, poliomyelitis, schistosomiasis and typhoid fever.

"Training and involvement of the local population in any development project contributes greatly to the success of development as well as to the general economic momentum lacking in many developing areas.

"By concentrating on labour intensive construction methods and by phasing the implementation over a reasonably long period, maximum involvement of the local population and the training of local expertise to entrepreneur level will ensure a meaningful end result," he said.

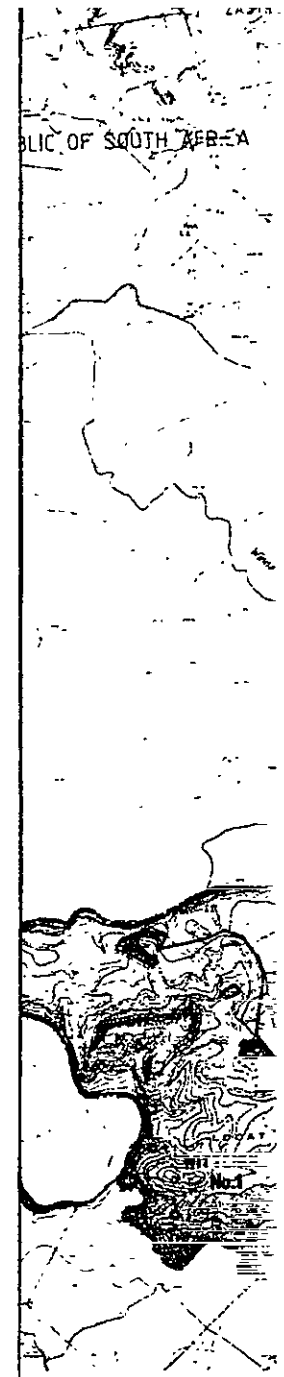
He said that too often the economic activities ceased as soon as the contractor left the area, therefore projects of this nature were ideally suited for the development of the local potential by direct employment or indirect subcontracting.

He said that as the prosperity of the rural population in Transkei depended greatly on the state of the stock farming, any rural development should take cognisance of this fact.

"Stock farming depends, among others, on the judicious use of available grazing. Unreliable and poorly distributed watering points cause over-concentration of animals around a particular waterpoint, overgrazing and the inevitable sheet erosion of the top soil.

"The proposed rural water schemes incorporate all grazing camps either by providing a drinking trough or by making windmills available for stock watering previously used exclusively for domestic purposes," he said.

He said the combined effect of better cattle farming conditions, rotational grazing and improved standards of living would create a bigger



This map shows the locality of Herschel (arrowed), where a R2.7 million water supply scheme is on schedule.

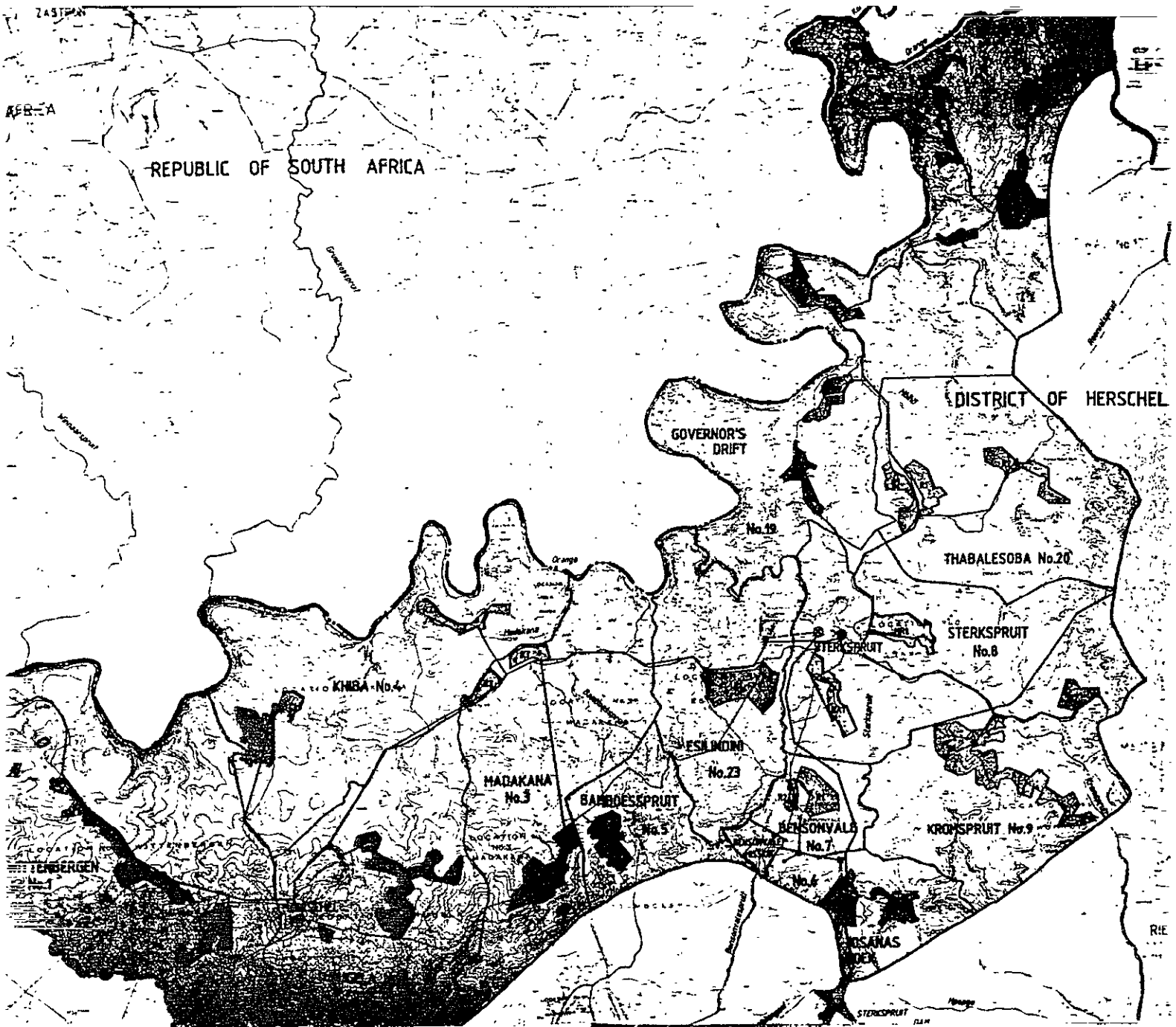
money economy in the region that would result in bigger government income by means of direct and indirect taxation.

"The changeover from a barter to a money based economy could be enhanced and the ripple effect in the economy should also reach much wider than the immediate area of the development," he said.

He said the purpose of the bulk rural water supply scheme was to put within reasonable reach of the consumer at all reasonable times the needed quality of an acceptable quality at an acceptable price.

He said very few of the smaller schemes successfully met with these criteria, which made a well planned and properly maintained bulk water supply scheme a far superior long term water supply system.

He also reported that the completed scheme would supply water to 22 rural wards.



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The administrative areas and wards to be served with water under the various development phases are identified on this map.

Phase	Administrative Area	Ward		
2	Sterkspruit Sterkspruit village Empilisweni Hospital	RA 1		
		MR 1		
3	Esilindini Bamboesspruit Madakana	R 1		
		R 1		
		R 1		
		R 2		
		R 3		
		R 4		
		4	Tugela Herschel village Khiba Witten bergen	RA
				R 1
				R 2
				R 1
R 2				
4	Josanas Hoek Bensonvale Bensonvale Mission Mlamli Hospital Kromspruit Thabalesoba Governor's Drift	R 3		
		R 1		
		R 2		
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		R 2		
		R 1		
		MR 1		
MR 2				
WR 1				

Cape Times 12/15/75

Methods to train farm workers

Staff Reporter

A MOBILE training unit, video tapes and regular training courses will form part of a dynamic programme of action to develop the skills of the farm worker, the annual congress of the Western Cape Agricultural Union was told during the week.

Lively debate by delegates on a variety of issues was the hallmark of the congress held in Sea-Point on Wednesday and yesterday.

Expensive

The president of the WCAU, Mr E Robertson, said 40 percent of the farmers in the Western Cape had post-matric qualifications whereas the national average was 30,6 percent. However, that was not good enough, he said.

Mr J Maree, of the advice committee of Kromme Rhee Training Centre, said that a mobile training unit would soon be available to assist in training workers.

The vice-president of the WCAU, Mr Frans Malan, said the training of workers need not be expensive — video tapes could be used.

Mr A Hanekom, of the Ceres Farmers' Union, said newspaper headlines sometimes created the impression to the public that farmers lived off State subsidies and did not have to repay them.

A motion he proposed, calling on the media, newspapers especially, to exercise greater discretion in their reports and headlines announcing State aid to farmers, was accepted.

Struggle

Mr Robertson then asked the congress to express its "strong protest" at the intention of the SABC to abolish its regional broadcast services.

Mr D C J van der Merwe, of the Ladysmith Farmers' Union, said farmers had to struggle in the face of price increases of fuel, fertilizer, building materials, motor-vehicle spares, building materials and farming implements.

Mr Jannie le Roux, of the KWV, proposing a motion on production inputs, said farmers' income had decreased in the past 10 years. Prices had increased in an abnormal manner.

Seventy-six percent of farmers' capital was invested in fixed assets and a cash flow was one of farmers' biggest problems, he said.

③ General B. Day 27/8/85

Agriculture poised to export

AFTER two very tough years, in which crop failures left South Africa with substantial food import bills, the agricultural sector is poised to contribute to the country's growing export receipts.

Early indications are that agriculture will increase its foreign earnings and at worst not drain foreign exchange reserves this year.

SA will be able to export a limited amount of maize, perhaps as much as 1-million tons, after two years of imports, while rand earnings from citrus fruits, mohair and wool are likely to reach record levels.

The only dark cloud is the likely R100-million import bill for wheat. The overall impact on the balance of payments is unlikely to be dramatic.

This means the situation should move back to normal, with the performance of agriculture relative to other sectors close to the past eight-year average.

Figures released by SA Agricultural

ANDRE VAN ZYL

Union (SAAU) show over the last eight years agricultural earnings accounted for an average of 19,4% of export earnings excluding gold.

The steady trend of about 20% of non-gold earnings held over that period was broken only in the disastrous maize crop years 1983 (16,9%) and 1984 (13,5%).

SAAWU senior economist Dries Davel estimates that, while foreign earnings by agriculture will be closer to normal, they will not be exceptional.

He says in spite of a wetter summer, drought conditions still persist and SA still lacks significant agricultural products to export.

Maize Board acting general manager Peter Cownie confirms that SA will be able to export maize this year but cannot give an estimate of the magnitude as yet.

The fifth estimate (one is made every month) this year was 7,4-million tons but estimates for domestic consumption were

not available. A crop of this size is worth more than R1,5bn at producer prices.

Last year the maize crop was 4,4-million tons and SA had to import more than 2-million tons at a cost of R900m.

While it is too early for the Maize Board to make predictions on the actual size of the maize surplus, last year's figures suggest 1-million tons may not be too wide of the mark. Local consumption is depressed because of the slump.

A spokesman for the Citrus Board reports that the exchange rate, as well as frost damage in Florida and Spain, will boost export earnings which could surpass last year's total and prove to be the best ever.

Gross earnings from wool totalled a record R403m for the year ending June, up from R290m the previous year, according to the annual report of the Wool Board just released.

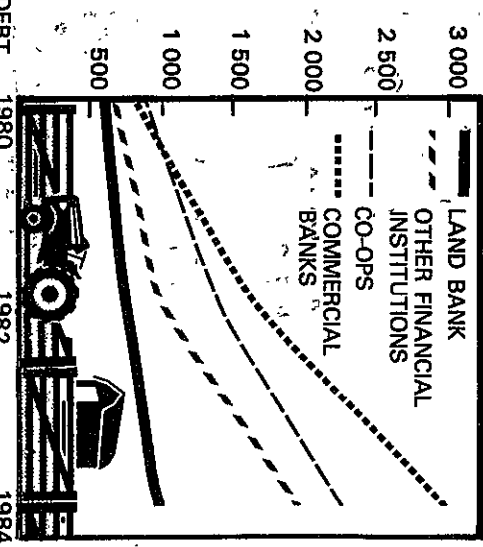
Volumes were up on last year but this was largely due to the exchange rate, according to managing director Faan van Wyk.

3 General B. Day

29/8/82

Co-ops accused of exploiting farmers

HOW THE FARMS ARE FINANCED:
MAJOR CREDITORS



DEBT 1980 R38,6m 1982 R5785,4m 1984 R9495,3m
TOTAL R38,6m R5785,4m R9495,3m
Source: SAAU

FARMERS are being exploited by agricultural co-operative societies, according to banking sources. They say the "handling fees" co-ops add to farmers' debts push the interest repayments higher than the rates charged by commercial banks.

"Farmers would get a better deal if they dealt directly with the commercial banks rather than through their co-ops," said one agriculture economist. Allegations farmers are being exploited by co-ops were dismissed as "nonsense" by the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) yesterday.

The banks claim that, despite the cheap money the co-ops receive through the Land Bank, the final cost to farmers is "extortionate" and in some cases exceeds Ladofca (Limitation and Disclosure of Finance Charges Act) limits.

SAAU economist Dries Davel said there is "no truth in the statement that co-ops are more expensive. The co-ops get their money at around 1,5% below prime. Even with the small administration fee that the co-

ALAN RUDDOCK

ops are allowed, the farmer is still getting his money at least at prime. If not better.

"Of course, if the farmer has suffered crop losses due to circumstances outside his control — such as drought — he is entitled to a further 35% subsidy on money borrowed through the co-ops and Land Bank."

Davel rejected suggestions co-ops charged handling fees in excess of 10% on items such as fertiliser. "The fee is nowhere near 10%. There is no truth co-ops are more expensive than commercial banks."

A number of co-ops approached by *Business Day* were either unwilling or unavailable to comment on their handling fees.

Co-ops are permitted only to finance farmers' input costs with the cash credit they receive from the Land Bank. Input costs include fertiliser, fuel and seed.

The co-ops' share of farming finance has risen steadily over the past 14 years — from 9% in 1971 to

24% in 1984 — but this is set to change. The recent De Kock Commission recommended co-ops be phased out of farmer financing, but commentators believe it will not be a simple procedure.

Volkstaat Agricultural Unit's Andre Joubert said: "The legislation has not been passed yet and no-one can say what the Land Bank's future is. Certain recommendations have been made in the De Kock Report and it all has to be discussed around the table."

Some of the co-ops have come to depend on the handling fees and there definitely are vested interests, but I am not aware of farmers being exploited co-ops."

Agricultural debt has soared in the past four years and is estimated to be well over R100bn. Barco Agriculture Unit's Franz Ventler said that when co-ops were phased out, a number of farmers could as well.

"The co-ops lending policy has often been more lenient than the banks."

3- General

10 M...

'Genetic bending' of crops needed to feed SA's millions

STAR

Science Reporter

30/8/85

South Africa needs a new revolution in agriculture, mainly by genetic engineering of new crops, to prevent food shortages for a population of 45 million by the turn of the century, says a prominent scientist.

In a University of the Witwatersrand senate special lecture last night, Professor Helen M Garnett, head of the university's department of microbiology, said if the country continued its present agricultural practices it would not be able to feed its population within 15 years.

The Green Revolution had not helped the Third World part of Southern Africa and the new turn should be from bending the environment to suit the crop plant, to bending the plant to fit the environment.

This would be through microbiological methods such as gene transfers from one plant to another, cell cultures and other forms of genetic manipulation.

About 80 000 of the world's 250 000 plant varieties were edible, Professor Garnett said, yet three quarters of the world's diet was based on only eight crops.

There was much scope in South Africa for manipulating crop plants to grow in salty soil and to tolerate droughts and certain plant diseases.

Research at the university had shown that some indigenous grasses developed high metabolic activity after rain. Their genes might be transferred to other plants to achieve short growing seasons and so extend the potential of grazing land in the country.

Farmers call for a new deal on ethanol

3-General

Mercury

30/8/85

Mercury Reporter
WITH many farmers facing financial crisis in the coming year, one of the most important resolutions accepted at the 1985 congress of the Natal Agricultural Union (NAU) in Durban yesterday was one calling for farmers to be allowed to produce ethanol-based fuel for on-farm consumption.

Mr P Dermont, of Pad-dock and Plains Farmers' Association, moved that 'in view of the high cost of fuel and its importance as an agricultural input, the appropriate Acts be amended to authorise farmers to produce fuel for their on-farm consumption without incurring any Government tax or levy'.

He said all farmers would remember the 1973 fuel crisis and the resultant astronomical rise in the fuel price which had pushed the price of tank diesoline from R90 in

1972 to R1 1000 today.

'With the rand at 35 US cents, what will it be tomorrow?' asked Mr Dermont.

'Liquid petroleum reserves will be running out by the year 2 000 and yet, incredibly, we place our faith in Sasol.'

The most important aspects highlighted by the resolution were the high cost of fuel and its absolute necessity for agriculture.

'As far as cost is concerned, we are all aware of the fact that the fuel industry is highly protected and the whole business shrouded in secrecy,' said Mr Dermont.

He told the congress that a few farmers had got together and 'took the chance' of sending their own delegate — qualified chemical technologist Errol Nicolay — to the international conference on sugar and ethanol in Brazil in June this year.

Mr Dermont said Mr Nicolay's viability study

had showed that while there were technical difficulties in producing ethanol from maize or sugar cane, the main problem in South Africa was a legal one.

Firstly, farmers could produce ethanol but would then become immediately liable for a R9,50 a litre duty on spirits.

Farmers could then organise their plants so that ethanol was automatically denatured by the addition of petrol, but then they would become liable for road tax, Sasol levy and Strategic Oil Fund levy amounting, in all, to about 30c a litre, with no rebates as in the case of diesoline.

In Natal, farmers had shown that they could produce ethanol for 14,5c a litre and a farmer using 10 000 l a year would need set aside only 5 ha of land for, say maize, for this purpose.

'We as farmers need a

break,' said Mr Dermont.

'We need to be given the go ahead from Government using our own money and presently available expertise. We ask no subsidies or anything else and we look to congress to ensure this for us.'

Later Mr Lewis Miller, of Besters Farmers' Association, addressed congress on the high input costs which farmers incurred.

His resolution that 'congress urges all farmers to use their bargaining power to minimise the ever increasing rise in farm input costs' was accepted.

'Whereas most of the products which the farmers sell are subject to price control, the input costs are not and suppliers of inputs are allowed to get away with murder,' said Mr Miller.

'The time has come when farmers must stand

together to try to achieve a breakthrough into starting a price-cutting war among our input suppliers.'

Mr Bester used fertiliser costs to illustrate his point.

He said that last year a buying group from a farmers' association had asked fertiliser companies to tender for an order of about 1 000 tons of fertiliser.

The buying group had found the tenders were virtually identical in price, discount and terms of payment.

'Price control on fertiliser was abolished, but it seems that the industry has formed a cartel,' said Mr Bester.

'What has the Minister of Trade and Industries done to eliminate this obvious monopoly?'

The congress closed yesterday with Mr J J Fourie being re-elected president for a further year.

16 produce markets left

GERALD REILLY

CHANGING marketing patterns had resulted in most of the smaller fresh produce markets closing. Deputy Minister of Agricultural Economics Gert Kotze said in Pretoria yesterday.

Addressing the congress of the South African Institute for Market Agents, Kotze said that in 1965 there were 102 markets. Today there were only 16.

It would be a sad day if more produce markets had to close.

This would have serious implications for the marketing and distribution of fresh vegetables and fruit, Kotze said.

Stressing the vital role of the markets, he said that last year the turnover of the national fresh produce markets was R517m.

This represented 33% of the turnover of all horticultural products produced in SA in 1984.

He warned that competition would become increasingly fierce and the success of market agents would depend on management quality.

He regretted that irregularities had occurred recently in certain market agencies.

In some cases the irregularities were so serious that agencies had to be closed.

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Business Mercury

Farmers making more use of co-operative



Mr N Polkinghorne

3-General Finance Editor *2/9/85*
FARMERS are turning increasingly to making use of their co-operative, Mr Neville Polkinghorne, chairman of the Coastal Farmers' Co-operative, said at the recent annual meeting at which he reported on a surplus of nearly R2m, which had been distributed to members.

He told members that the co-op had had a highly satisfactory performance in the year to April 30 with turnover at R59m representing an all-time high.

Three existing branches had been upgraded and a new branch opened at Umzinto, the cost being financed from the co-op's resources.

About R27m worth of stock had been handled by their branches, with no stock losses reported. *Mercury*

Mr Polkinghorne said that the balance-sheet carried no interest on outside borrowings and was able to operate using its own funds with total liquidity.

He said: 'Continued development of the co-op's policy of co-operation and communication will ensure improving benefits to members and future success for the organisation.'

During the year they had distributed R1,6m from trading surpluses and a further R300 000 was to be paid based on members' use of the co-op.

U S ... C ... I

THE WEATHER has been kinder to farmers this year, but their financial plight remains as critical as ever. Production levels, while higher in some sectors than last year, continue to be below average.

In no sense can farmers be said to have lifted themselves out of the crippling circumstances of previous drought-stricken years, says Dries Davel, senior economist for the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU). They continue to be plagued by soaring interest rates, static prices and exorbitant input costs.

By June, the combined price index for agricultural inputs — including capital goods — had risen 13,3% over the previous 1983-84 year. Fertiliser went up 25,1% in the period, fuel 7,7%, stockfeed 9% and tractors 21,9%.

Gross agricultural income increased 24,3%, from R7 570m to R9 417m, in the 1984-85 year. However, income for agriculture as a whole was not sufficient to finance the debt burden, which stood at R9 495m in December last year.

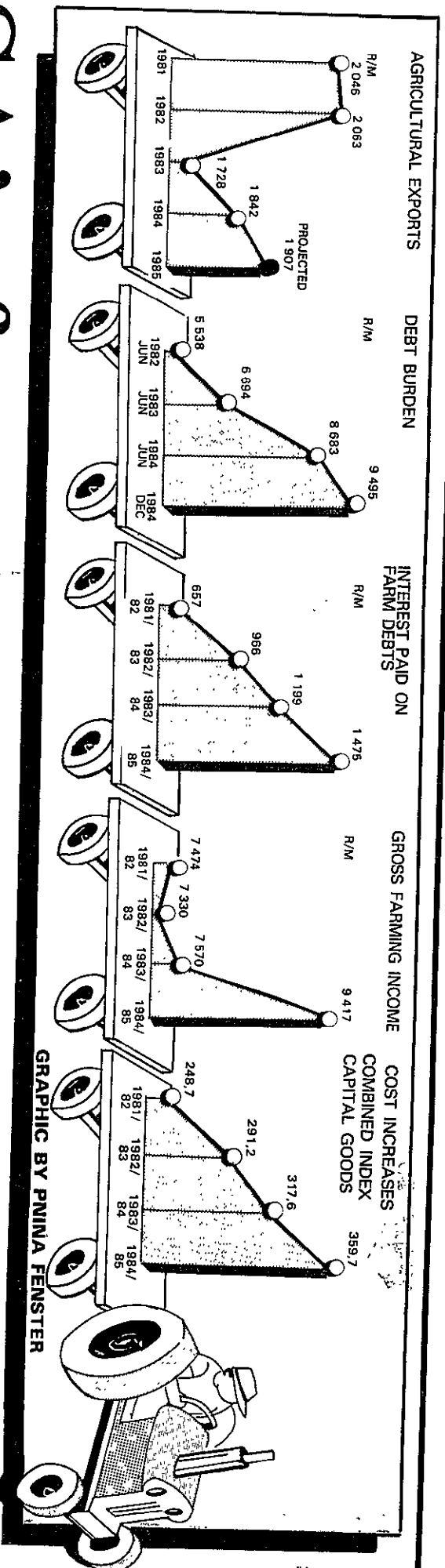
Interest payments on the debt have sapped a total of R4 297m out of agricultural resources since July 1981 — R1 475m in the 1984-85 year.

The weak rand has benefited the export sector, and foreign exchange earnings of about R1 907m for this year — projected in February — should help offset the massive rise anticipated in the import costs of agricultural goods.

Maize and grain sorghum farmers, who have been hardest hit by the drought, have seen increased production levels, while wool and mohair farmers are experiencing an unprecedented boom.

Estimated maize production for the 1984-85 year is up 72% on the previous year, while grain sorghum production has soared by 200 000-tons.

Maize output for the 1984-85 season — expected to be 7,4-million tons compared to last year's 4-million tons — signals the first rise since the bumper 1981-82



SA's farmers are still reaping grim profits...

LINDA ENSOR

crop of 8,4-million tons.

SA will not have to spend millions importing maize this year. Instead, about 800 000-tons should be available for export. Last year R900m was spent on importing maize and maize products. In 1983 the cost was R209m. The average annual target is about 10-million tons, with annual consumption in the region of 6,5-million tons.

This year's producer prices of white and yellow maize — R218,60 a ton and R214,65 a ton respectively — are a 5c increase over last year's prices. The government refused an increase to R260 a ton asked for by the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampro), and the conflict which led to the resignation of eight Nampro members from the Maize Board remains unresolved.

Maize farmers, whose security

has been eroded by successive crop failures, could face problems obtaining production credit this coming season, says Davel.

He doubts whether those who have had three to four consecutive crop failures will be financially accommodated. Davel estimates that between R850m and R900m in production credit will be required by farmers in the summer grain areas.

Nampo secretary Tobie Lombard says 68 Eastern Transvaal farmers have already been refused finance for planting — due to start in mid-October.

Grain sorghum production for 1985-86 is estimated to reach 641 000-tons, about 200 000 more than last year's 435 000-tons. About 250 000-tons a year are used for beer and a large part of the remainder for animal feed.

Moneywise, wool and mohair farmers are sitting pretty. Real income of wool farmers rose by 25% in 1984-85 while gross earnings for wool totalled a record

R403m for the year ending June.

Mohair farmers, who export their entire production, expect a financial shot in the arm from the international demand. Annual income has been provisionally projected at about R170m from an expected clip of 9,25-million kg this year compared to last year's R125,9m for 8,1-million kg.

Overseas demand for fine SA wool — about 85% of the crop is exported — remains good and export earnings of R400m were brought in in 1984-85. Apart from a decline in wool production for the year ending June 30 this year — 101,6-million kg from last year's 98-million kg — wool farming is pretty stable, says Joe Strudom, acting MD of the Wool Board.

Mohair prices are up, with the average price for the winter selling season which has just begun settling at R21,33 per kg for all types of mohair. The average price for the first six months was R19,63. This is a fairly high rise over last year's average of R14,28 for the first half and R16,79 for the second.

Wheat production for the coming 1985-86 season is projected at 2,03-million tons, compared to the 1984-85 season level of 2,176-million tons. The 1984 crop of 2,215-million tons generated a gross income of R643,6m, while the 1983 crop of 1,76-million tons brought in R476m.

Andries Liebenberg, chairman of the Wheat Board, says the board expects a slight decline because of the severe drought conditions in the Free State. Wheat production has been unstable for a number of years and farmers need a price incentive to increase it, Liebenberg feels.

New wheat prices are expected to be announced at the end of this month and Liebenberg says farmers can expect an increase well below the inflation rate. The last increase in 1984 raised the price 8,7% from R275 a ton — where it had been for two years — to R299 a ton.

Louis Kriel, GM of the Deciduous Fruit Board, expects an all-time record of R470m in gross

export earnings from deciduous fruit this year. While export volumes are expected to drop to 306 000-tons in 1984-85 from the previous 316 000-tons, earnings have been aided by the exchange rate.

Estimates of total production for deciduous fruit for the 1984-85 year stand at 450 000-tons — just about the same as the previous year.

A record crop for grapes has been estimated, while pear farmers expect their crop to be exceeded only by the record year of 1983. The apple crop was down compared to last year. "It has been a good season, overall," says Kriel.

While cotton production increased, the total number of bales picked fell short of the target considering the number of hectares planted, says Cotton Board manager Johan Gillen.

An estimated 219 000-bales were picked compared to the 179 000-bales picked in the 1983-84 season. Consumption is estimated at 300 000 to 310 000-bales. The final negotiated price for cotton is R2,95c a kg over last year's R2,90 — a 1,6% increase. Gillen suspects levies may absorb the increase, leaving farmers with nothing to offset inflation.

Tobacco production showed a very slight decline this year due to the drought and substantial hail damage.

Rethink on pricing proposed

Pretoria Bureau
Some of South Africa's many agricultural control boards must be phased out in the move towards a more market-oriented economy.

This was the view expressed by the general manager of the Standard Bank Investment Corporation, Mr Andre Hamersma, at a joint conference of farming and business leaders in Pretoria yesterday.

Mr Hamersma said the practice of price fixing on a cost basis must be replaced by market-related pricing. The phasing-out of some control boards would bring down marketing costs.

Mr Hamersma said this was not the only measure that had to be adopted if the country was to see renewal in its agricultural and production sectors.

Other steps which needed to be taken were:

- An end to hidden government interference in pricing. State aid must be by way of direct payments by the Treasury.
- Simultaneous, co-ordinated deregulation across a broad front.
- Farmers must become less dependent on the Government.

Political comment in this issue by H W Tyson; headlines and posters by D Rink; cartoons by A Berry, D Fedler and D Anderson; all of 47 Sauer Street, Johannesburg.

Wentzel argues for control boards

Pretoria Bureau
3 - General
Control boards are playing a vital role in protecting farmers from the vagaries of drought, recession, dwindling land values and disinvestment, according to the Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs, Mr Greyling Wentzel.

Mr Wentzel told a conference of farming leaders in Pretoria last night that co-operative action and the limited control which the Marketing Act gave certain producers were helping many farmers survive the current crisis.

However, there had been growing criticism of the control boards by consumers.

Mr Wentzel said almost every country in the world applied certain control measures in agriculture.

In South Africa it was the Government's approach to find a sound balance between limited control and the free market system.

The Marketing Act was supple enough to be adapted to changing needs. For example, the National Marketing Council was now looking into the activities of the control boards with the aim of pinpointing measures which must be abolished or amended.

STAK
3/10/85

Boost for local farm machinery manufacturers

3-Genera

STAR

11/10/85

As the agricultural sector feels the impact of the recent 10 percent surcharge on imports, more agricultural mechanical parts are to be manufactured at local plants where other machinery is made.

The most popular agricultural gearbox — a 50 hp unit used in slashers and mowers — has been in production at Uitenhage since last year and sales are expected to rise by 100 percent following the surcharge announcement.

Mr D Walton told *The Star* that the gearboxes, made at the plant along with heavy-duty rear axles, were 100 percent locally manufactured.

The export potential of the gearboxes was being investigated, he said.

"A locally made smaller gearbox is expected on to the local market in January when stocks of imported units will have run out," he added.

Power turnover shafts, usually imported from Italy, are being manufactured in Uitenhage by another company which also makes prop shafts.

All but 30 percent of their components are made from South African materials.

AGGRAVATED BY LONG DROUGHT

A spokesman for the manufacturers, Mr Derek Edwards, said that, although his company's products would not be affected by the 10 percent surcharge — unlike his competitors — sales would depend on what farmers could afford in their difficult situation which had been aggravated by four years of drought.

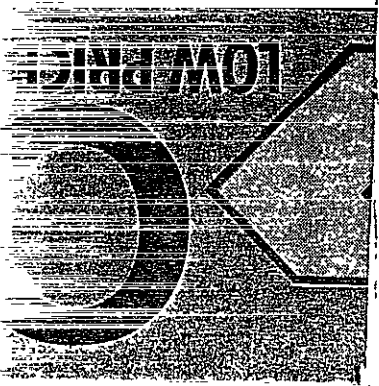
Mr CH Strydom, managing director of JI Case South Africa (Pty) Ltd, a large agricultural equipment importing organisation, criticised the local manufacture of high technology agricultural equipment.

"Local manufacturers simply get Government protection for their goods at the cost of quality imported equipment becoming more expensive.

"South Africa does not have the volume of production to justify having high technology equipment manufactured here," he said.

Mr Strydom also condemned the imports surcharge.

"High-production farmers need to renew their imported machinery and the Government has given no reason why it has imposed the surcharge," he said.



THE FOLLOWING
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AT CHECKERS AND SAV

Meeting on

takeover General of Indian

farmlands

16/10/85

Mercury Reporter

THE proposed incorporation of Indian farmlands into KwaZulu will be discussed by the Natal Indian Agricultural Union at an emergency meeting of its working committee in Durban today.

Mr Robin Mohan, secretary of the association, said yesterday that more than 300 Indian farmers and about 500 families in Emona, outside Tongaat, faced being uprooted.

'We are putting up a strong fight against the proposals. We may consider taking legal action if necessary,' said Mr Mohan.

Mr Ntantuk Jymana, House of Delegates, MP for the North Coast, addressed the meeting and also pledged his full support to the farmers.

A five-man action committee was elected to monitor and co-ordinate the opposition.

Today's meeting will be held at the Clairwood Bulk Sales Market at 3.30 p.m.

Indian farmers' delegation

Mercury Reporter

THE Natal Indian Agricultural Union yesterday appointed a two-man delegation to appear before a commission of inquiry into the incorporation of

parts of Natal into KwaZulu.

Mr S Ramkalowan, the union's vice-president, and working committee member Mr Nad Govender, were given a mandate by the union at its

meeting in Durban yesterday to oppose strongly the proposed take-over of thousands of hectares of Indian farmlands at Emona, outside Tongaat.

The commission is to sit in Durban tomorrow to

hear evidence on the incorporation proposals.

House of Delegates Chief Minister Amichand Rajbansi has pledged 'vehemently to oppose' any take-over.

Mr Robin Mohan, secretary of the union, said Indian farmers in Emona were panic-stricken after receiving letters from the Tongaat Indian Mill Group requesting details of their assets and descriptions of their farms.

Mr Johnny Singh of the mill group said the information was required by Mr Y S Chinsamy, vice-chairman of the Natal Indian Cane Growers' Association, to enable the association to prepare its objections and lodge them with the Department of Co-operation and Development in Pretoria.

Call to scrap KwaZulu merger

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

THE New Republic Party MP for Mooi River, Mr Ralph Hardingham, has called for the immediate scrapping of the recently announced consolidation proposals for Natal/KwaZulu.

Speaking at a public meeting in Mooi River last night, Mr Hardingham said the proposals as presented were meaningless and irrelevant in the context of providing a basis on which the affairs of Natal/KwaZulu could be administered in the future.

'The recommendations represent outmoded philosophies and should be scrapped forthwith,' he said.

He accepted there was a need for adjustments to be made in certain sensitive ecological and catchment areas where settlement had taken place but that this should be achieved by direct negotiation and consultation with the KwaZulu Government.

'The general proposals as submitted are also impractical from a financial point of view. The enormous costs involved could be better spent in updating the urbanisation requirements of the country.'

Mr Hardingham said there appeared to be doubt as to whether the Government would go ahead with the proposals.

Farmers' debt bill rises to R9,5-bn

3-General
STAR

By Frank Jeans

Although various estimates have put the total indebtedness of South Africa's farmers at close to R9 billion, final figures from the annual report of the South African Agricultural Union show the position is even worse.

By the end of 1984, the farming community, feeling the effect of drought, soaring interest rates and input costs, owed R9,5 billion — a 28 per cent increase over the R7,4 billion in 1983.

Added to this is an ever-increasing interest burden — R1,3 billion compared with just over R1 billion previously and almost double the R784 million in 1982.

Emphasising that agriculture was now "fighting for economic survival", the report says that as a result of the deteriorating financial position of farmers preceding the drought, most producers have almost no reserve funds.

2/10/85
"Further production, must therefore, be financed entirely from borrowed funds.

"It should further be borne in mind that the current high interest rates have become a big cost factor for the farmer, causing him serious financial and cash-flow problems.

"Interest still has to be paid in spite of drought conditions and therefore, under present circumstances, there is little the farmer can do to diminish his debts," says the report.

Land plan opposed

Pietermaritzburg

~~Bureau~~

Maurice
THE Natal Agricultural Union has expressed 'moderate general opposition' to the KwaZulu consolidation proposals in a memorandum submitted to the Commission for Co-operation and Development which sat here yesterday.

~~26/10/85~~
The Lions River Division Agricultural Society

said the principle behind the consolidation of land in Natal and the concomitant forced removal of people was 'in direct conflict with the basic Christian principles on which South Africa was founded'.

3-Gondol
The Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Commerce said it was opposed to any further proposals for the geographical consolidation of KwaZulu. 24/10/85

veep across SA

3-General
Good news for farmers, bad news for others

STAR
30/10/85
Good rains fell over many parts of the country last night, bringing a reprieve to drought-stricken farmers in some areas and causing havoc in others.

Nine people were admitted to Johannesburg Hospital with serious injuries after vehicle accidents during yesterday's fierce storm which darkened the city.

Parts of the Lowveld were lashed by storms which interrupted telephone and electricity services and flooded houses and business buildings.

In Cape Town a raging black south-easter, gusting up to 60 knots and accompanied by freezing hail and rain, disrupted electricity, shattered windows, overturned at least one caravan and bowled several pedestrians clean off their feet.

Agricultural authorities say the rains — as much as 56 mm fell in some places in the Transvaal last night — have come just in time to allow planting.

However, they warn that substantial back-up rains are needed to restore the severely depleted underground moisture so that crops can flourish.

More optimistic

A spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Gerrie Smit, said the rains meant farmers were now more optimistic of a good crop.

The general manager of the National Maize Producers Organisation, Dr Piet Gouws, said planting deadlines had now expired in areas like the Eastern Transvaal but farmers had managed to get their crops in.

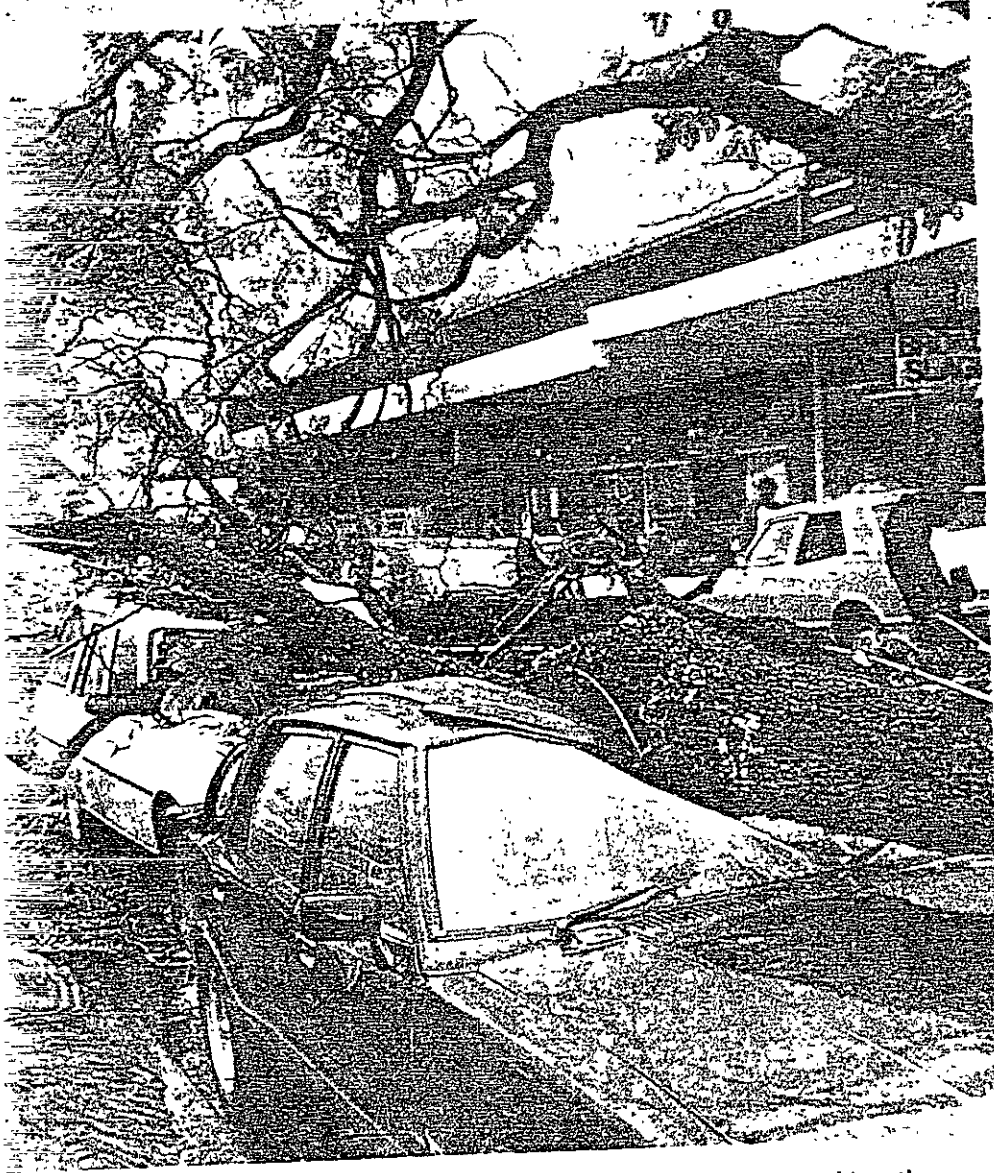
There were reports from Wolseley, Worcester and Malmesbury in the Cape of severe crop damage due to wind and rain.

The Free State has experienced good rainfall since the weekend. During a heavy thunderstorm over Bloefontein last night about 15 mm of rain fell.

Central Johannesburg had 9,3 mm of rain in yesterday's storm. The city's southern suburbs had 13 mm and Bryanston 8,5 mm.

Nelspruit recorded close on 56 mm of rain last night while Phalaborwa had 44 mm and Pietersburg 36 mm. Places on the Natal coast, including Durban, had up to 36 mm, according to a spokesman for the Weather Bureau.

He said there was a 30 to 60 percent chance of further rain in the Transvaal today.



... a jacaranda tree fell on them. Mr ... owner of one of the cars parked in ... said he arrived from an errand to ... total write-off. The tree trunk landed ... across the roofs of both cars, smashing them and ... breaking all their windows. No one was hurt in the ... incident. Workmen had to cut off the tree's branches ... and saw up the trunk before they could remove it.

nsive hail damage after storm

... electricity services were interrupt- ... businesses, flooded by stormwater

... mayor, Mr Boet Pohl, today said visi- ... n's caravan park were given shelter ... chalets after they were stranded in the

... town's historic buildings were badly ... roofs and ceilings collapsed under ... the hail.

... ple living in the town's well-known ... House were treated for shock when

... part of their home collapsed.

... Damage is expected to run into millions of rands ... Good rains have been reported from many parts ... of the Lowveld.

... In the White River District, several reports of ... hail were received.

... The Kruger Park and Sabie Sand Reserve also ... had good downpours and in places up to 90 mm ... were measured.

... Nelspruit had 55 mm.

... Good rains also fell in kaNgwane.

Rains sweep ac



Yesterday's storm was bad news for the owners of these two cars — but good news for Catherine Winter (16), who welcomed the much-needed rain. The cars, parked in a Bez Valley street in Johannesburg, were

damaged when a jacaranda tree fell on them. Mr Dean Burdett, owner of one of the cars parked in Broadway Street, said he arrived from an errand to find his car a total write-off. The tree trunk landed

across the roofs of both — breaking all their windows — incident. Workmen had to — and saw up the trunk!

Barberton suffers extensive hail damage after

By Clyde Johnson,
Lowveld Bureau

BARBERTON — A violent hailstorm yesterday caused extensive damage to buildings and property in Barberton.

The storm, which lasted about 30 minutes, started shortly after 3 pm.

It was accompanied by lightning and thunder and within minutes, the hail lay 30 cm deep in places.

Telephone and electricity services were interrupted and several businesses, flooded by stormwater, had to close.

Barberton's mayor, Mr Boet Pohl, today said visitors at the town's caravan park were given shelter in municipal chalets after they were stranded in the hailstorm.

Many of the town's historic buildings were badly damaged when roofs and ceilings collapsed under the weight of the hail.

Elderly people living in the town's well-known Fountain Baths House were treated for shock when

part of their home collapsed.

Damage is expected to be extensive. Good rains have been received in parts of the Lowveld.

In the White River district, heavy hail were received.

The Kruger Park and had good downpours and were measured.


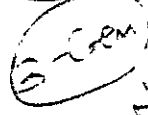
Nelspruit had 55 mm.

Good rains also fell in other parts of the region.

Shopping Basket

The shopping basket this week visited Ekuphumleni Supermarket in Mofolo North and Mavubve Shopping Centre in Moletsane both in Soweto

Foodstuff	Ekuphumleni	Mavubve
Detergents and Toilettries		
Omo 1 kg	R1.40	R1.40
500 g	R1.40	R1.40
Surf 1 kg	R2.50	R2.50
500 g	R1.00	R1.50
Good & Clean & Fresh 1 kg	R2.30	R2.40
500 g	R1.30	—
Sta-Son 2 litre	—	R1.80
750 ml	R1.60	R1.70
Gillett Javel 750 ml	70	—
Jik 750 ml	70	—
L3	50	—
Falmolive	—	20
Sunlight	—	20
Nordika	—	20
Breeze	—	20
Lifebuoy	—	R1.20
Coigate 100 ml	—	R1.00
Aquatresh 100 ml	—	R1.00
Mentadent P 100 ml	—	R1.00
Mealie Meal and Rice		
Ace 12.5 kg	R8.40	—
5 kg	R3.50	—
Iwisa 12.5 kg	—	R9.50
5 kg	R3.50	R12.00
Induna 12.5 kg	—	—
5 kg	R1.40	—
Tastic 2 kg	—	1.00
1 kg	R1.80	R2.10
500 g	R1.10	—
Tea and Coffee		
Joko 200 bags	—	—
100 bag	R3.50	R4.70
Pateo 200 bags	—	R8.00
100 bags	R2.50	R4.00
Five Roses 200 bags	—	—
100 bags	R4.70	—
Frisco 750 g	R5.30	—
250 g	R2.20	—
Ricoffy 750 g	R4.70	—
250 g	R2.60	—
Koffehuis 750 g	—	—
250 g	R1.40	—
Cooking Oil		
Solo 750 ml	R2.70	R2.20
Sunseed 750 ml	—	R2.20
Covo 750 ml	R2.40	—
Sugar		
Spar Special 12.5 kg	R10.80	—
2.5 kg	R2.00	—
Setati 12.5 kg	—	—
2.5 kg	—	R2.10

Handwritten notes:


 SOWETO
 3/10/08

AGRICULTURAL DEBT

General
Banks call for action

Commercial banks, which have the biggest exposure to SA's massive R10,25 billion agricultural debt, are pressing government for urgent action to prevent an economic collapse in certain drought-stricken areas.

A top-level meeting was convened by Agriculture and Water Supplies Minister Sarel Hayward in Pretoria last week to create a united front to meet the looming debt problem.

The meeting apparently followed threats from some banks to dishonour farmers' cheques in the drought-stricken western Transvaal.

Government, the banks and co-ops fear the domino effect of insolvencies and collapsing farm prices in some regions. Such failures would clearly lead to heavy losses to creditors.

But there is also growing pressure to start a gradual — and orderly — shaking-out process of those farmers who cannot make the grade even if the rains return this year. This was clearly spelt out to this week's SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) conference in Port Elizabeth by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis.

Attending the debt meeting at the Reserve Bank offices of Jacobs Committee on Agriculture chairman Japie Jacobs were representatives of the "big five" commercial banks, agricultural co-ops, the Land Bank and the Department of Agricultural Land Tenure.

The debt- and crop-servicing crunch has been caused by the looming R1 billion-plus crop financing requirements for the summer rainfall farming sector.

Maize farmers, hit hard by three years' drought and already deeply in hock to private sector banks, will expect the commercial banking sector to extend further facilities to ensure the planting of the new year's crops.

But the banks are understandably worried about extending credit in a time of drought and recession. Already they have R3,73 billion direct exposure to agriculture — 36% of the total farming debt. And they are not even preferential creditors.

Co-ops have a statutory lien over the total crop proceeds of all farmers who owe them money, and the banks have to wait while the co-ops take the first bite of the cherry. Co-ops also benefit from government's subsidised six-year debt-extension scheme, while the banks qualify only for the 22-year debt-consolidation scheme — with no subsidies.

Apart from their direct, and ill-secured,



SA farming ... drought's bitter harvest

exposure to farmers, the commercial banks are also the major source of Land Bank and co-op funding through the capital and money markets. And the Land Bank holds the first bonds.

So no one can reasonably point a finger at the banks — who finally provide some 80% of total funding — for their concern.

Says Standard Bank GM (credit) Arthur Daymond: "Nobody wants to pull the plug in this very sensitive situation, as everyone will suffer. But we do feel that some farmers, especially in the west, have extended their crop farming too far into traditional stock-farming areas. This has increased credit risks, especially in tough drought years."

Daymond adds that banks are fully prepared to extend support to farmers who cannot service their debts as long as there is confidence that the farmers will recover financially when the rains return.

Standard's agricultural lending is limited to some 6% — or R780m — of its total R13 billion book, so it is not unduly worried about its exposure.

STILL CLIMBING

The *Financial Mail* continues to go from strength to strength. An interim certificate from the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) for July, August and September shows the *FM* had average weekly sales of 33 072 in that period — the first time the publication's ABC figures have topped 33 000.

This achievement follows the *FM*'s best six-month period from January to June, when average weekly sales climbed to 30 843.

"But the platteland economy is also strongly dependent on a healthy farming sector," Daymond notes. "This adds another dimension to the problem. What worries us most, though, is the legal lien co-ops have on farmers' crop production, which pushes banks to the back of the queue when debts are paid."

Co-ops' total debt exposure to farmers had increased by some R450m to R2,23 billion — or 21,7% of total farming debt — by the end of last year. And about R1,3 billion of unpaid co-op production credit was consolidated in terms of the six-year subsidised scheme in the year to August 31.

This carries an interest rate of only 8% in the first year.

Banks do not qualify for this scheme at all while, in terms of the 22-year scheme, they again have to play second fiddle. Only a third of their overdrafts can be included in the scheme. And the mortgages are held by the Land Bank. About R600m was consolidated in the first two years of this scheme.

With the total agricultural interest burden of some R1,3 billion/year adding to the sector's dismal economic scenario, the time might therefore be ripe to call a halt to the perpetual subsidy spiral.

The SAAU is not sitting still, and two of its interesting proposals are now being considered. The Margo tax commission is busy considering its recommendation to create a tax-free fund where farmers could save their profits in the good years to help tide them over the lean times.

But the second suggestion has more direct relevance to the debt problem. At a recent meeting in Namaqualand, SAAU president Kobus Jooste suggested that some 20% of the farmers in a certain district consider the possibility of selling out to their neighbours as their debt:asset ratios virtually made further farming impossible.

Such action might just hold the solution to agriculture's massive debt problem — if followed up resolutely and supported by the banks, the co-ops and government. ■

PUBLISHING

Free Press

Despite the print media's problems, the Argus Group and its Caxton associate are pushing ahead with plans for four new knock 'n' drop newspapers in the Pretoria region.

ARGUS 4/11/85 13622

Plan to boost farm workers' potential

Tygerberg Bureau

A TRAINING programme aimed at giving farmers greater management skills and developing greater promotion potential for farm labourers has been announced by the Western Province Agricultural Union.

Mr Frans Malan, chairman of the union, said the programme would be run with the Rural Foundation which he said had already achieved remarkable success in its countrywide training programme for farm labourers.

Research has found that a course in pruning was the greatest single need and that the development of supervisory, management and labour relations skills were also required.

Mr Jannie le Roux, a spokesman for the union, said that better-educated farm labourers had a tendency to migrate to the cities for higher-paid industrial jobs and that those who re-

mained behind therefore were the least educated members of their communities.

Training programmes should be instituted to develop this human potential remaining behind on the farms.

"White farm managers are becoming scarcer and more expensive and we could, with these new training programmes, also create managerial jobs for farm labourers," he said.

"Another way in which labourers are already being given more say is through the workers' committees now developing on farms. These committees also give farm workers greater skills in negotiating and management," he said.

The proposed courses are being put together by the University of Potchefstroom, the Boskor Training Centre and the Rural Foundation, while audio-visual aids will be provided by the KWV, Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery and Oude Meester.

Rice price set to drop by 8 c/kg

General Mercury Reporter
THE retail price of rice will drop by at least 8 c/kg following the lifting of the surcharge from imported rice. The chairman of the Indian Ministers' Council, Mr Amichand Rajbansi, announced in Durban yesterday that the surcharge had been lifted because rice was a staple food for a large section of the South Africa public and because of other economic factors. Representation had been made by the House of Delegates to the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, that imported rice should not be subject to the 10 percent surcharge imposed on a wide range of imported goods on September 23.

Jobs hunt to avoid selling land

(3) General B. Day
4/11/85

Cash slump drives farmers to cities

FARMERS are heading for the cities in increasing numbers to try to stave off financial ruin.

Piet Gous, GM of the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo), says more farmers are looking for city work to avoid selling their farms and leaving the land for good.

Contrary to some reports that the drift from the land is accelerating, Gous believes relatively few farmers — “much less than 10%” — have moved permanently to the cities since 1982, when the drought became serious.

“Very few farmers have left the land because of the massive loan programme, reduced interest rates and production credit available to them,” he says.

He says it is a buyer's market and farmers cannot obtain good prices if they sell. The commercial value of farms has dropped in real terms by between 20% and 40% compared to 1982.

Spokesmen for Transvaal farming co-operatives point to the growing number of liquidations as proof of the financial pressures on farmers.

LINDA ENSOR

Most of those going under are small-to-average-sized farms, says one, with small creditors forcing the liquidations.

A spokesman for the South Western Co-operative — an area hard hit by the drought — confirms that farmers there are temporarily leaving their farms to get work in the cities.

Farmers working in the cities sometimes let their farms to neighbours while they are away.

In other instances, especially in the Northern Cape, the farms are abandoned until the drought breaks, says Gerrie Smit, of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

Another trend is for farmers to sell portions of their farms to neighbours to settle debts.

Gous believes the trend is towards greater concentration in farm ownership, with small farmers selling out to bigger farmers.

'There are hard times ahead,' said one chainstore spokesman.

The general manager of the Pick 'n Pay Hypermarket in Durban, Mr Martin Rosen, said: 'Already suppliers are talking about increasing prices and by Christmas I expect at least 98 percent of food items on the shelves to have increased between 5 percent and 10 percent.'

'Even the price of rice, which was to have dropped by about 8 c/kg following a Government decision to drop the surcharge, will be affected. The drop will now only be about 3 c,' he said.

Spar managing director Mr Brian Beavon agreed that increases of between 5 percent and 10 percent could be expected because of the fuel price increase, but said most of these would probably not be felt before the new year.

Manufacturers have to give us four weeks' notice of price increases and we will take advantage of that to buy in stocks.

We definitely will not see price increases in the Spar group until the new year, apart from those already announced in the past three or four weeks.

Weak rand

The weak rand, however, could push increases on some products up by another 5 percent.

The senior buyer for Pick 'n Pay in the Western Cape, Mr Allan Baxter, said yesterday: 'The writing is on the wall.'

'It looks at this stage as if we will be able to absorb increases up to Christmas by selling off stocks we already have, but in January, or possibly February, there will be price increases right across the board.'

Almost every product carried by the chain would go up by anything from 5 percent to 15 percent, depending on the distance the product had to travel from point of manufacture to retail outlet.

'We carry 10 000 basic food lines alone, and the increases could affect the lot.'

Major factors pushing up prices are the increase in the petrol price and increases in the cost of packaging and printing.

Mr Len Clench, divisional director of Checkers, said the exchange rate had had a serious effect on the cost of printing and packaging, as

Mercury Correspondent

many of the more important materials were imported from the United States.

'Everything we sell in our supermarkets, and I mean everything, will go up in price in the new year.'

Mr Clench said the average increase would be 'anything up to 15 percent across the board' with some products from farther afield going up by as much as 25 percent.

Mr Norman Bernstein, marketing director for Grand Bazaars, said it was too early to predict accurately what in-

creases there would be next year.

'But when all the bits and pieces are added up, we will be left with no option. We will have to pass it on.'

Our correspondent in Paarl reports that an increase in the price of fresh fruit sold to the canning industry is likely to hit the consumer from March next year.

Prices paid by the canning factories for fresh fruit would increase by between 7 percent and 18 percent, and this would be passed on to the consumer.

CAPE TOWN—Supermarket spokesmen warned yesterday that the price of almost every consumer item available in South Africa will increase by at least 5 percent in the new year and some by as much as 25 percent.

Everything's up in shopping's shocks

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Neary

Fuel rise could be 'last straw' for agriculture

Pietermaritzburg
Bureau

THE latest petrol price rise and the fear of yet another early next year could be the proverbial last straw for some farmers in Natal who already have their backs to the wall.

The director of the Natal Agricultural Union, Mr Alwyn Bisschoff, said

he could see farmers having 'a very hard look' at whether their industry was still a viable one.

What concerned the NAU terribly, he said, was that the farming sector was extremely vulnerable to fuel price rises.

'Farmers have long distances to travel to cart their input requirements and produce is very de-

pendent on road transport, so another fuel price increase will have a tremendous effect on them.'

Mr Bisschoff said the new petrol price would have an obvious ripple effect through the entire economy and in every sector of agriculture.

The NAU was alarmed that another petrol price increase was in the pipeline.

The president of the SA Agricultural Union, Mr Kobus Jooste, said although the increase had been expected because of the value of the rand it would be a further blow to farmers who were struggling to recover from unfavourable seasons.

The SAAU was also 'extremely concerned' about the increases in input costs, particularly imported implements.

'The spate of increases agriculture has had to deal with is seriously undermining the financial independence of farmers,' Mr Jooste said, adding that the survival of a large section of the farming community was being threatened even more.

Mercury
11/1/72
3

Zimbabwe sets new minimum farm wage

E. Post 27/11/85 *3 Gen* *[scribble]* *[scribble]*

HARARE — The Zimbabwean Government last night set new minimum wages for more than 40 000 workers threatened with losing their jobs after their farm employers complained they could not pay a previous higher wage.

Acting Labour Minister Mr Edgson Zvobgo said the Government decided to grant a partial wage exemption on those farmers who grew but did not process their crops, because it had been proved they were unable to afford the minimum of about R217 announced in August and backdated to July.

He was speaking in Parliament after a Cabinet meeting earlier yesterday had examined the pay row between the workers and their employers — estate farmers growing tea, coffee, sugar, flowers, fruit and timber. The dispute sparked demonstrations and vio-

lence by workers who charged that employers were deliberately underpaying them.

Farmers said they would go out of business if they met the pay demand.

Mr Zvobgo announced wage rises varying from about R22 to R37 a month for workers employed by farmers who grew crops but did not process them.

Workers on farms growing and processing the produce were awarded monthly pay rises ranging from about R22 to R67.

The new wages, effective from next month until June 1986, are well below the previous minimum, although a few farmers will still pay the old rate because some of their workers were already earning that amount before last July. — Sapa-Reuter

On paper SA farmers' output ranks with best

(3) General Sten 19/11/85

Despite droughts, poor soils, locust swarms and other pests, the average South African farmer still manages to feed well over 400 people, many of them in distant parts of the world.

That, speaking statistically but with qualifications, is about 30 times more food than that produced by the average Russian farmer, who feeds a mere 13 people, and some five times that of the American farmer, who feeds a median 79 non-farmers.

"But," warns the South African Agricultural Union's chief economist Dr Koos du Toit, "the South African farmer's productivity cannot always be compared because of factors such as that our farmers employ much more labour than, for instance, American and German 'family farming' units; and on the credit side, that some seven per cent of South African agriculture production is not food."

The latter includes wool, almost half of all non-food production; tobacco (1,5 per cent), cotton, mohair, karakul, wattle bark and even ostrich feathers for fashion houses.

Fibre production also claims South Africa's largest single area, the Karoo, which

Although American farmers' large grain surpluses, which feed the Soviet Union, have become legendary, the United States, unlike South Africa, remains a net food importer, partly also because large parts of its farming lands are unproductive six months out of a year.

All over the world, and helped by mechanisation and biological engineering, farm productivity goes up. In West Germany productivity doubles about every five years, and the Green Revolution has even caused surplus crops this year in Mainland China (which has exported 20 000 tons of maize to South Africa) and in India, two countries which previously could not feed themselves.

Did you know that the average South African farmer feeds well over 400 people? On paper, at least, that compares most favourably with countries like Russia and even the United States. But that is not quite the whole story — there are other factors involved, reports Science Writer JAAP BOEKKOOI...

represents 46 per cent of all grazing land in the country, and which is used chiefly to grow wool.

The actual productivity of South African farmers is difficult to work out because no one knows exactly how many farmers there are (the Government says 70 000, while the SAAU estimates 65 000), the presence of many gentleman, plot and subsistence farmers; and the shifting of farmer populations as droughts strike.

Figures in the European Economic Community, for instance, are much more precise because many farmers there are state-registered, in family units, and employ only seasonal labour.

Therefore a farmer in Holland or Denmark, officially feeding 112 and 100 people on average, may well be more

productive per man-on-the-field than his South African counterpart.

Farmers in Belgium/Luxembourg feed an average of 88, in Britain 85, in France 44, Ireland 30 and Italy 21. Lowest on the list is stony and mountainous Greece where one farmer feeds 10 other Greeks.

Forecasters say wet summer still likely

Dam levels drop further despite rain

STAR 3/12/85 (36 over)

By Sue Leeman, Pretoria Bureau

Reservoirs in the Vaal system are on average 6 percent down compared with levels this time last year and many centres recorded exceptionally low rainfall figures for November — despite good rains early in the month.

The Department of Water Affairs and the Rand Water Board have warned that the 30 percent saving target now in force will remain until good rains fall.

And many farmers in the arid Western Transvaal are still unable to plant their summer crops because the ground is so dry.

However, weather forecasters say all the signs point to this summer being the wettest in the past four years.

Water department spokesman Mr Anton Steyn said the rains in late October and early November had made "very little impression" on the catchment area.

It would, he said, take at least 600 mm of hard rain in a short period for the dams in the Vaal scheme to reach 50 percent of capacity on average.

At the moment they stand at an average of 21 percent, compared with 27 percent this time last year.

Mr Steyn said these reserves could see the Reef through until next summer but by then the situation would be desperate.

The chief forecaster at the Weather Bureau in Pretoria, Mr Mike Edwards, said the past two months had been conspicuously dry, despite one short period of good rain.

Joubert, for example, had received only 86,5 mm of rain in November (86,5 mm on the first day of the month) — well down on the average of 127 mm. This was also far less than the 163 mm recorded there last November.

In the Northern Transvaal, Messina had recorded only 35 mm after having 100 mm last November.

However, parts of the catchment area had much more rain in the past month than they did last year.

Standerton had recorded 117 mm this November as opposed to 87 in the same month last year while Newcastle had had 147 mm — in contrast to the 95 mm which fell last November.

Mr Edwards said all the signs pointed to a wetter summer this year. The country had yet to experience four consecutive years when rainfall was consistently below the long-term mean. Three such years had now gone by and it was likely that this summer would see better rains.

CAPE TIMES 3/12/85

3 497

3 drown as rain breaks Karoo drought

Staff Reporters

FLOODED rivers claimed the lives of at least three people at the weekend as rain broke the drought in large areas of Namaqualand, Bushmanland and the Karoo.

● A 17-year-old Koekenaap man, Mr Koos van der Westhuizen, is believed to have drowned in the Olifants River where he had gone fishing on Sunday morning. His clothes were found on the bank but his body had not been found by late yesterday.

● In Garies an Okiep man, Mr Karel Opperman, 42, was washed down a river and drowned when his car stalled on a low-water bridge after a cloudburst on Sunday afternoon.

He had got out to investigate but was washed away by the strong current. His wife and seven children scrambled to safety.

● At 3pm on Sunday, 15-year-old Gordon Mtetwa drowned when trying to cross a fast stream after a dam wall had collapsed near Van Rhynsdorp.

There have been showers in parts of the Karoo where there has been no rain for eight years.

Carnarvon, which has officially been a drought-stricken area since 1978, has had 66mm since Sunday. "Our farmers are delighted," said a Carnarvon resident.

The new dam in Fraserburg, without rain for six years, is overflowing, said Mrs H Kriel, a resident. "We're all very relieved".

Mr G R Spies, of the Loxton municipality, said the town had been dry for "years" but was now "awash with water".

"We have had over 60mm in the past couple of days," he said yesterday.

There was also rain in the Boland and thunder storms and gales over a wide area caused damage to property estimated at hundreds of thousands of rands.

The rain and cooler weather brought much-needed relief to farmers in the area. In Clanwilliam the temperature had averaged nearly 40 deg C for the past three weeks. Before the rains farmers were irrigating their crops continuously.

2/12/85 BUS DAY (3)

Tractor sales sliding

INDUSTRIAL STAFF

SALES of tractors and other agricultural machinery continue to slide as the drought persists and prices soar.

Robin Phillips, chairman of the SA Tractor Manufacturers' Association (SATMA), said in a statement that the seasonal peak in the market had occurred in October as the harvesting season in the Cape wheat, barley- and oats-producing areas got into swing.

"The tractor industry, at 810 units for the month, while up on previous months and about 16% better than October 1984, continues to be 50% down on the average market volume for this time of the year.

"The tractor industry year to date at 5 926 units is 3% down on last year's 6 108 units for the same period.

"Government imposed a 10% import surcharge on a wide range of farm machinery in September.

"We are grateful that, in response to representations made by SATMA and by our individual members, the Board of

Trade and Industries has seen fit to lift the surcharge on tractors on individual applications for relief from each member of SATMA."

He said SATMA would continue to strive for the lifting of the surcharge on other agricultural machinery as well.

"In particular we are most concerned over self-propelled combine harvesters.

"The influence of the weak rand on imported costs is already resulting in self-propelled combines being extremely highly-priced. Why add a further burden to the shoulders of the farmers with the 10% import duty?"

Combine harvester sales for October, at 65 units, are down 11% on the same month last year. The year to October, retail industry, at 354 units for the year, is lagging behind 1984's 381 units by 7,1%.

22/14 BUS DAY

SWA economic growth positive

WINDHOEK — SWA's economy had a positive growth rate of up to 1% this year, attributable largely to the poor performance of the rand, Finance Secretary Dr Johan Jones said in Windhoek.

The Namibian quoted Jones as saying it was the best gross domestic product figure in three years, but the positive trend was based on the low value of the

rand rather than improvement in the economy.

Exporters particularly benefited from the weak exchange rate.

Jones said other positive signs in the economy were that government spending was "well under control", while indications were that the inflation rate had stabilised around 15,8%. — Sapa.

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Cape Times 6/12/85

Nine days of rain in dry ^{3 Gaard} Loeriesfontein

Staff Reporter

FLASH FLOODS caused severe damage in Bushmanland and Namaqualand and a Loeriesfontein farmer, his four-year-old daughter and a young friend had a narrow escape when a two-metre high "wall of water" swept his van away.

Mr Martiens van Jaarsveld's van was washed away on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the Loeriesfontein municipality said yesterday it had been raining for nine days.

"In the town, the rain has caused furrows in the road and has washed silt on to the pavements. Our dam is overflowing for the first time since 1978."

A railway line between Carnarvon and Calvinia was washed away earlier this week.

A Divisional Council spokesman for the Calvinia area said roads there were also in a bad condition.

The national road at Vioolsdrift, where washaways occurred earlier this week, was again damaged by floodwaters on Wednesday.

The road between Port Nolloth and Alexander Bay has been washed away and it is not known when it will be reopened.

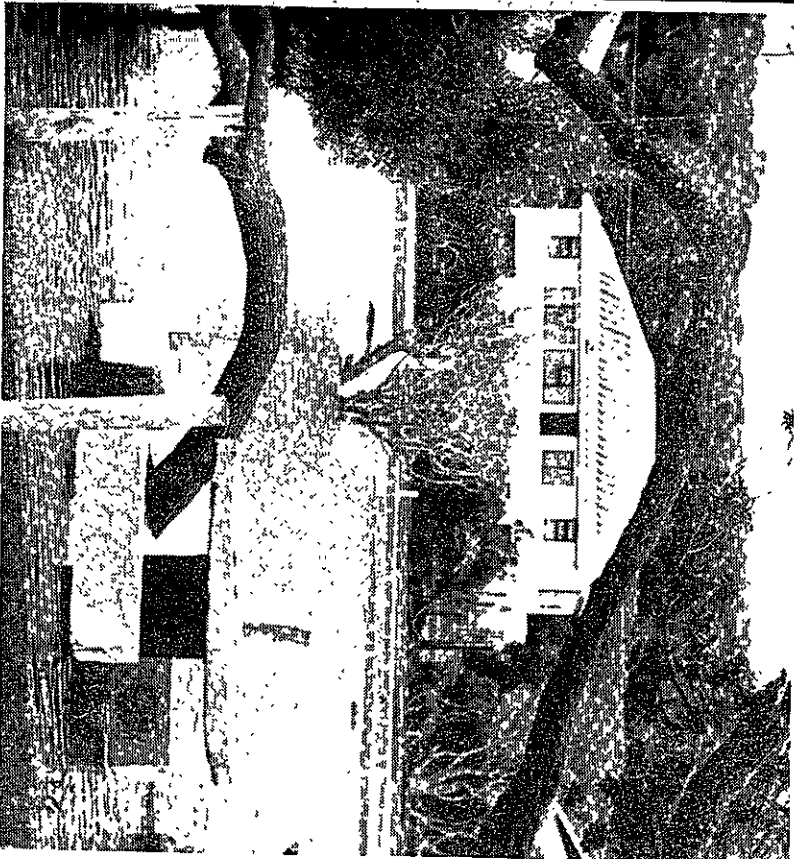
A Diyco spokesman said they were watching the road as there was a swollen river nearby, which could run over its banks again at any time.

Floods caused serious damage in the Karoo and a Ladismith farmer, Mr Koos van der Horst, lost two-thirds of his apricot crop. Farmers in the Boland have also suffered crop losses due to rain.



Hadré Pratt leaps over stormwater pipes laid shortly after floodwaters ripped up a section of the Elim-Bredasdorp road.

Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus



In Mauritius you can charge a fortune for breakfast at a table surrounded by water. In Still Bay yesterday, there were no takers.

Picture: PETER STANFORD, The Argus

Flood losses not too bad, say 1/9/86 sodden farmers

(3 Generals)

By STEPHEN WROTTESLEY and ARNOLD KIRKBY
Staff Reporters

AS floodwaters receded in the storm-hit southern Cape today, farmers took stock and the news appears to be mainly good.

The drought has been broken by the heaviest August rainfall in a quarter of a century and relatively few have suffered extensive losses.

Two flood-related deaths have been reported.

Mr Michael Newman, 24, of Waen-huyskrans, drowned when he apparently attempted to drive his car through the flooded Krans River, near Napier, on Friday night.

No sign

When Mr Andrew Newman went to see if his brother had taken the road over the bridge, he found the car next to the river with floodwater up to its roof. There was no sign of his brother.

A 25-month-old boy, Emmanuel Adams, drowned when he fell into a puddle of water on Linkwood farm at Lynedoch, near Stellenbosch, on Saturday.

Flood losses appear not as extensive as feared at first.

Stock farmers have lost cattle and sheep but, apparently, not in significant numbers.

A huge mopping-up operation faces workers in the southern Cape.

The people of Still Bay are thankful for the fact that the rain came when it did, and not in the holiday season.

At the caravan park in the resort, most sites are under water.

The town was cut off on Saturday night when floodwaters swamped the route to the national road in several places including Dreevlakte.

Mr Bakkies Smit of Still Bâÿ said some areas had recorded between 200mm and 250mm of rain. It was the heaviest downpour in 25 years, he said.

Many farm dams were washed away.

On Mr Willem Cronje's farm, a five-metre dam wall in a spruit near Riethuiskraal was washed away on Friday.

A newspaper delivery lorry overturned in the dark on the road near Pearly Beach early yesterday but the four occupants were not hurt.

Between Elim and Agulhas, the level of the water started subsiding yesterday although some low-lying areas are still cut off.

In some areas, four-wheel drive vehicles and large tractors were the only means of transport, and families were devising ways of getting their children back to boarding school by using long detours.

Saved buck

Some fields of wheat, oats and barley resembled rice paddies while others were washed away completely.

A week-old springbok was one of the flood survivors. Mr Dico Swart's children on Wiesdrif farm saved the little animal from the muddy waters, and will hand-rear it. Other buck were stranded on islands in the middle of vleis, said Mr Swart.

Mrs Patrys Human, of Moddervlei farm, was still not sure about the fate of many of her 90 springbok, although some had been seen with her smaller herds of bontebok on high-lying islands.

BUS DAY 10/12/85



3

Govt to fight locusts

AGRICULTURAL authorities are to use a R7m government job creation grant to help fight a locust infestation in the Karoo and to launch other environmental projects.

This was announced in Pretoria yesterday in a joint statement by Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs Minister Greyling Wentzel and Agriculture and Water Supply Minister Sarel Hayward.

They said R2m would be used to combat a serious outbreak of brown locusts, which could cause extensive damage to natural grazing and crops in the Karoo and adjacent grasslands if it was not brought under control rapidly.

Other projects to be launched included the planting of drought-resistant forage plants, cleaning of irrigation canals and the repair of unserviceable farm roads.

Existing projects such as the combating of weeds, bush control and the erection of smaller soil conservation structures would also benefit from the grant. — Sapa.

Now Gaddafi gets in on the anti-apartheid action

3) BUS DAY 11/12/85

NEW ON the anti-apartheid bandwagon front is none other than Libya. Spearheaded by Colonel Gaddafi — known for bank-rolling radical movements and terrorist activities around the world — the little-publicised Anti-Apartheid Conference in Tripoli was funded by him a week ago.

Invitees included 225 lawyers from 37 countries, as well as members of the Association of African Jurists.

Prominently represented were delegations from the ANC, Swapo and the Palestine liberation movement.

In the forefront of the activities was SA-born poet — and author of "True Confessions of an Albino Terrorist" — Breyten Breytenbach.

Personal coup

The outcome of the jamboree was the "Declaration of Tripoli". Anti-SA action is called for on a broad front. Blueprinted is a Steve Biko university in Libya.

Meanwhile, the intention is to structure an international fund to further solidarity with international liberation movements.

American anti-apartheid activist George Crockett was awarded the Nelson Mandela prize for his anti-apartheid endeavours.

Not surprisingly, Gaddafi senses the mileage which accrues from aligning himself with Black Africa on the emotive anti-apartheid issue.

At this moment his image in Africa sorely needs a touch of polish. Libyan expansionary movements in Africa — notably Chad — hardly endeared him to Black states on the African continent.

The successful outcome pro-

HELLOUISE TRUSWELL



□ GADDAFI ... his image in Africa needs a polish

vided the polish and the timing was perfect. Gaddafi could point to the fact that the previous Jurists' conference — scheduled for last January in Cameroon — flopped dismally at the last moment. The Tripoli conference was a coup for him personally.

Back in Paris — and not to be outdone — is the French Socialist Party, which in the recent past has scored in the vanguard of the anti-apartheid sanctions campaign.

Coinciding with the Tripoli conference, French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius orchestrated his own anti-apartheid get-to-

gether at the Parisian cultural Pompidou Centre.

The occasion was the launching of a new book on SA. Breytenbach divided his time between Paris and Tripoli for maximum exposure on the anti-SA front.

Also present at the Pompidou Centre were Nadine Gordimer, featured on French television news slots, and Beyers Naude, who made a particularly vibrant appeal for sanctions.

Trade unionist Donsi Khumalo was there as well. And Khulu Sibya, from *City Press*, stood in for Percy Qoboza.

On the calling list of the visitors from SA was President Mitterrand's top adviser on SA, Guy Penne. The SA visitors also met other members of the Foreign and Co-operation Ministries.

The rendezvous in the Pompidou Centre was seen as a dress rehearsal for this week's three-day Franco-African summit conference, which started yesterday.

Disconcerted

Although the Franco-African summit is an annual affair, this year's summit is scheduled to bear down heavily on the SA issue.

Among those taking part is the current head of the OAU, President Diouf of Senegal who recently visited all front-line states.

He noted that he was not only struck by their economic interdependence with SA, but also by their commitment to the liberation struggle. The duality clearly disconcerts him.

Diouf, eager to endear himself

to the French Socialist Party, describes France as a "locomotive" in the anti-apartheid struggle.

France, openly committed to this "locomotive" role, includes on the summit platform this year members of all the front-line states.

It is obvious that this occasion will mark yet another milestone for the Socialist Party in its avowed intention to intensify the assault campaign against SA.

Concerned

Desmond Colborne, SA Foundation director in France and a keen student of Francophone African affairs from his Paris base, comments that in the last year Africa's Francophone states have undergone a "major consciousness-raising process".

"They are now much more concerned with SA. In happier days, when President Houphouet Boigny spoke up for dialogue with SA, there seemed to be a serious chance that SA could come to terms with Black Africa.

"If we had made ourselves politically more acceptable, the African states could have come out of the closet as regards their economic relations with SA."

As he says, there could have been an Nkomati-type formula on a bigger scale — political realism traded off against economic realism.

Now, even with record exports from SA to Africa, the tide appears to be running in the opposite direction.

Behind the inevitable rhetorical overkill, the Paris summit should give us some indication of where the African states are headed on the anti-apartheid issue.

103
BUS DAY
Increase in third quarter GDP 9/12/85

36000

Mining, farming and the utilities lifting economy

THE MINING industry, farmers and the utilities are dragging the economy out of its recession. But the process will be long and arduous, and the resultant growth will at best be only moderate.

That is the message in the latest Reserve Bank *Quarterly Bulletin* released on Friday.

Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased moderately in the third quarter, after four quarters of appreciable declines. But the increase resulted from narrowly-based growth in real output, which was largely confined to the primary sectors of the economy.

Gold mining output, depressed by labour strikes in the second quarter, rose sharply in the third quarter. Other sectors which performed well were agriculture (boosted by a good maize crop), the export oriented non-gold mining industry, and the sector supplying electricity, gas and water.

The bulletin said industrial output directly related to essential consumer demand, such as food processing and clothing manufacturing, as well as the real value added by the motor trade, increased sharply in the third quarter.

The fall in retail trading slowed markedly. But output by the manufacturing industry as a whole, the overall trade sector, the construction industry, and the transport sector continued to slide.

The overall level of profits increased in the third quarter because of the huge profits being made by gold mining companies. Other sectors did not fare so

JOHN TILSTON
Economics Editor

well. The manufacturing and construction sectors in particular were still under severe pressure.

Real *per capita* earnings declined further across just about every sector.

The private sector's real investment in machinery and other equipment, financed by leases, increased appreciably in the third quarter, spurred by the lower cost of borrowing. The bulletin recorded "noteworthy" increases in real capital expenditure by government.

Inventory levels also increased marginally in the third quarter, after substantial depletions in the first six months of the year. But the interruption to the downward trend was largely the result of increases to agricultural and diamond stocks. Expressed as a ratio of real non-agricultural GDP, real commercial and industrial inventories fell from 22,9% at the end of 1984 to 21,8% at the end of September this year.

The overall level of savings increased in the third quarter. As a percentage of GDP it approximated the long-term trend of about 30%. The bulletin said: "The improved savings performance was all the more remarkable if it is taken into account that as recently as the second quarter of 1984 the savings ration amounted to only 20,5%. Gross domestic saving actually exceeded gross domestic investment so that excess funds were available for reducing the country's foreign indebtedness."

Dairy cows, hens, woodlots and vegetable gardens transform the land

kwaZulu farming project looks most promising

In country noted for athletic-looking scrub cattle and sour ngongoni veld, it is a surprise to see four sleek dairy cows tucking into a lush fenced pasture. In adjacent paddocks are last year's young — three heifers — and this year's tiny calves.

The daily milk yield from kwaZulu's scrub cows is rarely more than two litres. Properly managed, Mr Gideon Biyela's four Jersey cows each produce 20 litres a day.

He sells the rich milk for 80c a litre — half the price of packaged milk in local shops. He has no distribution costs because neighbours buy the milk "at the farm gate".

Once costs for pasture grass seeding, fertiliser, winter fodder and regular spraying of cows against ticks are deducted, Mr Biyela's three-hectare dairy unit generates an annual income of about R2 000.

Scarlet hibiscus flowers flank the footpath leading down from the Melmoth-Eshowe Road to a corrugated iron-roofed building. From in-

side comes a steady conversation of mellow clucks.

A sign at the roadside proclaims, "Egg Production Unit — Institute of Natural Resources". In the shed are 500 brown laying hens, producing up to 34 dozen eggs a day.

It is an "all in/all out" system. After 72 weeks the hens have passed their egg-laying peak and go to market. There are 10 days for a clean-up and then 500 new hens come in.

Managing the egg production unit takes about an hour a day of Mr Walter Myandu's time — distributing feed, spread-

ing clean sawdust under the cages and pumping the day's water supply to a roof tank.

The eggs are sold at R1.40 a dozen. After costs of hens and feed, the annual income for Mr Myandu is about R2 000.

PUZZLE

These are two pieces of a jigsaw puzzle called the Biyela Multi-Facet Rural Development Project. A 23 000-ha area selected by the kwaZulu Government and the Institute of Natural Resources for a pilot venture in "integrated land management planning", it is already showing the benefits

Phase I involved a survey of resources and constraints on development, the drafting of a preliminary regional plan and the establishment of demonstration units like those described.

Phase II involves a more detailed study of land rights and marketing systems to ensure that further development meshes with local traditions and needs.

There are five egg and broiler chicken units in Biyela as well as numerous woodlots, vegetable gardens and market stalls. As people begin to enquire about starting their own, the institute provides expertise and co-ordination.

The Biyela plan shows about 70 percent of the area to be suitable only for low-density grazing done on a rotational basis, 20 percent (the steeper slopes) is appropriate for forestry, and small areas of level land with higher rainfall or access to river water are suitable for dairy pastures, village sites and communal gardens.

Community woodlots are the most visible of



From the doorway of Mr Walter Myandu's egg production unit Prince Gideon Zulu welcomes corporate visitors inspecting the results of their donations.

Biyela's demonstration units. Paper companies donated the young trees and villagers formed work parties to prepare and fence sites of about four hectares, to plant the trees and keep them watered for their initial critical first few months.

On a three-year-old woodlot, pines are the size of Christmas trees. The wood will be used for building and furniture. Gum trees, already much larger, are also a cash crop, grown for pulp and mining timber.

And wattles, seven metres tall at less than three years old, are grown primarily for building lumber because the poles do not need treatment. Fuel wood is a byproduct of trimming trees for poles.

The institute, the government and individuals putting their efforts into project will not turn kwaZulu into the Garden of Eden. But they are transforming subsistence or below-subsistence lands to productive purpose on a sustainable basis.

'The people can't eat politics'

With the traditional dignity of royalty, Prince Gideon Zulu was quiet. Others did most of the talking during a recent tour for representatives of corporations sponsoring rural development projects in kwaZulu.

When he spoke it was to sum things up: "People can't eat politics," he said.

The combined problems of poverty, unemployment and overcrowding meant serious environmental degradation which worsened existing problems and compounded the downward spiral, he said.

Thanking corporate Johannesburg sponsors for their support, he pointed out that whatever the future of South Africa held, people would need to eat.

kwaZulu had a stable government, said Prince Gideon, a member of the Legislative Assembly. It made sense to contribute to development where there were no riots or bombings.

"People are unemployed and projects like those the Institute of Natural Resources is building up with the kwaZulu authorities create earnings," he said.

Govt moves towards free market

Plans to revise 21 control boards

(3) BUS. DAY
13/12/85



● WENTZEL

GOVERNMENT is set to introduce far-reaching changes to its agricultural control policies.

In an end-of-year statement to farmers today, Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel will say a new marketing strategy, combining "orderly" marketing and free market principles, must be introduced.

This is likely to lead to major changes in the entire control board system.

According to Roelf Kotze, chairman of Wentzel's advisory committee, National Marketing Council (NMC) recommendations include abolition of the single-channel, fixed-price marketing system in the dairy industry.

Investigations into the operation of the system in the maize industry would be undertaken, he told *Business Day*.

In his statement, Wentzel says some controls must be retained in certain agricultural industries.

Those measures which we will retain, however, will have to be applied in such a manner that agriculture will move closer to the free market system."

LINDA ENSOR

Kotze said the NMC had investigated each of the 21 agricultural control boards since January with a view to rationalisation.

He said a major principle on which the NMC was basing investigations was maintenance of a "reasonable degree" of price stability for farmers. Another was provision of "a regular supply of foodstuffs at reasonable prices" to the consumer.

He said the dairy industry — one of the most strictly controlled — had been the subject of most discussion. The NMC recommended the abolition of the restrictive registration of fresh milk distributors and industrial milk factories and the elimination of the single-channel prohibition of sales of butter and cheese to any body other than the Dairy Board.

Retail price fixing was abolished in June this year and the abolition of wholesale price fixing would come into force within 18 months, said Kotze, adding that

the Dairy Board had accepted this.

Kotze said the NMC wanted to see less government involvement in fixing producer prices. He added that elimination of the one-channel, fixed-price marketing system for barley, rye and oats, which fall under the Wheat Board's ambit, was also under consideration.

Regarding cotton, the council has recommended the abolition of the restrictive registration of ginners and the maintenance of the remainder of the cotton scheme "already strongly oriented to free market principles".

Industry sources said last night that Wentzel and Kotze's comments signalled a significant move in the right direction.

Leon Louw, executive director of the Free Market Foundation and chairman of the SA Meat Forum, welcomed the statement. "It is a long overdue shift in policy," he said.

Mike Tarr, one of the Progressive Federal Party's agricultural spokesman, said, however: "It's a complete non-statement consisting of vague generalities."

Farmers face grim future

W/L Argus 14/12/85
3 General

Weekend Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — The plight of the South African farmer, crushed by years of drought and mounting debt, has become so severe that a widespread drift away from the land is now a reality.

After a series of drought failures, the financial problems of summer grain producers, especially in areas of the Western Transvaal and the Free State, are practically insurmountable.

Carry-over debt at the grain co-operatives in the summer rain areas has risen from R106-million in the 1980-81 season to as much as R1,5-billion at the end of this season.

Most of the badly hit farmers have poor cash flow and insufficient production credit facilities. Indeed, some have no credit lines open to them at all.

"The possibility of farmers being forced out of business due to lack of finance must not be excluded," says Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist of

the South African Agricultural Union.

"A migration of farmers from their farms will not only cause large scale unemployment among labourers but ancillary businesses which depend on agriculture will also suffer."

One farming expert goes so far as to say that if the "alarming debt situation" snowballs, it could lead to the collapse of the economy in large parts of the summer-grain cropping areas of the country.

Aggravating the problems is the present high cost of finance because of interest rate patterns.

Owe R44-million

A microcosm of the problem is seen in the Ottosdal district of the Western Transvaal, where a survey disclosed that 65 farmers owe a total of more than R44-million. They farm on a total area of 34 103ha, which means the debt on the land amounts to an average R1 302 a hectare.

While Dr du Toit believes drought-ravaged agriculture is slowly starting to recover, immediate prospects remain grim.

Even recent rains have brought only temporary relief, and only 50 percent of the maize crop in some areas had been planted by the end of the November.

On the other hand, farmers in the Lowveld and in regions which received heavy rains are optimistic about future harvests.

The livestock farmer, too, faces the problem of thinned-out stock, and because of late rains and drought, grazing in many areas has not yet recovered.

Bright side

There is a bright side, however, to the agricultural scene, with other commodities contributing well to the sector's R2-billion in exports.

Here is a focus on other commodities:

Deciduous fruit: this sector had a record export season which generated R470-million in foreign exchange and played a vital part in boosting the overall economy of the Western Cape.

Wool: the average increase of about 24 percent in prices so far this season can be ascribed mainly to the variations in the rand exchange rate.

Wheat: the harvest is estimated at about 2,1-million tons compared to last year's 2,3-million tons. These figures are well down on usual levels.

Business Times Reporter
A SURVEY of farmers in the
Ottosdal district in the West-
ern Transvaal showed that 65
farmers had a combined debt
of more than R44-million.

A report in the South Afri-
can Agricultural Union's No-
vember edition of the Farm-
er says the survey area
covered 34 103ha. This im-

(3) General S. Times
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**Many farmers up to
their ears in debt**

plies an average debt of
R1 302/ha.

The report says that, in
spite of comprehensive
drought-aid measures, a

large percentage of farmers
in the summer grain areas of
the country are drifting away
from farming.

Another survey by the Pe-

trusberg Co-operative in the
Western Free State showed
that 72% of its members had
asset-debt ratios as low as
3:1. A total of 40% of its mem-
bers had an asset-debt ratio
of 1,5:1.

Farmers in a critical
financial position were ad-
vised to forget about further
expansion for the present.

Business Day

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR DECISION MAKERS

WE

Resistance likely to farming reforms ^(12/2/85 BUS DAY 3)

POWERFUL interests in the meat and maize industries are expected to oppose proposals to free agriculture of controls.

Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said on Friday a new marketing strategy combining free market principles and orderly marketing would be introduced.

His statement was welcomed by observers as a significant shift in policy.

Dr Piet Gous, GM of the National Maize Producer's Organisation (Nampo) says the minister "deserves a slap on the back" for his "drastic" change in attitude, but added that vested inter-

LINDA ENSOR

ests in the industry could oppose the changes. According to Gous: "Quite a number of people, wielding a lot of power, have built huge kingdoms for themselves in the industry and they will oppose any changes to the present system."

"We can accept that as a result of National Marketing Council (NMC) investigations the one-channel-fixed-price marketing system as it presently operates will go."

Roy van der Westhuizen, executive director of

the Organisation of Livestock (OLP), also believes a lobby with clout in the R1,7bn-a-year meat industry would resist changes.

Spokesmen for the meat and maize boards, however, came out in support of the status quo, saying they did not envisage any major changes to the present functions of their boards which respectively cost about R10m and R7.8m each year to administer.

Meanwhile, manufacturers of dairy products and milk distributors are said to be concerned about the lifting of controls in the dairy industry.



● GOUS

23/12/85 BUS. DAY

Agricultural debts may (3) hit R11,5m

LINDA ENSOR and ALAN PEAT

SOUTH AFRICA'S agricultural debt may rise to R11,5 m by the end of the year as farmers face financial crisis and forecasts for wheat and sugar production look gloomy.

The financial position of farmers is severely straitened, although SA agriculture is not at a crisis point yet in terms of production, according to Cornelius Bester, Director-General of the Economic Trends Directorate of the Department of Agriculture.

In June farmers' financial debt rose to R9,5 m and some observers, like Gert Schoonbee of the SA Sentrale Kooperatiewe Graanmaatskappy (SASKO), predict it will stand at R11,5 m by the end of the year.

Interest repayments alone sapped R1,475 m in the 1984/85 year.

Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) agrees with Bester, especially as regards summer grain producers: "After four years of crop failure the financial position of summer grain producers, especially in the western parts of the Transvaal and Free State is distressing" he says.

And the latest estimate on the sugar cane crop for 1986/87 shows an expected drop in cane production and a similar reduction in processed sugar.

Figures released by Rex Hudson, assistant GM of the Cane Growers' Associ-

● To Page 2 →

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia; President Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tan-

ago, with the aim of creating an African common market by 1992.

Heavy agricultural debts

ation, indicate a cane crop of between 18,0-million and 18,5-million tons - yielding about 2-million tons of sugar.

Says Hudson: "At this stage climatic conditions indicate a reduced crop, although the most important growth months still lie ahead and good growing conditions can still impact on the crop."

Du Toit says carry-over debts at the grain co-operatives in the summer rainfall areas escalated from R106m in the 1980-81 production season to as much as R1 500m by the end of the 84/85 season.

"Most of the affected farmers are experiencing a poor cash flow and a growing number have insufficient or no production facilities."

He adds present interest rates and the shortage of production capital could result in farmers producing less than opti-

mally this season which would worsen their financial difficulties.

"Looking at the summer grain season, only an average harvest at best can be expected," Du Toit says. "If the crops turn out to be below average the financial recovery of many farmers will be hampered if not made impossible."

This year's wheat crop is expected to be about 700 000 tons less than last year's due to severe drought conditions in the OFS and also to excessive, untimely rains in the Cape.

Wheat Board GM Dennis van Aarde says the provisional estimate for the 1985/86 crop was 1,5m tons compared to the 2,24m tons for the previous year.

At the beginning of the season a 2,03m prediction was made.

BUS DAY 23/12/85 (3)
From Page 1

rs - strengthened the bal- with gearing down to 42% previous 60%. This, coupled

taking place at a warehouse behind El-



Financial director

Certainly

710-2267.

MEMBERSHIP

FARM CREDIT

In the firing line

27/12/85
FIN MAIL
③ Gen.

As the burden of the agricultural industry's debt — already carrying an annual interest bill of R1,5 billion — becomes more apparent, industrialists and retailers supplying the sector have become more jittery about their prospects in 1986.

Although commercial banks lead the farm creditors' pack with some 36% (R3,73 billion) of SA's massive R10,5 billion farm debt (*Business* October 25), they are far less vulnerable than the agricultural co-operative movement.

Co-ops are 100% exposed to the farming sector, with no diversification to ease the burden. Their outstanding debt has soared in the past 15 years, from R113,4m, or 6,3% of total farming debt of R1,384 billion, in 1970 to some R2,23 billion in 1984, or 22% of total farming debt.

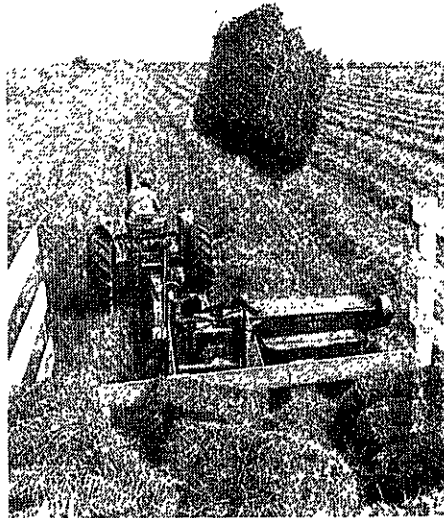
"Today, co-ops' assets are largely made up of outstanding farming debts," a banking source tells the *FM*. "In the past they advanced credit too easily, partly because they also sell farming inputs. The greater the turnover, the greater the apparent profitability," he says.

The latest figures on co-op carry-over production credit — money advanced by the Land Bank to co-ops to lend to farmers — will only be available early in January.

But the reality of the massive agricultural debt overhang is forcing co-ops to devise new strategies to ensure survival of at least some of their customers.

The co-ops have generally been covered by the lien on crops, but recent droughts have added to their exposure and they've been forced to look at new safeguards. Now they are registering bonds against farmers' outstanding debts.

In addition, they are backed by a two-year-old government scheme allowing six-



Farm equipment ... tough times ahead

year repayment of production credits.

Banks are not unduly worried because their exposure to agriculture represents only some 10%-12% of total risk. It's also reduced because it's spread over all farm and forestry sectors, and some sectors, like wool, mohair and deciduous fruit, are doing well.

The co-ops are also protected as government has cushioned the blows resulting from past indiscretions. Some R1 089 billion of unpaid production credit to summer-rainfall farmers has already been consolidated under the six-year debt extension scheme, says Land Bank (LB) GM Jan Smit.

The co-ops' statutory lien over farmers' crop proceeds, ranking ahead of first bonds, is also seen as an unfair advantage. Acrimony between banks and some co-ops on the co-ops' "unfair" action to safeguard their interests has already led to government's emergency input assistance scheme (*Business* November 22).

Co-ops have recently registered more bonds to cover their weakening equity capital bases and outstanding debts. "In effect, co-ops are not that badly off," a banker says.

The new Banking Act could lead to the co-ops' being phased out of their traditional role as farm credit interest rates become increasingly market-related.

"Co-ops get their finance from the LB, via the private sector, and have to add administration and handling costs, further pushing up the cost of their money. It could in future become cheaper for farmers to borrow direct from banks," says a bank spokesman.

The LB's budgeted short-term financing

requirements for the July-June year is now R4,85 billion, compared with last year's R3,89 billion.

"We'll raise this on the money market when, and if, required. We expect no problems in short-term financing at market-related rates," Smit tells the *FM*.

While the LB's accumulated reserves still enable it to grant cheap — 14% — long-term credit these reserves cannot last forever. The medium-term rate for farm implements still stands at 15%, while seasonal loans to the co-ops for crop financing come at the subsidised rate of 16%.

"Government does not subsidise these loan rates — this results from the pooling of our accumulated reserves with current financing," says Smit. He adds that farmers owe some R1,978 billion on direct long-term financing.

"Banks increasingly concentrate on farmers' repayment capacity when considering new advances — the days of extending credit on the basis of mushrooming farm values are over now," says a bank spokesman.

Although security is still important, farm cash flow has now become the determinant, he says.

Whatever the debt worries, eyes will first turn to the sky to see if this year will turn in bumper crops — and so help thousands of farmers to try again in 1986. ■

FARM POLICY

More damp squibs

③ - Gen
FARMING
27/12/85

SA's immense farming crisis snowballed in 1985 and was moved sideways — and not over the brink of disaster — by Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel's Christmas statement. Echoing cabinet colleagues' promises on related issues such as privatisation and deregulation, Wentzel says farming must move to a combination of "orderly" marketing and "free market" principles.

The earliest change expected is further relaxation of draconian dairy industry rules. Wentzel's policy statement must, however, be considered cant until widespread farming tentacles are relaxed.

Critics say that without fundamental reform the farming crisis will deepen. As a long-term industry the damage could be inestimable. At the root of the problem are 21 Control Boards constituted 48 years ago under the 1937 Marketing Act.

Hailed as farmers' Magna Carta, the Act was seen as a panacea for the "chaos of depression, drought and excessive profiteering." Moreover, it "recognised the futility of voluntary effort for effective stabilisation and security." Today that panacea is a nightmare for consumers and producers.

The authorities have ignored revolutions in world commodity and financial markets and their will, as imposed on farmers, has produced today's unprecedented historical quandary. Farm debt is a record proportion of gnp; wine (albeit on an academic definition), beef, sugar, milk, butter, cheese and other surpluses continue, amongst shortages

of other commodities. Moreover, bust farmers are streaming off the land, and ad hoc reforms limited to individual commodities are usually debated into boredom's point-of-no-return.

At grass roots level, it is difficult to quarrel with a farmer who produces for a totally over-regulated market. He argues: "One farmer alone cannot reform agriculture. If your market allows production on marginal land and subsidised interest rates, the potential profits cannot be ignored."

The farming sector's current financial crisis cannot be overstated. Combined debt is worth almost 10% of 1985's gnp and could mushroom into an impossible cash-flow scenario. So fundamental reform is necessary for farmers and consumers who devote exactly 33% of private consumption expenditure to food, beverages and tobacco (the next largest items are clothing and footwear at 8,4% of pce).

The latest SAAU *Farmer* reports that in the western Transvaal's Ottosdal area 65 farmers have aggregate debts of R44m — a staggering R1 300/ha.

As interventionist umbrella, the control boards exercise various powers for their farmer "members," the strictest being single-channel, fixed-price schemes. At the other pole are municipal markets for fresh fruit and vegetables where buyers meet sellers and haggle until a price is agreed.

Problem is that the strictest controls apply to the most important farm produce: beef,

maize, dairy products, mutton, wheat and pork. In the big markets control boards have failed to meet the Marketing Act's main stated objectives, namely:

□ A measure of stability in the supply and prices of farm products (prices rise monotonously; supply can be wiped out by drought, to wit, last season's maize crop failure which left consumers compelled to foot an immense import bill);

□ A reduction in the price differential between producer and consumer (latest government figures show the producer's share falling from 54% in 1975 to 48,4% at 1985's outset, the fall continuing to 45% in August);

□ To assure consumers "consistent and good quality at reasonable prices" (subjectiveness aside, the cpi for food has risen 247% in the past decade. Grain products, SA's staple foods of maize meal and bread, rose 308%).

Modern economic theory can be applied to South African farm policy in simple terms, answering the vested interest lobby groups en route:

□ SA is not smaller, more over-concentrated, or dualistic than many other countries (SA has the 30th largest population of 188 countries, ahead of countries such as Canada; Australia; Netherlands; Sweden and Portugal);

□ Interventionist attempts to maintain "stable" farm prices hurt consumers and producers. On the other hand, "unstable" prices would promote stable farm incomes and eliminate recurring shortages and surpluses; and

□ Sustaining inefficient farmers by bureaucratic process ignores the vital role of insolvencies in an efficient economy. ■

28/12/85 STAR

Control board review praised

3 General
Pretoria Bureau

Consumer groups have welcomed the Government's decision to review the control board system and to scrap unnecessary regulations.

The president of the Housewives' League, Mrs Joy Hurwitz, said greater free enterprise would benefit the economy as well as all consumers.

"We have always called for more free enterprise in the marketing of agricultural commodities. However, we realise a certain amount of control is necessary," Mrs Hurwitz said.

The chairman of the Consumer Union, Mrs Betty Hirzel, said the announcement was welcomed "wholeheartedly".

"We believe tremendous changes should be made. Farmers should be given some stability in the form of a floor price, but there should be more competition," she said.

The Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs, Mr Greyling Wentzel, recently announced that certain control measures were likely to be abolished next year.

Mr Wentzel said the Government was in favour of greater competition in the agricultural sector and would give attention to the functions of the control boards.

Mrs Hurwitz told *The Star* that basic food prices had risen at an alarming rate in recent years.

"Consumers are cutting back and farmers are disillusioned," she said.

"We need to create a situation where the market will respond to supply and demand. Consumers should expect prices to drop when there is a glut and to rise when there is a shortage."

The Control Boards, which are controlled by the National Marketing Council, perform a variety of functions from determining producer prices to marketing of products.

Products affected by the boards include maize, wheat, dairy commodities, oilseeds, meat, tobacco, chicory, rooibos tea, wool, mohair, bananas, eggs and potatoes.

● The Banana Board has issued a statement warning consumers that it expects a shortage of bananas next week because of production problems.

Production should be back to normal by January 6, the board said.

"The board has decided not to increase the price of bananas to the wholesale trade so that no additional burden is placed on the consumer," the statement said.

Widespread rain over Cape raises hope for end to drought

Staff Reporter

WIDESPREAD rains have fallen over much of the Cape, bringing relief to farmers and raising hopes that the critical drought in many areas will be broken.

In Meiringspoort Cutting, between Outshoorn and Beaufort West, a mother and her daughter narrowly escaped drowning yesterday when they escaped from their car seconds before it was swept away by floodwaters.

Nearly 30mm of rain fell in a 30-minute cloudburst over Meiringspoort.

Mrs Anna Collins, 45, and her daughter Brenda were returning to Kimberley from a holiday in Knysna when their car was struck by a wave of floodwater.

In Laingsburg 46mm of rain has

fallen since Sunday afternoon.

Calitzdorp in the Little Karoo received as much rain in 24 hours as it did the whole of last year. Ladysmith has had its best rains for 10 months.

Widespread rain in the Border, Ciskei and Transkei have brought hope that the drought may be eased.

Railway traffic between Queenstown and Burgersdorp were disrupted for more than 10 hours after a 110m section of the line was washed away last night.

A fall of 20mm in King William's Town since the weekend caused the Maden dam to overflow. Falls of between 7mm and 17mm were recorded in Ciskei.

Hopes raised

Two days of heavy soaking rains over the Eastern Cape have raised hopes for the beginning of the end of a two-year drought in the region.

The weather disrupted air traffic into the city and flights were diverted or cancelled yesterday. But the rain has also meant that recently imposed water restrictions may be lifted soon.

A spokesman for the weather office in Port Elizabeth said the city had had 70mm to 90mm in the last two days, and the was expected to continue at least until tonight.

Between 20mm and 30mm have been reported from places in the

drought-affected region.

The regional director for the Department of Agriculture in the Eastern Cape, Mr Bill Smart, said today he had "high hopes" that the crippling drought had ended.

Right time

"The rains have come at the exactly the right time, at the beginning of the grass-growing season" said Mr Smart. "If they can continue for a bit longer it could be the beginning of the end of our drought."

"Working on a 73-year average rainfall chart, the last two years have been far below the norm, but the figures for this year so far conform to the average, and we are hopeful that it means the drought is finally at the end of its cycle."

He said 15 areas in the Eastern Cape were listed as "disaster drought" areas, but he hoped several could be taken off the list soon.

The acting city engineer in Port Elizabeth, Mr A Fraser, said that while no exact figures were available, he hoped the rain would produce enough run-off for water restrictions to be lifted.

The Acting airways manager for SAA in the Eastern Cape, Mr John Le Roux, said H F Verwoed airport was back to normal today after being closed for nearly 24 hours from about 10.30am yesterday.

AGRICULTURE-General

1986

Jan — Aug.

(3) - Gen 5-75/11/86

Things seem brighter for the farmers

THE outlook for SA's farmers in 1986 is considerably brighter than it was a year ago.

In spite of fears that another dry year would spell disaster for the farmers, 1985 turned out to be a good year for most.

After excellent rains throughout the country in recent weeks, maize farmers are hoping for a return to boom crop levels.

Fruit and sugar notched up impressive export earnings for SA in 1985, but the meat industry began to fall apart, putting many farmers out of business.

The wheat crop was not able to meet domestic demand and the shortfall will be met with imports costing R120-million.

The country's marketing boards, for years vilified by free marketeers for tampering with free-market forces, are under threat of reform.

Disastrous

The Minister of Agriculture and Water Affairs, Greyling Wentzel, indicated that the modus operandi of the 21 "control boards" — which in most cases pre-set the producer prices for crops — needs to be changed.

Maize is SA's single most important crop and annual consumption is about 6-million tons.

However, another bumper maize crop similar to that of 1983, when a record 14-million tons were produced, would be disastrous for the country, because any surplus would have to be exported at a substantial loss, paid for ultimately by the SA taxpayer.

The world price for maize dropped almost 40% in 1985 to about US\$100 (R263) a ton. SA farmers are paid R220 a ton. When storage and transport costs are added this exceeds the international price, thus any surplus is sold internationally at a loss despite the dramatic fall in the value of the rand since 1984.

Abolished

The National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) welcomed the announcement by Mr Wentzel that the fixed-price, one-channel system of marketing maize was under review.

Nampo is behind a proposal for a R120-million maize-export terminal at Richards Bay, but says it is only feasible if the present marketing system is abolished.

The maize crop in 1985 was 7.4-million tons and the Maize Board is trying to find markets for more than 1-million tons.

Consumer resistance to maize-price increases is strong and consumption fell by 1-million tons in 1984 — two years ago the producer price for maize was R160/ton compared with the present R220/ton.

Imported

Nampo lobbied for the price to be increased to R270/ton earlier this year, but the Government flatly refused. It proceeded to slap Nampo in the face by appointing its own nominees to the Maize Board in preference to Nampo candidates. Relations between the Government and Nampo were patched up in November.

The estimated wheat crop

By Ciaran Ryan

for 1985 was 1.7-million tons, 300 000 tons short of SA's domestic needs. The balance will have to be imported at a cost of about R120-million, or R400/ton. SA farmers are paid R325/ton for wheat.

The Wheat Board says the drought damaged the Free State crop, which normally accounts for half the total wheat crop.

The Meat Board took a bashing from all sides last year. It was forced to admit a red-meat surplus of 37 000 tons, and for months watched it accumulate without doing anything to reduce it.

Interference

The board blames the surplus on the drought, which forced farmers to destock, but its critics — notably the Organisation of Livestock Producers (OLP) and the Federation of Country Retail Butchers — blame the board's interference in free-market forces.

The national beef herd has dropped by 20% to 8.1-million since the onset of the drought. The Meat Board started issuing slaughter permits more freely before Christmas to meet seasonal demand for fresh meat, resulting in a massive restocking programme by farmers.

The surplus declined to 18 000 tons when members of the trade were offered a 10% discount on surplus meat.

Fruit farmers had their best year ever. Because of the weak rand, deciduous fruit exports exceeded R470-million in 1985 compared

with R359.4-million in 1984.

More than 55% of the gross earnings from fruit came from apples and 25% from grapes. Citrus-fruit exports grossed R350-million in 1985 compared with R300-million the previous year.

One cloud appeared on the fruit-export horizon in the form of threatened boycotts of SA produce. This may force SA producers into covert overseas marketing, possibly abandoning SA trade marks to avoid identifying the fruit's origins.

The sugar industry also had a record year. In 1985, 22.5-million tons were harvested but the world market looked extremely gloomy with a surplus of 40-million tons depressing prices.

A crop failure in Brazil resulted in world prices firming, and by the year-end it looked as if demand would exceed supply.

The world price touched 6 US cents a pound compared with an annual low of 2 US cents.

In spite of a 3.4% decline in production between 1984 and 1985 the wool industry grossed R402-million last year compared with R290-million in 1984.

Development must speed up — farm chief

Idle farms get blame for mines

7/11/86 STAR (3)

By Dirk Nel, Northern Transvaal Bureau

ELLISRAS — The terrorist incursion near Ellisras at the weekend was not completely unexpected, a leading farmer has told *The Star*.

Mr WA Lewies, chairman of the Ellisras Farmers' Association, believed the Stockpoort area was an obvious target because of its remoteness and the fact that several farms were unoccupied.

It had proved to be a popular access route for illegal immigrants and terrorists would naturally take advantage of this, he said.

He hoped a more effective infrastructure would soon be developed to combat the threat of infiltration.

Pik urges Botswana to take measures against terrorism

The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday urged Botswana to take measures against terrorism and said South Africa reserved its right to take appropriate measures to protect its citizens.

The text of the message, sent to the Botswana Government, was released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha. It said evidence had been found indicating those responsible for the Ellisras landmine murders came from, and returned to, Botswana.

"The Botswana Government is aware that South Africa has over the years, in the interests of promoting peaceful and good neighbourly relations, proposed that effective measures be introduced to control terrorist activities," says the message.

"In view of the use of Botswana territory in the case of the Ellisras attack the South African Government again seriously urges the Government of Botswana to institute effective measures to eliminate the menace of terrorism." — Sapa.

● The Star's Africa News Service in Gaborone reports that Botswana today acknowledged receipt of the warning.

Radio Botswana today repeated yesterday's statement from the Botswana Government that it did not allow anybody to use its territory for operations against neighbouring states.

The Botswana Defence Force is maintaining a highly visible presence in the north-east. There is growing public anxiety that South Africa will cross the border for a retaliatory attack.

● See Page 11.

Mr Lewies acknowledged that Government financial aid during the last five years had helped to keep most established border farmers on the land but had not attracted many new farmers.

Unoccupied land

"There are enough farmers here to consolidate existing farms into economically viable units — our main worry is the unoccupied land in between which is owned by people who live elsewhere", he said.

At current land prices it was simply impossible for border farmers to buy up the unoccupied farms, he added.

The advent of Escom electricity over a wide area, the improvement of roads and the development of Ellisras as a commercial centre were all to be welcomed but development would have to be accelerated.

● No more landmines have been found in the Stockpoort area, where a blast claimed the lives of Mrs Elize de Beer (32) and Mr Hubert de Beer (63) on Saturday, a senior Defence Force spokesman said.

Colonel J van der Walt confirmed in Ellisras that strict security measures would remain in force.

Many untarred roads were still being patrolled and mine-sweeping operations were continuing.

● The security situation in the border farming areas of the Transvaal is expected to get top priority at a meeting in Nylstroom on Thursday.

The meeting, convened by the Transvaal Agricultural Union, is to be attended by MPs and provincial councillors.

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Capt of 11/15 8/1/86
20pc increase in bread price likely

General

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — The cost of bread may rise by at least 20 per cent this year following the increase in the price of fuel and the shortfall in the wheatcrop. The general manager of the Wheat Board, Mr Dennis van Aarde, yesterday said the government's R200-million subsidy could not make up for the increase in the cost of transport. Sources in the wheat industry say an overall increase of 20 percent is a conservative estimate. Mr Van Aarde said it was unlikely the government would be able to increase the subsidy so the increase would be passed on to the consumer. "Further increases in the cost of bread are also likely if the government accepts the finding of the Davin Commission of Inquiry which recommends that the bread subsidy be phased out." There were two bread price increases last year, each of 5c a loaf.

'No talks with ANC' is message from Nylstroom district meeting

10/11/84 (3) Farmers, army unite against terror

By Dirk Nel, Northern Transvaal Bureau

NYLSTROOM — All aspects of security on the northern borders were discussed in a closed meeting here yesterday.

Present were military, police, agricultural and political representatives from all parts of the Northern Transvaal. After the meeting General Charles Lloyd, Commanding Officer for the Far Northern Transvaal military area, said joint strategies between the Defence Force and the civilian population had been devised to combat terrorist incursions.

Asked to elaborate, General Lloyd said: "That would be giving away secrets to the enemy."

The Northern Transvaal regional chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Dries Bruwer, said border farmers fully understood Defence Force methods because of their involvement in commandos, which worked closely with army units.

Districts represented

Also at the meeting were the Far North Divisional Commissioner of Police, Brigadier Gert van Rensburg, Northern Transvaal Security Police Chief Colonel Willem van der Merwe, MPs Dr Andries Treurnicht (Waterberg), Dr Willie Shyman (Pietersburg) and Mr Tom Langley (Soutpansberg), several provincial councillors and representatives of 10 district agricultural unions.

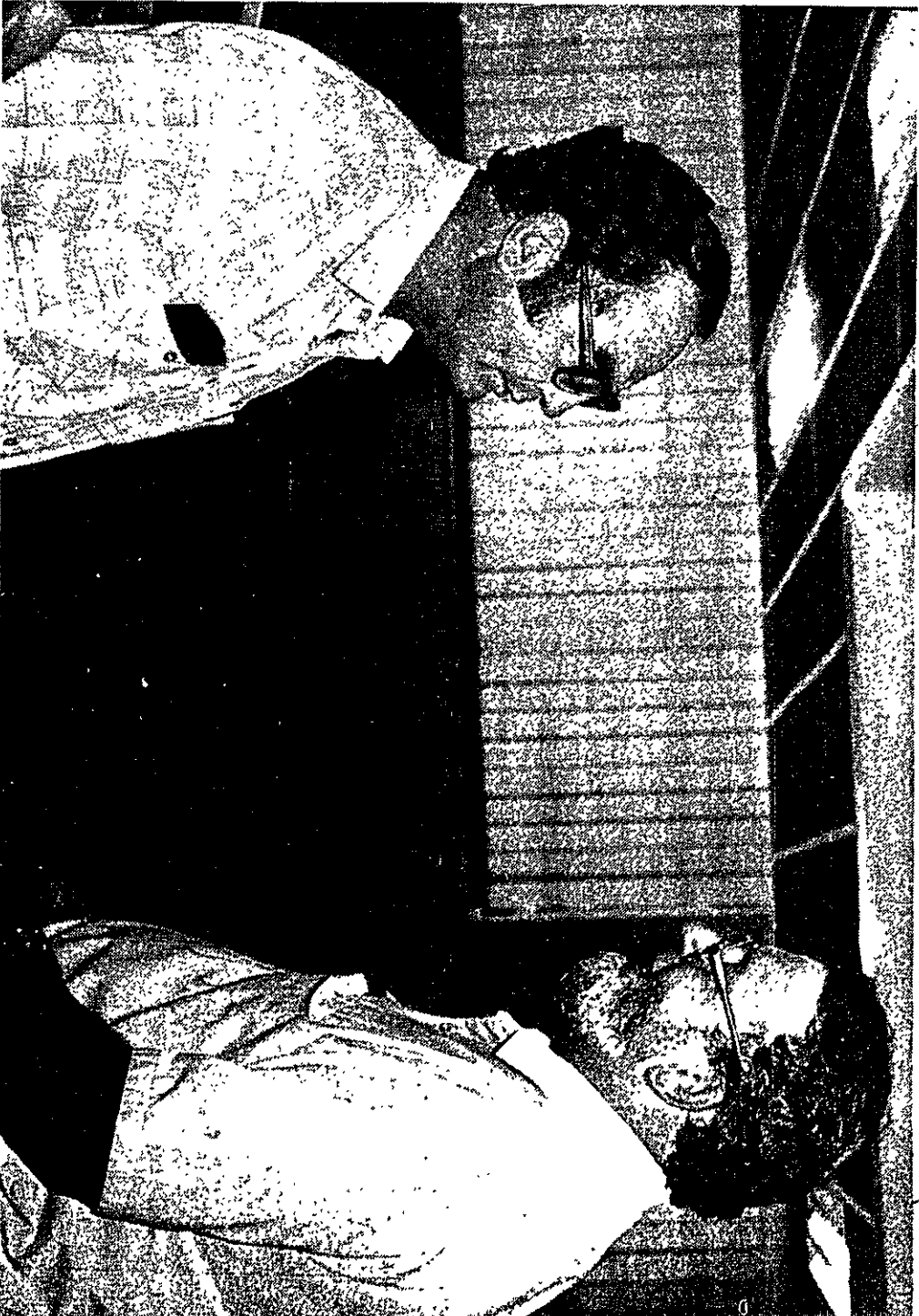
The agricultural districts represented were Thabazimbi, Waterberg, Ellisras, Koedoesrand, Pietersburg, Soutpansberg, Letaba, Hoedspruit, Potgietersrus and Vaalwater.

A statement after the meeting said organised agriculture in the region fully supported the country's security forces in its efforts to combat all forms of terrorism.

The meeting also opposed any negotiations with the ANC and urged the authorities to maintain strong action inside and outside the country against terrorism at all levels.

It was noted that prosperity and security went hand in hand and that a strong infrastructure in the region was essential.

The meeting felt close co-operation between security forces and local communities should be promoted and economic development in the Northern Transvaal should be accelerated to help keep farmers on the land.



Mr Johan de Villiers (left), of Messine, in conversation with Mr Willie Lewies, of Ellisras, before the start of yesterday's Nylstroom meeting. Both men have been intimately involved with the security situation since the recent landmine blasts in their farming areas.

...The weak rand has caused a mini boom in small mining in SWA. ...Atlas Copco SWA managing director Peter Edmunds said his company, which specialises in compression air and mining equipment, had received a number of requests in the past six months for small compressors and petrol-driven rock drills. ...The inquiries came from the ordinary man who wants to sell his farm, for instance, to begin prospecting. ...This was because minerals were fetching lucrative prices overseas because of the rand-dollar exchange rate. ...Edmunds said there was a whole array of minerals and semi-precious stones in the Namib desert and elsewhere in SWA. ...Next month the company is holding a two-day symposium on small mining, after receiving numerous inquiries on drilling and rockbreaking techniques. ...Topics to be covered include: claims procedures; prospecting, exploration and evaluation; underground mining methods; drilling and surface mining; SWA mining law; sampling, assaying and concentration; mineral processing techniques; and marketing of minerals.

Mini small-mining boom in SWA

WINDHOEK — The weak rand has caused a mini boom in small mining in SWA. Atlas Copco SWA managing director Peter Edmunds said his company, which specialises in compression air and mining equipment, had received a number of requests in the past six months for small compressors and petrol-driven rock drills. "The inquiries came from the ordinary man who wants to sell his

NOEL BRUYNS farm, for instance, to begin prospecting," he said. This was because minerals were fetching lucrative prices overseas because of the rand-dollar exchange rate. Edmunds said there was a whole array of minerals and semi-precious stones in the Namib desert and elsewhere in SWA. Next month the company is

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Farm exports could reap R2,5bn

SOUTH AFRICAN agricultural exports could earn a record R2,5bn this year, depending on the weather and the rand-dollar exchange rate, SA Agricultural Union economist Koos du Toit has estimated. The weather and the rand-dollar exchange rate, he said, would be important contributory factors in pulling the economy out of recession. Export earnings in 1980, 1981,

GERALD REILLY 1982 and 1983 averaged slightly more than R2bn. In 1984 they fell to R1,8bn and the figure for last year was R2,2bn. However, if the rand continued to appreciate against the dollar and other currencies, the R2,5bn estimate would have to be revised. The season for summer grain farmers had started well, and a 10-

million ton crop was a possibility. This would leave an exportable surplus of at least 3-million tons, which could earn up to R800m. But even if the rand dropped to 35 US cents, maize would still sell at a loss. The major reasons for an expected maize export loss, Du Toit said, were escalating production costs, a heavily over-supplied world market and a price slump.

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Journalist acquitted

PIPPA GREEN, an Argus journalist charged with contravening the Gatherings and Demonstrations Act, was acquitted in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday. Green was arrested on November 7 outside The Argus building in St George's Street, while holding a placard saying "Blackout: Journalists protest." Magistrate M J Tolken said Green went out to protest after 12 of her colleagues had picketed. Evidence was that police were aware of the protest. As far as she was concerned, her actions could not have been unlawful because the others had not been arrested. Green had consulted legal advisers, who told her the law was not clear as to whether the picket would be legal or not. — Sapa.

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Drought won't drive out farmers

FRED STIGLINGH

BORDER farmers in the Northern Transvaal are grimly hanging on to their properties despite drought and the threat of landmines.

This is the picture gleaned from fragmented information, as official statistics on occupancy in the area are impossible to come by.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Supply in Pretoria re-directs all inquiries to Constitutional Development and Planning, which in turn claims not to have information.

A spokesman for the Agriculture Department's regional advisory office in Pietersburg says irrigation farms on the Limpopo between the Messina area and Ellisras are "reasonably" occupied.

He says the farms, ranging from 120 to 1 000 hectares, are profitable, unlike cattle farms further south of the border.

He says many farmers entered the vicious circle of selling cattle to buy feed, and ended up paying more for the animals than their actual value.

"Many have been forced to look for additional work to meet their expenses."

General

3
K.S. & D.V. 16/11/84

Wentzel warns of cost increases

BUS DAY

20/1/86

Privatisation being considered

(3)

GERALD REILLY

THE Department of Agriculture is giving attention to the privatisation of certain services in the agricultural sector currently being rendered by the State, Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said in Brits at the weekend.

Opening the headquarters complex of Sensako (Co-operative) Limited, Wentzel said it was government policy to privatise wherever possible.

This would hopefully reduce State spending and ensure a more efficient public service.

Wentzel said he was convinced that private agricultural organisations, by taking over certain State services in many fields, could be of great service to the industry. This could result in a positive stimulation of the national eco-

nomy.

He warned, however, that producers would have to be prepared to pay more for these services, as State services were provided at sub-economic rates.

A private organisation such as Sensako could not afford to provide these services at such low rates.

Wentzel said it was unreasonable to claim, as some critics did, that funds spent on agricultural research were not spent efficiently.

In 1983-84, R64m was devoted to agricultural research.

In developed countries, 2.5% of the gross value of farm production was spent on research.

In SA, only 0.84% of the gross value of agricultural products went to research.

Border farmers want aid

Cape Times 22/1/66 Staff Reporter ~~36~~ 36

COSTS INCURRED by border farmers in protecting the border should be shared by the rest of South Africa, the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Kobus Jooste, said yesterday.

Mr Jooste, speaking at a large gathering of farmers in Bloemfontein, said farmers had to pay for reinforced fences, house fences, mine-proofed vehicles, mine detectors and weapons.

He said border farmers intended to stay where they were and were therefore entitled to be equipped for survival by the rest of the country.

"Apart from helping to protect the country, they are also helping as producers to establish South Africa as an important food exporter, by which the whole country benefits," said Mr Jooste.

Locusts 'worst for 20 years'

W. C. Affen
1/2/86
From SYBRAND MOSTERT
Weekend Argus Reporter

CARNARVON. — Farmers in the Karoo are battling the worst locust plague for 20 years.

"We've been up at four every morning since October spraying huge swarms of them," says Mr Boet Human of Bloemhof Farm near here.

The worst-affected areas are to the east and north of Carnarvon, the Prieska and Vosberg districts. There, four-kilometre swarms have been feeding on lucerne. They are devastating the veld after recent good rains.

A train was stopped when the rail lines became slippery with the dead insects. Farms are surrounded and Carnarvon residents have closed doors and windows.

Exodus

Mr Human, who is the control officer in the area, says the battle is on to halt the mass breeding and the exodus of the locusts to the wheat and maize lands in the east and to protect local grazing.

"We've always had a problem in summer but, ironically, through the good rains in the past two months we have not been able to get into the veld to spray the newly-hatched insects."

"The locusts swarm in the late evenings and wipe out all green feed for hundreds of metres. This is when we start spraying, catching them in large groups.

"In the early morning we are out again from about four to catch more swarms while they are still asleep.

"Operations carry on until about 10am. During the day teams are out in the veld to locate the swarms."

"A crisis"

The Carnarvon district has been divided into sectors and a team equipped with poison-spray vehicles is assigned to each. A helicopter is also used.

"Things are under control. But if we have more rain and cannot get into the veld we will have a crisis.

"A miracle could happen but we still have to face this situation for another two months when winter starts."

Drought areas may again be declared in Transvaal

Pretoria Bureau

Farming conditions in sections of the Transvaal have deteriorated to such an extent that these parts may again be declared drought areas.

According to the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU), among the worst hit places are the northern and North Western Transvaal, which are entering a critical period.

Dam levels and underground water reserves are very low, said a TAU spokesman.

Cattle farmers are experiencing major problems with graz-

ing, feed and the availability of water.

The authorities are, therefore, considering declaring some parts to be drought areas.

The Western Transvaal is also feeling the effects of the protracted drought and is now expecting its fifth consecutive bad crop, he said.

Some farmers in this area will be forced off their farms if good rains do not fall soon.

The Eastern Transvaal and the Lowveld are the only areas where crops look promising. Dams are an average of 50 per cent full and grazing is good.

Rain damages crops in Tzaneen

3 Own Correspondent

TZANEEN — Damage to fruit and vegetable crops, estimated at R250 000, was caused by hail in the Tzaneen area at the weekend.

Mr Bokkie Fernandez of Deer Park, 10 km east of the town, lost 10 000 cabbage plants and almost his entire naartjie and papaw crops. A neighbouring farmer, Mr Jeff Botes, said the damage to his mangoes, papaws and bananas totalled about R150 000. Rainfall of 147 mm was recorded in Tzaneen; 127 mm at Deer Park and 110 mm at Duiweiskloof.

Farmers' debts rising sharply

Own Correspondent

THE alarming rate at which agricultural debt is rising sharply, is illustrated by the latest audited accounts of the Land & Agricultural Bank of South Africa.

It also indicates the degree to which the financial institutions are having to cushion the strains being experienced by the farming community.

Advance warnings

Tabled in Parliament this week by the new Auditor-General, Dr Joop de Loor, it only covers the financial year to December 31, 1984.

The statistics are, therefore, somewhat dated, but they provide advance warning of the picture likely to be painted by the Land Bank's annual report for 1985 — a year which saw a further serious deterioration in the agricultural sector's financial health in most areas.

This report is scheduled to be tabled in Parliament within the next two weeks.

Capital and interest

The audited report published this week reveals that in the three years from 1982 to the end of 1984, the total amount of unpaid capital and interest due to the Land Bank jumped by more than 132 percent to R83,4m.

More than R69m of this is due by individual farmers, of which almost R12m is in respect of instalments that are more than 12 months in arrears.

This includes 415 cases involving R10 000 or more, which in total amounted to R8,2m. The largest individual amount was R101 630.

As debt rises by 132% ...

7/2/86

Farming chief turns on govt

3 gen.

BUS DAY

FARMERS are fighting for survival. With Land Bank figures showing a 132% increase in farm debt, SA Agricultural Union president Kobus Jooste yesterday accused government of helping to bring farming to its knees through uncertainty and political expediency.

Latest audited accounts of the Land Bank show that capital and interest due soared by 132% between 1982 and 1984.

Of this figure, over 75% is owed by individual farmers.

The accounts indicate the degree to which financial institutions are having to cushion the strains felt by the farming community.

Farmers' total debt had reached R9,5bn by mid-1985. Some officials believe it could now be as high as R11,5bn.

They say interest repayments alone cost farmers nearly R1,5bn in the 1984-85 financial year.

CHRIS CAIRNCROSS and GERALD REILLY

The Land Bank's 1984 accounts were tabled in Parliament earlier this week by Auditor-General Joop de Loor. They provide advance warning of what could be in store from the bank's annual report for 1985 — a year which saw a further serious deterioration in the agricultural sector's financial health.

The report is to be tabled within the next two weeks.

The 1984 audited report reveals that in the three years from 1982 to the end of 1984, unpaid capital and interest due to the Land Bank rose to R83,4m.

Jooste said in Natal yesterday that with inflation approaching 20%, farmers' problems were becoming more serious almost by the day.

Making the situation still worse was the growing threat of foreign boycotts.

Government had for too long been afraid of drastic action against inflation — "too long afraid of unemployment, of salary freezes because of repercussions at the polls, unwillingness to lower living standards".

Jooste said the "sick" economy was in need of drastic surgery and needed bold moves to rock it to its senses.

He said the effects of the sudden increase in the national debt were only now reaching farmers in the form of high inflation and costlier imports.

"When the exchange-rate bomb burst, agricultural unions were bargaining for renewed state aid for stricken farmers."

This, and the fact that SA had been transformed into a poor country almost overnight, had forced agriculture to scale down demands. In the circumstances, more subsidies were unlikely to bring about any real change in the finan-

Cut in fuel price looms

GERALD REILLY and Sapa

PETROL prices could fall in March or April, the Automobile Association said after government announced yesterday that there would be no immediate increase in fuel prices.

According to Mineral and Energy Affairs Director-General Louw Alberts the stronger rand had eliminated the need to adjust the price upward for the present.

But dashing hopes of a fall in price, Alberts said a later adjustment in

● To Page 2

Farmers turn on govt as debt rises by 132%

BUS DAY 7/2/86

3 gen.

cial plight of farmers. Drastic measures had become necessary.

He said farmers were becoming increasingly frustrated by government's unwillingness to see their point of view.

The consequence was fewer and

poorer farmers, more dependent farmers, less food for export, food of inferior quality and more state aid in the struggle to remain self-sufficient.

◀ ● From page 1

Star 7/2/86

Only farmers remain totally opposed

By Kym Hamilton,
Pretoria Bureau

The new fuel-linked third party insurance dispensation has been hailed by some as a courageous step forward, but lambasted by others who fear it will impose an even greater burden on the South African economy.

Major companies, particularly those who have a reasonable fuel bill, will be hard hit by the levy. But individual motorists stand to score, particularly in the light of speculation in recent months that the present premium of around R19 would more than double to R45.

Hailed as a more equitable system of insurance, only South Africa's farmers remain totally opposed to the plan unless some form of protection from higher costs can be worked out.

Business spokesmen and consumer bodies conditionally welcomed the proposal and reservations centred on the actual cost increase at the pumps.

It is not clear if the introduction of the levy — expected to be around 2c/litre — will also mean a petrol price hike.

For the moment the price of petrol will remain the same with the rand steadying around US 45c as the Government considers a major restructuring which will bail out the National Road Fund, the Motor Vehicle Assurance Fund and build up reserves.

A substantial increase is needed to rescue the Motor Vehicle Assurance Fund, which according to the latest Auditor-General's report has a R353 million excess of expenditure over income.

Those who favour the plan say it will substantially reduce administrative costs — which in 1982/83 amounted to R17 million.

However, insurance companies stand to lose millions of rand in commission.

Another aspect was the number of people who had circumvented the present system and used South Africa's roads without insurance. It was believed revenue totalling about R12 million a year was being lost in this way.

The levy system is due to come into effect on May 1, after nearly a year of deliberations which followed the release of the Grosskopf commission of inquiry's report rejecting by a majority of 6 to 1, the proposal to impose the levy as an alternative to the present Motor Vehicle Assurance system.

In a minority report favouring the levy, Mr Johannes Keyser attacked the present scheme for not being cost effective and for failing to provide motorists with the greatest benefit.

REALISTIC

In the past 20 years, 37,5 percent of the income of the MVA fund had been spent on administration and commission to agents. If the fuel levy system was introduced, administration costs could be reduced from the R17 million spent in 1982/3 to R4 million, he said.

The third party system may have been necessary when it was introduced in 1965, but it contained inherent weaknesses and was not cost-effective.

He said commission to insurance companies and their agents amounted to about R202 million in 20 years, compared to R539 million paid out to claimants.

The proposed levy would benefit the motorist, the claimants and the State.

The advantages of introducing a fuel levy for collecting third party premiums was that funds collected would be used for

their intended purpose, he said.

Mr Jack Webster, executive director of the Public Carriers Association, which represents about 60 percent of the public hauliers on South Africa's roads, yesterday welcomed the new scheme as realistic and fair.

He said those who exposed themselves to greater risks, such as transport firms, should be paying more for insurance. But he dismissed speculation that the financial implications of the levy would hit major road users, such as trucking companies, hardest.

Speculation on the increased cost of fuel was premature, as the levy was expected to be absorbed in the petrol price.

The fuel bill was the biggest single cost factor for cartage firms, accounting for about 28 to 35 percent of road transport costs, Mr Webster said.

Director-General of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs Dr Louw Alberts announced yesterday that since the November increase in the petrol price, the rand/dollar exchange rate had improved to such an extent that it was possible to avoid a further price increase.

However, an increase later in the year has not been ruled out as investigations into the structuring of the fuel price, especially in the light of the financing of the third party system by means of a levy, continue.

Other factors to be considered are the stability and further improvement in the exchange rate, the effect of the cost of crude oil, the lowering of lead levels in fuel and its cost, the questions concerning retail price control and the effect of the termination of rounding-off at petrol pumps when they are able to handle fractions of a cent.

Half of SA's farming wealth is in the hands of a mere handful

By Kym Hamilton, Pretoria Bureau

The distribution of South Africa's agricultural wealth was distorted — with a mere 6 percent of farmers owning more than half of the country's farming resources, delegates at the Agrocon '86 conference in Pretoria were told today.

The Deputy Director-General of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Mr Harry Hattingh, was speaking on the distorted income distribution in agriculture as a challenge in the formulation of agricultural policies.

He warned that attention had to be turned towards dealing with the problem of an increasing concentration of farming land in a few hands.

The argument that 20 percent of farmers provided 80 percent of all agricultural products was not correct, he added. It was perhaps more accurate to say that 30 percent of farmers provided 75 percent of the total agriculture products. However, this was not because of more efficient farming methods, but because they owned 75 percent of all re-

sources.

Further, 6 percent of farmers provided 40 percent of agriculture products only because they owned more than half of the country's farming resources.

This tendency to place greater concentrations of the wealth in the hands of fewer people, and the increasing distortion in the distribution of agriculture income, was not only a South African phenomenon — it was present in all capitalist countries in the world, said Mr Hattingh.

FINANCIAL POSITION

On average, the financial position of South Africa's farmers in 1985 was satisfactory, in spite of the abnormal unfavourable natural circumstances and price increases.

The debt position for 59 088 farming units last June stood at R184 334, while capital assets totalled R728 490. Capital assets include investments in ground and fixed improvements.

In an investigation by the South African Agricultural Union into the finan-

cial position of the farmer in 1983, it emerged that 0,9 percent of farmers contributed 15,9 percent to the total gross income, while 5,8 percent contributed 38 percent, and 27,5 percent were responsible for 73,8 percent of the total agricultural income.

If this was applied to the net farming income of 1985 — an expected R9 664 million — then 1 percent of the projected 59 088 farming units contributed 16 percent to gross income, with an average gross farming income per farming unit of R2,62 million.

The white depopulation of the plateau was also causing security problems, Mr Hattingh said.

In the past, much was done to turn small farms into larger viable units. However, no steps had been taken to deal with the problem of excessively large ground ownership.

As the size of a farm would vary from farmer to farmer and product to product, any implementation of curbs must be done as sensitively as possible to avoid being counter-productive.

Davin report could change wheat sector

GOVERNMENT'S acceptance of Davin Commission recommendations would drastically transform the wheat industry in a year or two, says a Wheat Board document tabled at the Agrocon conference in Pretoria yesterday.

The Davin commission recommended:

- Price controls on wheaten meal and standard bread should be lifted from October 1;
- Restrictive registration in the milling and baking industries should lapse from the same date;
- Subsidies on bread should also lapse from October 1.

In its comments on the recommendations, submitted to government, the Wheat Board said that if the total subsidy on bread was abolished from October 1, the price of brown bread at the present level and subsidy would rise immediately by 24%.

It could be accepted that bakers and millers would adjust prices, as they had

GERALD REILLY

been making representations for an increase in cost margins, the board said.

Retailers had long been opposed to the fixed retail margin of 2c/loaf (2,9% on white bread and 4,2% on brown), and a considerable increase could be expected, it said.

When restrictive registration was abolished, a large number of new bread bakers would enter the industry, the board said. At present there are about 350 fully-fledged bakeries manufacturing bread and confectionery.

It was also likely that most of the 1 500 registered confectioneries would enter the bread-baking industry if restrictive registration were abolished, the board reported.

Quality control would be further hampered. A considerable increase in the price of bread would have a detrimental effect not only on wheat consumption, but also on spending by a large section of the population in whose daily diet bread was an indispensable item, it added.



● WENTZEL

Wentzel calls for vigilance

BUSINESS advisers should "intensify their vigil" for factors affecting the economy so that early action could be taken to counter damaging influences.

Opening the 1986 Agricultural Preview Conference in the CSIR conference centre in Pretoria yesterday, Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs Minister Greyling Wentzel urged business experts and consultants to refine their interpretation of such developments and come forward with "carefully considered previews".

"On this basis it should be possible to act timeously in avoiding or mitigating unfavourable trends," he said, adding that adverse factors in the past few years had posed a serious threat to the survival of a viable agricultural sector.

Wentzel said government's White Paper on agricultural policy, which focuses on effective and profitable farming, should serve as a guideline for the future of SA's agricultural industry.

"Since agricultural production is aimed primarily at the provision of food for the population, and our country has only limited agricultural resources from which a rapidly-growing population will have to be fed, the pursuit of the goal of self-sufficiency cannot be over-emphasised.

"The volume of food production up until the present has grown faster than the population. There are indications, however, that the rates at which population and food production are growing are moving closer together," the minister said.

Because agriculture in SA was bound closely with weather conditions, the country's food production was vulnerable, he said.

"A striking example was the drought of the past two years when, for two consecutive seasons, we were unable to produce enough maize for our own needs.

"The emphasis on self-sufficiency does not mean, however, that it must be pursued... at any price.

"If this should happen, it could result in irrational business operations which would not be economically justifiable and would probably not be reconcilable with the maxims of reasonable prices or optimal utilisation of agricultural resources," Wentzel said. — Sapa.

Inflation 'the enemy'

THE economy was in the early stages of a new cyclical upswing, Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock said in an optimistic address to the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agrocon) in Pretoria yesterday. De Kock appealed to farmers to support the monetary authorities when they applied market-orientated policies to bring about an optimal rate of increase of the money supply and total spending.

He told farmers their true enemy was not temporary high interest rates — "your true enemies are the twin evils of inflation and economic instability".

To combat these, the monetary authorities had to curb and stabilise the growth of the money supply.

De Kock warned if the new upswing developed momentum faster than expected and, if at the same time the money supply showed signs of rising excessively once again, the Reserve Bank would have to take action and interest rates could rise again.

If the inflation rate could be reduced to any material extent, interest rates would probably fluctuate at significantly lower levels than in recent years.

Backlash to debt standstill

GERALD REILLY

THE abnormal steps of imposing a debt standstill and reinstating exchange control on non-residents from September were necessary but, until January, counterproductive, said Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock.

These steps focused so much attention on South Africa's liquidity problems that they contributed to a large outflow — or non-inflow — of various types of capital and credit.

"Loans which might otherwise have been rolled over, possibly at a higher interest rate, had to be repaid." Foreign credits for many imports suddenly dried up, and importers had to pay cash "upfront".

"The expectation that the rand would depreciate produced unfavourable lead and lags in foreign exchange payments and receipts.

Capital left the country, in other ways which were perfectly legal.

De Kock said South Africa was able to accommodate the outflow of funds because the restrictive monetary and fiscal policy of the year before had helped to bring about an exceptionally large current-account surplus.

"However, in spite of the debt standstill and the strictest exchange control in the country's history, capital and credit for a while streamed out of the country on such a scale that it neutralised the current surplus, and placed the rand under downward pressure on the foreign exchange market.

Farm exports bolstered by weak rand

GERALD REILLY

CONTROL board reports submitted to the conference reflect big increases in export earnings last year, mainly attributed to the weak rand.

The Deciduous Fruit Board had a smaller crop in 1985, but gross value increased by 27% to R355m.

Exports increased by 38% to R243m even though tonnage was down 3% to 306 000 tons.

Wool Board production fell 3,4%, against a price rise of 43,5%.

Total market realisation for 1984/85 was R402,8m.

The Sugar Association reported record cane production in the 1984/85 season.

Average yields were high, reaching nearly 80 tons/ha.

Total industrial revenue in excess of R1bn for the first time, however, was unable to restore financial stability. After covering costs and returns, it provided a mere R2m towards return on capital — less than 5% of growers' and millers' entitlement.

The Canned Fruit Board said that over the past two years there had been an improvement in the industry's financial situation.

The Dried Fruit Board reported a huge increase in production, from 13 000 tons in 1976 to more than 47 000 tons projected for this year.

PWV is back in a rain crisis

STAR 12/2/83
③ gen

By Shirley Woodgate, Municipal Reporter

The amount of rain which falls in the PWV area in the next two months will be crucial — and will determine whether even tougher water restrictions have to be imposed this winter.

Water experts say that between 250 mm and 300 mm is needed in the Vaal catchment area before the end of March to bring the level of the Vaal Dam up to 50 percent.

There have been water restrictions on the Reef for three years — and the danger signals are flashing again.

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Even though water can be released from Sterkfontein Dam to augment the Vaal Dam, not enough rain has fallen in the Vaal catchment area — a circle formed roughly by Leslie, Bethal, Ermelo, Amersfoort, Volksrust and the Free State side of Van Reenen.

In March 1983, when water restrictions first came into force, the Vaal Dam — which serves more than 8 000 000 people in the PWV area — was at its lowest level since 1966.

It was at 38 percent of capacity, compared with 77 percent in 1982. The Sterkfontein Dam was 65 percent full.

Now the position is even bleaker: the Vaal stands at 25 percent and Sterkfontein at 27 percent.

Mr Anton Steyn, a spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs, warned yesterday that the Vaal Dam was now standing at 540 million cubic metres, far below its 2 191 million cubic metre capacity.

The annual demand is 1 000 million cubic metres.

He said that although at least seven major Natal dams are overflowing, the amount of water that can be pumped to Sterkfontein from the Tugela for release to the Reef is limited by the cost and size of the pumps.

The key remains the amount of rainwater flowing into the dams: 6 000 million cubic metres into the Vaal in 1974/75 down to a low of 244 million cubic metres in 1982/83, and to date 465 million cubic metres — with only two months of the rainy season to go.

Mr Steyn said decentralisation had seen to it that dams were now no longer single entities, but linked systems.

Killings on farm
police hold man

Police in the Eastern Transvaal yesterday arrested a man in connection with the murder of a couple on their farm at Roosenekal.

The battered bodies of Mr Johannes Abraham Meyer (82) and his wife Maria (81) were found in their home on the farm Steynsdrift on Tuesday last week.

STAR 13/2/88. 25

Farmers want Govt to cordon off Lebowa

By Don Holliday, Crime Reporter

③ Gen. The farmers are said to have attacked the Government for plans to scrap the pass laws. About 400 Eastern Transvaal farmers, who met at Laersdrif yesterday to discuss the security situation in the area, called on the Government to establish a military cordon around the neighbouring homeland Lebowa, police reported. (12) "Had the meeting been attended by local farmers only — specifically to see what could be done to stop the attacks — it would have served a purpose," a police spokesman said.

According to police, the meeting developed into a "mud-slinging match" as members of the audience attacked Government policies. "One suggestion was that they set up a ring of military fortifications around Lebowa to prevent insurgency.

The meeting was called by local farmers following a string of attacks over the past three months on elderly farming couples in the area. "Major crime in the area has decreased a lot although petty crime has risen. The attacks in the area are of a criminal, not political, nature."

Control boards
'cause starvation'

Political Reporter

HOUSE OF DELEGATES — Control boards regulating the sale of consumer products resulted in the "paradoxical starvation" of millions of people and hamstrung the economy, the House was told yesterday.

Mr John Lyman, Solidarity (Camperdown), said this during a Private Members' Bill calling for the dismantling of the boards and the substitution of a National Agricultural Products Marketing Bureau.

Mr Lyman suggested that agricultural products be subjected to the law of supply and demand.

He said a control board was not aimed at stabilizing the market

but a controlled monopoly. "Our whole economy will grow faster if it is not hamstrung by protectionism," he said.

While "mythical surpluses" created by price fixation by control boards were exported to foreigners at a substantial loss, millions of poor South Africans had to face starvation.

Mr Narantuk Jamuna, National People's Party (North Coast), told the House to wait until the investigation into the functioning of control boards had been completed by the National Marketing Council (NMC).

Mr Gert Kotze, deputy Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs, said the report of the NMC was crucial to any future steps.

ARGUS 21/2/86 36 area

The wasteland

FIRE-RISK CRITICAL IN TINDER-DRY CAPE FYNBOS

SUE LUPTON

Staff Reporter

SCORES of fires have transformed vast tracts of indigenous vegetation into charred wastelands in one of the driest summers in the Western Cape in many years.

Since the beginning of February alone, tens of thousands of hectares of fynbos have been devastated in the Cape Point nature reserve, the Hermanus area, Paarl Mountain, Simonsberg near Paarl, the Matroosberg range near Ceres and Dutoitskloof.

D F Malan Weather Office statistics show that the average rainfall for the November to February period over the past 31 years was 56mm. But only 28mm of rain has fallen since the beginning of November 1985.

Some of the worst blazes this summer:

- In mid-October a bushfire started in the Langeberg near Swellendam and, fanned by a gale, destroyed more than 1 000ha of vegetation.

- A fire raged on Paarl Mountain for four days from November 17, threatened residential areas, schools and the Afrikaans Taal Monument and burnt about 1 000ha of fynbos.

- A few days later, helicopters were used to water-bomb a blaze which swept across Simonsberg above Simon's Town. Hundreds of naval, police, municipal and Divisional Council firefighters were involved in the four-day operation. An investigation into the cause of the fire is in progress.

- A blaze raged in the Cedarberg for a week in late November, ravaging more than 16 000ha of fynbos and burning rare cedar trees.

- About 1 000ha of vegetation on private land at the foot of the Groenberg near Wellington were destroyed by a fire which started on December 16 and burnt itself out in a fire-break two days later.

- At the beginning of January, three cottages at Goudini Spa near Rawsonville were gutted.

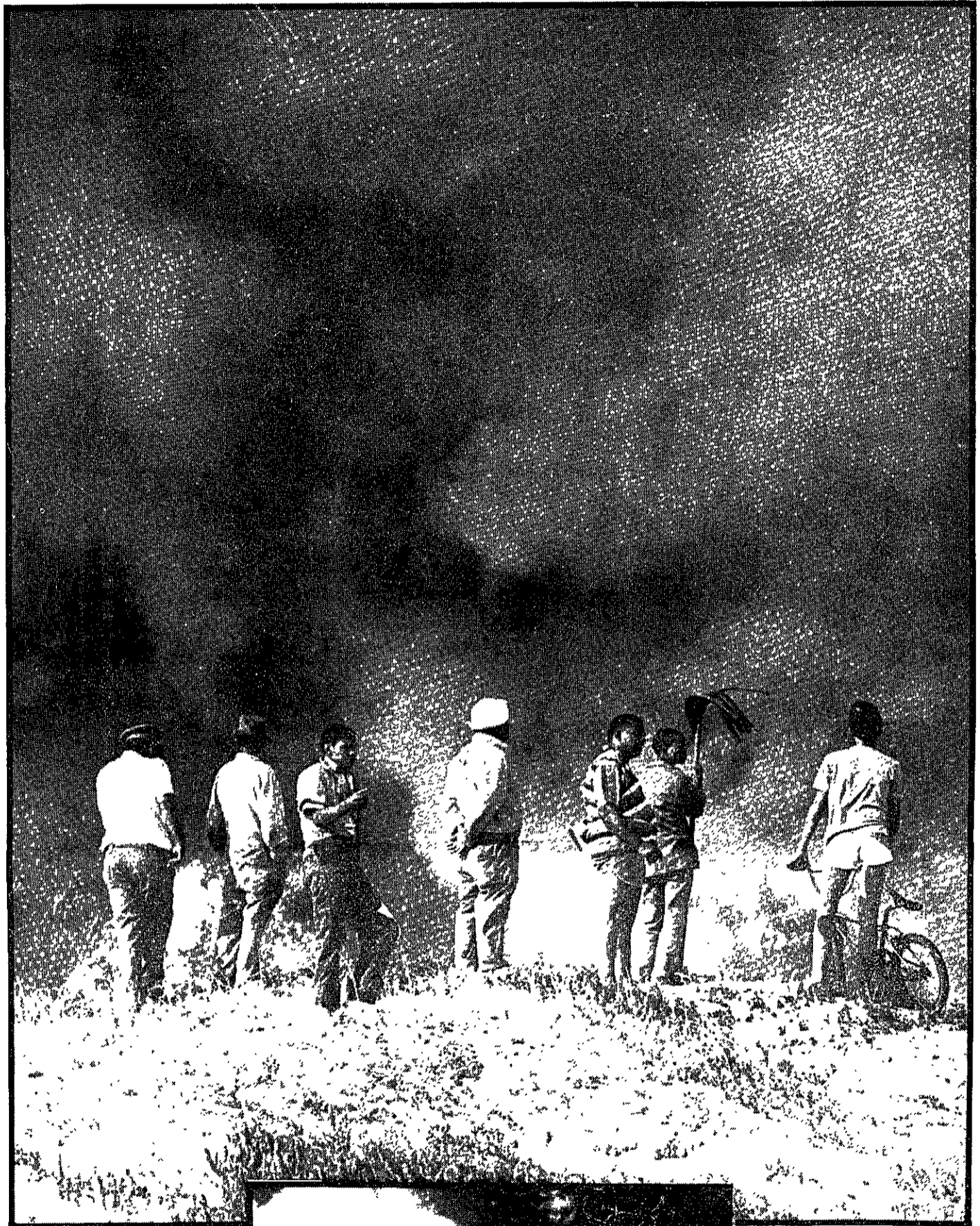
- A mountain fire which started near Dutoitskloof at the end of January burned for 11 days high on the ridges of the Matroosberg, destroying about 14 000ha of vegetation.

- On February 1, a fire flared up near the Hermanus lagoon and was brought under control only the following day after the Fernkloof Nature Reserve and huge tracts of fynbos had been devastated. The blaze was described by residents as the worst in the area in 10 years.

- The worst fire in the history of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve started on February 2 and claimed about 3 000ha of vegetation.

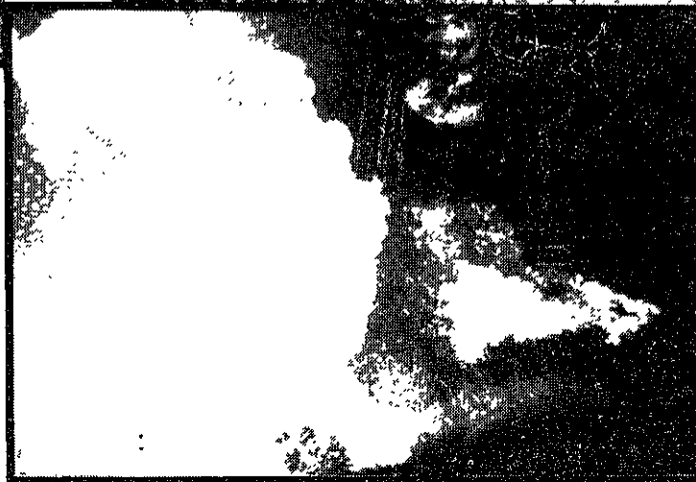
- Three homes were razed and others damaged when the Paarl Mountain again exploded into flames on February 10.

- Dutoitskloof's most devastating fire in 15 years, which



has claimed about 4 000ha of vegetation, started on February 19 and is still burning, although forestry staff have brought it under control.

While the Western Cape's fynbos is tinder-dry and high temperatures continue, the fires risk will remain critical. Dr O Wolheim, assistant secretary of the Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Committee, has asked people to exercise extreme caution in lighting braais — only in authorised areas — and disposing of cigarette ash.



Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus

Devastating fires have caused terrible destruction in the Cape this month. The fire hazard is described as still being critical, and the fynbos still tinder-dry. And February's rainfall is lower than last year.

Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus

CAPL Mr 22/2/66
Locusts
black out
the sun
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Staff Reporter

A "full-scale war" is being waged against millions of locusts which have devoured vast tracts of grazing in one of the worst plagues to hit South Africa in the past 20 years, according to Mr Pikkie Baard, chief director, regulatory services of the Department of Agriculture, Economics and Marketing.

He said yesterday that the locusts were a "national pest".

The insects were being fought in 38 magisterial districts, mainly in the Karoo and adjacent grassveld areas, and "huge swarms" had descended as far south as Beaufort West.

The locusts had devastated grazing in semi-arid regions but had also moved to the cash-crop irrigation areas along the Orange and Vaal rivers.

Swarms as large as 50 sq km — enough to black out the sun — had been sighted in the Douglas area. A farmer had sighted seven large swarms including one which was 10km long.

Talks on rural problems

By **ANDRE JORDAAN**
Business Editor

ELLIOT — The difficulties facing farmers, the ageing of the white rural population and the lack of local authority financing are some of the issues being discussed at a symposium here on the development of the Region D hinterland.

The symposium has been arranged by the regional development advisory committee for Region D to compile a guide plan for positive action and development of the area.

Keynote speakers introduced various topics to be discussed yesterday:

● Movement away from towns and farms to the cities — Mr C. J. Nel, of Region 11 (Aliwal North) said the composition of the population was changing as whites left and black numbers increased.

The average age of white farmers was increasing with less than one per cent being under 25 and more than 45 per cent over 50.

Consequences of the

population shift were a change in the types of services in the towns, the disappearance of entrepreneurs and consequent loss of job opportunities and lower living standards for blacks.

Housing and education could not keep pace with the increase in black numbers and state aid was becoming an important source of income in these areas, Mr Nel said.

● Commercial development — Mr N. P. R. van der Watt, of Region 8 (Humansdorp) emphasised the need for positive marketing, objective analysis of possibilities and the identification of problem areas like inadequate aid and funding, unfair competition, inadequate infrastructure and inefficient bureaucracy.

● Education — Dr G. H. Craven, of Region 9 (Aberdeen) pointed to the backlog in the provision of school facilities for blacks and also a decline in the number of white schools and the disappearance of white farm schools.

Rural children were sent to city schools, while the rural schools depended on "imported" children from other areas.

Dr Craven said the nature of South African society today also meant that questions relating to race could not be separated from a debate about education.

● Agriculture — Mr J. Erasmus, of Region 12 (Cradock) said agriculture was an important decentralised activity and provider of jobs.

He said there had been a tendency to emphasise industrial and mining developments.

Agriculture was "hurting" at present with a huge debt burden and an aspect to be investigated should be more favourable financing arrangements and ways of encouraging young farmers to stay on the land.

Other areas were the availability of and training of labour, bargaining procedures between employer and employee, and the provision of

housing for employees.

● Local authorities' lack of funds — Mr Cyril Manthe, of Beacon Bay, said this led to a vicious circle in which a lack of qualified staff, equipment and facilities hampered developments.

Mr Manthe also referred to lengthy delays in obtaining authority for projects from the first and the second tiers of government and to confusion and lack of co-ordination among local authorities since the new constitutional proposals.

'Close these farm schools'

CITY P. 23/2/86 (3) GEN

CP Correspondent

A TEACHER has recommended that farm schools for coloured children in the Karoo towns of De Aar and Britstown be closed immediately.

Writing in the Union of Teachers' Association of South Africa's annual, the unnamed teacher said the conditions on farm schools were "precarious".

"Coloured teachers are forced to live in shanties.

"White women use these schools to supplement their income. They are normally addressed as kleinnooi," said the teacher, adding that white teachers were "arrogant and conservative".

It was not surprising,

said the teacher, that pupils found it difficult to adjust to normal schools after they had left the farm schools.

A spokesman for the Education and Culture Department in the House of Representatives said he had not seen the article.

• The joint SRCs of high schools in Langa, Nyanga and Gugulethu have added their support to a call for black pupils in the Peninsula not to write exams in March.

"All pupils must write exams in November nor should the syllabus be changed because this year is a continuation of last year," the organisation said.

SADF called in to help fight locust plague

Political Staff

3 GEN

STAR 24/2/86

~~CAPE TOWN~~ — The Defence Force has been mobilised to help fight South Africa's latest problem — one of the worst locust plagues in decades.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Mr G J Kotze says combating the outbreak is "a massive task", with thousands of people and aircraft already involved.

Now the Defence Force is coming in. Mr Kotze said: "Assistance by the Army will bring relief since a shortage of vehicles and reliable driv-

ers/supervisors is creating serious problems.

The plague is centred in the Karoo, the northern Cape and south-western Free State. There has already been serious crop damage.

The Star's Africa News Service reports from Windhoek that Namibian authorities are working flat-out to combat a similar infestation of the pest in the south of the territory.

The locust swarms in South Africa are reported to have devoured hundreds of hectares of grazing land and are threatening OFS irrigation schemes.

BUSINESS DAY: What do you see as the major problems facing agriculture in 1986?

WENTZEL: The farming sector is still suffering from the effects of the severe drought of the past few years. The total farm debt amounts to R11 500m and this is having a detrimental effect on the farmer's ability to recover from his poor economic position.

The interest payments of R1 698m in 1985 made it almost impossible for farmers to repay any outstanding capital, and although interest rates charged by the commercial banks and the Land Bank have decreased since May 1985, interest on loan capital remains one of the farmer's most important inputs.

Financial management is therefore a very important factor. It must be borne in mind the agricultural sector is becoming more and more capital-intensive.

From 1975 to 1984, capital investment per farming unit increased from about R219 000 to about R672 000, an increase of 13,8% per annum.

THE loan capital used by farmers increased over the same period from about R2 000m to about R9 500m, an increase of 18,4% per annum, thus exposing them to greater risk during an economic downturn.

The continued increase in the price of agricultural inputs is another major problem. The price of agricultural requisites increased by 19% in 1985, and the indications are the prices will continue to increase during 1986.

The prevailing rand/dollar exchange rate has benefited certain agricultural commodities but has also resulted in a tremendous increase in the price of imported requisites, such as tractors, combines and pesticides.

The price producers receive from their products has not kept pace with the increase in the price of farming

We're still in trouble down on the farm

BUS DAY 24/2/86 (3) GEN

Financial management is becoming increasingly important in the debt-ridden agricultural sector. **GREYLING WENTZEL, Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs, explains in an interview with**

LINDA ENSOR



inputs. During 1985, producer prices increased by 8,6% while the price of farming requisites increased by 19%.

WHAT does government intend to do to deal with non-viable, inefficient units?

NON-VIABLE farming units have been experienced in SA for centuries. The current economic decline only accentuates the seriousness of the problem.

The department has no specific programme to deal with it but encourages consolidation of uneconomic units and keeps strict control over the sub-division of agricultural land.

WHAT does government intend to do to revive entrepreneurial skills amongst farmers?

MANY farmers are experiencing financial problems due to the pro-

longed drought and poor crops. The debt burden of farmers is often so high that the viability of many farming units is affected.

To assist farmers, government made additional production credit available for them to plant and cultivate the present crops. Due to the fairly favourable climatic conditions, good crops are generally expected and the financial position of farmers is also expected to improve moderately.

The agricultural extension branch of the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply has launched an agricultural extension programme on a national basis in which vocational training of target audiences is receiving high priority.

ARE ANY departments from the 1984 Government White Paper on Agricultural Policy envisaged in the forth-

coming year? If so, what are they and what are the reasons for the change?

NO. Special circumstances may from time to time necessitate more emphasis on a particular aspect of agricultural policy.

WHAT changes, if any, are envisaged to the policy of subsidies, particularly the bread subsidy, and when will they be put into effect?

GOVERNMENT's bread subsidy scheme was recently investigated by a commission under the chairmanship of F J Davin. The commission's recommendations are still under consideration.

As a final decision has not been reached, and as acceptance of the recommendations may affect the broad subsidisation policy of government, I can give no indication at this stage whether or not there will be any change of policy.

WHAT other plans — apart from investigations by the National Marketing Council into the marketing schemes of agricultural products — are envisaged to introduce free market principles into agriculture?

STEPS taken in this direction will depend on the outcome of the investigation presently being conducted by National Marketing Council.

It should be pointed out that agricultural control boards under the Marketing Act are established at the request of producers of the products concerned and they are normally also consulted.

In order to promote efficiency in agriculture and to restrict government intervention, my department is at present also giving attention to the deregulation of the agricultural industry through the repeal or amendment of obsolete legislation.

Programmes are also under way for the scaling-down or privatisation of certain functions presently performed by the state.

WHAT local and international precautions have been taken or are planned to cope with the boycott by foreign countries of SA agricultural products? Are these boycotts seen as a serious threat to the export market? IT HAS never been the policy of the SA government to associate itself with trade boycotts of any nature. I do not feel myself called upon to comment on trade impediments imposed by other countries on the free flow of SA products into their markets.

Where certain countries impose effective embargoes on SA products, alternative markets will have to be developed.

Wine industry goes sour

BUS DAY 24/2/86 (4) GEN

MICHAEL FRIDJHON

FACED with what will be the smallest and possibly finest vintage of the last decade, the Cape wine industry is now forced to confront many of the contradictions in its marketing structure.

Lower yields mean less surplus: the 1986 crop will only exceed normal demand by 20% to 30%. The compulsorily higher levels required of spirit sales in this country — 43% alcohol by volume and not 40% or less, as is the case in most civilised countries — together with the effective forced use of more expensive grape spirit rather than cane or grain spirit for vodka and gin may actually work the surplus down to around the 15% mark.

Less surplus means more of the crop actually sold promptly and profitably. Ordinarily, the surplus gets disposed of by the KWV on what are euphemistically described as "com-

modity markets" — an activity which price — income may not exceed expenditure. Admittedly, the crop is smallest in the coastal region — traditionally a fine wine producing area — but there are still many grape farmers in this part of the Cape whose businesses cannot afford the 20% to 40% drop in revenue.

The myth that wine farming is a profitable business has, over the past few years, taken something of a battering. Many Cape wine estates have started planting and producing other crops: fruit and table grapes are beginning to feature as important revenue-producing alternatives again.

Hit by dollar

their selling prices have not covered these rising agricultural costs, since the bulk of cost-related increases have been aimed at soaring packaging and transport charges.

Now, with the total wine market in decline, and with this year's yields considerably reduced, many wine farmers doubt they will be able to bear this unprofitable structure on their own.

This year will certainly be the first in many of outright wine farming bankruptcies. It will also produce the first marked elongation of the retail wine price pyramid: good wines, particularly in the premium sector of the wine market, will increase in price by substantial amounts.

'Farmers are being helped'

PARLIAMENT. Never in the history of South Africa had more help been given to farmers than was being given at present, the own affairs Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Sarel Hayward, said yesterday.

Speaking at the third reading debate of the House's Part Appropriation Bill, he said he challenged members of the Conservative Party who had repeatedly criticised the Government in this regard, to prove otherwise.

Mr Hayward said there had been no agricultural congress which he had attended at which a resolution was not passed thanking the Government for what it had done.

The CP politicised the whole issue of aid to agriculture, but its members did not have the courage of their convictions to say exactly what schemes the Government should implement.

They merely sat in their benches and went "cheep, cheep" — Sapa.

Soldiers and an army of the unemployed battle locusts

Pretoria Bureau

The South African Defence Force has moved into the veld and declared war on the worst brown locust plague South Africa has seen in 20 years.

Apart from the soldiers, an army of the unemployed have also been enlisted to help fight the brown locust, which threatens to destroy crops in 38 districts in the Karoo, parts of the Northern Cape and South Western Free State.

The Defence Force yesterday joined a team of 2 000 people battling the brown locust plague and their help will bring much-needed relief to the campaign to eradicate the pests, the Deputy Minister of Agricultural Economics, Mr Gert Kotze, said in a statement released in Cape Town.

There were 300 vehicle units, two helicopters, six aeroplanes and 2 000 people involved in the battle.

③ ~~SEN~~ ^{SADF} 25/2/88.
The SADF contributed 50 vehicles and drivers who joined the campaign yesterday.

Mr Isak Venter, deputy director of soil conservation for the Department of Agriculture and Economics, said there were huge locust populations covering extensive areas of as much as 100 km by 50 km. They were migrating northwards.

NO NEED FOR PANIC

The campaign was expected to continue until April/May, but at this stage there was no need for panic, he said.

Some swarms, which usually cover an area of 20 to 50 hectares, had escaped into Botswana near the Vryburg border. However, 350 control teams were at work fighting the plague.

Brown locusts had remained dormant during the

severe drought, but with the drought-breaking rains had hatched and grown to plague proportions.

The Government had also set aside about R2 million in aid — as part of its scheme to alleviate unemployment — to assist the battle against the brown locust. Efforts to combat the outbreak were being severely hampered because large numbers of locusts were dispersed irregularly over thousands of hectares.

Reports of severe damage to the veld and crops centred mainly in the upper Orange and Vaal river irrigation areas with concentration points at Hope-town and Douglas, where maize crops were vulnerable.

With the means at its disposal, the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing was doing everything possible to keep the plague under control, said Mr Kotze.

The complaint by the South African Defence Force is unresolved up to now.

Own Affairs:

Universities for Whites: Black students... 3. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Education and Culture: (a) How many foreign Black students were enrolled at universities for Whites in the Republic as at the latest specified date for which figures are available, (b) what was the country of origin of each such student and (c) at which university was each enrolled?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

Table with 3 columns: Number of students, Country of origin, University. Lists data for various countries like Transkei, Bophuthatswana, South West Africa, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, Other African Countries, etc.

This information is for 1984.

Bursaries... 4. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply: Whether his Department awarded bursaries for study at (a) agricultural colleges and (b) universities in 1986; if so, (i) in respect of which (aa) agricultural colleges and (bb) universities, (ii) how many bursaries were awarded at each specified agricultural college and university and (iii) what total amount was made available in each category?

Q. W. L. 224.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

(b) Yes—In collaboration with the Commission for Administration and the Agricultural Marketing Boards.

(a) Yes.

(i) (ii)*

Table with 2 columns: (a) Locations (Grootfontein, Ceadara, etc.), (ii)* Bursaries for current year not yet allocated. Lists amounts for various locations.

(iii) Agricultural colleges... R 5 000; Universities... R117 600

* The bursary scheme for agricultural colleges is not similar to that in respect of the universities. Amounts allocated are actually grants.

Financial assistance, application for

5. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

(a) How many applications have been received for financial assistance in terms of the Promotion of the Density of Population in Designated Areas Act, No 87 of 1979, since its commencement, (b) how many applications were successful and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

(a) 912; (b) 457.

(c) Period 11 February 1983 to 31 January 1986.

National service: White teachers... HANS WILCOX asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

11. Mr H E J VAN RENSBURG asked: What total number of White male teachers falling under his Department (a) were doing their national service in 1985 and (b) were doing their national service as at the latest specified date in 1986 for which figures are available?

Q. W. L. 226. The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(a) 3; (b) 3 as on 21 February 1986.

Karoo farmers battle worst locust invasion in 20 years

26/2/86

By Hannes de Wet

3 GEN

HOPETOWN — Plants of all kinds are being destroyed in 38 districts in the Karoo part of Northern Cape and South-Western Free State by the worst locust plague to hit the area for 20 years.

Mr Fransie Wiid, a farmer in the Hopetown district, said that large cotton and potato crops had been destroyed by the locusts — but their favourite food was mealies.

“It takes them only a few minutes to strip a mealie plant. When you look again only the stem of the plant remains,” Mr Wiid said.

Mealie crops over an area of 50 ha on Mr Wiid's farm were ruined by the locusts.

Mr Wiid estimates the damage at between R6 000 and R7 000.

Another farmer, Mr Frankie du Toit, lost 8 000 morgen of veld.

Mr du Toit said he had nursed the veld for many months and it was heartbreaking to see it destroyed in a single night.

“This means that I will have to buy feed for my cattle for the coming season — unless it rains again,” he said.

Mr du Toit, who is also the Mayor of Hopetown, said the district first suffered from the drought, then more than 5 000 sheep were lost because of cold weather. And now there were the locusts.

He added that there was no sign that the plague would be curbed in the immediate future.

“There are still thousands of grasshoppers around and I get the impression that not enough is being done to stop them,” Mr du Toit said.

Mr Wiid explained that one of the main problems in combating the locusts was that some of the poison used to kill the insects also affected edible plants such as mealies, corn and potatoes.

“I have been farming in this area since 1954. This is the worst locust swarm I have ever seen. At times you get a big black cloud of locusts about two or three kilometres wide.”

Fuel cuts could slash food prices

27/2/86

~~27/2/86~~

3-Gen

Mercury

CAPE TOWN—Housewives could expect the price of food to tumble as a result of yesterday's announcement of a petrol price reduction from next Monday, said Mr Greyling Wentzel, Minister of Agricultural Economics.

The coastal price of fuel will drop 10 c/l for 93 octane and 8 c/l for 98 octane, reducing the price to 84 c/l and 90 c/l respectively.

Reductions in the price of diesel and paraffin ranged from 2 c/l to 8,3 c/l.

Mr Wentzel called on food producers and suppliers to pass on to the consumer the obvious benefits of the fuel cuts.

Agricultural producers spent about R600 million a year on fuel and the price cuts announced yesterday would be a welcome relief in their production costs.

Fuel was not only an important price factor in working the soil but in delivering products to silos and other points.

Fuel also makes up a significant part of distribution costs on items such as milk and bread and the reductions should have a favourable influence on their prices, said Mr Wentzel.

Not happy

The improvement in the rand's exchange rate, which made the fuel cuts possible, will also have a spin-off in savings on imported packaging materials.

But the Progressive Federal Party was still not happy yesterday and criticised the Government for not making bigger reductions in the petrol price.

Mr Brian Goodall, said: 'With the price of oil in dollars down by a third and the rand up by more than 40 percent from its low point, 10 c was the minimum decrease one was looking for.'

ORMANDE POLLOK Political Correspondent

refined products.

Increased levies and the introduction of new levies had prevented a further 6 c/l being lopped off the petrol price.

The 6 c would pay for a number of things including greater security at petrol depots.

'Provision is also being made for lowering lead levels in petrol and as they are the highest in 98 octane, a levy of 1,556 c/l is being applied as a start,' Mr Steyn said.

In addition the National Road Fund levy will be increased by 2 c to 7 c/l, and 2 c/l and 1 c/l respectively on petrol and diesel will pay for the new Third Party system.

Diesel would drop by varying amounts which include Marine and fishing industry, 6,6 c/l, Government, 4,3 c/l, industry, 8,3 c/l, road transport, 6,4 c/l, public transport,

◆ TURN TO PAGE 2

'Obviously this decrease will help to contain inflation but it should be the first of many downward adjustments.'

However, Mr Goodall questioned whether more than 38 c/l should be taken in taxes, duties and levies of various kinds.

Dr Frans van Staden, the Conservative Party's spokesman, welcomed the decrease as did Mr Ralph Hardingham, spokesman for the NRP, who also regretted it could not have been more.

Dropped

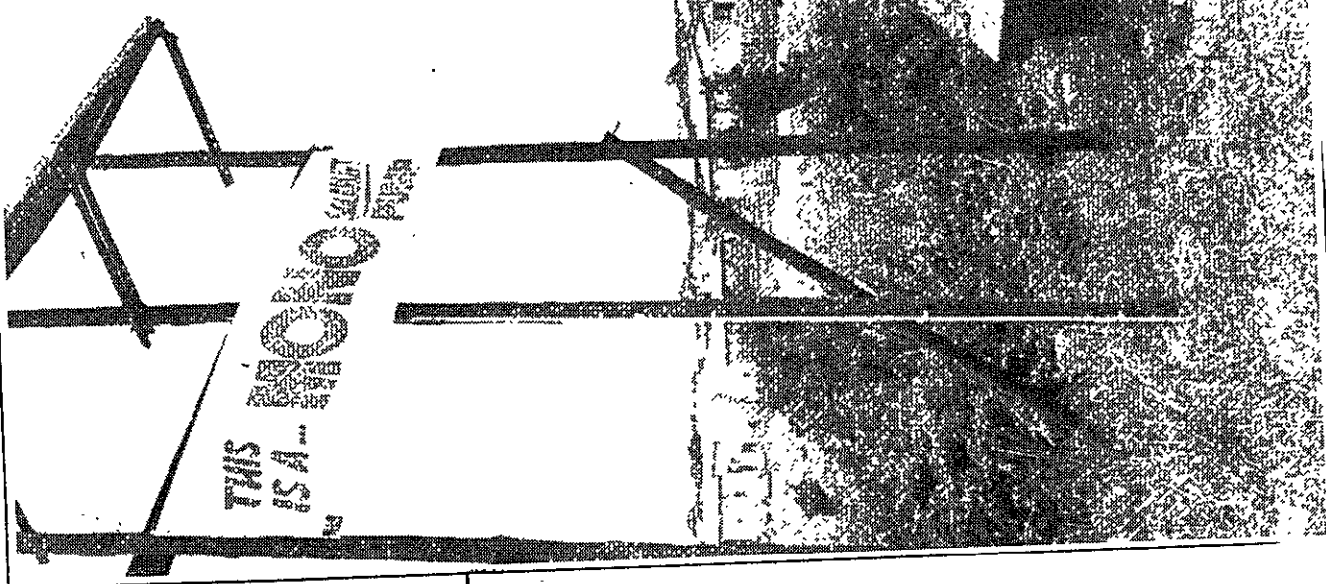
The contentious pricing system of doubling the amount shown on the pump would remain until the middle of the year.

Mr Danie Steyn, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, said the rand had averaged 47 c during February while last November the 6 c/l increase had been based on a rate of 38 c.

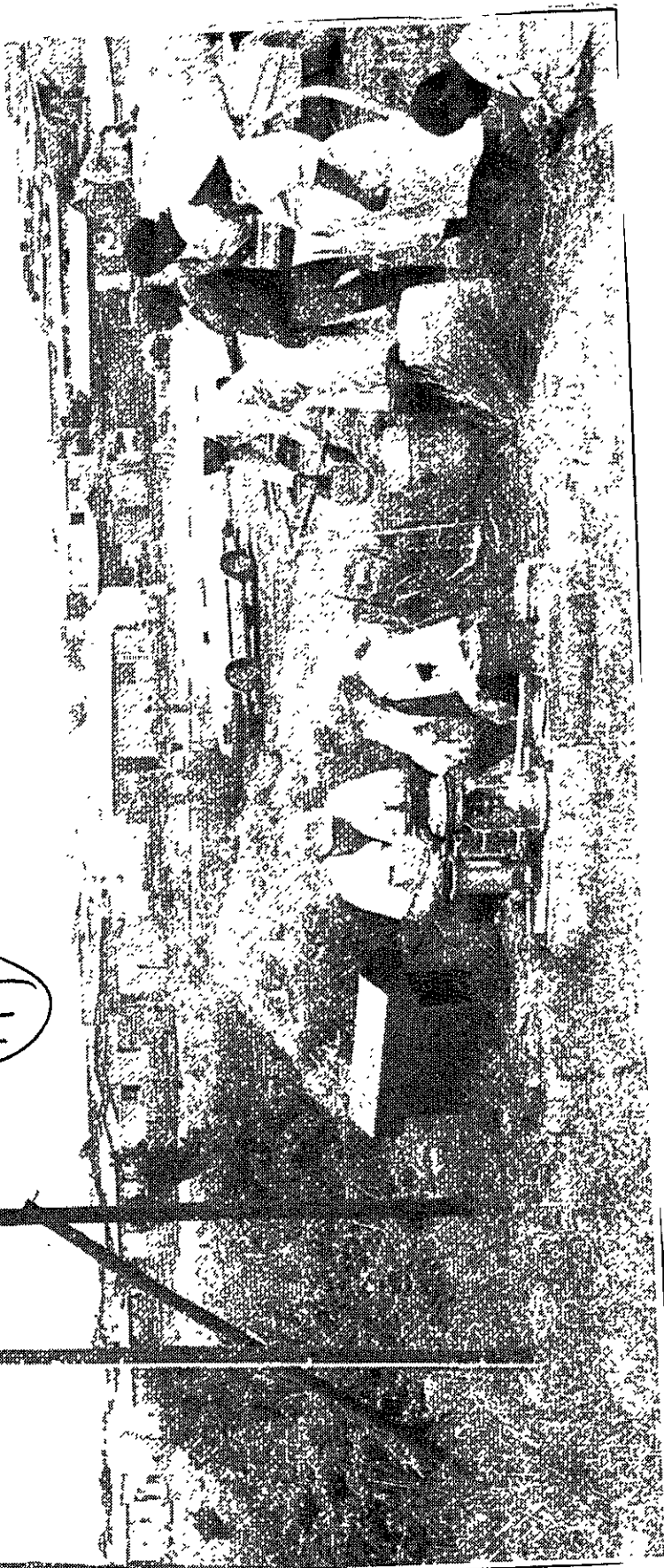
In addition, international crude oil prices had dropped and were being reflected in the landed cost of

It goes on pumping

Just instal this borehole pump, go away, and it will carry on pumping more than 1 200 l of water an hour as long as the sun is in the sky. Even under cloudy skies yesterday, it delivered a steady stream. Developed in South Africa by Stan Payne of Mono Pumps, the solar-powered pump — which doesn't use batteries — is believed to be the first of its kind. Needing hardly any maintenance, it is ideal for use in rural areas and the KwaZulu Government is interested in acquiring several. Seen here on test near Mfolweni south of Durban, a prototype powered by a 90-volt, 0,37-kilowatt motor is examined by Mono Pumps agricultural representative Nigel Eady and KwaZulu's Chief Superintendent of Works, Mr E G Carson.



Handwritten notes:
Eady
27/2/88
Mercury
Eady



Cost of combating locusts 'staggering'

③ CEN 37/2 28/2/86
By Hannes de Wet

KIMBERLEY — The cost of combating the locust plague from Upington to the western Free State is reaching staggering proportions. Since the beginning of February the bill for locust poison in the Free State and the Northern Cape has been in the region of R122 000 per day, according to Mr Koos Vermeulen, chief soil protection inspector for the area. Salaries paid to workers used in the battle against the locusts in these areas ran into R110 000 for the month of February.

These figures, Mr Vermeulen said, did not include the cost of fuel for the aircraft used. The locust outbreak stretches from Upington in the West to Pietersburg in the east. He said the battle against the locusts started in October last year.

"But it was only since the beginning of February that we have combated the plague on such a large scale."

Mr Vermeulen said that some locust swarms were now moving into Botswana. In an effort to stop them poison was being provided by South Africa.

Mr Isak Venter, assistant director of the Directorate for Soil Protection, said there were 398 combating units in the field, of which 23 were provided by the SADF.

Insect plague likely to disappear in six weeks

By Hannes de Wet

KIMBERLEY — The locust plague in the Northern Cape and surrounding regions will probably not last longer than another six weeks.

"It will be broken by the cold when winter comes," said Mr Isak Venter, assistant director of the Directorate for Soil Protection.

He said locust eggs were dormant in cold conditions and needed heat and rain to become active.

Mr Koos Vermeulen, the chief soil protection officer in the Northern Cape and Free State, said about 70 to 80 grasshopper swarms were being wiped out a day and "we have also killed hundreds of thousands of flying swarms so far".

RH



CEI

"Moving in the Pi"

Daily:

Cnr. Rabie/Hans S

WATER

Liquid asset crunch

FIN MAIL 28/2/86
3 GEN

The rain, it raineth on the just and also on the unjust fella: But chiefly on the just, because the unjust steals the just's umbrella.

In the PWV water context, Lord Bowen's celebrated observation means simply this: the recent heavy rains have been good for the crops but they have not made a ha'p'orth of difference to dam levels.

So now come the dire warnings that unless the Vaal catchment area gets a soaking over the next five weeks, tougher water restrictions may be imposed on the Rand Water Board's (RWB) six million customers to plug dwindling water supplies this winter.

Parliamentary approval, incidentally, is not mandatory for the introduction of water



RWB's Hobbs ... the timing is crucial

rationing as the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) has long had the authority to regulate the PWV's taps at will.

Part of the problem is that the weather prophets cannot predict rainfall levels for more than five days at a stretch. Thus, as the DWA's Anton Steyn says: "It's in the hands of the gods."

Steyn reckons the amount of water needed to see the PWV through 1986 is 800 000 Ml, but he points out that the burden of Kimberley's quota, the Vaalharts irrigation scheme and the needs of riparian irrigators brings the figure closer to 1 000 000 Ml.

As matters stand, says Steyn, "we'll scrape through 1986." Water stored in the Vaal Dam stands at 540 000 Ml and in the Sterkfontein Dam near Harrismith at 700 000 Ml. The Bloemhof Dam is not vital to the PWV water equation since it was built

The reasonably good rains have been a lifesaver for farmers, but dam levels in the PWV remain worryingly low. The question now is whether there will be sufficient rain in what is left of the season to avoid further rationing.

to take the overflow from the Vaal.

The country's top hydrologist, Desmond Midgley — often sharply critical of government's water management — is similarly in no doubt that the PWV will "scrape through." But this is not good enough.

Speaking at the FM's investment conference two years ago, Midgley said the mainstay of government's water management since the mid-Seventies has focused on saving water to protect short-term supplies. SA cannot afford such official short-sightedness: models show that the country's water balance will become critical in the inland economically active areas within the next 40 years.

Importing water from neighbouring black states is widely seen as the best safeguard to the PWV's water supply. The 30-year-old and oft-negotiated Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme is at last on, with a water treaty between Pretoria and Maseru due to be signed in March (*Business* February 21). But the political spadework needed to pipe water from the Zambezi to the PWV has hardly started.

Government will consider lifting its unpopular water restrictions, implemented in March 1983, when dams in the Vaal river system are at least half-full. Currently, they contain less than a quarter of capacity, on average.

But the timing of an end to water cuts is also crucial. Says RWB chairman Dale Hobbs: "Government would have no hesitation in scrapping water restrictions if the Vaal Dam is half-full in October and the rainy season is still to come."

But he adds that a half-full Vaal Dam in April or May would cause government to think twice about lifting restrictions with seven dry months ahead. The RWB expects to use 425 000 Ml of water over this period.

Roughly 52% of the water supplied by the RWB goes to the domestic sector, 34% to industry and commerce, and another 14% is lost, mainly

through pipe leakage. The latest RWB figures, for February 21, show the average of the Vaal, Sterkfontein and Bloemhof dams stands at 21,1%, significantly less than the 24,2% measured during the same period last year.

The Bloemhof Dam is 4% full but the DWA is confident it can still supply Vaalharts irrigators with their quota, which will take 60% of the reserve. After that, says Steyn, "the remaining water will be used for downstream industry until the dam is empty."

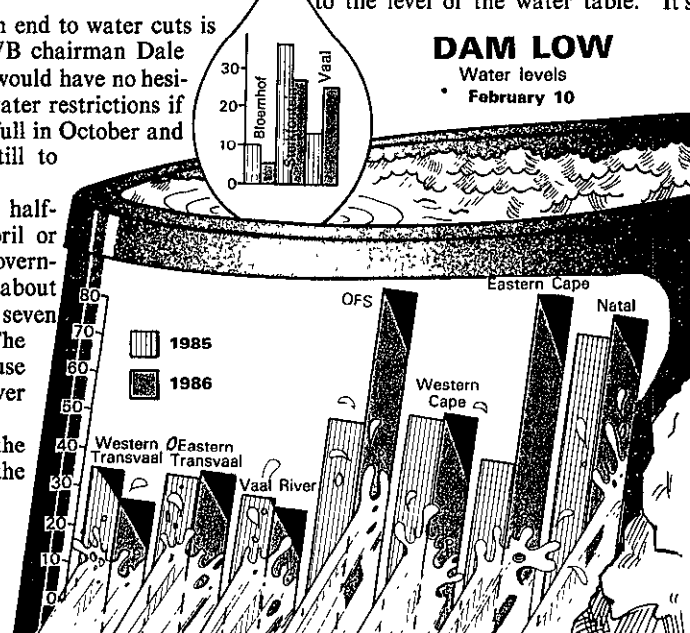
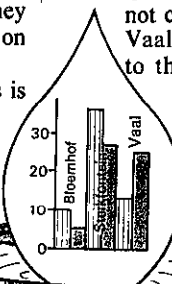
Water experts reckon 250 mm-300 mm of rain is needed in the Vaal catchment area before the end of March to bring the water level of the Vaal Dam up to 50%. But obviously no one is betting on it.

Weather Bureau records since 1921 list only 18 seasons in which March has had more than an average of 100 mm of rainfall in the Vaal catchment area. Only three of those months in the last 60 years brought average rainfall of more than 150 mm. The record is 194 mm in 1948.

Says a Weather Bureau spokesman: "General rains followed by widespread thunderstorms over the catchment area are needed, but the chances of a sustained soaking in March are not great."

The first 18 days in February stumped up only 59 mm of rain, which is 64% below the long-term average for this period. But January showed a marked improvement with rainfall 36% above the norm. Monthly rainfall figures since October 1, the official beginning of the rainy season, are 13% below the historic 511 mm.

The pattern of this season's rainfall has not caused substantial run-off into the Vaal River system or added materially to the level of the water table. "It's



ideal for the crops, but the ground is still too parched for it to make much difference to dam levels," says Steyn.

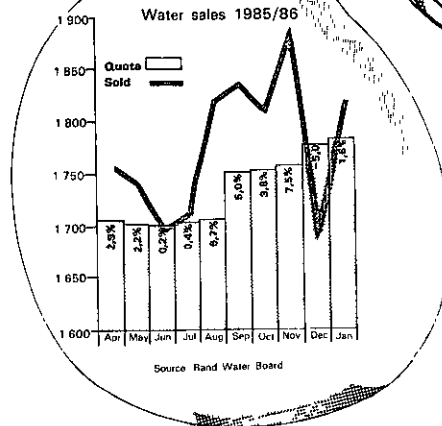
Here lies the rub: a dry catchment with virtually no base flow in the river means that roughly 270 mm of rain in a month is needed to raise the level of the Vaal Dam by 30%, and, presumably, bring an end to water restrictions. A low flow in the catchment area rivers — around 20 m³/s-25 m³/s — means that 220 mm is needed to raise the level by the same amount. If there's a strong inflow — 60 m³/s-100 m³/s — only 140 mm is needed to restore the levels.

Rainfall readings for February 5 show just how unevenly this year's rain has been spread in the Vaal catchment area: it did not rain in Cornelia; Ermelo and Amersfoort had only 4 mm; Verkykerskop registered 30 mm and Harrismith 39 mm. The net result was that the Vaal Dam's waterline edged up just 1,4% on an average of 10,3 mm of rainfall that day.

Offset against this gloomy outlook for the PWV, however, is the fact that the eastern Cape's 18 dams are three-quarters full, although still lower than last year. And in Natal, 12 of the 14 dams are nearly overflowing, notes Hobbs.

Now the well-rocked hobbyhorse of re-

STILL SAVING



leasing water from the recently enlarged Sterkfontein Dam to boost the Vaal Dam level is being rocked again. But there are good reasons why this should be done only as an emergency measure.

When the Vaal Dam was a paltry 15% full

last August (its lowest level ever), water was pumped from the Tugela to the Sterkfontein Dam and released into the Vaal Dam at a rate of 3 456 Ml a day. This was a last resort because of the expense, but Steyn says "we may

have to do it again if there is a sharp deterioration in dam levels."

Government water managers are also reluctant to top up the Vaal because of high evaporation from the dam — the Vaal Dam has a surface area five times greater than that of the Sterkfontein Dam.

In addition, the Sterkfontein Dam does not lie in a catchment area (unlike the Vaal Dam) and replenishment can be achieved only by pumping. As Hobbs notes: "It's expensive water."

On the restrictions front, government still faces heavy flak. "It's all very well to say scrap the quotas," says Hobbs, "but it's ridiculous to expect government to run the risk of even more drastic cuts in the event of a crisis."

More hopefully, he adds: "We're not out of the woods yet, but I cannot see existing water restrictions becoming more stringent." ■

KANHYM

Out of the abyss

In June, 1984, Donald Masson had the role of Kanhym chief executive (CE) thrust upon him. Masson was a reluctant candidate for the job. His previous 16 years had been spent successfully building Trek, SA's only indigenous oil company, and he enjoyed being its CE. Kanhym challenged his cherished business principles of low debt, solid cash flow and management efficiency.

Twenty months on, Masson can report progress in putting to rights the meat, farming and coal mining conglomerate, whose turnover is R1,5 billion. When 1985 operating profits are announced all four divisions — the farm; meat processing and fresh meat trading; auctioneering, agency, hides and skins; and coal — should turn out to have done better. As recession led to further deteriorations in trading in 1985, success is largely the result of stringent cost controls.

Finance charges and hefty — mostly non-recurring — write-offs continue to take a toll. But the bottom-line loss should be less than in 1984. Coal performed best, almost offsetting red ink from the farm, the biggest loser. Both fresh and processed meat were still hit by recession, but the agency and hides and skins sub-sectors enabled the auctioneering division to earn a good overall profit.

The best news is that better news is to come, as the negative factors of 1983-1985 improve. The drought's impact has weak-

Gencor's meat, farming and coal conglomerate should be over the worst of its troubles. But it may still be a few years before ordinary shareholders can reap any benefits.



Kanhym's Masson ... more confident for 1986

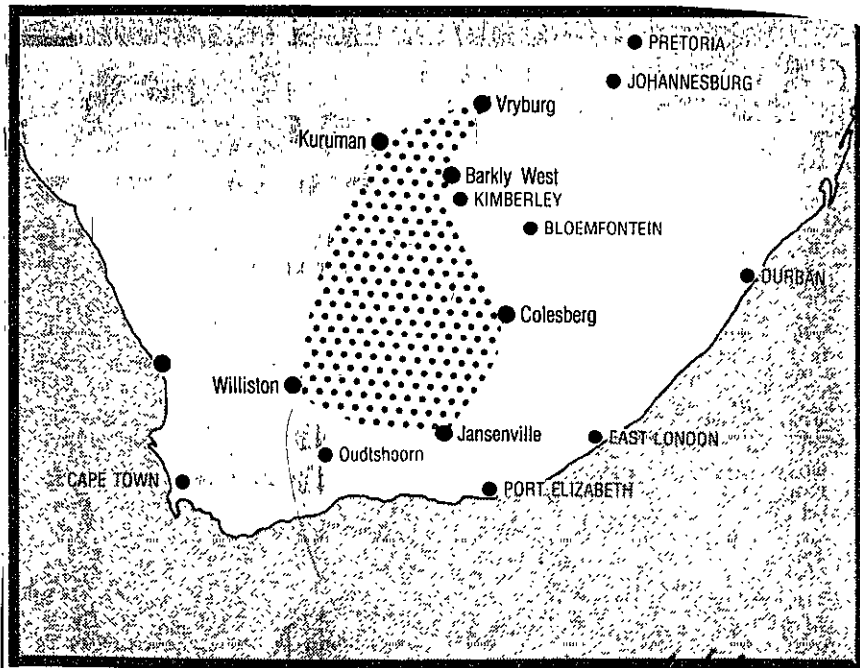
ened, interest rates are falling, meat margins are improving, off-shore borrowings have been repaid, and the coal interests are solidly in the black (but likely to make a smaller contribution in 1986, owing to the stronger rand).

"We certainly don't want to sell or close Kanhym," says Masson, who in the early days considered this option. "Returning rains have made the crop look really good, meat prices are rising and the feedlot, after being in loss for 15 months, has been in profit for the past three. The biggest single change has been in staff motivation, and I make no bones about displaying some confidence for 1986."

This changed scenario certainly contrasts with the snarl-up which Masson inherited. Kanhym had become one of the most spectacular of Gencor Industries' disasters, hit simultaneously by recession, drought, high interest rates, off-shore loan losses and poor coal markets. These events triggered the resignation of previous CE Harold Kramer, in the nearest thing Gencor has seen to management accountability for failure.

The share price fell from a 1 550c high in 1982 to 800c at the time of Masson's arrival and hit a low of 160c in late-October 1985. Except probably for the preference shares, Kanhym may not represent investment potential, but it is on the road to recovery.

The introduction of profit centres and



CMC Times 1/3/80
Winter hope in war on locusts
36and

Environment Reporter

IT IS unlikely that the massive swarms of locusts currently ravaging a corridor through the central hot and arid regions of South Africa and which have now reached as far north as Kuruman, will be brought under control before the end of April.

Mr C R "Pikkie" Baard, chief director of regulatory services for the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, said there was little hope of control before winter nights begin to kill the eggs.

Highly toxic chemicals are being used to combat the swarm, one of the worst in 20 years and comparable to that of 1974. Mr Baard said his department was aware of the danger of the chemicals but that they were "between the devil

and the deep blue sea".

The chemicals being used were diazinon, fenitrothion and gamma-BHC, better known as lindane. The latter is one of a group of chemicals that was taken off the market in most countries two years ago as it penetrated the tissue of humans, animals and birds.

It was not regarded as dangerous to crops and vegetation.

"We had a stock of this and kept it for just such an emergency as this."

To combat the danger to humans, an ultra-low-volume spray with an oil base was being used. This formed droplets rather than a concentrated cloud.

In the past week the plague of locusts has been as far south as Jansenville and Willowmore and as far east as Colesberg and Hofmeyr.

Locusts out of control — claims

From KEN VERNON

Weekend Argus Bureau

PORT ELIZABETH. — As swarms of locusts continue to eat their way through almost a third of the country angry Eastern Cape farmers claim the plague is out of control because of "hit and miss" spraying.

And an entomologist said the Government had not monitored breeding and had taken action too late.

Ecologists have warned that the insecticide used induces abortions in most mammals

and causes cancer in laboratory tests.

Bhc — a refined version of Lindane — is banned, and expert Mr John Grieg said workers should wear protective clothing.

Mr Thys Heyns of the Department of Agriculture said the department had permission to use remaining stocks of Bhc.

Farmers believe they have no choice but to use the insecticides.

"It's the lesser of two evils," says Mr Dave Herold of Ordonnantie Farm outside Graaff-Reinet. "Locust swarms have already eaten 100 morgen of my lucerne crop, as well as much of my winter grazing."

Almost every farmer spoken to said that he believed the outbreak was "completely out of control" and blamed the Government for not having had the foresight to stockpile equipment necessary to contain it.

● More reports, pictures — Page 7.

(c) 435; and
(d) 1 578, as at 31 December 1985;

(2) the honourable member's attention in this regard is invited to the position as set out in part (2) of my reply to question 533 of 26 February 1985 which has not changed up to now.
I must, however, add that, as recently announced, the salaries of Post Office personnel are to be adjusted upwards by approximately 10% wef from 1 April 1986 and at the same time existing allowances consolidated into basic salary. It is also the intention to then further narrow the wage gap between Black postmen and the other population groups, but at this point of time it is unfortunately not possible to indicate to what extent this could be effected as the revised salary scales have not yet been finalised.

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (1) On 31 December 1985, 150 803 unemployed persons were involved in employment creation programmes and in total 10,7 million man days had already been worked.
- (2) (a) R2,34 million.
(b) R12,8 million.
(c) R12,5 million.
- (3) No.

Public/private telephones

HANS. Q. COL 323
315. Mr A. B. WIDMAN asked the Minister of Communications:

- (1) How many new (a) public and (b) private telephones were installed in 1985 in Langa, Guguletu, Nyanga and Khayelitsha, respectively;
- (2) how many (a) public and (b) private telephones were there in each of these townships at 31 December 1985?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS:

(1)	Langa	(a)	1	(b)	257
	Guguletu		3		848
	Nyanga		nil		308
	Khayelitsha		3		12;
(2)		(a)		(b)	
	Langa		23		1 424
	Guguletu		37		3 077
	Nyanga		25		1 260
	Khayelitsha		5		29

Public telephones

316. Mr A B WIDMAN asked the Minister of Communications:

How many public telephones were there in Mitchell's Plain as at 31 December 1985?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS:

117.

Telephones

317. Mr A B WIDMAN asked the Minister of Communications:

How many telephones were installed in 1985 in Lenasia and Soweto, respectively, for (a) private and (b) business purposes?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS:

Lenasia	(a)	365	(b)	175
Soweto		6 711		675

Note: The information is in respect of main services only and includes transfers. The available statistics of telephones other than main services do not distinguish between services for private and business purposes.

WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH 1986

†Indicates translated version.

(1) (a) February to June 1985 (First Semester)

Main Campus	4 309
Owaqwa Campus	549
Gazankulu external students	436

(b) (i) R750.
(ii) R1 140.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

August to December 1985 (Second Semester)

4 309
471
403

For written reply:

General Affairs:

University of the North
HANS. Q. COL 326
318. Dr W J SNEYMAN asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(1) (a) How many students were enrolled at the University of the North in the 1985 academic year, (b) what were the average (i) tuition and (ii) residence fees per student and (c) how many students in residence were registered at this university in 1985;

(2) whether any unauthorised persons resided in the residences of the university in that year; if so, (a) how many and (b) what steps were taken in this regard;

(3) how many students at this university completed their courses successfully in 1985;

(4) whether the university was closed as a result of irregularities in that year; if so, (a) on how many days and (b) what was the nature of the irregularities;

(5) whether any students at this university were expelled in 1985; if so, (a) how many and (b) for what reasons?

will be effected as agreed upon by the trade unions concerned in phase five of the parity programme.

- (b) (i) Transmed.
- (ii) Non-White employees do not belong to a medical scheme, but Transport Services provides them with medical benefits such as treatment by a general medical practitioner, medicines as may be prescribed and hospital treatment.
- (2) (a) Yes. Beneficiaries are responsible for the cost ranging from 25 to 50 per cent, in respect of certain services.
- (b) No. The services of medical specialist doctors for Non-whites are limited to diagnostic procedures, e.g. pathology and radiology. Transport Services is liable for the full cost of such services. However, Non-Whites requiring specialist services can obtain such services at provincial hospitals at the all-inclusive daily rate at the cost of the SA Transport Services, provided their salaries do not exceed the limits laid down for admittance and/or treatment at these hospitals.

Mr D J N MALCOMMESS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply given by the hon the Minister, does he as a medical doctor believe that it is just that White employees should have medical specialist services paid for, while Blacks employees should not enjoy the same privilege in certain circumstances? Is that just?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the hon member's supplementary question is not relevant to the reply I read out. He should ask that of the hon the Minister of Transport Affairs if he wants to put any further questions in this connection.

HoA

Mr D J N MALCOMMESS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, and in view of the fact that in response to a previous question it became quite apparent that a number of farmers in the Queenstown district had been called away from their farms overnight, does he believe that the circumstances justified their being called away from the farms; does he think that the Army is justified in leaving women and children alone on their farms overnight in areas where there is a great deal of unrest, and is the Army prepared to assume responsibility if under those circumstances any of these wives and children are attacked?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the hon member does not need to become so indignant about this matter. I have explained to him what the general guideline is that we follow. We try not to call away the men. Members of commando's are supposed to take care of guarding hearth and home. Under certain circumstances, however, it may be necessary that the services of such a member of a commando are deemed more vital elsewhere. Then we do use the services of the member of the commando in such way. Fortunately, as far as I know, it has not occurred that anything happened to any of those families on the farms. I want to assure the hon member that where at all possible, it will not be done.

†Mr T LANGLEY: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's main reply, I want to know whether one can interpret it that in certain circumstances people are themselves responsible to protect their own lives and property? [Interjections.]

†Mr S P BARNARD: Oh, you gave up long ago. What do you know, man? You are a bloody quitter. [Interjections.]

†Mr SPEAKER: Order!

†Mr T LANGLEY: I pose a very serious question to the hon the Deputy Minister. Hon members who live in densely populated urban areas . . .

†Mr S P BARNARD: You are a bloody mouse.

HoA

Queenstown: farmers
HANS - 200 200 4/2/86
*16. Mr D J N MALCOMMESS asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 26 on 11 February 1986, any arrangements were made to provide protection for the wives and children of the farmers in the Queenstown area who were called up to render service requiring them to be away from their farms overnight; if not, why not; if so, what arrangements;
- (2) whether it is the policy of the South African Defence Force to call up farmers for service of this nature?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) No. The SA Defence Force does not have the ability to protect the families of farmers, be they Commando or Citizen Force members, when they are required to perform military service away from their homes. It would obviously be impractical to require of a Commando member to serve away from his farm and have his family and homestead protected by another Defence Force member or members. In that event he could just as well have stayed at home and the other member or members who were required to render protection, could have performed the task required of him.

- (2) No. Farmers' service in the Commando Force comprises mainly area protection, including the protection of their own home and hearth. The general rule is therefore as far as possible not to use farmers for tasks in towns/cities. The availability of manpower in the rural areas, the composition of farmers and townspeople in a Commando and the task that has to be performed, however determines where members have to serve at a given time. It is therefore, not always possible to keep to the above general guide line.

†Mr T LANGLEY: . . . and are safe with a neighbour on either side, are not exposed to an unsafe situation. I now ask whether the people are themselves responsible to protect their lives and property. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the Defence Force is at all times prepared to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of our country. If, however, under certain circumstances it is necessary for a farmer or any inhabitant of the country to protect his own life, then it is his good right and duty to do so.

†Mr J H CUNNINGHAM: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: Is the hon member for Langlaagte entitled to tell another hon member across this floor that he is a "bleddie meid"?

†Mr SPEAKER: Order! Did the hon member for Langlaagte say that?

†Mr S P BARNARD: Mr Speaker, I never said "n bleddie meid".

†Mr SPEAKER: What did the hon member say?

†Mr S P BARNARD: I said he is a sissy. [Interjections.] I will never here call a sissy a "meid". There is after all equality in this place. I will never call an hon member a "meid".

†Mr J H CUNNINGHAM: Mr Speaker, may I please address you? Here on our side of the House are at least ten hon members who quite clearly heard that the hon member for Langlaagte said that. I will not get up here and tell you such an absolute lie. I think too highly of myself to do so.

†Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is of course "law", if I may put it that way, in this House that an hon member's word is accepted. If it is indeed the case as the hon member for Stiffontein alleges—we will have to see whether Hansard produces anything—I shall be willing to investigate the matter further. At this stage, however, I accept the word of the hon member for Langlaagte.

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: Is

the hon member for Langlaagte entitled to call another hon member in this House a quitter?

†Mr S P BARNARD: That I did say, yes. [Interjections.]

†An HON MEMBER: Yes, but you also said something else.

†Mr S P BARNARD: I said he is a quitter. [Interjections.]

†Mr SPEAKER: Order! I do not think the word "quitter" is unparliamentary.

Mr D J N MALCOMESS: Mr Speaker, arising further out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask him whether the Army, in view of the fact that they have in the past called farmers off their farms and have done so on more than one occasion in the area to which I am referring—although I do appreciate that they are not going to make a habit-of doing so—will in future make arrangements for the protection of the wives? Either the wives should be allowed to come into the central community where they can be protected, or some alternative arrangement should be made for them to enjoy protection on their farms. After all, it is desperately worrying for men who are doing their national service away from their homes at night to know that their wives and children are unprotected on their farms.

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we in the Defence Force have sympathy with those inhabitants and with the families who remain on the farms. However, I cannot give the hon member the assurance that something like that will not happen again. We are busy implementing a system in terms of which we will have a "blanket protection" of members of commando's across the country. I do, however, want to give the hon member the assurance that the system is applied with great caution because we are concerned about the safety of the women and children on the farms.

Mr D J N MALCOMESS: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister and in view of the fact that it was he who personally answered the last question I raised on this subject in this

KwaZulu: ~~consolidation~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~magisterial~~ ~~district~~ ~~of~~ ~~Inanda~~ ~~are~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~excised~~ ~~in~~ ~~terms~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~consolidation~~ ~~proposals~~ ~~for~~ ~~KwaZulu~~ ~~;~~ ~~if~~ ~~so~~ ~~,~~ ~~when~~ ~~in~~ ~~each~~ ~~case~~?

Whether the farms (a) Groenenberg 844, (b) Buffelsdraai 829 and (c) Inanda 818 in the magisterial district of Inanda are to be excised in terms of the consolidation proposals for KwaZulu; if so, when in each case?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT:

(a), (b) and (c) No. According to the consolidation proposals for KwaZulu made by the Commission for Co-operation and Development, it is proposed that the farms Groenenberg 844, Buffelsdraai 829 and Inanda 818 are to be incorporated in KwaZulu, pending the final decision of the RSA Government.

Corn soya milk
*18. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) whether a portion of a consignment of American corn soya milk intended for famine relief in Third World countries was (a) off-loaded in and/or (b) transported to the Republic; if so, when;

(2) whether permission was granted for this to be done; if so, on whose authority; if not,

(3) whether any action has been or is to be taken in this regard; if so, what action?

†The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (for the Minister of Transport Affairs):

(1), (2) and (3) Large consignments of corn soya milk powder intended for Third World countries were transhipped in South African harbours and conveyed by rail to the countries concerned. A quantity of the milk powder was left behind in the

trucks returning from foreign lines. As claims in this respect were paid out to the World Food Programme, some 240 bags were auctioned to defray expenses. The disposal of any further quantities will be negotiated with representatives of the World Food Programme.

Maj R SIVE: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to know whether permission was obtained from the hon the Minister of Agricultural Economics to import such powder into South Africa.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I am not the Minister concerned with this matter but to me it sounds like a totally irrelevant question.

Corn soya milk

*19. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(1) Whether a portion of a consignment of American corn soya milk intended for famine relief in Third World countries has been sold in the Republic; if so,

(2) whether permission was granted for this product to be sold in the Republic; if so, on whose authority; if not,

(3) whether any action has been or is to be taken in this regard; if so, what action?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

(1) I am only aware of the press reports in this connection.

(2) No, not as far as my Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing is concerned; in fact, it would appear that such imports may be effected without a permit from the Department.

(3) Falls away.

Maj R SIVE: Mr Speaker, arising from

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AREA: Withi
excluding t

4/3/86 (3) GENERAL
SMIL

Farmers will have to re-apply for emergency drought aid

lway Station,
his area.

By Kym Hamilton, Pretoria Bureau

Farmers, who up until now have been receiving emergency drought aid, will have to reapply from April 1 for more assistance, says the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply in the Ministers' Council of the House of Assembly.

Mr Sarel Hayward said in the latest issue of *Agricultural News* that conditions across the country had improved so dramatically that Government aid would be stopped.

In districts where drought conditions still prevailed, agricultural unions had to submit new applications to their drought committees before March 31.

Mr Hayward said that if satisfactory rain had not fallen in some areas by April 1, then it would be up to the National Drought Committee to decide if help would be continued.

The administration of the aid schemes placed a burden on the department and all future aid would be given in terms of new schemes in the livestock grazing and agricultural areas.

The government had assisted farmers for the past seven to eight years and it was now time to end schemes which had served their purposes.

AR6w 4/3/86
36and

Locusts threaten Fish River

Staff Reporter

SWARMS of locusts are threatening to invade farms in the lower Fish River irrigation area in the eastern Karoo as teams battle in the Sneeuberg to contain them.

Sundays River Valley is also threatened.

Swarms are also being fought at Graaff-Reinet, Pearston and Jansenville.

Mr Pikkie Baard, chief director of regulatory services for the Department of Agriculture, says the situation is "very serious".

"Our teams are trying to keep the swarms from the summer crop area. We have 33 mobile units in the area."

SOLDIER SWATTERS

Large swarms were also gathering on the border between the Northern Cape and the Western Transvaal, said Mr Baard.

Four hundred motorised units, one helicopter and four light aircraft were fighting the plague.

Soldiers and vehicles from the South West Africa Territory Force (Swatf) are to be deployed to help in the battle against the locust plague in southern Namibia.

A spokesman said in Windhoek yesterday that troops would soon go into action on a number of farms in the Karasburg district, where the plague appeared to be worst.

Locusts 'totally out of control'

CAPE TOWN 4/3/86 Special
Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — Eastern Cape farmers, who feel the locust plague is "totally out of control" have asked the State for equipment to fight the swarms themselves.

According to the vice-president of the Graaff-Reinet District Farmers Union, Mr David Herold, existing control measures are hopelessly inadequate.

He said they had applied to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing for equipment to fight the massive swarms which were ravaging their grazing and crops.

'Serious trouble'

"We have asked the Department to provide us with poison and pumps. We will supply the labour, vehicles and drivers," he said.

A representative from the Graaff-Reinet Soil Conservation committee and Eastern Cape farmer, Mr Henry McNaughton said: "If something isn't done we will be in very serious trouble."

A spokesman from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Mr Izaak Venter, said yesterday that pest control measures had been stepped-up but the vast area covered by the locusts made their eradication a huge task.



Mr. John Wiley . . . disapproves of GM chief's attitude.

PARLIAMENT '86



Debt repayments 'amaze' Minister

PARLIAMENT — The Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Sarel Hayward, said today he was "dumbstruck" by the amount of drought relief debt paid back to his department by farmers.

Replying to a question by Mr Casper Uys (CP, Barberton) in the committee stage of the Additional Appropriation Bill, he said there was no question of the administration having "wrung the necks" of farmers.

He said the original estimate of capital return flow had been R37 million. However, this had risen to R71 million in a year.

No pressure whatsoever had been exerted on farmers.

Accounts had been rendered as they were every year, and farmers had been called on to pay them if they were able.

Those who requested postponements were given them, he said. — Sapa.

Business Day Reporter
Farm insurance rush

THERE has been "unprecedented demand" by northern and western Transvaal farmers for insurance against political riots and insurgent activity, says Sentraoer, the central co-operative for short-term agricultural insurance and risk management.

Assistant GM Arno Hattingh says that until recently less than 1% of farmers insured by Sentraoer held this type of cover. Since the increase of landmine deaths, especially on farms bordering the Northern Transvaal, agricultural co-operatives have been inundated with inquiries.

Sentraoer has added political riot and sabotage cover — through the SA Special Risks Insurance Association (Sasria) — to its normal comprehensive short-term agricultural cover.

DEBYKINEMU S. GOMPHATA DELEGONEMU

DEBYKINEMU S. GOMPHATA DELEGONEMU

1981 JAN 22

Locusts 'totally out of control'

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CAPT Train B 4/3/86
Own Correspondent

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CML TMA 6/3/86
3 Special

New chemical in SA's locust war

Environment Reporter

A NEW locust-killing chemical with a high success rate and low toxicity for humans and animals is being tested for immediate use in the war against the insects.

The chemical — pirotrouides — will replace those currently being used in the 38 magisterial districts being plagued by swarms of locusts, currently concentrated in the region of Kuruman, Barkly West and Vryburg.

Mr Pikkie Baard, chief director of regulatory services for the Department of Agricultural Economics, said yesterday that he was aware of reports that his anti-locust campaign was using the controversial dieldrin and DDT, but denied this.

The chemicals being used were:

● Diazinon, an organophosphate compound. This is being used in two forms, as a water emulsion known as EC30 and

as an ultra-low volume spray (ULV) which was oil-based.

● Fenitrothion, an organophosphate for use with the ULV.

● Lindane, which has been banned from use as a livestock remedy.

● The controversial hexachloride benzene (or BHC) which is related to lindane and which has been banned and off the market for some time. Permission to use it against the plague of locusts was obtained.

"All these chemicals are dangerous to warm-blooded animals because they are able to accumulate in the tissue," Mr Baard said. "We are aware of this but I must point out that toxicity for mammals is based on oral and tissue intake and crop-sprayers cannot acquire enough to be deadly."

"We also do not use lindane and BHC on crops or irrigation areas."

Titan in the shadows

7/3/86 FINMAIL (3) - Gen.

Control boards are high-profile affairs. Consumers generally look upon them as insidious cabals designed to destroy free competition, look after producers at the public's expense, raise prices during times of oversupply and export at a loss.

And, of course, much of the time they are right. But in the South African agricultural sector an even more dangerous force has emerged which has somehow managed to remain largely in the shadows. It goes by the benign-sounding name of farming co-operative.

Agricultural co-ops now turn over R10,7 billion a year, employ 50 000-60 000 people and hold first rights over a farming debt running to R11,5 billion — although most of it is owed to commercial banks (see graph).

The transition of the co-ops from farmer helpmates to financial juggernauts dates back to the Seventies when government handed them the right to channel Land Bank (LB) funds to the agricultural community. It was inevitable, perhaps, that in the process co-ops achieved immense additional power.

With most farmers now in debt, many of them deeply so, they are virtually dependent on the co-ops for credit favours. The co-ops, in turn, have a statutory lien over the proceeds of farmers' crops and ensure that their own charges are met before other creditors get a show in.

The commercial banks thus have to rely largely on fixed asset security (for example, bonds) rather than farmer cash-flows to protect their exposures. And with the total debt now standing at more than R11 billion there is understandably an increasing disquiet in banking circles. Certainly the last thing anyone wants at this stage is a fire sale of farming assets.

The monopolistic powers of co-ops also have political implications. Says Free Market Foundation CE Leon Louw: "Battles are raging quietly between supporters of the NP, the CP and independents for control of some co-ops. At stake is massive political leverage and power and, of course, huge financial benefits." And, as Louw says, "these are not relinquished without a fight."

The massive size of the co-op movement — and the vested interests of some administrators — are evident from the statistics.

SA's 315 agricultural co-ops served 286 000 farmer members, many belonging to more than one co-op, and turned over R10,737 billion in 1984. Against this the 255 retailer trading co-ops, which also sell to the public, turned over R352,88m. Fixed assets, nominally controlled and owned on behalf of farmer members, stood at R2 billion — 921% more than the R217m held in 1970.

Current assets, at any given time, would add hundreds of millions to the total.

SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) deputy

Working outside the limelight, agricultural co-operatives control billions in agricultural debt and exercise pervasive powers over the lives of farmers. Government is moving to clip their wings, but there are political dangers.

director, co-operatives, Inus van Rooyen, tells the *FM* that the 1984 turnover figure of R10,737 billion had three major components: product turnover, R7,552 billion; farming requisites, R2,717 billion; and services rendered to members, R468m.

Co-ops add margins of 1-2 percentage points to the funds they handle — a huge cash benefit considering that the LB's budgeted short-term financing requirements for the year till June is R4,85 billion. They also add their margins to the requirements they stock and sell to farmers — often at gunpoint.

Major movers in 1984 were the grain co-ops, mainly maize and wheat, which had a combined turnover of R4,7 billion. Livestock co-ops weighed in with a hefty combined turnover of R3,2 billion.

Growth has been phenomenal since 1970. Total co-op turnover has increased 827% from 1970's paltry R1,3 billion, product turnover has jumped 756%, farming requisites turnover is up 1 000% and services turnover has jumped a huge 1 708%. Respective turnover figures for these three components in 1970 were R1 billion, R271m and R27m.

Although co-ops theoretically belong to their farmer members, like many bureaucratic institutions they have become a virtual law unto themselves. The fact that they administer massive amounts of subsidised credit to debt-ridden farmers has merely given them added power.

But in recent times government has been moving cautiously to trim their wings. Since June 1982 there have been strong moves towards a more market-related dispensation in LB funding. This process received renewed momentum with the recommendations of the latest De Kock Commission report which has led to changes in the Banking Act.

The most important changes for farmers lie in the revised definition of liquid assets in the Banking Act. Credit instruments for production credit will no longer qualify as liquid assets and rates will become market-related.

At a Pretoria agricultural outlook conference last month, senior Reserve Bank deputy governor Japie Jacobs indicated that most Land Bank rates will become fully market-related within three years. And as co-ops would still have to add their margins it would then become more profitable for farmers to

borrow directly from the banks, rather than from co-ops.

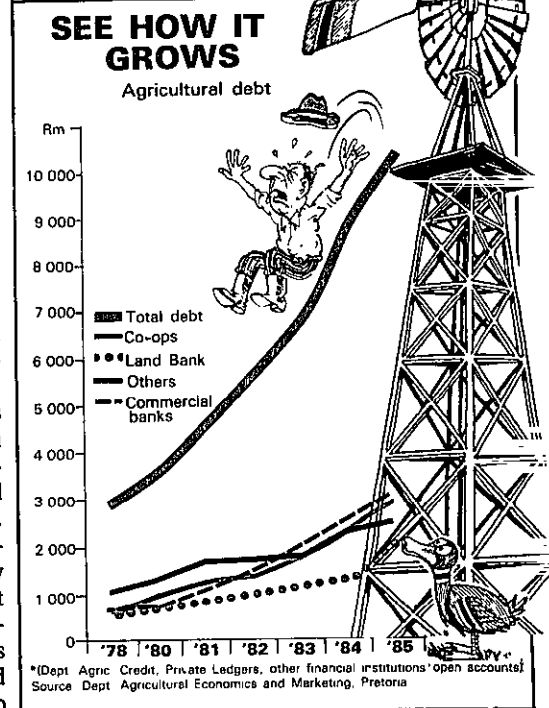
In this way, the costly and disruptive financing chain — from commercial banks to the Land Bank and then through the co-ops to farmers — would be broken. This would also remove the financing hold co-ops can still exercise over many of their farmer members.

Jacobs says the massive flow of funds from the banking sector through the LB to farmers disrupted financial markets and damaged the effectiveness of monetary policy. This is why government has decided to amend the liquid asset definition in the Banking Act. In the process, it should assist in keeping down money supply and inflation.

The figures he quotes are enormous. In February, the balance due on LB bills sold on weekly tender stood at R1,08 billion, bills held by commercial banks in terms of a separate agreement stood at R1,95 billion, the Corporation for Public Deposits held bills for R500m and LB overdraft balances at commercial banks stood at R600m. Apart from this, the outstanding balance on LB debentures had reached R1,971 billion.

Outstanding medium- and long-term loans to farmers and co-ops amounted to R2,775 billion, while outstanding cash credit loans to co-ops stood at R4,807 billion and total LB assets at R7,562 billion.

Current LB rates are 15% for cash credit loans, 14% for bonds and 15% for medium-term loans.



Although these are close to the prime overdraft rate of 15,5%, "few farmers currently qualify for prime rates," says the SAAU's Van Rooyen. He adds that the union has asked government to refrain from implementing the De Kock Commission proposals and he is confident that co-ops will remain competitive.

A commercial bank spokesman is less sanguine. He doubts if co-ops could remain competitive in a market-related farm credit system, once official protection is removed. "The higher rates they will have to charge will distort their competitive edge," he says.

National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) CE Piet Gous says normal, market-related funding must be distinguished from emergency funding by government at subsidised rates. Nampo welcomes government's moves towards market-related structures in agriculture and Gous says he is convinced that co-ops which have "done their homework" will be able to stand up to equal competition in the agricultural credit field.

Whatever the outcome, it is a grim fact that subsidised funds were largely responsible for the over-use — and outright abuse — of credit by farmers, the mushrooming farm prices and record debts. The latest drought has burst the bubble of false optimism and many farmers now face the spectre of financial collapse:

With their power citadels under siege from the government's new market-related policies, many co-ops are fighting to retain their power. A highly placed source says farmers are being told that government's new measures will mean a return to the



Japie Jacobs ... market-related rates on the way

"chaos of the Thirties," and that they are being thrown to the wolves.

"But," he adds, "there is a huge, underlying resentment among farmers at the virtual dictatorial powers exercised by co-op staff. At the root of this problem is the agricultural debt, which made thousands of farmers dependent on co-op goodwill to obtain credit."

Co-op involvement in the manufacture and sale of fertiliser, tractors, implements, seed and other major input requirements, as well as strong co-op resentment of any form of competition also aggravates the situation.

"Some farmers find that unless they play ball with their co-ops and buy the fertiliser,

chemical and other input requirements specified by co-op staff, their credit lines suddenly disappear. As the alternative is often insolvency, farmers have to agree or lose out," says Pretoria University agronomist Willem Folscher.

Farmers are understandably loath to speak out, but the *FM* understands that some co-ops refuse to insure members' crops unless they buy the inputs specified by the co-op management. Many co-ops stock only single product lines, giving members no price choice. Another contentious issue is the use by some co-ops of huge, accumulated reserves to buy into manufacturing and processing plants, including battery chicken production, maize and wheat milling, tractor and implement manufacture and feedlotting. Farmers are "influenced" to use the co-op's facilities, while private sector competitors complain that they are sidelined.

The Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) has lodged complaints of unfair co-op practises with the Competition Board (CB), claiming that small businesses are being prejudiced. It was asked to refer these to the Registrar of Co-ops and is now awaiting his reply.

Meanwhile, the SBDC is also awaiting the amended Competition Board Act — due to come into effect on May 1 — to see if the commercial banks will also act against co-ops in terms of the Board's increased powers.

What it could mean is that the growing power of the co-ops is coming under attack on several fronts and that changes may be at hand. It's a prospect which the private sector, including banks and thousands of farmers, will certainly welcome.

Dirty brown plague

M. Arcus

③ General

8/3/86

THE FIRST thing you become aware of when approaching a locust plague is the noise.

In the Graaff Reinet district I visited this week it was a low-key, chirping noise that seems to emanate from nowhere and swirl around your head like the persistent buzzing you sometimes find on a telephone on long distance calls.

Only later do you learn that this is the sound of locusts mating. Moaning Maggie has nothing on a swarm of locusts. They live the life of absolute luxury for their short 10-week lifespan — eating and doing what comes naturally.

The next thing you see is constant, slight movement. Even from a few metres, millions of locusts are difficult

THEY live the life of absolute luxury for their short 10-week life span, eating, loving and doing what comes naturally.

for the untrained eye to detect, simply because there are so many of them.

They cover every square millimetre of the surface of whatever they land on, so that the essential shape of the ob-



Weekend Argus reporter Ken Vernon is almost obscured in a cloud of locusts.

ject remains, with only the colour changing to the dirty yellow/brown of the locust. That's when you stop walk-

ing. Everything seems a bit fuzzy, caused by the tiny movements of the locusts as they go about their eating and loving.

It is then that the whole scene becomes surreal and you begin to feel a little disoriented.

One more fateful step and the swarm detects your presence and bursts into frantic flight.

The world instantly changes colour, from the dirty yellow/brown of the grounded locust to the mist-like pale mauve

AS the swarm moves off the noise becomes now a steady low hum, not unlike the beat of an old Dakota passing overhead. It's a sound every farmer dreads to hear.

and silver of billions of beating wings.

Controlled

An instant later they begin to smash into you with tremendous force, each blunt head like a miniature battering ram.

In such masses any controlled flight must be impossible, so locusts power straight

into you, into eyes and ears and even your mouth if you open it to scream or shout.

Within seconds there are locusts in your hair, down your shirt front and up your trouser legs, each one struggling to rejoin the frenzied flight of his friends, and kicking out with strong legs armed with a row of tiny barbs.

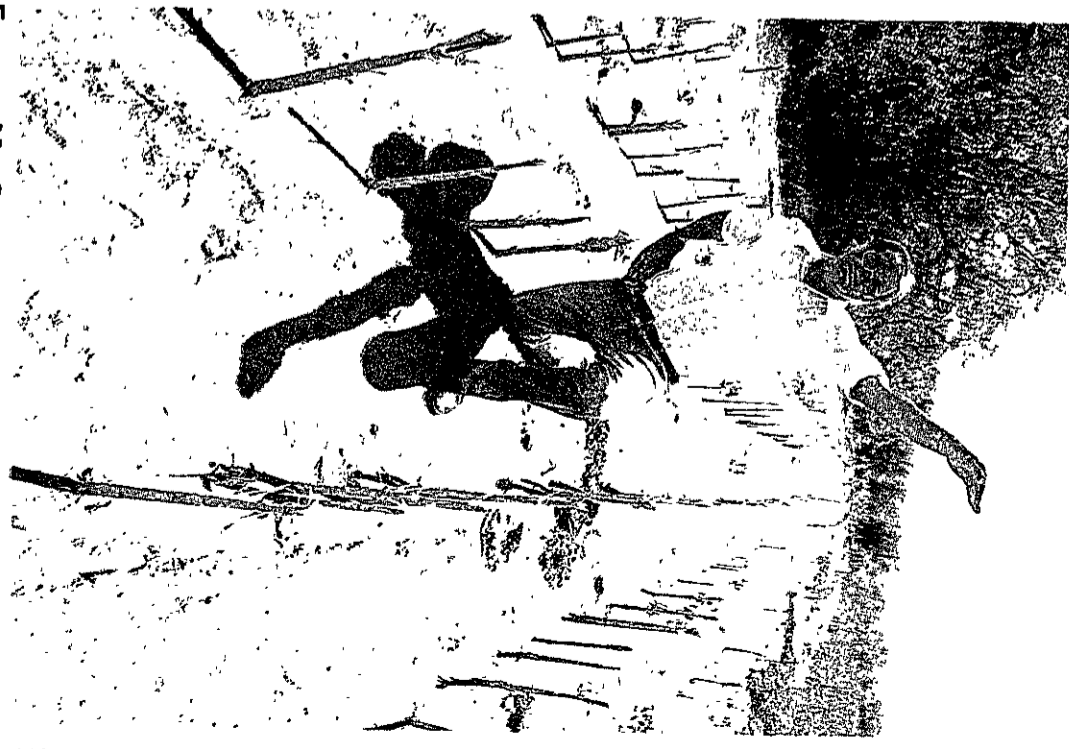
You can't even run away from a locust swarm. It immediately covers the whole area for acres around, and besides, now your eyes are tightly shut. With head bent against the onslaught, you shake each leg as you try and get the insects out of your pants!

THEN the world instantly changes colour, from the dirty yellow/brown of the grounded locust to the mist-like pale mauve and silver of billions of beating wings.

For one instant you wonder whether locusts can turn carnivore, before the onslaught ends and the locusts gain enough height to leave you below.

As the swarm moves off the noise becomes now a steady low hum, not unlike the beat of an old Dakota passing overhead. It's a sound every farmer dreads to hear.

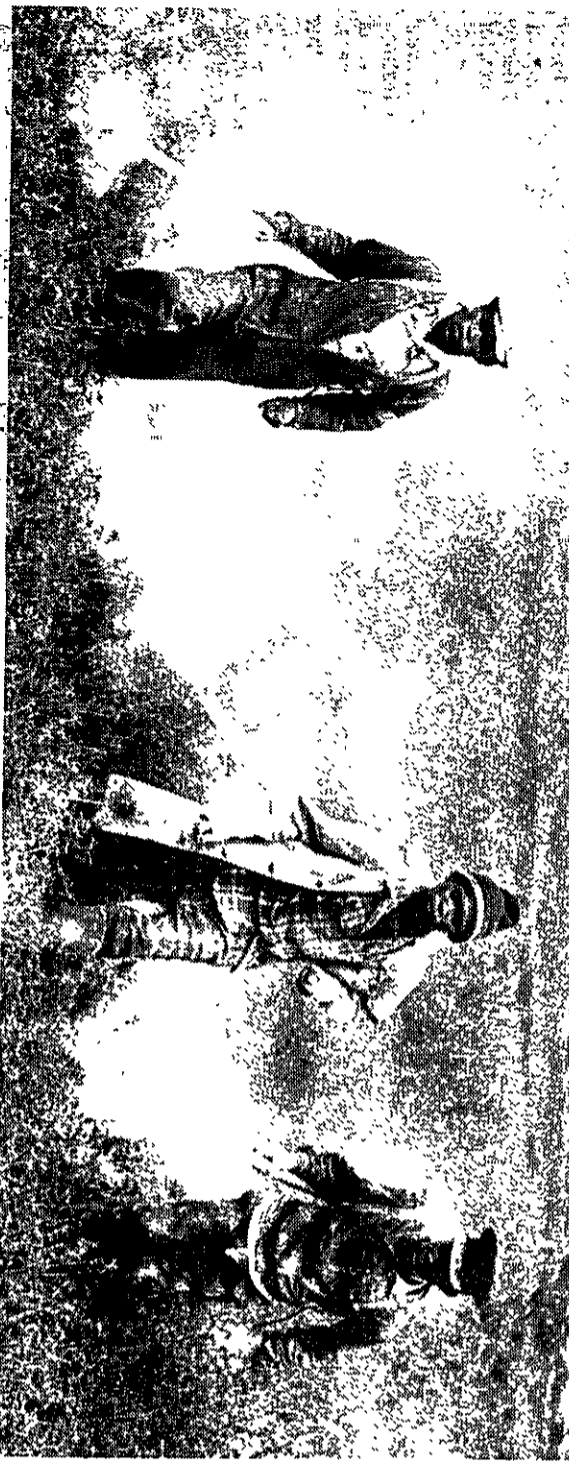
Farmer Mr Carel Goedhals of Buffelshoek indicates the height of his mialles before the locusts.



KEN VERNON
Weekend Argus Bureau



Mr Phillip Solomon, groundsman at the Wheatlands sports fields, shows the only bit of green left after the locusts passed — the spot where a hose lay.



Workers spray poison over a swarm of locusts.
Picture: DOUG PITHEY, Weekend Argus

Drought brings economic threat

DROUGHT in the past five weeks has scorched 3-million tons off the expected maize crop and threatened South Africa's economic prospects.

Three weeks ago the maize crop was estimated at 10,5-million tons. Now it is 7-million tons. The direct cost is R650-million. This comes straight off farmers' incomes and, because of lost exports, off the current account of the balance of payments.

Water dearer

The wider economic effects will be serious. Because of the smaller crop, farmers will require bigger price increases to survive. This means a spurt in the consumer-price index and hardship to millions on the bread-line.

Farmers' continued distress means continued hard times in the fertiliser, tractor and the motor sectors.

The Vaal Dam is only 25% full as the dry season approaches. The Rand Water Board will raise tariffs by 10% from April and warns of another increase if water re-

By Ciaran Ryan

strictions have to be tightened.

The increase is due to increased costs of raw water purchased from the Government, chemicals, electricity and coal.

National Maize Producers Organisation economist Kit le Clus says if no rain falls within the next two weeks the crop will fall below 6-million tons. SA would then have to import maize to meet domestic demand.

He says: "My estimate of the crop as things stand is 7,3-million tons. It is shrinking by 7% a week because of the lack of rain.

"We will have to import white maize again this year. Most of the white maize is produced in the western part of SA where the least rain has fallen."

Zimbabwe

SA has begun importing 200 000 tons of white maize from Zimbabwe. More than 50% of SA's maize is white, which is preferred for human consumption. Yellow maize is used for stock.

Natal and the Eastern

Transvaal have received good rains and a crop of 4,5-million tons is expected. The Western Transvaal, which produces 40% of the mealie crop, is facing a fifth successive year of drought. About a million tons of mealies has been lost every week for the past three weeks there.

Some parts of the Western Transvaal had 40% less rain last month than in February last year.

Little hope

The Vaal Dam at 25% full is better off than last year when it held 21% of capacity. The Bloemhof Dam is 3% full compared with 9% last year. Sterkfontein, the Vaal's reserve supply, is 27% full compared with 38% last year.

Public relations officer for the Department of Water Affairs Anton Steyn says there is little hope for an improvement in the Vaal system as the rainy season is almost over.

The Weather Bureau says there is a 40% chance of rain in the western part of SA in the coming week.

ALTHOUGH the drought still maintains a firm grip over crucial areas of agricultural production, its hold has loosened in others and it is likely that much less will be spent on financial assistance to farmers this year.

Last year R447m was allocated for drought aid, but informed sources expect this to be substantially reduced in Monday's Budget.

Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply Sarel Hayward told *Business Day* he considered the present aid schemes adequate.

The position of maize farmers, particularly in the Western Transvaal, has deteriorated rapidly over the past few weeks and if drought conditions persist and no government assistance is forthcoming, many farmers will have to quit farming.

SAAU chief economist Dr Koos du Toit said government wanted to minimise its involvement in agriculture and aimed to foster a self-help attitude among the farming community. Once agricultural conditions returned to a measure of normality and it was easier for government to withdraw aid, farmers would find, said Du Toit, that "they have to lean on a colder shoulder than in the past".

SAAU has recommended that the government continue with the scheme to subsidise the carry-over debts owed by summer grain farmers to various agricultural co-operatives. Last year, R202,7m of the total of R447m budgeted for farmers was earmarked for the subsidy. A sum of R174m was granted for

Govt to cut aid to drought-hit farms

10/3/86

39 ENK

LINDA ENSOR

the consolidation of debts, production loans and loans for farmers in designated areas, while R39m was for a subsidy on fodder purchases and transport.

Summer grain farmers at present owe R1 300m in carry-over debts to their co-operatives.

The total farm debt totals R11 500m, on which R1 698m was paid in interest in 1985.

"Successive years of drought have resulted in the fact that crop production is not sufficient to pay for production costs. Farmers are faced with carry-over debts which cannot be repaid in one year," Du Toit said.

The subsidy scheme, which came into operation in August last year, allows farmers to pay these debts over six years.

It is subsidised to the extent of the difference between the Land Bank cash credit loan rate and 7%.

"The SAAU has made representations that this subsidy continue because the financial rehabilitation of these farmers will be a long-term process," Du Toit said.

The SAAU has also recommended that production credit continue to be provided to those summer grain farmers who had poor crops during the 1984/85 season and who have sustained substantial losses.

These farmers qualified for a 35% subsidy of the Land Bank cash credit loan rate on production credit obtained from co-operatives.

The SAAU believed the border areas in the northern and north-western Transvaal needed additional aid as the area was still in the grip of a severe drought.

An announcement by Hayward regarding a SAAU recommendation for further aid for farmers in these areas is expected shortly.

Meanwhile, the minister has decided to delist all distressed areas and re-list only those which have had insufficient rain and still have to contend with drought conditions.

Hayward said the 1985-86 Budget allocated R447m for financial assistance through:

- Low interest-rate loans for the purchase of seed, fertiliser and fuel and for the purchase of livestock by farmers within 50km of the Northern Transvaal border.
- Low interest-rate loans for the purchase of agricultural land within 10km of the border areas.
- Loans for the payment of farming debts, including mortgage debts.
- Disaster aid for the stock feed scheme in scheduled grazing distress areas, including the transportation of drinking water for livestock.
- Payment incentives in respect of the stock reducing and stock grazing schemes.
- Payment of water quota subsidies.
- Subsidisation of interest payments on Land Bank loans (limited to 50km from border areas), production loans by the Land Bank as well as the Agricultural Credit Board.

Farmer can't throw out Chief - court

WEEKLY MAIL REPORTER,
Durban

March

1986

A WHITE farmer in Northern Natal has been temporarily barred from evicting a KwaZulu chief and his tribe of 20 families.

Walter Brook, owner of Hlaza farms, had been empowered to throw the people off his newly-bought farm in terms of a ruling made by Eshowe magistrate and commissioner P.M. van Zyl.

Van Zyl had conducted a hearing into whether the people of Chief Nkanyiso Biyela had the right "of confirmed residence" on the farm.

Chief Biyela, a member of the KwaZulu legislative assembly, appeared before the inquiry, but he is now contesting its validity on several grounds.

According to the magistrate's order, all Biyela's people were ordered off the farm before the end of last month.

Biyela decided to take Supreme Court action to prevent the evictions which seemed likely to take place on March 1. In his statement he said that there had been a boundary dispute over the exact area of land he was entitled to, and that which was privately owned by Brook.

As a result of his urgent application, the eviction of the people has been halted until the matter is settled in the Supreme Court on March 17.

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5 DAY 11/3/86

Black birth rate outstrips white

THE high rate of growth in the black population is being maintained, while the white population is moving steadily towards zero growth.

This is clear from Central Statistical Services' mid-year population estimates, which show a massive increase of 1.4-million in the black population, between June 1980 and June last year, to nearly 18.5-million.

This is more than 700 000 greater than the combined increase of the other three population groups.

In the same five years, whites increased by 344 000 to 4 901 000, coloureds by 290 000 to 2 922 000, and Asians by 83 000 to 905 000.

The birth rate among blacks is estimated at 40/1 000 and among whites at 16/1 000.

The statistics show Zulus are by far the largest of the black groups. They increased by 654 000 in the five years to 6 551 000.

5 DAY 11/3/86

Agriculture's 'worst crisis' 3^{gen}

GERALD REILLY

THE agricultural industry faces its worst crisis in 50 years with hundreds of farmers on the verge of bankruptcy, says SA Agricultural Union economist Koos du Toit.

The credit-worthiness of many farmers has been destroyed by four successive seasons of drought and another looms, he says.

"For many there is no solution. They have exploited every possibility of staying on the land.

"The reality is that they will have to pack up, with serious consequences for the entire agricultural industry.

"Many are technically insolvent or have already gone bankrupt."

Du Toit says even farmers who were millionaires five years ago are struggling to survive.

He estimates total farmers' debt at R11,5bn — an increase of 135% since the last good farming year of 1981/82.

Police tapes on trial

CAP TALK 12/3/86 3 General

Less needed for agricultural aid

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The drought's grip on vast tracts of agricultural land is loosening and it is likely that significantly less will be spent on financial assistance to farmers this year.

Last year R447 million was allocated for this purpose and informed sources expect this to be substantially reduced in the March budget.

Mr Piet Swart, director of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), said the drought is not as widespread as a year ago and summer grain and livestock farmers in some areas were no longer in need of assistance to the same extent.

"I anticipate the total amount necessary for financial assistance will decline," he said.

However, as the price of subsidized inputs such as fodder for stock farmers has increased dramatically, the drop in the amount allocated would not be directly proportional to the decline in the applications for assistance.

Aid adequate

Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Sarel Hayward, said he considered the present aid schemes adequate.

"The situation, is however, monitored on a continual basis," he added.

Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist for the SAAU, said the government wanted to minimize its involvement in agriculture and to foster an attitude of self-help among farmers.

Once agricultural conditions returned to a measure of normality and it was easier for government to withdraw aid, farmers would find, said Dr Du Toit, that "they have to lean on a colder shoulder than in the past".

They were realizing, he said, that their political power was diminishing.

The SAAU has recommended to the government that it continue with the scheme to subsidize the carry-over debts owed by summer grain farmers to various agricultural cooperatives.

Last year R202,7 million of the total of R447 million appropriated was earmarked for this subsidy. The second largest amount, R174 million, was for the consolidation of debts, production loans and loans for farmers in designated areas, and the third largest was R39 million for the subsidy on fodder

purchases and rebates on the transport of fodder.

Summer grain farmers owe R1 300 million in carry-over debts to their cooperatives. The total farm debt is R11 500 million on which R1 698 million was paid in interest in 1985.

The subsidy scheme — which came into operation in August last year — allows farmers to pay these debts over six years and for the current year is subsidised to the extent of the difference between the Land Bank cash credit loan rate and 7%.

"The SAAU has made representations that this subsidy continue because the financial rehabilitation of these farmers will be a long term process," Mr Swart said.

The SAAU has also recommended that production credit continue to be provided to those summer grain farmers who had subnormal crops during the 1984/85 season and who have sustained substantial losses.

These farmers qualified for a 35% subsidy of ruling Land Bank cash credit loan rate on production credit obtained from cooperatives.

Another distressed area of concern to the SAAU is the border areas in the northern and north western Transvaal which have had no rain. They could require aid of several millions, said Dr Du Toit believed.

Delisting

A further indication of improving conditions is the fact that the minister has decided to delist all distressed areas and relist only those which have had insufficient rain and still have to contend with drought conditions.

The 1985-86 budget allocated R447 million for financial assistance made available in the following ways:

□ Low interest-rate loans for the purchase of the means of crop production, namely, seed, fertiliser and fuel and for the purchase of livestock by farmers within 50km of the Northern Transvaal border.

□ Low interest-rate loans for the purchase of agricultural land within 10km of the border areas.

□ Loans for the payment of farming debts, including mortgage debts.

□ Disaster aid in respect of the stock feed scheme in scheduled grazing distress areas, including the transportation of drinking water for livestock.

Natal	Tuberculosis Cases		Deaths
	(1)	(2)	
White	65	10 036	6
Coloured	144		7
Asian	495		25
Black	4 321		44
Cape White		15 701	18
Coloured	360		213
Asian	10 512		0
Black	24		633
	9 851		

The governments of all rational states had taken over health services.
 The Minister of Agricultural Products, statutory levies

346. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics and Economics:
 (a) What amounts were collected from producers in the form of statutory levies on each specified agricultural product in each of the latest specified three years for which figures are available, (b) what steps

Marketing Board/Product	Tuberculosis Cases Hospitalised		Tuberculosis Deaths
	(1)	(2)	
Potato Board	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Egg Board	5 827 574	4 395 619	4 697 822
Canning Fruit Board	4 587 811	6 295 694	8 080 361
Cotton Board	559 017	605 178	364 525
Wheat Board (Wintergrain, Wheat, barley, oats and rye)	737 721	1 077 142	712 789
Maize Board (Summergrain, maize, grain sorghum and buckwheat)	7 220 343	11 000 935	9 044 745
Banana Board	165 447 853	9 460 923	8 271 796
Rooibos Tea Board	1 445 211	1 744 446	2 042 489
Deciduous Fruit Board	689 213	874 173	1 197 504*
Citrus Board	12 863 236	15 652 942	17 607 955
Dairy Board	5 300 842	5 804 835	5 542 248*
Mohair Board	62 340 898	98 272 549	117 763 520
Tabacco Board	907 938	1 063 272	1 188 571
Meat Board	13 325 496	16 492 597	19 406 999
Wool Board	52 898 028	57 742 317	54 733 100*
	5 905 919	6 423 618	30 795 729
	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Dry Bean Board	365 563	325 758	373 100
Dried Fruit Board	1 866 576	2 531 909	2 159 432
Karakul Board	731 451	355 481	294 285
Lucerne Board	28 134	164 642	94 273
Oil Seeds Board	9 414 065	12 530 159	7 183 177
Chicoory Board	704 351	689 700	923 200
* Estimate			

(ii) Statutory levies collected to supplement the Minister's Fund to finance some of the functions of the South African Agricultural Union.

(1) Slaughter stock	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
(2) Oil Seeds	260 319	329 223	397 622
(3) Rooibos tea	37 414	19 139	21 476
(4) Maize and grain sorghum	300 058	—	1 447
			117 135

(5) Cotton	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
(6) Industrial milk and factory cream	15 365	11 515	5 695
(7) Wool	91 853	—	274 431
(8) Winter cereals	56 651	54 756	59 532
(9) Mohair	103 637	141 527	127 906
(10) Karakul pelts	11 405	18 194	23 963
(11) Fowl chickens	682	1 212	—
(12) Buckwheat	2 229	2 118	2 071
(13) Fresh produce and deciduous fruit	177	26	—
(14) Bananas	141 813	137 224	201 267
(15) Chicory	7 859	8 683	11 020
(16) Tobacco	1 582	1 488	2 287
(17) Eggs	17 187	29 173	34 504
(18) DRY Beans	5 519	6 216	9 151
(19) Citrus fruit	1 403	17	802
(20) Lucerne seed	30 835	28	41 376
(21) Dried fruit	251	791	934
(22) Sugar	6 390	4 485	9 535
	79 008	—	86 604

(b) Steps have been taken in accordance with the relevant sections of the Marketing Act, 1968 (Act 59 of 1968).

(c) Administration

Administration	All Marketing Boards except Lucerne Control Boards	
Financing of speciality and other agricultural organisations	All Marketing Boards except Lucerne and Citrus Boards	
Surplus removal	Potato, Dry Bean, Egg, Karakul, Cotton, Dairy and Meat Boards	
Price stabilization	Dried Fruit, Canning, Wheat, Maize, Oil Seeds, Rooibos Tea, Chicory, and Tobacco Boards	
Financial Assistance with regard to research	All Marketing Boards except Dry Bean, Dried Fruit, Canning Fruit, Karakul, Lucerne and Rooibos Tea Boards	
Ripening of bananas	Banana Board	
Seed potato scheme	Potato Board	
Seed Scheme	Dry Bean and Oil Seeds Board	
Plant improvement scheme	Dried Fruit, Canning Fruit and Deciduous Fruit Boards	
Processing of surpluses	Egg Board	
Drying of product	Chicoory Board	
Levies collected as indicated under (a)(i) above were utilised in accordance with the provisions of section 46D(2)(a) and (b) of the Marketing Act, 1968, (Act 59 of 1968). The following amounts were paid over the South African Agricultural Union.	Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism:	
1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
R988 126	R1 136 345	R1 406 797

Poisonous/toxic waste products: **Implication**
 444. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism:
 (2) (a)(i) what substances have been imported and (ii)(aa) from which country or countries and (bb) in what so,

HAN SMYD 13/3/86
 & OSLS 522

Worst locust plague in 20 years ravaging veld

By Kym Hamilton,
Pretoria Bureau

The worst brown locust plague in 20 years is continuing to ravage the South African veld as units battle to control outbreaks along an 800 km front.

The locusts are now threatening the mealie farms of the Western Transvaal, but crop damage has so far been minimal, said Mr Pikkie Baird, director of regulatory services of the Department of Agriculture and Water Affairs.

The three worst-hit areas up until yesterday were the Christiana and Schweizer-Reneke districts in the Western Transvaal, the Bloemfontein and Winburg area in the Free State and the Graaff-Reinet and Cradock districts of the southern Karoo.

The locust swarms extend across 42 districts in the Northern Cape, Free State and Western Transvaal and have caused extensive damage to the grasslands in these areas — but the plague was under control, said

Mr Baird.

The latest reports showed locust destroying teams in the western Transvaal area have been successful in keeping the pests away from crops. But an outbreak in Taung in Bophuthatswana was now also threatening this major maize producing area.

Mr Baird said hoppers had been detected in the Vorstershoop area near the North-Western Cape and Botswana borders and this was causing concern. The deep sands of the Kalahari were ideal conditions for egg laying and there were lots of hopper bands in this area.

Since the outbreak in October last year, 427 motorised units, one helicopter and two crop spraying aircraft have been employed in the battle.

So far 234 000 litres of liquid pesticide, 248 000 kg of lindane (a powder based pesticide) and 2,4 million kg hexa chloride benzene (also in powder form) have been used in attempts to destroy the pests.

13/3/86
3 GEN

Ties with neighbours seen as aid in water supply

The resolution of political differences between South Africa and its neighbours could influence the availability and cost of water in this country, a business conference was told today. This was because the most suitable schemes for augmenting South Africa's water resources would involve co-operation with neighbouring states, said an expert on water affairs, Dr D M McCallum.

He was speaking at the 1986 Manufacturing Management Convention in Sandton, near Johannesburg.

Fears of a water crisis arising from the drought were not fully justified, Dr McCallum said.

EXPENSIVE SCHEMES

"There are feasible schemes for augmenting water resources which will be capable of satisfying demand well into the next century," he said.

These schemes were expensive and could be expected to result in an increase in the price of water. The estimated cost of the proposed Lesotho Highlands Project, for example, exceeded R2-300 million.

"However, when one considers the vital nature of water supplies and the relatively low price paid at present, some increase in price does not seem unreasonable," Dr McCallum said.

colle news 15/3/86 36 news

40-million hectares threatened by locusts

Weekend Argus Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA'S locust plague is spreading rapidly.

According to the Department of Agriculture, 42 magisterial districts covering 40-million hectares have been attacked — from Vryburg and Kuruman in the north down to Jansenville and Somerset East.

Swarms are now approaching the coast between Port Elizabeth and East London.

Wherever the locusts land they devour anything that grows in the soil. And in some districts grazing has been almost completely destroyed.

Damage runs into millions of rands.

The general direction of the locust migration is west to east. A big effort is being made to save the drought-ravaged maize fields of the Western Transvaal and OFS.

Thousands of farmworkers under the direction of the Department of Agricultural Economics are fighting the plague, moving from farm to farm in private and army transport.



A large quantity of insecticide has been supplied to Botswana. Assistance to Bophuthatswana will also be given, but arrangements have not yet been completed.

Highly poisonous organo-phosphates such as BHC are being used.

Farmers are accusing State departments of being inefficient. They say it was common knowledge that swarms

had for some time been hatching and building up in the Kuruman area, but that little had been done.

The Department of Agriculture (Own Affairs) and the other Department of Agriculture (General Affairs) were passing the buck back and forth, farmers say.

A Department of Agriculture spokesman said the clamp on State expenses had caused serious undermanning of locust control services.

Transvaal dam levels drop

Water reserves still precarious

③ GEN 17/5/86
3 DAY

WATER reserves are still precarious as the rainy season comes to an end.

Latest figures show the combined capacity of the Vaal, Bloemhof and Sterkfontein dams down by 6% compared with this time last year.

A Rand Water Board spokesman declined to comment but indicated government would consult it before imposing restrictions.

Water usage is administered by the Environment Department through the Directorate of Water Affairs.

Directorate spokesman Anton Steyn told *Business Day*: "South Africa is in the grip of the worst drought ever recorded. The situation now is more critical than it has been over the past 200 years.

"There is an anomaly in that farmers in some areas are expecting bumper crops, but we must differentiate between urban and agricultural drought.

"Agricultural drought can be broken by light rains of 50mm over three days, but these rains do little for ground water or dam levels," he said.

Steyn added that the second half of

MICK COLLINS

the 1970s saw substantial rains pushing Vaal Dam capacity to overflowing.

"But the crunch came in 1981/82 when only 440-million m³ flowed into the dam. We need a minimum of 800-million m³ to cater to the needs of the PWV area, where 80% of heavy industry is.

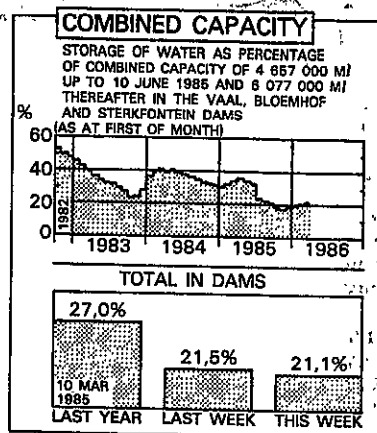
"We are now at the end of our rainy season for this year and we still have not had 400-million m³," Steyn said.

He said that, in the winter of 1982, water authorities pumped water from the Tugela River via the Vaal to Eastern Transvaal power stations, where 85% of all SA's electricity is generated.

"These power stations were in serious trouble and some had only one week's supply of water remaining when we came to the rescue.

"What could have been a catastrophe was averted and the wheels of industry were kept turning.

"Fortunately, good rains have fallen in the eastern regions this year



and the same type of emergency is not foreseen."

He appealed to industrialists, especially those involved in forward planning, to locate factories near a constant water supply.

"I also appeal to industry at large to educate workers in the conservation of water.

"We still have enough water to see us through this winter, but should similar conditions prevail next year, we will be in a disaster situation."

Rivonia-based consulting engineer Douglas McCallum told the Manufacturing Management Convention last week that the drought had highlighted the need for engineers to appreciate the relationship between water availability and cost.

"Recent experience has shown that domestic use can be reduced by as much as 50% without detrimentally affecting the financial state or health of the community.

A KRUGERSDORP farmer this week refused to help a 54-year-old woman give her husband a decent burial - telling her: "He's not my brother."

When Sarah Jonas asked farmer Moses Enacio for help with the burial of her husband James, she was bluntly told to do it herself.

Jonas, who stays in a one-roomed house on Vlakfontein farm, said her husband died a fortnight ago after working as a shepherd on the farm for the past six years.

"When I approached the farmer - who also has a cafe nearby - for financial help to bury my husband, he said my husband was not his brother.

"He asked what had happened to all his earnings," Jonas said.

"While my husband worked for him, the farmer had promised to pay him R100 a month - but he never brought home that much.

"The farmer used to let him buy on credit and at every month-end he deducted from his pay."

Jonas said she only managed to bury her husband after Cebekhulu Burial So-

(3) GEN

'Boss with no heart'

18/3/86 CUT/P-

By SELLO SERIPE

ciety had heard of her plight.

The farmer eventually donated a sheep - after she begged him.

Enacio was not available for comment. A woman who answered the phone said: "My husband is not here - and this has nothing to do with newspapers."

● A Krugersdorp Department of Manpower spokesman said the department could not help - they have no legal authority to intervene in farm affairs.

"The best for these people is to consult a lawyer," he said.

● Women interviewed on the farm said they worked

"for nothing".

They said their boss sometimes gave them R3 each.

They claim that instead of paying them for working on the farm, their boss let them stay rent-free in one or two-roomed houses.

"We only eat meat once a year when he slaughters a cow," they said.

One of the women, from Lesotho, said she left her live-in domestic job in the city in 1983 because she had not been registered.

She had worked on the farm since then, earning R3 "now and then".

"I have 10 children to support but cannot afford

to - because I work for nothing," she said.

"My eldest son had to leave school in Standard Seven because I couldn't pay his fees. The others are starving in Lesotho.

"My husband is a painter, but what he earns can never make ends meet."

A 20-year-old mother of a three-year-old girl said: "At one stage we asked for pay so we could buy food - but Enacio refused.

"He said our husbands should buy food for us.

"He said he could not pay us because he gave us rent-free homes," she said.

"We often go to sleep without food."

Rain ³ ^{CEN} too late ^{SMA} for many ^{8/386} farmers ¹⁹⁷⁹

By Kym Hamilton
Pretoria Bureau

The widespread rain of the past few days has come too late for many maize farmers, but has brought some relief to drought-stricken parts of the Western Transvaal.

Administrative manager of the National Maize Producers Organisation, Mr Giel Van Zyl, said today the rain had come too late to save some of the crops, but it was still too early to assess the position accurately.

Although the rain had helped the younger plants, the drought had not been broken, he said.

The country's major dam levels remain unchanged as it is still too early for any run-off to have reached them. The Vaal Dam is presently about 24 percent full, said a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture and Water Affairs.

In Johannesburg the wet weather looks here to stay for a few days at least. Forecasters at the Weather Bureau predict that occasional rain is likely to continue until about Friday.

From 8 am yesterday to 8 am today, 13,6 mm of rain fell at Joubert Park. Since Friday, a total of 41,1 mm of rain has fallen in central Johannesburg.

The wet weather is caused by a north-east flow in the upper air and moisture moving in from the east.

The mercury is expected to rise to 20 deg C in Johannesburg and Vereeniging, and 23 deg C in Pretoria today.

1 member for 6 months
1 member for 12 months

the latest specified financial year for which information is available?

Using or taking an article issued to or under control of another person

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

1 member for 120 days

1984-85: (a) and (b) Yes.

Drunkenness

Common law offence of fraud

2 members for 180 days

(i) and (ii) The information is not readily available and will take much time and expense to gather.

Failing to report for or to render military service on account of the religious tenets of his church

Posts regraded

64 members for 3 years

500. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

Air journeys: free/discounted

499. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

Whether any South African Transport Services staff members and families of staff members have undertaken (a) free or (b) discounted air journeys to Europe, the Americas or the Far East; if so, how many (i) staff members and (ii) families of staff members undertook such air journeys in

Whether any positions in the South African Transport Services from the level of assistant director and higher were or are to be regraded in the 1985-86 or 1986-87 financial years; if so, (a) how many, (b) when, and (c) with what salary adjustment, in each case?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

Yes.

1985-86

(a)	(b)	(c)
1 Assistant Director	1 June 1985	Increased by R4 170 p.a.
1 Assistant Director	1 July 1985	Increased by R4 170 p.a.
1 Assistant Director	1 August 1985	Decreased by R3 480 p.a.
3 Assistant Directors	1 January 1986	Increased by R4 170 p.a.
1 Assistant Director	1 February 1986	Decreased by R3 480 p.a.
4 Deputy Directors	1 January 1985	Increased by R5 580 p.a.
1 Deputy Director	1 January 1986	Decreased by R4 170 p.a.
1 Director	1 October 1985	Decreased by R5 580 p.a.
1 Director	1 January 1986	Decreased by R5 580 p.a.

1986-87: It is not possible to indicate what posts will be regraded during the 1986-87 financial year.

Flying crews: premature retirement

many persons in each category and (b) why in each case?

501. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

No.

Whether any South African Airways flying crews have been retired prematurely in the 1985-86 financial year; if so, (a) how

(a) and (b) Fall away.

Reduction in fuel price

503. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) Whether the reduction in the fuel price effective from 3 March 1986 will result in any savings for the South African Airways; if not, why not; if so, what is the estimated savings;

(2) whether, in the light of this reduction, he intends reducing any air fares; if not, why not; if so, (a) which fares, (b) when and (c) by what amount?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes, R0,3 million on fuel other than aircraft fuel. The fuel price reduction does not apply to avionic kerosene used by aircraft.

(2) No, the estimated loss for SA Airways for the 1986/87 financial year is R21 million. In the light of this loss a reduction in air fares cannot be considered.

Reduction in fuel price

504. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) Whether the reduction in the fuel price effective from 3 March 1986 will result in any savings for the South African Transport Services; if not, why not; if so, what is the estimated savings;

(2) whether, in the light of this reduction, he intends reducing any rail fares; if not, why not; if so, (a) which fares, (b) when and (c) by what amount?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes, R40 million.

(2) No, in view of the vast accumulated

losses, a reduction in rail fares is not feasible at present.

National service: foreign citizens

510. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Defence:

(a) How many citizens of foreign countries registered for national service in 1985 and (b) of which countries were they citizens in each case?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a) None.

(b) Falls away.

White males: service

(a) How many White males were liable in 1984 and 1985, respectively, to render 120 days' service and (b) how many of them rendered (i) 120 days', (ii) between 90 and 120 days', (iii) less than 90 days' and (iv) no service in each such year?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

Serving members of the Citizen Force who are liable to serve in terms of Section 22 or who have been allotted to the Commandos in terms of Section 89A of the Defence Act, can be required to serve up to 120 days in a cycle of two years. To reply to this question would entail disclosing the total Citizen Force, and a considerable number of Commando strengths. It is, for obvious reasons not policy to divulge Defence Force strengths of this nature.

Land and Agricultural Bank

591. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Finance:

(a) What was the total amount of loans granted to farmers by the Land and Agricultural Bank as at 31 December 1985 and (b) to how many farmers had these loans been granted?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) On 31 December 1985 farmers were indebted to the Land Bank for the total amount of R2 275 166 507 under long-, intermediate- and short-term loans.

(b) The foregoing total debt is in respect of 42 771 loans granted by the Land Bank to farmers. Joint loans, which were granted to two or more farmers, make up a large percentage of these loans.

Land and Agricultural Bank

635. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Finance:

How many loans were granted by the Land and Agricultural Bank to (a) Coloured and (b) Indian farmers in 1985?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (a) 6.
- (b) 6.

Own Affairs:

Handwritten: 631 Agricultural colleges
 21. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

In respect of each specified agricultural college in the Republic in each of the latest specified three years for which figures are available, how many students (a) applied for admission, (b) completed the course and (c) obtained their diplomas?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

Agricultural College	Year	(a)	(b)	(c)
Grootfontein	1983	95	45	44
	1984	105	43	42
	1985	106	43	43
Potchefstroom	1983	128	64	64
	1984	163	47	47
	1985	163	52	52

(2) (a) how many of the applications in each area were granted and (b) what was the total amount granted in (i) each area and (ii) the Republic as a whole?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

The scheme for housing loans for farm labourers was temporarily suspended on 24 August 1984.

Drought relief: financial assistance

41. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

What was the total amount of financial assistance rendered by his Department in the form of drought relief in 1985 or the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

R275 474 754 (1 April 1985-31 January 1986).

White-owned farms

42. Mr M A LARK asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

Whether his Department keeps any statistics on the number of White-owned farms which are no longer occupied by White farmers; if so, how many such farms were there in each specified region of the Republic as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

No such statistics are being kept.

Farm employees: amount allocated

44. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

What amount was allocated by the

Agricultural Credit Board in the latest specified year for which figures are available, in respect of (a) the electrification of houses for, (b) the provision of water for domestic consumption by, and (c) any other specified services in respect of, farm employees?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

The scheme for housing loans for farm labourers was temporarily suspended on 24 August 1984.

WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 1986

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General affairs: 19/3/86
 Internal Security Act: Detainees
 39. Mr R R HULLIEY asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) With regard to 1984 and 1985, respectively, (a) what total number of persons were detained under the Internal Security Act, No 74 of 1982, for reasons related to unrest, (b) in terms of what section of this Act was each detained and (c) for how long was each person held in detention;

(2) whether any persons so detained were (a) charged and (b) convicted; if so, how many in each case in respect of each of the above years?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) (a) 1984: 166
- 1985: 1 924

(b) Section 50(1) of the Internal Security Act, 1982 (Act 74 of 1982)

Computer traffic: loss
*16. Mr P CROONIE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

Whether the South African Transport Services made a loss on (a) first and (b) third-class commuter traffic in the Johannesburg commuter area in the 1985-86 financial year; if so, what was the loss in each case?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (for the Minister of Transport Affairs):

(a) and (b) Separate figures for the Johannesburg commuter area are not available. However, the estimated loss for the Pretoria-Wiwaterstrand-Vereeniging area is R130 million and R160 million respectively.

ambassador: statements regarding Nelson Mandela
*17. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether the South African ambassador in Washington made any statements recently regarding the release of Mr Nelson Mandela; if so, what statements;
- (2) whether these statements reflect the policy of the South African Government; if not;
- (3) whether these statements reflect the opinion of (a) his Department and (b) the ambassador in question;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID (for the Minister of Foreign Affairs):

- (1) No, the ambassador did not make a statement as such. He did however say in reply to a question following an address to the Washington Press

HoA

Club and in the context of certain preceding remarks on the subject that Mr Mandela would be released as and when the Government should so decide.

- (2) Falls away.
- (3) (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (4) No, except to refer the hon member to the State President's statements on this matter in Parliament on 31 January 1985 and 31 January 1986.

Mr F J LIE ROUX: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, did the ambassador speak in his personal capacity?

The MINISTER: The ambassador spoke in his official capacity in this case.

East Griqualand: farms

*18. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Public Works:

- (1) Whether it is the intention to acquire certain farms situated in the Swartberg area of East Griqualand; if so, (a) when will the acquisition of these farms be finalized and (b) for what purpose will they be used;
- (2) whether the owners concerned have been advised of this intention; if not, why not; if so, when?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) The farms in question will be acquired as soon as funds become available;
 - (b) conservation purposes.
- (2) No, but the Natal Agricultural Union as well as the local farmers association were represented on the committee which undertook the delimitation of the area which should be acquired.

locusts
*19. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What amount has been spent on locust control during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER (for the Minister of Agricultural Economics):

R7.4 million until end of March 1986.

Queen Elizabeth II

*20. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism:

Whether any special steps were taken by his Department recently to promote tourism by encouraging passengers travelling on the passenger liner *Queen Elizabeth II* to avail themselves of tourist facilities in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

No, not by the Department of Environment Affairs.

Representatives of the South African Tourism Board, however, boarded the *Queen Elizabeth II* on arrival in Cape Town for the purpose of rendering a general tourist information service to those passengers who were not booked on pre-arranged tours and shore excursions.

The South African Tourism Board also collaborated closely with the local agents and the company responsible for the reception programme on the occasion of the ship's arrival in Cape Town as well as for a fashion show on the ship. The Board furthermore accepted responsibility for decorations of indigenous flora on board.

The South African Tourism Board attempted to provide an information service on board the *Queen Elizabeth II* in Durban but was informed by the contracting agency that all the needs of the passengers had already been taken care of.

HoA

As far as participation by the passengers in the various tours and shore excursions is concerned, it must be pointed out that all arrangements in this regard are made well before the ships' arrival at the various ports of call on its cruise around the world. In fact, a full colour brochure is published well in advance of the commencement of the world cruise, describing all the tours and shore excursions from every port of call. All these arrangements are negotiated between the shipping line and the contracting agents which enjoy sole rights to operate on board.

Louis Trichardt: removal
*21. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether residents of the Black townships of Louis Trichardt are to be moved; if so, (a) why, (b) when are they to be moved, (c) where will they be moved to, (d) (i) when and (ii) by whom were these residents informed that they would be moved and (e) (i) how many persons are involved and (ii) to which ethnic groups do they belong;
- (2) whether these residents were consulted by his Department prior to the decision being taken to move them; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) by whom and (c) what was their response;
- (3) whether persons who are employed in the Black township will be permitted to do so; if so, (a) which persons and (b) what accommodation will be available for (i) them and (ii) their families; if not, why not;
- (4) whether transport is to be provided for persons employed in Louis Trichardt following their removal; if not, (a) why not and (b) what alternative arrangements have been made by his Department in this regard; if so, (i) what specified transport, (ii) at what cost and (iii) as from what date;
- (5) whether this transport will be subsidised.

whether this transport will be subsidised.

HoA

CAPE TOWN — Coloureds who lived in farming areas should be given freehold rights so they could contribute to the agricultural needs of the country, Mr James Swigelaar (LP Dysseidorf), said yesterday in the House of Representatives.

He was speaking on his motion calling for the repeal of all measures restricting progress in the agricultural industry so that an adequate food supply for a growing population could be ensured.

South Africa could produce enough food to supply its population at present but in the fu-

ture, when the population had grown, this might not be possible unless restrictions on agriculture were removed.

He said many coloured farmers were given sub-economic units on which to farm while their white counterparts had farms of unrestricted size.

Call to lift restrictions on farming

A farmer should not be judged by the colour of his skin but the efficiency with which he ran his farm.

The Group Areas Act should be abolished and coloured farmers given freehold rights, he said.

Mr Abe Williams (LP Mamre) said a programme should be devised to improve the lot

of coloured farmers. A manager should be appointed to advise and assist farmers in farming techniques. The long-term development programme would improve living standards, reduce unemployment and produce more food for the future, he said.

The Minister of Agriculture in the House of Representatives, Mr David Curry, said the government should impose a tax on land to ensure that farmland was gainfully used.

He said many white farmers lived in the cities and used their farms as tax free investments. — Sapa

3-2501 DISPATCH
9/3/86

Tax for absentee farmers suggested

1973/74
Political Staff

PARLIAMENT — A special tax should be levied on absentee farmers to persuade them to give up the land to farmers who were prepared to occupy it.

This was suggested by Mr David Curry, Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives.

Many white farmers lived in the cities, wasting the potential of the land, while eager coloured farmers were prevented from owning farms except by permit, he said.

Mr Curry was speaking during the debate yesterday on the motion by Mr James Swigelaar (LP, Dysselsdorp) urging the Government to scrap the permit system.

CAPITAL

This system restricted brown farmers in the same way that the Group Areas Act restricted brown people in towns and cities, Mr Swigelaar said.

The Erika Theron Commission had already recommended the scrapping of the permit system in the 1970s.

Giving more land to coloured farmers would be an investment in the country because many white farmers were leaving the land.

The coloured farmer's biggest problem was lack of capital. The Agricultural Credit Act extended state loans at five per cent interest to white farmers only.

White training centres should be open to all, he said.

Last year R7 261 000 was budgeted for brown farmers and R576 959 000 for whites.

③ MARZ B-DAY
20/3/86



● GOUS

Effective new marketing for maize — Gous

LINDA ENSOR

A STRONG argument for the introduction of a new marketing system for maize — especially yellow maize — was to enable it to compete effectively with grain sorghum.

National Maize Producer's Organisation (Nampo) GM Piet Gous said this was one good reason for setting up a new system. Nampo endorsed the new marketing proposals at its annual congress last week.

Instead of having a fixed price determined by the Maize Board and government at the beginning of the year, the board — which has most producer members represented upon it — would be able to adjust prices regularly in response to market conditions under the new system, Gous said.

Consumption of yellow maize decreased by nearly 1-million tons since 1982/83 when 2.979 tons was used, but use of grain sorghum has risen from 70 000 tons in 1982/83 to 265 000 tons last year.

Grain Sorghum Board deputy GM Wessels Venter said grain sorghum and maize were now in direct competition for the animal feed market, which consumed an estimated 3-million tons of feed annually.

Own Affairs:

Understepoor Veterinary Faculty
Category A—R134,09
Category B—R205,10
Category C—R393,81

25. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) How many (a) male and (b) female students (i) were accepted at the Onderstepoor Veterinary Faculty and (ii)(aa) completed the course and (bb) obtained their diplomas, in each of the latest specified three years for which figures are available;
- (2) whether there are any restrictions on the numbers of male and female students accepted at this faculty annually; if so, (a) why and (b) what are these restrictions in each case?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

1983	1984	1985
(1) (a)	74	79
(1) (b)	33	30
(1) (i)	33	28
(1) (ii) (a)	71	57
(1) (ii) (b)	15	14
(1) (ii) (aa)	15	15
(1) (ii) (bb)	71	57
(1) (ii) (bb)	15	14
(1) (ii) (bb)	15	15

(2) No. The facilities, however, make provision for 90 students to furnish their study annually.

The above information is in respect of the BVSc degree.

Old-age homes

26. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

What, in each category, was the per capita subsidy paid to old-age homes for Whites in 1985?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

The maximum subsidy payable per sub-economic aged person per month during 1985/86 was as follows:

HOA

Pensioners

40. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

How many White social pensioners in each specified pension category were there in the Republic as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

(a) Old-age Pensions	142 766
(b) Blind Persons' Pensions	749
(c) War Veterans' Pensions	12 780
(d) Disability Pensions	32 337

Details as at March 1986.

THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 1986

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Soutpansberg: air force base

15. Dr W J SNTYMAN asked the Minister of Finance:†

- (1) (a) How many tenders were received for the building of hangars at an air-force base south of the Soutpansberg, the project name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply, and (b) from whom were these tenders received;
- (2) whether the lowest tender has been accepted; if not, (a) why not and (b)

what is the difference between the amount of the lowest tender and that of the tender which has been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) (a) Thirteen.
- (b) Wilson Bayly Homes
Basil Read
GTA (Pty) Ltd
Grinaker Construction North
Group Five Civils
Stocks Civils
Concor Construction
LTA Construction
Ovcon (Tvl) Civil
SM Goldstein
L.E.T. Construction

Dick Smith (Pty) Ltd
Gillmar Joint Venture

150. Mr P R C ROBERTS asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

How many (a) secondary and (b) senior secondary schools were there for Black pupils in rural areas in each specified (i) province and/or (ii) departmental region as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) and (b)(i) Figures are not available.

(ii)	(a)	(b)
Departmental region	(Up to Std 8)	(Up to Std 10)
Northern Transvaal Region	6	13
Highveld Region	2	2
Johannesburg Region	1	4
Orange-Vaal Region	4	14
OFS Region	4	2
Natal Region	4	8
Cape Region	5	8

Note:

The phrase "rural" is not easily definable. For the answering of this question the norms used are those of the current "Investigation into the provision of education for the rural areas".

his Department as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

(a) (i) None.

(ii) 37.

(iii) 17.

(iv) 50.

(v) 33.

(vi) 28.

FARM SCHOOLS
246. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

How many farm schools were (a) established and (b) closed in the (i) Johannesburg, (ii) Northern Transvaal, (iii) Highveld, (iv) Orange Vaal, (v) Orange Free State, (vi) Natal and (vii) Cape regions of

HOA

Own Affairs:

Understepoort Veterinary Faculty
 Category A—R134,09
 Category B—R205,10
 Category C—R393,81

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40. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

How many White social pensioners in each specified pension category were there in the Republic as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

- (a) Old-age Pensions 142 766
- (b) Blind Persons' Pensions 749

(c) War Veterans' Pensions 12 780

(d) Disability Pensions 32 337

Details as at March 1986.

THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 1986

1983	1984	1985
(1) (a)	(i) 74	79
(1) (b)	(i) 33	30
(1) (a)	(ii)(aa) 71	57
(1) (b)	(ii)(aa) 15	14
(1) (a)	(ii)(bb) 71	57
(1) (b)	(ii)(bb) 15	14

- (2) No. The facilities, however, make provision for 90 students to furnish their study annually.

The above information is in respect of the BVSc degree.

Old-age homes

26. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

What, in each category, was the *per capita* subsidy paid to old-age homes for Whites in 1985?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

The maximum subsidy payable per sub-economic aged person per month during 1985/86 was as follows:

HQA

what is the difference between the amount of the lowest tender and that of the tender which has been accepted?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) (a) Thirteen.

- (b) Wilson Bayly Homes
 Basil Read
 GYA (Pty) Ltd
 Grinaker Construction North
 Group Five Civils
 Stocks Civils
 Concor Construction
 LTA Construction
 Ovcon (Tvl) Civil
 SM Goldstein
 L.E.T. Construction

Dick Smith (Pty) Ltd
 Giltmar Joint Venture

150. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

How many (a) secondary and (b) senior secondary schools were there for Black pupils in rural areas in each specified (i) province and/or (ii) departmental region as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) and (b)(i) Figures are not available.

(ii)	(a)	(b)
	(Up to Std 8)	(Up to Std 10)
Departmental region		
Northern Transvaal Region	6	13
Highveld Region	2	2
Johannesburg Region	—	—
Orange-Vaal Region	1	4
OFS Region	4	14
Natal Region	4	2
Cape Region	4	4
Figures as on 5 March 1985.	5	8

Note:

The phrase "rural" is not easily definable. For the answering of this question the norms used are those of the current "Investigation into the provision of education for the rural areas".

his Department as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) (i) None.

(ii) 37.

(iii) 17.

(iv) 50.

(v) 33.

(vi) 28.

246. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

How many farm schools were (a) established and (b) closed in the (i) Johannesburg, (ii) Northern Transvaal, (iii) Highveld, (iv) Orange Vaal, (v) Orange Free State, (vi) Natal and (vii) Cape regions of

Handwritten: Farm schools 3 SEN
 2013/86 Oct 15/83

HQA

The weed that could rescue Zimbabwe

21/3/86 WEEKLY ③ GENERAL

A WEED could rescue Zimbabwe from the ravages of drought.

Research tests on pigweed, a drought-resistant plant which originates in South America but is widespread in Zimbabwe, could establish it as a food and cash crop.

The tests are part of a concerted drive to give farmers the upper hand on drought. Zimbabwe emerged from a four-year dry spell last year in better condition than most African countries with abundant harvests of wheat, maize and tobacco. But the nation's food supply was severely affected nonetheless.

To avoid a repeat, an early warning system and improved storage facilities are being introduced, and pigweed is one of several potential crops being studied for its ability to thrive with little water. Tests so far show that although irrigated yields are higher, dry land yields of the plant, at 70 percent of wet yields, compare well.

Another important feature is the plant's dual nature. It can serve either as a vegetable or grain crop. There is even a variety from which in theory both leaves and seeds can be harvested, although how to manage this in practice has yet to be resolved.

Researcher PJ Schwerzel, who pioneered study of the plant in Zimbabwe, found that its leaf yield was higher than that of cabbage, the highest-yielding vegetable crop now grown. Pigweed could yield up to 40 tonnes a hectare compared to 25 tonnes per hectare for cabbage.

A weed that thrives where no vegetable will grow could save Zimbabwe from drought, reports SIPHO SISO in Bulawayo

A local food company, Willards Foods, has already expressed interest in using the grain as an additive in breakfast cereals and soup noodles.

Known also as bonongwe, pigweed grows to a height of 1,5 -2 metres and has ribbed stems, full seed heads reminiscent of sorghum, and a reddish colour. Although its potential as a food source has been largely ignored in Africa, in some tropical regions it is eaten widely as a leaf vegetable.

The plant's high protein content means it can be used to enrich other cereals.

Taste tests have found that local vegetable varieties are generally popular, although the red colour of the plant seems to encounter resistance.

Mixing pigweed flour with an equal amount of maize meal improved the taste, but unmilled and black seed caused resistance. Pigweed flour does not rise and must be combined with wheat flour to make bread.

Zimbabwe's efforts to immunise itself from the potentially disastrous effects of drought are among the most advanced in Africa. Researchers hope sturdy plants like pigweed will become an integral part of their disaster prevention plans. — Gemini News Service

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (a) (i) *Fresh milk* cent per litre with effect from 1 June 1985
- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| Bloemfontein: | 44,29 |
| Cape: | 47,42 |
| Natal: | 45,12 |
| Transvaal: | 45,13 |
- Prices paid by distributors to the Board for producer's milk with 3,5% butterfat.

(ii) *Industrial milk* (according to grades and chemical quality)

- Grade A plus bulk facilities: 466 cent per kg butterfat and protein
 Grade A: 407 cent per kg butterfat and protein
 Grade B: 394 cent per kg butterfat and protein
 Grade C: 378 cent per kg butterfat and protein

- (b) *Fresh milk:* None.
Industrial milk: (with effect from 85/12/01)
 Grade A plus bulk facilities: 20 cent per kg butterfat and protein
 Grade A: None
 Grade B: None
 Grade C: None

HANSARD 24/3/86
 3 GEN 542. Mr P R BURROUGHS asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What was the value of the Republic's agricultural (a) production and (b) exports in 1985?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (a) R10 641 million.
 (b) R2 200 million (preliminary estimates).

3 GEN 543. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What percentage of South Africa's total agricultural production in the 1984-85 production seasons was not under the control of any board established under the Marketing Act No 59 of 1968?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

28,6 per cent.

HOA

3 GEN 652. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What amount was paid out in subsidies in respect of (a) bread, (b) maize and (c) butter for consumer use in the 1984-85 financial year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (a) R194 285 276.
 (b) R215 million, including R48 803 790 in respect of losses on imported maize.

3 GEN 673. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

What was the total amount collected in terms of the provisions of the Black Transport Services Act, No 53 of 1957, in contributions from employers between July 1957 and 31 March 1985?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

R259 011 557,49.

3 GEN 699. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) How many (a) Whites, (b) Coloureds, (c) Indians and (d) Blacks are employed by the Land and Agricultural Bank?
 (2) whether any such employees are in receipt of housing loans from this Bank; if so, how many in respect of each race group;
 (3) whether any of these housing loans exceed R70 000; if so, how many;

HOA

(4) what is the amount of the highest housing loan received by an employee of this Bank;

(5) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) (a) 993.

(b) 27.

(c) None.

(d) 129.

(2) Yes—Whites 495, Coloureds 6 and Blacks 1.

(3) Yes—41.

(4) R97 500.

(5) 31 December 1985.

TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 1986

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Question standing over from Tuesday, 18 March 1986:

Birkenhead

*31. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

- (1) Whether the National Monuments Council has received any applications for permits for divers to (a) inspect the wreck of the *Birkenhead* and (b) recover wreck material from it; if so, (i) when and (ii) from whom;
 (2) whether any permits were granted; if so, (a) to whom and (b) when;

24/2/86 BDAI (3) GEN

Review spotlights farmers' plight

Economics Reporter

FARMERS are finding themselves in an increasingly difficult position because product prices have not kept up with input price increases, says the latest issue of Volkskas's *Economic Spotlight*.

Field crops will have to be exported at a loss yet again if output is larger than the rate of consumption (there was only an 8,6% increase in product prices in 1985, compared with a 19% increase in farm requisites).

The net result of changes in production and the terms of trade increased from 100 in 1975

to 110,5 in 1981. It dropped thereafter to below 100.

As a result of agricultural input-price trends, farmers are showing a greater degree of cost awareness. This has led to elimination of unnecessary cultivation by tilling the land less frequently, using less fertiliser and employing fewer workers.

Government should take the low level of productivity in agriculture seriously, as it restricts new farmers from entering agriculture, causes a decline in the number of full-time farmers and se-

riously limits farmers' ability to recover after a drought.

The farming debt-burden ratio has deteriorated gradually from 11,5% in 1975 to 26,5% in 1985, while the short-term component of this debt has increased from 28,5% in 1970 to 54% in 1985.

The report adds that the most rapid price increase (121,5%) for consumers from 1980 to January this year was in the OFS goldfields. It was followed by Pretoria (120,6%), the Vaal Triangle (120,1%) and Maritzburg (117,5%).

The areas showing the slowest growth were East London (99,3%) followed by Bloemfontein (104,9%) and Klerksdorp (105,1%).

The discrepancy becomes even more evident with the price of foodstuffs, which went up 15% in East London and 22,4% in Port Elizabeth. Foodstuffs rose 17,6% on the Witwatersrand compared with 22,3% in Pretoria.

BUSINESS

24/3/86
SAR

(3) GEN

By Frank Jeans

Agriculture needs sustained drive for stability

The inflation spiral combined with the twin problems of rising input costs and debt will inevitably put such a stranglehold on agriculture that despite a more promising outlook it will have to turn to the Government for more help.

Urging a sustained drive for economic stability, banking group Volkskas says the strategic importance of agriculture demands measures far beyond stimulating the economy and increased budget deficits.

"The latter can only, in the long run, result in an even larger inflation rate and still greater suffering," says the latest issue of the bank's *Economic Spotlight*.

And it adds that any further dependence on the state would be undesirable as the solution to the farmer's problem cannot be found in product price increases.

Farmers trapped in a financial stranglehold

While noting an improved contribution by agriculture towards an economic upswing this year, Volkskas says the importance of the sector as a supplier of food, sufficient raw materials and as a market for products and services and an earner of foreign exchange, is again evident.

"However, agriculture has probably been affected a great deal more seriously by inflation than

most other sectors," it says.

"The farmer finds himself in an increasingly difficult position since product price increases have not been able to keep up with input costs."

The price rises of petrol, fertilisers, electricity and irrigation, on the other hand, are forcing the farmer to use inputs more effectively and to introduce more cost-effective measures.

This, for example, has led to the elimination of unnecessary cultivation by tilling the land less frequently, using less fertiliser and employing fewer labourers.

"Savings such as these, on the other hand, cannot continue indefinitely and this implies that a greater amount of pressure will be placed on the farmer's profits," says the review.

Given the disastrous effect of inflation and interest rates during the past few years, not to mention the disastrous drought, the farmer's purchasing power has decreased considerably, a situation which Volkskas has no doubt increases the lopsided distribution of income among farmers and encourages a greater concentration of mega-farmers, thus cutting the ranks of ordinary farmers.

"So far as the Government is

concerned," says the bank, "the low level of profitability should be seen in a serious light as this, inter alia, restricts new farmers from entering the field, causes a decline in the number of full-time farmers and seriously limits the farmers' ability to recover after drought conditions."

Indeed, rising input prices in relation to those of overseas competitors mean that South Africa's competitive position as an exporter of agricultural products will suffer in spite of the more favourable exchange rate.

Looking at the debt burden, Volkskas says this deteriorated from 11.5 percent in 1975 to 26.5 percent last year and that while the value of farming assets rose on average in the ten years 1975 to 1985 by 9.8 percent a year, the debt burden showed an increase of 19.2 percent a year in the same 10-year period.

"Since the drought has aggravated the weakening financial position, most producers have little reserve funds of their own to speak of, with the result that production has had to be financed to an increasing extent by means of borrowings at high interest rates," says *Spotlight*.

As it points out: the farmers' debt burden cannot be paid by means of additional loans. It must be reduced by means of earnings and cash.

The lower the farmer's profitability and cash flow, the less able he will be to amortise his debt burden and the more difficult it becomes to build up reserves to weather droughts and to remain financially sound.

Soaring interest rates, too, have contributed to the farmers' headache.

"The fact that the interest cost rose by 39.3 percent a year compared to an annual increase of 10.4 percent in gross farming income and an annual drop of 3.7 percent in net farming income in the 1980-85 period, has had a serious effect on the farmer's cash flow and ability to survive," says the bank.

Plea on the bread subsidy

The South African Agricultural Union has protested to the Government over the bread subsidy and wheat marketing scheme.

In a message to the Government, it says: "While it is accepted that the bread subsidy is over time lowered to a more acceptable level, an urgent request is made that the intention to completely abolish the subsidy is disregarded."

The chairman of the National Winter Grain Commodity Committee, Mr Gert Schonbee, further appeals to "all interested parties and in particular, the consumers organisations", to support producers in this regard.

"The carrying into effect of the mentioned recommendations will, in the long-term, have drastic implications for the bread price and stability in the entire winter grain industry," he says.

Funds stave off bread price rise

25/3/86
BODM
3 GEN
A BREAD price increase has been averted — for the present — Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said yesterday.

Last year's R220m bread subsidy had been reduced to R150m, but it was possible to avoid an immediate price increase because of funds made available by the Wheat Board.

The price-rise reprieve is expected to last until the start of the new wheat season on October 1, according to Pretoria sources.

Wentzel said government's aim remained to keep the bread price as low as possible during the economic slump.

The phasing out of the bread subsidy was in keeping with government's initiative to grant more direct assistance to those suffering hunger.

The reduction in interest rates was taken into account in the payment of the Wheat Board's financing costs on stocks. Millers' and bakers' margins would also be reduced from April 1 because of lower interest rates.

Farmers' debts keep piling up

By David Braun,
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The total debt of farmers soared 374 percent to more than R9 495 million in nine years to 1984, the Land and Agricultural Bank's annual report said.

And, the bank warned such debt was getting worse.

Figures released in Parliament yesterday showed the debt total for 1984 was already close to the value of the country's total agricultural production of R10 600 million for 1985.

The report said the rise in farmers' debt since 1975 averaged 18,4 percent a year, against an average inflation rate of 15,6 percent.

And the amount of loans to farmers falling into arrears was climbing rapidly from R10,7 million in 1981 to R78 million in 1985.

It said: "Despite a number of favourable years as regards climatic conditions and rainfall, it would appear that in general the agricultural industry did not succeed in attaining greater self-sufficiency and had to rely to an increasing extent on credit facilities for working capital.

"In consequence of the severe drought which prevailed for three successive seasons in

26/3/86
certain parts of the country, it seems likely that the total debt for farmers will show a further increase in 1985.

"Droughts are, however, not uncommon and cannot be regarded as the sole factor responsible for the present unfavourable financial position of the agricultural sector in general."

The report said in addition to the setbacks of nature, the farmer also had to contend with spiralling production costs.

General economic conditions coupled with a rising cost structure and an increasing debt burden on the rising indebtedness of the farmer had a diminishing effect on available farming income.

Together with the low price elasticity of agricultural products, those conditions were the basic causes of the instability in the agricultural industry.

But the report said the problems could not be solved by price adjustments alone.

Farmers could help themselves through scientific farm planning and by economising to increase production and reduce costs.

One of the biggest problems facing agriculture was that sound financial planning was not yet generally applied to farming ventures.

Debt-ridden farm land prices drop

Call Unit 26/3/86 (3622)

By LINDA ENSOR

JOHANNESBURG. — The price of agricultural land in some debt-ridden areas has dropped so sharply over the past year that farmers wishing to sell farms have withdrawn them from the market.

Several sources claim prices have crashed to an all-time low in distressed areas — by as much as one third in some cases.

The director of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), Mr Piet Swart said: "We know that in certain hard-pressed areas farm values have gone down. When farms are put to auction, the bids are so low that they are withdrawn."

A combined index of rural land prices using 1980/81 as a baseline re-

veals an increase of 84 percent by March 1985.

"Part of the reason for the increase could be that certain areas were not negatively affected by the drought," says one economist.

However, Dr Kobus du Toit, SAAU's chief economist believes they have declined "drastically" over the past year.

Mr Eckart Kassier, professor of agricultural economics at Stellenbosch University, believes land prices would collapse if banks and financial institutions were to start "pulling the carpet out from farmers" on a large scale.

He did not believe they would do so, however, as they would be not be able to obtain good prices to cover the farmer's debts.

numbers of unclaimed prizes. When ex-holders are identified as potential prizewinners, they are supplied with the necessary claim forms. Lists of winning numbers in respect of unclaimed prizes will still be available at the Accountant-General and all Post Offices for an indefinite period.

(b) Falls away.

Motor vehicles stolen

625. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether any (a) prosecutions were instituted and (b) convictions were obtained in respect of motor vehicles reported stolen to the South African Police in 1984 and 1985, respectively; if so, how many in each category as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

The information is not readily available

	1984			1985		
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(c)
(1) Transvaal.....	0	2	2	0	3	1
OFS.....	0	0	0	0	4	0
Natal.....	0	1	2	0	0	2
Cape.....	2	6	1	3	13	2
(2) Transvaal.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
OFS.....	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natal.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cape.....	2	0	0	0	0	0

(b) 1984: Natal—1 White to Indian and 1 White to Coloured. Cape—1 White to Indian and 1 White to Coloured. 1985: None.

Branch lines closed

640. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

in the Department. According to the Central Statistical Services the number of prosecutions instituted and the number of convictions for the period 1 July 1984 until 30 June 1985 are as follows:

- (a) 7 619.
- (b) 4 937.

627. Mr M FARR asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) How many new (a) White, (b) Coloured and (c) Indian group areas were proclaimed in each province in 1984 and 1985, respectively;
- (2) (a) how many (i) White, (ii) Coloured and (iii) Indian group areas were re-proclaimed in each province in each of these years and (b) for which race groups were they re-proclaimed in each case?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

if so, (a) which lines and (b) for what reasons?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

March 1985 to February 1986

- (1) Yes.
- (a) Bowker's Park—Tarkastad Ixopo—Umzinto.
- (b) Economic reasons.

- (2) (a) and (b) The economy of all branch lines are being monitored continually in collaboration with the community concerned. The closure of branch lines will only be considered when necessitated by prevailing circumstances and after all concerned have been notified in good time.

- (a) What amount of money was collected from farmers in the area under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Cape Development Board as contributions in respect of Black workers under the Contributions in respect of Black Labour Act No 29 of 1972, and (b) what service or services are rendered to farmers by the Board in respect of these contributions?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

- (a) R148 740 during the 1984/85 financial year.
- (b) The Board arranges and regulates seasonal and full-time labour, assists with the selection and recruitment of suitable labourers from the national states and from independent states, assists where necessary when disputes arise between employer and employee, assists with the settlement of

pensioners and displaced persons who are dismissed by farmers and combats squatting.

Eastern Cape Development Board

648. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

What total number of persons were arrested by officials of the Eastern Cape Development Board for offences relating to reference books and influx control in 1985?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

1 071.

646. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

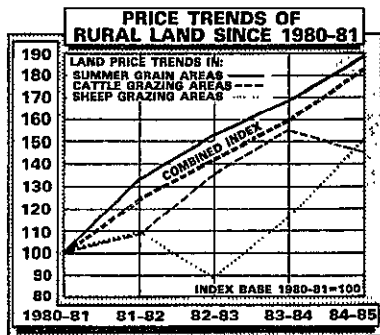
- (1) (a) How many Black townships outside the national states were (i) proclaimed and (ii) deproclaimed in 1985 and (b) where are these townships situated;

- (2) (a) how many persons removed from the deproclaimed townships had been resettled (i) in and (ii) outside the national states as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) in which areas outside the national states had the persons concerned been resettled as at that date?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

- (1) (a) (i) One.
- (ii) Two.

- (b) Jagersfontein, Harding and Howick.



Farmland prices drop in some parts

(3) Ken
27/3/86

LINDA ENSOR

PRICES of agricultural land in some debt-ridden areas have dropped so sharply over the past year that farmers who wanted to sell farms have kept them.

Prices have crashed to a record low, some by as much as a third, say sources.

South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) director Piet Swart said: "We know that in certain hard-pressed areas farm values have gone down. When farms are put to auction, the bids are so low they are withdrawn."

But land prices have risen in mohair and sheep farming areas where farmers have received good prices for their products, he says.

Using 1980/81 as a baseline, a combined index of rural land prices reveals an increase of 84% by March this year.

"Part of the reason for the increase could be that certain areas were not negatively affected by the drought," says an economist. "In certain areas, land prices rose above the inflation rate."

In summer grain areas, land prices rose consistently each year, from 1980/81, to give an 88% rise by March 1985.

However, SAAU chief economist Kobus du Toit says prices have declined drastically over the past year.

"With large-scale liquidations of farmers in the Western Transvaal, and the forced sale of their land, we can assume that land prices have dropped far below the market price," says Du Toit.

Prices in cattle-grazing areas dropped 6.4% between March 1984 and March 1985. But land prices in sheep-grazing areas rose 30% in the 1984/85 year.

Farmers' debts have now reached R9,4bn

135 DAY *(3) GEN* *27/12/84*
FARMERS high interest burden — a major component in input costs — could be disastrous, according to the 1985 annual report of the Land Bank.

Released in Pretoria, the report warns farmers against injudicious spending and excessive use of credit.

Farmers total debts amounted to R9,495bn at the end of 1984 — 374% up on the debt figure for 1975.

This was an annual average yearly increase of 18,4% against an annual average inflation rate of 15,6%.

The total debt was likely to increase further, because of drought, by the end of 1985. The deterioration in the financial situation of the agricultural sector was a matter of concern.

The report says in spite of a number of favourable production years, the industry had to rely to an increasing extent on credit facilities

GERALD REILLY

for working capital.

Periodic drought, the report stresses, is normal in South Africa, but in addition to drought farmers had to contend with spiralling production costs.

The rising cost structure and increasing interest burden on rising indebtedness, had greatly diminished farmers incomes.

Inflation was one of the biggest problems facing agriculture, and although the control boards contributed to greater prices stability, they could not fully compensate for the price spiral.

The report stresses, too, that although farmers had no control over production costs, increased costs could be reduced by scientific planning and by economies to raise production and reduce costs.

specified date for which figures are available and (b) how many houses remain to be sold in each province?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND WORKS:

As at 31 December 1985 in respect of dwellings erected for Whites from the National Housing Fund.

(a)	Transvaal	544
	Orange Free State	141
	Natal	406
	Cape	1 563
(b)	Transvaal	1 485
	Orange Free State	153
	Natal	307
	Cape	6 227

Accommodation for 368 aged White persons.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND WORKS:

How many accommodation units for aged White persons were built in the Cape Town municipal area with financial assistance from the State in 1985?

Accommodation for 636 aged White persons.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND WORKS:

Accommodation for 636 aged White persons.

Aged persons: accommodation

19. Mr B GOODALL asked the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Works:

How many accommodation units for aged White persons were built in the Johannesburg municipal area with financial assistance from the State in 1985?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND WORKS:

Accommodation for 368 aged White persons.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND WORKS:

An amount of R125 876 864 from the National Housing Fund and Community Development Fund was spent in the financial year 1984/85 in respect of housing assistance to the White population group.

Mortgage loans: interest subsidies

53. Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

What total amount has been budgeted by his Department for interest subsidies on mortgage loans of officials in its employ in the 1986-87 financial year?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

R7 600 000.

Mortgage loans: interest subsidies

56. Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Works:

What total amount has been budgeted by his Department for interest subsidies on mortgage loans of officials in its employ in the 1986-87 financial year?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND WORKS:

R560 000.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Sporting facilities

566. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of National Education:

What was the total amount spent by his Department on the provision of sporting facilities in South Africa in the 1985-86 financial year?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

A total amount of R449 200 was spent during the 1985-86 financial year by the Department of National Education on the provision of sporting facilities in the RSA.

South African Development Trust Account

601. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(a) What total amount was spent on projects in each specified independent Black state from the South African Development Trust Account in the 1985-86 financial year and (b) on what projects was this money spent?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) Transkei R 4 150 000

SA in grip of worst drought this century

Call Times 2/4/86 3600

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa is in the grip of the worst drought this century.

Officials said yesterday the country's water resources continue to dwindle — with the run-off into the major dams still below average for the eighth year in a row.

At present there are no new water restrictions envisaged for the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area, but officials said the possibility should always be kept in mind.

However, in the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme — covering about 45 000 hectares — water restrictions were extended yesterday to limit users to a quarter of their quota of 1983.

The Department of Water Affairs called a press conference in Pretoria yesterday to detail the extent of the drought.

Dr C P R Roberts, the manager of scientific services, said the drought was the most severe since records began being kept in 1923. It had also been established that it was the worst since 1898.

Dr Roberts compared the present drought to that which gripped the country in the 1930s.

Between 1930 and 1938, double the amount of rainwater entered the Vaal River system as in the past eight years.

Though the 1930s drought started off worse, the present one is longer — and therefore more critical.

He said one of the major dams in the Vaal River system, the Bloemhof Dam, is really dry, but is kept at about three percent of capacity by using water from the Vaal Dam.

It is mainly the Bloemhof Dam which serves farmers in the Vaalharts Scheme.

The Vaal Dam is presently kept at about 25 percent of capacity by water from the Tugela River Scheme.

Dr Roberts said the present water restrictions in the industrial and urban sectors of the PWV area are at 39 percent of the annual quota of April 1983.

Review of Vaalharts

There was no chance of water consumption in this area being curtailed further in the immediate future.

He added that the position of farmers in the Vaalharts Scheme would be reviewed in September.

Apart from water restrictions, the Department of Water Affairs has undertaken various projects to supplement the Vaal River system, Dr Roberts said.

He added that heavy storms are needed to break the critical water shortage. — Sapa

Wednesday, April 2, 1986

Drought the worst to hit South Africa for 88 years

3-20

Murray 2/1/86

JOHANNESBURG— Many parts of South Africa are still in the grip of drought. Officials said yesterday that the country's water resources had continued to dwindle with the run-off into the major dams still below average for the eighth year in a row.

At present there are no new water restrictions envisaged for the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area, but officials said the possibility should always be kept in mind.

However, in the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme — covering about 45 000 ha — water restrictions were extended yesterday to restrict users to a quarter of their quota in 1983.

The Department of Water Affairs called a Press conference in Pretoria yesterday to describe the extent of the drought and highlight the critical water position.

Dr C P R Roberts, manager of scientific services, said the drought was the most severe since records started being kept in 1923. It had also been established that it was the worst since 1898.

Dr Roberts compared the present drought to that which gripped the country in the 1930s. Between 1930 and 1938, double the amount of rain-water entered the Vaal River system as in the past eight years.

Though the 1930s drought started off worse, the present one is longer and therefore more critical. He said one of the major dams in the Vaal River system, the Bloemhof Dam, would be dry, but it was kept at about 3 percent of capacity by using water from the Vaal Dam.

It is mainly the Bloemhof Dam which serves farmers in the Vaalharts scheme. The Vaal Dam is kept at about 25 percent of capacity by water from the Tugela River Scheme.

Dr Roberts said the present water restrictions in the industrial and urban sectors of the PWV area were at an effective 39 percent of the annual quota of April 1983.

He said most light rain was absorbed by the soil. In normal circumstances, only about 9 percent of the total rainfall reached dams and reservoirs.

During the present rainy season, which is drawing to a close, there was only one major storm which caused a run-off, said Dr Roberts. Usually there were about seven.

Dr Roberts said there was no correlation between annual rainfall and run-off because rain was absorbed immediately in the areas where it fell. — (Saps)

2/1/85 BUS DAY (3) GEN
Govt orders probe into price rises in farming

GOVERNMENT has ordered an intensive investigation into the rising prices of farming requisites.



● WENTZEL

Announcing this in Pretoria yesterday, Minister of Agriculture Greyling Wentzel said Trade and Industries Minister Dawie de Villiers had directed an immediate inquiry into industrial products where, it was alleged, excessive profits were being made.

Wentzel said the Board of Trade

GERALD REILLY

and Industries had made good progress with an investigation into the revision of the tariff structure of customs duties in the fertiliser industry.

This would be completed before the end of May.

He stressed the problems confronting the agricultural industry resulted from a variety of causes. The high interest rates of 1984 and 1985 and increases in the costs of fuel, electricity, transport and other inputs had aggravated the problem.

PWV water
situation
serious as
dams empty

3 GEN
SMK
3/11/86

Municipal Reporter

The water level in dams serving the PWV area continues to drop as the inland rainy season nears its end.

A Rand Water Board (RWB) spokesman warned that with the dry season looming and little hope of sustained widespread rains in the catchment areas, the PWV area was in a serious situation and there was no hope of restrictions being lifted.

Latest RWB figures show the level of the Vaal Dam yesterday was 22,6 percent, Sterkfontein 28,2 percent, Bloemhof 3,1 percent and the Woodstock Dam 101,7 percent.

The rainfall total for March stands at 68,3 mm, below the March 1985 figure of 72,8 mm and the long-term average for the month of 92,5 mm.

The total in the dams was 25,7 percent, down on last week's 26,9 percent and last year's 31,7 percent.

Agricultural boards incur R188 m costs

Mercury Correspondent

CAPE TOWN—South Africa's agricultural marketing boards racked up expenses totalling R188 million in 1984-85 — R65 million of which was in administrative costs alone.

And these figures do not include the direct operational expenses incurred by the 21 boards through the marketing of products — for example for storage, handling, treatment, processing, fumigation and shipping.

The five biggest spenders were the Maize Board (R35 million), the Meat Board (R34,9 million), the Wool Board (R24,9 million), the Wheat Board (R21,9 million) and the Chicory Board (R17,7 million).

Replying to a question from Mr Philip Myburgh (PFP Wynberg), the Minister of Agricultural Economics, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said the administrative expenses of the Meat Board were R13,2 million during the year under review.

The expenses incurred by the Lucerne Board to-

talled R210 000 — R117 000 of this was in administrative expenses. The administrative costs for the Karakul Board were only R30 000 during 1984-85, with total costs of R288 000.

Extent

Mr Wentzel said the costs incurred included the boards' expenditure on product promotion, stabilisation, research and contributions to industry organisations.

The minister said in reply to a question from Mr Mike Tarr (PFP Pietermaritzburg South) that the investigation by the National Marketing Council (NMC) into the operation of the control boards had not been completed yet 'owing to the extent of the investigation'.

However, the investigation into the Dairy and Cotton Schemes had been

completed and reports had been submitted to the boards concerned and the South African Agricultural Union. The investigation into the remaining boards should be completed within the next 12 months, he said.

The NMC had found that in respect of the Dairy Scheme that various control measures were not justified.

The NMC's findings on the Cotton Scheme were that the existing control measures were justified and should remain unchanged.

The Progressive Federal Party's spokesman on agriculture, Mr Errol Moorcroft, said yesterday that the expenditure being incurred by the boards 'would seem to indicate that an investigation into their structure and functioning is well overdue'.

GERALD REILLY

THE sharp increase in farming input costs could hold catastrophic consequences for the agricultural industry, South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) director Piet Swart said in Pretoria yesterday.

He was reacting to an earlier announcement by Minister of Agriculture Greyling Wentzel, who said an urgent investigation into possible excessive profits earned by industries supplying the agricultural industry

SAAU slams farming costs

had been ordered.

Possible solutions submitted by the SAAU included the freezing of all prices until the vicious inflation cycle was broken; and subsidies to the industry if the cost structure could not be lowered. The combating of inflation was of vital importance.



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INTERNATIONAL WEATHER GUIDE

315 DAY 4 186
3 GEN 308

Small-scale farmers need help to thrive?

Economics Reporter

SMALL-SCALE farmers would produce much more if given the necessary resources, security of tenure and institutional support.

This was said by T J Bembridge, of the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, at Fort Hare University, Transkei.

Writing in the latest issue of *Development Southern Africa*, the quarterly review of the Development Bank, he said that a central multi-sector body was needed in each state to co-ordinate and control planning.

Such bodies could report directly to the Cabinet.

He added that there was a dire need for a common agricultural policy in Southern Africa.

Long-term co-operation was needed among government development institutions, the private sector and local communities.

Such planning could work only if people recognised it was necessary. Influential leaders and village-level organisations would help the people understand the benefits of long-term plans.

The emphasis, he said, should be on participatory projects which fulfilled basic needs.

He cited examples of these as:

- Clean domestic water supplies;
- Basic nutrition, fuel, health and adult education;
- Small-scale pilot rural development programmes based on simple innovations and the use of local resources.

The flow and reliability of production requirements had to be increased along with credit facilities, he said.

Bembridge also suggested the establishment of communal grazing areas managed by specially-designed institutions assisted by government development finance.

Veld in crisis

3-Cen

7/4/88
Mercury

The national grazing strategy must be seen as a joint effort of the State and all land users to bring an end to the alarming abuse of the country's grazing — a practice that had been prevalent for many decades, says Dr J. J. (Roker) Coetzee, deputy director (extension) of the Highveld region.

He said this onslaught must not be allowed to fail. A failure of the attempt would be the last straw.

All efforts over the past 50 years to stem the alarming veld deterioration had paid no dividends. In fact the process of deterioration was gaining momentum. If farmers failed to implement the strategy with sustained commitment and strict discipline, they would have to forget about producing profitably from the veld in future.

Dr Coetzee says it was ironical that many farmers remained aloof to the problem of veld deterioration mainly because they did not believe the problem was as serious as the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply described it.

Most farmers were still convinced the situation was being exaggerated, reflected by the common view that with good rains the veld would recover to its full potential.

This was a fatal approach and proved the abysmal ignorance about the criteria with

which veld grazing had to comply before it could be regarded as fully recovered.

Dr Coetzee said the department made a country-wide and comprehensive survey among livestock farmers last year. The results confirmed the misconception about veld deterioration and the correct use of veld grazing.

A few of the most important findings were.

- Nearly 86 per cent of the farmers questioned, were convinced that continuing veld deterioration was due to factors such as unfavourable weather and

Farming on Friday presents another new warning on grazing abuse

Edited by Glyn Williams

termites.

- A further 84 per cent of the farmers said their veld grazing improved over the period they had spent on their farms.

- As much as 52 per

cent of the farmers were convinced that the veld-use practices followed by them were as good as or better than the principles propagated by the department. On-going monitoring by the department of veld condi-

tion and grazing practices applied by farmers presented a totally different picture.

Nowhere in the country was sustained veld improvement detected over the past 20 years, while only a small percentage of farmers apply grazing practices that met even the minimum requirements of correct veld management.

Moreover, many farmers had a totally wrong perception of veld potential and correct veld use.

"This is no longer only a suspicion, but a proven fact," Dr Coetzee said.

Water scheme boosts jobs

14/86
E Post
3-year

PRETORIA — More details of the three water schemes in the Orange River development project have been released by the Department of Water Affairs.

The schemes have been brought forward as a direct result of the Government's policy to create jobs, the department said yesterday.

According to the seventh supplementary White Paper tabled in Parliament recently, these schemes would make available 18 000 hectares of irrigable land for agricultural development in the Eastern and Northern Cape.

The Lower Sundays River and Lower Fish River projects would be developed in the Eastern Cape, while it was envisaged that the Orange/Douglas project in the Northern Cape would be taken over by the State to form the basis of a permanent scheme.

About 11 000ha in the Sundays River Valley between Lake Mentz and the sea would be extended to the existing irrigable land.

"Most of this area will be planted with citrus which, as an export product, is an important foreign currency earner," the department said.

Immediate short-term job opportunities, as well as long-term, permanent job opportunities, would be stimulated with extensions and the building of 80 kilometres of canals, two dams, and tunnels of two kilometres.

"The scheme, estimated to cost R234 million at 1986 price levels, is expected to be completed in early 1992.

"The Lower Fish River project will supply water to a further 3 000ha of irrigable lands in the Committee's Drift area about 30 kilometres north-east of Grahamstown."

This development was a joint undertaking by South Africa and Ciskei, as roughly the same areas would be irrigated on each side of the Great Fish River which forms the border.

The R75 million project would consist of a weir in the Great Fish River at Fort Brown, from where water will be delivered through a 5 000-metre tunnel into a storage dam in the Ecce River, a tributary of the Fish River. — Sapa

(2)

	(a) Whites	(b) Coloureds	(c) Asians	(d) Members of the Black Population Groups
(b) Conciliation Board Agreements	—	116	—	—
(c) Arbitration Awards	—	—	—	—
(d) Wage Determinations ... (Estimated figures)	229 100	126 200	45 200	626 900

(e) Orders: All races—133 674 (Separate figures are not readily available).

The figures are as at 31 December 1985.

Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:—

What was the average (a) cost per ton per year of the coal purchased by Escom, and (b)(i) cost and (ii) selling price of a unit of electricity generated by Escom, in each of the latest specified 10 years for which figures are available?

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

	(a) Rand	(b)(i) C/kWh	(ii) C/kWh
1975	4.05	0.8418	0.7950
1976	5.39	1.0360	1.0360
1977	6.22	1.4854	1.5353
1978	6.67	1.6961	1.7887
1979	6.97	1.8759	1.8980
1980	8.12	2.1361	2.0242
1981	9.71	2.3636	2.2811
1982	11.75	2.8640	2.8038
1983	12.44	3.4655	3.3591
1984	12.55	3.7365	3.5842
1985	12.92	*	4,1180

*Final audited cost not yet available.

Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What is the estimated area that was lost for agricultural purposes as a result of (a)

THE STATE PRESIDENT:

- (a) 200.
- (b) The former Leader of the Official Opposition in the House of Assembly and reporters who are holders of Parliamentary lobby tickets, as well as Ministers, Embassies, Members of Parliament, Directors-General, officials, private organisations and members of the public on request.
- (c) Since the transcript was an annexure to a press statement it was made available to any person on request.
- (d) R300,00.

7/4/86 & col 874. Control Boards SEN HANSHARD

565. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 14 on 9 April 1985, the investigation by the National Marketing Council into the operation of the control boards has been completed; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether the Council has submitted a report; if not, when it anticipated that a report will be submitted; if so, what were the findings;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (1) No, owing to the extent of the investigation.
- (2) The investigation into the Dairy and Cotton Schemes is completed and reports submitted. The remaining schemes are being investigated simultaneously by the National Marketing Council and it is expected that the investigation will be completed within the following twelve months. The National Marketing Council has found that in respect of the Dairy

The above amounts include the boards' expenditure in respect of items such as product promotion, stabilisation, research and contributions to industry organisations. Direct operational expenses incurred in connection with the marketing of products, eg for storage, handling, treatment, processing, fumigation and shipping are not included. The difference between the amounts under (a) and (b) represents the administrative expenditure, which is the only real cost of the boards as such.

7/4/86 & col 873. Transcript of taped interview SEN P G SOAL asked the State President:

(a) How many copies were produced of the transcript of the taped interview with the former Leader of the Official Opposition in the House of Assembly, as referred to in his reply to Question No 1 on 4 March 1986, (b) to whom were copies of these transcripts made available, (c) why were transcripts made available to each of these persons and (d) what was the total cost to his Department of producing and distributing these copies?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (a) and (b) Approximately 3,703 million hectares as at the end of 1985.
- (c) Approximately 32 million hectares are affected by acidification. This area is, however, not necessarily lost for agricultural purposes.

7/4/86 & col 872. Marketing Act SEN HANSHARD 540. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What was the total cost, (a) including and (b) excluding administration expenditure, of each board established in terms of the Marketing Act No 59 of 1968, for the financial year 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

Expenditure of the Agricultural Marketing Boards 1984-85

	(a) R'000	(b) R'000
Potato Board	1 850	255
Dry Bean Board	1 806	1 392
Dried Fruit Board	2 186	1 785

Scheme, specific control measures are not justified and has therefore recommended that—

restrictive registration of fresh milk distributors be abolished; restrictive registration of industrial milk manufacturers be abolished; the single channel prohibition in respect of butter and cheese be abolished; the fixation of wholesale and retail prices in respect of butter and cheese be abolished; and the Dairy Board will only purchase surplus butter and skimmed milk.

The findings of the National Marketing Council in respect of the Cotton Scheme were that the existing control measures are justified and should remain unchanged except that the Cotton Board should substitute its present system of restrictive registration of cotton ginners for a system of formal registration. Such a recommendation is contained in the report.

(3) No, the reports have been submitted to the Boards concerned and the South African Agricultural Union. Certain recommendations in respect of the Dairy Scheme are being applied already.

Telephones

642. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Communications:

(1) How many (a) applications for telephones were received and (b) telephones were installed for (i) private and (ii) business purposes in Grahamstown in 1985;

(2) whether there is a backlog for this area at present; if so, (a) what was the backlog as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) when is it anticipated that the backlog will be eliminated?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) (a) 1 615;
(b) (i) 1 036; and
(ii) 437.

(2) Yes;

(a) 418, as at 28 February 1986; and
(b) 88 of the applications will be met as soon as the unrest situation in the Black residential area is normalised, 201 during the first quarter of the 1986-87 financial year after completion of an extension to the exchange, 24 later during that financial year and the remaining 105 during the 1988-89 financial year after completion of cable works.

Sheep scab

645. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(1) How many outbreaks of sheep scab were reported in the Republic in 1985;

(2) how many farmers were prosecuted in that year for offences under the relevant provisions of the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act, No 13 of 1956?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

(1) 106 of which 23 occurred in KwaZulu.
(2) 13.

651. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

What is the estimated area that was lost for agricultural purposes as a result of urban development in the 1984-85 financial year?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

2 987 hectares.

652. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

Whether there are any vacancies for State veterinarians in his Department; if so, how many?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

Yes, 18 vacancies.

654. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(a) How many (i) White; (ii) Black, (iii) Coloured and (iv) Asian veterinarians are registered in the Republic at present and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

(a) (i) 1 343.
(ii) 1.
(iii) 1.
(iv) 3.

(Figures are for the RSA and National States).

(b) 20 March 1986.

Blue Train

665. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) How many passengers travelled on the Blue Train in 1985;

(2) whether all such passengers paid the

full fare; if not, how many paid the full fare in that year?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1) 16 299.

(2) No, 16 050 (ie 98,5 per cent).

675. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(1) How much milk-powder was (a) produced and (b) sold in the Republic in 1985;

(2) whether milk-powder was imported in this year; if so, (a) by whom, (b) from what country or countries and (c) at what price in each case;

(3) whether any South African individuals or companies acted as agents in any of these transactions; if so, what are their names;

(4) whether milk-powder is being exported at present; if so, at what price;

(5) whether any South African individuals or companies are acting as agents in such transactions at present; if so, what are their names;

(6) whether this milk-powder is being exported at a loss; if so, (a) what is the nature of the loss and (b) how will this loss be recouped?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

(1) (a) 24 719 ton skimmed milk powder
11 214 ton full cream milk powder.

(b) 16 248 ton skimmed milk powder
11 835 ton full cream milk powder.

Restrictions unlikely, but ...

Dam levels are dropping lower

DAM levels on the Witwatersrand are very low and still dropping.

Rand Water Board chairman Dale Hobbs says: "We have had reasonable rains viewed from the agricultural point of view, but the type of rainfall needed to create meaningful flows in rivers just hasn't come."

"Although the position is still serious, it is no more so than at this time last year."

Hobbs says that — provided industry and the public continue to

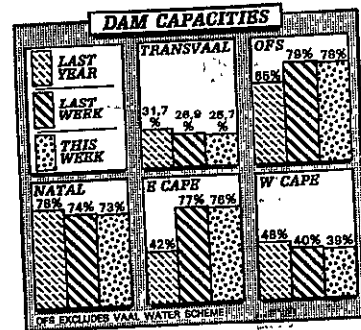
Industry Reporter

use water wisely — the need for tighter restrictions will be unlikely.

"The public and industry have already shown us that they can behave responsibly in this regard."

He says the Department of Water Affairs' plan to increase the capacity of the Tugela-Vaal project from 11 to 20m³ a second is nearing completion.

"This means it will be possible to extract a greater volume of water from the Tugela River than was



feasible last year."

The combined capacity figure for all dams in the PWV area is 6% down on last year (see graph), but figures from other provinces are more heartening.

Dam capacity in the Orange Free State is 13% up on that of last year while dams in the Eastern Cape show a massive increase of 34%.

Both Natal and the Western Cape show decreases of 5%.

Vaal Dam faces even drier prospects

RESIDENTS and water sports enthusiasts at Vaal Dam have for a long time been looking at a vast area of sun-baked mud.

Farmers at Jim Fouche plant wheat in ground once 3m under water. Boats are high and dry.

A Water Affairs department spokesman in Pretoria says the Vaal will be allowed to dwindle to 14% of capacity if the drought gets

MICK COLLINS

worse.

"We will use dams lower down on the water system before touching Sterkfontein reserves."

"We have had requests from boatyards and sailors to release water from Sterkfontein to raise the level of the Vaal."

"Both dams have about the same capacity, but the area of the Vaal is five times that of Sterkfontein, with consequent massive evaporation."

He adds that the department is aware people have invested a lot of money in property and boating.

"The economic wellbeing of this country comes first. Many farmers are already facing ruin because of the present drought."

Dry months cost farmers millions

GERALD REILLY

THE March-April drought in the western maize growing areas has cost farmers tens of millions of rands in lost income.

"At least 90% of them will be totally dependent on credit from commercial banks and the Land Bank to finance the 1986-87 crop," said National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) GM Piet Gous.

The weather bureau's chief forecaster G C Schulze said the rainfall in the summer crop areas was slight.

Gous said the sub-normal rains in March and early April had lopped tens of millions of rands from farmers' incomes in the Western Transvaal and North-Western Free State.

"The 8-million ton crop estimate is now under pressure. The Western Transvaal has been hardest hit by drought."

In a normal year the area produced about 40% of the crop, but this year it would be reduced to 25% or less.

The lack of rain had destroyed large areas of plantings, delayed because of the early summer drought. Gous said the majority of Western Transvaal farmers would not recover input costs.

When blacks were top farmers in SA

30 Jan E. Post 9/4/86.

FOR more than half of the last century, blacks were farming successfully in South Africa, growing a variety of crops, raising stock and selling their surpluses, according to impeccable historical sources.

By the 1880s black farmers in the Eastern Cape were winning many agricultural show prizes in open competition with whites. The more prosperous of them hired white builders to build them brick houses, and they were keen customers for such items as furniture, cutlery, crockery and stationery. Some of their children attended multiracial boarding schools.

By 1890 there were between 1 000 and 2 000 of these affluent black commercial farmers. Now, 100 years later, you would have difficulty finding even one. What went wrong?

The answer to that question is written in SA's statutory law, which has systematically and deliberately denied blacks economic freedom as well as political rights.

In a new book, *South Africa: The Solution*, published by Amagi Publications, Leon Louw, executive director of the Free Market Foundation, and Frances Kendall, editor of *The Individualist*, trace the development of enforced black socialism and the hideous consequences of a century of cynical social engineering that has led SA to be regarded by many people as the world's most evil state.

Their prescription is the sweeping away of this canon of restrictive and unjust law and the formation of a canton system of government similar to that which works very well in Switzerland — like SA, a heterogenous, multilingual country.

Socialism, they argue, is foreign to the traditional way of life of blacks. Tribal society was based on a system of voluntary

"By 1890 there were between 1 000 and 2 000 of these affluent black commercial farmers. Now, 100 years later, you would have difficulty finding even one. What went wrong?" Matthew White reports on a new book that discusses a little-known aspect of South Africa's past, as well as a road out of the country's present dilemma.

exchange and private ownership, and blacks were moving readily into the developing economy — until they were prevented from doing so.

In the case of the commercial farmers, Acts were passed by whites to protect other whites from competition and to provide unskilled cheap labour for white-owned farms, factories and mines.

Without doubt there were blacks then, as there are today, capable of acquiring the skills to hold down any job in industry. But again, legislation was introduced to prevent them from competing with whites for skilled jobs.

In virtually every area of endeavour, when blacks — and to a lesser extent coloureds and Indians — began to compete on equal terms with whites, legislation was passed to make criminals of them if they tried to do so.

In the late 1880s most transport riders responsible for conveying people and goods huge distances across Southern Africa were black.

"Today there is apparently not a single back licensed road haulier operating in SA," say the authors. "The handful of blacks who do have road haulage permits are not using them because there is no demand on the routes for which they are authorised."

Socialism, justifiably feared by many whites, was forced on blacks by

means of more than 500 Acts and numerous ordinances, by-laws, regulations and policies to prevent them from applying their skills and acquiring capital.

"While this has worked to the short-term benefit of those whites who have been protected, it has unquestionably damaged the long-term interests of all of us and has made our country, which is immensely rich in natural and human resources, a Third World nation instead of one of the wealthiest."

Despite the appalling damage wrought by this ill-considered legislation, the authors argue that justice, peace and prosperity can still be attained — but only in a free society.

"The free society paradigm is neither unrealistic nor extreme," they say. "On the contrary, it takes full account of SA realities and is the only system which offers massive and rapid wealth creation and a just distribution of wealth.

"It offers the kind of 'caring' that works, a real prospect of depoliticising life and reducing inter-group conflict, personal freedom for every individual and neither imposed segregation nor imposed integration."

They give three political requisites for a free society — democracy, limited government and decentralised government — and argue that this can best be achieved by a canton system.

Basically each canton (initially based on the present magisterial districts) would run its own affairs, leaving the confederal (central) government responsible only for foreign affairs, finance, defence, infrastructure and such functions of internal affairs as delegated by the cantons.

Individual cantons could opt for Marxist or free market policies; they could be entirely black, entirely white or mixed. Extreme Afrikaner nationalists could have their boerestaat; dyed-in-the-wool communists could have their workers' paradise.

All would operate within the framework of a democratic constitution and a Bill of Rights ensuring equality, citizenship, universal franchise, freedom of speech and movement, freedom of association and dissociation, and the rule of law.

With such a system, say the authors, it would soon be apparent which economic and social policies work best.

"We, the people, would influence the canton gov-

ernments through elections and referenda and, if we decide that things are not to our liking — be they economic, political, cultural or environmental — we could always vote with our feet and move to another canton more suited to our preferences. Democracy and voting with one's feet were, after all, characteristics both of black tribal and early Afrikaner societies."

Louw and Kendall, who are husband and wife, have no doubt that, if allowed to, a free market system would triumph. They point out that there is virtually direct correlation between countries with free market policies and prosperity.

"Countries with a high degree of government intervention typically exhibit low growth and underdevelopment, instability, conflict and oppression.

"A recent World Bank study found that this correlation generally holds true regardless of the size of a country, its ethnicity, its natural resource endowment or its level of development."

They discuss many other issues, including taxation, education, justice, the fallacy of subsidies, the negative effects of too-rigid standards, and a viable reparation scheme which would help blacks to overcome the disabilities they have suffered from discrimination while neither depriving the rich nor damaging the economy.

Louw and Kendall's book is a major contribution to the reform debate.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

10/4/86
HANSAARD
349. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many Black persons were charged with trespass in 1985 in (a) each of the main urban centres and (b) the Republic?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Centres	Persons
(a) Pretoria	1 118
Johannesburg	7 325
Soweto	198
Durban	5 149
Pietermaritzburg	477
East London	33
Port Elizabeth	633
Cape Peninsula	365
Bloemfontein	381
West Rand	1 703
East Rand	3 653

(b) 87 555 persons.

10/4/86
HANSAARD
351. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) Whether any farm schools for Black children were closed down in 1985; if so, how many (i) schools, (ii) pupils and (iii) teachers were involved;
- (2) whether any farm schools for Black children were (a) opened and (b) extended in 1985; if so, how many (i) schools, (ii) pupils and (iii) teachers were involved in each case;
- (3) (a) how many farm schools for Black children were there as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) how many (i) teachers and (ii) pupils were there at these schools at that date;
- (4) how many (a) farm schools, (b) farm school teachers and (c) farm school pupils were there in the White areas of the Republic at the end of 1985?

(a) What are the names of the persons (i) shot dead and (ii) injured by the South African Police at road blocks in 1985, (b) on what date was each such person shot dead or injured and (c) what were the circumstances surrounding the shooting in each case?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

No persons were shot dead and injured by the South African Police at road blocks in 1985.

(a) to (c) Fall away.

10/4/86
HANSAARD
366. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Police vehicles: accidents
Whether any police vehicles were involved in accidents in 1985; if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the total cost to the State of such accidents?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Yes.

(a) 4 666 vehicles.

(b) R2 764 024,07.

10/4/86
HANSAARD
368. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Money paid to members of public
Whether any money was paid to members of the public in 1985 in respect of (a) assault by members of the Police Force and (b) unlawful arrest; if so, (i) what was the total amount paid and (ii) in respect of how many complaints in each category?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) Yes.

(i) R1 124 974,10.

(ii) 206 complaints.

(b) Yes.

(i) R216 945,17.

(ii) 118 complaints.

10/4/86
HANSAARD
410. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Offences/infringements of law
How many (a) offences and (b) infringements of the law were investigated by the South African Police in 1985;

how many of these infringements of the law related to (a) curfew regulations, (b) the registration and production of documents, (c) the Blacks (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act and (d) the illegal possession of strong beer and brews?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) (a) 1 312 885.

(b) 838 703.

(2) (a) 11 829.

(b) 94 171.

(c) 63 710.

(d) 20 788.

Note: These statistics are furnished for the period 1 July 1984 until 30 June 1985. Statistics with regard to the period 1 July 1985 until 31 December 1985 are not readily available.

10/4/86
HANSAARD
411. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Deaths in police custody
(a) How many persons died in police custody in 1985 and (b) what were the causes of these deaths?

White Coloured Indian Black
 (a) 4 5 1 9
 (b) 9 10 — 24

300. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Education and Development

What was the cost to his Department of the subsidisation of farm schools in 1985?
 The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

R2 025 297,32 in respect of farm school buildings.

Farm schools

301. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(a) How many applications for the subsidisation of farm schools were received by his Department in 1985 and (b) what number of pupils benefited from the subsidisation of farm schools in that year?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) 405 in respect of farm school buildings.

(b) 470 084 pupils.

St Wendolin's Ridge, Pinetown
 307. Mr R W BURKOWS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether any incident involving members of the public and members of the South African Police took place at St Wendolin's Ridge, Pinetown, on or about 9 August 1985, if so, what (a) was the nature of and (b) were the circumstances surrounding the incident:

(2) whether any persons were killed or injured in the incident; if so, (a) how many in each case and (b) what are their names;

(3) whether any inquest into these deaths has taken place; if not, why not; if so, (a) on what date and (b) what were the findings;

(4) whether the relatives of those killed were informed of the time and venue of the inquest; if not, why not; if so, on what date;

(5) whether an investigation has been instituted into the incident; if not, why not; if so, (a) who is in charge of the investigation and (b) when is it anticipated that a report will be submitted?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

(a) and (b) At about 12h30 on 9 August 1985 a group of about 50 black rioters pelted a police patrol with stones, whereupon the police had to use bird-shot and teargas to protect themselves.

(2) No.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

(3) Falls away.

(4) Falls away.

(5) No, because the circumstances incident to the case did not justify an investigation.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

Jhannesburg: offences
 323. Mr A B WIDMANN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many cases of (a) murder, (b) culpable homicide, (c) assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, (d) common as-

sault, (e) rape, (f) robbery, (g) theft of vehicles and cycles, (h) damage to property, (i) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and (j) possession of drugs were reported at each specified police station in the Johannesburg police district in 1985?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
John Vorster Plain	76	33	219	607	65	1 397	2 974	404	2 067	133
Langlaage	24	8	36	212	35	130	296	135	376	2
Mondeor	34	36	120	236	37	112	315	147	1 340	1
Jeppe	88	33	157	322	26	336	1 266	217	1 466	9
Booyse's	43	56	180	705	40	243	2 040	530	2 365	—
Cleveland	31	11	57	153	5	108	497	145	822	—
Brixton	9	5	26	272	14	43	637	121	495	1
Newlands	41	18	167	807	45	176	466	445	778	8

Religious objectors
 335. Mr G B D MCINTOSH asked the Minister of Manpower:

How many national servicemen (a)(i) applied for and (ii) were granted the status of religious objectors and (b) were referred to his Department for placement in alternative forms of service during the period 1 January 1984 up to the latest specified date for which information is available?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

(a) (i) 872 applications for classification were received from 1 January 1984 to 24 February 1986.
 (ii) 603 have been classified.

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Uitenhage	112	36	728	825	103	221	349	466	1 226	2
Wolvenfontein	—	3	3	7	2	2	3	3	22	—
Addo	8	6	49	21	14	1	11	15	81	—
Despatch	20	9	70	87	13	11	100	50	170	2
Hankey	11	10	84	63	25	11	12	40	120	—
Humansdorp	12	9	101	86	12	10	30	49	186	—
Jeffrey's Bay	6	8	43	13	4	1	6	14	156	—
Kareedouw	—	1	37	10	4	4	6	5	18	—
Kirkwood	17	2	144	174	20	7	19	62	122	—
Patensie	13	1	99	46	8	3	6	20	56	—
Storms River	7	15	56	16	5	3	4	14	62	—

Note: These statistics are furnished for the period 1 July 1984 until 30 June 1985. Statistics with regard to the period 1 July 1985 until 31 December 1985 are not readily available.

485 category III-classified religious objectors were referred to the Department of Manpower for placement in community service from 1 January 1984 to 24 February 1986.

Uitenhage: offences
 341. Mr A S VADAGE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many cases of (a) murder, (b) culpable homicide, (c) assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, (d) common assault, (e) rape, (f) robbery, (g) theft of vehicles and cycles, (h) damage to property, (i) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and (j) possession of drugs were reported at each specified police station in the Uitenhage police district in 1985?

G. CAR 1024

(ix) Industrial Teachers Training College 1 035

(x) Cape Teachers Training College 202

*St Francis Teachers Training College 16

Statistics as on the 5 March 1985.

Note: *Molapo is a satellite campus of the Soweto Teachers Training College.

*St Francis is a satellite campus of the Cape College of Education.

G. CAR 1023
HANSWARD 1014 RB
Teachers
538. Prof N J J OLIVIER asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

What was the (a) shortage of teachers, and (b) percentage of inadequately trained teachers, in Black schools in each specified departmental region in the Republic as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) If pupil-teacher ratios of 35:1 in primary schools and 30:1 in secondary schools are taken as targets and compared with the actual average ratios of 40, 45:1 and 32, 49:1 in 1985, the following shortages exist in the various regions:

Northern Transvaal	1 301
Highveld	1 200
Johannesburg	296
Orange-Vaal	1 468
OFS	1 174
Natal	368
Cape	772

(b) Northern Transvaal	21,68%
Highveld	18,68%
Johannesburg	7,59%
Orange-Vaal	16,03%
OFS	27,97%
Natal	26,84%
Cape	6,08%

HOA

(a) How many farm schools were subsidised by his Department, (b) what was the average subsidy paid per farm school, and (c) what total number of pupils was registered at these schools, in 1985?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) 5 399.

(b) R11 977.

(c) 470 084.

G. CAR 1025
HANSWARD 1014 RB
Burglaries
612. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many burglaries were reported to the South African Police in 1985?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

166 812 burglaries.

Note: Above mentioned statistics are furnished for the period 1 July 1984 until 30 June 1985. Statistics with regard to the period 1 July 1985 until 31 December 1985 are not readily available.

G. CAR 1025
HANSWARD 1014 RB
Secondary schools
629. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

How many secondary schools for Black pupils in rural areas were there in each specified departmental region as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

Orange Free State	18
Cape	13
Natal	10
Northern Transvaal	10
Orange Vaal	5
Johannesburg	0
Highveld	4

HOA

Figures as on the 5 March 1985.

Note: The phrase "rural" is not easily definable. In the reply to this question the norms used are those of the current "Investigation into the provision of education for the rural areas".

Secondary schools

631. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(1) Whether any additional secondary schools with boarding facilities are planned for Blacks in the rural areas of the Republic; if so, (a) where are they to be situated, (b) when is it anticipated that building operations in respect of each such school will be (i) commenced and (ii) completed and (c) what is the estimated cost of each school;

(2) whether a sufficient number of qualified Black teachers are available for such schools; if not,

(3) whether qualified (a) White, (b) Coloured and (c) Indian teachers will be appointed to fill vacant posts at such schools; if not, why not, in each case?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1) The Department is at present conducting a wide ranging investigation into the provision of educational facilities in the rural areas which will be submitted during the latter half of 1986.

(a), (b) and (c) Fall away.

(2) and (3) Fall away.

Std 10 examinations

632. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(a) How many Black pupils at schools in the (i) East London, (ii) Cath-

X

SA faces dry winter with poor water reserves

Pretoria Bureau

Dams in the Vaal system are only an average of 24 percent full — a level well down on this time last year, when the dams were on average 31 percent full.

With January and February — the two main rainy months — now past, the outlook seems bleak for further good rains to boost the country's water reserves.

The Department of Water Affairs says the water remaining in reservoirs will see the country through

the dry winter months — but by the end of that season water stocks will be severely depleted.

The Vaal Dam has been badly affected, dropping from 23 percent to 22 percent in the past seven days.

Nevertheless, the levels of some other dams vital to the PWV area are still holding their own.

Sterkfontein has remained at 28 percent of capacity over the past week and the Grootdraai Dam has held steady at 83 percent.

The Hartbeespoort Dam has also retained its 37 percent level.

Resorting to heavy borrowing in or the enormous cost of operation

Project will double dam supply

Lesotho-Vaal water scheme decision near

(3) GEN
BUESDAY
10/4/86

AN ANNOUNCEMENT on the Lesotho Highlands water scheme appears imminent.

After years of protracted cross-border negotiation, the scheme — which will double the water supply from Vaal Dam — looks set for the green light.

Foreign Affairs Department deputy director-general Neil van Heerden says the talks are on track.

"We had hoped to reach agreement by the end of March, but a few last-minute technical details had to be cleared up."

Asked if the signing was being delayed over a cash disagreement, Van Heerden said: "Absolutely not true. At the last round of talks, on March 26, both parties agreed there were some minor technical aspects to be looked into. That is all that is delaying the signing."

"We are looking at the feasibility of some of the dam sites and the possibility of siting them elsewhere. Once that has been cleared up, both parties will come together for the final round."

Under the proposed agreement, SA will buy water from the mountain kingdom, while Lesotho will

MICK COLLINS

benefit from water revenues and electricity supplies generated by the scheme.

Van Heerden said Lesotho would also benefit from the construction of power lines and a large number of feeder roads, which would have to be built before any work started.

"This is part and parcel of the deal. While we haven't signed on the dotted line yet, we are very close," he said.

After their recent Cape Town meeting, State President P W Botha and Lesotho leader General Metsing Lekhanya confirmed the scheme was still very much alive.

The project entails building four dams for water reserves and two dams harnessed to hydro-electric schemes.

Areas to benefit in SA will include the PWV, the Free State goldfields and the Eastern Transvaal.

Tenders for the mammoth scheme have not yet been called for, but one consortium says if the project gets under way immediately, phase one could be completed by early 1996.

'Save M...'

Financial woe

In the early stages of a cyclical upswing, the contribution of agriculture is particularly important — given unemployment and surplus capacity elsewhere.

Dr Andre Louw, in the March *Volkskas Economic Spotlight*, says the farming sector has been more seriously hit than others. Overall terms of trade declined from an index of 100 in 1975 to 78 in 1985, the index of farming requisites climbing to 393 against a consumer price index of 340.

Cost-push factors are making farmers more conscious of using inputs more effectively. They are eliminating unnecessary cultivation by tilling land less frequently, using less fertiliser and employing less labour.

Volkskas quashes the view that the agricultural producer is pampered, pointing out that he is a price taker for input and output prices. A combination of adverse factors has decreased farmers' purchasing power considerably. This "increases the lopsided distribution of income and encourages a greater concentration of megafarmers."

The *Spotlight* warns government to view low profitability and crisis measures by the

sector in a serious light. "The solution is not to be found in product price increases," or exports will become uncompetitive.

The sector's debt burden is sobering, the ratio rising from 11,5% to 26,5% in the past 10 years. Moreover, the short-term component rose from 28,5% to 54% in 15 years and, as a result, is assuming a long-term character. Total outstanding debt is now R11,4 billion, a growth of 19,3% a year since 1975.

Louw says interest payments are the largest single cost factor in agriculture, now 83,5% of net farm income or R1,7 billion. ■

Irrigation scheme to boost EC jobs

F. P. 1037
11/3/86
3
ⓧ

By DIRK VAN ZYL
Political Correspondent
CAPE TOWN — The construction of the Lower Sundays River Water Scheme had been advanced to contribute to the creation of job opportunities in the Eastern Cape and to promote agricultural production.

This is stated in the seventh supplementary report on the Orange River Development Project, tabled in Parliament yesterday by the Department of Water Affairs.

Completion of the Lower Sundays scheme — the purpose of which is to bring up to 11 000 hectares under irrigation in addition to the approximately 9 500 hectares at present scheduled by the Sundays River Irrigation Board — is scheduled for 1992 at an estimated R234 million cost (at March, 1986, prices).

The scheme's main works are about 75 kilometres of new or upgraded canals, two kilometres of tunnels, two balancing dams and extensive piped water distribution systems.

The report says a Lower Fish River Scheme — not mentioned in White

Papers before — will make it possible to develop about 3 000 hectares of irrigable land along the Great Fish River in the Committees Drift area north-east of Grahamstown.

The land is on both sides of the river in South Africa and Ciskei, and the irrigation development will be a joint undertaking between the two countries.

This scheme is being implemented for the same reasons as the Lower Sundays River one and also to make additional water available to Grahamstown.

The main works are a five-kilometre diversion tunnel for Fort Brown, an off-channel storage dam, a 13-kilometre canal and a pipe distribution system for irrigation water.

Completion is scheduled for 1989 at an estimated R75 million cost (March, 1986, prices).

The report says the Lower Sundays scheme has been identified as a high priority project, its main object being the creation of job opportunities in the shortest possible time in the economically depressed Eastern Cape.

Drought pattern to hit SA again

By PATRICIA CHENEY
Washington

EL NINO, the bizarre weather pattern that caused the catastrophic drought in southern Africa three years ago, will strike again later this year, weather experts have predicted.

But, they say, it will not be as severe as in 1982 and 1983, when searing drought in Australia, Indonesia and southern Africa, as well as floods in South America, caused more than 1 000 deaths and extensive damage to economies.

According to scientists at the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory in New York, the more moderate El Nino will develop in about July and peak in November, with a return to normal expected early next year.

Research

This is the first time that weathermen have been able to predict the onset of the El Nino phenomenon — thanks to the close study made of the 82/83 pattern.

Scientists from several countries have set up research ships; sensors on buoys and other equipment to measure the transformation of the ocean and atmosphere that characterises El Nino.

STAGES ③ GEN
13/4/86
The changes include a reversal in atmospheric pressure over the eastern Pacific and the Australian and Asian side of the ocean, a faltering of east-west winds and a warming of normally cool waters.

The result is a dramatic change in weather which wreaks havoc with the way people around the world live.

The name El Nino — meaning "boy child" — was first given to the unusual weather pattern by Peruvian fishermen, who noticed that the surge of unusually warm waters off their coast often occurred around Christmas.

Paraguay cattle farm plan lures SA investors

PEOPLE are interested in investing in Paraguay, if the response to an advertisement placed by a former Boland farmer is anything to go by.

Jurie Badenhorst, a property agent employed by the farmer, has received numerous inquiries about the scheme which allows South Africans to buy shares in a large cattle farm in the South American country.

Badenhorst said no money had yet been put forward for the scheme because it was not expected of people to invest before they had seen what they were putting their money into.

"We are also not asking people to leave the country, as one is entitled to

own property in Paraguay without living there," he said.

The farmer, Johan Spangenberg, who sold his Paarl farm several years ago, has been living in Paraguay since October. He has returned with a business colleague, Francois Meullen, to sell a total of 37,500ha of farm land.

Potential investors can buy a portion of the land and will have it registered in their name on payment, or they can buy shares in the project. One share costing about R3 340 will be issued for each 12,45ha bought.

ANN PALMER

Water scheme plans advanced to create jobs

By David Braun, Political Correspondent
PARLIAMENT — The Government has "drastically advanced" three major water schemes to create much-needed employment and bring an additional 18 000 ha of land under irrigation in the Eastern Cape.

The projects are scheduled to be completed about the turn of the decade, by which time they will have cost much more than R500 million.

Details of the Great Depression-type schemes are contained in the seventh supplementary report on the Orange River Development Project tabled in Parliament last week by the Director-General of Water Affairs, Mr J G Du Plessis.

The projects are:
● The Lower Sundays River Scheme, involving 75 km of new or upgraded canals,

2 km of tunnels, two balancing dams and extensive piped-water distribution systems.

● The Lower Fish River Scheme, a new project north-east of Grahamstown. The land is on both the South African and Ciskei sides of the river and Ciskei and the irrigation development will be a joint undertaking between the two countries.

CRIPPLING DEBT

It is also being implemented to create jobs and involves a 3 km diversion tunnel, an off-channel storage dam and a 13 km canal and a pipe distribution system.

● The Orange-Douglas scheme. This is actually a State take-over of an existing scheme under construction by the Douglas Co-operative to provide an emergency water supply to the Douglas weir on the



Vaal River.
The development of the scheme by the State will remove the crippling debt incurred by the co-operative in constructing the emergency scheme, relieve the pressure on the overcommitted resources of the river, promote higher agricultural production, and create the opportunity to improve the poor socio-economic conditions of a large number of local farmers whose farms are too small to be economically viable.

In his report, Mr du Plessis said he was reasonably certain that the cost of constructing and operating the Lower Sundays River and Lower Fish River schemes was economically justified.

Vegetables will form a significant part of crop production in both areas.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him how his Deputy Minister could have made a public statement that it was intended to achieve parity within ten years?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the exact terms of this programme will be announced by the hon the Minister of National Education, who has the overall responsibility for the standards and norms of financing with regard to education in respect of all departments, and in that announcement not only a formula but also the details of a programme—a time schedule, in other words—will be announced.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply to the previous supplementary question, I should like to point out that he was asked whether such a calculation had been made, and he failed to answer directly. Could he therefore tell the House whether such a calculation has in fact been made?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, many calculations have been made with regard to trying to determine, first of all, the parameters within which to calculate the backlog in educational facilities, the levels at which parity in educational facilities should be achieved, and also the parameters in relation to the financial means of the State in this regard. Since these are factors which interact mutually it was thought best to bring them all together in a formula and to work out a programme or time schedule within which that formula could be introduced and ultimately fully implemented.

*17. Mr K M ANDREW—Finance. [Reply standing over.]

Q-80-1095 BHC poison 3 GEN

HAN'S BARD 15/4/86
*18. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

- (1) Whether the poison known as BHC has been used to combat locusts in the Eastern Cape in recent weeks; if so,
- (2) whether (a), he, (b) his Department

and/or (c) any other body authorised the use thereof; if so, (i) by whom was it authorised, (ii) what quantity of the poison was used and (iii) where were supplies of the poison obtained;

- (3) whether the use of this poison was monitored; if so, by whom;
- (4) whether all the persons applying this poison were issued with the recommended protection equipment; if so, with what specified equipment;
- (5) whether those applying the poison, suffered any ill-effects attributable to contact with BHC; if so, what is the nature of these ill-effects;
- (6) whether this poison is still being used;
- (7) whether any substitutes for BHC are available; if so, why were these substitutes not used?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a), (b) and (c) Yes.
 - (i) The Registrar of Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies.
 - (ii) 4 000 ton.
 - (iii) A strategic supply purchased by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing during 1974 was kept in stock. During 1981 a prohibition was placed on the manufacture of BHC.

- (3) Yes, by officials of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing.
- (4) No special protective equipment is prescribed in respect of the use of

BHC. Labourers were issued with masks and dust goggles.

- (5) No, not as far as is known.
- (6) Yes, on a limited scale only. Stocks are almost exhausted.
- (7) Yes, substitutes for BHC have now become available and are being phased in.

BHC poison

*19. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether any members of the South African Defence Force are and/or were recently engaged in applying the poison BHC to combat locusts; if so, (a) how many as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) which Defence Force units are and/or were involved and (c) on what dates in each case;

- (2) whether the activities of these units were monitored; if so, by whom;

- (3) whether all members applying this poison were issued with the recommended protection equipment; if so, with what specified equipment;

- (4) whether any ill-effects attributable to contact with this poison have been suffered by any members involved in locust combating activities; if so, what is the nature of these ill-effects;

- (5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) As on 7 April 1986: 50 drivers were made available to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing at their requests.

- (b) North Western Command is in control of the members (who come from different units) and equipment of the SA Defence Force.

- (c) The assistance commenced on 24 February 1986 and is extended for periods of three weeks as required. The most recent extension ends on 25 April 1986.

- (2) Yes. By officials of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing for the execution of the task and by a senior Defence Force officer for disciplinary purposes.

- (3) As military personnel are not involved in the application of the poison no special protective equipment is issued to them. Only protective overalls have been issued to them.

- (4) Three members showed symptoms of stomach cramps, coughing and headache, similar to flu, which may possibly have been caused by the poison. They received medication at a local hospital and are at present in good health.

- (5) No.

Own Affairs.

Q-80-1098

HAN'S BARD 15/4/86

Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether a date has been set or suggested for the coming into operation of the provincial education councils; if not, why not; if so, what is this date.

- (2) whether any organisations were consulted prior to the setting of this date; if not, why not; if so, what organisations;

- (3) whether, prior to this date, the functions of these provincial education councils are being performed by another body; if so, by what body?

BUESDAY 15/4/86

(3) GEN

Push for Orange River plan

GOVERNMENT has decided to speed up drastically development of the Orange River irrigation scheme.

It will also be substantially expanded.

The decision was taken this year but details of the revised R540m project, which now comprises three linked schemes, were contained in a recently-released report in Cape Town.

It says the implementation of the three schemes — two of which have not been mentioned before — have been "drastically" advanced for various reasons, the main one being unemployment relief.

New project

The project now includes the original proposal, the Lower Sundays River Government Water Scheme, and two new projects — namely the Lower Fish River Government Water Scheme and the Orange-Douglas Government Water Scheme.

The purpose behind the Lower Sundays River Scheme is to bring 11 000ha under irrigation, in addition to about 9 500ha now con-

CHRIS CAIRNCROSS

trolled by the Sundays River Irrigation Board.

The main components of the scheme include 75km of new or upgraded canals, 2km of tunnels, two balancing dams and extensive piped water distribution systems.

This project is scheduled for completion by 1992.

Budgeted cost of the original scheme was R197m. The revised figure is now about R369m. The increase has mainly been incurred to cover the enlargement of the project.

The Lower Fish River Scheme will make it possible to develop about 3 000ha of irrigable land along the Great Fish River in the Committee's Drift area north-east of Grahamstown.

The reason for the project is also to bring land under irrigation and to make additional water available to Grahamstown.

The main works are a 5km diversion tunnel near Fort Brown, an off-channel storage dam, a 13km canal and a pipe distribution sys-

tem for irrigation water.

Estimated total building cost is around R97m. Construction has already started and is expected to be completed by January 1990.

Owing to the shortage of water in the Vaal River system, the Douglas Co-operative constructed an emergency scheme to supply water from the Orange River to the Douglas Weir, serving irrigable land near Douglas.

Emergency scheme

It is now proposed that the State takes over this emergency scheme and expand it to serve a possible additional 4 000ha.

This takeover is expected to remove the crippling debt incurred by the co-op in constructing the scheme, relieve the pressure on the already over-committed resources of the Vaal River and promote higher agricultural production.

Total cost of the takeover and the further additions to the scheme is estimated are R48m.

Construction on the additions are scheduled to start next year and be completed by 1991.

BUD DAY 15/4/86.
③ GEN

Push for Orange River plan

GOVERNMENT has decided to speed up drastically development of the Orange River irrigation scheme.

It will also be substantially expanded.

The decision was taken this year but details of the revised R540m project, which now comprises three linked schemes, were contained in a recently-released report in Cape Town.

It says the implementation of the three schemes — two of which have not been mentioned before — have been "drastically" advanced for various reasons, the main one being unemployment relief.

New project

The project now includes the original proposal, the Lower Sundays River Government Water Scheme, and two new projects — namely the Lower Fish River Government Water Scheme and the Orange-Douglas Government Water Scheme.

The purpose behind the Lower Sundays River Scheme is to bring 11 000ha under irrigation, in addition to about 9 500ha now con-

CHRIS CAIRNCROSS

trolled by the Sundays River Irrigation Board.

The main components of the scheme include 75km of new or upgraded canals, 2km of tunnels, two balancing dams and extensive piped water distribution systems.

This project is scheduled for completion by 1992.

Budgeted cost of the original scheme was R197m. The revised figure is now about R369m. The increase has mainly been incurred to cover the enlargement of the project.

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15/1/86 WEDNESDAY 3/9EN

Call for more farm aid

GERALD REILLY

THE SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) is to appeal to government for further aid for destitute farmers.

This was decided at a meeting of the SAAU economic committee in Pretoria yesterday.

SAAU director Piet Swart said many farmers had reached the point of no return and would probably be lost to the industry.

"Our aim is, however, to give all possible aid to those farmers who

have good prospects of recovering from severe financial blows, caused mainly by high interest rates, over the past three or four years."

The amount of aid required had not yet been determined, but a submission would soon be made to Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel, Swart said.

15/4/86 BUSDAY (3) GEN

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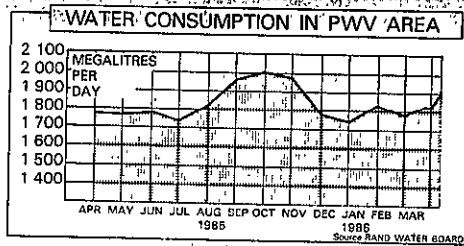
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The amount of aid required had not yet been determined, but a submission would soon be made to Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel, Swart said.



Water Board urges users to keep saving

③ GEN
BUS DAY
16/4/86

A SHARP increase in water consumption last week has prompted Rand Water Board officials to appeal to the public and industry to conserve water.

"The good rains of the past few days have not made a significant difference," a board spokesman said.

"There is no reaction as yet on capacities of dams in the Vaal catchment area and we urge everyone to stay within their quotas."

Figures released by the board show that consumption last week was above quota by 6,07%, compared with 1% above quota this time last year.

MICK COLLINS

Consumers exceeded quotas considerably in the period September-November last year (see graph) because of a prolonged spell of dry weather.

"We have had a similar occurrence this past week, when temperatures were high before the advent of the cold front which brought the rains," the spokesman said.

Total capacity in dams of the Vaal water-scheme last week was 25,3%, an improvement over this time last year when capacity stood at 22,9%.

Farmer ran down black children, witness tells court

Vereeniging Bureau

An eye-witness of an alleged double murder yesterday described in the Circuit Court in Vanderbijlpark how he watched as an elderly Vereeniging farmer chased and knocked down two young brothers with his bakkie after they were caught trespassing on his farm in July last year.

This evidence was led by a farm hand, Mr Amos Ndaweni (44) at the trial of Mr Gideon Benjamin van der Watt (73), who is facing two charges of murder before Mr Justice Kirk-Cohen.

Mr van der Watt, of the farm Hartebeesfontein near Vereeniging, has pleaded not guilty on both counts.

Tragedy

The charges against him are the sequel to the incident. Both boys, William Boy (7) and Siphon Phillip Mngomezulu (9), of a neighbouring farm, died after suffering multiple injuries.

In his evidence Mr Ndaweni said that he and another farm hand, Mr Daniel Mokwena, had been asked to dig holes for a fence on Mr van der Watt's farm on the day of the tragedy.

He explained that while they were working, Mr van der Watt approached them in his bakkie and asked them to

load some wire onto the back of the vehicle. Shortly afterwards Mr van der Watt drove off in the direction of a clump of trees.

Mr Ndaweni told the court that a short while later he heard a car hooter sound and also heard the drone of an engine intensify. When he looked up from his work he spotted two small children running in front of Mr van der Watt's bakkie. It appeared as if they were being chased.

Moments later he saw the bakkie strike down the one child and then seconds later, the other boy was also knocked down. Mr Ndaweni said that he and Mr Mokwena immediately ran to the scene of the accident. William was already dead. His brother Siphon died shortly afterwards.

Mr Mokwena said he asked Mr van der Watt what he had done, to which he replied: "I was scaring them." Mr van der Watt then got into his bakkie and drove away from the scene of the tragedy.

The trial will continue today after Mr Justice Kirk-Cohen and his two assessors, Mr Gert Meiring and Mr D H du Plessis, return from an inspection of the scene of the alleged crime. Advocate J Fouche is prosecuting, while advocate P Kemp is appearing for the defence.

18/4/86 STAR 3 GEN

Water shortage is critical, says commission

SMR - 22/4/86
③ GEN

Search continues for alternative resources

By Kym Hamilton,
Pretoria Bureau

The critical shortage of water supplies in South Africa was again highlighted in the annual report of the Water Research Commission, which detailed the ongoing search for alternative sources.

Water had been identified as the most limiting natural resource in South Africa and the Scientific Priorities Committee had assigned a high priority to water research, said the report.

However, funds earmarked for research had reflected no growth in the past 11 years and between 1974 to 1984 had not kept pace with the inflation rate.

The period under review did not take into account the reductions in state expenditure for the past financial year and the position was therefore

worse, said the report.

The drought and water restrictions had also reduced income and caused a sharp drop in the Commission's reserves.

The commission is affiliated to the Department of Water Affairs.

It said longer-term financial planning for new research had become necessary and priorities would have to be considered even more critically.

Research into the use of underground water resources, irrigation losses, water savings, reclaimed drinking water and the desalination of sea and brackish water continued during 1985, said the report.

Losses in the distribution systems of large irrigation schemes were estimated at seven to 40 percent.

These losses could also account for up to 45 percent of return flows from irrigation schemes, contributing to increased salinity and to ineffective utilisation of existing canals.

The commission is currently supporting a research project aimed at limiting canal losses.

It has also undertaken research into the sociological and economic consequences of water restrictions.

The report said water could be saved at the power stations in the Transvaal coal fields, though it would be difficult to provide sufficient water for the wet cooling of these stations.

UNDERGROUND SOURCES

Escom would be forced to use dry cooling on its power stations on an unprecedented scale, which could save up to 75 percent of present water consumption by power stations.

The potential of underground water sources — upon which two thirds of the country relied for domestic use, stock watering, irrigation and supplies for small local authorities — was also a high priority.

The total volume of ground water used was only about 10 percent of the total volume and better techniques were being developed.

The drought had also renewed interest in the desalination of sea and brackish water, said the report.

The cost of desalinating brackish water was an acceptable alternative to augment water shortfalls, it added.

SMR - 22/4/86
③ GEN

Farmer convicted of killing boys with bakkie

Vereeniging Bureau

"You have enjoyed 73 summers on earth, but you have deprived two small boys of doing the same," Mr Justice F C Kirk-Cohen yesterday told Gideon Benjamin van der Watt (73), of the farm, Hartebeesfontein, who had killed two brothers by running them down with his bakkie.

Van der Watt was convicted in the Vanderbijlpark Circuit Court on two charges of murder.

He was sentenced to five years' jail, of which half was suspended, on each count, the sentences to run concurrently. He was granted leave to appeal and released on R500 bail.

Van der Watt had pleaded not guilty to murdering William and Sifo Mngomezulu, aged seven and nine respectively.

Mr Justice Kirk-Cohen said it was obvious from evidence led that the accused, angry with some 10 to 12 children trespassing on his property, had decided to frighten them.

The judge dismissed Van der Watt's testimony that the two brothers killed had broken away from the other children and had run straight towards his bakkie. The court also rejected his version that he swerved sharply to the right and slammed on his brakes to avoid knocking down the two children.

"The court has no other alternative but to find that the intent to murder was indeed present."

If the accused had been a young man of 25 years, the court would certainly have sentenced him to 12 or more years' jail.

Van der Watt said in mitigation yesterday that he and his wife of 50 years, Rosie, were in ill-health, that he had not had a crop for four years and that he was paying off a R12 000 loan.

Because of the nature of the crime, the judge refused requests from both the prosecutor, Mr J Fouche, and the defence advocate, Mr P Kemp, that the court impose a suspended sentence and/or a fine.

SMR - 22/4/86
③ GEN

Pik, US hold 'secret' talks

GENEVA — Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Dr Chester Crocker have completed two days of talks here, shrouded in secrecy.

A brief statement said merely that talks had taken place without giving substantive details. They are understood to have focused on the issue of Namibian independence. More talks are planned in future in what a South African official described as "an on-going process". — The Star's Foreign News Service. ● See Page 15.

7/11/9

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22/4/86 S.M. (3) CEN.
Vereeniging Bureau

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Agricultural output in Africa expected to drop

LONDON — Although food production recovered in much of Africa after the 1984-85 drought, agricultural prospects for the continent seem likely to deteriorate over the medium term, Mr Edouard Saouma, director-general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said yesterday.

In an introduction to a FAO report on the food crop outlook for the continent in 1986, Mr Saouma warns that the projections for the rest of the decade reached the alarming conclusion that by 1990 the self-sufficiency ratio for low-income Africa could slip from 79 to 75 percent.

The ratio refers to the amount of food that is produced domestically to meet a country's needs.

In its review, the FAO estimates that better weather helped food output in the 45 countries reviewed rise 36 percent last year compared to the previous season. But six countries — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Sudan, Ethiopia and the Cape Verde islands — require emergency assistance. — The Star Bureau.

Matanzima tells ^{3 gen} of farming boost ^{DISPATCH 24/4/86}

Dispatch Reporter

UMTATA — Agriculture in Transkei was the springboard to all development, because the country was endowed with vast resources, Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima said at the opening of the Xonxa Rural Development Scheme.

He said water could be found in the White Kei, Umzimvubu, Bashee, Tsitsa, Tina, Mtamvuna and other rivers where irrigation and hydro electrical potential could be exploited.

"It is the policy of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry to exploit such resources for the improvement of the standard of living of its people and for rural development by growing enough food commodities for self sufficiency and even export," he said.

He said the Xonxa irrigation scheme was an example of an integrated rural development programme.

The Xonxa Dam was constructed in 1971 while the district of Cacadu was still part of Ciskei.

"For some inexplicable reason, when the district of Cacadu was

annexed to Transkei, the South African Government failed to make any further developments," he said.

He said it was not until 1979 that the first developments were made after the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry had visited Austria in search of financial assistance for the project.

"In June, 1979, I visited Austria where the whole plan and design of the project was shown to me by Austrian experts, whereupon I gave the decision to go ahead with the scheme.

"The first phase of implementation was the development of about 300 hectares of land under sprinkler irrigation below the dam where various agricultural commodities such as lucerne, wheat, vegetables and maize were successfully grown."

He said that after a few financial problems which caused a delay of about four years, an extension of the original contract was signed in March 1984.

He also said the implementation of phase two of the project was to be the responsibility of the Bauer Company, and

construction was started in January last year and completed in April this year.

He said it was a very sophisticated scheme and the first of its kind in Transkei.

"The irrigation works with a central pivot and covers an irrigated area of 1 270 hectares, and the scheme is fed by gravity from a dam to which the water is pumped from the White Kei River.

"The main farm is designed to accommodate 400 head of cattle for fattening and meat production, as well as 200 pigs for breeding and fattening purposes," he said.

He said they would be going into contract with Transkelan meat firms for the supply of slaughter animals which would help to reduce the importation of slaughter animals from South Africa.

He said the production of fodder to feed the animals was one of the purposes of the irrigation scheme.

"The domestic water supply is meant to solve the drinking water problem in the rural area, by extending pipelines to different locations in the area.

CMB Times 30/7/87

(3 Gaerol)



Leliefontein farmers (from left) Mr Samuel Cloete, Mr Dawid Koordon, Mr Abraham Fortuin and Mr Piet Klase photographed in Mr Klase's wheatfield in October last year. Mr Klase said at the time: "It is very unfair of my big father (the government) to take the bread from my mouth like this." Picture: RIAAN SMIT

Baster farmers want ancestors' land back

By SHAUNA WESTCOTT
Supreme Court Reporter

SMALLHOLDERS of the Leliefontein community in Namaqualand, who have farmed communally for generations, returned with their flocks from winter pastures in September 1985 to find their homes occupied by others, the Supreme Court heard yesterday.

This was evidence given on affidavit by Mr Gert Bekeur, one of four members of the community who have launched an application for an order declaring that they were wrongfully deprived of their land and ordering the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives to restore it to them.

Mr Bekeur said he and most of the community are descendants of Khoi families, described as "the Little Namaqua Hottentots" and the "Baster tribe", to whom the land was formally granted in 1854 by Governor of the Cape Sir George Cathcart.

"My ancestors have lived in the Leliefontein area for as long as the memory of man," he said.

He said the community of about 300 owned the land communally. Although the custom was for each family head to be assigned land, individuals had no right to dispose of their plots and animals grazed on communal land.

Dependent on land

Mr Bekeur said he and most of his fellow farmers and their families were completely dependent on the

land for a living. He added that he had no formal education and "no capital besides my livestock".

He was "astounded" when in 1984 he received a letter from the Leliefontein management board telling him to remove all structures and improvements from his garden plot and not to set foot on it again.

Complaints to the board "fell on deaf ears" and a meeting with the minister culminated in a ministerial request for a letter setting out the grievances of the community.

"I wrote this letter," Mr Bekeur said, "but to date I have simply received a letter from him telling me my letter was 'enjoying attention'".

"During June or July 1985 I sowed vegetables and as usual trekked away with my livestock for winter grazing. When I returned in September I was astounded to find one Nico Schwartz had occupied the whole area in which my garden plot is situated.

"He drove cattle in and destroyed my whole vegetable harvest. When I approached him he told me the land was now his and I had no right to be there."

Mr Bekeur said the land had been divided up into 47 farms of which 30 had been "allocated" to strangers to the area.

An application for an order allowing papers to be served on the new "tenants" by means of letters, newspaper advertisements and centralized access to the complete documentation was granted by Mr Justice C T Howie yesterday.

Mr L. A. Rose-Innes, instructed by the Legal Resources Centre, appeared for the applicants.

FIN MAIL 25/4/86

③ GEN

TRACTOR SALES

A rocky road

While SA's beleaguered motor industry gathers breath for a new call for help in the wake of record low first-quarter sales, another sector of the trade is also seeking urgent relief.

The R300m a year tractor manufacturing sector has reported an "absolutely disastrous" 59% drop in tractor sales for March. Last month, only 320 units were sold against 779 in March last year.

First quarter sales of 1 131 were 42% below last year's 1 984 units. "And last year

we were already in a very depressed market," says Rob Phillips, president of the SA Tractor Manufacturing Association (Satma) and group director of industry market leader Fedmech.

Phillips says the new farm machinery market was worth some R600m last year, of which the tractor industry made up about 50%. Farm machinery parts sales are valued at around R300m a year.

To cap it all, March tractor sales were 22% below February's 410 units. February sales, in turn, were 41% down on the same month last year when 700 units were sold. "The decline is accelerating," Phillips tells the FM.

from R32m in 1984. A similar 20% increase in turnover is slated for this year.

The spadework for a self-medication division in SA started four years ago and CG has now drawn up a list of some 12 established over-the-counter drugs on the market that it hopes to add to the division's product portfolio.

Head of CG's pharmaceutical division Johann Niehaus stresses that the company intends to stay clear of high-abuse areas, such as central nervous stimulants.

Late last year, CG bought Salusa 45, a multi-vitamin tonic, from Noristan for an undisclosed sum, and the next product launch is expected in 1987.

Satma vice-president and John Deere MD Bill Hubbard, agrees that the 1986 market outlook is "terrible," adding that the industry has scaled down sales expectations for the year from 6 000 to some 5 500.

Scaling down

He says tractor sales fell from the 1981 high of 24 862 units to 7 061 last year. "We have always maintained that an average year would yield about 12 000 units, but after the latest figures expectations for 1986 are now being scaled down even further," says Hubbard.

Phillips tells the FM that the March sales' plunge represents the industry's deepest trough and both the industry and government will have to take urgent action to stop the rot.

"As a first step, government should abolish the 10% import surcharge levy on imported farm machinery parts. This would boost the industry and help farmers who are increasingly relying on repairs to existing machinery to survive savage input cost increases," he says.

Another fiscal step suggested by Phillips is the abolition of 12% GST on farm machinery and tractors.

"Farmers, struggling with debts of R11,5 billion, have to fight sharply rising input costs, while the tractor and farm machinery industries face a disastrously shrinking market. Total industry employment has already fallen by two-thirds — from 1980's 100 000 employees to the current 33 000 workers," adds Phillips.

With 12 manufacturers in a shrinking

market there should also be scope for rationalisation because plant utilisation is inevitably running at low levels.

But most local manufacturers are either backed by multi-nationals or are subsidiaries of powerful local groups.

Fedmech, part of the Federale group, has already rationalised operations by replacing its dealer network with inhouse dealers. Most others are sitting out the recession and relying on their backers to see them through while cutting costs. But, faced with the heavy sales fall and grim future prospects, some of the weaker manufacturers might decide to pack up.

"A lot will depend on government's response to industry's request for tax relief," says Phillips, but "meanwhile, it is a matter of grim survival for many."

Farmers invested in inflation
by buying expensive land

Agriculture is in a mess — Moorcroft



MR MOORCROFT

Parliamentary Staff

CAPE TOWN — The agricultural sector was faced with the most serious crisis in its history and despite large sums being pumped in by the state, thousands of farmers were in desperate straits, the PFP MP for Albany, Mr Errol Moorcroft, said yesterday.

Speaking during the debate on the vote of the Department of Agricultural Economics in the committee stage of the Budget, Mr Moorcroft said a major portion of the blame lay with inflation.

Looking at the current state of agriculture, Mr Moorcroft, who is the Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said:

- Summer grain-producing areas were still suffering under the "hammer blows" of adverse climatic conditions with some experiencing their fifth successive crop failure.

- Farmers' profits had been slashed with input costs rising by 36 per cent over the past two years while producer prices remained static.

- The agricultural debt-burden had risen from R1,96 billion in 1975 to R11,4 billion in 1985 — an average of R190 000 a farmer involving an annual interest payment of R38 000, and;

- Inflation in terms of which farmers were 50 per cent worse off today than they had been 10 years ago.

Inflation, Mr Moorcroft said, was unquestionably one of the most "malign influences" on agriculture.

Many farmers, he said, as a hedge against inflation, had bought highly priced land and the price of land had, as a consequence, risen far above its value in terms of its production potential.

The owners of this land, he added, could now be said to have a "vested interest in inflation" and farmers had become embroiled in a "bizarre vicious circle with a vested interest in the very conditions which are choking the life out of their industry".

Stating that drastic action was obviously needed, Mr Moorcroft said that while the problem of inflation was being considered, the problem of agricultural taxation should also be addressed.

There was, he said, a drastic need for tax reform as the present system made it virtually impossible for capital accumulation to take place — debts could not be met and reserves against lean years could not be accumulated.

Another problem, Mr Moorcroft said, concerned the question of debt repayment facing many farmers because some banks and financial institutions were starting to "feel edgy" about the situation.

He said he feared that many farmers who were essentially in a sound position might be lost to agriculture unnecessarily.

"We accept that there are those who are irredeemably lost to the industry, but we must try to throw out a life-line to those who can still swim."

Perhaps, Mr Moorcroft said, the time had come for a "sort of Leutwiler like figure" who, with the backing of the government, could negotiate on behalf of the farmers.

3 Gen
26/4/86
DISPATCH

Moorcroft: Crisis in agricultural sector

CMT T.H.P. 26/4/86
360000

Political Staff

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Workers murder white farmer

By NEIL HOOPER

AN EASTERN Transvaal farmer was murdered in the Kriel district this week by a gang of farm labourers who had been hoarding home-made weapons.

Mr Johannes Martinus van Niekerk was stabbed to death on Thursday evening by one of the men after he went to confront a farm worker who earlier had allegedly assaulted his two teenage sons.

At the family's hired home-
stead on the farm Onver-
wacht in the Kriel district,
his widow, Mrs Triana van
Niekerk, yesterday spoke
for the first time of the
death of her 41-year-old
husband.

"During the afternoon we had
trouble with the farm la-
bourers. When my hus-
band came home, he de-
cided to confront them.
He took along his shotgun
just in case.

"A fight developed. My hus-
band managed to fire one
round from the shotgun
(which apparently hit four
of the men) before he was
hit over the head and
stabbed.

"By the time the police ar-
rived he was dead from a
stab wound in the heart."
The police arrested the
wounded four and took
them to hospital.

"Afterwards police searched
the labourers' living quar-
ters and found a large sup-
ply of home-made wea-
pons," she added.

Three held

POLICE have arrested three
men after a 22-year-old un-
identified white man was
found stabbed to death near
the Malvern Post Office,
Durban, yesterday.

2-year debt standstill urged

Farmers in Tvl face financial collapse

STAR 29/4/86
③ GEN

By Kym Hamilton and Sue Leeman,
Pretoria Bureau

In an unprecedented move, Transvaal farmers have appealed for a two-year moratorium on their debts to avoid financial collapse.

The recent rains have come too late and extraordinary emergency aid is now needed to save the agricultural sector, they say.

The Government is holding talks with farmers on the problem of debt and crippling input costs.

South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) officials are meeting Cabinet members, including agriculture ministers Mr Greyling Wentzel and Mr Sarel Hayward, in Cape Town this week for top-priority talks.

It is understood the SAAU will spell out farmers' problems and call on the Government to bring down input costs.

Subsidised agriculture

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Dawie de Villiers, has already been approached in this regard and has been told that unless input costs drop, agriculture must be subsidised — an option farmers do not favour.

There has also been a top-level meeting recently between state officials, banks — including the Reserve and Land Banks — Mr Hayward and representatives of the farming sector.

In a statement yesterday, the Northern Transvaal Agricultural Union said the financial distress of farmers now outweighed drought-related problems, and few farmers had enough assets to cover their debts.

The union said this financial crisis was unprecedented in South Africa and called on:

- The authorities to consolidate farmers' debts — estimated to be R2 004 million at the end of 1985 — under the auspices of the Land Bank.

- Government and semi-government organisations to impose a two-year moratorium on farming debts, except in cases where farmers are clearly insolvent.

- Commercial financial institutions to institute a voluntary two-year debt standstill.

- The Government to launch an urgent, in-depth investigation into input costs and possible price control.

- Farmers to practise responsible and careful financial management.

A survey by the Transvaal Agricultural Union last week found that the rains were too late to influence grazing and crops.

The situation in the western and northern Transvaal was critical. Many harvests had been ruined.

Farmers need help, says union

29/4/86
BES DAF
LINDA ENSOR
3 GEN

URGENT help is needed by Transvaal farmers if they are to survive, says the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU).

A survey conducted last week revealed that in the greater part of the Western and Northern Transvaal, conditions remain critical and no or under-average harvests are expected.

The Western Transvaal has had almost no rain, the TAU says. Dams are empty, rivers are not flowing, there is no ground moisture and the veld is in a poor state. The Lindley's Poort dam at Swartruggens has apparently closed.

The veld in the Northern Transvaal is critically dry and only about 20-25% of the normal harvest is expected.

Conditions in the Eastern Transvaal appear more favourable.

Minister warns changes ahead

SAPK 1/5/86 (3) GEN (2)

WARM BATHS — South Africa was not primarily an agricultural export country, and any exports should be regarded as a windfall, the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Sarel Hayward, said today.

Speaking at the opening of a symposium of the Society for Agricultural Extension Services, he said there was a growing prospect the export market for agricultural commodities would become increasingly competitive.

It would be important in future that production be "in harmony with the natural resources".

Food strategies would have to take cognisance of the local strategic demand for agricultural products.

The regional organisations of his department had made good progress with the compilation of regional development plans.

PROBLEMS

Mr Hayward said there would also have to be a shift in extension priorities with an eye to the establishment of a vigorous farming community with the emphasis on human development and not on maximum potential.

He said he had studied

the report of the Committee of Inquiry into the servicing of agriculture, and the problems had been thoroughly addressed.

It should not be forgotten the investigation was done and the report delivered under the old constitutional dispensation.

Since then a totally new constitution had come into operation and so the recommendations could not be considered.

Mr Hayward said he had informed the SA Agricultural Union of this, and had indicated he would have no objection to further talks. — Sapa.

pupils in each specified financial year since 1979;

- (2) what estimated amount will his Department spend on providing such (i) text-books, (ii) stationery and (iii) prescribed books in the 1986-87 and 1987-88 financial years, respectively?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(2) Financial Year	(i) Textbooks	(ii) Stationery	(iii) Prescribed Books
1986/87	18 177 354	8 875 000	9 746 646
1987/88	21 187 897	9 940 000	10 086 103

Note:

- (1) Prescribed books will be bought during the 1986/87 financial year for provision at the beginning of the 1987 school year.
- (2) The rise in the 1985/86 financial year in respect of text-books is a result of new syllabuses introduced by the Department.
- (3) The rise in the 1985/86 financial year in respect of stationery is due to the new system of free stationery.

HANSARD 1495
Coal deposits
674. Mr G B D McINTOSH asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 28 on 12 March 1985, the report on the evaluation of the (a) extent and (b) value of the coal deposits on the farm Steinkoalspruit in the Ladysmith district of Natal has been received by his Department; if not, (i) why not and (ii) when is it anticipated that the report will be received; if so, what were the findings;
- (2) whether an investigation has been held into compensation to be paid to

Lesotho Highlands Water Project
812. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 7 on 12 March 1985, the feasibility study on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project has been completed; if not, (a) why not, (b) when is it anticipated that it will be completed and (c) what progress has been made in regard to this study; if so, (i) when was it completed and (ii) what were the findings;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the future of this project?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes. (a) (b) and (c) Fall away.
(i) March 1986.
- (ii) The feasibility study identified no significant technical, legal or environmental impediments not to proceed with the proposed project. The study also indicated that it would serve the economic interests of both countries to proceed with the project.
- (2) No, as the matter is still under consideration by both Governments.

HANSARD 1497
Books stationery
864. Dr F HARTZENBERG asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) What is the value of the free (a) textbooks, (b) prescribed books and (c) stationery provided from 1 January 1986 to the latest specified date for which figures are available to Black schools under the control of his Department;
- (2) whether his Department has figures at its disposal in respect of the value of books and stationery destroyed

and burnt at such Black schools during the above-mentioned period; if not, why not; if so, what was the value of (a) these textbooks, (b) these prescribed books and (c) this stationery?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

- (1) (a) Approximately R11 000 000 until 31 March 1986.
(b) Nil.
(c) R8 829 700 until 31 March 1986.
- (2) Yes.
(a) R25 200 until 16 April 1986.
(b) Nil.
(c) R2 397 until 16 April 1986.

HANSARD 1498
Surplus agricultural foodstuffs
866. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

Whether any surplus agricultural foodstuffs grown or produced in the Republic and marketed through control boards were distributed to (a) the underprivileged and (b) welfare organisations during the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available; if so, (i) what foodstuffs, (ii) what quantity of each foodstuff and (iii) what was the total estimated value of the foodstuffs so distributed?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (a) No, not directly.
(b) Yes, the foodstuffs were made available at subsidised prices excepting deciduous fruit and citrus which were supplied free of charge.

Dusty Jericho celebrates a miracle

By Olga Horowitz

On Sunday, the 15 000 to 20 000 people of Jericho, a drought-dusty village in Bophuthatswana, will celebrate a miracle.

After years of paying R6 a drum for stagnant pool water carried 40 km by water traders, Jericho has turned on taps to receive a phenomenal gush of pure, sparkling water from a 68 000-litres-an-hour borehole.

It all started about two years ago, appropriately in the waterwashed and green fields of England's Lake District. Mr Len Apfel, founder of Imqualife — Improving the Quality of Life — a body dedicated to improving the lot of South Africa's rural people, was on a private visit to England.

There he renewed the acquaintance of Mrs Brenda Mottershead of Alderley Edge. She had once been a teacher in Soweto and asked him to talk to her church community on South Africa's homelands.

Len told a story of drought-borne disaster, espe-

cially related to Jericho where Mrs Mottershead and her community were already paying the school fees for 10 children through Mr Sam Kwate, principal of a Jericho school. They set up a trust fund for a borehole, making Mr Apfel a trustee in South Africa.

Correspondence burgeoned back and forth between the two continents and money flowed into Jericho. It was carefully spent.

With the help of World Vision and added donations from St John's Church in Parkmore, with the people of Jericho themselves contributing and the Bophuthatswana Government supplying the pump and the motor, the whole installation was completed about a month ago. It will be blessed this Sunday.

"Four boreholes were drilled," says Mr Apfel. "The first yielded nothing, the second caved into a muddy hole, and the third produced this unbelievable benison of 68 000 litres. We ran this for 24 hours — and were then convinced it was a miracle."

Border is a powder keg, say farmers

By Hannes de Wet

Trouble is brewing between white farmers and blacks living along the border which separates Sekhukhuland in Lebowa and Steelpoort in the North-Eastern Transvaal.

Farmers say the area, which has been the scene of several necklace murders and petrol bombings since mid-February, has become a powder keg.

"Unless something is done, there will be a fatal casualty on the white side within the next month. Once that happens, nobody is going to stop these farmers from retaliating," Mr Johan Wessels, chairman of the Steelpoort Farmers' Action Committee, told *The Star*.

"We are getting repeated threats that the ANC is going

to 'burn' us. This is an ugly sore selves," Mr Wessels said.

According to Mr Louw there were only two other choices:

● That the black villages across the border be moved.

● That the Government buy out the farmers and declare the area a no-man's-land.

Steelpoort is about 150 km from Pietersburg on the road to Lydenburg. Only the Steelpoort River separates about 20 farmers on the South African side from black villages in Sekhukhuland in Lebowa.

The farmers began to feel threatened in mid-February when a vehicle belonging to Mr Paul Malan, of Belvedere Farm, was petrol-bombed. Several similar incidents followed.

In the past two or three weeks farmers have been the targets of theft and damage to property. Several have suffered

serious losses.

One morning, Mr Wessels found his game fence had been cut in 34 places. The damage was estimated at R30 000.

Farmers said that the African National Congress was "very active" in the area. ANC pamphlets were regularly distributed among the blacks.

"Black farmworkers living across the border in Lebowa have been threatened with violence if they do not demand higher wages from us. Many of them are scared," Mr Wessels said.

Virtually all black farmworkers in the Steelpoort area stayed away from work on May Day.

"This is unusual. Some of these farmers have people who have been in their service for up to 30 years without a single day's absence," Mr Louw said.

that is going to burst open."

Farmers view the situation so seriously that they have demanded that the Government put up an electrified fence along the border.

Indications are that the Government will comply.

"We have been told that the Defence Force will take us to the Limpopo border to show us the electrified fence which is being erected there. We will then decide whether we want a similar fence," said another farmer, Mr Christo Louw.

The farmers have also asked for soldiers to patrol the border and protect their crops.

A delegation of farmers will meet their member of Parliament, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, on Friday to discuss their demands.

"If the Government refuses to protect us, we will do it our-

'Boy ordered to cut his father's throat'

"And then they told the boy to cut his father's throat..."

The farmer angrily anticipates your reaction. "If you don't believe me, I will bring you people who saw it with their own eyes!"

He continues the story about the incident close to his farm on the border between Lebowa and Steelpoort in North-Eastern Transvaal:

"I knew the victim well. He borrowed money from me a while ago and was repaying it in instalments. He still owed me R180.

"On that fatal day he was apparently on his way home after visiting my farm. They were waiting for him and his 14-year-old son among the bushes close to the river.

"The large group of black youths grabbed him and put a tyre around his neck. The tyre was sprinkled with petrol and set alight. But they didn't have enough petrol and the man was still alive after the tyre had burnt out.

"They then gave his son a knife and ordered him to cut his father's throat. When the boy refused they threatened him with the same treatment. He went ahead and killed his father."

The farmer asked that his name be withheld — "otherwise I will be the next one to get a necklace".

The story he told was to illustrate "how active the African National Congress had become" in Lebowa and the area along the border between Sekhukhuland and Steelpoort.

It all started in mid-February, the farmer said.

"I have inside information on how they went about. They started by making friends with schoolteachers and by offering them money. My information is that they are paying the teachers twice their salaries to co-operate.

"The teachers then had to provide the insurgents with class registers with the names of the brighter pupils underlined. These pupils are then summoned to be at a certain place for an evening meeting.

"The pupils are warned that their mothers or fathers will be necklaced if they don't attend the meeting. Parents were burnt to death in this way. Some pupils have become so scared that they don't even talk about the death of their parents."

5/5/86
SPAK

~~SPAK~~
~~SPAK~~ (3) GEN

ANC permits needed

Steelpoort farmers wanting to enter the Sekhukhuneland area of the Northern Transvaal, where most of their black workers live, are being advised by the workers to buy an "ANC permit" — at R1 000 a year.

Mr Christo Louw of Steelpoort explains: "Most of our farm workers live in villages across the border, the Steelpoort river. I send a lorry with one of my black drivers every day to transport them to work.

"A week or two ago I received news that 'they' had grabbed my lorry and were going to keep it there. When I wanted to go and get the vehicle my black workers told me that I would need an ANC permit — otherwise it would not be safe to enter the area.

"This permit costs R1 000 a year."

Mr Louw didn't buy the permit. He made "another plan" to get his lorry back, he said. "But we suspect that there is at least one farmer who does have such a permit."

By Hannes de Wet

Life changed suddenly for farmers in the Steelpoort valley in North-Eastern Transvaal.

Yes, many asked them in the past how they could live so close to a black homeland. The Steelpoort farmers only smiled. They were getting along quite nicely with their neighbours in Lebowa, thank you.

Until about three months ago. Then petrol bombs came, and the necklaces, the ANC pamphlets, the threats and the restlessness among their own black workers.



Mr Willem van Reenen. . . "Interest rates are killing us".

Farming is a gambling challenge

Are you a gambling man? Try farming if you are really looking for a challenge.

Mr At Swart, a Potgietersrus farmer, will tell you why:

"A few months ago a guy working in town told me that he was going to rent a piece of land to grow his own mealie crop on the sideline. He and his wife, he said, had saved up about R8 000 for the venture.

"For five years they never went on holiday and deprived themselves of several luxuries. At last, they thought, they had enough money to grow their own mealie crop.

"I told the guy he was nuts and should rather invest his R8 000. But he didn't listen.

"The R8 000 ran out soon after he started in all earnest. But he wanted to go through with his dream and he borrowed money. The rain stayed away and his crop failed.

"When I saw him a few weeks ago he told me that he had lost his R8 000 and that he owed the bank R12 000.

"He expressed his regrets for not listening to me, but then added that I had made one mistake — I should have 'donnered' him . . ."

Desperate N Transvaal farmers talk of their plight

39cN SNAK 6/5/86

"If a farmer wakes up by chance at one o'clock in the morning, you can be sure that he will not sleep again. Farming has become such a nerve-racking business that we just cannot sleep soundly any longer."

It was not always like this, says Mr At Swart, who farms in the Potgietersrus area.

"I used to enjoy being a farmer. After all, shouldn't one get some sort of kicks out of the way in which you are making a living? But now the pleasure is gone."

Another farmer in the area, Mr Willem van Reenen, still enjoys farming. He is a quali-

Official of the South African Agricultural Union had talks with the Government last week on the problems of farmers' debt and crippling input costs. The Northern Transvaal Agricultural Union said in a statement that few farmers had enough assets to cover their debts. HANNES DE WET visited a few farmers in the Potgietersrus area.

fied attorney who decided about three years ago that he wanted to live closer to the soil.

But it is tough going and there is not much light at the end of the tunnel.

He tells the story by means of simple arithmetic: "To buy a certain type of tractor in 1971 you had to produce 500 bags of mealies. Today you would need to reap between 1 800 and 2 000

bags of mealies to purchase the same tractor.

"Add to that the breathtaking escalation in the cost of producing a bag of mealies.

"Take one example: fertilizer cost R79 a ton in 1971.

Today the farmer has to pay R570 a ton for the same fertilizer. The price of a certain insecticide has risen from R17 a litre in 1971 to R132 a litre today.

"One doesn't need a strong imagination to add to the list of price rises in the life of a farmer. Fuel, labour, implements, etc."

The prolonged drought and up to five consecutive crop failures round off the grim picture.

To stay afloat, many farmers had to borrow more and more money. Then came the increase in interest rates.

Mr Adolf van Reenen started farming about 14 years ago after several years of being a successful businessman.

"I was having problems with an ulcer at the time that I left the business world. The first few years, everything went fine on the farm and my ulcer disappeared.

"But then the gap between farmers' incomes and insect costs started widening. And about two years ago my ulcer returned in all its glory. The high interest rates are killing us.

"I tell you, there is something drastically wrong with the system."

For another farmer in the area, Mr Danie Barnard, the coming year is like a dark cloud.

"I have no prospects at all and have applied for drought aid. I can only hope that assistance will be forthcoming."

Mr Willem van Reenen says he has been managing to survive by increasing his efficiency.

"But I have reached the ceiling now. And the floor is still coming closer and closer."



Mr At Swart . . . "The pleasure has gone out of farming".

Name of School	(b)	(c) (i) (ii)
Pre-primary School Block E		4 3
Primary Schools:		
Khayelitsha No 1	Block E	24 28
Vusumoya	Block E	24 20
Nolungile	Terrain C	24 23
Vusamanzini	Terrain C	24 20
Vusitile	Terrain C	24 13
Inyongo	Block C	24 13
Hombba	Block D	24 12
Masithandane	Block B	24 17
Lwandle	Block J	24 21

- (2) (a) (i) Not available.
(ii) 140.
(b) (i) Not available.
(ii) 806.
(c) (i) Not available.
(ii) 888.

(3) Yes. Figures as on 5 March 1985.

Note: With reference to paragraph (1)(a)(iii) it can be mentioned that the Luhlaza Secondary School started functioning with effect from 1 March 1986.

Handwritten: 800-1635
HANSARD 4/5/86
JUNE
MR R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether any members of the United Democratic Front were convicted of acts of violence during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available; if so, (a) how many and (b) of what offences were they convicted, and (ii) what sentences were imposed, in each case?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

Whether a particular accused person is a member of the United Democratic Front, or not, is not necessarily recorded during a criminal trial. The information is therefore not available.

Student representative councils

793. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

Whether any schools falling under the control of his Department have student representative councils; if not, why not; if so, how many such councils had been established (a) in total and (b) in each departmental region as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

- Yes.
(a) 198.
(b) Orange Free State Region 24
Northern Transvaal Region 23
Cape Region 38
Orange Vaal Region 6
Natal Region 30
Highveld Region 14
Johannesburg Region 56

Statistics as on 28 February 1986.

Handwritten: HANSARD 4/5/86
3/2/86
CUSTOMS DUTY
MR R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Finance:

What amount was collected in customs duties in 1984 in respect of (a) medicines for (i) veterinary and (ii) human use, (b) agricultural machinery and (c) fertilizers?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

Customs Duty

- (a) (i) and (ii) Separate statistics in connection with revenue in respect of medicines for veterinary or for human use are not available. Revenue in respect of medicines for human and veterinary use is as follows:
Medicines R7 824 660

- (b) Agricultural machinery R103 239

The figure which is furnished is in respect of agricultural machinery classifiable in tariff heading 84.24 of Part I of Schedule No 1 to the Customs and Excise Act.

It should be noted that agricultural machinery is in the most cases free of customs duty or subject to a relatively low rate of customs duty.

- (c) Fertilizers R1 091 475

The above-mentioned statistics are for the year 1984.

Handwritten: 800-1637
HANSARD 6/5/86
MR K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Communications:

- (1) Whether his Department produced any information pamphlets or leaflets giving details of the new post office tariffs effective from 1 April 1986; if so, when were they made available to the public for the first time;

- (2) whether these pamphlets or leaflets were available simultaneously in both official languages; if not, (a) why not and (b) in which language were they produced first;

- (3) whether they are to be produced in the other official language; if not, why not; if so, when will these pamphlets or leaflets be available at post offices;

- (4) whether any post offices received any complaints regarding these pamphlets or leaflets; if so, (a) when, (b) which post offices and (c) what was the (i) nature of the complaints and (ii) response thereto;

- (5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS:

- (1) Yes, supplies of an information pamphlet containing the most important new tariffs were despatched from

Pretoria to Postmasters country-wide from 1 to 4 April 1986 and would have reached most of the post offices within a day or two thereafter they would have been available immediately for issue to the public on request;

- (2) Yes. (a) and (b) Fall away.

- (3) Falls away.

- (4) The required information is not readily available and to obtain it from the approximately 1 600 post offices in the country would be a task of considerable magnitude which cannot be justified;

- (5) No, except that I would like to convey my regret to the users of our services for any inconvenience they may have been occasioned because of the fact that the relative information pamphlet could, as a result of the limited time in which it had to be compiled and printed, not be made available to post offices somewhat earlier. I must, however, emphasize that postmasters were in possession of full particulars of the tariff increases prior to 1 April 1986 and were therefore in a position to deal with enquiries in regard thereto effectively.

Handwritten: 4/5/86
Black townships: troops
HANSARD 6/5/86
MR K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) In which Black townships were troops of the South African Defence Force deployed in 1985, (b) what functions did these troops perform in such townships and (c) what total number of persons attached to the South African Defence Force were deployed in these townships in 1985;

- (2) whether any of these troops were national servicemen; if so, how many;

- (5) whether any (a) members and/or (b)

Dams a quarter full

③ GEN

Pretoria Correspondent

STAR 7/5/85
Transvaal dams are still only a quarter full — with no sign of rain in the catchment areas.

Dam levels have dropped with an average of 0,2 percent since last week.

The chairman of the Rand Water Board, Mr Dale Hobbs, however, does not foresee additional water restrictions in the immediate future. Present measures will stay in effect.

Dams are on average 25,7 percent full against last weeks' 25,9 percent. This figure is still significantly lower than the 28,8 percent measured last year.

Vaal Dam is 20,6 percent full, Bloemhof 4,1 percent, Sterkfontein 24,6 percent and Woodstock Dam in Natal which feeds Sterkfontein, 101,8 percent.

There is a single ray of light — water consumption in the first week of May by the different municipalities in the Rand Water Board area has dropped to 0,5 percent above the quota allocated to them by the Board, compared to the 0,6 percent of April.

The slight drop in consumption is accredited to the cool weather experienced during the past week. There has been no rain in the first week of May. The total rainfall for May 1985 was 11,1 mm as against the long-term average for May of 20,4 mm.

Central Transvaal

Community Councils	Wards	Vacancies
1. Brits	6	4 (no quorum)
2. Thabazimbi	6	0

Local Authorities

Local Authorities	Wards	Vacancies
1. Mamelodi (Pretoria)	12	2
2. Atteridgeville (Pretoria)	11	4
3. Belabela (Warm Baths)	6	2

Eastern Transvaal

Community Councils	Wards	Vacancies
1. Amersfoort (Ezamokhle)	6	0
2. Barberton (Emjindini)	6	1
3. Breyten (KwaZanele)	6	1
4. Carolina (Silobela)	6	3 (no quorum)
5. Davel (KwaDela)	6	0
6. Morgenon (Sivukile)	6	0
7. Piet Retief (Ethandakukhanya)	7	3
8. Sabie (Simile)	6	0
9. Wakkerstroom (Esizameleni)	6	0
10. Waterval-Boven (Emgwewya)	6	4 (no quorum)

Local Authorities

Local Authorities	Wards	Vacancies
1. Wesselton (Ermelo)	10	0

Western Transvaal

Community Councils	Wards	Vacancies
1. Bloemhof (Boitumelong)	5	0
2. Carletonville (Khutsong)	5	0
3. Christiana (Uitwanang)	5	0
4. Coligny (Ipeleng)	5	0
5. Fochville (Kokosi)	5	0
6. Hartbeestfontein (Tigane)	5	1
7. Koster (Reagle)	5	0
8. Leeudoringsstad (Kgahala)	5	0
9. Lichtenburg (Boikhutso)	5	1
10. Makwassie (Lebaleng)	5	1
11. Orkney (Kanana)	5	0
12. Otrosdal (Letsopa)	5	2
13. Schweizer-Reneke (Ipetegeng)	5	1
14. Sulfontein (Khuma)	5	0
15. Swarttruggens (Borolelo)	5	2
16. Ventersdorp (Tshing)	5	0
17. Wolmaransstad	5	0
18. Zeerust (Ikageleng)	5	2

Local Authorities

Local Authorities	Wards	Vacancies
1. Jouberton (Klerksdorp)	8	2
2. Ikageng (Potchefstroom)	8	0

MAN DANK 1673
 Leyles
DR F HARTZENBERG asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning: †

What total amounts were owing to each Development Board in respect of (a) rent, (b) service charges, (c) electricity and (d) other specified levies as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(a), (b), (c) and (d) The Department of Constitutional Development and Planning does not keep record of such detail as Development Boards are autonomous bodies of which the financial statements are tabled in Parliament. The hon member may, however, obtain the required information direct from the Development Boards.

The State supplied the following bridging loans to Development Boards during the 1985-86 financial year in order to compensate for deficits due to various causes:

Western Cape	R34 000 000
Eastern Cape	R48 820 000
West Rand	R30 000 000
Southern OFS	R 4 160 000
East Rand	R15 372 000
Natalia	R16 497 000
Orange Vaal	R20 000 000

MAN DANK 1674
AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT
860. Mr P C ROGERS asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

Whether, during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available, his Department took any action against persons who contravened any of the provisions of the Agricultural Pests Act, No 36 of 1983; if so, (a) against how many persons, (b) for what offences and (c) what were the penalties imposed in each case?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

Yes.

(a) 4 persons.

(b) (i) Removal of plants from quarantine contrary to an order;

(ii) removal of citrus plants from the Transvaal to the Cape Province contrary to the control measures; and

(iii) refusal or neglect to furnish information to an officer who is authorised in terms of the Act to request such information.

(c) R300 admission of guilt in one of five cases under (b)(i) and (ii). The decision of the Court is still awaited in respect of the remaining four cases. Two prosecutions in respect of (b)(iii) have still to be heard by the Courts.

MAN DANK 1677
Kwelera: social pensions
909. Mr P R MURROFT asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether his Department is responsible for the payment of social pensions to persons living in the Kwelera area near East London; if not, who is responsible for this service; if so, where are these pensions paid out?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

The Department of Constitutional Development and Planning took over the responsibility for the payment of social pensions to pensioners in the Kwelera area from 1 April 1986. Payment of pensions will be made on an agency bases on behalf of the Department by the East London District office of the Department of Home Affairs at the Blue Waters Police Station near Kwelera.

Own Affairs:
MAN DANK 1678
Transfer of records of provincial education departments
75. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 2 on 22 April 1986, all the

(b) Floor prices of certain cultivars have been lowered to discourage production and sales promotion is planned.

3 GEN
161. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(1) Whether any use is made in the Republic of (a) the chemical daminozide and (b) any other specified chemicals to regulate the ripening and improve the storage life of certain crops; if so, (a) from what (i) countries and (ii) companies are these chemicals obtained, (b) in respect of which crops are they used and (c) what quantities of each of these chemicals were used in the Republic during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available;

(2) whether any steps are to be taken in respect of any of these chemicals; if so, (a) in respect of which chemicals, (b) what steps, (c) why and (d) when?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (1) (a) Yes. (b) Ethephon. (a) (i) USA. (ii) Uniroyal. Agricura. Applied Agricultural Products. Union Carbide. (b) Apples (Starking), peaches, pineapples, Barlinka grapes, to-mangoes, grapefruit, cherries, plums and tobacco. (c) Daminozide: 700 kg during 1985; ethephon: 36 680 litres (diluted mixture) during 1985 (Used pre-

dominantly in sugar cane and a small quantity in the fruit industry in the Western Cape).

(2) (a) Daminozide.

(b) The standing Interdepartmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Man against Poisonous Substances supplied all available information to the Department of National Health for the purpose of toxicological evaluation. The comments have not been received yet.

(c) An application has been received to extend the use of the chemical for instance in hot-houses.

(d) 10 June 1985.

GEN/1660
161. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) Whether the Department of Co-operation and Development in conjunction with Development Boards carried out an investigation into arrears rents and service charges in Black residential areas; if so, (a)(i) when and (ii) by whom was the investigation carried out, (b) what were the results of the investigation and (c)(i) what amounts in (aa) rent and (bb) service charges were in arrears in respect of each specified Black residential area and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether he has taken or will take steps in this connection; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) (a)(i) and (ii), (b), (c)(i)(aa), (bb) and (ii) The hon member must note that the Department of Co-operation

and Development ceased to exist on 31 August 1985 and for that reason the reply is applicable as from 1 September 1985.

In order to assist development boards or local authorities to collect rents and service charges which may be due, the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning provided guidelines for a plan of action which is to be adjusted in accordance with local circumstances. This does not entail a specific investigation.

(2) The Department is continuously evaluating the plan of action, (a) and (b) fall away.

GEN/1661
162. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) How many (a)(i) community councils and (ii) other Black local authorities had been constituted, and (b) wards were there in each specified Development Board area, as at the latest specified date for which information is available.

(2) whether there were any vacancies in any of these councils and/or local authorities as at the above date; if so, how many in respect of each specified Development Board area;

Western Cape

Community Councils

Community Councils	Wards	Vacancies
1. Stellenbosch (Mfuleni)	7	2
2. Ashton (Zolani)	7	1
3. Ceres (Nduji)	5	1
4. Hermanus (Zwelihle)	5	0
5. Cape Town (Nyanga, Guguletu, Langa)	21	9
6. Paarl (Mbekweni)	7	1
7. Robertson (Ngubela)	7	6 (no quorum)
8. Stellenbosch (Kaya Mandi)	7	0
9. Walfish Bay (Kuseibmond)	7	0
10. Worcester (Zweitemba)	7	6 (no quorum)

Local Authorities: None.

Northern Cape

Community Councils

Community Councils	Wards	Vacancies
1. Barkly West (Mataleng)	6	0
2. Bristown (Mziwabantu)	5	0

(3) whether any of these councils and/or local authorities did not have a quorum of councillors as at the above date; if so, how many in respect of each Development Board area;

(4) whether any of these councils and/or local authorities were unable to function as at the above date; if so, (a) why and (b) how many in respect of each Development Board area?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) (a) (i) 192 Community councils. (ii) 23 Town councils and 19 village councils.

(b) On 16 April 1986 the number of wards per council in each specified development board area and

(2) the number of vacancies per such council are as set out below, while

(3) those councils which had no quorum, are shown as such and

(4) (a) the councils as indicated could not, in the absence of a quorum take decisions, although provision has been made for the continuation of functions (b) as indicated in respect of each development board and community council/local authority.

WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 1986

Cotton

(a) Mainly unfavourable weather conditions.

(b) None.

(3) (a) and (b)

White maize

Shortages will be supplemented by means of imports. Under normal weather conditions no shortages are expected.

Wheat

Shortages will be supplemented by means of imports. Under normal weather conditions no shortages are expected.

Sunflower seed

Vegetable oil is imported. With higher prices sufficient sunflower seed will be produced if normal weather conditions are experienced.

Cotton

It is customary to supplement shortages by means of imports and production is promoted, inter alia, by relatively higher prices.

HANSARD 7/5/86
 Surpluses of agricultural products
 643 Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the
 Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(1) Whether any surpluses of agricultural products exist or are expected in 1986; if so, of which products;

(2) what in each case are the (a) reasons for such surpluses and (b) price implications;

(3) what steps have been taken or are contemplated in each case to (a) counter the effect of such surpluses and (b) avoid them in future?

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Q or cor 1655
 Shortages of agricultural products
 641. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the
 Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(1) whether any shortages of agricultural products exist or are expected in 1986; if so, of which products;

(2) what in each case are the (a) reasons for such shortages and (b) price implications;

(3) what steps have been taken or are contemplated in each case to (a) counter the effect of such shortages and (b) avoid them in future?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

(1) Yes. White maize, wheat, sunflower seed and cotton.

(2) White maize
 (a) Mainly unfavourable weather conditions.
 (b) Higher prices for white maize.

Wheat
 (a) Mainly unfavourable weather conditions.
 (b) None.

Sunflower seed
 (a) Mainly unfavourable weather conditions.
 (b) Higher sunflower seed prices.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

Dry beans

(a) Expansion of plantings and favourable production conditions in certain areas.

(b) Prices tend lower and lower floor prices than last year have been fixed.

(3) Dairy products

(a) Due to adverse effect of the drought on crop production and therefore also on their income, producers turned to dairying to a greater extent than normal.

(b) Sales at reduced prices from time to time.

Rooibos tea

(a) Exceptionally favourable production conditions during the past few years and negative publicity regarding the alleged contamination of certain samples of rooibos tea.

(b) None.

Beef

(a) Forced marketing mainly as a result of the drought.

(b) Surpluses are made available at special prices.

Barley

(a) Quality not suitable for malting.

(b) Not quantifiable owing to variable factors such as variation in supply and demand and price fluctuations on the world market.

Yellow maize

(a) Normal weather conditions in certain areas.

(b) Surpluses are exported at relatively low prices.

Rooibos tea

(a) and (b)

Delivery quotas for rooibos tea producers have been introduced, overseas markets are developed and a more effective market strategy is applied.

Beef

(a) and (b)

Price and marketing arrangements are applied to create, as far as possible, a balance between supply and demand.

Barley

(a) and (b)

Periodic surpluses are exported at competitive prices.

Yellow maize

(a) and (b)

Surpluses for export are mainly determined by weather conditions.

Dry beans

(a) Surpluses are exported.

(b) Floor prices of certain cultivars have been lowered to discourage production and sales promotion is planned.

Chemicals for ripening of crops
 761. DE M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

(1) Whether any use is made in the Republic of (a) the chemical daminozide and (b) any other specified chemicals to regulate the ripening and improve the storage life of certain crops; if so, (a) from what (i) countries and (ii) companies are these chemicals obtained, (b) in respect of which crops are they used and (c) what quantities of each of these chemicals were used in the Republic during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available;

(2) whether any steps are to be taken in respect of any of these chemicals; if so, (a) in respect of which chemicals, (b) what steps, (c) why and (d) when?

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- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) Ethephon.
- (a) (i) USA.
- (ii) Uniroyal. Agricora. Applied Agricultural Products. Union Carbide.
- (b) Apples (Starking), peaches, pineapples, Bartinka grapes, mangoes, grapefruit, cherries, plums and tobacco.
- (c) Daminozide: 700 kg during 1985; ethephon: 36 680 litres (diluted mixture) during 1985 (Used pre-

dominantly in sugar cane and a small quantity in the fruit industry in the Western Cape).

- (2) (a) Daminozide.
- (b) The standing Interdepartmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Man against Poisonous Substances supplied all available information to the Department of National Health for the purpose of toxicological evaluation. The comments have not been received yet.
- (c) An application has been received to extend the use of the chemical for instance in hot-houses.

(d) 10 June 1985.

Reus/service charges in arrears
 781. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) Whether the Department of Co-operation and Development in conjunction with Development Boards carried out an investigation into arrears rents and service charges in Black residential areas; if so, (a)(i) when and (ii) by whom was the investigation carried out, (b) what were the results of the investigation and (c)(i) what amounts in (aa) rent and (bb) service charges were in arrears in respect of each specified Black residential area and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether he has taken or will take steps in this connection; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

- (1) (a)(i) and (ii), (b), (c)(i)(aa), (bb) and (ii) The hon member must note that the Department of Co-operation

and Development ceased to exist on 31 August 1985 and for that reason the reply is applicable as from 1 September 1985.

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(2) The Department is continuously evaluating the plan of action, (a) and (b) fall away.

Community councils/local authorities
 846. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) How many (a)(i) community councils and (ii) other Black local authorities had been constituted, and (b) wards were there in each specified Development Board area, as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(2) whether there were any vacancies in any of these councils and/or local authorities as at the above date; if so, how many in respect of each specified Development Board area;

Western Cape

Community Councils	Wards	Vacancies
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4. Hermanus (Zweithle)	5	0
5. Cape Town (Nyanga, Guguletu, Langa)	21	9
6. Paarl (Mbekweni)	7	1
7. Robertson (Ngubela)	7	6 (no quorum)
8. Stellenbosch (Kaya Mandi)	7	0
9. Walfish Bay (Kuisebmond)	7	0
10. Worcester (Zweletemba)	7	6 (no quorum)

Local Authorities: None.

Northern Cape

Community Councils	Wards	Vacancies
1. Barkly West (Mataleng)	6	0
2. Britstown (Mziwabantu)	5	0

(3) whether any of these councils and/or local authorities did not have a quorum of councillors as at the above date; if so, how many in respect of each Development Board area;

(4) whether any of these councils and/or local authorities were unable to function as at the above date; if so, (a) why and (b) how many in respect of each Development Board area?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) (a) (i) 192 Community councils.
 (ii) 23 Town councils and 19 village councils.

(b) On 16 April 1986 the number of wards per council in each specified development board area and

(2) the number of vacancies per such council are as set out below, while those councils which had no quorum, are shown as such and

(3) (a) the councils as indicated could not, in the absence of a quorum take decisions, although provision has been made for the continuation of functions (b) as indicated in respect of each development board and community council/local authority.

SA Farmers face debt of R11 000-m

6/5/86 SPAN (3) GEN

MARITZBURG — South African farmers faced a massive debt of about R11 000 million and the political unrest in the country was affecting their ability to meet their payments, the president of the Natal Agricultural Union, Mr J Fourie, said yesterday.

Mr Fourie, who was opening the Royal Agriculture Show in Maritzburg, said the repayment of this size of debt was coupled to the value of farm land and farm improvements.

He said political unrest in the country affected the value of farm land and the farmers' credit standing with the banks. The influence recent attacks on farms in the north-west and Eastern Transvaal had on production should not be underestimated.

The current turmoil and threat of revolution was foreign to the majority of peace-loving South Africans, who were beginning to lose faith in the country's ability to solve its own problems, he said.

Mr Fourie said continued polarisation of people into left and right wings only led to a confrontation situation and the cost of violence would be too great for the people to bear.

He said Natal had had a good agriculture season which would allow it to contribute more than its share to the gross agricultural product. This good season was evident in the quality of the livestock presented at the Royal Agricultural Show. — Sapa.

Strive for stability, peace, farmers told

③ Mercury 8/5/86
Pietermaritzburg Bureau

THE negative influence of political unrest, coupled with rising input costs and the huge debt already owed by South Africa's farmers, could influence the value of land and farmers' creditworthiness, Boet Fourie, president of the Natal Agricultural Union said yesterday.

Speaking at the official opening of the Royal Agricultural Show here, Mr Fourie said farmers owed a total of R11 billion, and that the repayment of this debt was dependent on the value of the land and its improvements.

He said any negative influence as the result of political unrest could influence the value of the land, and consequently the ability of farmers to repay their debts.

Furthermore, agriculture employed some 1 200 000 black workers, a figure which reached millions

when the number of dependants of these workers was taken into account, which illustrated that negative economic factors influencing agriculture could result in 'enormous unemployment'.

Society

He added it was clear that agriculture would 'greatly benefit' from a stable and peaceful society.

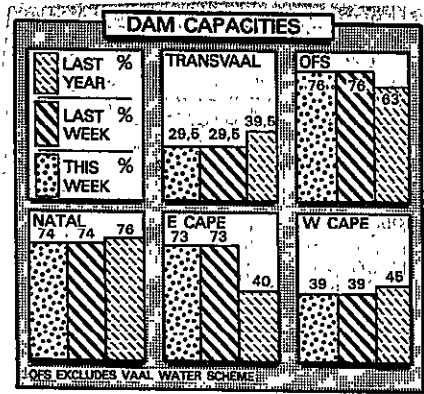
'It is therefore important that farmers should strive through their actions to bring about such a society, rather than the opposite,' he said.

Mr Fourie went on to say

that although governments could create the structures through which a society could be built, it was 'only the people themselves who are able to build a nation'.

'I can only pray that those people get together and build this new South Africa in order that all the people in this country can benefit,' Mr Fourie said.

He also praised Natal farmers for the quality of their stock and produce, saying that the good agricultural season would allow the province to contribute 'more than its share' to the gross agricultural product.



Secret water report tabled

3 GEN
WEDNESDAY

THE first part of a secret report on the socio-economic consequences of water restrictions was tabled before a select meeting in Maritzburg this week.

Despite initial promises of copies of the report being available to the Press, officials at the Water Research Commission (WRC) in Pretoria yesterday remained tight-lipped on findings.

The investigation is probing the point at which water restrictions become unacceptable and result in economic losses and undesirable decreases in the standard of living.

The science committee of the President's Council has estimated that current water resources will only be sufficient for 80-million people, a total that will be reached in 30 years' time.

Professor Ronald Schulze, of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Natal, said SA's average rainfall was 475mm, compared with the world average of 860mm a year. "The mean annual run-off from all SA rivers is estimated to be 52 000-million m³. The Amazon River carries about 60 times more water to the sea each year."

The level of the Vaal Dam continues to give cause for concern with latest figures showing capacity at 25%, as against 30% last year.

In the Eastern Transvaal, levels are at 36%, compared with 41% last year (see graph). Levels in the Western Transvaal are drastically down to 23% while the Western Cape shows a reduction of 6%.

Natal levels are fairly constant, with only a slight drop of 2% being recorded. Eastern Cape with 73% and Orange Free State with 76% are the only areas to show significant increases.

STEELPOORT. — The installation of an electrified fence along the Lebowa border to repel "agitators and thieves" was proposed by Eastern Transvaal farmers during a meeting with the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, and police and SADF officials here yesterday.

The Vorentoe Steelpoort Farmers' Association met the government delegation to ask for protection against "sustained intimidation and thievery" by a section of the impoverished Lebowa population.

Farmers said this week agitators from across the Steelpoort River, which forms the border between South Africa and the homeland, "neck-

E TVI farmers want electric border fence

laced" their workers, burnt their vehicles, stole cattle and crops and generally made the farmers' lives miserable.

A farmer, Mr Paul Kluge of Grootboom, said after yesterday's closed meeting that police had promised reinforcements and an escort for their children's schoolbus.

"Communist agitators"

who tried to enforce higher wages for labourers by attacking workers who worked for less than R5 a day, had threatened to attack farmers on their own land, farmers said.

Mr Kluge said farmers handed Mr Du Plessis — who is their MP — a memorandum about their plight, and an electrified fence was among

the proposals mooted.

"Now we'll wait a week or two to see how the authorities react," he said.

Mr Du Plessis said this afternoon from Lydenburg he would consider the suggestions contained in the memorandum.

"It was a positive meeting and the farmers are calm. There is no reason for concern," he said.

Committees would be formed for future liaison between the farmers and the authorities, Mr Du Plessis said.

The Steelpoort farming community cultivate some 15 farms which lie sandwiched between the Steelpoort River and a mountain running alongside it. — Sapa

3 Canal

ANC intimidation angers border farmers

STEELPOORT, Eastern Transvaal. — Farmers in this area have warned that the Lebowa border was turning into a flashpoint because of "violent communist agitators" operating from the homeland.

Steelpoort farmers, on Lebowa's eastern border, told of their workers and vehicles being set alight and their fences being "carried away" by starving stock raiders who made repeated sorties from the homeland.

Agitators from Lebowa demanded a R1 000-a-year "ANC pass" from farmers to enter the homeland safely, said farmer Mr Christo Louw. He knew of at least one farm-

er who had bought such a permit.

Four farmers' trucks and 14 private vehicles had been burnt recently, said neighbouring farmer Mr Paul Kluge.

"They have only necklaced blacks so far, but they are going to burn a white person one of these days," he said.

Farmers were going under as their labourers faced the necklaced if they worked for less than R5 a day — a fee farmers could not afford.

"I told my labourers I'm a farmer — not a mine which can negotiate with unions," said Mr Louw.

A handful of labourers

stayed permanently on the farms to escape punishment. About 18 farmers were affected by the development, which started five months ago.

But farmers had received threats that attacks would be carried out on their farms.

Said another farmer: "The situation is explosive. The only solution I can see is Paul Kruger's: Go and shoot 3 000 of them."

"You must understand our bitterness. These are second and third generation farms that have costs hundreds of thousands of rands to develop, which have no value now due to their location," said Mr Kluge. — Sapa



Now we'll shoot, say farmers ^{13/5/86} ^{3 GEN}

Northern Transvaal Bureau

"We have had our say — now we will shoot, if necessary," was the last word from farmers in the Steelpoort Valley near Burgersfort, in the North Eastern Transvaal, to *The Star* yesterday.

The farmers, who recently discussed their grievances with Lydenburg MP, Mr Piet du Plessis, the Minister of Manpower, refused to comment further on their situation.

They have threatened to take the law into their own hands, alleging that activists are raiding their farms and endangering their families.

The Chief Minister of Lebowa, Dr Cedric Phatudi, was not available for comment on the proposal for an electrified fence between the farms and Sekhukhuneland. Gangs of young militants are alleged to have been carrying out plundering and intimidatory raids.

The proposal is one of several put forward by the angry farmers during their talks with Mr du Plessis. They say their labourers are being prevented from working on the farms by ANC and UDF activists.

Other demands from the farmers include a blockade on Lebowa residents.

Copy that 16/5/56

Report on Indian farming land

Political Reporter

A HOUSE OF DELEGATES report released yesterday recommended that the Group Areas Act "be scrapped in its entirety" to overcome the shortage of Indian agricultural land.

The report — submitted to the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, Mr Baldeo Dookie, by a two-man committee appointed last year — said repeal of the act "will create tremendous job opportunities and offer stability to the nation".

If repeal of this act was not possible, the report suggested, then "all agricultural land (should) be exempted from the application and operation of the Group Areas Act". Failing that too then permits should be issued "without being subjected to the usual formalities".

The report disclosed that over the past 35 years the Indian farming community had been disowned of over 20 000 ha of land through enforcement of discriminatory legislation.

STAR 14/5/86

Steelpoort farmers set to look at electric fence

By Hannes de Wet

Steelpoort farmers will be taken to the electrified security fence along the Limpopo border before the end of the month to decide whether they want a similar fence between them and Lebowa.

"We see this as a strong indication that the Government will comply with our requests that a fence be erected between us and our neighbours in Sekhukhuneland," Mr Johan Wessels of the Steelpoort Farmers' Action Committee said yesterday.

PROTECTION DISCUSSED

The farmers met their Member of Parliament, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, on Friday to discuss measures to protect them against "plunderers and intimidators" from Lebowa.

Farmers told *The Star* last week that they would need a fence of about 25 km — from Burgersfort to

the main entrance to Sekhukhuneland. It was not clear whether this would be an electrified fence.

"We need access to the river for our cattle. To have that as well as an electrified fence could create problems," one of the farmers said.

Another measure under consideration is to build a road along the border on the Sekhukhuneland side for patrolling.

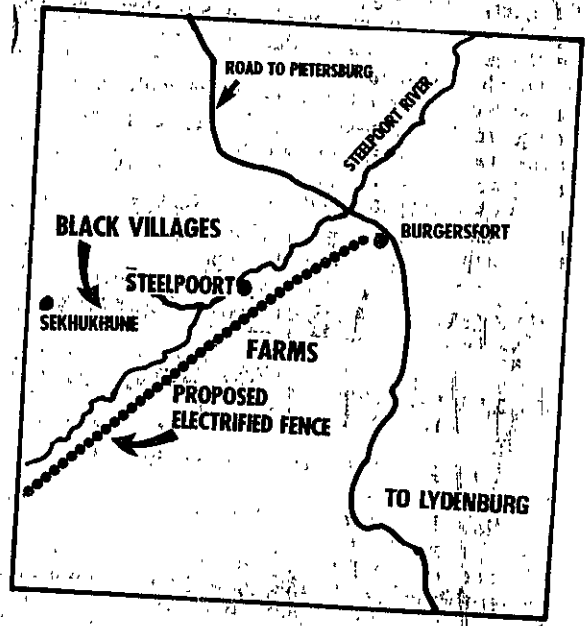
SITUATION 'QUIET'

Meanwhile the situation at Steelpoort was "as quiet as a landmine", Mr Wessels said.

Farmworkers, demanding wages of R5 per day, were staying away from work at several farms.

"One of them told me this morning that they didn't want to stay away but that they were afraid."

The current average wage for black workers is R2 to R3 a day.



Shortage of pure water may hit consumer

SPAR
14/5/86

By Sue Leeman,
Pretoria Bureau

(3) GEN

South Africa's annual water consumption will exceed its economically usable natural resources within the next three decades, according to scientists' projections.

There is the fear that the shortage of pure drinking water will mean the consumer has to pay more in the coming years.

This emerges from an article in "Publico", the

Commission for Administration's magazine.

The Deputy Director of the Hydrological Research Institute, Dr Henk van Vliet, says the need to purify some of this country's poorer quality water will mean the introduction of expensive new technology.

Funds will have to be pumped into finding alternative sources of water, including desalinated sea water.

All this will contribute to the higher cost of water.

Dr van Vliet said South Africa, with its total annual average rainfall of 511 mm, could be classified as semi-desert.

One of the biggest problems facing this country's water resources was increasing levels of indissolved salts such as calcium, magnesium, sulphate and chloride.

"This is a natural phenomenon which is promoted by human activity such as the intensive use and re-use of water, which occurs in the PWV area."

It could cause high blood pressure in people; could excessively corrode water pipes and push up the cost of industrial processes.

"In Johannesburg in 1981 there were less than 10 000 burst water pipes — but this increased to 25 000 in the following year. This dramatic increase has been put down partly to higher sulphate and chloride in the water," the article states.

PAID DAY

INDUSTRY (3) GEN 15/5/86

Results of survey on water curbs to stay secret for now

MICK COLLINS

THE findings of a survey into the socio-economic effects of water restrictions will be kept confidential until December.

The investigation, conducted by the Bureau of Market Research at the University of South Africa, was carried out at the request of the Water Research Commission.

A spokesman for the commission in Pretoria said the findings would not be released as two other parts of the research were still to be completed.

"The commission decided in Maritzburg last week not to release the report in case people arrived at the wrong conclusion.

"When we have the umbrella report, then we will give our conclusions," he said.

The commission has already made

public the reasons for the survey, saying the present water restrictions in SA provided an ideal opportunity for such an investigation.

"I can't quote any figures from the report now, as it may detract from the total effect of the findings," the spokesman said.

Sources close to the commission said the report could be sensitive in that it could show how present restrictions were depriving some sectors of the population of a certain quality of living.

The sections of research still being carried out include the effects of water restrictions on industry and local government (University of Natal) and the socio-effects of restrictions on irrigation farming, mining, electricity supply and central government (University of the Orange Free State).

- 1. Overtime rates - For work on Good Friday, Ascension Day, Day of the Vow, Christmas Day or New Year's Day, the rate is double plus one day off at full pay.
- On other public holidays, the rate is double or one day off at full pay.
- 2. Additional Allowances - Bicycle allowance
- 3. Annual Leave - a) For employees earning less than R35 per week - 10 or 12 days.
- b) For employees earning more than R35 per week - 10 or 12 days after the first 12 months, thereafter 15 or 18 days.

Footnotes

Parties Employer Organisation: Pretoria Master Bakers' Association
 Trade Union: Pretoria Bakerywerheids-vereniging & Pretoria Baking and Confectionary Employees' Union
 Area Magisterial Districts of Pretoria*, Cullinan*, Kempton Park*, Randburg* and Wonderboom.

Make farmland available to all, says Opposition

By FRANS ESTERHUYSE
Parliamentary Staff

THE Government has been urged to allow people of all races to buy agricultural land.

Mr Mike Tarr (PFP Maritzburg South) said unless the Government was prepared to grasp this "political nettle" it would face increasing pressures.

He was speaking in the House of Assembly's "own affairs" debate on the Agriculture and Water Supply budget vote.

Mr Tarr said other groups correctly saw land as being available only to white farmers.

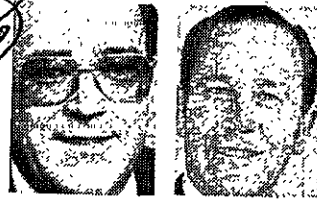
There was a feeling among these groups that no matter what they did, they would never be able to purchase land because they had the wrong skin colour.

MANAGERS

This made the land issue political. The only way to depoliticise it would be to make land available to all.

Farms in many areas were no longer occupied by whites. The farms were entirely controlled and run by black managers.

There would be no change if blacks were permitted to purchase farms.



Mr Tarr

Mr Hayward

Mr Ralph Hardingham (NRP Mooi River) said the Government's decision not to move people against their will carried with it certain obligations.

The time had come for the Government to encourage agricultural development in these "black spots"

116645 16/1/86

Concern over farmers' debts

Parliamentary Staff
362247

THE Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Sarel Hayward, has expressed concern about the rising debts of farmers.

He told the House of Assembly the total agricultural debt had risen from R1,3-billion in 1970 to R11,5-billion at the end of last year.

Speaking in the white own-affairs debate on his department's budget vote, Mr Hayward said attention should also be given to the "maldistribution of wealth". As much as 40 percent of the country's total

farming income was generated by just six percent of farms.

The economic and financial climate in agriculture was unsound.

In some sectors of agriculture there had been a big increase in debt, a deterioration in the financial position of some farmers, an increase in State aid and increasing bankruptcies.

Mr Hayward said the problems could not be solved by his department alone. A co-ordinated effort by all interested parties was needed.

W/M 16/5/86

Court orders against intimidation

Court Reporter

A DURBAN Supreme Court Judge yesterday granted a temporary order restraining a group of retrenched and dismissed farm workers in the Mposa District near Lower Umfolozi from assaulting or intimidating and interfering with other workers still employed.

The order was granted by Mr Justice Law after he had heard an urgent application from the Zululand Creosoting Company (Pty) Ltd, Mimoso Park Estate (Pty) Ltd and Benada Park Estate (Pty) Ltd.

In an affidavit, Mr Jeffrey Lloyd Woollatt said he was the general manager of the applicants, who did farming businesses in the area.

In consequence of the poor economic climate, it had been necessary for the applicants to retrench certain employees.

Proper notice had been given to the employees concerned.

On April 18, all the retrenched employees had been handed their notice pay, wages and leave pay, but they refused to accept them.

A large proportion of the remaining black staff employed by the applicants had begun a strike in sympathy with the retrenched workers, demanding their reinstatement.

The affidavit said the strike action by the remaining employees in sympathy with the retrenched workers was a clear breach of the employees' contracts.

Intimidating

After they had been warned, their contracts had been terminated.

The dismissed employees, like the retrenched employees, had refused to accept their wages and refused to vacate their quarters.

The affidavit said that the dismissed and retrenched workers were intimidating employees who continued to work.

They had threatened white and Indian employees with bodily harm and had blocked some of the farm roads with logs.

Mr Justice Law ordered that the dissident workers show cause on June 9 why the temporary order granted against them should not be made final.

FIN MAIL 16/5/86
WORLD GRAIN 39EN

Fall-out jitters

International analysts are still pondering the full impact of Russia's Chernobyl nuclear disaster on world food markets. But, whatever the outcome, immediate reaction will have good and bad effects for South African farmers and consumers.

Fall-out contamination affecting a large part of Russia's Ukrainian breadbasket area has already forced the Soviets to appeal to the European Community for food supplies.

At the same time most members of the EEC have imposed some form of restriction on food imports from the region.

The Ukraine and adjoining Belorussia produce some 22% of Russia's wheat, 30% of the milk, 29% of the meat, 37% of the potatoes and a massive 62% of the Soviet sugar-beet crop.

Although the final loss has yet to be calculated, the disaster has already created speculative upward price movements on world grain markets.

South African maize producers, forced to

export 2 Mt of surplus yellow maize at a book loss of more than R300m (*Business* May 9), should benefit from the strengthening of maize prices on the Chicago grain exchange on the assumption that Russia will have to import large quantities of food from the West.

Between April 28, when rumours about the nuclear meltdown first started, and May 9, the Chicago maize price for July delivery moved up some 10%, from \$2,18 a bushel to \$2,40. This is equal to a jump of \$8,66/t, or about R18/t based on Friday's rand closing price of US47,6c.

Even the massive 300 Mt world grain stockpile — of which some 107 Mt is held in maize and 149 Mt in wheat — did not prevent the price surge.

If the current price is maintained it should increase SA's export revenue by more than R30m. Although SA does not sell directly to countries behind the Iron Curtain, sales to traditional Far-Eastern customers would benefit from stronger world prices.

The world sugar price also jumped sharply immediately after news of the disaster broke, and traders are confident it can only help a sugar market that is already recovering.

The price has risen from a low of 2,5c/lb nine months ago to around 9c/lb. At least one London broker expects it to climb to around 12c/lb and this would have a significant effect on SA's sugar export earnings.

But, countering the maize and sugar benefits to some extent, is the fact that SA faces a higher bill for the 300 000 t of wheat it needs to import in 1986.

Fortunately, last Wednesday the Wheat Board clinched the first 50 000 t of the 200 000 t wheat imports so far authorised by government at fairly favourable prices from Canada, according to assistant GM Ivan Hemingway.

"Although fob prices shot up from some \$106/t just before Chernobyl to the May 1 quotes of \$126,50 for July deliveries and \$122 for August's, we obtained the 50 000 t for June delivery at \$113,00/t," he says.

But the price for the next 90 000 t tender due on May 14 will be far less favourable, based on last Friday's price of \$2,91 a bushel.

"Much also depends on the rand/dollar exchange rate at the time of delivery," says Hemingway. "But this is crystal ball gazing — we cannot put off purchases any longer without jeopardising wheat supplies." ■

Financial Mail May 16 1986

19.

Umtata magistrate's

ECAU: ^{20/986}
land for
black ⁽¹²³⁾
spots ^{(3) (12)}

QUEENSTOWN - A spokesman for the East Cape Agricultural Union office here said yesterday that the union was prepared to persuade farmers to set aside compensatory ground to make the moving of so-called black spots easier.

He was reacting to the announcement in Parliament last week that several black spots in the Border corridor were to remain in South Africa instead of being incorporated into Ciskei.

He said this would allow for the areas to be meaningfully consolidated.

Consequently it is also the view of the union that, if the ground was not used for the removal of the people from the black spots, it should revert back to white farmers.

The spokesman said the union insisted that the ground made available for this purpose should be returned to farmers so they could re-occupy it.

have to finish.
to become the 1985

What was the total number of Black persons resettled (a) within and (b) from each province in 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985, respectively?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

- (a) and (b) The figures requested are not readily available.

Pro deo legal aid

1009. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Justice:

- (a) To how many members of the public was *pro deo* legal aid given in court cases, and (b) (i) what amount was spent by the State in this connection and (ii) what was the nature of the cases for which these amounts were made available, in respect of each population group in each of the last five years, for which information is available?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (a) The information is not readily available.
- (b) (i) An amount of R973 010,00 was spent for the period 1 April 1985 until 31 March 1986.

- (ii) The information is not readily available, but *pro deo* legal aid is given in cases where the accused are charged with capital offences.

20/5/86
 BANKRUPTCY
 G. WILKINS
 1010. Mr P C ROGERS asked the Minister of Justice:

- How many cases of (a) bankruptcy, (b) placement under judicial management and (c) sequestration in respect of (i) farmers and (ii) agricultural co-operatives were recorded in the Republic in each of the last specified three years for which statistics are available?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

The information is not readily available.

Botshabelo
 20/5/86
 1012. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (a) What was the (i) adult (aa) male and (bb) female and (ii) child population of the Botshabelo resettlement camp near Bloemfontein as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how many of these persons belonged to each specified tribal grouping as at that date?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

Botshabelo is not a resettlement camp but a Township proclaimed by Government Notice No. 2468 of 19 November 1982.

- (a) (i) (aa) 55 109.
(bb) 64 820.
- (ii) 150 271.

- (b) 91% of the inhabitants are South-Sotho, 7% are Xhosa, 1% are Tswana and 1% are made up of Venda and Shangaan. (Figures as at 6 May 1986)

20/5/86
 Sex-related crimes
 1020. Mr R M BURROWS the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether records are kept of the number of cases dealing with sex-related crimes involving minor children as victims tried in magistrates' and supreme courts; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many cases involving crimes of this nature were tried by such courts in each of the latest specified three years for which information is available, (b) into which categories did these crimes fall and (c) in how many such cases were the accused convicted;

- (2) whether his Department has instituted or intends to institute an inquiry into the handling in court of sex crimes involving minor children as victims; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) under whose auspices and (c) when is it anticipated that a report on this inquiry will be submitted?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) No. The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to written Question No 35 of 1986. The code list mentioned therein provides only for information relating to the type of crime, age and sex of the offender. Information with regard to victims of crime is not kept as it is not economically feasible.

- (2) No. The South African Law Commission in its enquiry "Women and sex-related crimes in South Africa" (project 45) dealt with sex-crimes involving minor children as victims. The report regarding the above-mentioned enquiry was Tabled in Parliament on 28 May 1985.

HANS WARD 20/5/86
 1034. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether there are facilities at stations in the Cape Peninsula for informing passengers using commuter trains of the (a) occurrence, (b) length and (c) cause of delays in the train service; if not, why not; if so, (i) what facilities and (ii) what is the policy of the South African Transport Services regarding the communication of such information to passengers;

- (2) whether any steps are being taken to improve the (a) nature of, (b) extent of, and (c) methods of conveying to commuters, information concerning delays; if not, why not; if so, (i) what steps, (ii) at what stations and (iii) when;

- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a), (b) and (c) Yes.

- (i) Public address system.

- (ii) That relevant information should be conveyed timeously.

- (2) (a), (b) and (c) Yes.

- (i) More modern public address systems are presently being installed whereafter it will be possible to make announcements directly from the train control centre.

- (ii) Cape Town, Bellville and Windermere.

- (iii) Cape Town and Bellville—30 June 1986. Windermere—during the third quarter of 1987.

- (3) No.

Commuter trains

1040. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether there have been any delays in respect of commuter trains on the Cape Flats line in the Cape Peninsula in 1986; if so, (a) on what dates, (b) what was the average length of the delays on those dates and (c) what was the cause of the delays in each case;

- (2) whether any steps are being taken to overcome the problems causing the delays; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when is it anticipated that these problems will be overcome in each case?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.

SA is bracing itself for a fresh locust outbreak

By Kym Hamilton,
Pretoria Bureau

The locust plague is over for now, but Department of Agriculture officials are licking their wounds and preparing for an expected bigger outbreak next season.

The last of the worst outbreak recorded in 20 years was reported in late April. The cold and frost have now finally killed off those locusts which were still defying the seek-and-destroy battalions of farmers and department officials.

But experts fear that October could see a far worse scourge.

Mr Pikkie Baard, chief director of Regulatory Services with the Department of Agriculture and Economics, said yesterday that they had begun an intensive evaluation of the programme to establish what steps to take if there was another outbreak.

He said part of the programme will involve organised agriculture and department officials directly involved in the battle. Group discussions would be one way to identify problems and establish an early-warning system.

Other steps under consideration include the use of radar to track the progress of swarms, and satellite photographs to pinpoint them. At the hopper stage — when locusts are newly-hatched and still earth-bound — it is far easier to eradicate them, he said.

The weather will be crucial in determining the extent and size of the next outbreak — expected to begin in October.

Ideal conditions, such as this year, include early spring rain and high temperatures.

STAR 21/5/86 (3) GEN

Spraying begins as 'brown plague' arrives in Mafikeng

MAFIKENG — Anti-locust spraying began today to clear the town of a "brown plague" which descended late yesterday.

A spokeswoman for Agricor, the company carrying out the spraying, said the operation may continue until the weekend.

She appealed to the public to stay away from the Voortrekker Road area, where most spraying is taking place, and asked children not to pick up insects from the streets.

The locust swarm has left large parts of the town brown with the insects.

The locust plague was detected in Bophuthatswana in the Ganyesa region early this year, but this is the first time it has hit the Mafikeng area.

The spokeswoman said the locusts had been driven to the Mafikeng area by the severe drought which is gripping the southern areas of Bophuthatswana. — Sapa.

The major complication worrying the officials drawing up next season's battle plans is the vast areas over which the pests laid their eggs on their journey across the country.

Breeding grounds are usually limited to the central and north-western parts of the Karoo. But eggs are now scattered extensively over about 40 million hectares.

Mr Baard said the summer season saw R7 million committed to the locust war. Of this, R2 million was spent by the Government as part of its relief programme to aid the unemployed.

The battlefront at one stage stretched across 800 km as locust swarms devastated grasslands and crops in 46 districts in the Northern Cape, Free State and Western Transvaal.

The war against the plague was not without controversy. Conservationists accused the department of using a banned

pesticide, BHC, which has similar long-term effects as Dieldrin. About 2 400 000 kg of old stocks of BHC was used.

Mr Baard said the department would in future use a synthetic pesticide more acceptable to conservationists. This was Pyrethroids, which broke down quickly, preventing a build-up of the poison in mammals. "Pyrethroids is very expensive, but very effective, and much smaller quantities will be needed."

He added that farmers also presented problems when they failed to warn the department of outbreaks on their land. Further, there were large tracts of land — sometimes as much as 30 000 to 50 000 hectares — which were unoccupied or without effective management.

The assistance of agricultural unions was essential to exterminate the 1986/87 plague before it got off the ground, warned Mr Baard.

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)
Walmer	23	5	142	123	35	40	173	102	613
Beacon Street	9	11	77	211	15	88	258	207	631
Kabega Park	24	7	215	171	29	84	298	98	687
Mount Road	2	7	26	53	6	23	299	48	499
New Law Courts	—	16	71	277	9	78	306	160	583
Louis le Grange Square	—	—	6	10	1	6	62	12	68

Note: Above-mentioned statistics are furnished for the period 1984-07-01 until 1985-06-30. Statistics with regard to 1985-07-01 until 1985-12-31 are not readily available.

HANSARD
396N
 722. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) How many cases of (a) theft, (b) mutilation and (c) slaughter of livestock reported to the South African Police in the districts of (i) East London, (ii) King William's Town, (iii) Stutterheim, (iv) Komga, (v) Cathcart and (vi) Queenstown during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available, were traced to (aa) the Republic of Ciskei, (bb) the Republic of Transkei and (cc) areas reserved for Black occupation in the corridor between the Republics of Ciskei and Transkei;

- (2) whether the South African Police have completed their investigations of these cases; if not, why not; if so, (a) in respect of how many cases and (b) what were the results of such investigations;
- (3) whether any of these cases were handed over for investigation by the police of the Republic of (a) Ciskei and (b) Transkei; if so, (i) how many cases, and (ii) what were the results of these investigations, in each case?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(aa)	(bb)	(cc)
(1) East London	211	1	206	212	—	—
(ii) King William's Town	22	1	1	23	—	—
(iii) Stutterheim	203	1	3	5	4	194
(iv) Komga	30	—	28	2	9	19
(v) Cathcart	5	—	—	3	2	—
(vi) Queenstown	139	—	72	72	64	2

- (2) No, since a shortage of clues, as well as complainants and/or witnesses who can not be traced and livestock which are not properly marked, are factors which entail a delay in the investigation of a number of cases.
- (a) and (b) Fall away.

- (3) (a) No.
 (i) and (ii) Fall away.

HANSARD
 768. Mr S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether any lawsuits have been brought against him in his capacity as Minister of Law and Order by members of the public as a result of police action during unrest-related incidents; if so, (a) how many lawsuits, in 1985 and 1986, respectively, (b) what were the circumstances of each lawsuit and (c) what was the outcome in each case?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	1985	1986
(a) Loss of support	4	11
Damage of property during police action	32	2
Funeral costs	4	1
Bitten by police dog	1	—
Total	362	190
(b) Assault	137	76
Shooting incidents	182	97
Unlawful arrest and detention	4	11
Loss of support	32	2
Damage of property during police action	4	1
Funeral costs	2	3
Bitten by police dog	1	—
Total	362	190
(c) Assault	1985	1986
Lawsuits dismissed	2	2
Lawsuits superannuated	3	3
Lawsuits pending	131	131
Lawsuits settled out of court	1	1
Total	137	137

HANSARD
 UDF 21/5/86.
 771. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether any members of the United Democratic Front were charged with acts of violence during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available; if so, (a) how many and (b) with what offences were they charged in each case?

(a) and (b) Fall away.

(i) and (ii) Fall away.

Water crisis caused by bad distribution — expert

By Sue Leeman,
Pretoria Bureau

South Africa's water problem is not so much one of shortage, but rather the uneven distribution of water resources, according to Johannesburg engineer and water consultant, Dr D C Midgley.

He told an engineering conference in Pretoria yesterday that the country's current water demand amounted to 16 000 million cubic metres a year — less than half the estimated water yield.

"It is when we examine regional water balances that the realistic picture emerges to dispel complacency."

Feasible inter-basin transfers from regions of surplus may not provide sufficient water to meet expected shortfalls beyond the first quarter of next century.

The most important area with a shortage was the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area.

However, if all phases of the Lesotho Highlands Project came into operation to supplement the Tugela-Vaal and Vaal-Usutu schemes, the shortfall in the Vaal/Limpopo in the year 2010, which was estimated at 3 000 million cubic metres, could largely be met.

Dr Midgley added that preliminary findings

showed that by the year 2020 the shortfall in the Vaal-Olifants-Limpopo system would have risen to around 8 000 million cubic metres.

These deficits were largely attributable to the upward spiralling demand of the greater Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging complex.

Dr Midgley said the important question was how surpluses could be diverted to the shortage areas.

One way to augment water supplies — while promoting the interdependence of Southern African states — would be to link up with the Okavango/Zambezi system.

so, what was the purpose of this road block;

- (2) whether this road block was manned by members of the South African Police; if not, (a) by whom was it manned and (b) why;
- (3) whether any persons were (a) arrested, (b) detained and (c) questioned at this road block; if so, (i) how many, and (ii) why, in each case;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) (a) Yes, to prevent crime and to trace law-breakers.
 (b) Falls away.
- (2) Yes. (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (3) (a) to (c) No.
- (4) No.

Zwide: person visited
 984. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether, in 1986, any members of the South African Police visited the home of a certain person in Zwide near Port Elizabeth, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, (a) on what dates, (b) what was the purpose of each visit, (c) how many policemen were present on each occasion and (d) what is the name of this person

- (2) whether the police took any action as a result of any of these visits; if so, (a) what action and (b) with what result:

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

HoA

(3) No, since no such information has been obtained.

- (a) and (b) Fall away.

3 GEN. HANSARD
 1011. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

- (1) Whether his Department has the capability of monitoring (a)(i) sales and (ii) purchases of farms and (b) the prices obtained in respect of such sales and purchases; if not, (aa) why not and (bb) what steps are being taken to create such a capability; if so,
- (2) how many farms were (a) sold and (b) put on the market in each of the latest specified three years for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (1) Sales of immovable properties in rural areas are registered with the Deeds Office from where the information is submitted to the Central Statistical Service. The information covers a 12 month period ending 31 March and the publication thereof by the Central Statistical Service appears 9-10 months after 31 March.

(bb) Discussions with the Registrar of Deeds and the Central Statistical Service have taken place with the object of obtaining the information on a more regular basis. Monthly acquisition of the information is being investigated.

- (2) (a) 1982-83 9 414
 1983-84 9 642
 1984-85 9 437

- (b) Particulars are not available.

HoA

Maize HANSARD
 1035. Maj R SIVE asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

- (1) Whether an increase in the price of white and yellow maize was announced recently; if so, (a) when and (b) what was the price per ton of (i) white and (ii) yellow maize with effect from 1 May 1986 and (c) what is the increase per ton on the 1985 price in respect of white and yellow maize, respectively;
- (2) whether this increase in price has been fixed for the next 12 months; if not, (a) why not and (b) what increases per ton on white and yellow maize, respectively, are contemplated during that period;
- (3) whether these increases will be on a (a) monthly or (b) quarterly basis; if not, (i) on what basis and (ii) when will these increases take place; if so, when are the increases due to take place;

- (4) (a) how will these price increases be calculated and (b) what will be the increased price per ton of white and yellow maize, respectively, following each increase;

- (5) what will be the (a) price per ton of white and yellow maize, respectively, on 1 April 1987 and (b) the percentage increase at that date over prices on 1 April 1986;

- (6) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (1) Yes.

- (a) 22 April 1986.

how many and (b) when was each of them transferred to that Police Force;

- (7) whether he will furnish information on the present (a) rank and (b) position in the Lebowa Police Force of each such ex-member of the South African Police; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant particulars;
- (8) whether members of the Lebowa Police Force wear the same uniform as the South African Police; if so, why, if not, in what respects do these uniforms differ;
- (9) whether any funds appropriated by Parliament are used to pay the salaries of members of the Lebowa Police Force; if so, what amount was allocated for this purpose in the 1985-86 financial year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) to (9) As the command and control over the Lebowa Police have already been transferred to the Lebowa government in terms of relevant legislation since 1978, I do not deem it appropriate to make known information regarding the Police Force, its composition, training and other functional particulars, since the disposal thereof will be detrimental to the independence of that force.

Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act
1028. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

Whether any persons were prosecuted for contravening the provisions of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983, during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available; if so, (a) how many and (b) (i) for what contraventions, and (ii) what were the fines, in each case?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

Yes.

ed between the members of this community and the South African Government regarding the use of agricultural land at Ramatlabama; if not, why not; if so, what are the terms of these agreements;

- (3) whether any agreements were reached between the South African Government and the Government of Bophuthatswana regarding the use of this land by the Magogwane community; if not, why not; if so, what are the terms of these agreements;
- (4) whether any steps were taken by the South African Government to ensure compliance with these agreements by the Government of Bophuthatswana; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (5) whether the Magogwane community was (a) promised and (b) provided with compensation for their move to Bophuthatswana; if so, (i) what was the nature of this compensation and (ii) on what basis was it calculated;
- (6) whether he or any of his predecessors received any representations regarding this land; if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was the nature of the representations and (ii) response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1) to (6) The Magogwane community, formerly of Kaffirskraal, was settled in the Ramatlabama area, in the execution of consolidation plans.

During negotiations between officials of the Department of Co-operation and Development and the community which resided on the farm Kaffirskraal, the community elected to accept the compulsory land at Ramatlabama. The land was then prepared and the community was settled thereon.

After their settlement (on portions of the farm Oaklands, Bugler's Post, Hartbeestlaagte, Knowle Park, Drummond, Westwood Park and Heathfield) the representative of the estates obtained affid-

avits from the heirs of the original 59 owners of Kaffirskraal in which they stated that they preferred compensation in cash to compensation in land. That was agreed to and they were accordingly compensated at market value for their land and improvements at Kaffirskraal, in accordance with the provisions of the Expropriation Act, 1975 (Act 63 of 1975).

As they were compensated in cash and there was no alternative land available for them to purchase, they were allowed to remain at Ramatlabama. On 8 July 1982 and 21 November 1985 they made representations to have the land registered in their names.

Favourable consideration of their representations depends on their complying with the provisions of section 13(7) of the South African Development Trust and Land Act, 1936, i.e. that they apply to purchase the land and make an offer for it. Should such application be granted they will be required to pay in cash or to furnish a guarantee for payment before the land is transferred to them by the South African Development Trust, in which ownership still vests.

The agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Bophuthatswana published by Government Notice No. R.2496 of 6 December 1977 makes provision for settlement projects of this nature. Consequently no separate agreement was entered into with the Bophuthatswana Government about the land concerned.

The land was incorporated with Bophuthatswana by Proclamation No. R.259 of 1981. Ownership of the land however still vests in the South African Development Trust as, due to the circumstances related above, it was so far not possible to transfer the land to the rightful owners.

Llandudno/Bakoven: road block
HANSARD
767. Mr S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether the South African Police (a) set up or (b) assisted at a road block between Llandudno and Bakoven on or about 25 March 1986; if not, who was responsible for this road block; if

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Pick 'n Pay strike at 'edge of war'

By ROGER WILLIAMS
Chief Reporter

MR RAYMOND ACKERMAN, chairman and joint managing director of Pick 'n Pay, said yesterday the recent pay dispute within the group had reached "the edge of a war situation" and he warned that if trade unions did not act responsibly "they'll kill the whole union movement".

Speaking at a Cape Town Press Club lunch he said the strike action taken by employees in the group had had definite political overtones.

He disclosed that during the pay talks, Pick 'n Pay management had been openly threatened that 40 of the group's stores would be burnt down if there was no capitulation to the workers' demands.

At certain stores there had been planned union action "to create absolute chaos, with the result that we had to close 20 stores to protect our consumers".

Management had, however, shown that while it respected the right of its staff to demand more pay, it did not respect the idea of having a pistol held to its head.

"We showed we would not be intimidated and pushed around, and in the end all politics went out of the window and we agreed that both sides had won."

Mr Ackerman said the Pick 'n Pay pay dispute had been "a microcosm of what is happening in this country today".

He said that though the group had been through "an awful experience", this had not left him feeling depressed; it had in fact made him feel a bit more hopeful, as the value of the negotiating process had again been demonstrated.

ME

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Drought ravages Lebowa

DROUGHT and unemployment has imposed a norm of abject poverty on Lebowa, bringing some of the villages to the brink of disaster.

Ravaged by unbroken drought, Lebowa is the government-designated homeland for thousands of unemployed North Sotho people who live with the ever-present threat of starvation and who rely on feeding schemes for survival.

Violence and job lay-offs — combined with the drought that has devastated most of the agricultural land — are expected to exacerbate the already critical malnutrition rate among young children.

Operation Hunger has started a massive feeding scheme to tackle the crisis.

In Lebowa alone the scheme is feeding about 180 000 people and is also involved in running self-help development projects.

Since 1983 the scheme has fed about 700 000 people in the rural areas.

This week a spokesman for the Department of Welfare Services in Lebowa, said: "The rate of malnourished children and even aged people in Lebowa has not diminished and we are definitely expecting an increase in disease since thousands of our people have been affected by retrenchments and drought.

"Another factor is that no food deliveries have been made in these areas since unrest erupted. Most of the people have run out of food and many depend on the soup ration provided by Operation Hunger."

Between 1983 and 1984, about 250 000 people — mostly farm labourers from the maize industry — were affected by lay-offs.

Since the drought, people have lost large numbers of their livestock and have been unable to grow their own crops.

Although there was rain in some areas during the summer months, for many the rains came too late to save the normal crop. Operation Hunger has, meanwhile, encouraged people to grow drought-resistant crops such as sorghum.

Most areas depend on boreholes for their water supply but many have stopped operating after deliveries of diesel oil in unrest areas stopped.

For their water supply people in villages like Ngoabe, Maepa and many others depend on cholera-infested rivers.

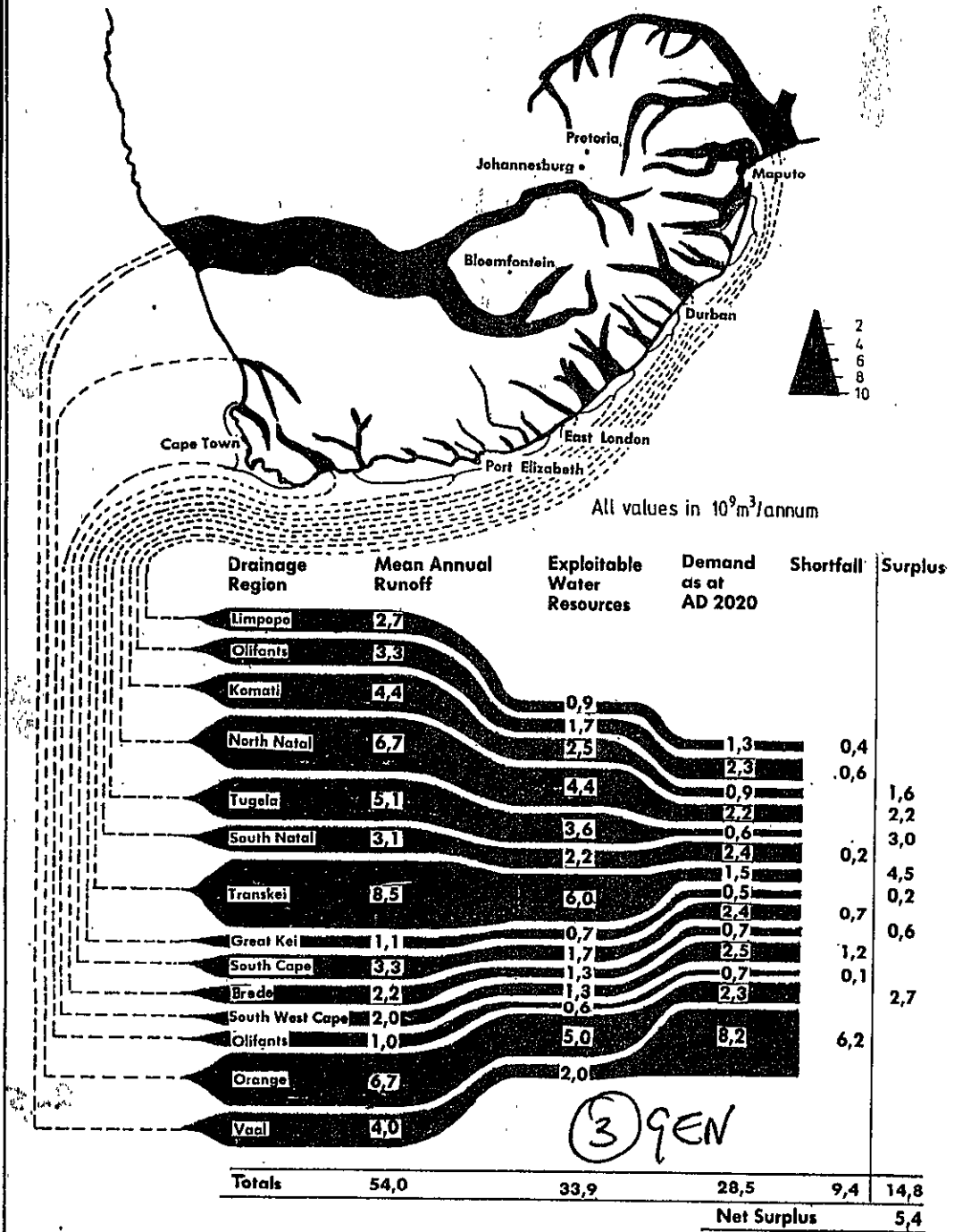
Operation Hunger's executive director Ina Perlman said the scheme will need R12m to feed the hundreds of thousands of blacks in the rural areas.

Perlman said there were about 2,9-million children under 15 who were below the international height-weight-age standard and who suffered from clinical malnutrition.

Faced by Lebowa's ailing economic structure, Chief Minister C N Phatudi has threatened to hand Lebowa back to South Africa unless more finance is made available to run the country.

SOPHIE TEMA

REGIONAL WATER BALANCES



SA not short of water — expert

Uneven distribution of water resources rather than a shortage of water, has been blamed for South Africa's water crisis.

It is the view of Johannesburg engineer and water consultant Dr DC Midgley.

He told an engineering conference in Pretoria last week that the country's current

water demand amounted to 16 000 million cubic metres a year less than half the estimated water yield.

Regional water balances and the shortfalls and surpluses in the different areas of the country are highlighted in the graph.

Feasible inter-basin trans-

fers from regions of surplus may not, however, provide sufficient water to meet expected shortfalls beyond the first quarter of next century, he said.

The important question, according to Dr Midgley was how surpluses could be diverted to the shortage areas.

We're staying put,

say cautious farmers after two killed in Davel mine blast

STAR 27/5/16
 3 CEN
 (scribble)

By Craig Kotze,
 Crime Reporter

The rolling farmlands around Davel in the Eastern Transvaal seem an unlikely place for the landmine explosion which claimed the lives of two and put eight people in hospital eight others on Sunday.

But if the sight of mangled bodies, dismembered limbs and a destroyed minibus in the picturesque countryside sickened farm mechanic Mr Daniel Lamprecht, it has not affected his or the farmers' determination to stay.

GAPPING HOLE

Two days after the blast, life is almost back to normal with heavy farm traffic speeding along the roads, almost ignoring the signs of guerrilla war in their midst.

No military or police presence was seen yesterday and the gaping hole left by the explosion was already filled in — black scorched sand and the minibus wreck being the only indications of the site.

Mr Biza Mahlangu (25) and Mr Daniel Sindane (40), both of Tembisa, died when the vehicle



Mr Frans Durr — sweeps roads in the morning.

detonated the mine just off the tarred road between Hendrina and Davel at 6.30 am.

They and the other eight injured passengers were on their way to visit an ancestor's grave.

Only hours later, security forces sweeping roads discovered another mine on Frenmax farm about 10 km away.

"It was utter chaos and it was a sickening sight, but I'm definitely staying on," said Mr Lamprecht, who arrived first at the blast scene.

His feelings were echoed by the farmers interviewed by *The Star*.

"It will not disrupt our lives because this is our livelihood," said farmers Max and Fred Kadish.

"Of course all the farmers are concerned and we know there will be more.

"We will simply have to be more alert and we have already warned our staff."

Dairy farmer Mr L de Jager said all anybody could do was to get used to the attacks, but he said he would never leave.

"What can you do about these attacks?" he asked.

'MORE ALERT'

Mr Frans Durr, whose father owns the farm on which the explosion occurred, said there would only be a slight change in their daily routine.

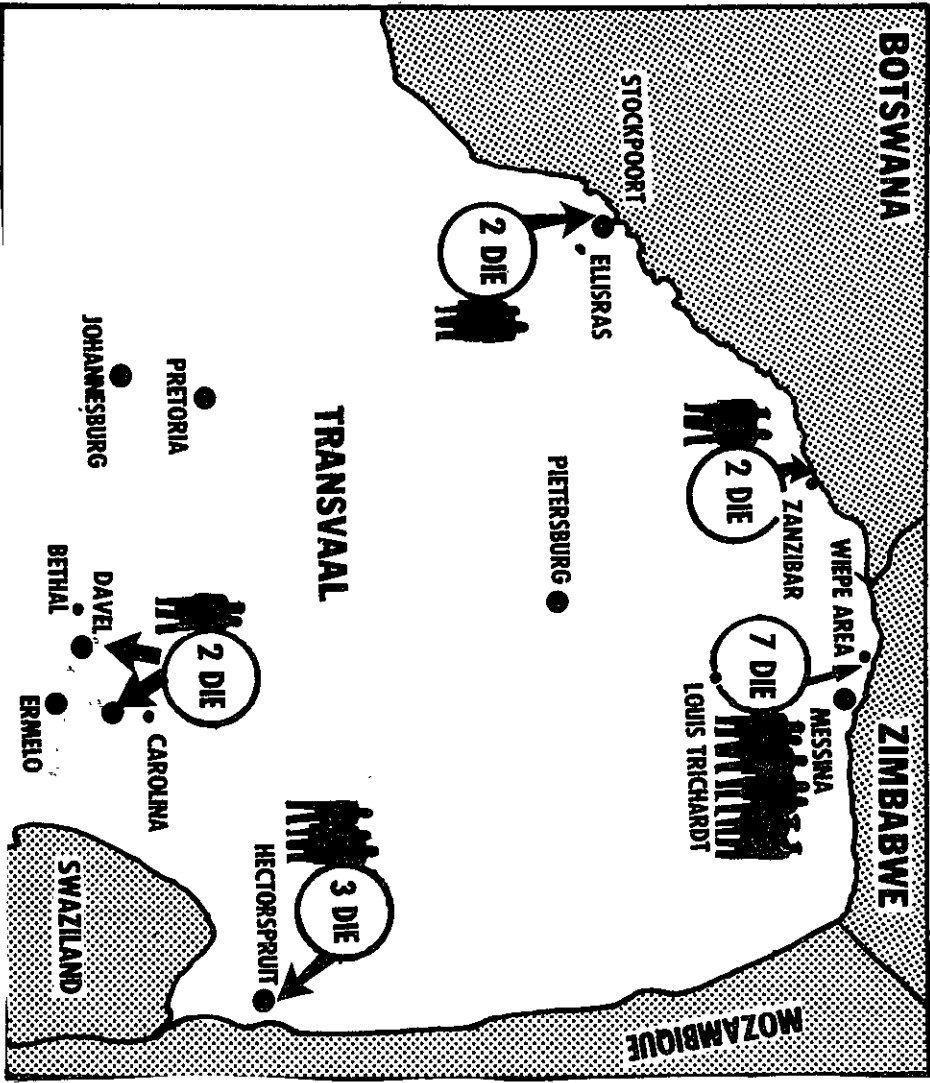
"We will be a bit more alert and check gates in the mornings, but this area is no more dangerous than any other."

Panic seems to be nonexistent, but a few people did express fear.

"We are worried because everybody depends on the roads, but nobody is panicking," said Mr Nico Nortje, whose farm is a few kilometres from where the mine exploded.



The owner of the wrecked minibus, Mr Sidney Mahlangu, next to the remains of his vehicle. His brother, Mr Biza Mahlangu, died in the blast.



DD 27/5/86

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Pityi: land act and agriculture are one

Dispatch Reporter

BISHO — Viable agriculture could not be divorced from the land question, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ntandazo Pityi, said in the National Assembly yesterday.

Speaking during the debate of the Budget vote for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, he said that the plight of the black man as far as the land question was concerned was a sorry one and needed no repetition in the Assembly.

Mr Pityi said that any serious student of political history knew that the Land Act of 1913 gave the South African blacks only eight per cent of the land and in 1936 they were promised 13 per cent of the land, a promise which has not been fulfilled to this day. In terms of the Land Act, 20 per cent of the

population possessed about 88 per cent of the land.

Despite the disadvantage of land, the Department of Agriculture was to be commended for its forward outlook in paying attention to commercial farming.

He quoted a noted agriculturist who said that it was not so much the fertility of the soil than the fertility of the mind.

The department paid heed to this statement by sending youths to agricultural colleges and universities in South Africa and abroad.

He praised the Minister of Agriculture for showing great concern for soil conservation. He said the soil was their heritage and needed more than proper care so that they could pass it on to the next generation in a well cared for state.

It was an eyesore to

see gaping and yawning dongas directly caused by carelessness of man. Of all the causes of soil erosion, man was number one.

Mr Pityi appealed to chiefs and headmen to see to it that each home had fruit trees. This would improve the health of the villagers.

If the Department of Agriculture could turn its attention seriously towards marketing channels, Ciskei could not only be respected by South Africa, but by the world at large, and could earn international recognition without much talking.

There was nothing more blessed than a nation which could feed itself and have enough surplus to market abroad.

This would not only create much needed jobs, but it would bring to Ciskei money with

which other industries might be set up.

He said that chiefs and headmen had great work thrust upon them by virtue of their positions and if they failed to discharge this duty, the nation would grovel in the "quagmire of dependency and poverty".

They should teach their subjects that gone are the days when stock was regarded as a symbol of wealth. It should today be regarded as the source of wealth and the department had made facilities for this, but one still saw oxen that had long passed their prime value.

This was a loss not only to the owners of these oxen but to the nation, as the money obtained from their sale would help in the education and welfare of their families, thus benefiting the nation.

SADF checks farm roads

LINDA ENSOR

ARMY and police convoys passed through the small beleaguered town of Hendrina in the Eastern Transvaal yesterday on their way to sweep farm roads nearby for hidden landmines.

Two landmines exploded on the road to Davel this week, killing two people and injuring eight, while another was found and detonated by the police.

White residents say they are afraid to travel on the dirt country roads which cut through the fields of dried-out meadows.

"Life must go on," said Hendrina town clerk Jan du Preez when asked how he felt about the series of landmine blasts in the area.

"We don't feel happy about it, but the only people really affected are the farmers travelling on the dirt roads," he said.

Meanwhile organist and composer Arthur Miller, interviewed in *Business Day* this week on his anti-apartheid views, was questioned yesterday by Ermelo Security Police at the Hendrina police station.

Miller said security policeman questioned him on his knowledge of landmines in the area and raised the possibility of a deportation order.

Police refused to comment on Miller's allegations.

E TVI farm roads swept for mines

3 covered

Own Correspondent

OHANNSBURG. — The farm roads in the Davel district of the Eastern Transvaal on which two landmines have exploded since Sunday were swept by police and the SADF yesterday.

Residents who saw the convoys passing through their small town expressed fear about travelling beyond its borders. Most of the roads which cut through the fields of dried-

out meaties are dirt, which easily conceal landmines.

A driver for a dry-cleaning firm who has to travel twice a week on the dirt roads from Hendrina to Davel said: "I am scared."

Hendrina's town clerk, Mr Jan Du Preez, said, however, "life must go on."

"We don't feel happy about it but the only people really affected are the farmers travelling on the dirt roads," he said.

"You can't fight this: you

just wait for a bomb to explode and the police then react. There is nothing you can do as you can't tell what is going to happen next."

"Naturally we feel scared," said farmer Mrs Caterina Laufs. "It is a threat to us, but what can we do? Who can say whether they will now plant bombs in the town? We live in tension."

Blacks approached for comment were reluctant to

express their views.

Mrs Isabella Durr, who lives on the farm through which the landmined-roads run, was adamant that she and her family were "absolutely calm". "We are not afraid. Everything goes on as before," she said.

Security police yesterday briefly questioned Mr Arthur Miller, a man of liberal views who lives on one of the vulnerable farms, but he strongly denied any knowledge of the land-

mines.

Meanwhile Sapa reports that landmine blast victim Mr Johannes Sindane, 48, hurt in Sunday's blast near Davel, has been discharged from the Bethal Hospital.

Mr Joseph Mahlangu, 21, and his uncle, Mr Daniel Sindane, 40, died when the microbus they were travelling in on a visit to ancestral graves detonated a landmine on Mr J A Durr's farm Graspan at dawn on Sunday.

The other passengers, Mrs Maria Mahlangu and Mrs Sarah Sindane, were taken to Tembisa Hospital, where both Mrs Mahlangu's legs were amputated.

A second landmine was found 6km from the blast scene hours later, while a third was detonated on Monday by a tractor 3km from the original blast. The driver was treated for shock.

Although the injustices of apartheid must end,

the United States unreservedly condemned terrorism, the US embassy said yesterday in a response to the E Transvaal landmine explosions.

It said in a statement to Sapa that the South African Government should create a climate conducive to dialogue and bring about an end to the "injustices of apartheid".

The statement said the US condemned terrorism "as a valid political act".

SA likely to lose out on farm exports to EEC countries

By Stan Kennedy

Long-term prospects for most of South Africa's farming products in EEC markets are expected to encounter serious restrictions in the light of the recent entry to the EEC of Greece, Spain and Portugal.

This is the view of Dr Carl Weiers, agricultural attache at the West German Embassy, Pretoria.

He told a meeting of parliamentarians representing agricultural study groups of the different political parties that the inhibiting factors were the high cost of production, the marketing structure and the unfavourable conditions for many farming products, such as wheat and beef.

However, there was a good chance for items with low production costs, such as wool, mohair, and high quality products such as wine and out-of-season fruit and vegetables.

Long-term survival for most of South Africa's farming products will be dependent on increasing footholds in non-EEC markets through imaginative marketing programmes.

The local canning industry, for example,

lost nearly 40 percent of its exports to these markets because of increased subsidies to fruit growers and canners in southern Europe and continued US dominance of the international canned fruit market.

He said that exports, in general, offered no long-term solution for countries with high inflation rates. On the whole, the marketing of farming products world-wide was "in a mess", with over-supply and under-demand.

Currently, Europe is faced with a surplus of 700 000 tons of beef, 1.5 million tons of butter and more than a million tons of milk powder, he said.

The demand for food by world markets is not increasing at the pace at which surpluses are accumulating.

A major problem is the agricultural price support system, which encourages production well in excess of market demand.

The lowering of guaranteed prices is indispensable as a means to remedy market imbalances and more rapid results can be achieved by production through quota systems," he said.

TY CONS	5000
ERGO	1320
ERGO CD	1820
S R P M	1500
EGOU	290
FALCON	800
GROOVI	1300
MARVALE	420
MOOSEE	160
PRIM G M	900
RANDENT	23600
RD LEASE	220
SIMMERS	490
SALLIES	480
STH EDPT	3258
STHRTIONCPT	300
SPRIDAG	132
VILAGE	150
VLAAS	400
WAVERLY	255
WR CONS	800
WINGEL	180
AVERAGE	
MIN. - GOLD - EVA	
BRACKEN	495
KINROSS	3925A
LESLIE	450
WINKLES	5050
AVERAGE	
MIN. - GOLD - ME	
AF LEASE	300
BUFFELS	7250
HARTES	1260
SOVAAL	10000
STEFIN	2125
VAAL RFS	20700A
ZANDPAN	223
AVERAGE	
MIN. - GOLD - O.F.S.	
BEATRIX	725
FREGOLD	3200
HARMONY	3075
LORANE	1170
OPSL	7800
ST HEUNA	4375A
UNISEL	2900
WELKOM	2025
AVERAGE	
MIN. - GOLD - WEST	
BLYVOOR	1800
DEELKI	740
DOORNS	3025
DRIES	5300
ELANDS	3815

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Maize to have white-yellow mix

THE Maize Board has had to resort to a white-yellow mix because of an acute shortage of white maize.

Board chairman Hennie de Jager said yesterday that from July 1, 80% white and 20% yellow would be used in the mix.

GERALD REILLY

Consumer organisations have warned the demand for mixed mealie meal would meet with strong consumer resistance, as it did two years ago.

Absentee farmers a security problem

LINDA ENSOR

THE RECENT landmine explosions in the northern and north-eastern Transvaal have once again raised the problem of security in those areas.

As the situation becomes more threatening, full-time farmers are beginning to feel antagonistic towards absentee farmers as they add to their security burden.

South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) president Kobus Jooste said the union was also concerned about farmers selling their farms to non-farmers.

New government measures to attract and keep people on their border farms were expected soon. Existing incentive schemes have apparently not been successful in keeping farmers on the land.

Jooste said the new measures were likely to include rebates on input costs, improved roads and reduced interest rates.

National Secretariat of Part-time Farmers chairman Izak Fick said there were a minimum of 10 000 part-time or absentee farmers in the country, most of them in the Northern Transvaal or the Cape Karoo.

About 67% of farms in the north and north-western Transvaal — mostly wild game and cattle farms — were occupied by absentee farmers, Fick said. Most such farms were uneconomic, as they were too small, and too far from markets.

Those areas had also been severely stricken by drought.

Fick said research had shown that 21% of the part-time farmers were involved in the medical field, 20% in law, 13% in engineering and 7% in teaching and the civil service.

Govt rescued agriculture — Hayward

GERALD REILLY

THE State had to intervene and plough in R485m during the past financial year to avert catastrophe in agriculture, Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply Sarel Hayward said in Pretoria yesterday.

Addressing the biennial congress of the South African Agricultural Union (Saau) national co-operative council, he said government and the co-operatives were aware of the desperate position of farmers as a result of drought and recession.

He said credit provision which was in conflict with the basic principles of healthy financing had an adverse impact on farmers' fi-

nances.

On specialised agricultural financing, Hayward said he had proposed an investigation into the merits of a possible merger of the Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board.

Between 1981 and 1984 agriculture's asset values increased by 40%, and debt by a huge 147%. The biggest increase in debt came from credit provided through commercial banks and co-operatives.

That producers found it increasingly difficult to discharge their obligations, even in favourable years, indicated injudicious financ-

ing as a possible important contributing factor.

He said he had initiated discussions with interested private financial institutions aimed at formulating a strategy of credit provision on a sounder basis.

Stressing the powerful competitive power of the co-operatives, Hayward said primary co-operatives' turnover increased from R396m to R2,287bn in the 10 years to 1984.

Government was ready to lend a sympathetic ear to problems caused by uncontrollable factors but the State could not be expected to assume responsibility for human-factor problems.

GERALD REILLY

Farmers need protection, congress told

③ cen Buz

WITHOUT adequate domestic competition, the manufacturing industry through monopolies and cartels — would cut the throat of agriculture in an open free market system, Eastern Cape Agricultural Union president Tobie Meyer said in Pretoria yesterday.

Speaking at the biennial SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) co-operative congress, Meyer said minimum State interference was therefore desirable, but it had to be efficiently administered.

The demand for privatisation and deregulation had become stronger. It was government's aim to reduce State involvement in the economy and to give more freedom to the businessman.

Meyer said there was a realisation in agriculture that the cost-plus factor was no longer the only basis for fixing prices.

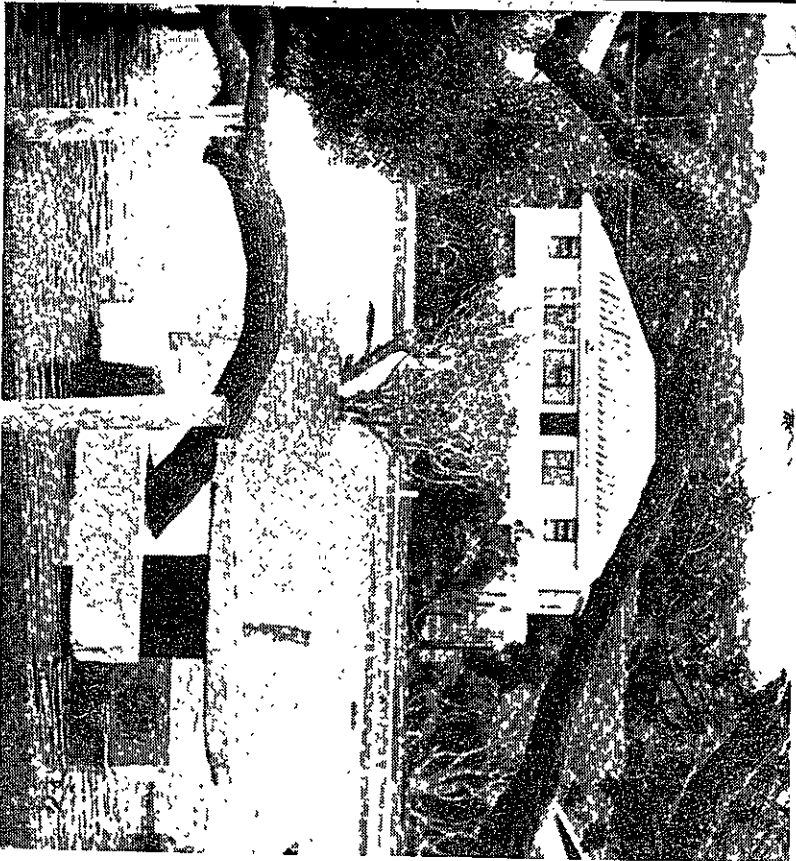
Greater emphasis was being laid on market-orientated supply and demand. Efficiency was increasingly becoming the watchword and the SA farmer was in a crunch situation in a highly competitive international agricultural world.

It was accepted that a degree of control was necessary to ensure stability in the agricultural industry. The emphasis had therefore been on to fall on regulation and about 33 laws, ordinances and measures controlled the SA market.



Hadré Pratt leaps over stormwater pipes laid shortly after floodwaters ripped up a section of the Elim-Bredasdorp road.

Pictures: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus



In Mauritius you can charge a fortune for breakfast at a table surrounded by water. In Still Bay yesterday, there were no takers.

Picture: PETER STANFORD, The Argus

Flood losses not too bad, say 1/9/86 sodden farmers

(3 Generals)

By STEPHEN WROTTESLEY and ARNOLD KIRKBY Staff Reporters

AS floodwaters receded in the storm-hit southern Cape today, farmers took stock and the news appears to be mainly good.

The drought has been broken by the heaviest August rainfall in a quarter of a century and relatively few have suffered extensive losses.

Two flood-related deaths have been reported.

Mr Michael Newman, 24, of Waen-huyskrans, drowned when he apparently attempted to drive his car through the flooded Krans River, near Napier, on Friday night.

No sign

When Mr Andrew Newman went to see if his brother had taken the road over the bridge, he found the car next to the river with floodwater up to its roof. There was no sign of his brother.

A 25-month-old boy, Emmanuel Adams, drowned when he fell into a puddle of water on Linkwood farm at Lynedoch, near Stellenbosch, on Saturday.

Flood losses appear not as extensive as feared at first.

Stock farmers have lost cattle and sheep but, apparently, not in significant numbers.

A huge mopping-up operation faces workers in the southern Cape.

The people of Still Bay are thankful for the fact that the rain came when it did, and not in the holiday season.

At the caravan park in the resort, most sites are under water.

The town was cut off on Saturday night when floodwaters swamped the route to the national road in several places including Dreevlakte.

Mr Bakkies Smit of Still Bâÿ said some areas had recorded between 200mm and 250mm of rain. It was the heaviest downpour in 25 years, he said.

Many farm dams were washed away.

On Mr Willem Cronje's farm, a five-metre dam wall in a spruit near Riethuiskraal was washed away on Friday.

A newspaper delivery lorry overturned in the dark on the road near Pearly Beach early yesterday, but the four occupants were not hurt.

Between Elim and Agulhas, the level of the water started subsiding yesterday although some low-lying areas are still cut off.

In some areas, four-wheel drive vehicles and large tractors were the only means of transport, and families were devising ways of getting their children back to boarding school by using long detours.

Saved buck

Some fields of wheat, oats and barley resembled rice paddies while others were washed away completely.

A week-old springbok was one of the flood survivors. Mr Dico Swart's children on Wiesdrif farm saved the little animal from the muddy waters, and will hand-rear it. Other buck were stranded on islands in the middle of vleis, said Mr Swart.

Mrs Patrys Human, of Moddervlei farm, was still not sure about the fate of many of her 90 springbok, although some had been seen with her smaller herds of bontebok on high-lying islands.

Disaster averted in maize triangle

Govt aids farmers

(3) GEN

GERALD REILLY

DISASTER in the maize triangle, especially in the western areas, has been averted by government's short term financial aid for farmers, says National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) general manager Piet Gous.

Gous was responding to Agricultural and Water Supply Minister Sarel Hayward's weekend announcement that R262m — R91m this fiscal year — was to be made available for crop farmers' relief.

The aid follows repeated appeals by the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) for substantial aid, and warnings that without it, hundreds of farmers were in danger of going to the wall.

Gous said the aid meant that large numbers of farmers, who would otherwise have been forced to leave their farms, could now carry on for at least another season.

He said: "We must see this aid for what it is, short term relief, but a surviv-

al strategy is urgently needed. What we need now is a plan to rehabilitate the faltering agricultural industry."

Hayward said the government had approved aid recommendations from the Jacobs' committee because of the still deteriorating financial plight of large numbers of farmers.

The aid is mostly a continuation and extension of subsidised interest rates on carry-over debts, and production credit to make possible the planting of this summer's crops.

SAAU president Kobus Jooste said the union was grateful for the extended financial aid for farmers in the drought-stricken summer-rainfall cropping areas.

Jooste said: "This disaster aid will go a long way towards helping farmers cope with their problems."



GRESHAM INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Reg. No. 05/D1420/06

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Shareholders are advised that negotiations are in progress which may affect the control of the company

By Order of the Board

5 June 1986

(Mrs) M E Hartmann
Secretary

Editor-in-chief

THE board of SA Associated Newspapers announced at the weekend that J C Viviers had been appointed editor-in-chief of the *Eastern Province Herald, Evening Post and Weekend Post*.

Cut-price butter could be on way

Mercury Reporter

THE Dairy Board's 5 000-ton butter mountain will probably be sold to the public at cut prices.

A board spokesman said a decision would be made later this week.

A committee appointed by the Dairy Board in March to examine the whole question of butter, 'which nobody seems to buy any more', is delivering its report to a meeting starting today and running until Thursday.

An announcement on the fate of the surplus butter would be made as soon as recommendations had been approved by the board, the spokesman said.

Quashing speculation that the butter might be dumped overseas, she said there was no chance it

would be exported.

England alone had a surplus of about 30 000 tons and the European Economic Community was holding about 65 000 tons of butter.

Other Pretoria sources have indicated South Africa's butter would probably be released to the public cheaply.

It has already been in cold storage for up to 10 months, but the Dairy Board says it can be kept in good condition for as long as three years.

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Drinking water to be pumped into kwaZulu

ULUNDI — Tens of thousands of people in rural kwaZulu will have clean drinking water piped to them for the first time as a result of a scheme initiated by the Umgeni Water Board with the cooperation of the Durban and Maritzburg municipalities, according to Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Speaking in the kwaZulu Legislative Assembly, he said the board had been concerned for some time that a basic supply of good water was not getting to many rural black communities.

This was because they could not afford to bear the capital cost of delivering small quantities of water over a long distance from the main bulk supply system.

The board had asked its main consumers if they would cooperate in a scheme whereby the expenditure necessary to provide such service would be capitalised, with interest and redemption recovered from all the board's consumers through an equalised tariff.

This would mean an increased cost of only 0,06 cents per kilolitre a year and the communities themselves would be charged for the water used at the board's normal equalised tariff.

Chief Buthelezi said that as its main clients, Durban and Maritzburg, had agreed to the scheme the board would start supplying the drinking water soon.

THE WORLD THIS WEEK

SA's least welcome export: the locust

By KELLY McPARLAND
 HAVING endured drought and famine, Africa is now being hit by pestilence.

Swarms of brown locusts which hatched in South Africa have moved north, invading Botswana. Large outbreaks of red locusts have been reported in Tanzania and may have spread to neighbouring Kenya and Zambia.

Zimbabwe has had another species, the Africa migratory locust.

Sudan has already been hard-hit by a migratory locust outbreak which has moved south towards Uganda, while scientists expect a serious problem with desert locusts in Saudi Arabia to move across the Red Sea into Ethiopia and the Sudan.

It is the first time in 50 years there have been simultaneous outbreaks of all four species of locust common to Africa.

The infestation, if it gets out of hand, could seriously damage Africa's fragile agricultural recovery. Locusts can consume their own weight in crops every day. A swarm can cover more than 32 square kilometres and destroy an entire harvest in days.

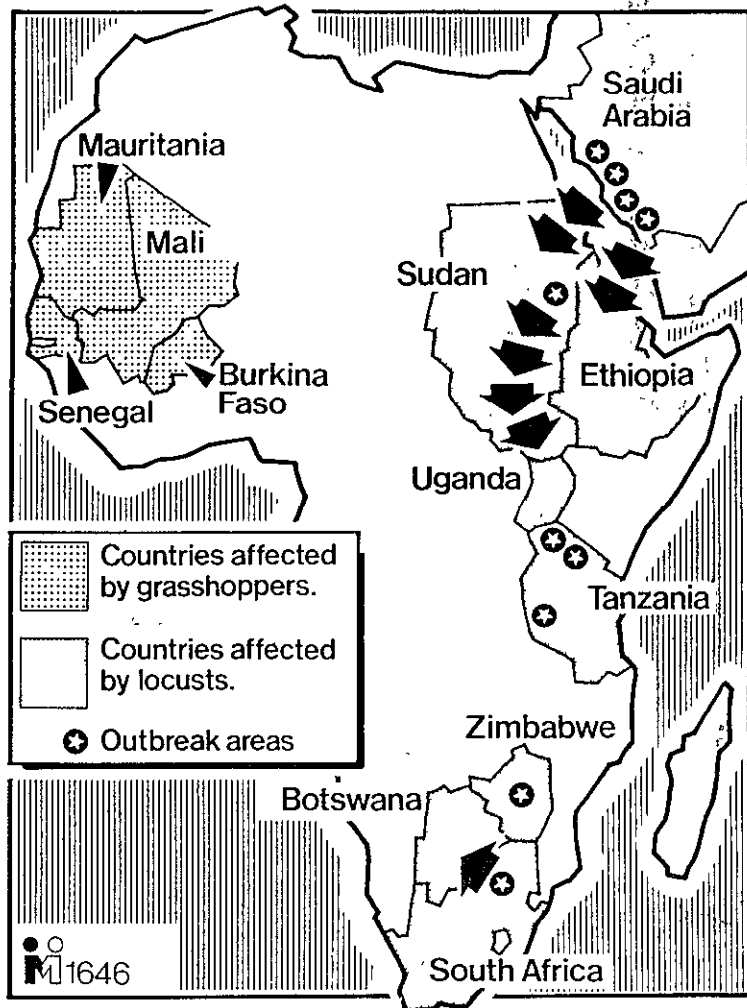
Although pest control experts are making efforts to stem the spread, once the hatched insects have taken to the air they are very hard to track, and therefore to control. And in much of west and central Africa, the organisations and equipment needed to stem the tide have been allowed to deteriorate.

Says George Popov, a locust control consultant to the Food and Agriculture Organisation: "It is the most dangerous situation we have known for the past 12 years." He says more eggs are "sitting on the ground, like time bombs, waiting for the rains".

The timing of the outbreaks immediately after five years of devastating drought is no coincidence. The last great grasshopper plague occurred in 1974, when rains returned after the most recent previous drought.

Scientists are not certain of the connection, but it is known that some grasshoppers are able to survive

After famine & drought: pestilence



The Great Locust Trek ... a swarm can cover 32 kilometres

uncertain condition of Africa's agricultural recovery. The return of normal rainfall last year produced the first reasonable harvest in years, but forecasters warn that the favourable weather may not last.

Adding to the danger, many of the pest problems are in areas worst-hit by the drought and ensuing famine. The grasshopper outbreak involves most of the Sahel countries which suffered serious food shortages, easing off only in Chad where, Popov suggests, "it's possible that drought conditions were so serious even grasshoppers couldn't survive".

Grasshoppers feed on millet, sorghum, maize and rice, the staple foods of the region. Desert locusts, which are found mainly north of the equator eat "just about everything". Margaret Haggis, a biogeographer at London's Tropical Development and Research Institute, says desert locusts can survive on the bark of trees if everything else has been consumed.

The appearance of red and brown locusts in central and southern Africa

species, they feed mainly on cereals.

The popular image of dark clouds of locusts that blot out the sun occur only in the worst plagues when swarms can cover hundreds of square kilometres. The current outbreaks are not that serious yet, and experts following sightings by villagers have difficulty tracking the pests by plane.

The swarms are carried on wind currents, covering vast distances in short periods. Popov says that in 1968 swarms of insects which hatched in Saudi Arabia later crossed northern Africa within five to six weeks and were identified as far west as Mali and Mauritania.

Sudan faces one of the most precarious situations at the moment, since it is in the path of the omnivorous desert locusts expected from Saudi Arabia as well as suffering a major outbreak of its own, which is likely to grow worse during the July-September rainy season. It is also suffering outbreaks of grasshoppers.

Popov says the mass emergence of

Collection and

PROCESSING

three detainees released...
 case, which is pending, involved an
 application for the imprisonment of
 Mangope, Molope and other
 policemen for contempt of court for
 allegedly ignoring the Supreme Court

... immediately by police van and I tried
 to assist the injured...
 injured be taken to hospital
 called. I ordered that the seriously
 ambulance and mortuary van to be
 "I gave instructions for an
 eight corpses.

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'Sugar industry must step into politics'

Finance Reporter

THE country's social and political unrest was cited as one of the major pitfalls facing the sugar industry by Mr Tony Ardington, chairman of the South African Cane Growers' Association, in his address to the annual meeting yesterday.

He said that in the past, policy had been to avoid political issues but the present social and political events were having such an increasingly important influence on the industry that the association and the industry would have to state where it stood.

'The horrors of township life and the appalling problems faced each day by many millions of our fellow countrymen mean that political standpoints and expression can no longer be

divorced from our business interests,' he said.

He said the country was faced with a crisis of confidence by overseas and domestic investors and until the situation changed, prospects for robust economic growth were dismal.

Reviewing the industry's past year, Mr Ardington said that while bloodied from the effects of selective disaster, drought and accompanying debt, interest rates, inflation and from the severest bear market

the world sugar market has ever experienced, the industry was still poised to reap the advantages of the improved fundamentals on world sugar markets.

The agricultural side of the industry had achieved substantial efficiencies, resulting in savings of over R40m in the 1984-85 season.

A study by the National Productivity Institute (NPI) on productivity trends within the industry over the past four years showed a 4,14% annual improvement in productivity and a 10,54% annual improvement by the growing sections.

'The effects of these improvements, coupled with the considerably brighter external market, will result in the industry covering its costs in full this year, the average grower returning to profitability and the first repayment of the R327m industrial loans being made,' he said.

Most significant efficiency made in the industry had come from the Rorich Committee's transport recommendations which had brought about shorter routes, new roads, bridges and more cost-effective transport.

Saving

The replacement of four tramline systems with road transport had resulted in an annual saving of over R6m.

Mr Ardington said last season's introduction of a two-pool marketing system had complemented the transport arrangements by accurately exposing the industry's least efficient areas to the full impact of world market prices.

A further advantage from the system had been that a grower's security in respect of his quota, was substantially increased, thus enabling him to adjust production according to his own economic circumstances.

Interest

However, the larger debt burden and high interest rates coupled with very low prices had squeezed further economies from growers.

Mr Ardington said that while the Minister of Trade and Industries had asked for a report on the extent to which controls and regulation within the industry could be dismantled, he cautioned that no true free trade existed in agricultural products.

'We have to look for a second best and this could be served by replacing regulations which have served their purpose with suitable structures for negotiating new arrangements at individual mill levels.'

392 N S. NMS
15/1/88

Commercial Union

By David Southey

takes on crop cover

COMMERCIAL UNION (CU) a heavyweight short-term insurer, is to enter the crop insurance market.

CU has bought a controlling interest in a Bloemfontein-based firm of brokers specialising in crop insurance countrywide. Chief executive of the new company — to be called Commercial Union Agricultural Services (CUAS) — is Willem Piek.

Mr Piek sought a new underwriter following AA Mutual Insurance's collapse.

This will be CU's first foray into the agricultural sector which is currently dominated by Sentraoes.

CUAS will concentrate on hail insurance for crops such as wheat, barley, oats, maize, grain sorghum and sunflower seed.

Despite the parlous state of agriculture, CU managing director Bill Rutherford says he sees this sector as an "exciting opportunity for expansion".

In fact, the underwriting experience in crop insurance has been far healthier than in the commercial and industrial risk categories.

Mr Piek, whose firm accounts for around R19-million in premium income, says underwriting losses on crops have only once exceeded premium income during the past nine years.

Mr Rutherford is adamant that CU will not embark on a rate war in this field, though

he's anxious to build a market share. Neither will farmers previously insured with AA Mutual Insurance against crop failure experience any rate increases with the CU takeover. (Their city-slicking counterparts who had to find new underwriters were suddenly subjected to between 25% and 50% rate increases).

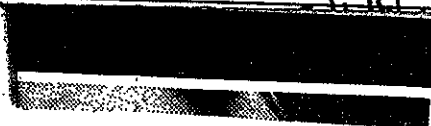
Competitor Sentraoes garners a major stake of its business through tie-ups with the multitude of co-ops.

CUAS, on the other hand, will deal mainly through agencies established with the major commercial banks.

Rates on crop insurance vary from area to area and from crop to crop, depending on loss experiences. Wheat farmers in the hail-vulnerable Harrismith area, for instance, can expect to pay around 10% on sum insured, while maize farmers in the same district may pay only 4% on their maize crops.

In the Ermelo area of the Transvaal, for example, wheat farmers may pay only 4% on wheat and 7%-8% on maize.

Mr Piek's team consists mainly of experts trained in agronomy. He says all claims can be expected to be met within 14 days.



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THE JOY OF RETIRED PROFESSIONALS

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WOMEN TODAY

(3) 20ML 16/6/86

Now Robert helps others reap the soil's fruit

Farming and the people of kwaZulu have been the core of Robert Mazibuko's life, and probably thousands of his people are better fed through his efforts. Yet this sprightly, dignified, 83-year-old man has probably received more recognition overseas than he has in South Africa.

He passed through Johannesburg recently after a fact-finding tour of Israel, on his way back to his agricultural centre in Edendale near Maritzburg. There he is carrying on with the agricultural experimenting and teaching that he has been doing for more than half a century.

The invitation to Israel was one of many he has received from foreign countries who have recognised the value of the work he is doing.

Need to develop skills

"I suppose it all started with a Catholic priest who taught me at college. He saw the need to develop our skills to the full," says Mr Mazibuko.

The priest taught him not only to be a teacher, but also the skills his community needed, such as carpentry, brick laying — and organic farming.

Mr Mazibuko then worked in schools. "I noticed some of my pupils were fainting in class, and when I took them to hospital, the doctors said it was because they hadn't eaten," says Mr Mazibuko.

So he started a vegetable garden on a nearby

When Robert Mazibuko learned his pupils were starving he started a vegetable garden. Since then he has dedicated his life to agricultural experimentation, writes KATE MCKINNELL.

piece of land, using manure parents gladly brought as they knew it would help their children.

Then, in 1952, Mr Mazibuko left teaching to devote himself full time to experimenting with different farming methods — deep tillage, trenching and deep trenching.

Crops flourished in the community around him, and he was later invited to join the Valley Trust, an organisation promoting preventive medicine by uplifting the rural community. He worked there for 17 years.

He attended conferences and studied farming methods in countries as widespread as Canada, Australia, Switzerland and Germany. On his return, he adapted the knowledge he had gained to the needs of his community, which he says lacked agricultural know-how and was more interested in stock farming.

With the respect and tact he regards as vital for his community, he gradually introduced more

productive farming methods which would also conserve the farmland.

He introduced the deep-trench system, where organic matter in trenches acts as a sponge to hold the limited water available. Vegetable gardens were planted first, and then Mr Mazibuko promoted the planting of trees.

His African Tree Centre still runs today, and over the years he has distributed over 21,000 fruit trees, financed by Switzerland and Germany.

"Most of my funding comes from overseas. The attitude in South Africa has been that I must have a white person to manage my affairs before they will give me money. But I refuse to take on the role of a child."

Another important role

At his Edendale centre, he remains active in his work with the community, and besides distributing seedlings and saplings, he helps farmers to obtain the basic tools they need like spades and hoes.

Another important role is teaching young students. "Foreign countries help by giving my students bursaries to study in their colleges. After they return, they work with me for a while and learn to adapt their knowledge to the South African situation."

"It is important that I train others so they can carry on the work when I die," says Mr Mazibuko.



ROBERT MAZIBUKO: "I must train others to carry on my work when I die."

● Picture: RUPHIN COUDYZER

You'll warm to this tasty fish casserole

250 ml fresh breadcrumb crumbs
a little extra margarine.

Place fish in a baking dish. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper. Add onion, bay leaf and mushroom with the wine. Add enough water to bring liquid level just above the fish. Bake at 180 deg C — covered — until fish is only just cooked. This will take 10-20 minutes depending on thickness of

ANGELA DAY

Try this savoury fish casserole one cold evening soon.

FISH CASSEROLE WITH WINE AND MUSHROOMS

- 1 kg kingklip or hake fillets
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 bay leaf
- 150 g button mushrooms, quartered
- 250 ml dry white wine
- a little water
- 250 ml small, fancy noodles
- 20 ml margarine
- 20 ml flour

fish. Meanwhile, boil noodles until done. Drain and keep in a bowl of cold water to prevent them sticking together. Flake fish and set aside with the mushrooms. Strain fish stock into small pan and reduce by boiling until 250 ml remains. Melt margarine, stir in flour and cook gently for a minute. Gradually add hot stock, stirring constantly. Bring to boil and simmer gently 5 minutes, stirring from time to time. Grease a baking dish, drain noodles and place in dish. Combine sauce with fish and mushrooms and season with more salt and pepper, if necessary. Pour over noodles, cover surface with breadcrumb crumbs, dot with small pieces of margarine and bake at 180 deg C for 20-30 minutes until a bubbling golden brown. Serves eight.

N Tvl farmers to get more help

~~3~~ 3 gen
Staff Reporter

16/6/86

Star

PIETERSBURG — Further financial assistance for farmers in the Northern and North Western Transvaal was announced here on Saturday by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Sarel Hayward.

This comes in the wake of the Afrikaner Weerstandbeweging's disruption of Mr Pik Botha's meeting here recently.

But on Saturday it appeared the AWB and other conservative Afrikaners had decided to stay away from the National Party's meeting.

The measures announced by Mr Hayward include:

- An area allowance of R500 per month from July 1 to farmers who reside in the area permanently.

- Urgent arrangements are being made to use state drills in the area to supply farmers with drinking water and water for stock watering

where boreholes have dried up as a result of the drought. The Government will provide subsidies of between 80 and 100 percent.

- The stock feed subsidy in drought-listed districts is increased from 50 to 70 percent.

- A subsidy of 70 percent is granted for the cost of transportation of livestock to leased grazing as well as the rent of the grazing.

- Applications for mine-resistant vehicles at an 80 percent subsidy will be considered on a priority basis for farmers in the most sensitive areas.

- Applications for fortification of farm homesteads at a 50 percent subsidy will also be considered on a priority basis.

- A subsidy of R822 000 will be paid to the Northern Transvaal Co-operative.

At the same meeting Mr P T C du Plessis, Minister of Manpower and chairman of the Northern Transvaal region of the NP, called on reasonable people to close ranks.

Big aid packet for farmers

3/21
SUBSTANTIAL assistance for farmers in the security-sensitive and drought-stricken areas of the northern and north-western Transvaal was announced by Agricultural and Water Supply Minister Sarel Hayward at the weekend.

He said the aid was aimed at stabilising the entire "designated" area.

Government has apparently been concerned for months at the depopulation of the stricken area, the number of absentee farmers and the threat this constitutes to security.

GERALD REILLY

Hayward said government had instructed a special task team to submit further proposals for alleviating the desperate financial plight of farmers in the area.

Reacting to the aid packet, Transvaal Agricultural Union president Nico Kotze said it would bring great relief to a distressed area.

"This has come after urgent discussions between government and organised agriculture," he said.

Fine for some 20/6/86

There's no direct help for agriculture's biggest creditors, the commercial banks, in the government's new R262m relief package for farmers.

Main beneficiaries will be the agricultural co-ops, which are owed some R2,74 billion by the country's farmers. But the banks, with an exposure of R3,5 billion, are again at the back of queue (*Business* June 6).

"Although banks will gain some advantage from the extension of the 22-year miscellaneous debt consolidation scheme by another year and will indirectly benefit from subsidies of farmers' co-op loans, they receive no direct help," says Standard Bank

agriculture manager Theo Potgieter.

The interest payable on farmers' debts to co-ops will be subsidised by an additional R91m in the year ending March 31, 1987. The balance of the aid package will be paid out in the following financial year.

The financial assistance scheme to summer-rainfall farmers has three major components:

- The existing six-year debt consolidation scheme for unpaid production debts to co-ops will be extended by 14 months after August 31;

- A new 10-year scheme will be instituted for farmers who cannot repay their debts under the existing six-year scheme, but who would have a chance to survive with 10 years' grace; and,

- Land Bank interest on loans to co-ops to fund carry-over debts under the 10-year scheme will be further subsidised, bringing down interest from the current 7% to 4% a year in the first three years of the scheme.

"The combination of an extended repayment period and reduced interest rates will mean that many farmers, and the co-ops, can breathe again," says Andries Scholtz, new chairman of the SA Agricultural Union's (SAAU) Co-operative Council. The SAAU is grateful for the relief although it is less than it sought, he adds.

Banks are less happy — and understandably so.

"We have unsuccessfully asked the State to subsidise our farm debts for years," says Volkskas agricultural economist André Louw. "An arrangement must be made to put us in the subsidy net."

He says commercial banks, which directly and indirectly provide some 80% of all farming credit, must be represented on the government's committee on agricultural matters, which is chaired by Reserve Bank deputy governor Japie Jacobs.

Apart from their direct exposure, banks

fund much of the Land Bank's annual capital requirements of some R4,8 billion, most of which in turn goes to fund the co-ops. But they have virtually no say in agricultural financial policy.

"It's also essential that the Economic Advisory Council's current investigation into agriculture takes an objective, and sympathetic, look at agriculture. It must identify structural problems and devise effective measures to restructure the industry. Financing and marketing policies must be put under the spotlight," says Louw.

The SAAU plans a meeting soon with banks to discuss mutual problems and to reach an understanding.

Scholtz believes the new aid scheme will improve many farmers' chances of survival, which will indirectly benefit the banks.

Both Louw and Potgieter reject the criticism that banks are starting to shake out farmers as unfair.

"It is little help to extend credit to farmers already deeply in debt," says Potgieter.

Norton: Komga farm labourers paid R30 cash plus in kind

By Mtobeli Mxotwa
EAST LONDON — Farm labourers at Komga are paid R30 cash a month and the rest is paid in kind.

This emerged during an interview with executive members of the Komga Farmers' Association yesterday.

The farmers were commenting on claims by an Engcobo man, Mr Jeffrey Mabitsi, who said in a letter that farmers in the area paid labourers between R10 and R20 a month.

Mr Mabitsi said farm labourers were fed only mealies.

He said the wage structure was unfair in the light of the prevailing cost of living.

Mr Mabitsi had appealed to the welfare organisations to investigate their plight, which he called tantamount to slavery.

The chairman of the association, Mr Roy Norton, said the average salary for farm labourers in his area was R30 a month.

The labourers were also paid in mealie rations. The combined payment amounted to about R140 a month, he said.

Remuneration varied from farm to farm.

Some farmers gave their workers land to plough and they could sell their produce. This group did not receive any cash remuneration. Other farmers preferred to pay their employees cash and nothing else, he said.

Mr Norton said employees who held responsible positions were paid more. He said he spent R140 a month on each of his labourers.

The workers received R30 cash, mealie rations once a month, milk, sugar, tea, tobacco, clothing, protective clothing, and subsidised blankets in winter. They received free medicine and books.

He added that the workers had cattle, goats, free houses and gardens on the farm.

Another executive member of the association, Mr G. N. Ward, a former Zimbabwean, said he paid R90 cash to his employees augmented with free rations of mealies, milk, bread, tea and water.

He said his cash wage was "probably the highest" in the area since he was new to the area. Other farmers tended to pay more in kind.

Labourers on his farm received mealies or samp rations. The ration depended on the size of the family, he said. Workers had their own gardens and water.

A spokesman for the Department of Manpower here said there was no prescribed wage for farm labour.

The assistant director of Operation Hunger here, Mrs Linda Murray, said the organisation was aware of the "food crisis" at Komga.

She said Operation Hunger had been in touch with the people of Komga and explained to them how their projects worked. The organisation could not offer assistance unless it was asked to do so by the people of Komga themselves.

Mrs Murray said Komga people had previously approached them but it seemed then that there was a split in the community.

There was no food or work in the area, Mrs Murray said.

Botha to open Roep congress in Burgersdorp

Dispatch Reporter

QUEENSTOWN — The State President, Mr P. W. Botha, will be in Burgersdorp on June 26 and 27 to open the fifth congress of Restore Our Endangered Platteland (Roep), which is to discuss the future of the South African platteland.

Roep's chairman, Dr G. H. Craven, said that in the four years of its existence, Roep had been active in helping to market the platteland and there were definite signs of revival in most small towns.

He said the position of the farms was still a cause for concern, because there was still a yearly nett outflow of farmers.

The central position of agriculture will be highlighted on both days of the congress by Mr Tobie Meyer and Mr Johan Erasmus of the East Cape Agricultural Union.

Dr Craven said the other facets of rural life would also receive attention during the dis-

cussions.

The first speaker on June 26 will be Mr W. A. de Klerk, who will discuss the cultural contribution of the platteland, before Mr Botha officially opens the congress.

Other speakers will include Mr Ton Vosloo, chief executive of Nasionale Pers, who will chair discussion on rural communication, leadership and marketing the platteland through publicity.

...the police, spokesman, the children were flying at halfmast
bringing the car from Al- ing along Heidelberg guns believed to have
been used in the robbery.

Plight of N Tvl farmers highlighted at conference

STAR (3) GEN
20/6/76

Northern Transvaal Bureau

NYLSTROOM -- The economic situation of Northern Transvaal farmers came under the spotlight at a gathering of more than 200 farmers yesterday, organised by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

Inflation and its devastating effect on interest rates was an important talking point, and Mr Kobus Jooste, president of SAAU, assured farmers: "We are pushing for price freezes to stabilise the situation — the present trend simply has to be reversed."

Mr Jooste said the main object of the most recent Government aid package was to prevent farmers on the point of insolvency from leaving the land.

He announced that small crisis committees, with whom farmers could discuss their problems confidentially, would be formed in several districts.

President of the Transvaal Agricul-

tural Union Mr Nico Kotze drew attention to the fact that farmers' capital payments in respect of Escom electricity schemes in the region would be suspended for two years.

He said the Derdepoort, Pont Drift, Alldays, Waterpoort, Ellisras, Crocodile River, Messina East and Pala-la/Limpopo schemes had now been completed. During the next twelve months, the Dwaalboom, Sentrum, Steenbokpan, Tolwe and Mopane areas would receive Escom power.

Concern was expressed about the delay in developing the region's water resources.

It was an added strain for farmers in the border area to keep an eye on security matters, while trying to maintain their farming operations in a difficult economic climate. Organised agriculture therefore welcomed the declaration of the state of emergency, Mr Jooste said.

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A white farmer loses his land to

"YOU work for years for something and then [redacted] takes it away from you."

The words could have come from anyone in the many black communities which have been forcibly removed into one or other "homeland". But the speaker was Willem Vandermaelen, a white farmer whose land has been earmarked for incorporation into KwaNdebele.

Vandermaelen is bitter about the compensation the government has offered to pay for his 375ha farm Rietfontein, north east of Pretoria. It is less than half the amount professional evaluators judged the land worth and will not even buy him a new smallholding.

He is more angry, however, about

the contradictions forcing him off the farm he has worked for 20 years: the fact that he must go to make way for an independent KwaNdebele, although he estimates 90 percent of the Ndebele people don't want independence; the fact that KwaNdebele Chief Minister Simon Skosana, whom he knows personally, is happy for him to remain on his farm but President P W Botha's government is not.

"P W Botha says apartheid has been abolished, but all that's altered is its application," he says. Belgian-national Vandermaelen's views are out of place in a district where the far-right Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging is gaining support. "Many are just waiting to shoot, they say blood will flow," he says.

"I always obeyed my parents' wishes but when you find your partner things change," Rina Vandermaelen, a qualified nurse who grew up on the East Rand, explained.

"Few marriages are as happy as

ours," her husband added. The Vandermaelens have a hard life and indulge in few luxuries. They employ no black workers "because we can't afford to pay them a decent wage" and themselves tend their 200 beef cattle (they keep 400 in the rain years).

They live in a small thatched cottage which is functional rather than quaint. There is an outside pit lavatory, no electricity and no television set for their three children.

Vandermaelen's only apparent indulgence is a zoo of reptiles. Glass cases in the sitting room display a variety of very alive snakes, the largest an Indian cobra at least three metres long.

Outside there are less intimidating chameleons, lizards and tortoises, as

well as a hutch of hamsters waiting to be fed to the snakes.

Ten years ago, Vandermaelen says, the consolidation plans for KwaNdebele stopped north of the nearby town of Moloto and did not include his farm. But plans announced two years ago included Rietfontein.

They have been instructed to vacate their property this week but Vandermaelen and his wife are determined to put up a fight, though they have no illusions about the end result.

"We'll be [redacted] he says, speaking Afrikaans with a heavy Flemish accent. "I know we are going to lose anyway. What does it help to work night and day if [redacted]"

Eastern ③

Cape DD 24/6/76
milk not
dearer ~~24/6/76~~

Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — Consumers in East London and the rest of the Eastern Cape will not be affected by the 4c a litre increase in the producer price of milk to be introduced countrywide on July 1.

The branch manager of United Dairies here, Mr D. Barkhuizen, was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for comment, but the general manager of United Dairies in Port Elizabeth, Mr Fred Botha, confirmed that there would be no increase in the price of milk for consumers.

He said that the producer price increase should not affect consumers in the Eastern Cape as the area was not under the control of the Dairy Board in Pretoria.

Prices were set between local producers and the United Dairies Co-operative, and no plans had been made to increase the price of milk to consumers, Mr Botha added.

He said there might be a slight increase in processed dairy products such as cheese, but this was "unlikely".

Vaal is fast dropping to a record low

5/16/86
3 GEN
STAR

Pretoria Correspondent

The Vaal Dam is now fast approaching its lowest level yet. It is dropping at a rate of more than 1 percent a week.

The dam is at present only 17,8 percent full, compared to 19 percent last week.

The lowest level on record was in 1984 when it was less than 15 percent of capacity. In an emergency measure, the dwindling supply was boosted by pumping water from Sterkfontein Dam.

Lower evaporation

It now seems that the Department of Water Affairs will be left no alternative but to feed the Vaal from the bigger water reserve of the Sterkfontein Dam once again.

The department earlier committed itself to a June 20 deadline for tapping the resources of Sterkfontein Dam should the Vaal Dam continue to drop at the present rate.

In normal circumstances it is preferred to store most of the water in Sterkfontein Dam, which is deeper and therefore has a lower rate of evaporation.

The Vaal is experiencing a much lower inflow of water than during the infamous 1930s drought.

The Transvaal is now suffering its eighth consecutive year of below-average rainfall.

According to the department, there is no possibility of lifting water restrictions in the near future.

Farmers irrigating from the Vaal are restricted to a quarter of the normal quota.

With no rainfall in the Transvaal last month, prospects are not good for next year.

A department spokesman has given the assurance that the level of the Vaal will be kept constant at 15 percent with water from Sterkfontein Dam for watersport enthusiasts.

Sterkfontein Dam is at present 30,2 percent full.

Farmers' total debt is more than ^{(3) GEN} R11-bn ^{STAR} ^{5/6/86}

By Sue Leeman,
Pretoria Bureau

South African farmers are now in debt to the tune of more than R11 000 million — and co-operatives are under great financial pressure, according to chief director of the North Western Co-operative, Dr A P Scholtz.

Dr Scholtz told a conference of agricultural co-operatives in Pretoria yesterday that about R2 739 million — 24,6 percent — of farmers' overall debt had been financed by co-operatives.

At the end of 1985, he said, the co-operatives owed the Land Bank a total of R2 739 million, R1 698 of which was emergency aid to farmers.

Dr Scholtz said there were considerable risks for the co-ops in extending this kind of credit and most administered these loans on exceptionally low margins.

Since 1982, there had been a rapid decline in the finances of co-ops, as a result of the emergency aid they were supplying.

For one thing, their own capital now made up only 27,7 percent of their total financing and they were becoming more dependent on loans with ever-increasing interest rates.

'PERTINENT'

"The co-operatives are going to have to ask themselves if they are happy to and capable of continuing to take the responsibility for emergency aid — particularly that of farmers' rolled-over debt.

"This question is particularly pertinent because the Government does not guarantee unqualified security to co-ops for such emergency aid.

"In reality, the co-ops are still held accountable for any claims until they have proved that any credit granted complies with the Land Bank's regulations.

"The bad debt which can arise from this is not taken over by the State."

Dr Scholtz believed that despite this the co-ops should go on financing farmers to the extent they had in the past — but they should look for ways to augment their own capital.

Minister of Agriculture and Water Supplies Mr Sarel Hayward, who opened the conference, said he had initiated negotiations between financial institutions to formulate a clearer strategy for granting credit to farmers.

GREATEST INCREASE

He said the private sector had an important role.

Between 1981 and 1984 agricultural assets increased by 40 percent while its debts rose by 147 percent.

The greatest increase in debt had been among those offering largely short-term credit, such as commercial banks and co-operatives.

Producers were now finding it difficult to meet their debts, even in good years.

Poor financing norms, the unco-ordinated granting of credit and too much liquidity among credit institutions in times of prosperity were some causes.

It was vital for all interested institutions to work out a joint strategy.

He had requested an investigation into merging the Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board.

"These are institutions which provide credit largely on the basis of ability to pay rather than pure security — an exceptionally healthy approach which must be expanded."

W Transvaal water 'tap' is running dry — warning

By Sue Leeman,

Groundwater in Western Transvaal's vital Grootfontein dolomitic compartment will be depleted in five years if the present pumping rate continues without recharge.

This warning is contained in a report by the Water Research Commission (WRC).

The Grootfontein compartment provides about 8 million cubic metres of

water a year.

Senior WRC adviser, Dr Peter Roberts, said it was one of South Africa's most highly utilised dolomite aquifers. It provided Mafikeng and Mmabatho's water supplies as well as water for farm irrigation.

He said: "More than 15 million cubic metres of water were withdrawn from the compartment in the period from July 1983 until the end of June 1984.

"Of this, seven million

cubic metres were pumped to Mafikeng and Mmabatho from the Grootfontein Eye, while the balance was used by farmers."

Dr Roberts said it was calculated that during June 1984 there had been about 124 million cubic metres of groundwater in the compartment.

"Assuming only 66 per cent of an aquifer can be economically dewatered, it means the Grootfontein compartment will only

be able to meet the present demand of 15 million cubic metres for about five more years without any recharge."

Dr Roberts said according to available data, the average annual recharge of the aquifer was about eight per cent of annual rainfall.

He added: "With a mean annual rainfall of 560 mm, the compartment should be able to meet present demands for about another 11 years."

The Department of Water Affairs earlier this year completed a pipeline to supplement water from Grootfontein Eye for Mafikeng and Mmabatho with groundwater from the Molopo Eye Government Water Scheme.

Dr Roberts said if sufficient water could be obtained from the Molopo system, withdrawal from the Grootfontein Eye should be stopped to allow replenishment.

540 DAY 25/6/84
Border farms
earnings dip

3/6/84
BERNARD REILLY
FARMERS' incomes in the Northern Transvaal border area have dropped dramatically — by an average of 37% — over the past two production seasons, according to the SA Agricultural Union.

The area is a 50km-wide strip stretching from Pafuri, in the Messina district, along the Zimbabwe and Botswana borders to Kopfontein, in the Marico district.

Helping to put farmers on their feet

THE Anglo American and De Beers' Chairman's Fund has supported a number of projects to help black farmers

It paid the building costs of two agricultural high schools. Such schools were first established in SA in the 1920s to provide secondary education for children of poor white rural families.

Accommodation was provided at virtually no cost, though pupils gained practical experience by producing their own food by cultivating the school grounds.

The sense of independence and maturity that resulted was appreciated by educators

THIS is the sixth in the series of articles in the Anglo American & De Beers' Chairman's Fund. It deals with agricultural projects which the fund has supported or become involved in. The writer is John Collings.

The Phandulwazi Agricultural High School in the Ciskei - opened in 1977 - was the first such school for black pupils in SA when it opened in 1977 (Phandulwazi, meaning "the seeker after knowledge", is a Xhosa praise-name for Harry Oppenheimer.)

It cost R1.9-million and was con-

ceived and developed by the Ciskei government

The other school, the Harry Oppenheimer Agricultural High School, is set in grounds of 500 hectares at Limburg in Lebowa, about 50km north of Patgietersrus

Initiated by the Lebowa government and costing R5.3-million - reflecting the rapid rise in building costs after the construction of Phandulwazi school - it opened in 1982

Both schools hold 300 pupils

Pupils at the two agricultural high schools are offered the normal range

of secondary school subjects as well as theoretical and practical agricultural science.

The hope is that lengthy contact with a professionally-organised agricultural project (the Lebowa school, for example, has workshops for machine maintenance as well as a milking parlour) will persuade some pupils, girls as well as boys, to become farmers rather than work as extension officers.

Other efforts to advance agricultural knowledge are supported by the Chairman's Fund, most of them under the auspices of the Agricultural and Rural Development Research In-

stitute at the University of Fort Hare. Among its projects are studies on forest farming, the production of essential oils for the perfume and food industries, and evaluation of "ecotopes" - areas of land which have been defined or measured, for agricultural purposes, in terms of their climate, soil and slope.

The aim of the ecotope study is to see which crops grow best and what are the most economic levels of investment in seed, fertilizer and so on for each ecotope.

When a large area can thus be divided into different ecotopes, agricultural planners can decide what crops to grow in each and at what intensity of cultivation

Ardrri plans to identify which parts of the Ciskei are suitable for crops, to class those areas into different ecotopes, to see which crops grow best on the most common ecotopes and their most economic level cultivation, and to test experimental results under real farming conditions so as to take account of local circumstances.

Within a year or two after the ecotope project started in 1979-80, it produced some surprising findings.

Certain ecotopes traditionally thought unsuitable for maize proved to be as good as others traditionally rated excellent; some areas unsuitable for maize - and for this reason rejected for wheat as well - grew good wheat.

However encouraging the ecotope research, a great deal of ground in the homelands, especially in the Ciskei and Transkei, remain unsuitable even for grazing, because it is too hilly, dry or eroded.

Ardrri has undertaken a forest farming project aimed at discovering what trees or shrubs could be grown on land of this type to yield food, fodder, fibre, chemicals or other raw materials, in addition to timber

Apart from introducing the possibility of earning revenue from land now useless, trees could help restore scoured soil by binding it with their roots and feeding it with their rotted leaves

The project also investigates multiple land usage, in which hardy trees are planted on pasturage and amid row crops

Ardrri's essential oils project, begun in 1973, is a similar effort. The aim is to produce oils for the cosmetic and food industries mainly from weeds, though considerable research has also been done on the peppermint herb

Essential oils are attractive as a homeland industry and also profitable.

Gathering their raw materials - plants - is suitably labour-intensive; and the removal of weeds from grazing areas is made more likely by the prospect of greater profit than that afforded by improved pasturage

For the past ten years Ardrri has been researching methods of growing and reaping different essential oils plants, processing them by steam distillation and marketing the oils

How to become a journalist

The Education and Information Centre in Johannesburg puts the career spotlight on journalism this week. This series is sponsored by the Anglo American and De Beers' Chairman's Fund.

In times like this, when there are so many restrictions on the media, it may not seem like the right time to consider journalism as a career. However, it must be remembered that there will always be a demand for good black journalists. If you are enterprising, and interested in the literary field - whether it be reading, writing or speaking - journalism is still a career to think about.

What does a journalist do?

For a newspaper, the journalist is the key person. The reporter is responsible for looking for interesting news items, whether it be an event, an incident or people, and reporting it to the public. Accurate reporting is essential.

Journalists attempt to portray events objectively, ie private opinions should not bias the facts. Of course every newspaper has its own editorial policy and requirements, and the journalists must bear this in mind when writing an article.

Background research is often necessary and looking through archive files helps the journalist to write an article.

But journalists also need a good general knowledge background - they need to have a certain understanding of current political, social and economic trends.

A general reporter is concerned with all kinds of stories, gathering news and writing articles. However, many journalists usually write articles on a specific subject eg. labour and education.

There are editorial jobs on newspapers which usually require some kind of journalistic training, eg sub-editing. This involves reading and correcting articles, as well as finally revising and checking them.

A sub-editor also writes headlines for each article. Senior editorial staff are responsible for selecting stories which will go into the paper. The layout of a newspaper is also done in the editorial section.

FREELANCE WRITERS. Freelance writers must be able to work on their own, with no supervision. Freelance writers can write for the international media, which requires writing on a variety of subjects, or for the local media. An ability to take photographs would be an advantage for such a journalist.

MAGAZINE WORK: Most magazines rely largely on freelance writers, who are commissioned to write articles on a regular basis. The emphasis is on in-depth articles, rather than items that are merely newsworthy.

There are many specialist magazines on the market - technical, trade and hobby magazines - which cater for specific audiences. Writers for these magazines provide information on the latest developments in a specific field, and therefore need specialist knowledge.



A journalist at work. Most SA newspapers use computer terminals these days.

PRESS ASSOCIATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS. There are agencies like Sapa and Reuter which collect news internationally and distribute it to the local media. Journalists are employed as correspondents and editors for these agencies.

Journalists are employed by foreign news agencies locally to gather information and news. SABC: The SABC employs journalists as news reporters or, occasionally as scriptwriters. Writing news items for radio or television requires a different approach.

Stories must be shortened to fit into the news time slots.

PUBLIC RELATIONS. Public relations, which involves communicating to the public about a company, product or a special interest needs journalism skills. Public relations officers have to write articles for magazines, Press releases, brochures, newsletters and prepare audio-visual presentations.

Similarly, people who've been public relations officers and who've taken a diploma course in public relations, may consider becoming a journalist.

Training for journalism. There are two ways of becoming a journalist. ● Would-be journalists can either get in-service training with a newspaper company. The minimum entrance requirement is a Std. 10 certificate, but further education would be an advantage.

Good writing skills are important, as is the ability to communicate in more than one language. There are many candidates for the training schemes, and the selection is tough. An aptitude test and a number of interviews are done before final selection.

Training includes basic writing skills for a newspaper, newspaper law, interviewing skills, planning of a newspaper, plus typing and shorthand. Time is also spent on developing one's general knowledge of public institutions and social and political developments.

The Argus Group has a central training centre, where cadets or trainee journalists from the associated newspapers are sent for about 6 months. After training, the journalist is expected to work for the Argus Group for a number of years.

Applicants should apply to the individual newspapers.

Further study. ● Rhodes University offers three-year BA Journalism degree. Students

are required to spend holidays working on newspapers. Rhodes University also offers a one-year post-graduate course in media studies. The course covers all aspects of the media.

● Stellenbosch University offers a post-graduate degree in B Journalism (Honours). ● Potchefstroom University offers a four-year degree in communications, covering all aspects of working with the media. ● Universities like Unisa, Fort Hare, Zululand, RAU, and OFS offer courses in communication studies, which would be beneficial to would-be journalists. ● Natal Technikon, Peninsula Technikon, ML Sultan and Pretoria Technikon offer a three-year national diploma course in Journalism. The course - which includes lectures and practical work - covers all aspects of the media. ● An Arts degree with subjects like psychology, sociology, history and economics will help journalists.

Most newspaper groups offer bursaries to prospective journalists.

Who to contact for further information

● Individual newspapers like City Press, The Sowetan, The Star, The Argus, The Diamond Fields Advertiser, The Daily News, Cape Times, EP Herald. All correspondence should be directed to The Editor. ● Universities and Technikon. ● The Registrar, Rhodes University, PO Box 94, Grahamstown 6140. ● The Registrar, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag, Stellenbosch 7600. ● The Registrar, Natal Technikon, PO Box 953, Durban 4000. ● The Registrar, ML Sultan Technikon, PO Box 1334, Durban 4000. ● Pretoria Technikon, 420 Church Street, Pretoria 0002. ● Peninsula Technikon, PO Box 1906, Bellville 7530. ● The Registrar, Fort Hare University, Private Bag 314, Alice 5700. ● SABC: The Director, Personnel Administration, SABC, PO Box 8606, Johannesburg 2000. ● The Institute of Public Relations, PO Box 31390, Braamfontein 2017. ● Note: Correspondence Colleges like Cleaver-Hume, International Correspondence Schools, Lyceum College, Rapid Results, Success College and Union College offer courses in short story writing, fiction writing and writing for media. Although these courses will not open doors to the journalism world, they will help people who are interested in writing.

AKG 5
1/17/86
Eat locusts, don't poison them — scientist

By JOHN YELD
 Environment Reporter
 BROWN locusts, a major source of protein, should be harvested, not poisoned, says Dr John Ledger, director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Dr Ledger, an entomologist who worked for the South African Institute for Medical Research for 18 years before joining the trust, is trying to interest entrepreneurs and Government officials in a pilot scheme to harvest part of the next outbreak of brown locusts.

He believes a valuable spin-off would be jobs for the unemployed.

The Department of Agriculture and Economics spent R7-million on the locust war this year, of which R2-mil-



lion was part of the Government's unemployed relief programme.

"Logic says we could use more of that money for the unemployed to harvest this very nutritional source of protein," Dr Ledger said.

"Even if you don't want to eat it you can turn it into animal feed, but don't go and pump thousands of tons of insecticide on it.

Ecological imbalances were a "certainty" following the use of insecticides, Dr Ledger said.

"That has been the history of chemical control throughout the world. If it's not locusts, it will be something else whose natural enemies are being destroyed."

Dr Ledger said farmers affected by the locusts needed to follow the example of the citrus industry.

Researchers successfully used back-pack ap-

paratus to suck up insects at citrus estates in Zebediela in the Transvaal and the industry stopped heavy spraying when it became clear it was counter-productive.

"The logistics are formidable but with the right enthusiasm and direction we could devel-



op appropriate collection methods for brown locusts and the necessary machinery such as hammer mills and roasting units to utilise this resource effectively."

● The Department of Agriculture and Economics has admitted using 2,4-million kilograms of old stocks of BHC (Lindane), a banned organochlorine insecticide with similar long-term effects as dieldrin, on locusts this year.

However, a spokesman said that in future the department would use pyrethroids, an expensive synthetic pesticide which breaks down rapidly.

● The trust is the "youngest" of the major conservation bodies in South Africa and has 5 000 members, about 500 of whom are from the Western Cape.

Vital Vaal dams 5 percent emptier than last winter

③ (A) Pretoria Bureau

The dams in the vital Vaal system are an average of 22 percent full as the country moves towards mid-winter. At the same time last year their overall average was 27 percent.

Water reserves in the system's two major dams — the Vaal Dam and the Sterkfontein Dam — are dwindling steadily and there is still the prospect of many dry winter months ahead.

The Vaal Dam is only 16 percent full, a level which will be maintained through winter as water is released into this reservoir from the Sterkfontein Dam.

However, Water Affairs spokesman Mr. Anton Steyn says there is enough water in the system to see the PWV through comfortably for another year "if we don't waste water".

But if there were no good rains next year the country could expect a water crisis.

Sterkfontein is now only 28 percent of capacity — well down on the 39 percent level recorded this time last year.

Bloemhof Dam, on which many farmers in the Vaalharts area depend for irrigation, is lower than last year at a meagre three percent full.

Half SA's farmers face ruin as debt tops R11.2 billion

Weekend Argus
Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Half of South Africa's farmers are on the brink of financial ruin as their collective debt soars above R11.2-billion — more than last year's gross agricultural income.

And the figure is rising daily with little hope of it ever being reduced.

Crippling interest rates, rising costs of machinery and the continuing drought were the main problems, said Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist for the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), which represents

most of the country's 67 000 farmers.

"If you analyse the situation you can see that although the debt is a substantial amount it indicates that farmers are making a desperate attempt to repay and are struggling with sub-normal crops," Dr du Toit said.

"Another difficulty is the high interest rates and a high dependence on new production credit to enable them to plant new crops."

A breakdown of the R11.2-billion debt shows

that the Land Bank has claims of R2 338-million, the commercial sector R3 498-million, agricultural co-ops R2 739-million, the Agricultural Credit and Land Tenure Board R549.2-million, private financial organisations R792-million, other institutions R1 000-million and private individuals R240.5-million.

The SAAU says that stopping Government financial aid to farmers would lead to an end in self-sufficiency in food production and result in a steady depopulation of rural areas.

Bleak outlook for crops and grazing.

THE long Transvaal drought had worsened and the financial position of farmers had become critical, the Transvaal Agricultural Union said in a statement yesterday.

It said a survey conducted last week showed that only parts of the eastern Highveld and the southern Lowveld had had a good season.

"The rest of the Transvaal is in an extremely critical condition regarding crop prospects, water supply and available grazing," it said.

The statement said the survey showed that some farmers would not continue farming.

The drought in the northern and north-western regions of the Transvaal had also created serious cash-flow problems as livestock had been drastically diminished and business had come to a halt.

Recovery in the short-term was virtually impossible for these farmers.

The locust plague had extended to large parts of the western Transvaal and farmers were watching the developments with concern, it said. — Sapa.

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Many farmers on brink of ruin

Drought drives more from land

8/7/86: SIMON (3) GEN

By Kym Hamilton,
Pretoria Bureau

The drought in the Transvaal has pushed farmers to the brink of financial ruin and many are seeking other livelihoods, says the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU).

Crop prospects, water supply and available grazing have reached critical proportions as the long drawn-out drought continues to grip most of the province.

A survey conducted by the TAU last week showed that only parts of the eastern Highveld and the southern Lowveld had had a good season.

The optimism among farmers at the start of this year was replaced by despair as the rain stayed away and maize crop expectations diminished.

The country also faces a water crisis if the rains fail during the coming summer. Transvaal dam levels have dwindled and dams in the vital Vaal system are an average 22 percent full compared with 27 percent last year.

Bloemhof Dam, on which many farmers in the

Vaalharts area depend for irrigation, is dangerously low.

The drought, which has entered its sixth year in many parts of the country, has hit the younger farmer particularly hard. Farmers are being forced to leave their lands for other livelihoods.

The statement said the survey showed that some farmers, having disposed of their summer crop, would not continue with farming.

Cash-flow problems

The drought in the northern and north-western parts of the Transvaal has also created serious cash-flow problems as livestock has been reduced drastically and business has come to a halt. Recovery in the short term is virtually impossible for farmers in these regions.

The locust plague has extended to large parts of the western Transvaal, where farmers are watching these developments with concern.

Under these difficult circumstances, farmers are nevertheless fairly optimistic and hoping for a better year ahead, the statement said.

Article 8/1/86 3 paragraphs

Land offer to coloured farmers

Bails in knickers stump cricketers

The Argus Foreign Service LONDON. — A teenage pro- tester had test cricketers and umpires stumped at Edgbaston when she ran on to the pitch, grabbed the balls and stuffed them into her knickers.

Play during the England-India match was held up for five minutes yesterday as 17-year-old Joanna Duchesne of Birmingham refused all entreaties from umpire Barrie Meyer and Indian fielders to return the balls.

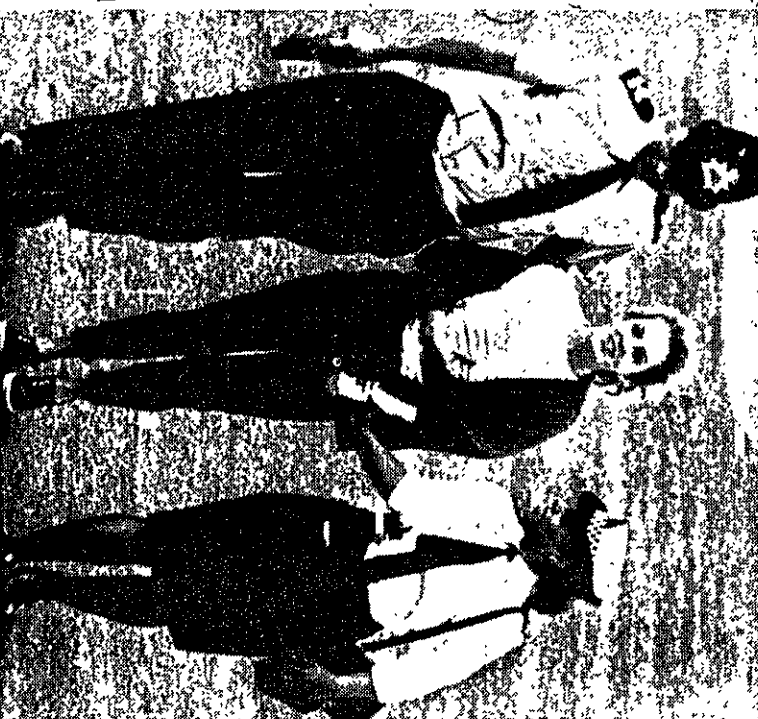
Eventually two policemen and Woman Police Constable Lorraine Arscott strode to the wicket — and the WPC achieved a forcible entry to retrieve the property.

Umpire Meyer 53, said later: "I saw this girl come out and whip the balls off."

"I could see where she had stuffed them and I wasn't going to go after them."

The girl was protesting at the deportation order against a Tamil leader named Meso, originally from Jamaica, who was convicted of robbery.

Police have charged two people with conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace.



Police lead a woman protester from the pitch during the England-India cricket match at Edgbaston, Birmingham, after she ran on to the pitch and put the balls down her knickers. Play was resumed after WPC Lorraine Arscott, right, retrieved the balls.

By FRANS ESTERHUYSE
Political Staff
WHITE farmers in various parts of South Africa have offered to sell their land for use by coloured farmers.

A spokesman for the coloured department of local government, housing and agriculture confirmed today that many such offers had been received. This was expected to boost the prospects of creating new farming opportunities for coloured people.

Offers had been made to the Ministers' Council of the House of Representatives by estate agents, banks and farmers by telephone and in writing.

The Ministers' Council decided recently to give high priority to the creation of farming opportunities for the coloured community.

Guidelines

The council also decided to lay down certain guidelines for considering future land purchases by the department. The idea was to purchase suitable land for development into economic farming units.

This would be done particularly where such land adjoined existing coloured farming areas.

The spokesman said many offers had been made by white farmers after the department's recent purchase of the farm Waakraal in the Dytsselsdorp district.

The Ministers' Council decided also to consider the possibility of developing intensive farming projects, such as irrigation schemes, which could be run by groups of farmers.

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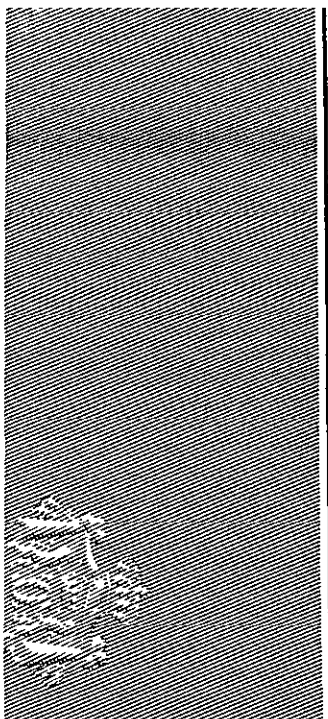
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Farms offered to coloureds

9/7/86 STAK 3 GEN

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — White farmers in various parts of South Africa have offered to sell their land for use by coloured farmers.

A spokesman for the Coloured Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture confirmed today that many offers had been received by phone and in writing.

This was expected to boost the prospects of creating new farming opportunities for coloured people.

Offers had been made to the Ministers' Council of the House of Representatives by estate agents, banks and farmers.

The Ministers' Council decided recently to give high priority to the creation of farming opportunities for the

coloured community.

The council also decided to lay down guidelines for considering future land purchases by the department.

The idea was to buy suitable land for development into economic farming units.

This would be done particularly where such land adjoined existing coloured farming areas.

INTENSIVE

The spokesman said many offers had been made by white farmers after the department's purchase of Waaikraal farm in the Dysselsdorp district.

The Ministers' Council decided also to consider the possibility of developing intensive farming projects, such as irrigation schemes, which could be run by groups of farmers.

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Project may help put small farmers on map

Stan

10/7/86

By Duncan Guy

Rural Africa could become the domain of income-generating farmers, selling their produce at the farm gate, by following the example of a remote kwaZulu self-help scheme.

Biyela, covering 25 000 ha in the heart of Zulu country in steep, mountainous terrain between Melmoth and Eshowe, is probably among the most extensively surveyed rural land on the continent.

Its natural resources, marketing feasibility and the educational records of its 2 300 families, each averaging six members, are among the statistics recorded in a computer which can churn out data to help small farmers.

Because of the hilliness, the scheme, known as the Institute of Natural Resources' Biyela Multi-Facet Rural Development Project, encompasses three climatic zones in its confines.

On the mountain tops, yearly rainfall averages 1 000 mm, but in the valleys below, irrigation is required. Many of the slopes in between have gradients of more than 13 percent — the limit for arable land — and a rainfall of about 600 mm.

The area is beautiful, decorated with Zulu kraals, gum and wattle woods, cassias, poinsettia plants and acacia trees. However, it has the social structure of many South African homelands.

Many men are migrant labourers, lack of soil conservation practices is tearing the land apart, the illiteracy rate is high and the land cannot support an ever-growing population.

LITTLE NUTRITIONAL VALUE

Patches of rain forest that once covered much of the area now exist only in some valleys.

Sour ngongoni grass dominates the countryside. Its tufts help hold the soil together, but according to the institute, it has little nutritional value for cattle and its toughness damages their teeth.

So where does hope come into Biyela's story?

The institute has proposed that Biyela's people embark on small-scale dairy, poultry, forestry, vegetable and stock-farming enterprises.

With the financial backing of private enterprise, loans and advice are provided to the farmers and, so far, two chicken batteries have emerged with dairy and vegetable enterprises on the way.

One poultry producer, Mr Walter Nyandu, said he had made R8 000 from his hen unit which he established using a R7 000 loan. After buying the birds as pullets, he sells them for R1,40 more as egg layers.

"I now have my fourth batch of hens," he said proudly. He added he was teaching five other people the skills needed in his business.

Another chicken farmer, Mrs A Zulu, rears five batches of broilers a year, earning R250 a year.

The institute has estimated that there is potential for about 25 such broiler units in the Biyela area.

Another enterprise upon which Biyela farmers have embarked is dairy farming.

TIMBER PRODUCTION

A new strain of pasture grass, known as K II is believed to be a promising substitute for ngongoni grass and Jersey cattle have proved preferable to Friesland.

The production of timber in Biyela is probably the most ambitious of all the institute's projects.

Used as firewood and building material, it rates as an important commodity for people in the area.

Keeping in mind that gum plantations could provide people with viable incomes, the institute has proposed that steep land that is unsuitable for crops be used for forestry.

"If the land owners combined to establish a company on 4 000 ha which, our studies show, is viable for timber production, 400 jobs could be created," explained land-use planner Mr Ted Pollett.

"The owners of the company could receive dividends while chartering an existing forestry company."

The project, which must have the co-operation of the people, has as a liaison man, Prince Gideon Zulu, who explains the issues of the self-help scheme to Biyela's people.

"They are accustomed to distrusting anything from the white man, but I am convincing them that this is not a 'beast-for-a-penknife' deal," said the prince.

The Institute of Natural Resources aims to have facilities such as clinics and schools provided at centres in Biyela.

However, it would be easier for these facilities to operate if population was less scattered about the hills, and was not cut off from roads, said Mr Pollett.

"But we certainly will not force them to move."

SA to import more wheat from America

③ General
11/7/86

PRETORIA — A further quantity of 66 000 tons of wheat would be imported from the United States, the Minister of Agricultural Economics and of Water Affairs, Mr Greyling Wentzel, announced yesterday.

Mr Wentzel said in a news release that this brought the total quantity of wheat purchased abroad during the last few months to 301 000 tons, of which 55 000 tons were purchased in Canada, 90 000 tons in Australia, and 156 000 tons in the US.

Due to unfavourable climatic conditions, especially during the last few years, "it became necessary for South Africa to supplement its wheat requirements from abroad," he said.

Contrary to other

drought-stricken African countries, South Africa found itself in the favourable position "of being able to supplement its food shortfalls through imports, which are settled for in cash."

Mr Wentzel said South Africa also supplied wheat to certain other African countries, "which in the current year will entail deliveries of approximately 150 000 tons of wheat to neighbouring states."

The minister said South Africa had until now "not encountered

unsurmountable obstacles to trade in the traditional way and it is trusted that, in spite of alleged trade sanctions the country's traditional trading partners will proceed with their international treaty obligations and continue to trade with South Africa on a non-discriminatory basis".

"Should it, however, develop differently in future, the South African Government will perforce have to drastically review its purchasing policy from abroad."

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Boost for rural areas

DEVELOPMENT planning in rural areas has received a boost with the establishment of a fund at the University of the Witwatersrand's Department of Town and Regional Planning.

The department has offered an increasingly popular post-graduate Higher Diploma in Development Planning since 1980, the only course of its kind in SA.

The one year course is concerned with the planning for implementation of development strategies

in Third World countries. It instructs the students in development planning theory, administration, practice, social processes and current development issues, including housing. The housing component deals with the planning and administration of a housing project.

The recent donation of R225 000 from former Anglo American group architect Kenneth Birch will form a fund to promote the planning of developing southern Africa's rural areas.

AKW 12/7/86
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Huge rise in farming debt

Staff Reporter

AGRICULTURAL debt increased from R1 384-million in 1970 to R11,5-billion last year because of abnormal harvests and an "enormous" increase in costs, says the president of the Western Cape Agricultural Union, Mr Frans Malan.

Speaking at the annual congress of the union in Cape Town yesterday, Mr Malan said 78 percent of the total assets of agriculture were non-liquid.

This not only led to serious cash-flow problems, but also adversely affected the credit of entrepreneurs when the value of property dropped.

"Agriculture is under heavy pressure," Mr Malan said.

"High interest rates have given agriculture a serious knock from which it will take long to recover."

Implementation of market-related interest rates had also disrupted financing at a time when agriculture was very vulnerable.

"The low value of the rand, high inflation, surcharges and increased general sales tax, combined with product prices not in keeping with input costs has seriously harmed the solvency of large numbers of farmers."

Mr Malan said it was ironic that farmers had to pay general sales tax on implements to produce food on which there was no sales tax.

The drought in the north-western Cape had been broken, but too much rain had had catastrophic effects on the barley crop in the southern Cape region, he said.

Hailstorms followed the drought in the Langkloof and Little Karoo and the wine harvest was 13 percent smaller than that of last year.

"The economic retrogression of the past couple of years bled away the reserve power of agriculture.

"High and still rising input costs make it impossible for the farmer to afford Land Bank interest rates, never mind commercial bank rates.

"The tragedy is that enterprising farmers who developed and extended their undertakings and therefore have to make use of borrowed money are the ones who suffered most," Mr Malan said.

Business

Ships' officers training talks

SOUTH AFRICAN ship-owning interests have this month been discussing co-ordination of the training of deck and engineer officers for the national commercial fleet, and for better uses for the General Botha nautical college at the Cape.

Representatives of the two commercial carriers, Safmarine and Unicorn, and the various trawling companies pooled their ideas for improving efficiency of the training methods.

There is a major move toward closer working between the navigation and engineering sections,

especially in the first year when the basics are similar. There was also a suggestion that the new entry cadets to the commercial shipping should spend a period at the Saldanha naval college for instruction in officer department and duties.

The sea careers are now an equal opportunity source of employment and cadets this year in various companies include white, coloured, Indian, and Zulu entries, and they all have to follow the same training syllabus and secure the same certificates of competency. The fishing industry

does not call for deep-sea certificates, however.

The idea is for the deck and engineer cadets to be trained in the same complex, but provision of requisite machinery would prove costly, and in any case the marine engineers follow courses parallel in some grades to mechanical engineer students at the technikons, and it would not be practical for the non-marine students to train with their sea-going compatriots in a nautical college.

Prospects still poor

Long term farming prospects were poor in almost all the Border districts last month, the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply in Dohne said in their June report.

Short term prospects were, however, good in the East London, Komga and King William's Town districts and fair in the other Border districts.

The East London, Komga and King William's Town districts had between 24 mm and 29 mm of rain.

Water provisions were good and fodder reserves should last until August. Stock and cash crops in the area were in good condition

The Aliwal North, Lady Grey and Jamestown districts had between 25,2 mm and 31,5 mm of rain. Water provisions and grazing were fairly poor but stock were in good condition and mealie crops were good. Rain was urgently required.

The Barkly East district had 17,5 mm of rain and distribution was good. Water

provisions were fair for stock but poor for irrigation. Large and small stock were in fair and good conditions, respectively.

Elliot, Ugie and Maclear districts' provisions were fair to poor. Large stock were in fair condition and small stock in good condition.

In the Wodehouse district a maximum of 26 mm of rain was recorded. Water provisions were fair to poor. Fodder crops had improved with the June rainfall. Cattle and goats were in good

condition and sheep were in fair condition. Lucerne crops were in poor condition

The Queenstown, Tylden, Sterkstroom and Tarkastad districts received between 0,6 mm and 5,5 mm of rain fairly evenly distributed. Water provisions were fair but there was little fresh fodder. Stock was in a fair condition.

The Stutterheim and Cathcart districts had between 2,5 mm and 10,7 mm of rain. Water provisions were good for stock and fair for irrigation.

The condition of stock was good. Most cash crops were good with still sufficient irrigation water available but dryland oats crops were under pressure due to lack of rain.

The Albany and Bathurst districts had between 20 mm and 33,1 mm of rain. Water provisions were good and stock conditions were reported as fair to good. Dryland crops were under stress but irrigated crops were good.

The Adelaide, Bedford and Fort Beaufort districts

**FARMING
ON
FRIDAY**
Edited by
GLYN WILLIAMS

received up to 15 mm of rain. Water provisions were fair to limited and the Kat River dam was 70 per cent full

Large stock were in fair condition but were deteriorating in the suurveld and small stock were in fair to poor condition. Good spring rains were vital.

Adelaide and Fort Beaufort had a good citrus harvest.

Borehole drillers voice grief

MICK COLLINS

CRITICAL aspects of the water shortage were highlighted yesterday at a meeting of the Borehole Water Association (WBA) in Johannesburg.

Executive director Mike Piché said the R240m a year ground-water industry was being ravaged by the activities of under-qualified operators who last year cost the farming sector R48m.

"SA has a population of 1.2-million boreholes drilled over the past 20 years. Of these, about 20% collapse or silt up in the first year due to negligence or ignorance on the part of the drillers."

The main problems were the lack of formal training for drillers, qualifications for grading operators, statistics on the number of holes drilled or on water formations and licences or registration.

"This means that anyone can buy a drill-rig and become a driller at any time."

SUN TIMES

392N

20/7/86

Farm prices slump as more quit land

DROUGHT, increasing production costs and political instability continue to harm farm prices.

Prices realised in the Eastern Cape — the worst-hit area — are down by 30% on market valuation.

Even the Western Cape, where investors from the Transvaal, South West Africa, Natal and Zimbabwe bought wine farms at inflated prices three years ago, is feeling the pinch. Bidders want value for money and not merely a "piece of history".

Prestige

But the number of farms for sale in the Western Cape appear to have levelled off. Michael James Organisation, an auctioneer, says the demand-supply position is more or less in equilibrium. A few prestige farms are available.

Wine farms are still available but market sources say prices have plunged since 1983 when properties around Stellenbosch and Paarl fetched R20 000 or more a hectare.

By Udo Rypstra

Demand, although still considered healthy, has fallen. Potential buyers from South West Africa and Zimbabwe are looking at opportunities in their own countries again.

The downturn is especially worrying in the Eastern Cape where more farms are on sale than there are buyers. The Eastern Cape is also in the grip of a housing slump. In Port Elizabeth, more than 1 000 houses are empty.

One auctioneer said a farm valued "realistically" at R450 000 went for R310 000 because of political considerations. The farmer was bankrupt because he could not meet rising production costs.

Agents say it is difficult to quantify the drop in prices because every farm is a spe-

cial case. However, it is known that farmers in the Western Transvaal mealie belt, some of whom are technically insolvent, have slashed asking prices by as much as 50% because of a shortage of buyers.

The picture is similar in the Free State, especially in the Bloemfontein area. Drought is the major reason for farmers quitting the land.

Offshoot

A spokesman for Roep (Restore Our Endangered Platteland) Properties says that merely an increase in the price of essential farming aids such as pesticides could put an enterprise under.

"Farming is now considered an old man's business. When they look at estate duty and production costs, young people are not interested in

farming. Something will have to be done by the authorities, otherwise the big companies will take over the farms."

Roep Properties, which is a commercial offshoot of the non-profit-making organisation of the same name, has 80 farms valued more than R30-million listed for sale. They range from a 1,364ha farm in the Free State (asking price R1,05-million) to smallholdings for R45 000. Most are in a large region around Steytlerville, Eastern Cape, from which ROEP operates. But the list is growing with farms for sale in other regions.

Roep's campaign to persuade people to live on the platteland is meeting with success and about 65 families a year are being placed in towns like Riviersonderend and Bredasdorp.

Sharp rise in PE prices for lamb

2/17/86
EVE Post

By BARBARA ORPEN

THE price of lamb has increased by as much as 50% in Port Elizabeth over the past two months.

A prized piece of fillet steak is selling for much the same price as lamb chops at some stores.

Butchers spoken to today said lambing season and the accumulative effect of the severe Eastern Cape drought over the past few years had caused a shortage of mutton, resulting in the price rises.

Tomorrow there will be no mutton available at the abattoir as not enough sheep have come in for slaughter.

Mutton prices have risen from R4 to R6 a kilogram in the past two months, with the price of lamb varying between R7 and R11 a kilogram.

A butcher said this meant that some chops were selling for R1 each.

Mr A Kolesky, a PE butcher, said: "We generally experience a shortage of lamb at this time of the year, but the situation is far worse this time because the drought has aggravated conditions."

"The veld-carrying capacity has been reduced and farmers are struggling to buy fodder."

Mr L Henen, who has worked as a butcher in PE for 26 years, said this was the highest price rise he had experienced in the city.

He added that butchers were expecting the shortage to continue well into September, when the lambing season would come to an end.

Mr J Kolesky, another butcher, said customers were definitely cutting down on the buying of mutton.

"They are going for cheaper cuts of beef and also for poultry and fish," he said.

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EVE Post

2/7/86 3:00

Drought shrinks SA's woolclip

BLOEMFONTEIN — Drought conditions had become worse in large parts of the wool-producing areas, which was one of the main reasons for a further reduction in the size of the South African woolclip.

The president of the National Wool Growers' Association of South Africa, Mr H.F. Prinsloo, said this in his presidential address to the association's 57th annual congress here yesterday.

Compared with 1982/83, sheared wool production had dropped by 14,6 million kg to 92,7 million kg this year.

At the average wool prices obtained in the three years, this meant that wool farmers had lost R120 m in income as a result of the drought. This did not include the millions of rands spent on fodder.

Mr Prinsloo welcomed the announcement of the National Grazing Strategy as a measure to improve and preserve the condition of the land, but questioned whether the strategy could be applied effectively without normal rainfall.

Referring to the estimate that farmers' accumulated agricultural debt was already R11,2 billion (11 thousand million) in 1985 and could reach R12 billion this year, Mr Prinsloo said that unless special assistance could be given many farmers would go bankrupt.

He asked if the country could afford farmers "going under". Drastic steps would have to be taken to keep as many farmers as possible on the land because a strong and conservative farming community was important for the survival of the country.

In comparison with other industries, the wool industry was comparatively good. This could be ascribed mainly to the favourable export earnings as a result of the weak exchange rate of the rand against other currencies. — Sapa

Sasa passes resolution against apartheid

Body to promote changes for a more equitable SA

DURBAN — The South African Sugar Association (Sasa) has passed a resolution expressing its opposition to apartheid and is to draw up an affirmative action programme to be carried out in the near future, Sasa's chairman said yesterday.

Dr Kees van der Pol, speaking at the association's annual meeting in Durban, said the anti-apartheid resolution should be regarded as the industry's declaration of intent to do what it could to promote changes which would create an equitable South African society.

"Traditionally Sasa has kept a low profile on political issues but we can no longer remain silent, even though our members represent the entire political spectrum," he said.

While not taking sides for or against the government, Dr Van der Pol said the association "must take sides on such major issues as the abolition of apartheid, the sharing of power on an equitable basis among all sectors of our population and in the restoration of law and order in our society."

Dr Van der Pol said although Sasa, which represents 25 000 growers, 15 mills and a central refinery — employing more than 154 000 people throughout the KwaZulu/Natal region — had carried out its social responsibilities and had made considerable progress towards a more equitable society, much remained to be done.

"We must not only aim to alleviate the effects of apartheid, but must also work toward the abolition of apart-

heid by setting an example and providing leadership within our sphere of influence.

"We must openly support and encourage the government to proceed in haste with its declared goal to abolish apartheid."

Dr Van der Pol said violence created violence and everyone would be losers. "The abolition of apartheid is not an end in itself to be achieved at any price — it is the means to bring about a just, peaceful and prosperous society in which we can all share."

"I also hope and trust that our overseas customers and friends of South Africa in general will accept our resolution as an expression of solidarity with their objectives to promote change in our country and not as an empty response to the threat of sanctions."

Dr Van der Pol said if economic sanctions were imposed, the many forces working for peaceful change within South Africa would find themselves on the opposite side of those seeking change through sanctions.

"There is another way to promote change, and I refer to the Natal/KwaZulu indaba in which the South African Sugar Association is playing an active role seeking to promote power sharing in Natal.

"It is my honest belief that we can find a workable structure which will enable all the inhabitants of this part of South Africa to work together towards the creation of a just and peaceful society, and which could be an example to the rest of our country." — Sasa

Aviation industry welcomes tax relief

Transport Reporter

Tax relief granted to owners of business aircraft and agricultural operators in terms of the Income Tax and Sales Tax Amendments Act has been welcomed by the aviation industry.

Mr Cor Beek, executive director of the Commercial Aviation Association (CAA), said the concessions followed years of pressure by organised aviation.

Aviation fuel, aviation kerosene and illuminating paraffin used by aircraft carrying out aerial operations concerned with farming or forestry have been exempted from GST. Previously the GST exemption applied only to fuels used in surface equipment.

The concession means an annual saving of about R375 000 and should reduce the cost of aerial seeding and spraying to the farming community.

The second concession concerns the capital allowances aircraft owners can claim when they lease their aircraft.

Previously, capital allowances were limited to the amount received as rent.

This restriction had severely affected aircraft sales and the economic operation of aircraft owned by corporations, said Mr Beek.

Ban on certain fruit and wool pesticides

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dr A I van Niekerk, has banned certain deciduous fruit and wool pesticides.

He said in a statement in Pretoria it had become evident that remedies containing chlorobenzilate and stock remedies containing camphechlor and gamma-bhc (lindane) could affect human health.

Their use had been placed under strict control or prohibited in most developed countries.

"Not only was this ban promulgated due to possible health hazards, but also in order to protect our country's deciduous fruit exports," he said.

Although the Republic is not the only wool exporting country where such dips are in use, it has at this early stage been decided to place a ban on the acquisition, disposal or sale of sheep dips containing the said chemical substances.

However, in order to give wool producers the opportunity to dispose of existing stocks still in their possession, the ban on the use of such dips will only come into effect on January 1, 1988. Sapa.

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Swartberg farm goes for nearly R2 500 000

By CHRIS STEYN

A BISHOPSCOURT man yesterday paid nearly R2½-million for a Caledon farm which 17 years ago sold for R153 000.

About 100 people gathered on the lawns of the farm Grootvlei, on the slopes of the Swartberg mountains, at 2pm.

It was clear from the start that there were only two serious bidders, and after the formalities were done with, it took just minutes to auction off the farm.

As the new owner, who did not want to be named, sat awaiting confirmation of the sale in the farm's office block, he declared: "I want no publicity."

Details of his offer had

been telexed to the farm's owners, Mr and Mrs David Hartley in Malawi.

The new owner said the 1126-hectare farm was being acquired by the Marais Family Investment Trust (Pty) Ltd. It cost him R2 450 000, excluding a R150 000 commission for the auctioneers who said: "We got a good price." They said earlier that the farm was worth at least R3-million.

In addition to the homestead, the "bargain" included four houses for managerial staff, 13 cottages, a registered airstrip, a hangar, a school, a swimming pool, a golf green, a pine plantation and an onion

processing and packaging plant.

Hundreds of hectares of land on the farm, set within the core of the Cape Wheat Triangle, have been used for grain crops and vegetables.

Among the people who attended the auction was one of the original owners of the farm, Mr D P van Brakel of Hermanus. He told the Cape Times that he bought Grootvlei for £20 000 34 years ago. Seventeen years later, he sold it for R153 000.

"There is still a lot of my handiwork here," he said wistfully as the auctioneer's hammer fell for the first, the second and the last time.

● Picture, page 3

centre, were in South Africa this week. With them is Pi

Flattened: The shacks on white doorsteps

WHILE Eugene Terre'Blanche, leader of the far-rightwing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, was cheered by a capacity crowd in the Uitenhage town hall last week, bulldozers were demolishing the shanty town of Kabah which borders on the white suburb of Levyvale.

By this week an estimated 400 shacks had been demolished by the Kwanobuhle Town Council or dismantled by residents.

The demolition is a victory for conservative Levyvale and Vanes Estate whites who, fearing a backlash after police shot dead 20 funeral-goers in the Langa-Kabah area in March last year, petitioned Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange to move the people of Kabah to the township of Kwanobuhle, several kilometres away.

The forced removal flies in the face of the Kwanobuhle Town Council's undertaking not to demolish the shacks pending the outcome of an urgent application brought by 426 Kabah families contesting removal. Judgment is expected only next Tuesday.

It is all the more unexpected because shortly before the State of Emergency was declared on June 12, business leaders met the committee co-ordinating resistance to Kabah's removal and assured them the government had agreed not to go ahead with the removal, first threatened several decades ago.

According to Barry Erasmus, a former town clerk of Uitenhage's white municipality who was appointed administrator of Kwanobuhle following the resignation and murder

of the black councillors, the residents are being moved voluntarily. "My men have strict instructions not to destroy occupied shacks," he said.

Residents, however, say their shacks are being demolished if they refuse to dismantle them themselves. "If all the people were moving voluntarily there would be no need for the bulldozers," one resident remarked.

Families are being housed in tents in Kwanobuhle, but officials have told residents the tents will be withdrawn after the weekend, leaving people little option but to erect make-shift shelters.

Much of Kabah's razing occurs at night, under powerful spotlights, according to residents. Many are staying away from work to guard their homes, some sleep outside so they can see officials approaching.

Just over the hill, whites in the Vanes Estate-Levyvale area are also on the alert. They have formed armed street guards because, residents complain, burglaries have increased dramatically, making houses on the street facing Kabah uninsurable.

A Uitenhage civic leader who asked not to be named said the Ratepayers' Association had formed the guards, but P W Kapp, who represents the affected wards, refused to comment.

Terre'blanche was not shy to give the armed commandos his blessing, albeit obliquely. He congratulated the people of Uitenhage for organising themselves into groups to help each other in times of trouble.

By JO-ANN BEKKER and
DUNCAN McROBBIE in
Uitenhage

Dustbowl danger

Agricultural legislation had been disappointingly sparse during the first session of Parliament this year, Mr E.K. Moorcroft, PFP MP for Albany, said in the first of his series of report back meetings to farmers in the constituency.

He said there was only one minor bill, the Agricultural Pests Amendment Bill, which had bearing chiefly on farmers in the Western Cape, where there were problems in the vineyards caused by the smuggling in of rootstock with a virus. The Act had to be amended.

There had been two important statements by the Minister of Agriculture and Water Affairs, Mr Greyling Wentzel.

The first was that there would be continued drought aid to farmers. While this was aimed mainly at farmers in the summer cropping areas it was heartening to know the government was prepared to continue aid until the rains came.

The second concerned stabilisation in the

Northern Transvaal in efforts to keep people on farms. This involved subsidies on security fencing and other measures.

Mr Moorcroft said the drought had been a hammer blow. Then there was the rapidly deteriorating input-output ratio. While input costs were up by 36 per cent, producer prices remained static.

In ten years there had been a 25 per cent increase in gross annual income but costs had risen by 43 per cent. The agricultural debt burden had risen in 10 years from R2 billion to R12 billion. On average the individual farmer was in debt to the figure of R190 000, costing the farmer R38 000 a year to service the debt.

Fortunately the Eastern Cape was better off than most.

The destruction of natural resources was a matter of keen concern, particularly of coastal bushveld, Mr Moorcroft said. The Minister had reacted sympathetically and had promised to investigate.

Mr Moorcroft said he had driven through Kinkelbos during a gale when it became a dustbowl. They had to put their lights on, and travel at 50 km. He hoped there would be action soon.

The South African Agricultural Union had presented a document in which they appealed for support from all parties on a non-political basis, Mr Moorcroft said.

It contained an appeal for appointing a commission of inquiry into

inflation which, if it went on, would mean the government continuing with heavy subsidisation or letting farmers go to the wall.

On the Orange River development project, Mr Moorcroft said the development of the lower Fish River between Carlisle Bridge and Ecca Pass was a tremendous scheme but he warned that water would not be cheap.

Solar power official bc

The power supply problems of farmers in the north-western Transvaal border area, which was proclaimed a preferential development area in 1982, are receiving special attention.

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs is currently doing its part in evaluating a solar-power system to the north-west of Thabazimbi as an alternative for Eskom power.

Mr G. Stassen, deputy director, energy planning of the department, who has been closely connected with the project, said it was a golden opportunity to research and evaluate power supply which was a real problem in the area. The solar-power system installed on Mr J.J. Fourie's farm Canterbury largely met domestic electricity requirements, he added.

The system supplied enough power for Mr and Mrs Fourie's lights, radio, washing machine, iron, hair-drier, vacuum cleaner and a combined refrigerator/freezer.

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MP warns of crisis

Dispatch Reporter
GRAHAMSTOWN — The protection of strategic industries was contributing just as much to the financial crisis facing South African farmers as inflation was, the Progressive Federal Party MP for Albany, Mr E. K. Moorcroft, said at the annual meeting of the Koonap Farmers' Association at the weekend.

While industries such as the Atlantis diesel plant and fertiliser firms were receiving protection, farmers could not compete on the international market for inputs.

"The farmers are carrying the can. Several high input costs are

a direct result of protecting local industries. You can't buy cheap fertiliser, for instance, from Brazil, nor cheap tractors from Rumania," Mr Moorcroft said.

"In 10 years, the average annual increase in gross agricultural income from maize, beef and so on had been 25 per cent. But agricultural costs had risen by 43 per cent.

"The farmer is on the horns of a dilemma. He has a vested interest in inflation because of the high land prices, but if land prices returned to market-related levels, his security would be destroyed," Mr Moor-

croft said.

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) had already approached the government with a formal request to try and contain rising costs and inflation, which was now running at 18,2 per cent.

"The SAAU thinks that unless the government moves quickly and effectively we will be in deep trouble," he said.

Unless the government tackled inflation there would be a catastrophe.

"I have no difficulty supporting this appeal. Inflation is strangling us. The state has responded positively. Let's



MR MOORCROFT

see what the ministries of agriculture and finance can do. If they don't act, we shall be in serious trouble."



SA farmers need help — SAAU chief

D.D.
30/07/86
3

PRETORIA — South African farmers are in desperate financial straits and urgently require government assistance, the president of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), Mr Kobus Jooste, said yesterday.

If state aid were not forthcoming in one form or another, South Africa could face "a decade of hunger".

Mr Jooste, addressing a rally of Central Transvaal farmers, disclosed, however, that "a plan to save South African farmers" had been drawn up and would shortly be put into operation.

The former State President, Mr B. J. Vorster, and the Economic Advice Council had "favourably" received representations from the SAAU, Mr Jooste said.

"We find ourselves in a position where we may have to forfeit a measure of autonomy by accepting government help.

"But there is no other way out" Mr Jooste said.

Warning that not even abundant rains would substantially reduce the huge debt load currently being borne by South African farmers, Mr Jooste said it was vital farmers did not lose faith in themselves as managers and food producers.

"Widespread drought is not our only problem. We are facing serious threats from sanctions and boycotts.

"The agricultural sector is far more vulnerable to punitive political action than are other sectors.

"There are huge surpluses of agricultural products all over the world, especially in our traditional export markets in Europe.

"Nobody is going to go hungry if South African products are no longer available overseas," Mr Jooste said. — Sapa

Farmers urgently need State aid, says Jooste

PRETORIA—Farmers are in desperate financial straits and urgently require Government assistance, the president of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), Mr Kobus Jooste, said yesterday.

If State aid was not forthcoming in one form or another, South Africa could face 'a decade of hunger'.

Mr Jooste, addressing a rally of Central Transvaal farmers at Silverton, disclosed, however, that 'a plan to save South African farmers' had been drawn up and would shortly be put into operation.

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'But there is no other way out,' Mr Jooste said.

Sanctions

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'There are huge surpluses of agricultural products all over the world, especially in our traditional export markets in Europe.

'Nobody is going to go hungry if South African products are no longer available overseas.' — (Sapa)

20/7/86 BUDDAY
Fabric rebate questioned

Delays pose big problem

HAMISH McINDOE

SHARPLY extended delivery times for key fabrics to clothing manufacturers are posing serious problems to the industry.

This is despite recent trade moves to offset shrinking import volumes.

National Clothing Federation (NCF) president Mike Getz said the situation had deteriorated sharply.

"Many orders for certain fabrics — such as shirts and bottom-weights — are unlikely to be delivered for up to eight months," he said.

"Critically bad" was how the MD for Edgars subsidiary UPC Retail Services, Frank Wells, described delays in the delivery of finished garments.

Rebates for the import of so-called wanted fabrics to overcome local shortages were granted in May after the Board of Trade and Industries recommended the emergency import of R20m-worth of duty-free fabrics.

The rebates, however, were gazetted as a temporary relief measure.

On paper, imported fabrics account for about 20% of local demand, but the level of imports fell from R374m in 1984 to R181m last year — in volume a 47% drop to 102-million m² from 195-million m².

The Textile Federation, however, strongly opposes extending the rebate on grounds that local shortages have been caused by "extraneous factors" over which the industry has no control.

Latest figures show the producer price index in the textile industry rose 17% in the four months to April compared with the same period last year.

BUDDAY
20/7/86
\$15.5m
Maputo
farm aid

A \$15.5m project involving the privatisation of Mozambique's cropping land and citrus orchards has been implemented by a new company, Companhia Agro-Industrial Lonrho Mocambique.

Majority owners and sponsors of the project, Lonrho Group UK, is providing a \$3m equity investment. The Mozambican government, occupying a minority position, will transfer several State farms to the venture.

The International Finance Corporation is providing a loan of \$2.5m for the project which aims to develop 6 200ha to alleviate food shortages and increase agricultural production.

The lack of manpower and a shortage of foreign exchange for spares and farm inputs has severely hampered Mozambique's agricultural sector.

● Comment Page 4.

BUDDAY 20/7/86
3 GEN
Farmers plead for State help

SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) president Kobus Jooste said yesterday farmers were in desperate financial straits and urgently required government assistance.

Addressing a rally of Central Transvaal farmers in Pretoria, Jooste said if State aid were not forthcoming in one form or another, SA could face a decade of hunger.

He disclosed, however, that a plan to save SA farmers had been drawn up and would be put into operation shortly.

The Economic Advisory Council had favourably received representations from the SAAU, Jooste said.

"We find ourselves in a position where we may have to forfeit a measure of autonomy by accepting government help. But there is no other way out," Jooste said.

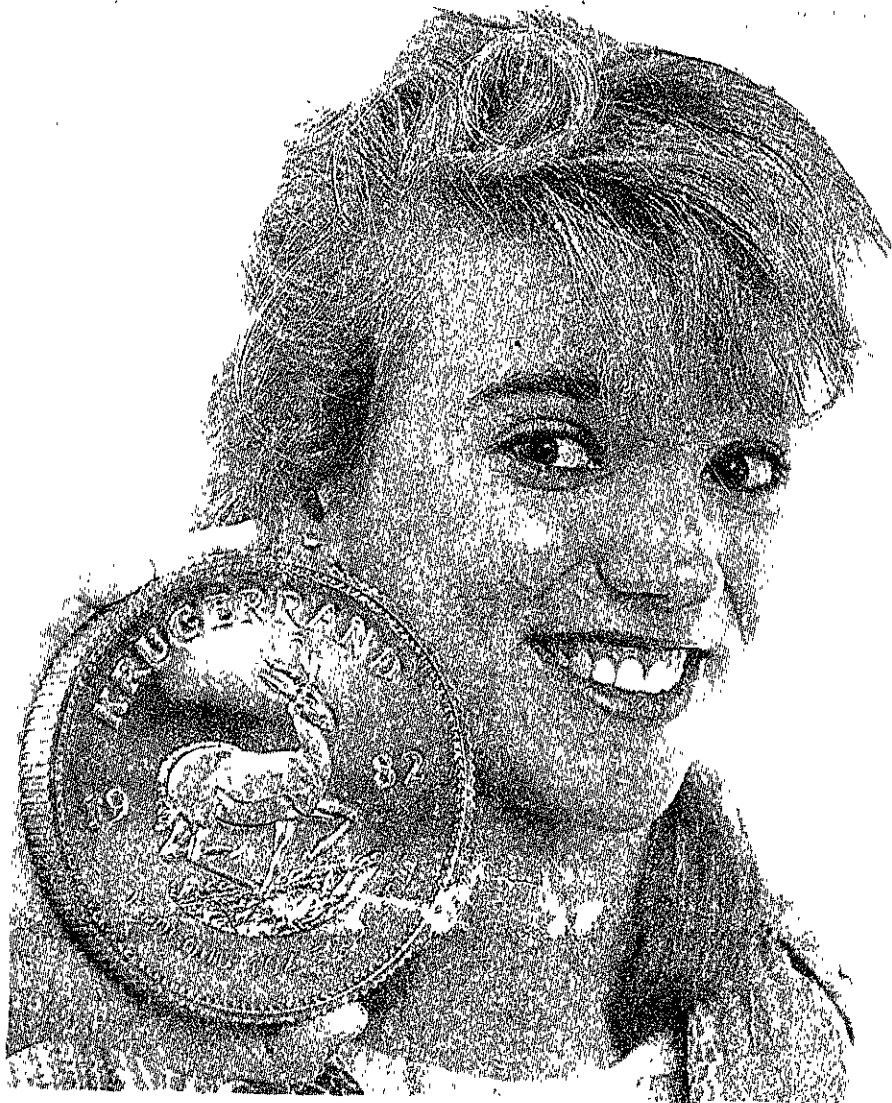
Warning that not even abundant rains would substantially reduce the huge debt load being borne by SA farmers, Jooste said it was vital farmers did not lose faith in themselves as managers and food producers. — Sapa.

LONDON — Australia is opening the door to foreign investment as part of an attempt to bolster the Australian dollar and revitalise the economy.

Australia opens up

Own Correspondent

Australian Treasurer Paul Keating was forced to make the move on Monday after the Australian dollar had crashed to a record low of around US\$0.57 the week before. Immediately after his announcement, the Australian dollar recovered to over US\$0.61.



Nadine Cooper has good reason to feel a little happier today, even if the Krugerrands she is holding are not the genuine article. The price of gold, the main source of South Africa's wealth, has reached its highest level in two years.

Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus

ARGUS 1/8/86

BOOSTED EMPLOYMENT

He said investors who wanted to buy into non-productive properties would be allowed only 50 percent of the purchase by way of the financial rand and would have to use the commercial rand for the other half.

Purchases of non-listed companies and those which boosted employment would be possible through the financial rand.

The currency would not be open to loans and grants to political organisations but there was no hard and fast rule on this, Mr du Plessis said.

The financial rand in recent weeks has fallen to a derisive 20 US cents, half the rate for the commercial rand. When the financial rand was introduced in September last year its use was restricted to purchases of listed securities on the Johannesburg Stock Market.

Financial rand eases for use by foreigners

From TREVOR WALKER
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa's political currency — the financial rand — is to be broadened to allow foreigners to use it to buy property and invest in unlisted companies.

The Treasury informed commercial banks this morning that the new approach would be with immediate effect and that the authorities would in future adopt a more relaxed and lenient attitude when considering the use of the currency by non-residents.

Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis yesterday said the new approach had been approved by the Cabinet earlier this week.

7/18/66 (Sapa)

Scheme to save farmers

PRETORIA. — A special assistance advisory scheme to prevent the sequestration of farmers is being developed by organized agriculture in collaboration with commercial banks, the Land Bank, agricultural co-operatives and the Department of Agriculture. This was announced yesterday by the president of the SA Agricultural Union, Kobus Jooste. He said that compre-

hensive aid measures were insufficient to save a growing number of farmers from sequestration, especially in areas where the drought still continued.

“A series of sequestrations could have negative effects, also for creditors, since the security value of agricultural land and other agricultural assets could fall sharply.” — Sapa.

Reaching out to rural areas

3) THE drought and resulting starvation in rural areas have caused some companies to focus on water use and farming in their corporate social responsibility programmes.

IBM recently donated R7m over five years to the Computing Centre for Water Research at the University of Natal in Maritzburg.

The centre aims to establish a computer-based system to help predict the effects of planning options on the quality and quantity of water supplied to irrigators and urban users.

The centre intends to assess the impact that expansion of irrigated areas and changing land use could have on the flow and quality of receiving rivers. It will also monitor the effects improved distribution systems have on farm management and water allocations have on the flow and quality of water in rivers.

It is putting available information on computer and will improve data transfer among data and software supply organisations, end-users and its own and other researchers.

A feasibility study has begun and the centre should become operational next year.

Standard Bank is also active in rural areas. The group has made several Vonder Rigs available to rural development agencies.

The Vonder Rig is a low-output borehole system developed in Zimbabwe. It uses Third World technology to bring clean, drinkable water to rural areas. Establishing a borehole using the rig is estimated to cost between 75% and 80% less than if conventional systems were used.

The Standard is also financing a fish-farming project being undertaken by the University of the North.

Research is being undertaken into the development of freshwater fish as an alternative source of protein in the rural areas of Lebowa, Gazankulu and Venda. The aim of the project is to provide nutrition and job opportunities which will help develop viable economic bases in these areas.

8/13/81
BUD DUNN

NOT FOR MERCU

Afrikaners, Zulus must set example, says King

③ 9/21

Political Reporter

IN A spectacular ceremony attended by thousands of people yesterday, a co-operation agreement was formally recognised between far Northern Natal farmers and black labourers.

The usually sleepy village of Louwsberg, 70 km northeast of Vryheid, was packed with thousands of Zulus, including traditionally-dressed armed 'impis', who crowded the rugby field on which the ceremony took place.

Several hundred local farmers and their families at the meeting saw the Zulus rise to their feet and shout approval at the arrival of their monarch, King Goodwill Zwelithini, who was accompanied by the South African Deputy Minister of Education and Training, Mr Sam de Beer.

The Ngotshe Co-operation Agreement provides for the setting up of a committee comprising farmers' and labourers' representatives to deal with all social and labour problems.

Mr Tjaart van Rensburg, chairman of the Louwsberg Farming Association, told the crowd that the lab-

ourers would be represented in the agreement by Inkatha.

Relations

He said the intentions of the agreement were to improve and develop community relations and ensure the safety of all people in the district.

Mr van Rensburg said other intentions were to see to healthy labour relations, improve the development of the district, and see to the morale of all people in the district.

'I want to warn that we must not expect Utopia tomorrow.

'The past is gone and we are looking to the future. We won't allow anybody to damage the agreement,' Mr van Rensburg said, to loud applause.

Conquered

King Goodwill said the history of black-white armed confrontation last century produced racial enmity which had to be wiped away by the full inclusion of blacks in the South African State.

He described the agreement as evidence of a spirit of a new South Africanism. 'Apartheid has be-

queathed to many a legacy of bitterness which this new spirit must banish from our land.

'Zulus and Afrikaners have a very special duty. They both need to set an example of black/white unity.'

'There are some who are saying that there will never be real reform. They say that white society must be conquered and smashed before there can be justice and peace in our country.'

'What is happening in this district gives one hope that this forecast of even more terrible things to come is just not true,' King Goodwill said.

Mr de Beer said it was very important that people get to know and respect each others' cultures and this would lead to them enriching each other.

'We must teach our children to live together, to respect each others' cultures and to learn from each other.'

'Just as the children can come together, so can the adults. We cannot afford to live in isolation.'

Between the speeches, various groups, including traditionally dressed Zulus and Afrikaans schoolchildren, sang and danced in front of the dignitaries.

Urgent need for agreement on water scheme

The Star's Africa News Service

It is in the interests of all of Southern Africa, but especially of South Africa, that agreement is reached soon on the proposed Lesotho Highlands Water Project, says a paper published in the latest bulletin of the Africa Institute.

The paper by a staff member, Mr Andre Wilsenach, says that if agreement is not reached soon South Africa will have to consider alternative ways of meeting the urgent water needs of

the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area.

An alternative, he says, would be a costly project involving transporting water to the Vaal River from a new dam on the Orange near Aliwal North.

For Lesotho, however, there is no realistic alternative to the Highlands scheme, so Lesotho should do everything in its power to make the project a reality, he says.

He notes that negotiations between Pretoria and Maseru reached deadlock in 1984 over

South Africa's reluctance to go ahead without adequate guarantees that its security needs would be met.

Hopes were revived by the coup that threw out Chief Leabua Jonathan's government and it was expected that the new military government headed by Major-General Metsing Lekhanya would sign an agreement in March this year.

But negotiations have dragged on, with the problem of an ANC presence in Lesotho. According to informed

sources, says Mr Wilsenach, South Africa wants a formal agreement under which the ANC would be barred entirely from Lesotho.

The expectation is that South Africa will continue to insist on a security agreement, somewhat similar to the Nkomati accord with Mozambique, which hopefully will lead to diplomatic relations with Lesotho at the highest level and the expulsion of the Soviet and other communist embassies from Maseru.

Mr Wilsenach expresses strong doubts, however, that

Pretoria will succeed in getting such an agreement because of the sympathy for the ANC that still exists in official circles in Maseru.

But he points out that the PWV area — which accounts for 40 percent of South Africa's gross national product and is inhabited by 31 percent of its people — will start exhausting its available water resources in the year 2000.

Immediate agreement on the Lesotho Highlands scheme will enable construction to start early next year.

Chokka could 'feed' more

3
16/8/86

TEN TONS of chokka a day worth at least R45 000, are being processed at one of the smaller factories in Port Elizabeth.

At least four factories working independently of companies operating under well-known trade names are active in the Eastern Cape.

The owner of one of these, Mr Don Christy, said this week that the larger companies (who will not disclose figures) each processed about 25 tons — worth about R112 000 — a day. Huge sums of money were being paid out to chokka fishermen, supporting many families.

A closed season, which the Government wanted to enforce, spelt hardship for thousands. "I can give people work, but only because of the chokka out there."

"So many jobless men come to me with sad stories. If at all possible I give them work."

Mr Christy said the chokka industry "could be colossal" if it were run efficiently, and could employ many more people. Mr Christy said many more small factories could be established.

Such an industry could be of great benefit to Port Elizabeth, Mr Christy said.

BUSINESS DAY

80C (45c + 5c tax)

For other prices, see Back Page

80C (71c + 9c tax)

Natal, Western Province, Eastern Province

19/8/80
39EN
39EN

Giant hydro-electric deal likely to be signed today

AGREEMENT between SA and Lesotho on the mammoth Highlands water project looks certain to be signed in Maseru today.

A high-ranking SA delegation, led by the deputy-director general of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Neil van Heerden, will meet with its Lesotho counterpart.

A highly-placed government source told *Business Day* yesterday the meeting was to finalise the draft of the bilateral agreement which will see construction of the R3bn project.

The agreement will end years of protracted cross-border negotiation and

MICK COLLINS

bring relief to the drought-stricken Witwatersrand.

Under the agreement SA will buy water from Lesotho while Lesotho will benefit from water revenues and electricity generated by the scheme.

Lesotho will also benefit from the large number of feeder roads and power lines to be built.

A statement released by the Department of Information yesterday said: "The South African/Lesotho inter-governmental liaison committee will meet at the Lesotho Sun Hotel tomorrow.

The purpose of the meeting is to enable the various inter-governmental sub-committees to report back on their activities.

A spokesman refused to confirm whether an announcement on the scheme would be made but said the meeting was important.

The signing will pave the way for the first part of the project, costing R1,2bn, which includes the building of the largest dam south of the Limpopo and a tunnel through the Maluti Mountains to feed a giant hydro-electric scheme.

Project finances will come in part from the European Development Fund

(R24m), the World Bank (R20m) and the SA government (R230m).

Recent proposed legislation tabled in Parliament will enable SA personnel to work in Lesotho and oversee the scheme.

Water experts say there is no realistic alternative to the scheme.

Negotiations, which have dragged on for the past 30 years, were hampered by the problem of an ANC presence in Lesotho.

Sources close to the project say an agreement has now been reached whereby the ANC will be barred totally from Lesotho.

DD 12/8/86

US wheat deal plan wins friends for SA

Dispatch Correspondent
WASHINGTON — South Africa has won important friends in America's hard-pressed farmbelt — and is wielding a powerful new anti-sanctions weapon — with a tentative offer to buy an annual 500 000 tons of wheat from Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas, starting next year.

This is triple the 156 000 tons of grain bought from US farmers this year, and considerably more than the 301 000 tons South Africa bought worldwide.

The US Agriculture Department said it had been told the purchases of hard red winter wheat could go as high as a million tons a year.

Because no contract has been signed yet, congressmen from the farm states are under notice that if sweeping new sanctions become law they will have to answer to angry constituents.

The Republican Party faces an uphill battle to retain control of the Senate in the November

elections, and its biggest problems are in farm states where its senators are in knife-edge contests with Democratic candidates.

The purchase offer, which was confirmed yesterday by the South African embassy and the Agriculture Department, had a significant behind-the-scenes impact on last week's Senate sanctions debate and could prevent an embargo on agricultural products being enacted.

Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles persuaded his colleagues to accept an amendment that would exempt export credits for farm products from the proposed ban on loans to the South African Government and its parastatals.

Senator Nickles's move was hotly contested by non-farm state Democrats, and passed by just one vote.

Knowledge of the projected grain purchase also helped kill a measure offered by Senator Christopher Dood that would have banned "the import of goods marketed or exported by

South African parastatals".

Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, the majority leader, protested that South Africa would counterattack by boycotting US farmers.

The agriculture counsellor at the South African Embassy, Mr Johannes Carstens, who has been lobbying energetically with the powerful US Wheat Growers' Association, said his government had been "aware" of the political considerations when it made the grain purchase offer.

SA agriculture at crossroads: Wentzel

Bus. Day 20/8/86 (3) 94N

AGRICULTURE in SA had reached a crossroads, Agriculture, Economics and Water Supply Minister Greyling Wentzel said in Bloemfontein yesterday.

Opening the annual congress of the Free State Agricultural Union, he said that although the Marketing Act and the various marketing schemes had played an important role in stabilising agriculture, the situation would have to change.

He stressed the Act was one of the cornerstones of the industry and would always be the *magna carta* of agricultural marketing. But in some cases, he said, marketing schemes had lost touch with reality.

Producers had failed to note changes in the marketplace. This had not only caused serious marketing problems, but also financial problems for producers.

Wentzel emphasised the co-operatives were best-equipped to advise farmers on marketing prospects. They should work closely with the control boards, he said.

He added that it could be asked whether the single-channel marketing, fixed-price

GERALD REILLY

system should continue for mealies and wheat.

This was one of the reasons why he had asked the National Marketing Council to investigate all control schemes, except for the meat scheme.

Although the NMC had not completed its investigations into all schemes, it was clear to him fundamental changes would have to be made to some of them.

Wentzel said the limits some schemes placed on the entry of private sector interests exposed the system of control boards to strong criticism.

He said he believed the Meat Board should consider whether the limits on entry into the wholesale and retail distribution of meat could be justified.

Excessive hire purchases were a decisive factor in at least 90% of cases where farmers experienced cash flow problems, union president J M J van Vuuren said in his annual address to the congress, reports Sapa.

Interest that was capitalised monthly meant that the debt grew at an impossible tempo, he said.

CONFIDENTIAL

MAJOR Western countries are ready to help fund the R3bn Lesotho Highlands water scheme.

The World Bank is also willing to chip into the long-term — and long-talked-of project — that will radically change SA's sparse water supplies.

Initial capital outlay for the giant scheme will be covered by the Lesotho Highland Development Authority (LHDA).

News of funding of the project was leaked yesterday to *Business Day*.

The LHDA, a Lesotho State body has been entrusted with building at least three dams and the hydro-electric schemes.

The World Bank has also shown its

R3bn water fund on tap

21/8/86
392N
BUSDAY

ALAN SENDZUL

willingness to be the lead agency for Lesotho in assembling the financial package. It can, however, do so formally only once the project has been officially signed.

On the SA side, a public body, Trans Caledonian Tunnel Authorities (TCTA),

● To Page 2 →

West to help water scheme

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will be established to fund construction of the tunnel into SA.

If TCTA's gets the go-ahead it will come to the SA capital market for an easily attainable R200m next year, says a merchant banker. Further issues are envisaged because the first phase of development requires a relatively modest outlay.

In Lesotho, the scheme's backers consist of a consortium of European development aid agencies and it is hoped that a part of the cost will be recouped through water sales to SA.

Negotiations, which have stretched over 30 years, were reportedly hindered by the problem of an ANC presence in Lesotho.

Sources close to the project say an agreement has now been reached whereby the ANC will be barred from Lesotho.

"This will hopefully lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations at the highest level and the expulsion of com-

← ● From Page 1
munist diplomats from Maseru," one source said.

Foreign parties willing to lend assistance include German, British and US agencies committed to aid for underdeveloped countries.

The first part of the scheme — running to 1995 — aims to provide water largely to the drought-hit PWV area at a projected cost above R1bn. This figure does not include the cost of raising the funds, which is highly sensitive to interest rate movements. Cost estimates also vary depending on the inflation and interest rates which are chosen for budgeting over the project's life of 50 years.

At this stage it appears that the SA government will not foot the bill for the scheme. The Department of Water affairs has, subject to parliamentary approval, the option of taxing beneficiaries in the PWV area with a tariff or a more broadly-based levy.

Karoo has advanced 70km more

GERALD REILLY

PROGRESSIVELY deteriorating SA fields were highlighted by Agriculture and Water Supplies Minister Sarel Hayward yesterday.

Speaking at a grazing strategy information day at Dohne, Eastern Cape, Hayward said about 60% of the country's "veld" was in poor condition, 30% in fair condition and 10% in good condition.

Authorities had claimed climate changes alone were not responsible for despoiling vegetation. Overstocking and mismanagement were the main causes of deterioration. If this continued, he said, little grassland would remain by the year 2050.

Satellite pictures had shown the Karoo had penetrated a further 70km north-east in the past 20 years.

Hayward said about 3-million hectares of land had been rendered useless for stock farming because of invasion by woody species.

About 2-million hectares in the north-western Karoo had been devastated beyond reclamation under normal management systems.

Devastation had also taken place in the Eastern Transvaal and Natal.

ment (HRD) systems.

They are aimed at optimising people-management process.

These systems, expected to attract considerable interest to professional resources managers, cover a spectrum of HRD activities, from analysis and descriptions, inventory of skills, succession planning, individual and group training.

There are four major systems:

- HR-1, a human resource analysis;
- HR-focus, a management system;
- Synchrony, a career development needs assessment system; and
- Executive Track, for executive succession planning.

All run on microcomputers.

According to Rob Davis, Davis's training and education manager, development of a nation's human resources to their potential is perhaps the major issue facing human resource

"It is also, without doubt,

Cottoning on to a price

MICK COLLINS

COTTON fibre producers yesterday came to an agreement with the textile industry in terms of which the cotton lint price for 1987/88 was fixed at 280c/kg for the basic grade.

Cotton Board chairman Gert Schoonbee said although that meant a reduction of 5%, producers were grateful a price could be agreed upon in the light of the serious surplus of cotton lint on world markets.

He said: "We guaranteed farmers the price payable to them from ginners would not be lower than the guaranteed minimum advance payment of 85.5c/kg for best grade applicable this season.

"This has been made possible through price support from the stabilisation fund."

22/8/86 F.W.N.M.
FARM DEBT 3 GEN

A bitter harvest

There seems to be no end to SA's farm debt saga. New figures disclosed to the *FM* by the Land Bank (LB) point to a total agricultural debt — including amounts owed by co-ops and control boards — of more than R14 billion.

This figure is some R2,5 billion higher than the official R11,5 billion figure given as the total farming debt at the end of last year (*Business* August 15).

The official year-end total includes farmers' debts to commercial banks (R3,5 billion), the LB (R2,34 billion), agricultural co-ops (R2,74 billion), other financial institutions (about R1 billion) and smaller creditors (R1,8 billion).

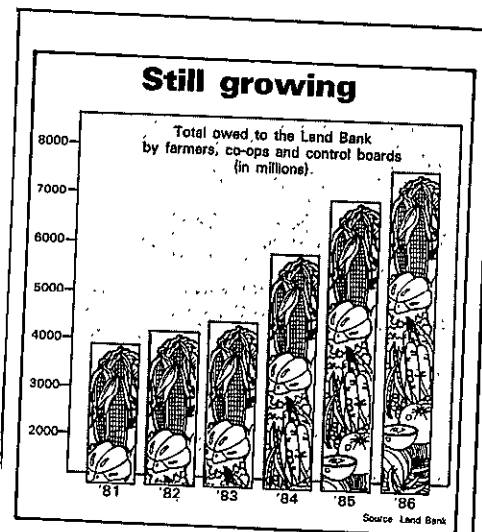
The LB, however, now reveals that it was owed a total of R7,62 billion at July 31 this year. This includes R2,475 billion owed by farmers and another R5,146 billion owed by co-ops and control boards.

Even if farm loans from commercial banks and other financial institutions and creditors have not increased since the year end, this brings total agricultural debt to a staggering R13,9 billion.

Some agricultural co-ops also borrowed substantial sums at favourable rates on international money markets before the rand's collapse last year. Outstanding amounts, with the rand's low value possibly pushing totals higher than the original borrowings, add to the debt mountain.

Agriculture's central role in the economy means a farm debt collapse would have a dramatic impact on the banking system, farm prices and rural economies. But every effort is being made to ensure that weaker farmers' exit from the industry will be "orderly."

The LB believes sufficient funds are available to carry the aggregate burden of farmers' negative cash-flow — at least until



good rains return and farmers can start to repay debts.

The bank says its budgeted short-term requirement for the 1986-1987 financial year is R5,23 billion, compared with R4,85 billion last year, R3,89 billion in 1984-1985 and R3,75 billion in 1983-1984. This will come from commercial banks and the local money market.

"We're not experiencing any difficulty in obtaining funds for 1986-1987 requirements," a senior LB source tells the *FM*.

The Land Bank will use the funds for crop finance — via the co-ops — and for further debt consolidation. Since 1982, about R3,9 billion has been consolidated in terms of the six-year scheme, while the ten-year scheme and further assistance under the six-year scheme comes into operation on September 1.

But things are still bad down on the farm.

Speculation in some organised farm circles is that 15 000 of SA's 60 000 farmers are facing difficulty over debt repayment.

"It'll obviously take years to restructure agriculture," predicts a Pretoria agricultural source, "and, in the meantime, everything possible must be done to prevent the collapse of farmers who could survive with better rains."

that pricing a crop out of a market can lead to the gradual decline and possible collapse of a once-powerful industry. But, say some, this message has not yet penetrated deeply enough.

"Their intransigence has lost the maize industry a potential market of 750 000 t-1 Mt in the feedlot industry alone," says an industry source. "While the MB is exporting some 2 Mt of surplus yellow maize at a net return of about R100/t, the feedlot industry would be prepared to pay R200/t — but the MB refuses to make any exception to their rules."

His views are echoed by another feedlot representative. "We are now looking at importing around 50 000 t of Australian feed-wheat at R200/t because we have to pay the MB R260/t for yellow maize. Surely the board could devise a system of feed maize quotas at prices below the current consumer price and keep our custom?" ■

22/8/86 F. L. M. M. L.
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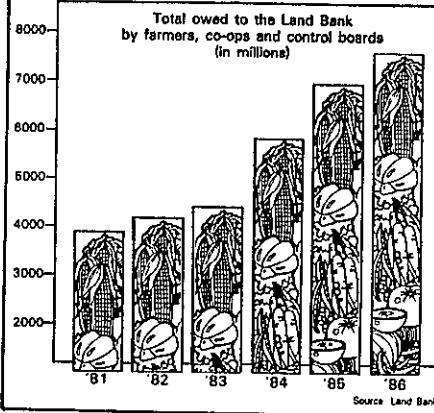
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Still growing



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TENDERS

No contest, please

A contract for the installation of heating ventilation and airconditioning worth R2,15m at the Rand Water Board (RWB)'s new headquarters, has been awarded to CRC Engineering — which is not one of the largest five airconditioning contractors in the Transvaal — without going out to tender.

In a particularly competitive market, rival companies believe that they could have done the job for less and that they should, at least, have been allowed to bid.

Against traditional market practice, leading airconditioning companies, including two of the sector's five heavyweights, Bronsair and Coldair, have decided to join forces to convene a meeting of their trade association,



PRETORIA
AGRICULTURE
& CONTROL BOARDS
A Business Day Survey

Edited by MELANIE SERGEANT

Booming citrus industry gears up for sanctions

ARNOLD VAN HUYSSTEEN
enough fruit for international demand," says Venter.

The CE, as a marketing body, is not a control or marketing board, but a co-operative, although it functions in terms of the citrus scheme of the Marketing Act. Control is not part of the industry's vocabulary — probably one of the reasons for its success.

Another point is that the CE exports citrus to Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Mozambique. The reason for this is that one effective marketing body can negotiate the most economical freight rates for the combined exports of the four countries.

The CE will boast the most modern port handling facilities in the world after this year's completion of its R23m modernisation campaign at the Maputo (R7m), Port Elizabeth (R3.5m) and Durban (R16.3m) harbours.

These investments have already saved the industry between R6m and R7m over the past year.

But won't all these investments and the success of the fruit industry be wasted with sanctions? Although Venter is non-committal, he admits there are worries. In the meantime, the CE is concentrating on increasing earnings on the local market.

With 60% of the crop of oranges, grapefruit and lemons exported, the SA market takes the balance, providing about 10% of total industry income. "SA consumers enjoy some of the cheapest — and best — citrus fruit," says Venter.

The booming citrus industry, which earned a record R490m on lucrative exports in 1985 — 40% above 1984 earnings of R350m — is understandably worried about sanctions threats.

The Citrus Exchange's (CE) contingency planning is far advanced. The interests of the 3 000-odd citrus growers, as well as those of the 230 000 dependants of the 52 000 workers employed by the industry, are cared for by one of SA's wildest and most market-orientated agricultural bodies.

CE assistant GM Arend Venter says "Although 90% of the industry's income is derived from exports, decades of experience in world markets taught us not to put all our eggs in one basket.

"Over the past 20 years we have expanded our export markets to 33 countries and although we are worried about increasing sanctions pressures, our broad marketing base already offers us some protection."

The weak rand has helped raise export earnings but SA citrus is world-renowned for sweetness and good quality. With this in mind, there should always be markets for SA fruit, albeit at increased cost and reduced profits.

Venter says the industry has not yet suffered undue harm from sanctions or boycotts, although Japan has effectively banned imports by withdrawing its health inspectors from SA. Harbours Bans and Boycotts by British shops and Enropeyan Community (EC) countries don't help either, "but we still find we don't have

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SA control boards claim they provide an essential service

AGRICULTURAL control boards, amid the outcry over their high cost and doubts about their efficiency, have multiplied over the years and claim they are rendering a necessary service, without which there would be a marketing chaos in SA.

The system and generally to the work of the Marketing Act in terms of which they were established. On consolidation of the boards, he says the former milk and dairy boards have been combined, and more recently the administrations of the potato, grain sorghum and dried bean boards have been consolidated. However, the marketing functions of the boards have to remain separate.

Swart says control over the boards' spending is adequate. Ministerial approval is essential for spending of large amounts.

Control over the boards is also exercised by the Auditor-General and the reports of all boards are tabled in Parliament.

"We believe the boards do a good and necessary job in the producers' interests under extremely difficult circumstances," he says.

Free market
Housewives League president Lyn Morris says the boards were originally established to ensure orderly marketing.

However, many of them have moved away from this aim and their activities interfere with the free market system.

In the process of empire building, some have become top-heavy and their handling of surpluses is often disastrous.

"Farmers are paying hefty levies to support the boards financially and are poorer because of this, and the consumer is paying more for many key products."

Morris says although producer representatives dominate the boards, individual farmers seem to have little influence on their operations.

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However, many of them have moved away from this aim and their activities interfere with the free market system.

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• **GERTSEMA**
HOW does one measure the influence of culture on a city?

Does the sky become a more artistic shade of blue? Do the people dance and sing instead of walk sedately down the streets?

There could be no better gauge than Pretoria.

Since the Performing Arts Council of the Transvaal (PACT) made its home there 23 years ago, a good many households that had tasted no greater thrill than throwing popcorn across the local bioscope now have the excitement (or irritation) of dressing up for opera, concert, theatre or ballet.

And to quell all argument, PACT's chief director Gerrit Gertsema says the State Theatre attracts 500 000 people a year — the same number as Loftus Versfeld.

PACT began with the princely sum of R121 000 as one of four provincial arts councils which were government's branch — a factor which has been an asset and a liability. The merits and demerits of umbrella bodies for the arts and State control of the purse strings is a subject which can be argued forever.

One of the more subtle forms government influence took was PACT's way of working and, even at that time, the money was not considered enough. Former chief director Egh-

Bringing culture to city families

• **HEATHER ROSS**
ard van den Hoven described it 10 years later "What a task to accomplish with R121 000. Fortunately for the idealists, there were many of them boards and their members artistic committees, planning committees, casting committees, appointments committees, financial committees, Saccap committees and even more committees — all honorary. Meetings were called from sunrise to sunset. Like drug addicts we sat round tables, chain-smoking, arguing, advising and searching for solutions. How could the State's assignment be carried out with so little money?"

The State's assignment? "Give our performing artists permanent employment."

In 1963, 20 dancers, 16 actors and no musicians or singers were able to be employed. And 229 000 people came to the 273 performances of the 27 programmes the first year.

Today PACT supports 2 000 people, half of whom are part-time, in its four departments: music, ballet, opera and drama. More than 14-million people have seen more than 36 500 performances. It has a permanent orchestra, a lavish opera house, theatre and spacious rehearsal rooms.

difficult scores, they have given superb performances.

And the music department has put on some world class productions. With the reluctance of many artists to perform in SA, these productions are now at a turning point. But they have a base of fledgling talents and perhaps the chances that will now open up will give our young potential stars a reason to stay in this country.

They have had a very stable management and established a high standard.

In operas like Strauss's "Salome" and Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde", considered two of the most

sheep has fallen by 22% to about 16-million over the past five seasons.

High prices obtained for mohair over the past five years have led to the expansion of mohair production at the expense of wool.

Van Rooyen expects a sharp fall in SA's wool consumption because of price rises and because of the depressed economy.

But the board, which serves as the sole marketing arm for wool producers, is working on the domestic situation.

• **PETER WALLINGTON**
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Pact — the performing backbone in the capital city

PACT Opera and Music have been the backbone of recitals and opera performances in Johannesburg and Pretoria over the years, writes music critic MARY RORICH.

They have had a very stable management and established a high standard.

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Wool Board has third record year

IN CONTRAST to recent hardships experienced by many other agricultural sectors, the wool industry has just completed its third successive record year.

Yet, while the declining value of the rand has benefited the industry in its export operations — wool

SA'S cotton-growing industry has

SA cotton industry blooms, saving millions of rands

GENERAL BULLY

Red meat

... a new

drawing its health inspectors from the harbours. Bans and boycotts by some British, shops and European Community (EC) countries don't help either, "but we still find we don't have

ing about 10% of total industry income. SA consumers enjoy some of the cheapest ... and best - citrus fruit," says Verjee.

Red meat takes a bashing

THE red meat industry has taken back in the market growth stakes against cheaper chicken. Chicken consumption - now about 14kg per capita a year - has increased by 46% over the past decade, while red meat consumption fell 7%. Chicken, especially popular with urban blacks due to its price advantage and greater availability, is now second only to beef, so it's small wonder that the Meat Board is devising a new marketing strategy to increase sales.

Indeed, poultry increased its share of SA's total meat market from 22% in 1974 to 31% in 1984. With the recession and unemployment making savage demands on urban black budgets especially, it is possible that the comparative position has weakened even further in chicken's favour.

Saving millions of rands

GERALD REILLY

SAS cotton-growing industry has bloomed into an extensive business, saving the country millions of rands a year in foreign exchange.

However, production is running far behind consumption, and about a third of local needs have to be imported from the US and eastern countries.

The Cotton Board's administration head Hennie Bruwer said the estimated 1985-86 crop brought in 220 000 bales compared with estimated local consumption of 370 000 bales. About 170 000 bales will be imported.

The price is adjusted annually on a consensus basis between producers, spinners and gunners. Government plays no part in price determination.

The estimated total value of the latest crop is nearly R150m.

Main growing areas are in the middle and northern Transvaal, where about 46% of the crop is produced.

The balance emanates from the far northern Transvaal, the Lowveld, the Vaal Hartz irrigation area, and northern Natal.

Swaziland is also a substantial producer, delivering about 18% of the

cultural sectors, the wool industry has just completed its third successive record year.

Yet, while the declining value of the rand has benefited the industry in its export operations - wool prices have increased by more than 80% in the past four years - Wool Board chairman Pieter van Rooyen says the industry still has its problems.

The total fleece-wool clip fell during the 1985/86 season by 3.5%. Van Rooyen says the decline is a matter of great concern and one which will receive attention.

He ascribes the decrease to the following factors:
□ The prolonged drought has caused natural grazing in the main sheep-farming areas to deteriorate so much that flock numbers have plummeted. The number of Merino

million over the past five seasons.
□ High prices obtained for mohair over the past five years have led to the expansion of mohair production at the expense of wool.

□ The considerable rise in mutton and fat-lamb prices since 1983/4 has led to cross-breeding of woolled with mutton sheep. Large numbers of Merino and other woolled breeds have been slaughtered.

Moreover, the local market remains depressed, says Van Rooyen. "Production in SA's clothing industry is at the same level as it was in 1977 after dropping by 45% over the past four years."

An improvement in domestic demand for textile goods will probably only start manifesting itself late in the 1986/7 season."

depressed economy.
But the board, which serves as the sole marketing arm for wool producers, is working on the domestic situation.

While the board is reluctant to discuss export operations in today's sanctions climate, it has sound relations with traditional customers. Launched in 1972 in its present form at the industry's request, the Wool Board buys and markets all the wool profits countrywide to the points agents countrywide to handle the clip.
Prices are determined by auction, but the board pays farmers on delivery, an advance payment. This fee is determined from estimates of the coming season's prices.
Any shortfalls that occur are met by the board's stabilisation fund.

Meat Board prepares to beef up its image

THE Meat Board, custodian of SA's largest agricultural sector - the R4bn-R5bn-a-year retail red meat industry - is changing its image to a more consumer- and market-orientated body.

After the past two years' of media attacks on the board's control policies, it has cut its much-publicised "meat mountain" to a mere 12%-15% of the original 37 000 tons by direct sales to the public.

Since April, the board has also temporarily suspended its much-criticised advertising campaign, while it awaits the report of an investigation into marketing and consumer trends.

Board deputy GM and chief media spokesman Frans Pieterse said: "We want to find out what consumer preferences and trends are before we again go public on generic advertising. And once we find out what the housewife wants and expects, we will give the message through to the farmer."

24.1.18
BUS DAY
PWV likely to get water restrictions (3) pen

MICK COLLINS

SEVERE water restrictions are in the offing for the PWV area if consumption levels continue to rise and dam levels fall.

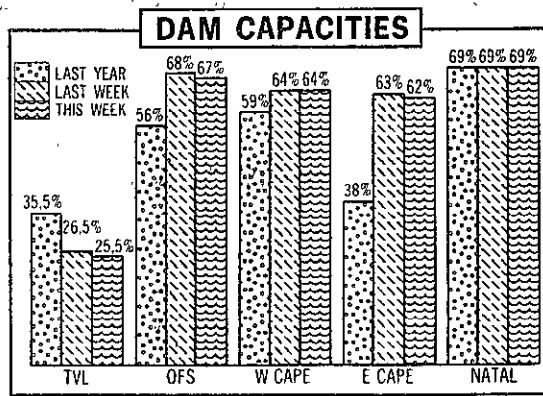
In a bid to stave off such drastic action, Rand Water Board (RWB) chairman Dale Hobbs yesterday warned consumers to observe restrictions.

Consumption figures for the past two weeks — 5,6% over quota — show consumers are disregarding appeals made by municipalities. Consumption for July as a whole was only 1,4% above quota.

The warning comes as dam levels in the Vaal River system continue to decline. With the level of the Vaal Dam at 16,4% of capacity, water experts say the situation is serious.

If present trends continue, they predict it will become necessary to release more water from upstream dams to keep the Vaal at a minimum level.

Figures published yesterday by the RWB show that two holding dams, Sterkfontein and Bloemhof, are standing at 21,5% and 4,5% respectively.



28/8/80 DAILY DIX
39/81

Hayward: make agriculture viable

By JILL JOUBERT

PORT ELIZABETH — Sweeping measures aimed at putting agriculture on a sound financial footing were announced last night by the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Sarel Hayward, at the opening of the annual East Cape Agricultural Union (ECAU) congress in Port Elizabeth.

He said these could result in:

- The consolidation of farming units which were too small;

- The phasing out of interest rate terms and other "more favourable" credit terms;

- Amalgamating the Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board;

- Withholding emergency aid in certain cases.

Mr Hayward called to farmers "to put their shoulders to the wheel" in an effort to restore agriculture to its "rightful stabilising role" in the national economy.

The overall aim of a national financial strategy, along with the national grazing strategy and information strategy as an action programme, was to promote an economically sound industry for advancing the national welfare.

He identified several areas which were causing concern.

The widening gap between market and productive values of land was also contributing to running inflation, he said.

"Ground in the Transvaal bushveld border region, for example, had a market value of three times its productive value," Mr Hayward said.

To close the gap, the Department of Agriculture was looking at existing marketing arrangements and price

schemes, while the government was considering phasing out interest rate terms and possibly other more favourable credit terms.

Certain forms of tenure and part-time farming were now recognised as intermediate steps towards new farmers gaining full-time owner-occupant status.

Mr Hayward said while existing financial legislation was adequate to accommodate new farmers, they enjoyed a low priority with specialized financial institutions because of lack of funds.

It was proposed to strengthen these funds to encourage part-timers to achieve full owner-occupant status.

"Purposeful" research would be started on the price-cost squeeze and the impact of protective measures on farmers' production costs. One result of the price-cost squeeze had been the multiplication of too-small farming units. Consolidation on a national basis, for which funds would be available, would be started, Mr Hayward said.

The provision of credit would have to be tightened up, he said.

Producers were experiencing ever greater problems servicing their debts which indicated injudicious financing was an important contributing factor, he added.

Dialogue between all agricultural financing institutions should result in a joint strategy, to place the provision of credit on a sounder basis.

An amalgamation of the Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board was also being considered.

"Farmers who flagrantly ignore the prin-

ciples of optimal soil utilisation, might no longer qualify for emergency aid," he said.

Inefficient credit facilities made it difficult to withdraw ineffective farmers from the land. Their average age remained high; only one per cent of farmers was younger than 25, compared with 21 per cent of the total economically active male population.

The level of training was low while management orientated information was inadequate.

Mr Hayward said there were also too many small, uneconomical farming units. The tendency was for the big enterprises to get bigger and gradually swallow up the smaller producers.

The phenomenon of large farming units was a relatively recent problem and the department would launch an investigation into the possibly adverse effects.

Lack of on-going information and research into the economics and financing of agriculture, could be a blocking process, Mr Hayward said.

"Another obstacle could be the negative effects of monetary factors and policy. These cause constant fluctuation in interest rates, ineffective granting of credit and limited financing for certain types of enterprises. "Inflation and an unfavourable exchange rate also have to be considered," he said.

Mr Hayward said state emergency aid should be applied selectively and should only be granted if an individual could not absorb the effects of a disaster as part of his normal costs, if the entire community was affected, and if the socio-economic infrastructure was seriously threatened.

By JENNY CULLUM
FARMERS in the Gamtoos Valley were chewing over the success of 50 years of co-operative tobacco farming this week.

The 650 000-kilogram crop reaped in the valley — one of only two areas in South Africa where chewing tobacco is grown — should fetch a record R3 million on the market.

Its success means continued employment for hundreds of workers, including 85 at the specialised tobacco co-op.

The bulk of the tobacco crop is used for cigarettes and pipe tobacco.

Mr Sarel Hayward, Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, attended the 50th anniversary celebrations at Patensie.

Two employees joined the co-op when it first started. Mr J J Meiring has 50 years' unbroken service and Mr C J Young, has 48

years'.

In those days of the depressed 1930s, tobacco farmers were paid only about a penny or twopence a pound and the small, scattered crop was bought on a casual basis.

Today, depending on the type and quality, tobacco fetches between R2,74 and R4,22 a kilogram and makes a big contribution to the finances and plays an important part in the farming system of the valley.

The particular benefit of the tobacco crop is that it fits in well with citrus farming, one of the major crops in the valley, as crops are reaped at different times.

About 70 farmers — double the number of 50 years ago — cultivate tobacco on 650 hectares in the valley.

The main tobacco growing areas are Andrieskraal, Kwagga and De Mist Kraal.

Tobacco is a summer crop and planting starts next month.

The crop, already in the sheds, is of very good quality, according to the manager of the tobacco department, Mr F J Nel.

He comes from a "tobacco family" in the Kat River — his father was one of nine brothers who were all tobacco farmers.

"The Nels are born with a tobacco plant in their hands," he said.



Tobacco industry thrives in Gamtoos Valley

1986

3/8/86

30/8/86

AGRICULTURE - GENERAL

1986

SEPT. — DEC.

AWB warned about its plan
to form farmers' brandwag'

Pretoria Bureau 39EN

The Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, has warned the militant Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) not to compete with the SADF in the Eastern Transvaal.

The AWB has announced plans to form its own "brandwag" to protect farmers in the Eastern Transvaal from attacks by the ANC.

There has been a series of landmine explosions in the area in recent months and farmers have become increasingly angry.

The AWB says many are putting aside their political differences and joining the "brandwag".

Members are being taught how to shoot and react in emergencies. They are being encouraged to maintain radio contact.

General Malan said he and Manpower Minister Mr Piet du Plessis, who is also the MP for Lydenburg, had discussed the matter and were aware of what was going on.

He said the Eastern Transvaal and Far Northern Transvaal commandos were constantly giving attention to how farmers could be helped to protect themselves.

45 arrested during
Winterveld sweep

GA-RANKUWA — About 45 people were arrested in Winterveld on Sunday morning when the Bophuthatswana police and Defence Force personnel surrounded the area and searched houses.

Police spokesman Colonel Dave George said they were looking for stolen property, cars and dangerous weapons.

A portable TV, a BMX bicycle and communist-related literature were confiscated.

Colonel George added that the sweep was carried out "to protect the legitimate, peace-loving citizens of Winterveld who are being made to suffer because of the actions of the small minority of the people in the area".

He said it was felt it was time the police and army took the initiative and did something constructive. — Sapa.

Truckdriver dies in
collision in thick mist

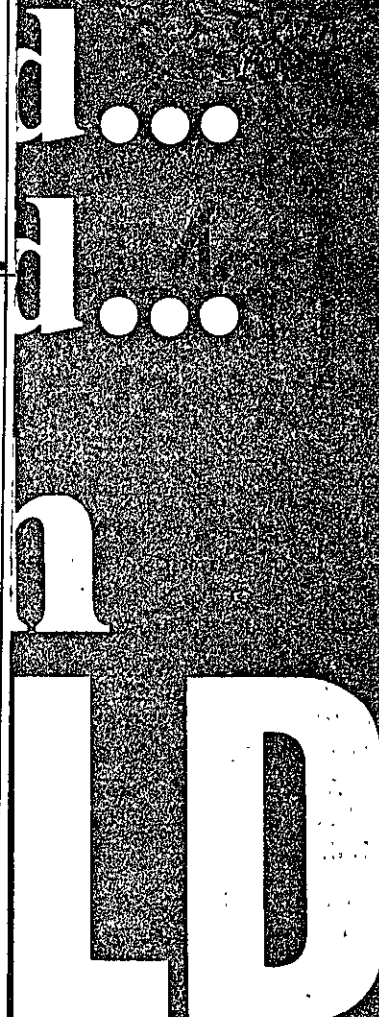
A truckdriver was killed when he drove into the back of another truck in thick mist in Leondale, Germiston, at 6.20 am today. Firemen struggled for almost two hours to free his body.

● Wynand Fourie (2), of Glen Marais, Kempton Park, drowned in a swimming pool on Friday. — East Rand Bureau.

Funeral of pupil shot
in Soweto is peaceful

The Nghunghunyane High School pupil shot dead by police in Chiawelo, Soweto, last week was buried at the Avalon Cemetery yesterday.

The funeral of Mr Mackson Mbulelo Gaga (22), of Senaoane, was peaceful. Mr Gaga died during an incident at the school last week in which several other pupils were seriously injured.



Cape Times 1/9/86

3 General

Vast damage in wake of floods

By JOHN VAN DER LINDEN and HILARY VENABLES

THE floodwaters which devastated vast parts of the Southern Cape at the weekend began to subside yesterday leaving in their wake millions of rands' worth of damage to crops, roads, bridges and railway lines.

Farmers in some areas said the floods, which began on Friday after days of heavy rain, were the worst they had seen in more than 30 years.

Huge crop losses are expected in the Riversdale-Heidelberg area where low-lying wheat, lucerne and oat fields are covered in water and farmers cannot reach their lands as the gravel roads are impassable.

Mr Bertie Bronn of the farm Schoon-gelegen, outside Stilbaai, said the soil was so sodden that his young oat and wheat crops had "just fallen over".

"Now the fungi will take hold and we can't spray the crops because we can't use machinery in the muddy soil," he said.

Some farms have been completely cut off, leaving farmers and their workers stranded.

Swollen rivers washed away several bridges in the Riversdale, Heidelberg and Albertinia areas.

The national road between Riversdale and Mossel Bay was closed on Friday when the Soetmelk River flooded over a bridge, blocking the road with mud and debris.

A bakkie was washed down the embankment by the torrent which ripped

the steel roadside barriers away on the Albertinia side of the bridge. No one was injured and the road was reopened on Saturday.

Telephone links

In Riversdale, telephone links were cut when underground cable tunnels were flooded. Late yesterday, Post Office workers were still trying to restore the service.

Friday night's cloudburst also washed away large sections of tarmac in Baan Street in the town.

Low-level bridges outside Riversdale are underwater and many farm roads are still impassable.

Farmers in the area have measured rainfall of up to 350mm during the past week, compared to 100mm for the rest of the year.

At Stilbaai the caravan park is underwater and many telephone links are down.

At Riviersonderend, floodwaters rose so fast on Friday night that cattle were trapped on high-lying ground.

Many boathouses are underwater at Hermanus where it has rained continuously for the past eight days.

Reports of heavy rain have also been received from the Overberg.

At George, a landslide on Saturday night closed the Outeniqua pass for some hours before it was cleared.

Trains between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth ran almost 12 hours late after a train was stranded at a washaway on the line on Friday night between Reisisbaan and Soetmelk River stations.

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11/9/86
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Drought eased in East Cape

19/11/92
3

Post Reporter

WIDESPREAD rain in the Eastern Cape has brought relief from the drought which has plagued farmers for four years.

At Steynsburg 39mm fell, 35mm at Humansdorp, 27mm at Tarkastad and 25mm at Kareedouw.

The chairman of the Humansdorp Farmers' Association, Mr R F van der Watt, said the drought had been broken to a large extent.

"Because we had no rain in April and May, the normal rainfall season, many farmers did not plant wheat and those who did planted late — at the end of June," he said. "Our crops and the veld were critical and soft, soaking rains were just what we needed."

Only 5mm fell in PE at the weekend.

Mrs F Beckley, secretary of the PE District Farmers' Association, said 40mm of rain had fallen in a week, while Mr D Billson, chairman of the Coega River Farmers' Association, measured 34mm.

"The rain is most welcome, but has only provided temporary relief. Our dam levels are still very low," he said.

In the Gamitoos River Valley 20mm fell over the weekend, bringing the week's total to 40mm.

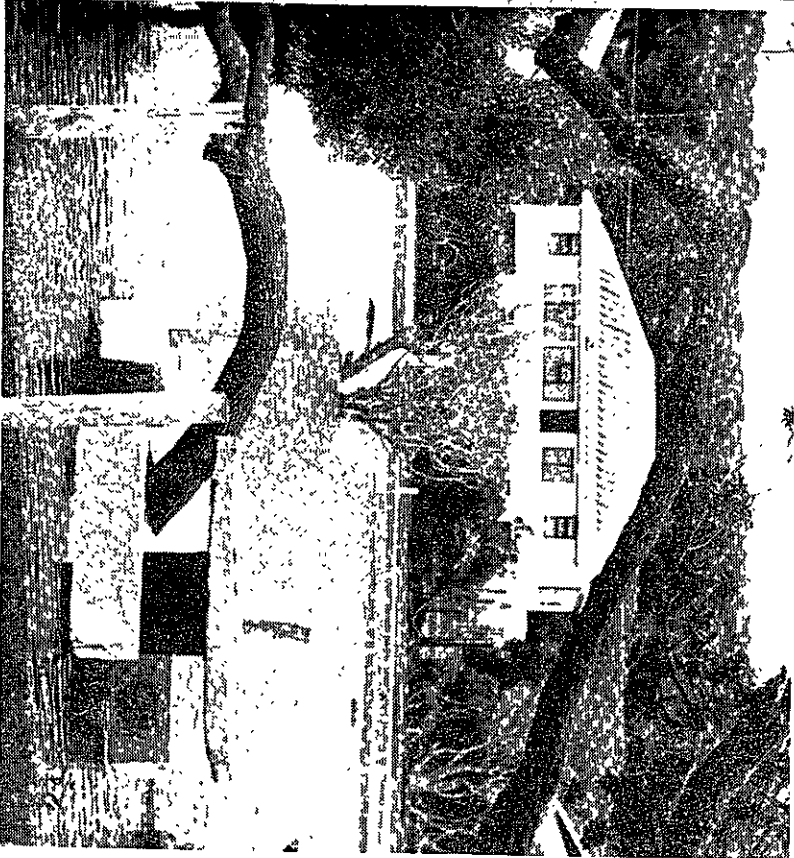
Mr S A de Beer, a farmer, said fruit trees were in flower. A good crop of fruit and vegetables was now expected.

Other falls were: Fort Beaufort 14mm, Cape St Francis 12mm, Piettenberg Bay 38mm, Grahamstown 8mm, Somerset East 2mm and Queenstown 2mm.



Hadré Pratt leaps over stormwater pipes laid shortly after floodwaters ripped up a section of the Elim-Bredasdorp road.

Pictures: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus



In Mauritius you can charge a fortune for breakfast at a table surrounded by water. In Still Bay yesterday, there were no takers.

Picture: PETER STANFORD, The Argus

Flood losses not too bad, say 1/9/86 sodden farmers

(3 Generals)

By STEPHEN WROTTESLEY and ARNOLD KIRKBY
Staff Reporters

AS floodwaters receded in the storm-hit southern Cape today, farmers took stock and the news appears to be mainly good.

The drought has been broken by the heaviest August rainfall in a quarter of a century and relatively few have suffered extensive losses.

Two flood-related deaths have been reported.

Mr Michael Newman, 24, of Waen-huyskrans, drowned when he apparently attempted to drive his car through the flooded Krans River, near Napier, on Friday night.

No sign

When Mr Andrew Newman went to see if his brother had taken the road over the bridge, he found the car next to the river with floodwater up to its roof. There was no sign of his brother.

A 25-month-old boy, Emmanuel Adams, drowned when he fell into a puddle of water on Linkwood farm at Lynedoch, near Stellenbosch, on Saturday.

Flood losses appear not as extensive as feared at first.

Stock farmers have lost cattle and sheep but, apparently, not in significant numbers.

A huge mopping-up operation faces workers in the southern Cape.

The people of Still Bay are thankful for the fact that the rain came when it did, and not in the holiday season.

At the caravan park in the resort, most sites are under water.

The town was cut off on Saturday night when floodwaters swamped the route to the national road in several places including Dreevlakte.

Mr Bakkies Smit of Still Bâÿ said some areas had recorded between 200mm and 250mm of rain. It was the heaviest downpour in 25 years, he said.

Many farm dams were washed away.

On Mr Willem Cronje's farm, a five-metre dam wall in a spruit near Riethuiskraal was washed away on Friday.

A newspaper delivery lorry overturned in the dark on the road near Pearly Beach early yesterday, but the four occupants were not hurt.

Between Elim and Agulhas, the level of the water started subsiding yesterday although some low-lying areas are still cut off.

In some areas, four-wheel drive vehicles and large tractors were the only means of transport, and families were devising ways of getting their children back to boarding school by using long detours.

Saved buck

Some fields of wheat, oats and barley resembled rice paddies while others were washed away completely.

A week-old springbok was one of the flood survivors. Mr Dico Swart's children on Wiesdrif farm saved the little animal from the muddy waters, and will hand-rear it. Other buck were stranded on islands in the middle of vleis, said Mr Swart.

Mrs Patrys Human, of Moddervlei farm, was still not sure about the fate of many of her 90 springbok, although some had been seen with her smaller herds of bontebok on high-lying islands.

3/9/76 BUSDA

Heunis warns farmers on pains of sanctions

SANCTIONS must be accepted as a fact, Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis said last night.

He told the annual congress of the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) in Pretoria farming would be in the forefront of the onslaught.

On urbanisation, he said farms and their surrounding platteland were primary start-

GERALD REILLY

ing points of the process.
Larger farms and mechanisation meant a smaller demand for labour. Government could not reverse the process, but recognised its responsibility to soften the impact.
The land consolidation phantom was still haunting farmers in the Transvaal, TAU

president N J Kotze told the congress. He said there was great dissatisfaction among farmers in most of the affected areas.
"Our fear is that agriculture will have to make an excessive and unjustified contribution to services which farmers possibly will not share and in which they will have little say."

SOM 4/9/85
392W

Farm wives have their guns ready

Northern Transvaal
Bureau

MESSINA — Farmers' wives in the Soutpansberg area were every bit as well-trained militarily as their husbands, a senior SADF spokesman said this week at an information session at Vhembe, near the Botswana-Zimbabwe-South African border.

Colonel J Swanepoel, commanding officer of the Soutpansberg military area, said landmine blasts along the northern border since last November had cured the farm-

ing communities of any complacency they may have had.

"It is especially encouraging to see the care and competency with which the women handle their firearms. They are well-prepared for any future terrorist incursions."

MINE VEHICLES

The Chief of Staff of Far North Command, Brigadier M Fourie, said most farm homesteads in the Weipe area, west of Messina, a target area for landmines, had now been fortified with electrified security fencing.

He said 48 border farmers had shown interest in buying mine-resistant farm vehicles, for which they would receive 80 percent subsidies, in terms of a Government package announced two months ago.

Brigadier Fourie also gave more details of an SADF plan to train farm workers in the use of firearms and in other security exercises.

"Carefully selected workers, nominated by farmers, will eventually be issued with firearms when they go on patrols and other risky errands," he said.

The weapons would be returned to the farmer every day.

Brigadier Fourie said the plan had been enthusiastically received by border farmers, and more than 300 workers were being trained.

Radio communications were so efficient in the border area that a counter-insurgency unit could be mobilised within a few minutes in case of an emergency.

LONG DROUGHTS

Co-operation between the SADF, organised agriculture, nature conservation authorities and the governments of black homelands was excellent, he said.

But he pointed out that prolonged droughts and poor farming prospects made the task of populating the border area extremely difficult.

FLN MML 3/17/86 (3) 92W

AGROCHEMICALS

Bugs in the system

Agriculture's tale of woe — drought, debt and spiralling production costs — is mirrored by the R375m-R400m a year agrochemical industry where volume sales have slumped some 20% in the last two years.

And if the weak rand had not been pushing up nominal sales values, turnover figures would have reflected a similar drop.

Less cash

Farmers are often caught in a Catch 22 situation. Explains Bayer Group director responsible for the agrochemical division, Werner Lenssen: "With less cash or credit

available after the drought, they cannot afford to buy sufficient weed and insect killer. Accordingly, their crops suffer and there's even less cash for future purchases."

Lenssen says maize is the main problem area, but sales to the cattle industry are also declining. The sheep sector remains "reasonably good."

Herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and other crop chemicals make up about 80% of total industry sales, while the livestock industry provides the balance of agrochemical sales. However, stock numbers are also steadily declining and veterinary sales are falling in sympathy.

"The reduction of the national herd by some 2m head means we have a smaller veterinary market and the drought reduced

tick infestations, cutting sales even further," says Jerry Maritz, executive director of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association.

Some light

But, fortunately for the industry, there are still some areas with "normal" sales patterns. One of them is the western Cape where deciduous fruit, citrus and cotton producers provide some light in the gloom for fungicide and insecticide sales.

However, as farmers have drastically cut pest control measures, the industry has been left with unsold stock that can already meet next season's expected demand. Inevitably, high interest rates are also biting, says Maritz. ■

GERALD REILLY

THE urgent need to restructure agriculture was highlighted at the annual congress of the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) in Pretoria yesterday.

Speakers agreed that extraordinary government measures were justified.

TAU vice-president Jacob de Villiers said shrinking profits and an increasing dependence on external financing, as a result of successive droughts, were among causes of farming's plight.

These had coincided with a sharp increase in interest rates and an escalating farm debt burden.

De Villiers said despite substantial government aid over the past few years, the industry's problems had worsened, threatening the survival of an in-

Urgent need
seen for the
overhaul
of farming

creasing number of farmers.

Their massive debts were a stumbling block in the path of economic recovery.

Other speakers complained of the huge, uncontrolled escalation of input costs, which gravely increased farming risks.

Statistics showed that half SA's farm production came from only 1% of farmers and that 50% of farmers could produce only 10% of total production.

This indicated half the farmers were inefficient, largely because of bad management, they said.

DD89/86 (3)

Call to take aquaculture seriously

Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — A call on the government and the agriculture and fish industries to take aquaculture seriously as an important part of South Africa's future economy has been made by the J. L. B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology at Rhodes University.

"Aquaculture, defined as the enhanced production of aquatic organisms for the benefit of man, has not yet come of age in South Africa, although it was launched more than 40 years ago, even 90 years ago, by some definitions," the institute's director, Professor Mike Bruton, said.

Professor Bruton said that aquaculture in South Africa lacked credibility, both as a science and as an industry.

He said that the turnover in some sectors of the fishing industry was more than R400 million a year and that aquaculture compared to this was regarded as a bit of a joke.

"Several scientists have done remarkable work and others have done their best to integrate aquaculture into agriculture. However, aquaculture has had to go around from one government department to another to see where the shoe fitted," he said.

Professor Bruton said that aquaculture needed to rid itself of the negative attitudes which it had acquired.

He went on to call for the organising of an aquaculture food fair, perhaps in collaboration with a supermarket or restaurant chain, to introduce the public to the concept of aquaculture.

He said that aquaculture had several advantages over agriculture some of which included the potential to produce good quality protein in a small space.

Professor Bruton continued to say that if any development was to be made in aquaculture the government would have to grant the same concessions, financial and legal, to fish farmers as they do to other farmers, at the extent to which aquaculture entrepreneurs would be able to develop their talents.

● A recent research programme conducted by the institute on fish ecology in the Okavango Delta, Botswana, has received generous sponsorship from the Southern African Nature Foundation.

The donation will allow the project to continue researching for a further year on the determining effect of different flood regimes on fish abundance and diversity.

The result of the research is considered important by the institute because of the planned development of water resources in the Okavango Delta and the various threats facing fish stocks there.

Current drought 'extraordinary'

The current drought in the Vaal River catchment area is extraordinary and might not occur again within the next 200 to 300 years.

This was said by Mr C Triebel of the Department of Water Affairs when he addressed a symposium on water management in South Africa held under the auspices of the Engineers Association of South Africa in a Sandton hotel.

An important question was whether the Department of Water Affairs should have foreseen and provided for the drought, Mr Triebel said.

The answer is that the Department of Water Affairs has only recently been able to evaluate "stochastic analysis methods" allowing it to pre-

dict "possible worse than the historic critical droughts" and the probability of its occurrence.

There are sufficient conventional water resources available in Southern Africa to last for three or four more decades, but several factors such as the uneven rainfall, erratic runoff, competing interests of different sectors of the economy and of other countries in the region make the supply of water a complex problem, he said.

Another speaker, Dr L R J van Vuuren, director of the Water Research Institute of South Africa, said contrary to popular belief, recycling will not provide abundant supplies of water. Re-use merely gives more "miles to the gallon".

SNAP 8/9/86
39EN

Vaal system dams head for record lows

The first spring rains did little to improve the low dam levels in the PWV area — and with at least 200 mm needed in all catchment areas to have an impact on the drought, there seems little hope of altering this situation.

The total water storage in dams of the Vaal river system now stands at 19,7 percent. This is 3,8 percent lower than last year and 12,63 percent lower than in 1984. In 1983 the total storage was 23 percent.

According to Mr Dale Hobbs, of the Rand Water Board, at least 200 mm of rain over an extended period would have to fall in all good catchment areas to have an impact on the drought.

BOREHOLES

But lack of rain is not the only reason for the water shortage.

Subterranean water is drying up as more and more people sink boreholes.

"Water is being taken out of the ground but not replaced. This will obviously affect our shortage," he said.

Mr C Triebel, chief engineer (planning) of the Department of Water Affairs, said the current water situation was very serious.

"The dam levels in the PWV area are very low. We have had drought for eight years due to

abnormally low rainfall," he said.

But there is no need to panic, Mr Triebel said.

"If we do not get good rains, we can last for the next year on what we have," he said.

Dam levels are monitored constantly and should the Vaal fall too low, water will be brought in from other dams.

Recently an additional water supply was pumped into the Vaal from the Tugela river scheme.

On Thursday the level of the Vaal Dam stood at 16,42 percent, the Sterkfontein at 21 percent,

the Bloemhof at 4,8 percent and the Woodstock at 80 percent.

These dams make up the Vaal river system (see accompanying graph for comparative levels).

Mr Giel van Zyl, manager (administration), of the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo), said many maize farmers were sinking boreholes and installing irrigation schemes rather than relying on rainfall.

But this unfortunately resulted in a drop in the subterranean water level. With drought, the replenishment of the water

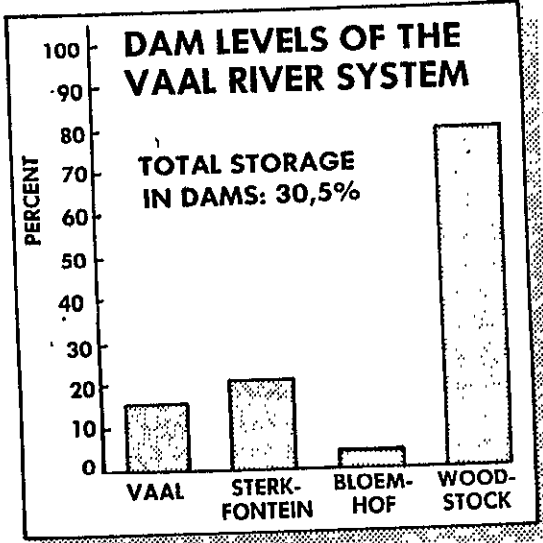


table from one season to another had become critical.

Maize has a relatively low water requirement until the flowering season — December/January — when it needs a lot. If there is no water, the maize won't flower and pollination cannot occur.

Farmers who usually farm three crops per season are now being limited to one because of restrictions in their water quotas.

Poll used more than reported

A Sapa report in *The Star* last week stated the latest Research Surveys Omnicket poll was conducted with 309 white men and women.

The poll was in fact conducted with 1 309 people, made up of 809 women and 500 men.

NEWS CLAMPDOWN

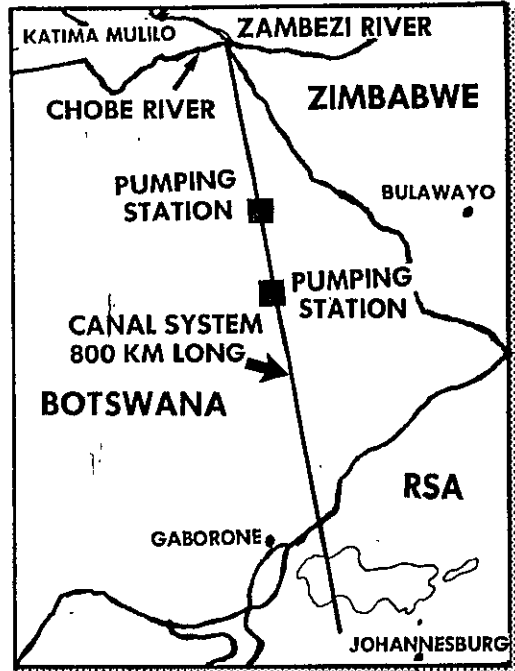
According to the poll, the clampdown on unrest news and the Government acting as sole source of information "met with the approval" of 45 percent of urban whites compared with 37 percent who said this "caused them concern" and 18 percent who said they didn't know.

(3) GEN

Vaal River system's supplies could double

Giant water project planned for SA

SMM
9/8/86



The projected canal scheme which would bring Zambezi water through Botswana to a reservoir near the West Rand.

By Jaap Boekkooi

The Government is considering a giant plan which aims to more than double the water supplies of the entire Vaal River system by piping Zambezi water 800 km down south through a network of canals, pipes and pumping stations.

The existence of the project was confirmed today by Mr Claus Triebel, chief engineer (planning) of the Department of Water Affairs, who said it was one of his department's long-term plans.

The Zambezi would be tapped at its confluence with the Chobe River in northern Botswana, near Katima Mulilo and the Victoria Falls, from where water would flow down to southern Botswana and the Rand, and be lifted by pumping stations across escarpments.

The plan would produce 2 400 million cu m of water a year, 133 percent more than the current annual extraction of some 1 600 million cu m from the greater Vaal River system which stretches from Standerton to its confluence with the Orange River.

This makes the "Zambezi Plan" the country's largest potential water project. It is designed to

exceed the Lesotho Highlands Scheme supply by 200 million cu m a year.

Details of the plan have been discussed by its designer, Professor Guenter Borchert, a specialist Africa geographer of Hamburg University, with planning officials of the Water Affairs Department. They agree that at a current cost of about R9 000 million the projected Zambezi water would be too costly for irrigation purposes and should, therefore, be used exclusively for domestic consumption and industry.

Official agreement

"In broad terms we agree with Professor Borchert's proposals. The water that would be made available will be equal to the present consumption in the entire Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area," Mr Triebel said.

"But it will also require an official agreement between all the governments of Southern Africa, including Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique."

Four of these governments are already cooperating on the Limpopo Basin Technical Committee with the South African Department of Water Affairs.

'Farmers must work together' Buthelezi

The Argus Correspondent

AP/645 11/9/86

DURBAN. — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi has made a strong plea to the country's white farmers to form partnerships with black farmers in order to help boost production and beat the effects of sanctions.

Addressing the Natal Agricultural Union's 96th congress in Durban, the Kwazulu Chief Minister said it was certain sanctions would lead to unemployment, unrest and increased dissatisfaction with the free enterprise system.

"There is a job that white farmers can do which nobody else can . . . white farmers must meet with black farmers.

"They must sit down together and become partners in the development of free enterprise in agriculture."

White farmers could not relegate the problem of the development of black agriculture to the Government.

Chief Buthelezi cited the example of assistance given over the years by Free State farmers to those in Lesotho, saying the farmers had provided expertise, equipment and "a farmer's sympathy with farmers".

In Natal, farmers faced a serious problem. Boycotting of coal in overseas markets was going to cause the cancellation of coal contracts, resulting in the return of thousands of black miners to their rural homes.

Every effort should be made to employ these people in agriculture.

"There is an integrated economic network of forces which could be mobilised to produce the kind of partnership between black and white which is now desperately necessary if we are going to face up to the challenges of sanctions and the upward spiralling of violence.

Sebe against sanctions

PRETORIA. — The imposition of punitive sanctions against South Africa will drastically reduce employment opportunities and by so doing drive many thousands of people in the country to poverty, says Dr Lennox Sebe, President of Ciskei.

Speaking at the official opening of the Ciskei embassy in Pretoria, Dr Sebe said the Ciskei "cannot be seen to support an operation which will hurt the very same people it is designed to assist."

AGRICULTURE

FM 12/9/86
Focus on drought

With drought still too fresh for comfort in most farmers' memories, some 500 South Africans have already booked to visit one of the world's major agricultural exhibitions, Agritech '86, in Tel Aviv later this month.

Israel is the acknowledged world leader in dry-land crop production and computerised drip-irrigation methods. The South Africans will thus be exposed to some of the most technologically advanced and innovative agricultural products available today.

The exhibition, jointly organised by the Israel Export Institute, the Agriculture Ministry and the Research and Development Centre, will also provide lectures on protection against diseases to which African crops are prone. The latest innovations in agrochemicals, fertilisers, computerisation, agoplastics, machinery, seeds, veterinary pro-

ducts and livestock equipment will be exhibited.

Meanwhile, innovative Israeli scientists are experimenting with the improved use and beneficiation of wild roots, tubers, nuts and fruit with high protein potential which grow wild in many parts of the world, including Africa.

SA's marula tree is one variety being researched for commercial potential, along with other indigenous species. Scientists are also looking for plants with medicinal properties and for new spices.

So far, the Israelis have produced marula fruit in three flavours, all vitamin-rich. "One tree can produce as many as 100 000 berries in one season," says an Agritech nutrologist. ■

DD/2/9/81(3)

Farmers told schools a sad indictment of govt policy

Dispatch Correspondent
DURBAN — The fact that very few rural black children would be at school were it not for the goodwill of farmers was a sad indictment of government policy, the Natal Agricultural Union's congress was told here yesterday.

Mr Roy Valentine, of the Umvoti Agricultural

Society, said no new farm schools would appear unless farmers dug deeply into their "bottomless pockets".

He said there were about 7 000 farm schools in South Africa under the Department of Education and Training (DET), catering for 500 000 pupils.

The schools were staffed by about 12 000 teachers, under the management of farmers who knew little about education but who provided more than half the capital outlay needed.

He said farmers qualified for a 50 per cent government subsidy, providing the schools they built complied with certain regulations.

No subsidy was provided for housing teachers.

The teachers, who were very often almost illiterate in English, could expect little or no guidance from the farmer or from roving inspectors.

Mr Valentine said a task group had been ap-

pointed in April last year, under the leadership of the chief director of education and planning, to effect substantial changes in rural education.

"Education is a central government responsibility and the time has come to remove it from the already overburdened shoulders of the farmer," he said.

Mr P. Hackland, of the Ixopo Agricultural Society, said more financial help and educational supervision was needed but he expressed the fear that if the present farm school system were scrapped it might be a case of "throwing out the baby with the bath water".

A resolution by Mr Valentine that the system be scrapped and that rural education become the full responsibility of government was not accepted.

The congress resolved instead that the relevant committee examine the system and come up with proposals.

3

Food gap alarm

For the first time in 16 years agricultural production had a growth rate below that of the population, says Dr Piet van Rooyen, Deputy Director of the Fruit and Fruit Technology Research Institute.

Although the trend was temporary, it was nevertheless alarming, he said at a ceremony at Stellenbosch to commemorate the birth of the South African fruit industry.

Because of population growth, the local demand for fruit would increase, but this would probably not be true of the traditional Western-European markets. A demographic projection indicated that the populations in those countries remain stable or even decline. South Africa must therefore stabilise the traditional markets and seek new ones.

Regarding the per capita consumption and the export of fresh fruit, Dr Van Rooyen said in 1985 apples constituted nearly 60 per cent of the total production. At present only apples had an acceptable per capita consumption of nearly 6 kg. He felt that consumption of all other fruit should be stimulated.

Marketing projections for the year 2000 indicated an expected growth in consumption. In the case of apples a shortage of 400 000 tonnes can be expected while the expected shortage in the case of peaches would be about

FARMING ON FRIDAY

Edited by
GLYN WILLIAMS

30 000 tonnes, but a surplus of 40 000 tonnes of pears is expected.

Farmers paying more interest

Dispatch Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — Interest payments by debt-burdened farmers increased by 19,3 per cent in the year ending June 1986.

The Department of Agriculture's figures — to be released shortly in its annual report — reveal a total interest payment of R1 760 million in 1985/86 compared to the R1 475 million paid in the previous year.

"This proved a heavy burden for farmers, many of whom have been forced to leave the land," a spokesman for the department's economic trends division said.

The increase was due to soaring overdraft rates and the escalation in the overall, drought-inflicted debt.

Any improvements in their plight largely depends on the weather

and farmers are hoping against a fifth successive year of drought.

Farming debt as at December 31 1985 stood at R11 117,6 million.

Coupled with this was the dramatic rise in input costs attributable to inflation and the low value of the rand.

The price of tractors rose 29,3 per cent in 1985/86 compared to the 22 per cent increase recorded in the previous year and prices of intermediate goods such as fertilizers, fuel, dips and sprays increased by a combined total of 20,4 per cent compared to 13,4 per cent the previous year.

These adverse trends were not offset by commensurate increases in producer prices and gross farm income lagged well behind the inflation rate. In July this year inflation was run-

ning at 18,2 per cent.

Farm income rose 11,8 per cent to R9 901 million while the combined index for producer prices increased by 8,9 per cent.

Producer prices for field crops, such as maize and grain sorghum, increased by a poor 3,9 per cent. Livestock by 11,8 per cent and horticultural products by 17,1 per cent.

Export-oriented sections of agriculture such as wool and fruit came off best, the departmental spokesman said.

A total of R2 382 million was earned from exports in the year ending December 1985 compared to the R1 842 million in the previous year.

The spokesman said contingency plans were being made to secure markets in the event of sanctions.

Move to halt US arms to Unita

The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — United States lawmakers are to vote this week on a bid to halt a covert arms supply to the Angolan rebel movement Unita.

The House of Representatives is expected to debate the move which would effectively end American aid to Unita.

The aid, although officially covert, was reported here to involve \$15 million (about R34 million) worth of sophisticated arms and ammunition, including some

hi-tech and shoulder-fired Stinger missiles.

Ending the covert aid would revert US policy to a situation governed by the Clark Amendment until less than a year ago when all support to Angola had to be approved by Congress.

The Clark Amendment was repealed by Congress late last year. The secret aid started a few months later.

Units was granted the arms after Unita's Di Jonas Savimbi was received in Washington in January.

BUSINESS DAY, Monday, September 15 1986

THEATRES

Andre Biquenet Theatre
MON TO THU 8.15
FRI 5.45, 8.30 pm: SAT 6 & 9
ADULTS ONLY/NO 2 TO 21

FUNNY PECULIAR

Book at Computicket (28-3040)

Alhambra Theatre
OPENING SUNDAY 8 PM
PREVIEWS THURS 2.30 PM
& SATURDAY at 6 PM

MISCARRIAGE OF MURDER

Leonard Rayne Theatre
OPENING WED 8.30 pm

THE BUSINESS OF MURDER

Book Theatre/Computicket

La Parisienne Theatre
(725-6620) LAST 2 WEEKS
TUES TO FRI 8 pm: SAT 5.30 & 9.15 pm
SUNDAY AT 6 pm

TAUBIE KUSHLICK presents
JUDY PAGE & KIM KALLIE in

FROM TAUBIE WITH LOVE

Book at Computicket (28-3040)

Market Theatre (832-1841)
MON TO FRI 8pm: SAT 6 & 9
PIETER-BIRK UYS

Weeks of talks bring assurance for detainees

G.M. to pay held workers

GENERAL MOTORS (G.M.) has agreed to pay full wages to employees who have been detained.

The decision comes after weeks of negotiations between the company and the National Automobile and Allied Workers Union (Naaawu) and the United Automobile Workers of America (UAW).

Naaawu general secretary Fred Sauls said G.M. had confirmed in a letter to the union that no employee detained without trial would lose

Business Day Reporter

his job or have his future prospects jeopardised in any way as a result of being detained.

The company said 50% of an employee's weekly or monthly earnings would be paid directly to the employee's spouse or named dependent for a maximum period of six months.

On release, or if acquitted after being charged during the six-month period, employees would receive the accumulated balance.

Sauls said the position adopted by G.M. was accepted by Naaawu. Problems which might arise as a result of the delay in the payment of the deferred 50% of the detainees' wages would be addressed by the union.

The issue of legal representation of the detainees had not yet been replied to by the company and would be an issue for further discussion.

A company spokesman could not be contacted for comment.

LINDA ENSOR

Interest payments up 19.3%

LINDA ENSOR
INTEREST payments by debt-burdened farmers increased a massive 19.3% in the year ending June 1986.

The Department of Agriculture's figures — to be released shortly in its annual report — reveal a total interest payment of R1,760m in 1985-86 compared to the R1,475bn paid in the previous year.

"This proved a heavy burden for farmers, many of whom have been forced to leave the land," a spokesman for the department's economic trends division said.

The increase was due to soaring overdraft rates and the escalation in the overall, drought-inflicted, debt.

Any improvements in their plight largely depends on the weather and farmers are hoping against a fifth successive year of drought.

Incorporation protest

SOPHIE TEMA

RESIDENTS of Braklaagte, near Zeerust, have drawn up a petition to government rejecting their planned incorporation into Bophuthatswana.

Last week 671 residents, under Chief Johannes Sebogodi, signed the petition to be handed to the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning.

The move was taken by the Braklaagte community after the Borders of Particular States Extension Amendment Bill was passed in Parliament. The Bill threatens the incorporation of thousands of blacks into Bophuthatswana.

Several thousand residents at Machakaneng in the Western Transvaal, to be incorporated into the Tswana homeland, have also objected to the planned move.

Chris Heunis' empire to be cut back

Own Correspondent

THE vast "empire" of Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Chris Heunis is to be cut back.

He said yesterday the department's officials will be cut back to about 400 from the present 1 600.

Heunis' sprawling department and the massive influence he wields has earned him barbed epithets such as "The Minister of Everything", "His Royal Heunis" and tracks.

He has also been accused by opposition members of having so much to do that he has neglected his prime job of negotiating a new constitution to the extent that the reform programme is now off the tracks.

Farmers kick at burden of farm schools

By JILL JOUBERT

MORE and more farmers are kicking against the burden of running schools on their properties for their labourers' children and those of neighbours.

They claim the subsidies available from the Department of Education and Training (DET) are inadequate.

Educational aids supplied to urban schools are not given to farm schools, and, when they are, often require electricity which is unavailable.

Teachers are often unwilling to accept rural posts which can be lonely and offer little recreation or social life.

They also claim recreational facilities for pupils are often non-existent.

Farmers recently called for DET to assume full responsibility for educating farm children.

Mrs F M Beckley, of the Algoa Farmers' Union, said the agricultural industry was tied to a happy and productive labour force.

"Our labourers have access to radio and television. They know what is going on. They also know what educational facilities are avail-

able to children in towns, facilities their children cannot share."

Mrs Beckley said DET had recently announced a 10-year programme for improving education.

The upgrading of education for farm children should be included.

Agriculture should aim at education geared to keeping children on the land.

"Once they go to the cities they are lost to agriculture," she said.

The assumption that farm labourers need "not be so bright" was a myth.

"Our workers handle sophisticated machinery and must be educated to assume managerial roles."

She said there were 701 farm schools in the Eastern Cape with 1 266 teachers for about 56 624 pupils, representing a pupil-teacher ratio of 40 to 1.

Today 11% of school buildings were deemed in good order, 34% adequate, 22% needing attention and 32% "in very poor condition".

"In the urban milieu they would be condemned," Mrs Beckley said.

None went beyond primary level.

DET provided aid by paying the teachers' salaries.

Farmers were paid R30 a year to act as school "managers". Classrooms, which had to be built to DET specifications, were subsidised by 50% to a maximum of R6 000.

This worked out at about R200 a square metre so farmers were always out of pocket.

Farmers also had to house the teachers for which they got no assistance.

Mrs Beckley said DET always argued they could not build schools on private property — farms.

"This could easily be solved.

"Farmers could guarantee land for a specified period. DET could put up one or other of the excellent prefabricated buildings now being marketed. These could then be dismantled and moved should circumstances change."

Mrs Beckley said she would like to see organised agriculture represented on DET's policy-making bodies when it came to farm schools.

Mr Dick Merifield, of the Lower Albany and Bathurst Border Farmers' Association, supported the idea of State schools for farm children.

"The State expropriates land for roads. Why not schools?"

Mr Paul Haworth, of Alexandria, spoke against farm schools.

"It's just not practical to have this enormous duplication. If every farmer has one school and suitable recreational grounds he must sacrifice at least two hectares."

He said the obvious thing was for DET to build State schools, primary and secondary, at identifiable central points.

Inquiry into dividing ^{ARKMS 24/9/86} common land into 27 farms

Staff Reporter *(initials)* *3 general*

A COMMISSION of inquiry will start hearings in Namaqualand on Friday into the feasibility of dividing the common of Leliefontein, between Podfadder and Vanrhynsdorp, into 47 individual farms.

Hundreds of residents in the area use Leliefontein's State-owned sparse grazing lands as a common — usually through leasing arrangements with the local management committee.

Mr J Smuts, a spokesman in Springbok for the Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives said the arrangement had caused extensive overgrazing, often by sheep and goats owned by non-residents.

Reduce the stock

"A man living in Springbok or Cape Town runs 100 goats with relatives living at Leliefontein," he said.

The area's natural grazing would have to be re-established which could only be accomplished by reducing the stock.

"During good rains — and 32 inches fell in nearby Kamies this last winter — Leliefontein has excellent grazing for Namaqualand conditions," Mr Smuts said.

"We are working hard to re-establish the Leliefontein grazing lands and hope that the summer rains are good," he said.

The department proposed to divide Leliefontein into 47 farm units, ranging from about 1 800 hectares to 6 000 hectares, he said.

None of the families now living there would have to move. However, an agreement would have to be made to establish the number of animals each family would be allowed in future.

Depending on the rainfall, each of the 47 proposed farms could carry about 400 to 500 sheep or goats and be economically viable, he said.

"The commission will have to first establish the definition of a 'farmer' and how many animals to allow each family on Leliefontein — a difficult task in itself.

"Animals inherited"

"Many animals are inherited and many families also consider Leliefontein their land on which they have grazing rights.

"Such claims are to be submitted to the hearings and have to be carefully analysed," he said.

The investigation committee, announced by Mr David Curry in the House of Representatives on August 6, will start its hearings in Leliefontein on September 26.

Others will be in Paulshoek on October 1, Rooifontein on October 3, Kharkams on October 7, Nourivier on October 13, Tweerivier on October 15, Keis on October 17, Klipfontein on October 21 and Spoegrivier on October 23.

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) R2 067 574
 - (b) Creamline Dairies (Pty) Ltd.
- (2) Yes. J. J. Du Plessis (Chairman); T. L. Reyneke; C. J. Bester; R. R. Callanan; P. W. Dempsey; C. P. de Wit; D. Osborne; P. J. Posthumus; F. D. P. Reyneke; R. B. S. Tucker; A. C. Vlok.
- (3) Yes.
 - (a) Since the debtor was placed under provisional liquidation, a compromise in terms of section 311 of the Companies Act, 1973 (Act 61 of 1973), was agreed to.
 - (b) 20 September 1985.
 - (c) The Dairy Board and the other creditors.
- (4) No.

Agricultural machinery/chemicals

*5. Mr A J W P S TERBLANCHE asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:†

- (1) Whether import restrictions and tariffs in respect of agricultural machinery and chemicals are reviewed from time to time; if not, why not; if so, on how many occasions have such tariffs been adjusted since 1 January 1982;
- (2) whether the rand/dollar exchange rate is taken into account in the adjustment of such import tariffs; if so, (a) to what extent and (b) what other factors are taken into account in this regard;
- (3) whether the body reviewing import tariffs includes a representative of the agricultural sector; if so, (a) (i) who is this person and (ii) by whom was he nominated and (b) what (i) are the names of the other persons serving on this body at present and (ii) is the name of this body; if not, why not;

up against the benefits which the country will derive from such protection.

- (3) No.
 - (a) (i) and (ii) Fall away.
 - (b) (i) and (ii) The body which advises the Government on customs tariff protection is the Board of Trade and Industry. The Board is composed as follows:
 - Full-time members:*
 - Dr L P McCrystal (Chairman)
 - Dr J Adendorff
 - Dr D L Bosman
 - Pari-time members:*
 - Mr R J Ironside
 - Mr H J Terreblanche
 - Mr R Ramsay
 - Mr E Pavitt

The composition of the Board of Trade and Industry is laid down by law. In terms of section 5 (2) of the Board of Trade and Industry Act, 1986 the members of the Board are appointed by the State President by reason of their knowledge of and experience in commerce, industry and the economy. The members are, therefore, appointed in their personal capacity and do not represent specific sectors.

(4) As indicated already, members of the Board of Trade and Industry are not appointed from specific economic sectors, but exclusively by reason of the special knowledge and experience they may have. Anybody having that knowledge and experience is considered for appointment to the Board.

Members convicted of theft

*6. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Defence:†

- (1) Whether any members of the South African Defence Force who have been convicted of theft, are allowed to remain in the service of the Defence Force; if so, in what circumstances;

(2) whether the pension money of such members may be used to make good damage suffered as a result of theft; if not, why not; if so, (a) in what circumstances and (b) in terms of what statutory provisions;

(3) what is the policy of the Defence Force in respect of members who are convicted of offences?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Each case is considered on merit. The nature and seriousness of the offence and the sentence is taken into account to determine whether the member should be dismissed or not.
- (2) Yes.
 - (a) Losses sustained by the State may be deducted from the annuity or benefit payable to a member of the pension fund in a lump sum or in instalments such as determined by the Secretary of the Government Service Pension Fund.
 - (b) Section (2) (3) (c)—General Pension Act, (Act 29 of 1979).
- (3) Each case is considered on merit to determine whether other additional administrative steps should be taken against the member. In addition to possible dismissal a member's promotion may be held back with the proviso that a member may not be penalised for more than two years for the same offence.

Railways/harbours/airports: policing

*7. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:†

- (1) Whether the South African Police is responsible for the policing of (a) the railways, (b) the harbours, (c) the airports and (d) other specified branches and properties of the South African Transport Services; if not, (i) why not and (ii) what action is contemplated in this regard; if so, (aa) from what date, (bb) what was the cost thereof to the South African

(4) whether he will consider appointing a representative of the agricultural sector to this body?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY (Dr T G Alant):

- (1) Yes. Quantitative import restrictions are only applicable on certain types of agricultural machinery, including ploughs, harrows, cultivators, seed and fertiliser distributors and harvesting and threshing machines. Import permits are issued to cover the full reasonable requirements of importers. In the case of agricultural chemicals, the position is that fertilisers are exempted from quantitative import control. The importation of insecticides, fungicides, weed killers and rat poisons is only monitored and this is done at the request of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing which is responsible for the administration of the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947) in terms of which the products referred to have to be registered before they may be marketed locally.

Import duties are being reviewed from time to time at the request of interested parties or on the initiative of the Board of Trade and Industry. With regard to agricultural chemicals, import duties have been revised in 12 cases since 1 January 1982. Comprehensive investigations are conducted at present into the possible revision of customs tariff protection on agricultural chemicals and machinery.

(2) Yes.

(a) and (b) In the case of all applications for tariff protection the Board of Trade and Industry gives careful consideration to the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on the competitiveness of an industrial sector as well as on that sector's contribution to the economy. The cost of tariff protection is also carefully weighed

Bread price rise shock

eve Post

28/9/86



JOHANNESBURG — The Government today announced increases of 6c a loaf in the price of white and brown bread from October 1 — a move that has shocked consumer and feeding scheme organisations.

The price of white bread will rise from 70c to 76c a loaf and that of brown bread from 50c to 56c.

Some supermarkets in Port Elizabeth will subsidise the increase in the price of white and brown bread from next month.

The regional manager of Pick 'n Pay supermarkets in the Eastern Cape, Mr Terry Carroll, said the price increase would definitely be subsidised.

"We will make a decision later today on exactly what level," he said.

Checkers' regional manager for the Eastern Cape, Mr John De Klerk, said that bread would be sold at the old price until further notice.

The secretary of the School Feeding Fund in Port Elizabeth, Mrs Valerie Hunt, said the price rise was a knock for the poor.

"It is going to cost us R1 000 extra per month to carry on our work," she said.

"Bakeries are not allowed to give any discount on bread so we will

be getting our bread at the set selling price."

The "Housewife's League in Port Elizabeth slammed the increased prices.

"We are extremely disappointed that the Government has seen fit to push up the price when there is a glut of wheat on the world market," said a spokesman for the league, Mrs Berna Maarten.

The Consumer Council director, Mr Jan Cronje, said: "It is the consumer who buys bread as a staple food who will bear the extra expense."

"Subsidising is not the indicated method to help the needy, since it does not benefit only the needy, but also the affluent consumer who does not need it.

"The subsidy of R193 million the Government, the Wheat Board and the baking and milling industry has voted to keep the bread price as low as possible, is nevertheless appreciated."

A spokesman for Operation Hunger said the price increase was a big blow and would increase the need for

assistance to the hungry.

A statement released today by the Director-General of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Dr D W Immelman, said: "The Government has decided on this price increase in view of the increase in the price of wheat.

"There have also been rises in the costs of the milling and baking industry."

He said the last bread price increase was a year ago.

"It remains the constant aim of the Government and the wheat industry, in the interests of the consumer as well as the wheat producer, to keep the price of bread as low as possible," he said.

"All possible measures have been taken to limit the increase in the bread price to the minimum."

He said this year's bread subsidy of R193 million was insufficient to stave off a price increase. Last year's total subsidy, financed mainly by the Government and the Wheat Board, was R210 million.

Meyer: farming the backbone of growth

0026/1/86
Dispatch Reporter

BUSHMAN'S RIVER — The importance of agriculture must not be overlooked in the development of Region D, the president of the East Cape Agricultural Union and member of the Regional Development Advisory Committee (RDAC), Mr Tobie Meyer, said at the opening of the annual South Eastern Areas Development congress last night.

He said agriculture was the backbone of a dynamic rural economy. Region D was no exception. Its gross domestic product in 1984 totalled R96 million, the major commodities being milk, pineapples, wool, mohair, beef, mutton and chicory.

Agriculture employed a permanent workforce of nearly 10 000.

Mr Meyer said there was room for improvement in manpower and financial management but farmers were accepting their responsibilities to improve the quality of life of their labourers.

He said incentives for industrial decentralization would enhance regional development, while developing people and natural resources would create a climate for progress. Population growth should be curbed.

Education was hampered by insufficient facilities. "Blacks often have to travel long distances if they want to attend high school. This is why trained scholars are not returning to the platteland."

The positive aspects of the area included its sound marketing structure, potential for tourism, educational institutions, and infrastructure.

The RDAC had sought the advice of a management training consultant to formulate a strategy for the development of Region D. It was hoped the outcome would be a co-ordinated strategy embracing industrialisation, agriculture, tourism, marketing and urbanisation.

Milk rise is the third in a year

By BARBARA ORPEN
THE increase of 4c a litre in the price of milk in Port Elizabeth from October 1 is the third in the past year and the second in four months.

While the Housewives' League in the city has warned that consumers cannot afford further increases, Mr Stephen du Plessis, marketing manager of United Dairies, said today people should resign themselves to an annual increase of at

least 10%.
United Dairies said yesterday home deliveries would rise to 82c a litre next Wednesday. Supermarkets and cafes will sell cartons for 98c a litre (up by 4c) and plastic containers for 84c or 85c.

Commenting on the price increase, Mr Du Plessis said United Dairies had opted to split the increase to "soften the blow" for consumers. "We could have put the

price up by 7c a litre in May, but we prefer to do this in two stages."

He admitted the increase was "a few months early" and said the next one would probably be in May.

Attributing the increase to rising costs of packaging, wage demands and the 2c a litre increase for farmers for production costs, Mr Du Plessis said packaging costs had risen by more than the 12.3%

increase the milk price had seen in the past 12 months.

He said the percentage was well below the current inflation rate.

Although the drought was largely responsible for the increase in farmer's production costs, there was no shortage of milk in the Eastern Cape.

Mrs Verna Martin, president of the Housewives' League, said the price rise was "totally

unacceptable".

"The plight of many people in the Eastern Cape is desperate," she said.

"Milk is a complete food and vital for growing children."

"Now the poor can no longer afford this essential commodity."

Supermarket chains have announced they will subsidise the price of white and brown bread and will continue to sell milk at the current

prices "for the next few weeks".

Mr Terry Carroll, regional manager of Pick'n Pay hypermarkets in the Eastern Cape, said bread would be sold at the old price for the next four weeks and milk at old prices for "at least two weeks".

Mr N Leibov, food marketing director of OK Bazaars in the Eastern Cape, said bread and milk would be sold at

cost price throughout the area for an indefinite period.

"I don't know how long we will offer these commodities at that price, but the situation will be reviewed every two weeks."

Miss Adele Louw, of Checkers, said bread prices would be subsidised on a national basis and in Port Elizabeth milk prices would be held at current levels "for as long as possible".

Bread Price Hike Shocks Consumers

Dispatch Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Consumer bodies and feeding scheme organisations reacted with shock yesterday to the latest increase in the price of bread — the third in 18 months.

The increase — of 12,5 per cent on brown bread and 8,5 per cent on white bread — comes into effect on October 1.

It followed approval by the Wheat Board of a 10,8 per cent hike in the price of Class A 1 wheat for the 1986/7 season — from R325 to R360 a ton.

The director-general of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Dr D. W. Immelman, announced the price of white bread would climb from 70 c to 76 c a loaf and brown bread from 50 c to 56 c.

He said the government had decided on the increase in view of the increase in the price of wheat and rises in costs in the milling and baking industry.

In spite of the total subsidy of R193 million for the 1986/87 financial year — consisting mostly of a R150 million government subsidy allocated in the Budget — it was not possible in the circumstances to stave off a price increase any further.

The president of the Housewives' League, Mrs Lyn Morris, said the increase on brown bread was "excessive" and would cause great hardship for the poor. She suggested white bread could have carried the greater increase or a balance of 10 per cent on each.

The president of the Black Housewives League, Mrs Sally Molana, said she was shocked.

"It is a wicked move at a time of spreading unemployment and poverty among blacks that their staple food should

be increased in price," she said.

The director of the Consumer Council, Mr Jan Cronje, said the increase would add to already expensive shopping baskets.

"It is especially the consumer who buys bread as a staple food who will bear the extra expense," he said.

The chairman of Pick'n Pay, Mr Raymond Ackerman, said the "political dynamite" of a bread price hike could be avoided "if the government would free the bread industry and allow retailers to bake the government loaves".

A spokesman for Operation Hunger said the price increase was a big blow and would increase the need for assistance to the hungry.

The general secretary of the National Union of Garment Workers, Mrs Lucy Mvumbelo, said the new bread price would come as a severe shock to thousands of struggling black families.

"It is a heartless move by government to ignore the spread of poverty and hunger in the townships.

"When government is spending R5 billion on defence, it could surely have found more than R193 million to maintain the bread price," she said.

The president of the Trade Unions Council of South Africa, Mr Robbie Botha, deplored the price hike. It would impose further hardships on the lower income groups already plagued by unemployment and poverty.

CAPT Traps 30/9/86 3 Gaud

Worse Karoo locust outbreak feared

By **DIANE CASSERE**
Environment Reporter

LOCUSTS have invaded the Karoo again — and the new outbreak could be worse than the one which ended in May.

Mr Gerrit Visser, chief of locust control in Fraserburg, said yesterday that reports of locust nests had been received since September 19.

The last spraying of locusts in the area was on May 9 — a break of only four months.

Mr Visser said the outbreak could be worse than the one last

year because the area had had good rains in winter and was already experiencing summer weather. It was still early in the season.

About 20 farms were affected. Mr Visser said many of these were about 40ha and not all nests were spotted and reported.

"The locusts are still in the first stage when they are eating only grass. About two weeks after that they start on their way in swarms.

"The most successful way to destroy them is to get to their

nests."

Mr Visser said that last year many of the locusts had not stuck together in the nests, but went off alone to breed. Then they hid in the grass and were almost impossible to detect.

"Locust outbreaks continue throughout the summer. If we do not get to the nests or if as many locusts breed away from them, the swarms could be terrible."

Reports had come in from farms as far as the borders of Victoria West, Beaufort West, Williston and Sutherland.

Scales tilt to PE fresh fish market at harbour

By BARBARA ORPEN
PORT ELIZABETH
could get a fresh fish market
in the near future.

Mr George Engelbrecht, regional manager for South African Transport Serives in the Cape Midlands, confirmed today that the Burgraaff Commission was looking into the viability of a fish market in the city as part of its investigations into development of the harbour for recreational and tourist facilities.

The commission, which visited the city in July, was briefed to establish to what extent sections of the harbour could be used for this purpose, but no decision concerning the fish market would be made until the commission made its final recommendations, according to

Mr Engelbrecht.

Approached for comment, city councillor Mr Graham Richards said the establishment of a fish market in the city would be "fantastic" and added he would support the idea should it come to fruition.

"I am a firm believer in the free market system and private enterprise should be encouraged to develop the idea of a fish market," he said.

Mr Richards suggested that any development in the PE harbour should be based on the popular complex at the Hout Bay.

"A popular seafood restaurant has opened adjacent to the market and it is extremely successful," he said.

The Town Clerk, Mr P K Botha, said there had been no recent requests to

the City Council for a fish market.

"The last one came from the Afrikaanse Sakekamer early in 1981. However, nothing further was heard from the people who had made the request after various reports had been compiled," he said.

Mr Johan Stander, who owns two chokka fishing boats, said although many people felt the fisherman's wharf at Dom Pedro jetty was adequate as a selling point for fresh fish, the jetty was "a disgrace nobody cared for".

He said the jetty was "not a pleasant place to be".

A properly run fish market in the English mould, would be an asset to the city, Mr Stander said.

30/9/86

1965 2/10/86 3 Gaud

Locust war: Heavy fines for farmers

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A locust plague is threatening farmers in the Northern and Eastern Cape, Western Transvaal and Southern Free State.

The threat is so serious that farmers who fail to report locusts will be prosecuted. The penalty for a first offence is a fine of up to R5 000 and/or a prison sentence of two years.

Mr M L Heyns, deputy director for soil protection at the Department of Agriculture and Economic Marketing, said there were already 170 locust-combating teams operating.

He said: "If the locusts, which have already started hatching, are not stopped in their hopper stage, damage of millions of rands will be done to crops and grazing."

Mr Heyns said he was planning to fly over the areas where locusts started appearing about two weeks ago to identify areas where locusts had not been reported.

"We will not hesitate to prosecute people who have failed to notify us."

According to Mr Heyns, the locusts were in a 200 km belt from Vryburg through the Southern Free State to Cradock.

"All the indications are that the outbreak will be much worse than last year's plague."

Festering debt

The problems of agriculture have been highlighted by Assocom. Following the 1983 Kleu Report and Pretoria's 1984 White Paper on agriculture, an Assocom memo to the State President's Economic Council, on the restructuring of agriculture, computes farm debt at the end of 1984 at R9,5 billion, against a R10,5 billion gross value of farm production for 1984-1985.

This implies that the average farmer's indebtedness in 1984 was about R150 000. Later figures suggest farm indebtedness now totals as much as R11,2 billion.

The main creditors are commercial banks (R3 billion in 1984) and agricultural co-ops (R2,2 billion, up from R113m in 1970). Co-ops are exposed wholly to farm activities, but R1,1 billion of debt in summer rainfall areas has been rescheduled.

Despite rising debt, farm land prices increased by 84% in the five years to 1984-1985, against a 66% CPI hike. Assocom explains this anomaly by reference to inter-related government farm support policies, and relatively easy access to further credit.

Farmers who have owned land for, say, 25 years, are able to borrow. This may have contributed to high land prices. So have farm support policies created a privileged group of landowners who benefit from large increases in the value of land?

Farm support policies continually undergo change, but at any time there are enough to distort markets. Some of the more common: increasing demand (bread subsidies); restricting imports (single-channel marketing); reducing input costs (subsidising inputs; tax concessions); land consolidation; maintaining a rural population; maintaining a strategic presence in border areas.

The problem is that general price support tends to increase the disparity of farm income distribution. Price support is paid *per unit of output*, so the largest output is given the most support in absolute terms. Budding entrepreneurial farmers on smaller farms may be wiped out by a single drought.

The importance of the agricultural sector cannot be overstressed. Excluding the TBVC states, some 1,2 m people work in agriculture, 14% of the 8,7 m workforce. And 47% of SA's population is found in rural areas, emphasising agriculture's vital socio-economic role.

"Raw" agriculture contributes 7% of GDP. SA is self-sufficient in food production, a strong counter to the developing sanctions threat. ■

Outside farmers bring coastal boom

(3)
Bloukrans
Coast
Port

By MICHEL DESMIDT

IT'S taken outside expertise and capital to bring the fertile Tsitsikamma coastal zone to its full agricultural potential.

About 40% of the present farming community moved into the area over the past six years, says the chairman of the Witels Farmers' Association, Mr Eddie Whitehead, and a full 90% are outsiders.

He is a case in point, having abandoned sheep farming in the Northern Cape for the higher financial returns waiting to be reaped from the loamy soils of the Tsitsikamma — a coastal zone stretching from the Bloukrans river to 20 kilometres west of Humansdorp.

"There are still farmers coming in now and most newcomers have had to develop the land from scratch."

The farmers' biggest concern is finding markets for their produce — which cover about 90% of the South African agricultural spectrum, says Mr Whitehead.

With the exception of certain sub-tropical fruit, cultivation ranges from ferns for export through to mainstays such as dairy, maize and vegetable farming.

Since the end of the drought last August, farmers have focused on extending their markets and are investigating export potential at a time when most foreign governments opposed to SA are clamouring for economic sanctions. Potential markets are Britain, the Netherlands, West Germany and the Far East.

Farmers are not daunted by sanctions, says Mr Whitehead, since if the quality and price are right, exports will get through regardless.

"Exporting is the answer to our problems. Although things are still in the planning stage, we are studying the possibility of establishing a vegetable-processing plant or, alternatively, exporting fresh produce."

Mr Whitehead said an alternative would be to negotiate the use of apple cold storage facilities out of season.

Locally, more than 30 000 litres of surplus milk is trucked daily to Cape Town, while still supplying Port Elizabeth and a major depot in Kareedouw.

Most produce is sent to Port Elizabeth, although an increase in the Maize Board levy from 50c to R46 a ton — charged for marketing inside a "controlled" area — has led farmers to look for alternative markets.



An injection of money and expertise by the new breed of farmer to the Tsitsikamma region is boosting agricultural potential to the point of over-production. The chairman of the Witels Farmers' Association, Mr EDDIE WHITEHEAD, examines a wheat crop established in the six years since he abandoned sheep farming in the Northern Cape.

Commission investigates use of Leliefontein land

CASE FILES 17/10/86 *36 years*

By CLARE HARPER

A COMMISSION of inquiry is underway in the coloured group area of Leliefontein, Namaqualand, to investigate the use of commonage land.

The inquiry, which has been sitting since September 26, follows representations by hundreds of residents to the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, Mr David Curry, over the division of the land into 46 farms.

In 1984 individuals were allowed to apply for the farms but had to have at least 250 stock or R3 000 in assets and pay a minimum rent of R200 a year.

Since 30 of the 47 farms have been leased out residents are now left with only a small commonage on which to graze their animals.

Dr Lita Webley, of UCT's archaeology department, who testified before the commission, said that the farm Leliefontein in the Kamiesberg was

bought by a Kaptein Wildskut for his people to settle on in the mid-18th century.

"Their descendants have used this land communally since at least 1772. In 1854 Lord Cathcart granted Leliefontein a ticket of occupation, the land then officially belonged to the inhabitants and was declared inalienable.

Mr E Carstens, secretary of the commission, said yesterday that the commission was investigating dissatisfaction over the leasing of farms.

Chairman of the committee is Dr D A Khotze, assisted by Mr L McKenzie and Mr L le Grange.

Mr Carstens said he did not know when the findings would be made known.

Today the committee will sit at the school building at Kheis. On Monday evidence will be heard in the clinic at Klipfontein and on Thursday in the school building at Spoeg River.

FIN MAIL 11/2/86
FARM SANCTIONS 3 GEN

Sowing the wind

The last thing agriculture needs after the drought and profits crunch is sanctions. It seems, however, that farmers need not be too depressed about the US inclusion of food and farm products in its sanctions lineup.

The value of these exports in 1985 were relatively small at \$65,5 m, while major farming sectors export little, or nothing, to the US, which is, of course, the world's largest food-producing country.

But, say agricultural spokesmen, the biggest danger is that the US move sets a precedent for other countries.

"The US is not our most vital export target, although some sectors will lose important markets. The danger is that the lead-

AGRICULTURE'S GREATER SHARE OF BUDGET IS JUSTIFIED — ECONOMIST

PRETORIA — The substantial increase in agriculture's share of the Budget gives the wrong impression that agriculture is a drag on SA and the taxpayer, says SA Agricultural Union economist Johan Pienaar.

In a Budget review he says the total agricultural budget for the current financial year increased by about

GERALD REILLY
76%, compared with the previous year — from R966m to R1,7bn.

This huge increase was caused mainly by the R400m set aside to slow down sequestrations in the farming community, and R134m to support the

maize price. The R400m, however, was a loan to farmers.

Included, too, in the agricultural budget was R385m to subsidise bread and maize product prices. The agricultural budget was about 3,7% of the total Budget in the current financial year, compared with 2,5% in the previous year.

The direct contribution of agriculture to the GDP was about 5%. The indirect contribution was greater than generally believed.

About 25% of all SA industries are dependent on agriculture for their most important inputs. This indicates the economic and strategic worth of the industry, says Pienaar.

3 personal
B/Ray 5/8/81



Pictures: FRANZ KRUGER

Goqwana residents help to right a truck overturned by the strong winds.

Six minutes of death, devastation

ARGUS 20/10/60
3 General

The Argus Correspondent

EAST LONDON. — It took just six terrifying minutes for a freak tornado to rampage through two Transkei villages, killing a teenage boy, injuring dozens of people, uprooting trees and flattening homes.

Mlamleli Makasi, 14, died when a house collapsed on him, and three people are still in hospital after the disaster in Hlangani and Goqwana villages in the Tsolo district of Transkei.

This week residents of the two villages spoke of the disaster which struck on Sunday, October 5 — the same day an earth tremor rocked South Africa's eastern seaboard.

Mr Hansford Ntobongwana, a shopkeeper in Hlangani, was on his way home when the tornado struck: "It was about 3.30 in the afternoon. We were driving back from another village when we saw a dark cloud approaching from the west

"It was rolling in the atmosphere, and was surrounded by a lot of mist

FEARED FOR LIVES

"All of a sudden, there was a big whirlwind. It was blowing in all directions, shaking everything in its path. We rushed to get home, but it overtook us in a forest

"We were feared for our lives. The wind blew from the front, and then immediately from the back, so strong that the car was pushed forward although it was in gear and the handbrake was on. It lasted only minutes."

This week, when I went to the isolated area, the tornado's path could be clearly traced

A swathe of devastation a few hundred metres wide and eight kilometres long had been cut through the two villages. A community school consisting of five buildings had been reduced to rubble. Four of the buildings had been completely flattened, only the walls of the last one remained.

Two churches and about 30 homes had also been similarly destroyed. Large trees had been uprooted and flung to one side. Sheets of corrugated iron had been snatched up from roofs, and scattered across the valley. Some hung high up in trees,

where they had been twisted around branches by the wind

The thatched roofs of other homes on the periphery of the storm had been ruffled like a child's hair.

Young Mlamleli Makasi had gone into a hut to close the windows when the building collapsed on him. His aunt, Mrs Dorcas Gulwa, said: "There was nobody there to help him and so he died"

A young man, Mncedisi Yokwe, tried to carry two young children inside a house. "Before I could get to the house the wind took me. I could not keep hold of the children.

"I was knocked down just outside the gate, and rolled down the road."

Mr Ntobongwana tells of a prefabricated building that was scooped up and flung across the yard. A bed from inside was found several kilometres away.

He pointed to a shed in his own yard, lifted up and dashed against the ground some distance away

Mrs Matilda Temba, 70, said: "I was sitting on my bed when suddenly there was a crash and I saw the walls falling on me. I grabbed the two children that were there with me and ran out of the house"

Most injuries were caused by collapsing walls and flying sheets of corrugated iron.

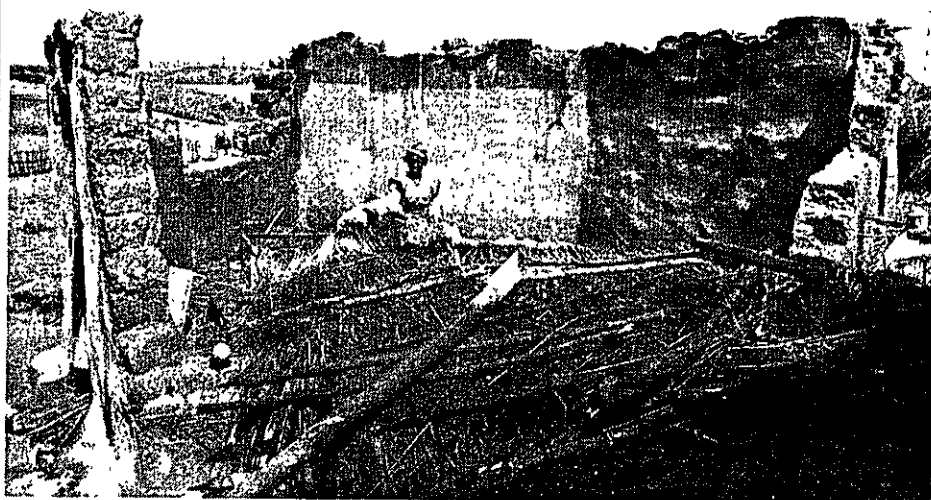
HEAD INJURIES

According to Dr K S Gaire, superintendent of St Lucy's Hospital at nearby St Cuthbert's Mission, 35 patients were brought in.

Most were treated and discharged. "Six or seven were admitted overnight, and three are still in hospital," Dr Gaire said.

The most seriously injured was a six-year-old boy head injuries. The others were a young woman with a fractured ankle and a boy of about 10 who had a fractured elbow.

"This has not happened before in the history of the place," said Mr Ntobongwana. "It is something we have never seen before."



A house in the village of Hlangani destroyed by the tornado.

3 General

Locusts: Call for immediate reports

Environment Reporter

FAILURE to report the presence of locusts on a farm was illegal and contributed to the plagues that have afflicted the Karoo and Northern Cape since the autumn of 1985, according to the Deputy Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs, Mr G J Kotze.

More than 66 million hectares, mostly in the Cape, had been affected by brown locusts and new swarms were expected to hatch following

the spring rains, Mr Kotze said.

As it was important to combat locusts before they reached the flying stage, Mr Kotze urged all farmers to report hatchings immediately so that commando teams could be sent out.

"Locust officials in all districts report that there are still farmers who notify cases of locusts either late or not at all," the minister said.

"The secret of the proven commando system is precisely that farmers should report

immediately the hatchings of locusts to the district locust officer so that he can despatch combat teams to spray the swarm."

Although swarms had made an appearance earlier than expected in the Karoo and Northern Cape this spring, combat units had "radically" decreased their expansion.

But bad weather over most parts of the country had caused a lull in the campaign.

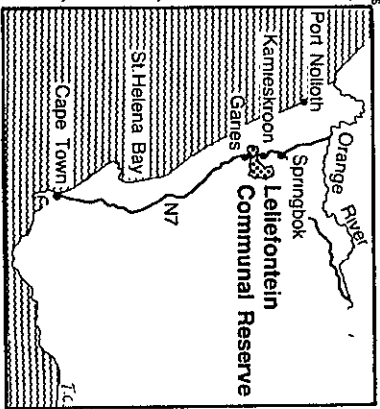
Leliefontein's farmers fear for future

Report and pictures: RIAAN SMIT

MR PIET KLASSE, 37, walked through the waist-high wheat in his small field in the coloured reserve Leliefontein in Namaqualand and asked bitterly, "Do you think it's right that they want to give this to one farmer as grazing for his small stock?"

Many small subsistence farmers and their wives and children, like Mr. Klasse, among Leliefontein's 5 000 people face an uncertain future in an area where change has always been as slow as donkey carts.

And they are divided about what the crummed into the Kipfontein-NG-Sent-dingkerk where Mr. Klasse look the oath before commission chairman Dr. Dirk K. O. L. z e. After a few sentences of his testimony he abandoned his prepared speech.



Before the division, farmers grazed their small stock communally and trekked within the 200 000-hectare reserve to seasonal grazing spots. Many cultivated wheat at small, allocated sites.

Thirty of the 47 farms have so far been rented for five years to a small number of farmers — at the expense of other farmers.

A commission of inquiry was appointed on September 12, 1984, by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. David Curry, after a number of farmers who could not — or would not — rent farms spotted them for a commission of inquiry. He cited Article 41 of the Rural Coloured Areas Law, stating that "economic units" could be rented only to bona fide farmers.

Some of the 30 farms had allegedly been rented to people who are not



Leliefontein farmers: From the left, Mr. Samuel Cloete, Mr. David Koordoon, Mr. Abraham Fortuin and Mr. Piet Klasse standing in Mr. Klasse's wheat field.

He told how, small stock farmers, that passed on the rented farms had been impounded and "sold to white farmers for ridiculous prices".

He said Mr. Cloete visited the area on December 10, 1984, and "chased us away here at Kharikams like dogs".

The only spoke to the management committee, Mr. Klasse told the commission.

"This economic system is the work of the government, then it is very unfair for my big father (the government) to take the bread from my mouth like this," he said.

He concluded by saying: "This system affects us and our children who have to come and stay here after us. Mr. chairman, we feel deeply hurt by this system. It is inhuman," he said.

Mr. Samuel Cloete, 55, told the commission the "farm system has divided the community, even in the church".

As if to prove this point, the commission hearing was suspended at one point for about 10 minutes when Mr. Klasse and Mr. Piet Gal, who leases one of the farms, began arguing about the issue, ignoring the speaker.

Mr. David Koordoon said, "I did not even think of applying for a farm together because it would have taken away land from other people."

In a private discussion the night before he said, "My parents were born at Kipfontein and their parents have been buried here".

The kernel of Leliefontein "reserve" was established in 1816 by the Wesleyan Church. Most of the people are directly descended from the Nama-speaking Kloek-hoi (so-called "Hottentot") people.

Their chief bought a farm for them to settle on in 1772 and this forms the focus of the present "reserve".

The boundaries of Leliefontein were established in 1884 and Lord Cathcart gave them a ticket of occupation and maintainable rights to the land.

The land has become increasingly overgrazed and agricultural officers blame this on the communal system of land tenure. The reserve has been divided into the 47 "economic units" aimed primarily at improving this situation.

Said commission member and regional director for agricultural information (House of Assembly) Mr. Carel le Grange, "The wild deteriorates over decades and suddenly it reaches a point where it simply snaps".

Kroalbos, which sheep and goats cannot eat, has already taken over large parts of the overgrazed areas in Leliefontein.

The division of the reserve seems to be an adequate solution for conserving the soil. The land in fenced-off farms has improved in comparison with land on the still-available communal areas around little towns.

But the division of the reserve did not take into consideration what would become of people who had made a living off the land when it was used communally.

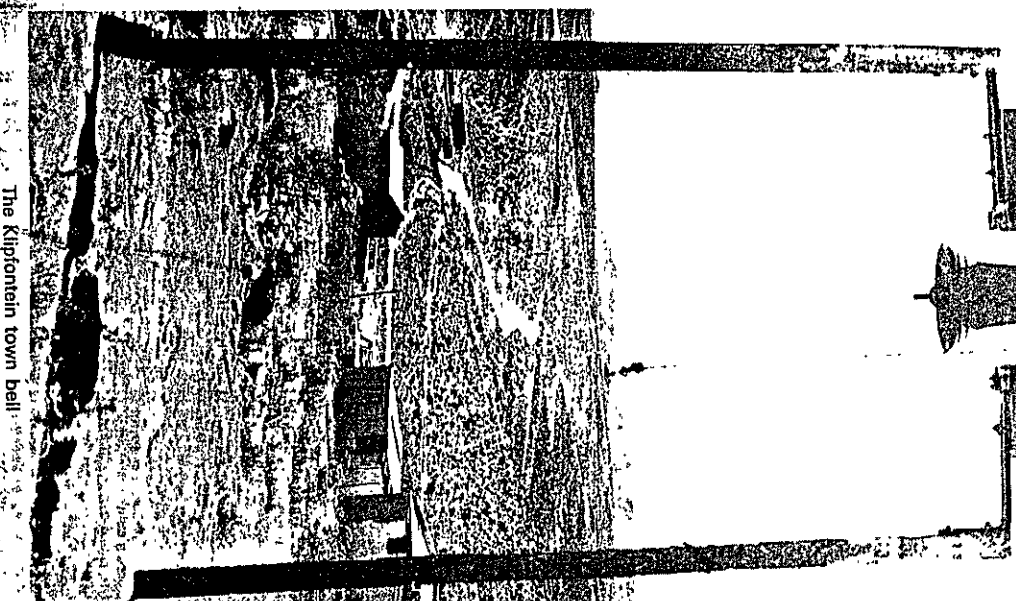
Residents spoken to said they were prepared to reduce their stock numbers if it meant they could stay on in Leliefontein. There is an estimated 38 000 head of small stock in the reserve, while it can carry only about 23 000, according to Mr. Le Grange.

Many residents felt the fences in Leliefontein could stay — provided everybody could use the camps for grazing on a rotational basis.

Either way, as Mr. David Koordoon explained, "We are fighting to stay here with freedom. We just don't want to be pushed off the land."

The commission will hear testimony for the last time at Spoorgrivier today and will report to Mr. Curry early next year.

Said commission member Mr. Louw Makenzie, "It's a tough task".



The Kipfontein town bell.

(3) GEN

R30-m for Bop agriculture

A R30 million guarantee agreement to help finance agriculture was concluded yesterday between the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Agricultural Bank of Bophuthatswana (Agribank).

The agreement takes the form of a back-up guarantee by the Development Bank to a guarantee provided by the Bophuthatswana Government and will permit Agribank to obtain loans up to R30 million from commercial banks in South Africa and Bophuthatswana on the strength of the guarantees.

Agribank needs the funds to finance direct crop production inputs by farmers and co-operatives in Bophuthatswana. They represent a major contribution to the financial requirements

for the coming production season.

LONG-TERM LOANS

In the five years since Agribank's inception, it has provided credit exceeding R100 million to more than 2 000 individual farmers, 30 primary and secondary co-operatives and various other agricultural bodies.

The credit is in the form of long-term loans for purchases of land and for improvements such as buildings, fences and dams, medium-term loans to buy farm implements or to improve the quality of livestock and seasonal advances to finance crop inputs such as seed, fertiliser, wages for farm labourers, fuel and other production expenses. — Sapa.

- 14. Classical liberal capitalism:
 - 1. is also known as laissez faire capitalism
 - 2. sees a limited role for government
 - 3. was a world-wide institution at the beginning of the century
 - 4. all of the above
 - 5. none of the above
- 15. State capitalism:
 - 1. is the same as a command economy
 - 2. means extensive nationalisation
 - 3. means individual agents can win control over the resources without recourse to the market
 - 4. is brought about by pressure groups
 - 5. none of the above
- 16. One of the weaknesses of a system of capitalism is:
 - 1. it responds slowly to change as a result of the wide distribution of monopoly power
 - 2. it lacks incentives to innovate because of monopoly power
 - 3. that social costs are computed by private firms in their decision making process
 - 4. it can lead to a highly skewed distribution of income
 - 5. all of the above
- 17. Gosplan is:
 - 1. the same as Gosbank
 - 2. Marx's ideal communist state
 - 3. one of the republics of the USSR
 - 4. a statistical service from which plans are derived
 - 5. none of the above
- 18. One of the drawbacks of Soviet style planning is:
 - 1. it can lead to technical inefficiency
 - 2. it can lead to static inefficiency
 - 3. managers are inclined to hold stocks and hide productive capacity
 - 4. black markets will develop in the face of growing shortages
 - 5. all of the above
- 19. Market socialism:
 - 1. refers to a Yugoslavian type of system
 - 2. aims at planning to set prices not output
 - 3. refers to Soviet purchases from the "free world"
 - 4. is unlikely to be successful as it is only theory
 - 5. none of the above
- 20. Historically, Soviet economic planning has stressed:
 - 1. Consumer welfare as reflected in durable goods production
 - 2. the full development of an efficient agricultural sector
 - 3. rapid industrial growth and military strength
 - 4. rapid expansion of trade with the Far East
 - 5. none of the above

A carve-up cuts out the last peasants

A government plan to carve up an area of Namaqualand into 'economic farming units' will have side-effects which officials are reluctant to admit: the 700 peasants who live there now will have nowhere to go. MOIRA LEVY reports

NAMAQUALAND peasants, who for generations have grazed their stock on state-owned common ground, face mass unemployment and possible starvation due to a House of Representatives scheme to subdivide the land into 47 individual farms.

Approximately 700 peasants, descendants of the Nama-speaking Khoi who have used the land communally for hundreds of years, are likely to be forced off the land.

According to a Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture representative, not more than 150 people can be accommodated on the new farms which will be between 1 800 and 6 000 hectares in size.

J Smuts, the department's agricultural officer, said he had "no idea what would happen to the others". He is adamant no families would be forced to move, but it is unlikely many of the peasants, who barely subsist on the produce of the land, could afford the R300 rent for a plot.

According to evidence before a commission of inquiry set up last month to investigate their grievances, the scheme is in contravention of a 1979 law governing the administration of coloured agricultural land.

Advocate B Burger, representing the community, explained that an investigation is mandatory before common land is sub-divided. "But they have put the cart before the horse. The minister should have ordered that a survey be carried out first, and then he could divide the land.

"The community is saying it is wrong their land should be cut up like this. The land belongs to them, it was given to them by the church and through the ages they have had the right to sow, graze and erect dwellings on it."

The Department of Local Government, Agriculture and Housing first proposed sub-dividing the area into "economic farming units" two years ago, arguing the land was being severely depleted by the communal semi-nomadic grazing arrangement. That reasoning has been rejected by the community.

University of Cape Town researcher, Lita Webley, in her evidence before the commission warned that because families have been denied access to their winter grazing lands the common area left for them to graze their stock has been seriously depleted.

"Most families used to move seasonally with their stock to winter stockposts. These movements have almost ceased and this has resulted in almost total denudation of the commonage around the village," she said.

"The conventional wisdom is that the communal land tenure system was responsible for the present over-grazing in the reserves. The historical information suggests quite the opposite. Since rainfall is very sporadic and extensive droughts are common in Namaqualand, seasonal movements are a vital aspect of the effective utilisation of the land."

Webley added: "The economic



Leliefontein resident Tant Sannie sits outside her reed home ... 'as ek die plaas vat, wat van my broer?'

Picture: DAVE HARTMAN, Altopix

farming unit has resulted in the wealthier inhabitants investing their capital in livestock and farms, whilst the majority of the poorer inhabitants with their small herds have been deprived of access to their seasonal pastures."

The community is particularly angered by the fact that outsiders are being granted tenders for the plots. They claim most newcomers are not bona fide farmers.

Resident Gert Bekeur alleged in an affidavit before the commission that 18 of the more than 30 new occupiers were wage earners.

Bekeur, born in Leliefontein and a farmer all his life, said "a number of the tenders were given to outsiders who had no established rights to the land and were not the traditional inhabitants of the area.

"A lot of the grants were given to people with cash incomes, for example teachers, pensioners, policemen and land owners from other areas, while we, the small farmers of the area, were left without land or rights, deprived of our only source of income," he said.

"All the improvements that the small farmers have introduced over the years were handed over to the outsiders."

Bekeur said he was denied access to the communal grazing area and his garden plot was taken from him in April last year. "I lost my right to grow vegetables and sow seeds and I never received any compensation."

University of Stellenbosch student, Fiona Archer, who has done extensive research in Namaqualand, said some members of the community could afford to rent plots, but they had refused to and had rejected the proposed scheme as harmful to the community.

She referred to the evidence given to the commission by a witness who said "As ek die plaas vat, wat van my broer? Dis die gemeenskap se land." ("If I take the farm what will happen to my brother? It's the community's land.")

Archer warned that the Leliefontein community was being riven by conflict over whether or not to apply for the plots. Families were being divided and the church, a central feature of the small community, was "split in two".

In her evidence before the commission Archer warned that the community, who were largely dependent on firewood for their energy supply, were suffering from a shortage of firewood on the land available to them.

Photographer Bernard Perez, who documents the living conditions of the rural communities of the Namaqualand, told Weekly Mail he knew of families who were recently fined for trespassing on land they had been using for the past 10 or 20 years.

Andries Nero, 53, who has been farming all his life, recently had 44 sheep confiscated. Perez said the stock was seized late in the night and taken to the municipal pound. To reclaim his sheep Nero was told he would have to pay R10 a head. "He didn't have the money and virtually his entire stock was auctioned off."

Perez said the community felt particularly bitter about being forced off land they felt they had paid for, through taxes of R30 to R40 a year. "One man has even been to jail for not

paying his tax, and now they are being kicked out."

The effects of the privatisation scheme are already being felt, Perez said. This year for the first time the Red Cross distributed mielie meal in Leliefontein. For many families old age pensions are now their only source of income.

There were no opportunities for employment in the towns at all, he added. Workseekers "have to go to the mines further north or to Cape Town if they want to find a job."

According to Perez, the community fears the Leliefontein area will be treated as a test case. If the inquiry endorses the subdivision of the land it is likely a vast region of the Namaqualand will in time be privatised.

30pc of Divco's
housing units
sold, says report

Staff Reporter
JUST OVER 30 percent of all dwelling units under the control of the Divisional Council had been sold, Mr Louwtjie Rothman, the Divco chairman, said yesterday in his annual report.

In the past financial year (July 1 last year to June 30 this year), the council had built 2 000 new dwelling units "by conventional means", according to the engineer's department report. Practically every new housing unit was immediately sold.

About 700 of these new homes had been built in Atlantis, the report said. The building of 225 more was soon to begin there and a further 691, also in Atlantis, were to be put out to tender.

Self-help housing had gained impetus in the past year as a "partial solution to the housing problem", the engineer's report said.

Schemes at Grassy Park and Belhar and an exhibition of houses with material costs of

under R9 000 each, had attracted national attention as "pace-setters".

The number of building plans approved had dropped to 4 075, from 4 820 in the previous year. This he ascribed to the recession, which was still affecting the building industry.

Sales of electricity continued to increase, although "at a markedly lower rate". Over 80 percent of all electricity was used by industry and commerce. Only 6 504 Divco homes consume electricity.

The council had been "extremely busy" with squatter-control operations in the past year, according to the report. Squatting had been exacerbated by the recession and the shortage of funds for housing development.

Mr D Manefeldt, the director of housing, said the Hangberg housing estate above Hout Bay harbour was "severely overcrowded". The council had consequently constructed 87 maisonettes in the saddle of the Sentinel mountain.

crowd turned up. It was impossible to hold a public meeting, no hall was available and I had not arranged such a meeting, so I refused to hold it.

"Instead I met representatives whom they chose. They also met the management committee. I chased no one away," Mr Curry said.

Symposium for
black farmers
will be a 'first'

JOHANNESBURG. — Black farmers from all over Southern Africa will meet at a symposium in Pretoria in November.

A statement issued by the South African Institute of Agricultural Engineers said the symposium will be held at Palms Hotel, Pretoria, between November 11 and November 13.

Mechanization

The theme will be "Irrigation Farming and Mechanization Schemes in Developing Areas".

Mr Johan Murray, president of the Institute, said more than 300 delegates would attend. They would be from most of the independent states surrounding the Republic, as well as from most of the homelands and farming areas within South Africa.

"This will be the first time in Southern Africa that farmers and operators in developing areas — the majority of whom are black — will have the opportunity to discuss farming matters not only with each other but with those responsible for many of the bigger projects and farming organizations," he said. — Sapa

CAP-TRIB 24/10/86

CAP-TRIB 24/10/86

General

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World in brief

Reserve becoming 'another Ethiopia'

CAN. Times 11/0/86 (12) (3)
Staff Reporter

THE Lilliefontein coloured reserve between Pofadder and Vanrhynsdorp is being subdivided into 47 farming units because it is in danger of becoming "another Ethiopia".

This was said yesterday by the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives, Mr David Curry, who was reacting to extensive resistance from the reserve's inhabitants to its proposed subdivision.

"My heart goes out to these people and I wish I could help them, but there were just too many livestock grazing off the land.

"The area was headed for another Ethiopia if we did not do something — that's why there has been this idea to subdivide the reserve," Mr Curry said.

The area has been farmed communally and handed down to descendants of the original Little Namaquan (Hottentot) settlers since 1772.

In 1854 Lord Cathcart granted the inhabitants a Ticket of Occupation, giving them inalienable right of tenure.

But, according to Mr Curry, the residents asked the government to assist them to "develop" the area during the 1960s.

The 200 000ha reserve was handed back to the State, which now held it in trust for the community's use.

AgriFokus to help farmers

3/10/86
3 GEN
SUSAN
MICK COLLINS

AGRICULTURAL financial problems have prompted a major SA bank to establish AgriFokus — a financial advisory service.

A team of Volkskas agricultural finance experts will assist farmers at different levels of their financial planning.

A Volkskas spokesman said the purpose of AgriFokus was not to advise farmers on technical farming matters.

He said: "We will make use of modern computer technology to assist the farmer on his farm. We will also assist local branch managers in their task of advising farmer clients."

Farmers were experiencing problems with cash flows and the repayment of debt.

He said: "These problems are primarily the result of the combined effect of unprecedented drought, a cost squeeze due to high inflation and high interest rates."

Co-ops face financial ruin

Beleaguered farmers now owe R11,2bn

395N
BUNDY
7/10/88

COMMERCIAL banks are now owed a staggering R3bn by the agricultural sector, with agricultural co-operatives running a close second at R2,2bn.

Total agricultural debt has soared to R11,2bn.

And it is understood certain co-ops are in financial difficulties as a result of injudicious lending policies, says an Assocom report to the Economic Council of the State President on the restructuring of the agricultural sector.

The amount owed to co-operatives increased from 8% (R130m) of the total debt in 1970 to 24% in 1984.

Assocom questions whether co-ops will be able to continue their lending role in the face of more market-related interest rates.

"In this context they obviously constitute part of the farm problem, for any collapse would have a damaging effect on both the rural economy and on the very banking system itself.

"It has been argued that the co-ops have advanced credit too easily. To some extent co-ops have been protected by the government scheme for the consolidation of R1,1bn of unpaid production cred-

MICK COLLINS

it advanced to farmers in the summer rainfall area."

Assocom also questions government on whether high support prices, controls and input subsidies offer an effective solution to the farm problem.

"A characteristic of agricultural support measures is that it discriminates financially in favour of agriculture at the expense of the population, either as taxpayers or consumers."

The report says: "A short-term strategy for the rehabilitation of the industry might follow the lines taken in Rhodesia during the UDI period.

"Under that programme a number of farmers who had been financially overwhelmed by successive droughts were successfully re-established."

It says such a scheme would require active participation by government, the Land Bank, commercial banks and other local expertise.

Overall the report recommends:
Any reconstruction programme must form part of an integrated rural strategy

● To Page 2

Farm debt soars to R11,2bn

which ties in with other development objectives;

□ The aims of the White Paper on agriculture must be reconciled with the objectives for Industrial Strategy (Kleu Report);

□ The protection measures enjoyed by certain agricultural industries must be reviewed in accordance with earlier government assurances;

□ The existing support measures must be critically evaluated and modified where necessary.

The farmers' vast financial problems — their escalating debt and interest burden — will dominate the SA Agricultural Union Congress which opens in Bloem-

fontein on October 21, writes GERALD REILLY.

In a preamble to the resolutions to come before congress it is stressed that the continued viability of increasing numbers of farming enterprises is in jeopardy.

It was alarming that many farmers would buckle under the huge debt and interest burden without supplementary government aid — in addition to the existing drought aid.

Congress will be asked to request government to provide the aid on merit, and to reschedule repayment obligations.

● From Page 1

Steel, agriculture will be hardest hit, say experts

STEEL and agriculture would be punished most by planned US economic sanctions, but the blow could be softened by well-tried tactics of semi-clandestine trade, business experts said in Johannesburg yesterday.

The US bought \$78,2m of steel products and \$65,5m of farm goods among its total imports from SA of \$2,17bn last year.

Association of Chambers of Commerce of SA economist William Lacey said: "Sanctions are not new to us, and there are people in the business of evading sanctions that seem to do it pretty effectively.

"The business community with its ingenuity will try to beat them."

Analysts said manufacturers had various ways of issuing false certificates of origin.

Business consultant Michael Perry, who has more than 60 blue chip companies as clients, said SA had been busting sanctions since the '60s.

He said: "The result is that 54% of our (export) trade is semi-clandestine, meaning no data is available on the country of origin."

On paper, the US sanctions are the most comprehensive attempt yet to pressure Pretoria to scrap apartheid.

Besides agriculture and steel, they include a ban on coal, computers and new investment.

Perry said SA would need to boost exports to clandestine partners by only 16% to offset the impact of even a total US trade embargo.

Business sources said SA's secret trading partners, dealt with directly or through middlemen, included countries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

SA Life Assurance chief economist Johan Louw said "Made in Southern Africa" instead of "Made in South Africa" could be exploited to "the greatest extent" by industries.

Louw said overproduction of steel by world producers could make it difficult to find alternative markets.

Industry sources said the US sanctions could cost SA up to 500 000 tons

of steel exports a year.

Isacor, the giant government-run iron and steel company which accounts for more than 70% of local steel production, said the ban was a setback.

A spokesman said: "We have been involved in other overseas markets for some time and we will try to use these markets more. Our main export markets are widely spread."

The already depressed agricultural sector, which employs millions of black workers, will be further weakened by the sanctions.

Analysts said agriculture accounted for 7% of total SA exports last year and fruit, wool and sugar were especially vulnerable.

Sugar-growers alone will lose about \$14,4m under the US ban. — Sapa-Reuter.

Farmers want Mozambican workers back

Labour ban could hit Lowveld hard

10/10/80
SMR
(3) GEN
[Handwritten scribbles]

Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — The announcement by Manpower Minister Mr Pietie du Plessis regarding the deportation of thousands of legally employed Mozambican labourers, is a shattering blow to Lowveld farmers.

Many fear this could spell disaster for the region's labour intensive agricultural industry, already hit by last year's drought, the economic downturn and

pending sanctions. While farmers generally agree the Lowveld's security and safety is of prime importance many feel a total ban on Mozambican labour will do more harm than good.

"Surely it's the illegal immigrant who must be responsible for acts of terror and not those who for many years have legally worked on our farms," one farmer said.

Mr Willem Joubert of the Roodewal Farm said experience

had shown that Mozambicans, once deported, returned time and time again.

"I believe the solution lay in not allowing them into the country rather than deporting them once they are legally employed, properly documented and proven employees," he said.

Representatives of the Lowveld's Agricultural Manpower Committee travelled to Pretoria yesterday for discussions with the Minister of Manpower and the directors general of Manpower and Internal Affairs.

Problems envisaged from a total Mozambican labour ban were highlighted and it was decided that a meeting be held in Nelspruit on Monday, to which representatives of all Lowveld farmers associations would be invited.

Vice chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Jacob de Villiers said most farmers were happy to fully cooperate with matters regarding security.

● South Africa's biggest black worker federation, the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu), has described the ban on Mozabican labour as "callous, cynical and provocative".

"Cosatu views the Mozambican workers as comrades, part of South Africa's labour power, and a part of the working class. Workers of neighbouring countries are desperately dependent on jobs in South Africa because the economies of their countries are the victims of SA aggression," a spokesman said.

● See Page 9.

Mozambique loses R200-m annually by recruiting ban

MAPUTO — Mozambique stood to lose about R200 million a year following South Africa's ban on employing Mozambican miners, it was reported yesterday.

Mr Richard Japp, manager of the Maputo office recruiting for the South African mines, said nearly 62 000 Mozambicans were working at 51 gold mines in South Africa on July 31 according to the Mozambican news agency, AIM.

South Africa said last night it would not allow new Mozambican workers to take jobs in South Africa because of apparent Mozambican Government support for black nationalist guerillas operating in South Africa.

It said Mozambican workers would be sent home as their contracts expired.

LANDMINE BLAST NEAR BORDER

The announcement followed a landmine explosion on Monday near the Mozambican border which wounded six South African soldiers.

Mozambique has denied aiding the ANC and has accused South Africa of aiding rebels in Mozambique.

Under the 1984 Nkomati Accord, each country pledged not to aid opposition groups in the other's territory.

Mozambique, short of foreign currency, relied partly on remittances from workers in South Africa.

In addition to the miners, about 30 000 Mozambicans working legally in agriculture would be affected by the order. — Sapa-Associated Press.

By JENNY CULLUM

TWO HUNDRED combat teams are fighting swarms of hoppers as farmers face a locust outbreak which threatens to be worse than last year's devastating plague.

The hoppers are hatching out in the Cape Midlands, the Karoo and northward towards Kimberley.

Early signs are that damage may exceed the previous trail of havoc, when millions of rands of grazing and crops were destroyed.

Efforts are being concentrated on killing newly hatched hoppers while they are still on the ground before the adult locusts fly away to invade other areas.

Already, early in the season, 66 anti-locust units were busy in the Eastern Cape and Midlands, 33 in the Karoo and another 99 in the Kimberley area, said Mr J L Vosloo, the Department of Agriculture, Economics and Marketing's Director of Soil Protection in Pretoria.

Millions of hoppers have hatched after widespread rains which followed a long period of drought, creating ideal conditions for locusts.

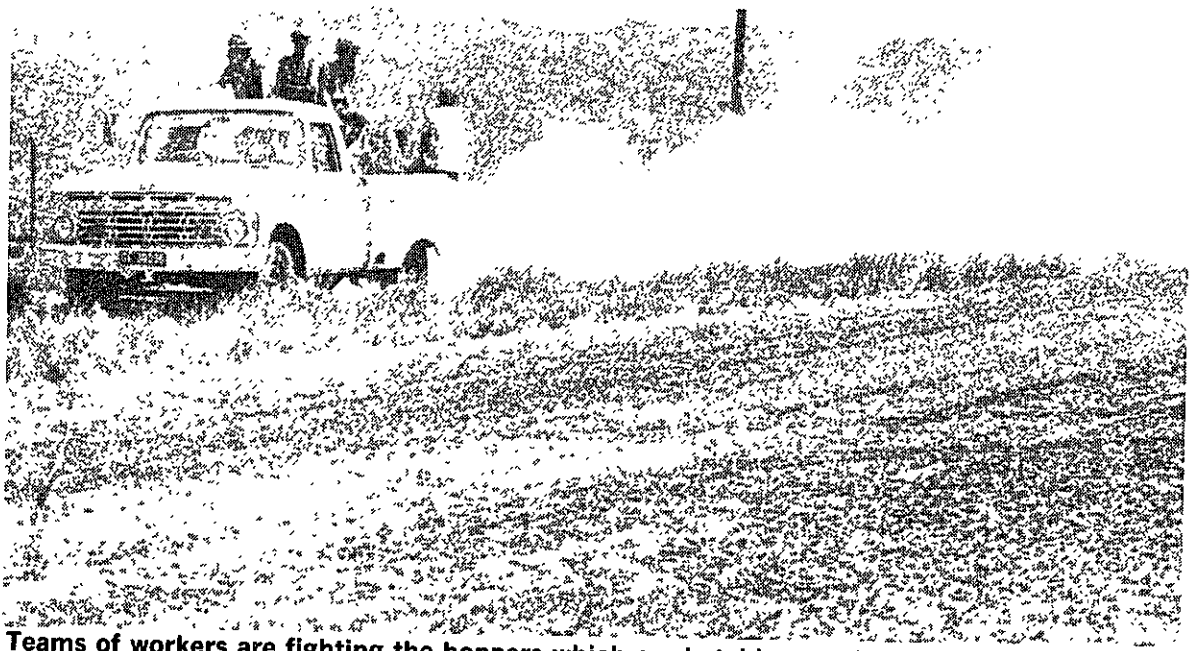
Among areas where hoppers have been reported and are being destroyed are Aberdeen, Bedford, Colesberg, Cradock (eight teams), Graaff-Reinet, Hofmeyr, Jansenville, Middelburg (10 teams), Tarka and Noupoot.

"The position at this stage looks more serious than at the same time last year," said Mr Vosloo.

"It is about what we expected, as it is the third year of the seven-year cycle of locusts and will be one of the more difficult years."

It is vital that farmers immediately report hopper hatchings so they can be sprayed while were still on the ground.

Vast new locust plague threatens E Cape farmers



Teams of workers are fighting the hoppers which are hatching out in the Cape Midlands and Karoo following good rains. Spraying is aimed at destroying the hoppers on the ground before they fly out to invade grazing and crops.

"If the swarms fly out, we are in trouble," he said. Swarms on the wing devastate crops and grazing.

Farmers are obliged by law to report swarms to their district locust officer, who then sends in a combat team. Destruction units use fenthothion, the insecticide used world-wide on locusts.

This year the more controversial gamma-BHC is not being used, according to

Mr Vosloo.

Workers spraying swarms have to wear overalls and masks and those handling the undiluted concentrate must wear gloves.

Locusts become airborne 42 days after hatching and one of the department's fears is of swarms that hatch in mountainous areas, such as those around Bedford, where they may not be detected at an early

stage.

The Karoo or brown locust is the culprit in South Africa and last year millions of hectares of grazing and crops were laid bare by the destructive swarms.

Four species of migratory locusts are threatening the African continent this year and experts are predicting a serious outbreak in at least nine heavily affected countries of the

Sahel, including Niger, Mali, Chad and Senegal.

Unless the young locusts are eliminated, what may be the Sahel's first bumper crop of sorghum, millet and other cereals for many years, could be destroyed.

Millions of dollars are needed for a prevention campaign in the Sahel, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Sapa
any time for SA
CAPE TIMES 2/11/66 36/10/66

Imports push up agriculture costs

PRETORIA. — Factors which caused the "dynamic increase" in agricultural input costs were the Rand's exchange rate decrease, high inflation, interest rates, and surcharge and tariff protection on imported goods, the Minister of Trade & Industry, Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

In a press statement, he said an inter-departmental committee report on the increases had just been handed to him and it was mainly the import of raw materials or components that exerted the major pressure on costs, but local input content had risen less.

Agricultural chemicals such as fungicides, insecticides, weed-killers and vaccines, as well as tractors and other implements, were in this category.

The report concluded that price rises for fertilizer were justifiable.

Competition

Competition in the local market enabled farmers to negotiate prices, but it found producers were "in a loss situation".

Investigation into the protection on fertilizers had recently been completed, De Villiers said, and an announcement would soon be made.

In spite of strong competition on all agricultural inputs in the local market, alleged unacceptable practices, which could have an excessive impact on prices of certain imported products, had been referred to the Competition Board.

The findings regarding the import surcharges had been referred to the Minister of Finance and the Board of Trade and Industry had been instructed to investigate tariff protection on key agricultural inputs. — Sapa



CAPE TIMES 24/10/86 (36) Second major award for Grabouw farmer

GRABOUW apple farmer Freddie Kirsten yesterday walked off with his second major agricultural award this year.

Kirsten, who was chosen by the Agricultural Writer's Association as Farmer of the Year in the Western Cape, yesterday won R10 000 from the National Productivity Institute as owner of Sonop, for its productive farming practices.

Sonop's yield of 70 tons/ha is among the best in the country. All farming activities, including labour management, are computerized and training of the workforce receives sustained attention.

Farming enterprises presented with shields included:

- Kromfontein, best apple producer in the Ceres region.
- Paardekloof, best pear producer in the Ceres region.

W G Donald has been appointed manager of the Goodwood branch of Volkskas Ltd.

SA and Lesotho sign water project treaty

By Gerald L'Ange
Argus Africa News Service

MASERU. — The giant Lesotho Highlands water project was depicted as a message to the rest of the world by the Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Pik Botha, at the signing of the treaty for the project here today.

Mr Botha said it was "evidence of the fact that if we, as Africans, work together we can find solutions to our problems without outside interference".

The treaty, which will signal the start of work on the R4 000-million project, was signed at a ceremony in Maseru's Pitso Ground by Mr Botha and Col Thaahe Letsie, a member of Lesotho's ruling Military Council.

Act of faith

Mr Botha said the Lesotho Highlands scheme was "more than a project".

"It is a partnership and an act of faith. It is a message," he said.

"Let the outside world know we are embarking on a joint project and we have the ability to do things together in southern Africa."

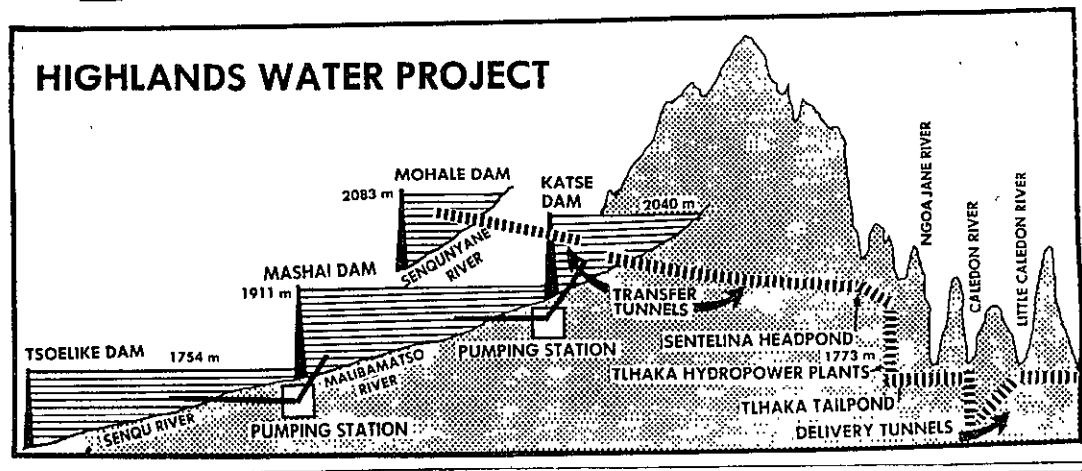
Mr Botha said: "We share a common destiny and, therefore, must set aside that which divides us in order to work together to build a better future for our peoples."

Royalties

Mr Botha said the project would divert water from sources of the Orange River into the headwaters of the Vaal, and would create opportunities for all sectors of the economy.

He said Lesotho would receive the equivalent of more than R1,25-billion in royalties spread over the length of the project.

South Africa would be better off by R1-billion because of the cheaper water it would get.



No land, no food

CP Correspondent

PEASANTS in the Namaqualand town of Leliefontein are facing starvation and mass unemployment because of a House of Representatives scheme to divide the land they've shared for generations into 47 privately-owned plots.

And *City Press* was told that most of the farms already rented out have been snatched up by members of the local management committee and by the teachers, artisans and shopkeepers in the towns.

Angry

The community is angry that their land is being handed over to virtual strangers who are new to farming, sources in Cape Town said.

Photographer Bernard Perez, who is putting together a book of photographs on the peasants of Namaqualand, said wealthy residents of the village were renting the farms and fencing off their properties.

He said the peasants, who have used the State-owned land for years, "face mass starvation".

He said families were being fined for trespassing on land they've been using for the past 10 or 20 years.

Andries Nero, convicted of trespassing, had 44 sheep confiscated. His stock was seized "late at night and taken to the municipal pound", Perez said. He was told he had to pay R10 a head to reclaim them.

Auctioned

"He didn't have the money and almost his entire stock was auctioned off. Nero is 53 years old and has been a farmer all his life. Now he has to find a job."

This week representatives of the 700-strong peasant community appeared before a commission of inquiry set up earlier this month to appeal against the move.

According to a Local Government housing and agriculture spokesman, not more than 150 people can be accommodated on the new farms. Department agricultural officer J Smuts said he had no "idea what would happen to the others".

3 General

New safety restrictions on dams

Pretoria Bureau

New dam safety restrictions should be seen as a statement of the Government's concern for public safety, Mr Greyling Wentzel, the Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs, said in Pretoria this week.

Speaking at the University of Pretoria at a symposium on dam safety, Mr Wentzel said although the State was often accused of over-legislating, these new restrictions were vital in preventing loss of life and property.

"The State's concern for safety is borne out by the fact that, contrary to the pattern in other countries, dam safety legislation was introduced before a catastrophic failure could occur," he said.

"A study of major events at dams in South Africa has revealed that we have at least four failures of large dams on record. After a service life of some 40 years, the accident rate increases alarmingly.

SIGNIFICANT

"This becomes more significant when one comes to realize that one out of three of the 350 large dams in South Africa are older than 40 years."

To ensure the safety of dams, the plan is to involve the private sector and engineering profession.

A Dam Safety Office will monitor the standards and practices of dam building. The owner of a dam is, according to the new legislation, responsible and liable for any faults.

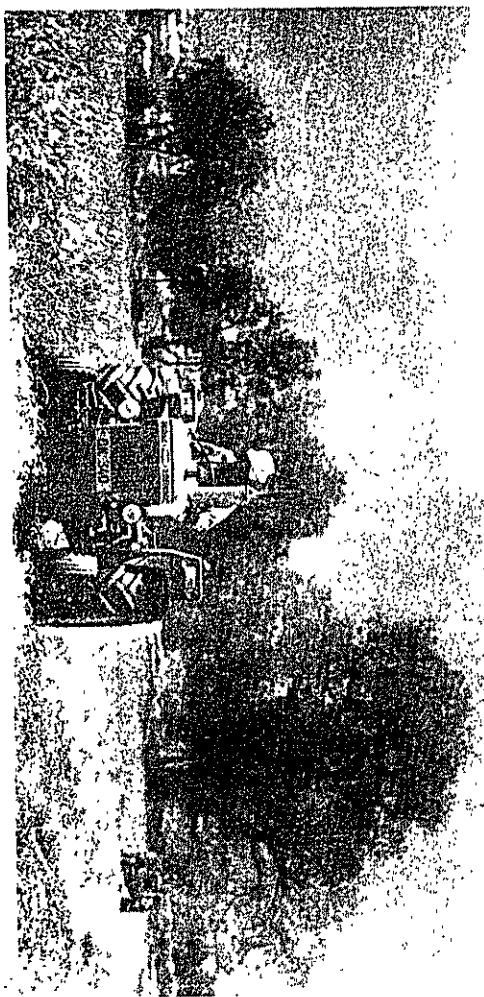
And, Mr Wentzel stressed, the State is as bound by the legislation as the private sector and would have to set the example to others.

SPECTRUM 1

Waalkraal looks like just another Little Karoo lucerne farm — but this one is special. For this sprawling 1 305ha on the Ollifants River, lying 20km east of Oudtshoorn, represents an opportunity for coloured farmers to return to the land their forefathers were granted more than a century ago.

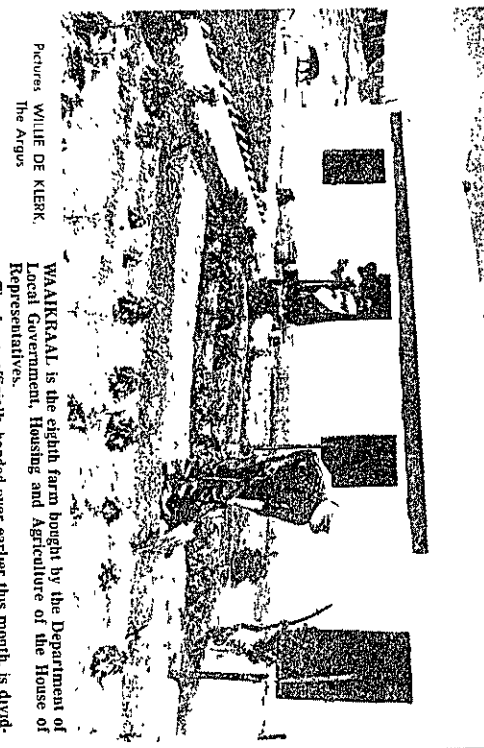
Bought for R3.3-million by the Department of Agriculture, Housing and Local Government in the House of Representatives, Waalkraal is an attempt at job creation — and at returning to the local people what they say is rightfully theirs.

The intention is to run the farm along the Israeli Moshav system. Each farmer will be given a piece of ground which he can cultivate for his own pocket, but everyone uses communal implements. Eventually upwards of 150 families may be living on Waalkraal. ANTHONY DOMAN reports.



Left: Lucerne being harvested on Waalkraal. Last year the farm produced 80 000 bales of this "green gold".

Right: Farm labourer Mr Willem Claassen digs a garden — one of the signs that people are beginning to take pride in their surroundings.



Below right: Farm manager Mr Jannie Bohra.

Returning to the land

LORRAINE van der Horst's clump of dusty casters, clawing onto life in the cracked red earth, sums it up

Waalkraal used to be just another place to work, albeit with bitter memories. But as the original families return to sink their roots, it is becoming a place where a community can form where gardens can grow, where people can live a home

Spurred on by the memories of how the land had slipped away once, the people of Waalkraal and neighbouring Dysselsdorp are determined not to let go. Not this time.

When previous owner Hugo Fourie handed over the keys earlier this year, Waalkraal was doing well enough. The big money-spinner was lucerne, 80 000 bales of it, with more than 4 000 ostriches and 1 100 head of livestock known in

But today, the new management is throwing itself into renovations

Even from high up on the hillside that marks the southern boundary, you can see the fresh-

ment so much we can do on this farm. Why not use our own bricks, made by our own people?

He pointed out that most of the farmworkers were from Dysselsdorp. Building houses for them on the farm would make things easier

We're struggling a bit because we don't have all the equipment we need, Mr Bohra said

At present about 70 people work on the farm. But under full production at least 200 will be needed, he says

On lucerne alone the farm stands to make a tidy profit. According to Mr Swiegeleaar the Oudtshoorn area supplies 95 percent of South Africa's "green gold" needs

Fruit farming was also a possibility, he said, even a nearby

"We believe

we've got the right people.

And they're eager to succeed."



WAALKRAAL is the eighth farm bought by the Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

The farm, officially handed over earlier this month, is divided up into "erven" belonging to coloured farmers

Waalkraal was originally an area of 2 519 morgen which included Dysselsdorp, Waalkraal and Blooupunt

In 1877 the Cape authorities gave all established settlers there — most of them coloured farmers — freehold Unoccupied ground was designated commonage, and remained State property, under control of a town council

Whites got their first foothold in the area in 1882 when further irrigable land along the Ollifants river was allocated

After a while whites took up most of the available land and the original beneficiaries were obliged to move. Many hired "free erven" on the commonage from the town council. Although this was strictly speaking illegal, the arrangement remained in force until after the town council was disbanded and the Oudtshoorn Divisional Council took over in 1926

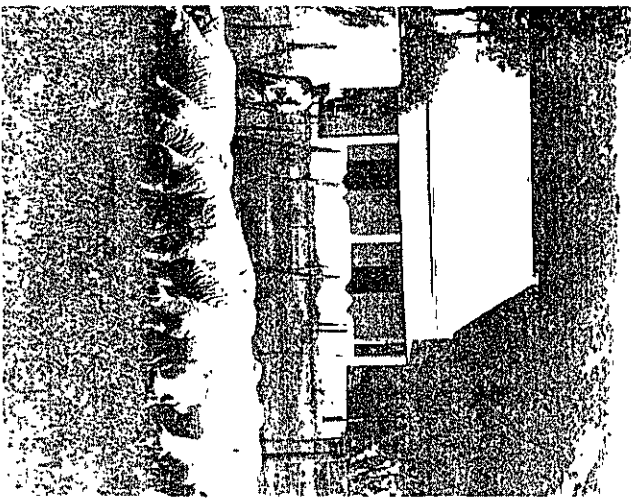
More land was made available but was never allocated. In 1953 it was sold to whites by public auction

Eventually, after a series of commissions of inquiry, a coloured group area was proclaimed in 1966. People from the three areas — Dysselsdorp, Blooupunt and Waalkraal — were all resettled in Dysselsdorp, which has been in existence on the eastern boundary of the farm for about 13 years.

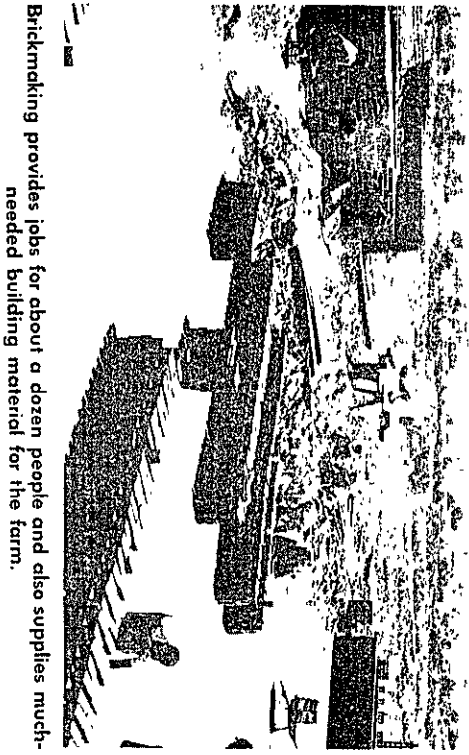
Today, all that remain of the thriving 19th-century farming community are a few scattered farmers in and around Waalkraal.

but here we will be doing it by hand. So it will provide work opportunities for 64 people," Mr Botha said.

Another labour-intensive project is the farm's brickworks through the muddy lowlands past a new concrete irrigation channel.



Livestock forms an important part of Waalkraal's future plans, which include cotton planting.



Brickmaking provides jobs for about a dozen people and also supplies much-needed building material for the farm.

dried fruit factory.

LAND reclamation has meant the opening up of hitherto unused ground. One such area would produce four crops of lucerne a year, worth about R8 000 a year, said Mr Botha.

And that's just a tiny part of the farm. There's more than 500ha of this stuff.

He agreed that fruit and cotton were good for providing work but in terms of profit lucerne was best.

And it still gives lots of people work. Baling takes a lot of manpower.

Recreation is not being forgotten, either.

Plans are under way to convert a storage shed to a community hall and Rural Foundation field workers are busy organising activities for women on farms.

"They have had a very good reaction here," Mr Botha said. "The women have been very positive."

Hence Lorraine van der Horst's garden.

Mrs van der Horst, who has been living on Waalkraal with her farm labourer husband for the past decade, smiled when she was asked about her garden — one of many springing up.

Yes, planting flowers around here is something new, she said.

"It just looked too ugly here so we made a garden."

You can't work a farm to its full potential unless you have the right people, said Mr Swager-

laar.

"We believe we've got the right people. And they're eager to succeed."

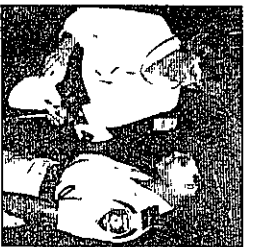
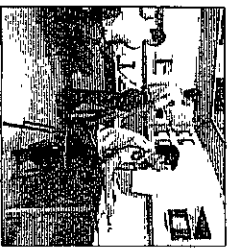


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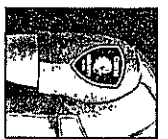
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Best rain for a year and more is forecast

3 General
NKS
29/10/86

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The best rainfall for the past year has fallen in parts of South Africa.

Nearly the whole country had rain yesterday and it was expected to continue today. The Highveld was likely to have light rain today but it was expected to clear over the south-eastern Cape and southern Natal.

Droughts have apparently been broken in many parts and farmers in several areas can now start planting for the next season.

Johannesburg and Pretoria both had their heaviest rain for a year — Pretoria recorded 107,5mm and central Johannesburg 80mm.

The chairman of the Rand Wa-

ter Board, Mr Dale Hobbs, said the rain had no influence on the Vaal Dam. It would take a number of days to assess the effect of the rainfall in the Vaal catchment area.

In the Western Transvaal, there were reports of up to 125mm of rain near Gerdau and up to 70mm in the Lichtenburg district. Potchefstroom had 36mm.

In the Eastern Transvaal, Lydenburg had 60mm, Pilgrim's Rest 38mm and Graskop 20mm.

In Balfour 76,5mm has been measured in the district. It was raining over most parts of the interior this morning.

In the Northern Transvaal, it is

raining over the entire region from Warmbaths to Messina.

Good rains have also fallen over the parched Kruger National Park and up to 20mm has been measured in places.

It started raining late yesterday afternoon and continued throughout the night.

Nelspruit had 11mm, Malelane 10mm and Komatipoort 12mm.

The Free State has also had plentiful rain. Bloemfontein had between 40 and 63mm, Sasolburg 40mm and the Vredefort district between 22 and 26mm.

In the Northern Cape, Reivilo had up to 50mm.

Almost all of Natal had soft, penetrating rain overnight.

Farmers and black leaders have talks

African Affairs
Correspondent

THE Sawoti Farmers' Association and leaders of the local black community have met in a sequel to the historic co-operation agreement between Afrikaner farmers and Zulus in Louwsburg in northern Natal in August.

A statement from Mr P S B Mkhize, representing the black community at Sawoti near Umzinto on the South Coast, said yesterday 52 whites and blacks had met. The blacks were represented by a magistrate, chiefs, councillors and indunas.

Mr Mkhize said there was no formal agenda and it was decided to hold such gatherings on a quarterly basis.

He called the meeting the dawning of a new day.

In August, the king of the Zulu people, King Goodwill, addressed a similar meeting of thousands of people at Louwsburg, 70 km north-east of Vryheid.

He was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Education and Training, Mr Sam de Beer.

The Ngotshe Co-operation Agreement, signed at the meeting, provided for the setting up of a committee comprising farmers' and labourers' representatives to deal with all social and labour problems.

King Goodwill said the history of black/white armed confrontation last century produced racial enmity which had to be wiped away by the full inclusion of blacks in the South African State.

He described the agreement as evidence of a spirit of a new South Africanism.

Sats workers promised raise

GERALD REILLY
RETIRING Transport Minister Hendrik Schoeman has promised SA Transport Services (Sats) workers their loyalty will be rewarded with a pay hike.

However, he committed to say when and how much. This, with all other public sector workers' increases, would be settled at Cabinet level shortly before the Budget next March, he said.

Schoeman said he was happy that in his last days as the head of Sats he was able to assure his workers about a pay rise.

Other public sector staff association sources said they had never doubted they would get increases from April 1 next year, but it was good to hear from Schoeman that their expectations would be realised.

However, it was the "how much" issue that was troubling state and parastatal workers, they said.

GROSS agricultural income for the 1986-7 season could soar above R10bn, agricultural authorities say.

SA Agricultural Union economist Koos du Toit told *Business Day* the industry was set for what could be a record season after soaking rains over large parts of the country's farming areas.

Official estimates place last year's gross income from farming at R9,9bn and net income at R1,3bn.

The huge gap between gross and net income was accounted for by interest payments farmers had to make to service their vast debt of close to R11,5bn, and the still-soaring prices of farming inputs.

It is estimated maize farmers will spend close to R1,5bn on planting and growing their crop — and if favourable conditions continue 12m/t will be harvested from about 4-million hectares.

It would be a mixed blessing.

A crop of this size would mean a 6-million to 7-million ton surplus, creating an export problem.

With maize prices on world mar-

Agriculture in for income boost

GERALD REILLY

kets at rock bottom because of a surplus, heavy losses would be unavoidable. These would have to be carried by farmers.

National Maize Producers Organisation economist Kit le Clus said an above-average farming year would stop the economic rot in many Platteland towns.

Because of repeated droughts many Platteland businesses had closed because of lack of farming buying power.

Meat Board assistant GM FR Tomlinson said with good rains in the ranching areas farmers would hold back stock to fatten them, and to build up drought-depleted breeding herds.

The result would be shrinking of supply, and consequent higher prices.

AIRLINE MOVEMENTS

Monday Air Schedule			East London to Johannesburg		Johannesburg to Gaborone			Gaborone to Johannesburg			
Johannesburg to Cape Town		Flight	0700	0930	SA400	0730	0840	BP200	0730	0835	BP301
0710	1040	SA301	0955	1115	SA401	1400	1510	SA100	1600	1705	SA101
0730	0935	SA303	1050	1450	SA403	1810	1920	BP300	1635	1740	BP201
0930	1135	SA302	1635	1755	SA409						

practices to charge additional depreciation on revalued assets
eliminates the effects of inflation. This additional depreciation (1985 - R5.1 million)

WJ & AB 1/11/88

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Economic farming 'units' running into trouble

by Peter Fabricius
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE House of Representatives agricultural policy of trying to establish an elite corps of independent coloured farmers has run into stiff resistance.

The administration has carved up four coloured reserves in the Northern Cape — Mier, southern Richtersveld, Steinkopf and Leliefontein — into "economic units" to be leased or bought by individual farmers.

Smaller communal farmers, who cannot afford these units, have been forced off the land. Most put up little resistance, but the people of Leliefontein, near Garries in Namaqualand, threatened legal action.

To avoid a court action the administration appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate. It has just finished hearing public evidence.

Mr J Boshoff, deputy director (agriculture) in the Department of Local Government Agriculture and Housing, said: "The report of the commission

could be the yardstick of what happens elsewhere. "The Ministers' Council had decided on a policy of promoting individual farm ownership. But ways and means must be found to help those who have lost out on the deal."

Researchers who have been studying the Leliefontein people believe, however, it is unlikely that the administration will abandon the policy of "economic units."

Ms Fiona Archer, a Stellenbosch University postgraduate archaeology student who is monitoring the plight of the residents, said: "My impression is that the commission will only consider the question of compensating those who have to move, rather than returning the land."

The Leliefontein people are directly descended from the Little Namaqua, a branch of the Khoikhoi people and have lived in the area for at least 1 000 years.

The 200 000 hectare Leliefontein reserve, sup-

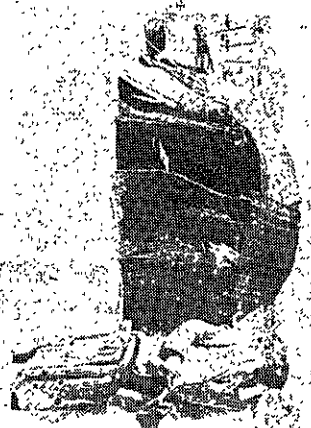
porting over 4 000 people, has been divided into 47 units, 30 of which have already been allocated to individuals.

The smaller stock owners who cannot afford to lease the economic units have been crammed into the remaining 17 units and it is understood that these have been advertised for leasing.

Ms Archer warned that, if they were not given more land before the summer drought, they would lose many animals. Firewood, their only source of fuel, and water were also running out fast.

The reduced area of commongrass was being badly overgrazed, which was ironic since one of the reasons given for instituting the "economic units" was that the communal system was causing overgrazing.

Mr Boshoff said the directorate "would love to see independent, self-supporting stable farmers working the land".



Tant Let Fortuin, a subsistence farmer in the Nourivier area of the Leliefontein reserve and her traditional Nama "matjieshuis" (basket house) who may have to leave.

Carving Leliefontein

The 4 000-strong community in the remote Leliefontein coloured "reserve" in Namaqualand is hoping that a commission of inquiry will soon reverse what many of them regard as an arbitrary decision to divide up their traditional communal land and sell it off as "economic units."

The little-publicised commission completed its public hearings in the Leliefontein district last week in the face of growing resistance by the community to government's land division plan.

Leliefontein, about 400 km north-west of Cape Town, is one of 23 coloured "reserves" in SA covering about 1,7m ha and accommodating around 60 000 people, mostly in Namaqualand, according to UCT archaeologist Emile Boonzaaier.

The reserves are effectively "concessions" granted in the last century on the basis of settlements established around early mission stations.

Leliefontein covers an area of about 200 000 ha of arid scrubland in a district with town names like Spoegrivier, Horinggat, Stinkkloof, Bobbejaanhoek and Wolfkraal. Most of the residents are direct descendants of the Koikhoi (Hottentots) and about 200 families own stock (mainly sheep and goats, but some cattle as well). For

decades they have wandered around the reserve grazing their herds. The community also grows a little wheat and some of the men have jobs in towns or on the region's mines (or had jobs until the recession).

According to government, Leliefontein — and the other reserve areas — was overgrazed. The only solution was to divide the area into "economic units" and lease them to "bona fide" farmers. Three other "reserves" were divided with little community resistance, but the people of Leliefontein took a strong stand against the plan. Although the Leliefontein divisions followed consultations with the elected management board of the area, the community claims the board is unrepresentative and they generally reject it.

Leases cost R300 a year payable in advance. More than half the units have been let (and fenced) mainly to tenants with other means of income such as shop owners, school teachers, local management board officials or relatively wealthy owners of large herds. To qualify to rent a unit, a tenant must have assets worth at least R3 000 or own 250 head of stock. The less wealthy stock farmers are not in this class and have effectively been cut off from their traditional land and livelihood. "Illegal" stock found inside the fences of the leased units is usually impounded. Although some commonage has been left, it is totally inadequate for their needs, the farmers say. (Researchers say a small head of stock in the region needs 10 ha.)

Last month, the coloured Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, David Curry, said that while he sympathised with the farmers, if Leliefontein was not divided up and farmed more carefully, the region was in danger of becoming "another Ethiopia." Government's alternative, suggested to the stock farmers, is to relocate the residents of eight small villages in the district to two larger towns — a scheme that has met with little support.

In an apparent move to stall planned legal action to challenge the land division in Leliefontein, government appointed a commission of inquiry which heard evidence at towns in the region from late September until last week. The findings of the commission are expected to be crucial to the future of all the coloured "reserves."

While researchers working in the area acknowledge that over-grazing is killing the land, they believe there are alternatives which the authorities have apparently not considered.

Among suggestions by Fiona Archer and Lita Webley, archaeologists from the universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town respectively, are: the development of vegetable farms at the Nourivier dam; the promotion of tourism (Leliefontein is in the heart of the wild flower region), and an afforestation programme to revive the over-grazed land and the establishment of a home industries project

AGRICULTURE

FIN MAIL
14/11/86 (3) GEN

Help from the heavens

The best spring rains in a decade have raised hopes that SA's drought-hit farmers are within sight of their first bumper crops since 1981. But it is by no means a foregone conclusion that the vital agricultural sector is set to return to profitability.

The excellent planting rains will have to be followed by regular showers over the next three months.

However, the Land Bank is expecting farmers' short-term credit needs — to finance the new season's crops — to increase by R380m, from last season's R4,85 billion to R5,23 billion for 1986/87.

The good season will do much to increase foreign earnings, railways and harbours income, and boost employment and sales of tractors, implements, fertiliser, chemicals and other agriculture-related inputs. But it is not all good news for the consumer.

A perverse result of good rains could be that meat prices might rise even higher as farmers withhold slaughter animals to rebuild depleted herds.

Red meat prices are touching record levels due to a shortage of slaughter stock, but Meat Board deputy GM Frans Pieterse says the board will do its utmost to increase slaughter permits in December. He is confident this will halt the price climb. In May, the national cattle herd stood at 7,8m — 20 000 below last year's level, and the sheep herd has fallen by 200 000 to 26,2m.

Maize producers also have mixed feelings about the better crop outlook. The new sliding price system means that a season of plenty will bring penalties in the shape of lower prices. While this year's 7,5 Mt crop grossed farmers R1,725 billion, a similar crop in 1987 will bring in only R1,59 billion. This is because the average R230/t price in 1986 would be replaced by a price of some

R210/t, Maize Board GM Hennie Davel tells the *FM*.

Falling export prices are the industry's gravest problem. Davel says massive world stocks have forced the price down so far that the board now nets only R65-R75/t on export maize — way below current local prices of R290/t.

So SA's two major agricultural sectors — red meat retails at about R4 billion a year, while maize grosses some R1,7 billion in good years — might not show immediate or direct bottom-line benefits from the rains.

But, says Nampo economist Kit le Clus, an 11 Mt maize crop could, nevertheless, gross farmers about R2,2 billion, against short-term production costs of about R1,5 billion. And a 14 Mt crop could add to the bonanza, depending on world market prices from May 1987.

While the Free State expects a bumper 1 Mt wheat crop, this will not be complemented by the western and southern Cape, where a combination of early drought and unusually heavy spring rains have reduced the anticipated record crop. Nevertheless, the total wheat crop should be some 400 000 t above last year's small crop of 1,6 Mt, predicts Wheat Board GM Dennis van Aarde.

Other crops, like cotton, sunflowers, soya beans, sorghum and tobacco, will benefit from the combination of better rains and increased planting as farmers diversify from maize. A good wheat crop would save costly imports.

While good crops should have a positive effect on regional economies, SA's gross domestic product (GDP) could also be boosted by a full percentage point in 1987. And banks and other farm creditors could look forward to increased repayments on the

R11,5 billion farming debt.

"Agriculture contributes 6%-7% to the GDP, and a 16% improvement in farming returns would push up the growth rate of the economy by 1%. A few years back, a 22% fall in farming returns reduced the growth rate by 1,5%," explains SA Agricultural Union director Piet Swart. He adds that gross farming income could exceed R10 billion this season.

But whatever the outcome of the current season, debts still have to be paid. Debt servicing alone in 1985/86 took a massive R1,76 billion.

EXPORTS

FIN MAIL
14/11/86

Looking ahead

In a week in which the spotlight turned on exports, South African industrialists have come in for their fair share of praise.

The value of merchandise exports jumped by 37%, bringing non-gold exports up to R20 billion in the last year. And it was not all due to the low rand because exports by volume have also increased — by 20,8% over the last 18 months.

But already the alarms are ringing. The incipient revival in the local economy has sparked fears that growing domestic demand will swallow local produce that is now flowing into lucrative foreign markets. And, of course, more demand in the local market will push up imports, with a further negative effect on the balance of payments.

Industrialists are being warned that unless their sparkling performances are followed by further investment in productive plant and technology, the economic revival will kill the export drive. With sanctions already a real-

INTO A HIGHER GEAR

Against expectations, vehicle sales surged last month. The light commercial vehicle (LCV) sector produced its best figures since September 1985.

Total car sales increased by 9,0% from 15 091 in September to 16 452 and LCVs chalked up an 8,5% improvement — from 7 387 to 8 015 — over the same period.

However, car sales were still down by 4,4% on October 1985. On the reckoning of National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA director Nico Vermeulen this puts performance on par with 1976-77.

Paradoxically, the best performer on the car side was General Motors (GM), which showed a 36,9% increase over September — 1 627 units against 1 188. These results, of course, were achieved before the pull-out announcement and the strike.

GM's Opel Kadett notched up sales of 1 171 to take fifth place on the best sellers list behind the Toyota Corolla, the VW Golf/Jetta, the Ford Laser/Meteor and the Toyota Cressida.

Mercedes, Toyota and VW all reported better sales, but Nissan dropped by 7,5%

and Samcor by 0,3% on the previous month.

Heavy commercial vehicle sales increased by 10,1% on the September total. Most dramatically, Magnis/Nissan increased sales of its vehicles from 77 in September to 132 last month, a 71,4% improvement.

Vermeulen attributes the upturn to the impact of official stimulatory measures, improved consumer confidence due largely to perks tax concessions, pent-up demand and more aggressive marketing by manufacturers.

FIN MAIL
14/11/86

night sales executives

CM 10/24/11/86

Farmers' surplus up by R500 000

3 General

PORT ELIZABETH. — Despite poor economic conditions, BKB (Farmers' Brokers Co-Operative) achieved a total turnover for the year to end-June of R979m (R888m for the previous year), on which the surplus before tax was R2,9m.

This is nearly half-a-million rand more than the previous year's surplus.

Of total turnover, wool accounted for R417m, followed by mohair R196m, livestock R276,4m, and hides and skins R3,7m.

BKB's sheep shearing division was responsible for shearing nearly 7,3m sheep.

The co-operative's wholly-owned subsidiaries contributed R32,4m towards total turnover. Of this, real estate transactions contributed R14,9m.

Surplus for application amounts to R2,4m. The board has recommended that 10% interest on paid-up share capital, (R650,298), be paid to members, R1,7m be transferred to contingency reserve, and R692,271 to general reserve.

More than 1 000 new members joined the co-operative during the year, compared to 991 the previous year. — Sapa

form for his next claim is posted to the claimant. In case the hon member or other hon members are interested, a copy of the information pamphlet wherein the procedures are full outlined can be obtained from the Commissioner for Customs and Excise.

- (2) A task group under the chairmanship of the Commissioner for Customs and Excise has been appointed to consider suggestions on the simplification of the procedure. The South African Agricultural Union is represented on the task force which had its first meeting on 21 August 1987. The present system was purposely designed to be as simple as possible and to date no further simplifications could be introduced. Any person wishing to propose acceptable simplifications to the system must submit it to the Commissioner for Customs and Excise, P.O. Box 678, Cape Town, or Private Bag X47, Pretoria, for consideration by the Task group.

Social pensions

*19. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether there is a pay-out point for social pensions to Black pensioners in each magisterial district of the Republic; if not, (a) in which magisterial districts are there no such pay-out points and (b) where do the pensioners concerned collect their pensions;
- (2) whether any arrangements are being made for the payment of pensions to persons living far away from such pay-out points; if not, why not; if so, what arrangements?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

- (1) Yes. (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (2) Yes. Magistrate and regional offices of both the Departments of Home Affairs and Development Aid who pay out social pensions to Blacks on an agency basis, use vehicles to take pension monies to far away regions and to pay out at convenient places

Handwritten: Howard

HQA

such as shops, farms, etc where the necessary amenities exist.

Schools of industry/reform schools

*20. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether any Black juvenile offenders were sent and/or transferred by the courts to (a) schools of industry and (b) reform schools during the latest specified period of three years for which information is available; if not, (i) where were such offenders sent and (ii) how many were sent there; if so,
- (2) how many were sent to (i) schools of industry and (ii) reform schools and (b) where are these schools located?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

- (1) (a) No. (i) and (ii) This Department is not the functional Department that refers Black juvenile offenders to schools of industry and the information is therefore not readily available.
- (b) Yes. (i) and (ii) Fall away.
- (2) (a) * (i) Not applicable.

(ii) 1984	353
1985	271
1986	314
Total	937

(b) Vuma—KwaZulu
 Ngwelezana—KwaZulu
 Isiko Loluthsha—Ciskei
 Eureka—Bophuthatswana
 Elandsdoorn—KwaNdebele

Detainee: maltreatment

*21. Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether an investigation has been instituted into allegations by a certain person, whose name has been fur-

ished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, relating to the treatment he received while being held in detention in terms of the emergency regulations; if not, why not; if so, what is the (a) (i) purport of these allegations and (ii) name of this person and (b) (i) who was in charge of the investigation and (ii) when was it instituted;

- (2) whether this investigation has been completed; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that it will be completed; if so, (i) when, (ii) what were the findings and (iii) what action has been taken as a result of these findings;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) (i) that during interrogation, his dignitas was injured;
 - (ii) the name which was supplied by the hon member;
 - (b) (i) an officer of the South African Police;
 - (ii) 21 August 1986.
- (2) Yes. (a) and (b) Fall away.
 - (i) 24 June 1987.
 - (ii) and (iii) on 24 June 1987 a case docket was referred to the Attorney-General for his decision. He decided that 6 accused had to stand trial on a charge of crimen injuria on 26 August 1987. He further decided that if one of the accused paid an amount of R200,00 admission of guilt, the other five accused would be absolved. One of the accused paid the admission of guilt fine on 11 August 1987.

weapons and undesirable publications and is thus awaiting trial.

Informers

*22. Mr J B DE R VAN GEND asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether the South African Police have informers in certain institutions and bodies;
- (2) whether he will furnish information in this regard; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether any branch of the South African Police has (a) members posing as students and (b) students who are paid to provide information to the Police on student activities at all South African universities; if not, (i) which universities do not have such persons and (ii) why have these universities been excluded;
- (4) whether any (a) registered political parties, (b) trade unions and (c) extra-parliamentary political, community, student or single-issue organisations have Police members or informers amongst their membership; if so, (i) which organisations, (ii) why and (iii) what criteria are applied in determining which organisations will be infiltrated;
- (5) what total (a) number of persons are employed by the Police as informers at universities and the above organisations and (b) amount was budgeted in the latest specified financial year to pay these persons?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes, like all police forces across the world, the South African police also use informers to gather information of security interest. I wish to emphasise that such persons are expected to gather information and not to act as agent provocateurs. I furthermore wish to refer the hon member to my press statement of 12 August 1987 which I attach for reasons of clarity.
- (2) No, because it is standard procedure

Handwritten: Howard

Dairy favoured

AGRICULTURE

General

N/M 27/11/86

Uwusa, Court told

Pietermaritzburg
Bureau

NATIONAL Co-operative Dairies (NCD) had given a 'grossly misleading summary' of a dispute between itself and the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) when they obtained a court interdict restraining the union from instigating a consumer boycott of their products, it was alleged in papers before the Supreme Court here yesterday.

In response to the interdict obtained by the dairy, Fawu has lodged a counter application for an order declaring legal the union's call for a consumer boycott of NCD products as a result of a labour dispute.

Fawu has also asked the Court in papers for a declaratory order to decide whether such a product boycott would offend the Emergency Regulations and could constitute a 'subversive statement' in terms of the regulations.

In papers before Mr Justice Booysen yesterday, Miss Rene Roux, an organiser for the Natal Coastal Branch of Fawu, said her union had given an undertaking to NCD that it would not call for a consumer boycott of its products until the Court had ruled on the legality of doing so in terms of the Emergency Regulations.

Grievances

Miss Roux said in an affidavit a call for a consumer product boycott by a trade union 'wishing to indicate strongly to an employer grievances which have to be addressed' was common throughout the free world.

She said Fawu had considered that this form of industrial action was appropriate, following bitter disputes between the two parties. Without such pressure NCD had been completely intransigent and had refused to negoti-

ate meaningfully with Fawu over grievances, she alleged.

She said an Industrial Council meeting in August had failed to resolve the dispute between them.

In contrast to other employers with which Fawu had dealt, NCD had demonstrated itself to be 'uncompromising and unwilling' to accept standards which had become customary in the dairy industry, she alleged.

Miss Roux said Fawu was representative of the vast majority of NCD employees throughout its Natal factories and depots, with some 1 500 members.

Influence

She alleged, however, that NCD management had shown itself to favour the rival United Workers' Union of South Africa (Uwusa), which had only

three members at the Pietermaritzburg factory and two at Congella in Durban. She said NCD unfairly and unreasonably promoted Uwusa to the detriment of Fawu although the vast majority of their employees were opposed to Uwusa.

Miss Roux said she believed that NCD's industrial relations manager, Mr Andrew Lynch, wished to break the influence of Fawu in all the dairy's establishments.

She denied that a work stoppage at the Pietermaritzburg depot in June was unlawful.

More than 160 workers were dismissed at the Pietermaritzburg depot as a result of strikes in June this year.

The hearing has been adjourned till March 25 next year.

DET: rural education report for minister

DD 27/11/80 (ASB)
General

Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — The intersectoral working party has completed its task and its report has been presented to the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen.

The working party was appointed by the Department of Education and Training (DET) to investigate ways of improving the education of black pupils in rural areas.

As a result of its terms of reference the working party, which comprised 23 members, was split into seven working committees — each to handle one of the seven fields of investigation.

The seven fields covered were:

- The state of rural education in South Africa and in a few selected developed and developing countries;

- A demographic analysis of the situation in RSA;

- Spectrum, structure and curriculum;

- Teacher education;

- School administration, organisation and control;

- Physical accommodation and equipment; and

- Financial aspects, laws and regulations.

The report is said to contain a number of recommendations which, if approved, could have far-reaching effects on the existing laws and financial administration in rural education.

The report would be studied in detail and might be referred to a departmental committee for further investigation, the DET said in a statement yesterday.

The DET said those recommendations which could be implemented immediately had already been put into practice.

These were:

- Group of schools in

the same vicinity were jointly organised and administered by a capable principal;

- Neighbouring schools were organised so that each offered only one of the two phases, junior primary or senior primary;

- Individualised teaching methods received greater emphasis;

- The subject "skill and techniques" was systematically introduced into rural schools;

- The syllabi for agriculture-related subjects were revised in terms of an ecological approach;

- Farm school amenities were utilised as community/cultural centres in order to encourage parent involvement and community development supported on the basis of national planning;

- Higher standards, including secondary standards, were system-

atically introduced into existing farm schools;

- In some cases boarding school facilities and transport facilities were thoroughly investigated;

- Various innovations with respect to teacher training, selection and utilisation were introduced;

- Study committees on a subject basis were introduced in rural areas in order to promote greater expertise, didactic competence and greater professionalism in teaching; and

- Management training programmes were extended in rural areas.

The DET said the report and its recommendations "confirm the commitment of the government and the department to the aspiration for equal opportunities and quality of education for all, population groups in general and the rural and black pupil in particular".

Reserve farm boost

Government has invested R7,3m in three farms in the Cape in an effort to stimulate economic development in poverty stricken coloured "reserves." The farms have been bought from (willing) white sellers by the administrative section of the coloured House of Representatives.

A spokesman for the administration's Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, Kobus Boshoff, says the project is a continuing one. More farms will be bought whenever suitable property is found and funds are available. Negotiations are underway for the purchase of a fourth farm in the Gordonia region.

The farms purchased so far are a property of 1 500 ha near Deyselsdorp in the Oudtshoorn district, a farm of 7 600 ha near Ladismith, and a property of 635 ha near Plettenberg Bay. The first two cost R3,3m each and the third R700 000, says Boshoff. In all three cases, he says, the farmers were in financial difficulty and the prices paid were fair and reasonable.

Managers have been put on the farms and the aim is to operate them as profitable businesses. Profits will be ploughed into neighbouring coloured "reserves," of which

there are 23 throughout the country.

According to Boshoff, the coloured Ministers Council has resolved to re-establish a coloured commercial farming class. The farms may be used as training facilities or could be sub-divided if suitable, and sold or let to coloured farmers. Boshoff says it is important that the farms generate their own capital and make enough money to benefit neighbouring reserves.

"Part of the idea is to create a wider

economic base for the coloured rural areas," he explains. He believes in some cases — particularly due to financial difficulties of white farmers — coloured labourers on the farms will be better off financially under government control of the properties. "We accept that there is a long way to go; it is largely a process of education, but we have to start somewhere," Boshoff says.

Despite rightwing propaganda to the contrary, he stresses that government is not

expropriating white farms to give to coloureds. "In all cases, it is on a 'willing seller, willing buyer' basis. In the case of the three farms we have bought so far, the sellers approached us when they heard we were in the market. We have had dozens of other offers as well.

"The Ministers Council has accepted guidelines with regard to the purchase of farms, and these have to be followed. We are not buying at any price," he says. ■

No. R. 2474
CORRECTION NOTICE
 LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1956
BUILDING AND MONUMENTAL MASONRY INDUSTRIES (TRANSVAAL)—MAIN AGREEMENT
 The following correction to Government Notice R. 2286 appearing in *Government Gazette* 10502 of 31 October 1986, is hereby published for general information:
 In paragraph (b) of the Afrikaans text of the Notice, substitute the figure "2," for the figure "(2)".

No. R. 2474
VERBETERINGSKENNISGEWING
 WET OP ARBEIDSVERHOUDINGE, 1956
BOU- EN MONUMENTAL MESSSELNRYERHEID (TRANSVAAL)—HOOFVOORSKOMS
 Die onderstaande verbetering aan Goewernementskennisgewing R. 2286 wat in Staatskoerant 10502 van 31 Oktober 1986 verskyn, word hierby vir algemene inligging gepubliseer.
 Vervang in paragraaf (b) van die Afrikaanse teks van die Kennisgewing, die syfer "(2)" deur die syfer "2,".

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT
 28 November 1986
THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REGISTRATION BY OPTOMETRISTS OF ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS—AMENDMENT

DEPARTEMENT VAN NASIONALE GESONDHEID EN BEVOLKINGS-ONTWIKKELING
 28 November 1986
DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE GENESKUNDIGE EN TANDHEELKUNDIGE RAAD
REGULASIES BETREFFENDE DIE REGISTRASIE DEUR OPTOMETRISTE VAN ADDISIONELE KWALIFIKASIES—WYSIGING

In terms of section 61 (1) (a) of the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Service Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974), the Minister of National Health and Population Development, acting on the recommendation of the South African Medical and Dental Council, has made the regulations set out in the Schedule hereto.
SCHEDULE
 1. In this Schedule "the regulations" shall mean the regulations published under Government Notice R. 2313 of 3 December 1976, as amended by Government Notice R. 1103 of 30 May 1984.
 2. Regulation 2 of the regulations is hereby amended by—
 (a) the addition of the following qualification under the heading "United States of America":
University of examining *Abbreviation for*
University and qualification *regulation*
 "American Academy of Optometry—
 try—
 Diploma (Contact Lens Section) ... FAAO";
 (b) the substitution for the footnote in respect of the registration of the qualification "Fellow ... FAOO (Int)" of the Association of Ophthalmic Opticians, Ireland of the following:
 "This qualification will be recognised only if granted after 31 December 1978 and if evidence is submitted that the training for the qualification commenced after 31 December 1974."

Die Minister van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling het kragtens artikel 61 (1) (a) van die Wet op Geneesker, Tandarts en Aanvullende Gesondheidsdiensbepoep, 1974 (Wet 56 van 1974), op aanbeveling van die Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige en Tandheelkundige Raad, die regulasies in die Bylae hiervan uiteengesit, uitgevaardig.
BYLAE
 1. In hierdie Bylae beteken "die regulasies" die regulasies afgekondig by Goewernementskennisgewing R. 2313 van 3 Desember 1976, soos gewysig by Goewernementskennisgewing R. 1103 van 30 Mei 1984.
 2. Regulasie 2 van die regulasies word hierby gewysig deur—
 (a) die toevoeging van die volgende kwalifikasie onder die opschrift "Verenigde State van Amerika":
Universiteit of eksaminering *afkorting vir regulasie*
liggaam of kwalifikasie
 "Amerikaanse Akademie van Optometrië—
 try—
 Diploma (Contact Lens Section) ... FAAO";
 (b) die voornoot met betrekking tot die registrasie van die kwalifikasie "Fellow ... FAOO (Int)" van die Association of Ophthalmic Opticians, Ireland deur die volgende te vervang:
 "Die kwalifikasie sal erken word slegs indien dit na 31 Desember 1978 toegestaan is en indien bewys voorgele word dat opleiding vir die kwalifikasie in aanvang geneem het na 31 Desember 1974."

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS
 28 November 1986
NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 9A OF THE WATER ACT, 1956

DEPARTEMENT VAN WATERWESSE
 28 November 1986
KENNISGEWING KRAGTENS ARTIKEL 9A VAN DIE WATERWET, 1956

PROHIBITION ON THE FURTHER STORAGE AND CURTAILMENT OF THE USE FOR IRRIGATION AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES OF PUBLIC WATER FROM THE VAAL RIVER AND CERTAIN OF ITS TRIBUTARIES—TAKING OVER THE OPERATION OF WATERWORKS
 By virtue of the powers vested in me by paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Government Notice 580 of 27 March 1986, I, Pieter Francois Pretorius, in my capacity as Chief Engineer, Int-

VERBOD OP DIE VERDERE OPSARGING EN INKORTING VAN DIE GEBRUIK VIR BESPOEGINGS- EN LANDBOUDOEL ENDES VAN OPENBARE WATER UIT DIE VAALRIVER EN SEKERE VAN SY SYTAKKE—OORNAME VAN DIE BEDRYF VAN WATERWERKE
 Kragsens die bevoegdheid my verleen by paragraaf 2 (b) (iii) van die Goewernementskennisgewing 580 van 27 Maart 1986, neem ek, Pieter Francois Pretorius, in my hoedanig-

ANNEXURE
 Pumps or pumps with respect to the properties in column A.

Property	Name
Resterende Gedeelte 224, distrik Bothaville	R. de Beer
Onderverdeling 1 Vrede 103, distrik Bothaville	A. J. de Villiers
Gedeelte 6 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 4) Hoogekraal 446, distrik Potchefstroom	T. F. Britz
Gedeelte 31 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 2) Brandhoek, 78, distrik Wolmaransstad	T. Botes
Gedeelte 12 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 7) Bavanaanskrans 80, distrik Wolmaransstad	Dr. L. Badenhorst
Resterende Gedeelte 11 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 8) Klippelandrif 82, distrik Wolmaransstad	C. Dummery
Gedeelte 24 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 8) Klippelandrif 82, distrik Wolmaransstad	A. I. J. de Beer
Resterende Gedeelte van Gedeelte 7 Bavanaanskrans 80, distrik Wolmaransstad	A. I. J. de Beer

ANNEXURE
 Pomp of pompe ten opsigte van die eiendomme in kolom A hieronder:

Eiendom	Eienaar
Resterende Gedeelte 224, distrik Bothaville	R. de Beer
Onderverdeling 1 Vrede 103, distrik Bothaville	A. J. de Villiers
Gedeelte 6 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 4) Hoogekraal 446, distrik Potchefstroom	T. F. Britz
Gedeelte 31 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 2) Brandhoek, 78, distrik Wolmaransstad	T. Botes
Gedeelte 12 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 7) Bavanaanskrans 80, distrik Wolmaransstad	Dr. L. Badenhorst
Resterende Gedeelte 11 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 8) Klippelandrif 82, distrik Wolmaransstad	C. Dummery
Gedeelte 24 (gedeelte van Gedeelte 8) Klippelandrif 82, distrik Wolmaransstad	A. I. J. de Beer
Resterende Gedeelte van Gedeelte 7 Bavanaanskrans 80, distrik Wolmaransstad	A. I. J. de Beer

ANNEXURE
 Pump or pumps with respect to the properties in column A.

Property	Name
Remaining extent of River-bend Estate 291	P. G. Jacobs
Portion 4 of Riverbend Estate 291	N. P. Bekker

ANNEXURE
 Pomp of pompe ten opsigte van die eiendomme in kolom A hieronder:

Eiendom	Naam
Resant Gedeelte van River-bend Estate 291	P. G. Jacobs
Gedeelte 4 van Riverbend Estate 291	N. P. Bekker

No. R. 2503
NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 9A OF THE WATER ACT, 1956
 28 November 1986

INKORTING OP DIE ABSTRAKSIE VAN DIE GEBRUIK VIR LANDBOU DOEL ENDES VAN OPENBARE WATER UIT DIE VAALRIVER BINNE DIE BENEDE-VAALRIVER - STAATSWATERBEHEERGBIED—OORNAME VAN BEDRYF VAN WATERWERKE
 Kragsens die bevoegdheid my verleen by paragraaf 2 (b) (iii) van die Goewernementskennisgewing 208 van 29 Maart 1985, neem ek, Pieter Francois Pretorius, in my hoedanig-

ANNEXURE
 Pump or pumps with respect to the properties in column A.

Property	Name
Remaining extent of River-bend Estate 291	P. G. Jacobs
Portion 4 of Riverbend Estate 291	N. P. Bekker

ANNEXURE
 Pump or pumps with respect to the properties in column A.

Property	Name
Remaining extent of River-bend Estate 291	P. G. Jacobs
Portion 4 of Riverbend Estate 291	N. P. Bekker

No. R. 2503
KENNISGEWING KRAGTENS ARTIKEL 9A VAN DIE WATERWET, 1956
 28 November 1986

INKORTING OP DIE UITNEEM VAN DIE GEBRUIK VIR LANDBOU DOEL ENDES VAN OPENBARE WATER UIT DIE VAALRIVER BINNE DIE BENEDE-VAALRIVER - STAATSWATERBEHEERGBIED—OORNAME VAN BEDRYF VAN WATERWERKE
 Kragsens die bevoegdheid my verleen by paragraaf 2 (b) (iii) van die Goewernementskennisgewing 208 van 29 Maart 1985, neem ek, Pieter Francois Pretorius, in my hoedanig-

ANNEXURE
 Pump of pompe ten opsigte van die eiendomme in kolom A hieronder:

Eiendom	Naam
Resant Gedeelte van River-bend Estate 291	P. G. Jacobs
Gedeelte 4 van Riverbend Estate 291	N. P. Bekker

ANNEXURE
 Pump or pumps with respect to the properties in column A.

Property	Name
Remaining extent of River-bend Estate 291	P. G. Jacobs
Portion 4 of Riverbend Estate 291	N. P. Bekker

BUDDAY

39EN

3/12/86.
**Escom steps up
rural voltage**

MICK COLLINS

ESCOM plans to spend R300m on rural electrification next year in order to meet growing consumer demand.

An extra R25m will be spent on the scheme by the end of this year. Chairman John Maree says this portion has become available as a result of savings in operating and capital expenditures.

"We are committed to bringing electricity to the whole country and upgrading the quality of life," he said.

He said Escom will have erected more than 13 500km of reticulation lines in 1986, to supply about 8 400 rural customers, at a cost of R230m.

Maree said the corporation was increasing the number of estimated new customers for 1986 from 7 500 to 8 400 as part of a major drive to meet increased customer demand.

He said by next year a total of 78 800 rural customers would be receiving electricity.

Any person who wishes to object to the intention of the Minister to effect this amendment shall lodge his objection in writing with the Director-General, South African Bureau of Standards, Private Bag X191, Pretoria, 0001, within two months of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF COMPULSORY SPECIFICATIONS FOR CERTAIN ITEMS OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Schedule 8: Electrical stoves and hotplates

Title: Delete the existing title and substitute the following new title:

Schedule 8: Compulsory specification for the safety of electric stoves and hotplates.

Subsection 3.17.1: Delete the third paragraph and substitute the following:

Fixed electric stoves and hotplates having a total connected load exceeding 16 amperes shall have their internal connections so arranged that they can be adapted for connection to a three-phase four-wire system, a two-phase three-wire system or a single-phase two-wire system or, in the case of stoves for use in d.c. circuits, to a d.c. three-wire system of supply.

Other fixed appliances (e.g. separate ovens and hobs) having a total connected load—

- (a) exceeding 16 amperes but not exceeding 32 amperes shall have their internal connections so arranged that they can be adapted for connection to a two-phase three-wire system or a single-phase two-wire system or, in the case of stoves for use in d.c. circuits, to a d.c. three-wire system of supply;
- (b) exceeding 32 amperes shall have their internal connections so arranged that they can be adapted for connection to a three-phase four-wire system, a two-phase three-wire system or a single-phase two-wire system, or in the case of stoves for use in d.c. circuits, to a d.c. three-wire system of supply.

In all cases, the correct manner for connecting the appliance shall be indicated by means such as lettering or labelling.

Subsection 3.20.2: Delete this subsection.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS

No. 2583

③ 92N

5 December 1986

NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 9A OF THE WATER ACT, 1956

AMENDMENT OF GOVERNMENT NOTICE 1357 OF 27 JUNE 1986.—RELAXATION OF THE CURTAILMENT OF THE USE FOR IRRIGATION AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES OF PUBLIC WATER FROM THE VAAL RIVER AND CERTAIN OF ITS TRIBUTARIES

By virtue of the powers vested in me by paragraph 2 of Government Notice 580 of 27 March 1986, I, Pieter Francois Pretorius, in my capacity as Chief Engineer: Irrigation and Engineering Services, hereby amend the Schedule to Government Notice 1357 of 27 June 1986 as set out in the Schedule hereto.

P. F. PRETORIUS,
Chief Engineer: Irrigation and Engineering Services.

Enige persoon wat beswaar wil maak teen die Minister se voorneme om hierdie wysiging aan te bring, moet sy skriftelike beswaar binne twee maande na publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing indien by die Direkteur-generaal, Suid-Afrikaanse Buro vir Standaarde, Privaatsak X191, Pretoria, 0001.

BYLAE

VOORGESTELDE WYSIGING VAN VERPLIGTE SPESIFIKASIES VIR SEKERE ELEKTRIESE TOERUSTING

Bylae 8: Elektriese stowe en verwarmingsplate

Titel: Skrap die bestaande titel en vervang dit deur die volgende nuwe titel:

Bylae 8: Verpligte spesifikasies vir die veiligheid van elektriese stowe en verwarmingsplate.

Onderafdeling 3.17.1: Skrap die derde paragraaf en vervang dit deur die volgende:

Die interne bedrading van vaste elektriese stowe en verwarmingsplate met 'n totale aangeslote las van meer as 16 ampère moet so gerangskik wees dat dit met 'n driefasige vierdraadstelsel, 'n tweefasige driedraadstelsel, 'n eenfasige tweedraadstelsel of, in die geval van stowe vir gebruik in 'n GS-stroombaan, met 'n GS-driedraadtoevoerstelsel verbind kan word.

Die interne bedrading van ander vaste toestelle (bv. afsonderlike oonde en kookvlakke) met 'n totale aangeslote las—

- (a) van meer as 16 ampère maar hoogstens 32 ampère, moet so gerangskik wees dat dit met 'n tweefasige driedraadstelsel of 'n eenfasige tweedraadstelsel of, in die geval van stowe vir gebruik in 'n GS-stroombaan, met 'n GS-driedraadtoevoerstelsel verbind kan word;
- (b) van meer as 32 ampère, moet so gerangskik wees dat dit met 'n driefasige vierdraadstelsel, 'n tweefasige driedraadstelsel, 'n eenfasige tweedraadstelsel of, in die geval van stowe vir gebruik in 'n GS-stroombaan, met 'n GS-driedraadtoevoerstelsel verbind kan word.

In alle gevalle moet die regte manier om die toestel te verbind, deur middel van letters of etikette aangedui word.

Onderafdeling 3.20.2: Skrap hierdie onderafdeling.

DEPARTEMENT VAN WATERWESE

No. 2583

5 Desember 1986

KENNISGEWING KRAGTENS ARTIKEL 9A VAN DIE WATERWET, 1956

WYSIGING VAN GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING 1357 VAN 27 JUNIE 1986.—VERSLAPPING VAN DIE INKORTING VAN DIE GEBUIK VAN BESPROEINGS- EN ANDER LANDBOUDOELEINDES VAN OPENBARE WATER UIT DIE VAALRIVIER EN SEKERE VAN SY SYTAKKE

Kragtens die bevoegdheid my verleen by paragraaf 2 van Goewermenskennisgewing 580 van 27 Maart 1986, wysig ek, Pieter Francois Pretorius, in my hoedanigheid van Hoofingenieur: Besproeiing en Ingenieursdienste, hierby die Bylae tot Goewermenskennisgewing 1357 van 27 Junie 1986 soos uiteengesit in die Bylae hiertoe.

P. F. PRETORIUS,
Hoofingenieur: Besproeiing en Ingenieursdienste.

SCHEDULE

The words in column C substitute the words in column B, as it appears in Government Notice 1357 of 27 June 1986 in the paragraphs mentioned in column A, hereafter:

Item	A Paragraphs	B Previous words	C New words
1	2.1 (ii)	2 400 cubic metres.....	3 000 cubic metres
2	3.1	40 per cent	50 per cent
3	4	3 100 cubic metres.....	3 900 cubic metres

Item	A Paragrafe	B Vorige woorde	C Nuwe woorde
1	2.1 (ii)	2 400 kubieke meter.....	3 000 kubieke meter
2	3.1	40 persent	50 persent
3	4	3 100 kubieke meter.....	3 900 kubieke meter

BYLAE

Die woorde in kolom C vervang die woorde in kolom B soos dit in Goewermentskennisgewing 1357 van 27 Junie 1986 voorkom in die paragrafe genoem in kolom A, hierna:

GENERAL NOTICES**NOTICE 820 OF 1986****PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA****INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILLS ON GENERAL AFFAIRS**

Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Joint Rules and Orders of the House of Assembly, the House of Representatives and the House of Delegates (General Affairs) I hereby make known that the following public bills on general affairs have in terms of subsection (1) of the said Rule been submitted to the Speaker of Parliament and are in terms of subsection (3) (b) thereof deemed to have been duly introduced and read a first time in each House of Parliament:

- Insolvency Amendment Bill [B 10-87 (GA)];
- State Land Disposal Amendment Bill [B 11-87 (GA)];
- Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill [B 12-87 (GA)];
- National Parks Amendment Bill [B 13-87 (GA)];
- Prevention and Combating of Pollution of the Sea by Oil Amendment Bill [B 14-87 (GA)];
- International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties Bill [B 15-87 (GA)];
- Environment Conservation Amendment Bill [B 16-87 (GA)];
- Magistrates' Courts Amendment Bill [B 17-87 (GA)];
- Tweefontein Timber Company Limited Amendment Bill [B 18-87 (GA)];
- Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill [B 19-87 (GA)];
- Nuclear Energy Amendment Bill [B 20-87 (GA)];
- Town and Regional Planners Amendment Bill [B 21-87 (GA)];
- Professional Land Surveyors' and Technical Surveyors' Amendment Bill [B 22-87 (GA)];
- Valuers' Amendment Bill [B 23-87 (GA)];
- Credit Agreements Amendment Bill [B 24-87 (GA)];
- Liquor Amendment Bill [B 25-87 (GA)];

ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS**KENNISGEWING 820 VAN 1986****PARLEMENT VAN DIE REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA****INDIENING EN EERSTE LESING VAN PUBLIEKE WETSONTWERPE OOR ALGEMENE SAKE**

Ooreenkomstig Reël 23 van die Gesamentlike Reëls en Orders van die Volksraad, die Raad van Verteenwoordigers en die Raad van Afgevaardigdes (Algemene Sake) maak ek hiermee bekend dat die volgende publieke wetsontwerpe oor algemene sake kragtens subartikel (1) van genoemde Reël aan die Speaker van die Parlement voorgelê is en kragtens subartikel (3) (b) daarvan geag word in elke Huis van die Parlement behoorlik ingedien en vir die eerste maal gelees te wees:

- Insolvensiewysigingswetsontwerp [W 10-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op die Besikking oor Staatsgrond [W 11-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op Werkloosheidsversekering [W 12-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op Nasionale Parke [W 13-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op die Voorkoming en Bestryding van Besoedeling van die See deur Olie [W 14-87 (AS)];
- Wetsontwerp op die Internasionale Konvensie Betreffende Intervensie op die Oop See in Geval van Ongevalle wat Lei tot Oliebesoedeling [W 15-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op Omgewingsbewaring [W 16-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op Landdroshowe [W 17-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op die Tweefontein-houtmaatskappy Beperk [W 18-87 (AS)];
- Strafproseswysigingswetsontwerp [W 19-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op Kernenergie [W 20-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op Stads- en Streekbeplanners [W 21-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op Professionele Landmeters en Tegniëse Opmeters [W 22-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op Waardeerders [W 23-87 (AS)];
- Wysigingswetsontwerp op Kredietooreenkomste [W 24-87 (AS)];
- Drankwysigingswetsontwerp [W 25-87 (AS)];

for women in the hand. funeral.

Talks on new electricity plan for farmers

③ Gen.
N/M/12/286

Pietermaritzburg
Bureau

A PROPOSED new electricity tariff for farmers which was discussed at a high-level meeting between the Natal Agricultural Union (NAU) and the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) here on Wednesday was not likely to be introduced before July next year, Mr Steve Shone, manager of the NAU, said yesterday.

At the meeting, the possibility of introducing a revised tariff which would better suit the requirements of agriculture than the 'D' tariff was discussed, he said.

The 'D' tariff had been introduced on the recommendation of the De Villiers Commission with the sole object of accommodating the agricultural user, and was 'not entirely suited to the irrigation farmer' as it had resulted in farmers paying for power they are not using rather than for

power actually used'.

Mr Shone said the power component of the overall input cost budget for agriculture had also increased dramatically over the past five years, and the meeting was therefore aimed at lowering this component.

He said the feasibility of a tariff with a low demand component and a compensating higher energy component linked to consumption was discussed because 'the factor which militates against the efficient use of power in agriculture and places an unreasonable burden on the irrigator is the high demand factor.'

'Such a tariff should effectively ameliorate the present situation where farmers pay for power they are not using,' Mr Shone said.

He said, however, that the Escom delegation had made it clear that it was not in a position to deviate from the parameters laid down by the De Villiers Commission, and that meaningful financial aid to irrigation farmers in Natal was therefore being sought from the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs as an interim measure.

Donation

JOHANNESBURG—Gencor has donated R100 000 to the South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare. — (Sapa)

SPRINKLERS
SEL
LIGHTS
APPOINTMENT
Ball Mill

SA farmers are now R8 billion in the red

PRETORIA — South Africa's 68 400 farms had a gross income last year of R7,929-billion, paid debts and loans totalling R1,457-billion, but still owed R8,424-billion.

According to preliminary results of the Central Statistical Services' 1985 agricultural survey, released in Pretoria, the farms cover an area of nearly 86 million hectares.

The complete report will be published before the middle of next year.

According to the pre-

liminary figures, the country's 1,27 million farm labourers were paid R1,336-billion during the year. This consisted of R989-million in salaries and wages and R346-million in payments in kind.

Current expenses, excluding salaries and wages, totalled R6,036-billion for 1985, and a breakdown showed the two biggest expenditure items were R1,056-billion for stock and poultry feed and R1,051-billion on interest payments. —

Sapa

*12/12/85
Agri-Governor
Sapa*

Farmers to get R28000 Govt grants and loans for anti-landmine vehicles

w/c ARGUS 13/12/86 36000

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Government is giving certain northern Transvaal farmers R28 000 grants and R12 000 low-interest loans so that they can buy vehicles protected against landmine blasts.

About 300 farmers stand to benefit from the subsidies which may be extended next year to farmers along the Swaziland border.

The subsidy scheme has thrown the local mine-protected vehicle industry wide open and various companies are vying for guaranteed cash payments. Involved in processing subsidy applications are the departments of Commerce and Agriculture.

At least five automotive design companies are preparing to release a new range of landmine protected vehicles for use in the farming, industry and private sectors

Competitive industry

In what is fast becoming a highly competitive industry, the new armoured and bullet-protected models — all stringently tested by the CSIR and Bureau of Standards — will come off production lines in different parts of the country in the next few weeks.

They will sell at between R25 000 to R40 000 and some of the companies are also gearing to convert most types of existing pickup trucks — one, two and three-tonners — to the new specifications at a cost of R12 000 to R15 000.

The subsidy applies mainly to farmers of the northern and north-western Transvaal, and means they can buy a R40 000 vehicle without having to outlay a single cent.

On the production side, one automotive designer, Mr Ernest Konschel, who has designed a one-ton anti-ambush and mine resistant bakkie called the Cougar, and is building it in Germiston, has been commissioned to de-

liver 54 units to an agricultural concern near Komatipoort next year

Four models are available, ranging from two to eight-man configurations, and all are adapted to local conditions.

According to Mr Konschel, a mine-detecting vehicle, based on the celebrated Rhodesian "Pookie", which lifted over 300 mines in the war against Zanu and Zapu, and in the process saved thousands of lives, will go into production at his Germiston plant next year.

Troubled areas

A Pretoria motor company executive, Mr Koos de Wet, the creator of the Buffel transport carrier — one of the most successful of its kind in the world — and the Casspir, has designed the Krimpark mine resistant vehicle for the civil sector, and is being built by Afrit (Pty) Ltd., of Rosslyn.

Also a one-tonner, but of a different design, the Krimpark has a top speed of 140kph, a fuel consumption of 20 litres for 100km, weighs two tons, offers good all-round visibility and is well ventilated.

It is being made available to farmers, government agencies and to the private sector in border or troubled areas. The first production model has been delivered to a business concern in Witbank.

At least two more engineering firms are making use of a CSIR-designed basic mine protected capsule which they are adapting in projects of their own for mounting on almost any model of pickup truck.

One is the Rooibok, which will be marketed soon.

The CSIR developed the capsule as a guideline for the production of home-built mine protected vehicles for use in the private sector, and the basic designs were distributed to interested parties by the Department of Commerce.

Arms, fences and landmines just part of their lives

Border farmers determined to stay

nr 645 17/12/86
36 general

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa has a new breed of frontiersmen — tough, uncompromising farmers occupying a 350-kilometre strip along the Limpopo River.

The strip lies in the lush bushveld along South Africa's far northern border with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique and has become the natural launching ground for African National Congress operations into South Africa.

Already sparsely populated, the area has been the target of ANC landmine attacks designed to drive farmers off the land and to clear the Limpopo River-springboard for operations into South Africa.

Landmines

This year 15 landmines were planted in the Weipe, Alldays and Pontdrif areas. Eight were detonated by vehicles and seven people died. Seven mines were detected by South African Army units and farmers, and disarmed.

As Christmas approaches and with the 75th anniversary of the founding of the ANC early in the new year, the army and farmers in the area are convinced that attacks across the border will be intensified.

During a trip to the border area by a group of pressmen at the weekend, it became apparent that if the ANC expected to panic the small farming community, they could not have picked a tougher target.

Fortified

Instead of frightening them off to safer interior regions, the attacks have united the farmers, their wives, families and labourers resulting in the emergence of a fortified, security-conscious community.

"We're not going anywhere," said cotton farmer Mr Willie Esterhuysen, who was elected by farmers in the Weipe border area as their senior military co-ordinator and link with army detachments operating on the border.

"When the first mine blasts took place last year most of us got a terrible shock. Sure we were scared. But we took stock, we discussed the problem with the army and we began organising ourselves.

"We're not scared any more, we're careful. We will fight for

what we have built up."

Because of the landmine threat, the farmers' children are ferried to school hostels in army anti-mine Buffels on Mondays and returned again on Fridays.

Farmhouses are surrounded by high security fencing and farmers are installing sophisticated spotlights and are even putting grenade screens over the windows of their homes.

The cost of the security measures is being heavily subsidised by the Government, but still the cost to farmers can run into five-figure sums.

The army and farmers sweep rural roads for landmines every morning and farmers will not move a vehicle until a road has been cleared. Most farmers are eagerly awaiting the development of a reasonably priced anti-landmine vehicle which can take their whole family.

"There have already been attempts to slap something together, but nothing suitable and affordable has been made available yet," said Mr Esterhuysen.

Women on the farms have been trained in the use of sub-machineguns and other lights weapons and army personnel say their morale is outstanding.

Even the children have adapted to living constantly under threat.

"My children accept the situation," said Mr Wynand Malan. One of his tractor drivers was killed when the tractor detonated a mine planted only 70m from the homestead.

"We have drilled the children on exactly what to do in the event of an attack and they have adapted to react automatically," Mr Malan said.

Less than a decade ago the area along the Limpopo River was occupied by a few cattle farmers trying to survive the drought. Then the potential of the area for cotton and wheat farming was discovered and young farmers moved in clearing thousands of hectares of riverside bush and installing massive irrigation schemes.

Army sources say that virtually every farm along the border strip is now occupied.

Today, as the farmers wait for an expected increase in ANC cross-border raids, hundreds of sprinklers cast a cloud of mist

over the cotton lands.

But below the surface of normality is the coiled spring — every farmer has been issued with sophisticated small arms ranging from sub-machineguns to pistols and 303 rifles are to be issued to labourers in the event of an attack.

The landmine attacks, which have taken their toll on everyone in the area, have resulted in the local black farm population insisting on being trained in the use of weapons, detection of landmines and in being involved in spotting illegal border crossings, according to the SADF.

The army has assisted the farmers in becoming a formidable first line of defence by giving them the expertise and incentive to protect their own properties.

Three years ago the army began registering every resident north of the Soutpansberge. It divided the region into seven strategic areas and asked the farmers in each area to elect a man to lead them in military organisation and training.

Army radios

Colonel Johan Swanepoel, officer commanding in the Soutpansberg military area, said 300 army radios were distributed throughout the area, giving farmers 24-hour contact with the nearest army base.

"But they can also communicate with each other and that is one of the most important things in the event of an alert.

"If there is an incident I can turn the entire population on and off at a moment's notice. If there is a confirmed terrorist crossing I can inform the farmers immediately and through the network of radios and telephones the whole area is alerted."

Colonel Swanepoel said the farmers had been alerted in this way on a few occasions during the past few months.

"At first it created some fear and worry but now they have come to terms with it.

"In a nutshell I am in command of what amounts to a hell-of-a-good force of civilian soldiers."

Colonel Swanepoel says that on the first day that weapons training was offered for labourers in the area, 56 volunteered.

"Eventually we will have 500 to 600 farm labourers trained in the use of rifles."

Education for farm children

(3) N.Y. 19/12/86

Municipal Reporter

SMALL villages should be established throughout rural Natal to prevent the economic abuse of farm workers and turn farm children from 'educational Cinderellas' into employable adults, says University of Natal academic Libby Ardington.

The scrapping of the

Group Areas Act would also help those among the 6 000 000 black farm families who could buy or rent in small towns nearby.

Ms Ardington, a development studies unit research fellow, studied the problems facing workers and land-owner farmers along the North Coast and in the Midlands.

Independent groups of agricultural workers would relieve farmers of their almost total responsibility for farm workers' families, motivate workers to self-improvement, and make it more economical for the State to provide essential services.

In the latest issue of the university's Indicator South Africa journal, Ms Ardington said that although more than half the people in black farm households were younger than 20, employment prospects were bleak, and made bleaker still by the lack of schools.

Although logistical problems plagued the educating of rural people worldwide, apartheid magnified problems. Requiring different facilities for each race group made schooling impossibly expensive to install in rural areas.

'It is unlikely that there is a commercial farm in South Africa which, for the education of its youth, could legally make use of only one school,' she said.

As only one high school caters for Natal's 7 500 black farm children, the KwaZulu Department of Education and Culture was overloaded with the children of parents who could not afford boarding fees.

AGRICULTURE - GENERAL

1987

JAN - NOVEMBER

AGRICULTURE

30
FIN MAIL
21/1/87

More optimism on the horizon

Good rains in January and February are still vital if 1987 crops are to fulfil their excellent promise. But hopes are rising that gross agricultural earnings could hit R12 billion for the first time and that the industry will boost GNP growth by 1,5% next year.

But SA Agricultural Union economist Koos du Toit warns that export growth must continue in the wool, mohair and fruit sectors if hopes of a R2 billion jump in gross earnings are to be realised.

"The return of good early season rains has come just in time to rescue thousands of farmers from bankruptcy," he says. Improved cash flow will help to ensure that credit lines remain open and that repayments will be made on the R11,5 billion farming debt, Du Toit adds.

Irrigation farmers are particularly relieved as there will now be enough water for the coming season, and perhaps even a longer carryover. For example, some 600 irrigation farmers at the Loskop Dam scheme in the south-eastern Transvaal, and hundreds more below the Hartbeespoort Dam, can now continue production of vegetables, fruit, wheat, tobacco, and citrus.

Current expectations point to good maize, wheat, sunflower, sorghum and groundnut crops. And red meat prices are touching the ceiling as cattle farmers hold back slaughter stock to rebuild depleted herds.

The new sliding-scale price for maize means, of course, that a bumper crop will lead to lower prices. And the outlook for export earnings above local market requirements of 5,5 Mt a year is the worst in decades.

Meanwhile, farmers have been trying to slash input costs to the bone to increase gross earnings. Massive falls in sales of fertiliser, tractors and implements testify to their success, and a bumper season will improve prospects for these industries.

The final estimate of last season's maize crop puts it at 7,748 Mt, of which 42,5% is white maize and the balance yellow maize. The crop left a surplus 2,2 Mt of yellow maize for export.

The third crop assessment of the directorate of Agricultural Technical Services in Pretoria points to a bumper wheat crop of 2,1 Mt — some 400 000 t above last year's dismal 1,7 Mt crop. This will mean big foreign exchange savings on wheat imports.

The final 1986 sunflower crop estimate of 262 625 t is well above the 234 725 t 1985 crop. But the groundnut crop fell to 92 230 t from 1985's 136 756 t after a hot, dry spell last February, and soya bean production also fell, from 37 300 t to 33 950 t. Farmers are being encouraged to increase production to

fill the country's protein needs, currently being imported.

While the 1986 grain sorghum crop of 431 650 t was well below the previous year's 591 295 t, diversification away from maize and a good growing season could lead to a substantially higher 1987 crop. ■

INSOLVENCIES

Still slipping

At the start of a new year, thoughts turn inevitably to prospects for business. There are some signs that the economy is improving, but there are still battles ahead — especially for small enterprises.

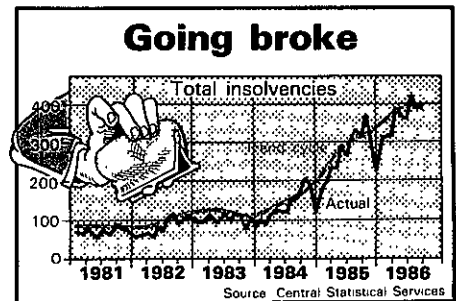
The labour force has increased by an estimated 1,8m in the past five years, placing increasing pressure on the informal sector — a sector which does not generate revenue for government.

On the other hand, one-man businesses receive little assistance and are liable to succumb much more quickly to a decrease in consumer spending or to bad debt manage-

with the same period in 1985.

However, insolvencies increased 7,9% compared with the previous quarter and 26,2% over the corresponding period in 1985.

Liquidations relate to companies and close



corporations placed under final order, while insolvencies relate to individuals and partnerships, where a partnership counts as one person.

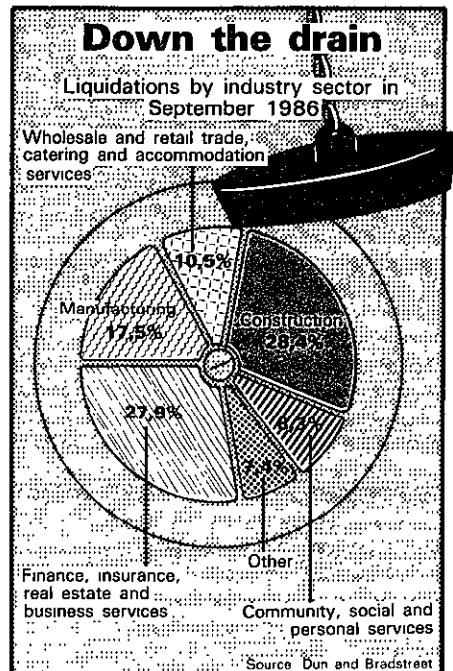
The decrease in the number of liquidations would seem to indicate an economic upturn. In the wholesale and retail sector, for example, they fell from 78 in July 1986 to just 24 in September, according to Dun & Bradstreet (D & B), which puts this down to increased consumer spending. CSS figures show that total wholesale trade sales (excluding diamonds) for September showed a seasonally adjusted increase of 5,1% compared with August.

But unemployment, the erosion of real remuneration by inflation, high taxation, debt, and fear of financial commitment are likely to keep consumers from making credit-type purchases for some time yet.

D & B says manufacturing, construction and financial service sectors are still under heavy pressure. Company failures in the manufacturing sector increased from 29 in August last year to 40 in September. The construction industry accounted for around 28% of September liquidations, as did financial services.

Because stock levels are low, any further increase in product demand may stimulate manufacturing and cause some demand for credit; but the banking sector is still battling to overcome the consumer memory of a 25% prime overdraft rate in 1984-1985.


And real personal wealth is still on the decline with insolvencies showing a marked increase, from 953 in the third quarter of 1985 to 1 203 last year. Although the figure may be somewhat distorted by "insolvencies of convenience," used to facilitate the clearance of debt, all too many are genuine. Most of the partnerships going under are marginal businesses which simply cannot wait any longer for cash flows to improve. ■



ment. This is evidenced in the number of liquidations and insolvencies recorded in the past three months.

Latest figures from Central Statistical Services (CSS) show that the number of liquidations in the third quarter of 1986 decreased 8,7% when compared with the previous three months, and 3,2% compared

Consumer foots the bill for farming bungle

4/1/87
SUNTHES
3 GEN


By David Southey

FARM productivity is being scandalously hampered by bureaucratic and outdated import restrictions, according to farm consultants.

They say restrictions which curb the import of new, superior seed varieties and livestock strains are also responsible for rocketing food prices.

In attempts to curtail costs, farmers are using less of many items — 30% less fertilizer, 20% less crop sprays, and buying 5 000 instead of 25 000 new tractors a year. But their efforts to produce more are thwarted by rigid — and what some experts describe as ridiculous — restrictions on the import of superior seeds and breeding stock.

Isolation

The editor of the independent publication *Effective Farming*, Symond Fiske, says isolation of SA farmers from the benefits of worldwide genetic research is "daft at the best of times".

"To do so now is doubly stupid. A conspiracy of short-sighted plant and livestock breeders has organised a type of self-imposed economic sanctions from within with the help of parochial bureaucrats."

Mr Fiske says "The response of those in authority, pandering to a small number of pedigree livestock breeders and an even smaller number of plant breeders — whose efforts are laughable by international standards — has been to cry that 'what is available locally is good enough and extra competition would be a bad thing'."

"The result is that SA's crop and

livestock yields, already low compared with all other Western nations, are destined to fall further behind. SA's dairy cows and pigs produce less milk and pork than those in Zimbabwe, let alone those of Israel, Britain, the US or Denmark."

Incredible

John Harrison of SA Farm Consultants says "Our wheat yields are low because the Department of Agriculture's small grain-breeding station at Bethlehem has insufficient funds to produce strains of wheat suitable for conditions ranging from sub-tropical to central European. But seed imports are prohibited.

"SA's soyabean yields are notoriously poor, but seed imports are allowed only for varieties already grown here."

Ned Kerr, technical director of Starke Ayres Seeds, now part of the giant Pioneer group, describes the regulations on seed imports as incredible.

"Should any overseas country want to ban seed exports to SA, it could easily identify them because of the number of phyto-sanitary and other certificates required. More are required here than anywhere else in the world. Seeds have to be free of so many unknown and unheard of diseases that it is often not worth the sellers going to the trouble of trying to get certificates."

New strains of plants can be imported — provided they meet rigor-

ous health requirements — but they have to undergo several years of testing before being ruled suitable for SA conditions.

Vested interests — such as co-operative seed company Sensako, or the Lucerne Seeds Control Board (LCB) — can ban imports if they think SA does not need them. To protect the few SA growers, this is what they usually do, say consultants.

Many more farmers than usual wished to plant soyabeans this year. Some are wheat growers whose harvests were delayed by heavy rains, making planting of an alternative crop like maize impossible. But there is no surplus soyabean seed in SA.

A farmer — but not a commercial seed company — may import seed of licensed strains for his own use, but not for sale. New varieties have to be tested over several years before import permits for general use are issued.

Slim margins

Mr Harrison says "Because of crass stupidity, SA loses the chance of closing the gap between demand and supply for oil cake."

The seed trade contends that sufficient is known about several new varieties of soyabeans and that their profit margins are too slim to finance several years of testing.

Lucerne seed provides a good example of the futility of controls. Composed of a few ostrich farmers at Oudtshoorn, the LCB has complete control of lucerne seed imports and sales in SA.

Only SA common lucerne seed

could be sold for many years — a variety which is not even a pure lucerne strain but is a bastardised production harvested by ostrich farmers in bad years. SA lucerne yields are notoriously low by world standards.

Groefontein College at Middleburg, Cape, has been growing plots of improved lucerne strains for many years, but they were not allowed to be marketed. After decades of protection, five US strains, all aphid resistant, were allowed in two or three years ago and are being grown under licence at a few sites in the Eastern Cape and Gordonia.

Eggs smuggled in

Imports are still only allowed by the LCB when ostrich farmers make money and the growers are too lazy to harvest sufficient seed.

Apart from the LCB, others in the firing line are the Lucerne Cultivar Evaluation Committee and the Lucerne Cultivar Advisory Committee, aided by some members of the SA Agricultural Union.

It is hardly surprising that some adventurous growers secretly import new plant cultivars. The so-called Chardonnay scandal in the Cape involving wine grape varieties is a case in point.

According to Mr Harrison, the situation for livestock is "equally unbelievable". There is a virtual blanket ban on the import of new breeds of livestock, including hybrids resulting from crossing two or more

(1) To Page 3

8/1/86
Drought
threatens
parts of
Karoo

Post Reporter

RAIN is urgently needed to break a grave drought affecting parts of the Karoo.

Mr Johnnie Blom, agricultural information officer for the north-eastern Karoo, said if it did not rain before the end of February, the situation there could become critical.

Soil had been depleted by a hot west wind.

The situation was already critical in the western areas at Richmond and Noupoort and the drought had also affected the central Karoo.

In Queenstown, where the highest October rainfall figure since 1917 was recorded, the situation was satisfactory.

The agricultural representative for the Langkloof area, Mr S. M. van der Merwe, said the heat had ripened the apricots quickly and a good harvest was expected.

SUNDAY 14/11/87

Protectionism slated

DAVID FURLONGER

FARMING consultants are at odds with agricultural industry and government officials on the effect of import protection policies.

Consultants say over-zealous protection is stunting output and pushing up food prices. Officials say protection is no worse than overseas and that farmers must be protected from exploitation — particularly when dealing with sometimes extravagant claims for new livestock breeds.

But according to consultant Symond Fiske: "It's not government's role to stop idiots being idiots. If someone's going to lose money he will. And the sooner the better, so the money finishes up in the hands of someone who knows how to handle it."

Critics of import controls say they are bureaucratic and outdated. By keeping out — or delaying — seeds and livestock with a better yield than domestic strains, they impose enormous strains on the economy.

"It doesn't make sense in such a small economy as ours," says Fiske. "You have to concede at some stage that the cost of keeping disease out is too great in relation to the costs being imposed on the economy."

Andries Cronje, assistant director of the Department of Agriculture's Directorate of Plant & Seed Control, says

many overseas seed strains don't adapt to SA conditions.

"Any seed can come in if it has a suitable health certificate from overseas. It is the same world-wide. If it can fulfil requirements for diseases, we take it and test it."

Consultants say, however, there is no need to test such strains — nor should co-operatives or control boards be allowed to hinder their introduction.

"The only way to find out if something is suitable is to suck it and see," says Fiske. "Try it out and if it doesn't work, too bad."

Consultants are also critical of livestock breeders' unwillingness to import new breeds that could offer better yields than existing lines.

While accepting that some overseas breeds could help improve yields, Jan van der Walt, manager of the SA Agricultural Union's Red Meat Producers' Organisation, says farmers need to be protected from exploitation.

Natal-based consultant John Harrison says: "If the farmer brings in purple and yellow pigs and no one likes them, that's his loss. He doesn't need legislation to protect him."

Down on the South African farm hundreds of kilometres north of the Limpopo

In the days when Aaron Mafaje worked as a clerk in Jo'burg, farming ranked rather low in his list of interests. But today, he's one of many South African exiles working the land on a giant farm in Zambia. VIVIENNE WALT reports from Lusaka

IT is a long way from home. Thirty kilometres outside Lusaka, where a group of South African exiles farm almost 3 000 hectares of land, there are few traces of township life.

On the half-hour's drive along a bumpy dirt road, there are only occasional signs of human habitation. Here and there, huts have been built alongside the road, but the paths to the farm gate are bordered mostly by flat scrubland. It is many kilometres to the nearest shop.

And, with extraordinary irony, Chongela Estates sits next door one of Zambia's most spacious and lucrative farms — owned by the Anglo American Corporation.

Since the Swedish International Development Agency bought a second, adjoining farm for the exiles in November 1985, for \$150 000 (about R270 000), Chongela has more than doubled its land, and is expanding its production and developing the agricultural training given here to those who have fled South Africa.

"Very few of us come from rural areas," explains Aaron Mafaje, 34, who runs Chongela.

Before going into exile in 1976, he lived in Orlando and worked as a clerk at an engineering firm in Johannesburg.

"I was never interested in farming," he says.

But after his training in farm management — in East Germany and Tanzania — he changed his views.

"We used to believe gold was the only thing. But it's the development of agriculture that made South Africa what it is."

"I had to be taught that it was very important. Now, I don't think I will go back into any township or town."

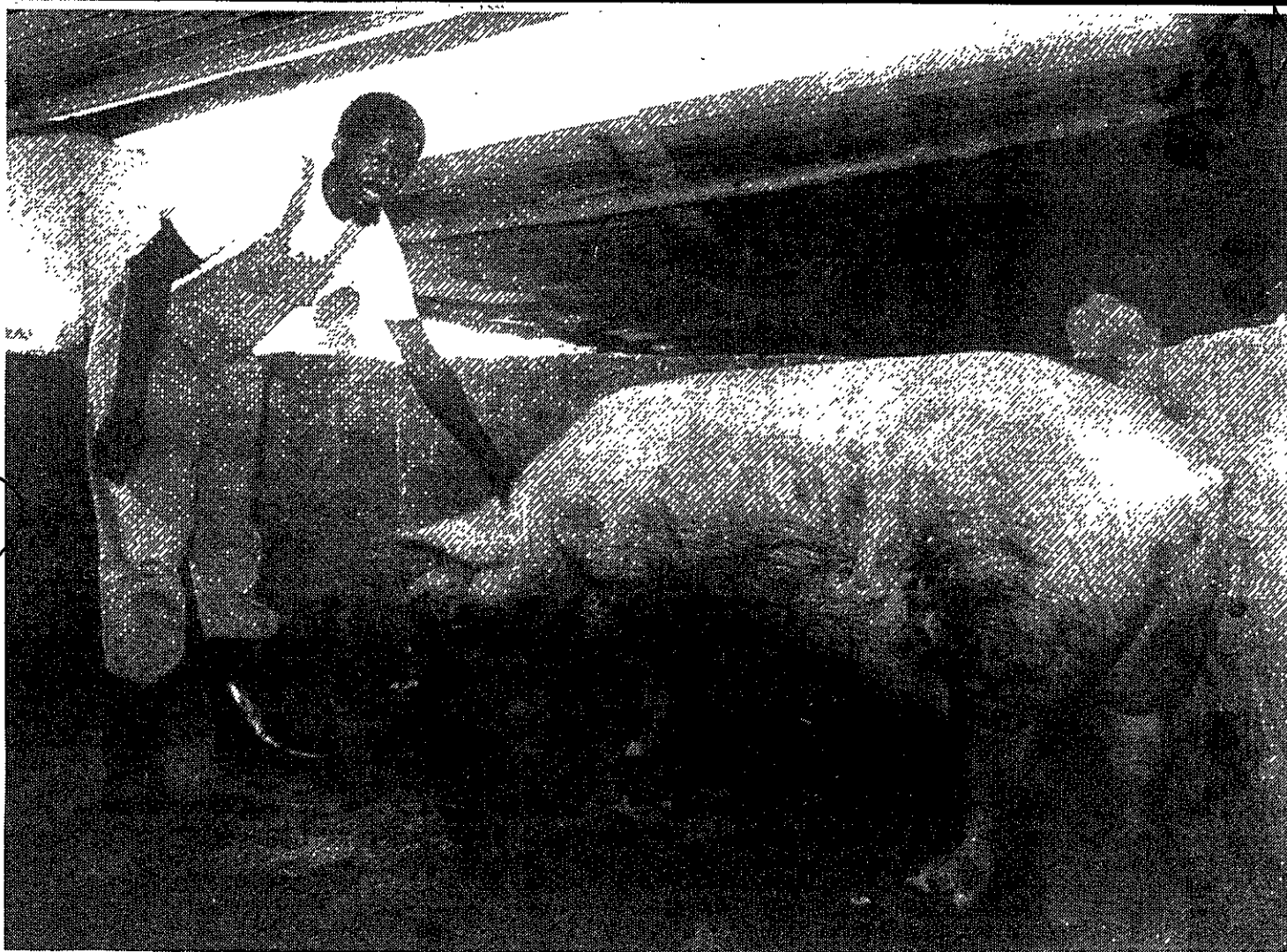
In the midst of widespread poverty and malnutrition, the people at Chongela have succeeded, with donated equipment, in producing crops of maize, sunflowers and soya beans.

There are also sheep and chickens, 1 300 head of cattle and 300 pigs — including the two plumpest white pigs, baptised by the exiles as Botha and Reagan in an irreverent poke at their enemies. Reagan has been honoured with a pen of his own in the middle of the long piggery, in which he snorts and dribbles, shakes his head from side to side and stretches down comfortably into his warm excrement.

Before Christmas last year, Botha was slaughtered to feed 89 exiles in Lusaka over the festive period.

Chongela serves not only to introduce refugees to some new skills — it is also a possible experiment for the future agricultural production in South Africa, once the exile community is able to return home.

After decades of homeland creation and forced removals, the exiles interviewed at Chongela foresee massive land redistribution should they



Aaron Mafaje with Reagan the lucky pig. Lucky because it was his pal Botha who got eaten last Christmas.



The unlikely farmer: Aaron with wife Thoko and baby, surveying their crop
Pictures: STEVE HILTON-BARBER, Afrapix

come to power in South Africa, when they will be able to control crop production from the comfort of Pretoria's Union Buildings.

But whether that land distribution will imply concentrating on small, peasant-based farming or creating large, collectivised state farms, appears to be a matter still under debate.

With most of the farm management trained on farms in Eastern Europe and Tanzania, the preference is not surprisingly towards collective, state-owned farms.

Now, with the farming experience he has gained, says Mafaje, "I don't think I would encourage individual ownership. I think state farms will serve the masses".

Certainly, Chongela is something of a success story in Zambia, where years of drought and economic mismanagement have battered the agricultural sector into a state of apparent

inefficiency. Last month, food riots erupted on Zambia's hard-hit Copperbelt when President Kenneth Kaunda announced a 100% increase in the price of maize meal.

In contrast, Chongela appears to be a model farm for the population it serves: the 800 or so South African exiles living in Lusaka at any one time, who are fed from the farm produce by way of weekly food rations.

In one far corner on the estate, a new slaughterhouse is being built to handle nine cattle a day, and new fields are being planted. There's also fish farming in the dam, where Mafaje has set up a tan-coloured tent so people have protection from the 40-degree heat.

A school has been built on the farm, and local teachers have been hired to educate children under 10 years.

And finally, Chongela is starting to make a profit, according to farm accountant George Naicker, from Durban, who spent 14 years on Robben Island after being convicted in the 1964 Natal sabotage trial.

A rural rebel is back on the land

LENFORD GANYILE stalks the maizefields, talking with a lucidity and passion about the Pondoland Revolt, the rebellion he led 30 years ago, as if it had all happened last week.

The younger exiles clearly revere 63-year-old Ganyile, commander of one of South Africa's few rural uprisings. Unlike the city youth who have followed him into exile since 1965, the farm is his natural environment. "I have always farmed. I come from the land," he said.

But that land was threatened with the creation of "homelands" during the early 1950s, which led thousands of Pondos in the Transkei to rebel against their chiefs and government officials. Armed forces eventually had to be sent to the region to put down the revolt and impose emergency rule.

"I was working as a *baasboy* in a foundry in Johannesburg at the time," recalls Ganyile. "The African National Congress decided that I should go home and organise the Pondos. I started in 1956, but I did not make much progress. The movement was still very poor, so the Pondos decided to collect their own money. There was a joining fee of R1; they all joined — everybody."

"We pleaded with the government about the land that was being taken away."

"The people were never told about the bantustan policy. They were very cross, and decided to leave the *kgotla* (the court of tribal elders), to organise apart from the chief."

"The chiefs did not want to join us. We decided to burn the chiefs' homes and kill them. We decided to kill the paramount chief."

"The chiefs used to come home after being trained by the government, and started to shoot those people who were not supporting the bantustans. We also killed a lot of people."

"But the revolt failed, and movement people were deported to remote areas," said Ganyile.

Farming prospects are the best in years

By VIVIEN HORLER

CURRENT agricultural prospects in South Africa are the best in years, according to the South African Agricultural Union.

And the wheat and maize crops are expected to be considerably bigger than they were last season.

A review of current and expected agricultural conditions published at the weekend notes a spirit of renewed optimism in the farming community.

FIRM FOUNDATION

"Successive good agricultural years and effective reconstruction measures should place agriculture on a firm foundation," said the review.

The spring rains of 1986 brought relief to large parts of the country.

But there is still a severe drought in some summer rainfall areas, including the Northern Cape, the Karoo, the far western Transvaal and north of the Soutpansberg.

The last of the winter grain is now being harvested, and the wheat crop is expected to reach 2,1 million tons, compared with 1,6 million tons last year. The crop has been particularly good in the Free State.

And if the good rains last, it looks as though yields of summer crops, in-

cluding maize, grain sorghum, oil seeds and cotton, will be the best in years.

About 4,2 million ha have been planted with maize, and a yield of between 10 and 11 million tons is expected, compared with 7,5 million tons last season.

The review says there is a good possibility the cotton crop will be enough for home consumption, meaning a saving in foreign exchange.

There was concern about low dam levels, and water restrictions remained a serious problem at various irrigation schemes.

GRADUAL RISE

But, said the review, there were signs of a gradual rise in dam levels, especially in the summer cropping areas, and streams and rivers which had been dry for years had begun running again, much to the relief of farmers.

Pastures are recovering in most areas, and farmers are able to build up herds again. This has led to a decrease in slaughter animals, causing market shortages and inflated meat prices.

A shortage of dairy products is also expected as many farmers who turned to dairy farming during the drought have now left the industry.

South African management Systems — founded in SA but which sold control to US interests — has bought back control of the company.

sored the rebel Australian cricket team and that the amount given for these tours was far in excess of that given to

the same exposure as the cricket, Muller said.

Farmers expect a fruitful year ahead

③ GEN BUS DAY 19/1/87

THE country's drought-plagued farming industry is optimistic that the year ahead will be the best for a decade.

This is despite gigantic debt, inflated input costs and other problems.

In a wide-ranging review of conditions released at the weekend, the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) says spring rains brought relief to large parts of the country, although parts of the summer-rain-fall regions were still in the grip of severe drought.

GERALD REILLY

Indications are that the wheat crop will come to about 2,1-million tons, compared with 1,6-million tons for the previous season.

Summer crops yields — maize, grain, sorghum, oil seeds and cotton — will be the best in years if the good rains persist.

An estimated 4,2-million hectares have been planted to maize and a 10-million to 11-million ton yield is expect-

ed. Bigger yields seem likely for other summer crops.

The SAAU is concerned that dam levels are still very low despite the good rains. Water restrictions remain a serious problem at irrigation schemes.

There are, however, signs of a gradual rise in dam levels, especially in the summer cropping areas.

With the exception of certain dry parts of the grazing areas, pastures are recovering.

MOVES AT A GLANCE

REUTERS

2/16 post 29/1/87 (3) General

Long arm of law may reach out to Thornhill

By MICHEL DESMIDT

THE farming community at Thornhill could get its own police station following an increase in serious crimes in the area, including suspected arson and stock theft.

A senior police officer from Uitenhage told a delegation of 12 farmers at a meeting on Friday that the proposal would be studied shortly, according to the chairman of the Thornhill Farmers' Association, Mr Alan Kietzmann.

Temporary facilities would probably be provided if the report was accepted, he said, adding that the use of a rondavel adjoining the Thornhill Hotel had already been made available for this purpose.

The SA Police liaison officer for the Eastern Cape, Major Eddie Everson, confirmed the meeting, adding that since it had been "closed", he could not divulge details of the discussions.

Mr Kietzmann said the

last police station in the village had been closed about 20 years ago and until recently serious crimes such as stock thefts were reported to the Kabega Park Police Station in Port Elizabeth.

At present, the nearest police station was at Hankey, 25 kilometres from the village.

Mr Kietzmann said residents had been pushing for a police station for almost two years. In the past two decades the population was conservatively estimated to have trebled, two timber firms had been established and other developments were in the pipeline.

There was a need for a local police station to combat the increase in stock theft and serious crime, he said. Only recently, suspected arsonists had set fire to the village library and country club in two separate incidents, and the number of burglaries had increased.

Farmers 'should have known' about weedkiller

N. M. 20/1/87
(General)

Mercury Reporter

CANE and vegetable farmers should have been aware of the dangers of the misuse of the weedkiller 2,4 D which has severely damaged vegetable crops in Natal's Tala Valley.

This was said yesterday by the director of the South African Sugar Association's experimental station at Mount Edgecombe, Dr Gerald Thompson, who added he hoped the Government would not extend its ban on the chemical to the whole of Natal.

The Government banned the use of 2,4 D in the Tala Valley near Camperdown last week after it was found to be the cause of widespread crop failures and gross deformities and degradation in surviving plants and fruit.

Dr Thompson said 2,4 D had been an agricultural chemical for about 35 years and it was common knowledge that it could cause damage to other crops and vegetation if it were not used very carefully.

There were a number of formulations of 2,4 D and the one used in the Tala Valley was understood to be the Iso-octylester of 2,4 D.

Even if sprayed in the mildest wind it could be carried to other crops and a number of farmers in the Tala Valley farmed sugar cane and vegetables. It would be almost impossible to prove which farmer was responsible for the unfortunate situation in the valley, he said.

Dr Thompson said 2,4 D was the cheapest chemical for the eradication of certain types of weeds and it would be a pity if it were banned in other areas of Natal where only sugar was farmed.

Happy

As 2,4 D formed part of a number of different registered chemicals, a blanket ban on it would mean the major chemical producers would face financial loss and have to find alternatives to it, he said.

Meanwhile Mr Steve Shone, director of the Natal Agricultural Union, said yesterday the union was happy to see 2,4 D banned in the Tala Valley, especially as other weedkillers were available to sugar farmers.

However, if it was useful to sugar farmers, he did not feel it should be banned in other areas in Natal where only sugar was farmed, he said.

Mr Shone said the union was interested to find out whether vegetable farmers in other areas were being affected by the chemical, and he appealed to farmers experiencing crop mutations or growth problems in areas outside the Tala Valley to contact a Department of Agriculture extension officer.

A spokesman for the Housewives' League in Durban, Councillor Margaret Cooke, yesterday described what happened in the Tala Valley as 'a terrible example of what can go wrong when dangerous chemicals are used'.

But she said, housewives should not be too adversely affected by what had happened in the valley as it was not Durban's only supplier of vegetables, and lettuces in particular could easily be sent from the Transvaal, where they grew in abundance.

Housewives would just have to shop around, she said.

News in Brief

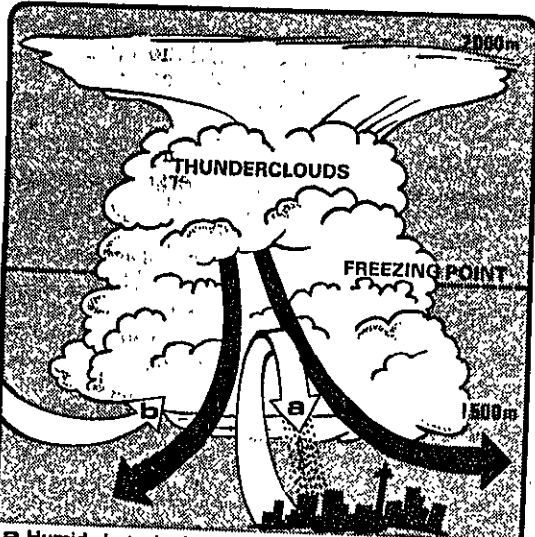
GM Times 20/1/87

Wine, spirit prices up 26% *and*

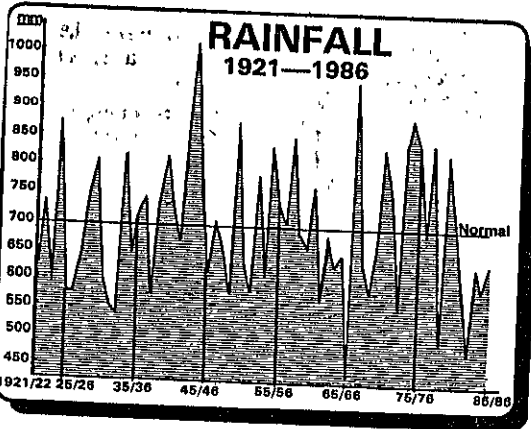
STELLENBOSCH. — The wholesale price of wines and spirits will be increased from February 2, the Stellenbosch Farmers Winery announced yesterday. An SFW spokesman, Mr F K Hoeflich, said natural, flavoured and fortified wines would be increased by 15 to 20%, while noble wines would be increased by an average of 12½%. The price of spirits would be increased by 6 to 8%.

Drought over, water still scarce

(3) General Star 24/1/87



- a** Humid, hot air rises through convection. Whilst it hovers and cools, thunder clouds develop through condensation. Droplets increase in size and fall as rain.
- b** Cold front moves under warm air, lifting it upwards, and thundershowers develop as in A.
- c** While storm breaks, cold descending air hits ground with the rain, spreading out. Wind speed between 70 and 150 km/h.



This graph represents the rainfall in the Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging, Villiers and Leslie regions during the period 1921-1986.

By Glenda Spiro

The drought has broken in South Africa, but experts feel there will always be a water scarcity, and there is no relief in sight on water restrictions.

Because of recent rains, the Transvaal and Free State have been taken off the "drought list". According to the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), Natal was taken off two years ago and the Eastern Cape a year ago.

There are still several drought-stricken areas in these provinces, but the SAAU has accepted that this position will never change.

A spokesman said the six-year drought was the "longest in memory in this country".

"Internationally, 25 percent of South Africa is considered desert area."

DAMS STILL LOW

The Northern Cape is still critical because good rains have not fallen for eight years.

Although experts are optimistic for this year, they are cautious because dam levels are still low and catchment areas are not retaining enough of the rain that is falling.

Department of Water Affairs spokesman Mr Anton Steyn said dam levels could rise only if there was constant rain in catchment areas. "If there's good rain for a week, then no rain for 10 days, we're back to square one."

This is the reason why the Vaal Dam is only 23 percent full. The Vaal catchment area, measuring 39 000 sq km, has not had enough continuous rain.

"But we are gaining ground and have had a few good run-offs," said Mr

Steyn. There has been a 5 percent increase in the level of the Vaal Dam since this time last year and the rainy season is not over yet.

Mr Steyn doubts that there will be any relief on water restrictions for a long time. "The dams have to be 30 percent full on average before we can even think of lifting restrictions. I don't foresee a need for new restrictions — but people must be kept aware that there isn't a drop of water to waste."

A recent survey of agricultural conditions in the Transvaal revealed a good outlook for summer crops for the first time in five years.

A spokesman for the Transvaal Agricultural Union said farmers in the Western Transvaal will have maize crops for the first time in years.

But he feels the next two to four weeks will be the make-or-break period for farmers. "The maize is in flower and making seed now, so we need the next few weeks of rain to see the crops through to winter, when they will be harvested."

There has been a lot of rain in parts of the Northern Transvaal, but other areas are still dry.

"The Eastern Transvaal is looking good, although hail damaged some crops two weeks ago. The damage was between 5 percent and 80 percent, but most of the maize will survive," he said.

In the Lowveld, rivers are flowing and there is sufficient grazing for cattle. Rain has stimulated growth on tobacco and sub-tropical fruit farms there.

Farm debt carry-over up

42/87 6 Day
THE total carry-over of farmers' debts with agricultural co-ops increased to R1,047bn in 1985 from R42,4m in 1976.

A survey conducted by the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) among co-ops in summer-rainfall cropping areas showed that despite poor summer grain crops, the highest annual retention by co-ops averaged 38,7% of the yield.

Chairman of SAAU's Co-operative Council Andries Scholtz said the free surplus paid out to farmers gradually declined from 79,8% of the yield in 1976 to a low of 61,3% in

Business Day Reporter

1984.

(3) Special
He said the survey bore out the fact that grain co-ops had maintained an eminently fair and flexible policy on debt collection, despite the heightened exposure to risk that this involved.

"I refute any allegations that co-ops are abusing their position as crop handlers in respect of production credit collections on farmers' crop deliveries to the detriment of other credit grantors in their debt collecting processes."

Pressure 'to buy from co-op'

3) General

Natal farmers quit NAC amid claims of a credit squeeze

Business Day Reporter

NATAL farmers have formed a breakaway organisation — Pro-Koop — because of wrangling over credit lines between the Natal Agricultural Co-operative (NAC) and farmers.

NAC members are up in arms over the way in which, they claim, officials are discriminating against members who accept special discounts from suppliers.

The farmers allege that the co-operative refuses in certain cases to advance credit or even provide them with technical help.

Pro-Koop yesterday also claimed intimidation of farmers by co-operative officials.

Chairman Fran Basson said the farmers to whom the NAC had advanced credit or who might in the future be dependent on the co-operative for credit were "voluntarily compelled" to purchase their production inputs from the co-operative.

"This is in spite of the fact that these could be obtained much

cheaper elsewhere."

He cited one example where the NAC had negotiated a 15% discount on the price of fertiliser, and was now refusing to consider granting production credit to a farmer who had negotiated a bigger discount on his own with a fertiliser company.

Basson said there were cases in which farmers had been offered discounts of up to 40% if they dealt directly with the fertiliser company, and sought financing elsewhere.

In one case a saving of as much as R80 000 had been made on fertiliser purchases.

Farmers also alleged the NAC was threatening to close the accounts of fertiliser companies which granted discounts of more than 15% to farmers.

The SA Agricultural Union's co-operative council could not be contacted for comment at the time of going to press.



Global Mining and Industrial Corporation (Formerly Northern Free State Motors Limited) ("Glomine")

Shareholders of Glomine are advised that negotiations are in progress which may affect the value of a Glomine ordinary share.

A further announcement in this regard will be made in due course. Holders of Glomine ordinary shares are advised to exercise caution in these shares.

AGRICULTURE

Farmers face their boom



The chances are extremely good that this year SA will have its first bumper agricultural season in six years in the northern summer rainfall area. Good rains over the next five to six weeks are critical. If they fall, farm earnings could be through the economy, gingering up business activity significantly.

Optimistic forecasts are that farm incomes alone could add at least 1% to economic growth over the year — it could be as high as 2% — bringing overall growth in gross domestic product to upwards of 3%.

The good rains, lower interest rates, cheap fertilisers — and a reckless disregard for agricultural surpluses in other parts of the world — are combining to raise farming expectations, perhaps to unrealistic heights. Banks are, for once, eager to provide the wherewithal to finance crops. They have already been pitching into Land Bank bills and will no doubt shave prime rate as much as possible to capture a larger share of this market. The Reserve Bank for its part is eager to see the money supply rise in consequence, to the growth targets it has consistently failed to hit.

However, before the men in smocks down their pitchforks and join hands for the annual harvest rites, there is something they ought to bear in mind: the new downward-

If good rains continue, farmers are in for a bumper crop year — good news for them and their creditors. Unfortunately, too much red tape and world surpluses of many agricultural products place a question-mark over prices. The sector needs an overhaul.

sliding price system coming into operation on May 1, which will key farm prices closer to the market forces of supply and demand. It aims at penalising farmers who have overproduced and are as a result forced to export into oversupplied foreign markets. Lower prices will also force structural adaptations, as farmers move into alternative crops. The huge potential gap between producer and consumer prices of maize under the new pricing scheme will also increase pressures on the existing fixed-price, one-channel maize marketing scheme.

In consequence, important changes — and vital decisions by farmers, organised agriculture and government — lie ahead. A reduced role for control boards and a stronger marketing presence for regional co-ops could form part of the new marketing deal.

The outcome: some farmers will be encouraged to consider using their own maize to improve cash-flows and profits by fattening cattle, sheep and pigs or by producing wool, milk or eggs on the farm, rather than selling their produce to the market at reduced prices.

While consumers could benefit from more market-related farm pricing, it is also important that the authorities prevent powerful agricultural monopolies that could manipulate pricing — as is the case with red meat — and negate the advantages of these developments for the consumer.

Notwithstanding the new farm pricing policy, few economists doubt that higher farm incomes will give a substantial boost to the reluctant economic recovery, benefiting rural economies and manufacturers of fertilisers, agricultural chemicals, tractors, seed and other implements vital to agricultural output — such as Mercedes-Benz cars.

Tractor sales in 1986 were down to a dismal 5 000 units, from 24 862 in 1981. This signifies a turnaround from a R400m industry profit in 1981 to a loss of R42m in 1985. Similarly, fertiliser sales dropped from 3.5 Mt in 1981 to a mere 2 Mt in 1986.

Quantifying the effect of bumper crops on economic growth is difficult, with crops like sunflowers

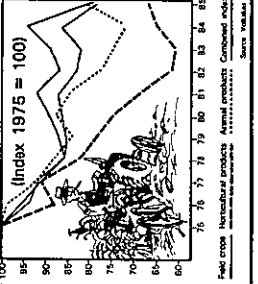
still being planted and others like maize, groundnuts, sorghum, cotton, soya beans and potatoes heavily dependent on continued good rains.

But, crystal-ball gazing aside, some projections are already being made and rough estimates point to a better economic position than last year, notwithstanding falling export prices and — in some cases — falling local demand.

Current rough estimates point to a possible 10 Mt maize crop, leaving an exportable surplus of 5 Mt after meeting local market demands. The Maize Board's provisional sliding price scale announced last year showed that such a crop might attract possible producer prices of R185/t for white and R175/t for yellow maize.

But, as this was based on a considerably weaker rand and higher export prices at that stage, actual prices — to be announced in

The dismal picture



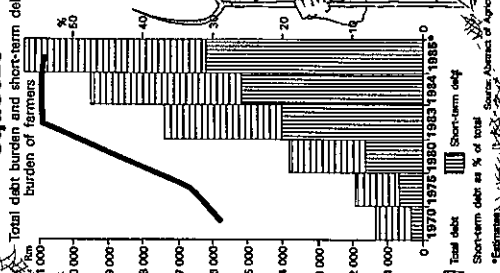
April — could be well below the provisional prices. Nonetheless, a 3 Mt white maize crop at R180/t could earn producers R540m, while a 7 Mt yellow maize crop at R165/t could earn them R1,155 billion — a gross total of roughly R1.7 billion.

This compares with gross receipts of R1.75 billion from last year's 8 Mt crop. And with interest, input costs, management and labour costs still to be paid from gross earnings, it is anybody's guess how much could flow towards creditors in 1987.

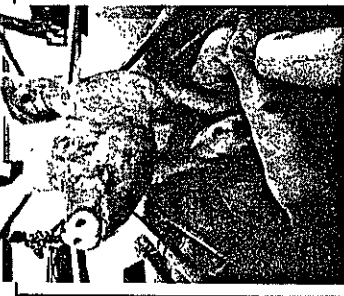
Red meat producers stand to benefit from higher meat prices, while improved grazing could replenish depleted herds and give a long-term boost to cattle, sheep and pig farmers. The national sheep herd is down to about 27m — from 31m in 1982 — while the cattle herd, at 7.8m, is still well below the 8.6m of 1982.

Precise quantification of the economic impact of higher farm prices and herd restocking of SA's biggest single farming sector is impossible, as meat prices fluctuate daily. But the outlook is definitely brighter for

The short-term squeeze



However, before the men in smocks down their pitchforks and join hands for the annual harvest rites, there is something they ought to bear in mind: the new downward-



In the trough ... the prospect of more graze

some stock farmers. Export-based sectors — citrus, deciduous fruit, wine, sugar, wool and mohair — are understandably wary of disclosing world market prospects for 1987. Export receipts will be reduced by the stronger rand, while added costs caused by longer export routes induced by sanctions could also reduce net income. But generally markets still exist and foreign exchange should flow into the coffers.

The outlook for other summer crops is also sweet. Sorghum could hit a record 700 000 t if rains continue, while a potential bumper cotton crop of 330 000 bales could provide local needs and save on costly imports. The groundnut crop could repeat last year's 125 000 t, sunflower seed could reach 500 000 t after last year's 270 000 t, while a large 41 000 t soya bean crop looks possible. But depending on the uncertain price outlook for its competitor yellow maize, sorghum prices could fall well below last year's R187/t, leading to reduced earnings. Here also the export outlook is critical, with massive world surpluses depressing potential earnings.

Sunflower prices have been provisionally increased and farmers could double gross earnings to R210m, while a bumper cotton crop will not only save on exports but also increase gross earnings by some R110m.

While prospects are substantially better than last year's, some important structural problems are still to be faced if agriculture is to be given a greater market orientation, thus avoiding an artificial rise in farm incomes at the expense of both the consumer and, to some degree, the taxpayer.

The outcome will be a much more efficient and productive farming sector, capable of adjusting to falling local demand, calamitous drops in world produce prices and the recent appreciation in the rand.

This is a state of affairs that not even SA's 21 control boards could turn permanently to the advantage of producers and distributive agricultural interests. To try now — as some foolhardy boards have in the past — to increase local administered farm prices as soon as they are stuck with unsold surpluses

TWO STEPS BACK

Indexes of farming inputs, producer prices and consumer prices, 1975-1985

Year	Farming inputs (1)	Producer prices (2)	Terms of trade (2) ÷ (1)	Consumer prices (3)
1975	100	100	100	100
1980	207.4	178.3	0.86	176.7
1981	230.3	201.1	0.87	203.5
1982	270.5	225.3	0.83	233.5
1983	306.3	253.7	0.82	262.2
1984	330.2	282.8	0.86	292.8
1985	392.9	307.0	0.78	340.3

Average percentage change per annum

1975-1985	14.7	11.9	-2.5	13.0
1980-1985	13.6	11.5	-1.9	14.0

Source: Abstract of Agricultural Statistics, 1986



Maize farmer ... rainy days are here again

down by 14 Mt over two months. The department also forecasts that USSR grain imports for the 1986-1987 season will be 5 Mt below previous forecasts.

For SA, export outlook for 5 Mt-6 Mt of SA yellow maize looks bleak indeed. Fortunately, Taiwan has undertaken to buy some 1.8 Mt from SA over the next three years, while Eastern Bloc countries might also decide to increase their already-heavy purchases of SA maize.

SA's yellow maize is rated the best quality on world markets and this could also generate a small premium over competitors. But this is small cheer in a market where the Maize Board calculates that yellow maize has to be exported at a "loss" of R170/t against local prices, not against the cost of production.

National Maize Producers' Organisation CE Piet Gous says a partial solution would be for government to guarantee payment of storage and handling costs of about R100/t for some 3 Mt annually above local market needs. Farmers would then have to accept the risk of world market prices.

"Provided we can regain local market share up to 6 Mt, this would provide a market for 9 Mt maize a year, earn valuable foreign exchange — some \$210m at current world prices — and cost the taxpayer some R300m annually. This is small beer compared with current US subsidies of some \$238/ha, says Gous.

Of course, government might wish to cushion the phasing-in of a more market-related system over the next five years. But it needs to be very careful how this is done. The expected bumper crops should make the difficult changes ahead easier to bear. To turn to the US model of farm price supports might prolong a painful transition and bolster the inefficient.

It is sometimes forgotten that in this country farming is big business. The small man on the land, usually the target and seldom the recipient of government beneficence, provides a diminishing share of agricultural produce at increasing cost. Any agricultural support policy must take that into consideration.

will send the rate of inflation substantially above 20% a year.

Another milestone that agriculture must bear is the substantial farming debt, which is expected to grow from 1983's R11.2 billion to a massive R13.3 billion for 1986. It is taxing the minds of the commercial banks, organised agriculture and government. The State President's Economic Advisory Council's completed special report on the reconstruction of agriculture is now in government's hands, and an announcement on this vexed question is generally expected this month.

But farmers and vested agricultural distributive interests will probably be spared the brunt of these structural adjustments by government's election preoccupations and its relief that nature at least has been kind to its farming constituency. Progress towards positive change could be hindered too by the "strategic" argument that an uneconomic price has to be paid for self-sufficiency in a hostile world.

But given the reality of SA's dependence on foreign trade and the need to maximise its impact by tuning up economic efficiencies, government cannot afford altogether to abandon its faltering moves towards a more market-related dispensation for agriculture. Farmers must prepare themselves for a harsher reality, as doors and windows gradually open to allow the chill winds of local and international competition to blow away decades-old cobwebs of protection.

Internationally, the coming protectionism battle between the US and its trade competitors in the EEC and Japan will focus heavily on agriculture. In fact, Spain's joining the EEC, and its 100% tariff barrier that cut off the US \$400m worth of maize sales, set off the current furor, with the US Congress threatening to slap huge tariffs on EEC food imports. Meanwhile, the Soviets have also heavily reduced their imports from the US, adding to massive world grain surpluses.

The US Department of Agriculture's world wheat and coarse grain estimate reported in its December 1986 Foreign Agriculture Circular that world grain trade is at its lowest since 1978-1979, with estimates

FARM EQUIPMENT (3) General

6/2/87 Rebel in the field PIM

You can't keep a good man down. Midlands farmer Gerrie de Jong, who gained fame by leading a tractor parade through the streets of Maritzburg to protest against rising farm input prices, is at it again.

This time, De Jong has ruffled establishment feathers by threatening to bypass dealer middlemen in the chain bringing farm equipment to the farmer. He wants to market his range of farm implements directly to the end-user.

Last week, De Jong circularised about 5 000 Natal farmers with details of his proposals. Predictably, dealers and some of De Jong's competitive suppliers who are locked into long-term dealer or service contracts with them, were furious. They threatened to bring pressure to stop component suppliers selling to his factory.

Farmers, of course, were elated. Within the first few days they had placed over R100 000 worth of business with him.

De Jong, who has conducted something of a crusade against what he perceives to be cartels in the farm supply business, says he was prompted to take his latest action by an

incident involving the sale of some of his equipment through an intermediary.

It was a small agricultural mower which sold from his factory at Howick for R1 150. But the dealer's price to the North Coast sugar farmer buyer was R2 400 — a mark-up of more than 100%.

"That machine was going straight from me to the farmer. The fact that the price more than doubled because of a simple phone call made me see red."

According to De Jong, the average mark-up on farm equipment through second party distributors is between 60%-70%. He stresses that not all dealers are exploitive and that there are many who offer value-for-money service. But there have been cases, as in the North Coast incident, where mark-ups have exceeded 100%.

"We've got to call a halt somewhere," he says. "Farmers, squeezed as they are on the agricultural input side, just can't afford these mark-ups any longer."

Dealers, however, vigorously defend their pricing policies. Jack Foster, branch manager of Malcomess in Maritzburg, contends his dealership makes a gross profit of only 28% on bought-in equipment, and, he says, "we offer a 15% discount to buyers who arrange their own delivery."

However, Foster admits that the average mark-up in the business is probably closer to 50% which, he says, returns a gross profit of around 33%.

Robin Phillips, group director, farm machinery, for Fedmech, says the current competitive environment in the farm machinery business would not allow for any exploitation. Margins have never been thinner, he says. "You don't see too many people rushing to invest in the farm implement business

these days."

De Jong, however, says he's going to press his direct marketing scheme all the way, and he hopes to draw other suppliers into the fold.

Dealers and distributors who offer a good service, he contends, have nothing to fear. But those who are merely "order takers accustomed to taking their cut" had better watch out. ■

which he owns at Sea Point.

8/12/87
7/12/87

Foreigners fall for Cape farms

36/11/87

PAARL. — Foreigners are showing keen interest in Cape farms, with farms in the Boland fetching up to seven figures.

The well-known historic grape farm Wilde Paardejacht in the Klein Drakenstein area was recently sold for R1 million to Mr Richard West, a Canadian living in Britain.

Another farm in the Klein Drakenstein area, Dennegeur, was sold for R900 000 to a Swiss buyer, Mr Hugo Schwegler.

Negotiations are at present taking place for the sale of two farms at Simondium, 5 km from Paarl, with prices in the R1 million bracket. The interested parties are a Canadian and a West German.

Last year a farm in the Stellenbosch district was sold for R8 million to a consortium from Europe.

Sapa

Cape farms pull foreigners

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Last year a farm in the Stellenbosch district was sold for R8 million.
— Sapa

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CAL Times 10/2/87 362222

R237m for farmers

THE government is to provide R237m to assist in the reconstruction of the agricultural sector, the Minister of Finance, Barend du Plessis, announced yesterday.

He said the recommendations of the State President's Economic Advisory Committee had been handed to the Jacobs Committee after it completed its probe into the problems facing farmers.

The Jacobs Committee had now completed its task in assessing the practicabilities of these proposals.

It affords me much pleasure to announce that an amount of R117m will be included in the main estimates as the first instalment in a five-year programme for the reconstruction of the agricultural sector in the drought-stricken areas.

A further amount of some R120m will also be made available for various other assistance programmes to the agricultural sector.

The Minister of Agriculture, would determine the particulars. — Sapa

Budget allocation could ease burden

Farm community hopes for interest-rate break

94
72
12/207
General

THE SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) is hoping that some of the R117m allocated in the mini-budget for farming reconstruction this year will be used to subsidise interest rates.

This is one of the heavier burdens on farmers who, at the end of 1985, had an accumulated debt of R11bn. Interest of R1,7bn was paid that year.

Although figures for 1986 have not yet been compiled, the current debt is estimated at R12bn to R14bn, having climbed steadily since 1981 when it stood at R4,9bn.

SAAU president Kobus Jooste says the union recommended further subsidisation of interest rates in a report to Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel at the

LINDA ENSOR

start of the year.

About R117m was allocated by the mini-budget for expenditure this year and R120m for next year.

Farmers facing the vagaries of the weather are a high risk for commercial banks which have, says Jooste, tended to charge farmers higher rates than normal.

Jim McKenzie of Barclays — which has an exposure of over R2bn on the agricultural front — says the risk determines the rate.

The bank's bad-debt record has been fairly moderate, says McKenzie, and the number of cases where debts have had to be

called up and the farms sold is relatively small.

He believes that with good rains and bountiful crops many farmers could benefit by a change in their risk rating.

Because of the difficulty in distinguishing commercial bank loans for production and private purposes, the government subsidy on interest rates could, says Jooste, be limited to loans from the Land Bank and co-operatives.

In December 1985, the Land Bank was owed R2,4bn, commercial banks R3,3bn, co-operatives R2,8bn, Agricultural Credit and Tenure R549m, private persons R792m, other financial institutions R1,2bn and others R240m.

ADE aims for 80% local content as sales bottom

1987 ST
 13
 General

LAST year's tractor sales of 5 000 were the lowest in South Africa in more than 25 years.

Commercial-vehicle sales of 7 500 kg and over for 1986 totalled 11 289 — the lowest since the 1950s. But the industry expects no growth this year.

The projection is based on a belief that both the economic and political conditions will not differ substantially from those of 1986, says Hartmut Beckurts, managing director of ADE.

Mr Beckurts says: "Economic factors, such as the improved balance of payments, a stable gold price, lower interest rates and a steady rand indicate, however, that

the commercial-vehicle and tractor market has bottomed out.

"Good rains have restored much confidence to the agricultural community and indications are that farmers are ready to start replacing ageing machinery and equipment. They will support SA products, such as the ADE engine which offers high quality and continuity of supply in the face of disinvestment and sanctions.

"Only a few farmers and fleet owners have not switched to the ADE engine and standardised on ADE parts for maximum benefits. I quote 'Commercial Vehicle Dealers Digest', which says that 'without ADE, the cost of today's commercial vehicles would be about 30% higher'.

"Local content average of an

ADE engine is 75% by mass. We aim to increase it to 80% by the end of 1987. This will go a long way in offsetting the impact of costly imports.

"Although we are frequently accused by the uninformed as being responsible for the price increases of vehicles and tractors, the opposite is the case.

Reduced

"In 1981 the ADE engine represented on average, 22.6% of the retail price of a tractor, but today the percentage is 15.2%. Whereas agricultural machinery increased in price by more than 220% since 1980, ADE engines rose by only 99%."

Mr Beckurts says ADE will continue to fight inflation and to im-

prove productivity so that it can keep its engine price competitive — without dropping its high quality.

Astas executive director Jim Turney says that since the introduction of ADE engines and Astas gearboxes, local-content drivetrains have had a stabilising effect on prices.

"Not only were price increases on Astas products held to below the inflation rate, but in many instances prices of spare parts of SA-made components were kept constant or even reduced.

"The rand's deterioration against other foreign currencies caused unprecedented price increases, and had it not been for SA-made components, prices would have been higher than they are."

Annualised savings of R1,86-million have been made by Volkswagen SA on previously imported components for cars — and an increase to R11,4-million is possible. Mr Turney says: "If these savings could be achieved by one car manufacturer, one can imagine what the total could be in the commercial-vehicle industry because of the proposed local-content programme. Most manufacturers could achieve well over 40% local content immediately.

"To take advantage of economies of scale, SA industry requires all the support users can provide. Although long-term benefits are obvious, users are still buying imported products and not specifying SA drivetrains."



Hartmut Beckurts

AGRICON CONFERENCE

B/Day General

FIVE years of destructive droughts had weakened the economic and financial position of farmers to a point where the survival of thousands was threatened, Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel told the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agricon) in Pretoria yesterday.

Agriculture contributed about 6% of gross domestic product (GDP), he said.

He stressed the importance of agriculture's role as an employer, in safeguarding border areas and as an earner of foreign exchange.

Referring to the Economic Advisory Council's investigation into the rehabilitation of the industry, Wentzel said the council had identified ten problems.

Among them were reduced cash flow, diminished ability to compete on world markets, incorrect allocation and misuse of resources, inadequate competition and the unfavourable debt ratio.

Causes identified were sustained high inflation, changes in the exchange rate, increased interest rates, excessive government regulation, inadequate man-

Farmers paying ⁽³⁾ price of drought

GERALD REILLY

agement skills, unco-ordinated and excessive grants of credit and inadequate state research and extension services.

Farming was no longer such an attractive occupation. After the setbacks of the past few years, this was not surprising.

There were, however, still plenty of profit possibilities in the industry.

The realities of the industry must not be lost sight of.

There were some industries, particularly the export industries, which had good to very good results, mainly because of the weaker rand.

However, because of sanctions and boycotts, the export industry was facing serious marketing problems.

Wentzel said SA was not unique in that in most agricultural countries farmers had income and financial problems.

What was most disturbing was that prospects for rehabilitation were limited.

Stressing the problems created by excessive production stimulation, Wentzel warned that if existing policies continued, the current agricultural crisis would deteriorate into chaos. Reform of international agricultural policy was therefore unavoidable.

Farmers in need of help — summit told

By Sue Leeman
Pretoria Bureau

Debt-ridden farmers owed a total of R11 117 million in 1985 and their financial position has continued to deteriorate, according to the chairman of the South African Agricultural Union's Co-operative Council, Dr A P Scholtz.

He told the farmers' summit, Agrocon '87, in Pretoria yesterday that farmers' debt had soared since 1975.

All these problems had been exacerbated by the drought and interest rates which had risen markedly since the start of the 1980's.

Farmers' net profits were dwindling and some were showing losses. Many had serious liquidity problems.

It was vital, Mr Scholtz said, that a two-point plan be followed to ensure agricultural recovery. Firstly, there should be short-term measures to restore reasonable stability in the worst-hit areas.

An announcement about this was expected from the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel.

"The main goal here ought to be to positively influence the net cash flow of farmers, to halt the growth of the debt burden and to give farmers a 'breather' until long-term recovery gets under way."

Second, there was a need for long-term measures to improve the viability of agriculture and allow farmers to regain their financial independence.

Agriculture interests too narrow — Weil

18/2/87 B'Day 3

GERALD REILLY

THE need for a partnership and a strong identity of interests between organised agriculture, the control boards and the supermarket industry was stressed yesterday by Checkers MD Clive Weil.

He told the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agricon) in Pretoria interests represented by organised agriculture and the control boards were far too narrow. That was the greatest weakness of the current dispensation.

Weil said he had not come to the conference to bash organised agriculture, as SA had the most concentrated supermarket industry in the world.

The two major chains constituted in excess of 85% of the grocery buying power of the country. The industry had grown at the expense of the smaller independent grocers.

Weil said: "We are looking to increase our involvement in the retailing of fresh foods. We are looking for long term supply arrangements and standardised quality." They also wanted honesty in grade, packing and information.

He said: "We are looking for some stability in pricing. This is the biggest problem we both face in the market place. Both face the same inflationary pressures."

Every time sensitive agricultural produce dipped and then increased dramatically in price — because of supply and demand fluctuations or administrative intervention — there was a public outcry. Weil said this was quite right, as intervention designed to eradicate fluctuations had not operated well.

Export chances in Africa

GERALD REILLY

Africa, nonetheless necessary to monitor export possibilities.

With a population for the continent of about 900-million in the year 2000, it was possible by then, for example, that an effective demand for agricultural products would come from a middle class of between 50-million and 90-million.

However, the availability of the growing African market for SA produce would become a reality only after political problems were solved.

Asia, however, with its population growth and per capita economic growth was the market of the future. Marketing possibilities, particularly in continental China, should be monitored.

A GROWING African market for SA farm produce would become a reality only after current political problems between SA and the rest of the continent were resolved.

This was said yesterday at the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agricon) in Pretoria by Professor P H Spies, director of Stellenbosch University's Institute of Future Research.

Spies said it was clear Africa's food needs would double within the next two decades. Referring to Southern Africa, Spies said the area's population was expected to increase to 114-million by 2000 and 211-million by 2030.

Against this background it was, in spite of the poor economic prospects for

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Dam extension plans for fruit farms

Political Correspondent

IN a major boost to the Western Cape deciduous fruit industry, the government yesterday proposed R6,38 million in extensions to the waterworks for irrigation in the Groenland Irrigation District near Grabouw.

The scheme, which is expected to create 800 new job opportunities on farms as well as a "considerable number" of seasonal job opportunities, has an estimated construction time of 12 months.

The proposed extensions, outlined in a Department of Agriculture and Water Supply report tabled in Parliament yesterday, will entail increasing the capacity of Eikenhof Dam by 3,0 million cubic metres, raising the output of the pump system and upgrading and extending pipelines.

The report describes the extensions as "technically acceptable and economically justifiable" and recommends that they be improved in spite of "the doubts that may exist about South Africa's export market".

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Stellenbosch	23	36	475	529	57	109	765	362	759	4
Strand	9	17	112	198	21	37	200	109	323	3
Villiersdorp	15	3	107	87	13	12	6	34	135	—
Stanford	1	3	19	34	4	2	3	12	9	—
Bredasdorp	4	12	138	208	5	26	21	94	142	2
Caledon	10	8	79	123	9	17	22	63	118	1
Elim	1	—	6	15	1	1	—	3	14	—
Gansbaai	1	1	58	51	5	5	6	18	40	—
Gendandal	—	—	51	48	1	3	—	20	19	—
Gordons Bay	—	3	9	75	2	3	16	27	93	1
Grabouw	16	11	206	163	16	49	22	105	269	7
Greyton	—	—	36	28	1	1	5	37	29	—
Hermanus	2	4	150	93	4	18	26	85	345	3
Kleinmond	4	7	69	43	6	17	10	35	124	2
Napier	4	2	52	43	4	2	2	27	63	—
Riversoenderend	1	6	62	124	8	3	5	28	49	—
Somerset West	8	33	125	92	9	30	181	76	433	2
Macassar	6	2	114	287	19	22	25	146	90	3

Note: Statistics are furnished for the period 1 July 1985 until 30 June 1986. Because statistics for the period 1 July 1986 until 31 December 1986 are not yet programmed, particulars for this period are not readily available.

I wish to point out to honourable members that should the above-mentioned figures be brought into perspective, it will be noticed that crime tendencies fluctuate. In some instances crime reflects drastic increases and in others it reflects similar decreases. Crime tendencies differ from one area to another, while the population density is also an important contributing factor. Increases in crime can mainly be ascribed to:

- (a) the economical recession,
- (b) resulting unemployment; and
- (c) the abuse by criminal elements of unrest situations to commit crime.

The increase in crime is an universal tendency, and even causes great concern during international crime conferences.

Marketing Act

513. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What was the total cost, (a) including and (b) excluding administration expenditure, of each board established in terms of the Marketing Act, No 59 of 1968, for the financial year 1985-86?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

	(a)	(b)
1. Banana Board	6 611 706 ¹	4 473 089
2. Canned Fruit Board	571 392	223 183
3. Chicory Board	1 216 168	620 114
4. Citrus Board	6 418 095	661 762
5. Cotton Board	1 400 385	1 061 052
6. Dairy Board	10 935 892	6 967 263
7. Deciduous Fruit Board	22 589 600	9 506 600
8. Dried Fruit Board	2 800 358	2 359 468
9. Dry Beans Board	1 806 789	1 392 555
10. Egg Board	6 494 509	4 112 589

	(a)	(b)
11. Grain Sorghum Board	46 144	37 366
12. Karakul Board	162 316	9 409
13. Lucern Board	63 651 522	55 089 780 ²
14. Maize Board	59 201 251	45 469 251
15. Meat Board	1 143 344	756 786
16. Mohair Board	5 109 557	1 856 330
17. Oil Seeds Board	5 850 650	4 255 522
18. Potato Board	2 503 092	1 396 885
19. Rooibos Tea Control Board	24 936 526	24 286 887
20. Tobacco Board	20 872 321	13 859 479
21. Wheat Board	29 300 000	24 500 000
22. Wool Board	—	—

¹ Includes capital expenditure to the value of R3 869 954 in respect of ripening facilities. The Grain Sorghum Board was established on 1 January 1986 and the final figures for the first financial year (ending 31 December 1986) are not yet available.

² Includes R53 431 664 in respect of interest on loans. (Also included last year—see reply to question 540 for 1986).

Marketing Act

514. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What percentage of South Africa's total agricultural production in the 1985-86 production seasons was not under the control of any board established under the Marketing Act, No 59 of 1968?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

17,2 per cent.

Agricultural production/exports

515. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) (i) Fresh milk

Area	cent per litre from 1/6/86
Bioemfontein	41,29
Cape	47,42
Natal	45,12
Transvaal	45,13

(ii) Industrial milk (According to classes and chemical quality)

Class	486 cent per kg butterfat and protein	407 cent per kg butterfat and protein	394 cent per kg butterfat and protein	378 cent per kg butterfat and protein
Class A plus bulk facilities	—	—	—	—
Class A	—	—	—	—
Class B	—	—	—	—
Class C	—	—	—	—

What was the value of the Republic's agricultural (a) production and (b) exports in 1986?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) R12 972 400 000.

(b) Not yet known.

Milk/Industrial milk

516. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) What was the producer's price of (i) milk and (ii) industrial milk as at 1 June 1986 and (b) what price increases have come into effect in respect of each category since that date?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:



Handwritten notes: "HAWK" and "2/2/87".

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Stellenbosch	23	36	475	529	57	109	765	362	759	4
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4. Citrus Board	6 418 095	661 762
5. Cotton Board	1 400 385	1 061 052
6. Dairy Board	10 935 892	6 967 263
7. Deciduous Fruit Board	22 589 600	9 506 600
8. Dried Fruit Board	2 800 358	2 359 468
9. Dry Beans Board	1 806 789	1 392 555
10. Egg Board	6 494 509	4 112 589

	(a)	(b)
11. Grain Sorghum Board	46 144	37 366
12. Karakul Board	162 316	9 409
13. Lucern Board	63 651 522	55 089 780 ²
14. Maize Board	59 201 251	45 469 251
15. Meat Board	1 143 344	756 786
16. Mohair Board	5 109 557	1 856 330
17. Oil Seeds Board	5 850 650	4 255 522
18. Potato Board	2 503 092	1 396 885
19. Rooibos Tea Control Board	24 936 526	24 286 887
20. Tobacco Board	20 872 321	13 859 479
21. Wheat Board	29 300 000	24 500 000

¹ Includes capital expenditure to the value of R3 869 954 in respect of ripening facilities.
² The Grain Sorghum Board was established on 1 January 1986 and the final figures for the first financial year (ending 31 December 1986) are not yet available.
³ Includes R53 431 664 in respect of interest on loans. (Also included last year—see reply to question 540 for 1986).

Marketing Act

514. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What percentage of South Africa's total agricultural production in the 1985-86 production seasons was not under the control of any board established under the Marketing Act, No 59 of 1968?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

17.2 per cent.

Agricultural production/exports

515. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) (i) Fresh milk

Area	cent per litre from 1/6/86
Bloemfontein	44.29
Cape	47.42
Natal	45.12
Transvaal	45.13

(ii) Industrial milk (According to classes and chemical quality)

Class	per kg butterfat and protein
Class A plus bulk facilities	486
Class A	407
Class B	394
Class C	378

What was the value of the Republic's agricultural (a) production and (b) exports in 1986?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (a) R12 972 400 000.
- (b) Not yet known.

Milk/industrial milk

516. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(a) What was the producer's price of (i) milk and (ii) industrial milk as at 1 June 1986 and (b) what price increases have come into effect in respect of each category since that date?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

3 Dairy milk
400/1000

(b) (i) *Fresh milk*

Area	17/86 c/litre	Floor price 16/2/87 c/litre
Bloemfontein	4,0	48,54
Cape	4,0	51,58
Natal	4,0	49,37
Transvaal	4,0	49,38

Prices paid by distributors to the Dairy Board for producers' milk with 3,5% butterfat.

(ii) *Industrial milk*

	From 1/7/86		Floor price from 16/2/87	
	Butterfat c/kg	Protein c/kg	Butterfat c/kg	Protein c/kg
Class A plus bulk facilities	540	540	450	674
Class A	407	407	450	387
Class B	394	394	450	358
Class C	378	378	450	324

Wynberg: vagrancy/drunkenness:

517. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many (a) males and (b) females of each race group were arrested in 1986 for (i) vagrancy and (ii) drunkenness in each specified police station in the Wynberg police district?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	(a)	(i)	(ii)	(b)	(i)	(ii)
Mowbray						
Coloureds	17	486	746	71	2	—
Blacks	—	117	—	—	—	—
Whites	—	23	—	—	—	—
Rondebosch						
Coloureds	51	429	34	160	25	2
Blacks	—	23	2	—	—	—
Whites	—	38	—	—	—	—
Claremont						
Coloureds	45	724	10	317	—	—
Blacks	6	108	1	16	—	—
Whites	—	129	—	4	—	—
Wynberg						
Coloureds	32	762	64	513	—	—
Blacks	1	102	3	27	—	—
Whites	4	61	—	5	—	—

Loans to farmers

518. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Finance:

(a) What was the total amount of loans granted to farmers by the Land and Agricultural Bank as at 31 December 1986 and (b) to how many farmers had these loans been granted?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) On 31 December 1986 farmers were indebted to the Land Bank for the total amount of R2 534 589 378 under long-, intermediate- and short-term loans.

(b) The foregoing total debt is in respect of 41 885 loans granted by the Land Bank to farmers. Joint loans, which were granted to two or more farmers, make up a large percentage of these loans.

Detainees: diet

519. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether a standing order which laid down a reduced or altered diet for persons detained in terms of emergency regulations was implemented in prisons falling under his control; if so, (a) when, (b) why, (c) what were the terms of the standing order, (d) by whom was it drafted and (e) how did this reduced or altered diet differ from the diet for other prisoners;

(2) whether this standing order was approved by the Prisons Service; if so, (a) by whom, (b) why and (c) when;

(3) whether this standing order has since been withdrawn; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will action be taken in this regard; if so, when;

(4) whether any steps have been taken against the official who drafted this order; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

I wish to point out to the honourable member that no "prisons" resorts under my control. Should he, however, have police cells in mind the answer is as follows:

(1) No. (a) to (e) Fall away.

(2) to (4) Fall away.

Grahamstown: telephones

520. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Communications:

(1) How many (a) applications for telephones were received and (b) telephones were installed for (i) private and (ii) business purposes in Grahamstown in 1986;

(2) whether there is a backlog for this area at present; if so, (a) what was the backlog as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) when is it anticipated that the backlog will be eliminated?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) (a) 1 892;

(b) (i) 1 442; and

(ii) 346.

(2) Yes;

(a) 272, as at 31 December 1986; and

(b) A minor cable work to provide two applicants with telephone service is at present being planned but at this stage it is not possible to indicate when the work will be undertaken. 122 waiting applicants will be provided with service after completion of cable works simultaneously with the commissioning of

(b) (i) Fresh milk

Area	1/7/86 c/litre	Floor price 16/2/87 c/litre
Bloemfontein	4,0	Prices paid by distributors to the Dairy Board for producers' milk with 3,5% butterfat.
Cape	4,0	
Natal	4,0	
Transvaal	4,0	

(ii) Industrial milk

Class	From 1/7/86		Floor price from 16/2/87	
	Butterfat c/kg	Protein c/kg	Butterfat c/kg	Protein c/kg
Class A plus bulk facilities	540	540	450	674
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	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)
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Whites	—	—	—	—
Wynberg	32	762	64	513
Coloureds	1	102	3	27
Blacks	4	61	—	5
Whites	—	—	—	—

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- (2) whether this standing order was approved by the Prisons Service; if so, (a) by whom, (b) why and (c) when;
- (3) whether this standing order has since been withdrawn; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will action be taken in this regard; if so, when;
- (4) whether any steps have been taken against the official who drafted this order; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when; if not, why not?

(a) (i) R32 966 000 in respect of fresh milk and R25 008 000 in respect of industrial milk during the current financial year of the Dairy Board ending 28 February 1987.

(ii) Will only be known after the closing of the current financial year.

(b) Surpluses of milk powder are not expected to occur during the next financial year. The levy collected on fresh milk in respect of the removal of surpluses and paid into the Dairy Board's Stabilisation Fund, does not relate to surplus milk powder only, but to the removal of surpluses of all dairy products. The relevant levy could therefore only be reduced when no surpluses are produced.

Milk-powder

356. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) How much milk-powder was (a) produced and (b) sold in the Republic in 1986;

(2) whether milk-powder was imported in this year; if so, (a) by whom, (b) from what country or countries and (c) at what price in each case;

(3) whether any South African individuals or companies acted as agents in any of these transactions; if so, what are their names;

(4) whether milk-powder is being exported at present; if so, at what price;

(5) whether any South African individuals or companies are acting as agents in such transactions at present; if so, what are their names;

(6) whether this milk-powder is being exported at a loss; if so, (a) what is the

nature of the loss and (b) how will this loss be recouped?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) (a) 17 162 tons of skimmed milk powder.
10 826 tons of full cream milk powder.

(b) 25 075 tons of skimmed milk powder.
11 250 tons of full cream milk powder.

(2) No.

(3) Falls away.

(4) No.

(5) Falls away.

(6) Falls away.

Dairy/meat/wheat products

357. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What was the value of the (a) dairy, (b) meat and (c) wheat products imported by the Republic during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) Permits were issued for the importation of 869 tons of exotic cheese (of which the value cannot be determined) during 1986.

(b) Meat to the value of R16 639 033 was imported by private concerns in the Customs Union Area during 1985. The Meat Board imported factory beef, mutton and off-fall to the value of R16 469 573 during 1986.

(c) No wheat products were imported during 1986.

Grain imported

358. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether any grain was imported into South Africa in 1986; if so, (a) how many tons, (b) what was the nationality of the ships in which the grain was transported and (c) who collected the (i) brokerage and (ii) insurance premiums in respect of each shipment?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Yes.

(a) 312 722 tons of wheat;
34 850 tons of barley;
202 000 tons of white maize.

(b) Except in the case of two ships hired by the Wheat Board itself from Safmarine, the nationality of the other eight ships is not known as shipment was arranged by the suppliers.

(c) (i) In the case of the two Safmarine ships, the brokerage was paid by the owners to Messrs Louis Dreyfus Trading, Ltd. It is not known who received the brokerage, if any, in the case of the other ships.

(ii) No insurance premiums were paid in respect of the imported wheat and maize. The barley was imported by the malt manufacturers and the required particulars in respect thereof are not known.

Sherlock Davids

359. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was shot and killed at a Defence Force road-block in Queenstown on or about 19 October 1986; if so, (a) what was the

purpose of the roadblock, (b) what were the circumstances surrounding the incident and (c) what is the name of this person;

(2) whether the Defence Force has appointed a board of inquiry to investigate this incident; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what is the (i) rank of and (ii) position held by the person in charge of the inquiry;

(3) whether this board has concluded its inquiry; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes.

(a) To exercise control over vehicle movement in the present state of emergency.

(b) The driver of the vehicle ignored various hand and torch signals to stop, resulting in shots being fired at the vehicle.

(c) Sherlock Davids.

(2) Yes.

(a) 21 October 1986.

(b) (i) Brigadier.

(ii) Officer in the Permanent Force Reserve.

(3) Yes. A Board of Inquiry is an internal departmental procedure of which the findings cannot be made public. The normal Judicial Inquest by the civilian authorities still has to be concluded.

Queenstown: murder

360. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether a murder docket has been opened in regard to the alleged shooting in Queenstown on or about

(a) and (b) Since the South African Police is responsible for the administration of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969 it is expected of every applicant to have adequate knowledge regarding the safe keeping and handling of arms. It is intended to submit legislation in due course to make provision for the formal testing and demonstration procedures.

(3) Falls away.

Farm schools

333. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) Whether any farm schools falling under his Department were subject to unrest or disruption in 1986; if so, how many. *23/2/87*
- (2) how many farm schools were there in the Republic as at 31 December 1986?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

- (1) Yes, 2.
- (2) 5 484 schools on 4 March 1986.

Squatters: shelter

334. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether officials of his Department, any Development Board and/or any Office for Community Services took any steps in respect of shelters of squatters in 1986; if so, (a) what steps, (b) how many shelters in respect of each specified Development Board and/or Office for Community Services area were affected by these steps and (c) where were these shelters located in each case?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

Cape Province:
Yes, only in respect of Western Cape.

- (a) Squatters were moved on a voluntarily basis to Khayelitsha.
- (b) 153.
- (c) The shelters were situated outside the borders of the black townships.

Transvaal:

Yes, in respect of the East Rand and Highveld areas.

(a) **Highveld:** 25 shelters were demolished after being vacated. Notice was served on a further 15 families to vacate premises before 28/2/87.

East Rand: 1 481 shelters were demolished after the squatters were accommodated at own free will at the Tsakane site and service scheme.

(b) **Highveld:** 40.

East Rand: 1 481.

(c) **Highveld:** Buffer zone of the town Phola (Ogtes).

East Rand: Buffer zone of the town Tsakane (Brakpan).

Orange Free State:

No steps were taken during 1986 in the Orange Free State Community Services area in respect of any shelters of squatters.

(a), (b) and (c) fall away.

Natal:

No steps were taken during 1986 in the Natal Community Services area in respect of any shelters of squatters.

(a), (b) and (c) fall away.

Soweto: family housing units

342. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) How many family housing units were

built in Soweto by (a) the State and (b) private owners in 1986;

- (2) (a) how many such units are being built at present by (i) the State and (ii) private owners and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

Transvaal: (Soweto)

- (1) (a) nil.
- (b) 2 008.

(2) (a) (i) nil.

(ii) 964.

(b) 31 January 1987.

Magazines/periodicals produced/financed

346. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Defence:

(a) How many magazines, periodicals or other publications are produced, financed or in any way financially assisted by any section of the South African Defence Force, (b) what are the names of each of these publications and (c) what was the cost to the South African Defence Force of producing, financing or financially assisting each specified publication in the latest specified financial year for which information is available?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a) The 16 publications in List A are directly financed and the 67 in List B are indirectly financed by making use of personnel and facilities.

(b) Publication	(c) Cost for the SA Defence Force for the financial year 1986/1987
LIST A	
Alta Pete	R 432
Bospos	1 785
Bulletin for Educational Technology	8 000
Cadet	35 000
Contact	250 000
Disa	300
Indaba	6 500
Liaison Letter for Military Veterans	3 500
Militaria	45 000
Military Academy Yearbook	3 827
Newsletter: Soutpansberg Military Area	250
SA Defence Force	20 000
The Warrior	300 000
Ultima Ratio Regum	40 000
Unit Focus	250
Zipfel	3 000

LIST B

- 2 Engineers Squadron Journal
- 47 Scriba
- Ad Astra
- Aegere Victoriam
- Bastion
- Bateleur 44
- Bravo
- Bulletin
- Certa Cito
- Channel 506
- Chiroptera
- Corbadis
- Crescendo
- De Goede Hoop
- Die Mosdop
- Enclaver
- Gerbera
- Indlovu
- In Hoc Signo
- Insizwa
- Kloof News
- Medic

are all expressed in terms of micrograms per cubic metre.

Summer 85/86 — October 1985 to March 1986

Winter 86 — April 1986 to September 1986

(a) Lead Results from semi-automatic sampler at City Hall

Summer 85/86 1.16 Winter 86 1.16

Standard Samplers

Site	Summer 85/86	Winter 86
Epping Market	0.65	0.65
Tamboerskloof	0.23	0.26
City Hospital	0.25	0.53
Foreshore	0.8	1.35
Salt River	0.4	0.65
Paardeneiland	0.76	0.95
Drill Hall	0.4	0.8

(b) Sulphuric acid concentrations in the air are not monitored as such, but the following concentrations are those of sulphur dioxide a precursor to the formation of sulphuric acid.

Site	Summer 85/86	Winter 86
City Hall	8	—
(discontinued)	—	10
Drill Hall	—	10
(new station)	14	10
Foreshore	7	6
Epping Market	7	2
Paardeneiland	10	9
Salt River	7	9
Greenpoint	3	4
Tamboerskloof	18	11
Edgemead	—	—

The following concentrations reflect the presence of particulates in air.

Site	Summer 85/86	Winter 86
City Hall	15	—
(discontinued)	—	20
Drill Hall	—	—
(new station)	—	—

spect of Black Labour Act, No 29 of 1972, during the 1985-86 financial year?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

R316 206,50.

Pietermaritzburg police district: offences

523. Mr G B D McINTOSCH asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many cases of (a) murder, (b) culpable homicide, (c) assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, (d) common assault, (e) rape, (f) robbery, (g) theft of vehicles and cycles, (h) damage to property, (i) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and (j) possession of drugs were reported at each specified police station in the Pietermaritzburg police district in 1986?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Pietermaritzburg	66	8	352	416	36	346	373	179	1 052	2
Inchanga	14	13	130	86	16	34	5	34	234	—
Mid-Illovo	29	7	50	15	6	14	6	9	51	—
Alexandra Road	26	13	117	164	9	41	260	73	740	—
Bishopstowe	8	2	69	31	5	12	6	17	46	—
Boston	3	4	16	5	2	3	6	5	38	—
Camperdown	21	8	156	115	23	54	22	43	266	—
Cramond	11	8	75	34	9	7	2	10	53	—
Hilton	4	5	42	28	6	11	13	22	142	—
Howick	35	22	262	149	22	36	33	100	280	—
Impendle	6	1	90	36	3	11	3	19	70	—
Mountain Rise	46	32	445	1 114	74	162	232	596	629	12
Nottingham Road	7	5	59	51	4	2	11	21	128	—
Plessislaer	298	60	991	1 040	170	378	111	695	1 148	—
Prestbury	—	1	3	21	1	8	35	7	130	—
Richmond	36	13	193	89	23	32	22	46	300	—
Thornville	8	4	57	51	4	23	12	13	86	—
Town Hill	6	12	26	28	6	11	31	14	208	—
Hammersdale	160	32	238	149	50	174	68	152	492	—

Note: Statistics are furnished for the period 1 July 1985 until 30 June 1986. Because statistics for the period 1 July 1986 until 31 December 1986 are not yet programmed, particulars for this period are not readily available.

I wish to point out to honourable members that should the above-mentioned figures be brought into perspective, it will be noticed that crime tendencies fluctuate. In some instances crime reflects drastic increases and in others it reflects similar decreases. Crime tendencies differ from one

the new 3 568 line automatic Kingsflats exchange during the first half of 1989, if nothing unforeseen occurs. The remaining 148 applications are in respect of services required in the Black residential area. The tempo at which these services can be provided will depend on the extent to which technical personnel are allowed to enter the area freely.

Contributions from farmers

521. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

What amount of money was collected from farmers in the area under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Cape Development Board as contributions in respect of Black workers under the Contributions in re-

Planning:

Answers: 23/2/87

area to another, while the population density is also an important contributing factor. Increases in crime can mainly be ascribed to:

(a) the economical recession,

(b) resulting unemployment; and

(c) the abuse by criminal elements of unrest situations to commit crime.

The increase in crime is an universal tendency, and even causes great concern during international crime conferences.

Military disability pensions

527. Mr B GOODALL asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

(a) How many persons are in receipt of military disability pensions and (b) what amount was paid out in such pensions in respect of the year ended 31 March 1986?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(a) 12 031. (b) R30 505 656.

Pollutants

528. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

What was the average recorded atmospheric (a) lead level, (b) sulphuric acid level and (c) level of other specified significant pollutants measured at the monitoring points in the Cape Town area in winter and summer, respectively, over the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT: The following average concentrations

are available:

23/2/87

Lowveld needs rain to break the heat

Lowveld Bureau
NELSPRUIT — Blistering heat continues to scorch the Lowveld. Rain has not fallen in some places for three weeks.

In the Kruger Park, the midday temperature has not dropped below 32 degrees for the past month and much of the reserve is very dry.

The heat was so fierce in Nelspruit at the weekend that a man almost fainted at his wedding. Family members took off his jacket and tie, and the embarrassed bridegroom took his vows seated before the minister.

At Komatipoort, the heat has exhausted townfolk.

"This is the hottest place in the Lowveld, but we don't have a municipal swimming bath," one perspiring inhabitant complained.

Dams in the White River are dangerously low. It has not rained in the area for almost two months. Rain is needed to avert a threat to domestic water supplies.

Angry townfolk recently packed White River Town Hall to protest against "weather modification" (cloud seeding) in the Lowveld.

Accusing the project of dispersing rain, they demanded an immediate halt to all forms of cloud seeding.

Since weather modification was introduced in Nelspruit in the early 1970s, it has been strongly criticised.



Mr Sarel van Rensburg, chairman of the Potchefstroom Agricultural Union, shows the difference between good rainfull crops and crops damaged by drought.

Wentzel hints at 'drastic steps' to aid farmers

(3) General Star 24/2/67

By Joe Openshaw

A fortnight of blazing heat in the Western Transvaal and Northern Free State has turned the promise of a good harvest into a nightmare of crop damage and deeper debt.

This was the grim picture painted for the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, by farmers in Lichtenburg, Leeuwardoornstad and Kleksdorp yesterday.

The Minister was told that good October and November rains prompted farmers to plant bigger crops than last season. But, in these scorching, rainless February days, they are staring disaster in the face.

Yesterday some farmers asked Mr Wentzel to consider freezing debts by declaring a moratorium and steps to write debts off.

The Minister was told that a combination of six years of drought, high interest rates, inflation and repossession of farm implements could force 40 percent of the area's farmers to quit their lands before the harvest is reaped.

Said Mr Jan Delport of Petrusburg: "Every day, farmers are getting summonses. Many have already been sequestered. We are on our knees and have nothing to offer the banks."

Mr Tobie Pienaar, manager of the Sentraalwes Co-operative, told the Klerksdorp meeting that tractors, other implements and hire purchase items had been repossessed and, recently, the co-operative had to write off debts of R2,3 million.

"The expected delivery of maize to Sentraalwes Co-operative was estimated at 2,6 million tons on January 13 but, a month later — on February 12 — the expected delivery had decreased to 2,1 million tons.

"In the past two weeks the size of the expected delivery has dropped to 30 percent," said Mr Pienaar.

After listening to these complaints, Mr Wentzel said: "It is clear that drastic steps are called for. The State will not allow agriculture to collapse. I hope to be able to announce moves soon which will prevent

the wild dogs getting the land.

"We do not have a moratorium law but, if a settlement cannot be reached, we may have to consider a way of freezing and writing off debts.

"The Government has spent R1 000 million assisting farmers in the past few years and I wonder who gets most of the cash — the farmers or those providing hire purchase items?

"Agriculture is not only the responsibility of the State but that of the private sector as well. Banks and hire-purchase institutions must make a contribution. All must do everything in their power to help the farmers."

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**Farm debt: banks
asked for leniency**

5/28/87
B/day
GERALD REILLY *(B) 2/28/87*

COMMERCIAL banks have been asked to slow down on squeezing drought-distressed farmers for debt and interest payments.

That, it was understood, was the main topic discussed in Cape Town yesterday at a meeting between representatives of commercial banks and Agricultural Minister Greyling Wentzel. Finance Minister Barend du Plessis was also present.

The meeting followed a recommendation from the Economic Advisory Council, which reported last year on the desperate plight of large numbers of farmers.

Sources said farmers owed the commercial banks R3,3bn — apart from large amounts owed to the Land Bank and other institutions — at the end of 1985.

It was estimated by the end of last year this had grown to R3,8bn. The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) is "gravely" concerned about the number of sequestrations and threatened sequestrations among farmers.

An SAAU spokesman said the debt ratio of large numbers of farmers had reached "impossible" proportions. They were unable to service their debt. Farmers' total debt at the end of last year was estimated at more than R12,5bn.

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Cape Times 6/3/67

Aid for farmers

(3 General)

PRETORIA. — An additional R237 million has been added to the Agriculture budget to aid farmers in debt due to "circumstances beyond their control," the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, announced yesterday.

The government considered the agricultural sector indispensable.

It fulfilled an important role in the national economy (volkshuishouding), contributed to economic growth and promoted social and constitutional stability, he said in a Press statement.

Mr Wentzel said the existing schemes for the consolidation of debt, would be amended by means of interest subsidies. This would give farmers a better cash-flow position. The Agricultural Credit Board's assistance schemes would be modified accordingly.

VD 2

BUSINESS DAY, Friday, March 6 1987

(3) Personal

Govt gives R237m to rescue farmers

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PRETORIA — The Cabinet has approved a crash programme to rescue financially stressed farmers brought to the brink of ruin by successive droughts.

Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said yesterday government had made R237m available to farmers.

This was on the recommendation of the Economic Advisory Council that government should assist farmers who lacked the financial resources to survive.

The money was in addition to the aid provided for in the agricultural budget.

GERALD REILLY

Wentzel's announcement, made at a farmer's meeting in his Bethal constituency yesterday, followed his discussions in Cape Town earlier this week with Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, senior Reserve bank officials and representatives of commercial banks.

He said existing schemes for debt consolidation — the six- and 10- year carry-over debt schemes — were being amended with the help of interest subsidies to improve farmers' cash flows.

Agricultural credit board aid programmes would also be modified.

FARM DEBT

Deeper in the mire

③ General 6/3/87

SA's commercial banks are facing up to the fact that some R3 billion of the country's massive R14 billion farm debt could be at risk.

The first victims of their new stance are likely to be those farmers with the attitude that farm debt is the "banks' problem." They are in for a surprise, because the problem will be coming back to the farmhouse door as banks take an increasingly hard line on production credit support for agriculture.

The economic and financial feasibility of each farmer's operation will become paramount in assessing future support, say banking sources. But, if government decides that agriculture's strategic value to the economy outweighs other considerations, an aid package — which could provide five years' breathing space — can be expected.

Barclays Bank chief agricultural adviser Frans Venter says about R3 billion of the farm debt — less than 20% — could be in default among farmers who are unable to survive without massive State aid. With the annual 12% interest bill on the total debt running at R1,68 billion, a rescue operation will come dear.

Banks, of course, always have recourse to seizure of land, but that would bring down farm prices, thus devaluing the security.

Venter says banks will not be intimidated by the prospect of forced sales, if they are conducted on a structured, orderly basis. And actual execution sales could be far less in number than feared in farming circles.

Venter says additional aid will only prolong the agony in many cases. Apart from the drought and the new pricing system, bad management decisions in the good years are now taking their toll.

And, adds a banker, some farmers are still buying new vehicles and luxuries on production credit already cut "to the bone."

Venter says commercial bank commitments to western Transvaal farmers could total some R780m, while total farm debt in this drought-hit area could total R2,2 billion. If doubtful areas in the Free State are added, total risk debt would be in the region of R3 billion — about 75% owed by maize growers.

Meanwhile, three major developments directly affecting the fortunes, and even survival, of many northern maize belt farmers are anxiously awaited.

These are the size of this year's maize crop, the final decision on the maize price and government's reaction to the Economic Advisory Council's recommendations on the restructuring of agriculture.

The final maize price will obviously influence future action by banks, other creditors and the government.

If the price remains around R240/t many creditors would be prepared to extend production credit for another year, even without more State aid. But, if it hits R200/t or less, creditors could be forced to call in their security.

The election and the need to retain the farm vote will certainly influence government's decision on emergency aid beyond the R237m already earmarked. Next week's Nampo congress at Potchefstroom should provide some pointers to current thinking.

But it is clear the current situation cannot continue indefinitely — whether change comes from short-term action by banks and other creditors, or from emergency aid to restructure agriculture.

But even without additional State aid, and with a maize price of R200/t, it will not be wholesale slaughter. "Blood will flow," says a banking source, "but the fear of the event might be worse than the event itself."

Dire predictions that 60% of maize farmers will be forced to sell by the end of the season — unless government helps out — seem far-fetched.

But Pretoria's serious view of the problem was evidenced by last week's high-profile tour by a top echelon of ministerial, departmental and organised agriculture representatives through the western Transvaal maize belt.

It is becoming increasingly clear that restructuring will be a costly and lengthy affair. Not only will huge capital be required to diversify into new crops, but it could take years to put this into effect.

Unless government provides bridging finance or other subsidisation, many farmers face a grim prospect. But the strategic value of food and the political importance of the farm vote may still carry the day.

DISINVESTMENT

282-19

Bouncing baby blue

Free of the restraints of former US parent IBM, the new Information Management Services (ISM) is taking an aggressive stance.

Plans to gain market share include participation in the local electronics industry, sales of non-IBM products and entry into the second-user market. The company will also review its support and education services with an eye to turning them into profit-makers.

One of the most important developments for the all-South African company is the end of the restriction on selling non-IBM pro-

ducts. Indeed, ISM's first outside deal, concluded this week, was to tie up exclusive local rights to software from the UK's Hogan Systems.

Hogan, the leading supplier of integrated application software to the banking and financial services industry, already has a base with several institutions in SA.

Another major area of immediate endeavour is likely to be the manufacture and marketing of personal computers.

When IBM announced its pull-out last October, microcomputer retailers predicted the new local company would seek gains in this area (*Business* October 31). It had already rationalised its dealer network and made it plain it would seek big new clients itself, even if it meant competing directly with dealers.

Like its former US parent, the local company lost out heavily to clones from the Far East and to retailers with local manufacturing contracts. It seems clear that ISM itself must look at the local manufacture of micro hardware, even if only to supply its dealers at competitive prices. Although ISM is the sole supplier of IBM products in SA it is free, as MD Jack Clarke points out, to market other products.

In addition, market operations director Tony Dry says ISM is examining the possibility of "participating in the local electronics industry, which is fully tooled up for the manufacture of terminals and workstations."

The effect on the R250m-a-year micro sector would be enormous. As one dealer has it: "If ISM put its financial muscle behind the development of a local micro and sold it at a price to compete with Taiwanese machines, it would wipe out much of the competition. And even if it was more expensive, buyers would still have the feeling that it came with an IBM pedigree."

It is also widely held that ISM is looking at developing and manufacturing telecommunications equipment locally. Certainly, the sector is open. As Postmaster General William Ridgard recently warned, an inadequate telecommunications infrastructure could be a major obstacle to progress in SA.

On support and education services, Dry says: "There's nothing to prevent us from marketing our skills and resources in these areas, and no reason why we should not profit more directly from them." This means the traditional added-value for which IBM buyers paid a premium will be further exploited, possibly by developing separate training and maintenance facilities.

Meanwhile, ISM has the task of rebuilding customer confidence which was, despite

Farmers to get R237-m in Govt aid

BAGER =
CULTURE

By Therese Anders

MIDDELBURG — The Government yesterday announced a major R237 million financial relief package for farmers.

The programme is in the form of subsidies for reduced interest payments and is the biggest financial assistance package farmers have received in three years.

It will run for the 1987/88 financial year and is in addition to the annual agricultural budget.

In announcing the package, Minister of Agriculture Mr Greyling Wentzel said the aid programme showed the importance the Government was placing on agriculture and the farmer — “not only from an economic but also from a social point of view.”

Mr Wentzel was given a standing ovation by the 800 farmers present at Wildebeesfontein near Middelburg where he was addressing an Eastern Transvaal Co-operation (OTK) farmers' day.

The chairman of the OTK, Mr Gert Schoonbee, said this was a positive move.

“We are very grateful to the Government for helping farmers through their financial dilemma.”

He said farmers were embarrassed to approach the Government time and again for help, “but we must not forget that we are in our fifth or sixth season of drought.”

He said the Minister's plan of restructuring co-operatives would eventually lead to farmers being less dependant on Government aid.

One of the area's farmers, Mr Hennje Pelsler, said the Minister's announcement was “wonderful news.”

“This is going to help the farmers in the drought-ridden Western Transvaal who are on the brink of going under.”

SMR
6/3/87

5/T 8/3/87
3) approved

Jail vegetable plan angers two co-ops

PRIVATE enterprise is angered by the Prisons Department's plans to open a R6-million dehydrated vegetable plant.

The SA Agricultural Union will raise the matter with the Minister of Agriculture, Greyling Wentzel, next month.

Impinges

The South African Dried Fruit Co-operative and the Langeberg Co-operative have slammed the plans, saying they are contrary to the principle that the Government should not be in competition with private enterprise.

Inus van Rooyen, senior deputy director of the SAAU, says the union's co-operative council has investigated

By Don Robertson

the plan and finds it goes against the Government's commitment to privatisation.

"In the past, the Prisons Department has in many instances produced its own vegetable crops and it could be argued that the new plan is a continuation of the process. However, in an atmosphere of privatisation, the department should give the matter careful consideration as it impinges on private enterprise.

"After the discussions with the Minister of Agriculture, we will see what further action is necessary."

Langeberg has a dehydration plant at Hartswater in the Northern Cape. It is operating at about 70% capacity. The Langeberg plant produces dehydrated vegetables mainly for export.

The Dried Fruit Co-operative has a plant at Barvale, near Nelspruit, at which it processes 30 000 tons of fresh vegetables a year to produce about 3 000 tons of dehydrated product. It is operating at about 75% of capacity.

Customers

Products from the two plants are marketed by the the Dried Fruit Co-operative which supplies among others, the Prisons Department, SA Transport Services and the Defence Force.

Steve Rautenbach, retiring general manager of the Dried Fruit Co-operative, says there is no price agreement between Langeberg and the co-operative.

"We compete directly with canned- and frozen-vegetable producers, but we are not happy to have to compete with Government."

Namibia bans farmland bargains

Stals: SA won't follow curbs on foreigners

CME Tim 10/3/87

3 General



By BARRY STREEK and JANE ARBOUS

SOUTH AFRICA is unlikely to follow Namibia's ban of the use of the weak financial rand by foreigners to buy up farmland at bargain prices, the Director-General of Finance, Chris Stals said yesterday.

Stals said there was no reason to change "at this stage" the South African 50% commercial rand/50% financial rand formula which was introduced a year ago for overseas buyers.

He believed that the Namibian move was an effort to encourage development as many of the farms there were left unproductive and used for hunting only.

Millions poured in

The interim government cabinet said in a statement that the reason for the decision was "to eliminate unfair competition in which inhabitants of the country find themselves in comparison with foreigners using the aid of the financial rand for the purchase of farmland."

"In practice, foreigners were placed in a position to make use of the financial rand for as much as 50% of the purchase price of farmland."

In SA foreigners have poured in millions of rands to take advantage of the

weak position of the financial rand to buy property, listed securities and businesses.

Historic farms

In the Western Cape, historic farms, such as Wilde Paardejacht and Deneguer in the Klein Drakenstein area and Neetlingshof in the Stellenbosch area, have been sold to foreigners in recent years.

The system here has been criticized because of the advantage it gives to foreigners over local investors.

The Namibian decision is, however, the first move taken in Southern Africa to counter the negative effects of the financial rand practice.

The Namibian cabinet said it had decided that in principle it would be its policy "not to allow foreigners to use the financial rand for the purchase of farmland, but that the financial rand may be used for the erection of fixed improvements on farmland owned by foreigners".

Applications for the purchase of farmland by foreigners would also be considered against the background of this policy by a committee of expert officials from various government departments.

Exceptional cases would be referred to the cabinet, the statement said.

DINGS

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RESULTS

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10 months to 31 December 1986	12 months to 28 February 1986
R'000	R'000
160 770	18 742
20 206	1 299
3 900	335
16 306	964
3 019	188
13 287	776
470	-
12 817	776
210	250
12 607	526

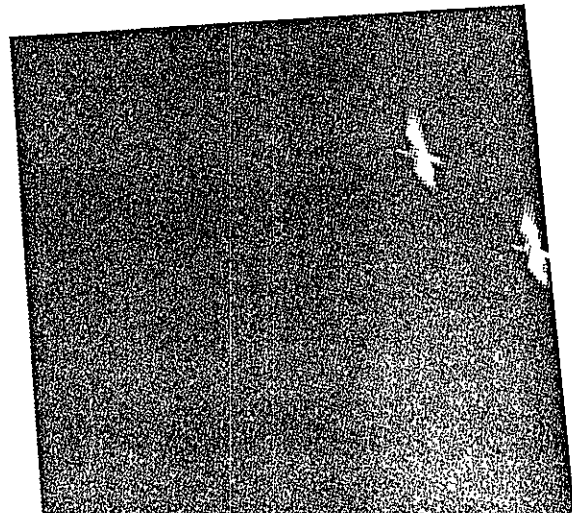
Closing gold prices

(In \$ an ounce)

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405,00-405,50
Fixing am: 404,85
Fixing pm: 405,00

ZURICH:
403,00-406,00

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BUSINESS DAY, THURSDAY, March 12 1987

2

40%-45% of farmers on the skids — Jooste

PRETORIA — The deep distress in SA's debt-plagued agricultural industry was stressed by SA Agricultural Union president Kobus Jooste in Potchefstroom last night.

Speaking at the National Maize Producers' Organisation conference, he said 40%-45% of farmers were financially on the skids.

Besides drought, major problems were continued high inflation and the rand's poor exchange rate.

Last year, Jooste said, producer prices rose by an aver-

GERALD REILLY
age of 11%, compared with 18% increases in the price of farming requisites.

Farmers' net total incomes last year amounted to nearly R3bn. This meant SA's 60 000 farmers had an average income of R50 000 each.

And if farmers' debt amounted to R13bn, income was 23% of total debt.

It would be easy to say: "Let the 30% to 40% of farmers at the bottom end of the scale get

tors would in any case have to write off thousands of rands.

Some of the debt would have to be frozen and other debt would have to be taken over by the State. Land would, under certain circumstances, have to be bought by the State and sold again at favourable prices.

He said he was wrestling at present with all these points.

In the long term there were many other faults to be put right, including the lack of information and research, land prices that were plunging in some areas and rocketing in

others, and the deteriorating plateland infrastructure.

"These things must be done according to a master-plan, which we are now busy drawing up."

Jooste added that to bring about the necessary revolution in agriculture, good relations would have to be maintained with government and all those concerned.

But that would have to take place without a loss of independence or the loss of another 10 000-20 000 farmers and the decline of the rest.

Basic economic problems 'unsolved'

Network of wells would tap water reserves

Borehole plan may save Reef from drought

Work has begun on a multimillion-rand project to sink a network of boreholes across the Reef to provide vast amounts of water if the drought worsens.

The Department of Water Affairs is now drilling hundreds of high-yield boreholes that will supply cheaper drinking water to the PWV.

Experts believe the R9 million project could provide 400 million cu m a year — more than half the Rand Water Board's current yearly distribution to the PWV area.

Dr Paul Mulder, deputy director of geohydrology at the Department of Water Affairs in Pretoria, said extensive drilling operations were underway in dolomite areas.

"In 1984, the first drilling phase started in Vereeniging, Meyerton, Klip River and Zuurbeekoms. About 70 boreholes in the PWV — particularly in Pretoria — are already in operation.

"The second phase will begin next week with the investigation of borehole sites in Carletonville, Bapsfontein and the Verwoerdburg/Kempton Park area. Accelerated drilling is on the go in Klip River and Meyerton."

Mr Mike Piché, president of the Borehole Water Association (BWA) and a drilling contractor, yesterday spoke to The Star from the Meyerton Farm drilling site.

Gushing out

"We are pumping out 90 litres a second. Not many drilling contractors have seen this amount of water gushing out. The average borehole diameter is 165 mm and this one is 330 mm."

At that rate, it would take about 11 minutes to fill an average-sized family swimming pool of 60 000 l capacity.

Dr Mulder said the R9 million budgeted for the project would cover only the costs of investigating sites.

"Only highly sophisticated drilling equipment will be used, preventing interference with the water table and the possible occurrence of sinkholes," he said.

"The areas will be sited carefully and there will be no pumping of water near a built-up area."

The RWB will be responsible for laying pipes, booster pumps, extracting the water and supplying it. Ground water will be far cheaper than dam water, said Dr Mulder.

Mr Alfred Hardwick, deputy chief engineer of the RWB, said:

By Adele Baleta

"If implemented, a water supplement of this magnitude will be extremely valuable to the Vaal River source.

"The water from boreholes — with a small dose of chlorine — will be pumped and delivered directly to consumers."

The manager of scientific services at the Department of Water Affairs, Dr Paul Roberts, stressed that implementation of the project, which is in its exploratory phase, would depend on the amount of water stored in the Vaal Dam.

"The total storage capacity is better than this time last year and even with the present restrictions we will make it through another season."

It would be decided each May whether to implement the emergency plan, he said. Should there be a water shortage the emergency drought relief scheme would come into operation.



RESEARCH UNIT

RESEARCH DIVISION,
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS,
BERT LESLIE BUILDING,
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN,
RONDEBOSCH,
7700.

Dam levels

The dam levels in the vital Vaal system yesterday were: Vaal Dam 24,3 percent full; Bloemhof 11,3 percent; Sterkfontein 25,3 percent. The Woodstock Dam, which feeds the Sterkfontein Dam, was overflowing.

Mr Piché said rumours that borehole owners would have their water taken away from them were untrue.

"All that is involved is making use of water resources that are currently untapped."

He explained that boreholes would be drilled to a depth of 150 m (to the bottom aquifer, or water-bearing formation) and that well owners pumped water from a depth of only about 80 m (the top aquifer).

Under the Expropriation Act, the Government could drill on private land. Owners would be notified and compensated.

Mr Piché appealed to property owners planning to drill boreholes to contact the BWA to enlist the services of a qualified driller.

"More than 20 percent of existing boreholes are non-operational as a result of untrained drillers," he said.

FARM SUBSIDIES

A bit for banks

While commercial banks are happy that they will — for the first time — share directly in government's new R237m aid package to farmers in the northern drought-hit debt zone, they will, no doubt, be upset over the amount.

Only R9m has been allocated to the banks as direct subsidies on their farm debts. Their exposure is expected to reach R3,5 billion-R4 billion (*Business* March 6) this year —



carrying an average interest rate of 14%. The subsidy will thus cover only a fraction of the annual interest bill of R490m-R560m.

Three struggling farm sectors will receive the most. Livestock farmers will share a R43m subsidy package, the Maize Board (MB) will receive a R60m grant towards its bankrupt stabilisation fund, and the Wool Board will receive R15m to reduce costly levies on its US\$252m foreign debt exposure.

While the banks' direct benefit from the emergency aid package will be limited, they will, nevertheless, benefit from improved cash flows through aid to the farming sec-

tors. This will enable them to extend credit lines to some lucky farmers for another year.

A banking source tells the *FM* that government's stated aim to limit assistance to individual farmers in each of its subsidy schemes is "most welcome." With individual merit determining future aid and with farmers' progress being monitored, a new element of discipline will be added.

Chris Bignaut, the Agriculture Ministry's chief director, agricultural economics and marketing, says the aid package provisionally includes:

- About R45m as extra interest subsidies on the Land Bank's existing 22-year debt consolidation scheme, which will be extended by another year;
- A combined total of R43m on the six- and 10-year carry-over schemes for unpaid production credit to co-ops; a new subsidised three-year carry-over scheme for unlisted stock grazing areas; and a two-year subsidy scheme for feed aid to stock farmers in unlisted areas (listed areas already qualify for aid);
- The new R9m subsidised production credit aid package to banks;
- Some R2,3m to extend the 4% subsidised production credit scheme of the Agricultural Credit Board;
- A kick-off sum of R15m for "restructuring" farming operations away from maize to alternative crops;
- A R60m grant to the MB to cut the cost of handling, storing and financing the annual maize crop;
- R15m for the Wool Board to reduce current 5%-7,5% production levies for repaying interest on unpaid foreign debt. Levies are expected to rise to 10,5% this year without State aid;
- A R6m grant to Umfolozi sugar producers still suffering the after-effects of the Domoina floods;
- R36m for undisclosed socio-economic purposes involving farm labour, and;
- The extension of the current subsidised production credit at co-ops.

Bignaut says the package is essentially a short-term emergency measure, while longer-term restructuring remains a priority to get agriculture back on track — and out of debt.

Central to the aim is the need to cut the output of uneconomic maize. But as this will require new seed and breeding stock, it will take time as well as money.

"Government is aware of the restrictions and of the urgency of the problem," says Bignaut. "Our role will be to encourage and to assist — not to lay down the law. This ties up with moves towards a more free market in

agriculture."

MB GM Hennie Davel says the stabilisation fund is now more than R400m in the red, and the deficit will grow without State aid. Also, higher maize prices will cut local sales even further.

The current State subsidy of R152m goes towards interest and storage, handling and financing costs on the annual maize crop. The costs total some R360m on an 8 Mt crop. Says Davel: "There is no way out."

While the new aid package will reduce agriculture's immediate tensions, it is clear that much more effort, financial and structural, will be needed to put agriculture on a sound footing. In the end, the market must be freed to determine pricing, profitability and investment in the industry. ■

Farming sector to the rescue as . . .

Real GDP rises marginally by 0,5% in 1986

3) General

B/Dev

25/3/87

PRETORIA — The country's real gross domestic product (GDP) increased by a marginal 0,5% last year, according to the first comprehensive estimate made by Central Statistical Services (CSS).

CSS points out this is lower than recent forecasts and estimates from other sources.

However, it stresses, only improved agricultural conditions made a positive growth rate possible.

Real production in the agricultural sector rose by 16,1% last year, whereas real production in the non-agricultural sector declined by 0,5%.

CSS says that following the poor

GERALD REILLY

economic performance in 1985, when real GDP declined by 1,1%, the relatively serious contraction in the first quarter of last year pointed to an unsatisfactory growth rate for 1986.

However, it says, although growth did not come up to expectations, there was definite proof that the economy has moved into an upwards phase since the low in the first quarter of last year.

Seasonally adjusted total real GDP declined by 4,8% at an annual rate in January to March last year.

After this it increased by 6,1% in the second quarter, 3,4% in the third quarter and 4,4% in the last quarter.

Farmers spending money they don't have

R12bn farm debt due to extravagance?

COLLECTIVE debt incurred by the farming sector at the end of 1986 soared to R12bn from a low of R3,8bn at the end of 1980.

Johannesburg-based analysts Davis Borkum Hare report that by the end of 1985 the debt had increased to more than R11bn and at the end of 1986 was probably in excess of R12bn.

It said: "Of the total debt of R11,1bn at the end of 1985, more than half — about R5,6bn — had been extended by the Land Bank, co-operatives and the Department of Agriculture. Accordingly, the taxpayers could end up bearing a major portion of the debt."

The past two seasons had seen some recovery in the net income of farmers, but they were still below the levels of 1980-81.

Farmers' gross incomes for the year ended June 30, 1986, increased by 12% to R9,9bn. Net income rose

MICK COLLINS

by 15% to R2,1bn.

The report said: "The deteriorating terms of trade for the farming sector as a whole helps explain the poor net income levels."

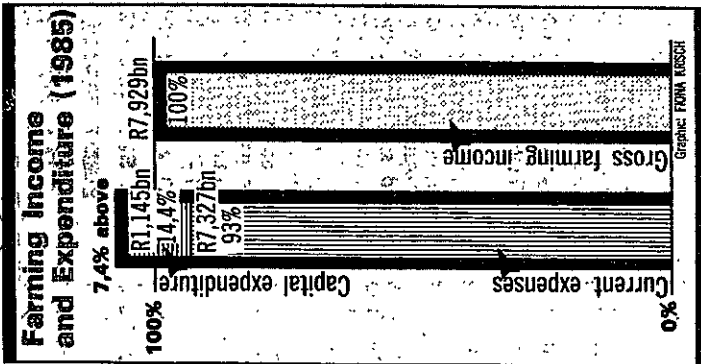
The report said the price for farming inputs had increased at a faster rate than producer prices for farming products.

It said: "Accordingly, the terms of trade have deteriorated and the repeated cry by agricultural bodies for control of input prices is easy to understand."

Results of a sample survey of 7 000 farmers published by *Effective Farming* suggested the average farmer spent about 7% more than he earned in 1985.

"When it is considered expenses — which exclude family expenses — absorbed all but R457m of recorded gross income, it is surprising how much farmers were pre-

3) spend



pared to spend on new equipment (R724m) and new buildings, dams and fences (R421m) (see graph).

"Transvaal farmers used almost 99% of their income to cover expenses. Despite this — which left only R31m — they spent R226m on new equipment and R138m on new buildings and works."

The survey said the capital expenditure would not all have been incurred by loss-making farmers but it still looked as though there was an inordinate amount of extravagance.

29/3/87 Day

State aid to farmers 'too little, too late'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Aid to the agricultural industry was too little and too late, SA Agricultural Union president Kobus Jooste said yesterday.

He told the Transvaal branch of the National Wool Growers' Association in Pretoria that State assistance to farmers in the past few years — mainly drought aid — did not have the desired result of keeping farmers on the land. Neither did it stabilise the financial position of farmers sufficiently.

Up to December, total disaster aid from government in the form of subsidies rebates amounted to R700m.

"I don't say this did not help. I say it did not help as much as was needed," said Jooste.

He said it was clear that the rehabilitation process in the industry and the structural adjustments involved had come too late.

Although some stock farmers were in a critical situation because of drought, the summer grain farmers were in an even more serious position. Jooste said if farmers accepted outside aid they had to agree to some control over their financial management.

Income from farms grows

B Day *2/13/87* *General*
GERALD REILLY *(3)*

GROSS farming income last year amounted to R11 308m, about 17% more than in 1985, according to direct rate agricultural economic trends.

The figures show a spectacular rise in income from maize farming — up by 95% to R1 193m.

The overall increase was due mainly to increased income from field crops and horticulture.

The combined Producer Price Index for farm products increased by 7% during the year. Income from field crops increased by 33% to R4 294m from R3 228m in 1985. Producer prices of field crops rose by about 6%. Income from wheat increased from R639m to R720m, and from sugar cane from R683m to R756m.

Gross income from animal production was 8% higher last year and stood at R4 938m. Income from wool is estimated at R393m and mohair R118m, compared with R178m in 1985.

Beef farmers earned R1 332m from slaughterings of cattle and calves — an increase of 13%. Producer prices of beef increased by 21%. Income from sheep slaughtering was R497m.

Hint of help seen as vote-buying

B / Day
27/3/07

P W promise of farm aid is slammed

Yemund
(3)

PRESIDENT P W Botha's promise that additional aid to debt-strapped farmers was on the way has been slammed as a blatant vote-buying ploy.

Botha's announcement at a political meeting that moves were being considered to relieve the agricultural sector's Land Bank debt — currently at R2,5bn — has been slammed by political parties and analysts as electioneering.

Political analyst Willem Kleynhans said the hint of additional aid, made at a political rally in the maize-farming centre of Lichtenburg, amounted to a blatant effort to buy votes with taxpayers' money.

PFP finance spokesman Brian Goodall said the remarks had all the appearances of a vote-buying election ploy.

And a spokesman for the CP, whose deputy leader Ferdi Hartzenberg is the sitting MP in Lichtenburg, said the party demanded that Botha's latest move did not become "just another election promise".

Botha told a political meeting in Lich-

Business Day Reporters

tenburg on Wednesday night government was giving attention to an agricultural recovery programme proposed by the Economic Advisory Council.

Among the steps he said could be used to set agriculture on its feet was a state takeover of farmers' Land Bank bonds. Most of the farmers' R2,5bn Land Bank debt is believed to be mortgaged against their properties.

Botha also said, to loud applause from the audience, that government would have to support the maize price this year in the wake of losses caused by drought and locusts.

Asked whether any official moves had been taken to step up aid to farmers, a spokesman for the President said Botha had merely said one way to keep farmers on the land and to assist young farmers would be to use Section 10 of the Agricultural Credit Act, which allowed government to take over debt.

It was not a decision, merely an opin-

● To Page 2



P.T.O

Cash aid plan 'not likely to help E Cape farmers much'

THE Government's latest plans to bail out indebted farmers will apply mainly to maize producers in the summer rainfall areas, with little prospect of relief for the hard-hit Eastern Cape agricultural sector.

This is the opinion of farmers and agricultural economists who were reacting today to an announcement by the State President, Mr P W Botha, that moves were being considered to help

farmers meet their R2 500-million debt with the Land Bank.

Addressing an election meeting in Lichtenburg on Wednesday, Mr Botha suggested that the State could take over farmers' Land Bank bonds in terms of the Economic Advisory Council's agricultural recovery programme.

However, the SA Agricultural Union's (SAAU) senior economist, Mr Dries Davel, said from Pretoria that what Mr

Botha had in mind was aid for maize farmers in the summer rainfall areas who had suffered up to six successive droughts.

Whether or not the Eastern Cape would benefit from the aid package depended on the financial hardships being experienced locally.

The past president of the Paterson Farmers' Association, Mr Amedée Buchner, said local farmers would appeal for help.

Farming industry needs changes, says Wentzel

③ smc 2/4/87
Pretoria Bureau
Profound structural changes were needed in farming to ensure its prosperity and stability, Minister of Agriculture Mr Greyling Wentzel said in Stellenbosch last night.

Speaking at an occasion to mark 100 years of agricultural training at the University of Stellenbosch, Mr Wentzel said changes were essential in the production, marketing and financing struc-

tures, and in the provision of aid and services in the industry.

A poor financial condition was threatening the survival of agriculture and many rural communities, Mr Wentzel said.

An investigation had identified various problems including poor cash flow, unfavourable debt ratio and the maldistribution and misuse of sources of agricultural aid, he said.

Look to domestic market, future farmers are told

Post Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — South African farmers have been warned that they will have to look ever more to the domestic market for their products because of rapidly dwindling overseas markets.

The managing director of the SA Wool Board, Mr S P van Wyk, told agriculture faculty students at Pretoria University that all indications on the world market were that agricultural production would increase.

In many countries, there was a growing move towards agricultural self-sufficiency, and this was being aided by the use of more efficient farming methods.

"The world is sitting in the grip of big surpluses of all agricultural products — a dilemma for which there are a number of reasons," said Mr Van Wyk.

These included world-wide over-investment in agriculture caused by fear of food shortages, new technologies, massive subsidies, particularly in America and the European Economic

Community and the dramatic increases in food production thanks to technological developments in developing countries.

"In future SA will be ever more dependent on her domestic market for consumption of the agricultural commodities. The days when developing countries could export commodities to earn exchange to pay for manufactured goods are disappearing," he said.

3 6 14 87

Agricultural relief system slammed

Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — The government's decision to grant a R237-million handout to agriculture has been criticised by an agricultural economist who claims the only recipients of any relief will be co-operatives and banks — and certainly not farmers.

An agricultural economist and farm consultant, Mr John Harrison, said the R237 million appeared to be a windfall but only in the case of the Umfolosi sugar cane farmers, who suffered severe losses during the the Demonias and Emboa floods, would there be any direct payout.

For the rest, Mr Harri-

son said, the beneficiaries would be the commercial banks and the co-operatives.

Dealing with the nine million rand earmarked for the banks, Mr Harrison pointed out that it should be seen in terms of the four billion rand owed by farmers to the banks and the fact that farmers were paying R500 million alone in interest each year.

He said the Maize Board was to receive 60 million towards its stabilisation fund, which is R400 million in the red. This loss was caused by the fact that the costs of running the maize board were not being met by the maize price obtained on the

export market and that charged on the local market.

Mr Harrison said the handling and storage charges for maize were so great that it was little wonder the board ran in the red.

"I see that debt as the result of overspending, so none of that money will go anywhere near the maize farmers pocket."

Mr Harrison, who is co-editor of Effective Farming, which studies trends and developments in agriculture, also pointed out that the R15 million granted to wool farmers would simply go towards building up a reserve fund to pay off a miscarried over-

seas loan

"So once again instead of it going directly to the farmer it is going to help pay off a massive debt that farmers did not want to be involved with in the first place."

Turning to the R43 million going to co-operatives to finance carry-over schemes for unpaid production credit, Mr Harrison said in many cases credit should not have been granted in the first place.

The R45 million going to the Land Bank for subsidies on their 22 year debt consolidation scheme was a similar mistake, he said.

"They allowed farmers to pay too much for land, so they could not meet their commitments. If they had not lent out money it would not have pushed up the property prices because people would not have bought land. Therefore there would not be this 22 year debt consolidation scheme."

Mr Harrison said it was remarkably that there was another R5,7 million going to the co-operatives for the provision of further subsidised production loans.

"I think that's criminal. There should be no more subsidised production credit," he said.

3 General

11/4/63

DD

Govt 'scared of losing votes'

Crucial report on farm sector 'being held up'

MICK COLLINS

A CRUCIAL report by government's Economic Advisory Council on the restructuring of the farming industry is being held up, probably until after the election, sources close to the council said.

The agricultural and banking sectors are anxiously awaiting results of the EAC investigation, which includes a probe into the R12bn owed by farmers to banks. Analysts say nothing short of major surgery will help. Government, they say, is hesitant to introduce radical changes which could cost it the farming vote.

The report, which is said to call for the complete restructuring of the industry, has been completed and delivered to government.

The spotlight has been placed on a significant portion of the debt (R2.5bn) which is accounted for by the financing of drought relief schemes.

This is nearly half of the total financing extended by semi-public organisations, namely the Land Bank and co-operatives.

One banking source says co-ops

should never have gone into the money-lending business nor should taxpayers be placed at risk by the possibility of the debt reverting directly to government.

But industry sources consider the exposure of the private sector to the farming debt as more important. The Land Bank has first call on farmers.

Farming debts to commercial banks (R3.3bn), excluding mortgage bonds, private individuals (R792m) and other financial institutions (R1.1bn), are not directly covered by long-term drought relief schemes.

A report by brokers Davis Borkum Hare breaks the drought relief programme into two broad categories.

"Firstly, assistance granted by the Land Bank whereby relief is consolidated into mortgage bonds held by farmers with the bank. In this case relief is granted with repayments spread over periods of 22 years.

"Secondly, relief granted through agricultural co-operatives in which repayment is spread over six years."

(3) General B/D Day
14/4/87

③ AGRICULTURE. w/p 18/4/27.

Farm research in SA effective — professor

Weekend Post Reporter

AGRICULTURAL research in South Africa is progressive and the extension system — which takes the research message to farmers — is doing an effective job.

This is the view of an American agricultural expert, Prof E J Boone, of North Carolina State University, who this week visited the Grootfontein College of Agriculture at Middelburg, headquarters for the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply's Karoo region.

Prof Boone was invited to South Africa by the department to evaluate agricultural extension services. He will suggest ways to close possible gaps in the services.

He is visiting all the agricultural regions for discussions with extension officers, regional staff and farmers. "I have been very impressed by the people of South Africa, particularly by the farmers and professionals in agriculture. SA has tremendous resources at its disposal — I wish all Americans had the opportunity to visit this country," he said.

South Africans showed overwhelming warmth, hospitality and helpfulness.

Prof Boone spent two days at Grootfontein.

3 DD. 23/1/82

Farmers support irrigation scheme

GRAHAMSTOWN

About 150 East Cape farmers yesterday gave their unconditional support to proclaiming the Bushman's River basin an irrigation district.

At a lively meeting at Paterson, the irrigation farmers' action committee got considerably more votes than they required for a mandatory two-thirds majority. Linked to the voting were questions about the size of land already under irrigation and proposed extensions of irrigation land.

At present 1578 ha of land is irrigated. It is proposed to irrigate at least 5 881 ha.

The imaginative scheme, which could cost in the region of R30 million, involves linking the Bushman's River to the Orange by way of the Little Fish, with canals and possibly tunnelling for a distance of about 14 km.

But officials of the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply were quick to state that figures at this stage and planning details were purely speculative.

A figure of about R500 per ha a year as the cost to irrigation farmers was indicated, however.

A former farmer and one of the many municipal and divisional council representatives at the meeting, Mr Bill Deacon, urged the farmers to support the plan.

He said: "Look at it in the long term. Only from the Orange River with a diversion into the Bushman's can you get a reliable source of water."

He noted that, with the considerable development along the coast, a constant water supply would probably be welcomed by the municipalities as well.

The affected farms are in the districts of Albany, Bathurst, Alexandria and Somerset East.

RECEIVED

5/ Day 23/4/87
**Farm industry's
general
role defended**

Business Day Reporter

THE agricultural industry had had a significant restraining influence on inflation, SA Agricultural Economist Koos du Toit said yesterday.

Agriculture was frequently singled out as a chief contributor to inflation, he said. This was an unfair accusation which stemmed mainly from ignorance or the inability to distinguish between producer prices and food prices at retail level.

The increase in producer prices amounted to a mere 11% in 1986 which showed agriculture's restraining influence.

Where do farmers stand?

③ General

Saau calls for the release of farming report

24/4/87 B Day

THE SA Agricultural Union (Saau) has called on government to release details of the Economic Advisory Council's (EAC) investigation into the restructuring of the farming sector.

The sector, hamstrung by massive debt now said to have soared to R14bn, has also called for "immediate and visible action" to alleviate the farmers' plight.

Saau president Kobus Jooste said the situation had reached a critical stage and action must be taken to give certainty concerning aid measures to afflicted farmers.

He said: "We agree with the President on this. But the Saau also regards it of great importance the EAC now release its report in order that all interested parties are informed about the approach which applies to restructuring planning."

Jooste was reacting to the announcement by Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel concerning the ap-

MICK COLLINS

pointment of a special agricultural restructuring committee.

He said: "We are concerned about the changed approach that is now to be followed and trust the new procedure will not lead to delay."

"The Saau gave its full co-operation for the restructuring investigation conducted by the council and urgently formulated proposals which were handed in to the Jacobs Committee which advises government on short term measures proposed by EAC."

He said: "The union is not directly represented on the special agricultural restructuring committee and, therefore, does not have a direct say in the committee's decision-making concerning important recommendations to the Cabinet."

"We trust, however, the newly appointed committee under the chairmanship of Dr Jacobs will urgently continue with the work. The Saau will continue to give its full co-operation to the committee so as to promote the interests of agriculture."

Asked about the Saau's proposals to the Jacobs Committee, Jooste said it concerned the handling of problems encountered by farmers who faced sequestration but who had the capacity to recover financially.

The gist of Saau's proposals is that mechanisms available under the Agricultural Credit Act should be used to greater effect to submit, on a merit basis, acceptable settlement proposals to the creditors of farmers.

To achieve this sufficient funds must be made available to the Agricultural Credit Board.

24/4/87
③
MALARIA

Still biting

Good rains have brought bumper crops to KwaZulu and Natal. But they have also improved conditions for mosquito breeding and malaria is on the increase as a consequence.

The number of malaria cases reported is already almost double that of last year. About 850 people have been treated in KwaZulu and another 418 in Natal. The final figure for KwaZulu by the end of May, when the annual four-month malaria season ends, is expected to reach 1 500, according to KwaZulu's medical officer for communicable diseases, Dr Murray Short.

Another factor in the increase, Short contends, is the influx of Mozambican refugees into the area. Mozambique is an endemic malaria area and many Mozambicans carry the malaria parasite although they do not show signs or symptoms of the disease.

Director of the National Institute for Tropical Diseases Dr Frank Hansford points out that although Mozambicans have been coming into the Transvaal for many years, they have only been travelling into Natal in the last two years.

The incidence of malaria in SA peaked in 1985 when about 10 000 people were treated. This was the year the "flood gates opened to fleeing Mozambicans," says Hansford. Since then Mozambicans making their way into the Transvaal homeland of Gazankulu have been given official status, and blood smears to detect malaria are taken from everyone on arrival.

Hansford says malaria control teams spraying huts and taking blood smears also operate in the Transvaal, Natal, KwaZulu, Gazankulu, KaNgwane, Venda and Lebowa. In the Eastern Transvaal, where large numbers of illegal Mozambicans are working, the local malaria control teams enjoy good relations with farmers and are able to screen people.

In KwaZulu and Natal, however, contact with the Mozambicans has broken down. Short explains: "Previously we managed to maintain good relations with incoming Mozambicans through the teams working in the different areas, and we could take blood smears by persuading them we were only interested in their health. However, over the past year intensification of government attempts to find illegal immigrants has made people more reluctant to show themselves to the teams."

The incidence of malaria remains low in SA compared with the rest of Africa where a resistant strain of malaria has been making a comeback.

In the Transvaal, says Hansford, "traditional malaria areas have been dry and the final total for the area this year is expected to be down."

What has been worrying medics is that the Mozambicans have been bringing with them the malaria strain resistant to the traditional chloroquine treatment.

"Only a small percentage of cases are of this resistant strain," says Hansford. "And it seems there are more in KwaZulu. But it is not an insurmountable problem. Alternative treatment is available although it's more expensive and involves a longer stay in hospital."

Another aspect causing concern is that the disease is occurring in areas that have not had an outbreak for years. "One of the reasons why controls have become less adequate in KwaZulu," explains Short, "is that the population in malaria areas has increased by 50% over the last nine years."

This is not the result of natural population increase only, but also because of jobless people moving into the area from white farms and cities. The problem is the malaria teams in operation have not been increased proportionately.

"We need more funds for more manpower on the ground and have made a request for these to central government," says Short. ■

SAAU calls for probe details

JOHANNESBURG —

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) has called on the government to release details of the Economic Advisory Council's investigation into the restructuring of the farming sector.

The sector has also called for "immediate and visible action" to alleviate the farmers' plight.

The SAAU's president, Mr Kobus Jooste, said the situation had reached a critical stage and action had to be taken to give certainty concerning aid measures to afflicted farmers. — DDC (3) 24/1/82

NR 645 27/4/87 (36) General

Tariff concessions for farmers using new water scheme

JACOBSDAL (Free State). — The State President, Mr P.W. Botha, has announced special tariff concessions for farmers using a new irrigation canal in the northern Cape.

Opening the 112km Orange Riet Canal here, he said the Government gave high priority to the recovery of agriculture and the concessions were aimed at helping farmers to "get on their feet again".

"For this reason the State will delay implementation of its tariff policy to recover at least the working costs of the scheme and part of the capital costs from irrigation farmers," Mr Botha said.

"Farmers will be assessed according to their ability to pay and tariffs will be adjusted."

The canal, part of the Vanderklouf Canal scheme below the P K le Roux Dam, was built to provide additional irrigation water and extensions to the Riet River State water scheme.

Mr Botha said the Orange Riet Canal would open the way for the development of 7 500ha of land, in addition to the 7 750ha served by the existing irrigation scheme.

The estimated yearly costs to run and maintain the canal were R326 a hectare, while the water tax for the 1987/88 water year had been set at R230 a hectare.

This tax would have to be adjusted yearly so that at least the maintenance and running costs were recovered eventually.

"To help the irrigators on the settlements in the period before income is gained, it has been decided that the water tax will be applied only from October 1 this year," Mr Botha said. — Sapa.

Dispatch Reporter

STUTTERHEIM — Gov-
ernment subsidies, simply
do not pay, and some-
other means should be
found to support farm-
ers who found them-
selves in a desperate fi-
nancial situation
through no fault of their
own.

This is the view of an
agricultural economist
and farm consultant, Mr
Tommy Thomson, who
told hundreds of farm-
ers attending the 50th
anniversary of the
Dohne Research station
outside Stutterheim yes-
terday; he hoped farm-
ers realised that they
were often merely a
channel to move subsi-
dies paid by the state.

"We have been condi-
tioned to believe that we
are the most pampered
subsidised industry in
South Africa," he said.

But Mr Thomson

Farmer subsidies are not effective says economist

3 General

pointed out that there
were many other indus-
tries and sectors that re-
ceived handouts from
the state.

He asked farmers to
consider the hundreds
of millions of rands in
housing subsidies the
state made available to
their employees.

There were also the
millions of rands spent
on decentralisation sub-
sidies given to industry.

"Just look at the mil-
lions spent on export
subsidies and incentives
or the interest free in-
vestments allowed by
the state and offered by
building societies."

control had seen their
decisions go awry.

There were very se-
rious social implications
in this loss of confi-
dence because should
they go bankrupt be-
tween 40 and 50 per cent
of them were inade-
quately educated or
trained to enter
meaningful employment
outside agriculture.

"And then what on
earth is going to happen
to the labourers on
these farms?" he asked.

Farmers had a tre-
mendously inflated
opinion of land values
particularly as a result
of the fact that there had
been quite a bit of

homeland consolida-
tion.

Farmers who had
been bought out were
looking for farms and in
many instances price
was not the overriding
factor, he said.

Of course greater va-
lue of property meant
greater credit worthi-
ness.

There was also an-
other aspect: in 1977
there had been a change
in the Tax Act which
then allowed farmers to
write off the full cost of
any machinery that was
bought in the particular
year of purchase.

This meant that farm-
ers rather spent money

than put it in the bank
where they would have
had to pay a fairly high
tax.

But during the
drought, farmers needed
that money to buy feed
for livestock.

When a feed shortage
started to develop
throughout the country
the state stepped in and
"kindly" offered farmers
feed and transport sub-
sidies.

But, said Mr Thomson,
this did not help at all.
Access to the market be-
came more difficult and
farmers could not sell
their livestock at any
cost and were forced to
feed the animals.

When the farmer fi-
nally did get some ac-
cess to the market there
was nothing but "skin
and bone" and a resul-
tant low price.

But there was still the
huge feed bill to pay.

Harbour upgrade will help SA traders

Farmers support Maputo aid plan

3- General
SMR 19/1/87

NELSPRUIT — The announcement that South Africa is to make available R3 million to upgrade Maputo harbour has been welcomed here.

The Department of Foreign Affairs announcement follows an agreement signed by South Africa and Mozambique in March.

It comes after the doubling of the railway line from Komatipoort to Maputo, the creation of cool-

ing facilities, the upgrading of facilities, the availability of export credit and agricultural development in Mozambique.

Although exporters of perishables prefer to fly their exports to Cape Town for shipment, citrus exporters are delighted.

The erection of a multimillion-rand cooling facility for citrus has, one exporter said, resulted in citrus exports through Maputo more than doubling last season.

Upgrading harbour facilities would, he said, push up the figure.

Predictions are that Maputo, if fully used by South Africa again, could increase its harbour income from R23 million to R168 million.

Chairmen of lowveld

farmers' unions support the idea, but many say a good harbour is of little use until security has been restored.

At a seminar in Nelspruit last year, attended by high ranking Mozambican officials and South African Transport Services representatives, exporters were assured their goods would reach the harbour safely.

Teams on 24-hour standby are geared to repair any rail breakdown between Komatipoort and Maputo.

"Both countries are anxious to work together," said Mr van Schalkwyk. "Once the harbour is working to capacity again and security is under control, we look forward to a return to tourism."

Agriculture in a pile of debt

GERALD REILLY

THE desperate plight of a large section of the agricultural industry is reflected in the latest income figures.

SA Agricultural Union economist Koos du Toit said particularly disturbing was the massive extent of short-term debt and the vulnerability of farmers to banks and financial institutions. Farmers now owe more than R12bn.

M&A 25/5/87

3 Genes

ECONOMY

Control boards guzzle R274-million in a year

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa's controversial, but still thriving, agricultural control boards swallowed R274-million of the country's wealth in the 1985/86 financial year — R71-million of it in administration costs.

Excessive though that figure might seem, it is overshadowed by the losses incurred by South African Transport Services, which lost R891-million during the year on its mainline and suburban routes.

The figures, given by Ministers in Parliament and listed in the Transvaal Chamber of Industries' bulletin, paint a chilling picture of taxpayers' money being used in unproductive ways.

The most expensive of the control boards were the Maize Board, which cost R64-million, and the Meat Board, which cost R59-million. Other big spenders were the Wool Board (R29-million), the Tobacco Board (R25-million), the Deciduous Fruit Board (R23-million) and the Wheat Board (R21-million).

The smallest spenders were the Karakul Board (R46 000) and the Lucerne Board (R162 000).

Others such as the Mohair Board, the Rooibos

Tea Control Board, the Dry Beans Board and the Chicory Board swallowed millions of rands each.

The figures do not include the Grain Sorghum Board, which was set up on January 1, 1986.

While the boards themselves claim they perform a vital function without which there would be marketing chaos, their opponents say they distort free-market forces and in the final analysis are paid for by consumers.

There's no argument about who pays when SATS loses money — it's the taxpayer.

SUBURBAN SERVICES

Losses in the 1985/86 financial year amounted to R660-million on mainline services (R35-million for first-class services, R110-million for second-class services, R161-million for third-class services and R39-million for catering services).

The balance of the R891-million loss came from suburban services — R246-million for first-class services and R300-million for third-class services.

Other chilling figures in the TCI bulletin show 58 119 vehicles valued at R872-million were reported stolen between January 1 and December 31 1986 — 36 percent up on the previous year's total.

Ban on certain fruit and wool pesticides

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dr A I van Niekerk, has banned certain deciduous fruit and wool pesticides.

He said in a statement in Pretoria it had become evident that remedies containing chlorobenzilate and stock remedies containing camphechlor and gamma-bhc (lindane) could affect human health.

Their use had been placed under strict control or prohibited in most developed countries.

"Not only was this ban promulgated due to possible health hazards, but also in order to protect our country's deciduous fruit exports," he said.

Although the Republic is not the only wool exporting country where such dips are in use, it has at this early stage been decided to place a ban on the acquisition, disposal or sale of sheep dips containing the said chemical substances.

However, in order to give wool producers the opportunity to dispose of existing stocks still in their possession, the ban on the use of such dips will only come into effect on January 1, 1988. Sapa.

3 AGRICULTURE - SAK 4/6/87

CAT Trinit 4/6/87

3 General

Govt moves on diesel racketeers

Political Staff

TAX inspectors have uncovered a massive diesel racket which has been costing the State hundreds of millions of rands a year.

But the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, yesterday closed the loophole by consolidating certain levies built into the fuel price which he estimates will bring an extra R300 million into State coffers.

It is understood that certain diesel consumers, such as commercial fishing boats and farmers, who pay significantly less for their fuel than ordinary consumers, have been selling their supplies on the sly.

By charging only slightly more per litre than they paid for the diesel, they were making a handsome profit while the buyer was showing a handsome saving on normal prices.

Long-distance hauliers with heavy fuel bills to face, are understood to have been buying cut-price fuel under-the-lap from farmers only slightly off their normal routes.

Some fishing vessels are also believed to have been transfer-

ring diesel into road tankers and selling it ashore.

Mr Du Plessis moved in on the operation yesterday and announced that: "As a result of increasing evasion of duty, levies and sales tax on fuels, it has been decided to consolidate the levies for the Road Fund, the Central Energy Fund, the Motor Vehicle Assurance Fund (third party) and sales tax in a single fuel levy.

"The consolidated levy, which will be collected by Customs and Excise direct from the oil companies, will however have no impact on pump prices," he said in his budget speech.

"Consumers who at present enjoy a rebate on fuel will in future have to pay the full duty at the time of purchase. Provision will however be made for a refund of a portion of the duty and fuel levy to consumers who qualify.

"Additional revenue of some R300 million is estimated for the remainder of the financial year as a result of this change and of improved collection procedures."

□ The contemplated adjustments to the fuel price composi-

tion announced by the Minister of Finance would not impose additional costs on consumers, Sapa reports the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr Danie Steyn, as saying yesterday.

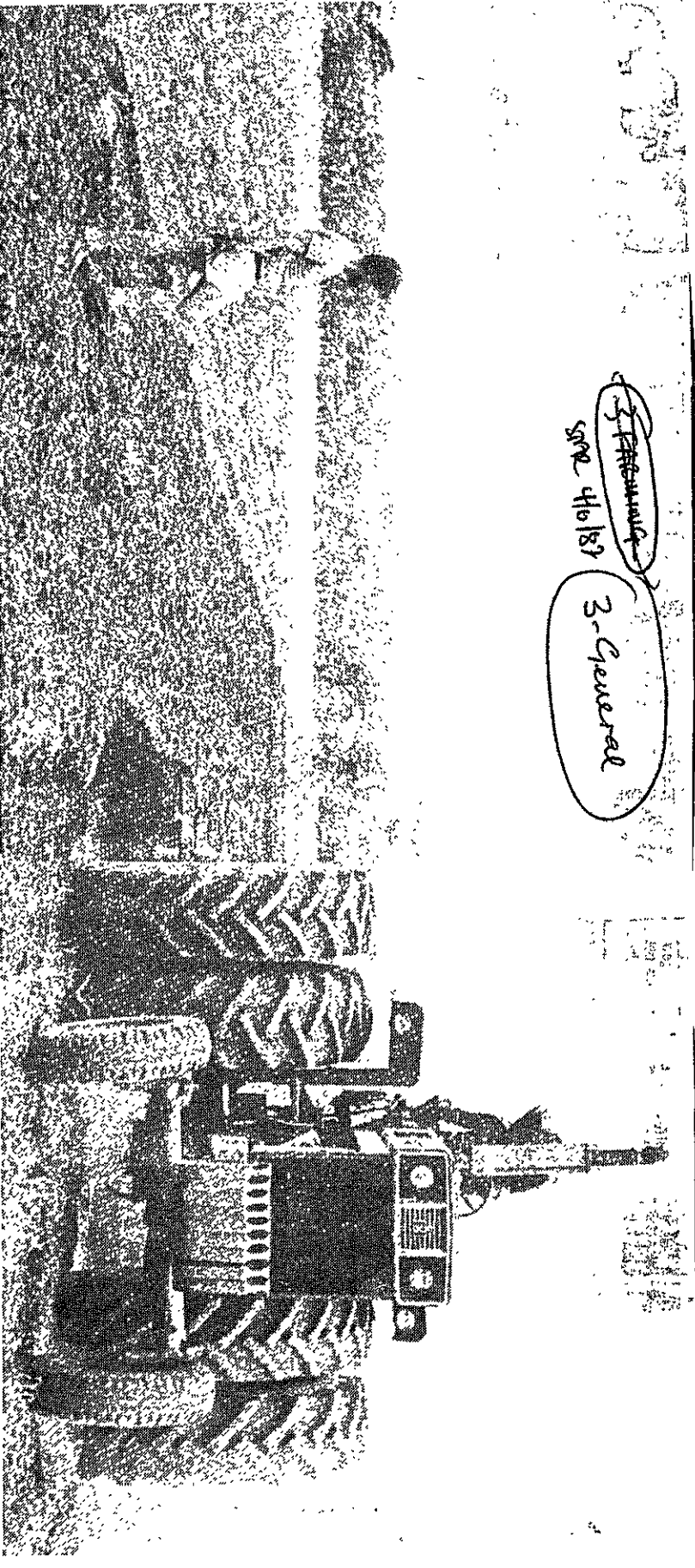
In a statement elaborating on Mr Du Plessis' announcement, Mr Steyn said the pooling would, with the amendments to the price zones, eliminate confusion and additional administration costs.

Certain amendments to various acts were however necessary and these would be implemented as soon as possible.

Details on how the pump price and other selling prices would be influenced would be announced as soon as the complete figures had been worked out and the cabinet had decided on the most practical method.

Mr Steyn said the existing crude-oil supply situation and a favourable exchange rate ratio enabled the cabinet to give consideration to an overall simplification of fuel prices as they were now, to coincide with an amended price zone structure and the already announced new transport tariffs.

3-~~General~~
SPR 4/10/83
3-General



Some farmers doubt that Government measures can help farmers unless dictatorial powers are used to enforce legislation against opportunists who are spoiling the chances of genuinely needy farmers to improve themselves.

Govt spending may push up interest rates, fear farmers

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — Top Northern Transvaal farmers have reacted positively to the Budget but some fear increased Government spending may

push up interest rates on loans. Mr Bertie van Zyl of Mooiketsi, the country's top tomato producer, doubts that Government measures can help farmers ruined by years of drought and high overheads, unless dictatorial powers are used to en-

force legislation against opportunists who are spoiling the chances of genuinely needy farmers to improve themselves. Mr van Zyl said many farmers have only themselves to blame for their plight. "They

have become like parasites, totally dependant on State aid." Leading sweetcorn producer Mr Johan de Villiers of Messina is disappointed the findings of the Margo Commission on tax are not yet known. He feels farmers could benefit

from improved tax regulations. "The R1 000 million budgeted for agriculture is not much when you consider it is only 2.5 percent of the Budget. We need more than that to save agriculture from worse decline," he said.

Friday 9/16/87

(3) General

strings

Rural education: farmer pulls the strings

UP TO 170 farm schools were closed between 1981 and 1984, according to research done by two university lecturers.

The research was conducted by Margaret Gaganakis and Mary Crewe of the department of education at Wits University. They have come up with major recommendations that could change the administrative control farmers hold over the education of black pupils.

The closure of farm schools during this period underlines the precariousness of educational provision in rural areas, where the existence of the schools relies entirely on the farmer's benevolence, the researchers say.

A pivotal figure

The two lecturers say the most crucial aspect of the power the farmer wields lies in the fact that he is legally empowered to close such a school.

The report, titled "Farm Schools in South Africa", refers to the farmer as "a pivotal figure in the the es-

tablissement and running of a school built on his property".

The report points out the farmer may declare the headmaster and teachers trespassers, evict them from his land and pull down the school buildings, if he so wishes.

Farm schools are widely dispersed and often isolated. The Department of Education and Training appoints the farmer as manager of the school and oversees administrative aspects, including interviewing prospective teachers.

Because he acts as manager with certain duties and responsibilities, nearly half a million black children's education is subject to the will of private individuals.

The farmer's responsibilities are: maintaining the school; interviewing teachers — all prospective teachers are interviewed by the farmer, who may then recommend their appointment to the DET, which has the final say; handing teachers their salary cheques; keeping school records; keeping in contact with neighbouring farmers whose workers' children attend his

Two Wits researchers say black education in the platteland is subject to the whim and abuse of the farmer, who can close down a school on his property if he so wishes. SOPHIE TEMA reports on their findings and recommendations.

school; and liaison with the district inspector on the above matters.

Gaganakis and Crewe say the most problematic aspect of farm schools is that they are on privately owned land.

The farmer's authority also extends to the widespread use of child labour, where the structural powerlessness of the farm school is such that producers can remove children from classrooms for one or two hours a day during harvesting, and teachers are able to offer little protection from this abuse, the report says.

Black schools, whether in rural or urban areas, follow the same DET syllabus, in which no distinction is made between the kinds of knowledge useful to rural and urban pupils.

This has led to concern about the lack of relevance of a syllabus that

is not sufficiently rurally oriented and thus remote from pupils' experience, needs and interests.

The report says two related factors that merit attention are the high drop-out rate and the chronic poverty that permeates all aspects of rural life.

High drop-out rate

Despite the small number of rural children who go to school, large numbers drop out, particularly in the higher standards.

The drop-out rate is reported to be climbing, and only 13% of children in the farm schools complete standard five.

And the drop-out rate climbs steadily once children are old enough to become a paying proposition on the labour market, the report adds.

Their labour — whether in the form of household chores or looking after younger children while their parents are working in the farmer's house or on his land — sometimes takes precedence over education.

The State subsidises the building of farm schools, and the farmer bears about 50% of the cost of the building and maintenance of the schools.

Because of the teachers' dependence and weak bargaining position, their accommodation is not subsidised by the State but negotiated privately between themselves and the farmer.

Because schools are often situated far from the nearest town, teachers are usually housed on the farm close to a school.

Farm schools have no State-subsidised transport system, and pupils have to walk long distances from their homes to school — in some areas, farmers provide transport at their own expense.

Gaganakis and Crewe say the following recommendations need immediate attention:

- The transfer of all farm schools to State control and the elimination of the farmer's role;
- Creating "communities" with all social benefits on the farmer's land;
- Increasing the State's responsibility while schools remain on privately owned land;
- Mobile libraries should be provided until sufficient libraries are built;
- All children who live more than 2km from school should be guaranteed transport;
- Teachers should be guaranteed DET-subsidised accommodation;
- Salaries should be paid directly to teachers and not through farm managers;
- Teachers should be in a position to attend in-service training and other courses offered by the DET and teacher-training institutions, and the farmer should not be able to prevent teachers from attending such courses;
- Teacher resource centres should be constructed to serve each circuit and
- Government-subsidised feeding schemes should be introduced to ensure minimal nutritional standards.

million third-class passengers.

apt 11/2/87 9/6/87
No loans to black farmers

36 acres

ONE coloured, 15 Indian and no black farmers were granted loans by the Land and Agricultural Bank last year, the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said yesterday in a written reply to a question from Mr Rupert Lorimer (PFP Bryanston). A total of seven coloured people, 27 Indians and no blacks had applied. The value of the loans granted had amounted to R7 800 for the coloured person and R1 650 300 for Indians.

3 General

Farm debt is now R11 bn

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The report of the Economic Advisory Council on rebuilding the agricultural industry was one of the worst indictments the government was ever presented with, Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg (CP Lichtenburg) said yesterday.

He moved a private member's motion saying that in view of the extremely critical financial position of agriculture, government measures so far had been inadequate and that the House therefore requested the government to use extraordinary measures to remedy the situation.

Dr Hartzenberg spelt out the major findings of the council, which said farmers had passed the critical debt ratio of 25,8% in 1985.

In the north-west Transvaal and Northern Cape it was already 32% and 33%.

In cash terms, the debt had grown from R3 800 million in 1980 to R11 000 million in 1985 and, if it continued at the same rate, would reach R15 700 in December.

At present 3 500 farmers faced sequestration and the government was able to save only 2 000 or 57% of these. The debts had come from the worst drought this century, inflation and interest on debts.

"Inflation and interest is responsible for 77% of the increase in debt and the government has control over these factors," he said.

He said the government would have to change its priorities and start to fight inflation because if it continued in this way it would not be worth going into production even if one received farmland for nothing in five years' time.

At the beginning of the year R320 million had been granted to pay for arrears in black rents and electricity

with a further R600 million to black local authorities for the same purpose.

"The UDF is collecting this money. I say cut them off and let the people pay and so we can get our priorities right and get food into people's stomachs. Things are bad for agriculture, farmers are ruined but we will not stop farming."

The government should not however abuse this characteristic of farmers, he said.

Mr Ralph Hardingham (NRP Mooi River) said opposition parties had been warning government of the impending crisis in agriculture for years already.

The government had woken up now, but it was a case of "too little too late", and patchwork solutions to long-term problems were not the answer.

Mr Giel Malherbe (NP Wellington) moved an amendment that the House discuss measures to assist in the re-

building of the agricultural sector. He said that although he agreed with Dr Hartzenberg that not enough was being done to help the farmer, the question "what is enough" had to be asked.

There were ways through tax rebates in which he could receive more help.

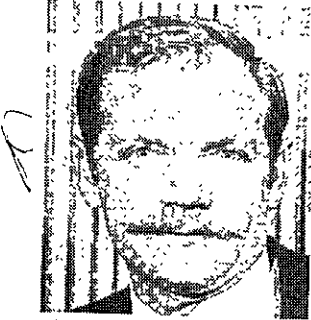
However, to ask the taxpayer to keep every farmer on the land would not be fair.

Mr P J Farell (NP Bethlehem) said that if the CP-controlled Mealie Board had had its way the present price of yellow maize would have been R155 a ton.

The government had contributed R309 million this year to the mealie industry.

"Is this the message of gratitude that the mealie-farmers of the Transvaal offer to send a bunch of CP representatives to Parliament?"

CAF Topics 16/6/87 36and



Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg

Farmers have first call on aid — Wentzel



Mr Greyling Wentzel

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The government's attitude to agriculture was that it was the country's primary producer and, as such, had the first call on aid, the Minister of Agriculture and Water Affairs, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said today.

Speaking during a private member's motion calling for the government to give extraordinary assistance to farmers, he said the Economic Advisory Committee's report had not identified any problem in agriculture which was not already known.

However, the problem was not the government's alone.

It required the assistance of those who supplied the industry as well.

In answer to a question from Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg (CP Lichtenburg), who proposed the motion, Mr Wentzel said the Land Bank was to extend the

loans from 1983.

It had already extended 7 700 loans at a cost of R680 million.

Interest subsidies were being provided at between four and six percent.

The government would also subsidize current account overdrafts with commercial banks based on a rate two percent above prime interest rates.

The major portion of the R400 million set aside in the current Budget for farmers would probably go to the summer sowing areas which had been the hardest hit, he said.

However, the test on which aid would be granted would apply to farmers in all areas and would be based on their ability to survive.

He said many factors had contributed to the present position, many of them from outside the country. — Sapa

3 General

Farming report 'worst indictment' of Govt

THE report of the economic advisory council on rebuilding the agricultural industry was one of the worst indictments presented to the Government, according to Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg (CP Lichtenburg).

He moved a private member's motion saying that in view of the extremely critical financial position of agriculture, Government measures so far had been inadequate and the House requested the Government to use extraordinary remedial measures.

Dr Hartzenberg spelt out the major findings of the EAC which said farmers had passed the critical debt ratio of 25,8 percent in 1985. In the north-western Transvaal and Northern Cape it was already 32 and 33 percent.

In cash terms the debt had grown from R3 800-million in 1980 to R11 000-million in 1985 and, if it continued at the same rate, would reach R15 700-million in December.

FACING SEQUESTRATION

At present 3 500 farmers faced sequestration and the Government was able to save only 2 000, or 57 percent, of these. "Debt* cannot be farmed away," he said.

The debts had been incurred through the worst drought this century, inflation and interest on debts.

"Inflation and interest is responsible for 77 percent of the increase in

debt and the Government has control over these factors. The report says research and extension services have fallen off and agriculture was not able to face the challenges. This report tells us nothing new," Dr Hartzenberg said.

Agricultural unions, economists and others had issued warnings since 1981 and the situation was subsequently repeatedly discussed in Parliament.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

"We warned of an imminent collapse. This report is the worst indictment this Government has ever faced because it was delivered by a body of stature. Now we are seeing some movement from the Government, but we ask whether it is this body that is bringing the movement or the results of the recent election?"

Mr Ralph Hardingham (NRP Mooi River) said opposition parties had for years warned the Government of the impending crisis in agriculture. It had awakened now, but it was a case of "too little too late" and patchwork solutions to long-term problems were not the answer.

The National Party blamed the droughts of the past six years for the problems in agriculture today, but these were not the "real root cause" of the problems, although they contributed. — Sapa.

Inefficient farmers won't receive loans

Pretoria Correspondent

Only farmers who merited assistance will benefit from Government financial aid — and farmers who do not qualify might be forced to leave agriculture.

This emerged from the Economic Advisory Council's long-awaited report on the restructuring of agriculture released in Pretoria yesterday.

The report, well received in agricultural circles, said that short-term measures to assist deserving farmers were so important that they should possibly take precedence over "other public programmes" for the time being.

The restructuring programme outlined in the report consists of:

- A short-term programme to provide financial aid and management counselling for cash-strapped farmers.

- A long-term strategy to improve management techniques and structures throughout the sector.

The report said the economic viability of a farming unit should be taken into account when financial aid was considered.

It added: "There will be farmers who, on the basis of this requirement, cannot be assisted financially any more and who will have to leave agriculture."

The council found that agriculture was "indispensable for healthy economic development" and, in addition, was "conducive to social and political order and stability".

The president of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), Mr Kobus Jooste, has praised the council's report as "a glittering evaluation of the role of agriculture in the national economy".

Mr Jooste pointed out that the recommendations contained in the report would have far-reaching implications for agriculture and that they endorsed viewpoints which the SAAU had long subscribed to.

Agricultural debt in 1985 totalled R11,1 billion. The situation was brought about by inflation, reduced bartering capacity, interest rate increases, the drought, and certain management deficiencies.

Government had already made available a substantial part of the R600 million the council had recommended for the restructuring programme, during its first year, after the report was handed to the Government late last year.

SAAU welcomes farming report

The president of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), Mr Kobus Jooste, yesterday welcomed the release of the Economic Advisory Council report on the restoration of agriculture.

The report is to serve the Government as a guideline to the function of agriculture.

Mr Jooste described it as a superb evaluation of the role of agriculture in the national economy and its problems and said that the report endorsed various viewpoints of the SAAU.

"It is reassuring that the council views agriculture as an indispensable sector of the economy and sees a healthy agricultural sector as essential for economic development and conducive to social and political order and stability," he said.

SPAL - 3 FACM AUG - 16/6/87

(c) The cost of the secondment of the officials amounted to R79 432 480 for the period 1 April 1986 to 31 March 1987.

(2) No, a recent survey indicated that 952 of the posts concerned were vacant on 31 March 1987.

(3) Yes, should the need arise and the Department of Development Aid be requested accordingly, more officials will be seconded.

Schedule
Post in occupation classes (various gradings) occupied by allocated officials in the self-governing territories

Number of officials in each of the occupational classes seconded to the self-governing territories as indicated

	Kwazulu Lebowa	Kwa-Ndebele	Kangwane	Gazankulu	Owaqwa
Administration Officer	64	4	14	2	5
Administration Clerk	20	4	25	2	1
Artisan Staff	114	115	26	16	15
Pharmacist	22	1	3	4	—
Occupational Therapist	5	1	—	4	1
Architect	1	—	—	—	—
Forester	5	7	4	—	—
Forestry Foreman	—	—	2	—	—
Quantity Surveyor	1	—	—	1	—
Director: Health Services	1	—	—	1	—
Efficiency Officer	1	—	—	—	—
Physiotherapist	5	1	1	4	—
Health Inspector	—	—	—	—	—
Housekeeper	1	—	—	—	—
Engineer	22	6	4	3	1
Clinical Psychologist	—	1	—	—	—
CS Educator	225	139	112	184	112
Agricultural Officer	8	21	4	7	1
Land Surveyor	9	2	—	—	—
Mortuary Attendant	1	—	—	—	—
Magistrate	34	6	3	3	3
Medical Officer	189	38	25	36	4
Medical Superintendent	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Specialist	20	10	3	4	1
Medical Technologist	59	10	6	14	1
Medical Intern	9	—	1	1	—
Social Worker	39	1	3	9	—
Nature Conservator	—	—	1	—	—
Industrial Technician	5	9	6	4	1
Personnel Officer	18	8	3	—	1
Personal Secretary	—	1	—	—	—
Police Functional Staff	—	1	1	—	1
	10	16	9	6	6

HQA

	Kwazulu Lebowa	Kwa-Ndebele	Kangwane	Gazankulu	Owaqwa
Programmer	4	—	—	1	1
Project Superintendent	—	1	—	—	—
Radio-grapher	10	1	3	1	—
Accountant	15	2	2	1	3
Legal Adviser	—	1	—	1	—
Secretary (Head of Department)	6	6	7	6	5
Security Officer	—	—	—	—	—
Liaison Officer	—	—	—	—	—
Regional Magistrate	—	—	—	—	—
Dentist	10	3	2	1	1
Dental Technician	1	—	—	—	—
Typist/Data Typist	2	—	—	—	—
Professional Officer	29	23	11	4	1
Veterinarian	4	5	—	—	—
Animal Health Officer	3	1	1	1	—
Traffic Inspector	—	2	—	—	—
Nursing Staff	12	—	1	3	1
Foreman	13	18	1	—	—
Laundry Supervisor	1	1	—	—	—
Works Inspector	—	9	3	—	3
Total	998	475	297	290	329
					169

Own Affairs: 16/6/87
Agricultural colleges

15. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

How many Black students (a) applied for admission to and (b) were enrolled at each specified agricultural college under the control of his Department in 1986?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

(a) Eisenburg	2
Glen	8
Porche-strroom	27
Cedara	59
Grootfontein	52

- (1) Whether his Department is responsible for hospital schools; if so, (a) how many hospital schools were operating in the Cape Province as at 31 January 1987, (b) what was the name of each hospital where such schools were operating, (c) when was each school established and (d) what was the staff complement at each school;
- (2) whether any of these schools have been notified that they are to be closed; if so, (a) which schools, (b) on what dates (i) were they so notified and (ii) are they to be closed and (c) why are they to be closed;
- (3) whether his Department has issued any instructions regarding the position of the staff at these schools; if so, what instructions;
- (4) whether his Department has given any consideration to alternative ways of continuing these schools; if not, why not; if so,

25. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

Hospital schools

16/6/87

Howard

HQA

HELOISE HENNING

A NEW wave of sequestrations of farmers in the western grain regions is expected in the next six months in the wake of the drop in the world maize price and the drought.

Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said as many as 3 500 faced bankruptcy. But government's special R400m aid package could save between 2 000 and 2 500.

Government has established a special day and night emergency office to handle calls from farmers requesting assistance. Officials from other departments have been seconded to the Directorate for Agricultural Credit to deal

B/Daw (3)
1/16/8
More farmers
to go under

with the rush.

Commercial bank officials said sequestrations were due to start as soon as cash flow figures for recent crops were known. The commercial sector's share of agricultural credit now outstrips Land Bank loans by R1bn.

The figures for insolvencies since July last year in the agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing sectors has been put at only 41.

crowding and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

	(a)(i)	(ii)
Houses		Single Quarters including hostels erected by employers
(aa) Langa.....	11 252	9 179 beds
(bb) Nyanga.....	7 420	8 116 beds
New Crossroads.....	6 924	—
(cc) Guguletu.....	30 084	9 277 beds

(b) December 1986.

Langa/Nyanga/Guguletu: housing

31. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) How many new family housing units were provided in (a) Langa, (b) Nyanga and (c) Guguletu in 1986;
- (2) how many of these units in each township were converted from hostel units?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

- (1) (a) 48.
(b) and (c) None.
(2) None.

Farm Schools

35. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- How many farm schools for Blacks were (a) established and (b) closed in each specified departmental region during the latest specified year for which information is available?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

HoA

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) Region	Enrolment
Northern Transvaal.....	58 617
Highveld.....	48 543
Johannesburg.....	27 484
Orange-Vaal.....	43 664
Orange-Free State.....	42 281
Natal.....	38 371
Cape.....	53 271
Sub-total.....	312 231
Owagwa.....	11 730
Lebowa.....	94 676
Gazankulu.....	42 732
KwaZulu.....	218 918
KaNgwane.....	25 599
KwaNdebele.....	15 118
Sub-total.....	408 773
(b) 721 004.	

H F Verwoerd Building: parking

61. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Public Works:

- (1) (a) How many parking bays are there in the (i) H F Verwoerd Building garage and (ii) basement parking area beneath Stalplein, (b) how many of these parking bays are reserved for (i) Ministers, (ii) Deputy Ministers, (iii) other members of Parliament, (iv) persons in the employ of Parliament, (v) public servants and (vi) other specified persons or categories of persons, (c) in which section of the abovementioned building and parking area is each of these reserved bays situated and (d) how many (i) Ministers, (ii) Deputy Ministers, (iii) members of Parliament, (iv) persons in the employ of Parliament, (v) public servants and (vi) other specified persons or categories of persons are

entitled to park in this garage and parking area;

- (2) whether any members of the Parliamentary press gallery have official parking discs permitting them to park in the H F Verwoerd Building garage; if so, (a) what are their names, (b) which newspapers do they represent and (c) who took the decision to permit them to park in this garage or parking area?

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

- (1) (a) (i) 112.
(ii) 350.
(b) (i) 29.
(ii) 16.
(iii) 101.
(iv) 2.
(v) 75.
(vi) 14, (6 bays for the British Embassy, 6 bays for the President's Council, 1 bay for the company who maintains the lifts and 1 bay for the President of the SA Reserve Bank).
- (c) (i) In respect of (b) (i)—28 bays on the A-level of the H F Verwoerd Building garage and 1 bay on the A-level of the Stalplein parking garage;
(ii) in respect of (b) (ii)—10 bays on the A-level of the H F Verwoerd Building garage and 6 bays on the A-level of the Stalplein parking garage;
(iii) in respect of (b) (iii)—8 bays on the A-level of the H F Verwoerd Building garage; 1 bay on the B-level of the H F Verwoerd Building garage; 3 bays on the A-level of Stalplein parking garage and 89

17/6/87

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HoA

Fires sweep across 15 farms

The Argus Correspondent

AR645 18/6/87 36am

DURBAN. — Hundreds of thousands of rands damage has been caused by three veld fires which swept across at least 15 farms in the Vryheid area.

A spokesman said the fires yesterday were fanned by gale-force winds.

More than 500 firefighters and the municipal fire brigade fought alongside the farmers, but at 10pm one of the fires to the south of Vryheid was still burning.

Traffic authorities said the town was smothered with smoke at 2 pm.

Vehicles were stopped on the Vryheid/Dundee road because of poor visibility.

The first fire started in the Scheeper's Nek area, on Hollandia farm, belonging to Mr Danie Prinsloo, shortly before noon.

Fanned by strong winds, it jumped the Vryheid-Dundee road and the railway line, crossed five farms and destroyed mealie fields.

It was brought under control on the western bank of the Klipfontein Dam about 7pm.

The second fire started in the Kambula area, in the foothills of the Skurweberg.

It also scorched five farms, causing extensive damage to plantations and grazing.

The third fire started about 2pm on the farm of Mr A Koch and moved across four other farms, destroying workers' huts and hectares of plantations.

WEATHER TODAY

3 General
W. J. Maré
19-25/6/87

IN THE HOUSE

Plant the seeds, reap the votes

RAIN was sluicing over Cape Town this week as parliament listened to Minister of Agriculture Greyling Wentzel explaining why drought-hit farmers had the first call on help from the government.

The curious reasoning that farmers had priority because they were the country's primary producers highlights government priorities. I hold no brief against farmers, but accusations of feather-bedding which were once directed by urban white taxpayers against government favours for the agricultural sector could have an even more dangerous implication now, when the country's biggest trade union organisation finds it necessary to conduct a living wage campaign and tensions are at flashpoint.

A fairer-minded administration might consider the desperate housing needs of other-than-whites as worthy of being entitled to that first call.

Perhaps government cannot afford to write off the close on R300-million owed in rent in black townships because of the massive help it is giving to white farmers, not to mention R620-million in "hidden spending" (the words are Harry Schwarz's) on the TBVC countries, which have been told to take out loans guaranteed by the South African government, to cover their budgetary shortfalls which South Africa could not meet with direct aid.

By coincidence, many of the needy farmers happen to be in the Northern and Western Transvaal, where the Conservative Party has its stronghold and where Wentzel himself lost his seat.

And government no doubt has one eye on the next delimitation. The Conservative Party now controls the entire Transvaal platteland and has a wedge in the Witwatersrand.

A parliamentary committee has just been appointed to look into the way parliamentary seats are to be allocated in the next delimitation. The crunch here is that the Transvaal has 76 seats and the Cape 56, but the Transvaal has almost twice as many voters. If a countrywide quota of 18 000 voters for each seat were maintained, Transvaal would have 87 MPs and the Cape 49. Which is no doubt giving ministers Chris Heunis and F W de Klerk something to think about, not to mention an expectant CP leader, Andries Treurnicht.

Wentzel was speaking in a private member's motion calling for the government to rethink the ways it is giving assistance to farmers.

The motion was put by the Progressive Federal Party's Rupert Lorimer, whose theme was that the farming problem could not be solved by throwing money at it.

And throwing money at it is precisely what the government is doing. The Land Bank had already extended 7 700 loans at a cost of R680-million, said Wentzel, and R400-million had been set aside in the current budget for farmers.

Dr Ferdal Hartzenburg of the CP hit the nail on the head when he said that 77 per cent of the increase in farmers' debts had been incurred through inflation and interest on debts "and the government has control over these factors".

The report of the economic advisory council on rebuilding the agricultural industry was one of the worst indictments of government policy ever presented, he said.

This report disclosed that in cash terms farmer's debt had grown from R3 800-million in 1980 to R11 000-million in 1985 and would reach R15 700-million by December this year.

At present 3 500 farmers face sequestration and the government was able to save only 2 000 of them.

Why? Once again, government has made a political choice and damn the consequences.

JEAN LE MAY

Farmers want voice on new regional body

3 FPR 11/11/87
WR
22/6/87

By BESSIE BOUWER

FARMERS in the Eastern Cape are fighting for their democratic rights — they want permanent representation on the Algoa Regional Services Council (ARSC).

They want the Regional Services Councils Act amended so that they too can have a voice on this controversial new body, Mr Rory Moore, manager of the East Cape Agricultural Union (ECAU), said this week.

According to the ARSC chairman, Mr James Kleynhans, the rural areas would be represented temporarily in each magisterial district by two members of the Dias Divisional Council (DCC).

The DCC becomes defunct on July 1 and its functions and staff will be taken over by the ARSC.

Under the new system the farmers' interests will be in the hands of a 10-man committee representing the magisterial districts of Port Elizabeth, Alexandria, Bathurst, Albany and Hankey.

This temporary committee will make recommendations to the ARSC.

Asked whether the farmers would have any voting power on the ARSC, Mr Kleynhans said the matter had not yet been finalised.

Nor could he give any definite answers about any form of permanent representation.

"This is in the hands of the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning," he said.

Despite lack of representation, farmers will not be exempt from paying RSC levies — a factor which has given rise to much dissatisfaction.

Mr Moore said farmers felt that they would use fewer services than urban areas and therefore should not have to pay the same rate of levies as applied in towns.

"Farmers are complaining that any further financial levies will be a heavy burden," he said.

The matter had been taken up with the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU), which was now negotiating

with Constitutional Development and Planning to have the Act amended so that farmers would obtain representation on RSCs.

Mr Kleynhans yesterday assured farmers that they would eventually get permanent representation.

"I feel strongly about all communities being represented and the farmers need have no fears about not having their say."

The SAAU had asked all the provincial agricultural unions to comment on the draft legislation. Their comments would then be handed to the Administrator for final approval, he added.

Mr Johann Erasmus, chairman of the ECAU *ad hoc* committee dealing with RSC issues, said it was disturbing that up till now the agricultural community had no been provided for on the ARSC.

However, he welcomed the temporary representation by 10 divisional councillors until permanent representation on a proper basis had been finalised.

He said farmers were not disturbed by the present

RSC levies but were concerned about possible high levies in the future when the RSCs needed money to further their aims.

The *ad hoc* committee would meet next week to finalise comments on the draft legislation, he added.

He did not know how they would eventually exercise their rights.

Mr Kleynhans said farmers' complaints about the payment of RSC levies were not justified.

"People think this is an extra burden, but they don't realise that the bulk of the money will come from the Government and the large metropolitan companies."

It was expected that farmers would pay less under the new ARSC levy system than they had to the Dias DC, he said.

The Deputy Constitutional Development and Planning Minister, Mr Piet Badenhorst, was expected in PE next week to discuss the future of the DC and it was hoped that he would shed more light on the farmers' means of representation, said Mr Kleynhans.

Farmers now owe R220 000 apiece

Farm debt spirals to new heights

22/6/87
General
(3/3/Day)

SA's 60 000 farmers now owe an average of R220 000 each, agricultural authorities say. This is the result of four successive droughts, inflation and high interest rates which have financially crippled hundreds of farmers beyond the point of recovery.

At the start of the year total farm debt was estimated to have been in excess of R13bn and still rising, although some authorities claimed at a slower rate than before.

Volkskas agricultural economist Andre Louw said an unknown, but substantial, number of farmers were virtually debt free. "But most, among them efficient farmers battered by conditions beyond their control, are deep in debt."

Asked what pressure banks were putting on farmers, Louw said so far there was no large scale calling up of loans.

Any bank action depended on the profitability of farming in the immediate future and on negotiations with government on how the recently announced R400m loan to farmers would be used.

Banks were waiting for the cash flow results of farmers following the sale of the crops at the end of the season. They would know within the next few months

GERALD REILLY and
HELOISE HENNING

if individual farmers were solvent.

Agriculture rehabilitation committee secretary Mike Lamont said the R400m aid package could only help Category 2 and 3 farmers. Category 1 farmers, who had greater debt capacity, were generally clients of commercial banks and small amounts of government aid would not be of much value to them.

Government's latest agricultural statistics showed farmers were indebted to commercial banks for R3,313bn, to the Land Bank for R2,338bn and to co-operatives for R2,754bn.

In the past few years, many farmers made use of commercial bank credit and financial institution loans because their operations were considered high risk by the Land Bank.

Farmers will now, through the R400m aid package, be applying to the Agriculture Credit Board for settlement of debts.

Under the plan, a farmer will have to reduce his assets to one economic unit. If he owns only one unit his debt will be paid off. He might be put off the land but not sequestered.

cations by members of foreign media to visit South Africa have been refused; if so, (a) how many, (b) what are the names of the persons concerned, (c) what media services did each represent, (d) what was the reason for refusing their applications in each case and (e) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

Yes.

- (a) 116.
 (b), (c) and (d) It is not considered expedient to disclose information of this nature, as an application for a visa is a personal matter between the applicant and the Department of Home Affairs.

(c) From 1 January 1987 till 31 May 1987.

Maintenance and Promotion of Competition Act

179. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

- (1) Whether any prosecutions in terms of the provisions of the Maintenance and Promotion of Competition Act, No 96 of 1979, were instituted during the latest specified period of five years for which information is available; if so, (a) how many, (b) against whom, and (c) what were the findings, in respect of each of these years;
- (2) whether any convictions have been obtained in this connection; if so, what are the relevant particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:

- (1) No. (a), (b) and (c) Fall away.
 (2) Falls away

Nasella trichotoma

188. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (a) What was the approximate area of land in the Republic infested by nasella trichotoma at the end of 1986 and (b) (i) what amount was spent by his Department in 1986 in combating the spread of this weed and (ii) how many hectares were cleared in that year?

H.O.A.

average income per day for the concessionary;

- (3) whether a projection has been made to determine what it will cost the State to operate the toll gate itself; if not, why not; if so, what will be the average cost per day to the State?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) R75 012 278,10.
 (b) R69 012 278,10 of the total cost has been financed interest free out of the National Road Fund (NRF) and the other R6 million out of capital market loans. The interest per annum on the capital market loans is R870 136,84.

(2) (a) (i) R1 343 765,72.

(ii) The full amount.

(b) R1 501,27.

(3) Yes. R1 432,07.

The figures supplied in (2) and (3) above are in respect of the 1986/97 financial year. The concessionaire must deposit all toll collected on a daily basis in the NRF, a statutory fund which is controlled by the National Transport Commission (NTC) in terms of the National Roads Act, 1971, and is in turn compensated on a monthly basis by the NTC in accordance with a tendered amount.

Greater-Cape Town area

201. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) (a) What is the estimated number of (i) Black, (ii) Coloured, (iii) Indian and (iv) White persons who reside in the Greater Cape Town area and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) (a) what is the estimated number of Black persons residing in each specified Black township in the Greater Cape Town area and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

- (1) (a) (i) 620 462.

H.O.A.

(ii), (iii) and (iv). These questions should be referred to the Minister of Home Affairs.

(b) 30 September 1986.

- (2) (a) Old Cross Roads, 90 000
 New Cross Roads, 17 310
 Langa, 72 533
 Nyanga, 35 710
 Guguletu, 249 135
 Khayelitsha, 96 909
 Site 'C', 38 868
 KTC, 20 000

(b) 30 September 1986.

Dairy Board

204. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether the Dairy Board is accumulating a building fund; if so, (a) why and (b) what amount was in this fund as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(2) whether the Dairy Board intends building premises for its own occupation; if so, (a) why and (b) (i) what premises are currently occupied by the Dairy Board and (ii) who owns these premises?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes.

(a) to provide for improvement and alterations to existing buildings and for possible extensions in future;

(b) R1,2 million on 28 February 1987;

(2) No;

(a) falls away;

(b) (i) Head Office, Arcadia, Pretoria, a small office building in Bellville and two old houses which were renovated and converted into offices in Bloemfontein and Pietermaritzburg; (iii) the Dairy Board.

Dairy Board

205. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether any staff members of the Dairy

cations by members of foreign media to visit South Africa have been refused; if so, (a) how many, (b) what are the names of the persons concerned, (c) what media services did each represent, (d) what was the reason for refusing their applications in each case and (e) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

Yes

- (a) 116.
- (b), (c) and (d) It is not considered expedient to disclose information of this nature, as an application for a visa is a personal matter between the applicant and the Department of Home Affairs.

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- (2) whether any convictions have been obtained in this connection; if so, what are the relevant particulars thereof?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:

- (1) No. (a), (b) and (c) Fall away.
- (2) Falls away

Nasella trichotoma

188. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (a) What was the approximate area of land in the Republic infested by nasella trichotoma at the end of 1986 and (b) (i) what amount was spent by his Department in 1986 in combating the spread of this weed and (ii) how many hectares were cleared in that year?

H.O.A.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (a) 87 368 ha on 31 March 1987. It is estimated that the infestation has been brought under control on 80 per cent of this area.
- (b) (i) R657 900.
(ii) 1 064 ha.

KwaNdebele: independence

189. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether the Government of KwaNdebele has requested that this national state be granted independence; if so, (a) on what date, (b) in what manner was this request made and (c) what was the response of the South African Government to this request?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

Yes

- (a) 9 June 1987.
- (b) During a meeting between the State President and members of the RSA Cabinet and the Chief Minister and members of his Cabinet.
- (c) The member's attention is drawn to the press release issued by the Bureau for Information on behalf of the State President after the discussions on 9 June 1987.

Tsitsikamma toll road

192. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:—

- (1) (a) At what total cost was the Tsitsikamma toll road constructed and (b) what is the interest per annum on this amount;
- (2) (a) (i) what was the total income collected from motorists in 1986 by the concessionary of the toll gate and (ii) what amount of this income was paid over to the State and (b) what was the

average income per day for the concessionary;

- (3) whether a projection has been made to determine what it will cost the State to operate the toll gate itself; if not, why not; if so, what will be the average cost per day to the State?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) R75 012 278.10.
(b) R69 012 278.10 of the total cost has been financed interest free out of the National Road Fund (NRF) and the other R6 million out of capital market loans. The interest per annum on the capital market loans is R870 136.84.

(2) (a) (i) R1 343 765.72.

(ii) The full amount.

(b) R1 501.27.

(3) Yes. R1 432.07.

The figures supplied in (2) and (3) above are in respect of the 1986/87 financial year. The concessionaire must deposit all toll collected on a daily basis in the NRF, a statutory fund which is controlled by the National Transport Commission (NTC) in terms of the National Roads Act, 1971, and is in turn compensated on a monthly basis by the NTC in accordance with a tendered amount.

Greater Cape Town area

201. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) (a) What is the estimated number of (i) Black, (ii) Coloured, (iii) Indian and (iv) White persons who reside in the Greater Cape Town area and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;
- (2) (a) what is the estimated number of Black persons residing in each specified Black township in the Greater Cape Town area and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) (a) (i) 620 462.

(ii), (iii) and (iv). These questions should be referred to the Minister of Home Affairs.

(b) 30 September 1986.

- (2) (a) Old Cross Roads, 90 000
New Cross Roads, 17 310
Langa, 72 533
Nyanga, 35 710
Guguletu, 249 135
Khayelitsha, 96 909
Site 'C', 38 868
KTC, 20 000

(b) 30 September 1986.

Dairy Board

204. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether the Dairy Board is accumulating a building fund; if so, (a) why and (b) what amount was in this fund as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) whether the Dairy Board intends building premises for its own occupation; if so, (a) why and (b) (i) what premises are currently occupied by the Dairy Board and (ii) who owns these premises?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes.

- (a) to provide for improvement and alterations to existing buildings and for possible extensions in future;
- (b) R1.2 million on 28 February 1987;

(2) No;

- (a) falls away;
- (b) (i) Head Office, Arcadia, Pretoria, a small office building in Bellville and two old houses which were renovated and converted into offices in Bloemfontein and Pietermaritzburg; (iii) the Dairy Board.

Dairy Board

205. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether any staff members of the Dairy

Board receive motor-car loans; if so, (a) how many, (b) what position is held by each of these persons, (c) what is the model and year of manufacture of the motor-cars purchased by each of these persons with these loans, (d) what was the (i) original amount of the loan granted to each and (ii) interest rate applicable in respect of each loan and (e) what allowance, in rand, does

each staff member receive in respect of expenses in connection with these motor-cars?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Yes—Staff members who have to use their private cars on official duty.

- (a) 15.

(b)	(c)	(d) (i)
Area Manager	1978 Mercedes Benz 200	R4 005,00
Chief: Computer Services	1982 Volkswagen Passat	R9 752,00
Assistant Area Manager	1983 Toyota Cressida	R10 000,00
Senior Marketing Officer	1983 Mazda	R10 000,00
Chief: Home Economist (Schools)	1983 Mercedes Benz 200	R12 000,00
Chief: Data Processor	1983 Suzuki Hard Top	R5 701,00
Chief: Personnel	1983 Mercedes Benz 200	R13 916,00
Area Manager	1985 Toyota Cressida	R14 101,92
Senior Accountant	1985 Toyota Cressida	R12 374,04
Legal Officer	1983 Volkswagen Passat	R8 000,92
Technical Officer	1984 Toyota Corolla	R8 000,00
Chief Accountant	1983 BMW 728	R17 240,00
Area Manager	1982 Audi 100	R6 400,00
Senior Inspector	1978 Fiat Station Wagon	R4 732,00
Assistant Area Manager	1982 Volkswagen Golf	R2 367,68

- (d) (ii) 8 per cent.

(e) None. The staff members are however remunerated at Public Service rates for the distance travelled on official duty.

Foreign media representatives

211. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (1) How many applications for (a) new, and (b) the renewal of, visas were received from foreign media representatives during the period 1 July 1986 to 31 May 1987;
- (2) how many such applications (a) had been (i) granted and (ii) refused and (b) were pending as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (3) what is the average time taken before such applications are decided upon?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) 698, but 117 applicants withdrew their applications.
- (b) 150.

- (2) (a) (i) 445.

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 24/6/87
 [Signature]

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 24/6/87
 [Signature]

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

Yes.

	(a)	(b)
Cape Town	12	1
Wynberg	5	None
Simon's Town	1	None

- (c) 31-May-1987

Maize crop

216. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) (a) What is the latest estimate in respect of the anticipated maize crop for the 1986-87 year and (b) on what date was this estimate made;
- (2) what estimated quantity of this crop will be required for (a) local consumption and (b) export?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) (a) 7.82 million tons.
- (b) 30 April 1987.
- (2) (a) Approximately 6 million tons.
- (b) Approximately 1.8 million tons will be available for export.

Handwritten notes:
 24/6/87
 [Signature]

WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 1987

† Indicates translated version. 24/6/87

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Black spots

101. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) (a) How many Black spots were removed in each (i) magisterial district and (ii) province since the beginning of 1986 up to the latest specified date for which figures are available, (b) what was the (i) name and (ii) population of each such Black spot and (c) where were the inhabitants of each such spot resettled;
- (2) what was the total (a) amount paid out in compensation for, and (b) cost of removing, each of these Black spots in 1986?

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 24/6/87
 [Signature]

- (1) Yes.
- (a) There is no suitable demolition area for such a large amount of ammunition in the Eastern Cape.
- (b) 13 August 1986.
- (c) (i) and (ii) 776 2.5 inch projectiles and an amount of Martini-Henry cartridges from which the lead bullets had apparently been removed prior to it having been buried initially, possibly during the colonial period.
- (d) (i) 17 nautical miles.
- (ii) 28.1 nautical miles.

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (2) whether the Defence Force have taken any measures to ensure that the ammunition so dumped will not be caught in fishermen's nets; if so, what measures; if not, (a) why not and (b) what action will be taken in the event of this happening?

215. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether the South African Defence Force recently dumped any ammunition close to Algoa Bay; if so, (a) why, (b) when, (c) what (i) type and (ii) quantity of ammunition and (d) at what distance from (i) Bird Island and (ii) the entrance to Port Elizabeth Harbour was this ammunition dumped;
- (2) whether the Defence Force have taken any measures to ensure that the ammunition so dumped will not be caught in fishermen's nets; if so, what measures; if not, (a) why not and (b) what action will be taken in the event of this happening?

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H.O.A.

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 24/6/87
 [Signature]

- (3) 4 weeks.

Cape Town/Wynberg/Simon's Town: open permits

213. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether the community services branch of the Cape Provincial Administration has received any applications for open permits in terms of the Group Areas Act, No 36 of 1966, in respect of the Cape Town, Wynberg and Simon's Town municipal areas; if so, (a) how many in each case, (b) how many such applications have been approved in respect of each of these areas and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

Handwritten notes and signatures:
 24/6/87
 [Signature]

H.O.A.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
 24/6/87
 [Signature]

lant overcrowding

Cape Times 23/6/67

Coloured farmers

3 General

THE Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, Mr David Curry, said yesterday coloured farmers were being discriminated against because they had only been granted R20 million to keep their industry going, while their white counterparts received R600 million.

Sunflower seed: oil

233. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) What quantities of sunflower seed for oil extraction purposes were on hand as at the latest specified date for which figures are available;
- (2) whether consideration is being given to importing sunflower seed for national consumption; if not, why not; if so.
- (3) whether any sunflower seed will be imported for this purpose: if so, (a) when, (b) in what quantities, (c) from what countries and (d) at what price?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) 301 599 tons on 31 May 1987.
- (2) and (3) No: should importation become necessary, it would be cheaper to import oil.

(2) of 26/6/87
Locust control

234. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What amount was spent on locust control during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

R20 451 326.00 until 31 May 1987.

Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act

235. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether any persons were prosecuted for contravening the provisions of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983, during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available; if so, (a) how many and (b) (i) for what contraventions and (ii) what were the fines in each case?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- Yes.
(a) 11, until 31 May 1987;

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Embattled traders drift away

Farming debt raises spectre of ghost towns

(3) general
8/Day 29/6/87

AS MANY as 80 towns and villages could turn into ghost towns if banks and other major creditors foreclose on the immense debts of the farming community.

Conservative estimates put farm debt at about R13,5bn. It is feared the R400m government contribution for rehabilitation of deserving farmers, plus contributions by the Land Bank, may be too little, too late to save farm-dependent towns and dorps in the summer rainfall areas.

Summer crops have been below normal for the sixth consecutive year. To enable thousands of farmers to get production credits before the planting season in October, the state-aid package cannot be delayed. But the process is slow.

It has to go through local credit committees at which all creditors discuss

HELOISE HENNING

terms of settlement or the option of sequestration.

Traders who have already waited for years for their accounts to be paid cannot be sure of getting their money.

Tired of waiting, some shopkeepers have already cut their losses and drifted away.

In Lichtenburg, for example, 70 business properties have been vacated, leaving 8 000m² unoccupied in the CBD. However, the town has some decentralisation status: Eskom recently opened a regional headquarters there; a Defence Force unit and police unrest unit were stationed in the town and staff of the recently acquired Koster co-operative have

● To Page 2



Ghost-town spectre looms

8/Day 29/6/87 (3) general

filled up 200 of the 300 houses left empty since the drought began.

Northern Transvaal Agricultural Union regional representative Andries Bruwer says the future of 72% of the 102 Transvaal towns and dorps and 80% of those under regional committees are farm-dependent.

Bethal, Lichtenburg and Nylstroom, which house the head offices of the regional co-operatives, owe their entire infrastructure to agriculture.

Townfolk and farming spokesmen were reticent when quizzed about prospects because of the strategic and security problems that could arise from the decay of rural communities.

Head of Agricultural Economics at University of Pretoria, Professor Jan Groenewald, said most farmers had "bought themselves into bankruptcy".

They had mechanised at great expense. Tax-deductions on the acquisition of implements gave them the incentive to buy costly machinery on HP, despite cash-flow problems. Inflation pushed up the price of equipment and high interest rates left farmers incapable of meeting

their current liabilities from production income.

Groenewald said these difficulties appeared as early as 1979 but that no one took any notice. Inflation and random setbacks caused markets to collapse.

"As long as inflation remains above 10% the agricultural sector will continue to decline and we will increasingly become a banana republic," he said.

The larger co-ops were in trouble. Their balance sheets reflected "diverse creditors" and many of them were close to bankruptcy.

Northern Transvaal Co-operative GM Mias Nieuwoudt said 1 000 farmers in the Nylstroom area owed a total of R200m.

The co-op's senior deputy manager Lem Burger said that despite severe cuts in input costs, remaining debt with the co-op was R300m.

Bruwer said: "We don't want to talk politics but inflation is the biggest cause of farmers' problems, not the drought. And it is the government which is responsible for the rate of inflation."

← ● From Page 1

Irrigation farmers hit at aid plan

HELOISE HENNING

IRRIGATION farmers in the north-western Transvaal have accused government of crisis-managing agriculture, instead of planning for real development.

Makopa Farmers' Association chairman Ben van Rensburg said: "We ask them to improve our development capacity rather than pay off our debt. If we can develop, we'll be in a position to pay back our own debt."

While farmers admit the consolidation of their debt by the Land Bank and Agriculture Credit Board has helped keep them on the land, they would rather receive cash which could be invested in food processing industries.

The consolidations, of which the latest R400m package is for farmers in the grain-growing, summer rainfall regions, enable farmers to pay back their debts over a longer period.

Van Rensburg said the 60-odd farmers settled on the last stretch of the Crocodile River, near Thabazimbi, would prefer the capital to construct a food processing plant in nearby Bophuthatswana.

A memorandum to this effect was handed to Senior Deputy Reserve Bank Governor Japie Jacobs. In his capacity as chairman of the agriculture rehabilitation committee, Jacobs visited eight drought-stricken regions last week.

Handwritten notes:
Ben van Rensburg
Chairman of Makopa Farmers' Association

Working well
99

Ghost towns to plague platteland?

CMT Times 29/6/87

34

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — As many as 80 towns and villages could turn into ghost towns if banks and other major creditors foreclose on the immense debts of the farming community.

Conservative estimates put farm debt at about R13,5 billion. It is feared that the R400-million government contribution for rehabilitation of deserving farmers, plus contributions by the Land Bank, may be too little, too late to save farm-dependent towns and dorps in the summer-rainfall areas.

Summer crops have been below normal for the sixth consecutive year. To enable thousands of farmers to get production credits before the planting season in October, the State-aid package cannot be delayed. But the process is slow.

It has to go through local credit committees at which all creditors discuss terms of settlement or the option of sequestration.

A positive agreement is then referred to the Agriculture Credit Board before being submitted to the farmer who has the right to accept or reject the settlement proposals.

The settlement involves an initial cash distribution of cents in the rand; the balance becomes a long-term debt. It means farmers are to sell off their assets to be left with only one economic unit.

In the event of sequestration the preferred creditors, the co-ops, the Land Bank and, perhaps, the commercial banks, will have priority in any cash distribution.

Other creditors will have to wait in the queue for what might be a few cents in the rand.

Traders who have already waited for years for their accounts to be paid cannot be sure of getting their money.

Tired of waiting, some shopkeepers have already cut their losses and drifted away.

In Lichtenburg, for example, 70 business properties have been vacated, leaving 8 000m² unoccupied in the CBD. However, the town has some decentralization status: Escom recently opened a regional headquarters there; a Defence Force unit and police unrest unit were stationed in the town and staff of the recently acquired Koster co-operative have filled up 200 of the 300 houses left empty since the drought began.

Townfolk reticent

Northern Transvaal Agricultural Union regional representative Mr Andries Bruwer says the future of 72% of the 102 Transvaal towns and dorps and 80% of those under regional committees are farm-dependent.

Bethal, Lichtenburg and Nylstroom, which house the head offices of the regional co-operatives, owe their entire infrastructure to agriculture.

Townfolk and farming spokesmen were reticent when quizzed about prospects because of the strategic and security problems that could arise from the decay of rural communities.

The reasons for the crisis do not have sudden origins. The drought was not con-

sidered to be the primary reason for the farmers' problems but it had hastened the coming of the crunch.

The head of Agricultural Economics at the University of Pretoria, Professor Jan Groenewald, said most farmers had "bought themselves into bankruptcy".

They had mechanized at great expense. Tax-deductions on the acquisition of implements gave them the incentive to buy costly machinery on HP, in spite of cash-flow problems. Inflation pushed up the price of equipment and high interest rates left farmers incapable of meeting their current liabilities from production income.

Prof Groenewald said these difficulties appeared as early as 1979 but that no one took any notice. Inflation and random setbacks caused markets to collapse.

"As long as inflation remains above 10% the agricultural sector will continue to decline and we will increasingly become a banana republic."

The larger co-ops were in trouble. Their balance sheets reflected "diverse creditors" and many of them were close to bankruptcy, he said.

Northern Transvaal Co-operative general manager Mr Mias Nieuwoudt said 1 000 farmers in the Nylstroom area owed R200 million.

The co-op's North-West Co-operative senior deputy manager Mr Lem Burger said that in spite of severe cuts in input costs, remaining debt with the co-op was R300 million, most of which was government-guaranteed. But it had to be vetted by Land Bank inspectors.

36 aarad
30/6/87
CMT-Tinip

Clampdown to net SA R500m a year

Political Staff

THE government's clampdown on a widespread fuel-racket in which one unnamed operator evaded tax amounting to R2,3 million over two years, will net the exchequer an extra R500 million a year.

Figures were released yesterday by the Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr Kent Durr, at a press conference with the Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr George Bartlett, to announce new petrol prices and a new system of collecting levies and calculating prices.

Mr Durr said some of the tax evaders would be prosecuted but the government had been hampered by loopholes in the law. The government also had information on other evaders who were being closely watched.

Certain diesel consumers in the agricultural, fishing and other industries have been exempt from paying certain levies and have been buying low-cost stocks and selling them for more than they had paid but for less

than other consumers would normally pay.

In future, consumers who enjoy a rebate will have to pay the full levies and tax on what they buy and then claim a refund from the government.

Asked what was to stop the illegal operators from continuing the racket simply by reclaiming their levies, Mr Durr said the government had statistics on all people who were entitled to a rebate and their consumption would be watched.

One of the operators had avoided paying R98 947 in excise duties alone which if other levies had been included would have cost the state in the region of about R500 000 a year.

Other large-scale evasions over two years were R288 223, R113 656 and R74 103.

Mr Durr said that as from July 1 the levies for the Road Fund, Central Energy Fund, MVA (Third Party) and GST would be consolidated into one fuel levy on petrol and diesel to avoid evasions.

As pressure on the co-ops grows . . .

Farming sector liquidations on the horizon

*B/Day 11/7/87
(3) Journal*

THE debt overhang in the agricultural sector, now more than R13bn, has raised the spectre of a series of traumatic summary liquidations countrywide.

These have the potential of devastating many rural economies.

Immediate concern in this regard is the pressure building up on a number of the large co-operatives, particularly those in the northern and north-western Transvaal, which are now under severe financial strain after doing much to cushion many of their drought-stricken members.

Department of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs officials say the co-ops are now experiencing financial problems of their own, with several of the larger bodies facing the threat of sequestration action.

The situation has deteriorated to a level that has caused government to urgently introduce major changes to existing legislation aimed at forestalling any "precipitate" liquidations in this area.

In a memorandum attached to the Co-operatives Amendment Bill,

CHRIS CAIRNCROSS

tabled in Parliament by Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel, it is stressed that it has become essential in the interests of the agricultural industry that "co-operatives which are no longer successful concerns owing to financial problems be placed under judicial management rather than be liquidated".

The memorandum adds: "Liquidation of especially the larger agricultural co-operatives would have an adverse effect not only on their members, but also on the whole of the agricultural industry in the areas served by them."

Taking a leaf out of the Companies Act, legislators have introduced significant and wide-ranging amendments to the Co-operative Act.

Two major clauses introduce special compromises and arrangements between a co-op and its creditors, and make provision for a co-op to be placed under judicial management — a totally new proposal.

Export of grain likely to cease

THE SA shipping market has basically continued on a firm level, with quite good demand on early positions, says Afromar's weekly freight market report.

"However, it is still felt that as we move further into the northern hemisphere summer season, rates will ease back," it says.

"It looks as though the export of grain is going to cease in view of the reduced amount of maize now expected to be produced, and the tender programme has been withdrawn from the end of September, as there is no surplus for export, over and above the Taiwanese and Japanese contracts already running."

Six thousand tons of bagged rice was being quoted from Taiwan to Reunion for end-July loading. In the coal sector it seems the Cape sizes are holding firm, with the nominal rate from Richards Bay to Rotterdam being probably just more than \$6, and there was

B. Day 6/7/87
Business Day Reporter

a fixture arranged for a vessel of about 120 000 tons at just more than \$6 on the basis of combination discharge berths in Rotterdam.

The Panamax sizes seem to be basically steady, although \$7.10 was paid for a 55 000-ton cargo from Richards Bay to Spanish Mediterranean discharge.

Handy-sized tonnage has also maintained levels, particularly to the Far East. A number of private deals are thought to have been arranged, especially to Spain. There was an inquiry from Brazil for about 6 000 tons of anthracite from Durban to Vitoria for end-July/early-August dates.

German trading interests had a cargo of about 10 000 tons of steel from Maputo to Italy for a prompt position.

Indications were being asked for the movement of 10 000 tons of bagged fertilisers from Constanza to Mombassa for August shipment and liner discharge.

There were various time-charter orders besides the usual local operator inquiries, with Far East charterers wanting a vessel of about 30 000/35 000tdw for a trip from SA to the Far East.

Early Cape sizes were scarce in the Pacific, so levels are being maintained.

③
Journal

THE three largest banks carrying most of the R4bn farming debt will not sequester distressed farmers before their affairs have been officially investigated by local credit committees.

R4bn reprieve for SA farmers

HELOISE HENNING

Reacting to an article published last week in Business Day, the biggest lender, First National Bank, said yesterday it would give the farmer every opportunity to make alternative arrangements to service debt if it was unable to offer further support.

Standard's senior manager in agriculture, Theo Potgieter, said the attitude was shared by all banks who were on the credit committees arranging individual farmer's debt.

First Bank chief agricultural adviser Frans Venter said farmers were estimat-

ed to be indebted for about R13,5bn. Commercial banks were "playing their part in keeping SA's farmers on the land", representing a third of total loan capital to farmers.

FNB has 30%, or R1,3bn, of the debt share, Standard 28% and Volkskas, the third of the major lenders, said only that its involvement was "big".

This is not all the exposure, because banks extend indirect credit to farmers through the Land Bank.

Black farmers must get say

(3) Upward
 61 Aug 87
 17

SIMON BRAND has warned policymakers that restructuring white agriculture without including surplus-producing black farmers would be shortsighted.

The only way these farmers will get into marketing board-controlled markets, however, would be through negotiations with government, said Brand, chairman and CE of the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Agricultural issues are riddled with political implications. The pressure to abolish the Group Areas Act has not yet been matched with demand for the removal of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts, which effectively removed from blacks the right of ownership of 87% of land then declared "white". Brand said the Land Act is coming up in discussions (in the circles of

HELOISE HENNING

power and lobbies of pressure) but more important — and without any need to tamper with legislation — is the fact that most white farms are being managed by blacks.

"We need to be looking at training and into the contractual relationships between white farmers and their employees," Brand said.

The old white argument that black subsistence farmers would never become surplus producers because they were not prepared to take the risks of large investments in crop production was not only discriminatory but also fallacious.

The example given of the farmer who declined to plant one year be-

cause he had produced a surplus the previous year does not take into account his lack of access to the market. "In fact, he was acting with economic rationality towards the market. I, too, would be loath to plant maize when there were stacks of cobs lying around my yard rotting. Why produce another surplus?" asked Brand, who wrote his doctoral thesis on the contributions of agriculture to the economic development of SA since 1910.

The fact is that these farmers have not had the infrastructure to deliver their surpluses to market. However, their response to the provision of infrastructure is overwhelming.

While it has become possible for blacks to belong to co-operatives, legislation is only presently being prepared to make available to black farmers Land Bank finance for crop production credit and buying land.

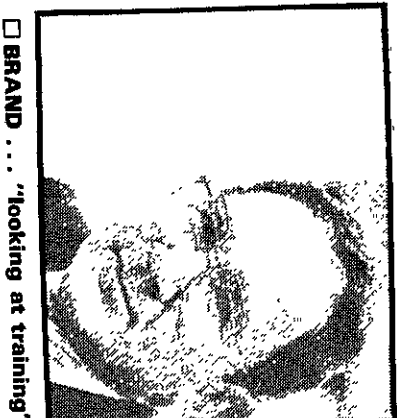
Emphasis changed

Until recently the homeland development corporations had created large-scale farms employing local people as mere labourers. While these complexes were impressive and improved the area's production they ran on deficits because of lack of entrepreneurial participation.

The emphasis has changed. Smallholders can produce marketable surpluses, generate employment and economic spillovers. Success has already been achieved in Natal among smallhold sugar farmers and in KwaZulu among cotton growers. A central processing plant provides the marketing needs for the primary producer's cash needs.

In the past year the Development Bank have progressed in the formulation of policy for smallhold farmers. In the 1986/7 financial year the bank's loan value of R51.7m — from the total in loans of R925m — was approved for agricultural projects. In addition, loans have been approved for water supply and other infrastructural provision in rural areas.

The bank believes smallholders have contributed to agricultural production and increased standards of rural living. It is at this point that black farmers' feasibility must be measured



□ BRAND ... "looking at training"

against white commercial farmers, Brand said.

While there is a considerable re-think on the provision of subsidies to farmers and the functions of marketing boards it remained the function of government, for the public good, to provide agricultural research and guidance. And to provide the network of infrastructure necessary for input of distributors and access to markets.

Excessive control on marketing had to be avoided. It would be hopeless for black farmers to produce but then be excluded from markets.

Marketing boards needed to provide the macro-perspectives on both world and local markets. Agricultural field officers, provided by the agricultural authorities, should accordingly give guidance to farmers. These decisions should not be left to the individual farmer. But the organisation of the boards needed to be improved.

"All parties must be involved in SA's decision-making bodies," said Brand. The Meat Board, for instance, provided quotas on application to Bophuthatswana, but without the participation of the farmers or their authorities. At present the majority of farmers living in self-governing and independent homelands produce less than their subsistence needs. Most farms are run by women and children while the men become migrant workers to supplement the family's basic needs.

The TBVC and self-governing homelands produce only 5% of SA's agricultural produce but have a potential to yield 25%, Brand said.

Black farmers must get say

3 General

Restructuring white agriculture without including surplus-producing black farmers would be shortsighted, warns Dr. Simon Brand, chairman of the Development Bank of South Africa.

The only way these farmers will get into marketing board-controlled markets, however, would be through negotiations with government, said Dr Brand.

Agricultural issues are riddled with political implications. The pressure to abolish the Group Areas Act has not yet been matched with demand for the removal of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts, which effectively removed from blacks the right of ownership of 87 per cent of land then declared "white."

Dr Brand said the Land Act is coming up in discussions (in the circles of power and lobbies of pressure) but more important — and without any need to tamper with legislation — is the fact that most white farms are being managed by blacks.

"We need to be looking at training and into the contractual relationships between white farmers and their employees," Dr Brand said.

The old white argument that black subsistence farmers would never become surplus producers because they were not prepared to take the risks of large investments in crop production was not only discriminatory but also fallacious.

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DR SIMON BRAND

with economic rationality towards the market. I, too, would be loath to plant maize when there were stacks of cobs lying around my yard rotting. Why produce another surplus?" asked Dr Brand, who wrote his doctoral thesis on the contributions of agriculture to the economic development of SA since 1910.

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The bank believes smallholders have contributed to agricultural production and increased standards of rural living. It is at this point that black farmers' feasibility must be measured against white commercial farmers, Dr Brand said.

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Excessive control on marketing had to be avoided. It would be hopeless for black farmers to produce but then be excluded from markets.

"All parties must be involved in SA's decision-making bodies," said Dr Brand.

PRETORIA — Up to 2 000 maize farmers could be sequestrated before year-end despite government's R400m support programme, says National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) economist Kit le Clus.

Due to this and other factors, demand for production credit for the 1987/88 crop would be much lower than last year.

A Land Bank spokesman said farmers borrowed R2,146bn for production in the 1986 financial year.

This excludes borrowings from commercial banks and financial institutions.

Le Clus said one factor which would reduce the land to be planted was the condition that to benefit from the State aid package, farmers had to sell off surplus assets including marginal land.

Another was the "deteriorating price prospect". At current prices of R210 a ton, there was little or no prospect of growing a paying crop on marginal land.

He expected total maize plantings to cover less than 4-million hectares in the coming season, for the first time in years.

Le Clus said producers now only had a

Farmers face sequestration

3

ALL

14/7/88 B/Dag

GERALD REILLY

meagre profit margin on their most fertile soil.

This would shrink as input and marketing costs rose faster than the net producer price of maize.

The effect was that more land became profit-marginal each year and had to be withdrawn from maize production so that farmers could survive.

Reserve Bank Deputy Governor and chairman of government's Standing Agricultural Committee Japie Jacobs said applications for aid under the R400m scheme were taking time to process.

Local agricultural credit committees had to make in-depth investigations before recommending aid.

But he said processing should speed up from next month.

Fuelling farm anger

Recent changes in the diesel fuel rebate system for agriculture will close a loophole that cost the State about R500m a year in lost revenue. But cash-strapped farmers describe the new measures, expected to add millions to their R700m/year fuel bill, as "bureaucracy gone wild."

Farmers now have to pay upfront when they order their fuel and then reclaim the rebates from the Department of Customs and Excise (DCE) as they use up the fuel. They must be registered with the DCE, can claim only once a month, and the *minimum* claim for fuel used has been set at 500l. All claims must be supported by invoices.

Their problems don't end there either — the rebate on fuel used for transporting farm produce has been reduced, adding to transport costs.

SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) director Piet Swart claims the DCE unilaterally changed the rebating system. Many transport operators who were not entitled to, registered as farmers and misuse of the scheme was rife. He says the SAAU understood that unless action was taken, fuel prices would have to be increased.

"We suggested the retention of the old system with the necessary, built-in safeguards," says Swart. "But the new system was imposed without our consent."

The SAAU estimates that farmers will have to find an additional R350m/year to pay their fuel bills. The rebates, now included in the cost of fuel, are 24,134c/l for farm

production and 12,634c/l for transporting farm produce by road.

"Apart from the cash flow problem, interest on the additional funding will increase costs that farmers cannot claim from anyone," says Swart. "Furthermore, during some periods little fuel is used. Small farmers, who can least afford it, will have to hold on to their claims till they have used 500l — and it may take weeks before they are paid."

Although restructured fuel prices mean that production fuel will in most areas be 1c/l-1,5c/l cheaper, transport fuel costs will increase by 11,5c/l as contributions to the National Road and Motor Vehicle Assurance Funds are now incorporated in the price.

But while farmers get bigger discounts because they don't use public roads, vegetable farmers making frequent trips to the market will be hard hit by the extra 11c/l cost for transport fuel. Grain farmers usually deliver only once a year to depots, while those using agricultural tractor and trailer combinations will escape unscathed as this is considered production fuel.

Sugar industry

Nevertheless, farmers using public carriers will have to pay the increased fuel cost. The sugar industry is one which will be hard hit.

Mike Norris MD of Durban-based Hultrans, which is big in transporting sugar cane, says fuel increases will have to be passed on to the farmer, exacerbating the inflationary spiral. "On short hauls we will probably have to increase our prices by about 2% and on long hauls by up to 5%."

He also doubts whether the DCE will be able to cope with the avalanche of claims and paperwork.

SA Timber Growers' Association director Bruce Ferguson says the new system is very confusing. Timber growers selling to pulp mills will have to absorb the increased transport costs and reclaim these as they use the fuel. They cannot build the costs into timber prices either.

But growers who sell to lumber mills (for conversion to sawn timber) are luckier — the mills pay for transport. A point still to be clarified is whether pulling timber out of a plantation is production or transport.

DCE deputy director Danie Zietsman does not foresee any problems with implementing the new system.

"There are 60 000-70 000 farmers in SA and the 60 extra staff we will employ will be able to cope adequately. Everything will be computerised and refund applications should be processed within 30 days." Running the operation will cost R3m-R4m a year, "but this will put about R500m a year extra into the State's coffers. That's a fair profit on the outlay."

An oil industry spokesman is "delighted" with the way the rebate system now works. "Of course farmers in the so-called Maputo hinterland complain about their diesel going

up by 6c/l, but they now pay a cost related price. Before, they were cross subsidised by other users. The new system will benefit everyone, including the farmer."

The new price of bulk fuel, including rebates that can be claimed, delivered to farms in Johannesburg is 75,6c/l, 69,c/l in Durban and Cape Town; 77,7c/l in Pietersburg and 76,1c/l in Nelspruit. ■

MEMPHIS. SA is... which government is keeping a close ther have board status at Hilsam.

...out-balances the benefit. — Sapa

Cost Times 27/7/87

3 General

SA's farming income soared to R3bn in '86



Tony Simpson has been appointed GM of Modder B Gold Mine and Roodepoort Gold Holdings.

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA — SA's net farming income soared to R3bn last year—nearly 65% up on the 1985 figure, according to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing.

However, it was stressed the big increase was from a low base with production battered by drought during most of 1985. Farmers' gross incomes also increased —

by 17% against an expenditure increase of only 7%.

The main reason for the R308m increase in gross income is the higher income from crop and horticultural production, particularly maize — up by 95%. Gross income, according to SA agricultural union economist Koos du Toit, was reduced by nearly R2bn in farmers' interest payments.

Gross income from

crop production increased by 33% and horticultural products by 13%. Income from animal production increased by 8%.

Producer prices increased slightly faster than in 1985 — by 10% compared with 9%. And against this background, consumer food prices increased by 20%. This has a major impact on the 19% increase in the consumer index price.

(bb)

Naval Base Durban Open day: Flag-hoisting ceremony and retreat ceremony
 Honors Crux Parade
 Parade to celebrate SA Defence Force Day
 Parade to celebrate SA Defence Force Day
 Participation in Durban Tattoo
 Eastern Province Command: Church Parade
 Western Province: Military Tattoo
 Far Northern Command: Randfontein Show
 Orange Free State Command: Bisleys
 North Western Command: Annual Gunners' Memorial Service,
 Potchefstroom
 Environment Conservation Day
 Maccabi Sports Day
 Static display
 Military Exhibition in City Hall: Ships are open to public
 Fire Power Demonstration
 Participation in Durban Tattoo
 SA Defence Force Memorial Service
 Natal Command Sports Day
 SA Defence Force Sportman and Woman of the year presentation

(ii)
(aa)

(ii) (aa)	(bb)
Durban	30 Jun 1987
Potchefstroom	1 Jul 1987
Walvis Bay	1 Jul 1987
Bloemfontein	4 Jul 1987
Durban	9-18 Jul 1987
Port Elizabeth	22 Feb 1987
Cape Town	25-28 Feb 1987
Randfontein	25-27 Feb 1987
Bloemfontein	26-28 Feb 1987
Potchefstroom	26 Apr 87
Port Elizabeth	5 Jun 1987
Durban	17 Jun 1987
Nelspruit	20 Jun 1987
Durban	30 Jun 1987
Potchefstroom	1 Jul 1987
Durban	9-18 Jul 1987
Pretoria	9 Aug 1987
Durban	20-21 Aug 1987
Pretoria	26 Nov 1987

Farm schools

34. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(a) How many farm schools were subsidised by his Department, (b) what was the average subsidy paid per farm school, (c) what total number of pupils were registered at these schools, and (d) what was the total cost to his Department of the subsidisation of these schools, in 1985?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

- 5 484.
- R18 007 42 (preliminary amount for the 1986/87 financial year).
- 477 260.
- R99 245 000 (budgeted amount for the 1986/87 financial year).

The STATE PRESIDENT:

- No.
- Falls away.

Employees detained

65. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister in the State President's Office entrusted with Administration and Broadcasting Services:

- Whether any persons employed by his Department have been detained; if so, how many since 1 September 1984 as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- whether the posts of such detained employees are filled by temporary employees; if not, what arrangements are made regarding these posts; if so, (a) how many temporary employees had been engaged to fill such posts as at the above date and (b) what steps are taken in respect of such temporary employees when the detained employees are released by the Police?

The MINISTER IN THE STATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ENTRUSTED WITH ADMINISTRATION AND BROADCASTING SERVICES:

- No.
- Falls away.

Employees detained

66. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Deputy Minister of Information:

- Whether any persons employed by the Bureau for Information have been detained; if so, how many since 1 September 1984 as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- whether the posts of such detained employees are filled by temporary employees; if not, what arrangements are made regarding these posts; if so, (a) how many temporary employees had been engaged to fill such posts as at the above date and (b) what steps are taken in respect of such temporary employees when the detained employees are released by the Police?

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION:

- No.
- Falls away.

Employees detained

67. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- Whether any persons employed by his Department have been detained; if so, how many since 1 September 1984 as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- whether the posts of such detained employees are filled by temporary employees; if not, what arrangements are made regarding these posts; if so, (a) how many temporary employees had been engaged to fill such posts as at the above date and (b) what steps are taken in respect of such temporary employees when the detained employees are released by the Police?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- No.
- Falls away.

Employees detained

68. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of National Education:

- Whether any persons employed by his Department have been detained; if so, how many since 1 September 1984 as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- whether the posts of such detained employees are filled by temporary employees; if not, what arrangements are made regarding these posts; if so, (a) how many temporary employees had been engaged to fill such posts as at the above date and (b) what steps are taken in respect of such temporary employees when the detained employees are released by the Police?

Farm sale: blacks say no to Govt plan

13 AGRICULTURE
23/7/87

The Government's recent offer to purchase land owned by more than 45 000 people at Daggakraal in the Eastern Transvaal was flatly rejected at an emotion-packed meeting in the area at the weekend.

The rejection follows a recent statement by Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Mr Chris Heunis that the Development Trust should acquire the farm and, in co-operation with the local community, develop it into a rural, regional town.

Mr Heunis said all stands would be sold freehold to blacks. Existing owners would be given the option to purchase the first stands at a nominal price.

Angry residents, many of them born on the farm which was purchased from a white farmer in 1912 — a year before the Land Act was passed — told the meeting they would sell the land "over their dead bodies".

They said Daggakraal was a symbol of harassment suffered by their forefathers and they were not prepared to part with it.

"Our parents walked all the way from the Free State to buy this land after they suffered racial harassment from white farmers there.

"They sweated and shed blood to get this land and no one will get it away from us," said Mrs Jane Tshabalala (69).

She said only their children would be allowed to inherit the land.

Mr Willie Mooli (77) told the organisers of the meeting, the Daggakraal joint executive committee, to tell Mr Heunis that he (Mr Heunis) would buy the land "over my dead body".

He explained: "I've been living happily ever since my parents bought this land. I'm not prepared to sell my plots."

'Won't be squashed'

Mr G D Twala, chairman of the executive committee, said the community had not been consulted when the Government made its latest proposals and that this was contrary to present thinking.

"We do not want to be treated as some pawn in a chess game. We cannot and will not be squashed into tiny pieces of land on which we cannot even build a decent house.

"The Government wants to purchase Daggakraal from us, develop it and re-sell it to us. The people of Daggakraal have shown their total rejection of this move and the best thing the Government can do is to forget all its plans."

The meeting was disrupted when councillors of a local chief heckled the executive committee and threatened journalists with violence.

Speakers told the meeting there was no place for chiefs at Daggakraal because people from different tribes were living happily together there.

to teacher training; the present position in regard to teacher training in the Natal Education Department, the financial implications of undertaking teacher training on behalf of another department as well as the Ministers' Council decision in regard to the disposal of redundant facilities were discussed.

Further discussions have subsequently been requested by Dr Dhlomo.

Oudtshoorn: bursaries

6. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

Whether any increase for bursary holders at the education college at Oudtshoorn has been announced this year; if not, why not; if so, (a) what does the increase amount to per year and (b) for which academic years does it apply?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- Yes,
- (a) R400,
- (b) the 1987 academic year and the relevant subsequent years of study.

Agricultural extension officers

7. Mr D G H NOLTE asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:†

- (a) How many agricultural extension officers were employed by his Department as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) (i) for what average period do such officers remain in the employ of his Department and (ii) what are the main reasons for their leaving the service?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

- (a) 149 on 31 May 1987.
- (i) 25,7 years in senior cadre. 11 years in junior cadre.
- (ii) Better salaries and fringe benefits.

For written reply:
General Affairs:

Full-time employees

168. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Communications:

- (1) What was the total number of persons employed in a full-time capacity in his Department as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) (a) how many such persons were employed in each of the eight most senior post levels in his Department, (b) how many of these persons were (i) male and (ii) female and (c) to which population group did each of these persons belong;
- (3) (a) what will be the applicable salaries and/or salary scales of each of the eight most senior post levels in his Department with effect from 1 July 1987 and (b) what financial and other specified benefits will be applicable to each of these post levels as at 1 July 1987?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) 96 941, as at 30 April 1987;

(2) (a)

Post level	Number of persons employed
1	1
2	4
3	16
4	48
5	1
6	76
7	224
8	1

- (b) (i) and (ii) with the exception of one female on post level 7 all the persons referred to are male;
- (c) to the White population group;

(3) (a)

Post level	Salary (fixed)
1	R131 031
2	R 75 990

healthy carriers of the disease (with positive blood tests). However, all these persons are not necessarily contagious and not every carrier will get the disease. Blood tests are also not 100% reliable.

- 1.2 The Stigma and implications of wrongly being labelled as a potential Aids patient are far reaching.
- 1.3 Compulsory notification, with the stigma implied, might drive the disease underground. This will have a contra productive effect on the control of the problem. Compulsory notification is not general policy in Western countries.
- 1.4 An anonymous confidential register of Aids cases is kept at the SAIMR, Johannesburg, under the supervision of experts who ensure that all diagnoses are confirmed and verified. This protects people who suffer or may be suspected to suffer from Aids from unnecessary and unwarranted victimisation and harassment.

- 3 R 63 990
- 4 R 57 600
- 5 R 56 010
- 6 R 50 490
- 7 R 45 030
- 8 R 40 710; and

- (b) (i) an annual service bonus amounting to 93% of one month's salary;
- (ii) a housing subsidy on interest and capital redemption up to a maximum of a housing loan of R50 000, subject to the compliance with certain conditions;
- (iii) varying telephone rental and call concessions; and
- (iv) a car financing scheme for officers occupying posts on the first six post levels. The size of the loans granted varies depending on an officer's grading.

Aids

186. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) is a notifiable disease; if not, why not; if so, how many cases have been recorded in South Africa as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) whether he has received any representations regarding this disease; if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was (i) the reason for these representations and (ii) his response thereto in each case;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No.

1.1 Aids can also be transmitted by

- 1.5 The Minister of National Health and Population Development has the power to take action should it be deemed necessary. The Advisory Group on Aids monitors the situation and advises regularly on suggested management.
- 1.6 By 25 June 1987 a total of 75 cases were diagnosed of which 55 were South Africans.

(2) Yes.

- (a) 25 April 1987.
- (b) Medical Association of South Africa.
- (c) (i) A decision by the Executive Committee.

(ii) Discussions took place between officials of the Department and the Association.

CMB Times 30/7/87

(3 Gaerol)



Leliefontein farmers (from left) Mr Samuel Cloete, Mr Dawid Koordon, Mr Abraham Fortuin and Mr Piet Klase photographed in Mr Klase's wheatfield in October last year. Mr Klase said at the time: "It is very unfair of my big father (the government) to take the bread from my mouth like this." Picture: RIAAN SMIT

Baster farmers want ancestors' land back

By SHAUNA WESTCOTT
Supreme Court Reporter

SMALLHOLDERS of the Leliefontein community in Namaqualand, who have farmed communally for generations, returned with their flocks from winter pastures in September 1985 to find their homes occupied by others, the Supreme Court heard yesterday.

This was evidence given on affidavit by Mr Gert Bekeur, one of four members of the community who have launched an application for an order declaring that they were wrongfully deprived of their land and ordering the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives to restore it to them.

Mr Bekeur said he and most of the community are descendants of Khoi families, described as "the Little Namaqua Hottentots" and the "Baster tribe", to whom the land was formally granted in 1854 by Governor of the Cape Sir George Cathcart.

"My ancestors have lived in the Leliefontein area for as long as the memory of man," he said.

He said the community of about 300 owned the land communally. Although the custom was for each family head to be assigned land, individuals had no right to dispose of their plots and animals grazed on communal land.

Dependent on land

Mr Bekeur said he and most of his fellow farmers and their families were completely dependent on the

land for a living. He added that he had no formal education and "no capital besides my livestock".

He was "astounded" when in 1984 he received a letter from the Leliefontein management board telling him to remove all structures and improvements from his garden plot and not to set foot on it again.

Complaints to the board "fell on deaf ears" and a meeting with the minister culminated in a ministerial request for a letter setting out the grievances of the community.

"I wrote this letter," Mr Bekeur said, "but to date I have simply received a letter from him telling me my letter was 'enjoying attention'".

"During June or July 1985 I sowed vegetables and as usual trekked away with my livestock for winter grazing. When I returned in September I was astounded to find one Nico Schwartz had occupied the whole area in which my garden plot is situated.

"He drove cattle in and destroyed my whole vegetable harvest. When I approached him he told me the land was now his and I had no right to be there."

Mr Bekeur said the land had been divided up into 47 farms of which 30 had been "allocated" to strangers to the area.

An application for an order allowing papers to be served on the new "tenants" by means of letters, newspaper advertisements and centralized access to the complete documentation was granted by Mr Justice C T Howie yesterday.

Mr L. A. Rose-Innes, instructed by the Legal Resources Centre, appeared for the applicants.

loan and (d) at which institution was the loan negotiated;

- (2) whether the South African Government guaranteed the loan; if so,
- (3) whether the loan has been repaid; if not, what amount is still owing;
- (4) whether the South African Government has had to pay a portion of this loan; if so, what amount;
- (5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) No. The Department is not aware of the existence of a loan as described by the hon member.
- (2) Falls away.
- (3) Falls away.
- (4) Falls away.
- (5) Falls away.

Pamphlets issued

252. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) Whether his Department recently issued a series of pamphlets outlining the activities and structure of his Department; if so, (a) (i) how many pamphlets were issued and (ii) what was the title of each, (b) how many copies of each pamphlet were printed, (c) to whom were they distributed and (d) what was the cost involved;
- (2) whether a questionnaire was attached to the pamphlets; if so, how many questionnaires were (a) sent out by and (b) returned to his Department;
- (3) whether he will furnish details of the contents of this questionnaire; if so, what are the details of the replies received; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

- (1) No pamphlets were issued but bro-

chures were issued which explain the activities of the Department of Development Aid.

- (a) (i) * The Function and Structure of the Department of Development Aid
- * The Department of Development Aid and . . .
- * The Department of Development Aid in Focus.

- (b) * The Function and structure of the Department of Development Aid . . . 10 000
- * The Department of Development Aid . . . 10 000
- and 10 000
- * The Department of Development Aid in Focus 20 000

- (c) To all the Department's interest groups as well as to all the names appearing on the Department's address list.

(d) R26 888,96.

Yes.

(a) 618.

(b) 57.

Yes. The aim was to determine what the Department's target groups opinion of the brochures was. All the answers haven't been received yet but the first indications are that the standard and contents of the brochures have met with considerable favour.

THURSDAY, 30 JULY 1987

*Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Statutory levies

223. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether any amounts were collected in 1986 from producers in the form of statutory levies on agricultural products for the purpose of financing agricultural producer organizations; if so, what amounts were so

collected in respect of each specified agricultural product?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Amounts spent by the various control boards for the purposes contemplated in section 35 (c) of the Marketing Act, 1968 (Act No. 59 of 1968):

Potato board	1985/86	R 333 172
Dried bean board	1985/86	18 845
Grain sorghum board	1985/86	181 199
Dried fruit board	1985/86	12 788
Egg board	1986/87	158 153
Cotton board	1986	93 135
Wheat board	1985/86	240 535
Maize board	1986/87	819 066
Oilseeds board	1986/87	163 488
Banana board	1985/86	19 504
Canned fruit board	1985/86	57 424
Rooibos tea control board	1986	8 500
Deciduous fruit board	1985/86	186 966
Chicory board	1985/86	7 916
Dairy board	1986/87	572 502
Mohair board	1985/86	361 300
Meat board	1986/87	878 900
Wool board	1985/86	2 123 605

Amounts collected during the year ended 31 March 1987 in terms of section 46A for utilization for the purposes contemplated in section 46D (2) (a) of the Marketing Act, 1968:

Meat	R 418 395,03
Oilseeds	35 861,75
Maize	315 829,13
Grain sorghum	26 762,76
Cotton	18 252,84
Dairy	134 201,96
Wool	83 841,57
Chicory	4 844,58
Wintercereal	157 706,12
Mohair	31 811,02
Karakul	1 173,24
Chickens	2 935,09
Fresh produce	324 273,67
Bananas	15 082,76
Rooibos tea	1 055,14
Tobacco	59 500,94
Eggs	11 181,30

End Consumption Campaign

250. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 29 on 16 June 1987, any meetings of the End Consumption Campaign were prohibited in (a) 1985 and (b) 1986; if so, (i) how many in respect of each year, (ii) why, in each case, (iii) on

High-tech farming

SA's debt-strapped farmers may soon be forced to take the leap — costly as it may seem in the short term — into the technological age.

Improved production through tailor-made feeds, savings on water and electricity from computerised irrigation and push-button

FINANCIAL MAIL JULY 31 1987

(3) General

farm management may be their long-term salvation.

An example of success through saving was the crowning last month of Cape wine farmer Danie de Wet as best Chardonnay maker in the world.

De Wet's 600 000 vines on his 150 ha Bonnievale farm are irrigated and fertilised at the push of a button on a computer keyboard. They receive just the right amount of moisture and nutrition and he gets an instant read-out on the state of his crop. De Wet had to go to Israel to find a suitable computer system for his farm, but within a year water usage was down by 30% and electricity savings were 20%.

Mel Miller, spokesman for Cape-based specialised agricultural services company Agserv says unless more farmers adopt De Wet's approach, SA will not achieve the status of Africa's bread-basket.

Agserv, due to be listed in the Development Capital sector of the JSE on July 29, is about to embark on an expansion programme aimed at establishing itself as the leader in agriculture's technological revolution. Miller believes this is not only inevitable, but vital for the survival of farming as one of the mainstays of SA's economy.

Through its Boland Voere subsidiary Agserv already provides specialised stock feed services to Cape farmers and recently moved into the fish feed market with a product tailor-made for the local aquacultural indus-

try.

But, adds Miller, specialised service in hi-tech agriculture must go further in order to improve or adapt production in existing farming areas and extend it to untapped resources such as the sea, rivers and deserts.

"Fundamental and far reaching changes must be made to our basic agricultural systems, many of which are outmoded. These changes must be made now. New technologies must be employed to enhance and improve production quality and quantity," he says.

Miller wants to see an end to inefficiency and wastage — much of which is caused by outdated farming methods — and bureaucratic red tape. Costs, he says, could also be cut, as with the costly administration of control boards. However, he contends control boards and co-ops both have a part to play in agriculture.

"Agserv's aim is to complement the existing formal agricultural sector by providing what will in effect be hi-tech agricultural support companies capable of helping farmers improve their productivity and efficiency and restoring the sector to a sound financial footing."

Agserv's immediate expansion plans entail the acquisition of an agricultural computer company. Negotiations are also underway to acquire other owner-managed specialist companies offering a service to the farming community.

"If cattle don't do well in drought-prone areas then let's try camels," says Miller. "The Israelis do it with genetically bred animals that provide milk, meat and hides. Aquaculture is big overseas — the UK expects to have a Salmonoid harvest of 28 000 t this year, while our production is expected to be only 500 t." ■

3) General

Ending an era of privilege

Farming is no longer the fun it was in the golden years of the Seventies and early Eighties. Some farmers are certain to go under — bowing as they must to the realities of the market. This particularly affects many summer rainfall farmers, long accustomed to being the tail that wagged the dog.

The truth is that the bottom has fallen out of some local markets; a five-year drought has destroyed cash flows; export prices for summer rainfall maize are still plummeting; inflation and rising input costs have squeezed remaining profit margins to death; and, perhaps most important of all, government has finally reduced subsidies and is busy enforcing more market-related pricing policies. Meanwhile — the engine behind all structural changes in the sector — the massive R14 billion farm debt keeps on growing.

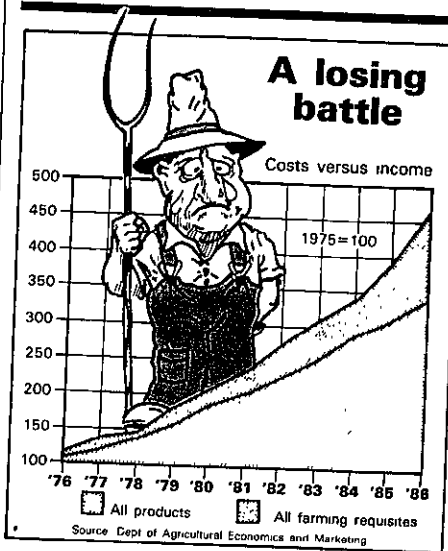
Although net farm income last year jumped a huge 65% to R3 billion, this does not necessarily spell relief for creditors. Much of the income was generated by wool, mohair, deciduous and tropical fruit, vegetable, wheat, wine, dairy and other producers outside the "debt corridor" stretching from the western Free State through the western and northern Transvaal. Here, for the past five years, the agri-debt crisis has been growing.

The recent report of the State President's Economic Advisory Council on the restructuring of agriculture suggested a five-year R1,426 billion rescue package, with an initial R600m bail-out. Government then announced a R400m package in June, as part of a major attempt to save "worthwhile" farmers from pending sequestration. Banks, co-ops and other creditors were asked to refrain from action while the latest rescue attempt was being floated.

But commercial banks, which have long been expected to carry the brunt of the northern summer rainfall farmers' debt burden, are beginning to lose patience. Not only do the co-ops have an automatic lien on farmers' crop proceeds (even prior to registered bonds), but banks have not been co-opted onto the National Assistance Advisory Committee (NAAC) implementing the new scheme. They are justifiably suspicious that vested farming interests will again try to sideline the institutional lenders.

Underlying the banks' previous hesitancy to take action against bad credit risks is the fear that precipitous action might lead to a collapse of farm prices — which would obviously mean

The 1986 Land Bank annual report has this observation: "It should always be borne in mind that injudicious spending and excessive utilisation of credit could make the farmer more dependent on external financing, to his detriment." Hitherto favoured farmers are indeed discovering this.



that all creditors would lose out heavily. Nevertheless, with the total farm interest bill now growing by about R1,8 billion a year, banks feel that early action might in fact limit potential losses.

Volkas agricultural economist André Louw notes: "With some 55% of the total farm debt being of a short-term nature, banks are worried that government's new R400m rescue package will not achieve much in the short term. Subsidies on com-

mmercial bank loans still do not feature in government's various aid packages to debt-stricken farmers, while the preferent lien of co-ops on farmers' crop proceeds limits the leverage of the banks to collect their dues."

Farmers could well be expected to cry "disaster" and ask for extensions. They face the mounting annual interest bill, a massive collapse in cash flows, imported inflation (based on the low rand) multiplying input costs, and flagging export revenues. But the banks also have their problems.

According to First National's chief agricultural adviser Frans Venter: "In terms of the R400m scheme, curators will be appointed to monitor liquidation of assets and the administration of compromise offers to creditors. Banks are worried that their interests will not take precedence and that farming interests could again steer the system in their favour. We are the major financiers of the farm debt — not only by direct credit advances, but also by our multi-billion support of the Land Bank's annual requirements for production and crop financing."

NAAC members who will oversee the R400m scheme include representatives from the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU), the co-ops, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Japie Jacobs, the Agricultural Credit Board and the Land Bank — but no one from the commercial banks. Suspicion is understandable.

Others take a slightly more optimistic view. Standard Bank agriculture manager Theo Potgieter says that while farm debt is a huge short-term problem, in the longer term SA's population explosion is bound to increase demand for agricultural produce. "This is an international problem," he adds. "The US and the European Community (EC) are also struggling to change structures that have served their time. While export

prospects for grain are dim, more realistic pricing policies in the local market will help increase local sales — and, taken against the R40 billion-plus total value of farm assets, there is still hope."

Seen against the situation in the US and the EC, SA's problems pale into relative insignificance. The EC's Common Agriculture Policy in 1986 devoured a massive US\$24,1 billion — or 70% — of its \$34,5 billion total budget. In the US an estimated \$25,6 billion was spent in that year to subsidise farmers. The result? Massive mountains of butter, skimmed milk, wheat, maize, meat — and oceans



Volkas's Louw... the banks have limited leverage

of wine — that are sold to East bloc countries at bargain-basement prices.

World grain surplus stocks have meanwhile mushroomed to some 400 Mt, while former importers like China, India and Indonesia have joined the league of exporters. And with the loss of the grain export market, the Maize Board has already adapted its pricing and marketing policies to changing realities.

Bank reservations notwithstanding, it seems that the latest rescue scheme might stand a chance of at last pushing agriculture towards a long-term resolution of its many-faceted problems. These are not only the result of the negative factors of the past five years, but also of the control structures evolved in the Thirties. Control boards, subsidies, one-channel marketing and unrealistic fixed price systems have long been the target of attacks by free marketeers who blame these structures for the farm mess.

Government appears to have seen the light. This year's new maize pricing system not only led to a reduction in producer prices, but also allowed, for the first time, direct sales from farmers to millers and other users of maize (subject to certain conditions). Ministerial speeches have also sounded the warning that farmers must produce for the market and that produce prices must reflect market realities.

The structure of the R400m rescue package also indicates incisive planning. Farmers applying for financial assistance to their local agricultural credit committees — chaired by the local magistrate — must submit a list of *all* farming assets and liabilities, and can suggest a settlement offer to all creditors. This could entail the voluntary sale of redundant farm properties and production assets, with the retention of one (or more, depending on circumstances) productive unit.

The offer will be submitted to the director of financial assistance at the Department of Agricultural Credit in Pretoria. After investigation, the settlement will be circularised to all creditors who will, at a creditors' meeting, decide to accept or reject it. A casting vote will be given by a majority of 50% (in value) of the creditors, although "flexibility" will apply for individual creditors.

Should the offer be accepted, the farmer will be placed under curatorship in terms of Section 21 of the Agricultural Credit Act; all legal action will be stayed; assets will be liquidated and distributed and the farmer can then start afresh — with the State (and the taxpayer) as his only credi-



SAAU's du Toit... diversification the key

tor. Debt will be consolidated.

While the rescue scheme is a short-term, attempt to "save" worthwhile farmers, it is coupled to a longer-term government plan to reorganise and restructure outdated agricultural systems. Maize farmers are beginning to heed the call and organised agriculture reports strong moves into alternative crops like soya beans, sunflower, cotton, grain sorghum, red meat and chickens.

A major obstacle remains the red meat sector, which has been jealously guarding its massive interests — valued at more than R4 billion at retail level. But even here there are signs that market realities and the move of maize farmers into meat will force the system to change its orientation. Further increases in red meat production could force the Meat Board to loosen its control over the free flow of supplies to urban markets, leading to reduced red meat prices. With the massive black consumer market the natural growth target for this sector, it is clear that the floor price system — along with controlled urban markets, stringent and costly

abattoir and hygienic requirements — are in for deregulation in the foreseeable future.

Notwithstanding its losses to the Conservative Party in the May election, government has clearly realised that it has to take the agricultural bull by the horns. Taxpayers, consumers and commercial banks have lost their patience with vested interests and bureaucrats who have for too long manipulated agricultural administration for their own ends.

SAAU economist Koos du Toit spells this out: "Organised agriculture is handling the proposed restructuring of the sector as its top priority. Diversification away from the 4,3m ha under maize to other crops is vital to resolving the logjam. But it could take years to effectively diversify — stocks have to be bought and built up, alternative crops will require capital investment in different implements, and it will require time and money to effect the switch.

"Market signals will also be central to the success of this long-term venture, while co-ops might be required to play a bigger role in the switchover. But we are hopeful that this vital experiment will be a success."

Agriculture remains central to the economy. Apart from its vital food-providing and job-creating roles, the 1986 gross farm income figure of R12,9 billion reflects the weight of a sector that keeps rural economies humming. Its impact on the national economy is wide-ranging and intricate — ask any manufacturer of fertiliser, chemicals, tractors and implements (not forgetting luxury cars). A farming collapse could reverberate right through the economy.

The combination of drought, local market collapses, disappearing export markets and political realities has nevertheless achieved what years of consumer complaints could not. Some farmers will, of necessity, lose their farms and livelihoods — but the efficient will survive. In the process, SA will be the beneficiary of a modernised, streamlined agricultural sector. ■

FARM INCOME: MOVING UP

Gross value of agricultural production 1983-1986

	1983	1984	1985	1986 (Preliminary)
	Rm			
Field crops	2 966	3 593	4 549	5 897
Horticulture	1 335	1 539	2 036	2 119
Animal Husbandry	3 615	4 113	4 514	4 957
Total	7 916	9 245	11 099	12 973

Contribution of agriculture to GDP 1983-1986

	1983	1984	1985	1986 (Preliminary)
	Rm			
GDP at factor cost	82 849	97 360	109 604	127 112
Agriculture's contribution to GDP at factor cost ...	3 550	4 849	5 827	6 935

	%			
% contribution of agriculture	4,3	5,0	5,3	5,5

Source: Department of Agriculture Economics and Marketing

③ General
6/18/87

SAAU approves retirement plan

THE general council of the South African Agricultural Union yesterday approved in principle a retirement scheme for agricultural employees.

The approval of the scheme comes after an investigation conducted by Sentra-boer and is expected to be instituted in January next year.

Union vice-president Nico Kotze said the scheme's main objective was to provide for retirement needs of employees in agriculture, with death and disability benefits as perks.

"The scheme is unique in the sense that as employers, farmers join voluntarily and each employer, with his team

of employees, builds up his own fund within the registered umbrella fund."

Questioned about the scheme, Kotze said in the case of retirement, either a non-recurrent cash amount or a monthly pension would be paid.

In the event of death or disability, an amount equal to twice the annual salary of the employee is paid out, with a choice of pension in the case of disability.

Kotze appealed to farmers to support the scheme. — Sapa.

AGRICULTURE'S GREATER SHARE OF BUDGET IS JUSTIFIED — ECONOMIST

PRETORIA — The substantial increase in agriculture's share of the Budget gives the wrong impression that agriculture is a drag on SA and the taxpayer, says SA Agricultural Union economist Johan Pienaar.

In a Budget review he says the total agricultural budget for the current financial year increased by about

GERALD REILLY

76%, compared with the previous year — from R966m to R1,7bn.

This huge increase was caused mainly by the R400m set aside to slow down sequestrations in the farming community, and R134m to support the

maize price. The R400m, however, was a loan to farmers.

Included, too, in the agricultural budget was R385m to subsidise bread and maize product prices. The agricultural budget was about 3,7% of the total Budget in the current financial year, compared with 2,5% in the previous year.

The direct contribution of agriculture to the GDP was about 5%. The indirect contribution was greater than generally believed.

About 25% of all SA industries are dependent on agriculture for their most important inputs. This indicates the economic and strategic worth of the industry, says Pienaar.

3 personal
B/Ray 5/8/81

Own Affairs:

Howard

Full-time employees

19. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of the Budget and Welfare:

(1) What was the total number of persons employed in a full-time capacity in the Department of Budgetary and Auxiliary Services as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(2) (a) how many such persons were employed in each of the eight most senior post levels in this Department, (b) how many of these persons were (i) male and (ii) female and (c) to which population group did each of these persons belong;

(3) (a) what will be the applicable salaries and/or salary scales of each of the eight most senior post levels in this Department with effect from 1 July 1987 and (b) what financial and other specified benefits will be applicable to each of these post levels as at 1 July 1987?

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND WELFARE:

(1) 526: specified date 31 May 1987.

(2) (a) Post level Number of persons employed

1	.....	1
2	.....	4
3	.....	18
4	.....	46
5	.....	1
6	.....	17
7	.....	5
8	.....	10

(b) (i) 83.

(ii) 19.

(c) Whites: 102

Coloureds: Nil;

Indians: Nil;
Blacks: Nil.

(3) (a) Post level Salary scale with effect from 1 July 1987

1	R62 199
2	R54 954
3	R43 389 x 1 830 - 47 049
4	R33 624 x 1 179 - 34 803 x 1 431 - 37 665
5	R30 087 x 1 179 - 34 803
6	R25 371 x 1 179 - 30 087
7	R20 646 x 789 - 23 013 x 1 179 - 27 729
8	R19 086 x 789 - 23 013 x 1 179 - 26 550

(b) (i) Annual Service bonus that amounts to 93% of one month's salary.

(ii) Housing Subsidy on interest and capital redemption up to a maximum of a housing loan of R50 000.00, subject to the compliance with certain conditions.

(iii) Car Financing Scheme for officers occupying posts in the management echelon (ie those officers who are in receipt of an annual salary of R54 954 fixed and higher). The amount payable varies for each level as it is based on an officer's grading.

Full-time employees

20. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of the Budget and Welfare:

(1) What was the total number of persons employed in a full-time capacity in the Department of Welfare as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(2) (a) how many such persons were employed in each of the eight most senior post levels in this Department,

(b) how many of these persons were (i) male and (ii) female and (c) to which population group did each of these persons belong;

(3) (a) what will be the applicable salaries and/or salary scales of each of the eight most senior post levels in this Department with effect from 1 July 1987 and (b) what financial and other specified benefits will be applicable to each of these post levels as at 1 July 1987?

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND WELFARE:

(1) 1 169: specified date 31 May 1987.

(2) (a) Post level Number of persons employed

1	.....	2
2	.....	6
3	.....	20
4	.....	45
5	.....	72
6	.....	2
7	.....	304
8	.....	3

(b) (i) 116.

(ii) 290.

(c) Whites: 406

Coloureds: Nil;

Indians: Nil;

Blacks: Nil.

(3) (a) Post level Salary scale with effect from 1 July 1987

1	R54 952
2	R43 389 x 1 830 - 47 049
3	R33 624 x 1 179 - 34 803 x 1 431 - 37 665
4	R25 371 x 1 179 - 30 087
5	R22 224 x 789 - 23 013 x 1 179 - 26 550
6	R19 857 x 789 - 23 013 x 1 179 - 25 371
7	R15 912 x 789 - 22 224
8	R12 243 - 19 857

Howard

7/8/87

Full-time employees

21. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

(1) What was the total number of persons employed in a full-time capacity in his Department as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(2) (a) how many such persons were employed in each of the eight most senior post levels in his Department, (b) how many of these persons were (i) male and (ii) female and (c) to which population group did each of these persons belong;

(3) (a) what will be the applicable salaries and/or salary scales of each of the eight most senior post levels in his Department with effect from 1 July 1987 and (b) what financial and other specified benefits will be applicable to each of these post levels as at 1 July 1987?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

(1) 4 735: specified date 31 May 1987.

Howard 7/8/87

by **JULIE WALKER**

Farm-Ag to trim farm input costs



③ General

①

AGRICULTURAL chemical supplier Farm-Ag will save farmers between R8-million and R10-million this year and R25-million next year in input costs.

Farm-Ag will do so by making the chemicals.

The share looks good value at 760c — 110c off its April high and on a low price-earnings ratio of 8,9. Earnings a share for the year to February 1987 were 85c and the dividend 40c, giving an attractive yield of 5,2%.

The Farm-Ag group was founded by the Maingard brothers in 1956 and was floated in 1981 through a reverse listing into Eddels. A year later Farm-Ag began the basic manufacture of agricultural chemicals in addition to its trading activities. It sold its retail division to ICI (SA) in 1985.

Safsan Agricultural Chemicals and the Miracle Manufacturing Company, which makes lawnmowers, were acquired in 1986 and last week the Transvaal-based Stiletto Lawnmower Manufacturing Company was bought.

This year it took over the Potter & Moore group of toiletry companies to provide it with an entry to the chain stores.

A rights offer was held last November to raise money for a manufacturing plant at Canelands in the heart of Na-

tal's sugar belt. Sugar farming is the second-largest market for agricultural chemicals in SA, but the factory has good road and rail links to serve the maize-growing areas of the Transvaal and the Free State.

Farm-Ag has makes a weedkiller which controls jointed cactus in the Eastern Cape and weeds in sugarcane lands. The product is also exported.

STRATEGIC

The group's profile will change from predominantly a chemical trading and "contract formulating" concern to a primary manufacturer and formulator.

Many previously imported products are of a strategic nature and Farm-Ag will beat sanctions.

Chief executive Robert Maingard says: "Farm-Ag's philosophy is to reduce the farmer's input cost. Until now it was claimed that agricultural chemicals could not be produced economically in South Africa.

"We realise that Farm-Ag will come up against multinational companies which will not be pleased to see such a development in South Africa."

Farm-Ag has been granted tariff protection for one of its most important products, Alachlor. It will seek protection for another five products.

Since it became known that Farm-Ag was to make

the compound, foreign competitors dropped their price by 25%.

A 25% cut suggests that SA has been paying through the nose for imported agricultural chemicals.

When Farm-Ag applied for duty tariff protection it promised not to abuse the relief. Protection is required to safeguard the new industry against dumping. The company expects to manufacture at least 10 strategically important compounds by next year.

Production costs are expected to be lower than those of foreign competitors and the door could be opened to exports.

Although Farm-Ag's earnings will begin to benefit this year, in the next financial year the true potential will be realised.

Farm-Ag is confident that it will be able to undercut the price of imports. The group has laboratories and research facilities, and employs experienced agronomists and manufacturing staff.

There are manufacturing operations at Springs and Boksburg. The two will be housed under one roof at the Springs factory to rationalise management and services.

Another listed company to benefit from Farm-Ag's improved performance will be the Raleigh Holdings. Raleigh holds a 53% stake in Farm-Ag, 23% of Probeair and 66% of Pacific Hacks Holdings.

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) R2 067 574
 - (b) Creamline Dairies (Pty) Ltd.
- (2) Yes. J. J. Du Plessis (Chairman); T. L. Reyneke; C. J. Bester; R. R. Callanan; P. W. Dempsey; C. P. de Wit; D. Osborne; P. J. Posthumus; F. D. P. Reyneke; R. B. S. Tucker; A. C. Vlok.
- (3) Yes.
 - (a) Since the debtor was placed under provisional liquidation, a compromise in terms of section 311 of the Companies Act, 1973 (Act 61 of 1973), was agreed to.
 - (b) 20 September 1985.
 - (c) The Dairy Board and the other creditors.
- (4) No.

Agricultural machinery/chemicals

*5. Mr A J W P S TERBLANCHE asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:†

- (1) Whether import restrictions and tariffs in respect of agricultural machinery and chemicals are reviewed from time to time; if not, why not; if so, on how many occasions have such tariffs been adjusted since 1 January 1982;
- (2) whether the rand/dollar exchange rate is taken into account in the adjustment of such import tariffs; if so, (a) to what extent and (b) what other factors are taken into account in this regard;
- (3) whether the body reviewing import tariffs includes a representative of the agricultural sector; if so, (a) (i) who is this person and (ii) by whom was he nominated and (b) what (i) are the names of the other persons serving on this body at present and (ii) is the name of this body; if not, why not;

up against the benefits which the country will derive from such protection.

- (3) No.
 - (a) (i) and (ii) Fall away.
 - (b) (i) and (ii) The body which advises the Government on customs tariff protection is the Board of Trade and Industry. The Board is composed as follows:
 - Full-time members:*
Dr L P McCrystal (Chairman)
Dr J Adendorff
Dr D L Bosman
 - Pari-time members:*
Mr R J Ironside
Mr H J Terreblanche
Mr R Ramsay
Mr E Pavitt

The composition of the Board of Trade and Industry is laid down by law. In terms of section 5 (2) of the Board of Trade and Industry Act, 1986 the members of the Board are appointed by the State President by reason of their knowledge of and experience in commerce, industry and the economy. The members are, therefore, appointed in their personal capacity and do not represent specific sectors.

(4) As indicated already, members of the Board of Trade and Industry are not appointed from specific economic sectors, but exclusively by reason of the special knowledge and experience they may have. Anybody having that knowledge and experience is considered for appointment to the Board.

Members convicted of theft
*6. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Defence:†

- (1) Whether any members of the South African Defence Force who have been convicted of theft, are allowed to remain in the service of the Defence Force; if so, in what circumstances;

(2) whether the pension money of such members may be used to make good damage suffered as a result of theft; if not, why not; if so, (a) in what circumstances and (b) in terms of what statutory provisions;

(3) what is the policy of the Defence Force in respect of members who are convicted of offences?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Each case is considered on merit. The nature and seriousness of the offence and the sentence is taken into account to determine whether the member should be dismissed or not.
- (2) Yes.
 - (a) Losses sustained by the State may be deducted from the annuity or benefit payable to a member of the pension fund in a lump sum or in instalments such as determined by the Secretary of the Government Service Pension Fund.
 - (b) Section (2) (3) (c)—General Pension Act, (Act 29 of 1979).
- (3) Each case is considered on merit to determine whether other additional administrative steps should be taken against the member. In addition to possible dismissal a member's promotion may be held back with the proviso that a member may not be penalised for more than two years for the same offence.

Railways/harbours/airports: policing

*7. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:†

- (1) Whether the South African Police is responsible for the policing of (a) the railways, (b) the harbours, (c) the airports and (d) other specified branches and properties of the South African Transport Services; if not, (i) why not and (ii) what action is contemplated in this regard; if so, (aa) from what date, (bb) what was the cost thereof to the South African

(4) whether he will consider appointing a representative of the agricultural sector to this body?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY (Dr T G Alant):

- (1) Yes. Quantitative import restrictions are only applicable on certain types of agricultural machinery, including ploughs, harrows, cultivators, seed and fertiliser distributors and harvesting and threshing machines. Import permits are issued to cover the full reasonable requirements of importers. In the case of agricultural chemicals, the position is that fertilisers are exempted from quantitative import control. The importation of insecticides, fungicides, weed killers and rat poisons is only monitored and this is done at the request of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing which is responsible for the administration of the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947) in terms of which the products referred to have to be registered before they may be marketed locally.

Import duties are being reviewed from time to time at the request of interested parties or on the initiative of the Board of Trade and Industry. With regard to agricultural chemicals, import duties have been revised in 12 cases since 1 January 1982. Comprehensive investigations are conducted at present into the possible revision of customs tariff protection on agricultural chemicals and machinery.

(2) Yes.

- (a) and (b) In the case of all applications for tariff protection the Board of Trade and Industry gives careful consideration to the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on the competitiveness of an industrial sector as well as on that sector's contribution to the economy. The cost of tariff protection is also carefully weighed

sional Commissioner of the area where they envisage such action.

(i) and (ii) Fall away.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(i) and (ii) Legislation of the RSA which has not been repealed in a national state. stays in force in that national state.

Permanent members of police forces of the national states have no jurisdiction in the RSA to arrest, detain or remove persons who have committed an offence, from the RSA to a national state, in terms of the said legislation in that national state. Such arrest, detention and removal must be performed according to the requirements in paragraph (1) above.

Members of the South African Police who are seconded to a national state, retain their jurisdiction in the RSA. Thus, they have jurisdiction to arrest and detain persons who have committed an offence in the national state, both in the RSA and that national state and to remove such person to that national state. However, the requirements in paragraph (1) above must be adhered to.

(3) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(i) Two persons on 27 May 1987.

(ii) By members of the South African Police, seconded to the KwaNdebele Police.

(4) Yes. Because members of the South African Police seconded to the KwaNdebele Police, did not take action

according to the prescribed requirements, the Commissioner of the South African Police discussed the matter personally and thoroughly with the Commissioner of the KwaNdebele Police. It was pointed out to him that the prescribed requirements should be strictly adhered to in future.

Up to the present, police forces of other national states acted strictly according to the prescribed requirements. The matter and the serious implications of disregarding the prescribed requirements were, nevertheless, once more brought to the attention of Commissioners of police forces of the national states.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can he give us the assurance that the people who were—apparently illegally—taken into detention, were released from detention in KwaNdebele?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, whether the persons were detained illegally or not is not for me to say; it is for a court to decide on that. I only told the hon member what arrangements are applicable in that regard, and what arrangements I have made to prevent a repetition thereof.

Employees: extra employment

*2. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) Whether employees of the South African Transport Services are permitted to (a) take on extra employment and (b) participate in any type of business of their own; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether such employees are permitted to become directors of companies registered in (a) the Republic and (b) a foreign country; if not, why not;

(3) whether disciplinary action is taken by the Transport Services against staff members who are employed by or personally operate private com-

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panies involved in the export/import business; if so, what action; whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1) and (2) Yes, subject to certain conditions.

(3) Disciplinary action will only be instituted when circumstances justify such action. It is a basic principle to impose punishment commensurate with the seriousness of offences, regard being had to mitigating/aggravating circumstances.

(4) No.

Mr J A B Murray

*3. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 37 on 17 February 1987, the South African Transport Services have received a certain memorandum, particulars of which have been furnished to the Transport Services for the purpose of the Minister's reply, concerning irregularities allegedly committed by the present incumbent of the post of South African Airways sales manager for the United Kingdom and Ireland; if so, (a) on what date, (b) from whom, (c) what is the (i) name of the incumbent of this post and (ii) nature of the alleged irregularities;

(2) whether any amounts of money due to the Transport Services were written off as a result of these irregularities; if so, (a) what amounts, and (b) why, in each case;

(3) whether any action has been or is to be taken against this person; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(a) 24 January 1987.

(b) Mr A B Watkins.

(c) (i) Mr J A B Murray.

(ii) Alleged misconduct and abuse of departmental facilities and of the conditions of the official passports of the employee concerned and his wife.

(2) Yes.

(a) R3 510,10.

(b) Amount was in respect of private telephone calls. During an investigation there was reason to believe that the employee concerned was not aware of extant instructions pertaining to private telephone calls.

(3) No. The alleged irregularities were investigated and apart from the incident in part (2) (b) of the reply the allegations proved to be unfounded.

(4) No.

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Dairy Board: bad debts

*4. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) Whether the Dairy Board lost any money through bad debts in respect of fresh-milk distributors in the 1985-86 financial year; if so, (a) what total amount was involved and (b) what are the names of the fresh-milk distributors who failed to pay these debts;

(2) whether he will furnish the names of the directors of these fresh-milk distributing concerns at the time; if not, why not; if so, what are their names;

(3) whether any action has been taken in respect of these bad debts; if so, (a) what action, (b) when and (c) who took the decision in this regard;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) R2 067 574
 - (b) Creamline Dairies (Pty) Ltd.
- (2) Yes, J. J. Du Plessis (Chairman); T. L. Reynecke; C. J. Bester; R. R. Callanan; P. W. Dempsey; C. P. de Wit; D. Osborne; P. J. Posthumus; F. D. P. Reyneke; R. B. S. Tucker; A. C. Vlok.
- (3) Yes.
 - (a) Since the debtor was placed under provisional liquidation, a compromise in terms of section 311 of the Companies Act, 1973 (Act 61 of 1973), was agreed to.
 - (b) 20 September 1985.
 - (c) The Dairy Board and the other creditors.
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- (3) whether the body reviewing import tariffs includes a representative of the agricultural sector; if so, (a) (i) who is this person and (ii) by whom was he nominated and (b) what (i) are the names of the other persons serving on this body at present and (ii) is the name of this body; if not, why not;

(4) whether he will consider appointing a representative of the agricultural sector to this body?

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- (1) Yes. Quantitative import restrictions are only applicable on certain types of agricultural machinery, including ploughs, harrows, cultivators, seed and fertiliser distributors and harvesting and threshing machines. Import permits are issued to cover the full reasonable requirements of importers. In the case of agricultural chemicals, the position is that fertilisers are exempted from quantitative import control. The importation of insecticides, fungicides, weed killers and rat poisons is only monitored and this is done at the request of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing which is responsible for the administration of the Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947) in terms of which the products referred to have to be registered before they may be marketed locally.

Import duties are being reviewed from time to time at the request of interested parties or on the initiative of the Board of Trade and Industry. With regard to agricultural chemicals, import duties have been revised in 12 cases since 1 January 1982. Comprehensive investigations are conducted at present into the possible revision of customs tariff protection on agricultural chemicals and machinery.

(2) Yes.

- (a) and (b) In the case of all applications for tariff protection the Board of Trade and Industry gives careful consideration to the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on the competitiveness of an industrial sector as well as on that sector's contribution to the economy. The cost of tariff protection is also carefully weighed

up against the benefits which the country will derive from such protection.

(3) No.

- (a) (i) and (ii) Fall away.
- (b) (i) and (ii) The body which advises the Government on customs tariff protection is the Board of Trade and Industry. The Board is composed as follows:

Full-time members:
Dr L P McCrystal (Chairman)
Dr J Adendorff
Dr D L Bosman

Part-time members:
Mr R J Ironside
Mr H J Terreblanche
Mr R Ramsay
Mr E Pavitt

The composition of the Board of Trade and Industry is laid down by law. In terms of section 5 (2) of the Board of Trade and Industry Act, 1986 the members of the Board are appointed by the State President by reason of their knowledge of and experience in commerce, industry and the economy. The members are, therefore, appointed in their personal capacity and do not represent specific sectors.

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- (1) Whether any members of the South African Defence Force who have been convicted of theft, are allowed to remain in the service of the Defence Force; if so, in what circumstances;

(2) whether the pension money of such members may be used to make good damage suffered as a result of theft; if not, why not; if so, (a) in what circumstances and (b) in terms of what statutory provisions;

(3) what is the policy of the Defence Force in respect of members who are convicted of offences?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Each case is considered on merit. The nature and seriousness of the offence and the sentence is taken into account to determine whether the member should be dismissed or not.
- (2) Yes.

(a) Losses sustained by the State may be deducted from the annuity or benefit payable to a member of the pension fund in a lump sum or in instalments such as determined by the Secretary of the Government Service Pension Fund.

(b) Section (2) (3) (c)—General Pension Act, (Act 29 of 1979).

- (3) Each case is considered on merit to determine whether other additional administrative steps should be taken against the member. In addition to possible dismissal a member's promotion may be held back with the proviso that a member may not be penalised for more than two years for the same offence.

Railways/harbours/airports: policing

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- (1) Whether the South African Police is responsible for the policing of (a) the railways, (b) the harbours, (c) the airports and (d) other specified branches and properties of the South African Transport Services; if not, (i) why not and (ii) what action is contemplated in this regard; if so, (aa) from what date, (bb) what was the cost thereof to the South African

WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST 1987

separate figures can unfortunately not be furnished.

- (ii) The total amount outstanding in respect of house rent and service fees due to all Black local authorities in Natal as at 30 April 1987 amounted to R2 822 284,03.

State budget: percentage spent on agriculture

190. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Agriculture:†

What was the average annual percentage of the total State budget spent on agriculture in the years (a) 1951 to 1960, (b) 1961 to 1970, (c) 1971 to 1980 and (d) 1981 to 1986?

- The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:
- (a) 9.36 per cent.
 - (b) 6.87 per cent.
 - (c) 4.36 per cent.
 - (d) 3.25 per cent.
- Other expenditure in respect of agriculture, eg from statutory levy funds, is not included in these percentages.

Provincial Administration of Transvaal

- (a) Separate figures for rent and service charges are not available for the Province of Transvaal.
- (ii) As at 30 April 1987 the total amount outstanding in respect of rent and service charges was R231 569 523.

(b) The most important steps taken by the Province of Transvaal to collect these amounts, are shortly as follows:

- Members of the public who are in arrears with their rent and service charges are called in to discuss arrangements how to pay off the arrears. Tenants who are unemployed as a result of circumstances beyond their control are assisted with partial or total remission of rent and service charges.

During yearly estimate meetings with Black Councils the necessity that estimated revenue be collected, are strongly emphasized.

In certain areas the system whereby residents voluntarily approach their employers to deduct rent and service charges

from their salaries and to forward it to the Councils, is bearing fruit.

- A manual to institute civil action against defaulters has been compiled for Transvaal and made available to the local authorities.
- Black Councils undertake legal action (civil action) against defaulters.
- In certain cases services are suspended.
- Defaulters are sometimes threatened with ejection and in certain cases ejected.
- In certain areas newsletters are circulated under residents to emphasize the importance that payments be made.
- The Municipal Police are used to remind defaulters to comply with their obligations. (Monies are not collected by the Municipal Police).

Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State

- (a) The total amount in arrears on 30 April 1987 in the Orange Free State regarding (i) rent and (ii) levies for (aa) water supply; (bb) electricity supply and (cc) other specified services amounts to R10 929 839,00.

(b) The effect of money in arrears is constantly emphasized during the preparation and consideration of budgets.

- Black local authorities take civil action against inhabitants where payments are in arrears.
- Services are in some cases suspended.

Information actions are continuously launched in order to improve communication between inhabitants and the Council and to emphasize the necessity for

the payment of rent and service charges.

Provincial Administration of the Cape Province

- (a) (i) R21 703 524.
- (ii) (aa), (bb) and (cc) R21 519 927 (are not kept separately) as on 30 April 1987.
- Action taken to recover arrears in respect of (a) above, are as follows:
 - Personal interviews with rent and service charge defaulters.
 - Letters to residents notifying them of arrears and requesting them to make arrangements for the settlement thereof.
 - Negotiations with employers/employees regarding voluntary deduction orders.
 - Action in terms of the Housing Act (Act 4 of 1966).
 - Civil action in terms of Regulation 18 (1) of government notice R1036 of 14 June 1968.

Supplementary reply to Question No 18 on Monday, 15 June 1987, put by Mr S S van der Merwe (col.145).

Regional services councils

18. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether any persons have been appointed as chairmen of any regional services councils; if not, when will such chairmen be appointed; if so, (a) in respect of which councils, (b) what are their names in each case and (c) (i) what remuneration package will they receive and (ii) how will this package be made up;
- (2) whether these chairmen will receive any fringe benefits; if so, (a) what

benefits and (b) what will be the value of these benefits;

(3) whether any ordinary members of regional services councils have been appointed; if so, (a) when and (b) what are their names; if not, when will they be appointed;

(4) whether such ordinary members will

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) Yes.	(b)	(c) (i)
Councils	Chairmen	Remuneration
Algoa	J W Kleinbans	R90 750
East Rand	L Ferreira	R90 750
Pretoria	P Delpont	R90 750
Central Witwatersrand	G Bornmann	R90 750
Western Cape	P J Loubser	R44 550
Bloem-area	D F van Tonder	R74 250
West Rand	N de Bruin	R24 750
Walvis Bay	C L de Jager	

(c) (ii) The above-mentioned remuneration represents the total package.

(2) No.

(3) No. The members of a regional services council are not appointed, but are nominated by each local body of a region from among its own members in terms of section 6 (2) of the Regional Services Council Act, 1985 (Act No 109 of 1985).

(4) (a) Members will only receive a daily session allowance according to a decision pursuant upon section 8 (4) of the Regional Services Council Act, 1985.

(b) No.

(i) (aa) The allowance varies

(iii) From the applicable RSC's budget account.

(ii) None.

ties and responsibilities of Ministerial Representatives.

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Ministers/Ministerial Representatives: duties/responsibilities

325. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the State President:†

What, apart from the powers, functions and duties of the persons to whom he referred in his reply to Question No 1 on 28 July 1987, is the (a) list of duties and (b) field of responsibility of each (i) Cabinet Minister, (ii) Deputy Minister, (iii) (aa) Minister and (bb) Deputy Minister in the Ministers' Council of the House of Assembly and (iv) Ministerial Representative for the Ministers' Council of the House of Assembly at present?

The STATE PRESIDENT:

(a) and (b) (i), (ii) and (iii) There are no written lists of duties for Ministers and Deputy Ministers. The duties and responsibilities of the office bearers concerned arise from the Acts under their administration, the administrative matters for which they are responsible in terms of the government departments, or affairs which they administer; the policy-making within the ambit of their activities, convention which arises from the handling of matters through the years, as well as actions that may result from regular consultations between the State President and Ministers.

(aa) and (bb) (iv) The Chairman of the Ministers' Council determines the du-

Own Affairs:

Agricultural extension officers

56. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

Whether there is a shortage of agricultural extension officers in his Department; if so, (a) how many posts for such officers were vacant as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how many such officers (i) joined and (ii) left the service of his Department during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

Yes.

(a) 69 (31 May 1987).

(b) (i) 7 (1 June 1986 to 31 May 1987).

(ii) 4 (1 June 1986 to 31 May 1987).

Grey High School, Port Elizabeth

57. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(1) Whether his Department intends providing additional (a) classrooms and (b) laboratory facilities at Grey High School in Port Elizabeth; if so, (i) when, (ii) how many classrooms, (iii) what laboratory facilities and (iv) what stage had the planning in this regard reached as at the latest specified date for which information is available; if not, why not;

(2) whether the Grey High School Committee has made any requests to his Department for the above facilities; if so, what was the date of the (a) original and (b) most recent request received by his Department;

Agriculture strategy needs rewards

Methods where agriculture may be rewarded for its socio-economic and strategic products without distorting market forces require urgent reassessment, says the South African Agricultural Union. As such, the gradual elimination of cross subsidisation in the economy has serious implications for agriculture.

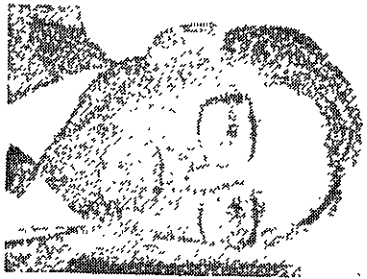
This is one of the main findings of a key group of people from the agricultural and private sectors who attended a conference on "an agricultural strategy which would best serve South Africa's needs".

The three-day conference was convened by the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Kobus Jooste, and was presided at Dikhololo near Brits.

"Regarding agricultural products, an objective evaluation clearly shows that agriculture's contribution to the national economy includes much more than food and fibre," said Mr Jooste.

"Agriculture's saleable products and services constitutes 54,6 per cent, while 45,4 per cent of its products are provided indirectly.

"This includes agriculture's contribution to job opportunities and livelihood for more than 5 million people (20,5 percent), to the main-



MR JOOSTE

ance and development of rural infrastructure (15,1 per cent), its role in security (6,9 per cent) and its contribution to conservatism (3 per cent).

Regarding remuneration for its saleable products and services, Mr Jooste said the proper operation of market forces was imperative.

"The delegates agreed that the income of large numbers of farmers is inadequate due to a concurrence of local and international circumstances.

"If agriculture is to continue fulfilling its task as supplier of produce to the national economy, the net income of large numbers of farmers will have to improve," he said.

The following important perspectives were formulated or reconfirmed:

● Further development of the entrepreneur and his workers is central to the efficient

provision of agricultural products to the national economy.

● The farmer's responsibility to make decisions on his own farm and his attitude to self-development remain a cornerstone for a healthy agricultural sector in the future.

● The farmer's responsibility to provide for the handling of normal market risks and climatic variables as individual or as a member of organised agriculture in a commodity context must be expanded.

● The government has the responsibility to create a milieu in which agriculture can be independent, while offering necessary support during disaster situations.

● Too little emphasis has up to now been placed on the development of the market in Africa south of the Sahara.

● The calculated application of agricultural products in a strategic context requires thorough consideration.

The general council approved the applicable principles and recommendations of the conference. The executive committee of the union will plan action programmes to follow up the decisions and will hold further discussions with the relevant business leaders and the government.

Pension scheme launch

A retirement scheme for South Africa's more than 1,2 million farm workers has been launched by Sentra-ber, the central co-operative for short term insurance and risk management in collaboration with Old Mutual.

Ordinary farm workers, farm managers and administrative farm personnel can join the scheme in the form of a provident fund which farmers may join voluntarily on behalf of their employees.

The multi-million rand scheme has been accepted by the South African Agricultural

Union and will be fully operational by January 1, 1988.

The main purpose of the fund is to provide retirement benefits for employees, with death and disability cover as supplementary benefits. On retirement, a single payment or a monthly pension is paid. The amount depends on how long contributions have been made to the fund for the employee concerned. On death or disability a sum equal to two years' wages of the employee is paid out.

The employer decides for himself how the monthly contributions

are to be made up. He can pay them out of his own pocket, or recover them from his employees' wages. There is a tax benefit for the farmer in that his contributions are deductible.

Optional improvements are also possible, depending on the individual employer, as the trustee of the scheme may make adjustments at any time.

Old Mutual handles the issue of policies and Sentra-ber acts as adviser to the scheme's trustee. Marketing will be handled by the more than 230 cooperatives throughout the country.

25th ANNIVERSARY

FARMING ON FRIDAY

Edited by
FRED CRONEY

Satsuma shows promise

The South African Satsuma industry is still relatively young. The first Satsuma selections were obtained from Port Beaufort in 1984 and the first large plantings were established nine years ago, says Mr P.J.J. van Rensburg, a researcher at the Citrus and Subtropical Fruit Research Institute.

The Satsuma is of medium size and, unlike other commercial citrus cultivars, it is cold resistant. Healthy trees can survive temperatures of -7°C with very little damage.

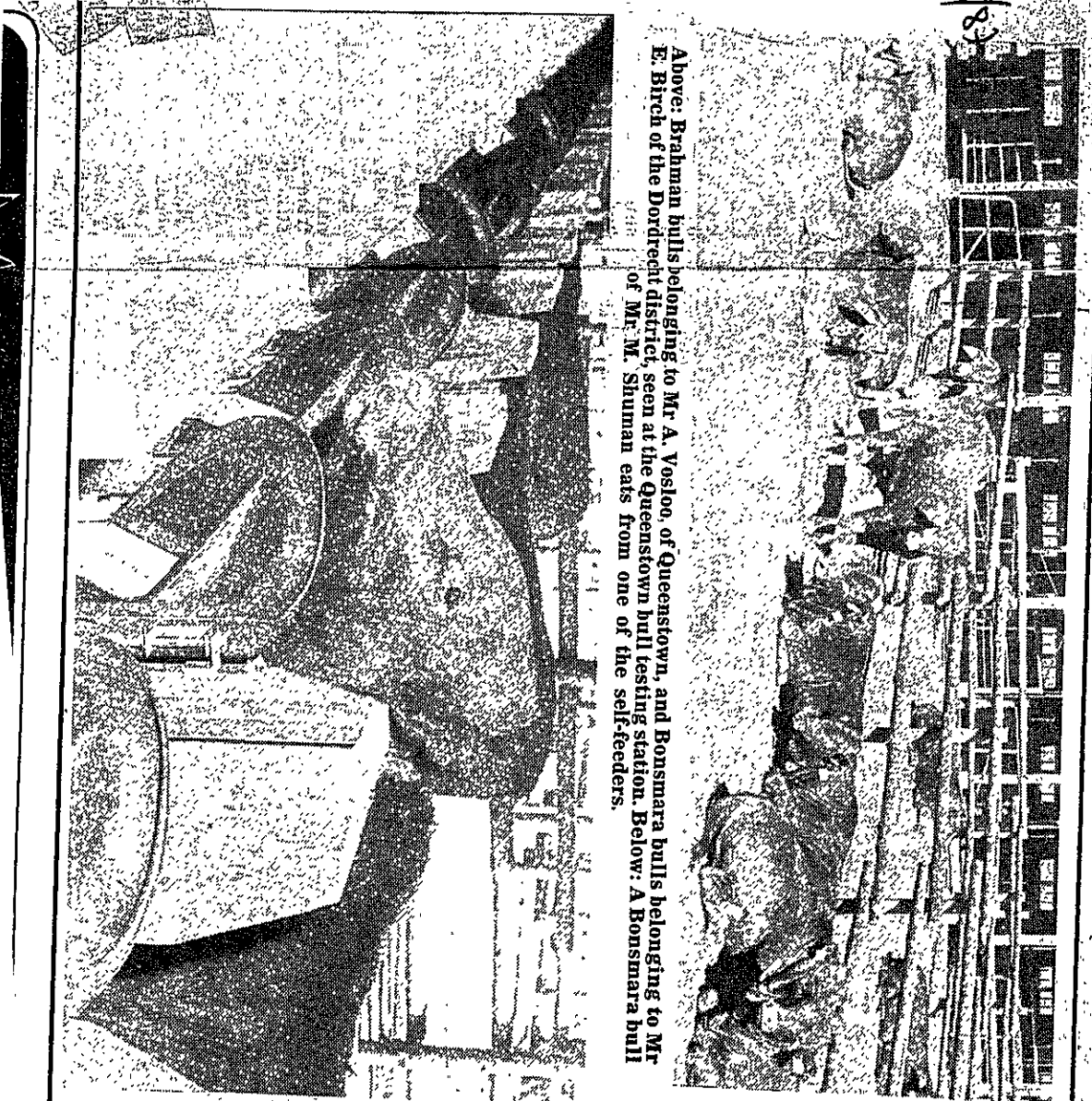
South African plantings consist mainly of the Owari selection, and the fruit of this selection is of low to medium quality.

In 1976 seed of five additional selections were imported in an attempt to release a top quality selection that would also be well adapted to local conditions.

Only three selections — Mihowasse, Kuno and Immanura — survived the seeding stage.

Mihowasse has so far displayed the best characteristics. The fruit have an exceptionally high sugar acid ratio, which implies that it will adapt over a wider climatic spectrum.

According to Mr Van Rensburg, this selection is now being phased into the industry, so as to eventually replace the Owari selection. Kuno and Immanura are also showing promise and it is especially Immanura that has adapted well in areas where Satsuma cannot normally be planted.



Above: Brahma bulls belonging to Mr. A. Vosloo, of Queenstown, and Bonsmara bulls belonging to Mr. E. Birch of the Dorsetbred district, seen at the Queenstown bull testing station. Below: A Bonsmara bull of Mr. M. Shuman eats from one of the self-feeders.

Fungus plan for willows

For the first time a plant pathogen has been deliberately released in South Africa.

In a small, experimental release a rust fungus has been placed on the so-called Port Jackson "willow" (*Acacia saligna*) north of Stellenbosch.

Due to the relatively slow development of the disease and the woody nature of the target plant, it is expected that it will take a number of years before the fungus will become widespread and have a conspicuous effect on the plants.

Acacia saligna was imported from Australia 150 years ago for "afforestation" and to help bind sand dunes near Cape Town.

Since then the plant has become an important weed problem spreading throughout many of the coastal areas, from the Olifants River in the south-western Cape to Transkei in the east. It also extends inland along many river valleys.

The Port Jackson rust produces large numbers of hard, long-lived seeds and respouts readily after being cut or burnt.

Thickets of these plants threaten the survival of the number of indigenous species. They had long ago fulfilled their function, but did not make place for the original vegetation, and spread further than intended.

The expected gradual decline of affected plants should create ideal conditions for more desirable plants to recover and to colonise the invaded areas.

It is therefore expected that the long-term effect of native plants which had once occurred there, may again become abundant among the ailing Port Jackson.

are increased

Continued representations from the farming community and from organised agriculture have resulted in an increase of the loan amounts for the erection of houses for full time farm workers.

The Agricultural Credit Board will now consider on merit applications from owners of farming units for the erection of the following types of houses for families of various sizes, consisting of one to four

bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom and living room. The last mentioned three rooms are regarded as standard and must form part of all houses built under this scheme in future.

Standard 3 rooms plus 1 bedroom, R8 000; plus 2 bedrooms, R10 000; plus 3 bedrooms, R12 000; plus 4 bedrooms, R14 000.

Because of the financial implications of this adjustment it has been further decided to set a limit of four houses per farmer instead of the current limit of 10 houses.

This agreement will take effect immediately.

Diesel rebates

The argument of "excessive extra bookkeeping" for farmers affected by the new fuel rebate system for diesel was not valid, the Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr George Bartlett, said in parliament.

He was responding to criticism of the system introduced last month, whereby farmers now had to pay the full fuel price and were only able to claim their rebates at a later stage.

It had been calculated that the interest incurred on the extra money the farmer had to pay for his fuel before receiving the rebates averaged only R20 to R30 per farmer.

AKGUS 20/8/87

3 General

NATIONAL

Farmers forced off land 'face ruin'

Staff Reporter

HUNDREDS of Namaqualand farmers in the Leliefontein area of the north-western Cape claim they face ruin in the wake of a Government scheme which has forced them off land awarded to their ancestors nearly 200 years ago.

A delegation of farmers told a Press conference in Cape Town yesterday of the hardships threatening the once-thriving and peaceful community of Khoi descendants.

The delegation represented about 300 farmers affected by the sub-division of the land.

At the Press conference hosted by the Surplus People Project, they said that for 170 years the community had been farming with small stock and crops on communal land which provided them with access to winter and summer grazing areas.

"I know the people as an independent, self-sufficient group with regard to their income.

They have never had to beg. They produce their own milk, meat and bread," said Mr Daniel Baard, a community leader from Tweerivier in the Leliefontein reserve.

He said the community was disrupted in 1985 when the Government pushed through a new scheme in terms of which farmers were allocated small pockets of communal land around their villages while most of the land was divided into "economic units" which were leased at R300 a year.

Stock losses

The community was outraged that the State started the system without first negotiating with the farmers, he said.

The Surplus People Project said in a statement that most of the people who previously had communal sowing and grazing rights had been pushed off most of the land.

"They are now forced to use those units that have not been leased out and the small com-

monage around the settlements. Overcrowding has led to overgrazing in these common areas. People have suffered stock losses as a result.

"Others have lost their traditional sowing rights because 'their' piece of land now lies in a unit leased out by the State to a private individual," the statement said.

Mr Gert Bekeur, who farms in the Leliefontein area, said the "terrible crisis" could lead to the community's extinction.

He said that while he and his colleagues had the option to rent the economic units, they felt it was "immoral" to do so as the land had been passed on from generation to generation with the blessing of several successive governments.

Lala Steyn, a Surplus People Project official, said the State had argued that the farmers had overstocked the land. The community felt the State could simply have asked the farmers to cut back on their stock.

1965-20/8/87 (35000)

Fire destroys stock, grazing on 15 farms

EAST LONDON. — A veld fire has caused damage to at least 15 farms in the Cathcart area.

One farmer described it as "the worst in living memory". An estimated 20 000 ha was razed in less than 24 hours.

A farmer in the Thomas River area, Mr. Aubrey Cotterell, said livestock had been left dead and maimed, outbuildings were razed and large areas of winter grazing reduced to ashes.

"Sixty to 70 percent of the farmland in the district has been burned, including barns containing lucerne for winter feeding, labourers' huts, commercial pine forests and many thousands of rands worth of fencing," he said.

The fire is said to have been started by a careless smoker. — Sapa.

CAPE TIMES 21/8/27 (90) 36 lines

More farm land for Indians

Political Staff

HOUSE OF DELEGATES. — Indians are to get access to more agricultural land.

President P W Botha told the House of Delegates yesterday after appeals by the Solidarity MP for Southern Natal, Mr Kisten Moodley, that something would have to be done about providing more land for Indian farmers and that it had already been referred to a cabinet committee.

Mr Moodley was speaking during debate on the president's budget vote. "It is no use having a Minister of Agriculture if you don't have the land," he said.

Mr Botha said the matter deserved attention as provision had already been made for coloured farmers.

"We must apply our minds to making more land available. This can be done by proper discussion and proper arrangements."

Cape Times 22/11/87

Cape nurseries are a blossoming business

3

If you're not planting already, you should be. With spring officially only just more than a week ahead, JANE ARBOUS looks at the flourishing nursery industry in the Western Cape.



Ralph Tyson of the Rosebank branch of Starke Ayres — he says the switch to mainly female custom "is causing us to rethink on what appeals".

CHRISTMAS comes early for the R50 million local garden nursery business.

With serious gardeners already up to their elbows in earth, August/September is the industry's peak period. And because the cold wet spells have been liberally interspersed with warm clear days this year, it looks to be a good season for them already.

"The shorter the winter, the better the sales. When the rain stops, people come out like ants," says Errol Tichart, a director of one of the big three nurseries, Ferndale.

Price discounted young plants are an added attraction at this time of the year too.

There are more than 50 nurseries, including wholesalers, in the West-

ern Cape — most of them small but blooming in an industry which grows by a steady 10 to 12% a year.

It's one of the country's few businesses where economics and politics play no part — the weather makes or breaks it.

In fact, the industry bucks the trend — when the economy is depressed, people can't afford to go away for weekends or long holidays. More time at home means more work done around the place,

and the garden or patio is often the first target for renewal.

Many people are also realising that the pleasure of colour and greenery is in inverse proportion to the low cost of providing it.

Plants not only last for years, but they cover a range suitable for any pocket — from 25c each to R100, with some indoor plants and palms costing more.

Containers and pots

range from a few rand for plastic to hundreds of rand for ceramic and clay showpieces.

House building has a direct impact on the industry but the spin-off is only about a year or two later when the new homeowner has finished furnishing the interior.

Nurseries have changed dramatically over the years and a survey by Top of the Times last week shows some interesting trends:

● 70 to 80% of buyers are women — a dramatic shift.

● The introduction of indoor plants in supermarkets has not cut into competing nursery business, but has enlarged the market.

● Indigenous plants — an attractive alternative to exotics and once only seen on the open veld — are becoming more popular.

● The average age and income of customers has widened from predominantly middle-aged and affluent to teens and low income!

● Not only is gardening

● To Page 16

P.T.O.

W/E News 3 Games
22/1987

Millions of apples for OK Bazaars

By ARNOLD KIRKBY

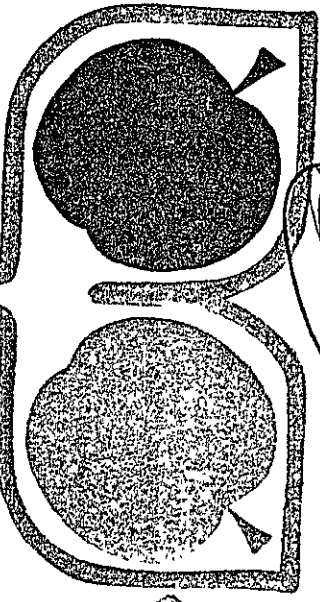
THIRD generation apple farmer from Elgin, Mr Anthony Rawbone-Viljoen, is putting the Two a Day (apple) Group's marketing strategy into a "floating basket".

The group, made up of 26 apple and pear growers from the Elgin-Grabouw-Vyebom districts, is sponsoring John Martin and his newly named yacht Two a Day Voortrekker II in the Beachcomber Crossing between Mauritius and Durban next month.

The venture is new for the group and reminiscent of the pioneering spirit which dates back to 1899 when Mr Rawbone-Viljoen's great-grandfather planted the first apple orchard on the family farm Oak Valley in the Elgin district.

SPONSOR

When he heard that John Martin would not be able to compete in the Beachcomber after his previous sponsor pulled out, Mr Rawbone-Viljoen put it to his board that it was the ideal time to start a marketing drive both locally and over border opera-



Two a Day

Anthony Rawbone-Viljoen... pioneering spirit.



Mr Rawbone-Viljoen majored in economics and business administration at Stellenbosch University and got his honours degree in economics at the University of Cape Town before joining a bank.

He joined the family farming venture in 1973 and three years later took over as managing director of the 1 820 hectare estate.

Subsequently he has been appointed vice chairman of the Two a Day group and chairman of Elpaco, one of two wholly owned subsidiaries belonging to the group.

The Two a Day group comprises the Elgin Fruit Packers Co-operative and subsidiaries, Elpaco — the local apple and pear marketing operation — and Elgin

Fruit juices which makes apple juice concentrate.

The Two a Day brand was first marketed more than 25 years ago and brought export quality apples and pears to the local consumer, Mr Rawbone-Viljoen said while driving through the magnificent orchards at Oak Valley.

"We have invested close to R20-million to service our commitment to the local market including highly sophisticated controlled atmosphere storage in 1977.

"His primary aim was to ensure continuity of supply for premier quality apples and pears on a year round basis.

"Our commitment, to the local consumer, which we embarked on more than a quarter of century ago is very significant.

"The basic motivation be-

hind the Two a Day Group is free enterprise. We believe in minimum control over our own affairs.

"In most of the years since introducing Two a Day to the local consumer, we could have exported that fruit on the overseas market for a far higher return.

PIONEERS

"It costs money to develop markets and Two a Day as pioneers in the local field was prepared to make that commitment for the long-term benefit of the consumer.

"The costs on new investments are extraordinarily high, but we have storage capacity for two million cartons a year.

"We have been supplying the OK Bazaars with export quality fruit for 16 years and this season we will sell our

five millionth carton to them. This equals half the annual export for South Africa."

On the home front, Oak Valley is a multi-faceted farming operation, with 220 hectares of land dedicated to apples, more than 80 hectares to pears, while 4 000 lambing ewes produce about 6 000 lambs for the meat market.

"Wool sales make up about 20 percent of our income from sheep and meat the rest," he said.

FLOWER

Today it costs between R35 000 and R40 000 to establish a new apple orchard. It is a seven year operation, said Mr Rawbone-Viljoen.

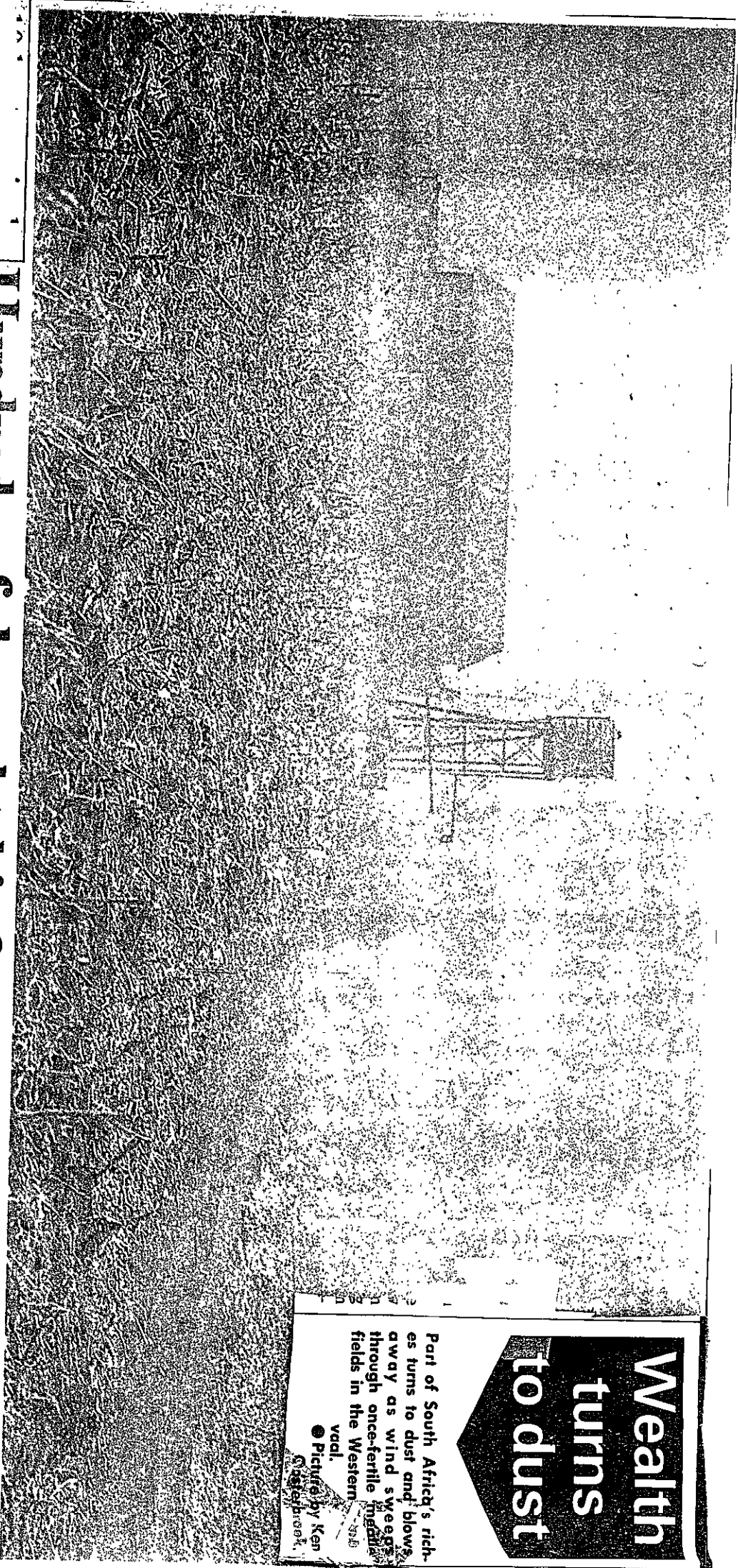
An ultra-sophisticated cut flower operation, under more than two hectares of glass house and another under shade cover, is the largest of its kind outside the Transvaal.

A wholesale section on the farm supplies flowers directly to outlets in Cape Town.

"Our main line is chrysanthemums, though we do grow carnations and a few other types of flowers," said Mr Rawbone-Viljoen.

The glass houses are multi-span structures and the first two were imported from Holland. The rest were constructed of mainly South African made material.

The farm is also a major shareholder in a Cape Town based leather goods manufacturing concern, South African Reptile Trading Company.



**Wealth
turns
to dust**

Part of South Africa's rich-
as turns to dust and blows
away as wind sweeps
through once-fertile fields
in the Western
vval.

Picture by Ken
C...
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Hundreds of drought-hit farmers face bankruptcy

By Carina le Grange
Farmers facing bankruptcy in the Western Transvaal
after six years of drought, can be counted in their hun-
dreds.

This was what The Star found on a recent visit to
the Western Transvaal.

Agricultural experts, questioned about the fact that
about 200 to 300 farmers in one co-operative district
were facing sequestration, said they could not dispute
that fact. But none would go on record officially.

Others involved with agriculture, such as Dr Koos
du Toit of the economics department of the Transvaal
Agricultural Union, could only say the R400 million set

aside by the Government to help drought-stricken
farmers would help only a small number.
He said: "We had hoped to help 2 000 farmers, or
even 3 000, in a meaningful way with the R400 mil-
lion."

"We were too optimistic and did not foresee all the
problems. Our aim will probably not be realised."

Farmers in the area also said only a few indi-
viduals could be helped and that in one area, only 12
applications for aid out of 30, could be granted.

The total debt of farmers in the area — a more
exact figure of those already sequestrated and those
at risk — could not, however, be determined.

It was explained that such information did exist
since it was used as background information to obtain
the State aid. But it was confidential, partly because
some of it had been obtained from banks and agricul-
tural co-operatives, which may not divulge client in-
formation.

Dr du Toit said the six-year drought had been de-
scribed by some to be the worst in memory because of
its length and severity in some areas.

Farmers visited by The Star said repeatedly they
could remember no worse time, or that it was, accord-
ing to some old-timers, the worst since 1933.

See Page 11.

Farmers mechanising 'just for the sake of it'

High unemployment results in govt plea to agriculture

A PLEA for agriculture to rethink its policies and attitudes towards mechanisation in the light of the high and growing levels of unemployment in SA, was made yesterday by Economic Affairs and Technology Deputy Minister George Bartlett.

Opening an agricultural engineering congress in Mmabatho, Bartlett acknowledged this proposal flew in the face of current thought and trends within the sector.

He said he believed that the level of agricultural mechanisation in a developing country like SA should be inverse-

CHRIS CAIRNCROSS

ly proportional to that country's level of industrialisation.

"I suggest that perhaps many commercial farmers are just mechanising for mechanisation's sake."

Bartlett indicated other sectors within agriculture could do well to follow the example set by the country's sugar farmers, who chose not to go the mechanisation route in the cutting of sugar cane.

Today, 24 years on, there is not a single mechanical cane cutter operating in SA on a commercial basis, and there is also no shortage of labour in the industry.

About 20 000 cane cutters have work in the industry, productivity has reached a high level and the capital cost of replacing workers with machines would probably amount to R100m, he said.

He acknowledged the farming community remained under considerable pressure, and predicted that conditions were likely to get worse before they got better — for some at least.

Bartlett suggested that the survivors would be those who fully understood the true meaning of productivity, the agricultural price formulae mechanisms, and the effect of current tax laws and allowances on these formulae.

Bartlett focused on the major economic dilemma facing farmers, namely that costs were outpacing revenue.

He noted that in 1973 the average cost of tractors in rands per kilowatt was R109. By 1981 this had inflated to R335, an annual compound increase of 15%.

By 1984, this had further increased by 19,3% a year to R568 per kilowatt.

Bartlett said he was unable to identify all the reasons for the hefty increases in tractor and implement prices, but said that the engines provided by IDC-controlled ADE, together with foreign exchange rates, had played an important role.

Barlett maintained tax legislation had also encouraged inefficiency in the use of scarce capital by providing incentives to farmers to buy capital goods.

~~3/1/87~~ B/Dey 3/1/87 25/8/87

able at this stage to divulge the findings.

(4) No, because the matter is still *sub judice*.

New Questions:

Drivers' licences/identity documents

*1. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 1202 on 5 September 1986, the provincial administrations have reported to the Cabinet on measures to give effect to the decision that drivers' licences be separate from identity documents; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether the provincial administrations have made any recommendations in this regard; if so, what is the nature of these recommendations;
- (3) whether the Cabinet has taken a decision on these recommendations; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that a decision will be taken; if so, (i) what is the decision and (ii) when will it be implemented?

Howard

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes. A joint report by the respective provincial administrations and the Department of Transport.

(2) Yes, in substance that the drivers' licences be kept in the identity document.

(3) No.

(a) The Cabinet decided on recommendation of the Department of Transport that the Commission for Administration should further investigate the matter; and

(b) A final report is nearing completion and will be submitted to the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs soon.

- (i) and (ii) Fall away.

25/8/87

Border: electrified fence

*2. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) (a) When was the electrified fence on the northern border of the Republic constructed and (b) how many persons died as a result of contact with this fence since that date as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (2) whether an electrified fence has been constructed on the eastern border of the Republic with Mozambique; if so, (a) when, (b) how many persons had died as a result of contact with this fence since that date as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (c) what is the (i) name and (ii) nationality of each of these persons?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) (a) 29 September 1984—28 March 1985.

(b) From 12 August 1985 to 4 August 1987—4.

(2) Yes.

(a) 17 March 1986 to 22 June 1987.

(b) From 1 June 1986 to 3 August 1987—31.

(c) (i) The names of some of the persons could not be determined but I am prepared to supply the names that are known to the hon member should he approach me in this regard.

(ii) As far as could be determined all the persons came from Mozambique.

Northern Transvaal Technikon

*3. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:†

- (1) What steps have been taken by his Department in respect of the irregularities at the Northern Transvaal Technikon to which the Advocate-

Howard 25/8/87

General referred in his report in terms of section 5 (1) of the Advocate-General Act No 118 of 1979, which was Tabled on 27 July 1987:

- (2) whether the technikon council has requested a judicial inquiry as a result of the findings of the Advocate-General; if not, why not; if so, what was the result of the judicial inquiry;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1) The Technikon is an autonomous tertiary educational institution, the responsibility for the management of which is borne by the Council by virtue of the Act on Technikon (Education and Training), 1981 (Act 27 of 1981). Therefore I requested the Chairman of the Council and the Rector to inform me of the Council's reaction to the report of the Advocate-General. I noted with approval the press statement issued by the Chairman on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Council on 4 August 1987 in which it was pointed out that the Advocate-General had only in respect of one of the 19 charges recommended action being taken against a staff member (who is not a member of the top management), that he found no evidence of improper enrichment of staff or other persons, and that he expressed his appreciation to the Council that they had had the charges investigated beforehand by a legal practitioner on whose report, the Advocate-General mentioned, he had mainly based his report. I have also noted with approval that the Council has decided to introduce improved measures for the functioning of the Technikon, especially with regard to management effectiveness, internal communication and staff relations. I will be further informed by the Chairman of the Council and the Rector after the full Council has had the opportunity to consider the matter at the next meeting.

(2) No. There is no indication in the Report of the Advocate-General that a judicial inquiry is necessary.

(3) No.

Rabies

*4. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether there has recently been an increase in the number of cases of rabies reported in Natal; if so, to what extent;
- (2) whether his Department is taking specific steps to curb the spread of rabies in Natal; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes, 74 cases of rabies occurred in Natal during the period 1 January 1987 to 30 June 1987, compared with 26 cases for the corresponding period in 1986.

(2) Yes.

* all dogs in Natal must in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984), be vaccinated against rabies, for which purpose annual routine vaccinations are undertaken in Natal;

* when an outbreak of rabies occurs, compulsory vaccination of all dogs and cats within a radius of 15 km from the point of the outbreak is undertaken;

* the introduction into, movement within and removal from Natal of all dogs and cats are prohibited in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984, except under the authority of a permit which is issued only if a valid certificate of vaccination of the animal concerned can be shown;

* since kwaZulu is an important source of rabies and other con-

(3) General 1/1/7

trolled animal diseases, two Senior State Veterinarians have recently been seconded to the kwaZulu Government to help combatting those diseases;

* so far this year 91 500 vaccinations against rabies have been undertaken in Natal.

(3) No.

Mr R W HARDINGHAM: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, has he received reports to the effect that the vaccine that is being used for rabies is not 100% effective? If so, has any action been taken in this regard?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: No, Mr Speaker, I have not received any such reports.

Kwamevane Township

*5. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 9 on 28 July 1987, his Department intends allocating funds for the upgrading of Kwamevane Township, near Howick; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) what total amount and (c) for what specified projects;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) As soon as funds for new projects can be made available from the National Housing Fund in collaboration with the Natal Provincial Administration and the Black Local Authority within the limits of the development priorities of the Natal Provincial Administration.
 - (b) Approximately R1.5 million.
 - (c) Upgrading of roads, sewerage reticulation, water reticulation and electricity reticulation as

well as upgrading of existing dwellings.

(2) No.

Persons awaiting execution

*6. Mr P C CRONJÉ asked the Minister of Justice:

How many persons were awaiting execution as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER (for the Minister of Justice):

On 25 August 1987, 262 persons were in detention after having been sentenced to death. Nine were awaiting execution while the cases of the rest were still in various stages of the post sentence process, the largest group being involved in appeals.

Television: transmitters

*7. Mr P C CRONJÉ asked the Minister in the State President's Office entrusted with Administration and Broadcasting Services:

- (1) Whether he will furnish information on the erection of transmitters for television broadcasts; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether a booster transmitter is to be erected in the Greytown area in Natal to improve television reception; if so, (a) when and (b) what aspects of television reception is it anticipated will be enhanced by this booster; if not, why not;
- (3) whether any representations have been received from persons in the Greytown area regarding television reception; if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the (i) nature of these representations and (ii) response thereto?

The MINISTER IN THE STATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ENTRUSTED WITH ADMINISTRATION AND BROADCASTING SERVICES:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Such a booster transmitter could

possibly be erected when capital and operational funds could be provided for this purpose.

(b) TV reception at the town itself would be improved.

(3) Yes.

(a) From two organisations, namely the local Municipality and E. Bolland and Son (Pty) Ltd. General Dealers, and from one individual, a Mr R. H. Walker.

(b) (i) The nature of the representations was for the provision of a TV1 signal for the town by the SABC, or otherwise for the installation of a private station.

(ii) At the request of the Municipality, the SABC approved the installation of a private station for TV2/4. An investigation into problems of TV1 reception was conducted *in loco*. The Municipality was informed that a TV1 booster transmitter would be needed to improve reception. A fixed date for this could not be given, but that the indications were that it would not be within the next 2 years.

Mr Walker was given an explanation of the position with regard to problems of reception, and he was provided with details concerning an aerial installation that could possibly resolve the problem.

Child detainees: rehabilitation

*8. Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether a detention centre for the rehabilitation of child detainees is to be built in or near Stutterheim in the Eastern Cape; if so, (a) what is the total estimated cost of construction, (b) what facilities will be provided,

(c) what categories of child detainees will be sent there, (d) how many detainees will it be able to accommodate, (e) who will be in charge of the centre, (f) what is the nature of the rehabilitation programme planned for detainees at the centre, (g) what security arrangements will be made for the centre, (h) when is construction due to (i) commence and (ii) be completed and (i) who is to carry out the construction work;

(2) whether any other such detention centres are planned; if so, (a) where and (b) when are they to be built, in each case;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

- (1) No. (a) up to (h) Fall away.
- (2) The hon member is referred to the press statement by Minister F W de Klerk in his capacity as Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Social Matters issued on 15 August 1987 and in respect of which the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning was consulted.
- (3) No. (a) and (b) Fall away.

Eastern Province: newspapers

*9. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

- (1) Whether proposed arrangements to merge the interests of certain newspapers circulating in the Eastern Province and those of an English-language newspaper circulating in East London, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, have been submitted to the Competition Board for approval; if so, (a) when, (b) what was the (i) nature of the arrangements submitted and (ii) decision of the said board and (c) what are the names of the newspapers concerned;

Handwritten notes: *25/8/87*, *Howard 25/8/87*, *25/8/87*, *Howard 25/8/87*

The MINISTER: Yes, the passengers as well.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon Minister's reply, I want to ask him whether we can therefore assume that he is satisfied that all South African aircraft landing in Lusaka, can do so safely at the moment.

The MINISTER: Yes, under the circumstances and at the times that they land there, it is safe.

Group Areas Act

*15. Mr J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:—

- (1) Whether his Department has already taken action against persons occupying premises in the White residential areas of Mayfair and Hillbrow in violation of the provisions of the Group Areas Act, No 36 of 1966; if so, (a) what action, (b) when, (c) against how many persons and (d) with what result; if not,
- (2) whether his Department intends taking action against such persons; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

- (a) Complaints in respect of alleged contraventions are referred to the South African Police for investigation.
- (b) On a continuous basis as and when complaints are received.
- (c) The total number of persons involved in complaints and investigations are unknown and indeterminate.
- (d) According to the South African Police vacations take place as a result of investigations.

Handwritten signature and date: 25/8/87

Mayfair/Hillbrow

*16. Mr J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:—

- (1) How many persons are at present occupying premises in the White residential area of (i) Mayfair and (ii) Hillbrow in violation of the provisions of the Group Areas Act, No 36 of 1966, and (b) in respect of what care is this information furnished;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

- 1) Unknown.
- 2) No.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask him whether he is aware that, according to a report of the City Council of Johannesburg, 20 000 people of colour are occupying properties in the Hillbrow area, in contravention of the provisions of the Group Areas Act, and that in Mayfair more than half of the residents are people of colour, in contravention to the provisions of the Group Areas Act?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the question that was asked here, dealt with specific numbers, and not with estimates. Therefore the specific numbers are not available.

Mr J J S PRINSLOO: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask him what action his Department is taking to determine what number of people are living in those areas illegally?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, this is a substantially different question to the one that was put here, and I would appreciate it if the hon member would have it placed on the Question Paper.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Deputy

Minister's reply, I want to repeat that the investigation by the Johannesburg City Council revealed the houses which I mentioned, namely about 25 000 in Hillbrow and, if I remember correctly, about 7 000 in Mayfair. With reference to these approximately 30 000 people, is the hon Deputy Minister aware of the fact that so many people occupy properties there, in contravention of the Group Areas Act?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, it is clearly a fact of the Department's activities which does not fall exactly under my control. Therefore this question would be better answered by the hon the Deputy Minister who works with that aspect of the hon the Minister himself. They are at the moment busy in one of the other Houses with the debate on a Budget Vote, and therefore they can unfortunately not be here this afternoon. I would therefore appreciate it if the hon member would have his questions placed on the Question Paper.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: We are laughing at you [Minister's remarks].

Mr SPEAKER: [Unintelligible]

Damage to wheat

*17. Mr D G H NOLTE asked the Minister of Agriculture:—

- (1) (a) What is the (i) extent and (ii) amount of the damage caused to wheat in the area adjoining the Rietvllei Nature Reserve by the quelea finch during the period 1 October to 31 December 1986, (b) what is the (i) location and (ii) extent of the areas in which this plague occurred and (c) where are the main breeding and sleeping places of these quelea finches found;
- (2) whether the Department has taken any measures to combat the quelea finch plague, if so, what measures?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) (a) (i) Unknown and cannot be determined;
- (b) (i) Tlinsval, Northern Free State, Northern Natal,

Handwritten signature and date: 25/8/87

Northern Cape and the irrigation areas along the Orange and Fish Rivers where small grain is produced;

- (ii) approximately one third of the area of the Republic;
- (c) in plantations and natural woods and bushes along rivers, pans, marshes and swamps in the areas referred to in (b) (i).

(2) Yes, concentrations of quelea finches are when practically possible sprayed from aircraft only with the approval of the land users on whose land the finches sleep. The cost is borne by the State.

Farmers: fuel refund

*18. Mr D G H NOLTE asked the Minister of Finance:—

- (1) What is the prescribed procedure for claiming back the refund that farmers are allowed on fuel;
- (2) whether discussions are at present being held with the South African Agricultural Union on the simplification of this procedure; if so, what progress has been made so far?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr K D S Durr):

(1) Briefly the procedure is that farmers must register with the Office of the Commissioner for Customs and Excise, Pretoria. For this purpose registration forms are available at all Customs and Excise and Magistrate's offices. On receipt of a farmer's application a registration number is allocated to him and a claim form together with an information pamphlet is posted to him for his first claim which should be based on use. Invoices in respect of distillate fuel purchased during a preceding month should be forwarded together with the completed claim form to the Commissioner. On receipt of the claim it is checked and if found in order, a cheque together with a claim

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form for his next claim is posted to the claimant. In case the hon member or other hon members are interested, a copy of the information pamphlet wherein the procedures are full outlined can be obtained from the Commissioner for Customs and Excise.

- (2) A task group under the chairmanship of the Commissioner for Customs and Excise has been appointed to consider suggestions on the simplification of the procedure. The South African Agricultural Union is represented on the task force which had its first meeting on 21 August 1987. The present system was purposely designed to be as simple as possible and to date no further simplifications could be introduced. Any person wishing to propose acceptable simplifications to the system must submit it to the Commissioner for Customs and Excise, P.O. Box 678, Cape Town, or Private Bag X47, Pretoria, for consideration by the Task group.

Social pensions

*19. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether there is a pay-out point for social pensions to Black pensioners in each magisterial district of the Republic; if not, (a) in which magisterial districts are there no such pay-out points and (b) where do the pensioners concerned collect their pensions;
- (2) whether any arrangements are being made for the payment of pensions to persons living far away from such pay-out points; if not, why not; if so, what arrangements?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

- (1) Yes. (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (2) Yes. Magistrate and regional offices of both the Departments of Home Affairs and Development Aid who pay out social pensions to Blacks on an agency basis, use vehicles to take pension monies to far away regions and to pay out at convenient places

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HQA

such as shops, farms, etc where the necessary amenities exist.

Schools of industry/reform schools

*20. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether any Black juvenile offenders were sent and/or transferred by the courts to (a) schools of industry and (b) reform schools during the latest specified period of three years for which information is available; if not, (i) where were such offenders sent and (ii) how many were sent there; if so,
- (2) how many were sent to (i) schools of industry and (ii) reform schools and (b) where are these schools located?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

- (1) (a) No. (i) and (ii) This Department is not the functional Department that refers Black juvenile offenders to schools of industry and the information is therefore not readily available.
- (b) Yes. (i) and (ii) Fall away.
- (2) (a) * (i) Not applicable.

(ii) 1984	353
1985	271
1986	314
Total	937

(b) Vuma—KwaZulu
 Ngwelezana—KwaZulu
 Isiko Loluthsha—Ciskei
 Eureka—Bophuthatswana
 Elandsdoorn—KwaNdebele

Detainee: maltreatment

*21. Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether an investigation has been instituted into allegations by a certain person, whose name has been fur-

nished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, relating to the treatment he received while being held in detention in terms of the emergency regulations; if not, why not; if so, what is the (a) (i) purport of these allegations and (ii) name of this person and (b) (i) who was in charge of the investigation and (ii) when was it instituted;

- (2) whether this investigation has been completed; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that it will be completed; if so, (i) when, (ii) what were the findings and (iii) what action has been taken as a result of these findings;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) (i) that during interrogation, his dignitas was injured;
 - (ii) the name which was supplied by the hon member;
 - (b) (i) an officer of the South African Police;
 - (ii) 21 August 1986.
- (2) Yes. (a) and (b) Fall away.
 - (i) 24 June 1987.
 - (ii) and (iii) on 24 June 1987 a case docket was referred to the Attorney-General for his decision. He decided that 6 accused had to stand trial on a charge of crimen injuria on 26 August 1987. He further decided that if one of the accused paid an amount of R200,00 admission of guilt, the other five accused would be absolved. One of the accused paid the admission of guilt fine on 11 August 1987.

weapons and undesirable publications and is thus awaiting trial.

Informers

*22. Mr J B DE R VAN GEND asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether the South African Police have informers in certain institutions and bodies;
- (2) whether he will furnish information in this regard; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether any branch of the South African Police has (a) members posing as students and (b) students who are paid to provide information to the Police on student activities at all South African universities; if not, (i) which universities do not have such persons and (ii) why have these universities been excluded;
- (4) whether any (a) registered political parties, (b) trade unions and (c) extra-parliamentary political, community, student or single-issue organisations have Police members or informers amongst their membership; if so, (i) which organisations, (ii) why and (iii) what criteria are applied in determining which organisations will be infiltrated;
- (5) what total (a) number of persons are employed by the Police as informers at universities and the above organisations and (b) amount was budgeted in the latest specified financial year to pay these persons?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes, like all police forces across the world, the South African police also use informers to gather information of security interest. I wish to emphasise that such persons are expected to gather information and not to act as agent provocateurs. I furthermore wish to refer the hon member to my press statement of 12 August 1987 which I attach for reasons of clarity.
- (2) No, because it is standard procedure

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Own Affairs:

Farmers: sequestration

62. Mr T LANGLEY asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:†

- (1) Whether the emergency plan to render assistance to farmers facing sequestration has been implemented, if not, why not; if so, (a) from what date, (b) (i) how many applications for assistance have been received, (ii) how many such applications have been (aa) granted and (bb) refused and (iii) in respect of what date is this information furnished and (c) what is the attitude of the private sector in this connection;

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

- (1) Yes.
 (a) 8 June 1987.
 (b) (i) 129.
 (ii) (aa) 14.
 (bb) 66.
 (iii) 20 August 1987.

- (c) Positive.

(2) No.
 Note: Of the 129 applications 5 received the normal assistance and section 21 (1) certificates were issued and further enquiries made in respect of 8 applications. Further information was requested regarding 6 applications and 30 applications are under consideration.

WEDNESDAY, 26 AUGUST 1987

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:
 General Affairs:

99-year leasehold scheme

278. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

HOA

of Constitutional Development and Planning:

How many houses (a) built and (b) sold in terms of the 99-year leasehold scheme were financed (i) by building societies and (ii) by means of private capital from the inception of this scheme to the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

Reliable information is not readily available in the form in which the hon member has asked the question. Information that is available on the sale of houses built and sold in terms of the 99-year leasehold scheme is as follows:

Transvaal:

Statistics are kept of houses sold in terms of 99-year leasehold scheme only. No record is kept of the financial source of the purchaser.

Natal:

- (a) (i) and (ii) Nil.
 (b) (i) 42.
 (ii) 423.

Orange Free State:

- (a) (i) 1 881.
 (ii) 1 795.
 (b) (i) 302.
 (ii) 1 803.

Cape Province:

- (a) (i) 3 849.
 (ii) 323.
 (b) (i) 3 849.
 (ii) 1 655.

Information as on 30 June 1987.

Kleinskool/Charity River/Uitenhage Road

313. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether the area between Kleinskool, the Charity River and Uitenhage Road is to be proclaimed

as a group area for Coloured persons; if so, (a) why and (b) when;

- (2) whether this area was proclaimed as a group area at an earlier date; if so, (a) when and (b) for what race group;

- (3) whether any persons who are not Coloured are living in this area; if so, how many (a) White, (b) Coloured, (c) Indian and (d) Black persons were living in this area as at the latest specified date for which figures are available;

- (4) whether persons who are not Coloured are to be moved from this area; if so, (a) when and (b) where are they to be moved to;

- (5) whether the Group Areas Board has sat to consider the question of proclaiming this area as a Coloured group area; if so, when;

- (6) whether a decision has been taken regarding the proclamation of this area as a Coloured group area; if so, (a) when and (b) what was the decision?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

- (1) The matter is still under consideration. (a) and (b) Fall away.

- (2) No. (a) and (b) Fall away.

- (3) Yes, on 9 July 1987 the figures were as follows:

- (a) None.
 (b) Approximately 600 families.
 (c) None.
 (d) Approximately 900 families.

- (4) Should the area be proclaimed as a Coloured group area, a decision will be made regarding housing of persons who are not of the Coloured group. (a) and (b) Fall away.

- (5) Yes, on 13 August 1987.

- (6) No, not yet. (a) and (b) Fall away.

HOA

Customs and Excise Act: contraventions
 327. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether his Department has received any reports of contraventions of the provisions of the Customs and Excise Act, No 91 of 1964, in regard to rebates on fuel for the purposes of (a) agricultural production, (b) fishing industry engines, (c) public passenger transport services and (d) stationary machinery in underground mines; if so, (i) (aa) how many reports in respect of each of these categories and (bb) in respect of what date is this information furnished and (ii) what action has been or is being taken in each case?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (a) Yes.
 (b) Yes.
 (c) Yes.
 (d) No.

(i) (aa) Separate statistics are not available. Written as well as verbal reports were received.

(bb) Falls away.

(ii) All complaints were investigated and where underlines in excise duty were detected, those concerned were assessed for the duty. Where possible the excise duty was collected and penalties imposed. It must, however, be pointed out that not all the claims could be enforced because of certain legal problems arising from the inherent nature of the system. An important shortcoming of the system was that the privileged user could obviously not be compelled, at the time of purchase of the cheaper fuel, to furnish an accurate indication of expected consumption on rebatable activities. Total reliance had to be placed on his honesty and even if his consumption of rebate fuel subsequently appeared suspicious,

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"will be held over revolutionary methods"

CAC Tavis 27/8/87

Students rejected

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — None of five coloured and 13 Indian students who applied for admission to white agricultural colleges had been admitted, the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said yesterday in reply to a question tabled by PFP MP Mr Rupert Lorimer.

- 2.6 The inadequate qualifications of some of the teaching staff.
- 2.7 The teaching of more than one standard in one class (farm schools).
- 2.8 Limited education advisory services for basic (primary) education.
- 2.9 Teacher-pupil ratio.
- 2.10 Irregular school attendance.
- 2.11 Lack of motivation by pupils.

Diesel for road transport

347. Mr A J W P S TERBLANCHE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:†

What percentage of the diesel purchased by the South African Transport Services in 1986 was used for road transport?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

26 per cent in respect of the 1986/87 financial year.
Information for the 1986 calendar year is not readily available.

(3) No.

Annual reports

Universities

330. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:†

(a) How many (i) Blacks, (ii) Whites, (iii) Coloureds and (iv) Indians are at present studying at each university under the control of his Department and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
Fort Hare	3 013	46	26	2
The North	5 409	18	5	4
Zululand	3 524	16	1	7
Medunsa	1 106	1 179	1	31
Vista	14 065	12	81	3

(b) 3 June 1986.

Agricultural colleges

332. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

How many Black students (a) applied for admission and (b) were admitted to each specified agricultural college under the control of his Department in 1986?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

The Department of Education and Training has no agricultural colleges under its control.

The STATE PRESIDENT:

- (1) None.
- (2), (3) and (4) Lapse.

TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 1987

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Local authorities

*1. Mr W J D VAN WYK asked the Minister of Finance:†

(1) Whether the Government has taken a decision that local authorities are to ensure that the increase in their revenue and expenditure does not exceed a certain percentage which is determined annually by him; if so, when;

(2) whether this decision is departed from; if so, (a) why and (b) in what circumstances;

(3) whether, in comparison with the relevant figures for 1983-84 financial year, there was an increase of approximately 34 per cent in respect of the revenue and expenditure of local authorities in the 1984-85 financial year; of so,

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) In June 1981 the Cabinet decided that the Department of Finance should exercise overall control over the expenditure of local authorities. In accordance herewith the Minister of Finance annually determines a percentage increase in the expenditure of local authorities.

(2) There has been no departures from the decision to subject the expenditure of local authorities to overall fi-

nancial control. In deserving cases, for example exceptionally rapid development, the guide rate may however be adjusted upwards.

(3) Based on the records of the Department of Finance kept for local authorities, the budgeted expenditure for 1984-85 increased by 16% compared with that of the 1983-84 financial year. These figures do not include the expenditure of divisional councils and development boards.

(4) No statement on the matter is deemed necessary.

*2. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE—Constitutional Development and Planning—[Reply standing over.]

Periodical: financial assistance

*3. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

Whether the State renders any financial aid/or other assistance to a certain periodical, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply; if so, (a) why, (b) what is the nature of the assistance, (c) what was the amount of the assistance in each of the latest specified two periods of 12 months for which information is available and (d) what is the name of the periodical concerned?

†The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Yes, indirectly. 8/9/87

(a) and (b) An agreement was concluded with a public relations firm to introduce South Africa to opinion formers in France and elsewhere in Europe. This firm publishes the magazine as part of its general business activities.

(c) The public relations firm is paid a total amount for its service as a whole and it is therefore not known how much is specifically spent on the magazine.

(d) As private persons and organisations also make direct financial contribu-

Howard 7/9/87

Howard

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SA farmers' debts more than production value

Own Correspondent
PRETORIA — Farmers'

huge debts now exceed the gross value of agricultural production, the president of the SA Agricultural Union, Mr. Kobus Jooste, said yesterday.

He told the Transvaal

tor of the economy was in the same weak position. A problem farmers had to face, and which could have a profound influence on the restructuring of the industry, was the farm, condition and availability of credit, he said.

For too long state aid had been given farmers in the form of soil con-

servation and other subsidies, without stringent conditions being imposed.

Over the years, subsidies had increased faster than agriculture's

contribution to the gross national product. From 1950 till last year they had increased 26 times.

The gross contribution of agriculture to the GDP increased from R258 million in 1950 to R5 924 million in 1986 — or 21 times. Subsidies had also increased relatively faster since 1950 than net farming income, which was now 17 times higher.

Mr. Jooste said he would not claim this was enough.

Farmers threaten one of SA's biggest wildernesses

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PLANS to consolidate one of the biggest, most spectacular wilderness areas in the country are in jeopardy because farmers are trying to buy part of the land.

Also, efforts to establish a new breeding herd of the endangered Cape mountain zebra could be thwarted if the sale goes ahead.

The land the farmers have their eyes on is about 8 500ha in the Formosa State Forest in the rugged Kouga mountains, north of Kareedouw in the Langkloof.

The Kouga and Baviaanskloof mountains form the nucleus of a proposed 70 000ha consolidated wilderness area, lying in a bigger conservation area of 165 000ha.

Support from MP

It is the farmers' second attempt to buy the land. The first, in 1985, was supported by the Department of Agriculture, but turned down by the then Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr John Wiley, after representations from, among others, the Wildlife Society.

Mr Gert Kotzé, the new Minister of Environment Affairs, will visit the area next week to assess the farmers' request.

Their motivation for buying the land is to make their farms more viable, according to the MP for the area, Mr WD Meyer, who is supporting their attempt.

He declined to comment further until after Mr Kotzé's visit.

The land has a very low carrying capacity for domestic stock, but conservationists ar-

gue it is vital in conservation terms, providing a "corridor" between the two wilderness areas.

Originally a mountain catchment area, it is the habitat of many fynbos species and includes areas of "rooigras" — a sweet grass which the farmers want for their stock.

However, the grass is also prime grazing for the Cape mountain zebra. Isolated individuals of this endangered species were found in the area until the early 1970s.

Plans are already well advanced to reintroduce animals from the Mountain Zebra National Park at Cradock, which has reached carrying capacity.

A new breeding area would increase genetic diversity and help ensure the zebras' survival.

Dr Henk de Bruyn of Kareedouw is "very worried" about the possible sale of the land.

"The crux of the matter is that if the corridor is removed and the area is cut in two, it will lose its unique aspect completely," he said.

Unique chance

"In my opinion, this land is totally unsuitable for farming. You could farm for a short while, but then the veld would be gone — you couldn't sustain domestic animals for any length of time."

Consolidation would be a "unique opportunity" for conservation and would never be achieved if the land was sold, said Dr de Bruyn.

Conservationists are also concerned that selling State land would create a precedent as there are many mountainous areas where farmers appear to have a better claim than in the Kouga mountains.

3 GENERAL
SAPR 12/9/87

NEWS

Weedkiller poisons most of SA's crops

Widespread damage to vegetable crops throughout the country caused by the hormonal herbicide 2,4-D, have fresh produce-growers on the chemical war-path.

The use of 2,4-D is banned in most parts of the world and has been linked to certain forms of cancer. It is also blamed for the high incidence of deformed babies in South Africa in sugar-producing areas.

The weedkiller, which is widely used by the timber and sugar growing industries in the country, is claimed to have caused severe losses, estimated at more than R15-million, to vegetable farmers in the Tala valley near Camperdown in Natal.

The use of the herbicide in this area had been banned earlier this

HESS CUMMING

year.

However, farmers in the Weenen, Greytown, High Flats and Richmond areas as well as farmers on Natal's north and south coast are also blaming crop losses on the weedkiller, which becomes windborne and contaminates nearby crops.

Farmers who have suffered losses are meeting in Pietermaritzburg next week in a bid to have the ban on the use of 2,4-D extended to other fresh produce growing areas before the new spraying season starts in October.

They will hold discussions with members of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hormone

Herbicides, which was appointed in July to investigate damage caused by the weedkiller.

"We have tried our utmost to persuade other industries to voluntarily switch to other herbicides. But 2,4-D is the cheapest and the best, and industries using the herbicide are unwilling to incur the extra costs of using other weedkillers," said Mr Roger Evans, chairman of the Natal Fresh Produce Growers' Association.

Some vegetable farmers claim that the odds are stacked against them.

Most sugar cane and timber plantations are owned by huge conglomerates which have vested interests in chemical companies distributing the herbicide, they claim.

Having 2,4-D officially banned is the only remaining solution, they say.

Approved

(2) No. (a) and (b) Fall away. Pretoria: offences

(i) The opening of Township Registers in terms of section 46 of the Deeds Registries Act is receiving attention.

(ii) As and when Local Authorities submit applications for the opening of Township Registers and the Deeds Office is enabled to do so.

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
(i) PRETORIA										
Pretoria Central ...	21	11	130	513	40	536	799	231	889	2
Sunnyside	5	9	31	331	30	57	967	245	905	1
Pretoria West	5	11	94	322	36	118	280	167	631	1
Brooklyn	10	22	74	275	21	93	1 369	204	1 678	1
Wierdabrug	16	10	116	132	17	78	474	91	770	1
Erasma	19	10	138	188	23	90	78	116	405	1
Attendgeville	36	13	507	580	81	307	58	541	152	1
Lytleton	7	7	54	99	8	45	420	67	615	2
(ii) PRETORIA NORTH										
Pretoria North	21	35	126	362	41	130	656	159	1 097	—
Roslyn	—	2	7	29	1	18	14	14	184	—
Soshanguve	23	18	389	387	58	237	77	278	125	—
Assen	3	5	14	18	5	7	4	5	32	—
Kameeldrif	7	13	136	107	26	30	40	47	155	—
Britz	25	25	414	349	55	122	234	157	754	1
De Wildt	7	11	36	52	15	32	28	26	107	—
Hannamskraal	4	17	81	106	13	39	42	44	166	—
Hartbeespoordam	7	19	137	167	10	36	44	54	275	—

Group Areas Act

506. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether, with reference to the reply of the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning to Question No 310 on 11 September 1987, the South African Police have served all of the notices issued in terms of section 41 of the Group Areas Act, No 36 of 1966; if not, in respect of which properties have notices been

Approved

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

No. Notices in respect of several properties at different addresses which are dealt with during the normal cause of duties, have not yet been served. However, because the work involved in compiling these addresses countrywide would be so voluminous and time-consuming, it is not practically feasible to furnish this information.

508. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order: Krugersdorp: workers' union

- Whether officials of a certain workers' union in Krugersdorp, the name of which has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, laid any complaints with the Police in May 1987 regarding threatening telephone calls and the vandalising of office premises; if so, (a) on what date, (b) what was the nature of the complaints, (c) what action was taken by the Police as a result of these complaints, (d) what were the results of this action and (e) what is the name of this worker's union;
- whether any persons have been arrested in connection with these incidents; if so, (a) how many and (b) when?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- Yes.
 - 6 May 1987 and 18 May 1987.
 - Contravention of section 1 (1) of the Intimidation Act, 1982 (Act 72 of 1982); Housebreaking with the intent to commit a crime unknown to the prosecutor; Malicious damage to property.
 - Case dockets were opened in respect of all three complaints and have been fully investigated.
 - No suspects could up until now be identified or traced as a result of the available evidence on hand.
 - The name furnished by the hon member.
- No.
 - and (b) Fall away.

Kroonstad: workers' union

509. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether any action was taken on or about 11 May 1987 in respect of the (a) offences and (b) officials of a certain workers' union in Kroonstad, the name of which has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, (i) what action in each case, (ii) why, (iii) what was the result of this action and (iv) what is the name of this workers' union?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- No, as far as could be ascertained, the South African Police has no record of such action.
- (i) to (iv) Fall away.

MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER 1987

Indicates translated version.

For written reply: General Affairs:

Black farmers: loans

570. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Finance:

- Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 106 on 8 June 1987, Black farmers are eligible to apply for loans from the Land and Agricultural Bank; if not, why not; if so, whether any Black farmers have applied for loans from this bank; if so, (a) how many, (b) when and (c) what was the outcome of each application;
- whether this bank has at any time taken any steps to encourage Black farmers to make use of its services; if so, (a) what steps and (b) with what results; if not, why not;
- whether he will make a statement on the matter?

Approved

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Yes.
 (2) (a) 2.
 (b) 1981 and 1986.
 (c) both applications were withdrawn by the applicants prior to the consideration thereof by the Land Bank Board.
- (3) No—The Land Bank was established through legislation to be a service rendering institution and mainly on account of the statutory protection that the Land Bank enjoys, its functions are not marketed to compete with financial institutions in the private sector.

(4) No.
 Own Affairs:

Area allowance for designated areas

63. Mr T LANGLEY asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:†

- (1) (a) On what dates was an area allowance of R500 per month for designated areas in terms of the Designated Areas Development Act, No 87 of 1979, paid for the first time and (b) what conditions and/or requirements must an applicant meet to qualify for this allowance;
- (2) (a) what is the (i) name and (ii) address of each recipient of this allowance who lives in the Soutpansberg constituency, (b) for what period has the allowance been paid to each recipient, (c) on what date was each payment made and (d) in respect of what date is this information furnished;
- (3) whether any of the payments have been discontinued; if so, why, in each case?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

- (1) (a) 14 October 1986.

(b) The area allowance is payable to a person who:

- (i) occupy his farming unit in the Designated Areas on a full-time basis;
 (ii) practice actively farming on the property;
 (iii) earn a living through his farming activities only.
- (2) (a) (i) and (2) (a) (ii) and (2) (b) This information is confidential and will be made available to the member on this basis.
 (c) Quarterly backwards on application.
 (d) 1987-09-18.
- (3) Yes, this information is confidential and will be made available to the member on this basis.

Provincial cultural councils

105. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (a) What are the functions of the new provincial cultural councils, (b) who nominated the members of the councils, (c) what were the criteria used in nominating persons to these councils and (d) what is the ratio of English to Afrikaans-speaking persons on each of these councils?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (a) The functions of a regional council are to preserve, develop, foster and extend culture as it finds expression in the region for which it has been established and to make recommendations, either of its own accord or at the request of the Minister, as to how culture, as it finds expression in the said region, may best be preserved, fostered and extended, in particular by means of non-formal out-of-school education of adults and youthful persons in the following fields:
- * the visual arts, music and the literary arts;
 - * the acquisition, in popular fashion, of knowledge of the applied, natural and human sciences;
 - * the utilisation of leisure, including physical recreational activities which are of such a nature as not to be courses of training with a view to participation in competitions; and
 - * such other fields as the Minister may from time to time determine.
- (b) Names of candidates for possible appointment are submitted by the regional councils for cultural affairs, which maintain contact with the cultural organisations on an ongoing basis.
- (c) Persons who are known for their exceptional contribution and knowledge in the field of cultural advancement are considered for appointment.
- (d) The ratio of English to Afrikaans-speaking persons on each of the councils are as follows:

Northern Transvaal	1:10
Southern Transvaal	1:4
Western Transvaal	0:12
Western Cape	1:3
Eastern Cape	1:1
Northern Cape	2:9
Orange-Free State	1:8
Natal	1:4

Pupils/school psychologists: ratio

107. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

What was the ratio of pupils to school psychologists in each education department falling under the control of his Department as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- Transvaal—1:2 659
 Natal—1:3 000
 OFS—1:2 124
 Cape—1:3 022.

This information is in respect of all

schools excluding schools for specialised education where a ratio of approximately 1:80 applies.

Chancellors of universities

111. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether he will furnish information on official residences and housing subsidies for vice-chancellors and deputy vice-chancellors of universities falling under the control of his Department; if not, why not; if so, whether all vice-chancellors of such universities are provided with official residences; if not, at which universities are such residences not provided;
- (2) whether all deputy vice-chancellors receive housing subsidies; if so, what amount per annum; if not, what categories of university personnel receive this benefit;
- (3) whether this subsidy falls away when a deputy vice-chancellor is promoted to the office of vice-chancellor and becomes the occupant of an official residence; if so, whether this subsidy fell away in the case of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if not, (a) why not, (b) what is the (i) name and (ii) nationality of this person and (c) what action will be taken to ensure that this money is recovered from the person in question?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) No, universities are autonomous institutions and control and administrative conditions of service of their staff internally. The Department consequently does not have the required information.
- (2), (3), (4) and (5) Fall away.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) 2.
- (b) 1981 and 1986.
- (c) both applications were withdrawn by the applicants prior to the consideration thereof by the Land Bank Board.
- (3) No—The Land Bank was established through legislation to be a service rendering institution and mainly on account of the statutory protection that the Land Bank enjoys, its functions are not marketed to compete with financial institutions in the private sector.
- (4) No.

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- (3) whether any of the payments have been discontinued; if so, why, in each case?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

- (1) (a) 14 October 1986.

hion, of knowledge of the applied, natural and human sciences;

- * the utilisation of leisure, including physical recreational activities which are of such a nature as not to be courses of training with a view to participation in competitions; and
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- (3) whether all deputy vice-chancellors receive housing subsidies; if so, what amount per annum; if not, what category of university personnel receive this benefit;
- (4) whether this subsidy falls away when a deputy vice-chancellor is promoted to the office of vice-chancellor and becomes the occupant of an official residence; if so,
- (5) whether this subsidy fell away in the case of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if not, (a) why not, (b) what is the (i) name and (ii) nationality of this person and (c) what action will be taken to ensure that this money is recovered from the person in question?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) No, universities are autonomous institutions and control and administrative conditions of service of their staff internally. The Department consequently does not have the required information.
- (2), (3), (4) and (5) Fall away.

Immigrants: requirements

*6. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Home Affairs:†

What requirements have to be met by persons who wish to immigrate to the Republic of South Africa?

†THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

The requirements are stipulated in section 4 (3) of the Aliens Act, 1937 (Act 1 of 1937).

Swellendam: non-White farmers

*7. Mr D S PIENNAAR asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

(1) Whether (a) Coloured, (b) Indian and (c) Black persons are permitted to (i) carry on farming activities in the Swellendam constituency and (ii) occupy agricultural land in this constituency; if not, why not, in each case; if so,

(2) whether such persons are permitted to acquire ownership of agricultural land; if not, why not, in each case;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the position of such persons in respect of the other White constituencies?

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING:

(1) (a) (i), (b) (i) and (c) (i) Yes, on condition that if they are disqualified persons, the required approval in terms of the Group Areas Act, 1966, is obtained from the Provincial Administration.

(a) (ii), (b) (ii) and (c) (ii) Yes, provided that if they are disqualified persons in respect of the land concerned, occupation permits in terms of the Group Areas Act, 1966, need to be obtained from the Provincial Administration.

(2) Yes, provided that if they are disqualified persons in respect of the land concerned, acquisition permits in terms of the Group Areas Act,

1966, need to be obtained from the Provincial Administration.

(3) No.

Lusaka airport: complaint regarding facilities

*8. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 320 on 24 August 1987, a complaint has been lodged with the Zambian civil aviation authorities regarding the condition of the facilities at the airport in Lusaka; if so, (a) when and (b) what issues were mentioned in this complaint; if not, why not;

(2) whether he has been informed of any recent near mid-air collisions in Zambian air space; if so, by whom;

(3) whether he intends taking any action in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what action?

†THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1) No. (a) and (b) Fall away. The pilots and the flight operations section of the S.A. Airways are familiar with the restrictions at the airport at Lusaka and are satisfied that the flying techniques used ensure the safety of passengers, crew and aircraft.

(2) No.

(3) No.

Mr D J N MALCOMESS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, does he not think, firstly, that it would be wise to lodge an official complaint with the Zambian civil aviation authorities, in view of the fact that we definitely have it on record that certain of their facilities are unserviceable—it would appear that no attempts are being made to rectify these facilities—and secondly, that it would be in the interests of the SA Airways to have all these facilities function properly?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the point is that the SA Airways regard the safety of aircraft and passengers as a matter of the highest priority. We are satisfied that the techniques at our disposal enable us to do just that.

Mr D J N MALCOMESS: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, does the hon the Minister then not believe that if the facilities were functioning properly there would be better control and a greater degree of safety?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we do not interfere with the facilities of other countries unless we are not satisfied that we can conduct safe business with them. I have explained to the hon member that as far as we are concerned we have safe landing, etcetera with the techniques at our disposal.

Mr D J N MALCOMESS: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is the hon the Minister telling this House then that he and SAA are satisfied with the safety standards at Lusaka Airport?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I did not say that. I said that we are satisfied that we render a safe service to our passengers and that our aircraft are safe during landings.

Passengers moved on SAA flight

*9. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) Whether, on a recent African Airways flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg, two passengers were requested to move from seats 1A and 1C to make room for a certain South African Transport Services official and his wife, particulars of whom have been furnished to the Transport Services for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, (a) why, (b) where were these passengers moved to, (c) who took the decision in this regard and (d) what is the rank of the official concerned;

(2) what is the policy of the South African Airways in this regard;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

[Handwritten signature]

†THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1), (2) and (3) It is the policy of South African Airways to respect all pre-seating requests by passengers travelling business class. On the day in question the General Manager and his wife travelled from Cape Town to Johannesburg and were in possession of boarding tickets for seats 1A and C.

Before they boarded, two other passengers, booked separately elsewhere in the business class but who requested to be seated together, were placed in seats 1A and C because it was not realised that these seats were already allocated.

When the General Manager and his wife came aboard the two other passengers were requested by the Senior Cabin Controller to move to seats 5D and E.

Compiling/publishing/printing of publication

*10. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether the South African Defence Force was in any way involved in the compiling, publishing or printing of a certain publication, the name of which has been furnished to the Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, (a) to what extent, (b) what was the purpose of producing this publication, (c) what was the total cost to the Defence Force of this publication, (d) (i) who printed the copies of the publication, (ii) how many copies were printed and (iii) (aa) where and (bb) when were they distributed and (e) what is the name of this publication;

(2) whether the Defence Force was in any way involved in the compiling, publishing or printing of a similar publication, the name of which has been furnished to the Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, (a) when, (b) what was the nature of its involvement and (c) what is the name of this publication.

(3) whether he or any member of his

[Handwritten signature]

1941 12/10/41 3 General

Farmers fuel rebates revised

A NEW procedure for farmers to get their diesel fuel at rebated prices is to come into effect, on November 1, according to the Bureau for Information last night.

This follows a rebate system change earlier this year through which farmers had to apply for rebates individually.

An interdepartmental committee of cabinet ministers and government officials, in co-operation with the SA Agricultural Union and representatives of co-operatives, agreed on the scheme following the State President's creation of the committee late last month, the bureau said in a statement.

Farmers could now buy fuel at rebated prices from agricultural co-operatives which would buy the diesel at the full price from the bulk suppliers of fuel and would recover the applicable rebates from customs and excise.

Except for the initial registration at the directorate of customs and excise, all further recovering procedures will be undertaken by the co-operatives on behalf of the farmers.

The co-operatives would have to obtain from farmers the necessary confirmation that the diesel would be used for the purpose for which it was purchased, the statement said.

Co-operatives would inform their members as soon as possible of the manner in which the system will function in future, it added. — Staff Reporter and Sapa

SAU fears failure
of farm aid scheme

PRETORIA. — The president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Kobus Jooste, yesterday expressed fears that the government's R400 million scheme for farmers would fail.

He was addressing the SAAU's 1987 congress in Natal.

He said a "disappointing" part of the R400 million — a total of about only R7 million — had been granted so far and too few farmers had been helped.

Even more disturbing was the fact that the great majority of applicants who could not be helped were now worse off than before they applied, according to Mr Jooste.

In a response to the speech, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dr A I van Niekerk, said comprehensive assistance to farmers under drought conditions was introduced by government in 1979 and varies from assistance to stock-farmers to loans and subsidised interest to crop-farmers.

"These assistance schemes are regularly adjusted to accommodate changing circumstances and amounts to more than R1 000 million for the current fiscal year."

SAAU CONGRESS

Farmers' lament ...

SA's farmers met in Durban last week to denounce State handouts, price-supporting subsidies and their corollary — government interference.

The occasion was the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) annual congress. A succession of speakers agreed it was time for agriculture to shed its image of being a feckless beggar and accept the rewards and risks of the market.

Easier said than done. With the arguable exception of maize producer prices which are bound to drop due to the low world prices, consumers should not expect this new spirit of competition to quickly translate into reduced State aid for farmers or lower prices.

On the contrary. Delegates agreed that in the "short-term" and "national interest" prices must still be supported, aid budgets must increase, debts must be written off or interest rates reduced and their contribution in areas such as the defence of border farm lands must be evaluated and rewarded. The pragmatism among maize farmers, resigned to a drop in prices due to the world glut, thus

had more to do with State inducements to convert to pasture than to the daring new spirit of enterprise.

SAAU president Kobus Jooste was the first to indicate agriculture's response to government's White Paper on agricultural policy. What followed was a subjective assessment of the broad role played by agriculture in the country's economy. A related discussion explored the question of compensating farmers for "socio-economic services rendered."

Delegates appealed for greater aid for farmers operating in "designated areas," within 10 km-50 km of national borders. The justification was that farmers in these areas performed vital and strategic roles in the defence of the country. Deputy Minister of Agriculture Kraai van Niekerk indicated that government could budget for increased aid from the greater resources of the Defence vote, rather than Agriculture's vote.

The second debate of the congress, devoted to "optimal functioning of market forces," also reflected an ambivalent approach to State aid.

Vegetable grower Vito Rugani vigorously recommended unrestrained competition as the key to efficiency and profitability. His

contribution drew fire from several speakers, one of whom warned that winter cereal growers had a responsibility to feed the inhabitants of Gazankulu and Venda.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that they get cheap food and a free market will jeopardise this," the speaker warned. The consensus: though prices should become "market-related," where it was in the national interest these should be subsidised.

Given farmers' evident fear that a move towards free markets was tantamount to being thrown to the wolves, the SAAU leadership could not have chosen a worse time to broach the subject.

The mountainous debts incurred by agriculture as a result of sustained droughts and depressed markets were outlined in the SAAU annual report and in a paper presented by Koos Strauss, president of the North Cape Agricultural Union.

The picture is grim. On December 31 last year farm debt totalled R12,8 billion, 15% up on the previous year. By comparison gross farming income was R12,5 billion and net income (before tax) R3,8 billion. Commercial banks held most of that paper (R3,8 billion), followed by farmers' co-operatives (R3,1 billion) and the Land Bank (R2,6 bil-

3) General 8/11 30/10/87

3) General 30/10/87

lion).

As a percentage of net farm income, farmers on aggregate paid 56,1% of their proceeds in servicing their debt, 53,7% of which was short-term.

Government's R400m aid scheme intended to alleviate the debt problem and save farmers from bankruptcy was inadequate, farmers complained. Of the 3 000-odd farmers facing ruin, fewer than 10% had applied for aid because refusal, they argued, virtually guaranteed liquidation.

Delegates agreed that SAAU's proposed strategic plan for restructuring agriculture should pursue a "balance between pure market considerations and intervention measures aimed at handling the debt problem without causing disruption."

It was in the "national interest," they contended, that the market price of agricultural land should be "allowed to move" downwards, closer to values at which it might be viably farmed. But how this was to be achieved without putting the banks' security at risk and precipitating a disastrous collapse in farm prices was not spelt out.

While delegates felt it was not generally desirable that the price of farming inputs should be subsidised to help combat debt burdens, it was acceptable "in exceptional cases and in the national interest."

Anyone looking for a "new dawn" in agricultural pricing and marketing is thus likely to be sorely disappointed.



News 9/11/87

Heavy rain hits Natal beaches, vegetable crops

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Heavy rain over the weekend caused extensive damage in parts of Natal. In the Tala Valley, a violent hailstorm on Saturday smashed cabbage, tomato and other vegetable crops and damage is estimated in hundreds of thousands of rands.

This is the third disaster to hit more than 20 growers recently — first was the damage allegedly caused by the use of weedkillers and then the floods last month.

The hail struck in a three-kilometre-wide band from Mid-Illovo to Camperdown and growers said most of the crops could not be saved.

Seedlings lost

Most of the vegetables were being grown for the festive season and vegetable prices in Durban and Maritzburg may rise as a result.

Nurseryman Mr J G de Gouveia of Killarney Isles said he had lost more than 300 000 cabbage, tomato, lettuce, cauliflower, flower and exotic vegetable seedlings.

The heaviest rain in Natal fell at Stanger with 96mm, followed by Port Shepstone on the South Coast with 90mm. Durban had 70mm.

Clearing beaches

The wild, wet weather played havoc with Durban's beaches, which have already been badly hit by the recent floods. Heavy seas at the weekend washed up more debris, which will set back the city's beach-clearing programme.

"We have all available staff and machinery working flat-out seven days a week. We hope to clear the beaches by the end of this month," said Mr Alan Pembroke, assistant director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches.

More rain is expected over the next few days, according to the weather bureau.

3 General

A fresh market breeze?



In an interview at the recent annual congress of the SA Agricultural Union in Durban SAAU president Kobus Jooste summed up the congress mood.

FM: Are farmers ready for unfettered free markets?

Jooste: We are not in favour of an absolutely free market. You don't find this anywhere in the world, and as farmers we are very frightened of this. But we are also not in favour of controls for the sake of controls.

Congress believes that if we must have controls then it must be with the sole objective of creating a more market-related industry. The controls must therefore be directed at encouraging the healthy principles of a free market.

Does the movement towards market-related forces suggest that domestic maize prices will fall in the context of the depressed world market?

This is a fact we will simply have to accept — not only for maize. If we export and produce in a market-related environment, we must accept market prices. Or we must artificially interfere in the market.

Congress very clearly expressed itself against market interference. We do not want subsidies to raise our prices. But this view clashes with overseas policies: for example, EEC and US farmers get large subsidies to produce cheaply. The result is large surpluses and we must compete against these subsidised products.

It will take two to four years to overcome

this hurdle and in the EEC and the US it is accepted that change must come. The strong market forces at work across the world will resolve this matter within the next few years.

Meanwhile, our farmers will have to accept that, temporarily at least, prices will be dictated by both the domestic and overseas markets.

So in the short term some maize farmers will be driven out of business?

Yes. That's why the State established a scheme to encourage structural changes in the industry so that maize farmers will have something to fall back on.

The meat and wool industries — which do not have large surpluses and enjoy reasonable prices — present directions in which maize farmers can move without causing a large disruption.

What are the major elements of your strategic plan to restructure agriculture with respect to issues like prices or number of farmers?

We want the maximum number of farmers possible to be in a position where they can make profits. But farmers will largely have to carry out their plans on their own.

We must only ask the State for help in critical and unusual circumstances. Agriculture must not become dependent on the State or subsidies to remain sound. We must do the job ourselves and only ask for State aid where this is in the national interest.

Is this a watershed in farming history in SA? Will we see an end to quotas, limitations on access to markets, one-channel marketing and the like?

I'm reluctant to talk of a watershed. It's rather the first time that we really examined these things honestly. In the past we dodged them.

I think we now have more clarity over things like subsidies, State aid, quotas, the free market system, and more or less control. Because we have that clarity we can now for the first time proceed without argument in a direction that is a lot clearer and can lead to a far sounder industry.

So the congress has been educational. Converting the principles into policy is likely to take quite a few years?

Correct. We now have consensus on many issues. But don't expect dramatic results. Over the next two or three years things will be moving in the right direction because we have found the course. Don't expect an overnight change.

How should agriculture's debt problem be handled?

Debt is growing uncomfortably. Congress agreed the process should be halted. And this can only happen if farmers are placed in a position where they can make profits. But this depends on the farmer himself. Congress felt the State could make a contribution but in future should look to ourselves.

Farm land prices are often considerably above those at which they can be profitably farmed. Congress wants the two prices to move closer. How can this be achieved?

In the past we had measures that disrupted the balance. We had measures encouraging people to buy ground. We had tax measures that stimulated prices. Though the Margo Commission may change the practice, businessmen can still write profits or losses made in other businesses to the account of their farms.

If we can eliminate these problems we will go a long way towards restoring a natural balance between the farming value of land and its market value.

3) General

SMK 24/1/87

R12-m plan to improve farm schools

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has launched a major programme aimed at improving the quality of education at South Africa's 5 500 farm schools, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, said yesterday.

He said R12 million had been earmarked for the four-year programme, known as the Farm School Management and Teacher Development Project.

It was an expansion of a programme which has been in existence at urban schools for the past two years. It had been designed to improve the management, teaching and learning methods at farm schools, where educational standards had fallen behind those in urban areas.

Dr Viljoen said the DET had become increasingly concerned about improving education in farm schools.

Until the development of a communications technology that made it possible to take the training to the schools, this goal had been almost impossible.

"In the past, any large-scale programme to improve the management and professional competence of teachers had to overcome the seemingly insurmountable problems of numbers, distance and cost."

Dr Viljoen said the whole spectrum of teaching would be covered and each person involved with the teaching or managing process would be activated.

In March last year, 34 percent of primary school pupils were at farm schools.

Used in our forests: A weed killer akin to Agent Orange

THE widespread use of herbicides containing the same ingredients as the notorious defoliant, Agent Orange, has set off a row between environmental groups and state departments.

The herbicide, known as 245-T, is widely used to eliminate weeds in the forests of South Africa, despite being banned in most major agricultural countries because of its well-documented link with birth deformities, cancer and skin diseases.

Countries that have banned 245-T include the United States, Sweden, Italy, Holland, Norway, Denmark, Japan, the Soviet Union, India, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Columbia and Guatemala. New Zealand is the only country in the world known to still manufacture the substance.

But in South Africa, the Department of Environmental Affairs has confirmed that its forestry division still makes use of 245-T as a weedkiller.

Chemwatch — a Natal-based group of environmentalists, journalists and concerned farmers — has produced a dossier which links 245-T, and a closely related herbicide called 24-D, to spate of birth defects reported in Natal this year.

The dossier tells of a mother who gave birth in November 1986 to a child without one ear. She said her husband worked in a forest near Richmond which was sprayed with 245-T. Another couple had twins in January this year. One was healthy, the other had no fingers. The father also worked in a Richmond forest.

These are only two of the 300 similar cases reported to Chemwatch in the first week after its launch in the middle of this year.

The chemicals 245-T and 24-D were developed in Britain during World War II as chemical weapons to destroy enemy crops. The war ended before the chemicals were used.

But during the Vietnam War

A herbicide banned in many countries due to its well-documented links to birth deformities and cancer, is being used in our forests. The chemical, 245-T, is one of the ingredients of the notorious Vietnam war defoliant Agent Orange.
ERNEST SIDERIS and SI NGOMANE report

4 100 000 litres of Agent Orange, a 50-50 mixture of 245-T and 24-D, was loaded into converted jet bombers and dumped on 800 000ha of forest. The objective was to destroy the jungle that gave cover to the Vietcong. The Americans called it Operation Hades.

After the war Vietnam veterans in the US reported that many of their children were born with tiny hearts, small lungs, too many toes, stumps for legs and arms and other deformities.

A similar pattern was reported by doctors in Vietnam. In 1970, 245-T was banned by the US government and Dow Chemicals, the company which supplied the armed forces with Agent Orange, was forced to pay \$180 000 to the veterans in an out of court settlement for damages.

The foetal damage reported in the Chemwatch dossier corresponds to the kind of deformities reported in Vietnam and America.

But South Africa's Department of Environment Affairs, in an official response to queries about the use of 245-T in South African forests, said: "There is no valid medical or scientific evidence that 245-T herbicides harm humans, animals or the environment if they are use in the necessary way and and for the necessary purpose."

The official, who declined to be named but said the reponse had been vetted by Director General of Environment Affairs Bill Visagie, added that the department was experiencing difficulties in obtaining supplies of 245-T and was using up old stocks.

South Africa's policy seems to ignore numerous medical studies which point to the dangers associated with 245-T and led to its world-wide ban.

A survey, conducted by US experts in 1984, of research over the past 15 years into the hazards of 245-T concluded that "the risk of malformations in children is increased even if only the father is exposed to herbicides.

"It is remarkable how little effort is spent in clarifying an issue that is of primary importance to large number of individuals wherever farming and forestry make up a substantial part of a country's economy," it added.

Such evidence has led the Progressive Federal Party to join Chemwatch in calling for a complete ban on 245-T and 24-D.

"The government takes the attitude that it is okay to use these Agent Orange type chemicals until there is definitive proof of their dangers. We believe the substances should be banned until they are proven safe," said Roger Hulley, PFP spokesman on Environmental Affairs.

Chemwatch has also called for an urgent inquiry into their evidence, which they believe only scratches the surface of what could become a thalidomide-type tragedy.

While the PFP plans to make an issue out of the herbicide in parliament next year, there are signs that organised labour will enter the fray.

The Paper Wood and Allied Workers Union, a Cosatu affiliate, has launched a campaign against the dangers of pesticides and chemicals in the timber industry.

around the house. Sapa

16/12/87
Sanctions hit protea exports

By BARRY STREEK

SOUTH AFRICA's protea export market was being hit by sanctions, according to the chairman of the South African Protea Producers and Exporters Association (Sappex), Mr Barrie Gibson.

In the association's latest newsletter wrote that dumping by certain exporters on the major European auctions have kept prices and demand low. Quality left a lot to be desired.

The directorate of Agricultural Product Standards in Pretoria had informed the association that dried flowers would no longer be inspected for quality. Only those with a moisture content of more than 15% would be inspected in future.

It's raining bits of Agent Orange over mid-Natal

18-23/12/87

MASSIVE doses of a component of the notorious defoliant Agent Orange have been found in the rain that falls on the Natal Midlands.

And traces of the two chemicals that make up the defoliant have been discovered in the effluent of a company that supplies the government with pesticides.

A poison called 24-D has been found in rain samples collected and analysed by the Department of Agriculture in the Tala Valley near Pietermaritzburg, according to the Natal-based environmental group Chemwatch.

Traces of one of the two ingredients of the notorious Vietnam War defoliant Agent Orange have been found in rainfall over Natal. By SINGOMANE and ERNEST SIDERIS.

Agent Orange is a 50-50 mixture of two poisons, 24-D and 245-T; the latter contains dioxin, banned in most agricultural countries.

Chemwatch representative Kat Channing Pierce says the depart-

ment's results showed rain containing 1.4 milligrams of 24-D per 1 000 litres of water — a million times more than the dose needed to cause damage to vegetable crops.

Chemwatch has produced a dossier linking the poison, widely used on sugar plantations and farms to kill broadleaf weeds, to the apparently high rate of birth defects among newborn babies in Natal. Numerous medical studies have provided strong evidence to show that 24-D causes foetal damage and cancer.

Meanwhile the government has denied that the other ingredient of Agent Orange, 245-T, is still being manufactured in South Africa. Yet traces of both poisons have been found in effluent from the Verulam plant of the chemical firm Farm Ag, according to Chemwatch. Samples sent to the Organisation for Applied Science in Holland by Chemwatch scientists showed massive amounts of 24-D and lesser ones of 245-T.

Farm Ag MD Robert Meingard told WM his company no longer manufactured or processed either poison. Herbicides available in agricultural cooperatives around the country, containing the chemicals and carrying the Farm Ag label, were "old supplies", he said. He acknowledged state departments had been the major purchasers of Farm Ag's 245-T in the past; and the company's financial reports also indicate it was one of the government's biggest suppliers of this kind of herbicide.

The Department of Environment Affairs has confirmed that its forestry division still uses 245-T in its plantations around the country, despite the chemical's banning by most major agricultural countries. In an official response to WM's queries, the department said 245-T was still used in the forests because there is no "valid evidence to show that 245-T herbicides harms humans ... if they are used in the necessary way". A ban on the product was unnecessary because the herbicide was no longer available and old stocks were being depleted.

But Chemwatch remains unconvinced. "We are told categorically that 245-T is not being made in South Africa. Then how does it appear in the effluent?" asked Channing Pierce. The widespread ban on 245-T stems from research into health hazards posed by Agent Orange in the wake of devastation caused by America's use of the defoliant during the Vietnam war. New Zealand is the only country definitely known to be manufacturing 245-T.

A scientist working with Chemwatch, who asked not to be named, said one reason for the continued demand for 245-T here is that it is cheap and extremely effective. Alternatives to 245-T herbicides are up to four times more expensive, he said.

The organisation believes it is this economic incentive which has allowed the defoliants to be used on such a widespread and unregulated scale that it could be posing a massive risk to the health of the people, and their unborn babies, in the areas where the herbicides are used.

The menace hidden in the forest winds

FORESTRY workers in South Africa are apparently unaware of the dangers to their health posed by the widespread use of Agent Orange-type defoliants as weed killers in the plantations.

Like all agricultural workers, the men and women who work in the forests are not covered by the country's laws governing minimum wages, hours of work and collective bargaining.

For them the result is a daily regime of hard labour that leaves little time for enquiry into the dangers of the herbicides they are exposed to.

Richmond is a small sawmill town in the Natal Midlands surrounded by sugar farms, tea estates and forests. From the cluster of rundown shops in the centre of town that make their money from the thousands of farmworkers and sawmill operators in the area, a network of muddy-red roads radiate into the green hills, where, according to the environmental group Chemwatch, the herbicide 245-T is still extensively used.

A row of black and white brick buildings stand at the end of one of these roads. That's where Phumlile (whose surname has been withheld to protect her) lives and works with 500 other labourers on the Saligna Forestry Estate.

She told us about a day in their working lives.

She wakes very morning at four before the sun rises from behind the trees and prepares food with the three women who share her room in the compound. They eat quickly, tidy the room and rush to the tractor and trailer waiting to take them into the forest.

At 6am they reach the spot where work begins. Phumlile works in a gang of 10. Together they must cut and clean 250 trees in order to qualify for wages of between R5 and R8 a shift.

If they fail, they must return the next day and finish the quota before the next shift begins.

Phumlile says it has sometimes taken them three days to complete a single shift. They call it *itoho*, the piece-work system.

From 9am to 10am the workers break for lunch — mielie meal mixed alternately with fish or beans. Once a week they get meat. For this, R1,60 a day is deducted from their wages.

Work resumes at until 3pm, the official end of the shift, though they sometimes continue until after 5pm to finish their quota.

Asked if they felt it was dangerous to work in the forest, workers in the



Mask worn during spraying

gang said the pressure of working under *itoho* made it impossible to spend time safeguarding against accidents.

Phumlile spoke of a colleague, Bhekizitha Sithole, who died earlier this year after a wet log slipped off a pile of wood and hit him on the chest. He was 24 when he died and had two children.

Earlier this year, a woman worker spent a month in hospital after being injured by a falling tree. The workers said the employer and the chainsaw operator were fined R20 for "negligence".

Asked for comment, Mike Edwards, spokesman for the Forest Owners Association, confirmed that piece-work wages of R5 to R8 a shift were standard practice in the forests. But Ron Meiring, administrative manager for the Saligna estate, denied that workers were fined for accidents at work and said they were fully covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act.

He added that the use of 245-T had been abandoned last year. An alternative product was now in use and workers were fully trained in the use of poisonous herbicides, he said.

However, a colleague of Phumlile's, who asked not to be named, said her job was to spray the trees with a herbicide from a 20-litre drum strapped to her back.

After being shown a bottle of 245-T, she said the forest had used the poison earlier this year. She has been issued with a mask, rainsuit and gloves to guard against the herbicides. But colleagues who work nearby are left fully exposed to the spray from the herbicides she uses. They have never been told of the dangers of any of the poisons.

Nor have they enquired — for them these dangers remain hidden in the wind and their cause for anger is the harsh reality of the *itoho* system.

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W/mail
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M 18/2/87
 General

Cost squeeze

Activities: Involved in farming, fresh and processed meat, abattoir agencies, livestock auctioneering, leather tanning, butcheries and coal mining.

Control: Following the recent acquisition by Malbak of part of the Gencor interest in Kanhym the company is no longer a subsidiary of Gencor. Kanhym's year end has changed from December 31 to August 31 to coincide with the Malbak group's financial cycle.

Executive chairman: D J Jacobs.

Capital structure: 47,8m ords of 50c each, 6,2m cumulative compulsorily convertible preference shares of 50c each. Market capitalisation: R96m.

Share market: Price: 200c. Yields: 10,5% on earnings; PE ratio, 9,5 12-month high, 370c; low, 175c. Trading volume last quarter, 828 000 shares.

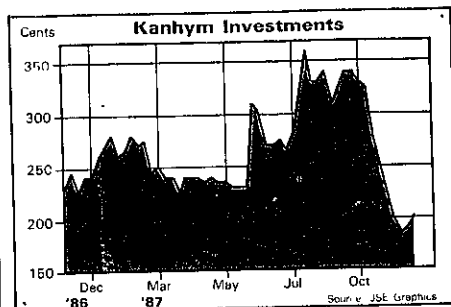
Financial: Year to August 31.

	'84	'85	'86	'87
Debt.				
Short-term (Rm) . . .	77,6	58,9	61,4	61,5
Long-term (Rm) . . .	100,0	35,2	31,0	30,1
Debt, equity ratio	1,39	0,56	0,54	0,52
Shareholders' interest	0,35	0,50	0,52	0,59
Int & leasing cover	0,14	0,34	1,44	2,25
Debt cover	—	0,12	0,20	0,19

	'84	'85	'86	'87
Performance:				
Return on cap (%)	0,9	5,1	5,2	4,3
Turnover (Rm)	484	462	513	420
Pre-int profit (Rm)	3,2	17,2	16,5	14,3
Pre-int margin (%)	0,7	3,7	3,2	3,4
Taxed profit (Rm)	(41,4)	(22,3)	5,8	8,4
Earnings (c)	(339,0)	(125,3)	(4,1)	14
Dividends (c)	—	—	—	—
Net worth (c)	549	235	244	257

On the face of it, Kanhym looks in better shape than it has been for several years. The 14c EPS for the eight-month period to end-August follows four consecutive years of losses. In 1982, the last year a dividend was paid, EPS was 116c. A dividend could be paid this year but prospects are not as good as one might expect.

One reason for last year's turnaround was better management of borrowings. Finance charges fell by R1,5m compared with the same period of the previous year, when finance charges absorbed most of the operat-



Kanhym's Jacobs . . . linked to consumer spending

ing profit. Total debt and gearing, though, remain at much the same level. The group also produced much better operating earnings. These increased from R6,1m in the first eight months of 1986 to R14,3m in 1987.

Best divisional performance was in the fresh and processed meat products interests. After the Doornfontein processing factory was closed (a new canning factory was opened at Pietersburg on December 3), this division posted a R3,4m profit after a R2,1m loss in 1986 — a R5,5m turnaround. The livestock auctioneering and agencies and farming divisions remained the biggest income generators.

Livestock auctioneering and agencies showed a slight decline in operating margin which could have been worse but a fall in livestock volumes was offset by higher prices; bad debts on farmer credits also fell.

Farming margin improves

In farming the margin improved slightly, showing benefits from higher feedlot beef prices and better pig farming efficiencies. But the maize harvest was down after a hot, dry February and hail damage. The dairy herd was sold in the first quarter of the year.

Earnings from the coal division plunged from R5,4m in 1986 to only R32 000 last year. Kanhym sold its 50% share in Eikeboom colliery in June 1986 and this resulted in a R1m loss in income. But, more importantly, an additional R4,3m fall in earnings came from the group's continuing 5,867% income and expense participation in Middelburg colliery.

As executive chairman Dirk Jacobs notes: "Kanhym's fortunes are inextricably linked to the level of consumer spending and the state of the agricultural sector." The fortunes of both appear to be unfavourable at present.

Adds Jacobs: "Maize is Kanhym's major input cost. The aid programme which the

government launched in response to the deterioration in farmers' financial position will have significant implications for Kanhym should the maize price rise or if a substantial number of maize farmers diversify into livestock farming." Also, if Middelburg colliery goes into loss (which seems possible after last year's earnings decline), Kanhym's continued participation could prove costly.

The outlook appears discouraging. Management has, however, done well to clear the backlog of compulsorily convertible preference dividends, leaving the way open for resumption of ordinary dividends next year.

Dave Edwards