

POVERTY ↓ GENERAL

1984

JAN - MAY

# Still 50,000 Hungry People to feed

*P. D. Angerharts*

**KING WILLIAM'S TOWN** — Despite good rains late in 1983, the Boulder-Ciskei Operation Hunger campaign still has an estimated 50,000 malnourished or hungry people to save from starvation this year.

The co-ordinator for the campaign in the area, Mrs Roselle Frasca, said this week that there was still "much relief work to be done" in 1984, as the campaign in 1983 — when a similar number of destitute adults and children had benefited from feeding schemes — had only "scratched at the surface of the problem."

This year it is expected that the campaign will help feed in excess of 50,000 people of which approximately 15,000 will be children between the ages of

three and 11

"The malnutrition figures even before the drought started were so large that the drought had little impact on them, so we anticipate that the problem will still be with us for some time in spite of the recent rains. Operation Hunger is hoping to assist as much as possible," Mrs Frasca said.

Mrs Frasca said that with the rains that have fallen, the campaign here would re-align its emphasis and adapt its functions to make optimum use of feeding programmes in the changed weather circumstances.

We are looking at quite a few changes in the functions of Operation Hunger in 1984," she said, noting that

although food funds were still being received on a national level, funds would increasingly be motivated in 1984 towards distribution costs to help the many rural children in far-flung areas who were faced with death through malnutrition.

Although many people have been fed in 1983, there are many other children who are not being fed — not only because of a lack of funds, but also because of the sheer impracticality and problems in administering schemes and distributing food.

Emphasis in 1984 would therefore be placed on reaching rural needy through institutions such as schools.

Now that the rains

have come, Operation Hunger is looking at the feasibility of gradually phasing out family feeding schemes, and placing more emphasis on feeding children through schools and clinics.

"We feel there is a greater long term investment in feeding children in that if a child grows up malnourished this could affect their brain development and lead to brain retardation.

"And if we do not see to the welfare of the young now, it could spell a grave situation for the next generation. Therefore emphasis is more and more to be placed on the young," Mrs Frasca said.

One of the longer term objectives of the Operation Hunger campaign is to enter the field of self-

help projects as opposed to the hunger aid emergency functions first embarked on at the height of the drought.

"Although we are not yet fully geared to implementing our self-help projects, we are, however, investigating the distribution of seed to various areas to encourage parents to plant and thereby assist in the feeding of their communities, rather than relying on handouts from Operation Hunger.

The past year had also seen practical aid projects undertaken such as the assistance in the sinking of two wells at St Thomas' School for the Deaf near here.

However, the past year had also not been without problems.

In some places our

food aid is not getting through to the people, and we are investigating this by taking the matter up with the relevant authorities," Mrs Frasca reported.

One encouraging development in the campaign in 1983 had been the removal of aid operations in one area where residents had returned to self help.

"In the Peddie area, a large family feeding scheme has been voluntarily discontinued as they are now self-supporting, having successfully started crop production following the rains.

We are very happy about this development, and look forward to more areas becoming self-sufficient," Mrs Frasca added — DJR

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D. Dispatch 16/1/84

# Scrap pass law to end poverty, says academic

PORT ELIZABETH — The abolition of the pass law would help to eliminate poverty among black South Africans, said Professor Francis Wilson, head of the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town

He was speaking on the Causes of Black Poverty at a discussion organised by the South African Council for Higher Education at the weekend

Prof Wilson said the pass law did not prevent poverty, as some people believed, but was a part of the cheap labour system

He said, however, that the abolition of the law had its own ambiguities, in that it would lower the wages of blacks in

the short-term

Prof Wilson said that the educational system biases the distribution of wealth in favour of whites through the inherited education structure

"Any strategy against poverty must come to terms with education," he said

A land reform policy must be developed to overcome the clear maldistribution of land and resources in the country

The drought, said Prof Wilson, had made matters worse, but was not the fundamental cause of poverty among blacks.

"The rain will not end poverty," he said

Prof Wilson said children under the age of two, old people and breadwinners between

the ages of 55 and 65 were the hardest hit by poverty

He said his discussion was part of the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of America, a non-governmental institution, which had also funded the first Carnegie inquiry

According to Prof Wilson, education discussions were taking place throughout the country in preparation for a conference at the University of Cape Town from April 13 to 19

He said the conference was part of the inquiry whose aim is to develop independent, non-governmental strategies against poverty — DDC

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# 'Pass laws a part of cheap labour'

Own Correspondent

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# R50 000 grant for starving KwaZulu children

241 By PAT SIDLEY Consumer Mail

OPERATION HUNGER, the SA Institute of Race Relations' (SAIRR) programme which helps to alleviate the effects of the drought, has handed over a cheque for R50 000 to the Natal Red Cross for its KwaZulu feeding programmes.

Highlighting the need for assistance, Mrs Inka Mars, who accepted the cheque on behalf of the Red Cross, said R17 000 to R20 000 a month was needed to help feed children.

This sum would feed 85 000 children a day with one cup of fortified soup.

Quoting Stellenbosch University research figures, Mrs Ina Perlman, manager of Operation Hunger said about 2 900 000 child-

ren under 15 years in South Africa were malnourished.

The minimum cash income for a black family of five to merely survive had been calculated at R86 a month but the average family, according to research, was bringing in only R55 a month.

Both Mrs Perlman and Mrs Mars stressed that their programmes were not "a case of perpetuating handouts". Assisted rural communities generated their own self-help programmes.

The drought had dramatised a situation of which people were not fully aware, Mrs Mars said. It served to illustrate the disadvantages rural communities suffered.

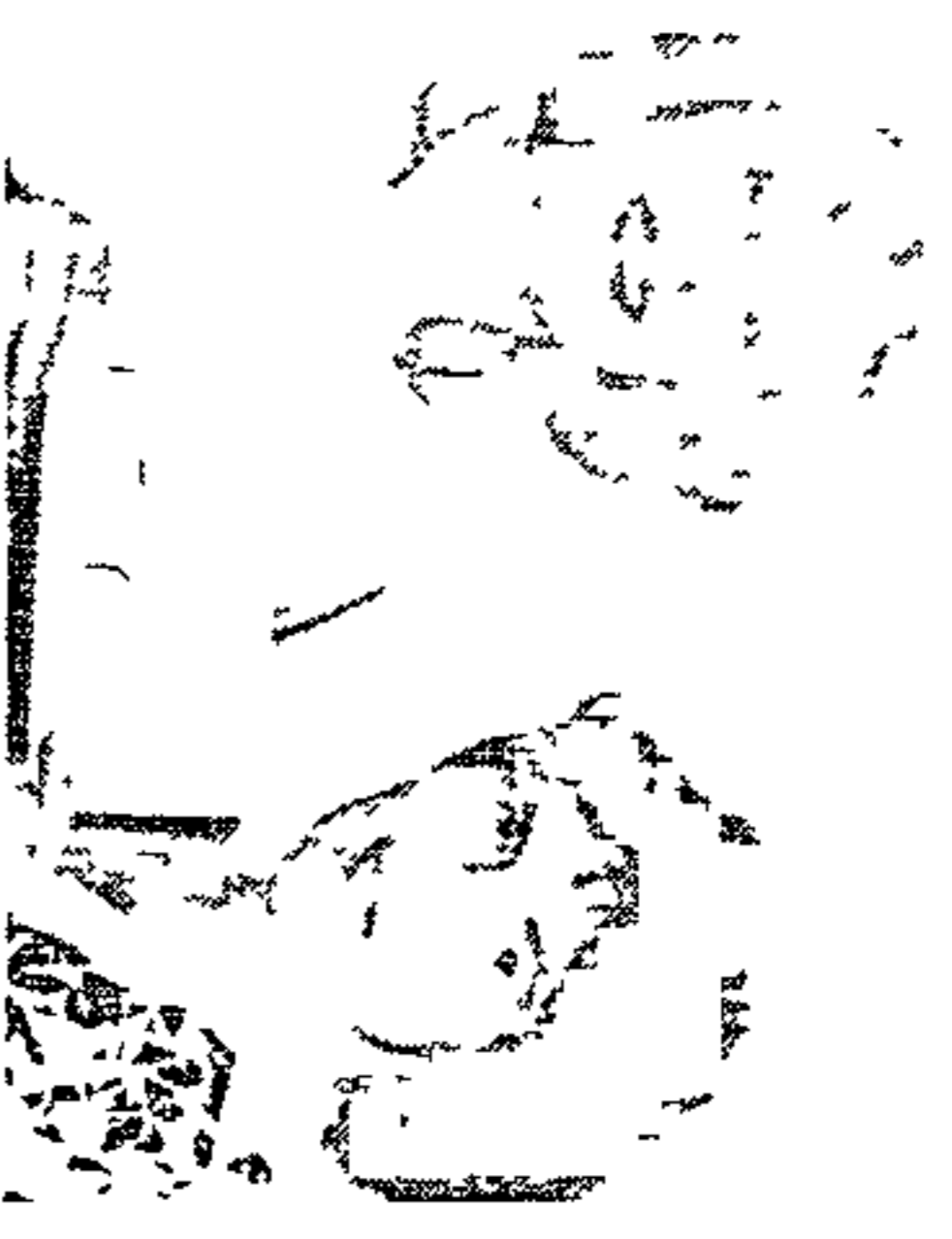
"The drop-out rate in schools among black rural children was particularly worrying

Malnourished children were not able to concentrate and learn and hard times kept children out of school.

The director of the SAIRR, Mr John Kane-Berman, said the institute had become increasingly concerned that rural areas and their problems had "slipped from public consciousness".

The public was aware to some extent of the difference in Government per capita education spending on black and white children in urban areas. Although this gap was narrowing, in homelands and rural areas the gap had widened.

"People are confined to homelands by influx control and migrant labour regulations," he said.



Mrs Inka Mars of the Natal Red Cross, left, accepts a cheque for R50 000 from Mrs Ina Perlman of Operation Hunger. Picture: GLENN MIDDLETON

turn it and put money in your pocket. Read Bread and Butter Brief in EVE tomorrow.

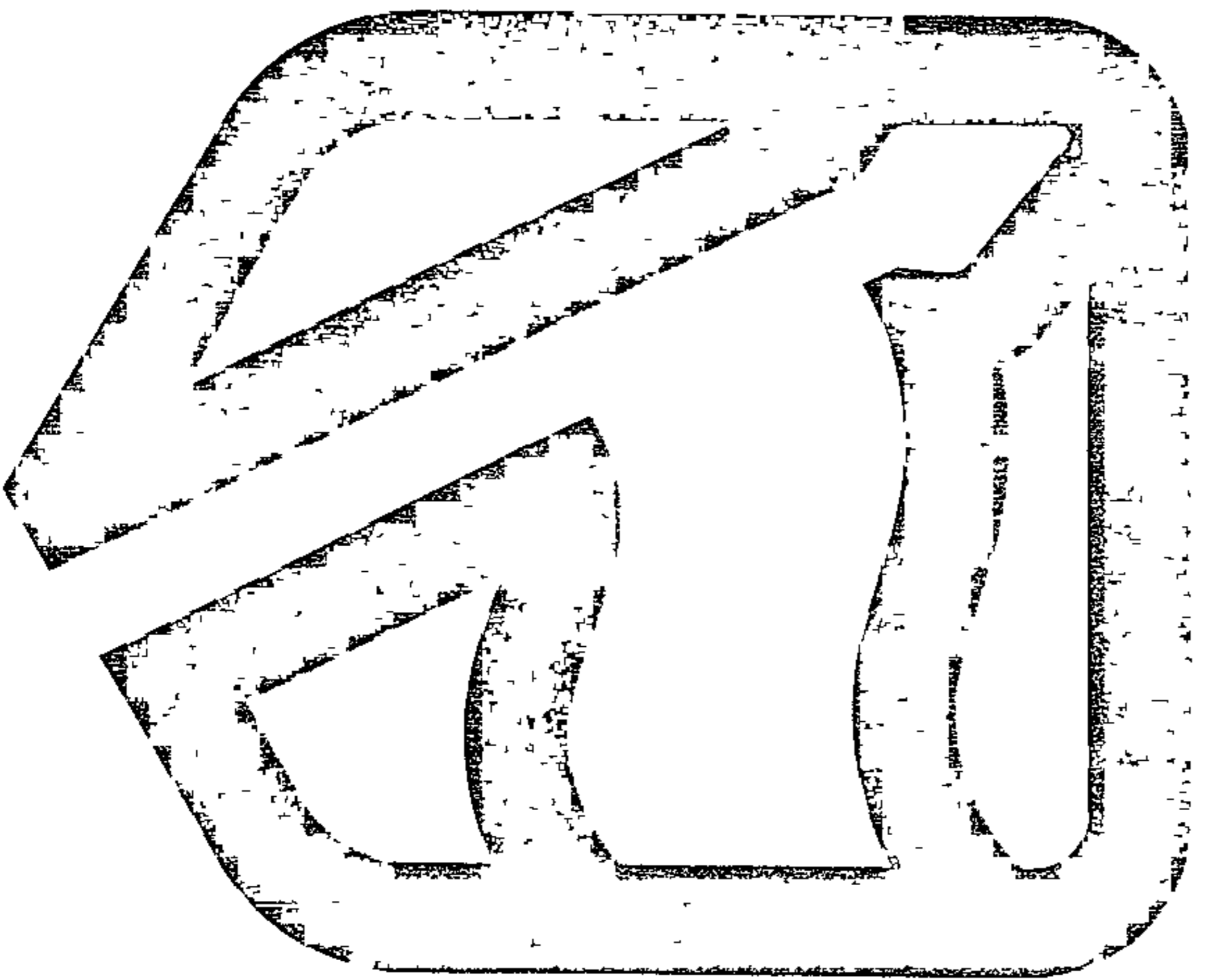
Also in this issue is a profile of the South African-born woman who has charted the rise and fall of the PLO, the start of a new series on working mothers and quick but tasty recipes.



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# 'Shanty healthier than a normal brick home'

AFG us 18/1/84 (24)

## Medical Reporter

FOR the city's poor it could be healthier to live in a shanty than in a conventional brick home

Location maps for TB show that the disease existed mostly in the overcrowded housing estates — and not in shanty areas

Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Reg Coogan, said overcrowded housing schemes in the Peninsula were a major factor in the spread of TB

## BACKLOG

He called for the immediate implementation of self-help housing to help to solve the problem

The housing backlog was unsolvable using high-standard housing — "whole lifetimes were going past with the back-

log still there and getting bigger" — and the only solution was to lower housing standards under control

The high standards insisted upon in housing schemes in the recent past were partly responsible for the high incidence of TB. The city's huge housing backlog had led to overcrowding as high-standard schemes could not keep pace with population growth

## PARADOXICAL

"It is not uncommon to find 14 to 19 people occupying a house intended for three or four. As far as the medical aspects are concerned there is great overcrowding in the City Council townships"

The paradoxical point was that in buildings of

poor quality, but where overcrowding may not exist, TB did not spread so rapidly

Dr Coogan said he was "very gratified" that self-help housing had become an accepted part of the Government's housing policy

## SERVICES

But security of tenure, building under skilled control and laid-on services — particularly water-borne sewerage and possibly electricity — were necessary prerequisites of any self-help scheme

The provision of housing for all was one of the most important factors in the elimination of TB

But it would be many years before Cape Town got the incidence down to the standard of a European city, he said.



Room 21/1/84

# Drought hastens pace of a family's starvation

By PAT SIDLEY

MOSANI MAGOPA and her two children are slowly starving in the Grootklip district of Lebowa — one of the so-called "homelands".

The drought has merely hastened the pace of her family's starvation.

She doesn't know her age, believes her son Jarvey is about 10, and her daughter Veronica about 4 years old. Veronica is the size of a two-year-old.

They have had almost no income and inadequate food, for some years. To start with, life has offered her few choices. Influx control forces her to live in a homeland, her husband is dead, there are no young men left at home to marry, and there are hardly any jobs.

Then, last year the drought hit. Now all there is to eat is mealie-meal.

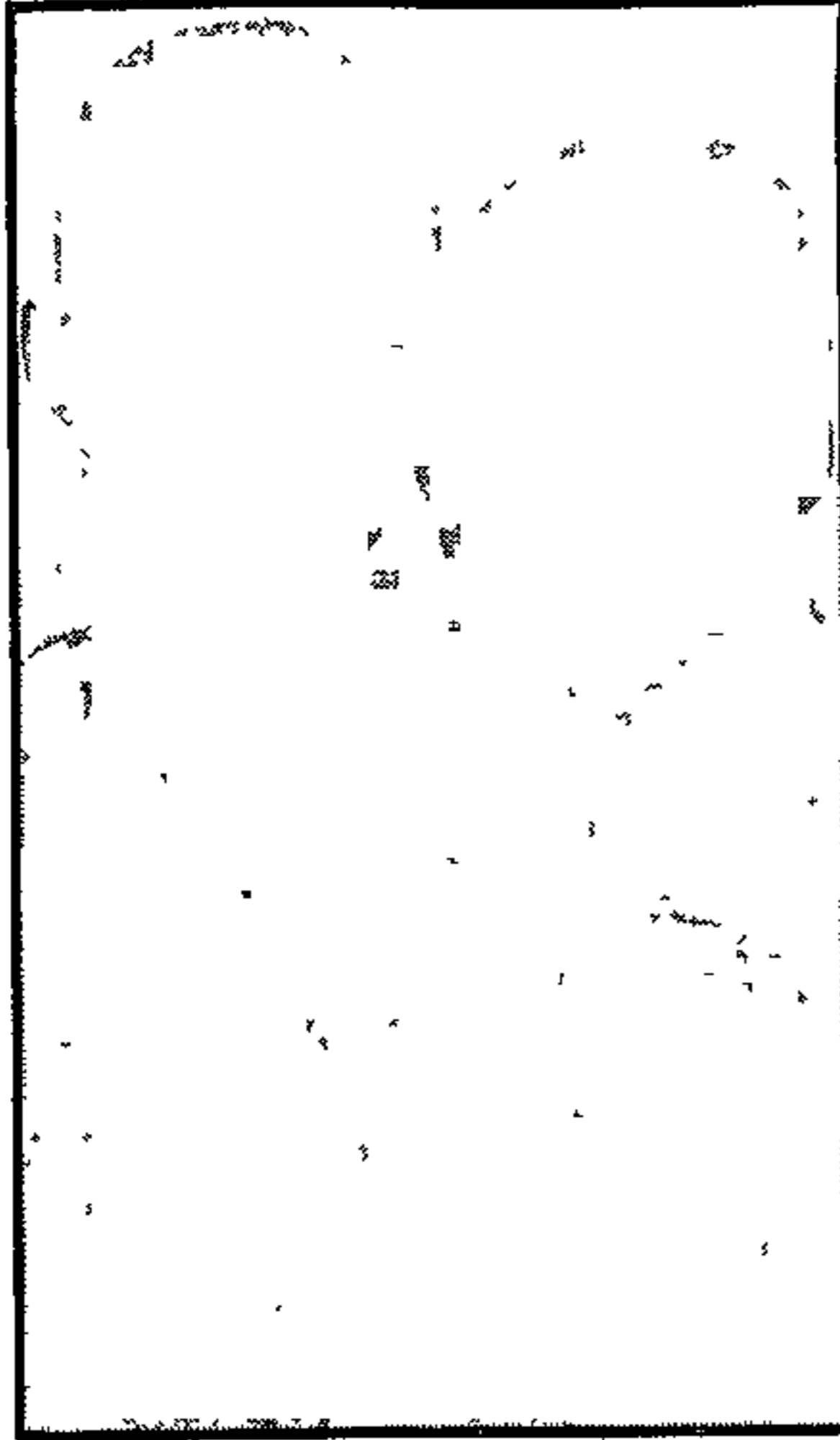
Sometimes Mrs Magopa and her children feel full with mealie-meal — but that supplies them with no protein at all, and very few vitamins.

Her income is R20 a month. It began to arrive after her husband, David, died in a work accident in 1976, and she thinks the firm sends this money to her, although she is not quite sure.

The payment could go on indefinitely. Or it could stop tomorrow.

He had been a contract worker at an Alberton furniture factory for a year, and used to send home between R80 and R100 a month. "He was killed by a machine," Mrs Magopa said.

Every month, she gives R10 to the store up the road. In return, the store gives her a 50kg bag of mealie meal every two months to three months. The bag costs R25. Her "credit arrangement" with the store means that sometimes she can also



Mrs Mosani Magopa with 4-year-old Veronica. The infected Kwashiorkor sores can be seen on Veronica's scalp.

get some tea or sugar.

The only other food she and her children eat is the tiny crop of mealies from the field outside her house.

It is not her field — it appears to be communally owned — but she is allowed to cultivate a patch of it.

Last year there were no mealies at all — the drought made sure of that.

In a good year, she would have been able to fill one bag from the crop. This would have lasted three to four months, backed up by the mealie meal from the store.

Grootklip is a small community. Its only organised agricultural "programme" comprises an experimental citrus plantation run by the Lebowa Department of Agriculture, and a small plot of land given to the local Black Housewives' League to grow maize or vegetables.

This year, the Housewives' League plot, fertilized and farmed with a

more modern approach, will yield twice as much as Mrs Magopa's plot. Members are to share the crop, Mrs Magopa would normally not receive a cut, unless given some.

The village has one tap, which receives only an intermittent supply of water. The only other sources are a river a few kilometres away — which is often dry — and a well in another village.

There is also an irrigation scheme for the agricultural project, incomplete because there is no water for it.

Daughter Veronica has a swollen belly, thin arms and legs and a mass of infected and bleeding sores on her sparsely covered scalp.

Mrs Ina Periman of Operation Hunger, who took the Mail to Grootklip, said the child has kwashiorkor — and the sores on her head are part of the symptoms.

Things were bad before the drought for the small

family — now they are devastating.

Before it began, there was water, the tiny pension bought more mealie meal than it does now, and her own mealie crop was adequate. There was never any meat or chicken or eggs, but there was a bit of milk now and then.

In 1982 a 50kg sack cost about R18. Last year she was paying R20. This year it's costing R25. Soon, the price will go up yet another 7% when the latest maize price increase filters through to consumers.

A large portion of the increased costs in mealie meal over the past couple of years has been due to the drought and a national failure of the maize crop.

The new increase, which Mrs Magopa has yet to face, is a direct result of the condition, which has necessitated a need to import expensive maize.

But for Mrs Magopa, the drought boils down to a dry tap, the failed crop in her back yard, and the price of mealie meal at the nearby store.

The only work available was occasional fruit picking on the experimental farm, and labour on the irrigation scheme. Two years ago, this brought in up to R25 a month for five to six months in the year.

But last year, the fruit crop failed and the water dried up, and there was no work for her at all.

She should be on relief from an Operation Hunger programme, and the local clinic is supposed to give her some fortified soup and mealie meal for the child.

But, on her last trip to the clinic, she was given mealie meal, an ointment for the baby's scalp, and charged 20c for the tin of soup — enough for a cup a day for a month.

The 20c was too much. She hasn't been back.

THE Du Toit's of central Johannesburg have no income except handouts.

They are desperate, miserable and poor.

The Du Toit's (the names have been changed at their request) are a white family — the drought has had a relatively little impact on their socio-economic standing — instead, their fate has been at the hands of the recession and the inflation rate.

Mr Geoff Du Toit and his wife Emmie live with their four-year-old son Pieter in, literally, one room in a central Johannesburg flatblock.

They pay R55 rent a month.

If Mr Du Toit does not get a job soon, he will not be able to pay that rent.

Mr Du Toit referred several times to the problems of blacks who he believes, must be having a tougher time than he is.

Pieter is the same age as Veronica Magopa of Grootklip, but is a much larger child and physically far more active.

He is strong and healthy and stands little chance of suffering severe malnutrition — with all its horrendous consequences.

Mr Du Toit was a hardware salesman until recently, but he lost the job and has no savings.

He expects to be able to get another one and to take his family out of their miserable surroundings — but he doesn't know when.

He was earning R950 a month until he lost his job last November.

The family had to move out of their Hill-brow flat.

There was little left after paying the deposit on their present room.

A Christmas scooter for Pieter wiped out the rest.

So they're relying on handouts — mostly from relatives.

"A few rand here and there," he said. Now, at current food prices, there is not a lot they can buy to eat.

In town, these food prices have largely risen because of inflation.

Drought has not yet become a major factor in overall food price increases, according to spokesmen for supermarket chains and the fresh produce market.

Fruit and vegetables are, however, markedly different.

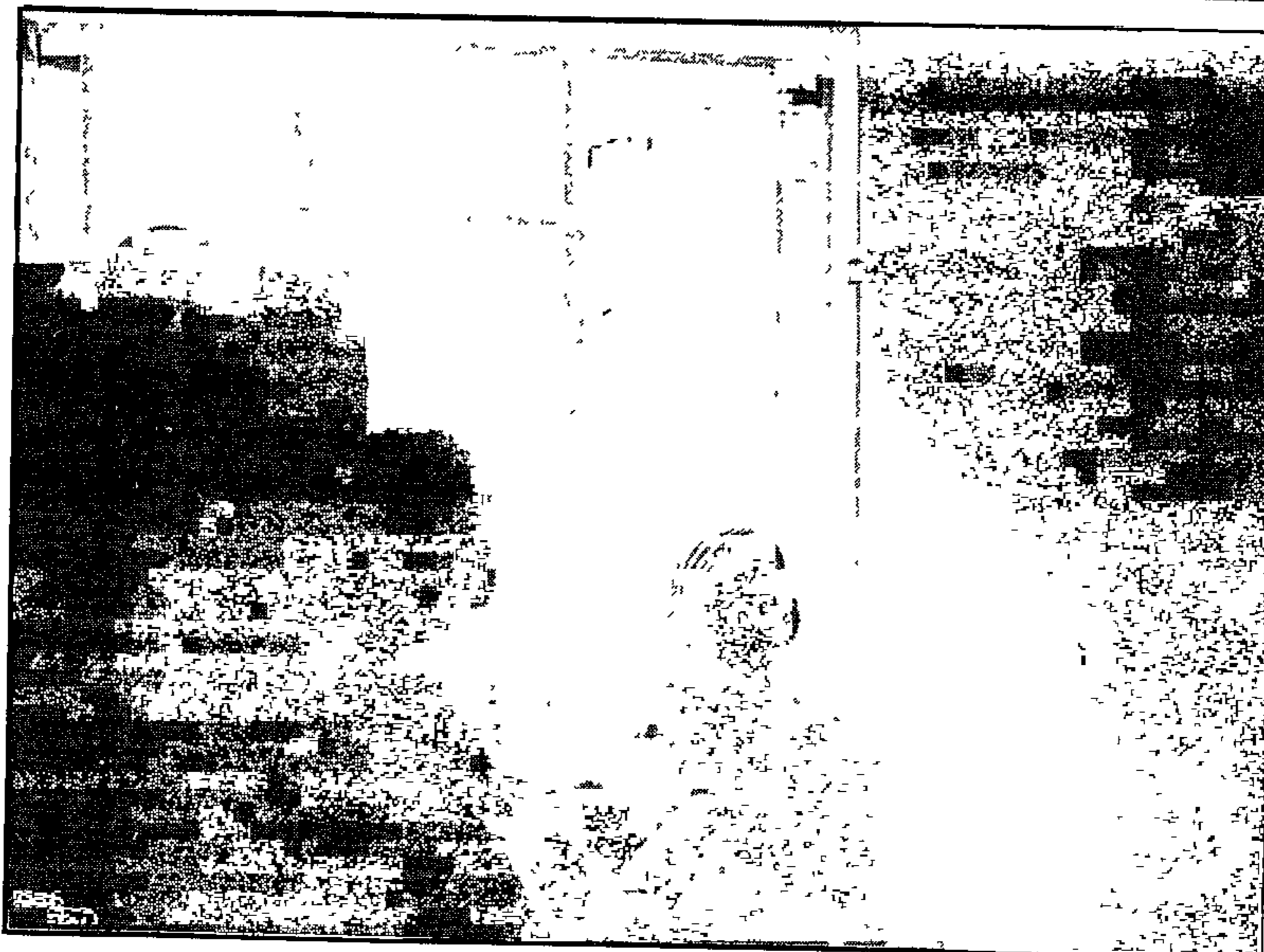
The food inflation rate between November 1982 and November 1983, measured by the Consumer Price Index, ran at about the same as the general inflation rate around 10.5%.

But during that period, the inflation rate on vegetables and fruit was about 19% — mostly due to the drought, partly because of inflation.

And yet sometimes, some vegetables were actually cheaper and in better supply than the year before.

The Du Toit's have been largely shielded from the direct impact of the drought, because not all foods have been affected all the time.





The "Du Toit" family in their city centre room.

## A different kind of famine for a Johannesburg family

If, for example, one vegetable has been scarce and expensive, there has been another available as a lower-priced substitute.

Mrs Du Toit's sister often gives her meat, for Pieter, because his parents can't afford it

The Du Toit's buy white bread, cheese, sugar, coffee, a coffee whitener, bones for soup (at 50c a packet), cooking oil, margarine, and some vegetables and fresh fruit when they can — normally at a Hillbrow supermarket

A loaf costs Mr Du Toit 53c Two years ago it was 35c

Again, it wasn't the drought that pushed the price up — the Government removed the subsidy on white bread

"What about the Africans," he says "They have to live on it"

He buys two tomatoes at a time, for about 25c each

A fortnight ago, he asked for 20c worth of potatoes — that bought him one large one and one tiny pebble of a potato to make up the weight

Potatoes and perhaps tomatoes, onions

and an orange would at some stage have been more expensive because of the drought — but now potatoes are substantially cheaper than they have been for a long time

Cooking oil prices rose by almost 50% over the past year, and now the Du Toit's seldom use it

A 750ml bottle cost R1,09 a year ago and R1,49 this month

The oil price rose because of the maize crop failure in the drought and the expensive imports to make up the shortfall

Some cheese came down in price last year

One side-effect of the drought has been the surplus in dairy products, as cattle farmers moved to dairy production because of the beef surplus

So the Du Toit's have scored from that Cheddar cost R4,70 a kilo in July and dropped to R4,18 in December

The Du Toit's are paying about R1,49 for 2,5kg of sugar at the moment — but the rise has been marginal over the year

The constant maize price increases — a large part of which caused by the

drought — ripple through on eggs, chicken and beef.

The Du Toit's do not buy those commodities

If they did, the price rise would so far have been relatively small — but it is likely to build up further later this year

By the time Mr Du Toit finds a job, the long-term effects of the drought will have begun to be felt

Even so, he will be able to escape the worst effects if he succeeds in earning a reasonable salary

When the Rand Daily Mail found the Du Toit's a week ago, they were eating supper onions on two slices of toast each

The toast had been made on an upturned heater, which served too as the stove on which they had heated the onions

Breakfasts for Pieter are relatively normal — his parents say he has corn flakes at R1,09 a packet

Mr and Mrs Du Toit have coffee

Mr Du Toit said "The kid never goes hungry I'll always make a plan for him"



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# 'Poor people hardest hit' by incre

By BARRY STRECK

POOR and working-class people would be hardest hit by the latest increase in sales tax, trade unionists and academics said last night.

It would also force a new round of wage negotiations, said Mr Joe Foster, general secretary of the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu), the largest grouping of independent unions.

Mr David Lewis, general secretary of the General Workers' Union, said last night's announcement made it quite impossible for unions to commit themselves

to annual adjustments in wages when the government is able to introduce a measure as drastic as this without prior warning and without negotiation."

Mr Lewis also said the "cost of military adventurism, sanctioned by a minority, is ultimately borne by a majority who have to pay for it."

Ms Laurine Platky, co-ordinator of the Surplus Peoples Project, said the decision would be "devastating" in resettlement areas.

"It means that a bag of mealie meal, the staple diet, is going to have to last five weeks instead of four weeks

"People barely survive in those areas and whole families live off old-age pensions — R114 every two months

"Now they are going to live on even less. What can you do on R57 a month for a whole family?" she said

Mr Charles Simkins, a University of Cape Town economics lecturer, said the latest research by the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru) showed that the medium minimum wage — the effective income — for labourers and unskilled workers dropped by 4.7 percent between January 1983 and De-

ember 1983

In that kind of context this one percent was an additional burden to bear

Moreover, between May 1982 and May 1983 — the latest figures — black employment had dropped by 1.8 percent and it had probably dropped further since then

This had made people worse off

Mr Johan Marée, a lecturer in industrial sociology at the University of Cape Town, said taxes were usually progressive, and people with higher incomes were usually taxed more

Sales tax, however, had

something of the opposite effect. It was not progressive

It started making the low-income groups pay more in tax. The burden also fell on low income groups to pay more for basic commodities

The whole approach of sales tax was to put a heavier tax on the poor and low income groups — and the more the government did this, the less it needed to increase the tax burden on the wealthy, Mr Marée said.

In his reaction, Mr Foster said the increase in GST would hit workers hard at a time of high unemployment and high inflation.

Mr Lewis said that in the midst of a severe recession the brunt of which had been borne by workers and their families, the government had in effect introduced a general price increase which would affect all those who were employed, as well as those who had been forced to stay at home through the period of the recession

In Johannesburg, Mrs L Tutu, wife of Bishop Desmond Tutu, said she did think the government had taken the lower income groups into consideration at a time when reaching a decision

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# In Johannesburg, Mrs Leah Tutu, wife of Bishop Desmond Tutu, said she did not think the government had taken the lower income group into consideration at all when reaching a decision about increasing GST

# "Most black people, and particularly domestic workers, will be extremely hard-hit by this

# "If housewives worked together on issues such as these, we would possibly be more effective in staving off the government. We are too used to taking things lying down," she said

# "The national president of the Black Housewives' League, Mrs Sally Mollana, said the increase in sales tax was "shocking"

# She said, "This will be the last stranglehold on the black community I think it would have been advisable for the government to think of stopping the increase of tax or food, because people simply can no longer live like this

# She said the issue would be discussed at the next meeting of the Housewives' League

# A spokesman for the Consumer Council said in a statement to Sapa in Pretoria that the GST increase represented a seven percent increase to a greater rate of increase than the inflation rate itself

# He described the decision as "most disappointing" and predicted that it would not be long before sales tax doubled from the initial four percent

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AKG: 24/1/84 (24)

# Call to exempt bread, maize, milk and flour

Staff Reporter

WIDESPREAD calls for basic foods to be exempted from general sales tax have been made following today's announcement that GST will rise to seven percent on February 1

Mr Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick'n Pay, said he would ask the Government to exempt five basic foods bread, milk, maize meal, flour and sugar

Mr Ackerman said he would also lead a campaign for a tax surcharge on company profits to replace the loss in tax revenue caused by exempting basic food from GST

## REQUESTS TURNED DOWN

Mrs Lyn Morris, senior vice-president of the Housewives' League, said if a country such as Zimbabwe could exempt basic food from GST, so could South Africa

She said previous requests by the league to the Government for basic food to be exempt from GST, had been turned down on the grounds that this would be technically difficult

Mrs Morris said that in Zimbabwe other commodities were subject to 18 and 23-percent GST but basic agricultural products, including items such as raw meat, were exempt

"Inevitably the poor will suffer most from this increase as they spend a high proportion of their income on food and essentials," she said

The league also supports exemption on other essentials used mainly by blacks, including household paraffin, candles and matches

(Turn to Page 3, col 1)

# Call to exempt basic foodstuffs

(Contd from Page 1)

The GST increase would inevitably lead to higher wage increases which would in turn be followed by a price spiral, she added

Professor Z S A Gurzynski, former head of the University of Cape Town School of Economics, said basic foodstuffs as well as items such as children's clothing below a certain price, should either be exempt from GST or subject to a lower tax

However, he said GST should not be computed as part of the cost-of-living index just as income tax was not included in the index

## ABOVE INFLATION

Mr Bernard Hellberg, assistant director of the Consumer Council, said the 1c increase in GST from 6c in the rand to 7c was in effect a 16,6 percent increase in GST

This was well above the current inflation rate of less than 12 percent he said If an increase was necessary, the Government should have put it up to 6,5c in the rand Although there were no more half cents, it would be relatively simply to work out tax percentages, he added

"The Government will find it difficult to ask the private sector to keep price increases to below the inflation rate if its own increases are higher," he said

Professor Brian Kantor, head of the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town, said he was not happy with the increase

The latest Government figures showed that revenue and expenditure were much in line up to December, he said

It was not obvious that the tax had to be increased — unless it presaged a substantial increase in Government spending in the next fiscal year

Mr Brian MacLeod, director of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, said that while the increase had to be regretted, it had been forced on the Government because of over-spending in both the public and private sectors

## HIT THE POOR

"While the increase in GST will hit the poor, on balance it is to be preferred to raising direct taxation, since its overall effect will be to dampen demand and help to contain inflation, which influences economic growth negatively"

# 'You cannot build basis for peace if people go hungry'

ARGUS 24/1/84  
Staff Reporter

STELLENBOSCH — Agriculture's role in peace initiatives dominated opening addresses today at a two-day regional agricultural conference here

A former American Secretary for Agriculture, Dr Earl Butz, said "The truth is that you cannot build a basis for peace on hungry people

"In the next 35 years the world population will increase by about 3,5-billion and, in order to feed all these people just a little better than now, we'll have to double our total food production

## INCENTIVE

"We'll have fewer resources to do this with, but with the help of scientific research, more capital and incentive, we will achieve our goals

"The most important challenge facing mankind now is the need for a basis for living together peacefully, and I am convinced that the answer lies in food production"

Dr Fred du Plessis, head of Sanlam, said "If we want to be able to stay on in this part of the world, we will have to impart something towards the well-being of our neighbours and ensure that we take the lead in the production of food

## PLANNING

"But we must recognise the need for planning. If we want to continue reducing surpluses and have a role as peacemakers, we will have to look closely at how effectively we can increase food production

"If we do not expand, we will not even be able to feed our own market"

Dr du Plessis said that with the emphasis on industrial development in other parts of South Africa, the Western Cape farming community would have to "make sure you keep this part of the economy going

"Agriculture here is more than the backbone, it is the driving force behind the development of the region"



# Take GST off basics, says

## Ackerman

Staff Reporter

THE chairman of Pick 'n Pay, Mr Raymond Ackerman, said yesterday that he would ask the government to exempt five basic foods — bread, milk, mealie meal, flour and sugar — from General Sales Tax

Mr Ackerman was reacting to the announcement by the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, that GST would be increased by one percent to seven percent from February 1.

Mr Ackerman said he would also lead a campaign for a tax surcharge on company profits to replace the loss in tax revenue caused by exempting basic food from GST.

He would also ask the government to reduce GST when the economy recovered

The director of the Consumer Council, Mr Jan Cronje, said the increase was "a cause for disquiet" because it exceeded the current rate of inflation of almost 11 percent

"An increase in the tax on luxury goods such as liquor and cigarettes would have been

better," he said

Mr Cronje said he hoped that if the GST increase helped to prevent the current income tax structure from being altered, the increase would eventually serve a good purpose

"But it is a foregone conclusion that the GST increase will have a marked inflationary influence and will cancel the recent salary adjustments," he said

He said consumers had contacted the council to say that had the current GST of six percent been collected effectively, the increase would not have been needed

Mr W S Yeowart, president of the Association of Commerce (Assocom), said the increase was an "unpleasant reality", but regretted the decision had been taken in isolation

The private sector had not been able to form a definite view of whether the decision was justified or not, he said

He also said the high levels of State spending this year required immediate financing, and GST was the obvious widely-based source

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e T. 25/1/84



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 26/1/84  
**Commerce to probe dropping GST on basics**

By GERALD REILLY  
 Pretoria Bureau

THE Association of Chambers of Commerce — which has been a supporter of GST with no exemptions — is to investigate the merits and demerits of dropping the tax for basic necessities.

Assocom has argued at low rates of tax, the administrative cost of exemptions would outweigh the benefits.

The study will be conducted by Assocom's taxing committee, with possible assistance from academics.

The study will look into the reasons for the persistent increases in GST, the scope of exemptions for certain commodities, the cost of administering GST in the event of exemptions and the implications for State revenue.

Assocom's investigation comes at a time of mounting pressure on the Government to remove GST on basic foods and other necessities.

The urgent need for scrapping GST on basics like bread

and milk has been made repeatedly by the Housewives League, the Trade Union Council of South Africa and the Progressive Federal Party.

So far, the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, has rejected the pleas on the grounds of "administrative difficulties".

But the issue has become more urgent since Tuesday's announcement that GST is to be raised by another 1% to 7% from February 1.

Economists pointed out yesterday that an extra 7% on basic foods was a heavy burden for lower income earners.

Poverty in South Africa had spread since the start of the recession nearly two years ago. The scrapping of the 7% tax on basics would bring real relief to thousands of black families and pensioners of all races, it was argued.

● See Page 4

(f) The Board points out to his client that he has a duty to keep all information totally confidential. If I.R.O. Sec 26 of the P.A.A. Act he may not express an opinion if he cannot be sure and uses any relevant information also point this out to his client.

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# Operation Hunger (241) launches food bank *stau*

By Anthony Duigan *26/1/84*

Operation Hunger, the national relief agency, is to link with major food concerns to launch a food bank as a clearing house for food surpluses which will then be redistributed to starving people.

The bank, based on an idea in the United States for directing the billions of dollars of wasted food to good use, was formally launched in Johannesburg today

"The idea is to prevent the wastage of surpluses, which seems to occur so often, and put all food to the best use in areas where it is most needed," said Mrs Ina Perlman, manager of Operation Hunger

"We believe that if the surpluses in South Africa are put to maximum use they could make an enormous impact on the actual need for hunger relief. What we need is for all the food producers and manufacturers to get together to make this work"

Mrs Perlman said several major

concerns and at least one supermarket chain, Checkers, supported the setting up of the food bank

Products to be collected by the bank would include packaged food that had been wrongly labelled or packed, overruns of some lines and possibly food that was past its expiry date but within safety limits, she added

"There will be no question of the food bank taking any deteriorated foodstuffs," Mrs Perlman said

She expressed concern about the drought and hunger in several parts of the northern and north-eastern Transvaal, where subsistence maize crops are failing through lack of rain and where official food relief programmes have run out of funds and supplies

"Instead of being able to cut back our food relief to areas like Bochum and Subiaco in Lebowa and in the rural areas north of Giyani in Gazankulu — something I hoped to do after March — it seems we may have to increase aid," said Mrs Perlman, who has just returned from a trip to these areas.



# Anger at 'squander', burden on poor

ANGRY Teleletters callers attacked the government, and the Minister of Finance in particular, yesterday on the latest general sales tax increase.

"The Minister of Finance should be asked to resign," said Mr A Suif of Athlone. "This is a country of natural wealth, but millions are being squandered on a senseless war in which innocent youngsters are being killed and the people are being left to carry the financial burden."

Mrs F Forshaw of Lakeside said "It is inequitous that a Minister of Finance should resort to robbing the poor. He should be thrown out forthwith. If he put extra taxes on tobacco and alcohol, however, he might do some good."

Mrs I E Collinson of Goodwood also called for heavier taxation on tobacco and alcohol rather than on food.

Mr Ivan Sylvester of Brackenfell said "It is the people who have no say in the government who suffer most under this taxation."

"The government has been digging this country's grave since 1948 and this increase in sales tax is just another



spade. In reality, it is having to raise more funds to keep eighteen-year-olds fighting in the bush on the border of a country that doesn't belong to us," said Mr R O York of Pinelands.

"It just does not pay to save any more," said Miss A Duncan of Southfield. "One battles to build up a savings account only to be taxed on it and then again on anything purchased with it. This means we're taxed twice on the same money."

Miss Meisie Olivier of Guguletu said "This drought also affects us where are we going to

turn to make good our own losses?"

Mrs D Dixon of Rondebosch said "It is a disgrace the way the poor people of this country are being made poorer to keep the rich richer. If the country is in such a financial mess, why can't MPs reduce their own salaries?"

"Our wages are going

nowhere these days," said Miss Florrie Oliver of Bakoven. "The droughts are God's work, so why should we workers have to pay?"

Miss S Gamaroff of Mowbray said "Food is a necessity and not a luxury, and should therefore not be taxed. Our money is being used to build a laager and the word 'defence' is being coming offensive. The government should put the millions of rands to better use than ammunition."

Mr Mike Saunders of Caledon said "While the increase is probably a necessity, the govern-

ment's timing, as usual, is bad and the warning insufficient."

"The whole tax situation should be reviewed," said Mrs S Roman of Lotus River. "It is ridiculous that we have to pay sales tax, income tax and a loan levy."

Mrs G Arendse of Lotus River estimated that "a woman has to work for four or five months a year just to pay the taxation on her family's living costs."

"The government's actions are becoming worse than communism," said Mr E Barros of Bonteheuwel. "The

government just does what it wants to, without considering the man-in-the-street, as in this latest tax increase."

Mr Charles Grover of Constantia said that the front-page headline of Tuesday's Cape Times was misleading. "Sales tax is, in reality, rising by 16,6 percent, which is one percent on six percent. One percentage point would equal 6,1 percent."

If you would like to comment on these views or any other topic, telephone Teleletters on 224-2233 extension 216 between 9am and noon today.



# Man dreams of Thornhill as

## bustling hive of industry

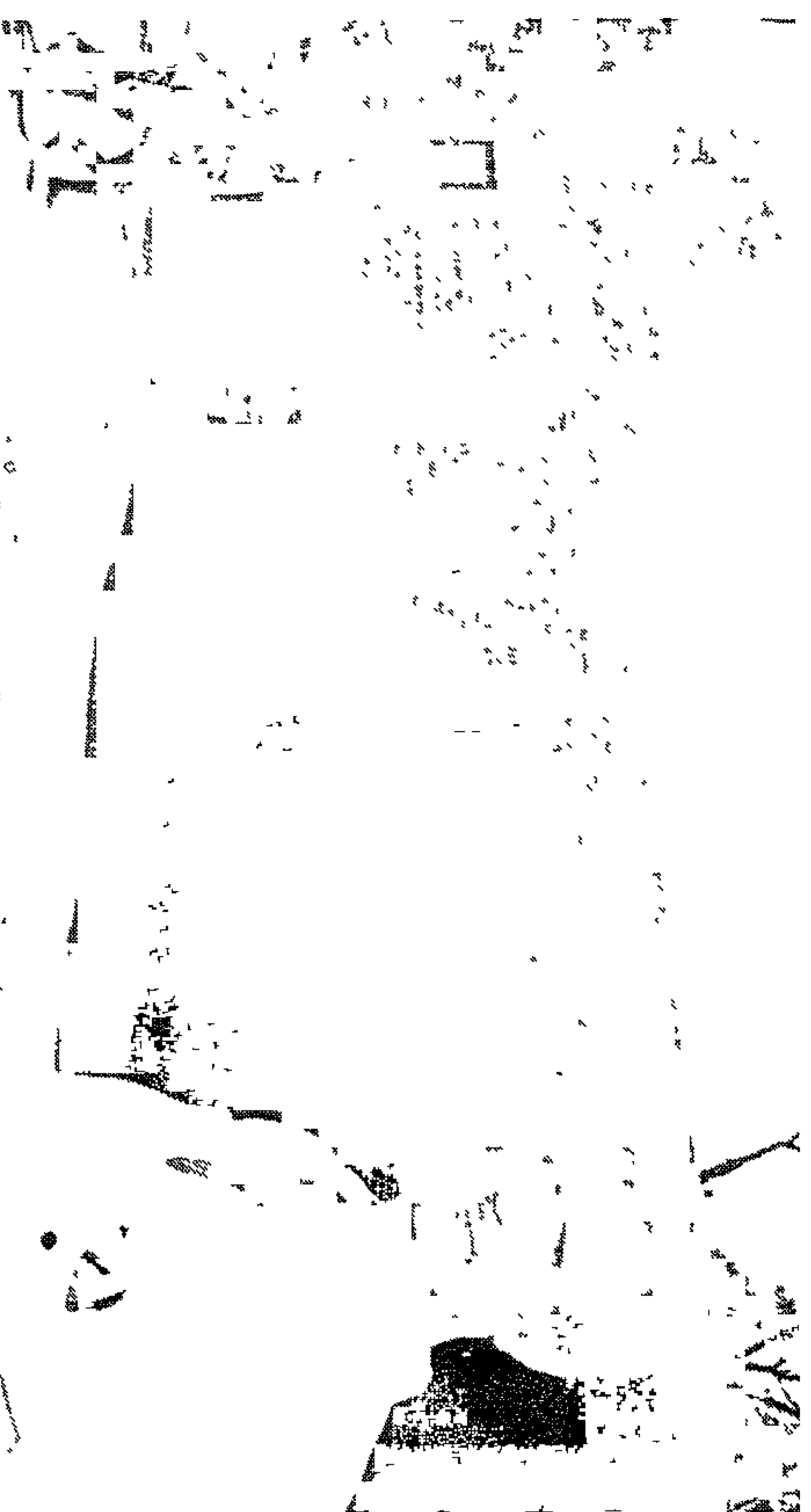
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~~4/11/84~~

C-Post

28/1/84

By SHIRLEY PRESSLY



Mr WILLIE PIENAAR, a former mayor of Benoni who owns a sawmill and pallet factory in Thornhill, outside one of five housing units on his farm. This is not exactly what he envisages for the workers at Thornhill as he would like to see brick and mortar homes replacing the shacks pictured below.



A FORMER Mayor of Benoni, Mr Willie Pienaar, has a vision of the sleepy village of Thornhill, 41 kilometres west of Port Elizabeth, being turned into a hive of industrial activity with the workers living in kabbutz-type accommodation dotted on the hills of his farm.

Most of the people are unemployed unless they work for farmers on a seasonal crop basis or unless they work in Port Elizabeth.

Mr Pienaar, who retired to Port Elizabeth from the East Rand seven years ago, started a sawmill and pallet factory in Thornhill from scratch 18 months ago.

He converted a timber treating plant into his new factory which now employs 70 workers.

The jobs he can offer are badly needed in the community and every Monday sees a queue of between 50 and 60 people seeking jobs at his factory. About 60% are coloureds.

Thornhill might soon be declared a local area with a master plan including zonings for local authority, business, education, open space, housing, industrial and Government use.

The application for decentralisation for a local area has already been approved by the Dias Divisional Council and is currently with the Provincial Administration in Cape Town awaiting the approval of the Administrator.

The master plan makes provision for 20 hectares of industrial land at Thornhill.

Mr Pienaar, who owns a large tract of land to be zoned for industrial use, said he had applied to the Decentralisation Board in Pretoria for the Thornhill area to be decentralised.

"I don't see why we can't have decentralisation here," said Mr Pienaar.

He said the workers were forced to live like squatters on the farms in homes they

"Decentralisation encourages industry which in turn will supply work and proper housing for the workers."

Mr Pienaar said there was no reason why all industry should be concentrated in the cities.

He said the residents should be given enough ground to grow vegetables, keep chickens and maybe a goat.



# Sombre Karoo hunger report

*Cape Times 30/1/84 (241)*

By BARRY STREEK

SHOCK adult nutrition figures have been found among the black population of the Karoo town of Willowmore — worse than those found in Kwazulu during the drought

More than 63 percent of coloured and African adult males and 24 percent of the adult females in Willowmore were found to be underweight

The survey, by Ms Nomusa Ndaba, a nutritionist who holds a London University Masters degree, was part of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty

Ms Ndaba, who is to start work against malnutrition in Kwazulu next month, conducted a similar survey among adults in the homeland

"I haven't worked out

all results in the Kwazulu survey, but I am sure the rates of undernutrition are worse in Willowmore," she said

She saw 636 coloured and African adults in Willowmore and found that about a third, 248, had standard weights

However, 108 (24,53 percent) of the adult women, were underweight, as were 113 (63,12 percent) of adult men

"Therefore, 221 out of 635 adults were underweight, with 15 percent of the total adult population," she said

## 'Extreme'

Ms Ndaba also found that 158 women were more than 20 percent over standard weight but only 13 of the men were more than 20 percent over standard weight

"Altogether, 171 of the 636 adults were overweight, which is 26,8 percent of the population," she said

She described Willowmore as a "place of extreme poverty", where employment was very difficult to find

In contrast to Kwazulu, the people in Willowmore had to depend totally on cash income for their survival, and often invalid or pension payments were the major source of income

The invalid grants for coloured people were R83 a month, while African people received R98 every two months

In Willowmore, the people had to pay R11 a month for rents, whereas in Kwazulu the most people had to pay was R30 to R35 a year for the rent of land

She had not been particularly surprised by the results of her survey at Willowmore, where the environment provided little or no support for the people

"Wherever you look there are just houses and rock. At least in Kwazulu you find grain and guava trees, increasing the people's ability to survive"

## 'Dreadful'

Although a number of studies have been conducted into the nutritional status of children in different parts of South Africa, little research had been done into the nutritional state of adults

Her findings confirm the view of the University of Cape Town's Professor Francis Wilson, director of the Carnegie Inquiry, that there is extensive poverty in the rural areas of South Africa outside the homelands.

Professor Wilson said in an interview last week that the poverty "in many parts of the platteland" was "quite dreadful"

# Shock figures of malnutrition in Karoo town

Mall Correspondent

CAPE TOWN. — Shocking figures of malnutrition among black adults in the Karoo town of Willowmore have come to light in a recent survey

They indicate that malnutrition in the town is worse than in KwaZulu during the drought. More than 63% of coloured and African men in Willowmore and 24% percent of women were found to be underweight

The survey was conducted as part of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty by Ms Nomusa Ndaba, a nutritionist who holds a London University masters degree

Ms Ndaba, who is to start fighting malnutrition in KwaZulu next month, conducted a similar survey among adults in the territory

"I haven't worked out all results in the KwaZulu survey, but I am sure the rates of undernutrition are worse in Willowmore," she said

She saw 636 coloured and African adults in Willowmore and found that 248 — about a third — had standard weights

However, 108 women (24,53%) were underweight as were 113 men (63,12%)

"Therefore, 221 out of 636 adults were underweight, which is 35% of the total adult population," she said

"Altogether, 171 of the 636 adults were overweight, which is 26,8% of the population"

She described Willowmore as a "place of extreme poverty" where employment was difficult to find

In contrast to KwaZulu, the people in Willowmore had to depend solely on cash income for their survival and often invalid or pension payments were the main source of income

The invalid grants for coloureds are R83 a month and R98 every two months for Africans

In Willowmore the people had to pay R11 a month rent, whereas in KwaZulu the most people had to pay was R30 to R35 a year for the rent of land

"In KwaZulu the people can find wild fern and wild fruits and they can keep some livestock

"But in Willowmore the people who live in the townships can't keep chickens. Those who have jobs get very low wages and everyone has to depend on the shops"

She had not been particularly surprised by the results of her survey at Willowmore, where the environment provided little or no support for the people there

"Wherever you look there are just houses and rock. At least in KwaZulu you find grain and guava trees, increasing the ability of the people to survive," Ms Ndaba said





# Operation Hunger

ARGUS 3/2/84



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## ONE shower of rain does not mean instant food. Operation Hunger officials anticipate a crisis again this year as the stunted maize crop again dries up before reaching maturity.

### GILL TURNBULL

THE long-distant line cracked and the do- minee's voice sounded far away.

"What do we have to do to qualify for help from Operation Hun- ger," he asked

"Is there malnutri- tion in your area?"

"Oh yes Yesterday we buried a young girl who died of hunger

The caller was pho- ning Operation Hunger from somewhere in the northern Cape

Hillary Morris, Cape co-ordinator of Oper- ation Hunger (she works on a purely vo- luntary basis) stressed that, although the drought in parts of Na- tal had broken, malnu- trition was still rife in vast areas of the Karoo and the Northern Cape and Bushmanland where there had been

no rain for eight years In many parts, hunger was not only the result of the drought

In some areas around Vredendal, farm work- ers, who are lucky enough to be living on productive farms are still on the infamous tot system and a head mas- ter told visiting Oper- ation Hunger officials that out of 90 children, only seven had not been raised on wine

In other areas, the copper mines are lay- ing off workers who then have no alterna- tive employment and nowhere to go — except down to Cape Town where they are expect- ed to swell the already

poverty stricken popu- lation and contribute to the housing shortage

As tuberculosis has reached epidemic pro- portions already among the poor in the Cape, authorities are con- cerned about the possi- ble influx

In some parts of Bushmanland, from Po- fadder to Springbok, farms are being aban- doned by their white owners, and the work- ers, who have lived there for generations, are left destitute

Operation Hunger was formed in 1981 when the Red Cross and social workers became concerned about ex- treme poverty among the coloured and black population in South Af- rica

Administered by the Institute of Race Rela- tions, after the official drought hit the country, all activities were in- tensified

Hillary said a super- market chain responded to the call for help and a food bank was set up Large quantities of non- perishables were col- lected and trucked up to the stricken areas where they were dis- tributed by community leaders

The problem now is that in December when an end to the drought was announced, the su- permarket stopped col- lecting food and yet the need is just as as des- perate as ever

After discovering widespread malnutri-

tion among school chil- dren in the country dis- tricts, Operation Hunger launched a school feeding pro- gramme

Special protein soup powder was manufac- tured for the organisa- tion by one of South Af- rica's giant corporations, which then subsidised the product

Thousands of platte- land children are now being fed at school and once again, head mas- ters and church minis- ters, as well as the par- ents themselves, are involved in the pro- grammes

"People don't like to feel they are receiving charity so we have in- volved the communities themselves in the schemes," Hillary said

Two well known South African come- dians living overseas and now back on holi- day to do a show, Mag- gie Soboil and Frank Lazarus, have respond- ed to the call for funds for food in the poverty stricken areas and are donating the entire pro- ceeds of their opening night at the Nico Malar Theatre to Operator Hunger

Also starring in the show will be Sophie Mgcina who has been playing Poppie Non gena in New York

The show opens on February 9 and ticket prices will cost R3, R5 and R7,50 and will be avail- able from Computicket



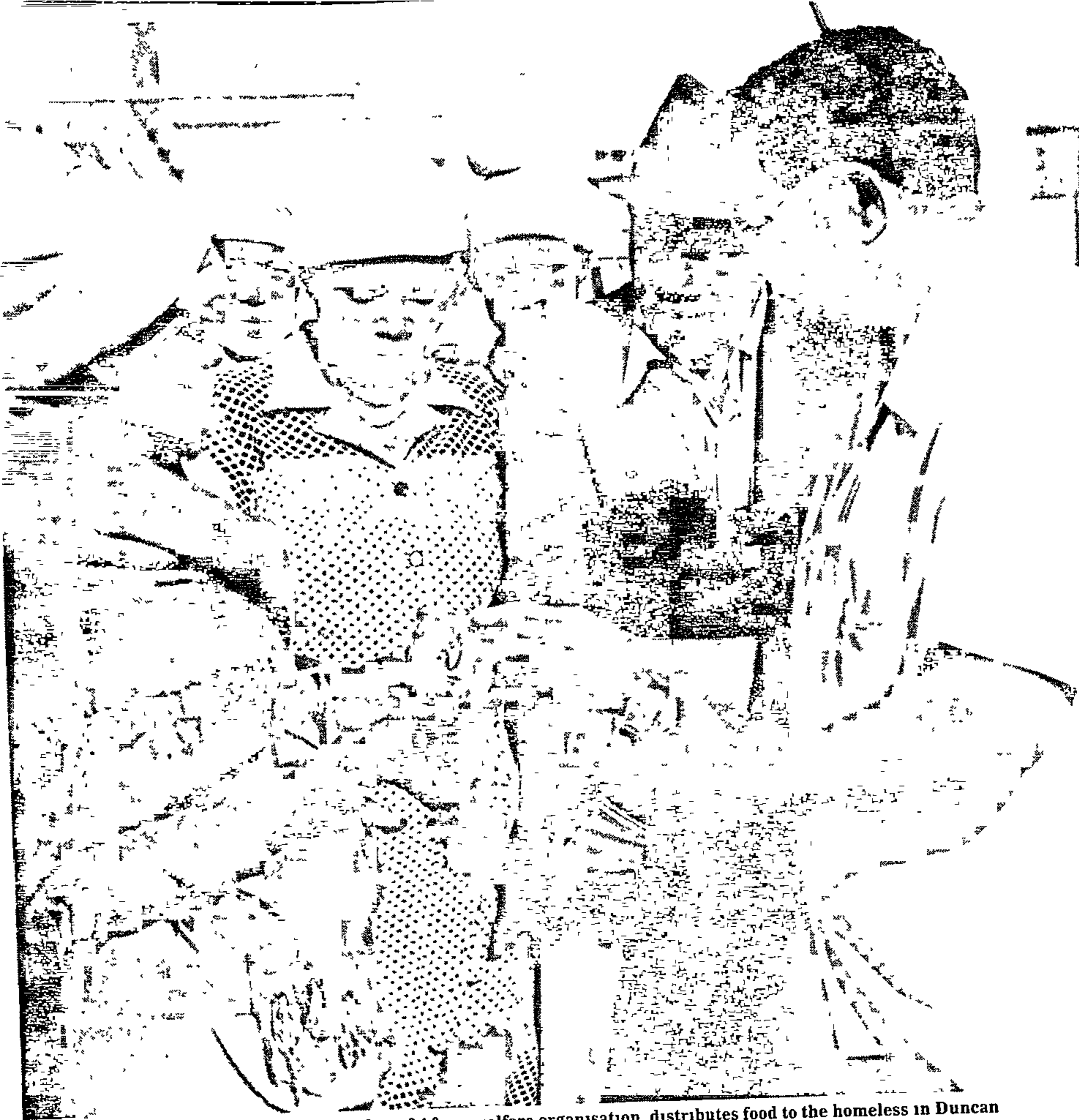
Picture CHRIS MATUSZEK The Argus

Hillary Morris, voluntary co-ordin- ator of Operation Hunger.



(124) (307) (241)

# Queues for food relief



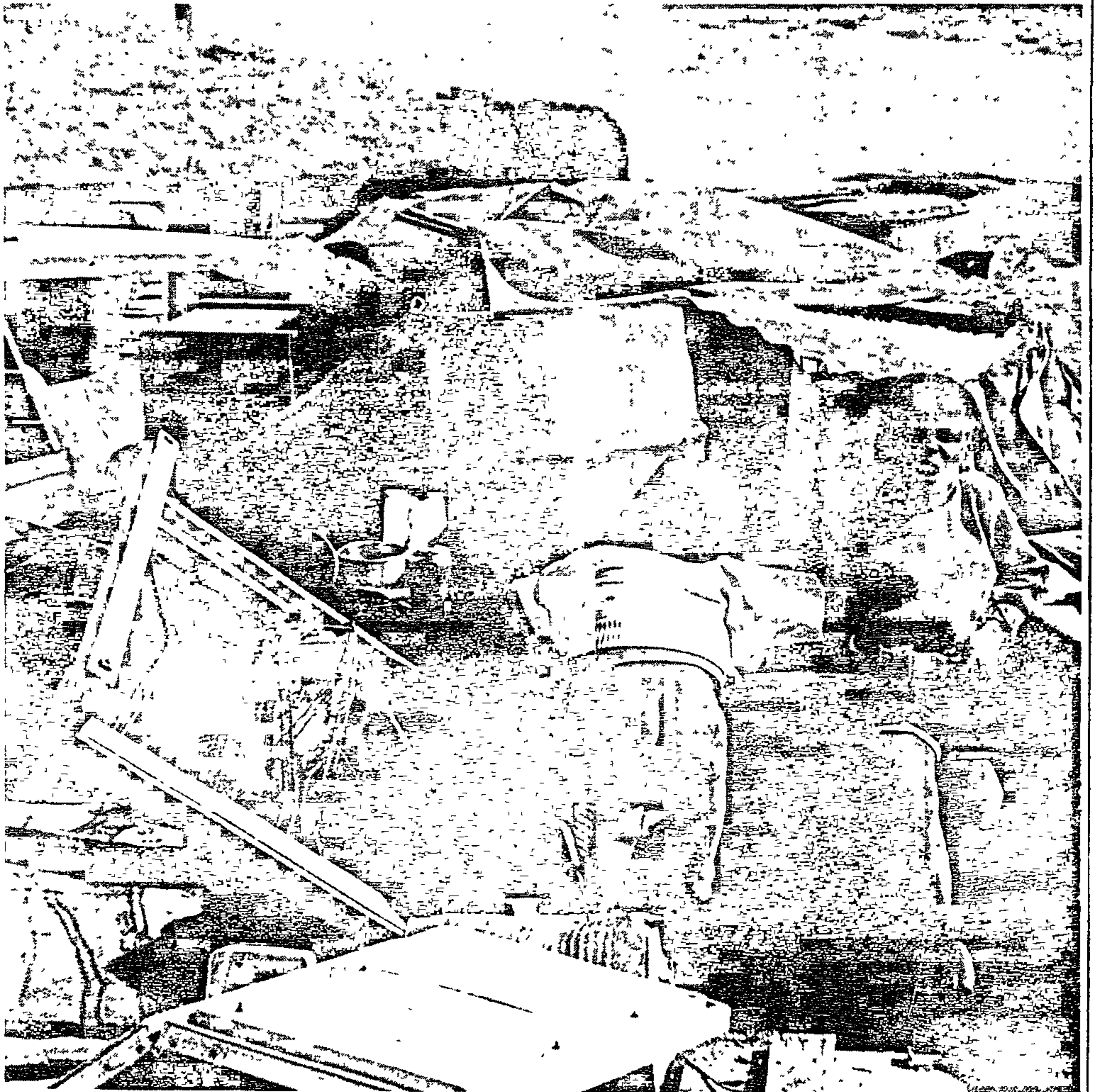
Mr Henry Kroutz, a member of Afesis welfare organisation, distributes food to the homeless in Duncan Village. The allocation was two tins per person.





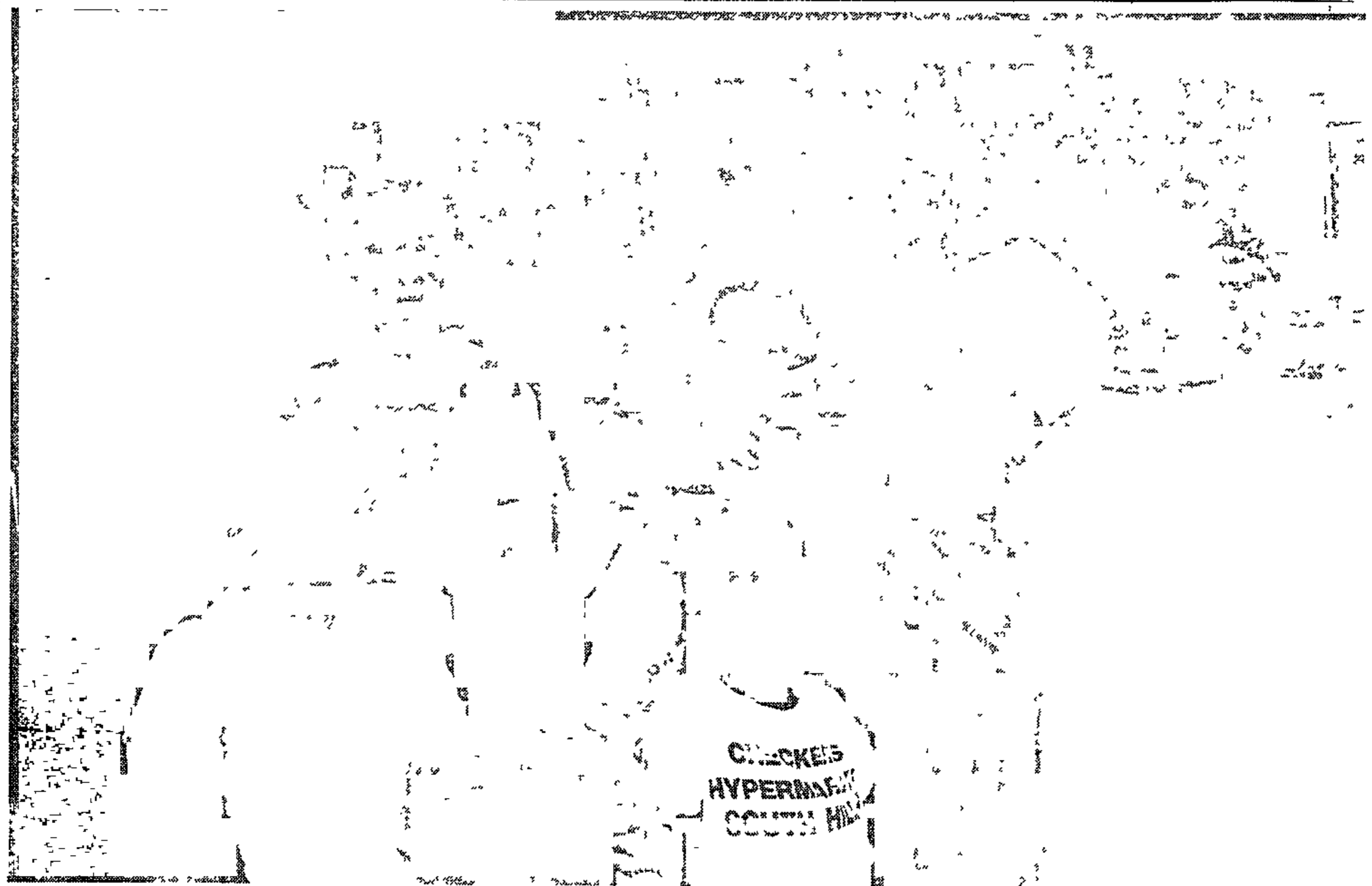


Homeless people in Ndende Street, Duncan Village, queue for tinned food watched by East Cape Administration Board (Ecab) officials.



There's no place like .? Children play in the ruins of a demolished shack in Duncan Village





Back from the brink. Mrs Bellina Makhanya (right) stands with her five children and their saviour, Sister Purie Baloyi (sitting left). The children are (at the back, from left) Sibuko (12), Siphwe (8), Phumulani (in his mother's arms) and (in front) Sabelo (3) and Bongani (6).

# Chance meeting gives a future to starving kwaZulu family

By Anthony Duigan

A chance meeting on a dusty road in Nqutu, northern kwaZulu, between a ragged little boy suffering from malnutrition and a Sandton woman has brought hope and a future to a family whose plight was almost beyond redemption.

The heart-warming story of six-year old Bongani Makhanya and his family, all caught in the grip of starvation, was told by the woman who cared enough not to pass by.

"About the middle of last year my husband and I were visiting friends near Nqutu when I saw this little boy in the road," said Sister Purie Baloyi who works at the

Witkoppen Clinic beyond Fourways, Sandton.

"He was so malnourished and he began singing for us because he could see we were from Johannesburg and must have money."

Sister Baloyi, who had to be persuaded to tell the story, asked little Bongani to take her to his brothers and sisters.

"They were living in a hut at Nondweni and all of them looked awful — distended tummies, ears oozing puss and there was just no food anywhere to be seen," she said.

"I took the first born in the family — 11-year old Sibuko — who seemed to be critically malnourished and asked the mother if I

could take her back to Johannesburg for treatment."

At the Baloyi home in Witkoppen, Sibuko began her slow recovery "For days nothing but water came from her stomach when she went to the toilet, she was so weak"

But within a fortnight she had filled out and started at the nearby Witkoppen Primary School.

In October Mr and Mrs Baloyi went back to Nondweni, taking clothes and food for the rest of the Makhanya family — and found the situation worse than ever.

"The only thing in the hut was a bucket of water. There was no food and no money for food. Nothing. I managed to get the whole

family — mother, two boys and two girls — admitted to Nqutu Hospital for treatment of their malnutrition," Sister Baloyi said.

"Shortly after we were discharged two months later," Mrs Bellina Makhanya said, "my husband came home — he only had work for four months — and told us there was no food so we must go."

Now without home or food, Mrs Makhanya wrote to her Good Samaritan.

"We went down and fetched the whole family — one of the children was already suffering from malnutrition again — and brought them back to live with us. We had to do it. Otherwise, what would have hap-

pened to these people?" Mrs Baloyi said.

That was two weeks ago. One of the children, three-year old Sabelo, still has the distended tummy which is the mark of malnutrition. But, with the resilience of youth, all the young Makhanyas seem well on the way to becoming normal, healthy children.

And the future? "We have a house near Lydenburg and want to take them there so they can have a place of their own."

"Also, it will perhaps give Bellina a chance to get out and work in the fields, something she really wants to do," said Mrs Baloyi, small of stature but with a big heart that makes the world seem a better place to be in.



# 34 million Americans are living below the poverty line

241 Star 8/2/84

BOSTON — Hunger has returned to America because of unemployment and government policy, according to a study released yesterday that differs sharply with recent conclusions of a White House task force.

The educationists, physicians, religious leaders and social workers who conducted the study concluded that malnutrition has also spread to new groups of Americans.

"We have found that hunger is widespread and increasing," the authors wrote.

The 112-page report of the Citizens' Commission on Hunger in New England blamed inflation, unemployment and government policy.

It added "We have found concrete evidence of hunger in every state we looked at."

At the White House, the deputy Press secretary, Mr Marlin Fitzwater, said no one in the administration had seen the report.

The President's Task Force on Food Assistance announced last month that it could find no evidence of "rampant hunger" and saw no need for new assistance programmes.

The commission said its Harvard-based members and staff conducted five months of investigation in New England. Its chairman, Mr Larry Brown of the Harvard School of Public Health, said the members also

reviewed every public and private study of hunger in the United States since 1980.

"American Hunger Crisis", calls on Congress to increase funding for federal programmes that affect hunger.

"Hunger is widespread enough from a medical perspective to be an epidemic," said Mr Brown, who released the findings at news conferences in Washington and Boston.

The report did not give any estimate of the actual number of hungry Americans. But it said all the evidence gathered showed an increase in poverty and hunger over the past five years.

"Hunger in America is no longer confined to the traditionally poor," the commission reported. "They have been joined by other Americans, those who were not poor and not hungry several years ago."

Mr Brown cited federal figures that show more than 34 million Americans live below the official poverty line, the highest proportion since 1965.

The 25 commission members included Dr Julius Richmond, a former US surgeon general; Professor Hubert Jones, dean of the Boston University School of Social Work, Catholic Bishop Timothy Harrington, and physicians and directors of charities and food pantries. — Sapa-Associated Press.



# Water a problem for Rietbron too

RIETBRON location residents also have a water problem

For a start, the entire location — consisting of over 100 families — has only three taps, situated on one perimeter. So everybody has to fetch and carry water.

Secondly, one of the taps has been out of order for a long time now — resulting in a bigger crush on the other two taps.

Now the real problem arises when there is no wind. Just how does the wind affect the water supply? you ask.

Simple. The water for the taps is supplied by a wind-driven pump. So, no wind, no water.

"When that happens we have to fetch water in town about a quarter of an hour's walk away," complained Sena Barends, a mum with 20 mouths to feed.

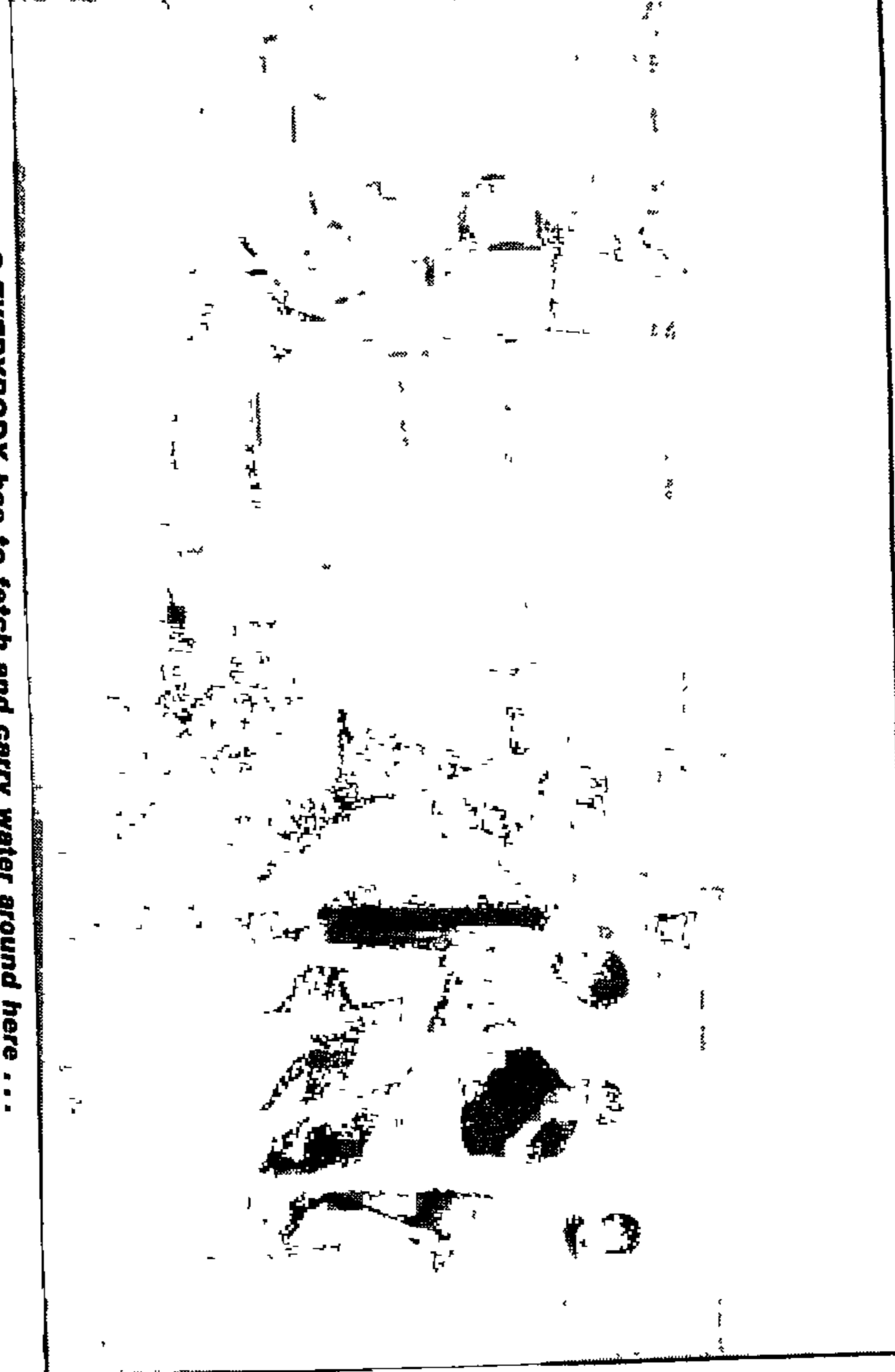
The water has to be fetched in containers. "Some people have wheelbarrows to transport the water but I don't."

"So we just carry it, rest for a while, and carry again."

Then too, like the water in so many other Little Karoo villages, the water in Rietbron is brackish. But unlike the people of Steyterville who can buy drinking water at R1,70 a 44-gallon drum, the people of Rietbron have no such option.

"It's brack water or nothing. So we just have to drink it," Mrs Barends said.

# The Cruel Karoo



EVERYBODY has to fetch and carry water around here ...

## Shearing is hard work — but it's a job

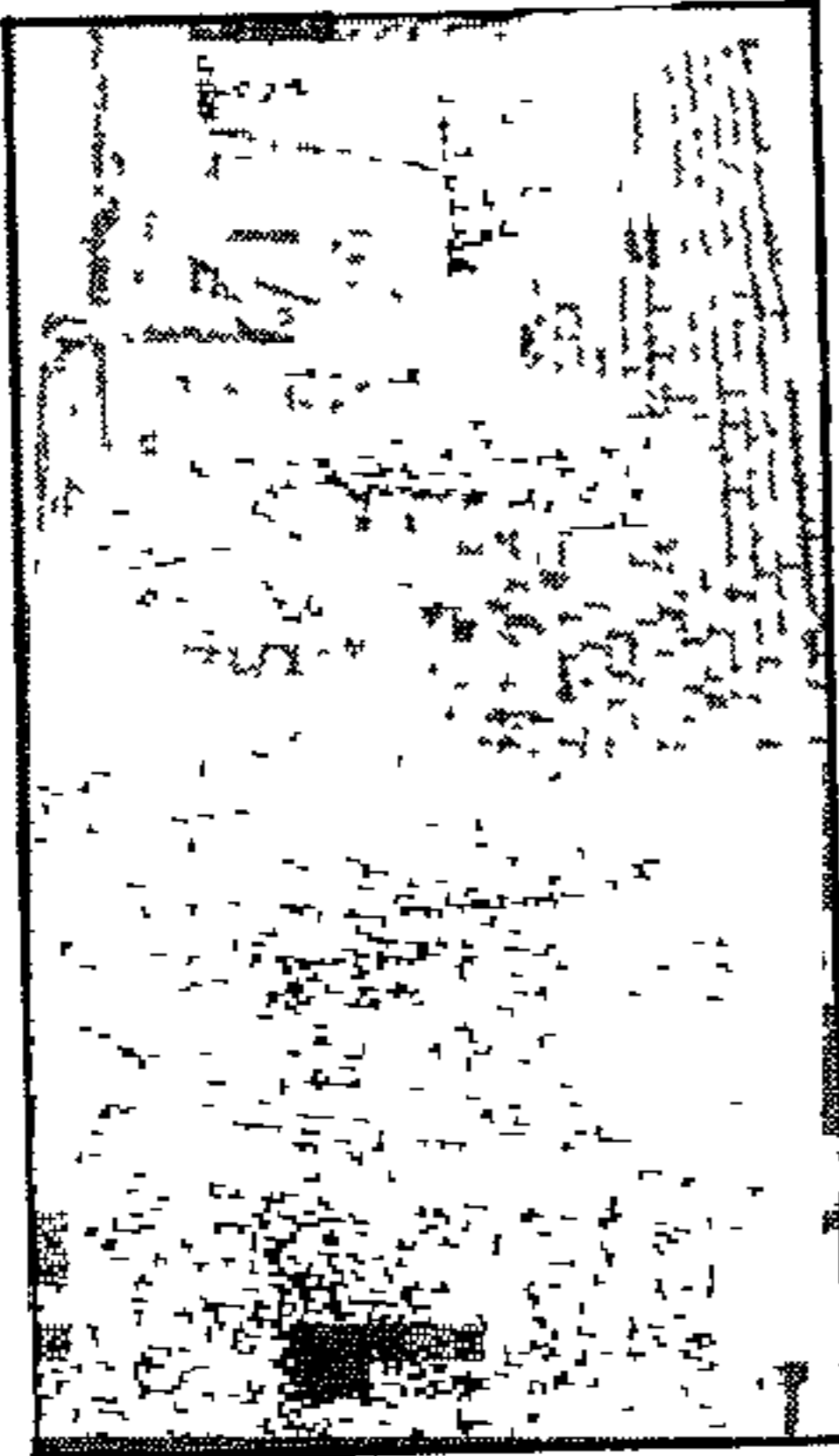
THEY sat around Isak Juries's two-roomed house relaxing. The seven-man team had just returned from a two-and-a-half day stint on a nearby farm.

The fine layer of goat's hair on their trousers betrayed their trade. They are the sheep and goat shearers of Rietbron — one of four teams among the very few who find employment in the environs of this tiny Karoo village.

The economics of shearing are quite simple. The farmers set the price — currently 25c an animal — and the shearers have no say in the matter.

During "die lang dae" — summer — the shearers work from 6 am to 7 pm and manage to shear between 25 and 35 animals a day.

"This means we earn between R6 and R9 a day, on average three to four days a week," said Isak.



AT home in Rietbron.

time together that we work in a year, it works out to about eight months' continuous work," the youngest and — as everyone acknowledges — the fastest member of the team explained.

"The only extra income we receive is the *Slaagdink*," Isak said. "The farmers slaughter a sheep for us once we have sheared 500 animals."

"But that doesn't mean we eat lots of meat. Not all jobs require so many sheep to be sheared and,

SIENA Barends' mud-and-brick Rietbron home is not large. At night it is a bit of a crush just to accommodate her five children, two grandchildren, herself and her husband in the two bedrooms, leaving very little scope for privacy.

If anyone else came to stay, it would create problems. Big problems. But Sena has an even bigger heart.

The problem is the scores of children from farms in the district who attend the local school and from school daily and there is no boarding school in Rietbron. So they have to find a place to stay in the already overcrowded location.

### BOARDERS

Sena decided to do her bit. Into her crowded home, she welcomed 11 boarders — all of them the children of her daughters and her brother who work on three distant farms.

"That's nothing, last year I had 14 extra children living here," she said soberly.

Isak took over as foreman when his brother, who in turn had taken over from his father, decided to quit. "I didn't want the job," he explained.

THANKLESS "There is no joy being a foreman. We all get paid 25c a sheep and I get no extra. Then I have to put up with the farmers' wrath when the animals get cut and the problems when the men don't pitch up."

"Until what age can one continue shearing?" I asked the grey-haired member — a man in his fifties.

He smiled patiently. "When you've worked for decades bent over wringing animals in the intense heat, inhaling animal hair, you don't get old. You get TB first," he said resignedly.

THE second Carnegie Investigation into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa is well under way. Directed by Professor Francis Wilson of the University of Cape Town's South African Labour Development Research Unit, the investigation is an attempt to probe all aspects of poverty and has taken researchers to many "forgotten" corners of South Africa. The Willowmore-Rietbron-Steyterville area of the Little Karoo is one such area currently being investigated by Saldru research officer Wilfried Wentzel. Cape Herald staffer Brandon Roberts spent just three days there with Mr Wentzel on his most recent visit to the area but nevertheless came back horrified by the wretchedness of the conditions. This is the second part of a two-part series on his impressions.

said amused at my disbelief. "How to fit them all in? It was beyond my comprehension."

"Well, at night we place mattresses on the floor and they sleep four to a mattress."

And what about homework? "We have three large tables and, at night, the 11 boarders and my own four school-going children sit around the tables doing their homework by lamplight."

### CONFINED

Just how does she manage to maintain discipline with 15 mischievous youngsters confined to such a tiny space? "Sometimes it gets difficult and the children fight and argue but I have a solution," she said pointing to a fearsome-looking spambok, "and order is restored."

Sena has got used to cooking for over 20 people but finding something to go into the pot is not all that easy.

The family's only income is her husband's monthly pension and the R5 a week he earns, occasionally, for light gardening duties in town.

The children receive about R19 a month from their Department of Internal Affairs boarding bursaries and this has to cover all their expenses, including food, clothing and books.

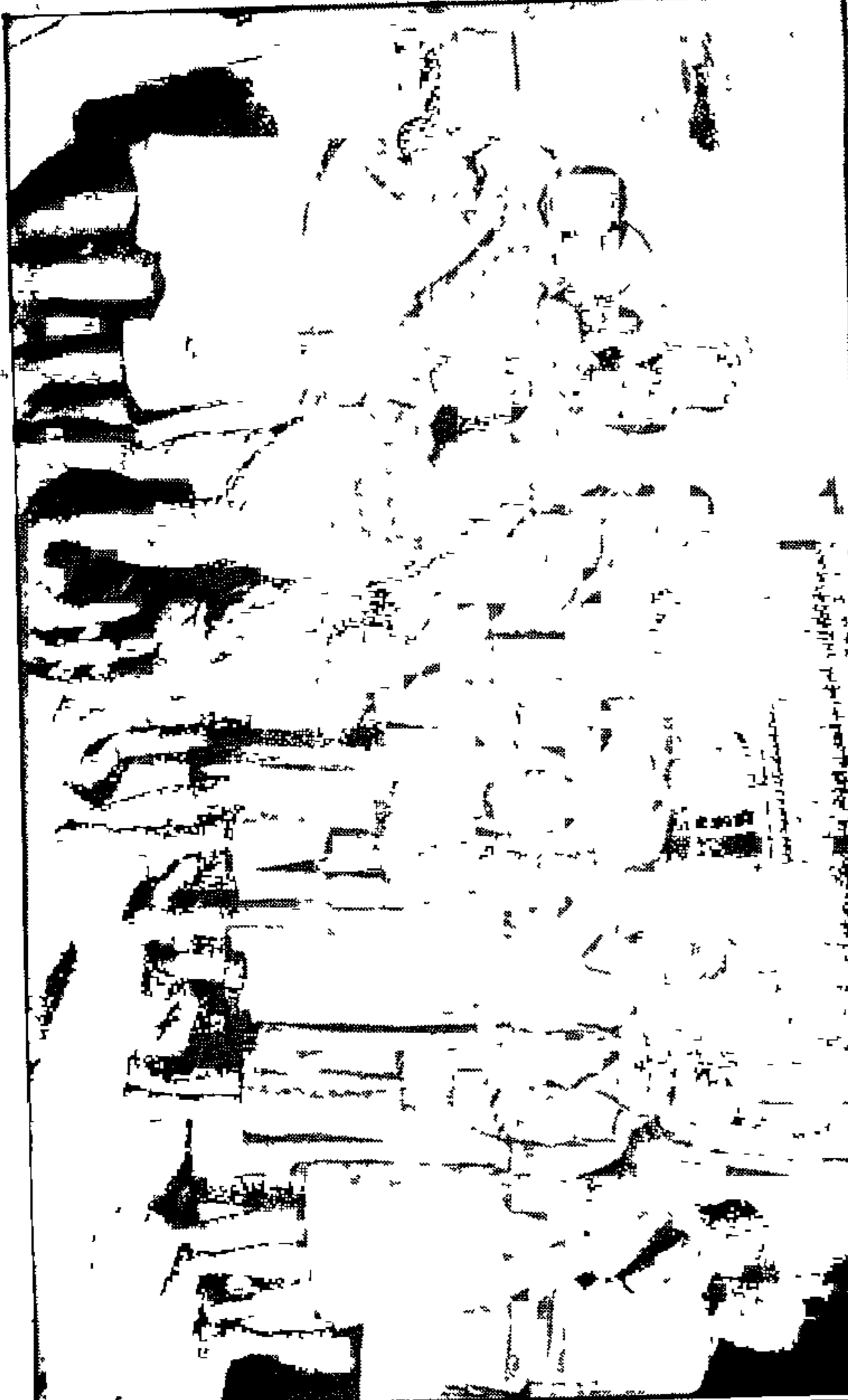
The only relief for Sena is when the children go home for a weekend, once a month. But Sena is hoping for permanent relief. "I believe they intend building here they intend building a boarding home soon. I'll be very glad when I'll be very glad when

that happens and we will be rid of the problem. Sena is not the only one living in Rietbron in grossly overcrowded conditions in order to make it possible for farm children to attend school.

But Rietbron's real tragedy is that a few years ago the old boys' boarding school, formerly the home of up to 200 white farm children, was put up for sale — for R700. Nobody wanted to buy — nobody that was white, that is.

So they brought in the bulldozers and razed it to the ground. A spanking new boarding school was built for some of the 18 white children attending the white school.

Things like that happen in the forgotten, sun-fortified dorpses of the Karoo.





# Apartheid leads to school squeeze

● ONE big happy family . . . Siena Barend (fourth from right) with some of the many members of her family and boarders who make up her household of 20 people — all crammed into a two-bedroomed home. Last year, she says, she had even more staying there . . .



IF you want to know what apartheid in education means, go to Rietbron, a tiny village on the wide open sun-tortured plains of the Karoo.

There are two schools in the town

The white school has 11 classrooms, a school hall and well-maintained playing facilities

In the mid 1940's, at its height, it accommodated 450 pupils from Sub A to Standard 8

Today, it is there for the benefit of 18 children

"And most of those are 'imported' from other towns to justify retaining two teachers," a middle-aged white mother confided

As you would expect, things at the coloured school in the location a few hundred metres from the white school, are very different

The school has to accommodate 280 pupils in four classrooms "And if compulsory education were enforced today, we would have at least 100 extra pupils to accommodate," one teacher estimated

## FACILITIES

There are no extra facilities like the white school's science laboratory and the playing facilities — well, even the amenity-starved Rietbronners regard those as a bit of a joke

To avoid the situation in which 70 children, on average, would have to be accommodated in each schoolroom at any given time, the school runs a double-shift system

Now because the second shift starts while the first is still in session, the early shift pupils have to complete their lessons in the shade of the one large tree in the playground

## ATTENTION

"It's murder to retain the children's attention outside," the teacher complained "We have to hold over those lessons — like reading and religious instruction — which don't require the children to write"

A local businessman has a solution so simple one wonders why nobody thought about it before

"They should swop schools After all, we are living in a time of a new dispensation . . ."

Apparently not so in Rietbron

Cape Herald

9 Feb 1984

(241)



KI ULL  
water

bill 241  
9/2/84  
**shock**

**WATER does not come cheaply for the residents of drought-stricken Beaufort West.**

But many people of this Karoo town were more than a little shocked when they received their latest water accounts

One unfortunate man was presented with a bill for more than a R1 000 And 10 others were informed that they would have to pay amounts ranging between R200 and R900

They are all refusing to pay until the authorities conduct a thorough investigation

To cope with the drought there the municipality of Beaufort West decided late last year to ration water, banning, among other things, the use of garden hoses

To drive their water-saving scheme home, the authorities imposed a fine of R5 for every thousand litres used in excess of 18 000 a month

Said Deputy Town Clerk, Mr J Myburgh "There was nothing else we could do Faced with the crippling drought we simply had to save water in one way or the other

"And because we could not rely on people to save water on their own, we decided to impose fines"

Mr Dennis Fortuin, a building contractor, who owns plots, houses, a farm and restrooms in the area said he was "flabbergasted" when he received his bill last week

"My water account amounted to R1 031 29," he said

"I cannot work out how they arrived at this figure The rest rooms account for between 1 500 and 1 800 litres of water which comes to R5 62 For my house, which has a toilet, a double kitchen washbasin as well as a bathroom with a shower, the bill comes to R3 68

"I do not know how they calculated the other R891"

"If the municipality claims that a leaking outside tap is the reason for the high bill, they are talking nonsense because the grass around the tap is bone dry"

Mr Fortuin said he also received an account for R128 for another house which the tenant hardly occupied

He is adamant that he will not pay the bill

Mr Gert van Wyk has to pay R400 Before the restrictions his average payment was R40

In December, the first month of the restrictions his account shot up to R159 which he paid

This week he said They must think I'm mad if they believe I'm going to pay them R400, he said

**● ALL good things come to an end! This most certainly was the case when Cape Herald invited the the 12 finalists in our Baby Competition to a grand prize-giving function recently. Lively Amanda Dougan (centre) walked off with the title of Cape Herald Baby of the Year and the first prize of R500. Second prize of R250 went to wide-eyed Candice van Rooyen (right) and third prize of R100 went to a very mischeivous Shuaib Parker. For more pictures see page 12.**

## Outsider tips top trifecta

MR E Tait of Elsies River is the winner of the R1 000 Richelieu Guineas competition

He predicted the first four horses past the post in the correct order — as did many other readers — and was the only entrant to forecast the winning time precisely

● Outsider was the only tipster in the country to give you the main race trifecta He tipped the first three past the post in the correct order

The week before Stablemate also gave our readers the R62 jackpot in his R8 perm, which all goes to show that you are indeed dealing with the top newspaper in the world of racing

● The cards for Durbanville on Thursday and Milnerton on Saturday, the selections for Port Elizabeth on Saturday and a few other racing details for this week are on page 9 of this edition of Cape Herald



# 'Pupils' in matric pe

WHITE pupils, some as young as 16, were used to mark African matric papers in December last year And other pupils, armed with calculators, were responsible for checking the addition of marks

These startling allegations were made this week by African teachers who had gone to Pretoria last December for the marking

Moves are now under way in Durban to form a group to publicise these irregularities which, teachers say, have been going on for some time

### DENIED

But the Department of Education and Training has denied any knowledge of the allegations

It called on the teachers to furnish details so that the matter could be thoroughly investigated There would be no victimisation of teachers who volunteered information, a spokesman said this week

Teachers also alleged that senior examiners in charge of the markers had appointed unqualified relatives as markers The wife of one English examiner gave instructions to markers in one case, they said "You could see even by the way they addressed one another that they were related," one teacher said He said in one group almost all the whites had the same surname

### INSULTING

Another teacher said of the white teenagers "I find it annoying and downright insulting to be faced by these youngsters, with all their arrogance, should I happen to have made a mistake in my calculations

They're in class

"There marking, if you do not accept papers written' mark' where it unknown

"Some papers teachers ing is making - cording mark,"

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# South Africa ignores rural poverty 'at its peril'

A SERIOUS crisis has developed in the rural areas of South Africa, which can only be ignored "at our peril," according to Professor Francis Wilson, of the University of Cape Town

He reached this conclusion after the first results of one of the most extensive investigations into poverty in South Africa — the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa — had been obtained

"The inquiry began with the understanding that poverty, particularly in the rural areas, was extremely serious

"With every day that has passed, the evidence tells us yet more firmly that there is a rural crisis upon this country which we ignore at our peril," he said

Prof Wilson is the Director of the University of Cape Town's Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru), which is co-ordinating the Carnegie project

The first phase of research during the three-year project culminates in a conference to be held at UCT between April 13 and April 19, at which between 200 and 300 papers on different aspects of poverty in South Africa will be discussed

But, Prof Wilson said "We are very conscious of the fact that if this merely results in some nice books ending up on some bookshelves, it will be a failure"

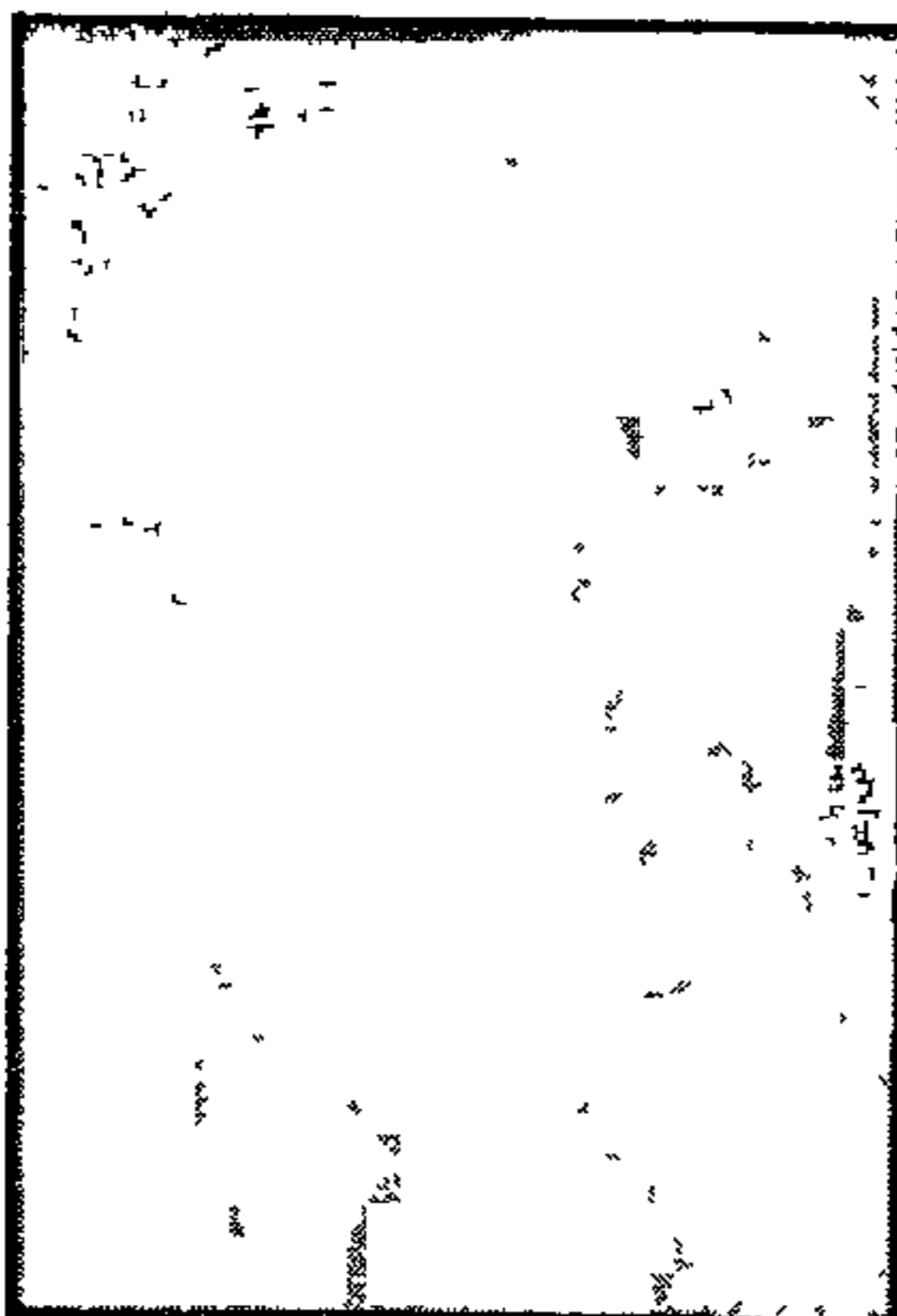
It was important to establish the facts about poverty in South Africa, and to examine different strategies to eliminate poverty, but action, both short-term and long-term, was the ultimate goal of the inquiry, he said

The project stretched across the South African political spectrum and involved people from at least 20 universities in southern Africa, as well as people from different professions

Planning began in 1980 for the project, which is funded by the Carnegie Foundation, a United States body which between 1928 and 1932 backed the first inquiry into the poor white problem in South Africa

It will continue to research for 15 months after the conference

"We are not necessarily striving for consensus at the conference about what should be done, but we are aiming for hard thinking and drastic action about the issues, as well as moving towards ideas about solving the problem"



PROFESSOR FRANCIS WILSON ... "we are aiming for hard thinking and drastic action about the issues"

## BARRY STREEK

A geographic division about poverty existed in South Africa, he said, and could be broken down into four main types — the metropolitan areas, what used to be called "reserves", the platteland (that 80% of South Africa which is neither urban nor reserve) and Lesotho

"Everyone is aware of

poverty in the slums of South Africa and many people are aware of the acute problem in the bantustans

"But few people have focused their thinking on the quite dreadful poverty that is to be found in many parts of the platteland

"In the inquiry, we are getting reports and research work not only in the cities and the bantustans but also in a number of dorps and farming areas of the platteland.

"Three clear points have emerged so far firstly, in general, poverty in the rural areas is worse than poverty in the cities, not the least because in the cities

there is money floating around the edges and there are ways and means for the poor to make ends meet as they often simply cannot do in the rural areas

"Secondly, rural poverty is by no means confined to the reserves Third, and most important of all, what the inquiry is helping to spotlight and what the recent drought helped to bring to our attention is the acute rural crisis that has developed in recent years"

This had been made manifest, for instance, in QwaQwa, a small area in the Southern Free State where the population in 1970 was 20 000, which is at least 19 000 more than the

area can support, but which has rocketed in 10 years to anything between 300 000 and 500 000 people without any commensurate increase in jobs and industrialisation

"What has been happening in QwaQwa has been happening in many other places in different parts of the Ciskei, Kangwane, KwaNdabele and in the Western Transvaal"

Prof Wilson said it was important to recognise that one was dealing with a single economy from Cape Town to the Limpopo with different political boundaries — the Lesotho type, the Transkei type, the Kwa-Zulu type and the coloured labour preference type

"The fundamental point is that you cannot discuss poverty in isolation of those boundaries"

The inquiry focused on poverty wherever it was found, not ethnic poverty, but as poverty is endured primarily by blacks, it is fundamental to the inquiry that blacks should be involved in thinking about the problems

Its first goal has been to update and collate information about poverty in South Africa This was a scientific investigation into poverty in all its dimensions in South Africa

"We are looking for facts so that they can generate a public debate about the causes — so that we can go beyond the headline causes to reach a real understanding of the extent to which poverty in South Africa is the same as that endured in other parts of the world and

to what extent it is caused the South Africa economic-political system

"One hopes that out of the debate, particularly if there is a wide range of the political spectrum involved, we will get a greater understanding of the problem"

By establishing the facts and by analysis of those facts, it was hoped that strategies for action would be developed

These strategies for action could be short-term "ways and means of fighting poverty with the present situation" and long-term, such as, for example, the field of land reform

"We have been asked exactly what poverty is — it has been fundamental to this inquiry that there is no single definition

"Poverty is like illness. It has many dimensions, we have been seeking to find out in different situations what poverty means to those who endure it

"In some cases, it is children dying of hunger because there is no money to buy food, in other situations it is watching all one's cattle die because there is no water, in another situation it is watching loved ones die because the water is contaminated," Prof Wilson said.

The Second Carnegie Inquiry into poverty in South Africa is examining those issues as never before and, clearly, its findings are going to be disturbing, but the real challenge, as Prof Wilson says, will be "the struggle to find policies that will bring about more just and equitable development in this part of the world"

RDM 11/2/84  
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# R10 000 for Operation Hunger

Mail Reporter

OPERATION HUNGER received a cheque for R10 000 from Southern Sun Timesharing yesterday

Mr Brian Stocks, managing director of Southern Sun Timesharing, presented Mrs Ina Perlman, organiser of Operation Hunger, with the

cheque

The donation was raised at the recent successful Beacon Island auction of luxury timeshare suites

On receiving the donation, Mrs Perlman said "We tend to forget that the affects of the drought will be felt for a long time

"It takes time for crops to grow, and town people do not know that there is a vast difference between grazing rains and planting rains,

"The least bit of rain will make grass grow but crops are another story

"The donation came at a time when funds were dwindling," she said





The shack in which Mrs Nocindle Sibao is forced to live is a dramatic example of one of the extremes in the living standards of the black community

# Acute rural poverty — the other side of the picture

*Star 15/2/84*

During the 1970s there was a substantial rise in real black incomes in many sectors of the economy — particularly in mining — and a marked increase in the share of total income going to blacks in the South African economy.

Looking at the figures, many people argue that economic growth is all that is needed finally to eliminate poverty which they believe is already being eroded

After all, it is said, one no longer sees people going around Johannesburg without shoes

It is true that for many workers, particularly in the cities, real incomes have risen relative to what they were during the past decade. However, it is important to remember that even for urban dwellers, poverty remains a grim reality where retrenchment of a breadwinner, or the inexorable march of inflation causes extreme

A new series of articles on "The New Egoli", launched today on the facing page, describes how urban blacks are flexing growing economic muscle. By contrast, Professor Francis Wilson of Cape Town University, the director of an extensive new study financed by the Carnegie Foundation, finds that poverty in the platteland is so acute and widespread that it has created a rural crisis.

distress among the mass of working-class families

Even more serious than the plight of the working poor, however, is the situation in which a far larger proportion of black South Africans find themselves namely those in the rural areas

Indeed the evidence suggests that the economic growth of the past decade, while being a necessary condition for the elimination of poverty, has been far from sufficient. The very process of economic growth that has taken place within the framework of the South African political-economic system has generated not only wealth for some but also poverty for many others

In a recent paper, published by the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, Stephen Devereux analyses South African income distribution.

"It seems valid to conclude," he writes, "that the 1970s produced not one but two distinct trends in black incomes and welfare." It is on that second trend, of unrelieved, and in some cases increasing, poverty for those excluded from the formal sector, that the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development in Southern Africa is focused

The preliminary findings are not due to be presented until the major conference takes place in April. But already evidence is coming in from all over Southern Africa, including Lesotho, of poverty so acute and so widespread that the situation can only be described as a rural crisis

Nor is this poverty confined to the reserves. In a Carnegie study of the nutritional status of people living in Willowmore in the Karoo, Ms Nomusa Ndaba concluded that it was actually worse than in parts of kwaZulu during the last drought

Indeed, one of the main findings that seems likely to emerge from the inquiry is the need to focus attention on that forgotten area of South Africa that is neither metropolitan area nor "homeland", namely the platteland which constitutes about 80 percent of the land and on which one in five black South Africans live

Of these, about two-thirds live on the white-owned farms and one-third in the dorps. Conditions on the farms vary enormously, but a letter on my desk — about a farm labourer (married with one child) who earns only R40 a month in the relatively well-to-do Villiersdorp district — suggests that poverty remains a problem

But it is even worse for those, particularly families, pushed off farms by mechanisation, reorganisation of fencing and drought. For in terms of the law, they may not, if they are African, move to the city. The pass laws deflect the flow of people off the land back to land that is even less able to absorb them than the large white-owned farms they have left

The explosion of population, which is little short of terrifying when one sees it, currently taking place in areas such as Qwa Qwa (OFS), Kangwane (Eastern Transvaal) or Hewu in the northern Ciskei, seems to be due primarily to people having to leave the farms

In these dense rural settlements there are virtually no jobs, nor is there space for people to have land or cattle. The major sources of income are migrant remittances (for those families lucky enough to have a breadwinner away in town) and pensions. But many do not get either

In the light of these realities, this country must treat the problem of poverty as a matter of utmost urgency

RDM 15/2/84

# Famine in Africa alarms the UN

(154)

THE United Nations has launched a world-wide appeal to save Africa from famine that Secretary-General, Dr. Javier Perez de Cuellar warned has reached crisis proportions.

The United Nations chief embarked earlier last month on a three-week tour of eight West African countries worst hit by the drought, to highlight the gravity of the situation.

He also dispatched Jean Ripert, Director-General for the United Nations International Economic Cooperation and Development, to world capitals in quest of material contributions to alleviate food and medicine shortage.

In a major speech at the Institute of International Affairs in Lagos, Nigeria, Dr Perez de Cuellar said 5-million children would die this year and another 5-million would be crippled by malnutrition and disease.

"I wish to express my utmost preoccupation with this situation which is, without any doubt, a full-fledged emergency, requiring the attention and action of the international community," he said.

A United Nations news release said the prolonged

droughts in the last two years

Dr Perez de Cuellar sent a team of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation to Mozambique earlier this month, to assess the effects of the drought that killed nearly 10 000 people in the past two years. At least 750 000 Mozambicans are in need of urgent relief

During a visit last week to the African Bank for Development in the Ivory Coast capital of Abidjan, Dr Perez de Cuellar said he was seeking support from all countries.

In his visit to Lome, Togo, Dr Perez de Cuellar said donations so far could not meet the demands and he will take "Further steps to increase the awareness of the international community after completing my tour of West Africa"

The Reagan Administration is considering asking Congress for R625-million worth in food and agricultural assistance to African countries willing to transform their low prices policy in agriculture to competitive free-market systems over the next five years

The low prices policy in poor countries discourages farmers to cultivate their lands

The United States has given R95-million in emergency food aid to Upper Volta, Mali and other countries hit by the drought and is considering another R90-million for this year

"The message is that when people are hungry America responds," Secretary of State George Shultz said in announcing the R625-million package last week. UPI

## J T NGUYEN in New York

drought — which extends from the west African coast to the Horn — was so severe that in regions like the Borno province in Nigeria, the process of desertification has begun

The rainfall level in Borno was the lowest in a century, the release said.

Last year's drought has caused great damage to crops, water collection, livestock and forests in countries like Benin, Ghana and the Ivory Coast, it said

Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zambia and Namibia have had back-to-back



# Many facing starvation in KwaZulu

Mercury 16/2/84  
African Affairs Correspondent



Col Piet Jansen van Vuuren of Natal Command and S-Sgt Piet Erasmus are shown next to the devastated White Umfolozi bridge near Ulundi. They were on a fact-finding tour of the flood damage

PEOPLE are still close to starvation in northern KwaZulu in spite of a massive flood relief effort mounted by the South African Defence Force the KwaZulu Government and other bodies

Yesterday a Natal Mercury team visited the remote Ophansi district north of Jozini with senior officers of the South African Defence Force under the command of Col Piet Jansen van Vuuren of Natal Command

The Press corps found two women who had been left destitute by the floods which ravaged the area two weeks ago

The women — Mrs Nombuthu Ndlovu and Mrs Nozinyanga Qwabe — fled after floodwaters engulfed their homes and destroyed their maize fields

They had re-erected temporary shelters but yesterday the Mercury found them with only three small mealies in their possession

They had travelled a long distance to find neighbours who would give them some food. The neighbours gave them all they had — the wizened corn

The members of the Press corps and of the SADF took up a collection for the women who were most grateful. They said they would be walking to the nearest trading store to buy mealie meal and other provisions for their families

The KwaZulu Department of Health and Welfare has been broadcasting regularly through Radio Zulu to residents of the flood-stricken region, calling on them to report to their nearest clinic, police station or army camp if they are short of food

Miss Liz Clarke, principal professional officer for the Bureau of Community Development of the KwaZulu Government, disclosed that an entire family had been drowned during the floods

## Pipeline damaged by floods

Mercury Reporter

THE floods in Zululand caused more than R700 000 damage to the Richard Bay pipeline which is being built to pump effluent into the sea

Mr Gordon Allison, manager of the Mhlathuze Water Board which is financing the R34 million project, said 'When the floods came down, the pipes had air trapped in them and good lengths floated out of the trench'

The trenches might have to be re-excavated

## Threat of animal diseases

Mercury Reporter

THE recent floods in Natal have provided ideal conditions for serious outbreaks of a number of animal diseases and could prove a further blow to farmers already hard hit by the floods.

Dr Max Bachmann,

State veterinarian in Pietermaritzburg, said that serious outbreaks of tick-borne diseases such as heartwater, anaplasmosis, redwater, blue-tongue and horse-sickness were feared

'The mortality rate could increase by between

5 percent and 10 percent — and in numbers that means about 5 000 cattle in the next few months,' he said

Ideal conditions also existed for the spread of diseases such as Rift Valley fever and lumpy skin disease.

## Disaster aid soon for cyclone victims

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

PEOPLE who lost their homes or possessions in the floods which followed the path of cyclone Demoina through Northern Natal may soon be able to apply for aid from the Government's disaster fund, according to the director general of Environmental Affairs, Mr Fred Otto

Mr Otto told the Mercury yesterday the Government's request to the State President to declare the affected regions as a disaster area was probably

before Mr Viljoen at the moment, and the measure was likely to be promulgated soon

A decision on whether farmlands should also be declared disaster areas, or whether farmers should qualify for flood relief, had still to be made, Mr Otto said

The president of the Natal Agricultural Union, Mr Donald Sinclair, said a full report of the damage to white farmlands had been sent to the Government yesterday and steps to help farmers now awaited their decision

## Repairs to cost R9 000 000

African Affairs Correspondent

ULUNDI—Roads and bridges around the KwaZulu capital will cost R9 000 000 to repair after the floods two weeks ago, according to the acting secretary of the Department of the Chief Minister, Mr Ivan Balk

He said the Ingwavuma and Ubombo regions were the worst affected, adding that it was impossible to assess total damage at this stage

At least 30 people drowned in the Jozini and Ingwavuma areas

this year 'unavoidable'

Brown jumps by 16 pc, white by 11 pc — and further increase

# Bread prices shock

16/2/84

244

By TOS WENTZEL, Political Correspondent

THE price of bread will go up by 6 c a loaf from Monday, the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, announced in Parliament this afternoon.

He also warned that a further increase in bread prices later this year was "absolutely unavoidable".

Introducing the second reading debate on the Part Appropriation Bill, Mr Horwood said the extent of such a further increase would depend on the volume of consumption and the adjustment of the wheat price in comparison to the subsidy the Treasury could afford

From Monday, the retail price of white bread will rise from 54 c to 60 c a loaf, including GST

Brown bread will go up to 42 c a loaf, including GST

Mr Horwood said huge subsidies were paid on basic foodstuffs, such as bread and mealies

Exempting them from GST would create serious administrative problems and lead to increased taxation of other items

## Subsidy figures

In the current financial year the bread subsidy would amount to nearly R275-million and the mealie subsidy to R140-million

In the case of brown bread — which made up more than three-quarters of bread consumption — the current subsidy amounted to nearly half the retail price, including GST.

As a result, the price of brown bread was so unrealistically low that it was probably being misused in some cases — for example, as animal fodder

This could not be tolerated, and the Cabinet was giving urgent attention to the matter

## No reason

For white bread the subsidy was far lower, but there was no good reason why it should be subsidised at all.

To eliminate the subsidy, the price would be increased by 6 c

Since brown bread was a basic foodstuff, it was necessary that an important element of the subsidy be retained

Even the new price increase would still leave an extraordinarily big subsidy on brown bread in the next financial year

The Government had therefore ordered an in-depth inquiry into a "justified price policy" to ensure that any adjustments in future could take place more regularly and in smaller jumps



ARGUS 17/2/84

(241/58)

# Real crisis: fuel wood in underdeveloped areas

With many millions of people still using wood to generate heat, the demand is exceeding the dead-branch supply and growing trees are having to be felled, writes DR ANTON EBERHARD of the Energy Research Institute of the University of Cape Town

WITH the recent softening of international oil markets, it has become fashionable to dismiss any notion of the existence of an "energy crisis." There is another "energy crisis," however, which is deepening inexorably, irrespective of the short or long term effects of fluctuations in oil prices

It is a situation which has received little public or media attention, mainly because it affects an impoverished and powerless group of people in underdeveloped regions, who are generally without a voice in government or in the institutions which determine energy policy and allocate resources

For a large proportion of the world's population, the real "energy crisis" is the growing scarcity of fuel wood, which is their principal source of energy for cooking, space heating and other rural household needs

It has been estimated that no less than 1 500-million people in the third world — about one third of the world's population — derive at least 90 percent of their energy requirements from wood, dung and crop residues and that a further 1 000-million



After tramping many kilometres in search of firewood a woman and her children return across the impoverished land to Oxton in Ciskei.

people rely on those fuels for at least half of their energy needs

The energy demanded in most areas in Southern Africa is met, not by fossil fuels, such as oil or coal, but by these traditional, renewable energy sources. South Africa produces nearly 60 percent of the total electricity supplies in Africa, but the majority of its population is still dependent on fuel wood.

In many areas of the world, the demand for fuel wood, collected round villages in peri-urban areas, is outstripping supply so that the gathering of dead branch wood no longer suffices and growing trees are felled. It has been estimated that in the higher grassland areas of KwaZulu, between half and three-quarters of the wood

gathered is from growing vegetation, and hillslopes are rapidly being denuded of trees, with a consequent loss of top soil

Scarcity of fuel wood has led to increased use of crop residues and animal dung for fuel — thus diverting them from use as livestock feed and as soil nutrient, with a consequent decline in crop and livestock yields

Receding woodland has meant longer trips for fuel wood collection, a task which has become increasingly arduous and time-consuming for women and children. The search for wood, once a simple chore, has become, in some places a day's labour. In the Herschel District in the Transkei, it has been observed that the average

journey to fetch bundles of wood, weighing up to 34 kg each, is four hours and that about 15 hours a week can be spent on this task

In an extreme case in KwaZulu, a group of women were observed to have walked a round trip of 19 km, taking nine and a half hours to collect bundles of fuel wood weighing about 40 kg each

Finally, the scarcity of fuel wood has led to growing commercialism of this resource, higher prices and an increased drain on household incomes. This is particularly true in peri-urban areas, where, on average, a fifth of the household income is spent on fuel.

Unlike the populations of the industrialised nations, the rural poor of the third world use fuel wood almost exclusively for life-sustaining activities and their energy needs cannot be contracted without adversely affecting health and welfare. It is this irreducibility of energy demand, coupled with growing populations with limited and depleting resources, which constitutes a real energy crisis

Cape Times 17/2/84

# Shock, anger at increase in price of bread

Staff Reporters

TRADE unionists, supermarket chiefs and consumer spokesmen yesterday expressed shock and dismay at the bread price increases announced in Parliament.

The Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, announced that the price of bread, both white and brown, was to be increased by six cents a loaf from Monday, February 20.

Introducing the Part Appropriation Bill, Mr Horwood said further increases in the bread price during the year appeared to be inevitable.

Next week's increase would still leave a large subsidy on bread. In the current financial year the subsidy on bread was R275-million, and on maize R140-million.

In the case of brown bread, which accounted for more than 75 percent of bread consumption, the subsidy was nearly 50 percent of the retail price (GST included). The subsidy on white bread was much lower. No good reason existed for the price to be subsidized, he said.

Mr Piroshaw Camay, general secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa, which represents 11 black unions, said the increase was a "very harsh move" which would hit workers hard.

Mr Joe Foster, general secretary of the Federation of South African Trade Unions, representing more than 100 000 workers, labelled the increase as "shocking". Bread was a staple food.

Supermarket chiefs also lashed out at the government over the increase.

Pick 'n Pay chief executive Mr Raymond Ackerman said it was "foolhardy to raise the price of bread with so much unemployment in the country".

Checkers' managing director, Mr Gordon Utian, said, "I am horrified by this irresponsible action. Throughout this country people are starving. First GST is increased, including the basics, now this."

Grand Bazaars managing director Mr Jackie Schar reacted with disbelief to the rise. "You and I have a salary to live on. But when government overspend they just ask for more. Tax the luxuries rather than the basics. Bread is a necessity."



# More food price rises on the way

ARGUS 17/2/84

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By TOS WENTZEL, Political Correspondent

THE MINISTER of Agriculture, Mr J G Wentzel, has warned that the days of cheap food are over — more price increases are on the way.

Mr Wentzel confirmed that the bread price would again be increased in October when a new wheat price for farmers and the price margins of millers and bakers were considered.

He emphasised that the wheat price had remained at R275 a ton for two years and that the increase in the bread price, which comes into effect on Monday, had nothing to do with prices paid to farmers. It was the result of the bread subsidy being lowered.

## Would pull through

In an interview he reviewed the country's serious drought conditions, but said that with a sound import programme of products such as mealies, grain and oil seed, South Africa would pull through.

The present shortage in certain areas were expected to continue for about three months.

One of the reasons why South Africa would eventually have to pay more for imported food was that, when the recession in the Western world was over, food programmes would be launched for other drought-stricken countries in Southern Africa.

He had no doubt that, in Africa, food would become the basis on which bargaining for better relations would take place.

## Animal fodder

Mr Wentzel said South Africa would this year have to import three million tons of mealies and 250 000 tons of oil seed cake. Several millions of tons of other grains may have to be imported as animal fodder.

Drought conditions led to the anomalous situation where meat surpluses arose because livestock was marketed before conditions deteriorated.

The Meat Board's coolrooms were reasonably full at present and cheaper meat may again be made available to consumers.

For a while there would also be a milk surplus, but after that a shortage was expected.

# Plea for bread tax on business

By BRIAN STUART,  
Weekend Argus  
Reporter,  
and TOS WENTZEL,  
Political Correspondent

A PLEA to the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, to "hit larger companies" who supply bread to the public rather than the poor and unemployed has been made by Mr Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick 'n Pay

Mr Ackerman, who is due to meet Mr Horwood next week, said today "In a country where there is poverty and unemployment, you cannot ignore these factors because of some great economic theories. You cannot just cut subsidies for bread at this time.

"I have a number of proposals to make to the Minister. I'm asking for a bread tax on business, on high-income-earning people, and not the poor and unemployed who must pay this increased price. This is absolutely critical."

Mr Ackerman said Pick 'n Pay would subsidise bread prices by R500 000 this year to sell bread at below cost until Easter

Shoprite, Grand Bazaars, OK Bazaars, Checkers and Bloch will also be keeping down prices "as long as possible". "Until it hurts", said OK Bazaars.

Meanwhile, consumers can brace themselves for further price-increase shocks, with expected announcements of higher transport fares and tariffs later this month

The increases are likely to be between seven and 10 percent

According to sources in the transport services, an effort will be made to keep the increases to less than the present inflation rate, which is said to be in the region of 11 percent

The public has recently been hard hit by

- The higher GST rate of seven percent
- Higher mortgage bond repayments
- Increased beer and liquor prices
- The announcement of higher bread prices

Now the Minister of Transport, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, is preparing his Transport Services budget and is set to give notice of increased tariffs when he speaks in Parliament on February 29.

Fares and tariffs will have to rise because of big losses on passenger services, uneconomic running of trains on minor branch lines, the general fall-off in freight due to economic conditions and the pay rises which railway employees were awarded recently

Some railway branch lines might even be axed completely as the SA Transport Services tries to fight its way out of the red

Although South African Airways is doing better these days than in recent years, domestic air tickets are also expected to cost more soon

Third-party vehicle insurance is set for an increase as well, but probably only by about R2

An announcement on this is expected next week



(241) *D. Disputes*  
*21/2/84*

# Transkei hits out at Koornhof on poverty

MALUTI — Transkei's Minister of Health, Dr Charles Bikitsha, has criticised South Africa's Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof for having reportedly told the South African Parliament in Cape Town that the poverty of the blacks in that country could not be blamed on the South African Government.

During the official opening of a health centre here Dr Bikitsha said: "Perhaps it might

help the honourable doctor if we remind him that the National Party came into power way back in 1948 and immediately passed segregation laws which completely blocked the progress of blacks, politically, financially and socially."

"I refer to odious legislation such as apartheid, job reservation, wage determination, Group Areas Act, influx control, labour relations (trade unionism prohibi-

tion for blacks," Dr Bikitsha added

Dr Bikitsha said when Dr Koornhof wrote his

thesis for his doctorate of philosophy at Oxford University, he decried the migrant labour system

"He rightly claimed it created a mass of workers who commuted between the native reserves and the industrial centres every nine to 15 months, never remaining long enough in industry to be trained, and thereby earn higher wages. Consequently a worker who was contracted for all his working life because of the frequent breaks in service never progressed beyond the unskilled jobber category" — DDC

241 Staff  
21/2/84

# A million need help — or face starvation

By Staff Reporters

About a million people in drought or flood-stricken areas face starvation within a month unless they get relief. This emergency has placed an enormous strain on relief funds and public support is needed urgently.

On the eve of the national prayer day for rain, the two main relief agencies — Operation Hunger and the Red Cross — have appealed to the public for aid to stave off one of the biggest crises ever faced.

The Red Cross estimated today that at least 500 000 people in kwaZulu had been affected by the cyclone Domoina floods and would need support for the next six to 12 months.

Operation Hunger, which has been supplying fortified food-stuffs to more than 600 000 drought victims throughout South Africa, has only enough money and supplies left to keep going for about a month, the national manager, Mrs Ina Perlman, said today.

## No funds

"A frightful and disastrous situation now faces many thousands of people," she said. "The Red Cross in Natal has run out of funds and we are responding to their appeals as best we can, but our funds are running desperately low."

A spokesman for the Red Cross said that many of the communities now affected by the Domoina floods were the same people who had been affected by the four-year drought in Natal/kwaZulu.

"To date the Red Cross has supplied 75 tons of mealie meal, two tons of milk powder, 2 250 blankets, soup powder, seed, paraffin and candles," the spokesman said. "Many areas are still inaccessible."

## Job scheme

Early in 1983 the Government set aside R20 million for drought relief in black rural areas, but near the end of last year most of the homeland relief committees had been turned into job creation committees, a Government spokesman said today.

Little of the relief aid remains — with the exception of further provision in this year's budget, for job creation programmes.

The South African gold mining industry is to donate R1504 000 to kwaZulu for flood relief work, and has already given the same amount to Swaziland.

"A frightful and disastrous situation now faces many thousands of people," Mrs Perlman said. "Many areas have had no rains since November, and the crops which were expected to feed thousands of families have perished in the heat."

## Avalanche

Besides the avalanche of requests for help from the drought-stricken areas of Transvaal and Free State, appeals are coming from the flood-hit areas of kwaZulu, she added.

Mrs Perlman said her organisation was committed to feeding more than 600 000 people up to the end of March and had hoped this number could be reduced to 365 000 as crops were harvested. The continuing drought has put paid to this in many areas.

Now Operation Hunger has also had to turn to the aid of flood victims who lost their clothes and belongings.

Mrs Perlman said. "Last year we collected R1,2 million in cash and R900 000 in kind. This year the drought and floods have aggravated the disaster. Unless we get aid to them, untold thousands — especially children — are going to die."

Donations can be sent to Operation Hunger, PO Box 97, Johannesburg 2000. Mrs Perlman's phone number is 339-2381.



# Starvation threatens as drought relief funds dry up

(291)  
E. Post  
25/2/84

By SHARON LI GREEN  
DROUGHT relief funds are beginning to dry up, and starvation threatens the drought-ravaged areas of Ciskei and the Eastern Cape this winter.

The demand for aid over the past months has left the coffers of relief agencies such as Operation Hunger, the Red Cross and even Government services almost empty.

Operation Hunger, which has been supplying relief to more than 600 000 people throughout South Africa, has enough money and supplies to keep going for only another three weeks, according to its national manager, Mrs Ina Perlman.

She told Weekend Post that widespread appeals for help had already been received from the Eastern Cape and Ciskei, which could face its worst winter ever.

Many severe cases of malnutrition and other diseases had been treated.

The Border Red Cross Society and the Ciskei Department of Health and Welfare are pinpointing needy areas for food distribution.

It had earlier been indicated to Operation Hunger — a project of the Institute of Race Relations — that it would no longer need to

provide aid to Bathurst and some areas of Ciskei. But now various institutions have indicated that the need is greater than ever.

"The immediate sum we need is R200 000," said Mrs Perlman.

Mr John Denby, assistant regional director for the Border Red Cross Society, said "The situation has got to be worse than it was last year, because this time it's a drought on top of a drought."

He visited Ciskei this week and said even rain would not be much help at this stage. "It doesn't look as though they'll have a crop this season," he said, "and already a lot of animals have been lost."

The Red Cross is concentrating on the area between King William's Town and Alice, and the Middledrift area through to Peddie, which are worst hit. The society is still providing aid to the Mooiplaas area, where it has had an ongoing operation for a year.

The Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association (Gadra) finds that growing numbers of people needing aid are draining its hard-pressed resources.

Gadra is feeding 100 families and also 9 000 black schoolchildren daily.

Donations may be sent to Operation Hunger at Box 97, Johannesburg, 2000.

# Many poorly fed Dias report

Municipal Reporter

ABOUT one fifth of black pre-school children in the Dias Divisional Council area are undernourished, according to the results of a survey reported to the council at its monthly meeting today

The survey was conducted in May, 1981, by the council in co-operation with Rhodes University, the Port Elizabeth Provincial Hospital and the Department of Health and Welfare and published in the December, 1983, issue of the South African Medical Journal

A comparatively higher percentage of children suffering from malnutrition are in the under-two age group. Although these children appear healthy, they should be regarded as under-nourished and at risk of developing kwashiorkor, the report says

It says there are several ways in which the nutritional status of the children can be improved. Efforts will have to be made to ensure that children are given free skimmed milk at clinics

Mothers will have to be educated on general nutrition and self-help projects could be introduced to help householders use income for nutritious foods and to reduce alcohol abuse, which often leads to child neglect



# Churchmen call for Government rethink on Africans

Staff Reporter

ANGLICAN, NGK and other churchmen from Pretoria have presented a formal memorandum to the Government calling for a complete rethink of its policy on urban Africans.

The memorandum presented this week to the Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Chris Heunis, in Cape Town, states:

- The notion that the cities belong to whites is unjust,

- Africans must be directly involved in the drafting of laws on urbanisation,

## SEVERE POVERTY

- South Africa is under-urbanised in relation to its population — the urban black population of six million could swell to 20 million by the year 2000,

- The additional carrying capacities of South African cities should be used to combat severe poverty in the homelands. To accept this would not only be realistic, but also humane, because the cities have the capacity to carry a greater portion of the poorer people and

- Many Government officials, imposing the hundreds of laws and regulations governing blacks, did not always understand them, and their attitudes to blacks were not always good.

The churchmen propose an entirely new approach to urbanisation, in which the informal economy should be legalised and encouraged. They also propose site-and-service schemes or controlled squatting.

## VERLIGTE

The memorandum follows a 75-minute meeting in the city this week between Mr Heunis and two delegates from the Pretoria Group, Dr Willem Nicol of the Ned Geref Kerk in Universiteitsoord and a well-known verligte, and Canon Robin Briggs, rector of the Anglican Church in Waterkloof.

Canon Briggs said in Cape Town today that the two-man delegation, which represented about 20 prominent theologians from English and Afrikaans churches, had been received sympathetically by Mr Heunis.

The memorandum, which urges meaningful consultation with the black community, is to be considered by the select committee examining the Orderly Movement and Resettlement of Black Persons Bill, the most controversial of the three "Koornhof Bills".

"It was a remarkable meeting. We felt we were allowed to put our points fully," Canon Briggs said.

He said the Pretoria study group had found that some of the poorest black communities in Africa lived in the homelands near Pretoria.

● Call by Slabbert. — Page 2.

CAPE TOWN 2/3/84

# Drought-relief jobs

Political Correspondent

NEARLY 50 000 emergency jobs have been created in black areas as part of a R20-million drought relief scheme in recent months

The Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, told a press conference yesterday that the job-creation project was a heartening scheme designed to help the most needy.

It had been restricted to one breadwinner per family and to unemployed people who did not qualify for unemployment benefits

Some 22 560 jobs had been created in one scheme and 27 542 in the second

The schemes had been co-ordinated by the homelands and all posts had been filled

Work provided include repairing

public buildings, repairing roads, dams and canals, filling in dongas, eradication of weeds and exotic vegetation and assisting community self-help projects

The minimum wage paid was R2,50 a day but would not exceed the ruling wage rate in any area

Most of the work created in the second scheme had gone to Lebowa, with 11 937 jobs

Positions created in other homelands were Kwazulu (6 183), Gazankulu (4 606), Kangwane (2 440), Kwandebele (1 816) and Qwa Qwa (560)

Job creation had taken R8.15-million of the R20-million drought relief to black areas

Other allocations were R8.55-million for water provision, R2-million in support for black farmers and R1,3-million in stock fodder, Dr Koornhof said



## THE RURAL SECTOR

# Farmers out of peasants

*General*  
*241*

Rural South Africa is a vast and depressed area. As far as the commercial sector is concerned, urgent plans are being laid for drought and disaster relief (*FM* February 24) For the black rural communities, food schemes are being implemented to stave off the ravages of hunger and outright starvation. Yet the longer-term problems of land degradation — of which the current drought is only one component — hardly seem to have been addressed.

Over time, any country's agricultural sector is at the mercy of political planning. This is particularly so in SA. Under the policy of separate development, the following have had profoundly negative effects:

- The fact that blacks may not own land in "white" areas,
- The creation of homelands as theoretically self-sufficient entities, which has served to destroy any real prospect of genuinely national strategies,
- The failure of decentralisation, meaning the consistent migration of young black males to the industrial regions, with a corresponding neglect of the farmlands,
- Removals — in the ideological interests of homeland consolidation and the eradication of "black spots" — have disrupted traditional ties to particular areas, and
- Because of all the above factors, overcrowding has further diminished the productive potential of the areas in which blacks without city residence rights are largely compelled to live.

The drought, therefore, cannot be blamed for the continuing shortages of basic foodstuffs, coupled to a lack of sound agricultural planning, which afflict the rural areas. The most it has done is to exacerbate existing inequities of land apportionment

Government is paying considerable attention to alleviating the plight of the urban blacks. But what of those in the rural subsistence sector? They have been at the receiving end of ideology for many years — and the results are there in land degradation and starvation. New policy directions are needed.

and usage

This is a fact widely recognised among people concerned with food relief for blacks. Ina Perlman, national manager of Operation Hunger, a relief organisation, states categorically that Pretoria, by forcibly shifting communities into ethnic reserves, is simply "sweeping the problem under the carpet." Villages which previously had to cope with inhospitable soil and drastic water shortages are today so overcrowded by the "resettled" newcomers that the task of eking out a living has become virtually impossible.

Though there are food problems in the

major urban areas, the main burden falls on the countryside.

"We feed 620 000 people every day," Perlman notes, "of whom only 20 000 live in the PWV area. The rest are scattered throughout the country and the homelands. Our statistics, backed by the researches of such bodies as the Bureau for Economic Research (BER), as well as by our own experience, indicate that 2,9m people below the age of 15 are below the international standard of height and weight and have clinically diagnosed malnutrition. Of these, 1,5m already show second-degree symptoms of the disease."

According to the Medical Association of South Africa (MASA), up to 66% of all black children in SA suffer from protein deficiency of one kind or another. Of all deaths among blacks in this country, 55% are of children below the age of five and, among coloureds, the figure is 45%. By contrast, among whites it is 7%.

Lack of protein leads to mental inadequacy, slowness and an inability to absorb elementary education. Thousands of black children are victims of this vicious



Operation Hunger's Perlman ... the problem is being 'swept away'

③ General 241 PM 2/3/84

syndrome which can mean early death or retardation

Can the process be reversed by the efforts of the people themselves, as many often suggest? It is impossible, say the experts. Even if rational changes were made to the regulations affecting blacks — concessions on freehold and influx control, for example — the effects of past discrimination would reverberate for years to come. There are cases of self-help, where communities have organised themselves on planning and produce marketing — but the twin handicaps of water shortages and overcrowding are ultimately too daunting.

Subsistence farming in SA, according to Perlman, is "a joke". Without water, these farmers have no hope of surviving. In the Ciskei, only 8% of the inhabitants can actually be called subsistence farmers, and their case is typical. Water sources are few and scattered, there is little or no agricultural instruction, and the Lennox Sebe government shows scant concern for their plight.

Overcrowding, for its part, is very largely a man-made phenomenon in SA. Perlman cites the example of Onverwacht, near Thaba Nchu in Bophuthatswana but within the borders of SA. Here, thanks to the influx of displaced persons shifted by government edict, the population, since 1978, has been estimated at 300 000. The

only possible source of income is employment in Bloemfontein, 70 km away. The drought has added to the problems of deprivation through the axing of many farm labourers from their jobs on white farms, which used to provide at least seasonal employment.

Wolter Wolthers, corporate director of the Premier Group, is adamant that there is still sufficient food to feed everyone in SA — despite the drought. With the importation of maize — while the wheat, meat and poultry situation remains largely unaffected — the main reason for the mass hunger being experienced in various regions is lack of money.

In such a situation, the development of anything like a free market in food production and distribution is radically hampered. Wolthers says "Without State supervision, without co-operative marketing and without the necessary legislation to regularise distribution, the entire agricultural sector would be in chaos. This is true for the whole world."

Nonetheless, part of the answer to endemic rural deprivation must lie in the scrapping of those restrictions on the use of land which apply solely to blacks.

There is massive starvation in black Africa — where there is also corruption, tyranny, instability and, in many cases, the pursuit of "African socialism," which cre-

ates its own deficiencies. But this cannot excuse local inequalities of opportunity.

The problem of mass hunger in SA has yet to be tackled in a serious and effective way. Organisations like Operation Hunger are no substitute, worthy though they are. Over 70% of Operation Hunger's total income is derived from donations of under R20. Other relief organisations are under similar financial constraints.

The issue of famine cannot be left to relief bodies, since it is a long-term one which deserves to be elevated to national status. Government's concern for the plight of the poorest must be realistically demonstrated. In plain terms, that means that enforced removals should be halted, that blacks should be allowed to occupy and work land for their own benefit, that much more money must be allocated for water development, which takes agricultural as much as industrial needs into consideration, and that training in land utilisation for blacks has to be vastly extended.

While inefficient white farmers will eventually be forced to leave the land, many rural blacks have no other option than to remain where they are and to try to scrape out a living.

The issue is really one of admitting black farmers into the nation's agricultural economy as active contributors — and not merely as peasant labour.



# Rural communities running out of fuel

241 ~~241~~ E. Post 3/3/84

By SHARON LI GREEN

PEOPLE in the underdeveloped rural communities of the Eastern Cape and other regions are running out of cooking and heating fuel

More and more black people in Port Elizabeth are being driven to buy expensive gas and paraffin because of the shortage of firewood

And in Grahamstown, many still walk long distances daily to gather wood from areas where no trees are being planted

Underdeveloped rural communities face a real fuel crisis, according to research undertaken by the Energy Research Institute of the University of Cape Town

For many black people, the real crisis is not the fluctuation in the oil price but the growing scarcity of

wood for fuel, particularly for those who do not have access to electricity

A recent conference in Cape Town focused on strategies to overcome the problem of receding woodland which has led to soil erosion, increasingly arduous trips for fuel-wood collection and growing commercialisation of fuel-wood

South Africa produces nearly 60% of the total electricity supplies in Africa. But most of its population — about 10 million — is still dependent on wood

The amount of timber used annually is estimated at 7,2 million cubic metres. Every year, timber which could cover about 1000 rugby fields piled one metre high is burned

This overwhelming dependence on fuel-wood

resources and agricultural residues, coupled with the pressure on the land and swelling populations could have a more horrific effect than the present drought, according to the Department of Environment Affairs. This could lead to the start of desert areas

In Port Elizabeth, 5% of the black people are still dependent on wood. They come mainly from the slum areas of Red Location, Soweto and parts of Zwide and Kwazakele

According to the Deputy-Mayor of Kayamandi Town Council, Mr Tam-sanqa Linda, 50% of the township people use paraffin and gas while 45% use electricity

"Wood is usually obtained from farmers selling it in the townships," he says

The shortage of wood is

also evident in the sales of woodstoves which declined drastically last year

"From May to December last year, 19 stoves were bought and 12 were subsequently repossessed. The reasons given were that they could not get wood," said the manager of Fraser Furnishers, Mr Jacobus Vermeulen

In Grahamstown, forest fires over the years have burned out plantations, which has not helped alleviate the shortage of rural fuel, according to the Deputy Town Clerk of Grahamstown, Mr C D Coetzee

"The black community is still largely dependent on wood, particularly in winter. They can be seen walking distances daily or riding on their donkey-carts," he said

No trees had been planted in plantations in the past

18 years because of a programme to eradicate the exotic Port Jackson willow, said Mr Garth Timm, Parks and Forests superintendent in Grahamstown

People were allowed to collect firewood without limitation wherever there were Port Jackson willows, wattle, gum and pine as long as a ticket was issued by the department

But many had to walk long distances, varying between two and eight kilometres, to gather wood. And because of this, they were instead going to nearer indigenous areas such as the Mountain Drive ravines. Forest rangers were now policing that area

"The time will come when there is a desperate shortage of rural fuel," says Mr Timm. "But we have several ideas in mind to prevent this"

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# The daily ration that saves hundreds from starvation

*In a land ravaged by drought, people rely on feeding schemes for survival*

A PLATTERFUL of mealie meal with a jug of water a day is all the food there is for hundreds of starving women and children in drought-ravaged Lebowa

Occasionally, if they are lucky, they receive a cup of sour milk and an egg as well

More than 700 people scattered throughout a 20km radius between Mellopo and Mothapo — near Pietersburg — depend on the Subiaco Mission station for the distribution of their food and water

Run by Benedictan Catholic nuns, the mission has been a distribution point for Operation Hunger's feeding scheme since June last year

Before the provision of food began, at least one person a week died from malnutrition in the area

Mrs Ina Perlman, director of Operation Hunger, said 180 000 people in Lebowa were surviving on the scheme

Although a lot of rain fell in December, lack of it in January caused crops to fail

As a result, the situation was critical, and without the food parcels hundreds of people would have starved to death, she said

Water rations are supplied from the mission's single borehole which the sisters are forced to control by locking it during the day

The mission runs a school which provides a feeding scheme for children

Sister Walburga said before the feeding scheme began many children collapsed from hunger and many found it difficult to concentrate on their work

The prevalent malnutrition disease afflicting children is kwashiorkor

Old people suffer from pellagra — a vitamin B deficiency

Sister Walburga also runs a malnutrition clinic — the only one in the Subiaco district

The children arriving for aid have swollen bellies, peeling skins, sores and severe diarrhoea

On average, a four-year-old kwashiorkor child weighs about 4kg

Sister Walburga said she had followed the progress of many child-

ren who came to the centre over the years, and she believed they had suffered retardation as a result of malnutrition

The clinic has 17 in-patients but about 400 out-patient children are brought for treatment every week

The recuperation cost for one child is between R70 and R100 a month and recovery takes about a year

Funds come mainly from relief organisations such as World Vision and the Roman Catholic Church

Some children however, return to the hospital with the same problem after initial recovery

Father Faust Venteuten, of Fatima Mission near Bochum, about 75km west of Pietersburg, said only 10% of the cattle in that area had survived the drought

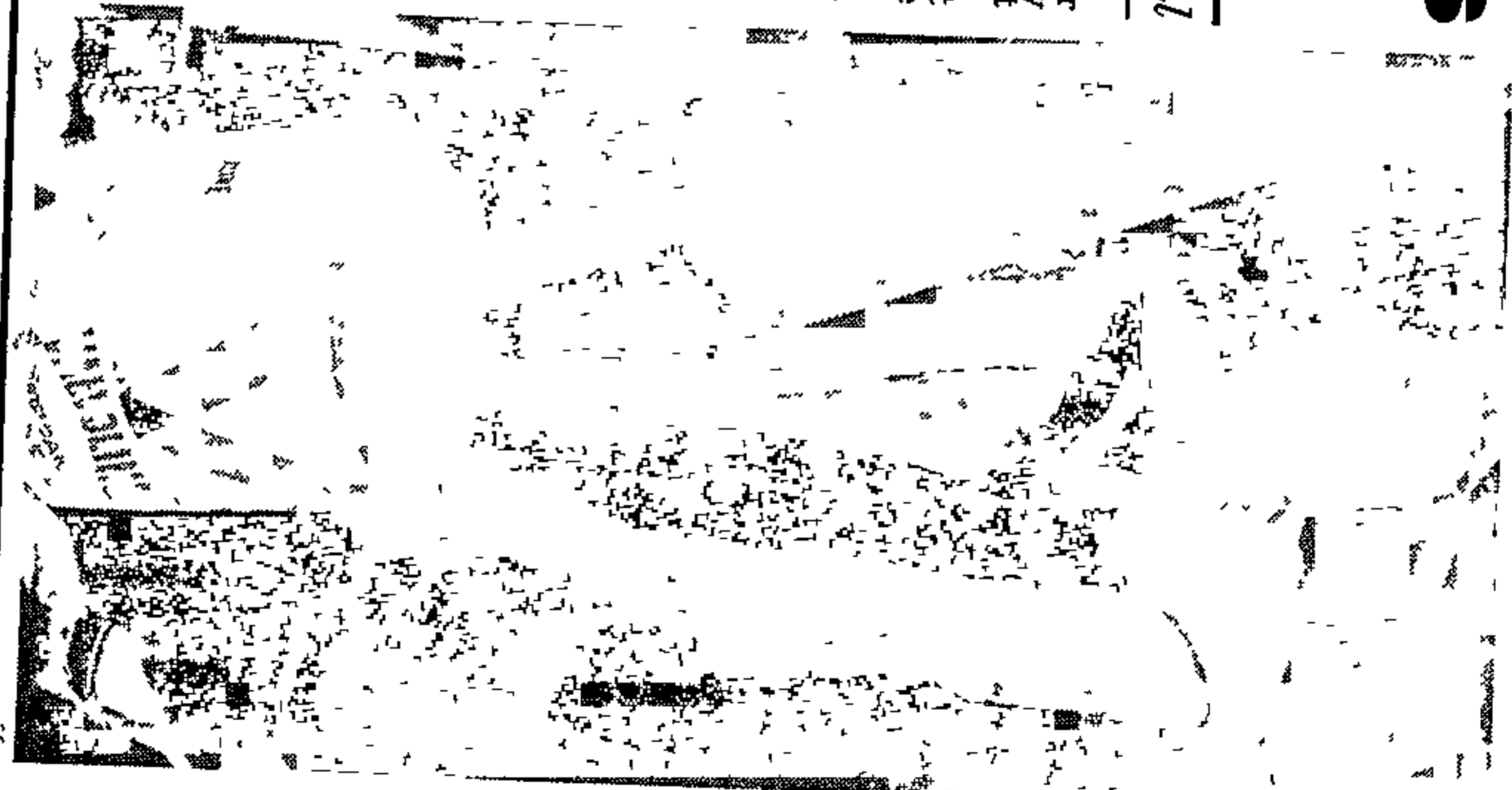
A family of four had to survive on a 12.5kg bag of mealie meal for three weeks, he said

"But the mealie meal does not always arrive

Sometimes the suppliers run out of funds"

There were no rivers in the area and the water table was very low due to "uncontrolled exploitation by farmers", Father Faust said.

**Amelia de Stefano**





# Ravaged earth is the last straw for poverty-stricken

By Jo-Anne Collinge

In Namaqualand the grass is burnt black. Children aged eight or younger may never have seen rain.

The supply of donkey and horse flesh gave out early this year. Jobs on the copper mines gave out before that and 3 000 mineworkers were returned to the barren veld.

Accustomed to sheltered compound life, the jobless flounder

This picture was painted by a Cape church worker this week as administrators of the churches' hunger relief programme, "Hunger Challenges the Churches", met in Johannesburg to plan for the months ahead.

They spoke of how the drought programme had shown Christians many faces of poverty — that the dry and unproductive earth was the last straw for people already weakened by unemployment, removal, overcrowding and paltry wages

Field workers sketched the pattern of need

● In the northern Cape region relief programmes are up against unemployment caused by cutbacks at Cission and on the asbestos mines

## OVERGRAZING

Overgrazing in Bophuthatswana has led to a point where "the veld didn't even react to the December rains".

In addition people removed to areas such as Riverton, Windsorton and Zambesi had to cope with a new burden of rental, aid workers said

Until this month the region had received only R2 000 from the church fund and local communities were seeking to supplement this by special fundraising projects

The veld could be saved by late summer rains which occur in the area, but these alone would not prevent starvation, workers said

● In Ciskei, after good early

rains, crops have been burnt by sun and there is little hope of salvaging them, said a Border area church worker.

He adds that his local relief committees have had to provide for the employed and the jobless alike because wages within Ciskei are often only R12,50 to R15 a week

## TWO CYCLONES

● In Natal floods resulting from two cyclones within a fortnight have created a long-term employment problem as well as a crisis of mass homelessness, health problems and loss of crops

"The sugar industry expected to harvest one million tons of cane from May. After the cyclone it can expect to harvest only 350 000t as most of the cane is under water

"The consequence is that almost 40 000 labourers have become unemployed from the end of February," reported the Rev Sol Jacob, co-ordinator of the hunger fund, after a tour of the affected areas

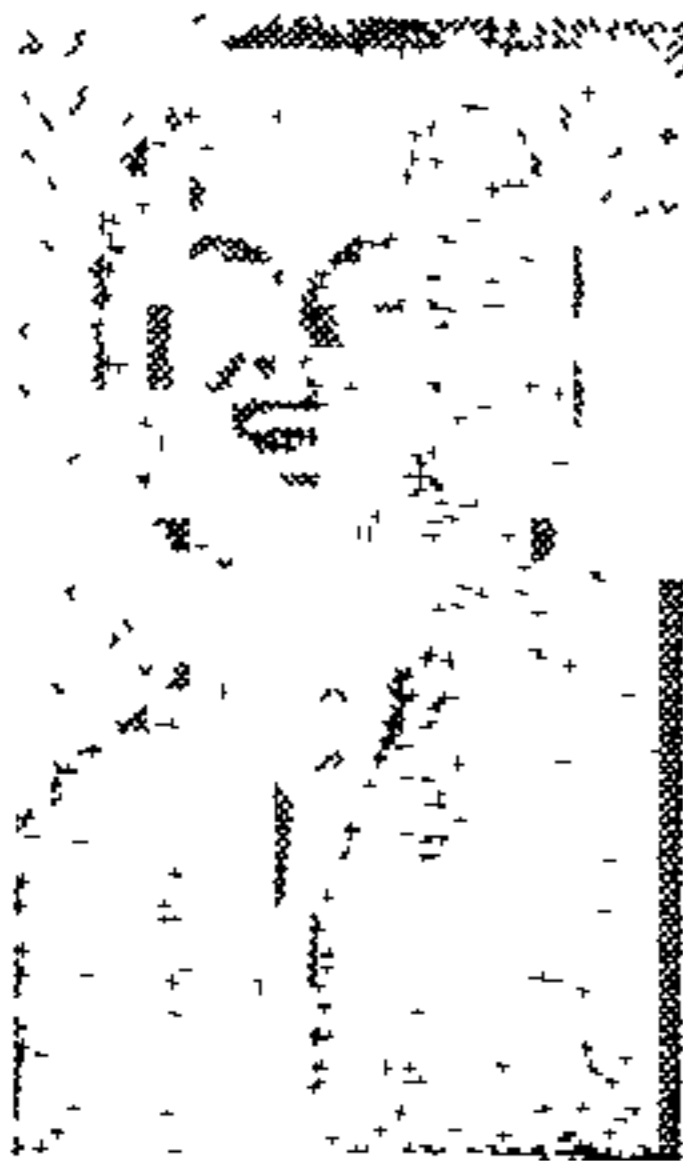
● In the western Transvaal, where crops have failed for the third consecutive time, the churches have concentrated on the removal areas of Rooigrond, near Lichtenburg, and five villages in the Ramatlaba area of Bophuthatswana

There, as in the northern Transvaal, workers are already aiming at combining drought relief with development work.

"Last year we kept on saying we were giving food aid because it hadn't rained. But it may not rain for years and we cannot continue this way," a Northern Transvaal Council of Churches spokesman said

● Parts of Transkei are expected to yield a bumper crop this season, say Transkei Council of Churches workers. The local relief scheme, "Operation Joseph", hopes that this will allow it to end direct food aid and move exclusively into development work

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Jim Bailey

### Confused audience

AN illustrious audience of invited guests (including Finance Minister Owen Horwood) went into shock when Barbra Streisand walked on to the stage before them in Sandton.

The notables didn't seem to realise it was the famous American impersonator, Jim Bailey.

An account of the confusion which prevailed, and the disclosure by Mrs Horwood that she advises her husband to acquire financial insight by watching television, appears in Roy Christie's column.

● See Page 13, Tonight!

### Guidance seekers

THE demand for guidance from the Small Business Information Centres on how to start a new business has been overwhelming.

Figures proving this were given by Mr Ian Gillespie, Witwatersrand manager of the SIBC, at the opening of a new regional office in Johannesburg.

● See Page 15

### Thinking

'Millions needed to avoid disaster'

# Starvation looms in rural areas

By Anthony Duigan

One of the biggest relief operations yet needed in South Africa — the feeding of more than a million people at a cost of at least R5 million — will have to be undertaken in the drought and flood-stricken areas in the coming months.

The alternative is mass starvation on an unprecedented scale, relief workers believe.

This is the grim picture emerging as organisations get to grips with the devastation caused by the twin disasters which have affected virtually every rural area in the country.

The two organisations facing the critical challenge to raise the food relief needed in all four provinces are Operation Hunger and the Natal region of the Red Cross.

The Government's disaster relief fund will be involved in reconstruction work in large areas of kwaZulu where subsistence farming, the livelihood of thousands of families, has been wiped out — possibly for years to come — by the layer of mud that was washed over large tracts of land, a Red Cross official said.

"Our commitment to the 5 000 families in Makhatini Flats, kwaZulu, alone runs to R120 000 a month in the long-term," said Mrs

Inka Mars, chairman of the Natal region of the Red Cross.

More than R200 000 had already been spent on food relief for starving families in kwaZulu but "we have only touched the tip of the iceberg", Mrs Mars said.

Long-term relief was needed for the 40 000 people on the Makhatini Flats because their lands would be useless for farming for a long time to come, she added.

To date R500 000 had been donated to the Natal Red Cross for relief feeding. At least R2 million more was needed to get through the rest of this year, she added.

### Co-ordinated

All aid is being co-ordinated by the kwaZulu Government's flood committee to ensure there is no duplication.

Mrs Ina Perlman, national manager of Operation Hunger, said that her organisation's aid would have to be extended to at least 700 000 starving people in Trans-

### Advocate assaulted, robbed

CAPE TOWN — A prominent Cape Town advocate and former Chief Justice of Botswana, Mr J R Dendy Young SC, was found unconscious in a ditch after being assaulted and robbed near his Kenilworth home on Tuesday.

Mr Young (76) had been attacked while walking from Harfield Road station to his home in Greenfield Road, Kenilworth, at about 6 30 pm, his daughter, Mrs Louise van der Merwe, said last night.

A spokesman for Groote Schuur Hospital described Mr Young's condition as satisfactory.

Mrs van der Merwe said her father's face was

### Cyclone: help at hand

Pretoria Bureau

Victims of Cyclone Domoina's devastation can now apply for financial help at two new regional offices of the Disaster Relief Fund established in Pretoria and Durban.

Fund chairman Mr Arthur Barnard said people could apply for help with the repairing or replacement of their homes, buildings, furniture, certain personal possessions, clothing, vehicles, livestock and equipment.

The Pretoria office, which will serve the Barberton, Carolina, Ermelo and Piet Retief areas, can be reached at (012) 21-5210, 21-5810 or 28-3156. Applications can also be addressed to Private Bag X63, Pretoria 0001 or del-

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## Thinking right

**E**ACH of the two sides of the human brain has its own particular function. The right side is the more powerful, yet it is the part that is used the least, says Mr Gordon Cousins.

Mr Cousins is director of a company

# 100,000 in rural areas

Star  
8/3/84

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"We will need at least R3 million in cash and kind during the coming year," she said.

The address of Operation Hunger is PO Box 97, Johannesburg, 2000 (tel 339-2381). The address of the Natal Red Cross is PO Box 1580, Durban.

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A spokesman for Groote Schuur Hospital described Mr Young's condition as satisfactory.

Mrs van der Merwe said her father's face was unrecognisable after the assault.

"His nose was broken and surgery will be needed to reconstruct his face. It was fractured in several places."

## KICKED

Mrs van der Merwe said her father told her two smartly dressed men had beaten him with their fists and kicked him

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Any contributions to the fund can be put into the Volkskas account number 000282928 at any bank branch.

The Durban telephone number is (031) 31-6281 ext 37.

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# Numbers of starving children soar

Staff Reporter

IN Natal alone, the number of schoolchildren urgently needing food in Operation Hunger's drought relief programme had risen this year from 80 000 to 140 000, Mrs Ina Perlman, the scheme's national director, said in Cape Town yesterday.

Addressing a meeting at the offices of the Institute of Race Relations, Mrs Perlman said hopes that the focus of the operation could be altered this year from "crisis intervention" feeding schemes to a programme with longer-term objectives had been dashed by three factors.

## Crops failed

● The planting rains which had been expected to continue did not do so and crops which were to have been harvested this month had failed

● Hopes of stable employment in the urban sector had proved unfounded and the "massive retrenchments" of migrant workers had seriously compounded the effects of the drought on rural families

● Most recently, the ability of the white farming sector to survive the drought had been shown to be collapsing. When white farmers abandoned their farms, whole families dependent on farm workers were rendered homeless and without any means of subsistence

In rural black areas

resources had been completely depleted

It had been calculated that a cash flow of R100 000 would be needed every month until the end of this year to assist the victims of the Natal floods alone, said Mrs Perlman.

A calculation of the assistance known to be needed at this stage for Operation Hunger's programmes for the year totalled R5-million.

School feeding, which had been proved to make a marked difference to the overall health of children as well as to their performance at school, was considered by Operation Hunger to be an essential long-term programme which was not mere crisis intervention, said Mrs Perlman.

## 'Stunted'

"A very large percentage of rural children in South Africa grow up physically and mentally stunted, incapable of making the contribution so desperately needed from them"

If funding became available, Operation Hunger was looking at funding and subsidizing pre-primary and primary school feeding schemes, the provision of water and the funding of self-help projects

Mrs Perlman said support for Operation Hunger from ordinary people had been "incredible". About 70 per cent of all cash received had been in donations of less than R20 from individuals.



By Anthony Dugan

While South African and kwaZulu officials are still assessing the sheer extent of the damage to people and infrastructure caused by the recent floods in Natal, the public has been responding in the only way that counts — by opening its heart

The Natal region of the Red Cross and Operation Hunger (the national relief agency) will have to foot a bill of at least R5 million during the coming year to pull through the hundreds of thousands of people whose livelihoods were either washed away in the floods or burnt up in the drought, according to relief workers

Once again the response of ordinary people, anxious to do what they can, has kindled the hope that the money and resources needed can be mobilised, according to Mrs Ina Perlman, manager of Operation Hunger

"The Centre of Concern in Rosebank, Johannesburg (where domestic workers receive skills training), has raised R200 for Operation Hunger, and four Gospel groups are putting on a show — the proceeds to feed the hungry — at Soweto's Eyethu Cinema on Sunday April 1," Mr Perlman said.

Besides this, the proceeds of a Gospel record

## Operation Hunger needs millions

# Public opens its heart to the distressed

by one of the groups, "Rebatlhabanedi ba Jesu", will be given to Operation Hunger because the singers and producers have waived their fees, Mrs Perlman added

Other functions being organised to raise funds for Operation Hunger include

● An evening of "ethnic entertainment" with exotic foods, recipes and prizes galore at Dawson's

Hotel, Johannesburg, on Saturday at 8 pm

Said Mrs Dawn Lindberg, an executive member of the Soroptimists International of the Highveld, organisers of the food fest "A fascinating array of African food — wild pheasant with indigenous fruits, fried pumpkin pips, wild fruits, sorghum beer and much more — will be laid out

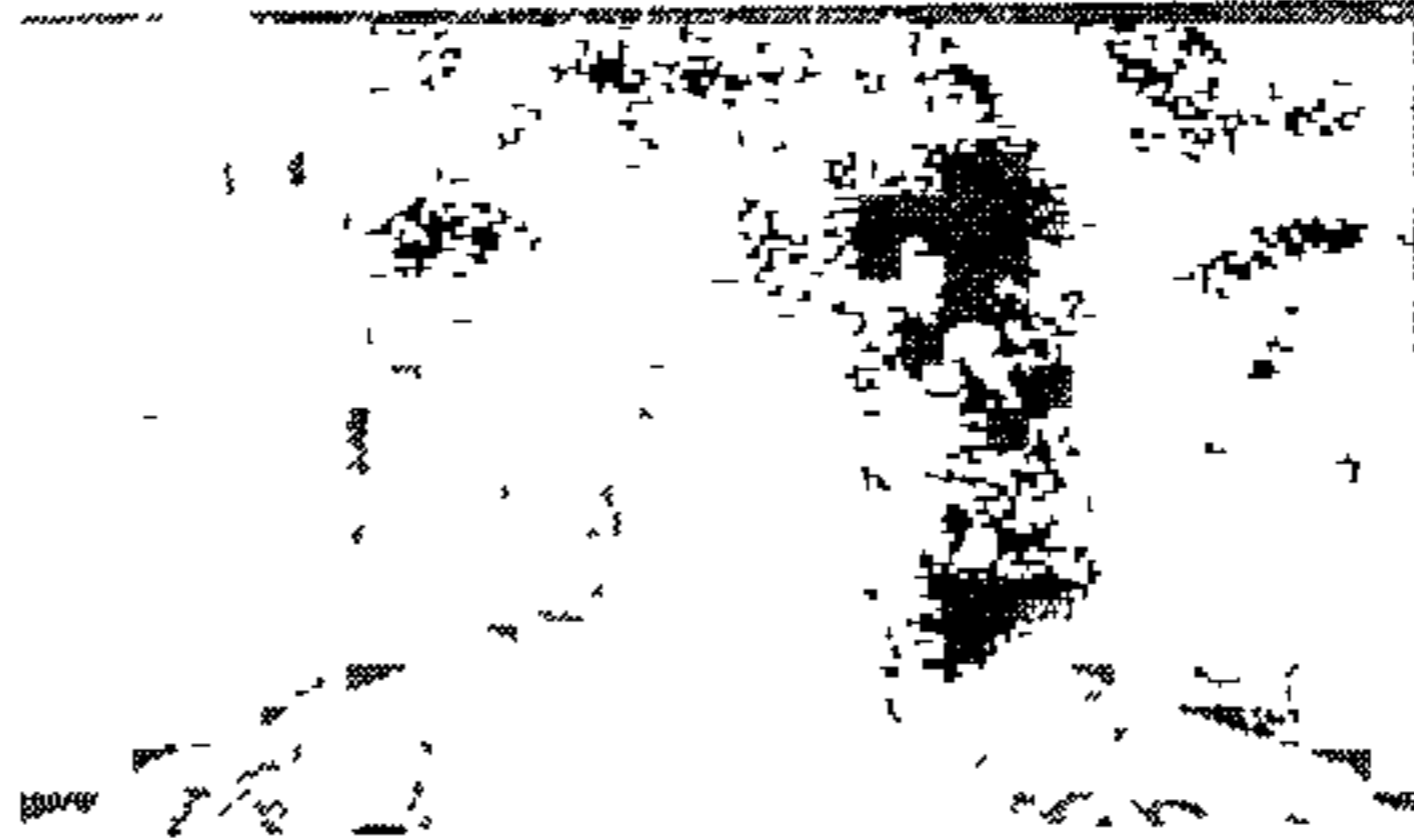
The entertainers will include gumboot dancers, and top among the prizes

will be a weekend at Ngala Gme Lodge Tickets are R17,50 a person and available from Sandy Tyrell (838-5833) or Judy Cox (706-7264, evenings)

● The musical "Mary Poppins" is being staged by speech and drama students at King David's Primary School, Victory Park, Johannesburg, tonight again Tomorrow and on Friday evenings the show will be staged at Bryandale Primary in Bryanston, said teacher Mrs Margot Cassel

● The sponsors of the Soweto Food Festival — on throughout this week at Diepkloof Hall — are raffling a fridge, stove, freezer and 10 R100 food vouchers — to raise funds Tickets are R2 each

The address of Operation Hunger is PO Box 97, Johannesburg 2000. Telephone 339-2381



Mrs Ina Perlman of Operation Hunger ... hundreds of thousands of flood and drought victims need help.

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The people of Prince Albert say that they are treated like discarded cigarettes, but...

# They won't be broken

"WE are the burnt-out stompies of South Africa. When we are healthy and strong we are in great demand. The bosses enjoy their smoke. We make them happy. But as we grow old and ill before our time from too much work and too little comfort, we are tossed aside with irritation, like cigarettes which have reached the filter. We are useless. And so they get rid of us."

These were the words of a resident of Prince Albert, the tiny Karoo town 400 km from Cape Town

The people of the location in Prince Albert are living evidence of how downtrodden — and yet, how full of fight — South Africa's voiceless masses are

## SURVIVE

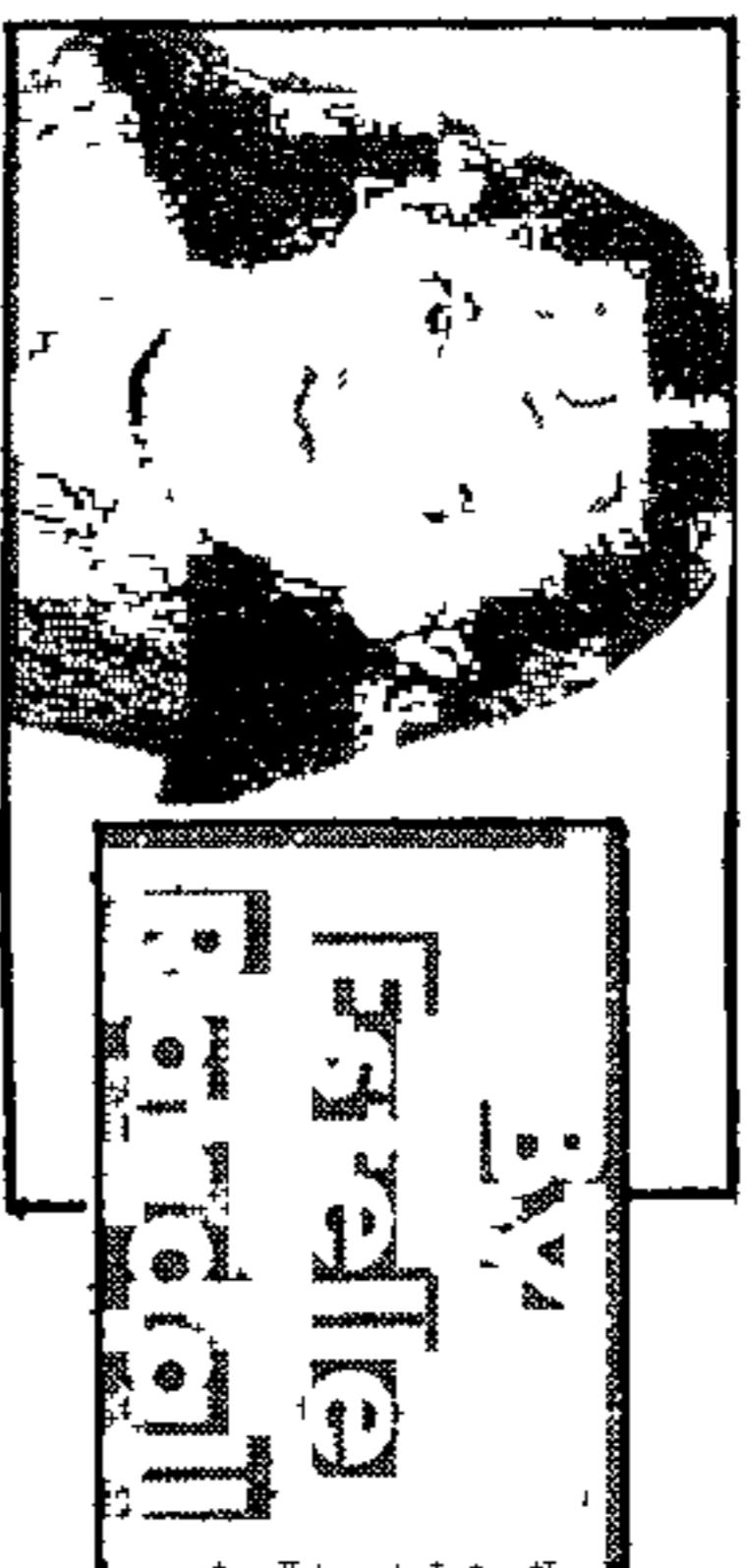
Despite their many problems, they have learnt to survive against both nature and man. They have not just accepted their lot and prayed for a better life after death. They have tried, with their limited means, to oppose the injustices meted out to them

This has been possible largely through the help of Oom Jan Schoeman



● Oom Jan Schoeman, wise man of Prince Albert, shares his meagre breakfast with some hungry children of the location.

man, one of the few villagers who can read

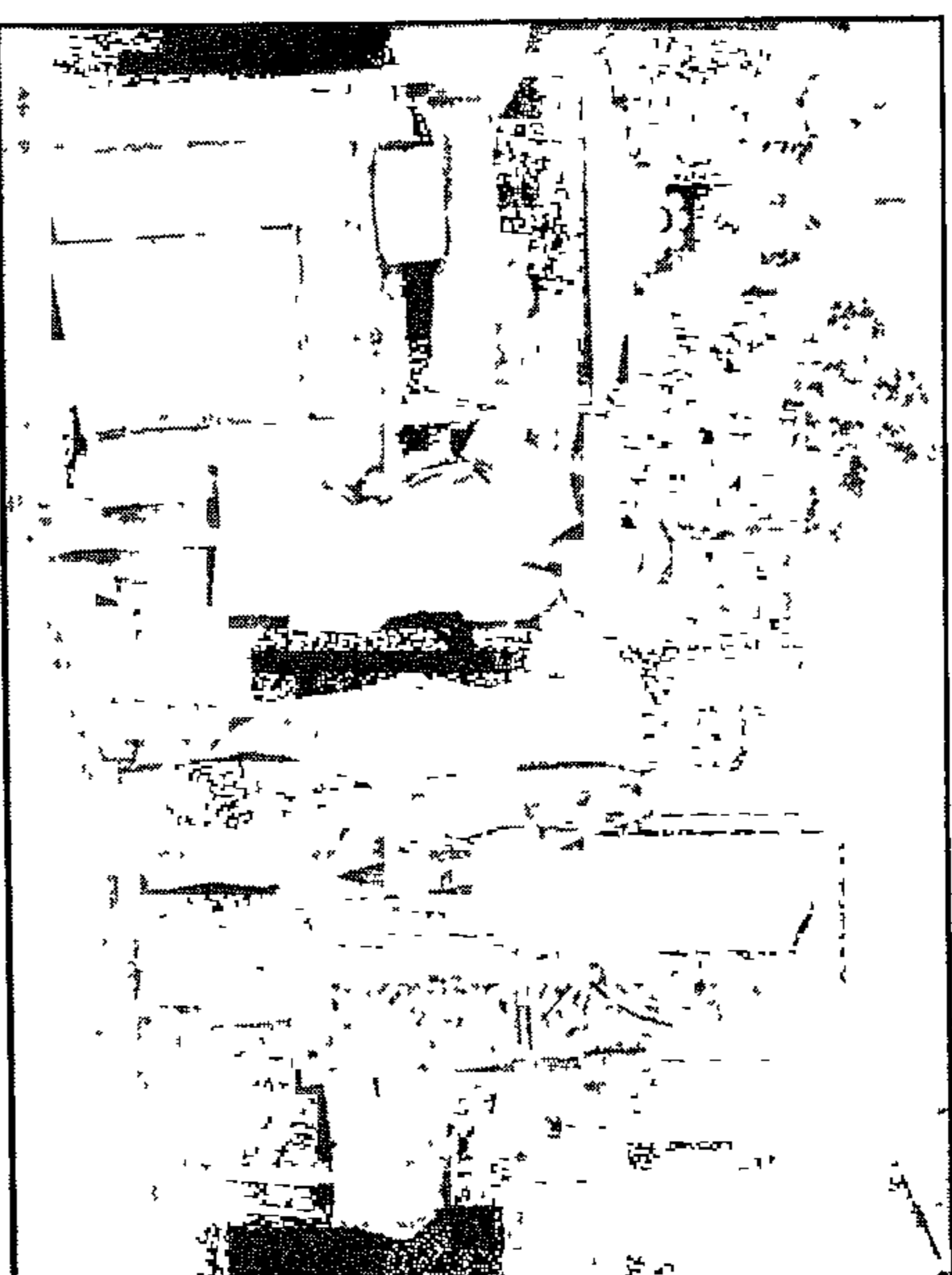


His tiny house, perched on a small rise outside the location, is the information and advice centre of the Prince Albert's working people. Throughout the day, men, women and children drift in and out, bringing the latest injustices to Oom Jan's notice

One at a time they enter the room, thankful for some relief from the stifling heat outside.

## Hassled by evictions

● THE Afrika family outside their council house with their belongings after having been evicted on Thursday.



to tell their stories to Oom Jan, who meticulously records the often senseless hurts and sufferings in one of the exercise books which lie about the room

Outside, the others sit under one of the few trees, patiently waiting their turn under the merciless Karoo sun, hoping that Oom Jan will help them find a way out of their problems

● About eight families have been evicted in the past month and last Thursday three more families were thrown out of their houses. The municipality

None of the houses have electricity or running water inside — there are only communal

claims that tenants were evicted because they owed rent. But many tenants deny this, claiming instead that the municipality is giving them a raw deal. They say the municipality often issues them with faulty receipts — some have incomplete dates (a month and day but no year), others have incorrect house numbers. Mrs J Lee, one of the evicted tenants, had evidence of this

## People rob because of hunger

WHEN you're living comfortably, there are many things — like food and basic housing

facilities — which you take for granted. But things are different in Prince Albert

According to Oom Jan, many of the robberies involve food rather than money or

in arrears. But with the municipality's legal costs the amount totals R223. "In 1983 I went to jail because I couldn't pay a food debt. My twins had to go with me because they were so young. Eventually a doctor got us out of jail, but we had to go to hospital then because the twins became ill. Mrs Anna Ras was one of the tenants evicted on Thursday. Her husband, Jan, has



and children and adults often scavenge in the rubbish dump near the location looking for food and old meat which the butchers have discarded

#### HOUSING

Housing facilities are also poor. There are two basic kinds of council houses: three-roomed or four-roomed

houses were built as recently as five years ago

In some of the roads we saw one tap to 12 houses, in others the tap could not be seen. One woman, rather than endure the inconvenience of lack of water in such a hot area, installed her own tap in her yard for about R10

## She fought the council in court

MANY people have contested the municipality's claims that they owe rent. Mrs Dora Vries is one of these, and in 1982 she took the municipality to court.

They were found to have incorrectly palmed off the debt of a previous tenant, Jan Botha, on Mrs Vries. Mrs Vries won her case in 1982.

Now, in 1984, she's having the same problem. In February this year she received a letter from the municipality saying she was behind in rent payment. It was later found that she had again been held responsible for Jan Botha's old debt.

#### FAMOUS

Another famous case of Prince Albert involved the municipality and Oom Jan Schoeman. Oom Jan, the Supreme Court in Cape Town found, had been unlawfully evicted from his council house in 1981. The court instructed the municipality to rectify matters.

Since then the municipality has offered Oom Jan R1 500 as an out of court settlement.

## No action planned by local committee

WHAT does the local management committee do about the problems, especially the evictions, besetting the people of Prince Albert?

According to Mr J Eksteen, local prison warden and management committee member: "The role of the management committee was to take up the problems of the people and to fight for better living conditions."

"The committee holds many meetings where these issues are discussed, both among members and with the residents. But we have not yet decided on any plan of action regarding the recent evictions. There are always two sides to a story, you know, and I cannot say whether or not I agree with the evictions."

#### VOTE

On the question of the "New Deal" Mr Eksteen had this to say: "I will encourage people here to vote because I think the new dispensation will give coloured people a say. We will get our rights."

But tenants did not agree with the sentiments of the management committee. Mrs Jaftha said: "The management committee has done nothing for us. We don't know them and they don't know us or our problems. They have no time for these

"They are mostly teachers and because they sit on the committee the municipality is more lenient with them. We tenants need a body which will speak for us, protect us. To make sure this happens, it should be led by us tenants, who suffer most, not those who are better off."

been issued with incorrect house numbers

#### RECEIPTS

According to Mrs Lee: "In August last year we received a letter from the municipality saying we were R1016 in arrears. We paid this and have not fallen behind with payments since. You can check our receipts. Yet we were evicted earlier this year."

"We are not behind with our rent. If anything we are ahead with payments. All our furniture is standing out in the open. The very little we have is being spoilt."

Mrs Maggie Jaftha, 36 years old, is another evicted tenant who is now living with her sister in a two-bedroomed house. Twelve people live in the house. Maggie does not work because she has to care for her eight-month-old twins, and her three other children get a grant of R193.

#### ARREARS

According to the municipality she was R93

been in Conradie Hospital for six months now with a serious back injury which could leave him lame.

Mrs Ras owes the municipality R80 in rent. Without a grant and on her salary of R1,50 a week, Mrs Ras can barely keep her family of four alive, let alone pay the rent.

## Even the aged are exploited

NOT even the old are exempt from the rampant exploitation and oppression.

Mr John Delport, a pensioner, has had his old age pension book taken away by a welfare worker for the local NG church, after an illness during which Mr Delport could not go to draw his pension himself.

The rest of the money goes towards some mysterious debt (being paid by the welfare worker) of which he is unaware. He has often asked for his book to be returned to him but this has been refused.

## Low wages, high prices

LINKED to evictions are low wages and high food prices.

This is a town where a bar of Sunlight soap costs as much as 74c, a kg of mielies 66c and a kg of sugar, R1,98. Yet most people earn little money for hard and unpleasant work.

Take Hendrik Piedt, who works for the municipality as a refuse and nightsoil remover.

He has one daughter aged 17 and a wife to support. His rent is R11,35 a month — his salary, R24.

#### DIRT

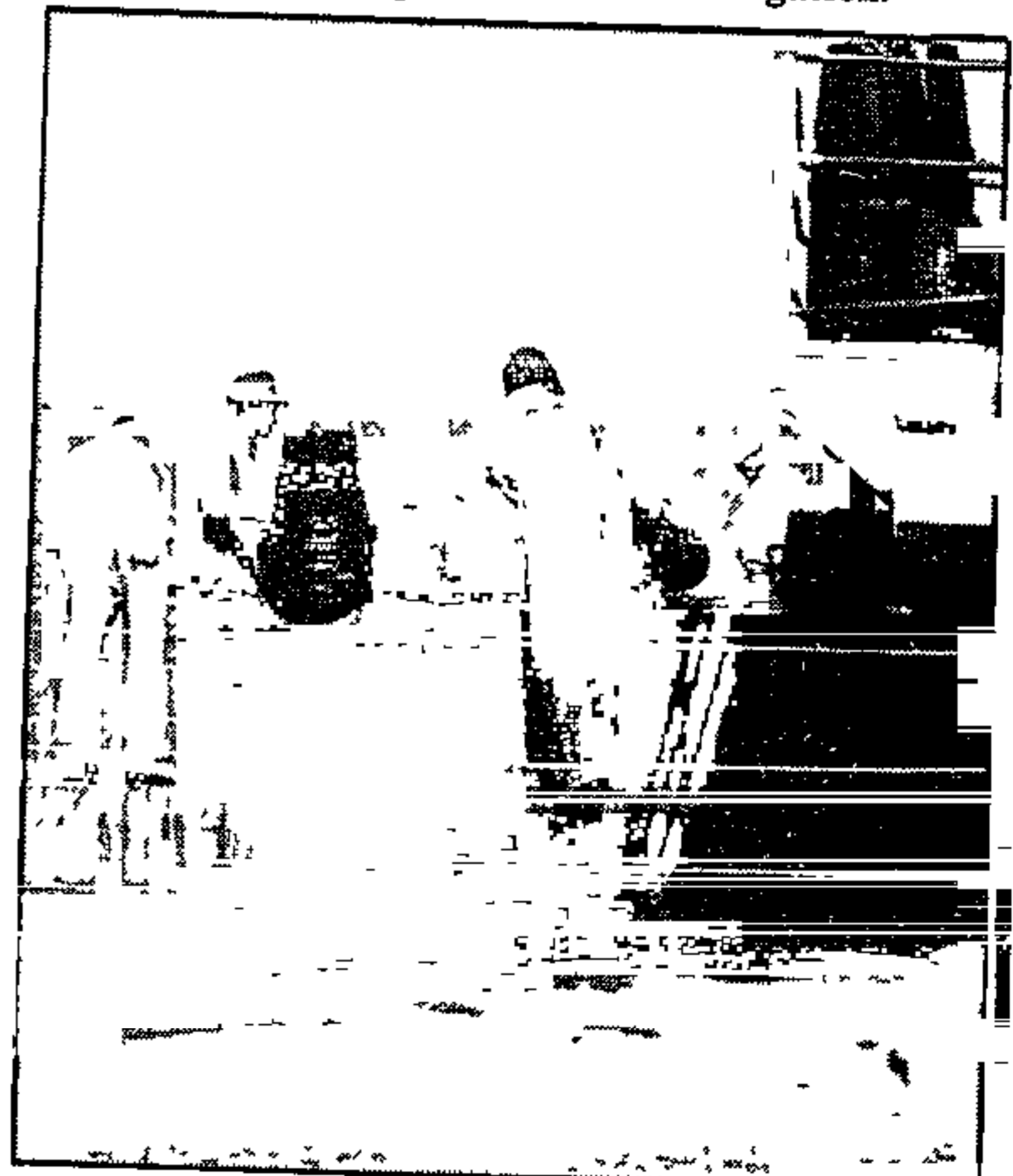
For this R24 Hendrik has to collect dirt from the town and location on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Mondays and Thursdays he and his six colleagues remove nightsoil. This is done by hand and includes both the emptying and cleaning of the bucket toilets.

The nightsoil and rubbish dumps adjoin one another. While the nightsoil dump is

fenced off, the rubbish dump is not and provides easy access to hungry children in search of food.

#### NIGHTSOIL

There had been allegations that nightsoil was being dumped in the location. Because of recent rain, all evidence of this had been obliterated and the allegation could not be verified. There has been an investigation by health authorities in the past though. New measures to improve transport of nightsoil were introduced after the investigation.



© DOING the town's dirty work. These municipal workers get R24 a month for, among other things, washing the town's bucket toilets by hand in this water tank.



# The work of feeding the poverty-stricken

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Staw  
24/3/84

By Kate McKinnell  
"I see people in situations where I would want to give up and die, but they struggle bravely on

"A moving case was at Maserum Park in Lebowa where the community had built a tiny school using bricks they had made themselves — yet 80 per cent of them were suffering from kwashiorkor"

The speaker was Mrs Ina Perlman, national manager of Operation Hunger

With the winter of 1983 over and dams slowly rising, Operation Hunger wiped its brow and began planning a gradual withdrawal of its relief feeding. But the worst may be still be coming

"After the floods in kwaZulu 100 000 to 200 000 people are going to need some form of relief and I have just had a plea for two truck loads of skim milk, 2 000 blankets and 500 overalls," says Mrs Perlman

"There seems no realistic prospect of substantial crops before 1985, so we are preparing ourselves to provide relief to even more people than last year

"Even if the country had experienced plentiful rain we would have had to carry on with substantial relief work. The drought merely worsened rather than caused the situation of chronic malnutrition in black rural areas"

Operation Hunger was launched in 1980



Operation Hunger's national manager Mrs Ina Perlman helps load a consignment.

One nourishing meal a day could change the course of this boy's life.

when various charities and relief groups decided that they needed to co-ordinate their efforts to fight starvation and reduce duplication of effort and expense

"If anyone had told me before March 1983 the project would grow so large and feed as many people as it did I would never have believed them" says Mrs Perlman

More than anything Operation Hunger organisers have been amazed and moved by the incredible response of more fortunate South Africans — people really cared once they rea-

lised the severity of the situation

Between 60 and 70 percent of last year's donations, both in cash and kind, came in small amounts from ordinary people, black and white

Money and food donations are collected by the Johannesburg offices of Operation Hunger which then distribute food supplies to the different areas

"The food is unquestionably not a hand out. We see the aid as a joint responsibility — at the schools each child has to bring either firewood or water for cooking and the families must

collect and cook their supplies — often they have to walk kilometres

"We have never seen any of those starving people sit back and wait to be helped. As soon as mothers have lost that obsession with where to obtain the next morsel to feed their children, they rally and start concerning themselves with the welfare of their communities"

Then organisations already based in the areas which Operation Hunger feels have credibility and sound infrastructures distribute aid to those who need it

By Kate McKinnell

There are no fairies at the bottom of Mrs Anna Mazibuko's Soweto garden — just a woman who works painstakingly at her sewing machine, fashioning gaily smiling dolls

Mrs Mazibuko is earning a living, without having to rise before dawn, travel in a stuffy bus and spend the day on a soul destroying production line — all her work is done at home

Outside the sewing room her invalid husband naps in the sun. He knows his wife is close by to look after him and to feed the grandchildren playing around him

Mrs Mazibuko works when she likes and fulfills the pressing domestic commitments most black women face. She earns what she can in the time she has available. It depends how many hours she can spare at her machine

Along with some 40 other Soweto women she is part of Itekeng — the word means "prove yourself" — which the women do with their handcraft skills

Seven years ago Mrs Kathy Waddell of Sandton and Mrs Rose Masombuko of Soweto founded Itekeng, hoping to relieve to some degree the plight of Soweto women who worked in factory misery or were unemployed

"The idea was for black women to work at home using their sewing talents while we would market their products to provide them with an income. We brought a group of women together and friends of mine came to teach them various sewing tech-

## Banding together to 'prove themselves'

store," says Mrs Waddell

The Itekeng shop is a feast for the gift hunter — piles of faultlessly crafted cosmetic purses, tog-bags and coat hangers in pretty print fabrics. Matching trays, cosies, cloths and napkins for the elegant tea party spill from the shelves. Dainty rag-dolls smile appealingly from their high perches

"All the women know their work has to be of impeccable quality. Customers flock to buy handmade goods but they are intolerant of any flaw in the design and finish of their purchases," says Mrs Waddell

Administering the project now requires the work of three full time employees and an accountant

"Itekeng operates for the black women's benefit — it is a non-profit making organisation and any surplus money is used to develop the project further to their advantage

"But it is not a charity. Itekeng must be commercially viable and work of a low standard is not accepted. We try to find something each woman can do well but if she cannot produce work of a sufficient standard she cannot join Itekeng," says Mrs Waddell

At present some women are receiving free training in other crafts, such as new methods of crocheting

Worlds come together as Cistin Marona clutches a Soweto-made doll

niques and designs," says Mrs Waddell

"At first we tried to sell everything from my house, but it became chaotic and after a year we tentatively opened a shop"

Now goods carefully sewn in small Soweto homes are sold worlds away in the elite northern suburbs Hyde Park shopping centre

"Our first products were the crocheted goods most Soweto women know how to make, but there was not a large market for these. Now we try to cater for the sophisticated taste of Johannesburg shoppers and the tourists who visit the



A MASSIVE population timebomb is about to explode in our faces — unless South Africans work together now to break the vicious cycle of poverty that provides the fuse.

And the government's apartheid policy is one of the major stumbling blocks to defusing that bomb

This is the opinion of demographic and environmental scientists in South Africa interviewed this week in the wake of the launching of a national population control campaign by the Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr Nak van der Merwe.

Handing out the birth control pill to women will not make the problem go away. Experts world-wide have found that population control does not work without large scale socio-economic development programmes that improve people's living standards.

If South Africa does not act now, it faces large-scale social unrest where political rights will be forgotten in the battle for food and water.

**Numbers**

The recent floods and drought have merely been a warning of how bad conditions will become if population numbers weigh too heavily on South Africa's natural resources.

There would not be enough water, let alone food, if South Africa's population rose above 80-million. Dr van der Merwe told the first meeting of the inter-departmental committee to co-ordinate the government's population development programme.

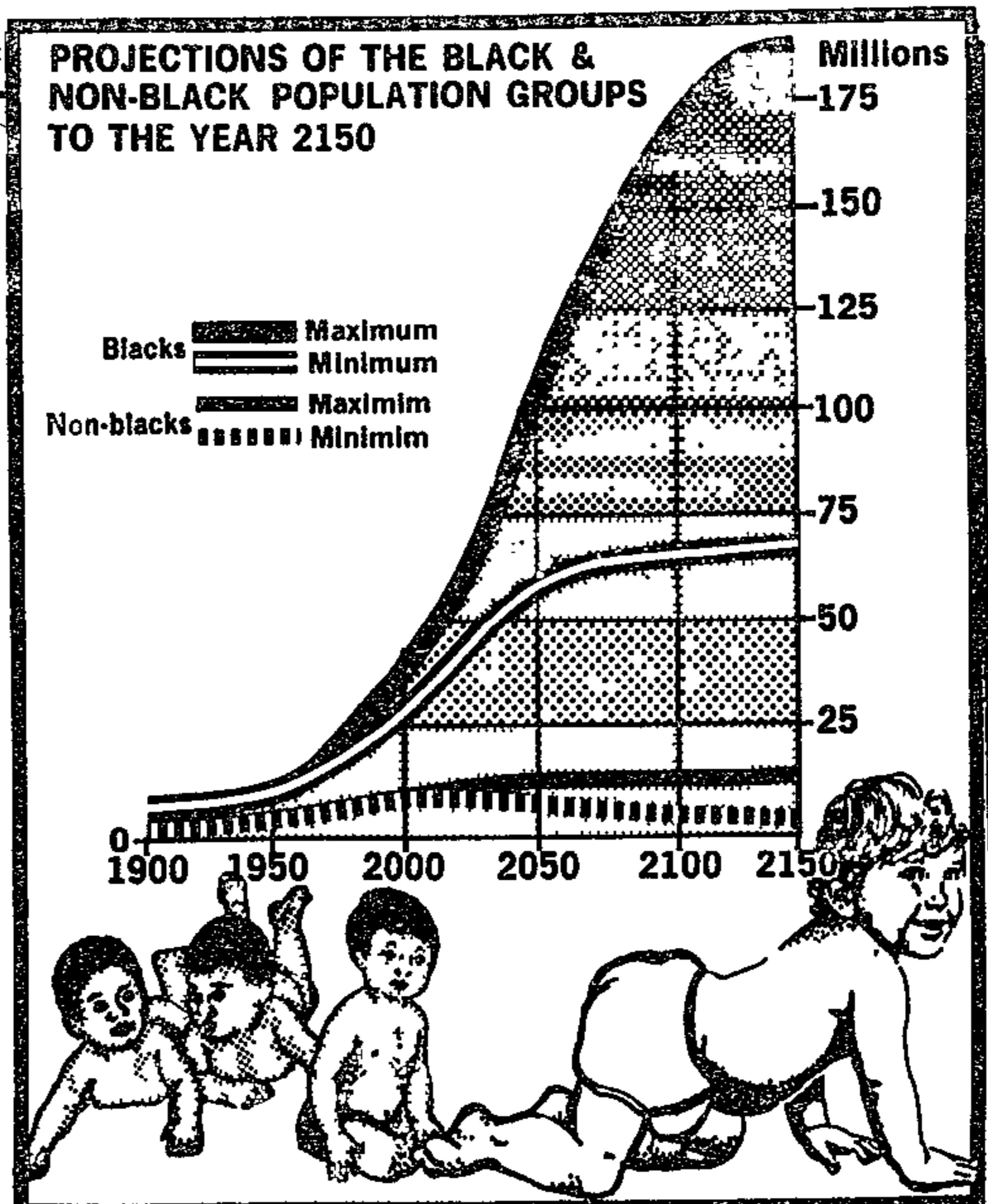
Cold statistics provided by the science committee of the President's Council show that South Africa has only 16 years to bring the population growth rate under control.

This means that by the year 2000, a target of two children for each woman — regardless of race group — must be reached. If that target is achieved, South Africa will reach a manageable population of 62-million by the middle of the 22nd century and then stabilise at that level.

But if each woman has three children, the population will jump to a frightening 450-million by the middle of the 22nd century and continue increasing.

In concrete terms, this means the number of people

# Passing round the Pill won't defuse the People Bomb



Minimum lines if birth rate drops to two children per woman by about the year 2000. Maximum lines if we reach two children per woman by about 2050. 'Non-blacks' in President's Council terminology includes coloureds, whites and Asians.

**Birth-control measures can keep population down. Only massive development programmes can help. If South Africa does not act now, it faces large-scale unrest — with political rights all but forgotten in the battle for food and water. MARION WHITEHEAD reports.**

which the population could be limited," said Professor John Grindley of the school of environmental studies at the University of Cape Town.

"That's why it is a pity we have such strong controls over urbanisation for blacks."

He said more job opportunities and housing would have to be provided at the same time.

Mr Charles Simpkins, senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town's school of economics, said pass laws should be radically modified to allow the urbanisation of entire families. The migrant labour policy of splitting families helped trap people in a vicious cycle of poverty and the families left in the rural areas were largely beyond the reach of any services that would give them opportunities to improve their lot.

**Richer**

"As people get richer, family planning becomes more acceptable."

"We need more rapid urbanisation — but it is retarded by government policy."

Mr Simpkins said urbanisation should be encouraged in homeland capitals as well as in white areas.

Professor Brian Walker, director of the centre for resource ecology at the University of the Witwatersrand, said South Africa's increasing population would find the supply of food and water the most pressing problems.

He said that while the water problem was being well handled, the government's land-use policy was not rational.

Homelands were overcrowded and devastated, while large tracts of white farmland were unoccupied.

"If we redistributed the land on a more rational basis, we would have enough arable land to produce enough food."

"I'm not suggesting white areas be opened up to indiscriminate black peasant farming, but to a careful, rational land-use programme."

**Machinery**

Prof Walker said these farmers, regardless of their colour, should be backed by machinery and expertise with credit facilities to buy fertiliser, irrigation systems, seed and insecticide.

If this infrastructure for an agricultural industry did not materialise and the government continued with its hand-out attitudes, white South Africa would find itself handing out food to impoverished black homelands just to keep social unrest at bay, he warned.

"We have to solve the basic, political problem and then start on the socio-economic ones," Prof Walker said.

Professor John Hanks, director of the institute of natural resources at the

**Without soil, all life dies**

IT TAKES 700 years to form a layer of soil as deep as a sheet of foolscap paper.

So if we let the soil wash away faster than it is forming, it's bye-bye soil, bye-bye trees and plants, animal life — and human life.

In places like Tugela Ferry, Kwazulu, bare bedrock already lies exposed to the sun.

The firewood crisis has

stripped the land of trees.

Each man, woman and child needs one ton of firewood each a year to survive.

An American citizen, on the other hand, consumes just as much wood every year in the form of paper alone.

A final grim fact: about 6-million hectares of new desert is being created each year as environmental degradation increases.

**The arithmetic of apartheid costs**

VAST resources are needed to raise living standards in order to get fertility rates to drop. Evidence that the money to improve living standards exists can be found in our budgets.

An estimated two-thirds of all couples in the Third World (excluding China) still lack ready access to family planning services. To remedy this situation worldwide, R2 240-million — the equivalent of two days' global military expenditure — was needed, said Professor John Hanks.

In South Africa, just half last year's Defence budget of R3 093-million could pro-

vide 256 000 serviced sites for housing.

And the R804-million so far spent on homeland consolidation could have been used to create urban jobs for over 80 000 — the number of people registered on December 31 last year as work-seekers at labour bureaux around the country.

For the R407 343 it cost the Prisons department to jail 62 000 pass law offenders in Johannesburg last year, nearly 300 black children could have had a year's education equal to that of white children, on whom R1 385 per head is spent.

crammed into the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area as soon as the year 2050 could pass the 23-million mark — just a few million under the total population of the country at present and

four times as many as in the PWV now.

This means massive housing projects are needed, as well as education and health facilities in both urban and rural areas.

In outlining the need for a comprehensive population development programme, the Minister of Health said it had to be accompanied by a rise in the living standards of all the people of South Africa.

"Practice and research indicate very clearly that as soon as the quality of life of people is meaningfully raised, fertility drops," said Dr van der Merwe.

As blacks are generally the poorest in this country and have the highest birth rate, this would necessitate a massive injection of funds into black housing and education and the creation of

job opportunities.

According to the science committee's report on demographic trends in South Africa, adult literacy is the one of the most important socio-economic factors influencing fertility changes. This is especially marked among women with higher primary school certificates, and in some developing countries, can make a difference of up to three children per woman.

**Urbanisation**

Urbanisation is another important factor in bringing down birth rates. People in

town can't afford large families because of the cost involved in raising children, putting them through school and finding housing. Mothers often work and are exposed to modern norms of fewer children, as well as having easy access to contraception.

The falling birth rate among Afrikaners since the Second World War is an example of this trend.

Yet the government's influx control policy aims to keep the poorest people with the highest fertility rates out of the cities.

"Allowing freer movement to the urban areas would be a major way in

**Thousands join campaign for dingo case review**

MELBOURNE — A meeting of 1 500 people at the town hall on Friday night called for a judicial review of Lindy and Michael Chamberlain's conviction and sentence in the 'dingo case'. Lindy Chamberlain was

By MICHAEL CANNON

found guilty of murdering her baby, Azaria, at a central Australian tourist spot three years ago and was jailed for life.

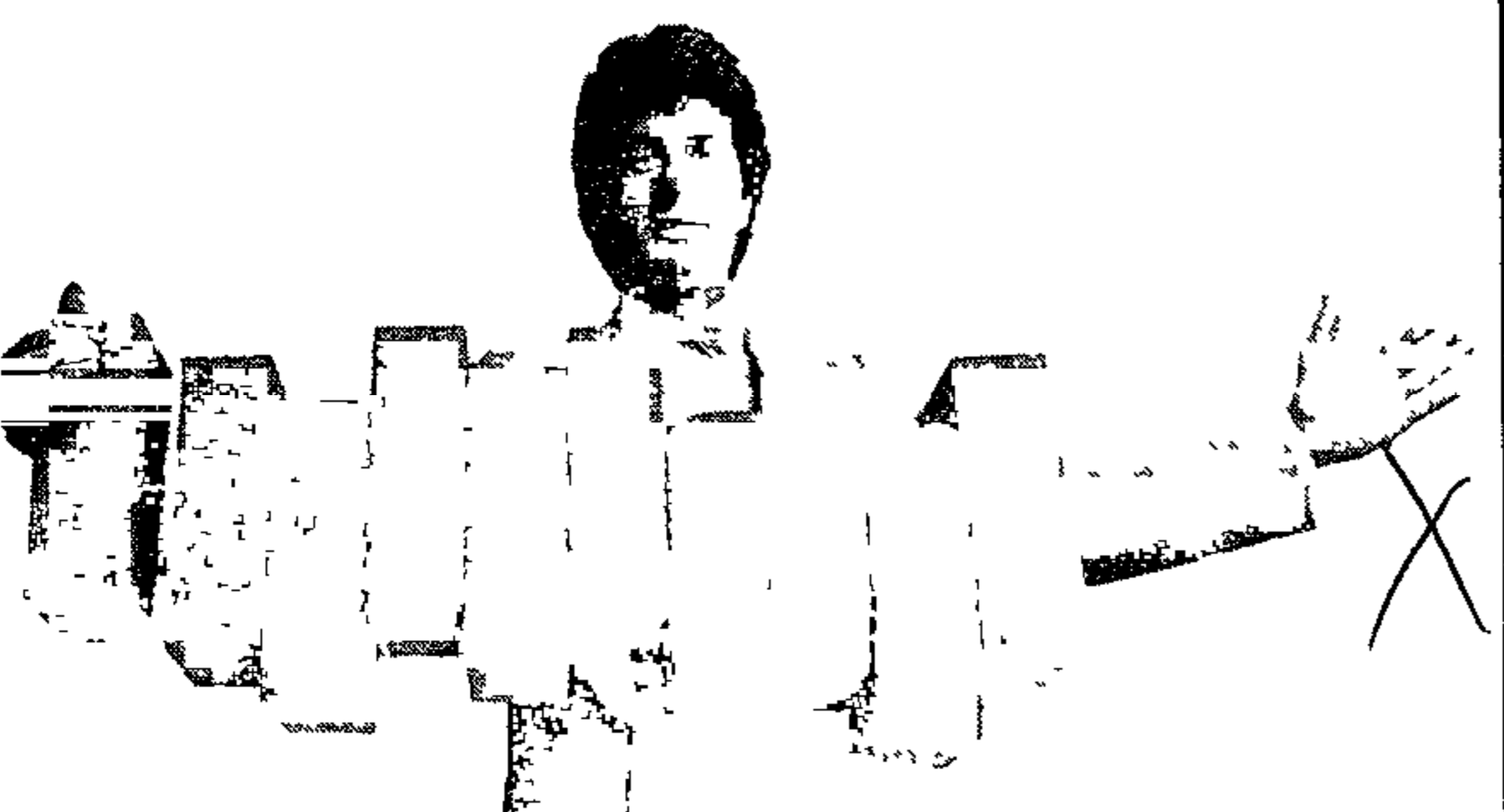
Her husband, a pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, was found to have been an accessory after the fact and was given a suspended 18-month sentence. The couple recently lost an appeal in the High Court.

The Chamberlains have insisted that Azaria was snatched from their holiday tent by a dingo, Australia's native wild dog.

More signatures were collected at the Melbourne meeting for a Save Lindy Chamberlain petition. The first instalment of signatures is to be presented to Australia's Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephens, on April 3.

A Press report of the meeting said the speakers included three campers who were at the tourist spot on the night and who claimed that vital forensic evidence had been wrongly interpreted.

Other speakers who described the Chamberlains' conviction as a "monstrous miscarriage of justice" or "the most massive witch hunt in modern history" were greeted with loud applause.



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~~SECRET~~  
**Poverty inquiry**

Pretermaritzburg

2434 Bureau 544

THE second Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development in Southern Africa will be held at the University of Cape Town from April 13 to April 19. A variety of papers will be delivered by top researchers on the unemployment, labour, housing, educational and legal positions of poor people in Southern Africa.

N. Merany



# The tapestry of hopelessness that exposes the urbanites' myth

Bare ground, goats, bottle stores galore and sad huts without crops or cattle — that is the tapestry of hopelessness that confronts the traveller in the densely peopled black rural areas of the Northern Transvaal

The myth of contented rural blacks cheerfully cultivating their mealies or drinking beer under maroela trees dies hard in the minds of urbanites

The reality of rural life today is cruel

"A human catastrophe of enormous proportions is in the making, and the resources being set aside to try to counter it are piffling," said a community worker in the far Northern Transvaal

Two things about rural Northern Transvaal strike the visitor forcibly the hundreds of thousands of people now living in rural settlements without any visible means of support, and the almost total lack of crops and cattle

These are the elements of the rural tragedy now encroaching on much of the country

"You can forget about finding mealies growing around the kraals up here," said Sister Matthew, head of St Joseph's Mission in Levubu, just outside Venda's capital of Thohoyandou "All these people can get from the ground is some marog (a wild spinach)"

Dean T S Farisani, Lutheran Church leader in Venda, agreed "I can tell you that 99 percent of the cattle kraals in the villages between Thohoyandou and the Zimbabwe border are empty The animals have died"

The extent of this tragedy could easily escape the urbanite with little idea how vital mealies and cattle are in the rural survival chain

Now, at the end of the third season of drought, morale is at the lowest ebb community workers can remember.

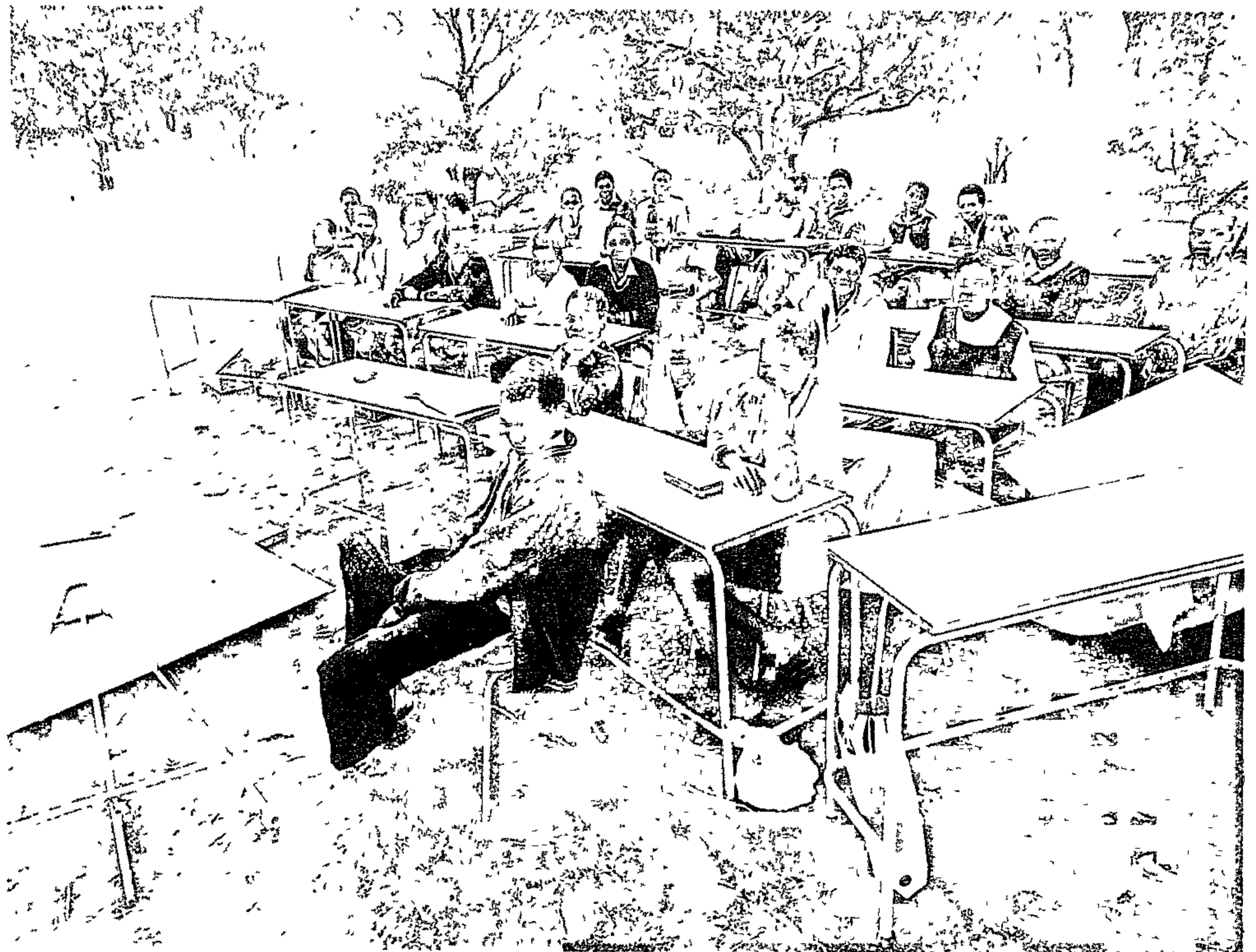
"We are dealing with a people who have been hard hit and have become totally apathetic It is very difficult to get them going on anything," said Sister Matthew who treats people at St Joseph's mission and two other clinics in rural villages.

"We had a group of about 10 women at Malamangwa, 40 km from here Each year they ploughed and planted with their two oxen to support themselves and others

"But the drought killed the oxen and the women have given up They have nothing They just smile at you now when you question them"

Dr Stephen Ramasuvha, who has a medical practice in Makwerela, said suicide among blacks in the rural areas was increasing

Both Sister Matthew and Dr Ramasuvha have



Coping with lessons in the heat and dust

● Pictures by Jill Edelstein.

The rains have wet the ground in the rural areas of the Northern Transvaal but it will take far more than this to repair the devastation of lives and livelihoods, reports ANTHONY DUGAN, who has just returned from a visit to some of the areas where Operation Hunger is feeding hundreds of thousands of starving people.

also noticed another effect of the distress rural Africans are suffering — nervous breakdowns

Sister Matthew said these breakdowns were particularly prevalent among high school pupils as a result of the enormous conflicts, political as well as social, with which they had to live.

Many youngsters were pushing themselves too far in efforts to cope with senior schooling while suffering the effects of poor diet or straight lack of food, she said

At the same time, added Sister Matthew, there was very little for a matriculated young black to do "except become a teacher or nurse or join the police or the army"

Influx control laws which keep these youngsters from finding better opportunities in the urban areas only aggravates the situation

This is also a major concern of Dr Ramasuvha "The lack of job opportunities up here is very worrying There are just not nearly enough jobs for the people being produced each year

Dean Farisani said the lack of any job opportunities led to unusual things happening in Venda "Word got around recent-

ly that one of the factories at Sifayandima (next to Thohoyandou) was looking for workers," he said

"About 700 people crowded around the gates to be told there was no work They refused to leave and said we're going to sit here until we get work"

"The problem is, I don't think we've even hit the bottom yet We are still going down and I personally believe worse is to come this winter"

Sister Matthew said more young mothers breastfeeding babies, who "are becoming pellagra (malnutrition) cases because before beginning to breastfeed they were on the verge of malnourishment, and the baby takes all they have left"

She is very critical of the large number of bottle-stores being opened in rural areas, some financed by the Venda Development Corporation

"The real problem is the greed of the upper 10 percent, who are only prepared to push for more for themselves instead of pushing for food and a better life for the less fortunate"

More than 10 000 people are fed through the



Two pupils of Matodzi Junior Secondary in the Vuwani area of Venda cook mealie meal in a traditional pot for their schoolmates. This mealie meal is supplied through Johannesburg-based Operation Hunger.



One of the classrooms of the tiny Mpofu Village Primary School in Venda is a split-pole shack Here the principal, Mr N Mamphodo, teaches some of the children who come from the surrounding area

food distribution network set up through St Joseph's by Operation Hunger

"I see these children — starving, dirty, without proper schooling There's no future for them," says Sister Matthew, who

came to St Joseph's 12 years ago to retire and has been run off her feet ever since

Her one hope is that more people will understand the sheer extent of the rural tragedy and divert the resources needed

to rebuild the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who face a grim future

● The address of Operation Hunger is Box 97 Johannesburg 2000 Tel 339-2381



# Lebowa can't cope with rural poverty

By Anthony Duigan

Unless the chronic socio-economic situation of rural blacks was investigated urgently, homeland health officials believe they are wasting time, money and effort in trying to cope with poverty and its associated health problems

This was said by Lebowa's secretary for health and welfare, Dr Mphahlele Mphahlele.

Speaking from his office in Lebowakgomo, capital of Lebowa, Dr Mphahlele said the health of Lebowa's people had worsened during the three-year drought.

Hundreds of thousands were trapped in a cycle of poverty and starvation, aggravated by the recession.

It was a waste of time talking about health, and a waste of money treating illnesses while the cause, a low standard of living, was increasing.

"Those in charge of resettling people in the homelands must first see whether the area (of resettlement) is able to support the people," he said.

Dr Mphahlele said he could not stress enough the need for providing

proper education and job opportunities and upgrading the socio-economic status of the people.

"Two weeks ago I was at George Masebe Hospital (one of Lebowa's bigger hospitals) and doctors told me they had never before had so many kwashiorkor patients at this time of the year."

This was caused by the failure of crops and the estimated 90 percent rate of cattle deaths as a result of the drought, he added.

"Last year we carried out a survey among lower primary school children to discover how widespread malnutrition was.

"It was found that one in eight of the estimated 400 000 children in this age group had gross clinical malnutrition. This means the brothers and sisters of these children were also likely to be suffering from malnutrition, besides children in other age groups."

Dr Mphahlele said a post-graduate medical student from the University of Pretoria, who did research in Lebowa recently, estimated that



A mother and her malnourished baby wait their turn at the clinic

more than four out of every 10 children in the homeland were grossly malnourished.

"Diseases such as measles become rampant and often prove fatal or cost a great deal to combat, whereas in a healthy per-

son they can take their course without costly drugs having to be used."

Other points made by Dr Mphahlele included:

- Official population statistics for Lebowa — 1,7 million people — were meaningless. "I feel there

are closer to three million people here and in my planning I use an estimate of 2,5 million."

- Hundreds of Lebowa schools have no water supply and in some areas like Bochum (north of Pietersburg), as few as

one in 10 boreholes drilled produced water because the water table had dropped so low.

- Hundreds of Lebowa children were crippled in the polio epidemic that struck Lebowa and Gankulu last year

7/4/84

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With American money and local expertise, a major inquiry tries to defuse our ticking time bomb

A HOUSE in Pretoria is sold for R1,5-million.

Less than 200 km away a child stares at the camera, her eyes large, her belly distended

Two days later she joins the sombre roll call of those South Africans who die because they do not have enough to eat

The comparison may be invidious, but both images are true of South Africa in this year of grace and plenty — for some

They are true of a country which after 100 years of industrial development is blessed with great wealth and cursed with poverty on a scale which can be explained only by unflattering comparisons with the Third World

Neither is the little girl's death simply the product of a disastrous drought. Drought and flood are temporary visitors

Poverty, deprivation and famine are always with us and on a scale which today is little less than a national scandal.

Professor Francis Wilson, Cape Town physicist turned economist, has another enduring image of the strange dichotomies of South Africa

And it is one which reflects not only the present plight of the deprived, but a coming disaster for all who live here — including the man in the R1,5-million house

It is "an old woman, bent under a 40kg load of firewood, walking under an Escrom power pylon"

For the city dweller, that picture would probably pass without comment. For the sugar farmers of Natal it has a new and terrible relevance

A few months ago cyclone Demona dumped tons of water on a dunned and overpopulated resettlement area in KwaZulu

Downriver were South Africa's richest gamefields. They are now buried under a mountain of sand washed down from the poverty-stricken homeland

# Amid South Africa's

# plenty, hunger, stalks



By FLEUR DE VILLIERS

people throughout Southern Africa on the feasibility and the value of what was to become a mammoth project

media conference in Cape Town to be attended by about 350 delegates from South Africa and a few immigrants from abroad.

Papers ranging from a migrant worker's autobiography to discussions of labour and unemployment, poverty and nutrition, housing, health and ecological issues will provide South Africa with the most extensive documentation yet on the subject.

The conference will also attempt to produce a definition of poverty in a country where the term can include anyone from a white pensioner living on dogfood and scraps in a Johannesburg rooming house to a black grandmother trying to scratch a living for herself and her extended family from the exhausted soil of a barren homeland.

For Wilson insists that they do not live in two separate economies.

"Our starting point," he says "has been that Southern Africa from the Cape to the Limpopo, including Lesotho, is one land."

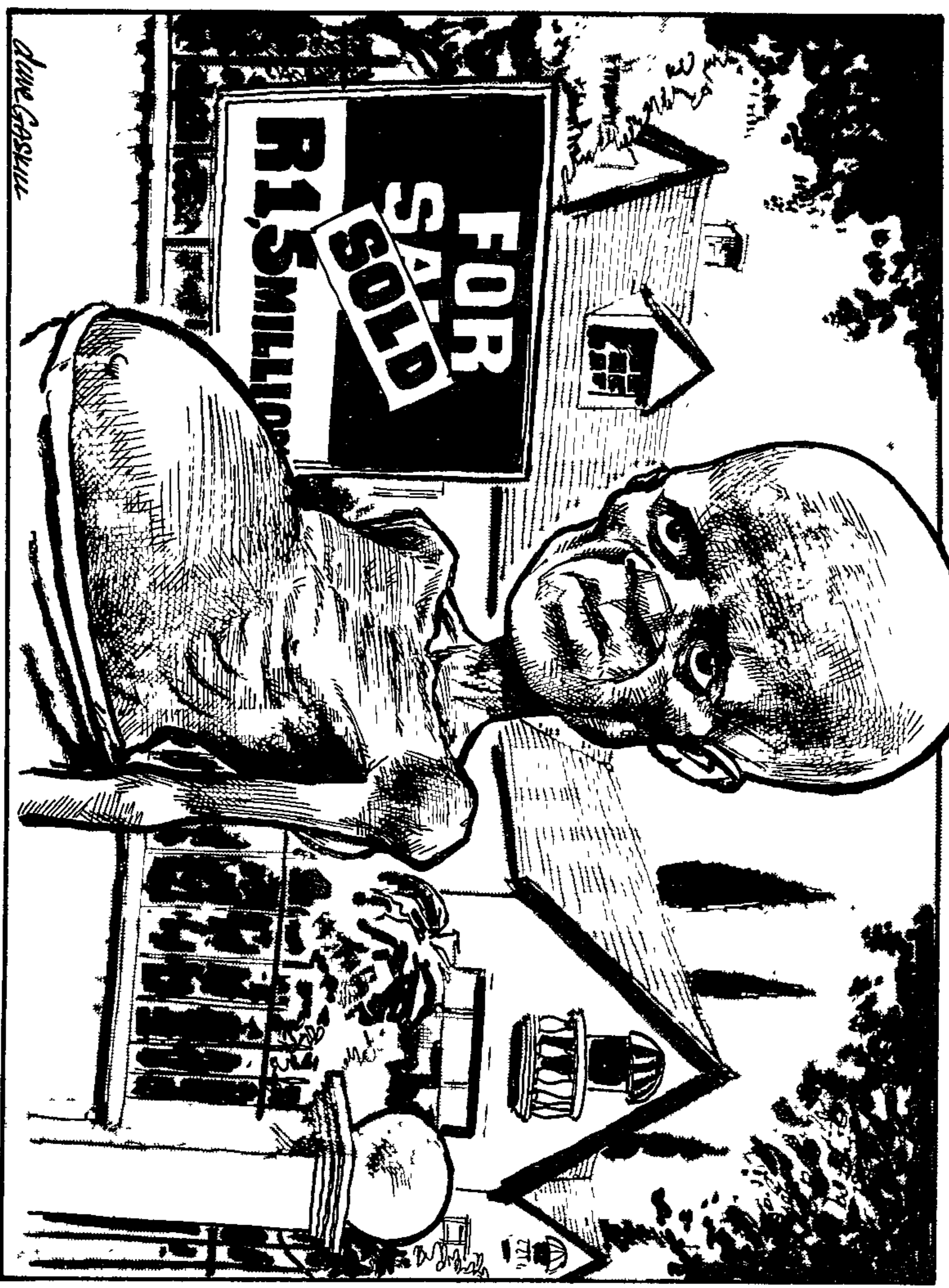
that poverty is a purely South African phenomenon. "But equally we mislead ourselves if we think it has nothing to do with the political system under which we live."

"Moreover, South Africa, unlike a country such as Tanzania, is at the end of a century of industrial revolution, sparked off by its mineral wealth.

"Poverty here is poverty within an industrial society. The poor either live in the cities or are dependent on them."

And here he touches on one of the major political questions of the next generation, the huge pressures of urbanisation working against the policies of apartheid

"What we are seeing at the moment are the enormous inequalities between the insiders and the haves in the cities and the outsiders



Africa must address in the next decade

"We must look at the balance between man and the land and ask ourselves whether we are running the right kind of agriculture.

"One of the most serious things that has happened is our changing farming patterns."

question is likely before next week is out to have the marxists, the social democrats and the capitalists at one another's throats

Surely that divide is too great to be bridged?

Francis Wilson shrugs happily "We want to stir things up in no uncertain terms

"Before the inquiry ends in July next year we will produce a final volume, looking at suggested strategies and drawing it all together

"But we're really not here to find a consensus. We will not pass resolutions at the conference, but will try to draw out the facts and throw out strategies that could well be contradictory. We are not here to find blueprints

"There is a lot of discussion in South Africa about political attitudes, but because the differences are so basic, there is very little discussion about our economic structures and shapes

from a Government which exercises a tremendous control over economic forces and the lives of its citizens

Will Government be compelled to address an investigation which could produce a plethora of different and conflicting answers — some of them with a marxist flavour?"

In trying to convert the long silence on poverty into a free-for-all debate is Wilson not running the risk that money will talk, but few will listen?"

He admits the danger is there. But he also believes that the sheer weight and detail of this five-year investigation will compel a response

"There are realpolitik reasons why we must come to grips with it. The ecological issue is of the greatest moment and urgency

"But there is also the moral imperative. If after 100 years of industrial development people are still dying of kwashiorkor, then that situation says a great deal about the quality of our society"

"The drought and the floods have highlighted a deep-seated ecological problem in South Africa

## Inhumanity

"But the sheer inhumanity of children dying of hunger and old people wasting away without food must grip us all

"Whether or not we are a rich or poor country, we have the resources to ensure that our people are clothed and fed and have adequate living conditions

"But then we must begin to talk about the whole nature of our political economy."

On Friday that long overdue debate will start. And perhaps South Africans far removed from the conference hall at the University of Cape Town will begin to listen

And one day perhaps children in a land of plenty will no longer die because they do not have enough to eat.



## Desperate

They will never be reclaimed. The spreading disease of rural poverty and accompanying ecological blight had claimed some new and surprising victims.

But as South Africa's thin grass and tree cover is steadily stripped by dirt-poor, overcrowded rural settlements, we all become poorer.

Francis Wilson, who is head of the South African Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, is not content, like most South Africans, to be vaguely haunted by his image of present plight and coming disaster.

With the aid of a "no-strings attached" R500 000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation in America, he has put together the biggest investigation into poverty in South Africa since the famous "Armblanke verslag" of exactly 50 years ago.

That report — also commissioned by the Carnegie Corporation — played a major role in helping impoverished South African whites to a better life.

Today the "poor white problem" is nothing more than an ancient and bitter memory.

But for the coloured people of Calitzdorp and Beaufort West, the black squatters on the Cape Flats, the "resettled" people of the homelands and the black workers on the platteland, poverty is a desperate and ever-present reality.

So when David Hood, international director of the Carnegie Corporation, drifted into Wilson's office in 1980 anxious to spend some money in South Africa, the idea of a second Carnegie inquiry into poverty was born.

## Quirk

At a time when both political and economic pressures in the United States had cut down on the flow of foundation money into South African research projects, Hood's visit was a godsend.

But it was not surprising. The Carnegie Corporation has a long history of involvement in South Africa — largely because of a quirk of the old Scots-American industrialist's will, which required that 10 percent of his foundation's funds should be spent on what was the British Empire at the time of his death.

And there is no doubt that Alan Pifer, then president of the corporation and a man who long ago had been bitten by the "South African bug", played a major role in the allocation of the new grant.

Before the inquiry was officially launched in April 1982, there was 15 months of quiet travelling, consultation and discussion with

decision not to establish a second commission which, as Wilson says, "would have excluded everyone except the commissioners from thinking about the problem until, like the prophets of old, they laid their tablets of stone before an admiring, but possibly sceptical, public."

"We wanted to get as many people as possible thinking about it."

Eventually it was decided to locate the inquiry at Wilson's research unit.

And although academics at all South African and homeland universities have been drawn into the project, Wilson and his team spread their net even wider to include social workers, lawyers, doctors, agricultural economists, churchmen and community leaders — many of them black.

A black NG Kerk minister, for example, in a remote North-Eastern Transvaal town, read about the project in the local Press, wrote to the organisers and was soon co-opted on to one of the working groups.

On Friday the two-year phase of research and discussion will come to an end with a mammoth, multi-

economy centred on the Vaal Triangle.

"Within it are different types of political boundary — but however important they may be to the poor who find themselves on the wrong side of that boundary, they are all secondary to the single economy."

With that he puts himself at odds with the old-time apartheid religionists who would bury the problem behind apartheid's borders.

## Pressures

And, as an extension of his credo, he firmly rejects the oft-heard shibboleth that the poor in South Africa are the Third World's poor, owing their plight to Third World causes.

South Africans, he says, need to grow in their understanding of what poverty means — "we must look behind the headline causes."

"Some are global, but others are peculiar to this country. The people of the Ciskei for example are worse off than they would be without the pass laws."

"It is foolish to pretend

areas who are also the have-nots."

Now that the years of research into one of South Africa's most complex and many-faceted problems are over, it is difficult, but not unrewarding, to ask this concerned and engaging man to summarise some of its most surprising findings.

"Rural poverty. The people in the dorps and on the farms. We tend to see the problem in metropolitan or homeland terms."

"But the economy is receding from the small towns, leaving a residue of people who are either too old or too poor to get out."

The inquiry, which devotes 62 papers to area studies, has looked at towns like Willowmore, Hanover and Beaufort West and at the farms of Namaqualand.

"Any strategy must look to breathing new life into South Africa's shrinking platteland towns," he says.

"Then there is the whole ecological problem. The absence of any long-term planning about water needs, deforestation or over-population in the homeland and rural areas."

"This is one of the fundamental issues which South

sorbing as much labour and people are being pushed off the farms and into the over-populated homelands.

"In the whole inquiry we have tried to create an interdisciplinary approach, because some of the most important problems in South Africa are falling between the cracks."

## Cringe

"In our working group on food and nutrition we brought together doctors and agricultural economists."

"And we discovered that they can't begin to talk to each other. They just don't talk the same language."

"But when you talk about malnutrition in children, you have to talk about the distribution of food, about agricultural pricing policies and the rest."

"We can learn an enormous amount about food policy from work which has been done in the United States, Britain, Australia and the Third World."

"Sri Lanka, for example, has better nutrition for a country at its level of development than South Africa."

We may cringe at the comparison, but we should not ignore the lesson.

"Our conference film festival will have the theme, 'Signs of Hope', and we will show projects that work in China, Latin America, the United States and Africa."

"We are trying to launch a debate about what is happening in the rest of the world."

"One of our overseas speakers, Paul Streeten of the World Development Institute in Boston, is a pioneer thinker about development needs. Alan Gelb from the World Bank will draw lessons from Spain, and Wilfrid Beckerman, a leading British economist, will talk about the meaning of poverty in rich and poor countries."

"We have also tried to draw in lawyers to ask them about the law and the poor. And we have also looked at the education of doctors."

## Scandal

"Does South Africa, for example, have a medical education which is of more benefit to Dallas than it is here? Which society are our doctors trained to serve?"

That question alone will probably unleash a furious debate.

But even that conflict is destined to pale into insignificance when participants in the inquiry — and the country at large — begin to come to grips with the fundamental question behind any investigation into poverty: what kind of country is South Africa and what kind of economy should it have? That deceptively simple



Professor Francis Wilson ... "We want to stir things up"



# DOWN IN

# THE



TEMBISA WOMEN: Scavenging for food for their families.

# DUMPS

SCORES of women and children in Tembisa scavenge daily for food, clothing and wood at a rubbish dump near the township as unemployment, the drought and starvation bite into families.

The women told The SOWETAN that every day they wait for trucks dumping on the rubbish heap and then search for anything from food to clothing to keep their families "going on"

The trucks come about four times a day.

Residents have called on the authorities to fence in the dump to prevent the women from scavenging. The dump is a health hazard, especially in summer when flies and other insects carry disease to neighbouring homes.

The SOWETAN

## By MZIKAYISE EDOM

spoke to a number of women scavenging at the dump. They said they had looked for work in the past but in vain.

"Our families have to eat and we have no alternative but to scavenge for food and clothing at this dump"

One woman, who gave her name as Sarah, said they visited the place daily to collect food which includes meat, bread and

canned foods from the township's shops

Another woman, who refused to give her name, said "I have got seven children to feed and I am the breadwinner at home. I have been jobless for the past two years. This is the only way I can support my children. At times we go without food for days, but what can I do? I have no source of income"

## Women hunt for food in rubbish

*Sowetan*  
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Mr Dumisane Nhlapo, an employee of the East Rand Administration Board (Erab) who works as a guard at the rubbish dump, told The SOWETAN that the board has failed to drive the women out of the place

### Policemen

"We have even tried calling the board's policemen to chase the women away, but they have also failed. The board is now considering erecting a high fence around the dump, but I cannot say when this will take place," Mr Nhlapo said.

Last year The SOWETAN exposed a similar practice at Bophelong, Vanderbijlpark, in which women and children lived off dumps. The town council fenced in the area and promised to take strong action against people who scavenged



ROUGH STUFF: Benoni's Solomon Mohlabane grabs Swallows' Goona Padavachee by his shirt with Aubrey Makgonela down

## "AT DAMEL PROMISE A WE GUARA"

Mr J.P. Brummer, Principal, I



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# 300 for poverty inquiry meeting

CAPE TOWN 10/4/82 (241)

By RIAAN DE VILLIERS

THE biggest social science research project ever undertaken in South Africa will reach a climax in Cape Town later this week when a conference organized as part of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development will get under way

More than 300 people, mostly academics, will converge on the University of Cape Town from throughout Southern Africa and abroad to present and discuss intensive research done by hundreds of fieldworkers over the past 15 months

The conference will be opened on Friday afternoon. Thereafter, participants will meet every day until the next Thursday evening

The conference is a vast undertaking, in-

volving 275 papers and academics from 20 universities throughout Southern Africa.

The conference itself will not be open to the public. However, a number of other activities will be, including a nightly film festival

Entitled "Signs of Hope", more than 20 films will show work done throughout the world in mobilizing people in the struggle against poverty

Other open activities will include drama, music, an art exhibition and a big photographic exhibition, featuring social documentary work by more than 20 South African photographers

The Second Carnegie Inquiry was launched in April 1982 — 50 years after the first, a study on poverty among whites which had considerable impact on

South Africa's history

Both have been funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, an independent philanthropic foundation. About R500 000 has been made available over five years for the current project

But the two inquiries differ markedly. While whites are not excluded this time, an organizer says "the people who are clearly most affected by poverty are black"

Secondly, a drastically different method is being followed. The present inquiry has aimed at being much more comprehensive and securing as much participation as possible

The conference is intended as a debating forum as well, during which "huge conceptual issues" are to be resolved



## For the public good

CAPT Times 10/4/84

241

Strengthening of human resources in developing countries

THE Carnegie Corporation of New York stands high in South African regard and esteem as the financial sponsor of the Carnegie Commission of 1928-1932 which inquired into the Poor White Problem, as it was then known, and recommended social measures which helped to change the lives of many South Africans and their descendants for the better.

Half a century later a Carnegie-sponsored investigation into poverty is again at work in South Africa and some of the results are about to be unveiled at a conference in Cape Town. Given what appears to be the tragic condition of many of the (black) rural poor, such an investigation is urgently required. There is a crisis of rural poverty and the implications are serious so an investigation that brings to light the facts is overdue.

Given the close link between South Africa and the Carnegie Corporation the recent announcement of new Carnegie programmes is an event of more than routine interest. In making its grants, the Corporation will henceforth concentrate on four broad goals: Avoidance of nuclear war and improvement in American-Soviet relations, Education of all Americans, and particularly youth, for a scientific and technology-based society; Prevention of damage to children and young adolescents,

Officials of the Corporation do not doubt that the world's overriding concern is the proliferation of devastating weapons in the absence of strong conflict-resolving mechanisms. There are also the shortcomings in many educational institutions which are ill-equipped to prepare young people for the modern world. Another major concern is the wastage of talent and vigour in early life by damage to youth that is in principle preventable. Finally, the Corporation is concerned about the persistence of ethnocentrism and prejudice.

In the fiscal year ending September, 1984, the Corporation has \$20 million available for grants and projects. The Corporation's asset value has improved recently and now stands at about \$518 million. This careful husbanding and commitment of a private fortune for the public good is an inspiring example in a selfish and mercenary age.

AR665 10/14/84

(241) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# Conference to study poverty

## Staff Reporter

ABOUT 280 papers will be delivered at a conference on poverty in Southern Africa beginning at the University of Cape Town at the weekend.

The six-day conference forms part of the Second Carnegie Inquiry Into Poverty And Development In Southern Africa.

## Contributions

It follows two years of extensive research into the causes and effects of poverty.

Contributions have come from universities, churches, hospitals, clinics, community pro-

jects and self-help schemes

"The amount of material that has come forward far exceeds our most optimistic hopes," says Professor Francis Wilson, director of the inquiry.

## "Provides focus"

"The conference is important as a place where people from all parts of the country who have been thinking and working on these problems for several years are able to meet and discuss them, and we hope a great deal of energy is going to be generated as a result

"The conference provides a focus from

which it will be possible to tell the people of South Africa more about the problems of poverty and the need to develop strategies to combat it," he said.

More than 350 people will attend the conference, at the Education Building from Friday until Thursday next week. The conference will also include a film festival and photographic and art exhibitions.

The public may attend the film festival and exhibitions, although the conference itself will be closed. However, conference papers will be on sale.



# Call for food stamp system

Argus 11/4/84 ~~SAFETY~~ 241

## Staff Reporter

AN economist, Mr Peter Moll of the University of Cape Town, has called for the introduction of a food stamp system to combat malnutrition.

The suggestion is in a paper produced for the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in Southern Africa, co-ordinated by the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru) at UCT

In a food stamp system, the Government would issue stamps to poorer people, who could then exchange them for food.

This would have the dual effect of improving nutrition among poorer

sections of the population and redistributing income

"If efficiently administered, a means test can easily be used to limit leakage to non-needy groups. The social stigma of participating in a welfare programme will act as a disincentive to those who may provide false information to qualify unfairly for benefits," he said.

## Handouts

People who should benefit from the programme would include unmarried mothers, the aged, the unemployed and those whose incomes fell below a specified level.

He said food stamps would be better than cash handouts since stamps could be used to purchase basic foods and not other commodities

However, politicians might oppose food stamps, arguing that they could lead to more urban migration due to their availability in the cities, he added.

Others might argue that food stamps which provided basic foods to the poor would discourage people from looking for work, while farmers who gained from Government subsidies would lose if food stamps replaced these subsidies. White consumers would most likely not gain at all, Mr Moll said.

*(Saddex)* *(241)*

## Report lists evils of migrant labour system

# Their children don't know them

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — When Cape Town's migrant labourers go home for their three weeks' annual leave, their children often regard them as intruders

This is one of the findings of a survey on relationships between fathers living in bachelor quarters at Nyanga and Guguletu and their children

The study, "Men without children", was done by Zimbabwe University research fellow Mrs Pamela Reynolds for the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development in South Africa

One migrant labourer said "In the three weeks of leave the first few days are very difficult as the children are very frightened even if I speak"

Another worker said "When I return I find that the children are a bit unruly They do not have much respect for their mother I try to correct that and for the first few days I am an intruder It makes me very sad"

Mrs Reynolds said the children of many migrant workers are unable to live with their fathers for 94 percent of the year, sometimes for their entire childhood

She interviewed 90 migrant workers living in four hostels in Nyanga and Guguletu

Almost all the men she interviewed "cherish an ideal of fatherhood" But because of lack of time it was almost impossible for them to impart the love, respect, obedience and discipline they wished for in their children

One worker said "On my return it is only after some time that the children realise that I am their father I must just show my children that I mean 'No' when I say it and 'Yes' when I say it"

Some of the men interviewed were themselves children of migrant labourers They spoke of the shock they received when they came to the city and saw how the migrants were living

One said "We find our fathers with concubines yet our mothers are starving Besides, the sweethearts are as young as our father's children We get fed up and cannot communicate with our fathers"

Explaining the behaviour of men who left their families, one man said "The Bible says do not put man and woman

united in marriage asunder The conclusion is that in the towns we are spilt just like water on the ground

"We stay a full year without our wives That makes us go beyond the bounds of the law and become adulterers"

Another old man said "It is so heartbreaking when I come from work and hear that my wife and children have been arrested just because I am a contract labourer

"I was joined to her by the law, a magistrate When the authorities part us I become distrustful and do not even trust God"



KAM 10/4/84  
Experts  
advise on  
poverty

LEADING academics from Britain, America and South Africa gather at the University of Cape Town on Friday for a six-day conference on poverty in Southern Africa.

The Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa represents the high point of more than two years of country-wide research into the causes and consequences of poverty.

More than 350 researchers, academics, professionals and community workers are expected to hear 280 papers at the conference.

"The conference provides a focus from which it will be possible to tell the people of South Africa more about the problems, and the need to develop strategies to combat it," said Prof Francis Wilson, director of the inquiry.

On the opening night papers will be delivered by Mr Paul Streeten, a development economist from the World Development Institute at America's Boston University, and British economist, Mr Wilfred Beckerman, of Balliol College, Oxford.

The conference is a closed affair, but the public will be allowed to attend a film festival and photographic and art exhibitions. — Sapa

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Soweto  
12/4/86

# 'Help starving locals'



OFFICIAL: Mrs Sibongile Mkhabela.

By STAN MHLONGO

THE Witwatersrand Council of Churches advice office in Soweto has called on the community to assist senior residents as unemployed people in their 50s had little chance of getting employment or a pension.

The plight of the middle-aged blacks — who are too old to attract employers and too young to get a Government pension, was yesterday highlighted by the office, which is at the Bridgeman Memorial Centre in Zola.

According to the advice office spokesperson, Mrs Sibongile Mkhabela, broken families, poverty, unemployment and endless misery as a result of being exposed to the daily rising inflation, are some of the frustrating elements which the unemployed between the average of 50 years blacks are exposed to.

## Poverty

Another advice centre spokesman, Mr Amos Cebekhulu, said it was hightime organisations like Operation Hunger focused their attention on local cases of poverty, as it was not only in the rural areas where there is massive poverty.

One of the affected men was Mr Peter Luvuno (50) of 790 Jabulani, Soweto, who is finding it tough to feed the five mouths of his family and also pay school fees for two of his children.

"I have been struggling like this for two years after being kicked out of work by my boss. Sometimes we have to go without food for two days," said Mr Luvuno.

Mr Gilbert Hlatshwayo (58) whose wife, Agnes, deserted him a year ago after 20 years of happy marriage when he lost his job, said his son was having trouble supporting him, as he has his own family to support.

Another middle-aged man affected was Mr Albert Tshabalala, who was evicted from his house, after being in arrears with rental.

"I no longer have a roof over my head and my family is scattered all over Soweto, living with relatives and friends since I lost my house in 1981," said Mr Tshabalala.



# 350 expected at the poverty indaba

By ZWELAKHE SISULU

MORE than 350 academics, researchers, professional and community workers are expected to attend the second Carnegie Inquiry into poverty and development in southern Africa.

At least 280 papers dealing with the various aspects of poverty and development will be delivered at the six day conference which will start today at the University of Cape Town

The Carnegie Inquiry was launched two years ago to research the causes and consequences of poverty by collecting and collating information about it, generating discussion on the subject and developing strategies to combat poverty

## Biggest

The conference will be one of the biggest of its kind to concentrate on social and political problems in the country

Some of the speakers at the conference include Dr Allen Boesak, a patron of the United Democratic Front (UDF) who will speak on "Poverty — The moral challenge," Dr Stuart Saunders, vice chancellor of the Uni-

versity of Cape Town, Mr Alan Gelb of the World Bank and a leading British economist, Mr Wilfred Beckerman

Among those delivering papers will be Mr Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre, Mr Nicholas Hysom and Mr Clive Thompson, both attached to the Law Clinic at the University of the Witwatersrand

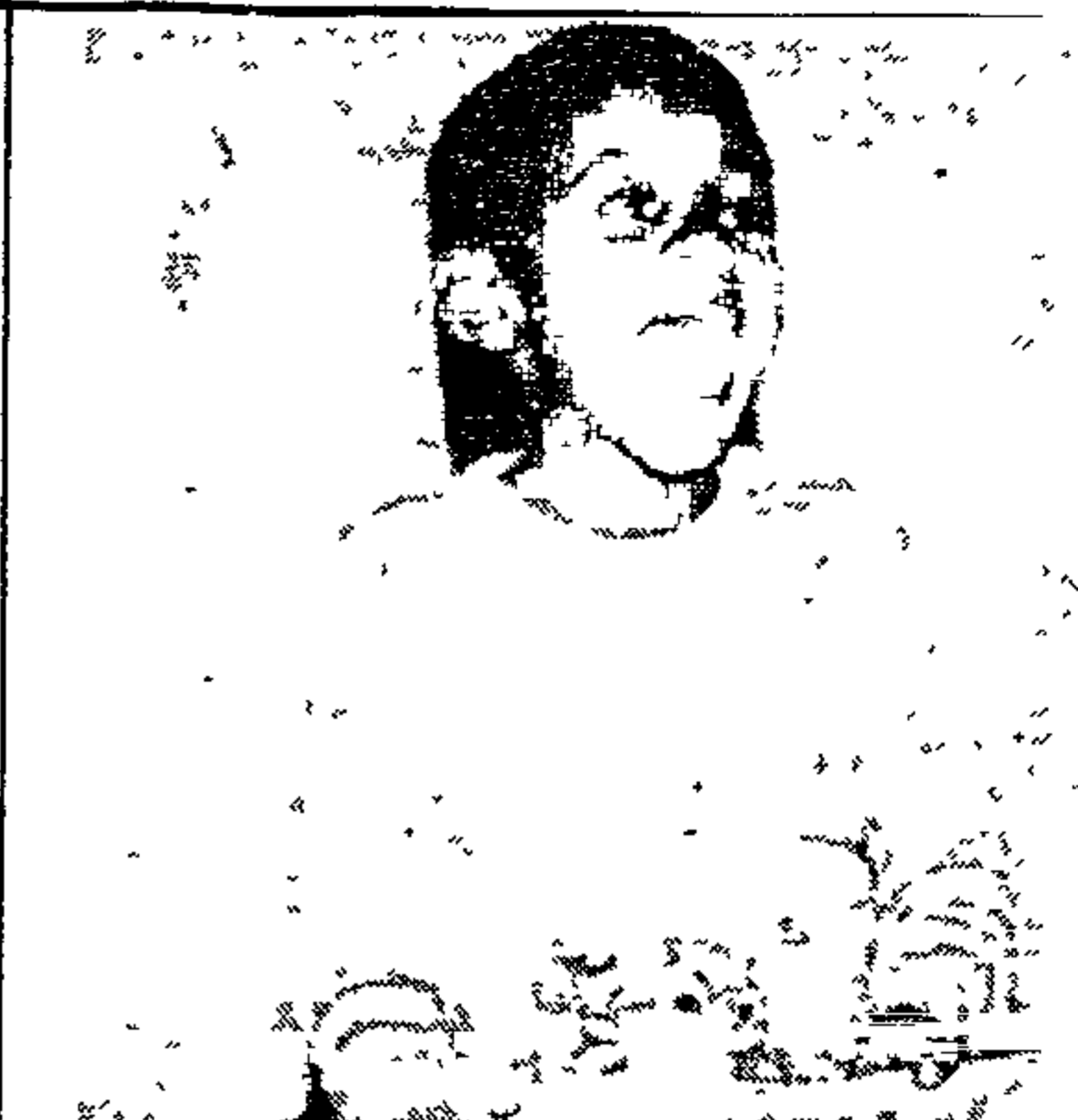
A film festival featuring more than 20 films from India, China, the United States, Europe, Latin America and Africa will form part of the conference

The films will show work done throughout the world in mobilising people in the struggle against poverty

## Hopes

A photographic exhibition has also been arranged and will show the work of more than 20 South African photographers

The director of the Carnegie Inquiry, Professor Francis Wilson, said the amount of material that had been submitted for the conference exceeded the organisers' hopes



BIRTHDAY Robert Tshabalala (4) and Mthok pairs as seen when they celebrated their birthday

# Unions rej-

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

TWO major black trade unions representing over 200 000 workers in the metal industry country-wide yesterday totally rejected wage offers made by the employers' organisation — the Steel Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa (Seifsa).

The unions, Fosatu-affiliate Metal and Allied Workers' Union (Mawu) and Cusa-affiliate Steel Engineering and Allied Workers' Union (Seawu), said that the employers' offer would cause the standard of living of workers to drop further because it came nowhere near a living wage

Union sources said that the employers had offered to increase minimum pay by 12c per hour for the lowest paid

workers and 31c per hour for the highest paid workers

The present minimum wage for the lowest-paid workers is R1,53 per hour.

The highest grade of skilled worker must be paid at least R4,41 an hour. This means that the offer would increase the minimum for those workers by about seven percent

But, according to the sources, most skilled workers are earning well in excess of the minimum, and, for some the 31c offer would amount to an increase of between four percent and five percent

In a statement after the talks in Johannesburg, the unions said that they were "totally dissatisfied with the inadequate proposals given by Seifsa," at the

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W/E Arc 5/14/84  
24/

# Power saps the purse

CAPE Town households without electricity spend up to three times as much on lighting, heating, and other energy needs than do similar households with electricity, a city researcher has found

Dr Anton Eberhard, senior research officer of the Energy Research Institute at UCT, yesterday told the Carnegie conference on poverty that "poorer households are able to buy less energy, but spend proportionately more of their income on energy.

"So relatively wealthy Pinelands spends, on average, less than three percent of household income on domestic energy, while Valhalla Park households with electricity spend 11,9 percent Valhalla Park residents without electricity spend 24,5 percent of their income," he said

Some poorer households spent more than half their income on energy

## Hardship

Dr Eberhard added that in Valhalla Park households with electricity spent an average of R25 a month, while those without electricity spent R65 on energy

"The lack of electricity is felt to be a severe hardship," he said

The survey also covered Lotus River, Grassy Park, Bellville South and Crossroads

"In 1981 the City Treasurer issued more than 72 000 disconnection orders in respect of unpaid electricity"



AKG us 13/4/84 (24) SAEPK

## Probing SA's poverty

FOR the past two years more than 350 specialists attached to some 20 universities between Cape Town and the Limpopo have been doing research as part of the second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa.

The results of this colossal undertaking — the largest inquiry of its kind undertaken in Africa — will be discussed at a week-long conference.

The first Carnegie inquiry into the region's poverty 50 years ago, now known as the Poor White Commission, had a profound influence on the South African social, political and economic order. There seems no reason to doubt that the present inquiry will do so too.

While white poverty has been largely eliminated, the poverty of South Africans of colour remains the country's most urgent and pervasive problem.

# Transkei: 70% below headline

*Cape Times 13/4/84* ~~241~~

By RIAAN  
DE VILLIERS

MORE THAN 70 percent of the rural population in Transkei live below the Household Subsistence Level (HSL), or former poverty datum line — and 40 percent earn one-third or less than the HSL.

This startling claim is made in a major study on subsistence levels in the territory to be presented to the Carnegie conference on poverty which opens in Cape Town tonight.

According to the study, more than 30 percent of urban households in the territory also live below the HSL level, which means that they do not meet the minimum income requirements for "survival in the short term".

## Research

The paper has been prepared by Ms Carol Cragg of the Institute of Management and Development Studies (IMDS)

in Transkei, and is based on extensive research conducted last year.

The paper presents a recalculated HSL for the area which differs significantly from that used by the Institute for Planning Research (IPR) at the University of Port Elizabeth, widely known for its HSL calculations throughout the country.

Ms Cragg reports that the IPR produced an HSL calculation for Transkei and other "independent" homelands for the first time in 1982.

## Methods

However, on comparing these with actual expenditure in Transkei, it was found that the standards and methods used were inappropriate to the territory.

Recommended food-baskets did not coincide closely with actual diets, while rent and transport costs were

underestimated.

Also, the contribution of home production to rural budgets was "extremely negligible", the study finds.

The 1983/84 HSL calculated by Ms Cragg for a family of five in the urban areas amounts to R296,47 a month — considerably more than the IPR's figure of R238,78.

## Deflated

Figures for average families of six in the rural areas are R245,51, as opposed to R129,43.

These figures are deflated for 18 months in order to compare them to income distribution information collected by the IDMS in 1982.

The findings regarding the large numbers of people living below the headline are based on this comparison.

Ms Cragg adds that slight adjustments for different household sizes "do not significantly alter this bleak picture".



# The Cape Times

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1984

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## ~~Sunday~~ *The spectre of poverty*

THE second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa reaches its high-point at the University of Cape Town today when a conference begins which could have far-reaching effects in this country's history. As noted in this column recently, the first Carnegie inquiry was instrumental in the upliftment of a generation of impoverished whites. It contributed greatly to this country's social development between the two world wars. Now, in the closing decades of the 20th Century, it is becoming plain that South Africa is again facing a crisis of poverty — of awesome proportions — and that this time the principal victims are rural-dwellers who are black.

The first results of the inquiry have been received and will be presented in the 280 or so papers which will be placed before the conference. Major papers are to be delivered by Paul Streeten, a leading development economist from the United States, and a major British economist, Wilfrid Beckerman, of Balliol College, Oxford. Other participants from abroad will include Alan Gelb of the World Bank, Charles Elliot of Christian Aid and John Knight of the Oxford Institute of Economics and Statistics. South African contributions have come from the churches, the universities,

hospitals and clinics and from community projects and self-help schemes in remote corners of the country.

The objects are to establish the facts, then to examine strategies to eliminate poverty and finally to promote action. Before much can be achieved there will need to be greater public understanding of the nature and extent of poverty in South Africa, particularly in the rural areas. Poverty means different things to different people in different situations. Professor Francis Wilson, who is co-ordinating the inquiry, has pointed out that poverty can mean watching your children die because there is no money to buy food — or, in other situations, it can mean watching your cattle die because there is no water, or there is only contaminated water.

It requires no special expertise to appreciate that large-scale black poverty in one of the richest countries of the sub-continent could have explosive consequences which would not leave the more affluent section of the population unscathed. Thanks to the second Carnegie inquiry, there is at least a chance that the South African community, forewarned and armed with the facts, will be able to act in good time to do something about it.





Cape Times 13/4/84

# Blow to feeding scheme

241

Staff Reporter

USING eggs as vital protein, Cape Town's Peninsula School Feeding Scheme helps keep nearly 127 000 underprivileged Cape children alive. In June the egg supply will dry up.

The giant egg wholesaler who supplies the scheme's 56 352 eggs a week at a large discount says he can no longer afford to do it — and will cut off the supply in mid-June.

"It is a really heavy blow to us at this time," said scheme organizer Mr Norman Freeman.

He was paying 80 cents a dozen for hard-boiled eggs. Last week, however, the price was raised to 90 cents.

## R1 a dozen

"I asked them to reconsider, and they came back and said they would only supply until the end of the quarter, and at R1 a dozen," Mr Freeman said.

The Peninsula School Feeding Scheme, which was started in 1958, has been using eggs as its main source of protein since 1981.

"We used to use skim milk for protein, but that became too expensive and we turned to eggs during the huge egg surplus three years ago."

The scheme feeds almost 127 000 coloured and black children each day in schools around the Peninsula, providing food only where there is a high incidence of malnutrition.

The meals of soup,

bread and jam and hard-boiled eggs are designed to provide a third of the child's daily requirements — and for many of the children it is the only food they see all day.

"Our prices have gone up monstrously since 1981, even though there has been very little increase in the number of our children," said Mr Freeman.

"The cost has gone up from just under R321 000 in 1981 to some R417 500 last year."

Dr E Brock, head of the company which has supplied the eggs over the past three years, said eggs were being supplied to the scheme at more than a 30 per cent discount and that his company could no longer sustain this loss.

"It's not because we don't want to," he told the Cape Times yesterday, "but we must supply at some market-related price."

## Alternative

"We have also lost our boiling facility at Kuilsriver so we can no longer boil the eggs."

Mr Freeman said that a sub-committee had now been formed to find an alternative source of protein, possibly skim milk powder, of which there was a surplus.

"We will just have to do some hard praying," he said. "I firmly believe that God will provide some sort of solution I cannot see Him allowing these children to starve."

# National j

THE winners of the Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery national awards for enterprising journalism were announced in Cape Town yesterday by the chairman of the panel of judges, Mr Joel Mervis.

The awards — this year judged on work published before January 1 — carry a total prize money of R13 500.

The award for the best investigative reporting under pressure of time or circumstance went to Martin Welz, of the Sunday Express, for his entry, The Medical Scandal, a series of articles on irregu-

lar market pharmac...

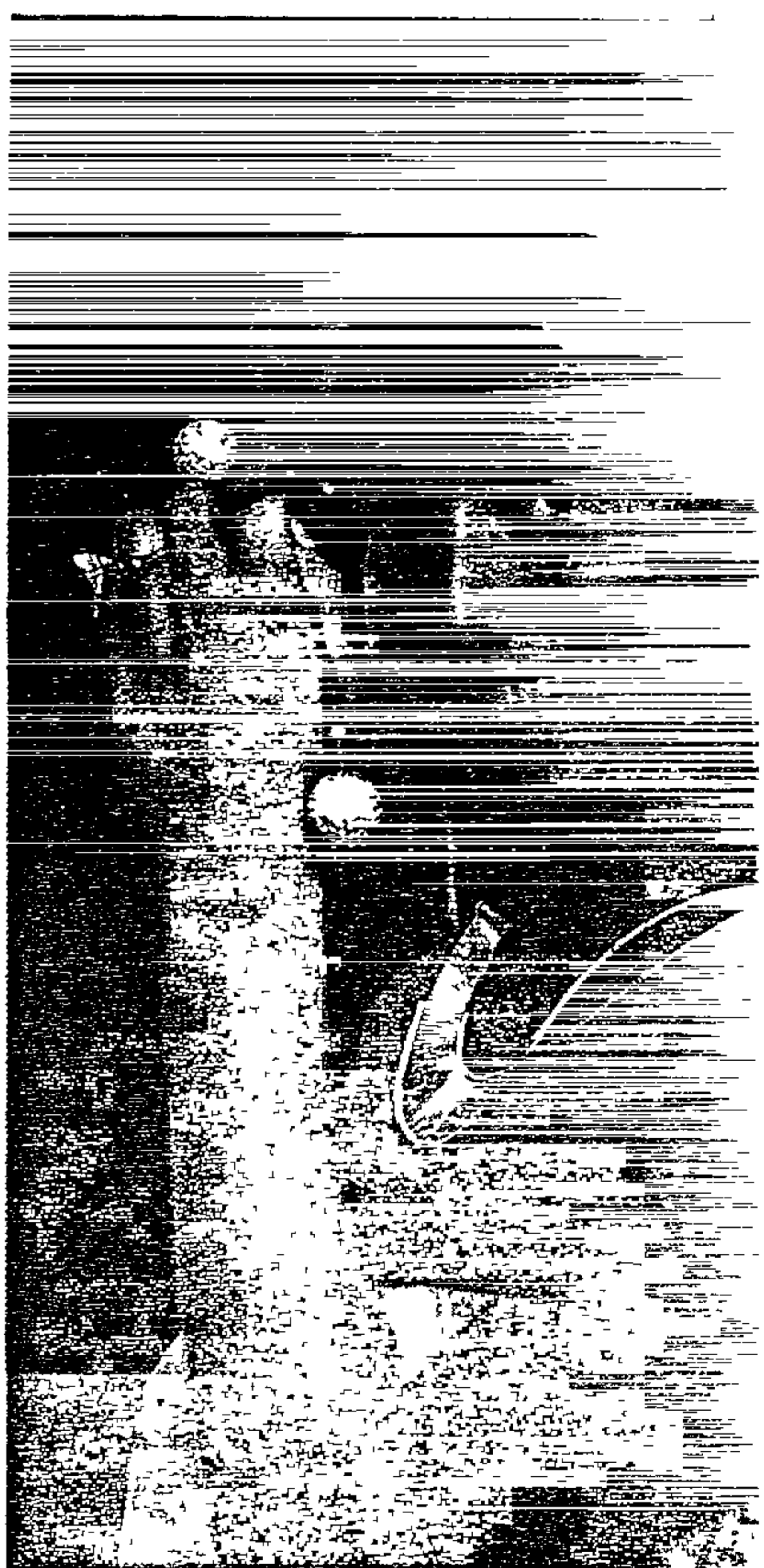
The prize reporting in went to M...

vince Her...

Killer Boy, violence

old murder...

The seri... nalism was Frontline, tragedy be...



A model shows off some of the jewellery in the National Collection which is made up of 24 pieces. The collection will be on show at a City Jewellery Show on Thursday and Friday.

# Boardsailing champs

Staff Reporter

A TOP-rated Western Province boardsailing contingent leaves today for this weekend's Dufour Wing National Championships in Port Elizabeth, where they are expected to sweep the board.

The team includes some of the country's best boardsailors.

Greg Prescott, Linda Davey, Janine Lucas, Nicola Prescott and 14-year-old Peter Slate.

More than 100 boardsailors from all four provinces are expected to take part in the event, which will be sailed off Kings Beach over three days.

The regatta will act as a qualifier for the International Week to be held...

# Two Persian rugs

Crime Reporter

TWO Persian rugs, together worth R45 000, were stolen from the walls of a Gardens house when thieves broke into the home early yesterday.

Mr R G Westphal, of Glenville

leaf pattern. It is fawn-coloured. The other carpet is Bokhara with a black design.

Mr Westphal



# Carnegie researchers gear up for sub-continent's war on want

## Conference highlights plight of poor millions

241

13/4/84 Stew

The conference of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa starts this evening. For the next week 350 researchers will be sharing insights and challenging blind spots on the plight of millions of poor people in the sub-continent. They will be basing their talks on some 280 papers researched during the last two years and will also be gearing up for the next 15 months' work of the commission, which will focus on strategies to combat poverty.

Carnegie 2 goes on show amid high expectations. Its director, Professor Francis Wilson of the University of Cape Town, says the amount of material that has come forward far exceeds our most optimistic hopes. "The conference is important in a place where people who have been thinking and working on these problems for several years — from all parts of the country — are able to meet and discuss them. We hope a great deal of energy is going to be generated as a result."

As Carnegie 2 enters its final phase of devising strategies, comparisons with Carnegie 1 — the hugely influential report on the poor white problem — of the 1980s — are inevitable. The earlier inquiry gave rise to action which eliminated the poverty of whites who had been victims of war, drought and South Africa's overwhelming

The New York-based Carnegie Foundation has provided R500 000 for a five-year study of poverty in Southern Africa. Hundreds of researchers involved in this programme will be presenting their findings in the next week, directing the public's gaze at the many hidden faces of deprivation. JO-ANNE COLLINGE reports.

first wave of industrial development. They had been rendered landless and unemployable. The obvious question is: Can Carnegie 2 hope to achieve anything like this for the mass of Southern Africa's poor, who are mostly black and who are widely scattered — across the "white" platteland, in the homelands and throughout the townships?

Many contributors to the conference point out that political considerations of the apartheid State are likely to inhibit many conventional strategies for relieving poverty. In a paper entitled "Political power and poverty", projects co-ordinator Helen Zille will argue that influx control excludes the poorest of the poor from the cities and undercuts the "urban bias" approach to development — in which cash is poured into training, job creation and welfare programmes for an urban population. Ecrrally she contends that the

exclusion of black people from all but 13 percent of the land renders agriculturally based development plans useless. It is a claim supported by numerous rural "area studies" in which landlessness appears as a constant feature of poverty in the homelands. Having interviewed "leading (Government) technocrats and administrators on the future of influx control", Miss Zille concludes "Tight control of population movement remains a central pillar of the revised policy. Unless fundamental political change occurs, including the acceptance of escalating urbanisation, this cause of structural poverty will remain, setting distinct limits on the available options in the fight against poverty in South Africa."

Her views are echoed by many contributors facing the fight against poverty from the point of view of economic development and expansion of earning opportunities.

Researcher Barry Streek, whose focus is the rural crisis, nevertheless concedes "Within all these political limitations there is indeed scope for significant action in the rural areas."

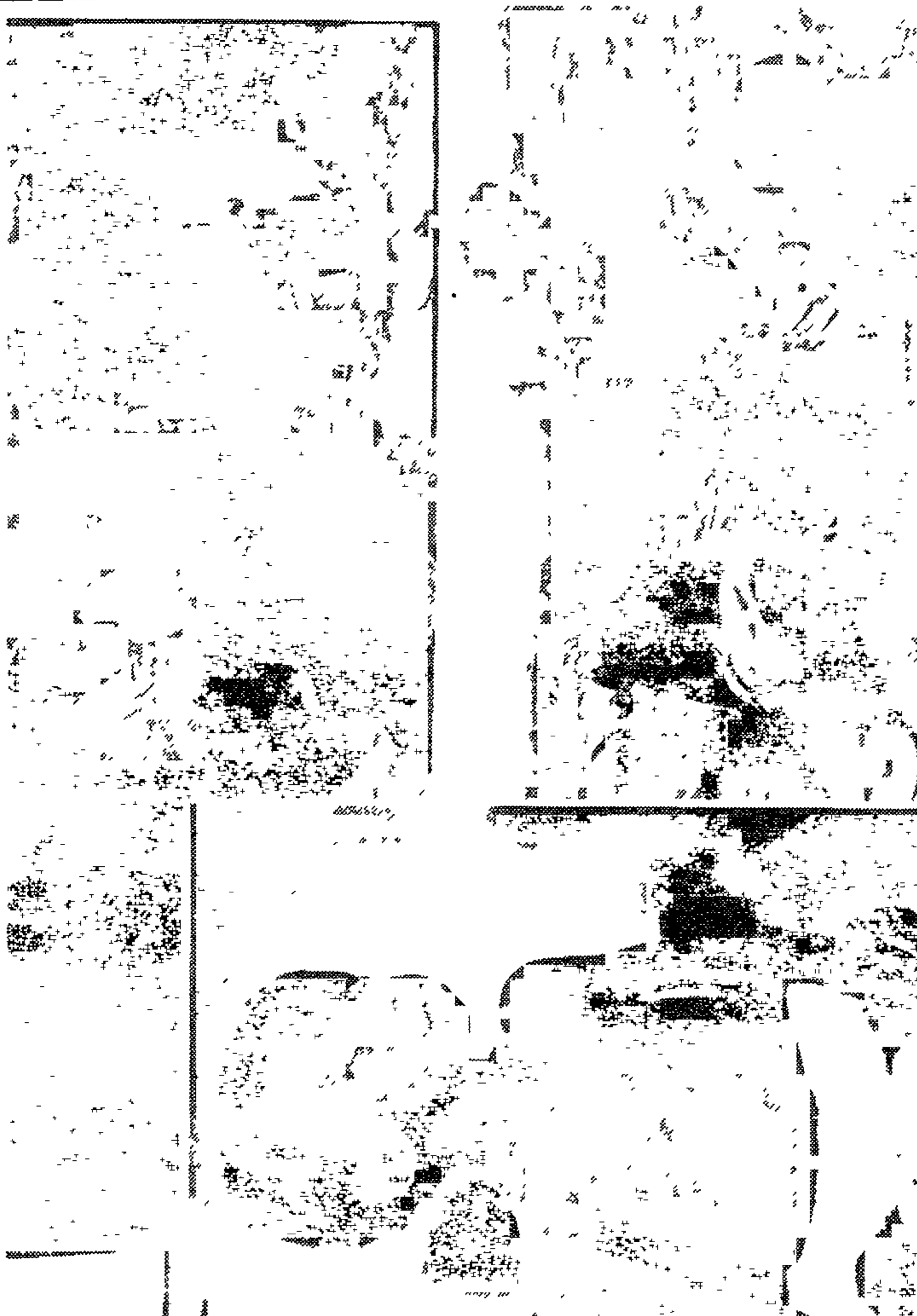
Contributors have clearly sought to establish the margin for intervention. Many have taken the more restricted "welfare approach" to poverty, involving efforts towards a new sharing of social benefits already in hand — redistributing wealth by such means as pensions, assisted housing, food subsidies, public health services and education.

### Social security

The mass of information assembled includes detailed examinations of how present social security measures work — or fail to work.

Attention has been paid to innovative service programmes geared to the needs and capacities of the recipients. Examples from abroad are to be presented on film.

"The film festival, 'Signs of Hope', will show the work done by people struggling against poverty in India, China, the United States, Europe and Latin America. It will focus on projects that show people who endure poverty taking action against their situation," comments Professor Wilson.



The papers have drawn patterns of deprivation in fine detail, allowing for regional differences. Some conditions are depicted over a period of time, tracing the process of poverty creation. In the area of organised labour, where the poor have influence apart from political power, there is optimism about their ability to secure a better deal. Wits University sociologist Dr Eddie Webster suggests "a new

form of trade unionism is emerging on the shop floor that constitutes a significant challenge to inequality in South Africa."

All this seems to suggest a serious commitment by academics and field workers to pruning pulled up at the roots. The more radical solution, many papers state, would require full democratic control of the social spending.

Observers warn that changes inspired or provoked by Carnegie 2 are not likely to be immediate. One points out that Carnegie 1 was not implemented overnight and that it was a determined follow-through by the Dutch Reformed Church that secured action on the recommendations.

Professor Wilson clearly anticipates that public opinion will play a crucial role in determining workable strategies in the war on want. It has been a distinct aim of the inquiry to generate public debate before getting down to the brass tacks of planning. The forthcoming conference is seen as just the first step in this broader process. "Another 15 months of hard work still lies ahead — building on the foundations which we hope will be laid by the conference," says Professor Wilson.



RDM 13/4/84 ~~S.A. News~~ (241) (16)

# SA faces high malnutrition, says top probe

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN. — More than 50 000 black children died from nutritional diseases in 1970 and 6 005 of these deaths were due to severe forms of malnutrition, Professor John Hansen of the University of the Witwatersrand has found.

He estimated that "approximately a third of black, coloured and Asian children below the age of 14 years are underweight and stunted"

And he concluded that the death rate for black children from nutritional diseases was 31 times as high as that for white children

Prof Hansen's study on the child malnutrition in South Africa has been prepared for the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa which is to be opened tonight

Some 275 papers are to be delivered at the conference and the inquiry is regarded as the biggest social science research project ever undertaken in South Africa

Prof Hansen, of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of the Witwatersrand, said that in South Africa and the surrounding territories it was apparent that a problem of malnutrition in children did exist

In some areas, such as parts of the Ciskei and Chatsworth in Durban, "the situation is worse (rising to 60-70 percent or more).

"In other areas, particularly in Cape Town and Soweto the figures for underweight, mortality rate and hospital admissions have shown great improvement in recent years

"This latter improvement can probably be linked to better socio-economic conditions

Malnutrition in children had serious effects among children under six year old It was in

this group that hospital admissions for severe kwashiorkor and marasmus occurred.

"The prevalence of these severe forms of malnutrition may be as high as 3% of the preschool population in the rural areas, leading to a high admission rate to hospital of these cases — in KwaZulu and Lebowa between 5 and 31% of admissions

Research attempts to link malnutrition to environment and socio-economic factors had been made and it was apparent that "lack of cash income" was the most important factor

"In KwaZulu and other rural areas, poor education of mother, lack of dietary understanding, non-availability of protective foods were additional factors, which probably have universal application

"In broken families where mother is the chief breadwinner there is more malnutrition

"Family size (excess numbers of children) is a factor in the towns but neither family size or migrant labour appears to be important in rural areas," Prof Hansen said

He suggested that "improvement of the socio-economic status of underprivileged sections of the population", better organisation of health services to ensure monitoring of growth of preschool and school children, the provision of comprehensive service and food supplements should become policy priorities

"There are indications that well organised health services can ameliorate the problem to some extent but educational and economic uplift is the long-term solution," he said

Prof Hansen warned however that the overall situation with regard to child malnutrition was unsatisfactory and many lives would be lost before general economic and educational uplift was sufficient to overcome the problem

**SECOND CARNEGIE INQUIRY INTO POVERTY**

# Bid to save Cape children, mothers

W/LEARG 14/4/86 (244) ~~STRAU~~ ~~STRAU~~

Reports by DAVID BRIER  
Weekend Argus Staff

AN extended scheme to supplement the food of mothers and children in the Cape has been proposed by Dr L R Tibbit, the Medical Officer of Health of the Cape Divisional Council.

In a paper presented to the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development in Southern Africa, Dr Tibbit proposes extended food supplements to both pre-school and schoolchildren, as well as to mothers.

The paper — written with Mr Michael Rip of the Department of Community Health of the University of Cape Town Medical School — reports low birth-weights and high infant mortality rates for coloured babies in the Peninsula

In 1982, 68,4 percent of infant mortalities took place among coloured people, 26,1 among African people and only 5,5 percent among whites in the area studied by the Divisional Council

### Increasing mortality

Infant mortality among coloured people has shown signs of increasing, while the rate for whites and Africans is dropping

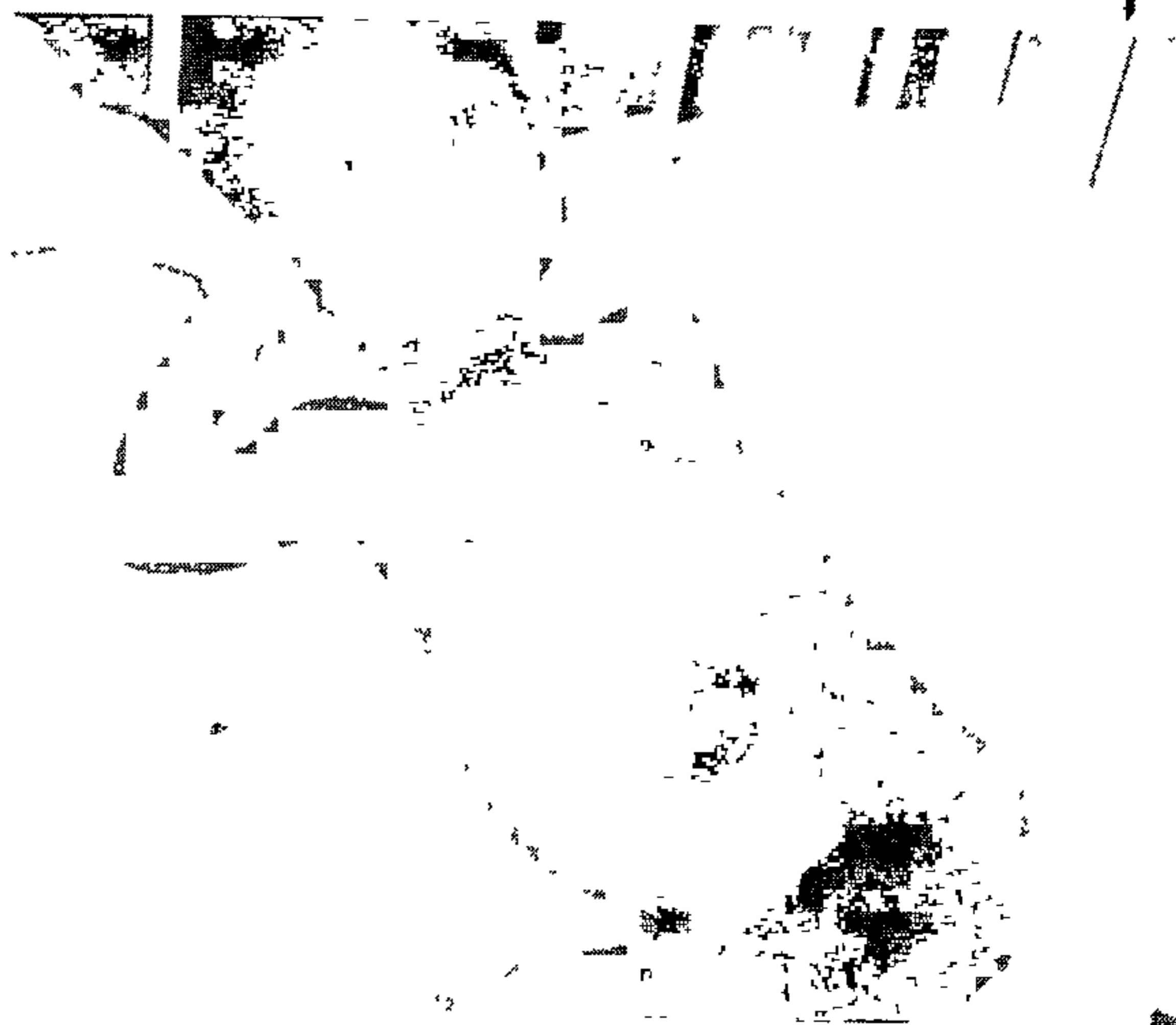
The paper shows a clear connection between low birth-weights and infant deaths

Dr Tibbit reported that as many as a third of people born underweight due to maternal undernutrition, alcohol intake and smoking, never reach intellectual maturity

### They lack will

"This leads to the fact that they often do not have the intelligence to succeed at work later in their lives, lack the will and physical strength to win and tend to live desultory lives

"This again leads to alcoholism and poor nutrition, which interferes with their chances of ever leading a productive life," he added



A baby with malnutrition.

## Scurvy lives on . . .

IT was incredible that a disease such as scurvy should still occur in Cape Town, Dr Stuart Saunders, vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, said in the city last night

He was opening the inquiry into poverty

Dr Saunders said he had seen children die of kwashiorkor and marasmus in Cape Town. He had seen children whose physical and intellectual development had been impeded by lack of essential nutrients

"I have had a patient who packed apples on an apple farm and contracted scurvy. When I asked him how it was that he did not eat the apples which would have prevented him from getting scurvy, he told me the apples were for the white man

"It is incredible that scurvy should

still occur in Cape Town, a city founded to provide the fresh fruit and vegetables to prevent it," he said

Dr Saunders said he had seen people in the city with beri-beri and pellagra

"Every week I see the ravages of tuberculosis, which is sweeping through the rural areas and the overcrowded poor urban areas of this country like an epidemic

"It is a preventable disease and its frightening incidence in South African blacks is a serious reflection on us all"

The dominant cause was not the tubercle bacillus, but poverty, he added

"I have seen typhoid and amoebiasis in Cape Town, largely and almost exclusively among those people who do not have access to water from a tap, but very rarely among the citizens of Bishopscourt or Rondebosch"



Cape Times 14/4/84 24

# Black poverty: Political power 'major issue'

By RIAAN  
DE VILLIERS  
Labour Reporter

THE lack of political power of blacks was the "major unresolved issue" in the struggle against poverty in South Africa, Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Churches, said last night.

He went on to warn "If this issue is not satisfactorily resolved, the problem will not merely remain unsolved but will jeopardize the whole future of South Africa"

Dr Boesak was addressing the opening session of the conference forming part of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty which started at the University of Cape Town last night

### 'Main difference'

Dr Boesak told the audience of more than 300 academics and delegates that the problem of poverty could not be properly tackled without political power

This, he said, was the main difference between the poor white problem in the 1930s as investigated by the first Carnegie inquiry, and the problem of black poverty today

Unlike whites, black people were being denied all meaningful political participation. "We have no share in the democratic processes of government

through whose channels of decision-making so much must happen if this problem is going to be straightened out," he said

In a sharp attack on the white Dutch Reformed Church, Dr Boesak said it played an important role during the first Carnegie commission when it acquired a "remarkable sensitivity for the plight of the poor and oppressed".

### SACC

"When today the South African Council of Churches challenges the South African Government on the injustices of apartheid and engages in acts of genuine solidarity with the poor of our land, it is accused of subversion and communism," Dr Boesak said

Dr Boesak noted that the first Carnegie report repeatedly quoted Dr D F Malan as saying in 1927 "If the church wishes to say to the paralysed poor white 'your sins are forgiven', it must also be prepared to tell him 'rise up and walk'"

"But we, too, have heard the challenge of Dr Malan," Dr Boesak said

"Through the work of individual churches, but especially the SACC, this is exactly what we are trying to say to South Africa's suffering and oppressed people — to rise up and walk."

~~SAUNDERS~~  
241

# Poverty probe: Call for action

By RIAAN DE VILLIERS

DR S J Saunders, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Cape Town, last night expressed the hope that the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty would lead to "effective and lasting remedial action" against poverty in Southern Africa

Opening the Carnegie conference, being held at UCT until Thursday, he said it was one of the "tragedies of the human condition" that many in privileged positions were unaware of their fellow men's plight

"One purpose of this inquiry and the conference must be to ensure that as many as possible know the facts concerning poverty in Southern Africa," he said

"When we have an objective analysis of what the situation really is, perhaps something will be done about it"

Dr Saunders said his personal experience of poverty had been coloured by his life as a physician and educator

"As a doctor I have seen children die of kwashiorkor and marasmus in this city

"Every week I see the ravages of tuberculosis, which is sweeping through the rural areas and the overcrowded urban areas of this country like an epidemic"

He added that it was a preventable disease and its "frightening incidence in South African blacks is a serious reflection on us all"

As an educator, he had seen the results of deprivation when scholars were forced to go to "grossly inadequate" schools and thus had enormous problems realizing their potential

He said there were no "easy answers" to the problems of poverty, but believed "the issues need to be faced and the facts need to be available to the government and to society"

"We will then find it more difficult to escape the responsibility of addressing the problem," he said



# Plea for action against poverty

Mercury Correspondent

CAPE TOWN—Dr S J Saunders, vice-chancellor and principal of the University of Cape Town, last night expressed the hope that the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty would lead to 'effective and lasting remedial action' against poverty in southern Africa

Opening the conference being held at UCT until Thursday next week, he said it was one of the 'tragedies of the human condition' that many people in privileged positions were unaware of the plight of their fellow-men

'One purpose of this inquiry and the conference must be to ensure that as many as possible know the facts

concerning poverty in southern Africa,' he said

'When we have an objective analysis of what the situation really is, perhaps something will be done about it'

Dr Saunders said his experience of poverty had been coloured by his life as a physician and educator.

'As a doctor I have seen children die of kwashiorkor and marasmus in this city

'Every week I see the ravages of tuberculosis which is sweeping through the rural areas and the overcrowded urban areas of this country like an epidemic'

It was a preventable disease and its 'frightening incidence among South African blacks is a serious reflection on us all'

As an educator, he had seen the results of deprivation and poverty when pupils were forced to go to 'grossly inadequate' schools and therefore had 'enormous problems in realising their potential'

There were no 'easy answers' to the problems of poverty

'But I do believe the issues need to be faced squarely and the facts need to be available to the Government and to society at large.'

# Principal tells of poverty

Mail Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Poverty is a preventable disease and its "frightening incidence in South African blacks is a serious reflection on us all", Dr S J Saunders, vice-chancellor and principal of the University of Cape Town, said last night. Opening the Carnegie conference being held at UCT until Thursday, he said it was a tragedy that many privileged people were unaware of the plight of their fellow men.

"As a doctor I have seen children die of kwashiorkor and marasmus in this city"

He had also seen the results of deprivation and poverty when scholars were forced to go to "grossly inadequate" schools and therefore had "enormous problems in realising their potential"



# Whites to blame, says Dr Boesak

W/E ARGUS 14/4/84  
(241) ~~SAT~~

APARTHEID, white greed and black political powerlessness were behind poverty in South Africa, Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, said at the poverty inquiry.

Dr Boesak said poverty was the result of a deliberate policy which meant whites, who made up 17 percent of the population, received more than 70 percent of all income while 98.1 percent of all income from property accrued to whites.

"This must make it palpably clear that poverty in this country has to do with apartheid, with white greed, with black political powerlessness," he said.

"This does not mean that the problem can be solved by 'making the free market more accessible' to certain selected groups from the black community

## Capitalist class

"I do not believe the creation of a black capitalist class will solve the problem of mass poverty in South Africa, because it will not mean fundamental change in the inequitable system which capitalism is.

"And besides, are inequalities based on class any more acceptable than inequalities based on race?"

He said 35 out of every 1 000 black children died of hunger, malnutrition and inadequate medical treatment.

"But they die of these things in a country which is one of the richest on this continent and while the white population is the recipient of every privilege modern Western society has to offer"

Dr Boesak attacked the white Ned Geref Kerk for persistently denying that apartheid was responsible for the deprivation, misery and poverty in which millions of black people were forced to live

# IT'S WARTON WART

291 City Press 1/14/84

THE climax of the biggest-ever probe into black poverty will be reached today when more than 300 people meet to discuss the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development.

## Carnegie inquiry probes rural poverty crisis

### CP Correspondent: CAPE TOWN

The United States-funded inquiry, launched more than two years ago, has uncovered disturbing facts about poverty — particularly in rural and homeland areas of South Africa.

"The evidence tells us there is a real rural crisis which we ignore at our peril," inquiry chief Professor Francis Wilson said in an interview.

"We have been trying to find what poverty means to those who endure it. In some cases it is children dying of hunger because there is no money to buy food. In other situations it is watching all one's cattle die because there is no water in other situations it is watching loved ones die because the water is contaminated," Prof Wilson said.

The six-day conference, at the University of Cape Town, is one of the biggest of its kind to concentrate on South Africa's social and political problems.

Moral Challenge": Running concurrently with the conference will be an art exhibition and a film festival called "Signs of Hope", which features more than 20 films drawn from India, China, the United States, Europe and Latin America.

Prof Wilson does not expect the same reaction with the second inquiry, but he believes it will have updated and collated information about poverty and hopes it will stimulate "a greater understanding of the problem".

### City Press

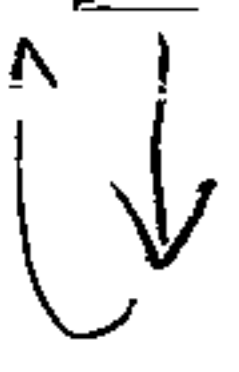
The first Carnegie inquiry, which investigated poor whites 50 years ago, had a considerable impact on South Africa's history, as a number of social programs were launched in its wake.

City Press will publish details of some of the Carnegie papers over the next few weeks.

- To generate public debate on the subject
- To develop strategies against it
- To collect and collate as much up-to-date information and data about poverty

"The conference is not the end of the Carnegie Inquiry," Prof Wilson said. "Another 15 months of hard work still lie ahead, building on the foundations which we hope will be laid by the conference."

UCT vice-chancellor Stuart Saunders will open the conference, and another major speaker is Dr Allan Boesak, who will talk on "Poverty: The





J. Express 15/4/84 (241)

# State used its muscle for poor whites

MARION WHITEHEAD reports from the Carnegie talks on poverty

THE people lived in hovels in untold misery, ill in body and spirit.

Seeing their plight, the church took pity on them and used its influence to launch an investigation into how the situation could be remedied.

This was done, and the state used its muscle to see that the recommended solutions were put into effect. Those people who were so poor now have good jobs, fine homes and their children no longer die of nutrition-related diseases.

This fairytale ending was not achieved overnight, but the goodwill generated by the first Carnegie investigation into poverty in South Africa in 1928 brought the country's vast resources into play and solved the problem — for poor whites

## Conditions

Blacks still labour under those conditions. This weekend about 300 delegates from 20 different universities met at the opening of the second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa at the University of Cape Town.

The differences between the first and second inquiries are striking.

Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, said at the opening of the week-long conference on Friday night: "The white Dutch Reformed Church played an important role in the first Carnegie commission. It helped define a new role for the state in changing society and a role for itself in implementing social justice."

"The DRC had a remarkable sensitivity to the plight of the poor and repressed."

"Today however, when the SA Council of Churches speaks as the voice of the voiceless, champions the cause of the poor and oppressed, when it challenges the government on injustice, removals and detention, it is accused of subversion and communism," he said.

Dr Boesak said the essential difference between the two inquiries was that the problems of the poor now had to be tackled without the political power that had made the first inquiry so effective. But if the issues were not resolved, he said, the whole future of the country would be jeopardised.

## Soweto life — and the grim totals

### Essentials

"Poverty is not accidental. The poor are so poor because the rich are so rich. There is something wrong with a society that takes essentials from its masses to give luxuries to a few."

Dr Boesak said there was no excuse for the continuation of these conditions.

"This country is not poor and neither do we lack the knowledge and understanding."

He said the problem would not be solved by making the "free market" more accessible to a black capitalist class.

"Without a comprehensive approach to the problem of poverty, aid will remain on the level of emergency handouts."

Professor Francis Wilson, head of the economics department at UCT, who has directed the Carnegie inquiry,

SOWETO is generally thought to be the township with the highest standard of living for blacks in South Africa, yet 40% of Sowetans live below the 'minimum living level' and the infant mortality rate is still three times as high as that of whites.

These are just some of the shocking figures presented in yesterday's session on poverty in metropolitan centres at the Carnegie Inquiry.

A paper by Mr Pundy Pilay, a research assistant at UCT's School of Economics, showed that by the age of 10, 45% of Sowetan children suffered from malnutrition, 59% from stunting and 24% from wasting.

Gastro-enteritis and measles were both killers among infants and young children, and hypertension among adults was becoming increasingly common.

Unemployment, estimated at between 19% and 29% for blacks in Johannesburg, was also a factor in mental illness, his paper said.

ry, said in an interview he did not expect any quick and easy answers from the conference.

"The purpose is to bring people and ideas together to clarify what should be done."

"We know there is poverty in South Africa. Now we are putting flesh on the bare statistics," he said, adding that the 303 papers submitted far exceeded his expectations in both quantity and quality.

J Tribune 25/4/84 241

# Malnutrition and illness are rampant on Cape Town's doorstep — UCT principal

THE principal of the University of Cape Town, Dr Stuart Saunders, told this week how he learned from bitter personal experience that justice for the poor was sometimes difficult to obtain

In his moving opening address at the Carnegie conference on poverty, he described a case in a country town in which a farm labourer's son was allegedly thrown through the plate glass window of a shop because he refused to take orders from a farmer's son

"In investigating to try to get justice for the young boy and his parents, I discovered that he attended the farm school on the farm of his alleged assailant and that if any charge was laid, not only would he probably lose his opportunity to go to that school, but the whole family could lose their only source of livelihood"

Dr Saunders also told the large gathering of local and overseas academics how his life as a physician and educator had coloured his perception of poverty

"As a doctor I have seen children die of kwashiorkor and marasmus in this city

"I have seen children whose physical and intellectual development has been impeded by lack of essential nutrients

"I have had a patient who packed apples on an apple farm and contracted scurvy; when I asked him how it was that he did not eat the apples which would have prevented him from getting scurvy, he told me that

the apples were for the white man'

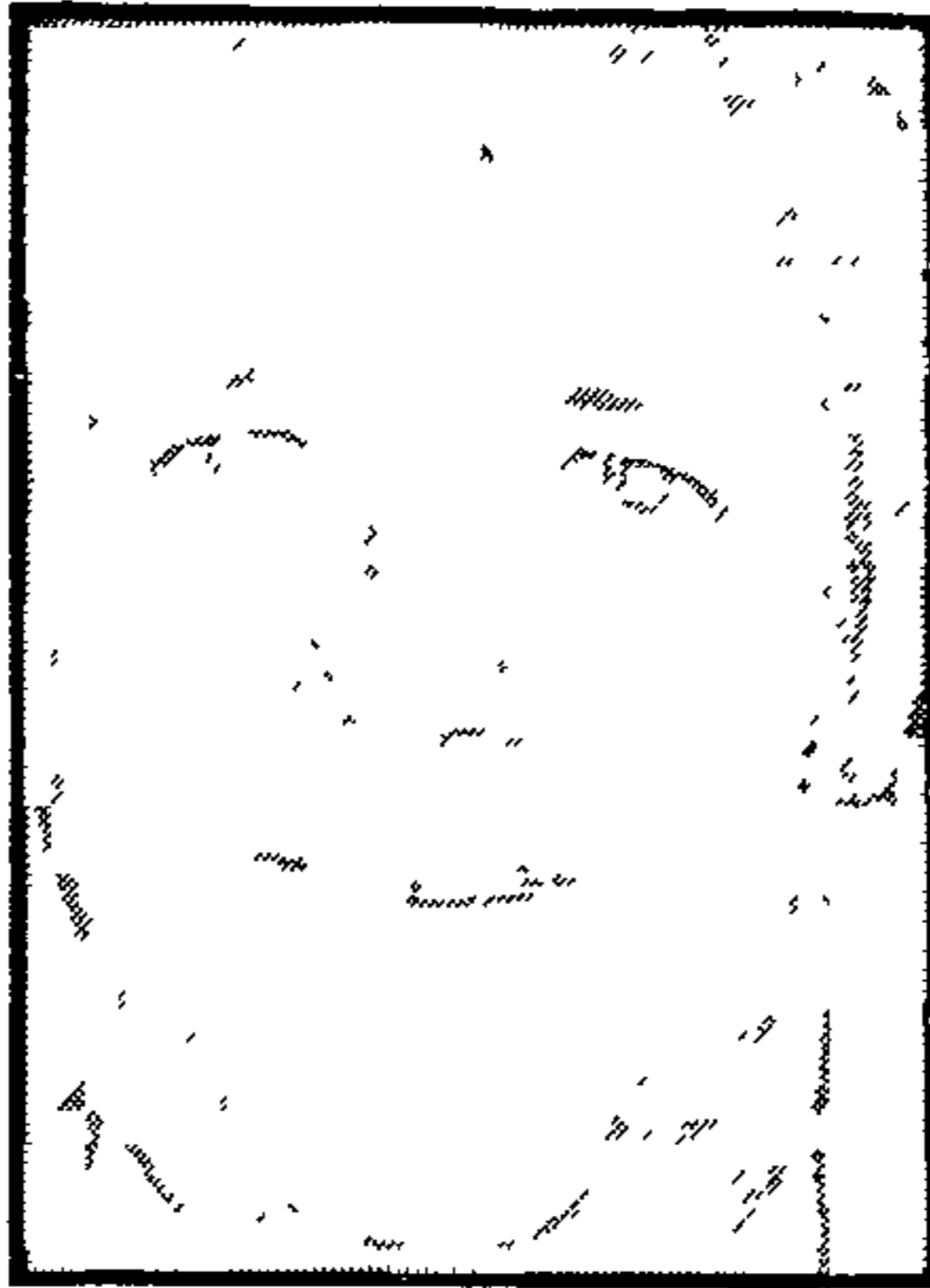
"It is incredible that scurvy should still occur in Cape Town, a city founded to provide the fresh fruit and vegetables to prevent it

"I have seen human beings suffering from beriberi and pellagra in this city Every week I see the ravages of tuber-

culosis, which is sweeping through the rural areas and the overcrowded poor urban areas of this country like an epidemic

"It is a preventable disease and its frightening incidence in South African blacks is a serious reflection on us all

"The dominant etiological factor is not the tu-



Dr Stuart Saunders ... Ills of the poor reflect society's sickness.

By Tony Spencer-Smith

bercle bacillus It is poverty

"I have seen typhoid and amoebiasis in Cape Town, largely and almost exclusively among those people who do not have access to water from a tap, and very rarely indeed among the citizens of Bishopscourt or Rondebosch

"In a summary of one of the papers, Stone describes how in the Ciskei 90 percent of a particular community get their water from open sources shared by livestock

"I have taken part in the exercises of curative medicine which have cured people of tuberculosis, amoebiasis and typhoid and have returned them to poverty, overcrowding and malnutrition which were the primary causes of their illness in the first place

"I use sophisticated 20th century technology to locate amoebic liver abscesses and expensive drugs to treat these diseases, all of which are preventable

"It is not only the patients who are sick, but our society as well"

Dr Saunders said that, as an educator, he had

seen the effects of deprivation and poverty on scholars who had been forced to go to grossly inadequate schools and therefore had enormous problems in realising their potential

He quoted pathetic, desperate letters to the African Scholars' Fund from black pupils who needed bursaries so they could continue at school despite terrible odds

One of the letters reads "In connection with my mid-year progress As a lodging family we are still having a problem of accommodation

"About March current of this year we moved from shack No 1722 to look for someone else who can be willing to accommodate a family of four members

"It could last for one month, and since May we are living in the plastic shelters, which are being demolished by the inspectors every morning, and rebuilding is to be done every evening in order to have a shelter over our heads for the night

"If you can see the conditions of living in a shelter you can imagine how difficult it is to study I solemnly promise that I will study hard, perhaps in one of the libraries in order to achieve better results for the November exams

Dr Saunders said it had always struck him as cruel that the poor had to buy what furniture they could afford on hire purchase, while the rich got special prices for cash, wholesale and discount

"I would not pretend that there are easy answers to the problems of poverty

"But I do believe that the issues need to be faced squarely and the facts need to be available to government and to society at large

"We will then find it more difficult to escape the responsibility of addressing the problem. Perhaps then the price of essential foodstuffs will not rise so rapidly and so readily as has been the case in the recent past"



# Frightening facts of poverty

## The dizzying week for middle class whites as Carnegie conference focuses on hunger in South Africa

By Tony Spencer-Smith

FOR white middle class South Africans who still have eyes to see, this is a dizzying week. Suddenly they are finding that the seemingly solid ground they were standing on is actually the edge of a dark and dangerous crater.

The crater is poverty and powerlessness, and most of their black fellow countrymen live in it. It is revealed with frightening clarity by one of the most important academic meetings in South African history, the Carnegie conference at the University of Cape Town, ending on April 19.

As UCT principal, Dr Stuart Saunders, said on Friday night when he gave the opening address: "One of the tragedies of the human condition is that so many people in privileged positions are unaware of the desperate plight of some of their fellow men, even when the anguish is in the same geographical area."

"One purpose of this inquiry and conference must be to ensure that as many as possible know the facts concerning poverty in Southern Africa. "When we have an objective analysis of what the situation really is, perhaps something will be done about it."

"While there is ignorance, while the desperate plight of the poor is not highlighted and emphasised, it is much less likely that real steps will be taken to eliminate or diminish poverty."

He said if people did not recognise and try to remedy the problem of poverty in Southern Africa, they would see the real meaning of the 15th century proverb "the devil dances in an empty pocket."

Nearly 300 papers are being presented at the conference, one of the highlights of the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development in Southern Africa which was launched two years ago and runs until June 1965.

It is a situation not without irony. It represents big money from America — in the form of the Carnegie Corporation of New York — illuminating for South Africans the darker side of their own society.

And the picture being painted in such painstaking, painful detail is a world so far removed from that of comfortably off white South Africa that it is scarcely credible that it exists in the same country.

Take the statement of Professor John Hansen of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at Wits. He said about a third of black, Indian and coloured children below 14 are underweight and stunted for their age.

In some areas, such as Chatsworth and parts of Chaska, he says in his conference paper on the child malnutrition problem, the situation is worse, with the figure rising to 70 percent or more.



Starvation and malnutrition is common among the country's blacks. Many families have to beg for food

**QUOTE**  
*There are hungry children begging and scavenging for food. We scavenge in rubbish bins. I washed and fed them and tried to find out something about their families. Within no time I had 50 children to cope with, so we started a creche. The gangs run things and there is no real unity among the people, whereas in Claremont there was a lot of love in the community.*

most serious effect on children under the age of six, he says. Many are admitted to hospital with severe kwashiorkor and marasmus and "many lives will be lost before general economic and educational uplift is sufficient to overcome the problem."

Take the story of Hester, a mother forced by the Group Areas Act from Harfield Village in Claremont to Lavender Hill on the Cape Flats. She told the Carnegie

working group on church poverty and development in Southern Africa: "There are hungry children begging and scavenging for food."

"We started on the children I took in two or three of those I found

scavenging in rubbish bins. "I washed and fed them and tried to find out something about their families. Within no time I had 50 children to cope with, so we started a creche."

"The gangs run things and there is no real unity among people, whereas in Claremont there was a lot of love and community."

"Take the comments by Durban Black Sash adviser office supervisor, Jillian Nicholson, about a crippling local pensions backlog.

In her paper, The Pension Crisis in KwaZulu, she writes: "The men and women who come to the advice office for help are desperate. So are their families, who often accompany them."

"They describe how they beg and borrow to stay alive, how they and the grandchildren in their charge are starving, how every two months their day's wait at the payout ends in despair and how panic has gripped them and they do not know how much longer they can survive."

drainage in chronic disrepair are common to most of the buildings housing the aged.

"Poverty is evident everywhere. Small, musty rooms which rarely see the light of day, sufficient for the bare essentials, are often the only world they know."

"Of the more than 200 pensioners questioned, only about 20 percent were able to augment their pensions. A number of the aged expressed fear for their future."

"With neither family nor friends to call on they became extremely depressed when asked what the future held for them."

"The army of researchers who have been probing poverty for the last two years did not always find that things went smoothly for them."

When Khobhatso Elizabeth Mokoete and Carline Ntoane interviewed ordinary rural and urban black people for their paper on what their major problems were, they found out "how careful we had to be with various kinds of authorities."

"They write: 'At Nkomo in Kangwane the client refused us permission to carry out interviews because we did not have official permission from the State.'

"He scrutinised our reference books, driver's licences and letter of introduction from the university. These were also photocopied."

"At Pienaar, the industrialist whom we first spoke expressed fears that we were bringing in "communism" and was reluctant to let us into the village."

"At Zuurbeekom we were advised to hide our car so as not to attract the attention of the farmer."

"At one farm in Groot Marico, we were on our way to ask for permission from the farmer to interview his workers when he stopped us."

"He had us guarded by his father while he went to call the police."

"We were taken to the police station and kept there for seven hours, after which we were interviewed by the security police who then let us go."

"Such widespread resistance to having questions asked is a clear indication that the authorities know that people live with many difficulties. They are afraid of these difficulties receiving publicity and are also scared of agitators."

Many of the papers being delivered at the conference give some idea of what it is like to struggle for the bare minimums of existence. Many blacks have to spend hours every week collecting firewood.

It is a far cry from the taps and pushbutton world of most whites.

The tremendous difficulties and handicaps faced by people who would fight themselves free of the web of poverty are depressingly clear.

But something even more sinister is underlined by some of the papers. The multiplicity of ways in which blacks, far from being given a helping hand out of the crater, are deliberately pushed back down again.

There is the paper on influx control and the pass laws by lawyer Arthur Chaskalson SC, and Black Sash president Sheena Duncan, in which they state: "Influx control has been one of the central pillars of the policies of segregation pursued by successive governments in South Africa since union, policies which have always been directed towards promoting the interests of the white population."

"The black population, excluded from participation in the political process, has had no say in the development of these policies, and black persons have been prevented by the force of the State from mobilising themselves to have the policies changed."

"The result has been white prosperity and black poverty."

"It is a system which is much hated within the black community — its by-products are broken families, poor living conditions, a loss of respect for the law, a sense of insecurity, a loathing of officialdom and poverty."

In another paper, Black Sash field worker, Aninka Claassens, expresses an untrite Government claim that the era of forced removals is over and has been replaced by a system of "voluntary removals."

She writes: "In the early hours of February 14 Mogopa was surrounded by armed police."

"At 4 am the people were informed through loud halers that they must load their possessions into trucks and go to Paderstraal."

"Nobody was allowed to leave their houses. Jacob Mare took the police and the officials to the houses of all the leaders first."

"They were handcuffed and put into police vans."

"Their families refused to pack their possessions. Government labourers did so."

"Women were carried onto the lorries and buses. People tried to run away and children were loaded with the furniture and despatched to Paderstraal."

"All of this happened in the presence of scores of armed policemen who had dogs at their disposal."

"People caught standing together outside their houses were beaten with



# No Biblical basis for poverty — Boesak

CAPE TOWN 16/11/84

241

55/24

Staff Reporter

THE Biblical statement "the poor shall always be among you" does not mean that poverty should continue to exist, says Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

He was addressing a ecumenical service on "The Church and the Poor" in Heideveld yesterday, coinciding with the Carnegie inquiry into poverty.

Dr Boesak said the statement made by Jesus was not one of resignation, but a harsh criticism of those who refused to become agents of God's plan.

God's plan was not a figment of His divine imagination, but a reality which was the direct opposite of the present order.

Dr Boesak quoted another Biblical passage from Deuteronomy, which he said, showed that God did not intend people to be poor.

He said it was not God's plan that there should be millions of black children who died of hunger and others who died of over-eating, and that there should be millions of people without homes

Bishop Desmond Tutu, secretary-general of the South African Council of Churches,

said Jesus had left the city of Jerusalem to die on the outskirts among the outcasts

"So he will be amongst the people of Crossroads, the people who have been moved to Mitchells Plain from District Six, and those who are to be moved to Khayelitsha," he said.

A British clergyman, Dr Charles Elliott, said the British Council of Churches had heard the cries of the poor in South Africa.

Dr Elliott recounted his experiences in Central America, where missionaries had been killed, and said "To dream God's dream is to invite the Cross"

Active media?



# Most rural Ciskeians share water sources with cattle

17264 15/4/84 (10) 204  
Staff Reporter

NINETY percent of people in the rural areas of Ciskei obtain their water from open sources shared by livestock, according to research reported in Cape Town

The report on water resources in the Chalumna/Hamburg area of Ciskei, by Mr Andrew Stone, a senior lecturer in hydrology from Rhodes University, has been presented to the Carnegie conference on poverty

The survey, carried out late last year and early this year, revealed that less than half the population had access to a reliable water source

Water often had to be carried for many kilometres, especially during droughts

Less than two percent of domestic water consumption was from boreholes, while 90 percent of the population obtained water from open sources shared by livestock

Each person used about 10 litres of water a day, and there was considerable variation in the quality of the water

A further report by Professor George Ellis, of the department of applied mathematics at UCT, and Miss Debbie Budlender, a research assistant at UCT, found "conditions of grinding poverty" in the areas surveyed

For a large proportion of the population surveyed, a pension of R40 a month was the sole support of a household.

"The 'high' income level of R100 per month was hardly attained at all

"The level of poverty is such that a large proportion of households recorded hunger as their major problem," the survey found

The life of the rural poor was dominated by the fight for survival. Infant mortality rates of one in five were cited

for at least one camp, Ndevana

"It is hard for those living in the cities to understand that for the rural majority, and those in resettlement camps, the perpetual state of life is one of lack of food and of hunger," it adds

The report finds high levels of poor health and estimates that of those children who are ill, more than 80 percent have been malnourished at some stage in their lives

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# Grim details of rural poverty

By BARRY STREEK

GRIM details about poverty in the rural areas of South Africa, including the homelands, have been disclosed in reports for the Second Carnegie Inquiry

The reports show that families in three resettlement camps in Ciskei have an average income of R55 a month, high levels of malnutrition with a third of black children in South Africa having stunted growth as a result, inadequate or contaminated water supplies in many rural communities and low wages in farming areas

These details have been contained in almost 300 different research papers compiled for the inquiry, the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa.

However, a University of Cape Town economist, Mr Charles Simkins, caused a stir at the conference yesterday when he outlined his findings which showed widespread and real substantial improvement in incomes since 1960, and particularly since 1970, for the majority of homeland residents

He said that before 1960 almost no families in the homelands had Minimum Living Level incomes, whereas nearly 20 percent did so in 1980

Some delegates queried this finding, pointing out that a number of relatively wealthy urban areas — such as Umlazi and KwaMashu in Durban — had been incorporated into the homelands since 1960, possibly pushing up income levels

But Mr Simkins replied that this may well have been counteracted by the relocation of a large number of black people into the homelands since 1960

Mr Simkins also said in his paper that in spite of this increase in incomes, there had also been a rise in the proportion of households receiving no income from disability grants, pensions, migrant remittances or employment inside the homelands

Some of the details which emerged from other papers include.

- The average income of families in three resettlement camps in the Ciskei was R55 a month and what is remarkable is the heavy dependence on pensions as a primary source of income in all the areas, in Oxtun and Ndevana, they appear to be the basic income of more than half the population, Professor G Ellis, Mr D Muir and Mr D Budlender, of the University of Cape Town, wrote

- 50 626 black children died from hunger in one year — 1970 — 6 005 of whom died from severe forms of malnutrition, such as kwashiorkor and marasmus

## 'Underweight'

- A third of black, coloured and Asian children below the age of 14 years are underweight and stunted for their age, according to Professor John Hansen of the University of the Witwatersrand

- A deterioration in the levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality has taken place in Transkei — and 20 percent of the Transkei

workforce was unemployed. The emerging scenario can only be described as tragic, wrote Mr N D Muller, of the University of Transkei.

- Two-thirds of families in Transkei survive on incomes below the minimum subsistence level of R1 509 a year — that is less than R125,75 a month per family

## Chiefs

- What is certain, however, is that the institution of chieftainship serves to exacerbate the problems of the rural poor by constraining their ability to organize and confront their poverty, Mr R J Haines, Mr C P Traposcott, Mr S B Solinjam and Mr P Tyali, of the University of Transkei, concluded after a study of the networks of control in rural Transkei

- In rural Kwazulu, 18 percent of the people surveyed said starvation was the most serious problem they faced

- In the Karoo town of Willowmore, 63 percent of the black and coloured adult men were underweight.

- Children at some Cape farm schools are regularly poached from the classrooms by farmers and taken to work on the land, in spite of compulsory education.

- The average income level of families at Mahlabatini in Kwazulu was below the widely-used measure for estimating the minimum incomes needed to survive

- In many villages in the rural areas, people are without significant access to land, according to Mr Johan Graaff, of the University of Bophuthatswana

- More reports on Carnegie Inquiry, page 13



# 80pc in homelands live below urban breadline

Labour Reporter  
 ABOUT 80 percent of people in the homelands are living below the urban breadline, the Carnegie inquiry into poverty has been told

However, there has been a "quite substantial and unambiguous" improvement in living standards in the homelands over the past 20 years, according to Mr Charles Simkins, statistician and senior lecturer in economics at UCT

In a controversial paper presented to delegates Mr Simkins said income earned by the top 70 percent of the homelands population had risen considerably since 1960

Although there had been a sharp decline in agricultural production over the period, there

had been a "big jump" in people earning income either in the homelands or as "frontier commuters", who go to nearby metropolitan areas on a daily or weekly basis

In 1980, 80 percent of the homeland population earned below the urban minimum living level (MLL), compared to 99 percent in 1960

"If there were to be a three percent per annum real rise in incomes, just under half the homeland population would be living below the MLL at the turn of the century"

### "NOT ENDORSED"

Mr Simkins added that his findings were not "an endorsement of Government policy

"The welfare of homeland residents would be

increased if influx control were abolished"

He said trade unionists might welcome his findings because they demonstrated that higher wages in industry had a beneficial and not an adverse effect on black poverty

### CRITICISED

Several delegates said Mr Simkins's figures were misleading because so many urban areas, such as Mdantsane outside East London and Umlazi and KwaMashu outside Durban, had been declared part of homelands in the past 20 years

Thousands of urban people working in cities, who had not been part of a homeland in 1960, had since been declared inhabitants of homelands, critics said

AKG 16/4/84 (24)

ARGUS 16/4/84

# Poverty in the Cape is among worst in the country

(241)

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Staff reporter HUGH ROBERTON reports

THE profile of poverty in South Africa which is emerging from the conference of the Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa now taking place at the University of Cape Town, is appalling

It has shown, for instance, that one out of every three black, coloured and Asian children under the age of 14 are underweight and their growth has been stunted, probably permanently.

But it has also shown that over the past decade, public health in the broad black, coloured, and Asian communities has tended to improve, though it remains very far from the high level of health enjoyed by whites

Poverty in the Cape plateau emerges as among the worst in the country, with malnutrition, tuberculosis and other poverty-related diseases striking children living on some of South Africa's richest farms, including several in the Stellenbosch area

In large parts of the Karoo, the earnings of close to 90 percent of coloured and black workers is less than R150 a month. Unemployment is rife and in some areas such as Beaufort West fewer than one-third of a statistically sampled community was economically active.

## Illiterates

Education is so poor in the rural areas of the Cape that in some towns it was found that some 40 percent or more of people had never been to school. In some cases the overwhelming majority of coloured and black residents of plateau towns were found to be functional illiterates

In the little town of Hanover, on the main road between Cape Town and Johannesburg, it was

reported that 60 percent of the teaching staff at one school had no qualifications

Overcrowded housing conditions throughout the Cape are shocking. In a town like Oudtshoorn, where the coloured population has doubled in the past 20 years, Carnegie inquiry researchers have found instances where up to five families — totalling 27 people — were living in a small four-roomed house.

In Cape Town more than 30 000 coloured families do not have their own homes and many of them have been waiting for up to 10 years with little prospect of being accommodated soon as a family.

## Infant mortality

In the Western Cape metropolitan area, one inquiry found that there were increasing rates of infant mortality in the coloured community — a classic symptom of poverty

A paper on child nutrition by Professor John Hansen, of the University of the Witwatersrand, reported that about a third of black, coloured and Asian children under the age of 14 were underweight and stunted for their age

"In some areas, such as parts of the Ciskei and Chatsworth in Durban, the situation is worse, rising to 60 or 70 percent or more," he said.

In Cape Town and Soweto, however, the figures for underweight children in this age group had shown a great improvement in recent years, probably because of better socio-economic conditions

In some rural areas malnutrition among black, coloured and Asian pre-school children was about 31 times that of whites, though again both Cape Town and Soweto had shown an improvement in recent years

A paper on poverty in the Cape town of Calitzdorp, by Dudley Horner and Graham van Wyk, the findings of which are regarded as typical of many towns in the Little Karoo, reported that average monthly wages were a mere R70.

## No education

The 12 farm schools in the district educate children only up to Standard 4 and some 40 percent of the rural population has received no education at all.

A Cape Town researcher, Mr David Schmidt, found that in Beaufort West the black population of some 6 000 (the local Administration Board acknowledges a black population of only 3 800) lived in 632 houses, many of them single roomed.

"The middle class does not extend much beyond Oom Jeff Vumakonze," Mr Schmidt reported wryly

In the coloured area of the town a sample of 152 households found that 1 007 people lived in the houses; that 37 percent of males and 27 percent of females were economically active, that some 72 percent of all female-headed households and 47,7 percent of all male-headed households lived below accepted minimum living levels.

In Oudtshoorn, a Cape Town researcher, Mr Peter Buirski, found that although the coloured population had risen from 11 287 to 22 640 between 1960 and 1980, there had been nothing like a commensurate rise in the provision of homes and that overcrowding was now causing "considerable distress" in the township of Bridgeton, where there was a shortage of some 2 000 houses

The Carnegie conference, which began on Friday, is to continue until Thursday afternoon, and more than 200 papers are to be presented and discussed

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Poverty amidst SA wealth

**Ecab and govt wrangle over policy — report**

*S.D. Daputah*

*241*

*16/4/89*

CAPE TOWN — Millions of people are living in a "universe of poverty" amidst the wealth of South Africa's economic heartland, a major study presented at the Carnegie conference has found

Prepared by Mr Pundy Pillay of the University of Cape Town, the study paints a grim picture of poverty among blacks in the core PWV area

Estimates indicate a shortage of approximately 90 000 houses in the PWV area, excluding the homeland areas to the north of Pretoria

The housing problem is worst in Soweto, where the backlog has been estimated at 35 000 units and increasing at 4 000 units a year

To catch up, 45 houses a day would have to be built until the end of the century, the study says

Houses are badly overcrowded, with three to four persons per bedroom, it says. In Soweto, the average number of occupants per dwelling may be as high as 10

According to the paper, between 20 and 40 per cent of the population of Soweto lives below the poverty datum line

If other important items are considered it is likely that as many as 80 per cent of Soweto households receive less than this adjusted income level

General health status is low, which in turn acts to "perpetuate a state of poverty"

Hypertension has become increasingly responsible for deaths and the high death rate from accidents and homicides is associated with the poor living conditions

Also, an increasing numbers of blacks are being treated for mental illnesses resulting from stress, social disorganisation and unemployment, the study says

Unemployment is high with estimates of up to 29 per cent. Up to 25 per cent of workseekers have never been employed.

Relocations in terms of government policy have caused "untold hardship" in the area, the study says.

PDC

CAPE TOWN — Considerable hostility exists between the government and its agencies such as the East-Cape Administration Board over the implementation of government policy

This is one of the findings of a report entitled "Poverty in Port Elizabeth" presented at the Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development in Southern Africa by Miss Caroline White, senior lecturer in the department of anthropology at the University of Cape Town

And, she adds, there seems to be the additional problem of high-ranking bureaucrats in Pretoria who "still cling to the old belief that blacks could ultimately be removed from 'white' cities"

"Their formative years were spent under the aegis and ideology of the Verwoerd government, and they are a severe block to the implementation of the kinds of 'enlightened' policies to which the present government and some of its agencies are moving"

Dealing with the housing problem in Port Elizabeth which she describes as a "crisis of huge proportions" Miss White states that the housing department of Ecab has accepted "the inevitability of black urbanisation, and that housing will have to be provided for ever-increasing numbers"

Ecab, she points out, has gone as far as "to confront the impossibility of permanently excluding 'illegals' from housing provision" and an attempt was made to

"legalise" those not in possession of Section 10 rights by allowing them to purchase 99-year leaseholds

However, reference to Pretoria brought these moves to a halt

Commenting on this, Miss White says she gained the impression that "those who have daily to confront the difficulties of people for whom they are ultimately responsible will press Pretoria into accepting that more and more people will come to the cities in search of work, and that they cannot be ignored"

She says it is possible that "Ecab is something of a special case," citing as an example of this the anomaly that exists in Port Elizabeth and Durban with regard to the number of blacks convicted of offences relating to reference books and influx control

Comparative figures for 1981 and 1982 as given in Parliament by the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, revealed that there were only 272 convictions in Port Elizabeth and 259 in Durban in 1982. Figures from all other major centres and ran into thousands

Miss White's report also revealed a huge housing crisis in Port Elizabeth, which has more than one-third of its black population of over 300 000 living in shacks

Unemployment has also reached considerable dimensions and estimates of black unemployment vary between 25 per cent and 70 per cent

While there are plans for providing housing, recent changes in official housing policy and a failure to allocate finance suggest that there will be "little real change in the near future," the report says

It points out that, because of a dispute over the positioning of group areas, almost no housing for blacks was built between 1969 and 1979

There is an estimated shortage of 20 000 houses and at least 7 300 units will have to be built each year to catch up with the current backlog within ten years and then keep pace with future growth

Soweto-Veeplaas, the main squatter area, has a population of some 90 000. Conditions in the shack area are "appalling" with many shacks housing 10 or more people

Until recently, there were only 36 stand-pipes for the entire area. There are now 145, equal to 60 shacks of 600 people per tap. Bucket sewerage and waste removal have been described as "inadequate"

The report also points out that nothing had been done to provide black townships in the area with much-needed health facilities despite the recommendations of a survey carried out by the municipality in 1982

The report states that in terms of South African health norm standards, the three existing clinics do not conform to these standards in terms of space

By these standards there should be not three but 30 clinics for a population of 350 000 — DDC

# Blacks 'in need of real power'

241  
~~South Africa~~

Mercury 16/4/84

## Mercury Correspondent

CAPE TOWN—The major obstacle in the struggle against poverty in South Africa was the lack of meaningful political power among blacks, Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Churches, said at the weekend.

Furthermore, if the 'denial of all meaningful political participation' to blacks were not satisfactorily resolved, then not merely would the massive problem of black poverty remain unsolved but the whole future of South Africa would be jeopardised.

Dr Boesak was addressing the opening session of the conference forming part of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa being hosted by the University of Cape Town.

The problem of poverty, he said, could not be properly tackled without political power.

This was the critical difference between the poor white problem investigated by the first Carnegie inquiry in the 1930s and the problem of black poverty today, he told more than 300 experts on various aspects of poverty attending the conference.

'Unlike whites, we have no share in the democratic processes of government through whose channels of decision-making so much must happen if this problem is going to be straightened out,' he said.

'So for the moment, this must remain as the major unresolved issue in the struggle against poverty in South Africa's black communities.'

In South Africa, where the 'vast majority of our people live in conditions of permanent misery and degradation caused by poverty', strategies for the successful elimination of poverty required a thorough understanding of its causes, he said.

Notions that poverty was accidental or reflected 'the will of God' were myths which provided 'the cloak of innocence under which exploitation and humiliation of the poor can continue unabated'.

## Conditions

'The desperate conditions of black people in the homelands, the broken families and the destruction of human relationships, the erosion of human dignity and the perpetuation of political powerlessness — all this is not accidental, but by design it is the logical outcome of a deliberate policy,' he said.

Dr Boesak said it was the result of deliberate policy that whites — 17 percent of the population — received more than 70 percent of all income.

'This must make it palpably clear that poverty in this country has to do with apartheid, with white greed, with black political powerlessness,' he said.



Mail Correspondent  
CAPE TOWN — Millions

of people are living in a "universe of poverty" surrounded by the wealth of South Africa's economic heartland, an in-depth study presented at the Carnegie conference has found

According to the study, between 20% and 40% of the population of Soweto lives below the poverty datum line (PDL)

The PDL used is a "highly conservative index" and if other important items are considered it is likely that as many as 80% of Soweto households receive less than this adjusted income level

The study, prepared by Mr Pundy Pillay of the University of Cape Town, paints a grim picture of poverty among blacks in the core Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area, stretching from the huge Winterfeld squatter complex north of Pretoria through Soweto and other Witwatersrand townships to Sebokeng and Sharpeville

The population in the area is estimated at 5 200 000, with 1 800 000 whites and more

Study paints grim picture of hardship

# 'Millions' living in poverty' on Reef

than three-million blacks This is expected to reach more than 13-million by the year 2020, when there will be almost nine-million blacks and 3 600 000 whites

It says the "official" population of Soweto is more than 800 000, but 30% of its inhabitants are "illegals" and the population is well over a million

The housing situation is characterised by "chronic shortages and overcrowding", with informal shack settlements another indication of the housing crisis

Estimates indicate a shortage of approximately 90 000 houses in the PWV area, excluding the homeland areas to the north of Pretoria

The housing problem is worst in Soweto, where the backlog has been estimated at 85 000 units and is increasing by 4 000 units a year

To catch up, 45 houses a day would have to be built until the end of the century

The official shortage on the East Rand is more than 23 000 units and there are an estimated 50 000 backyard shacks

Houses are badly overcrowded, with three to four people per bedroom, it says

In Soweto, the average number of occupants per dwelling may be as high as 10

General health is poor, which in turn acts to "perpetuate a state of poverty", the study says

In Soweto the infant mortality rate, although dropping, is still high compared to that of other races Diseases such as malnutrition and TB are common

Hypertension has become increasingly responsible for deaths and the high death rate from accidents and homicides is associated with the poor living conditions

Increasing numbers of blacks, too, are being treated for mental illnesses resulting from stress, social disorganisation and unemployment, the study says

Unemployment is high with estimates of up to 29% Up to 25% of workseekers have never been employed Relocations in terms of

Government policy have caused "untold hardship" in the area, the study says

It describes how the State has tried to manage a surplus population in the Pretoria area by enforcing stringent influx control regulations and relocating sections of the urban population in Garankua and Mabopane

Poverty resulting from relocation and the resettlement of the "reserve army of labour" is exemplified by conditions in Winterfeld, where anything up to 800 000 people live in shacks

There is a "massive problem of unemployment, under-employment and great poverty" in the area, the study concludes



16/4/84

RAND DAILY MAIL, Monday, April

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# WORLD LEADER

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MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1984

## SOBER STATISTICS

BY THE very nature of its terms of reference, the Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa gave promise of a sobering assessment of the country's physical and economic state of health, and the second such conference in Cape Town at the weekend duly revealed some alarming deficiencies in the nation's well-being.

It found, for example, that while there had been widespread and substantial improvement in incomes in the homelands in the past 24 years, there had also been a rise in the proportion of households receiving no income at all. Nearly 20 percent of families had achieved the *minimum living level* in 1980 as against virtually none in 1960, but the other side of the coin is that increasing landlessness, a declining proportion of the homelands population working in agriculture and increasing unemployment had brought about an increase in non-earners.

Equally disturbing is the finding that nearly one in three black, coloured and Indian children under 14 in this country and surrounding territories are underweight and stunted for their age. In Chatsworth, right on Durban's doorstep, and in Ciskei, as much as 70 percent of the under 14s are undernourished, and of the 50 000 black children who died from nutri-

tional diseases in a 12-month period, more than 6 000 suffered from severe forms of malnutrition.

Compounding the problem, according to another paper, is South Africa's health structure, which is 'fragmented and poorly distributed in relation to needs'. The urban and largely white section of the population enjoyed a First World health system while the homelands and black rural areas had a Third World structure with only 5.5 percent of the country's doctors ministering to the needs of half the total population.

There are no instant solutions for ills whose roots run deep, and one of the tragic ironies is that South Africa is one of the few countries in the world, and almost certainly the only one on the sub-continent, that produces more than enough food for its own needs. Education, better food, improved socio-economic conditions and a realistic attempt to curb the birth rate would all help, but clearly there is an urgent need for the Government to reassess its health care system.

More facilities for the training of black doctors and more effective health care in the rural areas are an absolute priority if the country is to reduce significantly a black child death rate which is 31 times higher than that of white children.

How can the Doors of Learning and Culture be open to all? The Freedom Charter defines the goal of a just education system in this way: "The Doors of Learning and Culture shall be opened to all." The aim of this paper will be to look at each part

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Paddy Kearney

EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE



# Fewer jobs as farming technology gets better

CAPE TOWN — The phrase "poverty and plenty" has become almost a cliché, but the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty gives these words a new dimension in its investigation of wages, unemployment and displacement of workers on farms which are producing abundantly.

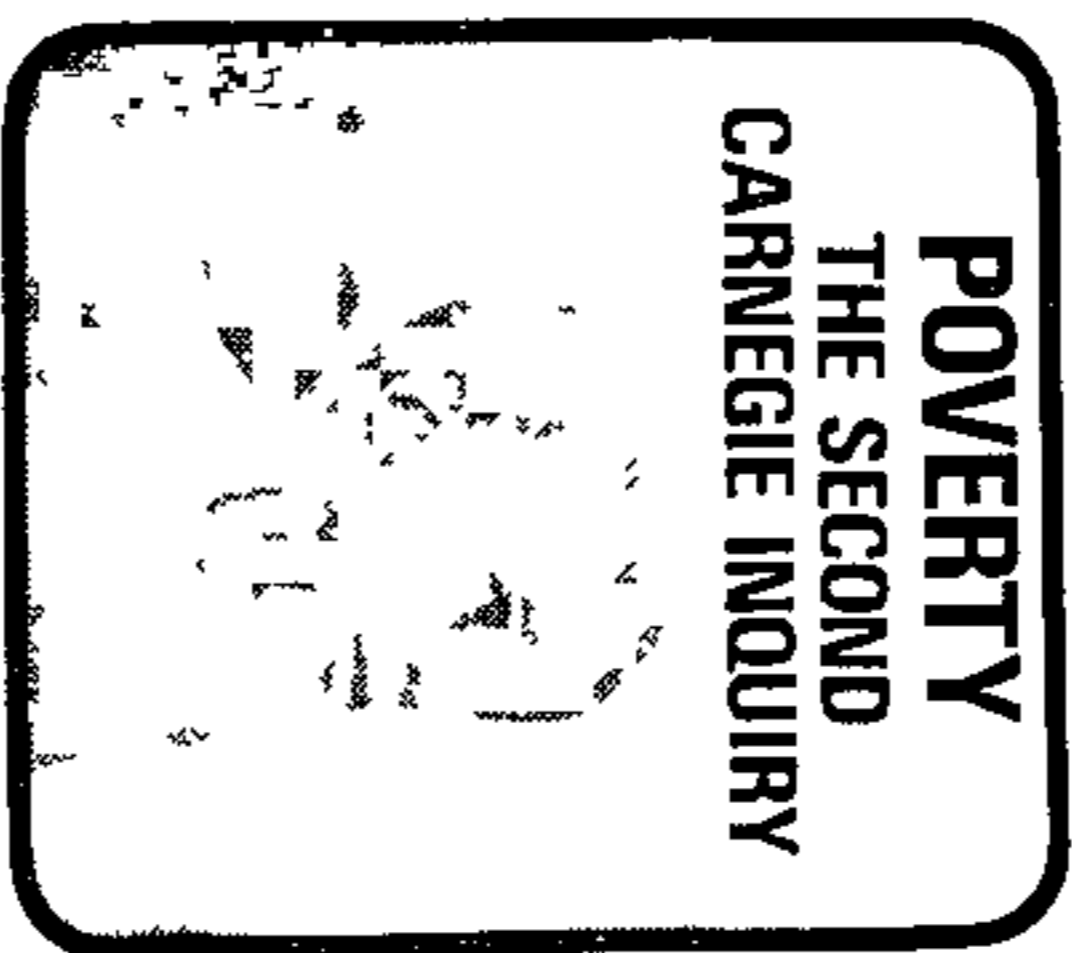
In particular, light is thrown on the controversial question of mechanisation, showing how this sharpens the material divide — creating larger crops and more extensive farms, while depriving a great section of the work force of jobs, wages and shelter.

Somewhere between these extremes of fortune is a core of workers whose jobs are not destroyed, whose work may indeed become lighter, and whose wages rise slightly more rapidly than in earlier years.

University of Cape Town economist Mr. Michael de Klerk studied the mechanisation of the maize industry in the Western Transvaal. He found that this had taken the form of converting almost entirely to combine harvesting rather than retaining hand-picking, changing weeding methods from hoeing to spraying with weedicides, and switching completely to bulk handling and storage in silos.

When he started his study in 1969, seasonal workers were getting a cash payment of 39c a day. This rose to 77c in 1976.

**JO-ANNE COLLINGE** takes a look at the latest Carnegie inquiry into poverty — dealing mainly with mechanisation on Transvaal maize farms.



**POVERTY**  
**THE SECOND**  
**CARNEGIE INQUIRY**

CAPE TOWN — The struggle against poverty in Southern Africa calls for clear political action and for the exposure of the links between "poverty and exploitation, and poverty and powerlessness", prominent Reformed theologian Dr Allan Boesak says.

"The exploitation of the poor is directly linked to the unacceptable policies of a Government that is not just, not representative and, therefore, not legitimate," he told delegates to the conference of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa, which opened in Cape Town at the weekend.

Dr Boesak referred to the words of former Prime Minister Dr D F Malan who said: "If the church wishes to say to the paralyse poor white: 'Your sins are forgiven', it must also be prepared to tell him: 'Rise up

## Boesak hits at 'white greed and black powerlessness'

and walk'."

He added: "To 'rise up and walk' means for us no less than what it meant for the Afrikaner to whom D F Malan spoke — and that is to work for the day when political, social and economic change will become a reality so that all of South Africa's people, including the poor, will be able to live as human beings."

Dr Boesak referred to the relationship between race and poverty as "the heart-beat of South African society". "It is the result of deliberate policy that whites, 17 percent of the population, receive more

than 70 percent of all income and 98 percent of all income from property.

"This must make palpably clear that poverty in this country has to do with apartheid — with white greed and black political powerlessness.

"This does not mean that the problem can be solved by 'making the free market more accessible' to certain selected groups from the black community. I do not believe that the creation of a black capitalist class will solve the problem of mass poverty because it will not mean fundamental change to the inequitable system which is

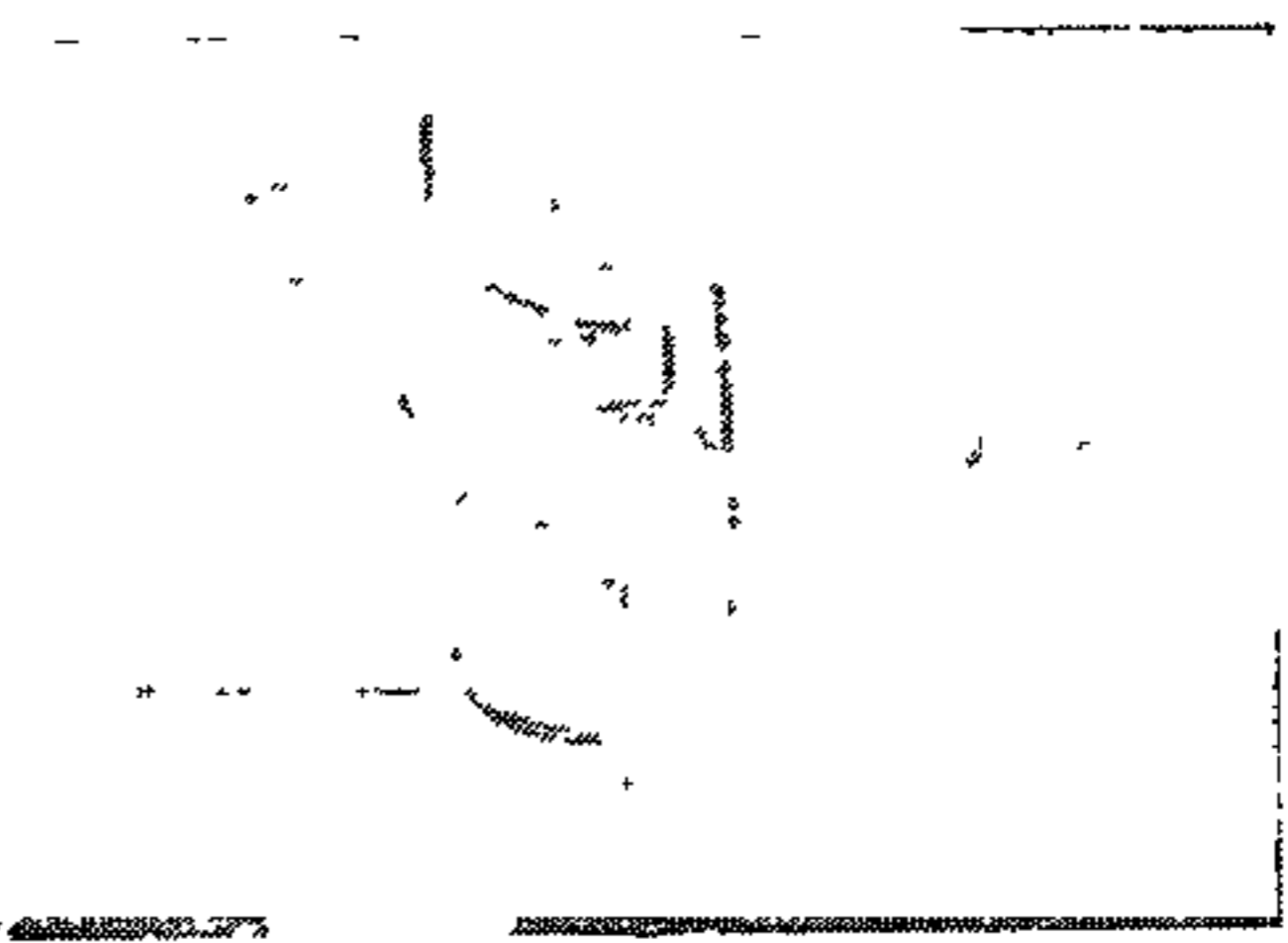
capitalism."

Many of the causes of poverty were already well understood in the 1930s, the time of the first Carnegie Inquiry into the "poor white problem", Dr Boesak pointed out.

One of these was the corrosive effect of a roving pioneer existence on family life.

"It is amazing that people who know so well what an unsettled life can do to a family can continue with the policies of influx control, forced removals and the migrant labour system, and the policies which have caused, and are causing so much more devastation than their unsettled life ever knew," he observed.

Dr Boesak said that South Africa lacked neither the understanding nor the funds to tackle the question of poverty — but it did lack the political will. Poverty was largely a moral challenge



**Dr Allan Boesak** call for clear political action

when a farm is taken over and consolidated with another one in the same area, that the work force of a newly-acquired farm is retrenched and the workers on the original farm work both farms. Thus the farmer does not retrench what he sees as 'his workers' — but people certainly lose their jobs."

Miss Budlender says there is no doubt that new technology farming has often made work less arduous and has opened avenues of employment to women. She adds that there is reason to suspect that this switch to employing women has been accompanied by a drop in wage. While she insists that it does not help to adopt a Luddite stand on technology, she warns that

"The health effects of many new technologies — particularly the use of pesticides and weedicides — are not known. Official figures for pesticide poisonings are the tip of the iceberg! Pesticides are registered for use in South Africa which are banned in overseas countries."

● The largescale ecological effects of mechanisation in farming are equally unknown.

● The new technology is not accompanied by a rise in worker skills, because farmers are afraid they will lose their work if urban employers. Indeed the chief drawback of this technological advance is that makes people less employable rather than more so.

Permanent workers, paid in cash and kind, were getting about 60c a day in 1970, he reported to the Carnegie conference meeting in Cape Town.

Both groups were earning considerably higher wages after the farms on which they worked had been mechanised seasonally — R1,54 a day, permanent staff — R4,85 a day. These figures dropped considerably when adjusted for price rises.

But fewer than half the work-

ers were still around to enjoy the higher pay, Mr de Klerk reported.

The demand for harvesters employed on a seasonal basis had dropped overall by 70 percent, and permanent staff in the same field of work had decreased by 50 percent.

In addition, the length of time during which seasonal workers were required had shrunk.

In all, the number of seasonal workers required by maize

farmers in the region studied — six magisterial districts from Delareyville to Lichtenburg — dropped from 105 000 to 45 000.

Mr de Klerk reports that outsiders, mostly from Bophuthatswana, lost most in the seasonal cutbacks. He observed that men from the homeland appeared to be replaced by children of the workers living on the farm.

"Women formed the backbone of all seasonal harvesting

teams, and appear always to have done so. Men, on the other hand, made up a declining portion, and children a rising one.

In 1968, all but a few teams included men, and only 30 percent children. Thirteen years later only about 40 percent had adult males, as against 65 percent which incorporated children."

There are no restrictions on children over the age of seven working on farms where their

families live, so long as their parents consent, say two University of the Witwatersrand law academics, Mr Nicholas Hayson and Mr Clive Thompson.

What did mechanisation mean for the maize industry in the Western Transvaal, and for particular farmers?

The output per hectare went up "firmly", reported Mr de Klerk. The area under cultivation spread, and the average

size of farming units grew by 75 percent as ownership became concentrated in the hands of fewer farmers.

Discussing mechanisation in several industries — maize, viticulture, sugar production and citrus growing — fellow researcher Miss Debbie Budlender of Cape Town notes that change of ownership is often the point at which retrenchments of workers take place.

"It seems that very often



# Whites enjoy cheap energy

CAPE TIMES 16/4/84

~~REPORT~~ Labour Reporter

WHITE households in Cape Town spend much less to buy more energy than poorer households in the townships, a study presented to the Carnegie conference on poverty says

It shows that households in Pinelands pay R44 a month for electricity while poorer households in townships without electricity spend up to R73 a month on paraffin, gas, coal or wood

On the basis of an extensive survey conducted in Cape Town, Dr Anton Eberhard, of the Energy Research Institute at the University of Cape Town, reports that households with electricity in Valhalla Park spend on average of R25 a month, while those without spend R65 — or nearly triple

Households without electricity in Grassy Park spend on average of R73 per month on fuel, against R44 in Pinelands, R40 in Heathfield, R21 in Bonteheuvel and R25 in Guguletu

Additionally, wealthier households spend proportionately less of their income on electricity

Poorer households earning less than R50 a week buy about a third of the energy which Pinelands households consume, but spend on average 38 percent of their income on energy, and in extreme cases more than 50 percent, he says

In many poorer areas of Cape Town which are electrified, households do not have electricity because they cannot afford the high installation costs, or because their supplies have been cut off as a result of defaults

"It is clear that poorer households are struggling to pay for their energy requirements," he says

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CAPE TOWN 16/4/84

# SA's electricity denied to most

By RIAAN DE VILLIERS  
Labour Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA generates about 60 percent of total electricity supplies in Africa — but the majority of its own citizens do not have access to its benefits, a study presented to the Carnegie conference on poverty has found

Dr Anton Eberhard, of the Energy Research Institute at the University of Cape Town, says South Africa's electricity grid has been extended mainly to "white" industrial and urban centres and some farms, while rural populations in underdeveloped areas are dependent on scarce and rapidly-depleting fuelwood resources

He reports "further disparities" in energy supply in urban areas. Although whites constitute only 17 percent of the population, they

consume about 67 percent of electricity used in the domestic sector

An estimated three-quarters of black urban houses have no access to electricity, he says

In another paper, Dr Eberhard and Mr Mark Gandar of Natal University say South Africa has an energy-intensive industrial economy dependent on fossil fuels, supporting a "minority at a high standard of living"

On the other hand, it has an underdeveloped sector where the majority of the population "live in poverty and are dependent on fuelwood".

No official figures are available for energy consumption in this sector — which the authors say are ignored in government planning and forecasting

But they estimate that 15 million blacks living in all the homelands

and "white" rural areas consume nearly 190 petajoules — about a tenth of total energy consumption

They estimate that 7,3 million tons of fuelwood are being consumed in South Africa and the homelands each year, but in spite of this there is no desperate shortage of forestry resources in South Africa as a whole

More than 1,2 million hectares are currently under commercial plantation, and 7 million tons of wood wastes are wasted without any energy recovery

Current energy planning has proved inadequate for the needs of rural populations and the problem calls for a new strategy, they argue

## 'Senseless

They advocate a main strategy of producing more firewood, but say this cannot be a solution in itself, as it would require about one million hectares of plantation

At the moment, the extent of non-commercial plantation for firewood is less than 2 percent of this, of which more than half is in the Transkei

Under the present system of separate development, it is "senseless to talk about one million hectares of woodlot," they say, and add "There is in fact no simple, single answer to the rural domestic energy crisis"

They say the current situation is largely the result of historical processes and economic structures which require labour migration and the restriction of a large, growing population to the homelands

Therefore, efforts to overcome energy problems must involve the reallocation of resources at a national level

"There is no overall shortage of energy in South Africa — only a highly inequitable distribution of and access to energy resources," they conclude

## Education

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inquiry told

~~Labour Reporter~~  
Labour Reporter

EDUCATION is not a crucial factor in securing employment in the bulk of jobs, a research paper has found

For most blacks previous experience and "inside contacts" already in employment were far more important, according to a paper presented to the Carnegie inquiry into poverty by David Gilmour and Andre Roux, both of Rhodes University

Based on surveys in Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown, the paper said the chances of an unemployed person getting work were not "significantly improved" by education.

About 89 percent of young school-goers hoped to get non-manual jobs after they had left school.

However, it was unlikely that more than 19 percent of them would be accommodated by 1987.

### EXPECTATIONS

But though expectations of schoolgoers were high, they were not exaggerated

"As long as income disparities and security of tenure favour white-collar jobs, and as long as skilled and technical occupations are dominated by whites, it is unrealistic to believe that black aspirations will be downgraded to an acceptance of comparatively insecure and low-paid work," the paper said.

Vocational jobs, such as nursing and teaching, were realistically aimed at by many black school-leavers. However, the low intake into vocational training could be partly attributed to the "pathetic" level of black education

● See Page 13



# Msingga — a peasant community in turmoil

Stan 17/4/84

Msingga, the kwazulu region where faction-fighting has claimed about 1 000 lives in the last six or seven years, presents as a picturesque scene from traditional Africa.

"The sort which tourists love to photograph," says journalist-researcher Mr David Robbins "Brightly dressed women carrying water, children wave as you pass."

But, he writes in a paper presented to the Carnegie conference on poverty, the true character of Msingga can be found under its veneer of colour and character.

One notes the "succession of pylons marches obliviously across the barren landscape — but there is precious little electricity in Msingga."

The eroded earth speaks of an overstocking of cattle and goats. And the arrival of a child, pleading "Give me 20c, give me 5c, give me 1c — just 1c," in an almost angry tone, tells that there are people perhaps more desperate for food than their livestock.

The solid facts between these emotive clues? That ground estimated by the Government-appointed Tomlinson Commission of 1954 to have a carrying capacity of about 2 100 families is now accommodating more than 14 000 extended families, each with 10

to 12 members, says Mr Robbins.

The limit on cattle stocking was estimated to be 17 400, but the area carried nearly 73 000 head in 1980. Drought would probably have reduced the number of cattle to about 60 000, he estimated.

Land overcrowding came as a result of the reserve system and was aggravated by the resettlement of 20 000 people who were uprooted from farms in the Weenen area between 1969 and 1972 after farm labour tenancy had been abolished.

"They were put in 'temporary' transit camps on South African Development Trust Land — 6 sq km — on the banks of the Tugela. They are still there.

"Most of the people are illiterate, the official literacy figure in 1970 being under 20 percent."

Malnutrition figures are unavailable. Mr Robbins quotes a doctor at the Tugela Ferry Hospital. "Admission fees to kwazulu hospitals have gone up to R4 and it's obvious that the people who can no longer afford our service are those likely to have malnourished children.

"Not long ago two children with severe malnutrition — they should have been hospitalised — were brought to us, but they were sent home because the

men died

The doctor highlighted the life-and-death dependence of many families on income from migrant workers. "A woman was admitted recently who told nurses her husband had lost his job about a month before. She'd been eating next to nothing since then."

Mr Robbins says it is estimated that 60 percent of Msingga's men of working age are migrants. The result of the recession has been "large influxes of migrant labourers who have been retrenched and return home where they live off meagre resources."

Figures supplied by the Church Agricultural Project, which involves the exchange of animal bones for mealie meal, indicate that 20 percent of families who join the "bones queue" had a father or husband without a job.

Mr Robbins points out the economic structure of Msingga cannot keep residents alive.

"For many, survival means operating outside the law. Young men, frustrated by the apartheid apparatus, have learned to survive by illicit means and wield authority through the barrel of a gun."

Msingga is a community in turmoil — "plagued by overcrowding and drought, poverty and ignorance — and the forces that threaten the traditional pattern."

# Charities hit by the pinch of inflation

By Olga Horowitz

When times get tough the poor get poorer

A cliché — and a truism of which charities become increasingly aware as demands for help increase, and their own funds shrink

"We have to work much harder now to raise the sum we need — R700 000 a year — to give pre-school African children one small meal a day," says Miss Kay Glynn, organising secretary of the African Children's Feeding Scheme

This is a praiseworthy self-help organisation. But whatever sum of money is raised is overshadowed by the higher price of bread and peanut butter — two staples of the ACFS meal

"Since we started the scheme in the 1940s, we have asked parents to contribute 7c to each meal," said Miss Glynn.

## INFLATION

"Now we find a need for more free feeding. The black contribution is an excellent R220 000 a year. But as wages and salaries have increased, so has inflation, and many black parents are unable to feed their children adequately."

Since its inception 19 years ago, Meals on Wheels, run by the Congregational Church, has asked only 15c a meal from white pensioners, said Mrs Anne Cramer, former manager and now secretary and public relations officer

"We have an increasing number of people on our books and our costs are much higher. We are grateful to those who never fail to support us, either with money or

goods in kind.

This helps us to provide an average of 180 to 200 meals a day. If necessary, meals are given free. People who can afford to pay, but cannot produce a meal, willingly pay more than 15c.

## VOLUNTEERS

"We need volunteers to drive our vans and take the meals to the pensioners"

Jafta — the Johannesburg Association for the Aged — needs R250 000 this year from April 1, says Mr Laurie Starfield, the director

"Pensioners are suffering from higher rents and inflation and we come across appalling hardship. We need more social workers. Our service centres must be kept going"

## PHENOMENON

The Toc H shops, which help various charities, have come across a significant phenomenon. People no longer cast out clothing and household goods.

"The quality of the goods sent to us by householders is not as good as it used to be," said Mrs Esme Barnes, general manager of the four Toc H shops in Rosebank, Greenside, Edenvale and Yeoville

"Because of high prices for new clothing and furniture, people keep their possessions. With more contributions from householders we could double the aid we give charities"

Last year, Toc H shops gave a total of R132 000 to Child Welfare, Jafta, Meals on Wheels and Little Eden, a home for mentally handicapped children



# Myth of healthy homelands farms

Jo-Anne Collinge reports from Cape Town

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wood — "increasing numbers of people had been propelled on to the labour market", Dr Harries said "It has been estimated that some 50 to 75 percent of Gazankulu families are today dependent on income from migrant labour"

He reported the homeland's income per head as R94 a year in 1982, noting that wages for unskilled work were very low.

Some examples

- On the tomato farms at Mooketsi, on the Tzaneen-Louis Trichardt line, women earned R30,80 a month

- On the Saepoka tea estates near the Elim Hospital, men were paid R60 and women R40 a month, plus a performance-linked bonus of two 12,5 kg sacks of maize meal

- On an avocado farm near Louis Trichardt, men were paid R2 a day and women R1,60

Dr Harries notes the implications of the drought for subsistence lifestyle

"By September 1983 some 89 000 head of cattle had died. Informal sources of food such as wild vegetables have not appeared. Due to the lack of grass, even the small locusts eaten by the children are scarce"

Researchers at the Carnegie poverty conference have launched a fresh attack on the myth of healthy peasant agriculture in the homelands — a myth that has proved to be slow in dying, though it has long looked seedy

Their studies covered homelands in the Transvaal, Natal and the Cape. Some findings in Transkei and Gazankulu are considered below

Mr N D Muller, of the University of Transkei, pointed out that less than 15 percent of the population was engaged in the subsistence sector

And in no income group did household production account for more than four percent of the total income

Wages earned in homeland employment, remittances by migrants working outside Transkei to their families, and pensions were all more important forms of income

The greatest single wage earner was migrant employment, accounting for almost two-thirds of formal jobs in 1982, and involving about 357 000 contract workers

"The relatively high (wage) returns on migrancy, in comparison to subsistence production, combine with the legacy of, underdevelopment to

undermine the emergence of a peasant sector," he said

Mr Muller repeated the conclusion of the Buthelezi Commission that if any of the conventional agriculturally-based development plans were to be contemplated, it had to be acknowledged that

a precondition would be the ejection of large numbers from the lands

It had been estimated that the present rural population would have to be reduced by a third. It would come at a time

when unemployment in South Africa's industrial centres was growing, and when there was a tendency to employ local labour rather than homeland contractors

In other words, it would add displaced people to Transkei's one-in-five jobless

Other researchers sug-

gest that agricultural development corporations in various areas are attempting quietly to gain access to larger farming units without ejecting the owners. They operate on farming landholdings on behalf of the formal tenants or owners

The initiatives of the Transkei Agricultural Corporation (Tracor) have not been popular, according to University of Transkei researchers R J Haines, C P Tapscott, S B Solinjam and P Tyali

"A number of our informants despaired of being able to prevent what were seen as high-handed operations by Tracor. A Lusikisiki informant had this to say: "This Tracor does not plough the lands of the people who want its help only. It just ploughs all

the lands as long as they are in the rehabilitated area (resettlement scheme)"

Social worker Catherine Schneider, working in Gazankulu, also documented resistance to the farming schemes of the Shangan-Tsonga Development Corporation

"At Mafarane (near Lydenburg), most of the fields have been taken over by the corporation. It ploughed the fields and sowed the seeds. The local people were offered shares at R5 a hectare each year for five years, and had to clean the fields and harvest

"Only five people took shares. The rest of the fields had to be cleaned by the corporation and most crops were stolen". Dr Patrick Harries, also studying life in Ga-

zankulu, recorded that in the northern Malamulele district, only 1,3 percent of the population could make a living from the land. In the central area the figure was 10 percent, while in the southern district of Mhala it dropped again to 2 percent

He discussed the shortage of land in the light of massive population growth, due largely to population resettlement

Most dramatically, the population of the Mhala district had doubled in the decade between 1970/80 — from 66 000 to 128 000

"The influx of people into already overcrowded areas has placed heavy pressures on the availability of arable land"

In the face of rapidly multiplying taxes — even on such things as fire-



# No money

## for Kwazulu pensioners

Miss Jillian Nicholson from the Black Sash advice office in Durban says the amount voted for pensions in Kwazulu for the year ending March 1984 was only enough to pay pensions already approved

She says Kwazulu amended the legislation it inherited from South Africa to increase delays between application and accrual in its own financial interest

"At present, many people have waited over a year for their applications to be processed," she says "When they are, they will receive no back pay"

Miss Nicholson and the author of the second paper, Miss Jean Ngubane, quote numerous case histories involving delays of up to three years between application and first payment, names being 'dropped

from the computer', pension stoppages resulting from the breakdown of the review system for disability grants and failure to pay arrears

Miss Ngubane cites the inability of people to "penetrate the pension bureaucracy" as one of the main causes of frustration

"Implicit in all these case histories is the mental and physical suf-

fering of the people," concludes Miss Nicholson

"The men and women who come to the advice office for help are desperate. They describe how they beg and borrow to stay alive, how every two months their day's wait at the payout ends in despair, that panic has gripped them and they do not know how much longer they can survive" — DDC

## Poverty on Cape farms

CAPE TOWN — An alarmingly high incidence of malnutrition among coloured children in the Stellenbosch area has been blamed on "object poverty, chronic overcrowding and the high rate of unemployment" among coloured workers in this prosperous wine-farming district

In a report submitted to the Carnegie Inquiry, the Stellenbosch Health Co-ordinating Commit-

tee details the many socio-economic factors contributing to a "culture of poverty" in the area

Wages of as little as R17 per week, the "dop" system, houses accommodating an average of more than eight people, high birth rates and infant mortality rates and one of the highest incidence of TB in the country are quoted as evidence of the seriousness

of the situation

Farm workers are the worst affected, the study says, with the majority of malnourished children found on farms

It says alcoholism is "rife" among the malnourished groups, but the paper warns that "tackling the problem of alcohol consumption without tackling the system of giving drink on the farms seems futile." — DDC

## Black pensions poor — study

*Daily Dispatch*  
17/4/84

CAPE TOWN — Pensions for blacks in South Africa are "hopelessly inadequate", racially discriminatory and badly administered, a paper presented to the Carnegie Conference on poverty, at UCT, has found

The study, prepared by the Human Awareness Programme, warns the issue is likely to lead to "disruptive action" on the part of black workers unless an acceptable solution is found

It sketches a picture of misery and frustration suffered by blacks who depend on social benefits from either the state or private pension schemes — the maximum social old-age pension payable to blacks is R57 per month and delays of up to two-and-a-half years have been recorded, with no claim on back pay

The paper states that inadequate state pensions contribute to the high rate of malnutrition in the homelands, and says the belief that old people can return to the homelands to be cared for by their children is a myth

"In practice, black pensioners in the rural areas are supporting grand-children and unemployed members of their families, who are prevented by influx control measures from joining their parents in town or seeking employment," it says

The failure of both the state and private employers to consult blacks on decisions affecting pensions is seen as a major stumbling block to finding an acceptable solution to the 'problem'

The paper accuses the government of trying to shift "the burden" of social security away from the state and onto employers and urges employers to negotiate pensions with unions and worker representatives

"Successful negotiation of pension schemes could contribute greatly to positive and stable relationships between managements and the unions"

The paper highlights four areas of state control which compound the problems of black pensioners, namely

- The homelands policy, which "increases delays, irregularities, corruption and confusion"
- The migrant labour policy. Black migrants are not adequately catered for by the existing pension structures and their status as citizens is reduced so that neither employers nor the state feel much social responsibility for them, the paper says
- Resettlement, which results in more delays because pensions have to be reapplied for from a different authority and often means that entire communities are moved away from areas where subsistence was possible, to areas where it is not, resulting in more people relying on the social pension for survival
- Permanent urban residents policy

The paper questions whether blacks granted urban resident rights will be liable for state aid, bearing in mind that social pensions are an "own affair" under the new constitution — DDC

CAPE TOWN — More than 100 000 people who qualify for pensions in Kwazulu have been told they cannot be paid because the self-governing territory has no money

No new applicants have received pensions since March last year — and some have received none since January, last year

This has emerged from two papers presented to the Carnegie conference on poverty



RDM 17/4/84

Schutte

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GRIM details about poverty in the rural areas of South Africa, including the "homelands", have been disclosed in reports to the Carnegie conference.

The reports show that families in three resettlement camps in the Ciskei have an average income of R55 a month, high levels of malnutrition with a third of black children in South Africa having stunted growth as a result, inadequate or contaminated water supplies in many rural communities and low wages in farming areas.

These details have been contained in almost 300 different research papers compiled for the inquiry — the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa.

However, a University of Cape Town economist, Mr Charles Simkins, caused a stir at the conference when he outlined his findings, which showed widespread and substantial improvement in incomes, since 1960 and particularly since 1970 for the majority of homeland residents.

# The losing battle for rural survival

He said that before 1960 almost no families in the homelands had Minimum Living Level incomes, whereas nearly 20% did so in 1980.

Some delegates queried this finding, pointing out that a number of relatively wealthy urban areas, such as Umlazi and KwaMashu in Durban, had been incorporated into the homelands since 1960, possibly pushing up income levels.

But Mr Simkins replied that this may well have been counteracted by the relocation of a large number of black people into the homelands since 1960.

Mr Simkins also said in his paper that despite this increase in incomes, there had also been a rise in the proportion of households receiving no income from disability grants, pensions, mi-

Reports from the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa paint a picture of wealth contrasting starkly with poverty. The Mail's Cape Town correspondent reports.

grant remittances or employment inside the homelands.

Some of the details which emerged from other papers include

● The average income in three resettlement camps in the Ciskei was R55 a month a family and what was remarkable was the heavy dependence on pensions as a primary source of income in all the areas. In Oxtun and Ndevana, they appeared to be the basic income of over half the population, wrote professors Gillis, D Muir and D Bud-

ender, of the University of Cape Town.

● More than 50 000 black children died from hunger in one year — 1970 — 6 005 of whom died from severe forms of malnutrition, such as kwashiorkor and marasmus.

● A third of black, coloured and Asian children below the age of 14 years were underweight and stunted for their age, according to Professor John Hansen of the University of Witwatersand.

● A deterioration in the levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality had taken place in Transkei — and 20% of the Transkei workforce was unemployed. The emerging scenario could only be described as tragic, wrote N D Muller of the University of Transkei.

● Two-thirds of families in Transkei survived on incomes below the minimum subsistence level of R1 509 a year.

● In the Karoo town of Wil-lowmore, 63% of the black and coloured adult men were underweight.

● Children at some Cape farm schools were regularly "poached" from the classrooms by farmers, despite compulsory education.

● The average income level of families at Mahlabatini in Kwazulu was below the widely-used measure for estimating the minimum in-

comes needed to survive

- In a village in Venda, 10 of the 30 babies born died because of contaminated water

● Constitutional development in Venda and urban population control were largely responsible for the increase of misery and poverty, according to A G Schutte

● Women in one area in Gazankulu, who worked on nearby white farms, were paid between R24 and R28 a month — and were absent from home from 5.30am until 7pm

● In one area of Gazankulu, where 152 000 people live in 57 villages, 48.6% did not have access to clean water

The Government has not yet responded to the inquiry's findings, but they have raised serious doubts about the social and economic effects of the policies of keeping as many black people as possible in the 10 homelands, rather than permitting greater urbanisation in the major metropolitan areas where work opportunities are greater

# Wiggle gun Rodney Ax

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Police and prison authorities have for two weeks been investigating the possibility of such an attempt

Ax was sentenced to death in June last year, following his reign of terror in Hillbrow in early February. The death sentence was set aside by the Appeal Court on March 16 as the court found there was a possibility of reform

## For Bishop Muzorewa

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Since his arrest, the UANC leader has been at the Goromonzi detention centre outside Harare

At a press conference over the weekend, the UANC's first vice-presi-

dent, Mr Walter Mthimkhulu, said that in spite of government claims that it was still investigating the plotting allegations, the Bishop had not been questioned since his internment at Goromonzi

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## Human share with animals

*Sowetan 17/4/84*  
NINETY percent of people in the rural areas of Ciskei obtain their water from open sources shared by livestock, according to research reported in Cape Town.

The report on water resources in the Chalumna/Hamburg area of Ciskei by Mr Andrew Stone, a senior lecturer in hydrology from Rhodes University, has been presented to the Carnegie Conference on Poverty

The survey carried out late last year and early this year revealed that less than half the population had access to a reliable water source

Particularly in drought conditions, water was often carried for many kilometres

Less than two percent of domestic water consumption was from

boreholes while 90 percent of the population obtained water from open sources shared by livestock

Each person used about 10 litres of water a day, with considerable variation in the quality of the water

A further report by Professor George Ellis of the Department of Applied Mathematics at UCT and Miss Debbie Budlender, a research assistant at UCT, found "conditions of grinding poverty" in the areas surveyed

For a large proportion of the population surveyed, a pension of R40 a month was the sole support of a household

"The level of poverty is such that a large proportion of households recorded hunger as their major problem"

# SALE NOW ON!





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# The Carnegie Report

## Paper hits at black state pensions

Staff Reporter

PENSIONS for blacks in South Africa are "hopelessly inadequate", racially discriminatory and badly administered, a paper presented to the Carnegie conference on poverty at the University of Cape Town has found

The study, prepared by the Human Awareness Programme, warns that the issue is likely to lead to "disruptive action" on the part of black workers unless an acceptable solution is found

It sketches a picture of misery and frustration suffered by black people who depend on social benefits from either the State or private pension schemes — the maximum social old-age pension payable to blacks is R57 a month and delays of up to 2½ years have been recorded, with no claim on back-pay

### State pensions

The paper states that inadequate State pensions contribute to the high rate of malnutrition in the homelands, and says the belief that old people can return to the homelands to be cared for by their children is a myth

"In practice, black pensioners in the rural areas are supporting grandchildren and unemployed members of their families who are prevented by influx control measures from joining their parents in town or seeking employment," it says

The failure of both the State and private employers to consult black people on decisions affecting pensions is seen as a major stumbling block to finding an acceptable solution to the prob-

# Millions in 'universe of poverty'

Labour Reporter

MILLIONS of people are living in a "universe of poverty" amid the wealth of South Africa's economic heartland, a major study presented at the Carnegie conference has found

Prepared by Mr Pundy Pillay of UCT, the study paints a grim picture of poverty among blacks in the core PWV area, stretching from the huge Winterveld squatter complex north of Pretoria through Soweto and other Witwatersrand townships to Sebokeng and Sharpeville

Total population in the area is estimated at 5,2 million, with 1,8 million whites and more than 3 million blacks. This is expected to reach more than 13 million by the year 2020 when blacks will number almost 9 million, compared with 3,6 million whites

It says the "official" population of Soweto is more than 800 000, but 30 percent of its inhabitants are "illegals" and total population is well over a million

### Housing problem

The housing situation is characterized by "chronic shortages and overcrowding", with informal shack settlements another indication of the housing crisis

Estimates indicate a shortage of about 90 000 houses in the PWV area, excluding the homeland areas to the north of Pretoria

The housing problem

is worst in Soweto, where the backlog has been estimated at 35 000 units and increasing at 4 000 units a year

To catch up, 45 houses a day would have to be built until the end of the century, the study says

The official shortage on the East Rand is more than 23 000 units and there are an estimated 50 000 backyard shacks in townships on the East Rand

Houses are badly overcrowded, with three to four persons to a bedroom, it says. In Soweto, the average number of occupants a dwelling may be as high as 10

According to the paper, between 20 and 40 percent of the population of Soweto live below the poverty datum line

### Deaths

The PDL used is a "highly conservative index" and if other important items are considered, it is likely that as many as 80 percent of Soweto households receive less than this adjusted income level

General health status is low, which in turn acts to "perpetuate a state of poverty", the study says

In Soweto the infant mortality rate, although dropping, is still high compared to that of other races. Diseases such as malnutrition and TB are common

Hypertension has become increasingly responsible for deaths

and the high death rate from accidents and homicides is associated with the poor living conditions

Also, an increasing numbers of blacks are being treated for mental illnesses resulting from stress, social disorganization and unemployment, the study says

Unemployment is high, with estimates of up to 29 percent. Up to 25 percent of work-seekers have never been employed

Relocations in terms of government policy have caused "untold hardship" in the area, the study says

### 'Untold hardship'

It describes how the State has tried to manage a surplus population in the Pretoria area by enforcing stringent influx control regulations and relocating sections of the urban population in Garankuwa and Mabopane

Poverty resulting from relocation and the resettlement of the "reserve army of labour" is exemplified by conditions in Winterveld, where anything up to 800 000 people live in shacks

The study says the area is marked by "overwhelming squalor". Diseases such as dysentery, gastro-enteritis and kwashiorkor related to poverty and malnutrition are common

There is a "massive problem of unemployment, underemployment and great poverty" in the area, the study concludes

## 'Severe drought exists'

Political Staff

SEVERE water drought exists in many rural areas of South Africa, even when there have been rains, papers presented at the second Carnegie inquiry have disclosed

In the Mahla area of Gazankulu, for instance, 165 boreholes were found to be the main source of water for 152 000 people — with a tap-to-population ratio of one tap to 760 people

During a survey in April 1982 in the same area, seven villages with a population of 15 582 had no boreholes and a further six villages with a population of 16 846 had all their boreholes out of order

This meant that 32 428 (48,6 percent) of the 66 615 people in the 25 villages of Mhala South did not have access to clean water, Mr Erich Buch and Mr Cedric de Beer wrote

In another survey in Gazankulu, several respondents gave the the whole village as the number of people served by one tap, Dr Patrick Harries of the University of Cape Town reported

In the Ndevana resettlement camp of the Ciskei, 97 percent of the respondents said they had been without water for the past 12 months, while in the Oxton resettlement area, 32 percent said they had been without water for more than five months

Professor A G Schutte of the University of the Witwatersrand said that in a village in Venda 10 of the 30 children born had died within the first year

One significant factor affecting infant mortality was the purity of the water supply and the quality of nutrition

These studies show that although the recent drought may have been broken, water remains a problem



The paper accuses the government of trying to shift "the burden" of social security away from the State to employers and urges employers to negotiate pensions with unions and worker representatives

"Successful negotiation of pension schemes could contribute greatly to positive and stable relationships between managements and the unions"

### Control

The paper highlights four areas of State control which compound the problems of black pensioners

- The homelands policy, which "increases delays, irregularities corruption and confusion"
- The migrant labour policy Black migrants are not adequately catered for by the existing pension structures and their status as citizens is reduced so that neither employers nor the State feel much social responsibility for them
- Resettlement, which results in more delays because pensions have to be reapplied for from a different authority and often means that entire communities are moved away from areas where subsistence was possible to areas where it is not, resulting in more people relying on the social pension for survival
- Permanent urban residents policy The paper questions whether blacks granted urban resident rights will be liable for State aid, bearing in mind that social pensions are an "own affair" under the new constitution

# Mhala: Vicious circle of poverty

Staff Reporter

A VICIOUS circle of disease and poverty combined with hopelessly inadequate health care in the homelands is highlighted in a paper submitted to the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty

In an overview of health care in Mhala, a district in Gazankulu, Eric Buch and Cedric de Beer of the Health Services Development Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand, document a depressing account of malnourished families living on between R40 and R50 a month, with no means of transport to the few understaffed, undersupplied health-care facilities which are supposed to cater to their needs

More than 25 percent of the children between one and five in the area are malnourished, TB and typhoid are com-



Mr Cedric de Beer

mon and the community has been hit by both polio and cholera epidemics in the recent past

The development unit, which has spent the past two years trying to improve the health-care service in the area, estimates that the present system caters for up to 75 percent of the care needed in various categories

The authors blame the homelands system, which they say has fragmented services and divided the people, for causing extra health-care problems

The two hospitals in the vicinity, Tintswalo in Gazankulu and Masana in Lebowa, which used to treat people in their respective areas, are now treating people on each other's doorstep

"This wastes scarce staff-time and transport and weakens an already inadequate support system"

The authors conclude, however, that it is still worthwhile trying to develop health services in Mhala and that although the present social, economic and political constraints limit progress, it is worth working within homeland health services because of what can be achieved

# land is being ruined

Staff Reporter

THE wholesale destruction of land in the Eastern Cape is making it increasingly difficult to maintain existing standards of health, productivity and development, according to a paper prepared for the Carnegie Inquiry into poverty

In his paper on "man-land relationships in the Eastern Cape", Professor John Daniel of Rhodes University says the destruction of the environment there can be blamed to a large extent on political policies such as resettlement and migrant labour.

He said the technology necessary for adapting land-use to local conditions is available, but is not being effectively applied

The deterioration of the environment in Ciskei is blamed on the increasing pressure of population on the land, the high number of migrant workers, the high ratio of dependants among the population and poor education

He quotes the Thornhill resettlement as a classic case of "vegetation annihilation"

In 1976/77 about 40 000 people were resettled near Ntabathemba The area, suited to extensive stock farming, was changed into one of dense human settlement, with disastrous environmental results

Mr Daniel warns that this inability to manage the land correctly is increasing the degree of poverty and reducing the options open to development programmes

# Boland poverty 'rife'

Staff Reporter

AN alarmingly high incidence of malnutrition among coloured children in the Stellenbosch area has been blamed on "abject poverty, chronic overcrowding and the high rate of unemployment" among coloured workers in this prosperous wine-farming district

In a report submitted to the Carnegie Inquiry, the Stellenbosch Health Co-ordinating Committee

details the myriad socio-economic factors contributing to a "culture of poverty" in the area

Wages of as little as R17 a week, the "dop" system, houses accommodating an average of more than eight people, high birth rates and infant mortality rates and one of the highest incidences of tuberculosis in the country are quoted as evidence of the seriousness of the situation.

Farm workers are the worst affected, the study

says, with the majority of malnourished children found on farms — up to three on one farm in some instances.

It says alcoholism is "rife" among the malnourished groups, but the paper warns that "tackling the problem of alcohol consumption without tackling the system of giving drink on the farms seems futile"

The studies conducted by the health committee are intended to provide background information for its proposed health action programme in the area.

ASHBEY'S GALLERIES

ASHBEY'S GALLERIES



# The Carnegie Report

## Ciskei camps: 'Mean income R55 a month'

Political Staff

HOUSEHOLDS in three resettlement camps in the Ciskei have an average income of just R55 a month — and only six percent of the families receive more than R100 a month, three University of Cape Town academics have found

They also found a heavy dependence on pension payments, with more than half the households in two of the camps relying on pension payments of R40 a month as basic income

These findings, by Professor G Ellis, Mr D Muir and Mr D Budlender, of UCT, have been released in a report at the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa

### 'No income'

Their findings were based on interviews with 82 men and 474 women in the Oxtou, Peddie Commonage and Ndevana resettlement areas

They said the mean household monthly income was R55 per month. Seven percent of those interviewed had a household income recorded as zero

The inadequacy of local work was apparent in that less than one-third of those interviewed named a local job as the primary source of income

What is remarkable here is the heavy dependence on pensions as a primary source of income in all the areas — in Oxtou and Ndevana they appear to be the basic income of more than half the population

What emerges here starkly is that pensions, rather than being the income of a single, old person or a supplement to the family income, in a large number of cases is the only source of



Mr Budlender

household income, so their survival depends on this inadequate means, they say

One family with an income of less than R55 a month reported supporting 17 children, and 32 families reported supporting 11 or more children on less than R55 a month

While there were problems, among others, to do with separation from spouses, non-arrival of pensions, clinics, schools, water, clothes, land, housing, the overwhelming majority felt private problems were the lack of money and of food

They found that 43 percent of the people interviewed considered that the children in the household were not well

In answer to the question "have you ever been told the child suffers from malnutrition", 80 percent answered "yes"

Responses on the the wage-for-age status of the children suggested that two-thirds of the children would satisfy the Boston criterion for malnutrition

The authors said their study confirmed the grinding poverty in the areas surveyed

It was hard for those living in the cities to understand that for the rural majority, and those in resettlement camps, the perpetual state of life was one of lack of food and hunger, they said

## Power needed to end poverty

Labour Reporter

THE "long-term struggle for a true democracy" will be crucially important for eliminating black poverty, a leading academic declared yesterday

Addressing the Carnegie Conference on Poverty being held at UCT, Mr Pieter le Roux, director of the Institute for Social Development at the University of the Western Cape, said that only then would the poor acquire sufficient political power to "radically influence the allocation of resources"

He was commenting after delivering a paper on the "poor white problem" and its elimination earlier this century

Examining the reasons for the "exclusive concern" with white poverty during the period, Mr Le Roux concluded that this was due to poor whites having political power

During the Anglo-Boer war notice had been given to the mine-owners and capitalist class in general that the Afrikaners were capable of resisting the British empire's military force — and the "spectre of military resistance" continued to haunt the capitalists in both the rebellion of 1916 and the 1922 strike

"It was power that counted — and during the first three decades of this century the poor whites had far more power than blacks"

He said it was "interesting to note" that Afrikaans-speaking whites at the time demanded "radical changes of the type common nowadays to neo-Marxists"

He quoted Dr D F Malan as saying "Whether it comes with or without war, through revolution or gradually, the capitalist system is doomed"

## Big housing crisis faces PE blacks

Labour Reporter

PORT Elizabeth faces a massive housing crisis with more than one-third of its black population of more than 300 000 living in shacks

Unemployment has also reached huge dimensions and estimates of black unemployment vary between 25 percent and 70 percent

This has emerged from a report by Ms Caroline White of the Department of Anthropology at UCT, presented to the Carnegie Conference on Poverty this week

While of not these proportions, the picture for the coloured community — the largest outside the Cape Peninsula — is also "dismal", the report says

It adds that the situation has had "serious repercussions" for the health of the community, as shown by the measles epidemic of 1983

And while there are plans for building housing, recent changes in official housing policy and a failure to allocate finance suggest that there will be "little real change in the near future", it says

The report estimates the black population at well over 350 000 and growing at an estimated 6 percent a year, with many people migrating in from other parts of the Eastern Cape

The coloured population is 140 000. The growth rate has declined to 2 percent, partly because of skilled workers leaving, but is still increasing, partly because of immigration from rural and small urban centres near Port Elizabeth

In spite of this, the report says there has been an absolute decline in employment in recent years

### 'R30m needed immediately'

It says the "enormity" of the housing problem can be judged by the government sending Mr Louis Rive to Port Elizabeth last year to carry out an inquiry. He concluded that R300-million was needed immediately to rehouse shack dwellers and those living in overcrowded conditions

The "appalling" housing conditions in the shack areas cannot be blamed on illegal influx as a high percentage of blacks are there legally, the report says

The report points out that because of a dispute over the positioning of group areas, almost no housing for blacks was built between 1969 and 1979

There is an estimated shortage of 20 000 houses and at least 7 300 units will have to be built each year to catch up with the current backlog within 10 years and then keep pace with future growth

A recent study showed 20 percent of squatter households earned less than R90 a month. Average earnings of employed black household heads in all areas was R172 — R26 below the Household Subsistence Level, formerly the poverty datum line

The report says the recent government policy decision to provide new rented housing to people earning less than R150 a month has "very serious implications" for Port Elizabeth

Many people earning more than R150 will not be able to afford to buy housing and will be compelled to continue living in self-built units

Dealing with health, it points out that an official report on the measles epidemic last year found that clinic facilities were "grossly inadequate", with only three clinics for 240 000 people instead of a recommended 30



# City lacks land to build 25 000 council houses

AKGus 17/4/84

## Staff Reporter

CAPE Town needs almost 30 000 more municipal houses and has enough land to build only 5 000.

The council's housing manager, Mrs June Humphry, yesterday told the Carnegie conference on poverty that many applications had been on the waiting list for between seven and 10 years

She proposed possible steps which included

- Relieving overcrowding in existing homes by permitting tenants to build extensions
- Making better use of land developed with low density housing and ensuring that the authorities used all available vacant ground for new homes
- Generating funds from the public, which might possibly invest money for housing improvement
- Developing core and self-help housing
- Improving existing housing schemes

Discussing the plight of the poor in the homelands who are excluded from "white" South Africa by influx control, Miss Helen Zille, research co-ordinator for the Carnegie inquiry, said there was no legal escape route from poverty without fundamental political change

"The industrial decentralisation policy, even by the most optimistic assessments, cannot begin to form a substitute in the rural areas"

A Lesotho and Swaziland judge criticised the exclusion of people of colour from the bench of the South African Supreme Court

## Parliamentary legislation

Mr Ismail Mahomed, who is also a senior counsel practising in the Transvaal, also criticised the fact that the Supreme Court had no power to strike down Parliamentary legislation

However, he emphasised that his criticism of features of the legal system did not mean there was not much in that system which was healthy, honorable and fair

"The vast complex of laws and budgetary allocations pertaining to discrepancies in salaries and subsidies for black education, housing, land, social welfare, health services, pensions and other fields of human endeavour and aspirations, have a cumulative effect on poverty," he said

"Much of this might have to yield and soften if those responsible for the making of the law were accountable to a constituency which included the majority of the poor"

A paper by Durban-based labour experts Ari Sitas, John Stanwix and Cathi Shaw said trade unions had become "poor peoples' movements" The emerging unions had spread the effects of higher wages among the broader community

Mr Fink Haysom and Mr Modise Khosa, both of the centre for applied legal studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, said trade unions had begun to expand into homelands, where wages and working conditions were "most appalling"

"Homeland authorities who choose a combative attitude to these unions may well find that such trade unions become a focus for mushrooming popular opposition to authoritarian rule, and that the homeland regimes will be closely identified by workers with the causes of their poverty"



# The forgotten poor

By HUGH ROBERTSON

AG 43  
7/4/84

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THE "forgotten poor" is what the sociologists at the conference of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa call them. But it would probably be more accurate to describe them as the unexpected poor.

Unexpected because in a country inured to pervasive malnutrition and hardship among blacks, coloured people and Asians, it comes almost as a surprise that there should still exist so large an island of chronic white poverty

It is an island inhabited by some 145 000 white old-age pensioners, the only group of whites to warrant a research paper all to themselves at the poverty conference. And as Anthony Pringle, the author of the paper notes, the island of white poverty will have a projected population of 629 000 by the end of the century, now only 17 years away.

This is because white South Africans have a high standard of living during their productive lives and thus are living longer. In 1921 white males over the age of 65 and white females over the age of 60 collectively made up a mere 3,21 percent of the white population. By 1980 they constituted almost 10 percent.

Poverty, many of the specialists at the conference have noted, is often a relative thing. But by any comparison, most of South Africa's white old-age pensioners are now living in penury, many of them below the poverty datum line.

While white pensions might still be substantially higher than coloured, black and Asian pensions — actually the gap is narrowing — white pensioners are forced by the system to compete in a more expensive environment, especially for housing.

Dark corridors, doors which provide little or no protection, unserviceable lifts, barely functioning hot water systems, drainage in chronic disrepair, viciously exploitative landlords, and small musty rooms were commonplace living conditions for the 220 white pensioners surveyed by Mr Pringle in central Johannesburg during his research

He found that the average monthly expenditure of his research sample exceeded the average pension by R10,20, drawing him to the conclusion that it was impossible for pensioners to exist on current pensions.

"Expenditure on rent is without a doubt a major problem," Mr Pringle reported. "Nearly 50 percent of pensions went to the payment of rent." In the case of a majority of pensioners 57 percent of their pension was absorbed by rent and a fair number paid as much as R110 per month in rent, leaving them with R30 on which to survive.

Mr Pringle found that an average of 36,28 percent of all pensions went towards buying food, with most expended on meat (10,4 percent), and he denounced the theoretical calculation that an intake of 1 800 calories per day was sufficient for the elderly.

"White pensioners cannot exist on a largely cereal-vegetable diet which in December 1982 cost little more than half the actual amount spent on food by the average pensioner, even though the diet provided the theoretically desired 1 800 calories," he said

Many pensioners relied upon cast off clothing from relatives, or attended sales of often inferior quality clothing at retail stores. They could afford to spend less than half a percent of their income on toiletries and items for personal care and spent an average of only 1,65 percent on cleaning materials.

Electricity costs alone consumed 4,83 percent of the average pension "in spite of the fact that the vast majority of the pensioners had only one light source and a single power point in their rooms" To save on electricity costs, many pensioners congregated in a single room in cold weather, returning home only at sunset

Mr Pringle evolved a pensioner price index based on a basket of 19 commodities.

With April, 1970, as the base year, it showed that prices for the aged had increased almost three-fold by December, 1982. Between 1980 and 1982 the pensioner price index (the cost of the basket of commodities) had risen by an annual average of 44,7 percent, compared with an increase in the official consumer price index of 40,3 percentage points

"It is evident that despite their limited budget, pensioners have been more seriously affected by inflation than the ordinary consumer," Mr Pringle concluded

When calculated in real terms, Mr Pringle found that other than the months when pensioners received bonuses, the real pension had not changed much since January 1970

"In real terms, with 1970 as the base year, the December, 1982, average expenditure of R149,70 by 220 pensioners came to R39,05. If it can be assumed, and there is little reason to doubt this, that individual tastes do not change rapidly over time, then R39,05 is the poverty line in real terms for pensioners in central Johannesburg."

He added. "A pension increase in October, 1982, with a bonus in November, raised the real pension to R43,88 but this declined to R36 a month later. No further pension increases occurred between December, 1982, and August, 1983, and by the latter month the old-age pension in real terms had declined to R32,69 — or 16,29 percent below the poverty datum line. The 11,59 percent increase in pensions in October, 1983, did little to redress the situation"



# Skirting the law to beat hunger

By Jo-Anne Collinge

CAPE TOWN — For hundreds of thousands of men in South Africa's rural areas, their survival and that of their families requires them to move hundreds of kilometres to take up jobs in urban centres.

Many will have no control over whether their jobs are legal or not. Labour bureaux requisitions of workers — the only official way of entering employment in the cities — may be far fewer than he applicants.

If the alternative is starvation — and it often is, as infant mortality and malnutrition rates confirm — the household head is likely to take the illegal route to employment.

The question that remains is whether the migrant chooses to take his family with him.

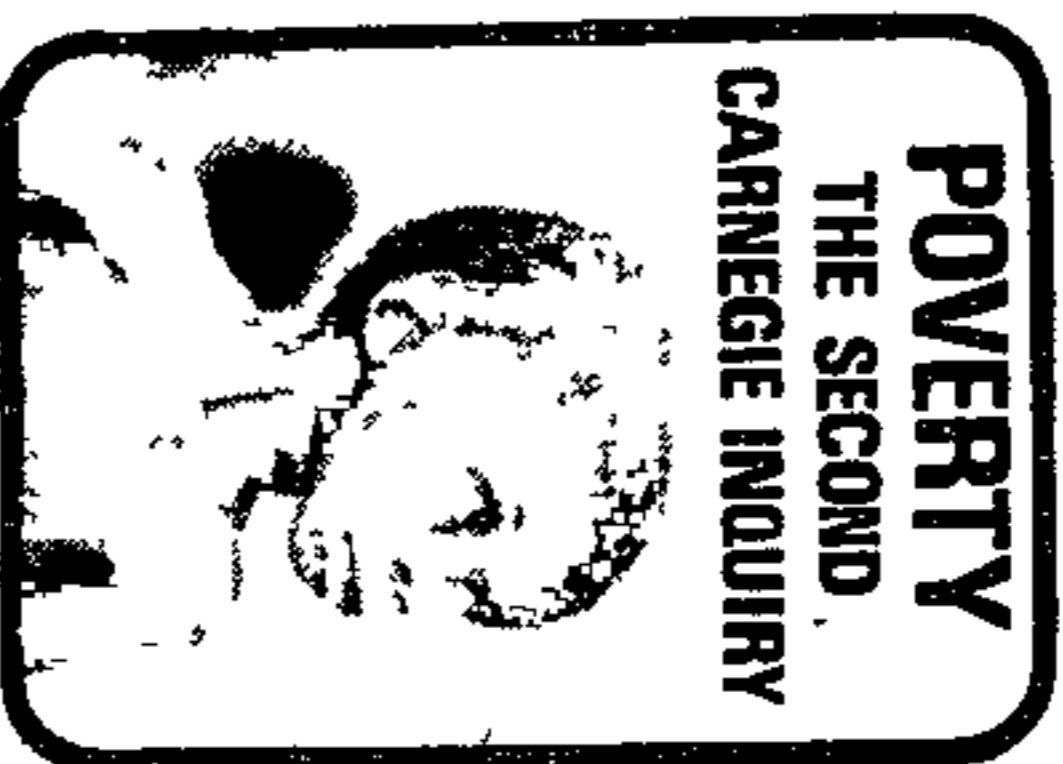
Those who have attest- ed contracts and hostel accommodation can live on the right side of the law so long as they are prepared to be separated for 11 months of the year from their families.

Should they succumb to the "temptation" of family life and set up domestic life in one of the squatter settlements, they expose themselves and their dependants to repeated arrest and punishment.

The illegal worker — who is breaking the law after spending more than 72 hours in the city — has no chance of recognised shelter. He is open to arrest at any time.

Studies included in the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa depict the experiences of all three groups of migrants: the legals who have accepted enforced separation from their families, the legals who have turned their backs on this safety for the sake of domestic warmth, and the illegals

## 17-m charged under pass laws



whose earning capacity and families' safety is constantly on the line.

Pamela Reynolds, in a paper titled "Men Without Children", reproduces the confidences of the hostel dwellers of Guguletu and Langa, Cape Town, who live apart from their families.

A man identified only as Zisani, a migrant for 26 of his 38 working years, said "With the separation, there are many clashes, and I and my wife spend my leave quarrelling. I leave for work without leaving peace at home."

### Stranger

Among the men interviewed were several who were the sons of migrants, and they related the experience of being left behind.

A man named Ntabeni said his father had worked in Cape Town while he stayed in Transkei.

"My father barely spent two months at home during my childhood. I did not care for him, as on his return he

CAPE TOWN — More than 17 million Africans have been prosecuted under pass laws and influx control regulations in South Africa since 1916, Professor Michael Savage of the University of Cape Town Sociology Department has found.

In a paper presented to the Carnegie conference on poverty, Professor Savage calculates that at least 17 252 146 Africans were arrested for these offences from 1916 to 1982.

However, if prosecutions under related poll tax and trespass laws are included, he estimates that more than 26 million Africans have been prosecuted in terms of various influx control laws in this period.

Professor Savage concludes that pass laws have been used to "include" African workers needed by the South African economy, giving them a degree of urban permanence.

But they have also been used for mass relocations of millions of people not needed by the economy to impoverished homelands, with poverty and

was like a stranger. I was worried by his attempts to draw me close because I knew that he would go away again, leaving me just like that. I did not understand what was happening."

When Ntabeni was nine his mother went to join his father and did not return for six years.

The feelings of inadequacy as fathers and husbands are many.

Guilt "Let us suppose my wife is ill at home. Money is sent — it arrives late. If she was in front of me I could take her to hospital right away. I feel guilty towards my wife, yet I cannot do otherwise."

Exclusion "The children are not happy to have us back, and ask their mothers 'Mama, when is this man going away?'"

Lack of influence "When I return I find the children are a bit unruly. They do not have much respect for their mother. I try to correct that, and for the first few days I am an intruder." At some hostels,

unemployment being exported from urban areas into "bantustans".

Professor Savage finds that influx control prosecutions have dropped drastically in the past two decades, from 694 000 in 1967 to 172 000 in 1981. (It should be noted that the figure has risen since 1981. The number of arrests last year shot up to more than 260 000).

"What has been taking place is the creation of new forms of influx control, going beyond the arrest or prosecution of people illegally in 'white' areas, forms that consciously manipulate access to housing and to employment as instruments with which to control and limit the entry of the African population to urban areas," he says.

The influx control system was also being enforced by employers who were reluctant to employ "illegal" labour under the threat of themselves being prosecuted and facing fines of up to R500 for a first offence. Government proposals are that this penalty should rise to R5 000, he added.

women and children enter illegally at night and take to the streets and stations during the day. In other cases, men nominally keep their beds in the hostel, but sleep in the squatter settlements with their families. But the people remain vulnerable to arrest.

One old man whose family had been arrested said "God said when He created Adam and Eve that they should prosper. It is so heartbreaking when I come from work and hear that my wife and children have been arrested just because I am a contract labourer."

Ms M Gonsalves, writing of an unidentified lime factory and hostel complex somewhere in the Cape Peninsula, claimed "Workers there have to swallow their pride and abide all forms of insult because they need a job and a place to live. Certainly, they have found a job — but at a price."

Part of the deal offered by "Baas Ben" at the lime factory is that wives may live with the workers — but no children.

"Workers tell of how Baas Ben has been getting angry with them for having their families with them. He issued cards which bore their names. He then called the police, who arrested all the people whose names were not on the cards. Those who could run, hid in the bushes — while the unlucky ones were sent to jail."

From the Black Sash collection of case studies comes the story of the Ngema family — where breadwinner and family alike are illegally in the PWV area and housed in unapproved accommodation, although they pay rent for it.

Mr Ngema is a Transkeian who was prepared to face the repeated police and administration board raids on the farm where he lived because his family was likely to starve if they returned to Lady Frere.

This was no wild overstatement: the Ngemas had already lost a set of triplets — all within a

month. This happened

when Mr Ngema returned to Transkei in 1979 to join his family and try to build a house there. They lived on his parents' earnings, but the food was scarce.

"The children got sick and weaker and their hair got thin. Mr Ngema took them to a doctor 'who told me it's malnutrition.' They ate only stampinieties — they were not getting meat."

Mr Ngema recalled "I nearly went mad. If I could have worked, this tragedy would not have happened."

The deaths drove him back to the Native Recruiting Corporation office, where he had previously tried unsuccessfully to get work.

"You'll find that there are maybe about 400 people, and they are going to employ maybe 17. I tried this all the time in 1980."

In May 1980 he came illegally to the Transvaal, finding construction work as and where he could, and sending for his wife in June that year. The family had grown to four by mid-1983, when the series of arrests and raids in the area began.

Mr Ngema began sleeping in the veld. Women with young children were not arrested, so he did not fear for his family on that count. As the frequency of official action grew and sentences became more severe, the Ngemas decided to quit the area for Transkei.

"Mr Ngema felt the situation was becoming too dangerous for the family. He had allegedly been shot at in one of the raids and severely beaten by police. When the matter was reported in the Press he was picked up and taken to the police station," the Black Sash reported.

The Ngemas left the Reef in December. He is still looking for work



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Dispatch 18/4/82

# Grinding poverty in Ciskei — survey

CAPE TOWN — A detailed survey of resettled communities in different areas of Ciskei has revealed a grim picture of "grinding poverty, broken families and general destitution"

The findings of the survey, undertaken jointly in November 1982 by the Quaker Peace Work Committee and the Border Council of Churches, were presented to the Carnegie conference on poverty here this week

The study, which took an in-depth look at three resettlement camps at Oxton (south-east of Whittlesea), Peddie commonage and Ndevana (east of King William's Town), found that "the life of the rural poor is dominated by sheer survival"

The three University of Cape Town academics who authored the paper noted that while the results were not unexpected, they were nevertheless important "in view of the counter-information being spread by certain government departments, which obscures the true nature of these areas"

In its conclusion, the report states "It is hard for those living in the cities to understand that for the rural majority, and those in resettle-

ment camps, the perpetual state of life is one of lack of food and of hunger"

Of the 556 people interviewed (82 men and 474 women), 89 per cent said they did not get enough to eat. Ninety per cent said their children did not get enough to eat

The study found that the diets of inhabitants in all three areas was that of "extreme poverty"

Eighty per cent of those surveyed said they had been told by health authorities at some stage that a child suffered from malnutrition. The figure for TB was 20 per cent.

The food given to sick children was found to be very similar to the general — and highly deficient — diet of general communities. "Clearly the kind of nutrition that will effectively promote health in a sick child is wanting," the report observed

The researchers found that about two-thirds of sick children satisfied internationally accepted weight-for-age criteria indicating malnutrition. In 40 per cent of the cases, clinic records indicated that sick children's hair had been red, giving direct evidence of kwashiorkor

In Oxton, 61 per cent of the respondents had lost one child or more, and 30 per cent had lost three children or more. In Peddie the comparative figures were 32 per cent and 14 per cent, while in Ndevana they were 22 per cent and four per cent

In terms of their perceived overall health situation, only seven per cent felt they were both "well" and got enough to eat, whereas 43 per cent saw their situation as unsatisfactory in both regards

"Poverty raises problems of clothing, heating, transport, etc, but above all its core is insufficient food, and ill-health therefore abounds," the report said in its conclusion

The study also produced some startling figures on family incomes in the three areas. The average monthly income was R55

In Oxton — which offers "a picture of mass misery and deprivation unsurpassed anywhere in Ciskei" — six per cent of those interviewed recorded a household income of zero and 78 per cent fell below the R55 a month mark. Only 21 of the 566 respondents attained the "high" household income of more than R100 — PC

# Women 'forced' to stay single claim

ARCUS 18/4/92

Staff Reporters

AN increasing number of African women are opting to stay single for economic reasons, according to a paper presented at the Carnegie inquiry into poverty

Ms Virginia van der Vliet of the department of anthropology at the University of Cape Town, said in her paper that to remain single offered women the chance of financial independence

She warned supporters of Government policy not to feel "absolved of guilt when they deliberately prevent the formation of stable nuclear families by enforcing the migrant labour system, influx control and the myriad discriminatory laws which make marriage an unattractive or unattainable option"

### Below breadline

● More than two million families in South Africa live below the breadline, Dr Norman Reynolds, chief economist of the Zimbabwean Ministry of Finance, told the inquiry

Calling for a public works programme, Dr Reynolds said a "staggering" 93,7 percent of South Africa's poverty was "contained in the homelands or white farms".

"The position in South Africa would appear to be one of massive open unemployment in the countryside. Life at home for many workseekers can offer little except a sense of being an additional burden to the family"

### Millions caught

● Millions Africans had been prosecuted under pass laws and influx control regulations in South Africa since 1916, Professor Michael Savage of UCT's sociology department, told the conference this week

Professor Savage calculates that at least 17 252 146 Africans were arrested for these offences from 1916 to 1982

Professor Savage concludes that pass laws had been used for mass relocations of people not needed by the economy to impoverished homelands, with poverty and unemployment being exported from urban areas into "bantustans"

### Controversy

● Controversy has broken out at the inquiry over statistics claiming that income levels for the majority of people in the homelands have risen over the past 20 years

In a specially convened debate critics said a paper by Mr Charles Simkins, arguing that there had been a "substantial" improvement in living standards for about 70 percent of the homeland population since 1960, did not take account of the "social context" of the statistics.



# Carnegie paper sparks criticism

CME Times  
18/4/84

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Labour Reporter

TENSIONS between academics at the Carnegie Conference on Poverty surfaced last night when some participants sharply criticized a paper delivered earlier this week.

At issue was a paper delivered by noted UCT economist Mr Charles Simkins in which he found there had been a "widespread and substantial" improvement in the incomes of most homelands residents since 1960.

The paper, featured prominently on SATV and Radio SA, sparked heated discussions. As a result, a special plenary session was held last night.

Dr Ari Sitas of Natal University said a series of economic macro-studies had "blunted our observations of poverty", implying that poverty was "not as bad as we think it to be".

These were obtained by scientific methods, but area studies presented a "different narrative".

Pleading for "more sensitivity" by scientists, he said: "What we say has policy implications. We should be very conscious of this and be prepared to live with what we say. We have a social responsibility to the poor."

Professor Pieter le Roux of the University of the Western Cape said he "fully agreed" that extreme care should be taken in interpreting economic statistics, which could easily give "misleading pictures".

On the other hand, there was always a reaction from people who were upset when scientific findings conflicted with their beliefs.

"Suppose it is true that the standard of living is increasing — a person should have every right to make that statement," he added.

Replying, Mr Simkins said no doubt had been cast on the levels of poverty existing among blacks.

However, the task was to "find ways of reducing poverty faster". If this were taken up, the tide of poverty could start to recede within a generation.

"This is a worthy task and we can in many ways be optimistic about it. Therefore the results in this paper should be welcomed rather than be a source of concern," he said.

● Labourers' minimum wages 'poverty' rates, page 15

Child ab...

# Labourer's minimum rates 'poverty wages'

By RIAAN DE VILLIERS  
Labour Reporter

THE minimum wage rates for almost all labourers covered by industrial council agreements are "poverty wage rates", the Carnegie Conference on Poverty has been told.

Only one out of 101 industrial council agreements prescribe a minimum rate for labourers above the Supplemental Living Level, according to a paper presented to the conference being held at UCT this week.

It describes the SLL as a measure of a modest, low-level standard of living. "Any income less than the SLL must be termed a condition of poverty," it says.

Prepared by Ms Debbie Budlender, Ms Delia Hendrie, Mr Dudley Horner and Mr Gordon Young, it is based on a major study by the SA Labour and Development Research Unit at UCT which was released in Cape Town recently.

Regarded as the most authoritative study on industrial councils done in recent years, it is sharply critical of the council system — the cornerstone of official collective bargaining in South Africa.

The researchers say industrial councils cover 1,2 million workers, most of them in the manufacturing sector, where higher wages than in other sectors should be expected.

Labourers form the single biggest job category — 21,8 percent of all economically-active workers.

"If only one of the 182 wage rates for labourers exceeds the SLL, industrial councils as a system of effective wage determination must be called into question," they argue.

They add that a "great number" of other grades in industrial agreements fall below the SLL as well.

While they agree that actual wage rates would be a better guide than minimum wage rates, they say these are not actually known, while the minimum rates are.

Also, information that does exist suggests that labourers' minimum wage rates are rising faster than actual wage rates — or, that the actual and minimum rates are converging.

This means that part of the gains recorded by labourers' minimum rates did not reach the workers who were already above the mini-

mum, but only served to narrow the gap, they say.

Labourers' wages laid down in council agreements have risen in real terms since 1973, and they give a median real wage increase of 12,8 percent.

However, they say, this should not blind one to the fact that the rates remain "very low indeed", as indicated by the high number of minimum rates below the SLL.

● In another major finding, they report that of 75 rates for artisans set by industrial councils, only 22 have risen in real terms since 1973 — and the others have actually fallen in terms of buying power.

Many, if not most, unions on industrial councils do not represent the unskilled section of the workforce.

This means that real wages of their members, the artisans, fell while the real wages of the workers they did not represent, rose.

They therefore conclude that the increase in labourers' wages is due to "the energetic campaigns of the new unions representing unskilled black workers", mostly outside the official bargaining system.



# Education is not passport to equality

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**POVERTY  
THE SECOND  
CARNEGIE INQUIRY**



**CAPE TOWN — Education may be useful — indeed necessary — in the struggle against deprivation. But there is no way that the poor can simply “learn” their way out of poverty, delegates to the Carnegie conference have been warned.**

The sobering note was sounded by researcher Mr Bill Nasson, one of the hundreds of participants in the five-year Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa, which still has 15 months to run

“The findings of studies in Europe, North America and the Third World suggest that education cannot be viewed as a simple passport to better earnings for groups at the bottom of the ladder of class and inequality,” he said

Mr Nasson said that the idea that good schooling could make up for a poor environment was founded on the faulty assumption that there was a free labour market on which people of equal qualification could compete equally for jobs

Other papers presented at the conference emphasised the massive interference of influx control with the sale of labour in South Africa.

Mr Nasson pointed out that in Sri Lanka, literacy rates had risen from 58 percent in 1946 to 72 percent in 1963 “Yet over the same period there has been a meagre increase in per capita production”.

He also referred to United States findings that while the formal education of men had become “visibly more equal” between 1950 and 1970 — with the lowest one-fifth having increased their hold on education and the top one-fifth having had theirs reduced — the distribution of income had become increasingly less equal.

American researcher Mr Walter Feinberg was quoted as saying “The

**Reports by Jo-Anne Collinge**

## Majority of black families live in poverty

**CAPE TOWN — The claim that there has been “widespread and real substantial improvement in incomes” for most homeland residents has to be seen in a context where the vast majority of blacks are still living in poverty and the poorest of them are increasing, insists economist Charles Simkins.**

Mr Simkins, a researcher at the Cape Town-based Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit, evoked sharp debate at the Carnegie poverty conference this week with his calculations that:

- The proportion of homeland dwellers falling below the minimum living level had decreased from 99 percent in 1960 to 81 percent in 1980.

- The top 70 percent of households had seen a doubling of income per head, most of which had taken place between 1970 and 1980.

As other participants insisted Mr Simkins’s purely statistical research was not borne out by direct field work and accused him of “fetishism of method”, the economist was at pains to emphasise countervailing trends also presented in his paper:

- The percentage of households totally without income had almost trebled since 1960, with a full 13 percent having no cash income in 1980.

- The bottom 15 percent of the population “have suffered a deterioration in absolute terms since 1960 because of increasing landlessness and unemployment”

- While the next 15 percent had experienced an absolute increase in income in the last 20 years the gap between them and the average household had grown to make them relatively worse off.

In short, said Mr Simkins, inequality was on the increase. He added that his poverty cut-off point — the minimum living level — was “the least generous measure” and that it was undoubted that “the majority of black families live in poverty”.

Dr Colin Bundy of Oxford University cautioned that the figures should be placed in context. He said researchers had to bear responsibility for the likelihood that their information would be “picked up, deployed and quoted elsewhere as facts”

He pointed out that a worker whose income was statistically likely to have grown over a number of decades was statistically equally likely to have suffered several of the “events” of poverty: removal, imprisonment for pass infringements, loss of a child

cont ↓

educational opportunity has consistently been used to mask basic inequalities in social, economic and political institutions.

"The schools have been used to hold out the promise of pie-in-the-sky for everyone, while the economics of the situation have denied even a loaf of bread to some."

Turning to South Africa, Mr Nasson observed that with the De Lange Report, the State appeared willing to accept the idea of equality of access to educational resources.

He took issue with many aspects of De Lange, but eventually "for argument's sake assumed that equality of opportunity in education will eventually find firm ground in South Africa".

Improvements in status, occupation and

● More than two million families in South Africa live below the breadline, according to a top Zimbabwe Government official.

earnings could then be seen to be linked to educational merit rather than to colour, Mr Nasson argued.

"Educational expansion in the De Lange mould will not make the distribution of income more equal nor is it likely to become a factor in improving the collective life chances of the South African poor.

"With blacks beyond the pale of full and equal citizenship and full political rights, simple educational expansion is unlikely to do away with class positions along racial lines."

But he did not subscribe to the view that useful education had to

await large-scale political and economic change. Indeed, he viewed education itself as "a changing force, with many uncertain and unintended consequences" that could be used in the fight for a more equal society.

"It cannot be in dispute that investment in education is not a waste of resources. While we ought to rid ourselves of inflated hopes and misconceptions about the distributionist potential of education per se, to press for an education more responsive to egalitarian principles, more relevant to social and economic needs, is a challenge that must be grasped."

## 'Carrot-and-stick' housing plan attacked

CAPE TOWN — The new "free market" strategy of housing the poor could lead to a major confrontation between the State and the lower strata of township dwellers, says town planner Mr Peter Wilkinson.

In a paper prepared for the second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in Southern Africa, Mr Wilkinson says "When tenants are forced to pay more for their accommodation than they can actually afford if they are to maintain more than a bare existence, the probability is that they will eventually respond as they have in the past — with rent strikes, squatting movements and other collective and militant rejection of the strategy underlying rent increases."

Mr Wilkinson says that a range of self-help and private housing options have recently been laid before black communities, alongside the mass sale of Government housing stock of some 500 000 units.

He noted that those presently in rented Government homes have been warned in public statements by officials to expect high rent increases in years to come if they do not purchase their homes in "the sale of the century" discount scheme.

Mr Wilkinson said "The implica-

tion is unambiguous. If 'individual black households' fail to recognise the potential benefits of their new rights to involvement in the 'free market' processes of the private sector, then they will have to be coerced into such recognition. First, selling prices are lowered, and then rents are raised in a classic carrot-and-stick strategy."

But, he claims, many township families simply cannot afford any of the new options. He cites survey results in March 1981 which showed that, if the cost of housing instalments or rental was calculated at R50 a month and if no more than 25 percent of income was to be spent on housing, then

● One in four Johannesburg township dwellers would be unable to pay.

● One in three Durban families would have problems.

● Three-quarter of Port Elizabeth residents would find housing beyond their means.

If the "realistic" cost was set at about R100 — the figure used by United Building Society chairman Mr P Scales — then only 30 percent of Soweto families, 10 percent of Durban families and six percent in East London/Port Elizabeth could keep pace



# Over 2 million families in dire poverty

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~~S.A.P.A.~~

**MORE** than two million families in South Africa live below the breadline, according to a top Zimbabwean Government official, Dr Norman Reynolds.

Delivering a paper at the Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in Cape Town this week, Dr Reynolds, who is Chief economist of the Zimbabwe Ministry of finance, said 93,7 percent of South Africa's poverty was in the homelands or on white farms.

Dr Reynolds said the position in South Africa appeared to be one of massive open unemployment in the countryside. Life at home for many job-seekers can offer little except a sense of being an additional burden to the family.

He suggested training under a public works programme on soil and water conservation which he said would result in enhanced crop production and the extended life of dams before siltation occurs.

The president of the newly formed Black Consumer Council, Mrs Ellen Khuzwayo, expressed shock at the figure of people living below the breadline. She

condemned job reservation, the Homeland Citizenship Act and the country's influx control regulations for the poverty among blacks

"Job reservation merely served to discriminate against black workers and the influx control regulation denies our people the right to sell their labour where they wish

"The laws that have deprived our people of their citizenship have turned our people into foreigners and they no longer find it easy to sell their labour anywhere

"That is why it becomes understandable when they resort to crime because a hungry stomach knows no law," she said

# Speaker: drought means rural crisis in Transkei

From  
**ANTHONY JOHNSON**  
CAPE TOWN — The crippling effects of the drought that has devastated Transkei recently are not simply the result of severe shortages of water, a paper pre-

sented to the Carnegie conference here has warned

Mr N D Muller, the manpower research fellow at the Institute for Management and Development Studies at the University of Transkei,

said the devastating effects of the drought could only be properly understood when placed against the background of "the extreme ecological and human degradation" of the Transkei rural areas where 95 per cent of the territory's estimated 3,2 million people live

The "normal" Transkei conditions of the rural underdevelopment and overpopulation — both aggravated by policies of the South African Government — have resulted in a "sustained rural crisis" he said

"Hemmed in by an increasingly repressive set of "influx" controls and subject to over a century of underdevelopment, the population in these areas suffers from endemic under- and unemployment and is largely dependent on migrant remittances and pensions for its survival"

The drought, said Mr Muller, had accelerated all the symptoms related to poverty whether they be lawlessness or malnutrition but it had not "caused" them

"These must be traced to the structural characteristics of racial capitalist development in South Africa which concentrates poverty along racial, spatial and sexual lines," he said

Cattle deaths also indicated the period of greatest crisis. Between April 1982 and November 1983, 555 691 cattle were reported dead — 36,2 per cent of the Transkeian herd of 1,5 million cattle. Sixty-one per cent of these deaths occurred between April and November 1983

A further important effect of the drought was to increase the incidence of water-borne diseases. The number of cholera cases increased by 600 per cent from 1982 to 1983 in Transkei and

preliminary investigations also suggested an increase in infant and child mortality due to kwashiorkor, measles and gastro-enteritis

At one "typical" resettled village studied Ntshiqo (about 8 km out side Tsolo on the road to Maclear), infant mortality was more than 30 per cent in 1983 and the effect of the drought could be seen in the fact that 25 per cent of deaths were caused by stomach diseases. Tuberculosis was also rife

Mr Muller also questioned the role of drought relief programmes, saying relief in minute amounts to millions of Transkeians was a token gesture

"Given the underdevelopment of Transkei, the poverty, overcrowding, and shortage and limited agricultural potential, relief (sometimes) fills stomachs but not aspirations," he said

During the 1983 drought relief efforts came in the form of a grant of R6,7 million from the South African Treasury and R187 575 from the Transkei Council of Churches

While the relative success of these operations has revealed that the more affluent sections of the population can be "shocked into donations," there was a danger that they would attribute too much to the drought, he said

Mr Muller also found that the drought had increased the level of social conflict in Transkei by damaging resources in an area where they were already scarce

During the drought, existing divisions caused by competition sharpened noticeably, especially over grazing and water rights. Desperate to keep animals alive, people trespassed on other lands



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# Land struggle is hitting black farms

DESPITE tremendous overcrowding and a shortage of land in South Africa's black homelands, agricultural productivity in those areas is far below what could be achieved, according to a paper prepared for the Carnegie Inquiry on Poverty and Development.

The paper — prepared by two researchers, Gaven Maasdorp and G Lenta — argues for a reform of the land tenure system, the extension of credit to black farmers and the creation of full-time commercial farming.

The researchers found that it is not only during droughts that food production in many parts of the homelands falls short of the needs of their populations.

Over the past century food production drastically failed to match population growth in the homelands.

In KwaZulu, the Buthezi Commission found that even with a productivity increase of 450% to 500%, agriculture could only support a population of 1.5-million, while there were 2.34-million people there already.

But while it is generally conceded that there is a shortage of land in the homelands — limited by the Native Land Act of 1936 — there is also fault with the low productivity of homelands farming, says the paper.

The shortage of land itself leads to plots too small for full-time farming.

A major anomaly is that despite the large number of unemployed people locked into the homelands, there is a labour shortage on the land, particularly at peak seasons. The return of migrants to the rural areas does not always coincide with the peak farming season.

The migrant labour system means that a large number of homeland households are headed by women. The time they can spend on farming is limited by their other household chores — raising children,

## PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

collecting wood and water, and other non-agricultural activities

There is no capital available for high-risk development projects. The paper argues: "The introduction of new and risky food and cash crops cannot be left to the initiative of individual peasants."

Furthermore, small-scale black farmers, unlike their large-scale white counterparts, are at a disadvantage when it comes to fertiliser subsidies, drought relief, tax and railage rebates and so on.

The researchers found that an astonishingly large area of arable land in the homelands — between 20% and 30% — is left uncultivated every year.

One of the reasons for this is a shortage of finance, leading to a paradoxical situation where unemployment outside farming causes land wastage, because the individual lacks the income necessary to buy essential inputs.

Despite overstocking in the homelands, almost a quarter of holders of arable land do not have plough-oxen. The owners of cattle are not always the holders of land and the overstocking of cattle weakens the animals making them less adequate for agricultural work.

In addition, a large area of arable land is held by people who are too old, too infirm or who are working in the cities.

Another problem, the researchers assert, is that little income comes from the holding of large herds of cattle.

"This is not irrational behaviour under the circumstances as there are no other investment alternatives available in the homelands. As long as the beast stays alive its value will inflate as the value of money decreases."

Influx control and urban insecurity lead to a number of people with no ties to the land seeking rent-free accommodation in the homelands, placing an undue burden on the limited land.

The paper argues that the land tenure system in the homelands was adapted to the environment in which blacks found themselves in, but does not satisfy the needs of the modern community.

The researchers argue that land reform is essential for any successful development strategy in the homelands.

They argue that rental on the land, as opposed to the present system of free usage by those to whom it is allocated, would oblige landholders to make productive use of their land.

They advocate a marketing system to distribute any surplus which might be generated through commercial farming. "Generally, the marketing system in South Africa is good, but it is geared to white commercial agriculture — a modified version for homeland agriculture should be devised."

The paper advocates long-term policies for the creation of full-time commercial farming aimed at producing a surplus.

Now that you've read the review, do you know where to find the book?

**ONa**

If it's not in stock, we'll order it for you



# The vicious circle of poverty in SA

In this, the second of three weekly articles, Jan Sadie, former Professor of Economics at the University of Stellenbosch, deals with the serious problem of South Africa's high birth-rate.

THE adverse economic consequences arising from the deficiency in the quality of the South African population — considered strictly as economic material only and in no other terms — as pointed out in my article last week, are exacerbated by the imbalances in the demographic quantities

It happens directly by adding to the dimensions of the economic accommodation required, and indirectly, by reverberating upon, and lowering, the productive quality of the human beings concerned

To demonstrate this process we can revert to the socio-economic class structuring and assume, for heuristic purposes, an absence of class mobility, to arrive at the (medium estimate) population movements over a period of two decades, as given in the accompanying statistical column.

The annual average increment of almost 800 000 in population reflected in these figures means that the extra numbers

|           | POPULATION                     |             |                   |         |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|
|           | Projected increments 1980-2000 |             |                   |         |
|           | 1980                           | PER ANNUM   | NUMBER            |         |
| Class I   | 500 000                        | (1,8%) 0,8  | 80 000            | (0,5%)  |
| Class II  | 2 700 000                      | (9,5%) 1,0  | 620 000           | (3,9%)  |
| Class III | 10 100 000                     | (35,7%) 2,0 | 4 900 000         | (30,8%) |
| Class IV  | 15 000 000                     | (53,0%) 2,7 | 10 300 000        | (64,8%) |
|           | <u>28 300 000</u>              |             | <u>15 900 000</u> |         |

have to be clothed, fed and housed before there can be any aggregate

If South Africa is going to be fortunate enough to realize a GDP growth rate of 3,5 percent a year over the next two decades, almost two-thirds of it will be swallowed up by the additional mouths to be fed

At a 60 percent rate of urbanization for class IV and 100 percent for the others, and arguing in First World terms, a city for a population of 600 000 has to be built each year, with all the "demographic investments" (houses, parks, roads, schools, sewerage, water, public amenities, etc) involved — leaving that much smaller a portion of total savings to be used for investment in living levels and increasing productive capacity

The figures also portray the wellknown clash of procreation and sustentation — that is, the inverse correlation between the rate of creation of human life and the ability to sustain such life

The poorest population group (class IV) grows at a rate three times that of classes I and II, and since this rate has a very large base to act upon (a 53 percent share in the total population) it will be responsible for 65 percent of the population increment.

## Procreation

On the other hand, classes I and II, with a 11,3 percent share in the 1980 aggregate, will have their share in the increment reduced to 4,4 percent

If, as is customary in First World countries, the responsibility for the economic accommodation of the results of procreation is shifted from the parents to the community at large, it will be tantamount to demanding that some 4 percent of the population — from whose ranks the growth-initiating enterprise is most likely to emerge — will have to assume the function which, in developed countries, is exercised by around 30 percent of the population

This is asking the impossible

even if class mobility is vigorous enough to maintain the job-creating component at its 1980 level of 11 percent

Even more grievous an error is to assume that taking away from the affluent and handing it out to the poor, via the budget, is going to make a significant dent in the poverty front

Raising the maximum marginal tax rate of individuals from the present 50 percent to 75 percent, and transferring the proceeds to class IV, could conceivably increase their per capita personal income from a 1983 figure of approximately R 820 to R 950

## Harmful effects

The harmful effects of the tax rise, if it were politically feasible, may be a good deal more impressive than the positive outcome of the redistribution. Is it greed if taxpayers prefer to keep one-half of their extra-marginal earnings instead of one-quarter?

That some upward class mobility will, of course, eventuate, as it has done during the past few decades, is not at issue. That it is rendered a very difficult process by the demographic forces — whether in the company of, or in the absence of, discrimination — is the argument

The child of parents in class IV starts life at a disadvantage which can, perhaps, be overcome, but then only by means of extraordinary effort or singular luck.

Typically, he will be conceived in a family whose breadwinner will earn one-quarter of those in class II, which fraction reduces to one-fifth when expressed per member of the family, as a result of the large family size.

The foetus will have to survive on nutrients in his mother's body which have not been adequately restored after a frequent and rapid succession of preceding pregnancies, coupled with a dietary intake likely to be deficient.

He will probably be underweight when born, with reduced protection against infection, since his mother's breastfeeding capacity will have been impaired. His mother will not be able to lavish the care upon him which is permitted by small families, leaving him deprived of the attention and care during the critical first three to six years of life

When he reaches schoolgoing age he has to compete with four or five siblings for the limited resources of his parents, compared to one or two among class II families

He, accordingly, only has 52 percent chance of proceeding beyond standard three — the minimum for the attainment of functional literacy — and an 18 percent chance of continuing beyond standard eight, compared to a 78 percent probability for a child in class II

When he reaches the age of entry into the labour force he will be competing with 335 others for each 100 jobs becoming vacant by way of withdrawals through death and retirement. If he is fortunate enough to move into class II, he will, at best, have a 69 percent, and, at worst, a 53 percent chance of being fully employed in the modern sector during his lifetime

## Vicious circle

If he fails to move into class II, this probability will be 25 percent

Here, then, we have all the ingredients of the self-perpetuating, vicious circle of poverty begetting poverty

It can only be broken by larger production

A very useful start can be made by realising the full potential of peasant agriculture, where there are no apartheid obstacles, to quadruple its output C

Considering the above forces at work, one is inclined to conclude that a major sin of apartheid is its provision of a convenient peg on which to hitch all ills to relieve people of the necessity of enquiring into the fundamental causes of poverty and deprivation.

It is rather fortunate that the people who represented the subject matter of the first Carnegie enquiry into poverty in South Africa did not have such a force to contend with, or they might not have engaged in a bootstraps operation



# Poverty: Role of unions praised

ARGUS 19/4/84

Labour Reporter  
EMERGING trade unions were central to the alleviation of poverty in South Africa, the Carnegie inquiry into poverty has heard

Summing up the findings of a labour group at the conference at the University of Cape Town, Dr Ari Sitas, a Durban industrial sociologist, said trade unions had made inroads into managerial prerogative and had established better job protection for their members

Workers had won higher wages in certain industries through their unions, while under the official Industrial Council bargaining system wages had fallen in real terms over the past 10 years

Delegates also heard that migrant workers who were sent back to the homelands when they became unemployed had

great difficulty getting unemployment benefits from homeland governments

Unemployment had become a problem of crisis proportions in South Africa, particularly in the rural areas

## Suggestions

Among the labour group's suggestions to be put to the plenary of the Carnegie commission today are that

- Migrant workers be properly included in State-financed unemployment benefits to avoid maladministration of the funds by homeland governments

- More information be provided on the running of the unemployment and sick benefit fund and that the present "secrecy clause" be scrapped

- Workers' organisations be represented on these bodies

CAPE TIMES 20/4/84

# SA system under fire

Staff Reporter

THE South African political system was unanimously condemned as one of the main causes of poverty among blacks during the presentation of reports from 11 working groups at a plenary session of the Carnegie conference yesterday

The group studying poverty and the public allocation of resources, reported that "the institutions of political power in South Africa have systematically shaped the causes of black poverty"

They said the present system militated against the alleviation of black poverty and described the allocation of public funds in South Africa as "weighted against health and welfare in favour of defence"

Presenting the report of the group studying the effects of influx control on poverty, Mr Arthur Chaskalson SC, director at the Legal Aid Resources Centre in Johannesburg, blamed these laws for causing extensive social, psychological and economic deprivation among the individuals, families and communities affected by them.

Mr Geoff Budlender,

an attorney at the centre, said in his report from the group dealing with law and poverty that "various parts of the legal system in South Africa fit together to form a cohesive legal structure that perpetuates and exacerbates poverty"

Reports from the groups studying health and nutrition said simple improvements in existing services and radical changes in structure might be needed to improve the current health system, especially in the rural areas.

Dr Margaret Nash said in her report on the church and poverty that the church was still too much part of the present social and political structure in South Africa, and was thus still part of the problem

She accused the State of what she called "increasing militarization and bureaucratic terrorism" and said that people lacked bread because they were being taxed to buy guns

A member of the housing group said State housing policy should be seen as "part of the structural enforcement of inequality and poverty along with influx control, removals and the new constitution"



Cape Times 20/4/84

# 'Lay basis for fair, just SA society now'

Labour Reporter

THE shape of future South African society would depend "critically" on the foundations being laid at present, Professor Francis Wilson, director of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty, declared last night.

He was delivering a closing address at the Carnegie conference at the University of Cape Town, held as part of the inquiry, which will continue until next year.

Assessing strategies to combat poverty, he said "We have to start now in laying the foundation of the just and democratic society we would like to see in future."

However, while such short-term strategies were important, they would not solve problems of poverty. In the long run, the three key issues to be addressed were influx control, land use and citizenship.

These "pillars of the apartheid state" were not built in 1948 but were deeply rooted in South African history, and transforming society would imply a "large shift" in historical direction.

"Without radical land reform, citizenship for all and scrapping influx control, we are playing games if we think we can achieve the fair and just society we all

dream about," he said.

Earlier, he said the conference had shown there was poverty "all over" South Africa but that it was most acute in the rural areas.

Dealing with a controversial paper delivered at the conference — which showed an improvement in real incomes in the homelands since 1960 — he said the study also showed that the number of people in the homelands receiving no income at all had increased from 250 000 to 1,43 million.

Furthermore, despite a percentage decrease, the number of people in the homelands living below the poverty datum-line had nearly doubled from 4,95 million to 8,91 million.

It was "disturbing" that job provision in commercial agriculture seemed to have peaked and there was no evidence that the mines would substantially increase employment.

Also, there were numerous pressures on the manufacturing sector to become as capital intensive as possible.

"One of the major questions we face is how to increase jobs, so that people in the reserves will have work in the future," he said.

● ANC may develop stronger base inside SA, say academics, page 6

Conference on poverty told:

# Technology in SA 'weapon to exploit blacks'

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By Jo-Anne Collinge

CAPE TOWN — White South Africans have used the double-edged weapon of advanced technology to "depreciate, exploit and subjugate their dark-skinned brethren," says Dr David Hamburg.

He is the president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which has funded a massive five-year study on poverty in Southern Africa.

South African whites are not, in his view, alone

in the misuse of technology. "It is one of the most serious problems in the modern world and a root cause of human impoverishment."

But, he added, in South Africa the problem had reached crisis proportions.

"To have a very low income and to be harshly depreciated by more powerful compatriots is to speak of human degradation so profound as to undermine any reasonable and decent standards of human life."

Addressing the closing session of the conference

of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa, Dr Hamburg outlined the positive possibility of technology.

"The potential benefits of modern technology for human well-being are profound in every sphere — in food, water, health, communication, transportation, energy and human understanding in all its variegated splendour," he said.

This could mean the virtual elimination of human impoverishment in the next several decades.

Dr Hamburg said he and other Carnegie Corporation delegates had been "deeply effected" by the conference mounted by Cape Town economist, Professor Francis Wilson and hundreds of local researchers.

"I have the privilege of seeing remarkable human ingenuity in even the poorest South African community.

"Human spirit and talent are there

## CAPABILITIES

"I see too that the technical capabilities and professional commitment are here in this conference — linked to some of those poor communities

"More linkages are needed and a modicum of resources will be needed from the affluent sectors of South African society — be they governmental or private."

Professor Wilson, director of the inquiry, said that the next 15 months would involve briefing sessions with groups who might be persuaded to put strategy devised by the conference into action.

These groups would include business and political organisations and trade unions.

"We want to put a lot of weight on exploring things that could be put into practice now," he said.

Land and influx control were basic issues which the conference could raise and point out what remedial action had to be taken "if we are serious at all about poverty."

But in the short-term "what we are after are practical programmes, things that grow."



# A tale of two Commissions

**T**HE two Carnegie Commissions, the one that tried to overcome droughts and depression in the early 30s, and the present which grabbed many of the headlines this past week, will probably share no more than their name, that of the harsh New York steel capitalist Andrew Carnegie who tried to become a charitable old gentleman when the time to meet his Maker loomed near

Some 50 years ago the first Carnegie Commission looked at the then horrendous problem of white poverty, especially among Afrikaner peasantry. It became mainly an instrument of the Ned Geref Church.

The present commission looks at the much more abject problem of black poverty, but there the similarity ends. The Ned Geref Church, for one, is massively inactive in the present study.

For the poor whites of 1932, the year of the first Commission's report, were the very voters who had put the Hertzog government into power and stirred it into launching its social welfare programme. But the poor blacks of 1984, mainly plural rurals forgotten and neglected, have less political clout than any other group, in fact even less than late 17th century Cape slaves who still had the chance to revolt successfully.

The P W Botha government today has, according to some political scientists, notably America's Calvin A Woodward, maintains vested inter-

est in limited black poverty and its antipode, urban privilege, which enriches South Africa's "core," the Vaal Triangle. This is the perfect counterpoint to the first Commission's vested interest in defeating privilege, then in the form of the British urban classes and the proverbial Hoggenheimers, and mobilising the poor masses to grab their piece of the national cake.

Jaap Boekkooi reports.

South Africa has had two Carnegie commissions, half a century apart. The first helped beat the poor white problem. The second held its massive Cape Town conference this week to start grappling with the poor black problem. Only one thing is sure: the present commission has precious little in common with its predecessor.

Professor Francis Wilson, the Cape Town physicist-turned-economist who heads the second Carnegie Commission, is well aware of the chasm between the two anti-poverty offensives.

For he is on records of saying that under the present "neo-apartheid" system independent black states, with their millions of rural poor, will have no more claim on the resources of the central Pretoria government. This implies that, short of a bootstrap operations, the homeland poor will stand condemned to remain poor while the six million permanent urban blacks will be uplifted to enjoy shared prosperity

and reforms.

So it can be argued that future South Africa will be divided into two systems: a prosperous, initially white-run multiracial edifice, the "Core," and a series of backwaters known as "the real, premeieval Africa" where poverty may reign as freely as bilharzia and trachoma, witches be burnt, cattle overgraze, and presidents be appointed for life.

Professor Woodward says the creation of two South Africa's, the excised premeieval Black homelands and the prosperous core, are part of a deliberate counter-revolutionary tactic which can shift the revolutionary scene from the industrial heartland to the rural areas, thus avoiding the classic bourgeois-inspired revolution of the city proletariats.

How can the present Carnegie Commission tackle rural black poverty if such poverty, with exceptions, is part of a central master plan? For one by pointing out the unworkability and extremism of the plan through its final arbiter, influx control, a line of attack

already visible in the past week's discussions.

Influx control is an easy target for academic attack, especially as South Africa's form of it is the world's only one based on race, because the highly publicised hardships it has caused, and for its obvious failures up to half of Sowetans are "illegals" and hungry tribesmen from the Northern Transvaal would rather risk three well-fed months in jail on influx charges than starve under a marula back home. It shows, ironically, how the combination of urban prosperity and rural poverty helps defeat influx control.

The propaganda line from the Department of Co-operation and Development that "influx control serves to protect urban blacks" may be just too pat, but it is still the standing argument why the jobless are trucked out of Manila, Bangkok or Kinshasa.

The dilemma before this Carnegie indaba tank is to come to grips with black poverty, mostly rural, without helping it to spread to cities, and to marry the different ideologies around a problem which should be no more than a human one.

The experience of 1932 showed that Carnegie, plus the other goodwill elements in the existing structures, eventually make for the best team effort to bash any problem on the head. □ — Staff Reporter



# They were scattered like sand . . .

By MARION WHITEHEAD

THE impoverishment of South Africa can be summed up in one sentence "The people of District Six were scattered like sand across the Cape Flats"

That simple statement, conveying the agony of the loss of not only material goods but that indefinable sense of community which the people of the old Cape Town suburb lost in their forced removal, was made by a former community leader of District Six to Professor Francis Wilson, director of the Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in Southern Africa

It was, he said, the most moving moment of the two years he had worked on the project, financed for R500 000 by the powerful Carnegie Corporation of New York

Addressing delegates at the end of the week-long conference in Cape Town on Thursday, Prof Wilson spoke of the suffering he saw on visits to

## The Carnegie Inquiry FOCUS ON POVERTY



Mogopa, Khayalisha and the rural areas of the Eastern Transvaal

"What we are witnessing is a lot of needless suffering and destruction of the little wealth people have

"This makes us very angry, but I don't think it makes us angry enough," Prof Wilson told a hushed lecture theatre of some of the best brains from 20 universities

He said the sense of energy generated at the conference was an exhilarat-

"Change in this society depends on the foundations laid now. Society grows out of its own past and we have the very creative task now of laying down future foundations"

He said now was the only time available in which to work to change the country

Parties in the fields of health, food

and nutrition, law, education, housing, water, fuel and rural development, labour, unemployment and old age, public allocation of resources and church, poverty in development, will continue working for the next 15 months on recommendations made by this week's conference before a final report is published

Among the recommendations are the establishment of a rural legal resources centre, boarding schools in black townships for the education of platteland children, a social security system similar to the British one and more rural clinics such as that run by Dr Mamphela Ramphele in the Northern Transvaal which has successfully brought down the death rate among children

Copies of the 303 papers presented at the conference will go to libraries around the world and a book will be published of the photographs that were on exhibition at the conference

Prof Wilson said there was a gap in the area of transport and population, and not enough attention had been focused on neighbouring states such as Mozambique

He said it was too soon to talk of the achievements of the conference or to draw any conclusions

The president of the Carnegie Corporation, Dr David Hamburg, said the extent of the many faces of poverty documented in the Southern African inquiry had rarely been achieved in any country, and its findings would have significance for the whole world

"We especially admire the fact that this inquiry, unlike the first one (into white poverty) a half-century ago, has actively and substantially involved people of all races in social groupings, working together in mutual respect for a greater purpose

"I hope this activity will lead to constructive change," he told delegates

### FIGHTING BACK WITH ACTION RESEARCH

CHILDREN at MpuKunyoni in Kwazulu do not get enough body-building food and many suffer from kwashiorkor, marasmus (both serious forms of malnutrition), dental problems and skin lesions.

Now the people are fighting back and have formed the 1 000-strong MpuKunyoni Farmers' Association

They started a cassava planting project in 1981 with the assistance of staff from the Centre

for Research and Documentation at the University of Zululand

The farmers' union is run as a participatory democracy and now includes a range of people, from cassava and cotton growers to those involved in distributing fruit trees, reports Mr Paul Daphne, of the Zululand University, in a paper entitled 'Community Organisation through physical programmes - a strategy for tackling rural poverty'

The project is an example of 'action research', the latest concept in rural development put forward at the Carnegie conference in Cape Town this week

A vocal lobby of young academics adopted the slogan "No action without research," they said action research differed from academic research because the people were involved in the project with the research-er acting as a catalyst

### A LIGHTER SIDE TO A SERIOUS SUBJECT

EVEN serious academics examining the sober issues of poverty can laugh at themselves

Dr Wilfred Beckerman, a political economy expert from Oxford, abandoned his opening night speech at the Carnegie conference on how to measure poverty because he said it would be "excruciatingly boring"

Instead he waxed eloquent on the philosophical difficulty of defining poverty and earned himself the title of "apologist".

A satirical news sheet called the 'Carnegie Chronicle' elicited many guffaws and some squirms when it appeared on the conference notice board, claiming real job creation was on the way

The Carnegie inquiry, led by Professor Francis Wilson, had, it claimed, generated 2 230 jobs at a cost of R224,22 each.

"Not bad, Francis, pity it won't last. But these Third World efforts hardly ever do," it said. A savagely critical poem entitled "The Development Set" also found its way to the notice board:

*We discuss malnutrition over steaks  
And plan hunger talks during coffee breaks.*

The disillusioned and cynical used the Carnegie graffiti board: *Poverty is a poor concept and*

*The wealth of statistics of poverty impoverishes poverty.*



# DURBAN: RICH CITY POOR CITY

S. T. Evans  
22/14/84 (244)

## Shocking facts that highlight the gap between those that have and those that do not

By Tony Spencer-Smith

VAST numbers of people living in Durban and surrounding areas are so poor they cannot even maintain minimum human standards, according to papers presented at the historic Carnegie Conference on poverty.

And one study, by University of Cape Town researcher Jane Prinsloo, which compared the "urban poor" of Cape Town and Durban, found the situation much worse in the latter city.

The papers represent the most devastating indictment in years of the gap between the rich and poor around the country's busiest harbour.

Ms Prinsloo's study revealed the extraordinary fact that even Crossroads squatter households are better off than the Africans of areas like Kwa Mashu, Umhlangeni and Lamontville.

Other startling findings in this study are that Africans in Durban's townships are more likely to be below the minimum living level (MILL) than those in the same city's squatter areas, and that unemployment is also higher in Durban's townships than its squatter areas.

Ms Prinsloo reported to the huge gathering of local and international academics that the incomes of more than four out

of every 10 households in Kwa Mashu were below the MILL, and that Kwa Mashu was the best off of all the eight Durban African areas studied.

The worst was Lamontville, where a frightening 66,67 per cent of households were below the MILL.

"As a group, the Durban study areas appear to have fewer resources, greater unemployment, and generally greater

economic poverty (as expressed in per capita monthly income and proportion of households below the MILL) than the Cape settlements."

She said that while some communities were relatively more viable than others, it could not be over emphasised "that virtually all of the interviewed households in both Cape Town and Durban are operating at extremely low economic levels

and should be considered to be in poverty."

She also pointed out that MILL figures were "too low" to provide a true basic minimum standard of living but at least served to identify those living in "indisputable poverty".

In his paper on the "socio-economic status of selected communities in the Durban metropolitan area," Natal researcher Vish Suparsad reported that 67,8 percent of the households in the African township of Hambanani in Tongaat had in-

comes below the household subsistence level (HSL).

The HSL is a bare bones yardstick similar to the MILL. It is defined as "the bare minimum that a family requires to subsist in a state of decency, cleanliness and health (by Western standards) for a short period."

To accommodate such essential items as medicine, education, hire-purchase and maintenance, he uses a higher though still rudimentary standard, the household effective level (HEL).

He found that nearly all (89,4 percent) of the households in Hambanani were living below the HEL.

In Chatsworth, he found 22,9 percent of families living below the HSL and 42,5 percent below the HEL.

In Orient Hills, another Indian settlement 25 kms south of Durban, 58,7 percent of the households were below the HSL and 84,6 percent below the HEL.

As he put it: "The majority of the households in this town-

ship did not have the necessary income to live at the subsistence level while 85 percent did not have the extra income to accommodate costs beyond the subsistence items."

He said in his paper that the only way to beat the "vicious cycle of poverty and under-development in black communities" would be full democratic rights.

He said recognising that the lack of political rights in apartheid society was directly related to socio-economic deprivation had obvious implications for the policy makers.

"Any process of development must take cognisance of the need for democratic rights and the active participation of all citizens in the decision-making processes governing their lives."

Ms Prinsloo's study found that 26 percent of the labour pool in the African township areas of Durban was unemployed and 21,54 percent of the African squatter settlement labour pool.

"Clearly, here lies a critical problem," she states.

S. Tribune 22/4/86  
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# The recipe for dehumanisation

Conference paints disturbing picture of poverty

By Tony Spencer-Smith

A DISTURBING portrait of poverty, social disintegration and merciless exploitation in the rural north eastern Transvaal was painted this week at the Carnegie conference.

While the army of researchers who presented papers uncovered poverty and hardship in just about every corner of South Africa, one of the papers with most impact was that by medic Mamphele Ramphele about her amazing Ithusing Community Health Centre in the Tzaneen district.

Her co-author was Rekgolo Rama-lepe, administrative officer of the centre.

They tell how the children of the area are growing up with little discipline and without really knowing their migrant labourer fathers who are "once-a-year visitors with no meaningful relationships with their children"

They write "Where people find themselves resettled in a vast rural slum and coming from different areas or farms within the same area is it fair to expect them to live like a well-established close knit community?"

"The abject poverty, ruthless exploitation of the system within (tribal authority corruption and homeland government trappings) and the system without (inhuman working conditions on farms, mines and other industries and the lack of political rights) is a sure recipe for dehumanisation

## Unstable

"The unstable family units making up the community also contribute to poor socialisation, high crime rate and further weaken the foundation on which to build a proper community"

They say that with the current drought and recession, unemployment is reaching crisis levels

A new phenomenon stemming partly from the high rate of unemployment is the use of women in hard labour categories like road digging, dam building and building work

The women, weakened by their hard life styles and poor nutrition, suffer "immense physical strains"

It is "exploitation of the worst kind" — women are preferred to men because they can be paid lower wages

While old age pensions are a vital source of income, many people over 60 are not receiving them "on the pretext that they have no proof of their age"

The people served by the centre fall under the direct authority of the tribal chiefs of either Lebowa or Gazankulu. The chiefs are paid government officials in the homeland system.

"As a general rule this system gives rise to a lot of corruption, nepotism and very few chiefs are sympathetic to genuine efforts at community development, they feel threatened by any activity over which they have no direct say or control"

The custom of circumcision of both males and females is still very strong in the area, although there is no really serious mutilation of the girls

## Hazards

"The problem relates to the age at which children are circumcised — eight year olds are known to be involved and the most distressing part is the hazards to which they are exposed, such as infection, burns and malnutrition

"This custom has to a very large extent been commercialised with entrance fees up to R160 per child, hence the larger the number, the more profitable the venture for the particular chief and headmen running it

"The absolute minimum is spent on provision of food and proper traditional medical care. Children coming back from these schools are then regarded as men and women, in spite of their tender ages — the psychological trauma and damage to the development of these children is immeasurable

"To add insult to injury these children with the men-child syndrome are then placed beyond the discipline of their mothers because of the fact that they are women, so they can't wash them any more or teach them proper personal hygiene"



**Sunday Express**

APRIL 22 1984

**The politics  
of poverty**

THE second Carnegie study of poverty in South Africa is bound to have at least as profound an impact on the country as the first. The report which, in 1928, identified the problem of the poor whites, mainly Afrikaners, became the basis of an astonishing variety of rehabilitation and self-help programmes

It also gave an irresistible impetus to the politicisation of every facet of Afrikaner public life. From Broederbond to FAK, from mining unions to churches, from teachers' organisations to those Afrikaners who began to accumulate capital, every institution and most individuals were drawn into political activism which culminated, disastrously, in the 1948 election of an apartheid government

The country has paid a heavy price for the disdain with which the richer classes viewed the poor whites, and it seems ready to commit the same folly towards the poor blacks.

Already in the the Carnegie-sponsored conference on poverty in Cape Town last week there is evidence that the fact of poverty is seen as potent political ammunition. Already, in defiance of all the evidence that new technologies create more jobs than they destroy, there have been Luddite attacks on mechanisation (especially on the farms) as being the cause of unemployment. Already the answers put forward are being defined in welfarist-socialist terms.

Racial resentments, socialist theories, and the fact of poverty are being mingled into a potent brew to which there is but one antidote the rapid reduction of poverty itself.

How is that to be achieved? Recent evidence from around the world shows, we would argue, that free-enterprise capitalism provides the fastest and best pathway out of poverty, not because it equalises incomes but because it does not. Socialism, its failures mounting everywhere from Mozambique to Cambodia to the Soviet Union itself, fails because it seeks not to increase wealth but to equalise it.

But here, as in many other places, socialist theoreticians are moving to capture the moral high ground. They care, therefore, it is suggested, their policies must be better than those of the coldly logical capitalists — a fallacious but captivating strategy that has succeeded in far more sophisticated societies than our own.

The capitalist argument, as far as we can tell, has been muted, if indeed it has not been entirely missing, during the poverty conference. Unless the country's capitalists and the capitalist theoreticians make themselves heard — and heard right now — they will have only themselves to blame if the war on poverty turns into a war on capital.

The first requirement is surely to point out that most of South Africa's ills stem from the socialist (in fact, national-socialist) policies which the Nationalists initiated in 1948, and which they are only now beginning to question. We need to give capitalism a chance.

# Joblessness a *CAPE TIMES 23/4/84* 'major cause' *24* in SA poverty *SADIA*

By RIAAN DE  
VILLIERS  
Labour Reporter

UNEMPLOYMENT is a major cause of poverty in South Africa, a working group at the Carnegie conference on poverty found last week.

In a report drafted, the group said the extent of unemployment was "socially unacceptable" and created social and economic conditions which adversely affected the lives of the "majority of people on the sub-continent"

The policies of the State had exacerbated the historically-determined racial and regional bias of unemployment.

"It is only with the termination of such policies that the people of South Africa will be able to regain control of their working lives," it said

Particular groups such as women and female-headed households, new entrants to the labour market, the disabled and workers approaching retirement were "particularly vul-

nerable to unemployment"

A major factor was influx control, compounded by resettlement and relocation, which debarred large numbers of people from urban employment and hampered the search for jobs

Women were particularly severely affected as they could not get jobs through the labour bureau system and had "tenuous access" to migrant wages

In recent years, changes in technology and the recruitment policies of mining and agriculture had brought about an increasingly unequal distribution of income and employment in the rural areas, the group found

This was particularly significant because the poorest people traditionally relied most heavily on these sectors for income

It suggested the government should consider spending much more on socially beneficial public-works projects, particularly in impoverished rural areas



In Soweto, home to the workers of South Africa's industrial hub, just five years ago 14 in every 100 deaths of children aged 10 years and younger were due to malnutrition and more than half the children surveyed in the township of Diepkloof were stunted in growth, reports Cape Town researcher Mr Pundy Pillay.

Absolute poverty — the kind that threatens health and life — exists throughout the townships, albeit in smaller measure than in rural areas, papers presented to the conference of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development have shown.

#### IMPOVERISHMENT

Low wages and high unemployment are features of urban impoverishment.

● About a quarter of a million urban families were living below a poverty line income of R200 in 1980, according to Zimbabean economist Dr Norman Reynolds.

● Minimum wage levels for labourers, who comprise about one-fifth of the working population, fell below the "supplemented living level" (a recognised subsistence measurement) in all except one of the 84 industrial council wage agreements in 1983.

This was the finding of four researchers from the South African Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru).

The Carnegie poverty conference held in Cape Town last week featured 300 papers prepared in the past two years. The Star continues its coverage of major areas researched. **JO-ANNE COLLINGE** reports.

● Unemployment has been rising steadily since the late 1960s. It overshoot the 22 percent mark in 1977 and has continued to rise by 14 000 a year since then, says University of the Witwatersrand anthropologist Dr David Webster. He points out that, in Soweto alone, the gap between the number of potential workers and the registered work force shows a shortfall of 400 000 jobs.

Natal researchers Ari Sitas, Cathi Shaw and John Stanwix add that there are more poor workers than those who lack "what they need to survive".

They elaborate: "There is also the definition of poverty which stands as the opposite of wealth. This definition captures in experiential or subjective terms one's position in society as poor compared to others."

Thus it is that a worker earning the relatively high wage of R2,14 an hour says of his employer: "I worked for him, And sweated for him."

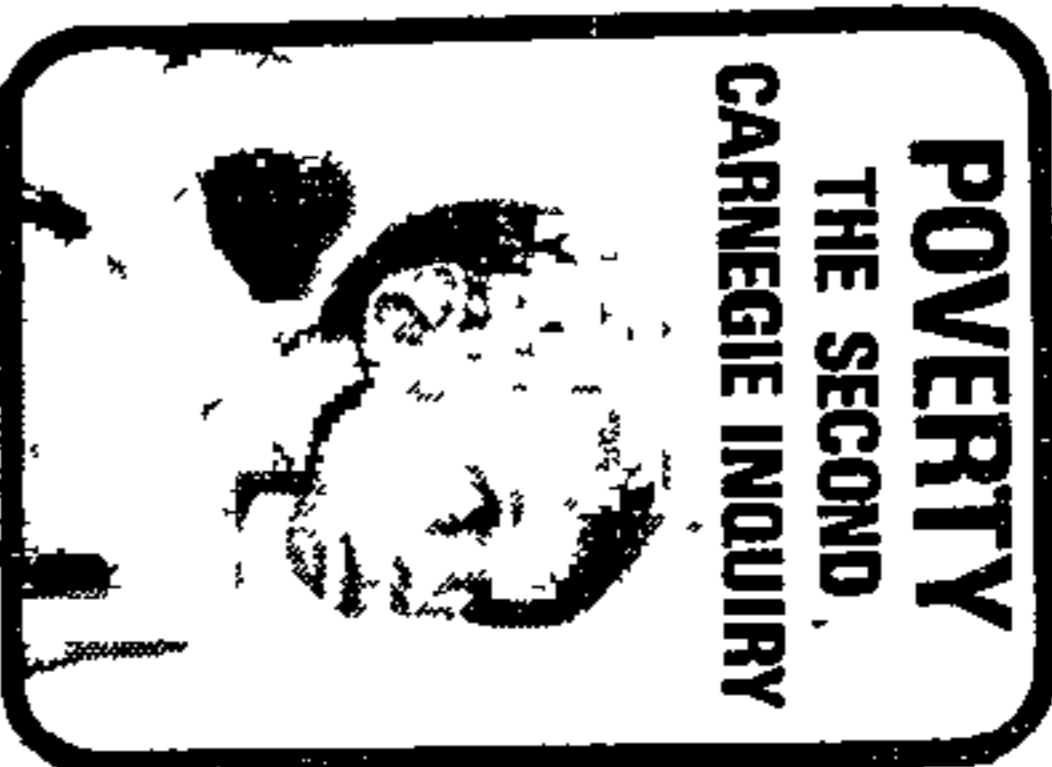
# Poverty also a threat to urban life

Spw 24/4/84

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now look at me after 25 years — I am still poor".

Dr Sitas and his co-authors point out that there are also political definitions of poverty. For instance, community organisations and trade unions see themselves as poor people's movements.

#### CAMPAIGNS

The Natal research team refers to the slogan "Asinamali" ("We have no money") as the consistent cry of the province's black working class. The "pound a day" campaign of the 1950s and the recent union campaign for a "living wage" are regarded as particular strides toward a "system of wage payments that goes beyond looking after worker's 'basic needs' to encompass their desires and interests in a dignified and materially secure way of life."

Many of the Natal case illustrations show this aim to be still a long way off for the workers — especially women. H pants reels in a

large textile firm in Pine-town. She is 60 year old and stays in a hostel. She ran away from her husband who used to maltreat her. At the factory she works a nine-hour day and usually 8 hours overtime a week. She earns R27 a week of which she spends R3 on transport. She is not a member of a trade union. She sees herself as poor and that she is short-changed but she feels nothing can be done about it.

● J is 38 and married. She is from Chatsworth and has only Std 2 education. She was pulled out of school to look after siblings because her mother had to work. She has been a cleaner at a clothing factory for 12 years. She gets the beginner wage in the industry — R36 a week. Her husband is a labourer earning R55 a week.

Commenting on the prevalence of low wages, Dr Webster asserts that "employers don't calculate a 'just wage' they

pay wages determined by class struggle and the balance of forces has been on their side so far.

"Wages are generally forced so low that families have to seek to supplement their appalling level." They do so by locally regulated, often home-based "informal" ways of saving and earning — activities ranging from dressmaking, car servicing and hairdressing, to shebeen-keeping and prostitution.

#### LIFESAVERS

These are also the lifesavers for householders locked into long-term unemployment. Because it involves services rather than the production of goods, Dr Webster refers to the informal sector as a kind of social security. "It provides a redistributive network but this does not generate 'new' income. It merely redistributes that income which filters through from formal wage employment."

He also adds a warning: "For those who lion-

use the informal sector as a panacea for unemployment and low wages — most available evidence shows that labour is more ruthlessly exploited by petty producers and small entrepreneurs than elsewhere.

"A 60-hour week is not uncommon. And remuneration is frequently unconsciously low — a Winterveld coal merchant pays his labour R1 a day for a 12-hour day, seven days a week, largely employing child labour."

The causes of unemployment have been variously described by Carnegie researchers. Some — like Dr Webster — see it as being caused largely by the substitution of machines for manual workers in the quest to raise productivity and compete for markets. Others, like Trevor Bell and Vishnu Padayachee, link it to an international depression of profits in manufacturing.

Marxist analysts insist employers have a vested interest in maintaining a certain level of unemployment, in creating the "reserve army of labour" always at the ready to replace troublesome workers and man the machines in times of expansion.

But the sheer volume of the jobless and the persistence of high rates over more than a decade — despite boom periods — have led social scientists to agree that South African unemployment is largely "structural".

## Labour Reporter

THE number of poor people in South Africa has risen dramatically, according to evidence presented at the week-long Carnegie inquiry into poverty.

Inquiry director Professor Francis Wilson, summing up the conference, in Cape Town, said the "enduring achievement" was the "sheer mass" of research data collected

"I have never been to such an exciting gathering of South Africans in my life. There is so much suppressed energy in this society, that if we could only find the structures to release it we could get rid of poverty in seven years."

### Working groups

Professor Wilson said working groups would continue for another 15 months before the data was consolidated and recommendations made.

Among the findings that emerged at the conference were

- One third of black children under 14 are stunted or underweight.
- Ninety-three percent of the poor are in the rural areas
- In some towns in the Karoo black people pay up to 50 times more for their water than do people in Cape Town.
- People on the Cape Flats without electricity are paying considerably more for fuel than those with electricity
- 1.43 million people living in the homelands have no income
- Nearly nine million people in the homelands live below the breadline
- One quarter of black women in South Africa are separated from their husbands

Professor Wilson said that while the primary indicator of poverty was income, there were other equally important indicators, such as infant mortality, water supply and availability of transport to school or work

### Regional problem

He added that poverty was a regional problem and to combat it successfully the frontline states, which had once sent thousands of workers to the South African gold mines, had to be included in any programme

Sweeping political changes were required to combat poverty successfully in the long term, he said

The three major political questions that needed to be resolved were influx control, land reform and citizenship "for all who live within the boundaries of what used to be called South Africa".

Professor Wilson said he did not think conference delegates were "angry enough" about the situation

"What we are witnessing here is that while some people are getting better off, there is a lot of needless suffering. Not only do people have insufficient food, water and shelter, but the Group Areas Act destroys the invisible wealth of the human links that bind us."

# Dramatic rise in number of poor — inquiry report

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POVERTY



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## 'Ethical questions' for SA over basic needs

Staff Reporter

MUCH of South Africa can still not take for granted its ability to meet the basic needs of food, water and shelter, says Mr David Hamburg, president of the Carnegie Corporation

The US-based corporation, which financed both the present inquiry into poverty and the first inquiry into the poor white situation in 1932, was not "picking on" South Africa, Mr Hamburg said

"We are supporting work in our own country (US) and elsewhere that aims to illuminate and overcome human impoverishment. Here we are trying to be helpful to all South Africans, just as our predecessors tried to be helpful to the poor whites a half-century ago"

Mr Hamburg said the similarities of the mechanisms reinforcing poverty, affecting mainly rural Afrikaners 50 years ago and largely blacks today, were "striking"

"But consider these basic differences whites could own land in 1934, Africans cannot, by and large, in 1984, whites could move to the cities with their families at will while, today, Africans are restricted by law from free movement or the opportunity to maintain an intact family life and, not least, whites had the right to vote," he said

Mr Hamburg said some findings of the inquiry raised "ethical questions for a country with strong technical capability and with the material resources to meet basic human needs, including a secure family life"

Mr Hamburg said if the entrenched hostilities in South Africa could be reconciled "the world will notice. If the structures of impoverishment can be changed here, it would indeed be cause for rejoicing everywhere".

CAPE TIMES 25/4/84 (241)

## The spectre of poverty

THE Carnegie commission conference on poverty which ended last week in Cape Town has evoked predictably sour comments in the Nationalist press. The organizers had declined to structure the conference on Verwoerdian or any other preconceived ideological lines. So it was inevitable that the apartheid system would attract at least some critical strictures. And as Nationalist-supporting academics seem to have stayed away, there were not many convinced upholders of the system on hand to defend it. The conference was designed as an open-ended inquiry and the results were not flattering to the Nationalist scheme of things.

The Botha administration would be unwise to believe its own propaganda and to assume that the findings of the conference may be lightly brushed aside. They represent the assessments of a wide cross-section of scholarly opinion. While nobody is suggesting that the

apartheid system is the only cause of black poverty, the conference did resolve that the prevailing political system is certainly *one* of the causes. Professor Francis Wilson identified the key issues to be addressed — influx control, land use and citizenship. The Verwoerdian ideology holds that blacks are not South African citizens and hence are not the responsibility of the South African state. The ideology sets aside a miserably inadequate share of South African land for the black "homelands" or "national states" and then perpetuates poverty by means of influx control. Attempts to make influx control work by enforcing punitive sanctions do not deter people who are facing starvation. The system will continue to entrench black poverty, no doubt, until a clear-cut choice in favour of the free market system unshackles the South African economy.



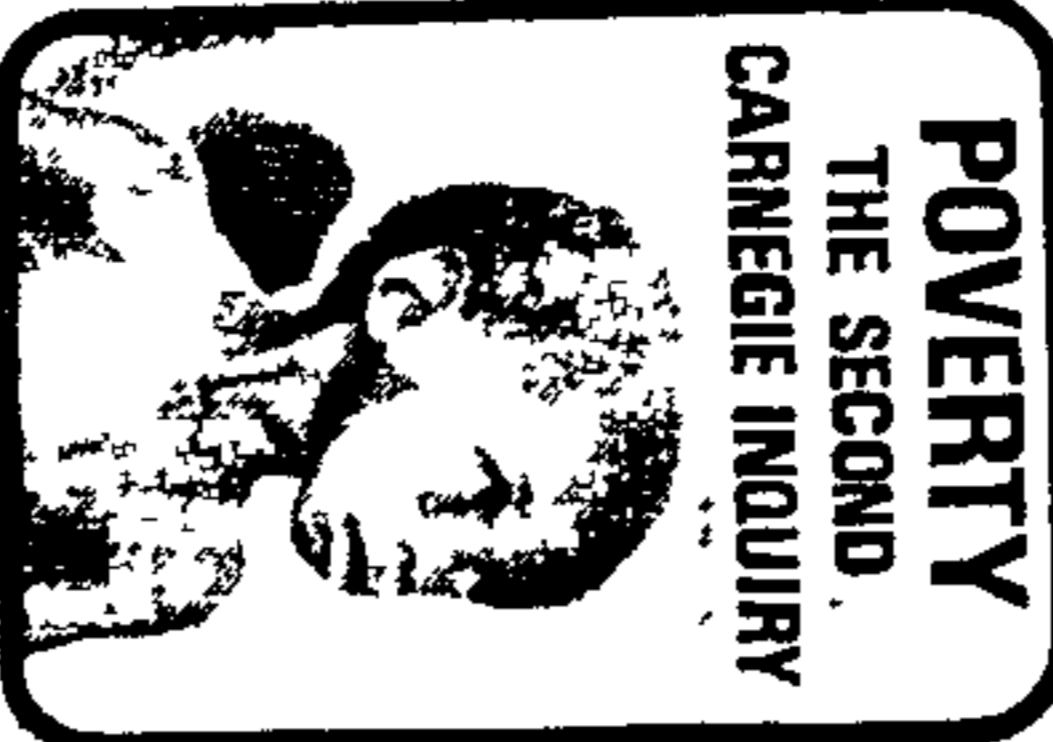
25/4/84

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# Public works programme: an answer for

With the conference of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development a thing of the recent past, The Star continues its coverage of some of the gathering's 300 research papers. JO-ANNE COLLINGE reports.



**POVERTY**  
**THE SECOND**  
**CARNEGIE INQUIRY**

There are few who doubt that job creation lies at the heart of any fullscale attack on poverty. But there are many who would say it is not enough.

It was the latter group that seemed to surface more easily with partial palliatives at the recent Carnegie conference — the social service specialists who could do some things to alleviate poverty without necessarily addressing root economic and political constraints.

The difficulty faced by economists in tackling the basic question of the right to work was signalled by the small number of papers in this field. It was underscored by the politico-legal experts who constantly sounded the warning words "influx control" and "land shortage".

But there were those who ventured into the minefield of job creation — some tackling it "from above", as a function of

government, others "from below", as a task facing the unemployed themselves.

Among those who looked to government to take the initiative was Zimbabwean economist Dr Norman Reynolds in his paper on public works as a core development strategy.

Dr Reynolds begs some of the political questions in his plea for a "social contract" between the state and the jobless — whereby the government will provide funds for jobs in return for undertakings from citizens to manage and maintain certain public works projects.

But he paints a picture of a strategy that has succeeded in alleviating mass joblessness in places such as India, China, Tunisia and Mauritius.

In the Indian state of Maharashtra, where seasonal unemployment in an agricultural-based economy is the prob-

lem, the Employment Guarantee Scheme "absorbed 75 percent of available man-days in the countryside in 1977", reports Dr Reynolds.

In Tunisia public works absorbed 21 percent of the jobless and in Mauritius 38 percent. The cost of this to the public purse? A portion of 2,4 percent and 3,6 percent respectively of national income.

Accepting calculations that the unemployment rate is in the region of 22 percent in South Africa, Dr Reynolds warns that this is "a figure of catastrophic proportions and intolerable in any open society on welfare and 'social stability' grounds".

He points to the concentration of the jobless in the homelands — using as his index the fact that 94 percent of South Africa's 2,2 million poor families are rurally based, 1,5 million of them in the homelands.

This and the distorted age and sex structure of South Africa's rural unemployed are viewed as special challenges to developing a works programme.

"Large parts of the homelands are rural slums. That means that their conditions are more analogous to urban, not rural, poverty. This is important for, unlike the normal countryside with its seasonal unemployment, urban unemployment is open and year round.

"The need is primarily for full-time jobs which are harder to create than additional part-time work under public works schemes.

"The complication is likely to be the majority of children and the aged (in homelands populations), weakened community organisation and young people beset with an increasing cynicism about official action."

Dr Reynolds does not come up

with a neat prescription for public works programme in South Africa. But he does list some of the issues.

- Funding: A large component in established programmes comes from the national budget. But, in Maharashtra for instance, this is supplemented by local taxes on those expected to benefit indirectly from works schemes — the municipalities which will be spared costs of a rural influx, the individuals and communities of the new infrastructure.
- Type of work undertaken: These vary widely but must include management of properties such as grazing and forests, provision of access roads and storage development of markets, joint ventures.
- Wages: Cash wages for work completed on a regular basis is the usual option.

# Programme: an answer for rural jobless?

Government, others "from w", as a task facing the unemployed themselves among those who looked to Government to take the initiative was Zimbabwean economist Norman Reynolds in his report on public works as a core development strategy

Reynolds begs some of the local questions in his plea for "social contract" between the Government and the jobless — whereby Government will provide jobs for jobs in return for undertakings from citizens to age and man certain public projects

He paints a picture of a policy that has succeeded in raising mass joblessness in areas such as India, China, Tunisia and Mauritius

lem, the Employment Guarantee Scheme "absorbed 75 per cent of available man-days in the countryside in 1977", reports Dr Reynolds

In Tunisia public works absorbed 21 per cent of the jobless and in Mauritius 38 per cent The cost of this to the public purse? A portion of 2,4 per cent and 3,6 per cent respectively of national income

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● Type of work undertaken: These vary widely but might include management of common properties such as grazing land and forests, provision of water, access roads and storage, development of markets, joint processing ventures

● Wages: Cash wages for piece work completed on a group basis is the usual optimum by

Dr Reynolds's reckoning The wage level, he says, should be set about 25 per cent below the minimum wage in normal full-time employment because public works "offer additional, not permanent employment"

He rejects as a general rule "food-for-work" schemes They are costly to administer and do not satisfy workers "All workers have food and cash needs How is a worker to carry home many kilograms of food and dispose of some of it for cash if his neighbours are in the same boat?"

He settles on a piece work wage for group enterprise because "daily wages pose enormous supervision problems If the daily wage is set too low it can lead to low output and even corruption between workers and supervisors"

Under piece work, where the group is paid for units of work done, people who are usually unemployed — the aged and the weak — can be incorporated into working groups, he argues

While proposing a wage below the norm, Dr Reynolds warns "Too low wages represent a tax on the poor"

● Administration and management: While overall control of projects should be in the hands of the government, day to day management should be local, exercised by members of the scheme

Dr Reynolds envisages benefits beyond securing a income for the rural jobless These include building of infrastructure as a base for development stimulation of the local economy and strengthening of local community and government functions



# The dumping grounds for redundant labour

241  
Gardner  
Stw 25/4/84

Funny the way white South Africans have always tried to persuade themselves that apartheid can't be so bad because, after all, our blacks are better off than blacks elsewhere on the African continent.

As though poverty in the midst of affluence becomes excusable if it can be shown that there is greater poverty somewhere else

The case against apartheid has never been that black South Africans are materially worse off than black Tanzanians, but that they are grossly discriminated against when compared with white South Africans; and that they are denied the elementary political rights which might enable them to redress that unfairness by constitutional means.

Even so, it might come as a shock to white South Africans to take note of some of the findings of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in Southern Africa. Because these show that many of our blacks are not better off than blacks elsewhere in Africa.

There are an estimated 1 400 000 people in the tribal "homelands" who are destitute. They have zero income. And they are living in territories that have become grossly overcrowded, whose populations have more than doubled in 20 years, so that the basis of traditional subsistence agriculture has collapsed.

They don't come poorer than that anywhere, not even in Tanzania or the rural outback of Ethiopia, because that is the absolute bedrock of poverty.

And for those whites who imagine that things are improving in South Africa, that apartheid is being reformed, it might come as a further shock to learn that the number of these destitute people is increasing rapidly

Twenty years ago there were 250 000 people with no income at all in the homelands. Now there are nearly six times that number. And the reason is that the central feature of apartheid, the enforced removal of black people to the homelands, is being applied more vigorously than ever

The pattern of what is happening in our society emerges clearly from

## MY VIEW



Allister Sparks

the 300 study papers presented at the Carnegie Conference.

Real wages for blacks have increased substantially over the past five or six years. Mine wages have tripled. That has meant an increase in living standards for some blacks, particularly in the cities but also for those homelander who manage to get jobs as migrant workers and remit some of their earnings to their families.

But while things are getting better for this section of the black population, which is mainly urban, they are getting worse for many others, who are mainly in the homelands

The size of the black population is growing much faster than the economy. More new workers are coming on to the labour market every year than there are new jobs to absorb them

Apartheid is largely to blame for this. For years it has restricted natural growth in the main industrial centres and tried to push it artificially into regions in or near the homelands. It has also prevented blacks from developing their own job-creating potential

As the number of unemployed swells, the Government is herding them into the homelands, restricting those allowed into the cities to the minimum required to run the economy.

It is quite literally trying to export its unemployment problem. The homelands are earmarked for nominal independence, which means the unemployed will be turned into foreigners for whom the South Afri-

can Government will then no longer be responsible

Thus the homelands, which are supposed to be where blacks can fulfil themselves and exercise their political rights, are in reality becoming dumping grounds for redundant labour. The situation is being made worse by the fact that as South African industry becomes more sophisticated and capital intensive, it requires a more skilled and stable labour force and fewer of the cheap, unskilled migrants.

That means better jobs with better pay, the granting of trade union rights and more stable living conditions in the townships — all the reforms that are making people believe apartheid is being abandoned. But it also means more unemployment, overcrowding and poverty in the homelands

The same is happening on the farms, as mechanisation takes over from the simpler, labour-intensive farming methods of the past. A few skilled farm workers are earning more, while the unskilled become redundant and are dumped in the homelands

The Carnegie researchers have found that 81 percent of the homelander exist below a minimum living level of R191 a month for a family of six

That is nearly 9 million people — or more than the total population of Zimbabwe.

As that man who is so serious about money would say. Makes you think, doesn't it?

● Allister Sparks, a former editor of the Rand Daily Mail, writes this regular column and reports for several overseas newspapers



If you can't tackle the causes of impoverishment, then at least find some way of undoing their worst effects

This message comes through in dozens of papers in the Secretary and Development in South Africa.

Renowned nutritionist Professor John Reid told the recent Carnegie conference: "We believe that for the purpose of producing well nourished citizens the two most important conditions are that there be no restriction of people's movement and earnings and that we allow the urbanisation process and real rural development to take place

SEVEN STEPS

"If people have proper incomes we won't need half the medical measures we recommend. But without changing structures there are ways of alleviating malnutrition."

He pointed out that the World Health Organisation had isolated as effective seven simple procedures.

These were monitoring the growth of children, rehydrating

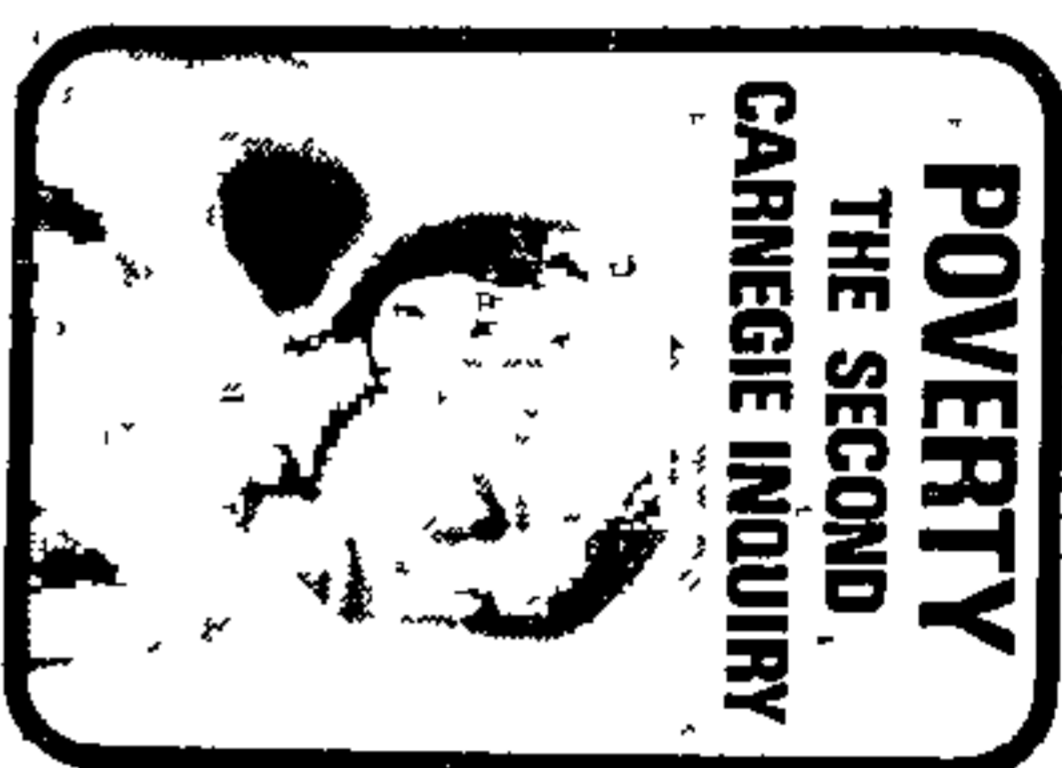
those suffering from gastroenteritis, encouraging breast-feeding for its nutritional value and its disease-proof delivery, immunisation and education programmes and concentrating on the skills of parenting and encouraging appropriate spacing of children.

In the field of job creation, researchers Robert and Ann Collins reported their pioneering experience at the Tlakeni Textiles co-operative in the Northern Transvaal. Tlakeni Textiles became South Africa's first industrial co-operative in 1980.

It has no pure employees — only member-workers who have shares in the co-operative and control over its running on a one member one vote basis. Surpluses are shared or ploughed back into the enterprise for expansion or loan repayments.

The researchers report: "There are now 23 worker-members who produce an annual turnover of approximately R76 000 from printing textiles.

The workers control the affairs of the co-operative democratically in the areas of production, personnel, finance and marketing. The co-op has been finan-



The Star continues its coverage of major areas of research presented at Cape Town of the Second Carnegie Conference on Poverty and Development in Southern Africa. JO-ANNE COLLINGE reports.

# Call to tackle symptoms and not the causes

cially self-sufficient for the past four years."

But they qualify this, reflecting on the co-op's dependent and disadvantaged position in relation to "mainstream business".

CLASS FACTOR

"Internal production is finally controlled from outside by the changing patterns of supply and demand. The workers of Tlakeni interact on unequal terms with suppliers and distributors.

"Because the co-op is remote its competitors have a trading advantage over the co-op. Tla-

keni's private enterprise competitors also have the advantage of being part of the class network that links suppliers, producers, distributors and customers."

Tlakeni is a speck of light — nothing more luminous — in the gloom bred by joblessness. But an international perspective on co-operatives provided by World Bank economist Dr. Alan Gelb suggests that they might well have greater potential for regional development.

He cites the Spanish producer co-operative Mondragon which

provides about 18 000 jobs and produces 14 percent of the industrial output of the Basque province of Guipuzcoa.

Mondragon's products include machine tools, kitchen appliances, electrical goods and bus bodies. It has also set up training, banking and social service co-operatives.

"The Mondragon group is considered to have 'outperformed' the capitalist environment' in virtually all substantive respects," comments Dr Gelb. He refers also to the success of the Indian Amul Dairy Co-op-

eratives which process the milk of about 340 000 individual producers in Gujarat state.

INFORMAL

Dr Gelb warns that co-operatives' failures are almost as spectacular as the successes. A particular blend of receptive social conditions, appropriate membership and good management is to be found in the success stories.

Several researchers' fixed their sights not on the possibilities of organised alternatives to wage employment, but on the

reality of people scratching together the necessities of life by "informal" enterprise — by hawking, doing odd jobs, and the like.

In contrast to the townships where Pundy Pillay and David Webster claim informal sector activity is a flourishing phenomenon — in the poorest rural areas there is little scope. "Local demands tend to be limited and demands low," concludes a kwazulu study.

In metropolitan townships and homeland towns alike official harassment of street traders is reported.

Observing the "persecution and prosecution" of hawkers in Umata, Nicoli Natrass concludes that officialdom appears to act to protect the interests of larger traders. In effect the hawkers buttress smaller stores from which they buy almost all their provisions.

The final cluster of short-term strategies for protection against poverty comes from the labour field. Its stance is one of combat rather than seeking relief.

form of trade unionism is in the making. It is crossing the crucial boundary in our industrial relations system between what could be called the politics of production to that of global politics."

He is referring to the "emerging unions", comprising some 400 000 members from the ranks of the unskilled and semiskilled workers, which have grown up since 1979.

Initially most black workers did not join unions for the benefits or wage increases offered, but to defend worker rights against what they saw as unfair management.

In relation to poverty two main points arose: these unions have made significant strides towards protecting workers against dismissal and retrenchments, say Dr Webster. Findings of the Industrial Court and formal agreements with management are testimony to this progress.

Second, they have redefined working class living levels by shifting the focus in negotiations from the meagre poverty datum line to demands for a "living wage".

Wits industrial sociologist Dr Eddie Webster states: "A new



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# Dark future for SA's growing labour force

In this, the last of three weekly articles, JAN SADIE, former Professor of Economics at the University of Stellenbosch, focuses on the problem of providing work for the country's growing population.

FROM the demographic movements depicted in the preceding articles, one would expect growing surpluses of workers at the lower end of the occupational hierarchy. But the disequilibrium extends to the upper end as well — in this instance taking the form of deficits or severe scarcities.

The disequilibrium can be quantified by means of an exercise which assumes that the 1960-'80 experience with respect to growth rate of the GDP, the increase in numbers of workers demanded in the various skill categories and the skill-class mobility, but not the immigration, will be repeated during the 1980-2000 period. Teachers are excluded.

We then have the incremental "demand" and "supply" of labour as set out in the accompanying column.

The extent of the disequilibrium between incremental de-

|                  | DEMAND    | SUPPLY    | DEFICIT/SURPLUS |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| I Executives     | 197 000   | 94 000    | -103 000        |
| II High skilled  | 897 000   | 455 000   | -442 000        |
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| IV Unskilled     | 1 028 000 | 3 796 000 | +2 768 000      |
|                  | 4 622 000 | 6 840 000 | +2 218 000      |

mand and supply is best gauged, not by the (net) difference of 2 218 000 between the two aggregates, but by the sum of the deficits and surpluses (with sign ignored), which is 3 318 000.

### Minimum estimate

This is only a minimum estimate, since the South African economy, moving along the downward phase of the long wave of economic growth, may be considered fortunate were it to register a GDP growth rate of 3,5 percent during the two decades 1980-2000, compared to 4,7 percent during the preceding comparable period, part of which fell within the upward phase of the long wave.

In the event, the gross disequilibrium (in the absence of immigration) may be almost 4-million workers with an incremental unskilled labour surplus of just over 3 000 000.

Looking back by the end of this century at the employment history of the preceding two decades, it is improbable that one would find any direct statistical evidence of the disequilibrium at the upper skill level described here. Because, in one way or another, the economy simply adjusts to these conditions.

In so far as immigration cannot compensate in full for the lack of high-level manpower, local talent will be appointed in the vacancies, not necessarily because it is of the required quality in terms of qualifications, experience and know-how, but because the vacancies have to be filled. The candidate does not need to be the right man, but only the man at the right place at the right time.

### Work ethic

High level manpower is, however, being created by the

happiness about not being paid enough in accordance with the norm of entitlement.

The customary and logical remedy for the above situation is education and training, particularly for classes III and IV. Unfortunately, in at least its undifferentiated and non-specific form, it is not a panacea. The content and the cultural ambience are all important.

When a majority of pupils do not proceed beyond standard IV, a good deal of resources are expended in doing little more than keeping children off the streets.

If those who continue their studies, do so, in the tradition of the "liberal education", with the objective of obtaining a certificate or diploma regardless of its applicability or relevance for jobs on offer and particularly if it is acquired in a traditional ambience not hospitable to modernisation through individual enterprise, we may have "educated unemployment", but not appropriate economic material.

### Migrant labour

Not to be avoided, but actively targeted for, in the first place by classes IV, are the many blue collar skills which can be said to be culturally neutral in the sense that their acquisition does not demand nurturing in a technically sophisticated environment. And there is no reason why those participating in the migrant labour system should be excluded.

While, in the meantime, there are growing surpluses of unskilled labour, one would expect the economy and the conditions of employment to reveal some evidence of an accommodation of the situation, in accordance with the principle of the optimal use of productive factor endowment. But this is not so.

The abundant unskilled labour in this country is being

amount of capital employed per additional worker in the secondary and tertiary industries was double that of the 1960's. Part of the explanation is to be found in the more or less unaltered capital intensity of projects such as Sasol.

### Autonomous force

Furthermore, there is the autonomous force of unreasoned adoption and importation of First World technology embodied in machines, without regard to its appropriateness in South African conditions, as underscored by the research undertaken at our own CSIR.

There may also be attempts at transferring the skill requirements lacking in the labour force to the machine. But it is a self-defeating process, as the servicing and handling of the equipment require more skilled labour. The lowering of the relative cost of capital by inflation and the tax system is making a contribution as well.

However, during the past decade a major influence has been emanating from the unskilled labour force itself, aided and abetted by employers who are being pressurised to apply, not the economic norm of a workers' marginal product, but the social norm of paying a man a decent "living wage" when and if you employ him.

### Beautiful principle

It is a beautiful principle which cannot be faulted on its own. The poverty and hunger of those not employed as a result, is not included in the principle. In the traditional extended family system it might be preferable to have two breadwinners earning R200 a month each than only one earning R300.

And increasingly the muscle-flexing of the new trade unions for both economic and political reasons, with strikes and threats of strikes, is making the reliable machine a preferred alternative to the unreliable worker. And so the ranks of the unemployed or non-employed unskilled workers are being

JAN  
ERS  
ROSS

the unwilling pawn in

hunter. His prey is a  
Jews across Europe  
him.  
Drummer Girl", by  
spy-master.

to the very end



# growing labour force

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## Work ethic

High level manpower is, moreover, being created by the simple expedient of raising the titular status and, with that, the pay and fringe benefits of an employee's job. And all the time the work ethic is inexorably being eroded by the pecuniary ethic. The happiness of the previous generation at having good jobs is being replaced by an un-

happiness about not being paid enough in accordance with the norm of entitlement.

The customary and logical remedy for the above situation is education and training, particularly for classes III and IV. Unfortunately, in at least its undifferentiated and non-specific form, it is not a panacea. The content and the cultural ambience are all important.

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While, in the meantime, there are growing surpluses of unskilled labour, one would expect the economy and the conditions of employment to reveal some evidence of an accommodation of the situation, in accordance with the principle of the optimal use of productive factor endowment. But this is not so.

The abundant unskilled labour in this country is being used as if it were scarce — and the scarce co-operating factor of production capital is being used as if it were in abundant supply.

Labour has been increasingly replaced by capital equipment. During the 1970's the average

amount of capital employed per additional worker in the secondary and tertiary industries was double that of the 1960's. Part of the explanation is to be found in the more or less unaltered capital intensity of projects such as Sasol.

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However, during the past decade a major influence has been emanating from the unskilled labour force itself, aided and abetted by employers who are being pressurised to apply, not the economic norm of a workers' marginal product, but the social norm of paying a man a decent "living wage" when and if you employ him.

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And increasingly the muscle-flexing of the new trade unions for both economic and political reasons, with strikes and threats of strikes, is making the reliable machine a preferred alternative to the unreliable worker. And so the ranks of the unemployed or non-employed unskilled workers are being swollen all the time.

And the replacement of labour by capital does not even have the compensatory virtue of raising the level of multi-factor productivity. The productivity record is miserable. The sequel is misery.

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## Venus factory shop

at a time, from a single manufacturer. And there may be 30 such deliveries a season. We handle approximately a million items a season — a four to five month period.

"Our garments are sold at two-thirds and half or less of the price charged in the stores. We sell top quality at low prices, and cut down on staff and overheads to keep prices down.

"We make it a policy to try and sell summer dresses at prices not exceeding R16,99, and winter dresses at under R29.

"Before coming to Cape Town in 1968 from Johannesburg my husband was a commercial traveller in household linens and blouses, so he already had the ability to recognise a good buy when he saw it. The art of a successful business is in the buying and not the selling," said Mrs Patel.

"When we first opened we stocked more conservative tailored lines, now we still sell top labels in elegant garments but also buy-in fun sportswear and fashion lines for the younger generation so we have clothes for all ages for the whole family. We stock everything from knitwear to evening wear for women, and all types of menswear. We have a large mens department.

"Our first customers were the factory workers in the surrounding industrial areas, but now our customers come from all walks of life, from members of parliament and their wives to shop assistants.

"We get regular visitors from the Transvaal and Free State, and visitors from overseas also make a point of calling in regularly once they've discovered us. And we make a point of following up customers' particular requests and notifying people of new stock arrivals.

"From March till the end of July we bring in fresh stocks daily, and again from the end of October till the first week in December.

"My husband and I do the buying, and at present he is in the Philippines and Sri Lanka selecting next summer's stock.

"We also buy dresses, blouses and suits from India, knitwear from the Philippines, and crochets, silks and cottons from Bangkok.

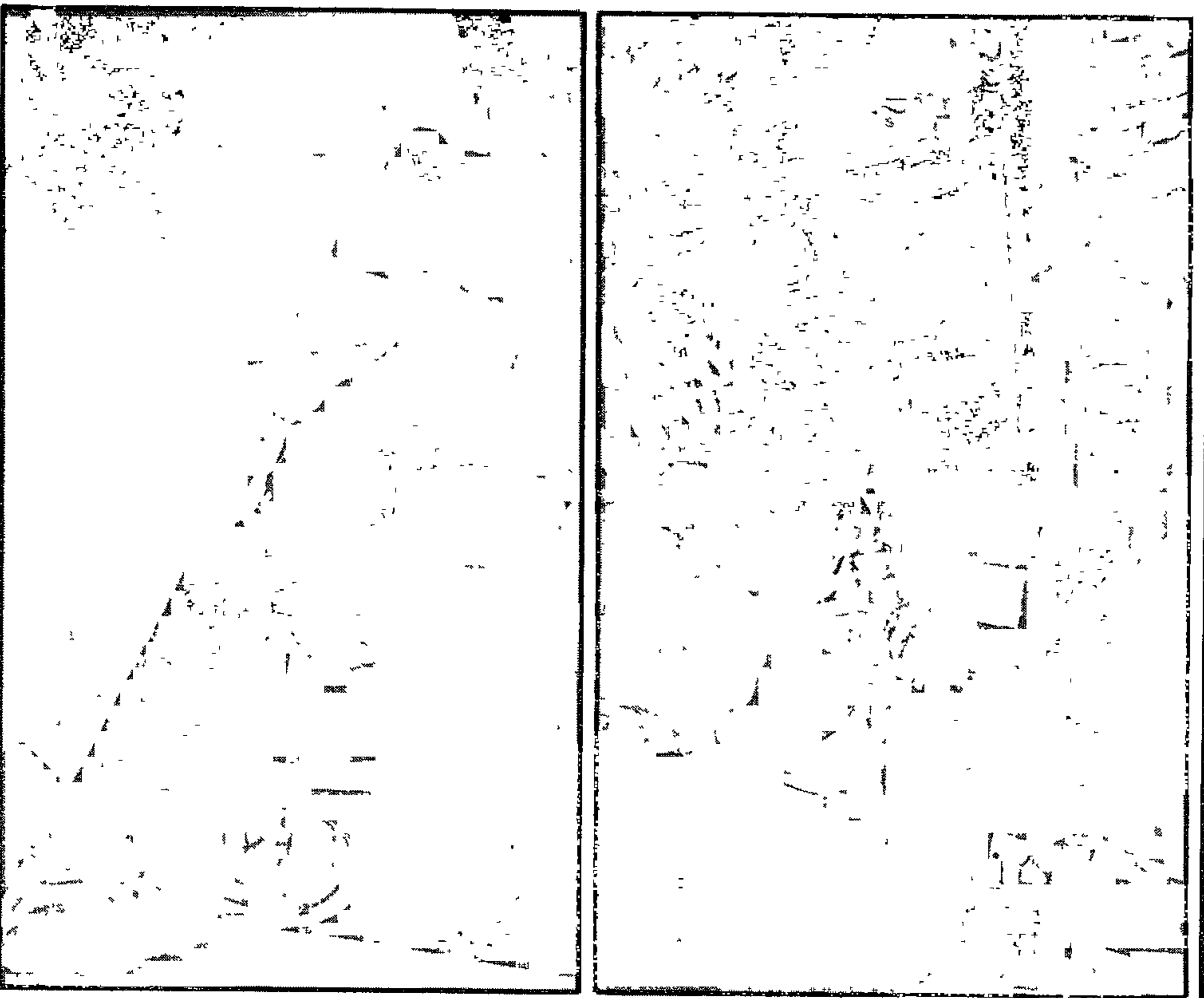
The factory shop, featuring mens and womens clothing, was the first section of the business to open, and from that developed a flourishing door-to-door trade which now operates from Wynberg. Then five years ago an additional warehouse was acquired near the original factory to sell childrens clothing and knitwear on the same basis — and on May 1 a new curtaining section will be opened.

A family business, the Patel's daughter Miriam assists in the factory shop and her husband Yusuf helps on the childrens and knitwear side.

"All our staff have been with us a long time and enjoy the fast-moving atmosphere," says Mrs Patel, "there's never a dull moment and always new exciting stock!"



Yusuf Govadia assists a young customer in the childrens wear section at the Venus warehouse.



TOP: Top label clothing at the Venus factory shop sells at prices well below retail store prices because it is bought in bulk.  
ABOVE: Despite the fast turnover Mrs Shirien Patel enjoys the personal contact with her customers at the Venus factory shop.



# Fleet of minds

## Interview

Gorry Bowes-Taylor



IT is the last day of the second Carnegie conference. It is the lunch hour break in the Robert Leslie building between that morning's plenary session and the three speakers of the afternoon. David Hamburg, president of the Carnegie Corporation in New York, Paul Streeten, director of the World Development Institute at Boston University, and Francis Wilson, professor of labour economics at UCT and director of the conference.

The Carnegie Corporation has provided R500 000 for a five-year study of poverty in Southern Africa. The Carnegie Commission on Poor Whites — an historic five-volume report produced in conjunction with the NGK, was published in 1932 and its findings and the action taken substantially altered the lives and livelihood of that class in this country.

She swivels out on her seat as David Hamburg's talk ends. I touch her elbow.

She is to chair the last two speakers, Paul Streeten and Francis Wilson, and she says, with some vigour, "If you people could just settle down a little bit." Then "We are mercifully at the end of this marathon."

Lecture Room 2A Francis Wilson, in his closing address (he has half of us, at the end, in tears), says it has been a stimulating and engaging week. But, he continues, it would be presumptuous for him to summarise its findings.

Delegates, nursing plastic lunch boxes (chicken salad) on their knees, sit on steps in the foyer. There is a casual air, most are in jeans, some in African or Indian prints. One woman has a toddler and a baby in a brown bag.

Lecture room 2A. David A Hamburg calls the research "path-breaking" with that long American "a." "We are indebted to you for the intellectual discipline and courage," he says, pronouncing it "kerj." And "We especially admire the fact that this inquiry, unlike the one a half-century ago, has actively and substantially involved people of all races and social groupings, working together in mutual respect for a great purpose."

She was deeply involved with the Black Consciousness movement and close to its leader, Steve Biko. In April (April is a cruel month) 1977, she was banned and banished to Lenyenge for five years. She has Biko's son, born four months after his father's death in detention. She has called him Hlumelo. It is a Xhosa word meaning "spring that comes from a dead branch." She has found the conference informative and helpful, but, an active woman, she is impatient for action.

Lecture room 2A. Paul Streeten "My dear Mamphele and friends" It is a warm beginning to a fleet and fluently intellectual talk. I am ashamed to say that I listen to his winged words rather than to his meaning. His is too quick for me but with some delight I scribble the academic's jargon — multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary, paradigms, variables and constants, production function, methodologically — while BOP-TV wrap their cables around my ankles.

The media — television, newspapers, journals (some close to the Government) — will carry the message. The call is now for action. It is not just Dr Ramphele who is impatient.

Pedro Espi-Sanchis, with his collection of African instruments, is about to demonstrate African music. There is a nice distinction between calabashes and the cordless mike.

Someone points out Lindy Wilson, in white, and her daughter, someone else says "Oh, there's Francis." He is slight (of figure, but fleet of mind) with immaculately ironed blue shirt, rolled shirt sleeves.

Dr Streeten praises the conference for so successfully dismantling barriers — between South Africans and foreigners, between academics and practitioners, between scribble and scribble.

Francis says "The working parties will continue their work on the issues raised, on water, fuel, rural development, influx control, health and housing." (There have been the gaps in the conference, Francis says. Transport was not discussed, nor were the implications of population growth, nor were the peripheral areas of Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana or Mozambique.)

"We reckon books will emerge. Papers are already



FRANCIS WILSON: "We are angry, but we are not angry enough."

There is the music Francis is to say later. "The full buzz of the conference."

Two rows in front of me is Dr Mamphele Ramphele. She is the woman growing souls in the arid earth of Lenyenge in the northern Transvaal. She runs a clinic — Itthuseng, a South Sotho word meaning "help yourselves." The emphasis is on preventive medicine, literacy training programmes and self-help projects. The main thrust is to en-

One of the most exciting sessions, he says, was Charles Simkins's paper on the measurement of poverty, where Simkins claimed that income levels for the majority of people in

Francis says "The working parties will continue their work on the issues raised, on water, fuel, rural development, influx control, health and housing." (There have been the gaps in the conference, Francis says. Transport was not discussed, nor were the implications of population growth, nor were the peripheral areas of Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana or Mozambique.)

"We reckon books will emerge. Papers are already





past 20 years (In a specially convened debate, critics argued that Simkins did not take into account the social context of the statistics)

Dr Streeten says he would have liked to have heard more on transport and the spiritual needs of the poor, more about the economic mechanism of the influx control laws. He was regretful that there was not much made of the politics of poverty for "the heart of the matter is a political problem". He philosophises alongside Plato, Karl Marx, he quotes Milton Friedman, Charles Elliot (He is to use the name Charles soon again)

And, as does his vigorous friend, Mamphela, he calls for action but, he says "There are those who have a vested interest in keeping things the way they are. They have a problem to every solution". He would like to create Utopians, by marrying the pedant "good on details, but no vision" to the visionary "terribly careless about detail. They'll enter the wrong day in their diary and miss the revolution"

Ending in an academic flurry "I really must," he says, "thank Charles Wilson"

□□□

● 93,7 percent of South Africa's poverty is contained in the homelands or on white farms

*Dr Norman Reynolds, chief economist of the Zimbabwean Ministry of Finance*

● Whites, 17 percent of the population, receive more than 70 percent of all income, while 98,1 percent of all income from property is accrued to whites

*Dr Alan Boesak, NG Sendingkerk minister and president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches*

● At least 17 252 146 Africans were arrested for pass law and influx control offences from 1916-1982

*Professor Michael Savage, sociology department, UCT*

● A third of black, Indian and coloured children below 14 are underweight and stunted

*Professor John Hansen, department of paediatrics and child health, Wits*

● In 1970, 50 626 black children died of hunger. Of these 6 005 died from severe forms of malnutrition

● Of 75 rates set by industrial councils, only 22 have risen in real terms since 1973 — and the others have actually fallen in terms of buying power

*Debbie Budlender, Deha Hendrie, Dudley Horner, Gordon Young SA Labour and Development Research Unit at UCT*

● The average income of families in three resettlement camps in the Ciskei is R55 a month. There is a heavy dependence on pensions as a primary source of income in all areas of the Ciskei

*Professor G Ellis, D Murr, D Budlender of UCT*

● Cape Town households without electricity spend up to three times as much on lighting, heating and other energy needs as do similar households with electricity

*Dr Anton Eberhard, senior research officer of the Energy Research Institute at UCT*

● R3 a day is the going rate for casual labour in Oudtshoorn — about a quarter of the wage recommended by the Domestic Workers' Union. In Calitzdorp, casual domestics on farms earn R16 a month. One 74-year-old farm worker, working four hours every day, earns R8 a week. This equals about 2,5 cents an hour

*Dudley Horner, Graham van Wyk*

● In Steytleville water is 28 times as expensive as it is in Cape Town

*Wilfred Wentzel, SALDRU, UCT*

This second Carnegie inquiry, which began two years ago, has another 15 months to run. It is one of the most important academic meetings in South Africa. There have been some 300 papers given, 20 universities represented. There have been economists, field workers, social workers, educationists, lawyers, medical people, ecologists, religious leaders (Paul Streeten's "multi-disciplines and inter-disciplines"): It has been a stimulating week

numbers, on sale and in libraries

"At the end, once all these books are written, it will be necessary, over the next 15 months, to write — and it's something that I'd like to do — a 90-page book giving a brief synthesis of the facts. What's the key evidence that's come out of this, what's the analysis, what are the processes going on? Then it will be necessary for a group of people to assess this inquiry with a particular look at the short and long term strategies for action

"The shape of our society, in the future, after change, is going to depend on the foundations laid now

"The long term, however, requires big political changes to resolve poverty in this country. Without radical land reform, full citizenship for all and the abolition of influx control we are playing games if we think we can achieve the fair, just, non-poor society we all dream about"

It is near the end of his address, it is after 5 30pm. All of us in 2A are as still as mice. He tells two tales and it is at the end of these that most of us are in tears. Pippa Green, Argus Labour Reporter, swears she saw some brimming in Francis's eyes too

He watches a child dying of kwashiorkor "I felt ashamed, sick and impossibly angry. Anger has been missing in this conference". He talks to a woman removed from District Six. We had a community in District Six, she tells him, now we are scattered like sand around the Cape Flats. "That makes us angry," says Francis, "but I don't think it makes us angry enough". And "We are angry at the destruction of the invisible wealth, the human links that bind us

"Whether South Africa is a rich or a poor country is irrelevant. Do we not have the resources to say all of us must live in the communities we choose, we must all have clean water, food, jobs, clothes, we must all have some happiness"

It is over. Dr Ramphela at the mike, says "I hope we are angry enough to translate that anger into action". She announces action. "The cocktail party starts at 6pm"

□□□

Francis and Lindy and their three children live in an old farmhouse in Rondebosch. They share it with a dog, two cats and three rabbits. There is also a constant stream of what would appear to be refugees

They are not refugees, they are conference participants. Mamphela was there and Wilfred Beckerman and Pamela and Norman Reynolds

Francis is just awake, it is the morning after the conference, he looks scrubbed and young. Lindy gives him cornflakes, then eggs and bacon and toast. Sometimes he talks with his mouth full

"Oh, Charles Simkins," he says, "the trouble with Charlie is he shoots his statistics off at high velocity. But we have to look at his figures in the wider framework of what he was saying in that paper and in the light of other papers of his. Charlie is pioneering our knowledge of the macro picture in South Africa"

Munch, munch (Cornflakes make a different noise from toast)

"Men without children," Francis says "One of the most appalling things in South Africa is the migratory labour system". He has two friends he grew up with in the Eastern Cape. They are now migrant workers in Cape Town

The one, for many years separated by influx control from his wife and children in the Ciskei, has now lost them. He and another wife live in Crossroads. His first wife and her children struggle in abject poverty in the Ciskei. The other childhood friend, living lovingly with his wife at Crossroads, will surely lose her when the bulldozers move in, destroy their one-room home, drive her out of the Western Cape and force him back to the single-sex hostel where he still pays rent for a bed

"I am allowed to grow up in the Eastern Cape and marry a girl from Johannesburg and settle here and buy a house and raise our children. Here we are with our clean hands watching the bulldozers destroy families. That is the violence of the system"







# Carnegie Inquiry has its knuckles rapped

Mercury 28/4/84 (241) ~~241~~

Parliamentary  
Correspondent

CAPE TOWN—The Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development was an attempt to put South Africa under political pressure, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

The Government was committed to fighting hunger and poverty, but the Carnegie Inquiry implied that only South Africa had these problems, not the rest of Africa, he said during the debate on his vote.

The political undertones of the recent Carnegie conference at the University of Cape Town

had been shown by the unwillingness of delegates to accept a finding by Mr Charles Simkins, a UCT economist, that there had been a real improvement in wages in the homelands.

Mr Botha also said it was strange that the conference had been held in Cape Town while the rest of Africa had been starving.

At both the Carlton Hotel and Good Hope conferences with businessmen, he had stressed the need for uplifting and training people across the country's boundaries.

At the signing of the Nkomati Accord, he had spoken about the need to ensure the freedom of people from poverty and disease.

The Government was being advised by experts about the promotion of development and voluntary organisations were helping to combat poverty.

'If there is one thing I despise it is the exploitation of poverty by squatting and the handing of blankets in the winter by people who then hold themselves up before God,' he said.

## Warning on future of maize industry

Parliamentary  
Correspondent

CAPE TOWN—The Official Opposition yesterday reacted to the 18,5 percent maize price hike by saying that the Minister of Agriculture had little option but to raise the price — given present 'chaotic conditions' in the maize industry.

The PFP spokesman on agriculture, Mr Errol Moorcroft, said in a statement that had Mr Greyling Wentzel not raised the price, the industry could have found itself in a state of total collapse.

'It must be accepted, however, that this kind of

palliative action does nothing to solve the underlying problems of the maize industry, most of which are unrelated to the drought,' he warned.

Mr Moorcroft said South African consumers had every right to demand an explanation from the minister concerning long-term strategies for the industry.

'If the minister has taken note of the findings of the recently-held Carnegie conference on poverty, he will realise how important it is for the Government to act promptly in cushioning the effect of this increase on basic foodstuffs,' he said.

### Africa

Instead of holding a conference on hunger in South Africa, the Carnegie Corporation should hold a conference to discuss hunger in the rest of Africa.

Mr Botha said the newspapers had reported Professor Francis Wilson as saying that the delegates to the conference were not angry enough about poverty in South Africa.

Minister of Health Dr N a k v a n d e r Merwepointed out that no Department of Health official had been invited to the Carnegie conference nor had any attended.

Earlier, the leader of the New Republic Party, Mr Vause Raw, said he had been surprised that the Carnegie Conference had not enjoyed the degree of attention he had thought it would have received during the debate.

# Carnegie Inquiry 'a bid to pressure SA'

Cape Times 28/4/84  
200

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
— The Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development was an attempt to put South Africa under political pressure, the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, said yesterday

The government was committed to fighting

hunger and poverty but the Carnegie Inquiry implied that only South Africa had these problems, not the rest of Africa, he said during debate on his vote

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Instead of holding a conference on hunger in South Africa, the Carnegie Corporation should hold a conference to discuss hunger in the rest of Africa

The Minister of Health, Dr Nak van der Merwe, pointed out to him that no Department of Health official had been invited to the Carnegie conference Mr Botha said this illustrated that it was another attempt to put blame on South Africa.

Earlier, the leader of the New Republic Party, Mr Vause Raw, said he had been surprised that the Carnegie Conference had not enjoyed the degree of attention he had thought it would have received during the debate

"At the conference, facts and information were brought to light of which no country can be proud This is not a political issue These are facts that we in South Africa have to change, and we cannot do it by long-term planning"



2411 ~~SAGA~~ ~~113~~

# In the land

# of the R1

# calabagges

WHAT worries Mrs Mang le Mang most is the price of food. She is not alone. It is a problem she shares with all her neighbours in Gazankulu who spend 40% of their meagre incomes on food.

Mrs Mang le Mang is not an actual person. She is an Everywoman figure representing the poor of Southern Africa on whom the Carnegie Corporation spent R500 000 identifying and analysing their problems, and working out strategies to solve them.

Mr and Mrs Mang le Mang are the composite faces of many academic statistics and case studies presented in the 303 reports made in Cape Town to the Carnegie inquiry into poverty last week.

Their lives differ very little from those of the other two million families in South Africa living below the breadline.

The poor spend a large proportion of their income on food simply because they don't have much money and still have to feed their families — in the Mang le Mang case, five children plus grand-

**Rocketed**  
The three-year drought



*The Carnegie Inquiry*  
**FOCUS ON POVERTY**

By MARION WHITEHEAD

Mr Mang le Mang earns R15 a month. He sends money to his wife wherever he can but when there is trouble he has nothing to send. Like the time he was jailed for not having the right pass.

His problem was not unique — 529 others were jailed for the same reason in South Africa that day. He lost his job for being absent and there was no money during the months he looked for work.

That's when Mrs Mang le Mang became so desperate she took a job at the sisal plantations. Working from

to allocate land, he also has the ear of the homeland's government.

Mrs Mang le Mang has visited the big city, Joni (Johannesburg), just once, when her husband could stand his loneliness no longer. She was shocked at the way he lived in a hostel with 16 men to a room, paying R14 each with too little place for everyone to cook and wash.

Despite the bad conditions, Mrs Mang le Mang squeezed in with some of the other families. But it wasn't long before she and her children were arrested in one of the frequent pass



## Pillars of apartheid must go, inquiry is told

THREE pillars of apartheid — influx control, citizenship laws and land ownership — are steadily impoverishing South Africa. This was one of the dominant themes to emerge from papers at the Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty in Southern Africa.

The three will have to go if any long-term strategy to combat poverty is to be effective, the inquiry was told.

"We are playing games if we think we can do anything without these changes," Professor Francis Wilson, director of the inquiry, warned at the close of the conference in Cape Town. All three are vital components of the government's vast experiment in social engineering.

### Misery

Urbanisation was a process actively encouraged by the government earlier this century when poor white Afrikaners looked to city jobs to lift them out of their misery. But influx control laws — based on the authorities' control over housing and employment — kept the majority of the black population confined to the 13% of the land allocated to homelands.

Lawyer Mr Arthur Chaskalson and the Black Sash president, Mrs Sheena Duncan, in a paper detailing how widely the influx net falls, said: "The re-



and case studies presented in the 303 reports made in Cape Town to the Carnegie Inquiry into poverty last week.

Their lives differ very little from those of the other two million families in South Africa living below the breadline.

The poor spend a large proportion of their income on food simply because they don't have much money and still have to feed their families — in the Mang le Mang case, five children plus grand-

## Rocketed

The three-year drought has aggravated their situation and food prices have rocketed. For a cabbage, R1 is the exorbitant price Mrs Mang le Mang pays.

The women of the drought-stricken village sing a mournful song.

*This year we shall all perish, we people of Chauke We found everyone with tears, crying for medicines*

They have lost nearly all their cattle and only 12% of villagers have any beasts left. Mrs Mang le Mang hopes her husband, a migrant worker on the Reef, will send the family some money soon. Between 50% and 75% of the people in her area depend for their survival on money sent by migrant workers.

Mr Mang le Mang earns R155 a month. He sends money to his wife whenever he can but when there is trouble he has nothing to send. Like the time he was jailed for not having the right pass.

His problem was not unique — 529 others were jailed for the same reason in South Africa that day. He lost his job for being absent and there was no money during the months he looked for work.

That's when Mrs Mang le Mang became so desperate she took a job at the sisal plantations. Working from 6.45am to 5pm five days a week earned her R20 a month. She gave it up in disgust as soon as her husband found a job.

Only 2% of the people in her area can make a living from the land. She is not one of them. She lost her piece of ground when she was moved by the government to another area. Now there is not enough land for everyone and so she's taken seasonal work picking avocado pears on a farm near Louis Trichardt.

She earns R1,60 a day and feels exploited. She carries on there's the new tax her chief is demanding. Last year he bought a new car with their taxes.

What can they do? The chief not only has the power

to allocate land, he also has the ear of the homeland's government.

Mrs Mang le Mang has visited the big city, Joni (Johannesburg), just once, when her husband could stand his loneliness no longer.

She was shocked at the way he lived in a hostel with 16 men to a room, paying R14 each with too little place for everyone to cook and wash.

Despite the bad conditions, Mrs Mang le Mang squeezed in with some of the other families. But it wasn't long before she and her children were arrested in one of the frequent pass raids on the hostel, jailed and endorsed out of the city.

The traumatic experience precipitated a crisis of faith for Mr Mang le Mang. "It was so heart-breaking when I came from work and heard that my wife and children had been arrested just because I am a contract labourer. I was joined to her by the law, a magistrate. "When the authorities part us, I become distrustful and do not even trust God."

## Damaged

Going home for three weeks each year is not enough and his family life has been damaged. "I feel like an intruder when I arrive home," he says.

Disciplining the children is a problem. Relations with the eldest son, Themba, are bad and he beats the teenager frequently.

His family has been resettled twice. The first time was to make way for a group of poor whites who took over their rich farmland. The Mang le Mangs lost all their cattle in the removal and many of their neigh-



● A member of the Mpukunyonl Farmers Union tends her cabbage patch

hours died in the epidemic in the unhygienic conditions prevalent in the new place. Nearly 20 years later his people were moved again. This time, Mr Mang le Mang refused to go.

When he went home he found his wife had been arrested for not moving. "The chiefs had conspired with the authorities even with respect to the scattering of people all over the place (relocation)," he said.

They were forced to move, but the new area was devastated by drought and his herd of cattle were among the 89 000 that had died in Gazankulu by September last year. He could not plough. He gave up planting, saying "It is futile".

So food production at the new place is lower. Death touched the family

too. Their second child was one of the 50 000 black children who died of nutritional diseases in 1970.

In the Mang le Mang's area the infant mortality rate is now 25%. Mr Mang le Mang was not at home to help his wife when the child fell ill. Mrs Mang le Mang had done her best but the buses were irregular and she could not afford the R25 taxi fare to take the child to the nearest hospital, where she would have had to pay another R2 to see the doctor.

## Stunted

The youngest three children were underweight and the two little girls stunted by malnutrition.

Last year one of the children almost died in the cholera epidemic.

Another problem was that the children's school — like 60% of the schools — did not have a toilet.

Mrs Mang le Mang was, however, proud that Themba had reached high school even though he was not one of the between 2% and 4% to reach matric.

The others didn't stay in school for much longer than three years. Mrs Mang le Mang needed their help at home — the eldest daughter spent most of the day queuing for water at the tap.

The burden of school fees, books and uniforms that amounted to R55 each per year was too much for her. And with 59 pupils to one teacher, the children didn't seem to learn much anyway.

Mr Mang le Mang sees his children's poor educational facilities and the inferior health services, and smaller pensions blacks get, as being a result of apartheid and political oppression.

He aspires to the basic human rights so many other South Africans take for granted to have a house of his own in the city where he can live with his family.

the government's earlier this century when poor white Afrikaners looked to city jobs to lift them out of their misery. But influx control laws — based on the authorities' control over housing and employment — kept the majority of the black population confined to the 13% of the land allocated to homelands.

Lawyer Mr Arthur Chaskalson and the Black Sash president, Mrs Sheena Duncan, in a paper detailing how widely the influx net falls, said: "The restriction on mobility imposed by the influx control system has limited employment opportunities for blacks in the cities and has been a major cause of both rural and urban poverty."

Ms Christiane Elias, a sociologist at the University of Stellenbosch, noted that legislation had had a seriously depressing effect on the supply of urban housing for blacks. Figures showed that from 1973 the pace of houses built in black urban areas decreased while the number of houses built in homelands rose sharply.

## Shortage

A researcher of the South African Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru), Mr Pundy Pillay, put the housing shortage in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area alone at 90 000, increasing by a total of 4 000 units each year.

Ms Elias concluded: "It might be as well to take a leaf out of the report on the first Carnegie commission on poverty, which solved the problem of urban housing by giving the poor white by giving them every opportunity of obtaining freehold land and homes in the urban areas.

"We can only hope that government will be pragmatic enough to realise that this is one of the solutions to urban African poverty."

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# Price increase 'will hit feeding schemes'

THE poorest people would feel the maize price rise first and most acutely, the director of the Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development, Professor Francis Wilson, said this week.

His statement comes amid widespread and angry criticism by consumer bodies of this week's massive 19% maize price increase.

"Papers submitted to the Carnegie inquiry show that the number of people in the homelands with no visible means of support — no land, no cattle, no pensions, no remittances — has increased five-and-a-half times in the past 20 years," Prof Wilson told Sapa.

"If you are scraping by with no money at all, what do you do when the price of

Staff Reporter

your staple food is increased by almost 20%?"

Supermarket chains and consumer bodies have called on the government to take urgent action to subsidise drought relief organisations so that they can continue their feeding commitments.

Mr Gordon Utian, managing director of Checkers, said: "It is a major disaster for the emergency relief feeding schemes which keep hundreds of thousands of drought-stricken people from starving."

Other supermarket chains have called for the quick withdrawal of general sales tax on basic foodstuffs.

Black consumer bodies said the increase would make black poverty unbearable.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Tos Wentzel, has given his approval to the increase, which he described as "unavoidable".

g of the year

ming to? A drag wedding?  
? Did it really happen?

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X

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Write to Box 56, Cape Town 8000

# When out of sight, they re out of mind

THE conference of the second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa had an enormous obstacle to overcome — the familiarity of all South Africans, rich and poor, with poverty.

Until we as a nation, and especially the rich among us, recognise that something we have all grown up with is actually a problem, we will get nowhere in our efforts to eliminate poverty.

Part of the problem is that the rich have been so effectively separated from the poor in South Africa through apartheid that the rich simply forget the poor. It is a case of "out of sight, out of mind".

And when the poor are "in sight", as it were, the reaction of the rich often is not compassion or a recognition that a real problem exists, but rather outrage that something so unpleasant has come within their view.

Take the squatters, for instance. The reaction of the rich frequently is that they must simply be removed.

But the fact that they will continue to be poor and homeless back in their homelands does not seem to concern the rich, who seem to believe that the problem is somehow solved as long as the poor don't squat within sight of the rich. Again, a question of "out of sight, out of mind".

The attitude of the Government, primarily elected by the rich, is that unemployed blacks should return to their homelands. But as the Carnegie conference confirmed, there is desperate unemployment in the homelands. That does not seem to matter, though, just so long as the unemployed don't hang around the places where the rich live and work.

One big criticism I have of the Carnegie conference is that they seem not to have realised that in order to really understand the poor, it is necessary first of all to look closely at the rich.

SAMUEL MATHESON

PREFERENCE is given to letters containing the writer's name. Although a pseudonym is acceptable, all letters should carry the name, address and signature of the writer as evidence of good faith. The Editor reserves the right to shorten letters and to select those for publication. Unfortunately we are unable to acknowledge the many letters submitted.

## A pension after teacher's death!

SOMETIME last year a committee set up by the President's Council to determine the average life expectancy of the various population groups established among other things that the national average for the group designated as "coloured" was 59 years.

Statistically speaking, therefore, the bulk of teachers in this group will die in service.

I find it grossly illogical that I am faced with the gruesome prospect of being pensioned off at the age of 65, six years after my statistical death!

I also recall reading a report blaming school inspectors for the premature demise of some teachers. This was unfair to the inspectorate, as the majority of those teachers according to statistics should have been dead anyway!

I really envy my white colleagues who, after exercising a retirement option at the age of 60 can still look forward to a full 10 years of rest before reaching statistical death at 70.

May I suggest that our teacher organisations put their hand to doing what they can to bring some logic to bear on the situation, and that the age of retirement be revised to a realistic one by those who will be granted the power under the "own affairs" arrangement to look after our educational affairs.

FIFTY-NINER



CAPE TIMES 1/5/84 (24) ~~24~~

# Urban Research Unit defends stance

From Associate Professor D DEWAR, Director, Urban Problems Research Unit, University of Cape Town):

I READ with some astonishment a statement by the press secretary of the Department of Community Development (Cape Times, April 13) regarding a paper presented at the Carnegie Conference by two researchers working under the auspices of the Urban Problems Research Unit — the more so since the paper had not yet been published and clearly had not been studied by members of that department.

The statement makes no reference to the arguments or analysis presented in that paper. It is simply an emotive outburst based upon a newspaper report — hardly, I would have thought, a suitable form of response from a state department.

In that statement, three claims are made which demand the strongest possible repudiation. The first is that "it seems UPRU is not interested in finding solutions to the housing problem" — this is manifestly absurd. If the press secretary knew anything at all about the unit, he would know that it views its primary

function as idea formulation and not simply criticism. Indeed, more ideas have come out of this unit about urban-related issues than probably any other institution in the country.

The second is that the study "appeared to be aimed at bolstering organized resistance". This, too, is absurd. The function of a research unit is to publish the results of research. Those results are available to anyone or any institution who wishes to use them. Indeed, it is obviously in the interests of the department, as formulator of national housing policy, to study seriously all material relevant to its task, in the interests of continual improvement.

The third is the claim that somehow UPRU is repudiating what it had previously preached, now that the new policy is being implemented. UPRU's position has not changed. The statement simply reveals that the department has not understood what we have been arguing over the years. UPRU's position regarding housing policy has been consistently based on the following principles:

(1) It is in the country's interests to guarantee a basic level of shelter for all people. Given the realities of poverty

## letters

PO Box 11  
Cape Town  
8000



Prof Dewar

and income inequality in this country, low income housing provision is unequivocally the responsibility of the State.

(2) There is no single 'housing problem'. There are, in fact, a number of different problems at different levels of income and affordability. The complexity of the situation demands a multi-faceted approach. If this does not occur, policy action at one point simply transfers the problem elsewhere, which is exactly what is happen-

ing at present.

(3) People themselves are in the best position to determine how much they can afford to pay for housing. The poor face many trade-offs daily in the struggle to satisfy their basic needs. Generally, they act rationally in this struggle; people do not consciously worsen their position. The role of policy in this regard is to mobilize the widest possible range of resources (those of the State, the private sector, communities and individuals are all important) and to open up the widest possible range of choices to assist them.

(4) To achieve this, the use of a full range of housing delivery systems and combinations of systems, ranging from squatter upgrade to the provision of completed units, must be facilitated. Self-help systems, therefore, should be seen as supplements, not alternatives, to conventional, mass housing systems.

(5) Standards cannot be determined on a national basis. Conditions change markedly from place to place and local determination is essential.

(6) The promotion of security of tenure for all people is paramount. It is no good promoting security for one group at

the expense of others. Significantly, homeownership is only one form of security. It is equally important to promote security for people living in rented accommodation.

(7) The housing problem is not simply the provision of shelter. It is the creation of qualitatively rich total living environments. Community facilities, spaces and the quality of these is vitally important in this regard.

(8) The use of locally-plentiful materials, local skills and existing building infrastructure should be maximized.

(9) The process of housing delivery should be consciously used to attack poverty, unemployment and inequality and to develop skills.

There is still considerable grounds of improvement within existing policy on nearly all these counts. UPRU has consistently drawn attention to where these are required and to how they should occur. I am fully prepared to discuss and debate issues relating to housing policy with any member of the department, either publicly or privately, at any time. Slightly hysterical and unsubstantiated outbursts, however, serve no purpose whatsoever.

DAE bombing of



# P W Botha and white SA at crossroads

CAPE TIMES 3/5/84 (30/4) 2/2

ON the face of it, the Nkomati Accord, the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty in South Africa and the Crossroads squatter camp near Cape Town do not appear to have much in common

Nkomati was a remarkable diplomatic success, the Carnegie conference is an academic investigation which produced some 300 research papers and Crossroads is a squatter camp which has recently been in the news with faction fights, arson and similar unpleasant occurrences

Yet, in a vital way, Nkomati, Carnegie and Crossroads are inter-related. They represent the coming together of different patterns of development which could represent a moment of truth not only for Mr Botha and his cabinet, but also for white South Africa with its set of core political beliefs

These beliefs can be spelled out in a simple way. For years, white South Africans have attempted to persuade the world that we mean well with "our" blacks. We have refused them the vote, not for racist reasons, but because we feared that a black government would, like elsewhere in Africa, lead to an irreversible loss of technocratic efficiency. And this would make it impossible to produce jobs, food and shelter for all the people of South Africa.

## Better conditions

This was, in fact, the goal and rationale behind the white technocracy in South Africa, this was indeed a credible justification of white prosperity. If only the West would invest more, if only the total onslaught would go away, South Africa would produce even better living conditions for the black groups in the country.

This is where Nkomati comes in. While there is indeed a threat of ANC insurgency and Russian intervention, the "total onslaught" ideology has been exploited to mobilize white opinion for political ends and to distract attention from the country's internal problems, including black poverty. Nkomati has dealt a severe blow not only to the ANC but also to the total onslaught. For, how could



## The Pattern of Politics

By  
**HERMANN GILIOME**

one continue talking in these terms once one had made peace with Mr Machel, one of the chief "total onslaughters"

### Analyst

The Nkomati Accord has been widely interpreted as a watershed in our internal and external relations. It has indeed shifted the spotlight from the black insurgents at South Africa's borders to the blacks inside the country. Caught unawares by the dramatic peace accord, Pretoria's opponents abroad are now arguing that Nkomati (and the new constitution) will set South Africa free to pursue the repression and control of blacks even more vigorously.

As astute analyst Herbert Adam has written "With the external perception of threat diminished as an excuse, domestic policies will come under increased scrutiny." Pretoria's

friends in the international community are fervently hoping that Nkomati will enable whites to address vigorously the crisis of black poverty and living conditions."

This is where the Carnegie inquiry comes in. It outlined the magnitude of the crisis. The findings of one research paper after the other drove home the single theme: The vast majority of blacks (and an astonishingly large proportion of coloured people) are desperately poor. While government spokesmen may still derive some comfort from the finding that the proportion of blacks in the homelands below the Minimum Living Level has over the last 20 years declined from 90 percent to about 80 percent, the brutal fact is that the absolute number of people below the bare minimum level has doubled. And the number of destitute has increased five times!

### More poverty

Studies prior to Carnegie found that half the male migrant labour force is unemployed and that about 40 percent of the households in even the larger homelands like Kwazulu is landless. There are ever-growing numbers of people without land and without jobs — and that spells ever more poverty, starvation and even deaths.

The government's preferred solution is decentralization and the Development Bank. However, decentralization is extremely expensive. To be really effective, South Africa will have to cripple itself financially. There is now almost complete consensus among scholars that by far the cheapest and the most effective means of alleviating the desperate poverty of the homelands would be to lift influx control.

This is where Crossroads comes in. Crossroads, with its roughly 50 000 inhabitants, is the most visible symbol here and abroad of the great lengths to which blacks will go in their efforts to escape the survival crisis in the homelands. It is also the most crucial test of whether the state will be prepared to accept, however reluctantly, the irresistible pressure of black urbanization.

It was Mr P W Botha himself who last year, after a helicopter ride over Cape Town, decided that all blacks in the Cape Town metropolitan area would have to be relocated in Khayelitsha. "Legal" residents will be resettled there while "illegals" (some 30 000 of them) will be sent home. In the long run this is an alarming prospect for all blacks in Cape Town. But first of all it means that Crossroads, this town of 50 000 inhabitants, will be razed. There are strong indications that this may be done in June or July.

The government's belief that all this can be done on a voluntary basis is surely one of the most stupendous exer-

cises in self-deception in South Africa's history.

This decision is on Mr Botha's personal account and he should be under no illusions about the costs for him personally. His reputation (deserved, in my opinion) as a reformer and a man with much more humane disposition towards blacks than his predecessors, will go up in the smoke of Crossroads. He will fatally damage the careful alliance he has forged with the business community which is firmly insisting that it can only co-operate with the state if an end is made to removals and if the townships are stabilized.

It goes even further. If Crossroads is razed the diplomatic gains of the Nkomati breakthrough will also be obliterated. To the outside world this will be taken as the answer to the potent question of what South Africa intends to do internally with the greater freedom gained from external pressure. I have no doubt that the international uproar will be of almost the same magnitude as that caused in 1977 by Steve Biko's death and the banning of black organizations.

On resettlement and the destruction of black

people's homes, the government is dangerously out of touch with world opinion. It still does not appreciate the remarkable impact on American public opinion of the Magopa resettlement last year. It still does not anticipate that the destruction of Crossroads may well push the United States irrevocably on the road to disinvestment and sanctions.

But snubbing the Carnegie inquiry and destroying Crossroads has even wider implications. Can whites continue to say they care about black poverty if they ignore the findings of an inquiry headed by Professor Francis Wilson, one of South Africa's foremost scholars and widely respected for his integrity? Will the smouldering ruins of Crossroads allow whites to continue believing that white technocracy and the capitalist system are beneficial to blacks as well? Dare we attempt to justify our high living standards if blacks are not even allowed to move to the cities and if we send the

Crossroads squatters home to sure destitution and starvation?

Ultimately, the bell is tolling not only for Mr Botha and the business community. It is tolling for all of us. It is better to stand up now — before the security forces surround Crossroads on a winter day in 1984 and a news embargo descends upon the scene.

The destruction of Crossroads — and all that goes with it — can still be prevented.



Mr P W Botha



President Machel



Prof Francis Wilson



ARGUS 3/5/84

PARLIAMENT

# Suzman slates Sebe and Mphephu

## Police will take 'tough action'

Parliamentary Staff

A MAJOR indictment against the Nationalist Government was its subjecting millions of blacks in Ciskei "to the tender mercies of a vicious tyrant like Sebe", the Assembly heard.

Speaking during the Law and Order vote, Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP Houghton) said the rulers in the independent homelands had learnt well from their masters in Pretoria with regard to detentions.

Last year more than 200 people were in detention in the independent homelands. At the end of February this year 27 were in detention in Ciskei, 10 in Transkei and two in Venda.

"I believe that when the history of these times is written a major indictment against the Nationalist Government will be their subjecting millions of blacks in Ciskei to the tender mercies of a vicious tyrant like Sebe and hundreds of thousands of people in Venda to the authority of an impostor and petty demagogue like Mphephu.

"Nor should we forget the special-detention proclamation 103 of Kwazulu passed in 1973 in an attempt to curb faction fighting in the Msinga and Klip River areas.

"Detentions can bring no peace to a hopelessly overcrowded, poverty-stricken area into which more and more people are being pushed as a result of 'black spot' removals and the abolition of the farm labour tenant system," she said.

Turning to the code regulating the interrogation of detainees, Mrs Suzman said it was "disturbing" that security police were using section 50 of the Criminal Procedures Act in cases of security suspects.

"A lot can happen in 48 hours to a security suspect being interrogated in these circumstances — and indeed a lot did happen to Paris Malatgi.

"He died after being shot in the head by a security policeman who was sentenced to 10 years for culpable homicide."



Mrs Helen Suzman

## Right wingers condemn Accord

Political Staff

THE Nkomati Accord with Mozambique has been slammed by the leaders of South Africa's far-right political parties.

Dr Andries Treurnicht (Conservative Party) and Mr Jaap Marais (Herstigste Nasionale Party) attacked the accord in a joint statement issued in Cape Town.

They rejected the call made to Mozambique by the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, to "pool resources".

The joint statement said. "If it is planned to conclude similar treaties with other African countries as well, with a view to the National Party's proposed constellation or confederation of Southern African states, the implications are catastrophic.

"This will surrender our country's sovereignty, destroy us economically and especially forfeit white political power."

Parliamentary Staff

THE Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, has warned that police will take tough action in school unrest.

He said the police had "bent over backwards" to accommodate pupils where illegal meetings were being held.

"I want to say unambiguously to all concerned that no further exceptions or concessions will be made to violators of the law.

"There will be no hesitation in taking action against instigators."

There were cries of "Hear, hear" from Nationalist benches and Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP Houghton) interjected "Have a look at the reasons for the unrest."

Earlier, Mr le Grange said organisations and individuals had exploited the situation.

Property had been damaged and teachers assaulted. Petrol bombs were thrown.

Mr le Grange said he was satisfied that all possible steps had been taken to solve reasonable grievances.

● More Parliamentary reports Page 14.

## 'Stop enforced removals'

Parliamentary Staff

IT was time for the Government to call a halt to enforced population removals motivated by political ideology, Mr Ray Swart (PFP Berea) said.

Speaking in the Assembly debate on the Co-operation and Development budget vote, he said this would bring relief to hundreds of thousands of South Africans.

It would restore some measure of security to those concerned and would go a long way towards relieving racial tension.

In addition, such a step by the Government would remove a major point of criticism and condemnation of South Africa from the rest of the civilised world.

In spite of assurances by the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, tens of thousands of black South Africans were living under the threat of forced removals.

Week after week during the present session of Parliament the minister or his deputy had told of more and more

contemplated removals when they replied to Opposition questions.

Mr Swart accused Dr Koornhof of having failed to change the unfavourable image of his department.

In recent times there had been more signs that Dr Koornhof's "empire" was being whittled away systematically and that the department's responsibilities were drastically reduced.

One example was that the functions of labour recruitment had been taken away from the department and given to the Department of Manpower.

Another was that black taxation had been taken away and given to the Department of Finance.

The Hoexter Commission had recommended removing the commissioners' courts from the department and giving responsibility for those courts, or matters dealt with by them, to the Department of Justice.

"So what is to be the future of the Department of Co-operation and Development?" Mr Swart asked.

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## Parliament and Politics

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# 'Sacrifice' to avert SA crises

CAPE TIMES 4/5/84  
241

### Political Staff

A FEW "timeous sacrifices" could save South Africa from major crises which it could face by the turn of the century, the PFP's finance spokesman, Mr Harry Schwarz, said last night

Speaking to the SA Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in Cape Town, Mr Schwarz said if South Africa continued along its present course, the country faced the prospect of wealthy cities surrounded by slums

By the year 2000 South Africa's population, including the independent homelands, would be between 44-million and 45-million

### Social services

The rate of job creation was likely to lag far behind the population growth over the next 16 years.

The need for housing, hospitalization and other social services would escalate. About 130 000 houses would have to be built each year until 2000

The redistribution capacity of the economy to provide for these needs was limited because if it was excessively applied, it would destroy the economy's wealth-producing capacity

"Unless the Gross National Product in real terms goes up substantially, the public sector is likely to be seeking an increasing portion of the GNP to fulfil the demands made upon it

### Burglar-proofing

"What do all these factors add up to? Too many people, too few jobs, too much poverty, too little real growth. And all of this means dissatisfaction, disappointment and despair, and this adds up to instability and insecurity," Mr Schwarz said

A "splendid city" surrounded by sprawling slums, houses burglar-proofed and guarded because of high crime rates, high living standards for some and despair for others was no way to secure one's future.

But a few timeous sacrifices and a degree of determination could make all the difference

He said research had shown that with an average growth rate of only 4,5 percent, the economy could provide the food, housing and education for all.

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Yet, in a vital way, Nkomati, Carnegie and Crossroads are inter-related. They represent the coming together of different patterns of development which could represent a moment of truth, not only for Mr Botha and his Cabinet, but also for white South Africa with its set of core political beliefs

These beliefs can be spelt out in a simple way. For years white South Africans have attempted to persuade the world that we mean well with "our" blacks. We have refused them the vote, not for racist reasons, but because we feared that a black government would, like elsewhere in Africa, lead to an irreversible loss of technocratic efficiency

And this would make it impossible to produce jobs, food and shelter for all the people of South Africa

This was in fact the goal and rationale behind the white technocracy in South Africa, this was indeed a credible justification of white prosperity

If only the West would invest more, if only the total onslaught would go away South Africa would produce even better living conditions

for the black groups in the country

# Nkomati catalyst brings problems to the surface

This is where Nkomati comes in. While there is indeed a threat of ANC insurgency and Russian intervention the "total onslaught" ideology has been exploited to mobilise white opinion for political ends and to distract the attention from the country's internal problems, including black poverty

Nkomati has dealt a severe blow not only to the ANC but also to the total onslaught. For how could one continue talking in these terms once one had made peace with Mr Machel, one of the chief "total onslaughters"?

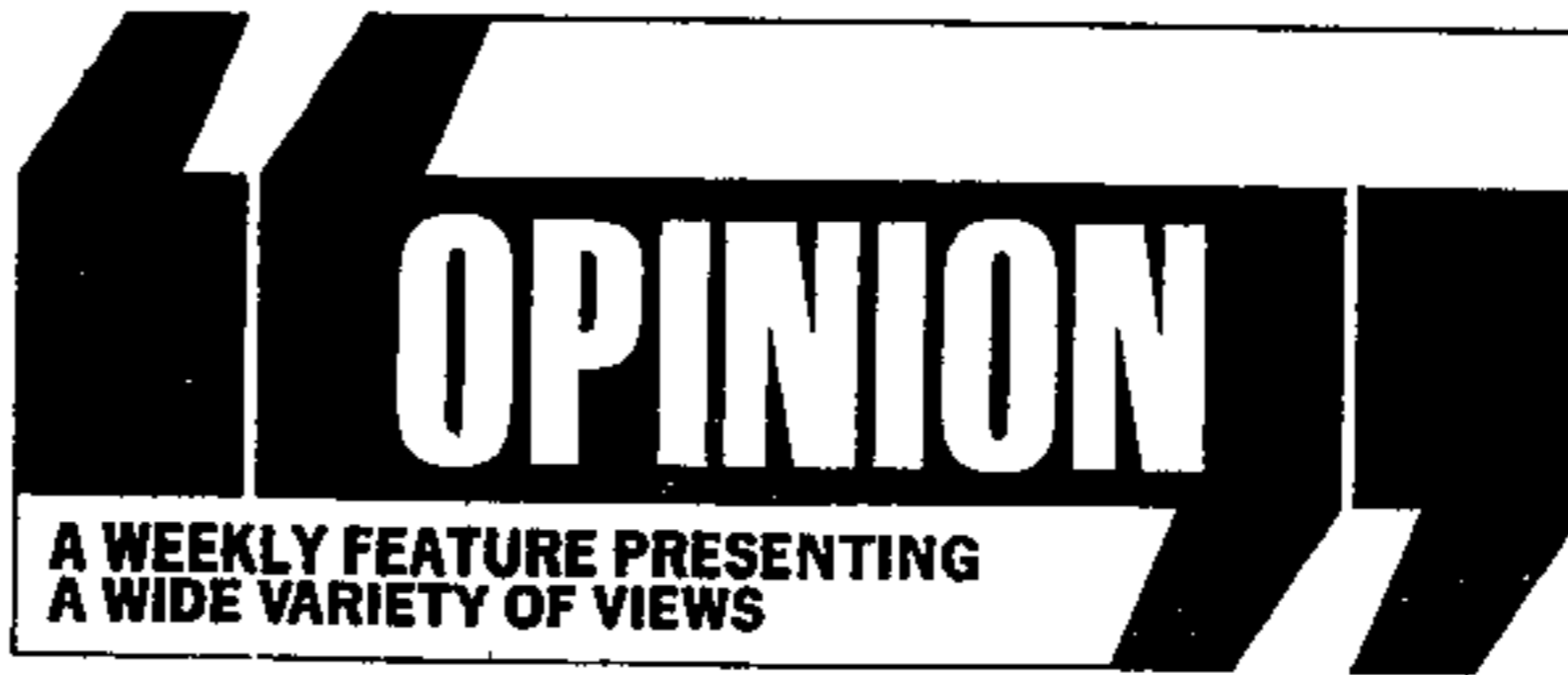
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As the astute analyst, Mr Heribert Adam has written "With the external perception of threat diminished as an excuse, domestic policies will come under increased scrutiny"

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## HERMAN GILIONEE

the magnitude of the crisis. The findings of one research paper after the other drove home the single theme, the vast majority of blacks (and an astonishingly large proportion of coloured people) are desperately poor

While Government spokesmen may still derive some comfort from the finding that the proportion of blacks in the "homelands" below the Minimum Living Level has over the last 20 years declined from 90% to about 80%, the brutal fact is that the absolute number of people below the bare minimum level has doubled

And the number of destitute has increased five times!

Studies prior to Carnegie have found that half the male migrant labour force is unemployed and that about 40% of the households in even the larger homelands like Kwa-Zulu are landless. There are ever growing numbers of people without land and without jobs — and that spells ever more poverty, starvation and even deaths

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He will fatally damage the careful alliance he has forged with the business community which is firmly insisting that it can only co-operate with the state if an end is made to removals and if the townships are stabilised

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To the outside world this will be taken as the answer to the potent question of what South Africa intends to do internally with the greater freedom gained from external pressure

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On resettlement and the destruction of black people's homes the Government is dangerously out of touch with world opinion. It still does not appreciate the remarkable impact on American public opinion of the Magopa resettlement last year

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Dare we attempt to justify our high living standards if blacks are not even allowed to move to the cities and if we send the Crossroads squatters home to sure destitution and starvation?

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"Legal" residents will be resettled there while "illegals" (some 30 000 of them) will be sent home. In the long run this is an alarming prospect for all blacks in Cape Town

But first of all this means that Crossroads, this town of 50 000 inhabitants, will be razed. There are strong indications that this may be done in June or July.

The Government's belief that all this can be done on a voluntary basis is surely one of the most stupendous exercises in self-deception in South Africa's history

This decision is on Mr Botha's personal account and he should be under no illusions about the costs for him personally

His reputation (deserved in

(241) Star 4/5/84

# Helen: heed poverty report

Political Staff

THE ASSEMBLY — Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP, Houghton) called on the Government to take note of the Second Carnegie Commission's report into poverty, and rejected criticism that politics had been introduced in the report.

Speaking in the debate on the Co-operation and Development Vote, she said it would be "a crime against humanity" to keep pushing people back into areas where they could not earn anything.

There was widespread malnutrition in the urban area, said Mrs Suzman.

Even worse was the comparison between the standards of living of whites and blacks.

These conditions had much to do with Government policies, she added.

The Carnegie investigation had shown that the bottom five percent of the population had no income and in many cases whole families had to live off the pension of one person.

Mrs Suzman said white poverty, investigated by the First Carnegie Commission, had been solved by industrialisation and training.

The Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, said his department had resettled 247 537 people between 1975 and 1983

He said he was giving the figures for the benefit of the PFP, whose members had earlier quoted an independent survey, the Surplus People's Project, as saying that 3,5 million people had been resettled between 1960 and 1982. Dr Koornhof said he did not yet have figures of removals since 1960.

Mrs Helen Suzman .  
call to note poverty

The first part of the paper examines the scope of South Africa's Unemployment Insurance Fund in terms of people covered, the nature and duration of benefits, and compares this with unemployment funds in a number of other, mainly Western, countries. It argues that in comparison to many of the above, the South African Fund is extremely restrictive, offering cover to a limited number of people only. In addition it differs from these other funds because rather than attempt to maintain the unemployed at a standard of living as close as possible to that enjoyed previously, it merely, at best, prevents undue hardship. The second part of the paper looks at the inefficiencies in the administration of the fund — in particular employers' abuses and departmental mismanagement. This is exacerbated by workers' ignorance of their rights. The above problems mean that the fund is totally inadequate to deal with the already severe and growing level of unemployment in South Africa.



# Suzman urges Govt to take note of inquiry into poverty

ARGUS  
4/5/84

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By TOS WENTZEL  
Political Correspondent

MRS HELEN Suzman, (PFP Houghton) has called on the Government to take note of the second Carnegie Commission's report on poverty.

She has rejected the allegation that politics had been introduced into the report

Speaking in the Co-operation and Development debate on the vote in Parliament, she said it would be "a crime against humanity" to keep pushing people back into areas where they could not earn anything

There was widespread malnutrition in the urban areas. Even worse was the comparison between the standards of living of whites and blacks (These conditions had much to do with Government policies)

## NO INCOME

The Carnegie investigation had shown that the bottom five percent of the population had no income and in many cases whole families had to live off the pension of one pensioner.

Mrs Suzman said white poverty, which was investigated by the first Carnegie Commission, had been solved by industrialisation, and by having people trained

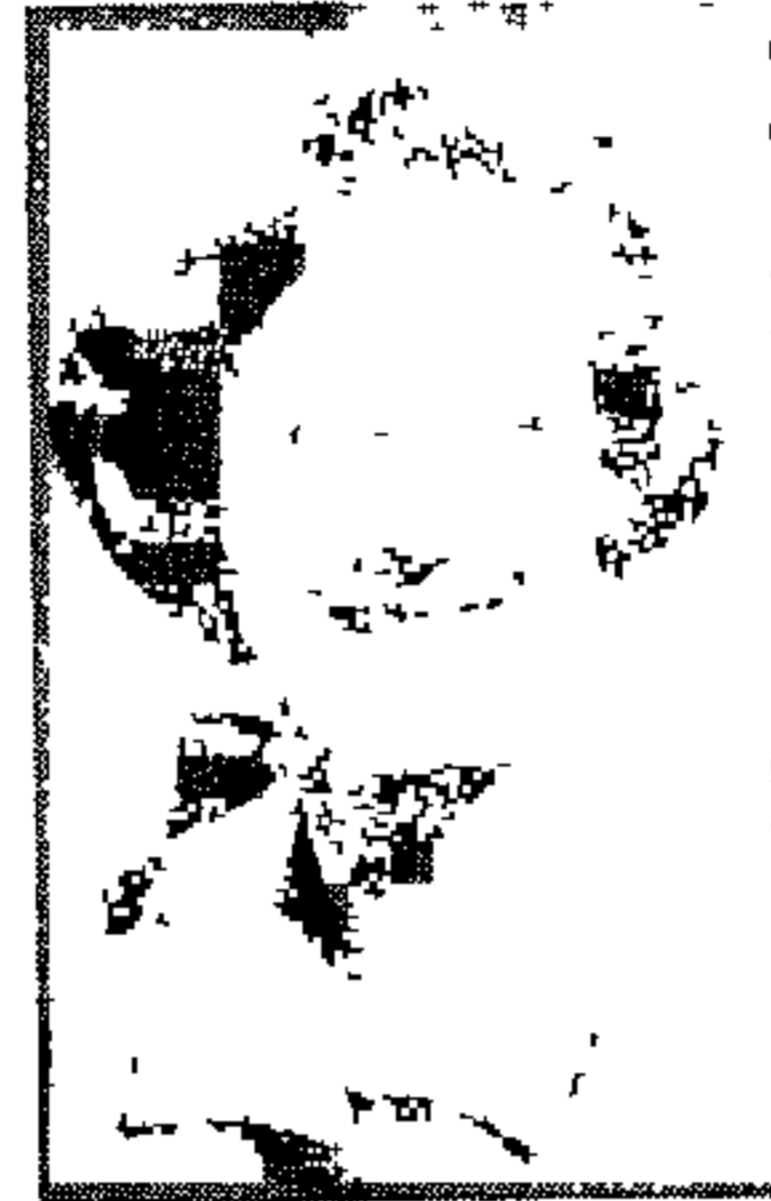
The Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr P G J Koornhof, indicated that the Government was sensitive to the questions of the mass removal of blacks

## NO PLEASURE

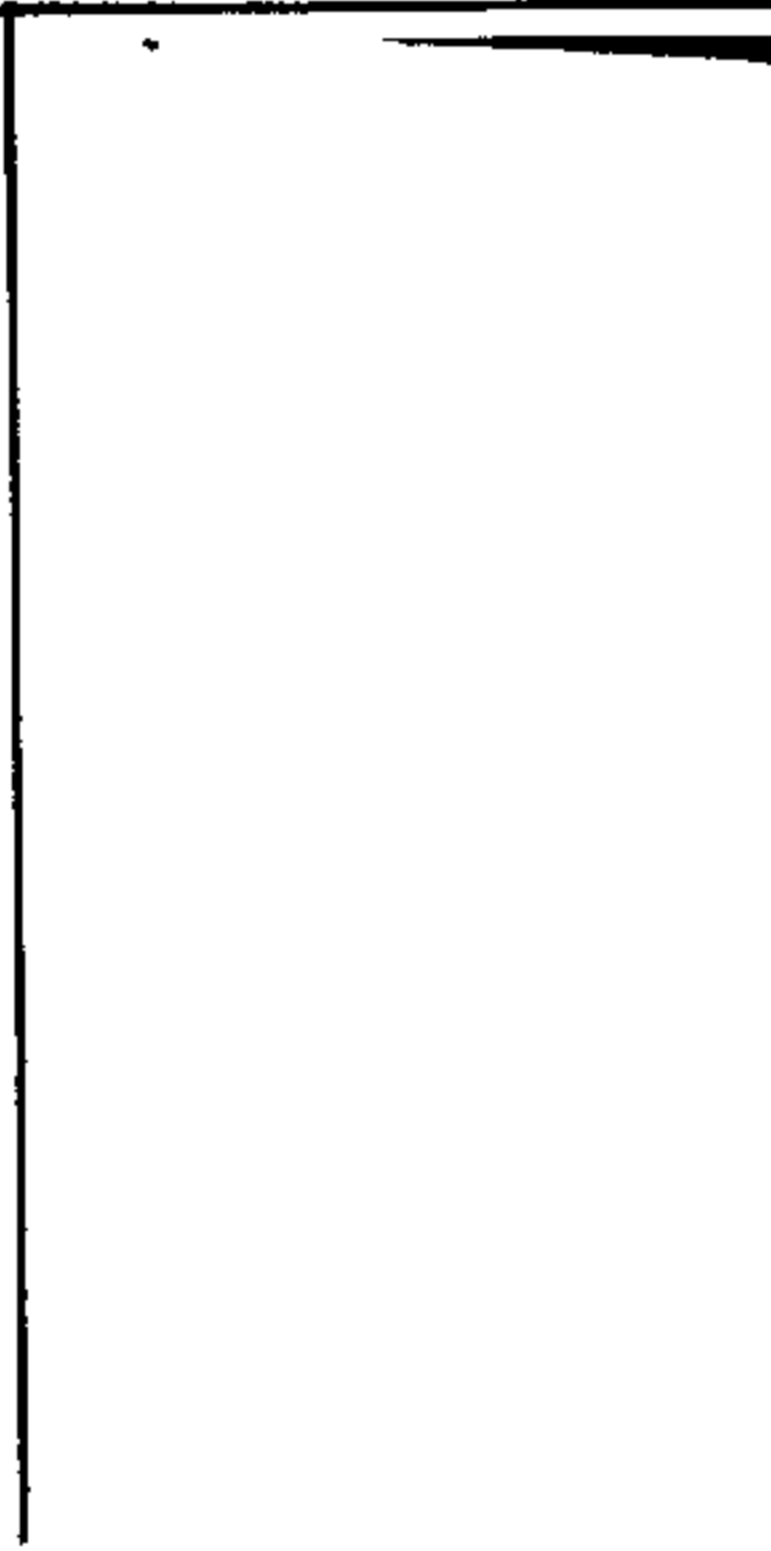
He conceded that this harmed South Africa overseas and said these removals gave him and his department no pleasure. He had in fact gone against many planned removals.

Dr Koornhof disputed figures for removals given in the Surplus People Project (Carnegie) report and said he would soon give his department's estimates at a press conference

Dr Koornhof dismissed suggestions that he and his department would disappear, but said he conceded that there was reason for some rationalisation



Mrs Helen Suzman



# Consumers cut back on food spending

241 Star  
4/5/84  
By Eugene Saldanha  
South Africans are spending less on food than six months ago under the impact of the recession and drought.

Two major chain stores — OK Bazaars and Checkers — today supported this finding by an independent research company, Research Surveys (RS)

The report on eating and drinking patterns also reveals that there has been a noticeable decline in the consumption of maize products by black urban households.

The company conducts face-to-face interviews with 5 500 white and black urban households every six months to find out what they eat and drink. The latest survey was from November to February

"These reveal that all South Africans are feeling the pinch and have been reducing expenditure on even staple foodstuffs. But black people are by far being hardest hit by the effect of lower disposable incomes and rising prices for basic foodstuffs," the report said.

Spokesmen for OK Bazaars and Checkers confirmed that sales for basic foodstuffs had dropped in the past six months.

"Our figures show there has been a drop in customer expenditure on basic foodstuffs and clothing. But there is little the stores can do about this because of the general economic climate," said OK Bazaars' company secretary Mr J Parnell.

## Maize drop

The report shows that black households have reduced their consumption of yellow maize dramatically, and says a possible reason for this is resistance to the mixing of yellow maize with white

Mr Parnell agreed that there had been a noticeable decline in maize sales.

The director of Research Surveys, Mr John Rice, said the food consumption patterns seemed to indicate that for the consumer the recession was not over.

This factor, combined with unemployment, higher taxes, higher food prices and scarcity caused by the drought had produced a "frustration" factor for black consumers.

## Soup meals

In contrast, consumption of low-convenience packet soups as a summer meal had increased dramatically.

The survey also found that beer consumed at meal times had dropped from 13 to 9 percent for all races. But soft drinks maintained their record of last summer, despite higher prices.

"These trends suggest that the authorities must give serious consideration to the lifting of GST on basic foodstuffs. To some extent, the drop in certain foodstuff consumption can be ascribed to the health 'kick' of sensible eating," Mr Rice added.



# Saving farmland from emptiness

By Olga Horowitz

The small town of Steytlerville in the Eastern Cape (white population 250 in the town, 480 on the surrounding farms) is hosting an important conference in June, aimed at stemming the depopulation of the platteland

Steytlerville, in the middle of the platteland, is about 170 km from Port Elizabeth

Spokesman for Roep, splendid acronym for Red Ons Eensame Platteland — in English, Restore Our Endangered Platteland — is its chairman, Dr George Craven, a plant physiologist who studied at Stellenbosch and abroad, and today farms with sheep and goats in the countryside of Steytlerville.

"We are not fighting for platteland versus city but for a strong, healthy platteland which is the

foundation of a healthy country," said Dr Craven in a telephone interview

"Steytlerville has a high school which is our barometer of social well-being. A small town will quickly fall into decay if we allow the school to go

"Similarly, if farmers leave the platteland the towns will collapse.

"Our school has a boarding house and we even import children from Port Elizabeth"

## POVERTY

Another reason for the continued existence of viable platteland towns, he said, is to try solve the problem of rural poverty, especially among other races

"Easy solutions are not plentiful but we have a duty to find them," said Dr Craven

Roep is now a national organisation and this will be its thurd meeting It

was started at a public meeting at Venterstad in the north-eastern Cape in 1982, and a congress was held in Steynsburg, Eastern Cape, last year.

"One hundred municipalities have joined Roep and we have 500 to 600 members to support our cause," said Dr Craven.

Housing, stemming from the enormous need revealed during the International Year of the Aged, was Roep's first project. A survey was made of empty houses available at reasonable prices in platteland towns and Roep acted as a go-between for home seekers and house owners.

## WELCOME

The small towns of Aberdeen, Willowmore and Bredasdorp soon found new and welcome residents in their once-empty houses.

Roep formed a separate estate agency, Roep Properties, which extended its portfolio to houses, farms and businesses available in the platteland, and now has a company, called Kontrekamer Bpk (Country Chamber Ltd), to handle investments. It aims to issue 10 million shares at 50c each for investment in existing or new businesses

"Living in the country has its advantages," said Dr Craven "We enjoy a peaceful quality of life, clean air and neighbourliness We would be sad to see all this disappear."



ARGUS 8/5/84 241

# State welfare spending will not end poverty

In a two-part series, Professor Herbert Grubel and Professor Brian Kantor of UCT's School of Economics, deal with a crucial question which they believe has been left largely unanswered by the Carnegie Conference: What action can be taken to solve the problem of poverty in South Africa?

THE study of poverty in South Africa by the second Carnegie Conference at the University of Cape Town has been useful in calling attention to this basic problem. Too many are ignorant about its terrifying magnitude. It is important that they be shocked into awareness and appropriate action.

The crucial question left largely unanswered by the Conference is "What action?" Many peoples' instincts are to charge the Government with the task of spending more to rectify the condition. Enough money spent on houses, pensions and subsidies for the poor would, they believe, end the misery.

We doubt the ability of such programmes to eliminate poverty for two reasons.

## Taxpayers

First, the costs are enormous and cannot be met without destroying incentives for taxpayers to earn, save and to invest. Estimates of the costs of "wars on poverty" made by proponents of the government-spending approach are vastly underestimated. They neglect the losses of output and income caused by the disincentive ef-

fect on taxation. Also neglected in the calculation of costs are the effects of the availability of welfare benefits on demands for them.

Consider the housing needs of blacks in Cape Town. If currently poorly-housed blacks were to be provided with better housing by the taxpayer, their places would immediately be filled by new immigrants, only too willing to take advantage of opportunities to live and work in Cape Town, despite the poor housing on offer.

Such a process has been observed in all countries — including South Africa — where governments have tried to meet the "needs" for housing, as defined by the welfare departments. Poverty as measured by the size and number of people in urban slums, increases rather than diminishes.

Economic analyses explain why. People living at the subsistence level in the rural areas are attracted to urban centres because of the probability of improving their living standards. They may be willing to migrate despite poor housing and may even expect to be unemployed for some time while seeking work. But until they obtain jobs and are able to thus improve their housing, the migrants may well live in greater observable misery.

The potential supply of new squatters is extremely high, precisely because income prospects in the rural areas are so poor. Massively increased spending on public housing provided at low rents would continue to draw ever larger numbers of migrants to the city. Population growth would add to the demand. The availability of other subsidies in the cities in the form of low-priced food, health care, pensions and transport would further raise the number of migrants.

Spending programmes would relieve the poverty of those who benefit from them and one would not recommend that no such assistance should be provided. However, it is impossible to satisfy "needs" and expectations in this way.

It would take massive government spending over long periods to make any impact at all on the living standards of vast numbers of poor people. To attempt to do so would eliminate all hope of solving the poverty problem.

Spending programmes run into the problem of finance.

Such spending can only be paid for by taking income away from those who are working and investing productively.

Experience around the world has shown that taxpayers can — and will — go on strike much more subtly and effectively than workers. They simply diminish effort, savings and investments.

## Stop working

Some may stop working and live off the welfare system. Others may take their skills and their savings to other parts of the world where their aftertax incomes are higher. Many would not wish to make their skills and capital available in the first place. High taxes and high government support programmes make the return to work very low. Evidence shows that many will not find the return worthwhile.

In South Africa the poverty problem is enormous, as the Carnegie Conference studies have shown. It is also true that the income and tax base is small, relative to the potential demands on it. Therefore, tax-financed spending programmes will only be able to meet a very small part of the "need".

They cannot solve the problem of poverty. Any pretence that the re-distribution of income can do so would be a cruel hoax that would raise expectations that could not be met.

## Demands

Even if the availability of current finance did not seriously inhibit spending on poverty, there is another very fundamental difficulty with such spending programmes. The availability of support itself increases demands for support. This is evident from the experience of many countries with their welfare programmes.

In industrial countries, welfare spending has increased rapidly to where it now uses up 22 percent of GNP on average in the OECD countries. In Denmark, it takes up 38 per cent of GNP. In South Africa, total government spending claims only 25 percent of the economy.

Yet, despite the mammoth spending, poverty studies and the reports of social workers show that in these highly developed countries, the problem of poverty continues to be serious.

The economics of the situation are easy to understand. Eligibility for government spending programmes depends on being poor. It thus reduces incentives to escape the condition. A study of the history of a famous Chicago slum supports this

proposition and illustrates the risks with such programmes.

This slum, during the past 150 years, has been the home of different waves of immigrants — Germans, Poles, the Irish, Italians and others. They arrived poor and without skills and were forced to live in squalid conditions. But they all moved out of the slums as soon as they acquired skills and capital. The slums met the housing demands of the temporarily poor.

In the past 40 years, the slum area has been populated by poor, unskilled black immigrants from the US South. They have not shown the same tendency of previous occupants to move out. Economists can easily reject the view that this difference is due to some genetic or cultural difference. They attribute the phenomenon simply to the fact that only the blacks have been the recipients of massive government spending programmes to alleviate poverty — eligibility for which depends on being classified as poor.

The disincentive effects of the government spending programmes are pervasive. Food aid from rich to poor nations must necessarily lower the prices farmers receive for their output. This discourages agricultural production and development and further encourages migration to urban areas. Madame Ghandi once accused the US government of having used food aid deliberately to suppress Indian agricultural development and create a state of dependency.

Humanists dislike such economic arguments because they, perhaps harshly, raise the issues of the true costs of government spending that directly alleviates suffering and inequities.

We, too, would prefer to live in a world in which no-one suffers and all enjoy life equally. But it is because our humanitarian instincts are tempered by our professional training that we take on the unpleasant task of calling attention to the costs and repercussions of direct government spending programmes to eliminate poverty.

Simple reasoning and evidence show that, were South Africa to attempt to solve the poverty problem through government spending, we would make the problem worse rather than better.

There are strict limits to what can effectively be done for poor people by means of government spending. The costs as well as the benefits of government spending have to be closely calculated, and there is no justification for naïveté in such vital considerations.



# The answer to poverty: raise productivity

In their article yesterday, Professors Herbert Grubel and Brian Kantor of UCT's School of Economics, rejected state welfare spending as a solution to the poverty problem. In this, the second of their two-part series, they give the economist's view of what can — and should — be done.

THE massive poverty in South Africa, as documented by the Second Carnegie Conference, can be ended only by raising the productivity and wealth of the poor

In yesterday's article we gave economic reasons and evidence that showed the impossibility of ending poverty by direct government spending programmes and corresponding taxation of the more productive members of society.

Economists have endless debates with sociologists, psychologists, political scientists and philosophers about the nature and cause of poverty. Fertile imaginations are able to invent an infinite variety of Utopias to deal with the problem.

Our economics lead us to reject Utopian visions, especially if they require that the nature of man be changed. Our views are based on the simple proposition that people are poor because they are not productive enough to earn the income needed for a higher living standard.

## Skills and capital

Therefore, the problem facing South Africa is how to make people more productive. Experience around the world has shown that there is only one solution. People must accumulate skills and capital to be able to produce more.

We believe that no-one can do this for someone else. The acquisition of skills useful for the production of goods and services, like all learning, is strictly a personal matter. People must want and be able to do it

But skills are not enough. To use them properly people need capital in the form of tools, buildings and machines to make them more productive.

Poverty is eliminated most effectively when people accumulate their own capital. Studies have shown that in the United States many thousands of new businesses are started every year by people who use their own resources to purchase the required equipment.

## Giant corporations

Contrary to public opinion, these businesses are a more important source of employment and capital formation than are the well-known giant corporations. There are, in fact, very few of the latter, and in recent years they have employed ever fewer people.

What can a government do to get people to accumulate skills and capital?

The provision of publicly financed education is useful, but not essential. The most important requirement is the creation of a safe and helpful environment for individuals to retain and enjoy the fruits of their own labour and capital.

The Industrial Revolution in England started after laws had established clear property rights, secure from arbitrary expropriation by feudal rulers.

## Favourable climate

Adam Smith's analysis of the benefits to society of self-interested behaviour helped create a favourable climate of opinion. His powerful analysis, as well as those of the other early political economists, established that people who earned high incomes in voluntary exchange with each other did not exploit them. They merely received a return for their training, investment and risk-taking.

The belief that fair exchange is not robbery is necessary if individuals are to be left free to promote their own economic interests and, coincidentally, the interests of others with whom they deal.

People will not work hard to acquire the skills and capital to earn higher incomes if they have to share it widely — especially with those who choose not to take the same path as they

duced by this siren song should seek evidence for the success of such policies. They should enquire why it is those countries that have adopted the collectivist approach that usually have to erect walls to keep their people inside.

All the ambition in the world is of no use if individuals are denied opportunities to enter into free exchange with others. It is one of the great tragedies of our age that governments in all countries, including South Africa, have erected such vast barriers to free exchange.

Poor blacks are the most affected by such restrictions in South Africa. They cannot buy or sell property where and when they want. They may not live or work in the urban areas which offer the highest wages and opportunities for employment. There are also legislated minimum wages that prevent individuals from gaining employment.

## Racial criteria

It is regarded as irrelevant that both potential employee and employer would regard themselves as better off, if wages were lower and employment available.

It is not possible in South Africa to become a plumber, electrician or carpenter without a permit. These, in turn, may not be obtained unless an apprenticeship is served. But the number of apprenticeships and the choice of apprentices is restricted by racial criteria. It is not left to individuals to freely enter contracts of this kind.

No-one can run a taxi, bus, truck or shipping business without a licence. Before the age of regulation, business of this sort had traditionally been an important source of income for the poor.

## Ciskei law

In Santiago, Chile, private buses provide an extremely efficient and low-cost public transport system. In Washington, DC, taxi licences are easy to acquire. In New York and Johannesburg, licences are few in number and represent a very valuable resource to their holders. Buses in Santiago and taxis

ernment is about to use its powers to make policies different to those of the Republic. Next month, a new Ciskei law will come into effect which lists 1 200 existing laws which thereafter will not apply to businesses employing fewer than 20 people.

Some of South Africa's laws that restrain free exchange serve a socially useful purpose. Very often they enrich interest groups. Many safeguard people against their own follies. Some protect the public interest.

As economists, we do not know whether these laws should be repealed or changed.

However, we can say, without hesitation, that they are a great barrier to free exchange and growth in incomes. Regulations that restrict opportunities to exchange, diminish incentives for the poor to acquire skills and make investments. They explain a very significant part of the poverty found in South Africa today.

## Good news

The free market economist's message on how to eliminate poverty is a mixture of good and bad news. The good news is that we know how to eliminate poverty fundamentally and permanently.

Poverty will be eliminated if the laws and regulations that are applied encourage free exchange and allow participants in the economy to enjoy a large part of the extra income and output their actions produce. Small government and competitive markets will be sufficient to the purpose.

The bad news is that it will take time for the cumulative effects of the many small forward steps individuals will take in their own economic interests to manifest themselves.

Economic progress may be steady, but it may be frustratingly slow, especially if the criteria of progress is understood in a relative rather than in some absolute sense — if it is racial income differences, rather than the growth in Black incomes, that are regarded as the measure of progress.



# POVERTY PRODUCE

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The belief that fair exchange is not robbery is necessary if individuals are to be left free to promote their own economic interests and, coincidentally, the interests of others with whom they deal.

People will not work hard to acquire the skills and capital to earn higher incomes if they have to share it widely — especially with those who choose not to take the same path as they do.

There is an influential movement in South Africa which disputes the validity of the individualistic approach. This movement sees the solution to poverty in collective action and in benevolent, direct government spending.

The poor who are being se-

duced by this siren song should seek evidence for the success of such policies. They should enquire why it is those countries that have adopted the collectivist approach that usually have to erect walls to keep their people inside.

All the ambition in the world is of no use if individuals are denied opportunities to enter into free exchange with others. It is one of the great tragedies of our age that governments in all countries, including South Africa, have erected such vast barriers to free exchange.

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## Ciskei law

In Santiago, Chile, private buses provide an extremely efficient and low-cost public transport system. In Washington, DC, taxi licences are easy to acquire. In New York and Johannesburg, licences are few in number and represent a very valuable resource to their holders. Buses in Santiago and taxis in Washington employ thousands of people who otherwise would have swelled the ranks of the poor. And they provide convenient transportation for other poor people.

The magnitude of South African regulation of the vital small-business sector staggers the imagination. The Ciskei gov-

ernment is about to use its powers to make policies different to those of the Republic. Next month, a new Ciskei law will come into effect which lists 1 200 existing laws which thereafter will not apply to businesses employing fewer than 20 people.

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The bad news is that it will take time for the cumulative effects of the many small forward steps individuals will take in their own economic interests to manifest themselves.

Economic progress may be steady, but it may be frustratingly slow, especially if the criteria of progress is understood in a relative rather than in some absolute sense — if it is racial income differences, rather than the growth in Black incomes, that are regarded as the measure of progress.

The Carnegie Conference has usefully pointed to a most serious problem. It needs attention. Let us hope that it gets the right kind — the creation of favourable conditions for the acquisition of skills and the accumulation of capital.

● Professor Herbert Grubel is a visiting lecturer from Simon Fraser University, Vancouver



Cape Times 10/5/84 244

## Chamber of Commerce criticizes poverty debate

Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town Chamber of Commerce has criticized the recent Carnegie Conference on Poverty for not discussing sufficiently South Africa's high birth rate, which it calls "an important cause of poverty"

The article in the Chamber's weekly bulletin quotes the work of Professor Jan Sadie, a University of Stellenbosch economist, and concludes "South Africa's population will continue to grow at a rate which must necessarily delay materially any effective resolution of the problem of poverty"

"While what was said at the conference served the valuable purpose of focusing attention on most facets of a huge problem, there will be members who will wonder why the question of South Africa's high birth rate, which is surely an important cause of poverty, was not examined in the depth that was called for, or indeed discussed at all," the article said

AR645 12/1/84  
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Dumping of citrus fruit is 'a crime against the poor and needy' — MP

~~Political Staff~~  
The dumping of tons of citrus fruit in Durban has been strongly condemned and the matter is to be raised in Parliament

The dumping of the contents of two 8 sq m hoppers every day for the past two weeks by the Citrus Board follows on the controversy earlier this year when the Dairy Board poured 250 000 litres of skimmed milk down the drains in Pietermaritzburg

Mr Errol Moorcroft, Progressive Federal Party agricultural spokesman, said yesterday "We condemn this action unreservedly

"The wanton destruction of food of any kind is a crime against humanity because it is a crime against the poor and needy."

Mr Ralph Hardingham, New Re-

public Party agricultural spokesman, said "The dumping of foods in a country like South Africa is an absolute disgrace

"We have the consumer demand which would readily absorb most, if not all of our surplus agricultural products"

Mr Moorcroft said he would put questions to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, on the order paper in Parliament, and would raise the issue with him.

The Minister was not available for comment today

Mr Hardingham hopes consumer organisers "will take immediate steps to liaise with the marketing boards to ensure no further dumping of any produce takes place, and that a method will be found to distribute surplus foods"



... allowed Sapa  
CAPE TIMES 13/5/84  
Dept 'asked not to  
attend conference'

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The Department of Health and Welfare had been asked "in a very friendly way" not to attend a University of Cape Town conference on rural poverty, the Minister, Dr Nak van der Merwe, said yesterday.

Speaking during debate on his portfolio, he said he believed the findings of the Carnegie investigation could be of value if they were evaluated on scientific grounds and not used to make political points

It worried him, however, that the department, the Medical Research Council of South Africa and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research had not been represented at the conference.

None of the papers presented had mentioned the tremendous increase in population in South Africa and researchers had made frequent reference to "bantustans" and "the Pretoria regime".

"I don't know where they (bantustans) are in South Africa or what that (Pretoria regime) is," Dr Van der Merwe said

He also criticized the university for deciding to send papers and related photographs from the conference to libraries worldwide.

"Do these people want to solve the problems of poverty in South Africa or are they trying to attain other goals?" — Sapa

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# 'Terrible blunder' by Horwood over GST

Staff Reporter

SCRAP General Sales Tax on all foods, the Government was told today as confusion and anger continued to rise over the shock announcement of the latest GST increase

The Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, was accused of making a "terrible blunder" with the original list of exempted foods he gave Parliament last week.

And the Opposition Finance spokesman, Mr Harry Schwarz, said it was "crazy" and "ridiculous" that the Government still could not tell consumers and businessmen precisely which foodstuffs would be exempted

Meanwhile, the Commissioner for Inland Revenue, Mr C F Schweppenhauser, said in Cape Town that the Government would consult private enterprise before finally deciding GST increase details

## "ANOMALIES"

Details of goods affected by the increased tax, or exempted from it, will be contained in a Sales Tax Amendment Bill to be published by the end of May or early in June, he said.

Mrs Joy Hurwitz, national chairman of the Housewives' League, said in Johannesburg that Mr Horwood had "made a terrible blunder with the initial list of exemptions outlined in Parliament" as it was "riddled with ludicrous anomalies and nobody can make sense of it".

She said the Government should scrap GST on all foods. This would be "the only practical and equitable solution to bring a halt to all the present confusion and frustration"

She said. "The average consumer is furious at the nonsensical gaps which apparently promise lower prices for luxury items such as crayfish but higher prices for basic items like pilchards, cheese, domestic coal, paraffin and dozens more items absolutely essential to thousands of families."

## SHOWN THE WAY

The league urged Mr Horwood "to take swift action ahead of any formal announcement in the Government Gazette on exemptions" when GST soars to a record 10 per cent on July 1.

"Britain and the United States have shown the way by excluding taxation on all food. Unless the Minister follows suit the GST increase as it stands is going to be catastrophic for the

(Turn to Page 3, col 1)

# Call to scrap all food tax

(Continued from Page 1.)

living standards of lower income groups

"How on earth can the Minister justify the same GST rate on maize meal and canned fish as on luxury imported sports cars, fancy perfumes and baubles and bangles?"

"There is a whole list of basic and utterly essential commodities that needs to be added to the exemptions if thousands of families are going to survive the battle with double-digit inflation," said Mrs Hurwitz.

Mr Schwarz said large and small businesses would have to know as soon as possible how they should run their tills, and other people who needed to know well in advance about which items would be taxed or exempted were housewives, feeding schemes, health authorities and a wide range of businesses

## "RIDICULOUS"

It was "crazy" and "ridiculous" that the Government could not say precisely what it intended.

The reason for the confusion was the haste with which the announcement had been made by the Minister. It was obvious the Budget had not been worked out properly when it was presented to Parliament six weeks ago.

The best way out of the blunder now would be for a committee to be constituted to investigate and advise the Commissioner for Inland Revenue which foods should be exempt.

When he announced the GST increase last week Mr Horwood said certain foodstuffs necessary for nutrition would be exempted.

He said that while a closer definition of the various items might be necessary, items which would be exempted included bread, maize meal, unsifted wheat meal, raw meat, raw fish, fresh vegetables and fruits, fresh milk, butter, margarine and raw eggs.

A group of independent trade unions said today that the exemptions were "totally inadequate". Workers would be forced to "recoup these losses through wage negotiations".

A statement by the 25 unions, representing 300 000 workers, said "At the very least, GST should have been eliminated on canned and certain processed foods and other basic food such as rice, tea, coffee, sugar and powdered milk."





## Attack on Cape Times 15/5/84 Carnegie study 241

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
— A National Party MP  
yesterday condemned a  
University of Cape  
Town study on rural  
poverty as "one-sided"  
and "naive" because it  
did not invite the co-  
operation of govern-  
ment departments

Referring during de-  
bate on the Health and  
Welfare vote to the  
Second Carnegie Study,  
Dr Jan Grobler (NP  
Brits) said the investiga-  
tors had conducted  
their study "as if the  
State did not exist"

He called the report  
"flagrantly unscientific,  
naive and one-sided"  
and asked why govern-  
ment departments such  
as Health and Welfare,  
Co-operation and Devel-  
opment and Internal Af-  
fairs had not been in-  
vited to assist the  
researchers.

He also condemned  
the Carnegie team for  
expressing "the almost  
naive hope that poverty  
among blacks will come  
right if everyone does  
their bit"

He praised the work  
of the First Carnegie  
Report on the poor-  
white situation, saying  
this study, conducted 50  
years ago, differed radi-  
cally in its methods, re-  
search team and politi-  
cal viewpoint from the  
present study — Sapa

# Carnegie study on poverty under fire

Star  
15/5/84

Political Staff

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THE ASSEMBLY — The University of Cape Town's Carnegie study on rural poverty has again been criticised in the Assembly.

The Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr Nak van der Merwe, and Dr Jan Grobler (NP, Brits) attacked the study in the debate on the Health and Welfare Vote

The study was described by Dr Grobler as "flagrantly unscientific, politically one-sided and naive".

He said that government departments, such as Health and

Welfare, Co-operation and Development and Internal Affairs, should have been invited to contribute to the study

Comparing the first Carnegie inquiry into the "poor white" question with the inquiry into rural poverty, Dr Grobler said the most important outcome of the first inquiry was the solution of the "poor white" problem

But, in the second inquiry which was still being completed, there was "an almost naive hope that the problem would be solved if everyone did his duty"

The answer to the problem of

poverty lay in development — industrial and educational development, Dr Grobler said

Later, Dr van der Merwe said the researchers had not touched on the population explosion — one of the basic problems and causes of poverty

Dr van der Merwe said the findings of the conference could be useful "depending on whether the facts are handled in a scientific way or whether they are used for political ends"

The Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, recently criticised the study



NDM 15/5/84 (24) (S. 100/84)

# Health Minister slams Carnegie poverty inquiry

THE ASSEMBLY — The Department of Health and Welfare had been asked "in a very friendly way" not to attend a University of Cape Town conference on rural poverty, the department's Minister, Dr Nak van der Merwe, said yesterday

Speaking during debate on his portfolio, he said he believed the findings of the Carnegie investigation could be of value if they were evaluated on scientific grounds and not used to make political points

It worried him, however, that the Department, the Medical Research Council of South Africa and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research had not been represented at the conference

None of the papers presented had mentioned the tremendous increase in population in South Africa and researchers had made frequent reference to "bantustans" and "the pretoria regime"

"I don't know where they (Bantustans) are in South Africa or what (Pretoria regime) is," Dr Van Der Merwe said

He also criticised the university for deciding to send papers and related photographs from the conference to libraries worldwide

"Do these people want to solve the problems of poverty in South Africa or are they trying to attain other goals?"

During the debate, the NP member for Brits, Dr Jan Grobler, hit out at the study as "one-sided" and "naive" because it did not invite the co-operation of Government departments

He called the report "flagrantly unscientific, naive and one-sided"

Dr Brits also condemned the Carnegie team for expressing "the almost naive hope that poverty among blacks will come right if everyone does their bit"

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# UCT study on poverty called 'flagrantly unscientific'

Parliamentary Staff  
THE University of Cape Town's Carnegie study on rural poverty has again come under fire in the Assembly.

The Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr Nak van der Merwe, and Dr Jan Grobler (NP Brits) criticised the study during the debate on the health and welfare vote.

The study was described by Dr Grobler as "flagrantly unscientific", politically one-sided and "naive".

## DEPARTMENTS

He said Government departments, such as the Departments of Health and Welfare, Co-operation and Development and Internal Affairs, should have been invited to contribute to the study.

The Prime Minister also slammed the study recently.

Comparing the first Carnegie inquiry into the "poor white question" to the inquiry into rural poverty, Dr Grobler said the most important outcome of the first inquiry was the solution of the "poor white" problem.

## NAIVE HOPE

But in the second inquiry, which was still being completed, there was

"an almost naive hope that the problem would be solved if everyone only did their duty".

The answer to the problem of poverty lay in development industrial and educational development.

Later, Dr van der Merwe said the researchers had not touched on the population explosion — one of the basic problems and causes of poverty.

"But they frequently referred to Bantustans and the Pretoria regime".

Dr van der Merwe said the findings of the conference could be useful "depending on whether the facts are handled in a scientific way or whether they are used for political ends".

## CONSPICUOUS

Most of the papers delivered at the conference concerned health and poverty, but the department was conspicuous by its absence.

He said the department had, in fact, been asked "in a friendly manner" not to attend.

Dr van der Merwe added that neither the Medical Research Council nor the CSIR had been invited.



secure bases and infiltration routes in neighbouring countries. The

*Cape Times*  
16/5/84 **Carnegie inquiry**

IT is curious that the Nationalist Government should have adopted a consistently negative attitude towards the second Carnegie investigation. The most recent instance was in the House of Assembly this week when the Minister of Health, Dr Nak van der Merwe, criticized the recent Carnegie conference at the University of Cape Town, which was held as part of the investigation. Dr Van der Merwe objected to the terminology of some researchers who presented papers at the conference and who had spoken about "Bantustans" and the "Pretoria regime". Dr Van der Merwe was also unhappy about the fact that conference papers and

nationalist leaders much closer to home

photographs had been distributed to libraries world-wide. The Carnegie Foundation has rendered such good service to South Africa in the past in sponsoring social research that it is odd that the current investigation should be so mistrusted. A scientific conference to be worthy of the name should include scholars and investigators holding varied ideological views rather than be drawn only from among those who uphold a prevailing orthodoxy. The major advances in social or technological science invariably result from the interaction between competing views, including those which are officially disapproved.

new play, unexpected spring rain

Krismis van Map Jacobs. By Adam Small (Human & Berg)

Skaak by M C Botha (Human & Berg)

WITH his excellent play "Kanna Hy Kô Hystoe" Adam Small pioneered a renaissance in social drama on the Cape Flats. Recently Peter Snyders' satire, "Political Joke" was published, and Melvyn Whiteboy's "Dit Sal die Blerrie Dag Wees" was performed at the Baxter.

After quite a silence Adam Small has now published a new play "Krismis van Map Jacobs". It is once again social realism with the theme of people pulled out of District Six or the homes of their birth to be flung out to the Cape Flats amid all sorts of displaced people preyed on by skollies.

This is a play of social protest, of a man working himself to the bone to be able to "buy" his family out of the degrading neighbourhood they were forced into, of a young girl, of a gang leader in jail, Map Jacobs, due to be released, of a feared event, of a "political", of a cynic, and of sundry characters.

It is a dangerous and difficult theme, that of socio-political protest in South Africa today, because it so often merely is ranting without merit. Adam Small gets past such a sterile display of revolutionary speechifying because it so often merely is ranting without merit.

Adam Small gets past such a sterile display of revolutionary speechifying because he is interested in characters, different and differing characters living the humiliation of apartheid.

**Civilized**

Begin. a Biography. By Eric Silver (Weidenfeld & Nicolson):

ERIC SILVER was Jerusalem correspondent of the Guardian and the Observer from 1972 to 1983, and therefore well placed to study Menachem Begin at the peak of his power and in decline. He has produced a biography that is bal-

Cape Times double puzzle

No. 16559

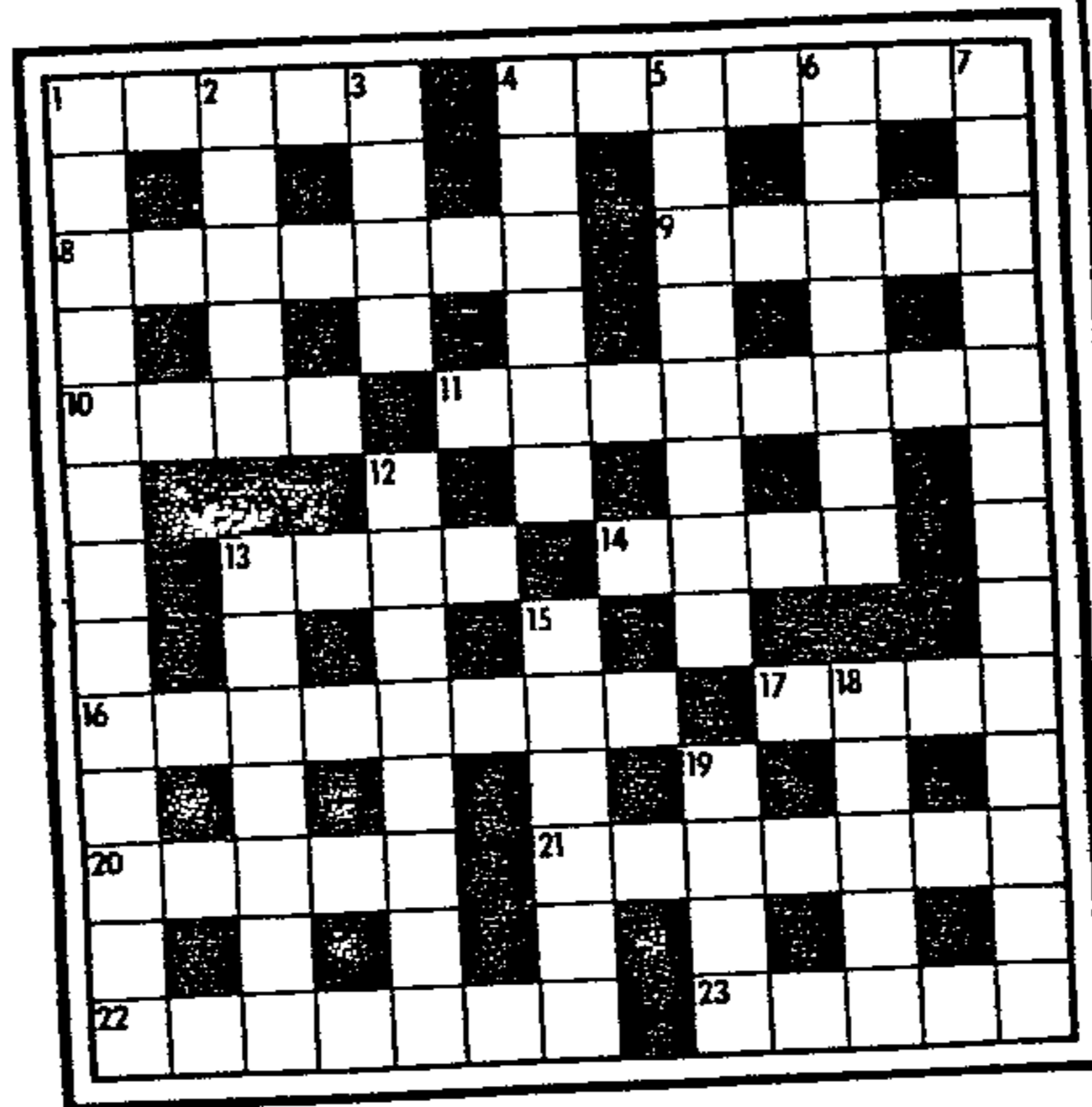
Quick clues

ACROSS

- 1 Profundity (5)
- 4 Swell (7)
- 8 Unhappiness (7)
- 9 Clothing (5)
- 10 Notion (4)
- 11 Attendance (8)
- 13 Dagger (4)
- 14 Slay (4)
- 16 Sleeplessness (8)
- 17 Tip (4)
- 20 Lift (5)
- 21 Hurricane (5)
- 22 Merit (7)
- 23 Squeeze (5)

DOWN

- 1 Eminent (13)
- 2 Chaplain (5)
- 3 Attention (4)
- 4 Wilderness (6)
- 5 Skid (8)
- 6 Everlasting (7)
- 7 Exemptions (13)
- 12 Organiser (8)
- 13 Sack (7)
- 15 Goodness (6)
- 18 Angry (5)
- 19 Support (4)



Cryptic clues

ACROSS

- 1 & 4 Dn One who doesn't take the tennis tournament seriously? (5, 6)
- 4 Are they worn by bounders? (7)
- 8 They may offer to pay for lots of things (7)
- 9 See 2 Down
- 10 In the capital I raised some money from abroad (4)
- 11 Writer to run off with a girl (8)
- 13 See 17 Across
- 14 It should provide one with better looks (4)
- 16 One who works with a will (8)
- 17 & 13Ac Permit to go beyond the harbour (8)
- 20 One that roves gracefully over eastern territory (5)
- 21 Beset by painful feeling, I've somehow to gain an objective (7)
- 22 Downtrodden machine operator (7)
- 23 Tries to transform religious observances (5)

DOWN

- 1 He'll fight with you and make the company militant (2-11)
- 2, 9Ac & 18Dn Spy protected by insurance? (5-5, 5)
- 3 Bound to sound like the movement of the sea (4)
- 4 See 1 Across
- 5 Each stem is destroyed by sharp knives (8)
- 6 It's so use being upset about Violet showing jealousy (7)
- 7 Not a private canteen! (9, 4)
- 12 Supplied with basic information, but not allowed to take the air (8)
- 13 Quietly tell the high priest (7)
- 15 Could be a lot like an ear (6)
- 18 See 2 Down
- 19 The endless fascination of tea (4)

SOLUTIONS TO QUICK CLUES No 16558  
ACROSS 3 Affluence, 8 Reap, 9 Transport, 10 Ashore, 11 Teach, 14 Dozen, 15 Turn, 16 Drama, 18 Word, 20 Raise, 21 Decoy, 24 Statement

SOLUTIONS TO CRYPTIC CLUES No 16558  
ACROSS 3 Speedwell, 8 Head, 9 Foolproof, 10 Cudgel, 11 Stead, 14 Mouse, 15 Weir, 16 Round, 18 Tuft, 20 Rouse, 21 Soles, 24 Bistre, 25 Simoleton, 26 Boss, 27 Stormy sea

## Nak wrong <sup>241</sup> about poverty inquiry-prof

CAPE TOWN — The Department of Health and Welfare had at "no stage" been asked to stay away from a University of Cape Town conference on rural poverty, Prof Francis Wilson, director of the Second Carnegie Inquiry Into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa, said

In response to Mr Nak van der Merwe, the Minister of Health's speech during the debate on his vote in Parliament last, Prof Wilson said in Cape Town he wished to make the following points

"At no stage was the Department of Health and Welfare ever asked to stay away Nor is it correct that the critical issue of population growth and poverty was not touched on in the investigation

"Moreover, a number of other papers pertaining to health and poverty issues around the country were written and delivered by medical personnel employed in one capacity or another by various branches of the country's state health services

"Regarding the minister's statement that neither the Medical Research Council nor the CSIR were there, the facts are as follows:

"Two papers were written and delivered at the conference by doctors attached to the Medical Research Council. And, as regards the CSIR, with whom the research unit responsible for organising the conference have very good links, a special invitation was extended, but unfortunately, at the last moment, the person who had accepted the invitation was unable to come

The relevant letter from the CSIR dated April 11, 1984 and wishing us a very creative and successful conference, is on our files

"With regard to the distribution of conference papers as widely as possible, it is important to note that these preliminary findings of a scientific and scholarly investigation have been published with library catalogue (ISBN) numbers which ensures that they are immediately deposited in a number of key South African libraries

From there, it is only natural that as part of a worldwide academic community we should wish them to go further afield. — SAPA





*Cape Times 17/5/84*  
**Kotze** *(241)*  
**rejects** *(241)*  
**'quasi'** *(241)*  
**research**

Political Correspondent  
**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**  
— The Minister of Community Development, Mr Pen Kotze, yesterday declined a detailed study of a University of Cape Town condemnation of his department's new housing policy.

The study, by UCT's Urban Problems Research Unit, was one of the papers presented at the recent Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development. It claimed that the plan to sell 500 000 State-owned houses would worsen the housing crisis.

In reply to a question from Mr Ken Andrew (PFP Gardens), Mr Kotze rejected this and most other university studies on housing as "quasi research" and a waste of time and money.

He admitted that his department had criticized the UCT report on the basis of press coverage without seeing the full study.

# Private aid spreads thinner and thousands wait in vain

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Privately funded feeding schemes are saving a million South Africans from hunger and many from starvation, but hundreds of thousands more are queuing in vain for aid

In some areas the food provided is sufficient only to ward off death or serious illness. It does not bring diets to medically acceptable nutritional levels

From the mammoth Operation Hunger now feeding 620 000 people, mostly in rural areas, to the localised African Children's Feeding Scheme which caters for 17 000, organisers report that they have turned down or stalled appeals for help

Mrs Ina Perlman, manager of Operation Hunger, puts her present waiting list at 138 000 people. She adds that the 18 percent maize price increase will soon push a great many more families below the survival level, swelling her list

"We are painfully aware that in almost all the areas where we provide protein supplement only we should be providing mealie meal too," says Mrs Perlman

"All we are realistically able to do is keep at bay actual nutritional disease such as pellagra"

### MANY UNAWARE

She adds that where Operation Hunger is unable to increase supplies as the need grows, aid is simply being spread out further and is less ade-

quate for each assisted person

Mr David Cuthbert, a director of World Vision, regards 200 000 as a "safe figure" for the emergency feeding schemes his organisation runs

He says tens of thousands are standing in line for future assistance "and there are even more hungry people who don't know that help is possible"

### CHURCHES

The Red Cross in Natal is providing food aid to 125 000 flood victims and administers school feeding schemes covering 100 000 children. The latter are sponsored by Operation Hunger

The Red Cross's work increased drastically with the recent floods, and administration has not been up to the sudden demand

"There are 60 000 children waiting for food but we have been unable to process the applications," says Mrs Inka Mars, chairman of the Red Cross Natal region

Tens of thousands of rural people have also been assisted by religious organisations such as the interdenominational programme "Hunger Challenges the Churches" and



A million people have been saved from starvation, but hundreds of thousands are still going hungry.

the Ned Geref Kerk emergency scheme

Miss Kay Glyn, organising secretary of the African Children's Feeding Scheme, said lack of funds had confined the organisation's activities to Reef townships although there was great need throughout the Southern Transvaal

Meals-on-wheels schemes, soup kitchens and food parcel programmes are run by church groups and wel-

fare organisations in many urban centres

The costs of schemes are enormous and all are borne by private donation. With the recent maize price increase Operation Hunger reckons it will cost about R300 000 a month or over R3,5 million a year to feed its present recipients

World Vision's estimates are that over R800 000 of an annual

budget of R4,2 million is spent on relief feeding

The remainder goes on development projects designed to help communities feed themselves

Feeding scheme workers have repeatedly stated that hunger is a "normal" feature of South African life, not strictly caused by natural disasters

Most of the schemes antedate the drought and are expected to outlast it



CATG Tracks

s, Friday, May 18, 1984

241

~~SATURDAY~~

# PFP: Nat policy poverty's cause

Staff Reporter

THE finding of the Carnegie Inquiry that political change in South Africa was essential for the elimination of poverty was cited in the Provincial Council yesterday as evidence that the Nationalist government's policies were largely responsible for the suffering of the poor

Mr Geoff Everingham, PFP Pinelands, said during the no-confi-

dence debate that the high rate of malnutrition and below-subsistence incomes found in resettlement camps by Carnegie researchers were "a direct consequence of the policies of the National Party — stripping people of citizenship and creating these homelands".

"At the same time that this grinding poverty continues, the government is pouring hundreds of millions of rands into grand apart-

heid, propping up the undemocratic regimes of its homeland creations," he said.

"It amazes me that the government can continue to pour money into these tin-pot states when so much is wasted — on international airports, executive jets, executive residences, embassies, civil servants, Mercedes Benzes, collapsible flagpoles and the like. And the people starve."

Mr Everingham quoted the Financial Mail's statement that "the drought cannot be blamed for the continuing shortages of basic foodstuffs coupled to a lack of sound agricultural planning..." in support of his argument.

## Land ownership

He also supported the Financial Mail's list of the "negative effects of separate development", namely

- Absence of land ownership of blacks in white areas,

- the creation of homelands, destroying any real prospect of genuinely national strategies,

- the failure of decentralization, and

- overcrowding which, he quoted, "has further diminished the productive potential of the areas in which blacks without city residence rights are largely compelled to live".

"This," he said, "is the grim harvest of the National Party in the rural areas."



# Caught between the lines

*People are starving to death in Gazankulu. Now a massive feeding scheme is being launched*

THE young surveyor stood confidently astride the main road into Giyani, capital of Gazankulu, marking out the lines of development.

He was attended by an old man dressed in baggy overalls, a little in awe of the instruments his elegantly dressed young colleague used with such assurance.

They symbolised the qualities of a future and a past that the architects of apartheid would like to be true of the massive experiments in social engineering taking place in the homelands.

But following the surveyors' lines into the heart of Gazankulu south of Giyani, the picture that emerged was a stark contrast.

In the villages the people were too afraid to speak about the future.

"Three old people died of hunger here in the last few months," is all a gaunt old woman in one village would say.

As for the past, it didn't help to think about it, she said, but added nostalgically that "before the lines" they grew more than enough to eat.

The people commonly divide their lives into the time "before the lines" and "in the lines".

"Being put into lines" is their way of describing the removals that occurred in the Sixties in Gazankulu.

Before the lines they lived in scattered homesteads, each extended family with its cattle kraals and fields of mealies and groundnuts alongside their huts.

## Cutting

After their removal, they lived in rows of huts next to straight, surveyed dirt roads cutting across one another at right angles, their cattle in



Pictures: WALTER DLADLA

## The Carnegie Inquiry FOCUS ON POVERTY

BY MARION WHITEHEAD



to the Carnegie inquiry into poverty in Southern Africa at its conference in Cape Town last month.

"From 1950 to 1983, communities and families have been disintegrated, they have lost their main source of income through population growth, resettlements 'in lines' and bureaucratic inefficiency," she said.

"Their alternate sources of income are inadequate and they use most of their energy to survive among

such as roads, schools and boreholes.

"Before the drought they were living at the limit, now they're even worse off," Mrs Schneider said.

Herd of 200 head of cattle have been whittled down to six since the drought and there is not even wild spin-duce from the villagers' plots which are too small to make a living from, even when times are good.

● Living in the lines Mr Richard Nkuna uses his disability grant to send 30 children from the village of Sekhunyana to school.

Said Mrs Paulina Buma of Dzumeri village who was 19 when her community was removed to the "right" side of the Lebowa-Gazankulu border in 1987: "The days when you could expect to die in your husband's kraal are over. Now marriage only lasts two or three years."

She did not speak of the husbands who left her and her sisters to look after the toddlers clinging to their skirts. They are supported by their parents who are both lucky enough to get pensions.

But the three old people who died of hunger in Sekhunyana did not have pensions or families to support.

"They drink until 10pm in the lounge over there till they have not a cent," said Mrs Buma.

Neglected children have also turned to alcohol. The people have lost hope of any improvements in the future and are immobilised by their sense of powerlessness.

Then there are rumours that the government is to take over the fields at Sekhunyana.

## Vowed

Vowed a defiant Mr Rich-

Lucky Granny Gavaza Buma gets a pension which she uses to feed her grandchildren.

road into Giyani. They say they were not consulted, received no compensation for their old



apartheid would like to be true of the massive experiments in social engineering taking place in the homelands

But following the surveyors' lines into the heart of Gazankulu south of Giyani, the picture that emerged was a stark contrast

In the villages the people were too afraid to speak about the future "Three old people died of hunger here in the last few months," is all a gaunt old woman in one village would say

As for the past, it didn't help to think about it, she said, but added nostalgically that "before the lines" they grew more than enough to eat

The people commonly divide their lives into the time "before the lines" and "in the lines"

"Being put into lines" is their way of describing the removals that occurred in the Sixties in Gazankulu

Before the lines they lived in scattered homesteads, each extended family with its cattle kraals and fields of mealies and groundnuts alongside their huts

### Cutting

After their removal, they lived in rows of huts next to straight, surveyed dirt roads cutting across one another at right angles, their cattle a few kilometres to one side of the new settlement and their fields, now just a couple of hectares to a family, another few kilometres to the other side

Although it's nearly 20 years since most were removed so that they would fall within the border of the 'right' ethnic homeland, their communities have never recovered

"Problems and diseases spread too easily in the lines," say the people

"Their pattern of living has been broken," says Mrs Catherine Schneider, a missionary with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church's Swiss Mission to South Africa, who has lived in the area for the past 30 years

She is also a qualified social worker and secretary of the Gazankulu Society on Alcoholism She presented a paper on the people's plight



## The Carnegie Inquiry FOCUS ON POVERTY

By MARION WHITEHEAD



to the Carnegie Inquiry into poverty in Southern Africa at its conference in Cape Town last month

"From 1950 to 1983, communities and families have lost their main source of income through population growth, resettlements 'in lines' and bureaucratic inefficiency," she said

"Their alternate sources of income are inadequate and they use most of their energy to survive among growing difficulties and social problems. People do not feel secure and prefer not to think of tomorrow"

Worse, Mrs Schneider told delegates, the people had lost the feeling that they could contribute to the development of their villages

Later she showed the Sunday Express how the removals had "irreparably impoverished" the people over the last 20 years, even though it had brought advantages



● Living in the lines... Mr Richard Nkuna uses his disability grant to send 30 children from the village of Sekhunyana to school

such as roads, schools and boreholes

"Before the drought they were living at the limit, now they're even worse off," Mrs Schneider said

Herd of 200 head of cattle have been whittled down to six since the drought and there is not even wild spinage to eat, never mind produce from the villagers' plots which are too small to make a living from, even when times are good

### Remote

Drought relief programmes are too few and don't reach the more remote areas

So the people are more dependent than ever on money sent by migrant workers. If it doesn't come, they starve

Aggravating the situation is a general crisis of the family, and migrant workers often desert their families to take new wives in the cities

Said Mrs Paulina Buma of Dzumert village who was 19 when her community was removed to the 'right' side of the Lebowa-Gazankulu border in 1967 "The days when you could expect to die in your husband's kraal are over. Now marriage only lasts two or three years"

She did not speak of the husbands who left her and her sisters to look after the toddlers clinging to their skirts. They are supported by their parents who are both lucky enough to get pensions

But the three old people who died of hunger in Sekhunyana did not have pensions or families to support them. At a meeting of old people in one village, six out of 67 were getting pensions, although all were old enough to qualify

In Dzumert a butcher shop and a general store have closed down

The only business thriving is the bottle store and bar lounge

More and more women are turning to drink to try to blot out the crying of their hungry children

"They drink until 10pm in the lounge over there till they have not a cent," said Mrs Buma

Neglected children have also turned to alcohol

The people have lost hope of any improvements in the future and are immobilised by their sense of powerlessness

Then there are rumours that the government is to take over the fields at Sekhunyana

### Vowed

Vowed a defiant Mr Richard Nkuna, who sends 30 children to school in Sekhunyana on his disability grant "When the rains come, I'm going to plough anywhere, I don't care what the government says"

Scuffed Mrs Notlica Nguna "They won't permit it"

"They were among the people moved in 1988 to make way for a sisal plantation, a showpiece next to the main

road into Giyani

They say they were not consulted, received no compensation for their old homes and were not assisted with the move

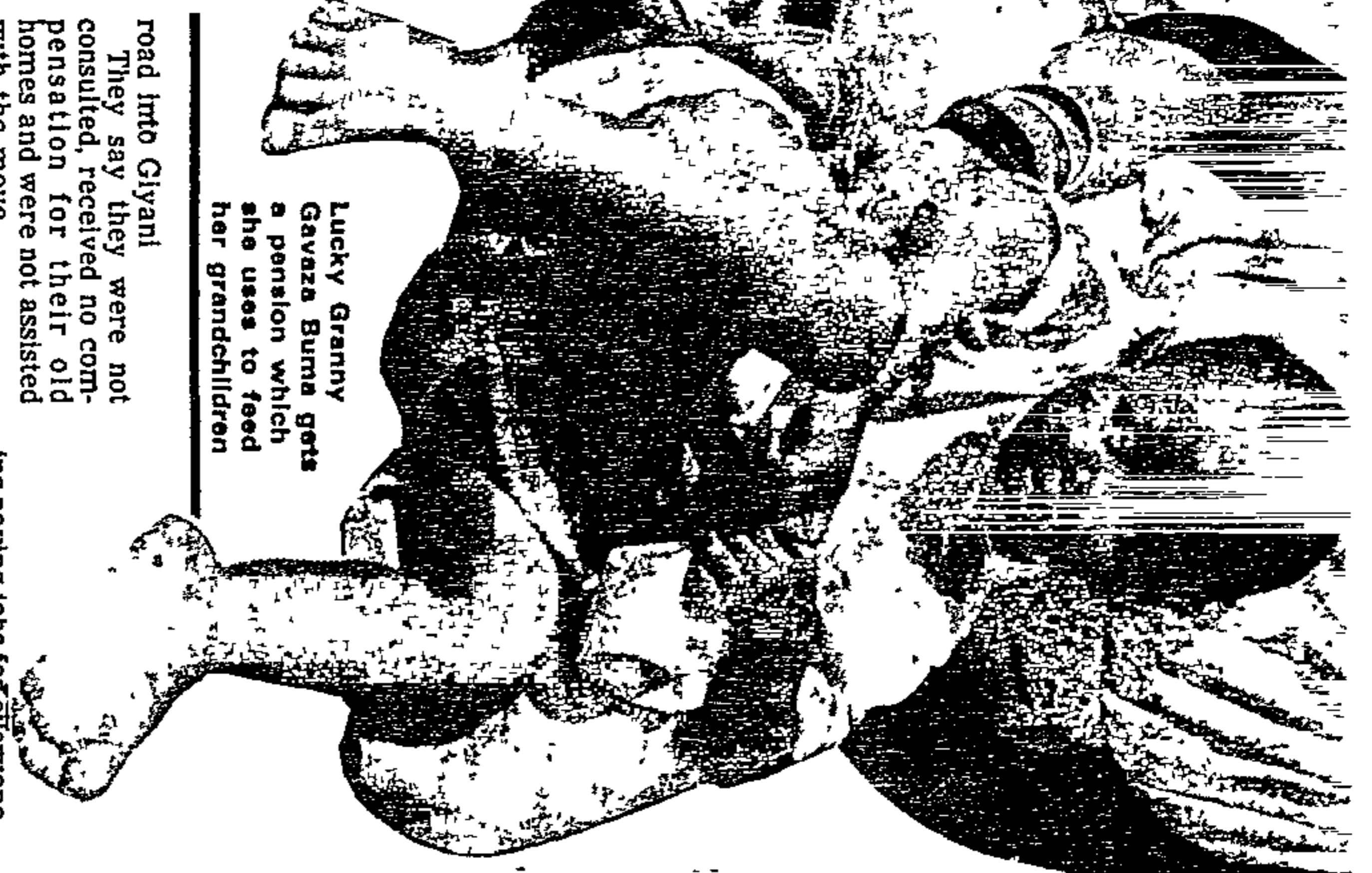
And Granny Ruth Mabunda said "Before the lines we had big fields and could look after our families and eat for two years from a crop and even throw away food"

"We were well there, we had plenty of food to eat and there was no disease"

Mrs Schneider said that as there was no hope of creating paying jobs for everyone, people should be helped to become more self-sufficient

Co-operative projects for community gardens and firewood plantations would be useful

"Small industries and labour intensive public works should be planned on a permanent basis and not only as drought relief schemes," she said



Lucky Granny Gaveza Buma gets a pension which she uses to feed her grandchildren

Argus 21/5/84  
State priorities  
and SA poverty

~~244~~ PROFESSOR Kantor argues pessimistically that state spending will not end poverty (The Argus, May 8). He might be right if he means relative poverty — in which case his article, curiously, amounts to a confession that capitalism cannot deliver the goods, even in rich countries.

But he is dead wrong if he means the absolute poverty of massive malnutrition such as exists in South Africa. State spending can make a huge impact here, as has been shown in countries much poorer in resources than South Africa, like Sri Lanka, Jamaica and China.

World Bank annual reports show that for its level of income South Africa lags far behind these and other countries in raising life expectancy, decreasing infant mortality and delivering nutrition to the poor.

Nor did the Nutrition Working Group of the Carnegie Inquiry, for one, propose increases in state spending to achieve this, as Prof Kantor implied. Rather, it suggested a redirection of spending — for instance, removing the wasteful bread subsidy, which is subsidizing White farmers and consumers to the tune of more than R100m per year, and putting it into closely targeted nutrition schemes for the poor, like a food stamp programme and school and pre-school feeding.

PETER G MOLL  
Rondebosch



# Taxing the poor on basic foods 'ridiculous'

~~240~~ 241 ~~242~~  
 ARGUS  
 22/5/84

## Provincial Staff

TO make the poor pay tax on pilchards while the rich paid no GST "living on a diet of fillet steak and crayfish" was ridiculous, Mr Geoff Everingham (PFP, Pinelands) told the Cape Provincial Council.

He said the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, intended to "soak the man in the street of R800-million in GST" because every time he found himself short of money this was the simplest way to raise it.

Yet the ordinary man was facing a proliferation of taxes. income tax, GST, excise duty on liquor and tobacco, taxes on fuel, car licence fees and rates on his home

"Now he has not only to content himself with the GST blow, but also faces suggested road toll taxes, taxes to finance his children's education and taxes to finance the Government's new dispensation.

## Eroded spending money

"He also has a donations tax if he gives any significant amounts away and faces estate duty at the end of his life"

Mr Everingham said a recent study had shown that tax had eroded spending money far more effectively than inflation.

To use the gold price or the drought as an excuse was unacceptable. The drought was a known fact before Mr Horwood presented his budget in Parliament on March 28 and, therefore, before the GST increase was announced on May 11.

Similarly, the gold price could not be blamed in the interval between March and May

Against this background, the cut of R74,6-million in State subsidies to the Cape could not be condoned.

Mr Everingham moved a motion declining the approval of the second reading of the Cape's 1984-85 budget until the Administrator, Mr Gene Louw, had made representations to the Government to act against poverty and unemployment

## Better deal

Mr Jan Moolman (NP, Tyger Valley), his party's spokesman on finance, said it was agreed that the Cape warranted a better financial deal from the Government

At the same time, MPCs should not join a "complaints brigade" because there were positive aspects to the budget

Financial discipline was important and the Government was being realistic in its priorities. Its aims were stable economic growth and a stable level of employment

## Think twice

In view of the difficult financial circumstances, everyone should think twice before spending money

"Let us for the present put luxury aside and concentrate on what is necessary to maintain a good, sound and balanced standard, without trying to fly too high financially," Mr Moolman said.

He rejected claims that expenditure was high because of political ideology

The debate continues today

# Suurbraak not to be disaster area

Staff Reporter

**DEVASTATED** Suurbraak will not be declared an emergency or disaster area.

A spokesman for the Department of Internal Affairs said today that the media and the public were under a misconception — all that the department could do was to try to relieve the immediate needs of people affected by the storm which ripped the historic town apart.

"We are investigating what relief we can offer, but this cannot happen overnight"

### No provision

There was no provision in the Fund-Raising Act for an area to be determined a disaster area. An event could be called a disaster and arrangements for necessary aid could then be made to have an area declared an emergency area.

However, this would take months and organisations involved — such as municipalities and government departments — would have to make representations through the Department of Health and Welfare.

"In the case of Suurbraak there have been no representations from anyone except the people of Suurbraak," he said.

### Same amount

No one had lost their means of income because most received State aid in the form of pensions or disability grants.

"They are receiving exactly the same amount of money now as they did before the storm," he said.

The spokesman said that a huge area had been affected by the storm.

"For it to be termed a disaster the whole area must be taken into consideration and the all the damage assessed," he said.

Clearing-up operations in Swellendam, Citrusdal and Ladismith would continue for the next few weeks.

### Electricity

The Town Clerk of Swellendam, Mr. Cyril Barnard, said "99 per cent" of the electricity supply had been restored to the town, but it would take at least three weeks for the damage to be repaired.

The Town Council was having difficulty finding enough builders to carry out repairs.



CAPE TOWN 23/5/94  
241

# Bishop's relief fund for disaster victims

Chief Reporter

THE Bishop of George, the Rt Rev WJ Manning, yesterday announced the establishment of a Bishop's Relief Fund to help the hundreds of families left destitute, many of them homeless, by hurricane-strength winds that devastated the Southern Cape towns of Swellendam, Suurbrak and Ladismith last week.

"Those who have been worst-hit are for the most part poor people, many of whom have lost all or most of their possessions," he said.

Bishop Manning said there was an urgent need of help for these families, and that all donations to the newly-established fund would be "most gratefully received".

He had visited the storm-ravaged areas and would be going there again tomorrow, to deliver further gifts of blankets and food-stuffs, and to try to establish precisely how many people were in need — and what their needs were.

"One of the things we have been able to do so far is to set up an emergency soup-kitchen at Suurbrak. But the help we have been able to offer is a mere drop in the bucket. The real and urgent need now is for funds, to help these destitute and homeless people to re-establish themselves."

● Donations should be sent to The Bishop's Relief Fund, PO Box 227, George 6530.

# Krill the key to hunger professor

Ad 645  
24/5/84

Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa must as soon as possible investigate its role as an exploiter or purchaser of krill, a shrimp-like animal which could help feed the country's future millions.

271

## New award for Southern Ocean, Antarctic research

Environment Reporter

AN annual award for the best research report or postgraduate thesis dealing with the natural resources of the Southern Ocean and Antarctica is to be set up at the University of Cape Town.

This was announced last night by Professor Roy Siegfried of the university's Percy Fitzpatrick Institute.

He said the award — the BP Antarctic Prize — would be a travel grant to enable the recipient to gain firsthand experience of polar resource exploitation management.

It would be worth between R3 000 and R5 000. Although it was an annual award, it would not necessarily be awarded each year.

This is the opinion of Professor Roy Siegfried of the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute, who delivered his inaugural lecture at the University of Cape Town last night.

He said the potential exploitation of krill and other new food resources needed to be assessed within a national policy for the maximum exploitation of renewable marine resources.

He said this had not been the practice in the past and he unfortunately saw few signs of it occurring in the future.

### Alternatives

Alternative resources and techniques for increasing food production and improving its distribution without doing irreversible damage to the environment would be needed to feed South Africa's population within 15 years.

This meant it was likely that arguments against the exploitation of krill — it is uneconomical to do so — could lessen.

Krill can be converted into a meal with a protein content similar to other fish meals.

### Only resource

Professor Siegfried said he believed krill was the only natural resource likely to be exploited commercially on a large scale in the immediate future in the Antarctic region.

It was unlikely that anyone knew the size of petroleum oil and other mineral deposits there, and most people believed hard rock mining and drilling for oil was not imminent.

Squid represented a potential food source. It was not being exploited because of the lack of effective equipment.

## PCP leader fined on two charges

Tygerberg Bureau

THE leader of the Peoples' Congress Party, Pieter Marais of Bellville, has been fined in Bellville Magistrate's Court for driving an unlicensed car and for contempt of court.

Marais, 40, of Tuna Avenue, Nooitgedacht, was fined R30 (or 30 days) and R10 (or 10 days) respectively on the two charges.

Yesterday he admitted driving an unlicensed car in Modderdam Road on March 1 and failing to appear in court on March 29.

In mitigation he said he had been unemployed for two months and was short of money. He had started work again this month.

He was involved with the Peoples' Congress

Party and was kept busy with the registration of coloured voters and addressing meetings. He also had to travel a lot, even to the Transvaal.

Mr W J Faught was on the Bench. Mr W P Welgemoed appeared for the State. Marais was not represented.

### Video films were not sexy enough

WORTHING (England) — Video fan Mr Gerry Burton has won a court case against a sex shop that hired him films that were not explicit enough.

The shop was ordered to give Mr Burton, a 26-year-old plumber, and his former wife Jill a refund on five films they rented for home viewing.

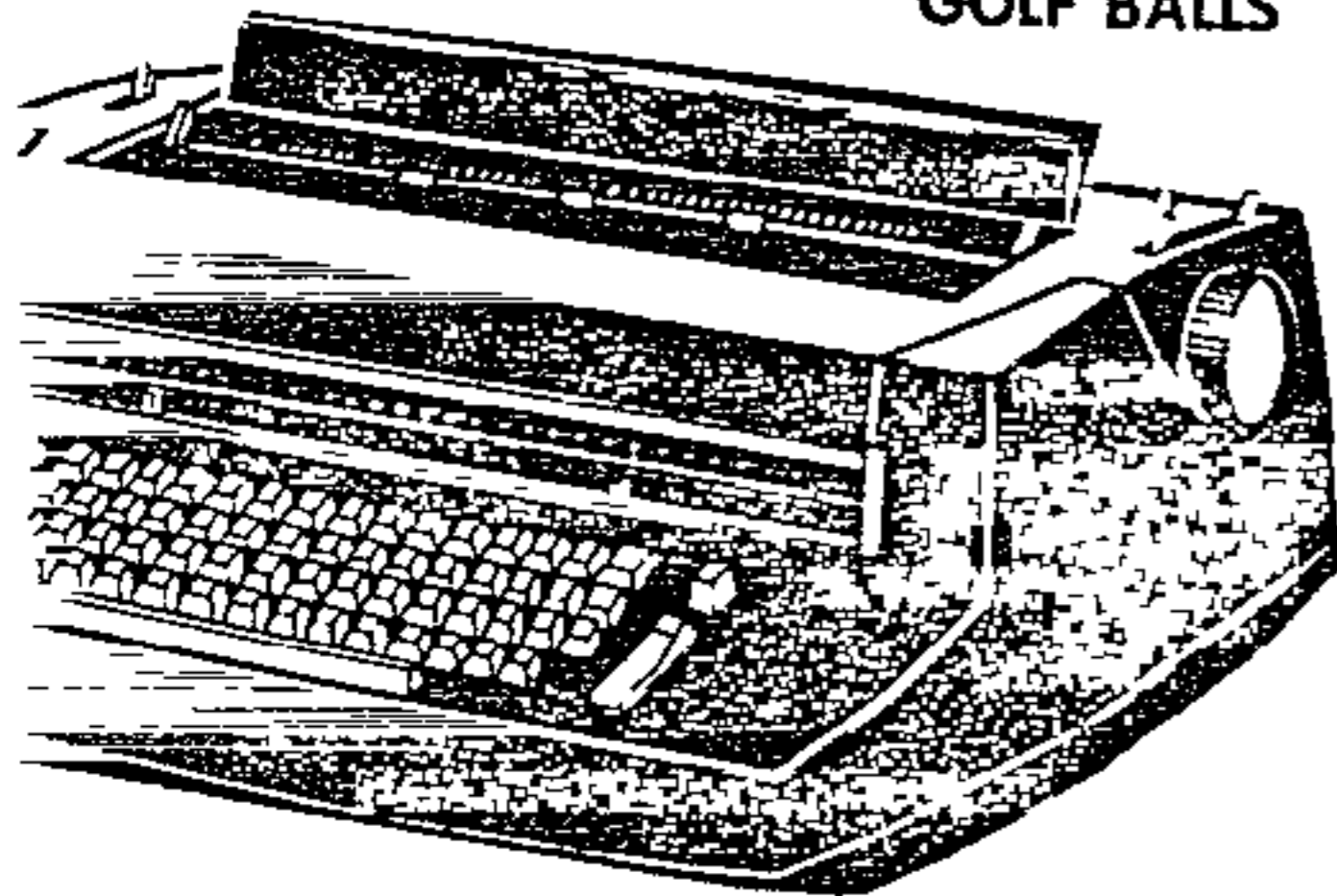
"I think I'll use the money to get some more films — but from a better source this time," Mr Burton said after the case. — Sapa-Reuter

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# Hunger deaths in Gazankulu

RDM 28/5/84 (241) (S)

By SOPHIE TEMA

THE desperate conditions in drought-stricken areas seem to be getting worse, with reports of people dying of hunger and an increase in the number of malnourished children

Surveys conducted in Gazankulu show that the reduction of "wealth" because of cattle dying, redundancy of farm workers, and adverse weather conditions have resulted in children collapsing in schools and adults dying from hunger in some villages

In areas where no relief programmes operate, there are increasing reports of fluctuating attendances in schools, an escalating "drop-out" rate and a lack of concentration among children at lessons.

This has been confirmed by the Minister of Health for Gazankulu, the Rev Betty Kubay,

who told a representative of Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI), Mr Duncan Mackenzie, and the director of the Operation Hunger campaign Mrs Ina Perlman, that adults — some over the age of 70 — had died from hunger in the area

Miss Kubay confirmed this at a meeting in Gyan last week following a donation of R150 000 to Operation Hunger for the feeding of 40 000 starving children in Gazankulu, made at the request of the Minister

The Minister confirmed a sharp deterioration in some areas and said one village had reported 36 cases of severe malnutrition

The Secretary of Health for Gazankulu, Dr B Robert, said medical surveys done at schools in the northern part of Gazankulu showed that the area was one of the worst in the country

He said only 10% of the children in the homeland could afford to take some maize

porridge (the customary staple diet) to school

Dr Robert said a team consisting of one social worker, and staff from the Nkhensani Hospital started a feeding scheme. It cost R20 000 a month to feed 40 000 starving children

"But there is now an element of emergency in the feeding of these children because by the end of June the feeding scheme will probably have to stop because it will have run out of funds," said Dr Robert

Mrs Perlman said there was a need for an ongoing crisis relief programme to help stricken communities

Mrs Perlman said "There are numerous areas, notably in the north, where planting rains did not occur and the drought in the past three years has exacerbated, rather than caused, the situation of chronic malnutrition,

poverty and disease which is the norm in black rural areas

"And, this year shows every sign of the situation continuing

"The indications are that the emergency feeding schemes of last year will have to be continued in many parts of the country"

Mrs Perlman says, however, that to prevent under-privileged communities becoming wholly dependent on outside help, they are to be consulted and encouraged to get involved in the formation of aid programmes

She said "This involvement will give them the pride of knowing that they are willing and able to help themselves develop

"It is clear that, to be effective, aid programmes in the rural areas should be operative in the context of an ongoing, long-term plan for development, rather than simply a response to specific conditions of crisis or other disasters"

# Suurbraak: lone man on hunger strike

Staff Reporter

IN a lone crusade to have the flattened hamlet of Suurbraak declared a disaster area, a Grabouw man has embarked on a hunger strike

Mr Percy Carolus, former chairman of the Grabouw management committee, today marked his fifth day in St George's Cathedral without eating — and he plans to carry on indefinitely

He was motivated by an apparent lack of concern about the situation at Suurbraak, where almost 500 people have been left homeless by the recent storms. They have been living in army tents and have had no word about Government aid.

Describing his condition as "physically weak but spiritually strong", Mr Carolus appealed to the Department of Community Development to start a housing scheme similar to that built in Laingsburg after floods devastated the Karoo town in 1981.

"The residents there were provided with temporary mobile homes which, to us, are a luxury," he said.

"The Government provided millions of rands for new homes to be built. The Suurbraak people were given tents which blew away."

Mr Carolus said he had no family in Suurbraak, but had visited the community on purely humanitarian grounds last week. What he saw there prompted him to start his hunger strike.

"People were walking round aimlessly, not certain of what would happen to them. For them there is no tomorrow," he said.

He said the Government should respond to the appeals for help.



Mr Percy Carolus, former chairman of the Grabouw Management Committee, who is on a hunger strike in St George's Cathedral.



POVERTY — GENERAL  
1984

JUNE — DEC.

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# Unskilled workers getting poor deal says Carnegie report

Labour Reporter

ALL unskilled workers are severely discriminated against by the workmen's compensation system, according to a report in the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty.

The paper, by Mr I Schroeder of the SA Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru), says compensation is calculated as a percentage of a worker's earnings

"Thus no fixed amount would be paid to a worker losing an arm, for example. In this way, all unskilled workers — who constitute the bulk of those likely to be injured or maimed at work — are discriminated against to a greater or lesser extent," Mr Schroeder said.

There was also "a clear incentive" for employers to report "as few accidents as possible" to the workmen's compensation commissioner, he said.

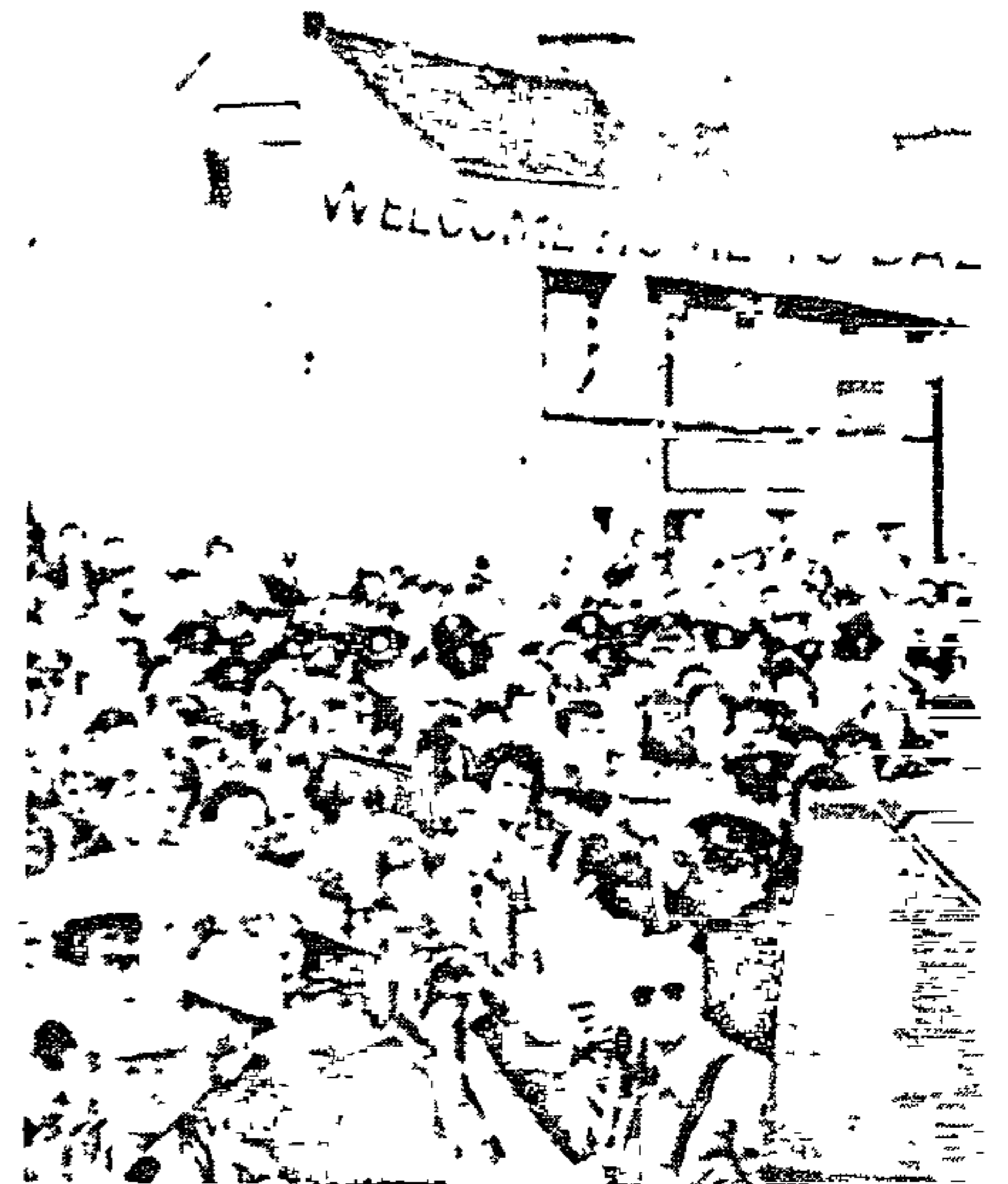
"The accident fund from which compensation is paid is drawn from a levy imposed on employers. The levy can be decreased or increased at the discretion of the commissioner, depending on whether a particular employer contributes more to the fund than his workers claim for compensation, and vice versa," Mr Schroeder said.

Employers whose accident rate fell below a certain percentage of the levy were also entitled to triennial rebates from the Department of Manpower.

"This acts not as an incentive to employers to prevent accidents in the workplace, but rather as an incentive to simply not report accidents at all, resulting in injured workers not receiving compensation for the loss of earnings they may have suffered"

Other problems with the system were that there were only 16 occupational diseases covered by Workmens' Compensation, compared to 49 in Britain, and that most workers, particularly contract workers, were not aware that they had been awarded compensation.

# KWV hit exports



President Ronald Reagan addressing a crowd south of Ireland. Ballyporeen is the host



# The Cra of the C is in Rembrandt



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241

# South Africa ignores rural poverty 'at its peril'

A SERIOUS crisis has developed in the rural areas of South Africa, which can only be ignored "at our peril," according to Professor Francis Wilson, of the University of Cape Town.

He reached this conclusion after the first results of one of the most extensive investigations into poverty in South Africa — the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa — had been obtained.

"The inquiry began with the understanding that poverty, particularly in the rural areas, was extremely serious.

"With every day that has passed, the evidence tells us yet more firmly that there is a rural crisis upon this country which we ignore at our peril," he said.

Prof Wilson is the Director of the University of Cape Town's Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit (Saladru), which is co-ordinating the Carnegie project.

The first phase of research during the three-year project culminates in a conference to be held at UCT between April 13 and April 19, at which between 200 and 300 papers on different aspects of poverty in South Africa will be discussed.

But, Prof Wilson said, "We are very conscious of the fact that if this merely results in some nice books ending up on some bookshelves, it will be a failure."

"It was important to establish the facts about poverty in South Africa, and to examine different strategies to eliminate poverty, but action, both short-term and long-term, was the ultimate goal of the inquiry, he said.

The project stretched across the South African political spectrum and involved people from at least 20 universities in southern Africa, as well as people from different professions.

Planning began in 1980 for the project, which is funded by the Carnegie Foundation, a United States body which between 1928 and 1932 backed the first inquiry into the poor white problem in South Africa.

It will continue to research for 15 months after the conference.

"We are not necessarily striving for consensus at the conference about what should be done, but we are aiming for hard thinking and drastic action about the issues, as well as moving towards ideas about solving the problem."



PROFESSOR FRANCIS WILSON ... "we are aiming for hard thinking and drastic action about the issues"

## BARRY STREEK

A geographic division about poverty existed in South Africa, he said, and could be broken down into four main types — the metropolitan areas, what used to be called "reserves", the platteland (that 80% of South Africa which is neither urban nor reserve) and Lesotho.

"Everyone is aware of

there as money floating around the edges and there are ways and means for the poor to make ends meet as they often simply cannot do in the rural areas.

"Secondly, rural poverty is by no means confined to the reserves. Third, and most important of all, what the inquiry is helping to spotlight and what the recent drought helped to bring to our attention is the acute rural crisis that has developed in recent years."

This had been made manifest, for instance, in QwaQwa, a small area in the Southern Free State where the population in 1970 was 20 000, which is at least 19 000 more than the

poverty in the slums of South Africa and many people are aware of the acute problem in the bantustans.

"But few people have focused their thinking on the quite dreadful poverty that is to be found in many parts of the platteland.

"In the inquiry, we are getting reports and research work not only in the cities and the bantustans but also in a number of dorps and farming areas of the platteland.

"Three clear points have emerged so far: firstly, in general, poverty in the rural areas is worse than poverty in the cities, not the least because in the cities

area can support, but which has rocketed in 10 years to anything between 300 000 and 500 000 people without any commensurate increase in jobs and industrialisation.

"What has been happening in QwaQwa has been happening in many other places in different parts of the Ciskei, Kangwane, KwaNdebele and in the Western Transvaal."

Prof Wilson said it was important to recognise that one was dealing with a single economy from Cape Town to the Limpopo with different political boundaries — the Lesotho type, the Transkei type, the KwaZulu type and the coloured labour preference type.

"The fundamental point is that you cannot discuss poverty in isolation of those boundaries."

The inquiry focused on poverty wherever it was found, not ethnic poverty, but as poverty is endured primarily by blacks, it is fundamental to the inquiry that blacks should be involved in thinking about the problems.

Its first goal has been to update and collate information about poverty in South Africa. This was a scientific investigation into poverty in all its dimensions in South Africa.

"We are looking for facts so that they can generate a public debate about the causes — so that we can go beyond the headline causes to reach a real understanding of the extent to which poverty in South Africa is the same as that endured in other parts of the world and

to what extent it is caused by the South Africa economic-political system.

"One hopes that out of the debate, particularly if there is a wide range of the political spectrum involved, we will get a greater understanding of the problem."

By establishing the facts and by analysis of those facts, it was hoped that strategies for action would be developed.

These strategies for action could be short-term "ways and means of fighting poverty with the present situation" and long-term, such as, for example, the field of land reform.

"We have been asked exactly what poverty is — it has been fundamental to this inquiry that there is no single definition.

"Poverty is like illness. It has many dimensions; we have been seeking to find out in different situations what poverty means to those who endure it.

"In some cases it is children dying of hunger because there is no money to buy food, in other situations it is watching all one's cattle die because there is no water, in another situation it is watching loved ones die because the water is contaminated," Prof Wilson said.

The Second Carnegie Inquiry into poverty in South Africa is examining those issues as never before and, clearly, its findings are going to be disturbing, but the real challenge as Prof Wilson says, will be "the struggle to find policies that will bring about more just and equitable development in this part of the world."



# BLACKS STILL POOR

*Crusade 16 December 1983*  
Optimism about the rising wages and improved standard of living of South Africa's Black population since the beginning of the 1970's has been dashed in a recent study by Cape Town University's economics student, Mr Stephen Devereux

In a booklet published by the South African Labour and Development Research Unit which is co-ordinating the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa, Mr Devereux throws into question the views of some economists and employers who argue for a trend towards reduced Black/White inequality in South Africa

While not disputing statistical evidence which shows substantial income redistribution from White to Black groups, and an increase in the share of the total national income by the lower sectors of the population, Mr Devereux warns that such optimistic figures may obscure a tendency for some Blacks to gain at the expense of others

He says on the one hand there is irrefutable evidence that real Black wages rose enormously over the decade, and relaxed job reservation and a growing need for skilled labour led to increased Black upward mobility

On the other hand, though, these positive trends do not go far enough to alleviate the poverty of the majority of Blacks. Rising wages may even have been offset by rising unemployment and hardship among those excluded from education and employment opportunities particularly in the homelands

"Possibly up to half the Black population are living in conditions of absolute poverty on the fringe of an affluent White society. Statistics showing that Black incomes doubled during the 1970's are irrelevant to the millions of people who still cannot enjoy a civilised standard of living in South Africa today"

Mr Devereux points

out that inflation has had a greater impact on the lower income groups. They have suffered higher cost of living increases mainly because food prices have soared faster than any other item, particularly during the second half of the decade

"Mine wages according to the Chamber of Mines increased eight-fold during the 1970's. According to Mr Devereux, though, when inflation is taken into account wages over the 10 years only just doubled, bringing them into line with most other sectors. In addition, he says, it must be remembered that the significant cash increases which started in 1970 began at the abysmally low figure of an average R18 per month

Mine wage increases set the pace for increases in manufacturing and government services, but, Mr Devereux warns, these are subject to the same inhibitions. While the Black/White wage gap in cash terms narrowed, the different effects of inflation on different groups meant that in real terms the gap in fact widened

Increased wages had an unexpected detrimental effect on Black workers in certain sectors. To offset rising costs, Mr Devereux argues, employers often chose to retrench semi- and unskilled workers in favour of more productive capital-intensive techniques

Alternatively, in the face of spiralling wages, employers placed women in unskilled jobs - at salaries approximately 80 per cent that of males

The net result is a rise in Black wages coupled with a rise in Black unemployment. "Laying off Blacks and using the remainder more intensively raises

productivity and average wages, while the total wage bill may actually fall. Real Black income per capita possibly declined from 1976, statistics to the contrary notwithstanding"

Between 1976 and 1979 nominal earnings per capita rose by 32 per cent, yet by 1980 real incomes were only 1.1 per cent above the 1976 average

Skilled labour shortages observed early in the 1970's led to political reforms which encouraged upward mobility of some Black workers. Statistics show growing numbers in professional, managerial and administrative positions

But, Mr Devereux argues, this further obscures the picture of overall increase of Black wages. The higher incomes of those fortunate who are able to reach the top jobs disguises possible declining real wages of those in semi- and unskilled employment

"Upward mobility benefits some workers but may leave the majority worse off, and the Black wage rises of the 1970's could conceivably be hiding increasing intraracial inequality and declining average welfare"

He concludes in his paper "The 1970's produced not one, but two distinct trends in Black income and welfare

"The positive argument that Blacks gained substantially from wage rises and upward mobility applies only to those fortunate enough to be absorbed into modern sector employment

"For the rest - possibly the majority - of Blacks who remain trapped in low-employment rural areas, facing malnutrition and disease, little has changed"



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## 'Compensation not fair to unskilled'

Mail Reporter

A SCATHING critique of the Workmen's Compensation Act is contained in a recently published report prepared for the Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development by Mr Ighasan Schroeder, a University of Cape Town researcher

The report says that workmen's compensation — which is supposed to provide for workers who suffer illness or injury as a result of their

work — discriminates against unskilled workers

Mr Schroeder points out that compensation is calculated on the basis of an individual employees' wages

"Thus, no fixed amount would be paid to a worker losing an arm, for example. Instead, compensation would be determined by how much a particular worker earned

"In this way, all unskilled workers are discriminated against to a lesser or greater extent"

# Workers get raw deal

**UNSKILLED workers are severely discriminated against according to the provisions of the Workmen's Compensa-**

**tion Act.** *Southern*  
In one of the latest working papers to come out of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into

"In this way, all unskilled workers were discriminated against, to lesser or greater extent," he says

Poverty and Development in southern Africa, Mr Ighsan Schroeder says the compensation is calculated on the basis of a percentage of an individual employee's wages

Employers are discouraged from reporting accidents to the commissioner who administers the Workmen's Compensation fund by the present system of granting reduced premiums and rebates to factories with lowered accident rates

The accident fund from which compensation is paid is drawn from a levy on individual employers This is

*7/6/84*  
calculated on the basis of annual wages rates, and the nature of a particular industry and employer's record

He points out that some factors of the Act are not incentives to prevent accidents in the workplace, but rather incentives to simply not report accidents at all

In 1982, out of 491 198 workers who were awarded benefits under the Act, 388 148 were for medical aid and 103 for compensation

The workmen's compensation system, which is meant to provide for employees who suffer illness or injury as a result of work, has also been criticised by the National Union of Mineworkers (Num).

Num's assistant gen-

eral secretary, Mr Mokheseng Maloka, said most unskilled workers were in the mines They work under "dangerous conditions" and hundreds have either been injured or killed underground

As a result, he added, the union has demanded approximately R7-million from the authorities following the death of 67 miners and injuring of others during the Hlobane mine explosion last year.

In his paper, Mr Schroeder, who is Cape Town University's researcher, says no fixed amount is paid to workers losing a limb, for example. Instead, compensation would be determined by how much a particular worker earned.





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there will affect the response of the affiliate organizations to the mounting crisis  
Meanwhile, public servants have been granted pay increases which in some instances have doubled the salary bills of government departments, while they also receive fringe benefits which put them at a massive advantage over the man-in-the-street.

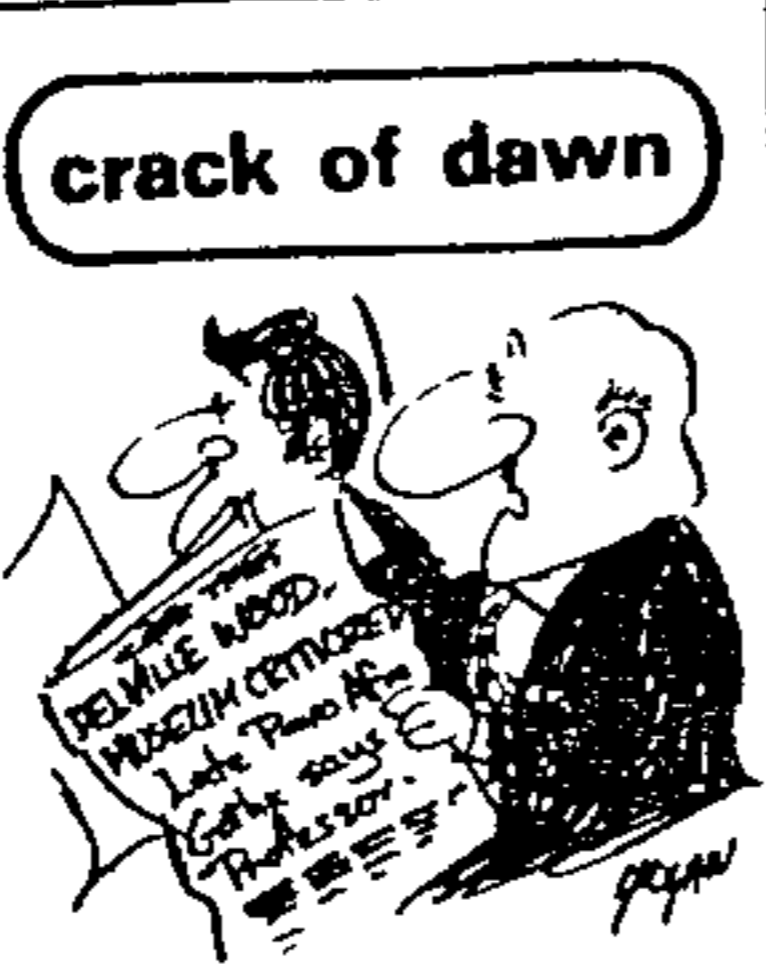
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**Static rate**  
While the housing bond rate has gone up for everyone else, public servants still have a static rate of 4.5 per cent.

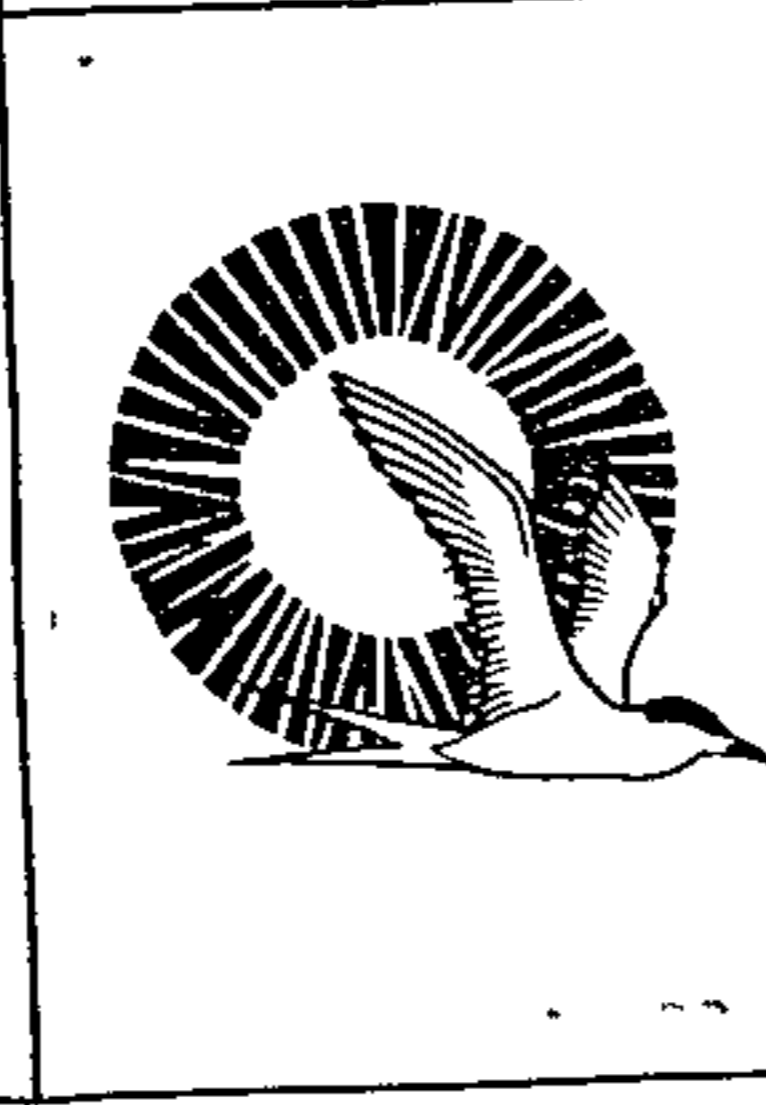
The Commission for Administration, which monitors the position, said recently that Prime Minister Mr P W Botha's promise to rationalize the public sector did not imply that there would be salary cuts or static salary levels  
The commission said he had merely promised to make the service more efficient.

**SS BRIEF**

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"A late Parow Afro-Gothic museum would look more in place in Bellville Wood"



Cape Times 13/6/84.  
**Cheap, nutritious and taxed**

**Staff Reporter**  
KUPUGANI, a non-profit national distributor of cheap but nutritious foods, said yesterday that only three of the 84 lines of foodstuffs they stocked were on the list of items exempt from sales tax  
The firm is a major distributor of baby foods, powdered milk, dehydrated vegetables, soup and other high protein foods. The three lines exempted were margarine, milk powder and mealie (maize) meal  
A spokesman for the organization said Kupugani supplied creches, old-age homes, nurseries, day-schools and some day-hospitals. Some 40 percent of these institutions were exempted from sales tax, because they were registered as charities  
However, the vast number of unregistered institutions in the Cape Flats area did make their purchases from the firm and would have to pay the increased 10 percent GST effective from July 1  
Kupugani director Mr Gerry Henderson said canned meats, soya products and high protein dehydrated vegetables were the only types of food the poor had access to in many cases because of distance from markets in rural areas and absence of facilities such as refrigerators in most cases  
● Leading article, page 10  
● Quick guide to the new GST, page 11

# Breytenbach a friend of M

**Correspondent**  
**ESBURG** — Afri-  
Breyten-  
was sentenced to  
imprisonment on a  
terrorism, has dis-  
friendship — and  
to escape from  
prison — with the  
gang bank robber Pat-  
McCall  
es of articles to be  
in Scope magazine,  
jail-breaker Alan

Heyl — only surviving mem-  
ber of the trio of robbers —  
has claimed McCall was re-  
sponsible for the death of the  
gang leader, former policeman,  
Andre Stander  
But according to Breyten-  
bach in his recently-published  
book "True Confessions of an  
Albino Terrorist", McCall, "a  
humorous person not given to  
violence", had been "put up  
for death".  
McCall was shot by police in

the Stander gang's hide-out in  
Houghton in January  
Police also found documents  
in the house which assisted  
them in tracing Stander to  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida.  
"At the time of confessing  
this (December 1983), Mac,  
who had broken out on several  
previous occasions, by ab-  
sconding from the dentist or  
diving, handcuffed, through a  
train window, was on the loose  
again

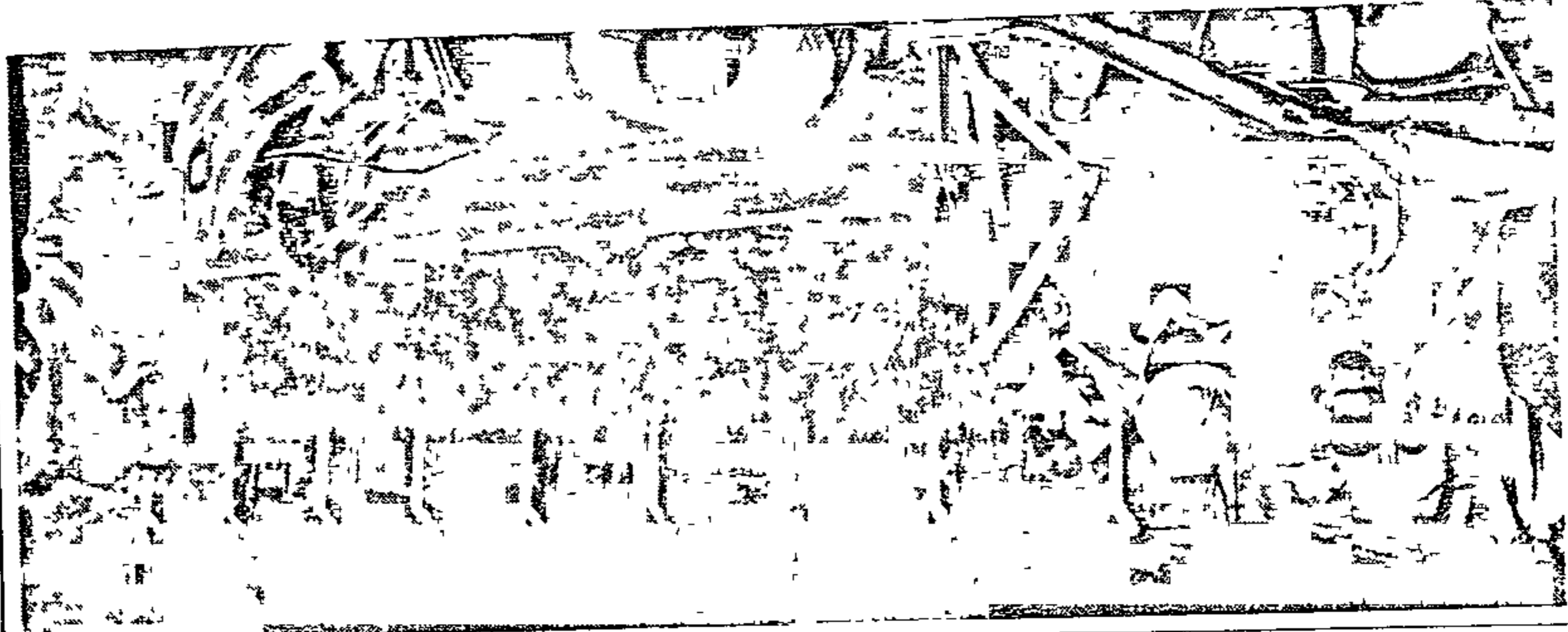
"This time he escaped in the  
company of an ex-policeman  
(presumably Captain Andre  
Standar)  
"Mac is a gentle, humorous  
bloke, not given to violence —  
but the newspapers (and the  
police informing them) are  
creating an atmosphere of ter-  
ror which would provoke and  
justify the shooting to death of  
the escapees if ever they are  
cornered. As far as I know  
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**SIDE**

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officials bashing down his house and his furniture piled on the pavement  
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at Nedbank Somerset West the Treasury announced today

### To retire

CAPE TOWN — The chief of the security branch of the South African Police, Major-General F M A Steenkamp, is to retire from the force on September 1

### Yacht 13th

LONDON — South Africa's John Martin, skippering the monohull, Mainstay Voo-trekker, is holding on to 13th position in the 1984 Single-Handed Trans-Atlantic Yacht Race

### Showjumper

JOHANNESBURG — The first black showjumper in South Africa, Mr Enos Mafokate, 40, a stable manager, flew to England yesterday to take part in the annual Royal Show and several other meetings

### Elections

PRETORIA — The first political party has registered in Pretoria for the August elections for the House of Representatives. The Progressive Independent Party is led by Mr Faiz Mohammed Khan and it will operate from Lenasia

### Pamphlet

CAPE TOWN — A pamphlet produced by the South African Council on Sport, "Sacos calls for no sport on 16 and 17 June", had been found to be undesirable, the Directorate of Publications announced in Cape Town

### Execution

KHARTOUM — A Sudanese thief will be publicly executed by hanging tomorrow and his body crucified after death, the official Sudan news agency reported today

### Hairy

PRETORIA — A South African women's hairdressing team — the first apprentice team to do so — will take part in the World Hairdressing Championships in the United States this year

# Final phase of Carnegie inquiry starts

CAPE TOWN — The final phase of the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development in Southern Africa is now under way with the return of the director, Professor Francis Wilson, from a two-week tour overseas

"I spoke to some interesting people, saw fascinating projects and have come back with a lot of ideas. We are girding our loins for a 15-month period of consolidation, and this has certainly added momentum to the Carnegie inquiry," Prof Wilson said in Cape Town today

He spent some time in New York discussing future plans for the inquiry with members of the Carnegie Corporation

Prof Wilson gave seminars on poverty in Southern Africa at Yale University and at the Institute of Economics and Statistics at Oxford University

As a result, a joint University of Cape Town/Oxford University research project on the link between education and employment

is being considered

Prof Wilson also held talks with the director of the World Development Institute, Professor Paul Streeten, and members of the Development Studies Institute at East Anglia on the need for more extensive development studies programmes, particularly those focusing on rural development, at South African universities

For more than two years professionals, community workers and academics from universities throughout Southern Africa have been researching the causes and consequences of poverty in the sub-continent.

It is hoped that over the next few months the Carnegie Inquiry will produce a series of books. Prof Wilson will write a summary report on the most significant research findings

"Members of the Carnegie Inquiry will be travelling all over Southern Africa over the next 15 months discussing strategies to combat poverty and

under-development in Southern Africa," he said

"During my trip I learned a lot about what is being done elsewhere to meet the basic needs of people enduring poverty. We in South Africa can learn a lot from these examples"

He spent two days in Zimbabwe visiting rural and semi-rural communities

"Lots of exciting things are happening in Zimbabwe. I was able to witness and learn about the development of appropriate technology which actually makes a difference to the lives and health of people living in the dense rural areas"

The Vonder rig, designed by Mr Von Eilig of Harare, had introduced do-it-yourself well-digging to the sub-continent and could provide clean drinking water

The Blair VIP toilet — odourless and free of flies — was another breakthrough. It could easily be built by the layman at minimal cost, he said — Sapa

## Girl, 14, faces 22 break-in charges

ROODEPOORT — A 14-year-old Florida girl appeared briefly in the Roodepoort Magistrate's Court today in connection with 22 charges of housebreaking

The girl, who may not be identified as she is a minor, was arrested late last week by Florida detectives. She first appeared in court on Monday. She was not asked to plead today and the case was postponed to June 29

She was released into the custody of her parents. The charges arose from a series of break-ins at flats and houses in the Florida area in recent months. Purses, radios, cameras and jewellery were taken and apparently pawned

Detectives took possession of a bunch of duplicate keys — Sapa

## Boycott at Dower is over

Post Reporter

THE student boycott at Dower College had officially ended, the rector, Mr Eric Fisher, said today

Students wrote the last examination paper yesterday and those who did not write would be allowed to do so after they returned to college on July 10, he said

Most of the hostel students had already left to spend the vacation with their families

Mr Fisher said he was happy that the boycott, which started last week, had ended.

Students handed in a list of grievances to Mr Fisher. They requested that the Students' Representative Council should be recognised. Staff should

Be 'Father' of the Day with Garlicks/Holiday Inn

FOR THE LUCKY FATHER.





THE University of Cape Town and Oxford University in England are considering undertaking a joint research project on the link between education and employment.

This follows a two-week overseas tour by Professor Francis Wilson, head of the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit at UCT and director of the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa

Professor Wilson gave seminars on poverty in Southern Africa at Yale University in the United States as well as at the Institute of Economics and Statistics at Oxford.

### Result of visit

As a result of his visit, the joint UCT/Oxford project is under consideration

He also held talks with Professor Paul Streeten, director of the World Development Institute, and members of the Development Studies Institute at the University of East Anglia, on the need for more extensive development studies and programmes focusing on rural development, at South African universities

Following his overseas tour, the final phase of the Second Carnegie Inquiry is now under way.

### Strategies

"Members of the Carnegie Inquiry will be travelling all over Southern Africa during the next 15 months discussing strategies to combat poverty and under-development in Southern Africa," Professor Wilson said.

Members of the Carnegie Inquiry intend to publish a series of books over the next few months and Professor Wilson will write a summary report on the most significant research findings.

This follows the recent conference in Cape Town at which more than 300 papers on the subject were presented, providing copious detail on poverty in Southern Africa

CITY/INTERNATIONAL

Link between education and employment under spotlight

# UCT may team up with Oxford on joint project

Staff Reporter

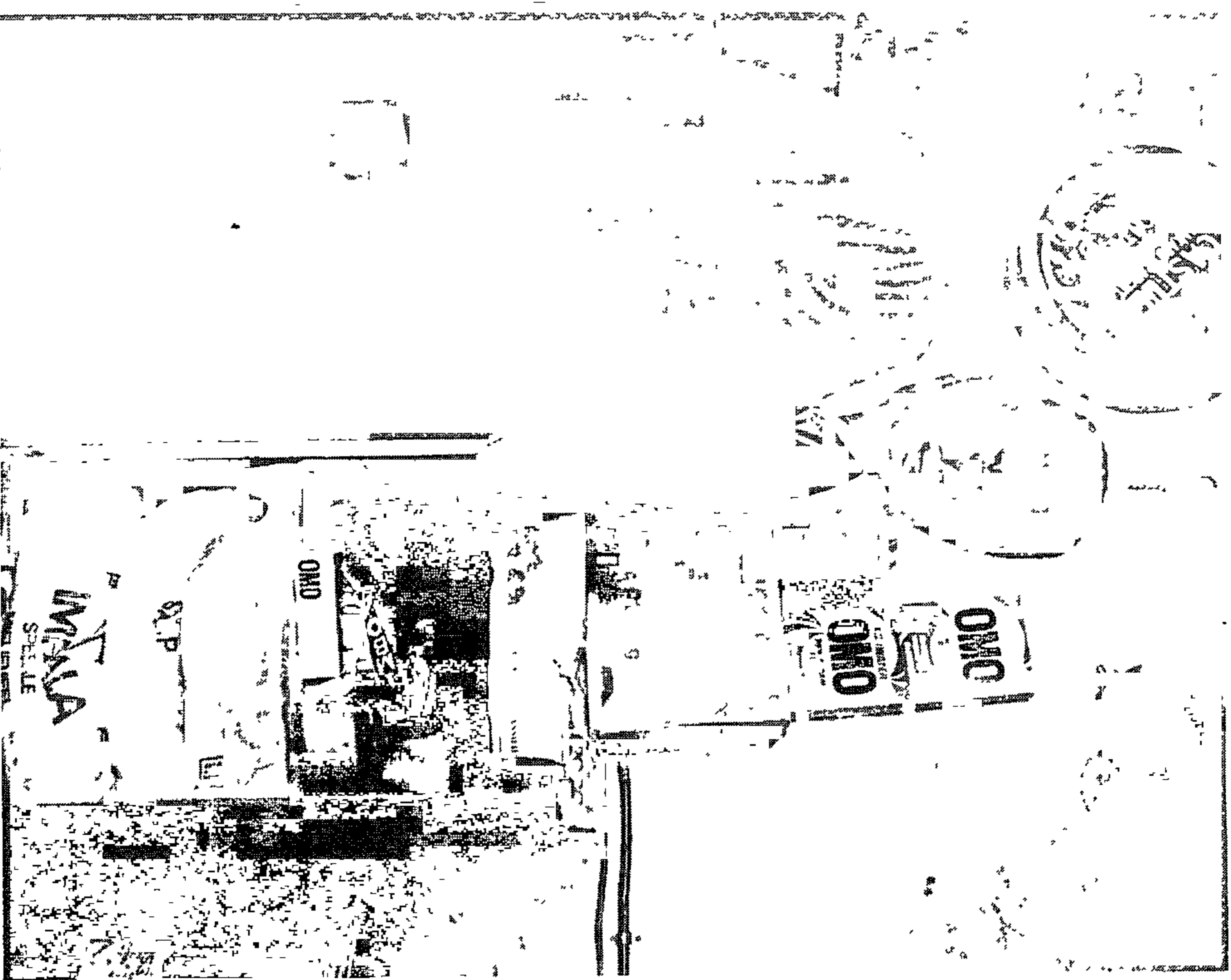
MR 645 18/6/84

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SALES TAX



Mr Shadrack Mklila examines his grocery cupboard in the Guguletu hostel room where he lives.

# Little comfort for those close to the breadline

AKGus 18/6/84  
 Report and picture by Labour Reporter PIPPA GREEN

THE Government announcement that certain foods will be exempted from GST has brought little comfort to those already living close to the breadline, since many are unlikely to reap much benefit from the exemptions.

Many Cape Flats households do not have electricity, and fridges are still regarded as a luxury. As a result, lower-income groups buy substantial amounts of tinned food — which will still be subject to the 10-percent sales tax from July 1.

And even the shopping baskets of workers who do own fridges contain a high proportion of taxable goods.

Examining the household budgets of workers interviewed showed that the tax exemptions hold little, if any, relief for the poor.

## Household necessities

The newly-formed federation of independent black trade unions has listed a "range of household necessities" bought regularly by workers on which tax will increase.

They include tea, coffee, sugar, tinned foods, toiletries, candles, paraffin, clothing and household utensils.

Mr Shadrack Mklila is a contract worker with a local firm in the building industry. He has worked with the same firm for 13 years and earns R51,75 a week.

He sends about R20 a week to his wife and six children in Transkei — leaving him about R31 a week to live on.

## Six tins of vegetables

Neither he nor a fellow contract worker, who did not want to be named, have a fridge, so most of the food they eat — apart from the exempted samp, meal-meal and bread — is tinned, and therefore not exempt from GST.

Mr Mklila and his colleague each buy about six tins of vegetables a week and several tins of

fish. They also buy one five-litre tin of paraffin, soap and other toiletries.

Tea, coffee, sugar, jam and rice are bought once a fortnight.

"We buy fresh meat and vegetables once a week before the weekend, never more than that.

"It would be better if the Government were to reduce GST on more things. It would make it easier for people all round. We all have to spend money on these things, whether you earn a lot or a little," said Mr Mklila's colleague.

## Typing school fees

A municipal worker, who has worked for the City Council for nearly 14 years and who lives in Hanover Park with his family, earns a standard wage of R83,05 a week. His take-home pay, after deductions which include rent, is R64.

Of that, the family spends about R26 50 a week on electricity, hire-purchase repayments, the telephone bill and his daughter's typing school fees. That leaves R37,50 a week for transport, groceries, clothes and entertainment.

About R15 a week is spent on fresh vegetables, meat, milk and bread. The balance is spent on taxable goods.

Mr Alfred Jacobs of Guguletu is an electrician with a construction company.

His basic wage is R108 a week, of which he pays R18,67 a month in rent and about R20 a month on electricity.

Mr Jacobs has three school-going children, for whom he provides bus fares, school books and uniforms.

Weekly bus fares for the family amount to R25,60 and hire-purchase repayments to R50. The fortnightly shopping bill comes to R82.

Because the family owns a fridge they can afford to buy fresh foods. Nevertheless, of the R82 shopping bill only about R29 is spent on GST-exempt goods like samp, fresh meat, milk, bread, margarine and vegetables.



# Self-help projects are bringing

Week Post June 23/6/84 (241)

By CLAIRE PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE

THE formidable and urgent task of initiating self-help projects among the unemployed in the poverty-stricken areas of the Eastern Cape has only recently been tackled by a variety of concerned organisations

The realisation that it is vitally necessary to encourage self-reliance among the unemployed at grassroots level has been slow to dawn in this area, according to representatives of many of these organisations interviewed

These organisations range from the private and Government sectors to community-based schemes

For this week's look at community-based self-help schemes, Weekend Post spoke to the Rev Howard Hans, chairman of the local committee of Build-a-Better-Society (Babs) and director of the Sisonke Community Centre in Zwide, from where the organisation operates.

Babs was established locally in 1981 and is concentrating on improving the quality of life and basic necessities in the shanty areas of nearby Soweto as an initial priority

The organisation believes that people should be encouraged to learn crafts and skills, to increase their community involvements and to stop feeling helplessly dependent on others

Their first step involved encouraging shanty dwellers to build their own structures for toilets. They were supplied with buckets by the authorities as soon as they had done so

They were also successful in approaching the authorities on behalf of various groups in these areas for the installation of communal taps, street lighting and the tarring of some roads.

Miss Wezi Ximiya, a community worker for Babs, said they had begun encouraging women to earn a small income by acting as day-care mothers for children of the employed

But the most exciting project they were co-ordinating was a self-help sewing scheme which was flourishing

Five sewing groups had been formed in February, and Babs, which received some funds from Mobil, Ford and Anglo American, ran an intensive sewing skills course for unem-

ployed women

The course included seminars on bookkeeping, human relations and co-operatives, and this week many of the women attended a seminar on marketing given by Mr Siphon Mashini of Self-Help Associates for Development Economics (Shade), a Johannesburg-based organisation.

The sewing machines have been loaned by Shade and the groups are gradually buying them from the organisation with the proceeds of their sales

Miss Ximiya said the women in the sewing groups had already sold many items and there had been an excellent response from the community as the goods were marketed through word of mouth

The market they planned to aim at was providing school uniforms, children's clothes and afro-boutique styles, and a long-term goal was to form their own business from which to produce and market their goods

"Their work is already bringing them a reasonable income and the women are very excited about the professional basis on which they are operating," she said.

"We find the project has promoted self-reliance and self-confidence because most of the unemployed women who arrived were feeling unmotivated, depressed and desperate"

Babs also had several committees and sub-committees of volunteers who were running a self-help project for the aged to teach marketable crafts such as beadmaking, matting, and crocheting, said Miss Ximiya

The organisation provided them with materials and held bazaars at the Sisonke Centre where they sold the products

Their other activities included the launching of projects for the youth, a door-sized vegetable gardening project and cookery demonstrations and budgeting lessons for housewives

Volunteers or people in need of help can phone Mr Hans at 641958, or Miss Ximiya at 662344.

In Zwide, a community worker, Mrs Albertina Dlanjwa, and other volunteers have formed a child and family welfare club called Ntlanlonte or Good Living, which has started self-help sewing projects and the formation of creches in the



homes of unemployed women

They had become affiliated to a welfare organisation, and mothers at the well-established creche in Sakuba Street were paid to cook and teach the children. Sewing classes were being run on a non-profit basis by the club and women were paid for the garments they sold, said Mrs Dlanjwa

"We are encouraging people to stand on their own feet, and have also started sewing classes in Motherwell," said Mrs Dlanjwa

She said they wished to expand, but needed more volunteers and donations of sewing materials and machines. They were also fund-raising as a group, which was now registered under the auspices of Child and Family Welfare

People can contact her at 641379 or 523716

The president of the East Cape branch of the Young Women's Christian Association, Mrs Nada Mahola, said they had also started sewing clubs for women who had been put through a course on basic skills this year

There was great concern about unemployed men in the townships and the association wished to sell tie-dyed materials to raise funds to buy leather and

tools to encourage a leatherwork club for them. She can be contacted at 49951.

The Grahamstown Areas Distress Relief Association (Gadra) also established a successful communal gardening project over a year ago for the disabled, aged and unemployed. Needy people who have approached them have been taught gardening skills and helped to support themselves.

The spirit of implementing self-help projects has moved as far afield as Graaff-Reinet, where Mr Roland Kingwill and his wife Moira started a non-profit organisation, Graaff-Reinet Crafts, where 30 black women are now producing and selling spun and knitted products.

Mrs Moira Kingwill said they had realised there was a great need to teach black women skills and provide labour-intensive employment in Graaff-Reinet because they battled to find work in a coloured labour preference area

She said the project had been very rewarding because some of the women had discovered an exceptional talent in either spinning wool or knitting and weaving jackets, clothing, table mats and runners or cushion covers

The history of the project

dates back to a local farm, Gordonville, in the late 1970s where the Kingwills' son and daughter-in-law, Mr Dave Kingwill and his wife Jeanette, began teaching unemployed women to spin and weave.

Mrs Jeanette Kingwill has also experimented with the production of subtle natural dyes from loquat leaves and Karoo bushes, and these are now used by the women who do their own washing, spinning and dyeing of wool at Graaff-Reinet Crafts

She said her in-laws had felt motivated to establish the undertaking with the realisation that hand-outs out were not a positive thing

The women now take home a reasonable income and the chance of selling their own products has made a considerable impact in building up their sense of dignity and self-respect, she said.

But problems, such as a shortage of volunteers and funds, seriously hamper almost all the organisations mentioned. These projects all operate on a relatively small scale, while the critical unemployment problem is worsening

● Next week: The local self-help projects being offered by the Government and various business concerns.

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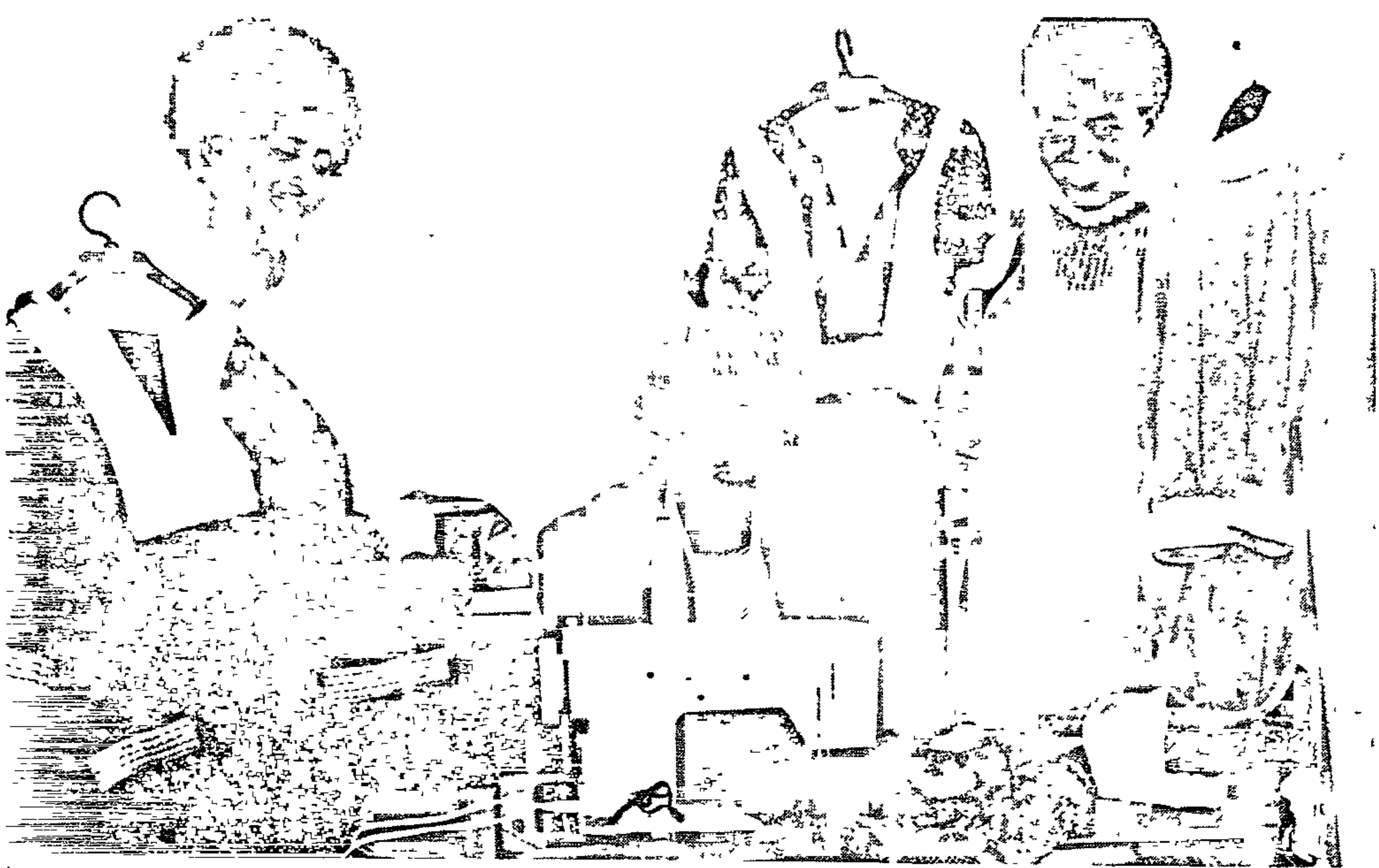
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# Projects are bringing new hope



homes of unemployed women

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"We are encouraging people to stand on their own feet, and have also started sewing classes in 'Gatherwell,'" said Mrs Mlanjwa.

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● Next week. The local self-help projects being offered by the Government and various business concerns

These three unemployed women, from the left, Mrs RUBY KANISE, Mrs EILEEN MATUTU and Miss PUMLA TOSI, have been participating in a successful sewing project initiated by Build-a-Better-Society (Babs), a community-based organisation which is concentrating on launching self-help undertakings in the shanty areas of Soweto, Port Elizabeth. The women were attending a marketing seminar held at the Catholic Community Centre in Zwide this week.

Below: Miss WEZI XIMIYA, who is one of the enthusiastic community workers for the organisation.





# Animal aid workers help neglected people as well

By SPARON LI GREEN

TWO women who launched a crusade to help neglected pets in Port Elizabeth's Missionvale township now find themselves spending a large slice of their time caring for neglected people

Very soon after Mrs René Clee and Mrs Patsy Wagner set out to provide basic veterinary services for the animals of the sprawling, poverty-stricken township they found themselves overwhelmed by the needs of the down-trodden and destitute

Missionvale has the largest number of neglected animals *pro rata* in any of the city's black townships. Not a single individual, let alone an association, had tried to improve the conditions of these animals before the women came along

Mrs Clee, former chairman of the Port Elizabeth branch of the Animal Anti-Cruelty League of South Africa, and Mrs Wagner, a field worker, make twice-weekly visits to Missionvale to treat minor injuries on the spot while taking more serious cases to the vet

They scatter dog food in needy cases and ask owners for a small donation towards dog food to instil within them a sense of responsibility towards their animals

But their attention is turned constantly to the plight of the people in the township

The people at first regarded the two women with hostility but now have grown to accept and to trust them, affectionately calling them the "honde-mense". And when they drive along Missionvale's uneven dirt streets, they

not see the need for shops in this cul-de-sac

In nearby Circular Drive there was a shopping complex with a supermarket, video shop, pharmacy and hairdressing salon

He checked with the Town Planning Department, where he was told part of the land was for an open space

Mr Trevor Moore, who lives at the junction of the two streets, told Weekend Post that when he bought his house 10 years ago the estate agent told him the land across Essey Street was zoned an open space

He checked with the Town Planning Department, where he was told part of the land was for an open space

A flashback to happier times for the Buffalo Rally, which will not be held in Port Elizabeth this year. One of the highlights of the rally was the mass ride by thousands of bikers through the streets of Port Elizabeth in a spectacular climax to the event.

Port Elizabeth's camping grounds next year The City Council has not allowed it to be held this year to serve as a cooling-off period" According to the Town

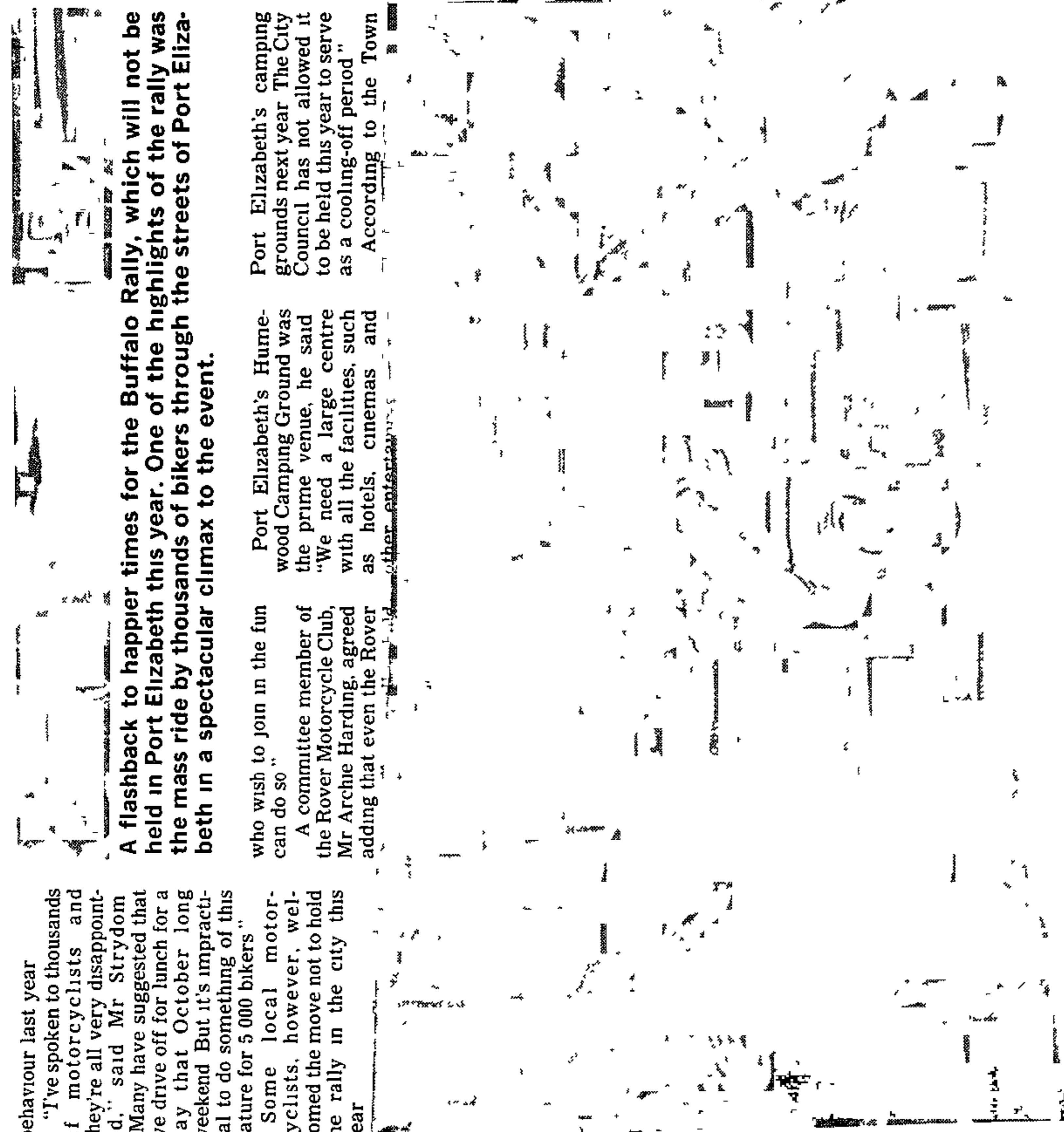
Port Elizabeth's Hume-wood Camping Ground was the prime venue, he said "We need a large centre with all the facilities, such as hotels, cinemas and other entertain-

who wish to join in the fun can do so"

A committee member of the Rover Motorcycle Club, Mr Arche Harding, agreed adding that even the Rover

behaviour last year "I've spoken to thousands of motorcyclists and they're all very disappointed," said Mr Strydom "Many have suggested that we drive off for lunch for a day that October long weekend But it's impractical to do something of this nature for 5 000 bikers"

Some local motorcyclists, however, welcomed the move not to hold the rally in the city this year





# Homelands policy attacked

By CHRIS FREIMOND  
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.  
— An alarming picture of how apparently unsuccessful the government's homelands policy has been was painted in Parliament yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert.

In a scathing attack on the government during the debate on the third reading of the Budget, Dr Slabbert said "I believe the time has come for us to restore sanity to government in this country; to call a halt to bureaucratic expansion that is threatening to run out of control."

For 30 years South Africa had developed a system of "bureaucratic patronage and privilege" which was costing a fortune.

The homelands policy in particular could be seen as a "vast exercise in bureaucracy production", he said.

## Migrants

The states were becoming less able to support themselves economically.

The per capita Gross Domestic Product — at 1970 prices — of the self-governing homelands increased from R40 in 1970 to R46 in 1980, an average annual increase of 1,3 percent, which was among the lowest in the world.

Improvement in living standards in the territories during the same period originated largely from outside, with income earned by migrant workers contributing 72 percent of the Gross National Income of the states



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Development aid from South Africa comprised almost 77 percent of the total income of those administrations.

A total of R2 246 841 000 was paid directly and indirectly by South Africa to the independent and non-independent homelands. This constituted 8,86 percent of the 1984/85 South African Budget.

## Destitute

"Put dramatically, the South African Parliament and taxpayer paid R2,246-billion rand this year for a policy which has succeeded in improving the per capita GDP of the people of the self-governing states from R40 to R46 between 1970 and 1980," Dr Slabbert said.

Between 1960 and 1980 combined homeland populations increased from 5 million to 11 million and although the number of people living below the Poverty Datum Line dropped from 99

percent to 81 percent, the number of people, in absolute terms, living below the PDL doubled from 4,1 million to 8,91 million.

The number of destitute people in the homelands had increased from 250 000 in 1960 to 1,43 million in 1980.

Some incomes had risen, but mainly due to external wage increases and the salaries of the South African bureaucracy.

## 'Elite'

Giving Transkei as a specific example, Dr Slabbert said the total annual cost of the public service in the homeland, including the cost of the executive and MPs, was R226 581 000.

"We are paying R226 581 000 for a bureaucratic elite in the Transkei. What for? So that we can show the rest of the world that we have assisted 'a country', a tribe, to become self-sufficient and indepen-

dent and to 'manifest its own national pride'.

"What does this mean in hard cash?" Dr Slabbert said.

He added that in Transkei:

● Altogether 85 percent of rural households were earning an income lower than a conservatively-calculated minimum subsistence level. In 1979, the poorest 20 percent of rural households in Transkei earned only about R242 per annum. This was about 15 percent of a minimum subsistence income.

## Clinics

● 33 percent of the rural population and 20 percent of the urban population received no training. Infant mortality was 130 per 1 000 births, which was among the highest in Africa.

● The average distance to clinics in rural areas was 7km, while the nearest doctors were an average of 13km away.

● Rural households

spent an average of 3,5 hours a day fetching water. The per capita use of water was only 10,8 litres, against the hygienic norm of between 20 and 50 litres.

● Food shortages were common and almost 20 percent of all children between six months and two years showed signs of the four most important nutritional diseases.

● There were serious housing shortages, with consequent overcrowding, particularly in urban areas.

## Labour reserve

● Only about 28 percent of the total national income was generated by the local economy, which showed that development of Transkei was largely a function of increased migrant earnings and transfers of money from South Africa.

"The Transkei Government itself states that one can hardly speak at present of a Transkei economy in any meaningful sense, more properly one must consider it a labour reserve.

"I am not blaming the government for poverty, but we are paying R226 581 000 per annum for a bureaucratic elite living off the non-existent fat of the land in order to administer an economy which on its own terms is nothing else but a labour reserve," Dr Slabbert said. The solution to South Africa's complex problems would cost money, and it was precisely for that reason that the country could not waste money on "useless and pointless bureaucratic exercises".

# HNP men in SWA police?

Political Staff



## STOPOVER SPECIALS

Here's a very special offer for Capetonians travelling North for the school holidays: For the nights of 29/30 June 1 July

ONLY R50.00



# Govt is creating disaster areas Slabbert

Political Staff

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.** — The Leader of the Opposition, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, accused the government yesterday of creating "bureaucratic disaster areas" in the homelands.

Speaking in Parliament during the debate on the third reading of the Budget, Dr Slabbert said the Nationalists had built up a system of "bureaucratic patronage and privilege" which was costing a fortune

"Whatever development has taken place, has taken place despite and not because of the policy of this government. We may have to endure, but certainly cannot afford, this government," he said

## 'Mistakes'

He also accused the government of perfecting the growth of bureaucracy in "white South Africa" to a fine art. He said this tendency could be the forerunner of corruption and inefficiency

The government was also repeating the mistakes of Africa, particularly in regard to the homelands, by creating



Dr Slabbert

vast state bureaucracies which destroyed the economies of countries

"I believe the time has come for us to restore sanity to government in this country, to call a halt to bureaucratic expansion that is threatening to run out of control," Dr Slabbert said

In spite of the vast sums of money the gov-

ernment was pumping into the homelands, they were becoming increasingly dependent on outside sources of revenue

A total of R2 246 841 000 was paid directly and indirectly by South Africa to the independent and non-independent homelands. This constituted 8,86 percent of the 1984/85 South African Budget

"Put dramatically, the South African Parliament and taxpayer paid R2,2-billion rands this year for a policy which has succeeded in improving the per capita Gross Domestic Product of the people of the self-governing states from R40 to R46 between 1970 and 1980," Dr Slabbert said

Incomes for homeland residents came chiefly from migrant workers outside the territories — and from salaries to civil servants

The states were far from able to support themselves and had become little more than a vast exercise in bureaucracy production

The percentage increases in wealth production and aspects of the quality of life in the homelands were among the lowest in the world.

## 'What for?'

Between 1960 and 1980, combined homeland populations had increased from 5 million to 11 million.

Although the percentage of people living below the Poverty Datum Line had dropped from 99 to 81, the actual number of people living below the PDL had increased from 4,1 million to 8,91 million

The number of destitute people in the homelands had also increased from 250 000 in

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To page 2

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1960 to 1,43 million in 1980

In Transkei, the total annual cost of the public service — including the executive and MPs — was R226 581 000

"We are paying R226 581 000 for a bureaucratic elite in the Transkei. What for? So that we can show the rest of the world that we have assisted 'a country', a tribe, to become self-sufficient and independent and to 'manifest its own national pride'," Dr Slabbert said

The Transkei Government itself believed Transkei was hardly more than a labour reserve.

## Steady decline

"I am not blaming the government for poverty, but we are paying R226 581 000 per annum for a bureaucratic elite living off the non-existent fat of the land in order to administer an economy which on its own terms is nothing else but a labour reserve," Dr Slabbert said

SWA/Namibia was a similar burden on the South African taxpayer. Since 1979 there had been a steady decline in economic growth in the territory, and the bureaucracy had burgeoned

"The government created the bureaucracy of Namibia which we have to pay for and which they are complaining about," he said

● Homelands policy attacked, page 4

# Children dying, but Operation Hunger helpless

(241) Star  
28/6/84

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Children are dying daily in some of the areas Operation Hunger is attempting to feed, but the organisation is now forced to admit it cannot extend its feeding schemes beyond the 600 000 it already assists.

Lack of finance is making it

turn its back on thousands of destitute people. A drop in contributions from business has hit projects critically.

Organisers say that in the mammoth Free State removals camp Onverwacht, two pre-school children die each day. Aid to this desperate area cannot presently be increased.

Nor is Onverwacht unique. "In all areas, from Venda to the Western Cape, I'm getting requests for increased feeding," says national manager Mrs Ina Perlman.

But, she adds, she has to refuse these requests. For instance, near Chuniespoort, Lebowa, a whole tribe of 10 000 requires feeding. "I daren't touch the area," says Mrs Perlman.

"Operation Hunger itself is literally living from month to month, dependent on what comes in during that time to cover what we've ordered."

Two things have knocked Operation Hunger's expansion in recent months.

"We have generally not had the support in cash or in kind from the large business sector that we had last year," says Mrs Perlman.

## SUFFERING

She attributes this largely to the poor economic climate and adds that the difficulties of firms are appreciated. "But it is up to every South African who can do anything to ease the suffering to do so."

Secondly, price rises of staples, especially maize, and increased sales tax on protein concentrate have hit the budget.

"We have established that processed protein is not exempt from GST," says Mrs Perlman. "This makes no sense. The only people who eat it are those who can't get anything else."

The organisation has positive indications of its impact.

At Subiaco Mission in Lebowa, for instance, when feeding started in January 1983, there was a death a week due to malnutrition-related causes. From June that year to March 1984 not a single such death occurred.

• Donations to Operation Hunger should be sent to Box 97, Johannesburg 2 000. Mrs Perlman's phone number is 339-2381.



# Scandal of ~~South Africa~~ 'poverty' <sup>241</sup> amid the <sup>Star</sup> affluence'

By Eugene Saldanha,  
Religion Reporter

28/6/84  
The geographical boundaries of the homelands were meant to exclude black people from enjoying the economic fruits of the "white" areas in South Africa, Dr Francis Wilson, director of the Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in Southern Africa, told the national conference of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) yesterday.

"The key issue of our time is the scandal of widespread poverty amidst the affluence of the society in which we live. For the past 100 years we have had an industrial revolution which started with the discovery of diamonds and gold.

"The rural areas of Southern Africa have now become dependent on the economy of the industrial areas," Dr Wilson said.

Delegates at the conference today called on church leaders to observe Friday, August 24, as a day of prayer and fasting for people who have been relocated.

The conference also called on member churches of the SACC to organise united services on Sunday, August 26, to highlight forced removals in the country.

Delegates also reaffirmed their total rejection of the new constitution and appealed to people who "are being tempted to vote for the constitution to realise that it is against the lesson of the gospel and the teachings of Jesus Christ".



PROF WILSON . . there is real poverty.

# Break the barriers says prof

28/6/84  
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D. Dispatch  
Carnegie

**JOHANNESBURG** — The head of the Carnegie Commission of Inquiry into Poverty, Dr Francis Wilson told a group of South African clergy yesterday to break down the barriers of isolation in rural areas to ease poverty.

He was speaking at the one-week national conference here of the South African Council of Churches which is adopting as its theme *The God of the Poor*

There was a very real poverty in South Africa and it would not vanish overnight, Dr Wilson said.

He said poverty existed in societies which did not have similar histories as South Africa, but it was the task of people concerned with uplifting the poor to confront the history and causes of poverty

He told the assembly of delegates: "Don't lose sight of these statutes, but start building plans of action to break down the isolation of rural areas"

Dr Wilson said the church had a particular responsibility to act because it had wealth, organisation, working people in rural areas and global contact

He said the country had entered a creative time in its history. It was a "grass roots" time, he said for building structures to ease the burden of the poor

The Cape Town academic said that during the past 100 years,

South Africa had experienced an industrial revolution based on the migrant labour system

"For the full century, this system has been built into the centre of the industrial revolution no country in the world has done the same," Dr Wilson said

During the 100 years, South Africa had drawn its workers from neighbouring countries such as Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Malawi. These countries had become part and parcel of the South African economy, he said

Similarly, the homelands had become totally dependent on the South African economy when the Nationalist Government adopted its policy of separate development.

However, the establishment in recent years of trade unions and industrial courts for urbanised workers was often more favourable to workers than to employers

"But we are in for a very messy time indeed," he warned, "because on the one hand we have the trade unions making progress for workers, and on the other workers are being kicked out of urban areas to the homelands.

Dr Wilson said the state's systems, and structures shaped the society and imaginative thinking was needed to develop strategies against the poverty crisis — SAPA.



# Ciskei rejects Slabbert attack

BISHO — President Lennox Sebe said in The Assembly here yesterday that the leader of the PFP, Dr F. van Zyl Slabbert's attack on the independent states exposed the man and the party for what they were.

What he had said was tantamount to comparing the chiefs and MPs with garden boys. He spoke like a schoolboy who had been made a prefect, President Sebe said.

President Sebe announced that the Ciskei delegation holding talks with representatives of the South African Government had reported that the deliberations were going well so far and that they had noticed a great change in attitude.

He said nobody wanted confrontation but if agreements had been made they had to be honoured.

Supporting President Sebe, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ntandazo Pityi, said apartheid was never planned for the black man's comfort.

That there were seas of poverty and underdevelopment in this country was no accident. What was strange was that there were still a great percentage of white voters who felt that the "screws of oppression" were being loosened far too quickly, he said.

Full report...

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Dr. FREDERIK VAN EYL Slabbert's valuable summary of the stark statistics of poverty in South Africa in his speech to Parliament on June 26 makes a horrifying reading, but they are only half the story.

He said the total of R2 246 841 000 which was paid directly and indirectly to the "homelands" constituted 8,86% of the 1984/1985 South African budget. Taking Transkei as an example he said that we (the South African taxpayers) "are paying R226 581 000 to that homeland for a bureaucratic elite living off the non-existent fat of the land in order to administer an economy which on its own terms is nothing else but a labour reserve" (Rand Daily Mail, June 27.)

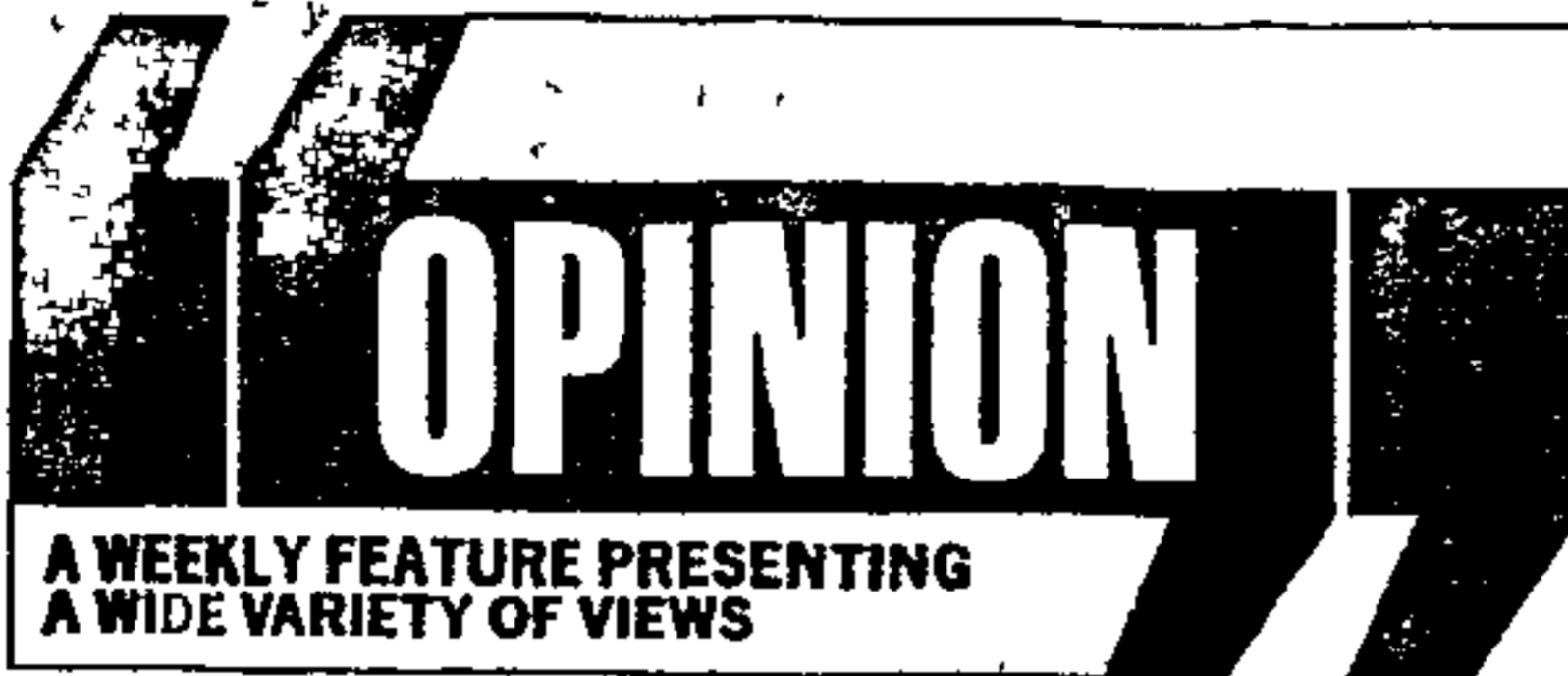
What is appalling about this is that the central Government is spending only 8,8% of its total budget on the people in the homeland areas.

It is a scandal that so much of that miserable 8,8% goes to support bureaucratic monstrosities but even were that not the case 8,8% represents a totally distorted and inadequate distribution of the financial wealth of this country.

By 1980, 54% of the total black population of South Africa was officially resident within the homeland borders. This mass displacement of people is the result of the Government's removal programme and the redrawing of homeland boundaries to include townships such as Umlazi which was once part of the municipal area of Durban and is now inside KwaZulu.

Homeland administrations are totally responsible for all the social functions of government within their own areas. It is not sufficiently understood that this applies equally to a non-independent homeland as it does to Transkei, Bophutha-

# The sad plight of South Africa's discarded people



**SHEENA DUNCAN**  
President of the Black Sash

tswana, Venda or Ciskei. People living in Lebowa or Gazankulu might as well be foreign for all the access they have to South Africa's wealth. They are discarded people in a very practical and measurable way.

When a homeland attains self-governing status, legislative as well as administrative and financial responsibility for a large schedule of government functions is shed by the Central Government. These functions include social welfare, health, education and pensions.

A homeland government takes on these responsibilities but cannot meet the financial costs involved. One example is the statement by Chief Gatsha Buthelezi that there are 100 000 old people in KwaZulu who are entitled to pensions but are not receiving them because the money is just not available. Such pensioners cannot even sue the South African Government for payment of the pensions which are their legal right because that Government no longer has legal responsibility for those pensions.

We need to be reminded that "the taxpayer" in South Africa is not only white. This is one area of our national life in which legislation is no longer racially separated. We all pay income tax on the same levels, we all pay GST, and all companies, whatever the colour of their owners and directors, pay the same company tax.

The difference, of course, is that white taxpayers have a vote and therefore can influence the way in which their taxes are spent. Black taxpayers have no vote and therefore no influence on Government.

Apart from taxation the contribution to the wealth of the private sector and of Central Government which is made by black commuters and migrants is never taken into consideration by the beneficiaries.

It is very convenient for the Government and for the private sector to have access to the labour power without which there would be no profits but to have no responsibility at all for the housing, health and welfare of the vast pool of people who reside in homeland areas.

Homeland governments can collect GST from consumers who spend their money within the homeland and can collect income tax from those who earn their money within the homeland but one only has to look at white towns like Pietersburg to see where much consumer money is spent — certainly not within homeland borders.

Unemployment is increasingly being concentrated in the homeland areas and unemployed people have no income and cannot pay income tax.

Since 1976 disturbances and the Riekert Commission report of 1978 the policy of Government, in co-operation with the private sector, has been to establish an urban labour preference with money being directed towards the improvement of the "quality of life" in black urban townships in the white area.

This means that recruitment of workers from rural areas is severely curtailed because available jobs must be reserved for those with urban residential rights.

People who live inside the homelands are not permitted to come to town to seek for their own jobs. The only way in which they may obtain legal employment is to be recruited through the labour bureau in their home areas.

If recruitment is cut back no jobs are offered and then there is no legal way in which an unemployed homeland person can find work.

Tens of thousands of people are now forced to come illegally to town to seek survival. The central government's response has been to legislate increasingly severe penalties to prevent them from surviving. The Aliens and Immigration

Laws Amendment Act became law on June 18 1984 and imposes penalties of up to two years' imprisonment or a fine of R5 000 on anyone who gives employment or shelter to an illegal alien.

"Illegal aliens" now include all Xhosa, Venda or Tswana-speaking people who are outside their homelands without a permit to be in the white areas, in other words, "South Africa". And 42% of the black population of Cape Town are "illegal aliens".

Homeland poverty is not the result of the drought. It is the inevitable and predicted consequence of the policy of apartheid. This policy is not being changed or reformed. It remains the policy of exclusion of the black majority from participation in our common society.

Changes which have been introduced in recent years are designed to entrench apartheid and to enable Government to bring the grand plans to fruition.

It is a privilege in South Africa to be an income taxpayer because it means that one has an income to pay tax on.

But 8,9-million people in the homelands live below the poverty datum line.

There are now 1,43-million destitute people in the homelands and these destitute people have no access at all to the social support which would be their right in any half-way civilised country.

These people are supporting us in our privileged and prosperous way of life. Their hunger is the direct result of our support of the system which condemns them to political, social and economic limbo.

We should not be surprised that we stand accused of genocide.



# Drought relief fund shatters racial barriers

By Malcolm Fothergill

A drought-relief fund set up a few weeks ago is shattering racial barriers in the traditionally conservative Western Transvaal.

Formed to give food, clothing, medicine and other humanitarian aid to people of all races, it has already collected nearly R50 000, most of it from businesses and individuals living in Klerksdorp.

Practically every organised group of people in the town is helping the fund raise money.

Also represented on it are the drought-ravaged towns in the Western Transvaal where most of the aid will be going.

For the area's black, coloured and Indian communities, the fund represents a breakthrough — it is the first time they have worked as equals with whites to wards a common goal.

The idea for the fund came from Klerksdorp's business community and was taken up by the town's newly elected Mayor, Dr Johan de Wit, who is now its patron.

Now other areas including the Northern Cape and the Northern Transvaal are thinking of starting similar ventures.

But fund organisers say the need for people in the drought-stricken district to be helped will continue for at least the next two or three years.

Fund chairman Dr Hannes Botha said although the amount of aid given to drought-stricken areas by the Government, and bodies such as the co-operatives was considerable, it left a big gap.

Mr Botha said although the drought had been going on for three years its seriousness was only now beginning to be felt on a humanitarian level.

"Farmers have no money to pay their labourers or send their children to school and many businessmen and professional people in the small towns have been forced out to close down, leaving their employees without incomes.

Liaison committees in the drought-stricken towns, which include Hartebeesfontein, Ottosdal, Christianna, Sanniëshof, Leeuwedorst, Delareyville, Bloemhof, Schweizer Renêke and Wolmaranstad, are busy now drawing up lists of people and organisations that need help.

Decisions on how much can be spent on each are being made by the fund's multiracial central committee in Klerksdorp.

Potchefstroom University has chipped in with one plan to give small businessmen advice on how to survive the drought and another aimed at helping to keep children at school.

The fund's bumper fund-raising effort will come on October 27 at a Family Bonanza Day at Orkney's Harry Oppenheimer Stadium.

Enquiries about the fund should be sent to: The Drought Relief Fund for Western Transvaal, Box 38, Klerksdorp 2570.

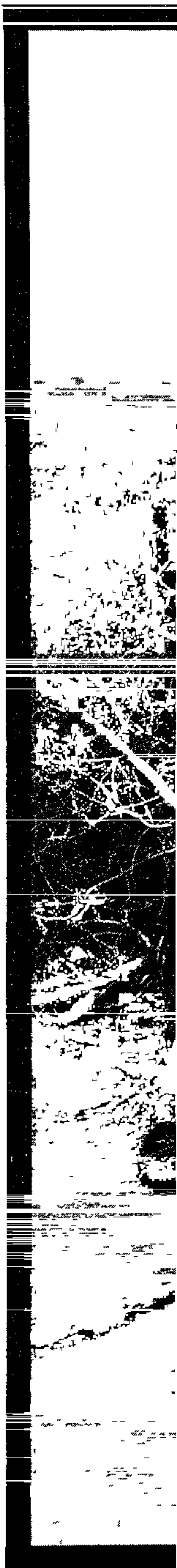
Mr Hannes Botha

Mr Johan de Wit

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*[Handwritten signature]*

Seldom can so hefty a load of brain-power have been compressed into one time and place as happened in Cape Town in April, when the heavyweights of Southern Africa's social sciences foregathered to figure out Poverty, and what to do about it. The first concrete result was to put the Prime Minister's back up, which didn't help. But there was much else.....

# Deep Talk On Empty Bellies



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By  
Helen  
Zille

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Pictures from *The Borders of Apartheid* by Paul Alberts, publishing by The Gallery Press, P O Box 4547, Cape Town 8000 Price R31 80

**A**NYONE who thought the main aim was to win friends and influence people in high places was thinking of the wrong Carnegie

It's surprising that Andrew Carnegie (no relation to Dale) hasn't seeped into South Africa's consciousness the way his namesake has

Andrew was as good as the next Carnegie at finding best-selling titles for his books "How I became a Millionaire," "The Gospel of Wealth" and "Why I am the Happiest Man Alive"

And South Africans have twice benefitted from this American steel millionaire's deathbed testament, bequeathing a substantial part of his "surplus wealth" for "benevolent purposes"

His legacy funded the first Carnegie Commission in the early 1930's, contributing significantly to combatting white poverty

Almost 50 years later, the Carnegie Corporation of New York decided the time was ripe to fund a second poverty study in South Africa - this time centrally including blacks who seemed to go unnoticed the first time

The result has been the largest social science research project undertaken ever in South Africa Also one of the most controversial

It went largely unnoticed until April this year when at least 350 participants from all corners of Southern Africa (in-

cluding some 20 universities) met at the University of Cape Town to share the results of their research in the form of 301 papers, 15 videos, six slide tape shows and several hundred photographs and paintings

In one week they examined the facts and debated the issues How poor are people? Why are they poor? Are things getting better or worse? What can be done about poverty? Can it best be tackled in a capitalist or socialist system, or something in between?

And it wasn't long before people were asking questions in other forums as well

Parliament, for instance The Prime Minister wanted to know why the Carnegie Corporation didn't investigate poverty in the rest of Africa (Presumably he didn't ask that question after the first Carnegie Commission)

The Minister of Health, Dr Nak van der Merwe, asked why no-one from his department had been invited and why the connection between poverty and population growth hadn't been examined (It possibly slipped his notice that a senior medical officer in his own department had contributed a paper on poverty and contraception)

But what evoked the most antagonism was the official perception that the Carnegie Inquiry's primary objective was political to lay the blame for poverty at

PLEASE TURN OVER







# A radical Prime Minister

CONTINUED

the door of government policy and the capitalist system

After all, Allan Boesak (and others) said as much "It is palpably clear that poverty in this country has to do with apartheid — with white greed and black political powerlessness. That does not mean that the problem can be solved by making the free market more accessible to certain selected groups from the black community. I do not believe that the creation of a black capitalist class will solve the problem of mass poverty because it will not mean fundamental change to the inequitable system which is capitalism."

Strong words

But not quite as radical as another Dutch Reformed dominee, talking about the poor white problem in 1934. Addressing the volkskongres, D.F. Malan (who later became South Africa's first Nationalist prime minister) observed

"Whether it comes about through war or peacefully, through revolution or gradually, the capitalist system, which is based on self interest and the right of the strongest, is in my opinion doomed. To work together in order to bring about the correct new system will in future be the task of South Africa."

In a perceptive analysis presented at the conference, Pieter le Roux of the University of the Western Cape, compares the response to poverty at the time of the two Carnegies and notes

"Today it seems so obvious to the descendants of the poor whites that black poverty must be blamed on their culture or genes and that only rabble rousers would consider mentioning the political or economic system."

Perceptions of poverty, he concludes, are linked to the social position of the beholder. And the ability to do anything about it depends primarily on power



## Little leverage

Unlike their modern counter-parts, the poor whites of the 1930's could move around freely, own property, and had enough clout (through the polling booth, the Dutch Reformed Church and the National Party) to ensure that a not-so-invisible-hand distributed a good deal of the high growth in the post-Carnegie decades through racially-exclusive social welfare programmes

With far less leverage, the poor today have three options. To appeal to those with power to alleviate their conditions, to build up their own power base till their demands are irresistible, or to do a bit of both

These options translate themselves into different political positions. Those

who believe that poverty can be alleviated from the top down, within the present system, those who believe that nothing short of radical transformation is really relevant, and those who believe that change will be gradual and incremental, a combination of pressure from below and adjustment from above

These differences are at the root of South Africa's deepest political cleavages today. They also form the rocky terrain on which the Second Carnegie Inquiry was constructed

It was little short of a political miracle that it all held together. The week-long gathering in Cape Town was possibly unique in South Africa's history. Where else have Marxists and Democratic Socialists sat down to discuss future economic systems with Capitalists and Social Democrats? In which other forums have ex-Robben Islanders stood around drinking tea alongside State officials, or Inkatha sympathisers shared peaceful plenaries with UDF followers, National Forum officials and supporters of the independent trade union movement?

The only thing they had in common was that they had all conducted research or had first-hand experience of poverty. And they were serious about doing something about it

No-one came simply because he was rich or powerful or represented a political position — whether that was Azapo or the Progs, our government or anyone else's. Inevitably that put a few high-profile noses out of joint. But it was the price that had to be paid to hold it together

Some believe it was too high a price. As one perceptive observer asked

"Will Government be compelled to address an investigation which produces a plethora of different and conflicting

## Brown study

THERE were literally hundreds of case studies from all over Southern Africa about every conceivable poverty-related situation

Yet one of the most powerful came from a student who hadn't intended finding his way into a poverty study at all. He was only writing a mid-year progress report to the organisation funding his bursary. His letter was quoted to the conference

"In connection with my mid-year progress," he wrote, "as a lodging family we are still having problems with accommodation

"About March of this year we moved from shack No. 1722 to look for someone else who can be willing to accommodate a family of four members

"It could last for one month, and since May we are living in the plastic shelters, which are being demolished by the inspectors every morning, and rebuilding is to be done every evening

"I solemnly promise that I will study hard, perhaps in one of the libraries, in order to achieve better results in November."



answers – some of them with a Marxist flavour?

“In trying to convert the long silence on poverty into a free-for-all debate, is Francis Wilson not running the risk that many will talk but few will listen?”

A risk, indeed. But consider the alternative. Had government officials, advisers and influential free marketeers constituted Carnegie's backbone, they may have had some political clout (although this is by no means certain, judging by the corpse of many an official commission.) But, almost inevitably, they would have lacked another vital ingredient for effective action – the consent, support and participation of those at whom those strategies are aimed. The harsh reality of South Africa's present divisions is that political power and popular legitimacy lie at opposite ends of the spectrum, with each side trying to hi-jack the other on its own terms.

## Homeland wealth

The Carnegie Inquiry, in trying to straddle the divide, had to start at one end, and move across as far as possible. It chose to root itself in the widest possible constituency. That may have had its cost in terms of access to power (Development Bank officials, for example, declined to debate their unfolding anti-poverty strategy.) But the Inquiry gained in other areas. The point was clear to participants. You can't use apartheid as the convenient peg on which to hang all South Africa's problems. You can't simply rely on Government to change things. It is equally important for people outside government, and particularly the poor, to formulate and control their own strategies.

So much for the broad framework.

What did the conference actually conclude?

Everyone wants a neatly packaged picture, which isn't easy to pull together from 301 papers – each a single snapshot of one aspect of poverty and development.

The Inquiry still has 15 months to run during which several volumes will be published, including a wrap-up of the major findings and recommendations, providing a much-needed focus.

But it is possible to piece together a broad picture right now.

That means starting with the Great Charles Simkins Controversy. Charles is Cape Town University's genial number-cruncher who has probably done more than anyone to compile economic statistics, explaining what things are like and where they are heading.

When his turn came to address a plenary session, he had a good turnout

## Intruding fathers

WHAT is poverty, anyway? From the beginning, everyone wanted a number, a yardstick so that they could go out, find it and measure it.

After some thought, Francis Wilson, the Inquiry's director, resisted. Poverty was like illness, he said. Difficult to define – easier to recognise when you see it. And it comes in many forms, just as disease spans the spectrum from the common cold to cholera.

Of course, poverty is associated with a lack of money – but can also be recognised by other symptoms: malnutrition, overcrowding, lack of water.

Pamela Reynolds of the Carnegie team found another angle. “Black men experience a form of poverty that has neither been faced by society at large nor adequately documented. The poverty lies in the separation from their children.”

In a pioneering piece of research she interviewed 90 migrant workers living in four hostels in Nyanga and Guguletu, near Cape Town. Many are separated from their children for eleven months and one week – 94% of the year.

“It was a salutary experience to sit among beer bottles and the prostitutes on a Saturday night discussing the intricacies of men's relationships with their children.”

“I met scepticism, hostility, distaste for my intrusiveness and fear of reprisal. But I also met forthrightness, courage, generosity and an expressed need to speak openly about their position.”

Some told her. “You have struck upon the thing that causes us the most distress in our lives – our separation from our families. That is what we must talk about.”

She spoke to migrant fathers. She spoke to second generation migrants who had lived the situation at both ends, as sons and now as fathers. There are an estimated 1 437 000 men in the same position around the country. They all face prosecution if they “illegally harbour” their wives and children in the cities.

Here are some of the things they told her.

\* “When I return, I find that the children are a bit unruly. They do not have much respect for their mother. I try to correct that and for the first few days I am an intruder. It makes me very sad.”

\* “My son has been made into a vagabond in my absence. His mother cannot control him and he knows it. I tried to bring him up in the Seventh Day Adventist way, no smoking and drinking. The boy accepts punishment while I am there but returns to bad ways when I leave. I need to stay there.”

\* “The children used to come (to town) when they were young. Not now. My wife comes illegally. She came for a month in 1982.”

\* “The children are not happy to have us back and ask their mothers, ‘Mama, when is this man going away?’”

\* “With the separation, there are many clashes and we spend my leave quarrelling. I leave for work without leaving peace at home. When I leave the children cry and write to me asking if I can have them with me. It is not possible as there is no accommodation.”

\* “We stay a full year without our wives. That makes us go beyond the bounds of the law and become adulterers.”

And she spoke to the sons of migrants. They told her.

\* “My father barely spent two months at home during my childhood. I did not care for him as on his return he was like a stranger. He tried to know me but I did not allow it. I knew that he would go away again leaving me just like that.”

\* “(When we come to town) we find our fathers with concubines yet our mothers are starving. Besides, the sweethearts are as young as father's children. We get fed up and cannot communicate with our fathers. It is all done because father is used to having a woman beside him. Ultimately he forsakes his wife and family.”

People knew he would give the big picture and spot the trends. So what did he say? Things are getting better – even for most people in the homelands. You could not merely talk of a trickle-down of wealth: a flood-down would be more appropriate. Although the number of people receiving no income from any source increased from 5% to 13%, things actually got better for 70% of the people. Whereas 20 years ago almost no homeland families achieved the Minimum Living Level, in 1980 almost 20% of families had reached it. If the economy grew at just under 3% annually, absolute pov-

erty measured by an urban yardstick would be a minority phenomenon by the year 2000.

(Simkins took care to stress that things were improving despite – not because of – government policy and that things would improve a lot faster if influx control were lifted.)

The flood-down theory got some splash treatment on TV but the enthusiasm wasn't widely shared at the conference. No doubt there were those who rejected Simkin's findings because they

PLEASE TURN OVER



# Causes and non-causes

CONTINUED

didn't fit in with their political views, and some came perilously close to suggesting that researchers should keep quiet if their results undermine certain political objectives

But others objected because they saw a serious contradiction between Simkin's conclusions and a large body of on-the-spot research telling of increasing poverty and destitution, particularly in the rural areas

A whole plenary session was set aside to thrash out the issue. The result was to expose the danger of the single number (especially if it is a percentage)

Delving deeper into Simkin's statistics, the following picture emerged. The number of people living in the homelands more than doubled since 1960, from 5 million to 11 million. Many of the "newcomers" were urban workers earning city wages who became homeland residents when boundaries were redrawn around their townships in the Durban, PWV and East London areas. As one delegate observed: "You could raise average homeland incomes substantially if Soweto became a homeland tomorrow" (Simkin's argues that this improvement is offset by the millions who are moved into the homelands, destitute, from "black spots" and white farms)

**L**ook at it another way

In 1960 all homeland residents (5-million people) existed below the minimum living level

In 1980 20% of homeland residents had reached it (which means 80% hadn't). The vast increase in homeland residents means that despite the improved percentages, the actual number of people below the breadline almost doubled - from 5 to 8,8 - million.

And if those without any source of income increased from 5% to 13% over 20 years, the actual number increased six-fold

No-one disputed that things certainly are getting better for a substantial portion of people - notably those with urban jobs and residence rights and, by extension, their dependents in the homelands

So much for the big picture

But what did the Inquiry pinpoint as the causes of poverty?

Again, there is no simplistic one-line answer, which is bad news for those who want to blame it all on apartheid or the drought

The process of impoverishment emerged as a complex set of interwoven factors

There is no denying that political measures play a central role. Almost every small group examining aspects of



poverty (health, food, labour, law, water, fuel) isolated influx control and forced removals as prime agents of impoverishment, undermining established communities, dividing families and huddling the landless and unemployed in rural areas

Of course there are other factors

Natural disasters like droughts, floods, pestilence and soil erosion play their part. So do unemployment and low wages. Then there is the inadequacy of pensions, disability grants and unemployment benefits - and the failure of the eligible to receive them. Families are impoverished when their breadwinner dies or deserts them. And homeland poverty is worsened by land distribution patterns, the lack of capital to use available land productively and the scarcity of fuel and water

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## Quiet midwife

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**S**ure, many argued that Capitalism, with its unequal allocation of wealth and resources, is a major cause of poverty. Then again, others argued that Socialism had failed to make any inroads into poverty in African countries, precisely because it aimed to equalise wealth, not to create and increase it

There were also gaping holes in the analysis. Nak van der Merwe was actually quite right when he spotted the lack of a comprehensive paper examining the link between population growth and poverty. Francis Wilson spotted it too: "I am amazed that nobody has yet berated us for not having dealt with population,"

he said in his final address. He wasn't amazed for long. (Actually, a population paper was commissioned but never arrived. It will, hopefully, be part of the Carnegie series before the Inquiry is over)

**T**hen there were also important findings on what *doesn't* cause poverty. Take trade unions. It is conventional wisdom in many circles that trade unions, while increasing their members' income, contribute to overall poverty by driving up wage bills and reducing employment. All the research, including Simkin's, showed otherwise: that urban wages, sent back as wages, sent back as remittances, are keeping large parts of the rural areas alive. As one delegate put it: "The trade unions are carrying the homelands on their backs." Unions in fact emerged as one of the few organisations in which the poor are gaining power to pursue their interests

So what can be done to tackle poverty? At the end of the day, that is the central question the Carnegie Inquiry must address

Here is a brief shopping list taken from the scores of short and long term suggestions presented in almost every paper. Many offered practical suggestions based on the experience of pioneer projects

They ranged from the delightfully entitled "Digging our way out of the bottom of a Pit latrine" (dealing with a fairly basic need) to a detailed analysis of a "health team" scheme operating from a hospital in the Western Transvaal, significantly reducing infant mortality

Dr Mamphela Ramphele, who built an oasis of self-help projects in the desert

PLEASE TURN OVER



# Factfinding with flair

**T**HERE is a common belief among people who produce newspapers that people who read them don't want too much human misery and suffering

Which makes it particularly tough covering the Carnegie Inquiry – until you come across a paper like Buntu ka Mfenyana's Now, there's a writer with style!

His subject is perhaps the most depressing (and among the least read) of all newspaper topics conditions in homeland resettlement camps

Yet with a flair for spotting every nuance from irony to humour in the most tragic circumstances, Mfenyana produces some compelling reading

The scene of his research is an overcrowded resettlement area of KwaZulu known for its violent faction fighting

"Roughly eight out of ten people are armed and really no fieldworker can just walk into such a situation and depend solely on charisma and the Holy Spirit, although we can put our trust in God *But we cannot tempt fate* God would be justified if He said "My child, why did you wade into this situation unarmed, when you knew very well that 80% of the people were armed to the teeth?"

Good question Mfenyana doesn't answer it but the implication is clear he went prepared

He describes the people – including some not-so-destitute young girls he calls the "stop-light group"

"They have a penchant, like their male counterparts, for over-decoration

"See them on the bus on their way to town colourful white or red tackies, socks held by a band of elastic cord a skirt of sorts held by a belt so decorated you must notice it that's where you're likely to see two or three bicycle stop-lights among the bric-a-brac Down the arms a formidable array of bangles and watches march triumphantly Don't bother to ask the time – most of those watches stopped ticking a while ago!"

Then he turns his eye to the migrants, returning from town

"It comes as no surprise to a seasoned traveller to see 3 FM radios held aloft by their proud owners, all blaring, at top volume, the same song! Urban ways take a while to sink in The latest craze is the amplifier (radio-cum-record player connected to a loudspeaker) It helps to announce one's return from the big city to one's village"

Mfenyana began his year of research in the area by officiating at the funeral of a young man who died a violent death at the age of 20 "His soccer team, (The Young Killers football club) paid glowing tributes to him the songs

and praises in particular were very original and touching One does wish for a movie camera or a whole film crew on such occasions"

Not long afterwards, someone called Nko'nathi died after alighting from a bus "looking for someone to call his girlfriend"

"A drunk woman from nowhere just appeared and stabbed him once in the neck and he was no more"

"Now when a year begins like that," concludes Mfenyana, "one must have some misgivings"

Mfenyana doesn't claim to be conducting a scientific survey of life in the resettlement area of Ekuvukeni (although he measures everything from the number of square metres per person to the volume of the tin toilets)

He is contemptuous of "hit-and-run researchers" who move into an area until they have enough data for their PhD's and are never seen again

He describes his own work as a "diary" "We set out to give you, dear reader, a glimpse into a dumping ground how people mope, hope and cope there"

He uses the words of the people "The word 'Sikonyana' says it all It is part of the greeting pattern, rituals of entry and exit There is a diminutive suffix -ana 'We are almost but not quite here, almost but not quite all right' It's chit-chat It's the daily grind"

In the complex class structure of the wider area, "half-caste groups" or coloureds are at the top of the pile They are the "Oo-Amperbaas"

Mfenyana follows a group of old women on their regular 3 – 5 km trek to the pension payout point, to hear the pension clerk tell them "Sorry grannies, your papers were lost in the mail"

He probes the desperation of those who cannot pay monthly rentals of R2,76 – yet face monthly fuel bills of R14,00 for scarce firewood, bought in the informal sector Many women fear venturing into the hills themselves in search of firewood because of the "warring hillbillies"

He describes how "tempers flare and buckets fly" in the struggle for water when the communal taps run dry and the water trucks arrive Although the water is often laced with oonojubalala (creepy crawlies) people chase the truck up and down the street

As in most rural areas, the major sources of income are migrant wage remittances and old age pensions Those lucky enough to have a job in Lady-smith spend R5,30 weekly on transport – almost half of a weekly R13,00 wage

He relates how people struggle to re-

place homes with inadequate compensation and informal sector builders who could turn out to be like one "good-for-lynching, cocky, incompetent chance-taker"

He depicts the ravages wrought by alcohol in the lives of the desperate "The point is that knifings, rape, abductions, drunkenness, and all the other aberrations which we tend to associate with urban townships have become part of the daily life in the so-called "rural areas"

"Just about the only institution that seems to be doing well in Ekuvukeni is – you've guessed it – the liquor store The owner is known as Sgqoko-sotshani (Grass hat) He owns a BMW and a kombi"

Mfenyana notes that it is often the "educated and respectable" rather than the poor and illiterate who "steal, embezzle and pilfer" He recounts a church festival at which a "highly respectable" member of the community managed to "spirit away"

*3 tins of sliced peaches*

*2 packets of Holsun*

*An undisclosed amount of beef (raw and cooked)*

*2 – 3 tins of custard powder*

*3 dumpies of beer*

"while her less fortunate counterparts and their daughters prepared meals and behaved in an exemplary manner"

He moves through the hovels of the aged and the ill At Tin Hut No 6, he meets a leper "His sleeping place is constantly wet, because of the sores there are about a dozen children in his yard The incubation period for leprosy is 20 years so those children are in real danger"

And he ends his journey at Tin Hut No 69, with Mr Mthethwa, who had his leg amputated but hasn't been able to travel to Durban to get the medical papers he needs for a disability grant When night falls, says Mr Mthethwa, he goes to sleep because he cannot afford a lamp

"Holy Maria," comments the author "We gave him one food parcel and later sent a couple of candles and some matches Call it what you damn well like My good deed for the day, ambulance work, amelioration or whatever We could not just stand there and say

'Ah Another victim of apartheid After 214 061 casualties the revolution will occur on 24th September 1984 at 5 a.m.'

That is not how human society works"



## CONTINUED

of a Northern Transvaal township where she was banished, assessed her experience. Anne and Rob Collins analysed the strengths and weakness of rural co-operatives.

The rural development specialists called for a rural foundation which they provisionally called the Carnegie Rural Organisations Project (CROP) (Significantly they didn't suggest the "Carnegie Rural Action Project" although the resulting acronym would have been good for a bio-gas scheme.)

Energy boffins urged the establishment of woodlots for firewood in rural areas and the long term extension of the electricity grid. Food experts suggested food stamps and feeding schemes.

Lawyers proposed Rural Legal Resources Centres, modelled on their highly successful urban forerunner.

**T**he Labour and Unemployment group set a more ambitious long-term goal: a non-contributory social security scheme for the unemployed, sick, and aged. And in the short term they wanted improved child-care facilities for working mothers.

In one of the most detailed analyses, economist Norman Reynolds set out a plan for public works programmes to create jobs in rural areas.

It is early to say which of these projects will reach fruition. Many can be harnessed by the poor themselves. Others require outside agencies. While the Inquiry lacks the resources to implement major projects, it can act as an unobtrusive midwife, facilitating the birth of the most viable strategies.

## Easy Utopia

**A**s Francis Wilson said in his wrap-up speech to the conference: "We need imaginative action. The shape of our society in the future is going to depend critically on the foundations that are laid now. Short run strategies are not to be despised. The only time we have to work in is now."

But, he added, "we must not kid ourselves that they are going to resolve the problem of poverty in this country."

"We have also got to tackle the long run issues, which means the abolition of influx control with all its ambiguities. It means thinking about land reform. Radical land reform. And it means thinking about citizenship for all who live within the boundaries of what used to be called the Union of South Africa."

"Otherwise we are playing games if we think that we can have the fair, just, equitable, non-poor society that we all dream about."

But we would be playing games if we imagine it will be easy to create Utopia even with full citizenship and without the pass laws. What is a "fair, just, equitable, non-poor society" anyway? It certainly would have been impossible to reach consensus on this at the conference.

Whatever the weaknesses of the first Carnegie Inquiry (and there were many, including that it helped alleviate white poverty at the expense of blacks) its impact grew out of its cohesion. The participants in the second Carnegie lacked a shared vision. Their greatest challenge will be to find ways of transforming this diversity into meaningful action. ●

## Running commentary

**R**EMEMBER the Poor. It costs nothing!

The Carnegie conference had hardly begun before two anonymous delegates were digging up quotes like this for what rapidly became the most widely read conference paper of all, *The Carnegie Chronicle*.

In four instalments the *Chronicle* provided a lively, satirical send-up of the conference, probing the foibles, weaknesses, contradictions and scandals that usually provide the unrecorded undercurrents of all great and sober gatherings.

Each morning, participants gathered round the central notice board to read the next issue, wondering who had kept watch on the world while they slept, sniffing out titbits like:

"Last night the caretaker stumbled upon two Carnegie delegates in a severely compromised heap on the floor of a darkened lecture theatre."

There was speculation on whether the *Chronicle's* creators (who were reliably understood to be of opposite sexes) had constituted the compromised heap. Like all good editors, they probably knew what would make a good story.

They found plenty in covering the "gathering of the Clan - those who are (or hope to become) anybody in academia this side of the Equator."

"In just seven days", enthused the *Chronicle*, "you too can learn how to win research grants and influence your career."

Noting the words of the Prophet that "the poor shall be with us always" the *Chronicle* wondered why they weren't more in evidence at the conference.

"There are of course, real, live ethnic dancers to entertain us, not forgetting the authentic workers who feed us and clean up afterwards."

And then there was Boesak, "slick, urbane and cosmopolitan" proclaiming "we the oppressed."

But it was really rough on those who didn't rate a mention.

Francis Wilson, the Inquiry's director, merited a special pat on the back for all the jobs he had created.

"It may be expensive but as Michael Harrington put it 'Poverty is expensive to maintain'."

Devoting much space to "Francis' World Employment Programme" the *Chronicle* pointed out that at a time of high unemployment the Carnegie Inquiry had created the following jobs:

- 1 Francis (World Employment Programme Director)
- 2 5 secretaries
- 3 163 researchers
- 4 20 assistant secretaries

5 52 research assistants

*Secondary spinoffs, multipliers etc*

- 6 986 interviewers
- 7 354 assistant interviewers and interpreters
- 8 218 helpers, sandwich-makers and coffee-bringers
- 9 127 drivers, mechanics and technical types
- 10 152 moral and immoral supporters

*While for the conference itself*

- 13 4 photographers
- 14 61 printers, collators etc
- 15 15 projectionists
- 16 10 dignitaries
- 17 1 exploited but cheerful Economics honours student who, for no pay other than food, a car for a week (to transport dignitaries) and random conference papers, has become a general dogsbody. A touch of Franciscan feudalism, what?

Grand total 2230 jobs created  
R500 000 spent

Cost per job created R224 22

Not bad Francis. Pity it won't last. But then, these third-world efforts hardly ever do.



# PE region seen as a 'poverty problem area'

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E. Post 20/7/84

Post Reporter

THE Eastern Cape, particularly the area around Port Elizabeth, was one of South Africa's greatest poverty problem areas, Mr J H Steyn, chief executive of the Urban Foundation, told a report-back meeting of the foundation in Port Elizabeth last night

He said, however, that this was also an area where "action on meaningful improvement is strongest"

"Steps have already been taken by the Government, which has given a mandate to two banks to raise R200 million for the Rive Plan on development in the Eastern Cape," he said

"This money will be applied primarily for infrastructural development of housing and, hopefully, once the process starts and gains momentum, the effects will benefit thousands of people"

Mr Steyn said he found

the attitude of the East Cape Development Board and the local black authorities towards people who were forced to live in informal settlements "very positive and encouraging"

"The fact that none of these settlements has been destroyed is something the authorities should be commended for," he said

"I hope that this attitude will also prevail as far as the Walmer Township is concerned"

He said that the housing challenge could not simply be met by attempting to provide a large number of new housing units through the existing system

The housing backlog was dependent rather on the reform of the institutions and structures controlling the housing process itself

He said that even in the case of the people housed in areas such as the Red Location and Soweto, where ac-

cess to drinking water, sanitation and sound shelter was a big improvement in their quality of life, people could still be helped with conventional housing

He said although he was optimistic about the future of the Eastern Cape, it was necessary for the communities themselves to participate

"There should be very real involvement and consultation with black community leadership in all aspects of the programmes, projects and developments," he said

"Elected representatives of the community and informal community leadership of the business community, churches and parent-teacher associations should be involved

"Community participation would mean that these efforts would not be regarded as paternalistic handouts."

## WITS LOOKS AT

UP to 60% of school children in Soweto are underweight.

That's the result of research conducted by the Metabolic and Nutrition Research Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand

Despite the decrease of the incidence of malnutrition in Soweto over the past 10 years there is still an "unacceptably high" percentage of malnourished children, says Professor John Hansen, the director of the unit and head of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the Johannesburg Hospital.

The decrease of malnutrition in the township is believed to be a result of improved socio-economic factors such as the increased earning capacity of the residents

However a large amount of children — 25% of pre-school children and between 30 and 60% of school-going children — are still undernourished.

This has resulted from the increase in the number of women in Soweto to enter the labour market

About 60% of mothers in Soweto work away from home and their children are not provided with a midday meal.

They are not "starving" or "grossly malnourished" but they are underweight, according to international weight charts, says Prof Hansen

He stresses that children need three meals a day to grow and reach their normal weight.

One solution to the problem facing the children of

# Children who miss a meal

working mothers is to introduce more creches in the township and feeding schemes at schools.

He adds that underweight children are stunted in growth. No proof exists that they suffer brain damage but they are educationally disadvantaged due to concentration problems caused by hunger

However by the time these children reach the age of 18 they tend to gain weight and reach their normal height

Research has shown that underweight pre-school children are at risk for malnutrition, diarrhoea and chest related diseases

At present, Prof Lucy Wagstaff, of the Department of Community Paediatrics at Wits, is conducting research into whether the same applied to the underweight school-going children

The situation in Soweto contrasts with that in developed communities where only 3% of the children are underweight, says Prof Hansen

A number of medical breakthroughs have been made by researchers from the Metabolic and Nutrition Research Unit

This unit — financed by Wits and the Transvaal Provincial Administration — was set up in 1974 to study nutritional problems in black children

It is based at Baragwanath hospital with a ward of eight beds, a diet kitchen, laboratory, offices, library and lecture room

The laboratory equipment — worth R100 000 — was sponsored by a number of companies, the largest donation coming from the Anglo American and De Beers Chairman's Fund

After completing almost 100 papers over four years (1974-1978), one of the research fellows, Dr Neil Bu-

## THELMA TUCH



Professor John Hansen, seeing to the needs of undernourished children in the Metabolic and Nutrition unit at Baragwanath hospital in Soweto.

Picture: TLADI KHUELE

chanan, now a Prof of Paediatrics at Sydney University, concluded that there were no good indications to modify drug dosages given to malnourished children

Prof John Hansen said "Malnourished children are prone to infections and particularly to pneumonia and it was important to be sure that treating them with normal dosages of anti-biotics would not poison them"

Dr Buchanan's research showed that there was no need to prepare special drug dosages for malnourished children

Another innovation was made by research fellow, Dr John Pettifor, the deputy-director of the unit, in conjunction with Dr Paddy Ross, a bio-chemist in the Department of Pediatrics at Wits

Dr Pettifor established a method of measuring the amount of Vitamin D in the blood — a process which helps to establish whether a patient with rickets was necessarily deficient in this vitamin

This arose from his investigation into why there was a large incidence of rickets — a disease generally

caused by a lack of Vitamin D — among school-going children who were exposed to sunshine, the major source of this vitamin

Usually children in their first year of life or the aged are prone to rickets as a result of their lack of exposure to the sun. This disease results in bone deformities and its symptoms are physically manifested in the development of bow legs and crooked backs.

Dr Pettifor conducted his trial research on school-going children in a rural area near Piet Retief

He found that 41% of the children had a mild form of rickets. Then using his invented method of measuring the amount of vitamin D in the blood he established that their rickets were not due to a Vitamin D deficiency but to a lack of calcium

Water in the area was low in calcium and the children did not drink milk — the main source of calcium

It was only since this research that calcium deficiency has been recognised as the cause of rickets in a population which is not deficient in vitamin D

The research unit's laboratory at Baragwanath is the only one in the country equipped to carry out these vitamin D measurements

A researcher from the unit has also established that there were certain differences in the incidence of leukaemia among black and white children

Prof Lorna MacDougall's research into this area showed that the most common form of leukaemia — lymphoblastic leukaemia — was more prevalent among white children than black

However the incidence of acute myeloblastic leukaemia is the same among the two groups

The Medical Research Council recently approved the establishment of a Paediatric Mineral and Metabolic Research unit in 1985

Dr Pettifor will be the director of this unit which will replace the metabolic and nutrition unit when Prof Hansen retires next year

Roni  
23/7/84  
241





Mr Willie Jacobs (67), a pensioner who is thin and wasted and has suffered from chest problems for many years, was at the clinic because of a septic wound on his head following a fall at home.

*(Handwritten: 244) Star 3/8/89* Picture by Clive Lloyd

## Poverty and disease rife in coloured slum

By Pamela Kleinot,  
Medical Reporter

Malnutrition, scabies, ringworm, gastro-enteritis and respiratory problems are rife in Riverlea Extension, a slum on the outskirts of Johannesburg

These conditions are regularly seen at the Witsco-Riverlea Clinic, which serves more than 3 000 people in an area where families of up to 20 live in one house.

A survey by students from the University of the Witwatersrand last year showed that the income of 85 percent of the families was less than R500 a month.

Twelve percent of the community was found to be unemployed, a situation which is likely to worsen with the economic climate.

"Generally the health and hygiene of the community is poor because too many people live in a small area and most of the houses have no electricity and no running water," said a Wits medical student

"We also see many alcohol-related problems and sexually transmitted diseases," she said.

The Witsco-Riverlea Clinic, which is one of three clinics run by Wits, opened in 1981.

Attendance at the clinic has soared since provincial hospital tariffs went up in April, said the student.

"Many people who come to the clinic cannot afford health care," she said. It costs 50c a visit.

"We see a lot of malnutrition at this clinic. Many of the children are malnourished and small for their age. They only come to the clinic because they have a secondary problem like bronchitis or gastro-enteritis."

Malnourished children have a lowered resistance and succumb easily to infections such as bronchitis and gastro-enteritis.

Of the patients seen at the clinic, 65 percent are under the age of five. The most common problems are gastro-enteritis, respiratory infections and pneumonia, measles, chicken pox, scabies and ringworm.

Poisoning from commonly used household substances is prevalent. Children drink paraffin and bleach found in cups and bottles.

Burns from coal stoves, cooking fires and hot water are also treated at the clinic.

"The clinic sees common problems not taught at university," said the student. "We want to involve more GPs and paediatricians at the clinic."

Last year's survey recommended an expansion of the student health service but pointed out that the basic stumbling block to real health lay in the socio-economic structure of the community.



~~201~~ ~~202~~ (241) Dispatch 30/6/84

beat

# Sebe attacks Slabbert

ze

Some shops reported a "definite upswing" in the sales of furniture and clothes while others said sales were at the usual month-end level

The manager of a local supermarket reported that there had been "a fair amount of demand for large items like large tins of coffee and bulk packs of toilet paper"

Staff members at many stores will be burning the midnight oil at the weekend to re-programme cash registers before Monday

From Monday, the maximum price for a loaf of white bread will be 56c, and 39c for brown and whole-wheat bread

A litre of milk in a carton will cost 67c and milk delivered to homes will cost 68c — DDR

BISHO — President Lennox Sebe said in The Assembly here yesterday that Dr van Zyl Slabbert's attack on the independent states exposed the man and the party for what they were

What he had said was tantamount to comparing the chiefs and MPs with garden boys. He spoke like a schoolboy who had been made a prefect, President Sebe said

President Sebe announced that the Ciskei delegation holding talks with representatives of the South African Government had reported that the deliberations were going well so far and that they had noticed a great change in attitude

He said nobody wanted confrontation

but if agreements had been made they had to be honoured

Supporting President Sebe, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ntandazo Pityi, said apartheid was never planned for the black man's comfort

That there were seas of poverty and underdevelopment in this country was no accident. What was strange was that there were still a great percentage of white voters who felt that the "screws of oppression" were being loosened far too quickly, he said

These people should be thankful to premier P W Botha's bravery and skilful leadership

Mr Pityi said Mr Botha had dared to split the "renowned" Afrikaner,

secret organisation, the Broederbond, by the small step of accommodating coloureds and Indians in a grand apartheid design known as the tricameral parliament

He said Mr Botha had inherited an unjust society and no amount of mudslinging from South African liberals would make any thinking men see him as an "ogre"

He agreed with Transkei's Prime Minister George Matanzima who had said he agreed with Dr Slabbert on the tragedy of excommunicating blacks from the governing process but differed when the PFP leader appeared to want blacks to revert to a status quo in which they had no say in shaping their destiny

"How long shall the

blacks be political football's of the whites in this country? How long shall South Africa endure to be the polecat of the world? How long shall the South African Prime Minister endure such ugly scenes of demonstration when he visits abroad? When shall the South African whites be big enough to see that the colour of a man's skin means nothing?" he asked

Mr Pityi said no one in his right senses believed the salvation of blacks would come from somewhere else but it would come when the white legislators saw reason and that a black man was God's creation and therefore he should not be denied the good things of life

"May that day come soon," he said — DDR

## xempted foods

canned or bottled fish, marinated and pickled fish, bait, fish extracts and pastes, caviar and caviar substitutes, smoked fish, fish biltong, fish products containing less than 60 per cent raw fish and fish sold ready to eat,

- Fruit not cooked or treated, except for protection against perishing, excluding nuts, dried fruit, glace fruit, canned or bottled fruit, fruit jam and fruit juices,

- Maize meal, including super maize meal, sifted and unsifted maize meal, samp, mealie rice for human consumption but not maize flour,

- Margarine,

- Raw meat, including poultry, sausages, hamburger patties,

steak and beef burgers but not canned meat, marinated or pickled meat, polony, Vienna sausages or frankfurters,

- Milk of cattle, sheep and goats, including skimmed and full cream milk, butter-milk, sterilised milk and long-life milk but excluding condensed or concentrated flavoured, sour, or sweetened milk and yoghurt,

- Milk powder obtained by removal of water from milk,

- Vegetables for human consumption which have not been cooked or preserved except by freezing, blanching or scalding but excluding canned and dehydrated vegetables, and

- Wholewheat meal

## discuss adverts

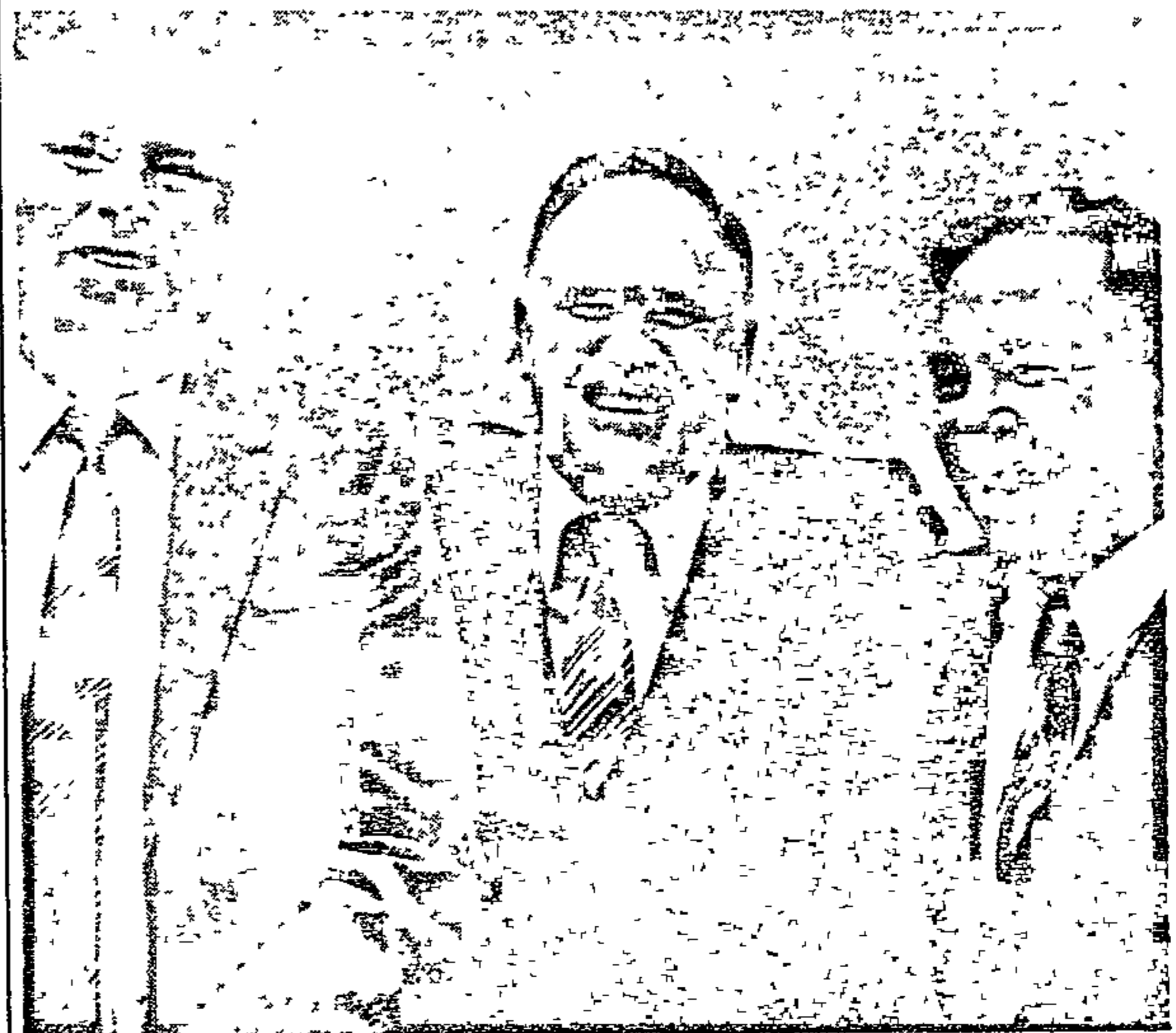
three months

Secretary of the Cape Law Society, Mrs I M Hoffman, said "No concrete moves have been made in this regard. The issue is being discussed however"

The president of the

Touyz, said that since his organisation fell under the Cape Law Society it was not within their jurisdiction to comment on the issue

The debate is split between attorneys who are in favour of advertising and those who still see it



**Major Brown retires today**

Major Warren Brown is retiring today after 36 years' service with the police. Highlights of Major Brown's career include playing a part in the solving of the Oppenheimer jewels case, personally arresting over 300 bag-snatchers while stationed in Durban, representing Natal and Eastern Province at service shooting and becoming one of the first members of the flying squad in Johannesburg

Major Brown, who leaves his post as police press liaison officer for Border, will be leaving for a well-deserved holiday in Cape Town with his wife, Joan. Seen with two colleagues at a farewell last night: Brigadier J Bekker (left) and Col J Steyn





# Le Grange sinks Cradock's hopes

~~327~~ ~~328~~ ~~329~~ ~~330~~ E. Post  
241 30/6/84

MAYBE it was just as well the people of the troubled black township of Lingelihle, Cradock, had no idea Mr Louis le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, was visiting the place on Thursday

That way they had no reason to hope for a thaw in the official attitude which has seen the imposition of a ban on public meetings and the detention of leaders of their Residents' Association

As it turned out, few people outside the township's Community Council knew he was there, and no members of the Residents' Association got to see him

So when he left the situation was much as it was before a continuing ban on public meetings and a refusal to release the detainees

Only a few harsh warnings were left behind — among them that the SAP would be in attendance on July 9 to deal with anyone attempting to intimidate pupils wishing to return to school

Mrs Doris Heermans, Mayoress of Lingelihle, was among those who had hoped for some new dispensation But she frankly admitted after lunching with Mr Le Grange and other senior members of the Government that the visit had left her disappointed and confused

And she confessed to finding herself in an uneasy situation

"In every town people are opposed to Community Councils because they don't satisfy

"Why does the Government set us up if they don't have the money to implement our proposals?"

"They seem to have set us up to show there is change But there is no change"

It was the failure of this Community Council to secure demands of the township people that stoked the fires of Cradora (Residents' Association) in the first place Highest on Cradora's list of priorities was a reduction in rents in an area where unemployment runs high

And when the association's chairman, acting

ship improvements were long overdue

"The Rive Commission has overlooked Cradock If we are given R1,5 million to tar our streets the people will see the Community Council is doing something"

Anyone who walks or drives through Lingelihle will see what she means — dust and rocks are the things one is most conscious of But bizarre as it may seem, her request is not a reasonable one, the Rive Commission has worse running sores to treat — Veeplaas and Soweto in Port Elizabeth to begin with

Though R1,5 million could put the Community Council in people's good

which is still being extended, and once had Mr Goniwe in charge It's a fine new building and Mr Goniwe was a man most admired

"We appealed to Mr Le Grange to have Mr Goniwe released," Mrs Heermans said after returning home from lunch, but they said they couldn't release him

"Everyone knows Mr Goniwe is an excellent teacher It's a fact I can't run away from that When he was acting headmaster one and all could only admire the school

"But he involved himself with his civic organisation (Cradora, which he helped to found) which the Government abhorred

Later she said "I am not

by Mr Louis Koch, chief executive of the East Cape Administration Board

According to Mrs Heermans, Mr Koch has promised he will put this matter on the agenda (though Mr Koch could not be reached to confirm this) Had this happened in the first place all the recent trouble might have been avoided, she concedes

"Cradock is very hard hit by unemployment and most shops employ coloureds People are getting minimum wages in Cradock, but our rentals (R29,96 a month including service charges for a two- or four-roomed house) are higher than in the coloured township," she said

She takes a pretty gloomy view of the immediate situation

"The children are in town everywhere and they are doing damage Pregnancies are increasing because the children are idle and the only thing they can do is involve themselves in sex

"It's noticeable that there is a higher rate of pregnancies

Asked if she thought Mr Le Grange's visit had achieved anything, she said "I am sure looking at my face you can see I am confused

"It is not going to achieve anything The ban (on meetings) has not been lifted He (Goniwe) has not been released

"I asked Mr Le Grange to lift the ban but he is not going to lift it until there is some settlement in the community Until the children go back to school

"I thought he was going to give me an answer to our problems But he has made no concessions and I am disappointed about that"

Mr Le Grange showed himself more hopeful

I am satisfied that there is a common attempt among the different races of Cradock to have the situation return to normal, and serious efforts are being made in this respect by white and black he said

"I am very happy to learn of this community effort to solve the problems by these means

"I appeal to all concerned, whatever their views of the situation might be to assist in bringing the situation back to normal

It is through this goodwill that the new committee will stand its best chance of success — especially if Cradora, on whom the aspirations of the blacks still rest, can be persuaded to join

Somebody has to make the first move

## Reports by Cliff Foster

headmaster Mr Matthew Goniwe, was told he was being transferred to Graaff-Reinet the six-month boycott began

Nothing has been quite the same in Cradock since Disturbances have broken out Mr Goniwe and other Cradora members have been taken into detention A demonstration was tear-gassed in the streets of the town Pregnancies among Lingelihle schoolgirls have risen Two weeks ago blacks stopped buying in white shops for one day

Mrs Heermans took the opportunity to impress on Mr Le Grange that town-

books, it is true

Hard cash is something people understand in Lingelihle, because it's hard enough to find That is why the rent reduction bid had such a strong appeal

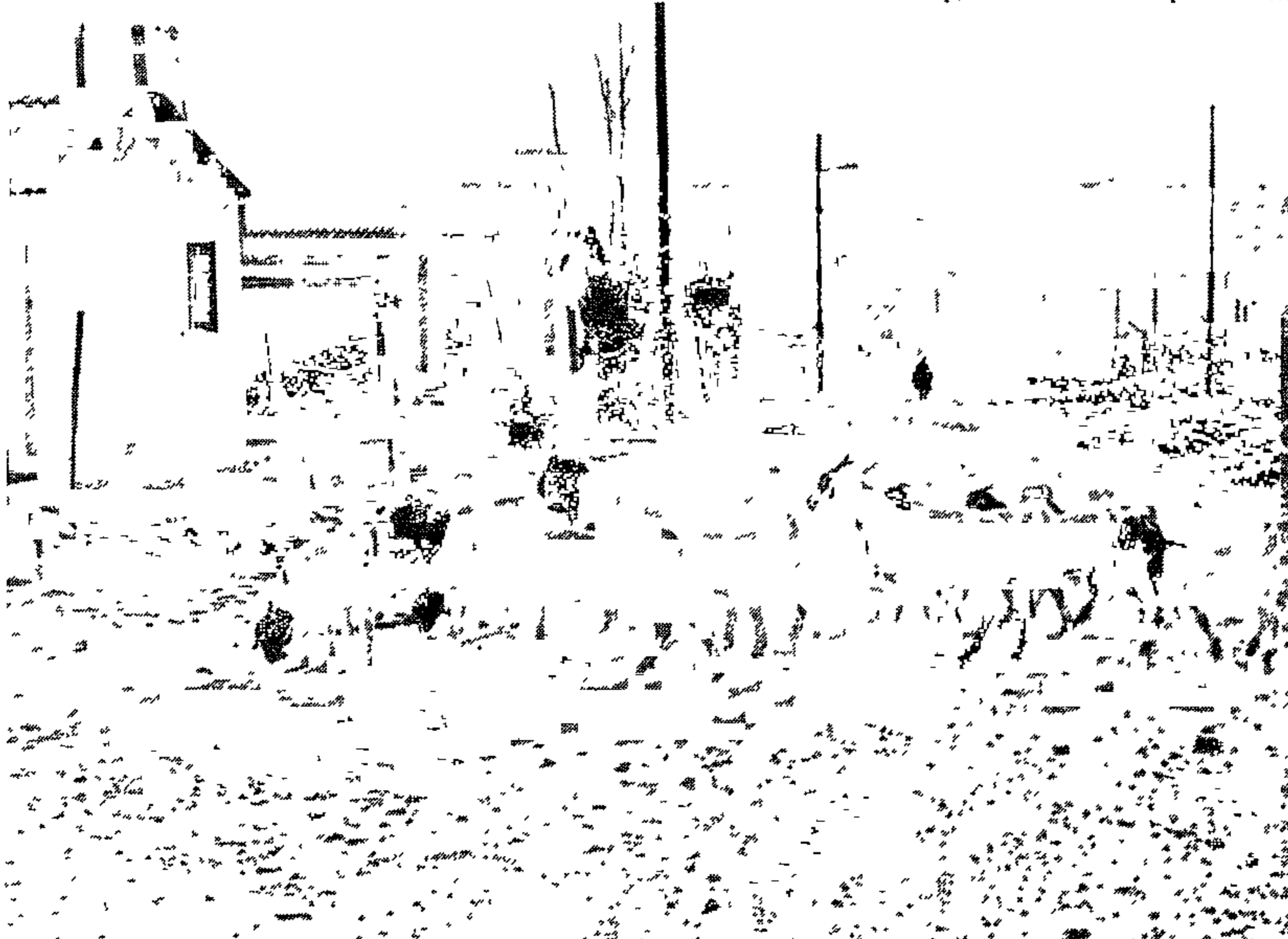
"A whole stadium with stands, and proper things," that Mrs Heermans is talking about is a nice dream that can't hurt anybody and nobody is likely to land in detention on that account But a reduction in rents is tantamount to asking for money

Nor could the people complain about the secondary school that sits on the hill above the township,

going to say the children are boycotting school because of Mr Goniwe because I would be selling out Mr Goniwe and I am not going to do that The community has decided about Mr Goniwe, not me

"It goes without saying that Mr Goniwe had the support of all the community"

By a curious irony that infests situations like Cradock's, the very issue upon which Cradora campaigned so boldly and in doing so courted disaster — the rent reduction — is now to be considered by a new committee set up this week



Street scene in Lingelihle, the Cradock black township where a three-month ban on public meetings, due to expire tomorrow, was extended this week for another three months.



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# THE HIDDEN KILLER DISEASE

## Heart ailment that feeds on poverty wreaking havoc with health of black kids — and medical resources can't cope

A DEADLY form of heart disease that feeds on poverty rather than affluence is wreaking havoc with the health of black children

Rheumatic heart disease could be called the country's hidden killer. Up to now little has been written about it compared to the enormous publicity given to the "rich man's" heart problem, ischaemic heart disease

But the national spotlight will soon be focused on it when the Heart Foundation holds this year's Heart Week. The theme is to be "Heart Disease and Children"

One of South Africa's most respected cardiologists, Professor Abdul Mitha of Durban's Wentworth Hospital, said this week the incidence of rheumatic heart disease was very closely related to socio-economic conditions

Professor Mitha, who is president of the Southern Africa Cardiac Society, said the rate among SA blacks was believed to be 10 times the American rate

The white and Indian rate was also very low compared to the blacks

By  
**Tony  
Spencer-Smith**

because of the higher living standards of these groups  
"While we are not certain of the current rate, a



**Deadly form of heart disease that feeds on poverty wreaking havoc among black children**

survey some time ago in Soweto showed that seven out of every 1 000 school children had established rheumatic

heart disease"  
Professor Mitha said the disease was not only killing an unknown number of children, but also

costing the State tens of millions of rands to combat  
He said the disease had certainly not received

much publicity when one considered that a population of some 20 million people was at risk  
He explained that the

disease generally began as an ordinary throat infection caused by the streptococcus bacterium

Sometimes the antibodies the body developed to fight this attacked the heart tissue, damaging especially the heart valves and killing the patient if he were not operated on

### Costly

"People living in poor, overcrowded housing and on deficient diets are far more likely to contract it"

Thousands of valve replacement operations have to be carried out every year at a cost of R10 000 to R20 000 a patient

The annual bill for these alone could be R50 million. Despite this enormous expenditure, Professor Mitha said, the death rate from the disease was high

"Our medical resources can't cope with all the cases"

"The biggest problem is in the country areas. Many children come from these areas to heart units like the one we have in Durban already dying. Sometimes they die before they can be operated on"

"In Natal, 75 percent of the patients at the unit come from the rural

areas"  
Meanwhile, the SA Medical Research Council reported this week that white males between the ages of 15 and 64 still have the highest ischaemic heart disease death rate in the world.

This disease, in sharp contrast to rheumatic heart disease, was largely one of affluence, the product of over indulgent lifestyles

An MRC Press release based on research by Professor Cyril Wyndham of the MRC's Institute for Biostatistics said SA white males were still at the top of the list, even though the white mortality rate dropped sharply in the period between 1970 and 1980

The release said the mortality rate for white SA women was found to be the second highest in the world, after that of Scottish women

In the 10 years the white male death rate dropped 22 percent to just over 200 per 100 000 and the white female rate by 29 percent to over 56 per 100 000

The release said preventive health education programmes should be stepped up as they were possibly the reason for the decrease

**TRIVIA**



318/84 249

# Scientists urged to help poor

By THELMA TUCH

SOUTH AFRICAN scientists should apply their skills to improve the quality of life of poverty-stricken people living in both urban and rural areas in the country

This was said by Professor Francis Wilson, director of the Southern African Labour and Development Research Unit at the University of Cape Town, and the director of the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development in South Africa

He was speaking on Wednesday at the University of the Witwatersrand at the invitation of the Wits' Science Students' Council

Papers presented at the Carnegie inquiry into poverty showed that a major problem facing rural blacks was the shortage of water in a number of areas and water contamination

"There is evidence of people at the height of the drought being forced to walk 10km to fetch water and also having to queue for hours"

"In places such as Kenton on Sea there is only one tap for 750 people," he said

One study indicated that in an area in Ciskei 90% of the households shared an open water resource with cattle and for that reason the water was "highly likely" to be contaminated

It was horrendous that no map of the underground resources in South Africa had been charted, he said

Another study of poverty in South Africa indicated that about 50 000 children died each year of malnutrition and related diseases and that one third of the children under the age of 14 were stunted in growth, he said

"Medics and agriculturalists should unite to solve the country's nutritional problems," he said

He also spoke of the dire shortage of appropriate housing in the country and the problem of overcrowding

It has been estimated that 81% of the people living in the homelands were living below the minimum living level and the numbers of destitute people in the country had increased

He said half the world's scientists were using their skills working in military projects and questioned whether working in this field was the "appropriate" response facing South African scientists

"The need is there for people — aware of technology — to roll up their sleeves and use their capacity to apply themselves to fundamental problems in our society"



# DEADLY THREAT TO KIDS

A DEADLY form of heart disease that feeds on poverty rather than affluence is wreaking havoc with the health of black children.

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Professor Mitha, who is president of the Southern Africa Cardiac

## OWN CORRESPONDENT

Society, said the rate among SA blacks was believed to be 10 times the American rate. The white and Indian rate was also very low compared to the blacks because of the higher living standards of these groups.

"While we are not certain of the current rate, a survey some time ago in Soweto showed that seven out of every 1 000 school children had established rheumatic heart disease."

Professor Mitha said the disease was not only killing an unknown number of children, but also costing the State tens of millions of rands to combat.

He said the disease



A VICTIM of the killer heart disease that feeds on poverty-stricken kids.

had certainly not received much publicity when one considered that a population of some 20 million people was at risk.

He explained that the disease generally began as an ordinary throat infection caused by the streptococcus bacterium.

Sometimes the antibodies the body developed to fight this attacked the heart tissue, damaging especially the

heart valves and killing the patient if he were not operated on.

### Costly

"People living in poor, overcrowded housing and on deficient diets are far more likely to contract it."

Thousands of valve replacement operations have to be carried out every year at a cost of R10 000 to R20 000 a patient.

The annual bill for these alone could be R50 million. Despite this enormous expenditure, Professor Mitha said, the death rate from the disease was high.

"Our medical resources can't cope with all the cases."

"The biggest problem is in the country areas. Many children come from these areas to heart units like the one we have in Durban already dying. Sometimes they die before they can be operated on."

"In Natal, 75 percent of the patients at the unit come from the rural areas."

Meanwhile the SA Medical Research Council reported this week that white males between the ages of 15 and 64 still have the highest ischaemic heart disease death rate in the world.

This disease, in sharp contrast to rheumatic heart disease, was largely one of affluence,

the product of over indulgent lifestyle. An MRC Press release based on research by Professor Cyril Wyndham of the MRC's Institute for Biostatistics said SA white males were still at the top of the list, even though the white mortality rate dropped sharply in the period between 1970 and 1980.

The release said the mortality rate for white SA women was found to be the second highest in the world, after that of Scottish women.

In the 10 years the white male death rate dropped 22 percent to just over 200 per 100 000 and the white female rate by 29 percent to over 56 per 100 000.

The release said preventive health education programmes should be stepped up as they were possibly the reason for the decrease



tenance are often left with nothing to eat. In the drought's wake, 640 000 South Africans, most of them children, are counting on one woman and her shoestring operation for their daily bread.

That's how many people received meals last month courtesy of Operation Hunger (OH), and that's how many people are benefiting from the dedication of its organising secretary, Ina Perlman.

Perlman exudes toughness despite her soft-spoken manner. Colleagues describe her as caustic and gruff, that is, if she's feeling friendly. Even Perlman herself admits to being "basically not a very nice person." But perhaps that is what it takes to make sure that the money, and the food, is going where it's supposed to go — to those who need it most.

In August 1980, while Southern Transvaal regional manager of the SA Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), Perlman enlisted the support of seven community groups, ranging from the Anglican Women's Fellowship to the Islamic Mission Society, and established OH just as a severe drought in KwaZulu highlighted the general plight of SA's rural population.

OH has remained an SAIRR project (it was elevated to a national effort in November 1983), but will be spinning off on its own as soon as government approves the necessary application.

Barring unforeseen bureaucratic obstacles, the break will probably come before the end of August.

Perlman stresses that hers is no simple hand-out scheme. "We don't do the blue-printing on our own," she says. "It's terribly important for the community itself to

handle the planning aspects of feeding. Our theme song to the people is we're not giving this to you, but it's you and us working together to help our children, a contribution and commitment to the future of this country."

She sees her role as a temporary one — OH's ultimate success would be the creation of a situation in which its services are no longer necessary.

This is not to say that Perlman, who has been involved in community work since her student days at Wits ("except for some time off to do a bit of baking and have some babies"), is desk-bound in her cluttered Braamfontein offices. She averages two days a week out in the field — in recent months primarily in the hard-hit areas of Lebowa and Gazankulu.

Despite the scale of her programme, she's had "incredibly few" problems with its implementation. Food distribution is carefully monitored by her local representatives, many of them in schools and hospitals. When something looks amiss, Perlman investigates.

The question of responsibility for massive rural malnourishment is a debate in which OH prefers to stay on the sidelines. "For years and years, the vast majority of people in SA have been saying it's somebody else's fault, and somebody else's responsibility," she says. "As far as I'm concerned, it's a waste of time to worry about what others should be doing. That sort of cogitating becomes an excuse for doing nothing at all." She reports that the government has generally co-operated with OH's efforts in the field.

How much money does it take to feed

more than half a million people, many of them on a daily basis? OH spent R270 000 last month, and is barely matching its budget despite continuous fundraising campaigns. Perlman thinks that at least another 100 000 people need the basic nutrition the programmes provide. But she's gratified by the response the programme has received so far. The employees of Price Forbese-Federale Volkswas gave up the annual company ball to make a contribution of R13 500. One woman, a pensioner, sent her wedding ring as a donation.

What would happen without Ina Perlman and OH? She protests, modestly, that it's impossible to tell. But in past public statements, she has estimated that 50 000 more children might die before the year's end without her programme's help.

INA PERLMAN

## Feeding the hungry

It's no secret: starved of rain, the soil of the hinterlands has turned fallow, and the people who have depended on its crops for sus-



Perlman ... 640 000 children depend on her for their daily bread



By Russell Gault  
Numerous children are claimed to be dying while church leaders engage in an international squabble about getting aid to drought and flood victims in Natal

## Hunger cash going elsewhere, claims pastor

# Children die while churches squabble

The chairman of the Zululand Council of Churches (ZCC) the Rev James Massey, told 24 Hours "We want to find out what is going on with the aid we should be getting. There is considerable money being held by the South African Council of Churches (SACC)

"Thankfully, we are getting help from other groups but many children are still dying from malnutrition-related diseases"

The problem is said to centre on differences of opinion between the Inkatha movement of Chief Gatsha Buthelezi in kwaZulu and the United Democratic Front (UDF), which has supporters in the SACC

"Inkatha is on the SACC blacklist. Inkatha has chosen to work within the system and UDF has decided otherwise," said Mr Massey

"Inkatha says the UDF is ineffectual. Now there

is more and more violence occurring between them"

Much of the annual aid money received by the SACC comes from West Germany. It has been claimed by a visiting German churchman, Mr Horst-Klaus Hofmann, that money donated for hunger victims has not been used for that purpose

The administrative director of the SACC, Mr Dan Vaughan, said Mr Hofmann wrote an article condemning the SACC for misuse of the money

"But, in fact, we never received anything from the German church group, EKD, for hunger relief

"We have struggled financially in the past year. We rely on overseas aid and this year that

money came in late, causing us serious difficulty"

Mr Vaughan said the SACC had given R50 000 to the Churches Hunger Fund, and R10 000 had been sent to the ZCC this year — R5 000 of it forwarded only two weeks ago

When this was put to him Mr Massey responded



"Do you know how far R10 000 goes when you are trying to feed many thousands of people? Just one body, the Church of Christ in the United States, has given R2 million for feeding people here"

Mr Vaughan said the SACC had enough of an uphill struggle with public opinion without want-

ing to be embroiled in a controversy over funds for fighting hunger

"A few days ago we wrote to Germany seeking clarification about Mr Hofmann's claims because we are not holding back money in any way"

The article has provoked deep anxiety in South African church circles because of the effect it could have on donations. In the past 10 years about R12 million has been given to the SACC by German churches

The SACC translation of the German article, which received wide publicity in the religious Press, alleged that the SACC was accused of not recognising the homelands because of their apartheid foundation

As a result, none of the R920 000 given to the

SACC by the EKD reached hunger victims. Where any of it was spent in kwaZulu, it went on practical projects such as carpentry or agriculture

Some religious and charity aid opinion both here and overseas is committed to the theory that aid is best directed towards projects which will alleviate the causes of poverty and malnutrition, rather than to "waste" it on immediate relief, which is seen as a temporary solution to problems

The Hofmann article ended by asking whether the EKD did an injustice by supporting the SACC

"It's rubbish," said Mr Vaughan. "How can we ignore people merely because of a state creation?"

## UDF denies drought aid claims

The United Democratic Front has angrily dissociated itself from a dispute in the churches over drought aid to kwaZulu

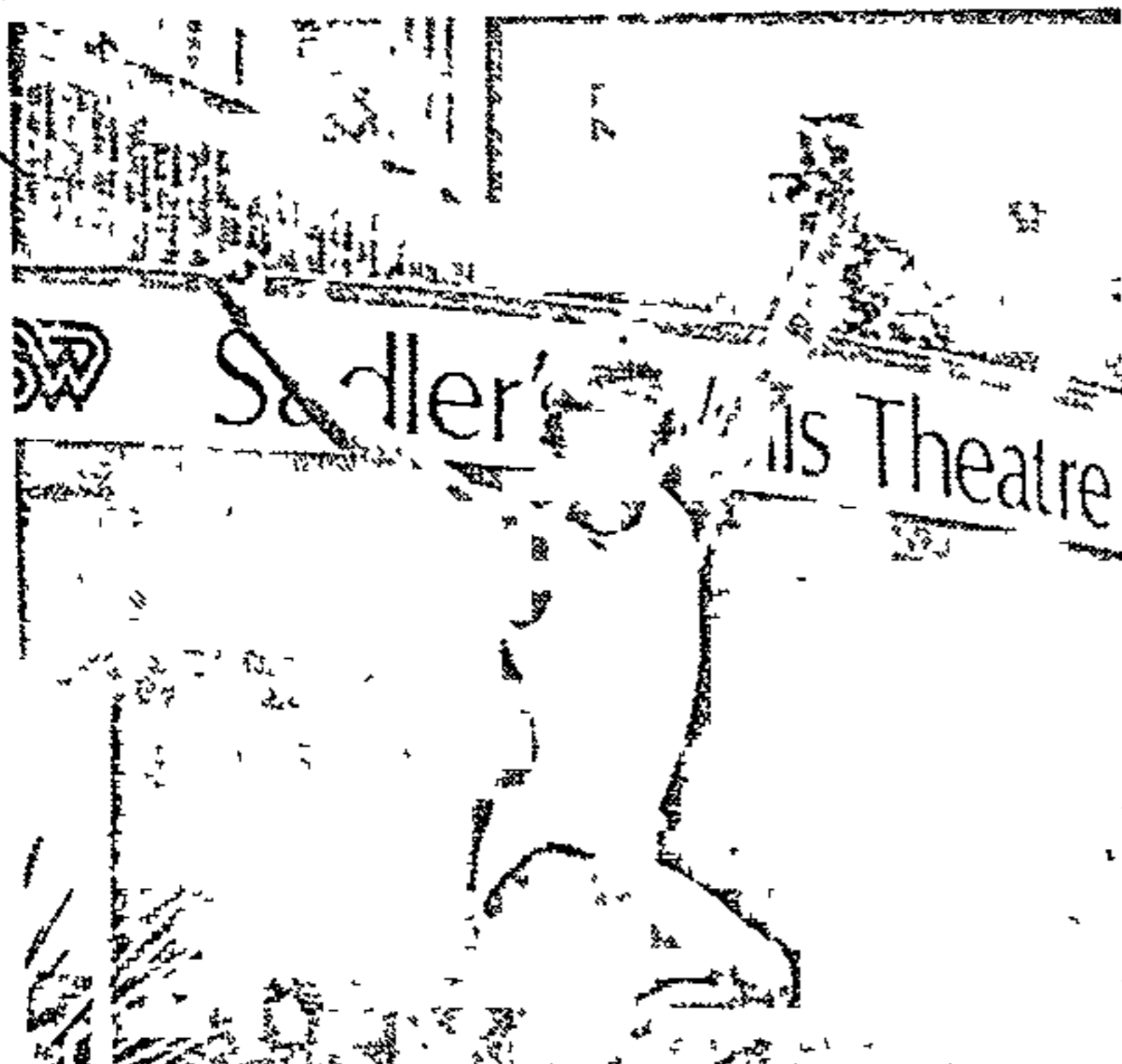
Allegations have been made that the South African Council of Churches (SACC) has withheld funds from German donors, and that differences between the UDF and Inkatha have influenced this decision

The SACC has denied that German drought aid is being withheld, as

claimed by a visiting German cleric, Mr Horst-Klaus Hofmann

"The claims are a blatant attempt to discredit the front by dragging it into a controversy that does not concern it," said UDF national treasurer Mr Cassim Saloojee

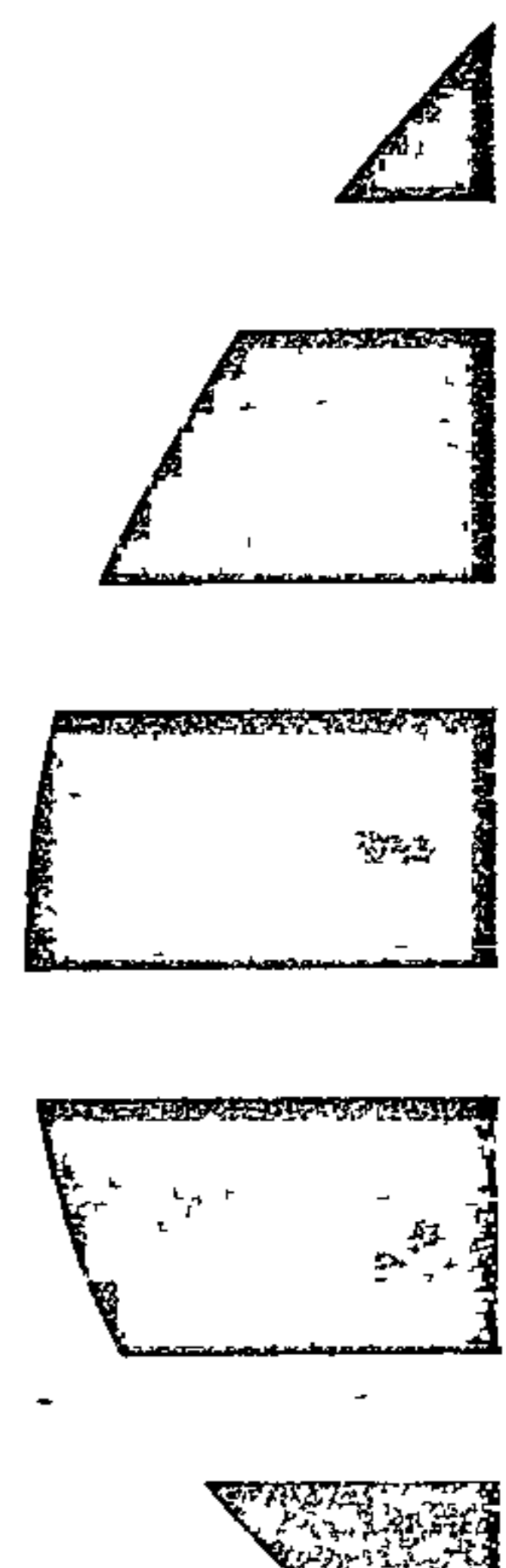
"The UDF has absolutely no influence on the allocation of funds by the SACC, and has not been consulted by any hunger relief organisations"



## Drought gets 97 the boot

LONDON — The summer-long drought in Britain, which has been making life hard for farmers and gardeners, has now hit fish fanciers and Wellington boot makers

Lack of water, among other factors, has forced the Dunlop Rubber Company to lay off 97 workers at its Wellington boot factory in Liverpool





# Relieving hunger at the forgotten end of the world

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By Ronel Scheffer

to the emergency created by the severe drought in the Northern Transvaal. However, the need for the programme has not decreased and the emphasis has begun to shift towards fostering self-help in the rural areas

Sympathetic individuals, local business leaders, and overseas companies and governments have, and still are, contributing towards the effort to combat hunger and malnutrition

There might be 60 in the queue, but it's worth waiting for the mellelep and stew in the three-legged pots at Mdiankomo

Children in tatters, children in neat school tunics line up for their daily lifesaver at a mud classroom

A small boy arrives bowl in hand after the last pap has been scraped from the pot. He bursts into tears

Operation Hunger (and the Agricultural and Rural Development research institute of Fort Hare, Ardr) has been active here for 14 months now. It shows

The children are alert, they laugh easily and break into luscious song between mouthfuls of the humble meal. The community is agitating for better access roads to the Basin and a group of women have a profitable sewing project going

area sell the articles and the proceeds are split between the clinic and the women. At the same time the babies are growing stronger and healthier

While the drought has abated in some areas, calls for help directed at Operation Hunger have not

Roselle is responsible for the entire Cape Province and Ciskei, but to date requests have only come from as far west as Cookhouse

to give when they realise there are no political strings attached."

This is partly why Roselle is determined to keep her side of the programme "tagless"

She feels the region has already become bogged down with ideology and blames this for the lack of coordinated community action to provide relief in many spheres.

"This really is the forgotten end of the world," says Operation Hunger regional co-ordinator Roselle Frasca. "People don't know what's happening on their doorstep in terms of human suffering"

She's talking about the rural people of Ciskei and the Border area, of the deprivation and hunger beyond the highways

Mdiankomo is 30 minutes off the highway, the gateway to one of nature's gems — the Amatola Basin. The Hogsbark towers in the background

The land is fertile but drought upon drought has taken its

"We don't view the food as handouts," says Roselle. "In many cases the food is a catalyst to some kind of spontaneous self-help in the community"

Operation Hunger's brand of self-help is unstructured and essentially dictated by the needs of the community. If the people feel the need to grow vegetables, seeds are provided. If they wish to knit or sew articles for the market, Operation Hunger tries to provide the raw materials

She intends to visit Johannesburg regularly to speak to key people about local conditions, thereby hoping to secure some of the abundant resources available there for distribution locally

At the moment Operation Hunger nationally feeds some 600 000 people daily. The food is mainly generous donations or reduced rate purchases from big companies

"It is a unique organisation — very elastic and therefore able to adjust to all kinds of communities without becoming paternalistic or jarring in any way — and without any ideological, political or religious motivations

"While I am determined not to politicise it, if and when in my travels I find things unspeakable, I will make them known"

Operation Hunger was established four years ago in response

Under the circumstances, it seemed natural for Operation Hunger to establish its first full-time regional office in the country in East London at the beginning of October. At-

As a long-term objective Operation Hunger ideally would like to phase out all feeding where communities have become self-supporting. "At this stage that's a bit of a pipe-dream though," says Roselle

Operation Hunger has been established four years ago in response

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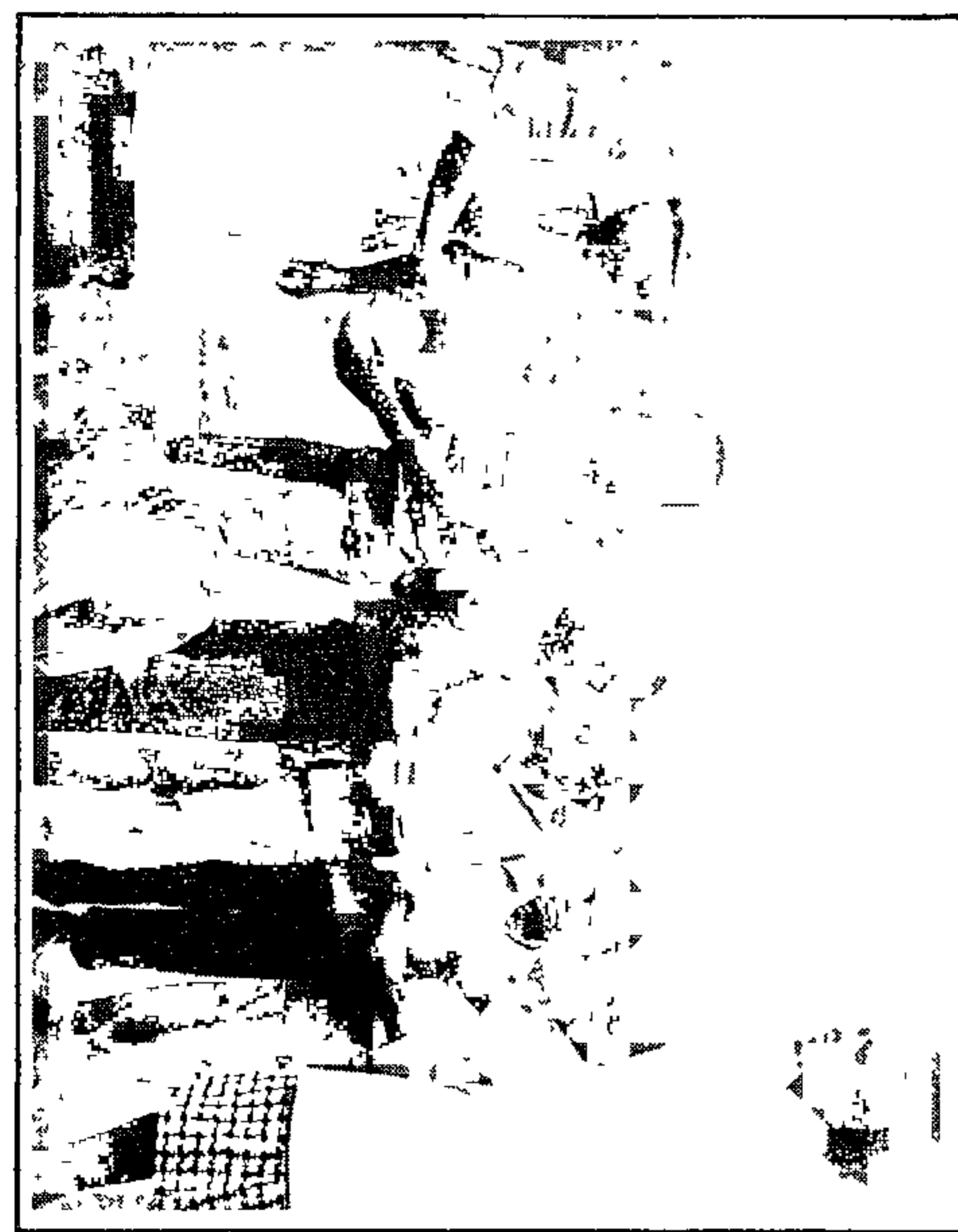
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Members of the sewing group at Komkulu show off some of the articles which provide them with a source of income.



Meatime at a Komkulu school. Ardr social worker, Puma Goduka (right) keeps an eye on the proceedings.

Roselle relies on nurses and social workers to identify the crisis cases, and monthly travels of thousands of kilometres herself for diagnostic purposes

Family feeding is kept to a minimum and the main thrust of Operation Hunger action is directed at school and creche feeding in order to stave off the disastrous effects of child malnutrition

In terms of self-help, one particularly encouraging example had developed at Shuloh, in the harsh northern region of Ciskei. Dr HOFFIE Conradie, a medical superintendent employed by the Ciskei Department of health

As elsewhere in Ciskei, the socio-economic odds are lodged against the rural dwellers. Many have given up

To some the daily fare provided by Operation Hunger has brought hope again

"We need this food," says Noyase Matyile, a teacher at Mdiankomo. Her eyes survey the cheerful young faces around her. "You want to see them when they don't get this food. After break-time their heads hang. Their faces are sad."

Roselle Frasca beams as we travel through some of the 13

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Daily Dispatch  
16/10/84

The organisation currently feeds some 80 000 people throughout the Border-Ciskei region. About 60 000 of them are children between the ages of 3 and 15 who are fed through school feeding schemes.

The mills deliver the maize near the villages. At this point the community takes over. Local mothers cook, using their own pots, and the children's contribution is wood

vaal conditions in the Border-Ciskei region are perceived to be the most desperate in the country. Until the launching of the regional office Operation Hunger operated under the auspices of the Institute of Race Relations in the area

"I get so tired of people telling me that the Xhosas are lazy. Do they know that many rural families eat only three or four times a week? Do they know

clinic which daily feeds babies, pre-schoolers and old women. About 30 elderly women bring the little ones with them to the clinic and spend most of each day at the clinic, where they receive three meals.

Gradually as the old women have grown stronger, they have begun to sew, knit and crochet. Two enterprising black businessmen in that



A group of Mdlankomo boys gather under a tree to enjoy the daily lifesaver provided by Operation Hunger and Ardri.



# America cool to <sup>(291)</sup> appeal <sup>Star</sup> for funds <sup>25/10/84</sup>

By Cheetah Haysom,  
The Star Bureau

NEW YORK — Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, is leaving the United States today shocked by the lack of American financial aid for her cause

The cool response of American and Canadian organisations to her appeals coincides with a financial crisis in the organisation. With debts of R700 000 it may be forced to curtail vital food supplies to thousands of families.

Mrs Perlman said "The United States Government has already promised R400 000 to be matched three to one by local contributions

"But, they say, the problems are a mess of our own making. They blame the disaster in black rural areas on the implementation of apartheid." They say they cannot do the Government's work for it

"It is difficult to argue with them because those Americans who know about South Africa and there are growing numbers of them, are extremely well informed. They know exactly what is happening.

"We have been fed this happy guff that Americans have been persuaded that constructive engagement is working. In fact, they are not buying that story at all. They do not believe it has led to progress."

She said Americans felt South Africa was a wealthy country with a "Western" gross national product and, even though the country faced a recession, it should be able to help its own people.

# Families in Peddie feel forgotten

241  
E. Post  
27/10/84

Weekend Post  
Correspondent

"THERE is no employment and nobody cares, our future is very bleak and we are reliant on the goodwill of many church groups for our survival"

These are the words of one of the 2 000 people living on the Peddie commonage in Ciskei. The people, consisting of two communities, were resettled in Ciskei in September, 1982

"We were taken from our farm in Alexandria, our belongings were thrown onto lorries and then we were dumped here. We had to sell the cattle we had in Alexandria because there was no transport," one of the group said

"The Government promised us they would look after us but nothing has been done. If there is a job, we have to compete with the local town people and they get the job

"There are even some families here, some consisting of 10 people, where the only income is the R80 pension they get every two months," he said

The Rev Alf Dlamini, rector of the Anglican Church in Peddie, said there were many problems with pensions

"It is quite common for people have to wait up to five years after applying, before the first money arrives. And, even then, how long can a large family live on R40 a month?"

"Our church runs a vegetable scheme and we have 20 families who have a little plot on church

grounds. They grow vegetables there for their home consumption and sell their surplus to the other people

"We are trying to create the conditions whereby these people can become self-sufficient but given the environment in which they find themselves, this is virtually impossible"

There are three feeding schemes, financed by the Dioceses of Port Elizabeth and the South African Council of Churches

The resettlement camp has a school, but there are no other facilities. It, as Mr Dlamini explains, "The children are often just too hungry to learn anything. Another problem is that the parents often do not have enough money to pay for school books and again the people become dependent on others"

The residents of the camp get their water from a tank, which is filled from a dam outside Peddie. But this is often empty and then the people from the camp have to walk up to two kilometres for water

"With the water shortage, sometimes the people from Peddie also come to use our water and with 28 families per tap this exhausts the water supply and we then have no water in the camp," one of the people said

Mr Dlamini said the people in the resettlement camp were damaging the ecology

"There is so little land that can be used for grazing, in two or three years this will have all been used

up and there will be none left"

He said that if the proposed removals of the people from Glenmore to Peddie were undertaken, the situation could get even worse

"Then there will be even more people competing for scarce resources," he said

"I see there are plots demarcated on the commonage for the new arrivals but I also hear they refuse to be moved. So we can just wait and see what happens"

"The people in the resettlement camp are very critical of the South African and Ciskei Governments. We were dumped in this place, nobody has cared for us and we don't know if we will be moved again," a pensioner said

"The Ciskei Government is interested only in the land they got from Pretoria because they moved us from the white corridor. They are also interested in the tax we pay. We even have to pay tax on our R80 pension

"There is nothing at all for us here!"

With no prospect of employment and, therefore, no income except the pensions, their dependence on charity for survival, and little hope of bettering their situation, the future looks very bleak for the people on the Peddie commonage

Forcibly removed from their viable communities, they were dumped in Peddie two years ago. They believe the authorities have forgotten and abandoned them

With no prospect of work for her family, an old woman sits forlornly outside her shack on the Peddie commonage.





31/10/84

(241)

Star

The Star Wednesday Octol

# Disaster threatens as hunger bulwark fails

By Maud Motanyane

PIETERSBURG — Operation Hunger's withdrawal from the homelands will mean the end of a daily meal and the beginning of disaster for thousands of families who have depended on the relief agency for up to four years.

Although rains have fallen in most parts of the country it will take a few more months before villagers have their first crops.

In the Northern Transvaal homeland of Lebowa, one of the areas hardest hit by drought, health officials report that thousands of families are still in dire straits.

"Operation Hunger has stood between the lives and deaths of people here and its end would be cat-

astrophic," said Mr William Cambell, the regional secretary of Southern Lebowa hospitals.

Last Friday Operation Hunger announced that it was on the brink of collapse and had a debt of R1,5 million to clear by November 15. In addition it would need R600 000 monthly to keep its projects going.

The relief agency has stopped all foodstuff purchases. This will affect projects nationwide — in Gazankulu, Lebowa, kwaNdebele, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, the Free State, kwaZulu, the Northern Cape and parts of the Reef.

"We had no supplies for family feeding for October and already our public health visitors have reported cases of families who are starving," said Mr Cambell

He operates from the Jane Furse Hospital in Sekhukhuneland and distributes food supplies to more than 50 000 people, a large number of whom are schoolchildren.

"The agency has spent more than R250 000 in Sekhukhuneland over the past year and our schoolchildren have depended on it for their daily meal," said Mr Cambell.

He added that supplies for school feeding schemes would last till the end of November. "But we don't know what will happen after then."

A doctor at the hospital said it was now handling a third of the kwashiorkor cases it had treated at the height of the drought crisis last year.

Lebowa's Director of Health, Dr Abner Makunyane, said "Operation Hunger has played a re-

markable role and its services will continue to be needed.

"But we cannot continue depending on hand-outs. It is long-term programmes leading to self-sufficiency that we should be looking at."

The Lebowa Government had set up a drought relief committee to look at health education, food production, the supply of water and infrastructure in the homeland.

"It will take time before our people are back on their feet," said Dr Makunyane.

Operation Hunger has had little response from organised commerce since it made the Friday announcement, the fund's director, Mrs Ina Perlman, said. However, scores of individuals had pledged support.

# Luxury Venue for malnutrition debate

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C. Times

3/10/54

By BARRY STREEK  
THE use of the "opulence" of a luxury Cape Town hotel to discuss malnutrition at the World Medical Association (WMA) conference next year was not becoming to the medical profession, the National Medical and Dental Association (Nanda) said yesterday.

It was also "an outrage" that public money was being used by the Department of Health for this purpose, the Cape Town branch of Nanda said in a press statement.

Nanda, formed two years ago as an alternative to the Medical Association of South Africa (Masa), said the various authorities in South Africa responsible for health had repeatedly claimed that the inadequacies of the health care system were due to the lack of funds.

Examples of these inadequacies were:

- "Day hospitals, rural hospitals and clinics are too few, overcrowded, understaffed, and have inadequate facilities. Mitchell's Plain, with a population of a quarter-million, does not even have a proper hospital."
- "High fees are charged for hospital visits (for example, R12 per visit for a person from a family earning R200 per month)."
- "Too little is spent on preventive health care programmes (about seven percent of the health budget)."
- "Tuberculosis is rife, and the problem is not being adequately tackled."
- "Not enough black doctors and dentists are being trained."
- "Arbitrary cutbacks in the supply of medicines to patients are being implemented at provincial hospitals at present. The Day Hospital in Cape Town have even

completely stopped the provision of 'Pro-Nutro' for malnourished children and destitute patients as a cost-saving measure."

Nanda said Masa had succeeded in looking after the medical profession very well, but many felt it had "subordinated the health care needs of the majority of South Africans to the interests of the medical profession."

The theme of the WMA conference was to be "a

subject relevant to the Third World component of South Africa such as malnutrition."

But, Nanda said, this problem was thoroughly discussed at the recent Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and "it is highly unlikely that Masa and the WMA will be able to make any further significant advances to our understanding of malnutrition and how to deal with it."

Yesterday's statement was issued following the publication of the minutes of Masa's federal council meeting in a recent edition of the South African Medical Journal.

In the minutes, it was disclosed that the cabinet had agreed that Masa be given the authority to host the WMA conference and that the Department of Health would assist financially with its costs.



# Retrenchments bring harvest of hardship

241

E. Post

7/11/89

By YVONNE STEYNBERG  
Woman's Editor

RETRENCHMENT in the motor and ancillary industries in the Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage areas is the direct cause of the rapidly deteriorating and often appalling living conditions of white families now crowding together in areas like Sidwell

When the breadwinner of a family is retrenched and has no immediate prospect of another income, the first thing to go is rent for a flat or house

"People who have uplifted themselves to better conditions are forced to gravitate back to families and friends in older parts, and to double up in small houses, back rooms, shacks and sometimes even old cars in back yards," Mrs Judy du Toit executive member of the Afrikaanse Vrouevereniging (ACVV), which is helping people in Sidwell, Algoa Park and Forest Hill, said

These living conditions lead directly to a breakdown of family life

"Men who are deprived of their roles as breadwinners to their families resort to drink and sometimes drugs to escape the reality of their position

"This in turn causes a rapid deterioration in family life — and the innocent children always suffer the most," Mrs Du Toit said

Last year in March when I visited families in the Sidwell area with a ACVV social welfare worker, I saw at first hand what can happen when families are forced to crowd together in unhygienic stuffy backyard shacks, often without electricity and toilet facilities

Pictures taken at that time appear on this page — Seeing is believing

Wherever we called there seemed to be bewildered, big-eyed children, dejectedly trying to play in dusty, smelly alleyways

And while men are out looking for work, some women bravely try to keep children and the room neat



Mrs JUDY DU TOIT.

and tidy

"Conditions are now far more upsetting and are worsening weekly as more retrenchments are made," Mrs Du Toit and Mrs Retha van der Merwe, chief social welfare worker of the ACVV, said

Children who had to move away from their familiar surroundings now have to travel long distances to their former schools, and often the family cannot bear the additional expense of bus fares

Food becomes a prime necessity and the ACVV has doubled its emergency relief fund during the last few weeks

However the organisation still cannot cope with the demand, so soup and basic food kitchens will now be started

The cost of supplying other types of food is high because most families lack refrigeration facilities and can only use tinned foods

"To help the family to retain its pride we always tell them that when they earn money again they can try to give us some portion of the cost back," Mrs Du Toit said

To assist families with the many problems caused by such major upheavals, social welfare workers and counsellors are working round the clock, and volunteers will be needed to help at the soup kitchens

The last time soup kitch-



An unemployed man sleeps in his section of a backyard shack — perhaps dreaming of the glamour of the pin-ups on the wall of his squalid surroundings.

ens were run by the ACVV was in 1967 when poverty was rife in South End before the area was evacuated because of the Group Areas Act

To assist destitute families more work groups for women have been started. They will sew, knit or make handcraft articles at the ACVV community centres

The kitchens will also be available for women who are good bakers or sweet makers — all very saleable goods to bring in some money for the families

Coupled with the break-up of family life is the increased necessity for day-care centres for children, and after-school care centres where children can do their homework under supervision

The ACVV has put their community centres at the disposal of the people in the areas where they are situated for this purpose

The community centres have also become gathering places for families now sadly lacking recreation

"Sidwell has no public swimming pool, skating rink or large library for the children and families to use, so we try to bridge the gap," Mrs Du Toit said

Any contributions, be it fresh food, tinned food, cash or old clothes, will be welcomed by the ACVV

Old clothes are sold at nominal prices at the community centres, and there is always a long queue, Mrs Van der Merwe said

Contributions can be sent or delivered (or will be fetched) to the ACVV offices in the Feather Market Hall

Last year the ACVV supervised 65 undisciplined children, investigated 130 cases of extreme child neglect and assisted 130 families who were completely destitute

Now the figures are escalating astronomically and the organisation hopes that the general public will become aware of the hardships endured by many families — often through no fault of their own



KAP 8/11/84 11:15 AM (2/4)

# A place where children are too hungry to learn

"THERE is no employment and nobody cares . . . our future is very bleak and we are reliant on the goodwill of numerous church groups for our survival."

These are the words of one of the 2 000 people living in the Peddie resettlement camp in the Ciskei, to where they were moved in September 1982.

"We were taken from our farm in Alexandra, our belongings were put on to lorries and then we were dumped here. We had to sell the cattle we had in Alexandra, as there was no transport for them," one of the group said.

"We were promised that the Government would look after us, but nothing has been done. If there is a job, we have to compete with the local townspeople and they get the job.

"There are even some families here, consisting of 10 people or more, where the only income they get is the bi-monthly R80 pension."

The Reverend Alf Dlamini, rector of the Anglican church in Peddie, said his church ran a vegetable scheme to help residents survive.

"We have 20 families who have a little plot on church grounds. They grow vegetables there for their home consumption. They sell the

surplus they produce.

"We are trying to create the conditions whereby these people can become self-sufficient, but given the hostile environment in which they find themselves, this is virtually impossible.

"This is just one of the many projects that these people need to survive, I shudder to think what would happen without these projects," Mr Dlamini said.

There are three feeding schemes in Peddie, financed by the Anglican diocese of Port Elizabeth, the South African Institute of Race Relations and the South African Council of Churches.

The resettlement camp has a school, but there are no other facilities.

But, as Mr Dlamini explains, "The children are often just too hungry to learn anything. Another problem is that the parents often do not have enough money to pay for school books and again the people become dependent on others."

Peddie's residents are very critical of the South African and Ciskean Governments.

"We even have to pay tax on our R80 pension. There is nothing at all for us here."

Mr Dlamini said the people in the camp were "exhausting the ecology".

"There is so little land that can be used for grazing; in two or three years there will be none left.

"If you look at the houses they are staying in, you will see that they still look OK, but I can guarantee that in one or two years these houses will all be rotten because of the weather," Mr Dlamini said.

He added that if the proposed removals of people presently living in Glenmore to Peddie was undertaken the situation could deteriorate.

"Then there will be even more people competing for the scarce resources."

There are more than 3 000 people living in Glenmore, where they resettled five years ago after being moved from Klipfontein and Coega.

"We were promised jobs, schools and proper houses, but now we are struggling to survive in this dusty place," one of the residents said.

"The Government has been forced to give us rations for five years now, because there are no ways in which we can earn money to buy food."

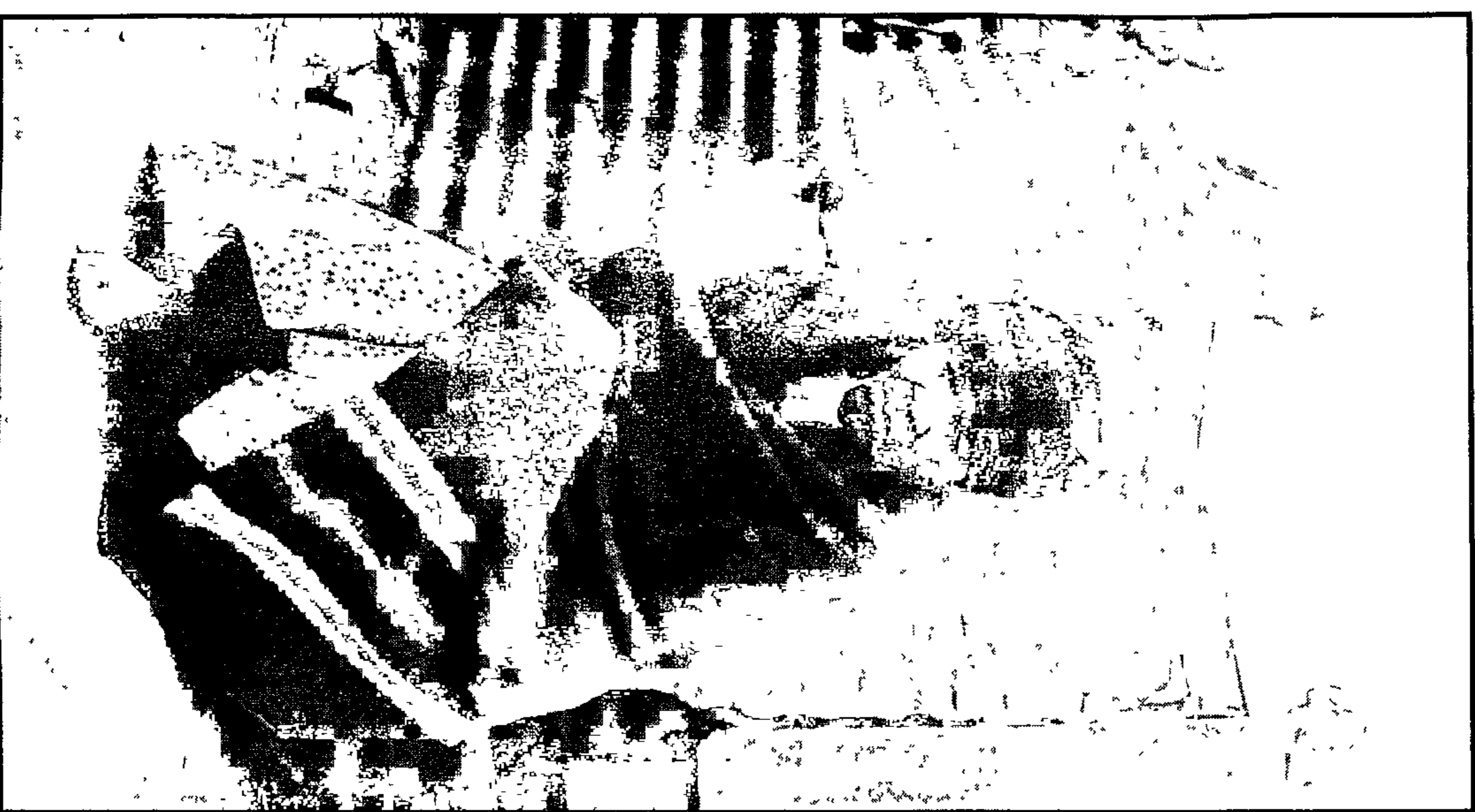
When the Government announced in June that Glenmore's inhabitants would have to move to Peddie, a residents' committee decided to resist.

"We do not want to go to Peddie. There is no work for us there. Why must we be moved again?"

With no prospect of employment, and no income except their pensions, the future looks very bleak indeed for the people in Glenmore and Peddie.



UNCERTAIN FUTURE . . . children of the Peddie Commonage area of the Ciskei



FACE OF PEDDIE . . . an old woman sits in front of her wood and iron shanty



# 20 000 children facing famine in NW Cape

By ADA STUIJT, Staff Reporter

AT least 20 000 children in Bushmanland and Namaqualand are facing starvation

For several years the children have survived on once-a-day rations of soup and bread from the volunteer-run organisation Operation Hunger

But the famine relief operation has run out of funds

The last of its supplies for the Northern Western Cape area were distributed last week by the Rev Gerhard Green, the Okiep Methodist minister in charge of the operation

The need for more food supplies was reaching a critical stage, Mrs Hilary Morris of the Red Cross in Wynberg, which is coordinating the relief effort, said yesterday

During a tour of the area The Argus accompanied Mr Green to scores of tiny communities, from Steinkopf north of Okiep, to Melkbosrant and along the Orange River, to Pella and Onseepkans mission stations, to Kamiesburg and Noerap south of Pofadder

## No breakfast

And at each of the settlements Mr Green was asked to supply more food to feed children, most of whom arrive at school without breakfast — and have very little else to eat all day except their daily cup of Operation Hunger soup and a chunk of brown bread

Some incredible stories of hardship emerge from the tough people waging their battle for survival in the semi-desert

At Witbank, next to the Orange River, about 40 unemployed farm labourers' families survive by eating their donkeys, trapping rats, dassies and catching fish

Nearly all the white farmers have moved away and the once fertile fields have been left to wither to dry sand because the irrigation equipment and wind pumps are gone

## Pre-school

Sister Josefa Gruber, a Catholic nun and nurse who single-handedly runs the Onseepkans mission clinic about 100 km away — the only medical facility between Pofadder and Springbok and the river — warned that the pre-school infants were even worse off

She spends all her income on milk powder for her tiny, malnourished patients with their

puffy, kwashiorkor-ridden bodies

"Many live far from medical facilities where severe malnourishment problems could be identified and treated. School nurses from the Divisional Council in Springbok try to examine each school child once every quarter — an incredibly difficult task in this huge area with its poor roads — but who takes care of the infants if the mothers can't reach this clinic?" she asked

Sister Gruber said the majority of the area's breast-fed infants should be getting powdered milk supplements because their mothers were seriously underfed — but Operation Hunger does not have the funds

The babies look fat and healthy but kwashiorkor makes them swell up, giving them distended bellies and swollen limbs, she said

She says most of the area's eighteen-month-old babies weigh no more than 8 kg — the normal weight for a seven-month old infant

Only the few families still employed by the handful of remaining white farmers who somehow hang on can afford to buy food

Explained Mr Jan August, the 62-year-old unemployed head of a Witbank family of three jobless adult sons, two daughters-in-law, three school-age grandchildren and an unemployed aunt and uncle with three children "We don't care to ask for charity as we Bushmanlanders have always survived even during the worst of times with "skroppies" (odd jobs) here and there, herding sheep and cattle, weeding the fields, working the mines

## Ate donkeys

"But now the mines have retrenched my sons, the white farmers can't afford to employ any of us because of the drought, we haven't the money to buy irrigation equipment to raise crops on these fields and we had to sell our cattle.

"We ate some donkeys and all the goats. Now we catch dassies, go fishing — even if we have to look over our shoulder for the inspector, because who can afford the licence?" he said when asked how his huge family survived



Mrs Martha Christiansen, 25, with her daughter Josie, 6, and son Willem, 8, who is holding his baby brother Jan, 2. They live in the one-roomed cottage in the background and the shack on the right is their pit toilet.

## Miners in poverty

UNSKILLED labourers in Namaqualand, who barely make a living in the drought-stricken, economically depressed region, are happy if they can find part-time jobs which pay R5 a day

Food prices add to the suffering — up to 20 percent higher than in Cape Town because of transport costs

The workers' community at Blesberg mica mine, north of Steinkopf, mirrors the depressed conditions of the region

About 20 men work the open-face slope five days a week. Eight women and 10 children — who all appear malnourished — live in one-roomed lodgings. Toilets are pit out-houses

The women bake bread in wood-fired outside ovens which look like termite hills. Other food is cooked over open fires inside stone windbreaks

The small community has no fresh water, drinking brackish ground water. But they fetch fresh water on monthly trips to Springbok, 50 km to the south, with mine company transport

An Argus team visited the settlement with the Rev Gerhard Green of the Okiep Methodist Church, who delivered Operation Hunger food supplies

Mrs Frieda Jooste, 27-year-old wife of a mine labourer, said "There's not much money left on payday, because we have to buy all our food on the book from the shop at the foreman's house, and it costs about R5 each day to eat properly"

## Bread and water

Mrs Joyce Jules, 23, said her two children "only get some brown bread and brak water each day, and maybe some fish if we can afford it"

Three-year-old Marianne's legs are thin and slightly bent at the ankles, her hair is falling out in patches, her belly is swollen and she has white spots and sores around her mouth — signs of malnutrition

The other nine children, especially four breast-fed babies, are not much healthier and their mothers are emaciated and listless

"People live on subsistence wages in this area, but they have to take what they can get, and this place certainly is an example of the job choices offered them," said Mr Green.

At the mine owner's office in Springbok, a woman refused to name the owner and said he would not speak to the Press



Sister Josefa Gruber of the Onseepkans Catholic mission clinic, weighing 18-month-old Ruben Basson, who has kwashiorkor.



The face of hopelessness: with the drought, the economic recession and the departure of farmers from the land, employment in parts of the Northern Cape has become a memory.

POLITICAL comment in this issue by M van Schoor, L Marshall and D Tomney. Headlines and sub-editing by R Bowley. Cartoon by M Vosloo. All of 122 St George's Street, Cape Town.



rates.

It focuses on child mortality, infant feeding and use of health services and was carried out for the council by Les M Irwig of the Medical School of the University of the Witwatersrand, and R F Ingle of the Transkei Department of Health. Their figures show an almost one-in-five probability of children dying before reaching the age of five years.

Their report says: "The greatest risk is in the first year when the infant mortality rate is 130/1 000. About 75% of infant deaths occur in the post-natal period. We suggest that many of these deaths are caused by diarrhoea and could be prevented by community-based oral rehydration programmes."

It seems that about 75% of Transkei children are breast-fed beyond the age of one year with 66% of them also being given other milk before they are four months old.

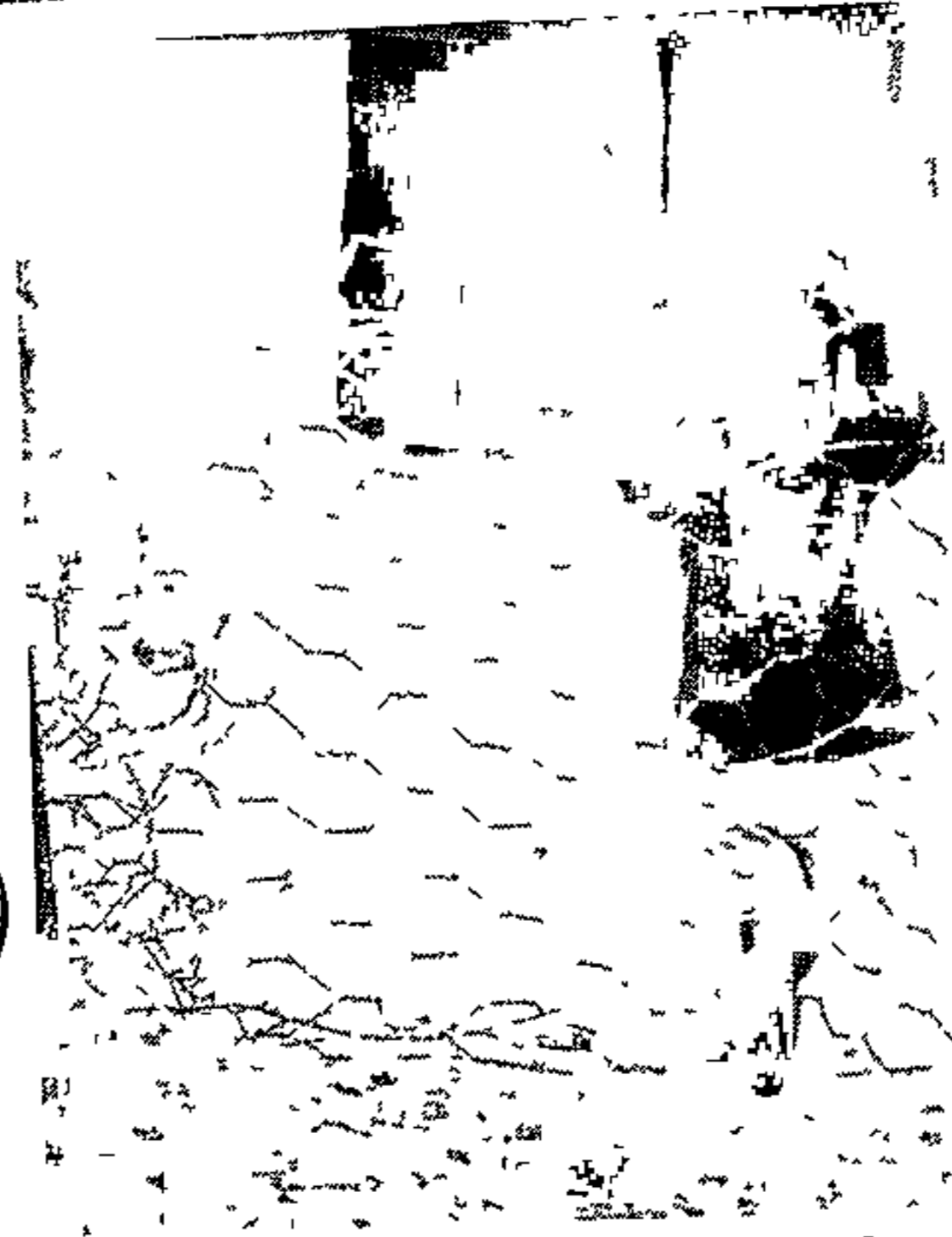
Transkei is served by 22 government hospitals, including a specialist referral hospital in Umtata, the capital. Each hospital controls a number of clinics. This translates as only three hospital beds for 1 000 people in the population, one doctor for every 22 000, one trained nurse for 500 and each clinic serves an average of 13 000 people.

Says the report "Over 80% of women attended an ante-natal clinic at least once, although only about 33% of the babies were delivered by the health services. Health service had been attended by 85% of children over three months old."

Of the 3m population in the Transkei, 40% are said to be under the age of 15 years. In the age group 15-64 years, the rural female/male ratio is about 2.1, "largely

because the men are migrant workers."

And 95% of the permanently resident population live in the rural Transkei. They are dependent on subsistence agriculture and remittances from migrant workers.



Infant deaths ... too many in the Transkei

## TRANSKEI

### Babies are dying

~~103~~  
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Thousands of babies are dying unnecessarily in Transkei. That is the official conclusion of a survey conducted by the Institute for Biostatistics of the SA Medical Council. The survey, of 5 000 women in rural Transkei, reveals grim child mortality



## FAMINE RELIEF

### Lack of control

(241)  
Fm 9/11/84  
The need for tight control and clear focus of the efforts of famine relief agencies has been underscored by the appalling experience of SA's own Operation Hunger

The agency, formerly directed by workers of the SA Institute of Race Relations, piled up debts of R1,5m seemingly without realising it. Some leading businessmen, with the assistance of a local radio station, have taken over the project and launched a rescue operation, first to liquidate accumulated debt, and second to resume desperately needed famine relief. Most important, they have pledged continued support, both in terms of wherewithal and management expertise.

The continued involvement of the creditors, which include SA's largest trading

Continued on page 51



Hunger's King ... ordered a stop to food buying

companies, is crucial to the credibility of Operation Hunger, since public donors who gave so generously last week were not told beforehand of the agency's huge accumulated debts.

The new management team denies that Operation Hunger fell on hard times because of poor control. Under the circumstances, that is the charitable thing to say. What they do admit is that there was "possibly some over-zealousness" on the part of staff at the Institute of Race Relations.

Although under new, and undoubtedly expert, direction, Operation Hunger retains Ina Perlman as executive manager — although in future her efforts are likely to be directed largely at public relations, "at which she is best," says one of the new management team.

Operation Hunger fulfils a great need. It provides emergency feeding for 600 000 people in the rural areas. The size of the problem, exacerbated by the drought, is one of the major causes of the agency's troubles — with staff ignoring growing debts in order to meet the desperate demand for food.

Even now Perlman feels more should be spent. She says "We should be feeding at least another 200 000/month, but the money is just not there."

#### Huge commitments

While it was an agency of the Institute of Race Relations, Operation Hunger incurred huge commitments, seemingly in the hope that donations would eventually cover the debts. But the magnitude of the human problem outstripped even the generous donations that were forthcoming.

The crunch came in September, when the agency and the institute parted company, some say amid great tension.

Kirsh Trading's Mervyn King was asked to take over as chairman, and he immediately called for an audit. An investigation revealed that deficit spending had landed Operation Hunger R1,5m in the red. The major creditors were Premier Group and Tiger Oats, both of which had supplied the agency with basic food at sharply discounted prices. Tiger also supplied transport. As a result of the audit, King suspended food purchases until the debt could be covered.

Tiger and Premier are now active partners in the rescue operation and have seconded executive directors to ensure professional management. Tiger has delegated Johnny Frankel to head the Business Action Committee while Premier's Peter Wrighton becomes a trustee.

The project is reinforced by Tiger's own Induna Feeding Scheme, which has been running for three years.

The new management team under King should be more effective, and certainly more businesslike, than their well-meaning predecessors. The appointment of a board of trustees, whose membership includes Pick 'n Pay's Raymond Ackerman and Barlow Rand's Warren Clewlow, will strength-

en the operation

(241) Fm 9/11/84  
The springboard for the rescue mission was Radio 702's 24-hour fundraising telethon, which resulted in more than R840 000 being pledged. When the US government pledge to contribute R1 to every R3 raised in SA (with a ceiling of R400 000) is taken into account, Operation Hunger's debts are already close to being covered.

Paying off debts does little to put food in the mouths of the hungry. King and Frankel are, however, confident that they will be able to raise funds to maintain operations. Business is being approached at a high level, with the possibility of some individual contributions of R100 000 being mentioned.

In addition, it is hoped that government will contribute — possibly on a rand-for-rand basis. Talks are known to have been held with government representatives, who are said to be sympathetic to the idea. "We believe government must now play a part," says King. "Charity must begin in SA."



# HUNGER

Sunday Times 11/11/84

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**THE people in South Africa's rural areas are hungry.**

Thousands live with the ever-present threat of starvation looming menacingly ahead — and only emergency relief can help them survive.

As food and medical supplies are airlifted into Ethiopia to help the millions starving there, South African relief workers are worried.

The mealie meal used to feed needy families has not arrived this month and pockets of mission stations are into their own pockets to keep starvation away.

"When we heard there was no more mealie meal we cried," a mother of five children in Lebowa said.

And a priest working in a remote part of Lebowa, Father Ric Willford, said that if Operation Hunger's work stopped, the situation would become hopeless.

Elderly women and children are hardest hit.

For those whose bodies are too frail to withstand the devastating effects of malnutrition, it is a slow death

## Pellagra

"Sometimes old women come over the mountain to the clinic for help. The skin on their lips is cracked — they have pellagra, a vitamin deficiency," says Sister Walburga Sehone of the Subiaco mission station in Lebowa.

"I treat them and they leave — I do not have wards for them — and when they don't return, I ask after them. They say, oh that old lady, she died."

## Hardship fears as food shortages hit in rural areas

By SARAH SUSSENS

town, Pietersburg — is home to 11 children aged between two and five.

They sit with swollen bodies, too listless to move, eyes unseeing.

Last year the ward was filled to overflowing and there was a death a week. The situation changed dramatically when Operation Hunger started a massive feeding scheme in the area.

Now the number of kwashiorkor cases has dropped by more than half.

"Once we started feeding people they started to help themselves," Sister Sehone said.

"It is the very poor who have no initiative. They don't care anymore."

Large-scale community projects were started, with local priests urging residents to grow vegetables and start credit projects.

Father John Lephaka oversees 33 plots of vegetables run by as many families.

"People survive through sharing here. You can be sure that one plot is used to feed the family's relatives and friends," he said.

In most of the little houses lining the dusty streets there

are tales of poverty and despair.

The Letswala family live in one room. All nine of them depend on the pension money that the grandmother gets from the Government.

"We do not have enough food and are weak," Rebecca Letswala said.

Further up the road lives the Senomela family. Sister Sehone called them a "happy poor family".

The house was carefully decorated with "mud paint" and was spotlessly clean.

"Mrs Senomela works hard," Sister Sehone said.

A widow, Mrs Senomela cannot afford to keep her children. Other members of the community help her.

What does she do for food? "We beg," she said.

Families in the area earn an average of R50-R60 a month — the brink of subsistence.

## Soup

Says Sister Sehone: "If they get R70, it's a lot. We are just on the border here — either we go up a bit or we sink. It is not Utopia."

High protein soup and biscuits given by relief agencies

feed up to 8 000 children in the area a day.

Father Armandus Vermeren, from Potgietersrus, said people in the surrounding rural areas were hungry and poor.

He said he bought mealie meal with his own money when provisions from Operation Hunger did not arrive.

He told of the time he gave four children bananas and the skins were eaten by other children. These are the people he tries to reach.

## Donations

Sister Sehone said diseases caused by malnutrition ravaged lives.

"We have noticed a greater number of mentally disturbed people in our community and this could be the result of malnutrition."

A child with kwashiorkor has little chance of leading a normal life after treatment.

But the dire hunger and poverty of these people does not go unnoticed and this week the public swamped Operation Hunger with donations.

Until the end of last month, 760 families were receiving bags of mealie meal.

More than half the children in the area receive their only meal of the day at mission schools.

"I can see which ones have



## Irony of Ethiopia and the people in poverty right here

Political Correspondent

THE Ethiopian famine has given the harshest point to a perpetual reality — Africa is hungry, and in parts it is dying.

But in South Africa it has ironically also served to distract attention from another reality — alongside great prosperity in this country lies unconscionable poverty and hunger.

By comparison, South Africa does not do too badly. An estimated 50 000 people a day die from starvation in the world, and at least one quarter of the world's population can be considered undernourished by United Nations standards.

But comparisons should not lead to false optimism. In South Africa, an unacceptable rate of malnutrition-related deaths occur.

The Carnegie Foundation's second inquiry into poverty

reports 14 in every 100 deaths of children under 10 were related to malnutrition.

The impact on child mortality varied from district to district. In one area in the Clakel about 50 percent of children aged from two to three died from diseases related to malnutrition.

In Gazankulu, Carnegie found a quarter of the children aged from one to five were undernourished.

What has been the response of the Government to the disaster?

A drop in the proverbial bucket — or a grain in the bowl.

In the 1984/85 budget, the Government allocated in the Co-operation and Develop-

ment Vote R250 000 for "special relief" and another R300 000 for "disasters". Under the heading "Poor Relief" there is a amount of R207 000.

The Department of Health and Welfare kicked in R14 million for Prevention of Nutritional Diseases, and under the heading of Relief of Distress was a figure of R808 000, of which R220 000 was for white farmers in drought-stricken areas, and another R500 000 was a donation to the State President's Fund.

Foreign affairs has an admittedly hefty R50-million budgeted for Relief of Distress in Foreign Countries.

Some of this goes to the independent homelands and the rest to neighbouring black states — Swaziland's flood victims and Mozambique's drought victims were helped by this fund.

## Flour

Another R17-million is budgeted for a flour subsidy in the independent black states.

The position in the state-governing homelands is grimmer.

After a drought which carried away an estimated 135 000 head of cattle, the Government came up with a R20-million relief scheme which would provide roughly 50 000 temporary jobs at R2.50 a day.

Over R8-million of the amount was earmarked by the Government for the provision of clean water.

## 'Hunger' deficit was not a secret

THE chairman of Operation Hunger, Mr Mervyn King, and the chairman of the Institute of Race Relations, Mr John Kane-Berman, have denied allegations that the public was not informed of Operation Hunger's R1.5-million debt.

"Contrary to a Press report, the public was widely informed on October 26, before the recent appeal, that Operation Hunger had a deficit of R1.5-million," they said yesterday.

The two men "categorically" reject allegations that

either the Institute or the new management committee of Operation Hunger was to blame for the deficit. Neither had been kept informed of the scale of purchases.

"When an audit revealed that expenditure was exceeding income by too great a margin, food purchases were immediately suspended and a public appeal undertaken.

"The severance of Operation Hunger from the Insti-

strength to strength.



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# Cost of food for blacks rises

C. Fine 13/11/84

Own Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG.** — The cost of food for black people rose "markedly" between March and September despite the exemption of basic foodstuffs from GST in July, according to the latest Household Subsistence Level (HSL) survey conducted by the University of Port Elizabeth

Since food items exempted from GST accounted for three-quarters of the food bought by blacks, the expectation was that food prices would remain more or less at the level recorded in March, Professor J F Potgieter, director of the university's Institute for Planning Research, said in his introduction

But analysis of actual food prices "proved to be most disturbing", with increases of up to 14 percent being recorded in major urban areas

GST was increased generally from seven to 10 percent on July 1. But on a wide range of staple foods it was scrapped — meaning that there should have been a 7 percent fall in the price of many non-luxury food items for July, August and September

## 'Questions'

Professor Potgieter concluded that the increase raised questions as to the manner in which the benefit was passed on to the consumer

Mrs Sheena Duncan, of the Black Sash, said yesterday. "It is evidence that the benefits of GST exemptions are not passed on to the consumer. Retailers must share the burden of responsibility for the planned consumer boycott over

Christmas by black consumers"

Professor Potgieter's comparison showed that food prices rose more sharply for blacks than for coloured people

He saw this as an indication that the price of mealie meal rose more sharply than most exempted foodstuffs

## Most expensive

Professor Potgieter's findings showed that the Vaal Triangle — scene of the most violent disturbances in the current unrest — was among the most expensive urban areas for blacks in South Africa

The HSL consists of three items: A Primary Household Subsistence Level (PHSL), made up of food, clothing and cleaning materials, rentals, including service charges; and transport costs

The PHSL was slightly higher for Johannesburg than for the Vaal Triangle — R257,46 against R254,26. So were transport costs in Johannesburg — R17,62 against R14,29

## Minimum

But rentals in the Vaal Triangle were higher — R61,70 against R57,19. The unrest in the Vaal Triangle was ignited by protests against attempts to raise these rentals

Mrs Duncan said the HSL was the absolute minimum needed by a family to survive and that in the present situation of high unemployment, many families did not earn that much

Unemployment insurance amounted to only 45 percent of what the unemployed person had earned in the past six months

# Operation Hunger <sup>STAR</sup> gets R2,6-m <sup>21/11/84</sup> <sub>241</sub>

By Chris Steyn

Operation Hunger has received R2,6 million in pledges and donations since a meeting of the Businessmen's Action Committee — an emergency committee formed to raise money to combat famine — earlier this month.

Public response has resulted in pledges and donations of up to R1,5 million of the total received.

Operation Hunger's director, Mrs Ina Perlman, said this morning that although the organisation was "on the way again" and was now able to purchase additional supplies, the future of famine areas had not been secured yet.

Mrs Perlman intends visiting and reassessing each area before Christmas to establish next year's requirements.

- Whether crops can be harvested
- To what extent farmers re-employ workers — permanently or on a seasonal basis
- To what extent migrant workers are affected by escalating lay-offs.

Mrs Perlman said the migrant workers were hardest hit by the present

economic situation, resulting in hundreds of them being sent back to the homelands.

Operation Hunger has been feeding up to 700 000 people a month during the year and has just received an appeal to feed another 200 000.

The organisation needs a minimum of R300 000 a month to continue its work in the famine areas.

Major contributions have been received from Kirsch Industries (R154 000), SA Breweries (R100 000), Barclays Bank (R100 000), Tiger Oats (R100 000), Premier Milling (R100 000), Southern Sun and Sun International (R100 000) and SA Perm (R100 000).

And a leading multinational computer company has announced an in-house drive to assist Operation Hunger. In a letter to all its employees, IBM's manager of corporate responsibility programmes, Mr Roly Clark, said that those wishing to make a regular monthly donation to Operation Hunger will have their contributions matched rand for rand by the company. IBM made an advanced donation of R10 000.



# Woman of the Year

The Woman of the Year floating trophy was presented to Dr Erika Sutter by the Editor of The Star, Mr Harvey Tyson, at a gala luncheon in Johannesburg today. This is the 14th time the annual Woman of the Year search has been conducted by The Star. Readers selected Dr Sutter from 14 other candidates nominated for outstanding achievements during 1984. Dr Sutter will have her portrait painted by well-known South African artist Eileen Rogoff.

By Marika Sboros  
Women's Page Editor

In a medical missionary career spanning more than three decades in the remote Northern Transvaal bush, Dr Erika Sutter notched up one remarkable achievement after the other

About 500 000 black children have Dr Sutter to thank for saving them from the blinding disease trachoma

Through tireless, dedicated investigations, she uncovered the vicious chain of re-infection that left 95 percent of black people in northern Gazankulu infected with trachoma. Dr Sutter was then able to develop a method to break the ancient chain.

She trained the first black ophthalmic nurses to treat eye-disease cases.

And eight years ago she helped to launch the Care Group movement to help combat the impoverished conditions that sustain the high trachoma rate among rural blacks.

So far about 110 000 poverty-stricken black people have been helped by the movement.

Through the movement's developments she has saved thousands of northern Gazankulu children from the homeland's

main killers — gastro-enteritis and cholera.

She developed an oral rehydration programme, inexpensive weaning foods for children, mud stoves that save wood, pit latrines that limit the accumulation of trachoma-carrying flies, safe water and waterless food grown by a deep-trench method in semi-desert conditions.

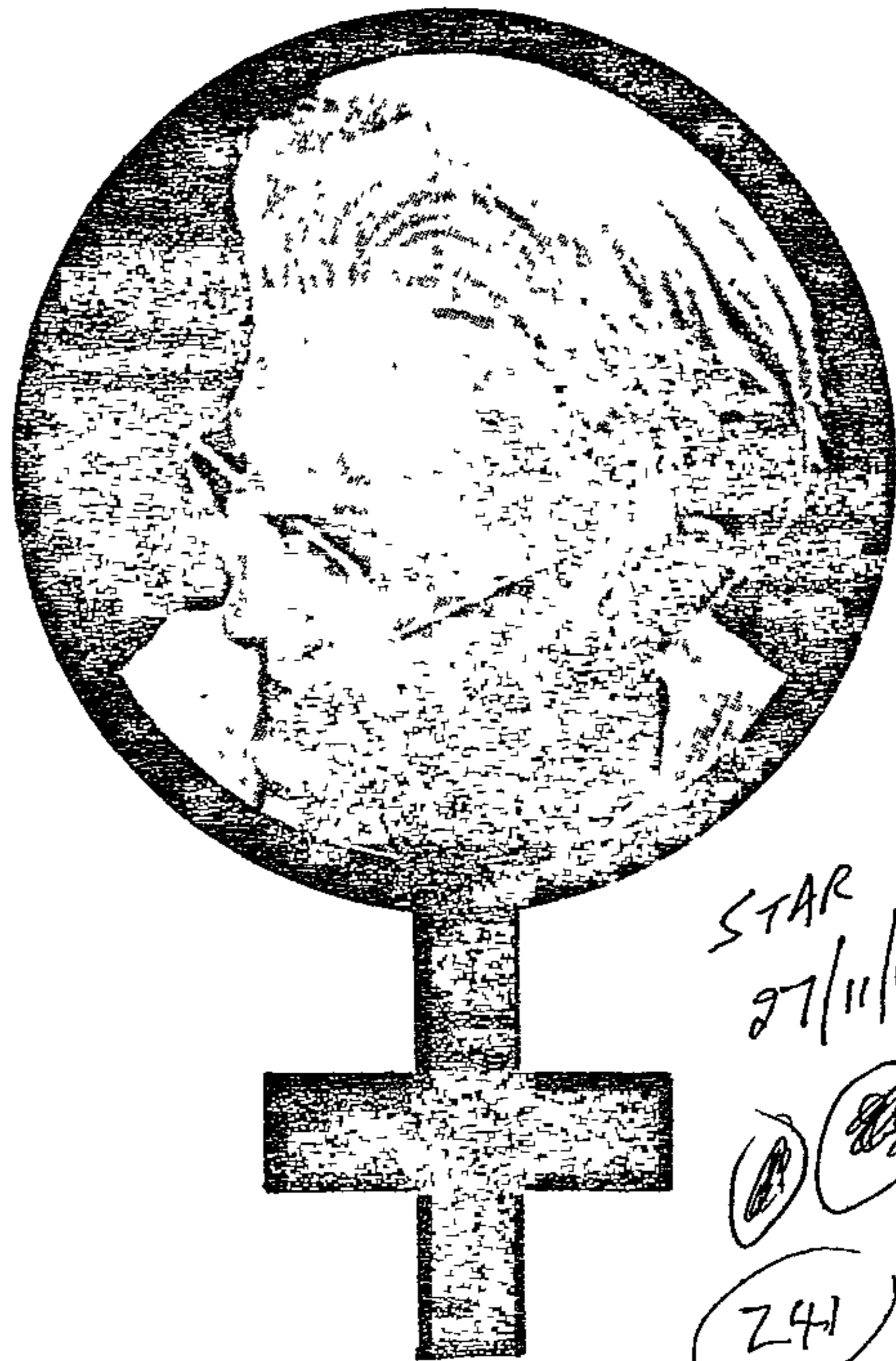
The care group system has spread all over Gazankulu and Venda, with a small number of groups in Lebowa, kwaZulu and Qwa Qwa.

Her paper on Gazankulu care groups was applauded earlier this year when presented to the Carnegie Commission investigating rural poverty.

Dr Ron Ballard, the University of the Witwatersrand micro-biologist who worked with Dr Sutter, recalls that she spent part of her salary to buy essentials for the care groups.

"During her career she was the only source of expertise in her field in an area of two million people.

"Her financial rewards were sparse when compared with urban ophthalmologists. She had more impact on the health of people in this large area than anybody else," Dr Ballard says.



DR ERIKA SUTTER — broke the vicious chain of trachoma re-infection

He pays tribute to her immense courage in overcoming what seemed at times to be "insuperable obstacles." Dr Sutter is very modest and unassuming about her spectacular achievements.

She pays tribute to the care group's first and senior group motivators, Mrs Sellinah Maphoro and Mr Andrew Radebe, "without whom care groups would not have come into existence."

"The sensitive approach of both towards the people in the villages, and their ability to

arouse enthusiasm, made it possible for my ideas of community involvement in blindness prevention to materialise," Dr Sutter says.

Dr Sutter feels that the potential of care groups in South Africa is severely limited by the socio-economic and political situation.

"Care groups can only do patchwork within the limitations of the prevailing poverty and the political system in which they function.

"Their main strength is to foster self-reliance among rural women," she says.

Dr Sutter, who retired in June this year, arrived in South Africa 32 years ago as a plant physiologist from her home town

in Basel, Switzerland, and spent some time at Elm Hospital in the Northern Transvaal.

She studied medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand, then trained as an ophthalmologist in London.

She has retired to Basel and flew out to South Africa for the Woman of the Year luncheon, unaware that she was the winner.

She is presently working on a book detailing her work.

She will work as a member of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Expert Committee on Blindness and, as a world authority, has been invited to lecture to the International Institute for Eye Health in London, a body that collaborates with WHO.

R50 will be sent to Mrs Mosidi Alinah-Thamae, of 1883 Mapetla Extension, PO Moroka. The judges decided that her reason best summed up why Dr Erika Sutter deserved the award of Woman of the Year 1984. Mrs Thamae said of Dr Sutter: "In her seemingly thankless task, she is a symbol of man's selfless devotion to the plight of fellow men."

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# Rural areas ripe for civil unrest

SOUTH AFRICA is sowing the seeds of a catastrophe in the rural areas and could soon be reaping civil unrest worse than the current strife in urban townships

Researchers working in the various "homelands" are increasingly coming across signs of resentment and resistance to the authorities as more and more people are cast into beggary .. without jobs, land or proper food

Witwatersrand University's Professor Jeremy Keenan, who is in charge of a number of research projects in the rural areas, has noted a dramatic increase in the level of resentment and disenchantment

This has gone hand in hand with massive overcrowding in the homelands over the past decade, as a result of influx control, forced removals and soaring unemployment

Altogether, researchers have estimated there could be three-million people out of work in South Africa

In the past two years, the country has been hit by the worst economic slump in 50 years

Workers have been laid off in almost every sector of a sliding economy. And, approaching one of the bleakest Christmases in years, a fresh wave of retrenchments is looming

However, the recession has merely exacerbated an already high structural problem, which saw unemployment rise steadily between the late Sixties and the Eighties

This trend has been largely attributed to replacing people with machines in industry — and is particularly true of the agricultural sector, where the tractor and the combine harvester have displaced more than 400 000 jobs since 1970

Almost three-million — about a third of all children in South Africa — are underweight and stunted for their age

Dr Machupe Mphahlele, Lebowa's Secretary of Health, says half of the territory's 600 000 school-children suffer from malnutrition, with the situation likely to worsen

However, there has been malnutrition in South Africa for more than 50 years. In 1970 — which was not a drought year — more than 50 000 children died of starvation in South Africa

Prof Keenan says "Drought is not by any means the major cause of rural poverty in South Africa. Most people in the homelands don't have access to land .. so they don't stand to be affected by the drought."

"The major cause of poverty is apartheid structural unemployment, relocation of the unemployed in the homeland areas and the dispossession of land in the bantustans by big capital"

Mrs Sheena Duncan, national director of the Black Sash, believes that retrenched migrant workers who often stay in the city to look for work illegally — people with absolutely no stake in the system — should be causing the Government and the private sector sleepless nights

One sign that the population is growing restive is the increased expenditure on homelands' security to police and control people

To fund this control, says Prof Keenan, the local authorities in the homelands have to tax more, setting up a vicious cycle of suspicion and hostility .. which must break some time.



# Anaemia rife among children, says survey

By Pamela Kleimot,  
Medical Reporter

Anaemia is prevalent among black and coloured children in South Africa because of iron deficiency

A survey carried out by Dr Denis Derman and a group of researchers found that one-third of children in the one to two year age group were iron deficient

The survey was carried out among 342 coloured children in Johannesburg and 378 rural blacks from Nqutu, Zululand.

"Iron deficiency is the most common nutritional deficiency in the world," said Dr Derman, of the department of medicine at the Johannesburg Hospital and the University of the Witwatersrand, who was recently awarded a PhD degree for his thesis relating to iron metabolism and absorption.

Dr Derman said that this nutritional deficiency had serious economic consequences because it caused poor work performance

Although the iron content of most diets is more than sufficient to cover the daily requirement, Dr Derman explained that very little iron was absorbed into the body because of inhibitory factors in foods

The most potent inhibitor of all was tea. Coffee was also an inhibitor of iron absorption. It also contains tannins. Other inhibitors include red wine, legumes, rice, maize and bran

However, Dr Derman found that food inhibitors could be overcome with large doses of ascorbic acid (vitamin C)

He also found poor iron absorption from infant foods including proprietary milks and infant cereals when ascorbic acid was not added

He said the department of medicine had for many years been searching for a staple food which could be used as a vehicle for additional iron or ascorbic acid

"We had success fortifying sugar with ascorbic acid but it is costly."

Iron deficiency was uncommon in adult blacks in South Africa until recently.

Many years ago researchers found that South African black men often had an increased iron content in the body which was uncommon in other populations. It was found to be directly related to the high iron contents of traditional beers which were prepared in iron drums or pots. Traditional beers were today prepared in stainless steel pots.

Dr Derman showed that the removal of solid material, the production of alcohol and acidity were the causes of the unexpectedly high iron absorption from this vegetable product

He also found that the lactic acid contained in the beer promoted iron absorption.

After the liquor laws in South Africa changed in 1960 iron overload became less common while liver disease increased because "Western-type liquor" is far more potent.

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# To the poor

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# Making justice more accessible

Staff Reporter

NEARLY six years ago a group of lawyers launched a pioneering project to make the law more accessible to people who could not afford the costs of justice in South Africa.

Today that project, the Legal Resources Centre (LRC), has expanded into a substantial operation, with offices in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, and a budget of almost one million rands.

In his annual report, the LRC director, Mr Arthur Chaskalson, a man who gave up a successful career at the Bar to head the centre in 1979, says the LRC "has been involved in providing legal services to those who might not otherwise have access to the courts".

"It is also involved in clinical legal education programmes, in establishing and operating law clinics, in giving assistance to advice bureau and in the training of law graduates through a fellowship programme." Mr Chaskalson said it was clear that legal services — both litigation and advice — "will continue to be the major part of its work."

"These services are focused on issues relevant to poor and disadvantaged communities. The demand for such services increases all the time, and the Legal Resources Centre is and will continue to be hard-pressed to meet that demand, at least until the development of the integrated legal aid scheme envisaged by the report of the Hoexter Commission."

This description of LRC activities does not, however, do justice to the kind of work it has undertaken. When one looks at some of the cases it has been involved in, the role of the LRC becomes clearer. They include the Rikhotso and Komanani influx control cases which extended the rights of migrant workers to be in the cities, labour and housing cases, the Duma case in Natal which restricted the definition of "idle and undesirable" black people, pension problems, Unemployment Insurance Fund cases, consumer exploitation, and the rights of squatters.

These are all issues affecting people who could not normally afford lawyers, let alone the expertise necessary to be able to challenge the way the law is being administered. The annual report contains some details of typical cases handled by the centre. "Mr P N purchased a stove on credit from a large furniture dealer in Johannes-

burg. He understood the purchase price to be R500 and paid a deposit. Upon delivery of the stove, Mr P N discovered that the purchase price was in excess of R1 000.

"On inquiry by the LRC, the saleslady stated that she had used the term 500 pounds because 'Africans still count in pounds and not rands'. Cancellation of the agreement was negotiated and restitution effected.

"On March 26 Mrs N M, a 65-year-old woman, was detained by police at Tugela Ferry and assaulted. The assault included the manhandling of her wrists to her ankles, a wet sack being placed over her head and, save for a leatherskirt, being held naked in a cell overnight.

"Acting on her behalf, the LRC reported the matter to the Commissioner of Police and instituted a civil action in the result a policeman was charged and convicted of assault and an amount paid to Mrs N M in settlement of the civil proceedings.

"Mr N, a waiter at a leading Cape Town hotel, was dismissed after nine years' service. He had for several years been an active trade unionist.

"The immediate cause given for his dismissal was that he had placed tartare

sauce in front of guests in a stainless steel rather than a silver bowl Application was successfully made to the Industrial Court for Mr N's temporary reinstatement pending a final resolution of the dispute, which was eventually settled to Mr N's satisfaction.

"One result of this action was a report appearing in the trade journal 'Hotelier and Caterer', which after this case quoted a well-known Cape Town hotelier as stating: 'I would like to warn hoteliers that they should be considerate and fair to their employees and realize that the labour scene in South Africa is changing.

You cannot arbitrarily throw people out'.

"In a township outside Cape Town certain ablution blocks were in daily use by hundreds of contract workers dwelling in nearby hostels. The local development board then authorized a local entrepreneur to take over the blocks for conversion to a dry-cleaning business, and summarily deprived the workers of the use thereof.

"An urgent application was brought to the Supreme Court for an order compelling the board to restore the use of the blocks to the workers. A successful settlement of the action ensued and in the process the blocks enjoyed some sorely-needed improvements."

A number of other examples are given in the annual report, but it is jarring to realize that without the LRC, few if any of cases like this would ever come before the courts.

In this way the LRC is making an effective contribution in trying to make justice more accessible in South Africa.

There is a long way to go before there is equal access to the law in South Africa, regardless of wealth and colour.



# R32 381 aid for Suurbraak homes

Staff Reporter

THE people of Suurbraak — whose homes were devastated by storms earlier this year — will benefit from over R32 381 in public donations presented to the Suurbraak Emergency Committee yesterday

Mr Henry Titus, chairman of the committee, thanked the public for their donations, which were collected by the Red Cross

He said the money would be used to compensate residents who had already repaired their homes and to help those whose houses had been completely destroyed to buy sub-economic housing, which is in the process of being erected. Nearly 60 families stand to benefit

Residents who have not spent money repairing their homes will be guaranteed payment for materials they wish to buy

Mr Titus said that in some ways the storm had been a blessing as 40 new homes would now be built

Asked if the government had provided help promised at the time of the flood, Mr Titus, who is also vice-chairman of the Suurbraak Management Committee, said the government had built some houses and would be building more, but that the management committee would have to repay them. Residents would have to buy or rent the new houses

## Thousands face a grim Christmas in

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Staff Reporter

THOUSANDS of Namaqualanders face a grim Christmas and uncertain New Year with little chance of work — a situation aggravated by the drought.

While the Red Cross and World Vision have poured money and resources into the area, research and aid organizations say the quality of life in Namaqualand can be improved only by major restructuring.

There are few roads, electricity has only recently been installed in some areas and many depend on scarce water schemes and on the depressed copper and diamond mining industry for work and housing.

Wages, some about R5 a day, are dismally low and prices on average 20 percent higher than in Cape Town.

The Ochta Diamond Mine recently retrenched about 600 employees and a recent study by a UCT academic says employment in the Okiep Copper

Company fell from 5 102 in 1974 to 2 955 in 1982. The company retrenched more than 1 000 workers in the past year.

A National Union of Mineworkers organizer in the area, Mr Howard Gabriel, said the workers retrenched by Ochta Diamond Mine were given no severance pay.

A UCT researcher said "Sometimes houses vacated by white employees have been left empty while coloured employees have been forced to squat."

The Okiep Copper Company has allowed some retrenched workers to stay if they built their own houses.

Researchers and community aid organizations say industry and government have seriously neglected Namaqualanders.

The Reverend Reginald Jacobus, of Okiep, said "The government is mainly interested in making the bantustan system work to keep black people out of the towns. We feel that while they have spent much

money on the bantustans they have ignored Namaqualand."

A steering committee in Okiep is set to affiliate to the United Democratic Front.

"Namaqualand is very isolated and we think the UDF will allow us to meet people from other areas to discuss our problems and how to solve them," said Mr Jacobus. "But many people have been scared by security police action in the area. We see our problems as a result of the apartheid system."

The drought has made the situation worse. Many see farming as the one reliable source of subsistence in times of high unemployment.

But low rainfalls and overpopulation have caused erosion and overgrazing. Without proper water supplies it is becoming difficult to live off the land.

Annual rainfall dropped from 206 mm in 1974 to 153 mm in 1982, with as little as 53.2 mm in 1979. Farmers who raised one sheep on every six hectares are now using 12 hectares per sheep.

"Some people tried to plant grain last year but it was pointless because there was so little rain," said Mr Jacobus. "Many have been forced to collect the insides of animals from the abattoirs to eat."

"Wealthier farmers have gradually left the area, taking with them essential irrigation equipment. The Red Cross had a feeding scheme for more than 8 000 schoolchildren but cannot reach them during holidays.

However, feeding schemes are a short-term solution.

Mr Jan de Waal of World Vision says its projects aim to help communities become self-sufficient, while recognizing that people facing starvation must be fed. Projects are initiated and controlled by the communities, with World Vision providing resources and skills.

Members of the community have called on the government and industry to take an interest in developing Namaqualand to improve the quality of life for its inhabitants.