

South Africa bans student organization

In the last few weeks the Government of South Africa has taken severe steps to end student opposition to apartheid. First it banned eight white student leaders, barring them from all participation in the multi-racial National Union of South African Students (NUSAS). Then, on Friday, March 2, it took similar action against the Black South African Students Organization (SASO), banning all six executive members of the organization and two others, raiding the office and confiscating a great deal of material. It is reported in the *London Sunday Times* that two of the SASO leaders have also been placed under twelve hour house arrest.

Banning is a punishment enforced by the white regime without any recourse to judicial processes such as indictment or trial. Under the terms of the five-year bans, the 16 students: Are restricted to the district in which they live; are prohibited from attending or visiting any educational institution; are forbidden to attend any gathering; are prevented from publishing any writings; may not be quoted in written or verbal form, even after death; and may not communicate with other banned persons.

Breaking any of the terms of the ban is a serious crime, punishable by imprisonment. These measures demonstrate the police-state powers the white rulers of South Africa wield constantly to silence and crush any who try to organize popular opposition to apartheid, the enforced bondage of the 80 per cent Black majority.

These actions are the culmination of a long period of conflict between the government and the students who have rejected apartheid education in South Africa as an essential part of the Government's plan for maintaining white supremacy. The State spends \$319 a year educating each white child and only \$28 on each Black child. Bantu Education, the special educational system for Africans, is a carefully constructed, uni-

fied system of education for servitude - different in structure, content, control and financing from that provided for whites. Education for whites is free and compulsory; education for Blacks is neither.

Black students do not accept this position of inferiority. In 1969, African university students from some of the "tribal colleges", reflecting the increasing awareness of the need for independent Black organization, formed the South African Students' Organization (SASO), separate from the multi-racial National Union of South African Students (NUSAS).

In May 1972 the expulsion of a SASO member from his university after he had made a strong speech criticizing Bantu Education at a graduation ceremony sparked off nation-wide student demonstrations. Thousands of Black students were sent home from their universities which were closed and thousands of

white students demonstrating in sympathy were met by police batons and dogs. The Government banned all student protests gatherings, and threatened to take further action if students continued their protests. The intervening months have seen a series of skirmishes.

NUSAS responded to Government threats with considerable courage, declaring 1973 Freedom and Unity Year. It pledged to continue its active public defense of its rights to free association and speech. The Government, in the meantime, has the support of the bulk of the white population in those actions taken in the name of "the security of the state" which are seen as essential to combat the rising tide of Black demands for a greater share of South Africa's wealth and a greater voice in South Africa's future.

This month's bannings follow a wave of strikes by Black workers over the past

several months, culminating in the walk-out by over 50,000 Black workers in February. Although strikes are illegal for African workers under apartheid laws, African workers, by their display of unity, won some concessions and seriously disturbed the white population's dream of perpetual control.

The mass banning of student leaders is designed to weaken and destroy the organizations while avoiding the embarrassment of actually outlawing them. The ploy has been at least partially successful - while the international press did report the banning of the white NUSAS students, it has largely ignored the actions taken against SASO and the Black students.

United States corporations which justify their continued presence in South Africa by detecting a "weakening in apartheid" should be aware of recent events. Once again the South African regime has shown it will meet any

organization of opposition to apartheid with suppression. It is not seeking to foster change or avoid confrontation.

An emergency fund has been initiated to assist students now under attack. Contributions can be sent to United Ministries in Higher Education, Room 1527, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10027, and earmarked for South African Students.

Protests can be sent to: Ambassador Taswell, South African Embassy, 3051 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

A class in Black Literature will be held at PCC's Cascade Center, 705 N. Killingsworth, during spring term, March 28 through June 5th. The course, taught by Professor James Rogers of Portland State University, will carry three hours credit.

Voice of the NAACP

by Ellis Casson, President

"Have We Forgotten Whitney Young"



Whitney Young has been dead for two years this month. However, now and then his name is mentioned. Why is it that we forget so soon what a person has done or what he stands for? Why is it that the old saying, "Out of sight, out of mind" has become a way of life for us? I want to recall for you this day, the "wisdom" of this great man.

The burdens and responsibilities are piled on mercilessly when it is a Black man who cares, who is selfless, articulate, intelligent.

Young drove himself beyond the point of survival because he had commitments, he felt a compulsion to do those things that, left undone, would leave both the nation and mankind poorer.

It is so typical that the late Urban League Leader's heart gave out while he was on a mission to improve relations between Africans and Americans. He sensed, as many Americans do, that in American governmental and private circles, Africa is back burner, whether it comes to aid or attention. Whitney Young wanted to do something about it.

I've heard him express fear that, even after so much sacrificing and struggling by himself and others, the nation still would not rise up to its great social challenges.

He watched Roy Wilkins (NAACP) and others trying to show this nation the path away from civil strife. Then Americans turned and ignored their recommendations.

This wise and perceptive leader has also left a vital legacy to young Blacks. He exemplified a new measure of manhood. He helped them to understand (we trust and pray) that it might not take nearly as big a man to stand in the street and curse Whitey as it does to walk into the White House or the board rooms and speak elo-

quently the truths that the leaders of government and industry would rather not hear.

Yes, we weep at this loss (at least I do) of a great leader. And we still weep two years after his death for a nation that needs him so desperately - but still seems unable to comprehend the wisdom of his counsel.

"Bits & Pieces"

The NAACP was saddened by the passing of Mrs. Millie Rogers. Both Reverend and Mrs. Rogers have been very active in the NAACP.

The NAACP congratulates Dr. and Mrs. Williams for 28 years of faithful service to their church and community.

Tax deadline nears

Oregon taxpayers have until midnight, Monday, April 16, 1973, to submit their income tax returns and homeowners' property tax relief applications.

The Director of the Oregon Department of Revenue, Charles H. Mack, says that Oregon law sets the deadline as April 15. "But", Mack says, "the law also provides for years when April 15 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. The deadline is moved to the next business day."

Income tax returns must be received by midnight, April 16, or they must be postmarked by that time. Penalty and interest may be

assessed against procrastinating taxpayers.

Homeowners' property tax relief applications filed after the deadline are void.

Mack hopes Oregon taxpayers will get their returns in well before the absolute deadline to avoid delay in processing during the last minute rush.

Taxpayers should not send income tax returns and property tax relief applications in the same envelope. These forms should be mailed to separate addresses as indicated in the returns.

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