

# MAKING THE AFRICANS PAY FOR APARTHEID

**L**AST week Mr. W. A. Maree, Nationalist Party M.P. and leader of the party in Natal, announced that African taxation is to be increased soon so that the Government's policy that the Africans should make a substantial contribution to their own education could be carried out.

This is adding injury to insult. It is not enough that the African child is to be subjected to an education designed to train him for slavery. Now he is being asked to pay extra for it as well.

The Africans are already the most burdened and oppressed section of the South African community. They are already taxed more harshly than the European. Every African male, no matter how little he earns, must pay poll tax from the age of 18; the European is not liable for tax until he is 21, and may not pay at all if his income is below a certain level.

## NAT BASTO

The Government has pegged the amount to be spent by the State on Bantu Education at £8,500,000 a year, and boasts that this is more than is being spent by any other government in Africa on the education of the Africans.

This £8,500,000 represents £7

per Mr. Maree, who probably didn't have to pay for his own education, says the African's education "must belong to him in his own mind, and he must therefore pay for it himself." Therefore if African educational services are extended and more than £8,500,000 a year is required, the African must make up the difference himself by means of this new tax.

No such principle applies with European education. In 1951 (the last year for which comparative figures are available) the Government spent £21,769,194 on the education of 501,539 White schoolchildren (as compared with an expenditure of only £10,652,442 on a total of 1,051,858 African, Coloured and Indian schoolchildren). The amount spent on White education has increased substantially since then—but you won't hear Mr. Maree proposing to peg the amount available for Whites and make them pay for any extensions in educational services. Nor will you hear Mr. Maree arguing that the White's "education must belong to him in his own mind, and he must therefore pay for it himself."

The Nats seem to regard the Consolidated Revenue Fund as though it consisted of only the White's money, and they keep on saying that the £8,500,000 paid by the State for Bantu Education comes from the Whites.

**NOT TRUE**

This is just not true. First of all, £2,500,000 of this £8,500,000 comes from the African taxpayers directly. And the balance comes from all taxpayers, from general revenue, to which Africans contribute as well as Whites. And if the Nats argue that the bulk of general revenue comes from the Whites, one must retort that it is, first of all, the cheap labour of the Africans which gives the Whites the opportunity to amass huge incomes and thus pay higher income taxes; but, secondly, that

as far as other indirect taxation is concerned, the Africans altogether probably pay quite as much as the Whites, if not more.

The African smoker, for example, pays the same indirect tax as the White smoker; and can anyone say that more cigarettes are smoked by Whites than by Africans? The same is true of every item of indirect taxation.

No, there is only one word to describe Mr. Maree's proposal, and that is that it is robbery! One would think that a Government representing the most fat and prosperous section of the community would have regarded it as no less than its duty to provide education and social services for the poorest. Instead, the Nats devote all their ingenuity to working out new plans for extracting the last penny from their pockets.

The African people don't want Bantu Education in the first place; they certainly don't want this tax. Mr. Maree must not be surprised if he finds the people's opposition to apartheid intensified many times by this new outrage.

BRIAN BUNTING.

## Moses Kotane Calls Strijdom's Bluff

Replying to Prime Minister Strijdom's "slanderous and insulting statement" in London that the Africans today are "almost as primitive as they were centuries ago," people's leader Moses Kotane, in an article in this month's "Fighting Talk," says:

"Never at any time has there been any serious and honest attempt by any South African Government to develop the Africans in any way. What is called the traditional policy of South Africa is the persistent effort on the part of the White rulers to prevent the social, economic and political advancement of the Africans."

Other articles in this issue include a report on the South African writers' conference in Johannesburg, by Phyllis Altman; an exchange of correspondence between John Gild and Father Huddleston in connection with what the latter is going to do in England to continue his fight against the colour bar; a report on the Volkskongress in Bloemfontein, by the Rev. A. Blaxall; and 5 pages of documents on the Soviet "Cult of the Individual."

"Fighting Talk" is obtainable from P.O. Box 1355, Johannesburg.

## Soccer Final Next Week

CAPE TOWN.

The final match in the 1956 soccer series for the Kajee Trophy will be played between the Coloureds and the Indians at the Cape District Sports Ground in Wynberg, Cape Town, on September 1.

The results of the previous matches were:

July 8—Coloureds 3, Africans 1.

July 15—Africans 5, Indians 0.

Thus a win or a draw for the Coloureds will leave them winners of the series. If the Coloureds lose, there will be a triple tie, necessitating a replay of the whole series.

The main match on September 1 will start at 4 p.m., and there will be two curtain-raisers. In the evening there will be a function to welcome the players, arranged by the Mayor of Cape Town in the Wynberg Town Hall.

## British Farm Wages Up

LONDON.