SOCIAL SECURITY

PENISION

1982

JAN. — DEC.

THE BLEAK YEARS

A black committee is trying to raise money for the building of a desperately needed 125-bed home for the frail aged in Cape Town's African townships.

Plans for the R 1¼ million home have been drawn up and land set aside for the building opposite the Day Hospital in Guguletu. Now Kayalethu Steering Committee is trying to raise R300 000 towards furnishing and equipping the home.

So far 200 pensioners have indicated that they would like to live at the old age home.

Social worker Christine Henda says: "Many people still believe that all old black people are cared for by their extended families. But this is simply not true. Even the aged themselves realise the need for an old age home."

Employed by the Cape Peninsula Welfare Organisation for the Aged she recently did a survey to identify the problems of township pensioners. Of the 395 pensioners surveyed 70 percent were undernourished and the living conditions of most were "very unsatisfactory."

The study showed there was "a great need" for an old age home to provide for the care of the frail aged.

Mrs Henda says old people are sometimes left alone all day in urine soaked beds. Some are housed in leaking tin shanties in backyards. Some are exploited by their relatives.

One bedridden old woman, for instance, is kept in her son's house in a state of perpetual hunger. "The only reason he keeps her is so that he can use her pension for drink."

She said even the most caring children were often unable to look after their frail parents adequately. "They have to go out to work to get money and it means leaving these old people alone all day or leaving them with small children."

Mr Charles Mehane, chairman of Kayalethu, said: "There is a real need for this old age home and service centre. The Administration Board owns the land so they have applied on our behalf for a loan of R1¼ million from the Department of Community Development to build the home and service centre. But we will still need to equip and furnish the home — which means we need to raise R300 000."

As well as cash contributions Kayalethu would like individuals and firms to sponsor the furnishing of sections of the home. "If a firm furnishes a room we will put a plaque up on the door to commemorate their donation."

ELSIE Mdladlo (70) has spent two years looking after paralysed, bedridden Maggie Runqe (right). " I just can't cope anymore. I'm not strong enough to lift her," says Mrs Mdladlo.

Photograph by Chris Matuszek

MANY frail and bedridden old people are living in desperate conditions in Cape Town's African townships. Now a black committee has been formed to raise money to build a 125 bed home for the frail aged plus a service centre where old people can get a square meal, companionship, entertainment and occupational therapy. Woman's Argus visited some of the old people to see the conditions they are living under.

CASE ONE

ELSIE MDLADLO'S retirement is a torment. For to get accommodation in Nyanga she had to agree to look after a bedridden, incontinent stroke victim whom she had not seen before.

For two years now she has worked day and night [illegible] times I have to change Maggie's bed and wash [illegible] "I just can't cope anymore. I'm not strong enough to lift her.

in Nyanga, Mrs Runqe lies on a pile of newspapers and a clean towel staring wide-eyed at the ceiling. There is a huge bedsore on her leg — freshly dressed by the district sister who visits her once a week. In slurred Afrikaans she says: "Elsie looks after me very well. My children didn't care for me. They are vagrants."

Social worker Christine Henda adds: "Mrs Runqe was in a terrible state when she stayed with her children. They used to leave her all day in a stinking, urine soaked bed. She was often left without any food and they would deprive her of water because she wet the bed. The children were so terrible that the neigbours were afraid to intervene."

Mrs Mdladlo, a former domestic worker, previously stayed with her employer and then with other families in the townships. It was because of her wish to look after her disabled epileptic son that she was compelled to care for Mrs Runqe.

"My son had a very bad motor accident and I felt I must stay with him so that I could look after him. The people I was living with didn't have room for him. The welfare people said my son and I could stay here provided I looked after Maggie. At first I managed but now I am too

1/10/82

(308)

● Donations can be sent to Kayalethu (fund-raising number 08 800415 000 2), c/o Cape Peninsula Welfare Organisation for the Aged, P.O. Box 1779, Cape Town 8000.

For further information telephone Mrs Henda at 67 7969.

STORIES BY LINDA VERGNANI

...ly paralysed, emaciated and loses control over ... Maggie have to ... her bowels and I have to ... get up and clean the bed. ... Even when I was very ... sick with bronchitis and ... had terrible pains in my ... chest I had to help her.

"No, the neighbours don't help. They are frightened to come here because she smells bad."

In the tiny two-roomed cottage the women share

68-year-old Runge.

"It's just like having to look after a baby," says the frail Mrs Mdladlo. "I can't tell the number of

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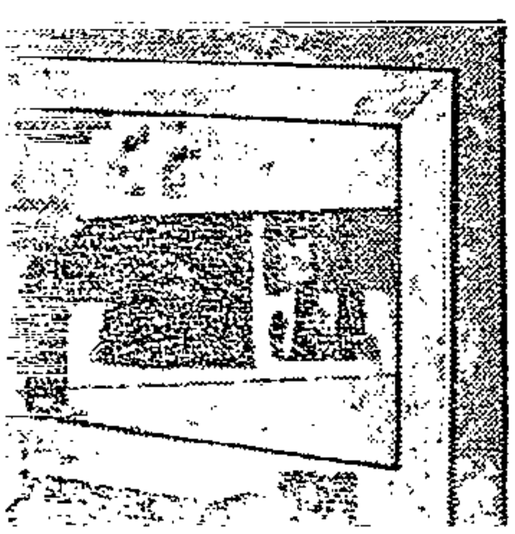


Domestic labour: pensions should be compulsory

By Jean Hey

Employers of domestic workers should be compelled by law to provide a pension for their employees to help them survive the exorbitant cost of living in the homelands, say consultants of domestic pension funds

"The cost of food and transport in the homelands is crippling. Bread, paraffin and even water are much more costly than for example in Johannesburg. On the pitiful salaries of most domestic workers they cannot save, so on retirement they have to depend on relatives for financial support," said Mrs Sue Gordon, founder member of Domestic Workers' and Employers' Project (DWEP) and former counsellor for a domestic pension fund.

"Domestic workers are a luxury, and if you want a luxury you must pay for it. It is amazing that parents leave their children—their most precious possessions — in the care of someone they treat like a slave.

"A pension not only provides for the worker's old age in the most sensible way but it also gives them a feeling of worth," she said

Mrs B Melenichs, a broker consultant and former marketer for a pension scheme, found that most employers of domestic workers are reluctant to invest in a pension for their employees. One woman who would have been prepared to pay R80 for a new hairstyle said she would have to ask her husband's permission to invest in a R3-a-month pension scheme for their maid

"There is little profit for insurance firms in these schemes. The boom in domestic worker pension schemes is probably based on the hope that employers have a developing social conscience but I found they needed constant reminding and prodding," said Mrs Melenichs whose company has, after 10 years, 574 domestic workers on their books.

With the downturn in the economy she predicts domestic workers' pension schemes will get even less support

Mrs Lulu Lipworth, consultant for the Domestic Workers' Pension Scheme which has several thousand members believes it is largely through ignorance that employers do not enlist their domestic workers in a pension scheme.

At the current rate of interest the Domestic Workers' Pension Fund would pay the pensioner R503 a month after 30 years of contributions of R10 a month.

The scheme has still to be tested, however. Last August it was launched by television personality Donna Würzel and its first pensioners will retire in about 10 years.

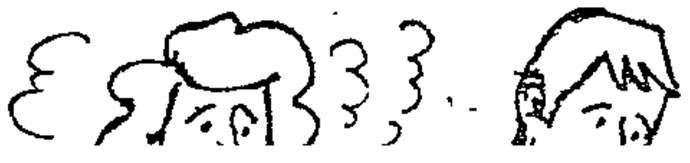
Minimum contributions accepted for domestic workers' pension schemes in South Africa range from R3 a month to R11 a month, with no set ceiling level.

At present at least four schemes exist and include the Domestic Workers' Pensions Fund, IGI Life Assurance "Provider" scheme, Old Mutual Group Plan for Domestic Workers and Standard General Private Employees' Retirement and Life Assurance Plan.

DOMESTIC WORKERS — a luxury you have to pay for.

UK women earn less than men but smoke and drink more

LONDON — British men continue to earn considerably more than women in the same jobs.



FIRST PAYMENTS MADE IN DOMESTIC PENSION FUND PLAN

THE first payments have been made to beneficiaries of the Domestic Pension Fund, a scheme that provides pensions plus full death and disability benefits for domestic workers.

Both payments — totalling about R5 100 — were made to dependants of Domestic Pension Fund members.

The fund is managed by CRP Group Services, which has offices in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. Federated Life Assurance Company manages the pension fund investments and underwrites the death and disability benefits.

In Durban, Albertina Zungu became a member of the fund in November last year. She died recently and the Domestic Pension Fund paid R2 535 to her nominated dependants — Thembi and Eugene Zungu, her daughter and grandson respectively.

And in Johannesburg, the wife of a fund member has been paid R2 563, but has asked not to be named because of complications in her tribal customs. Following her husband's death she has become the "property" of her mother-in-law, who might lay claim to the beneficiary's Domestic Pension Fund payment if she knew her daughter-in-law had received it.

The fund is the brainchild of a Johannesburg employee benefits consultant, Lionel Phillips. He launched the fund with Federated Life in September 1982.

He says: "I continually received requests from clients who wanted pension and other benefits for their domestics. I started working on the Domestic Pension Fund concept four years ago, at a time when there were no suitable policies available for domestic workers.

"We have now achieved our goal of providing comprehensive individual contracts tailor-made for the needs of domestics. They can be obtained without medical evidence of health, they provide cover for death or disability due to sickness or accidents, and they offer a most competitive life and disability premium rate so that we can invest as much as possible in the pension fund."

The Domestic Pension Fund provides pension, death and disability benefits for as little as R10 a month.

The domestic or employer may transfer savings to the fund to swell the eventual monthly pension, and premiums can be increased at any time in units of R5.

If the domestic worker leaves his or her job, the employer's obligation to pay the monthly premiums is discontinued. The account remains in force, earning interest, until the employee finds a new employer willing to resume contributions to the fund.

The domestic enjoys full death and disability cover for six months after premiums have been discontinued, provided at least six contributions have been made in the previous 12 months. This is a major advantage to a domestic who may not be able to find new work immediately after leaving a job.

The Domestic Pension Fund has been registered with the Registrar of Pensions and bears the full approval of the Commissioner for Inland Revenue.

Phillips adds: "It can help an employer to provide a secure future for someone who's al- st part of the family."

Nomad life for pensioner

A SIXTY-YEAR-OLD Soweto pensioner has been living a nomadic life for the past eight years because she cannot afford to pay rent and buy food.

By SELLO RABOTHATA

Mrs Mercy Maleka, whose son and husband died in 1968 and 1973 respectively, told **The SOWETAN** that she had been the registered tenant of house 104 Mapetla until 1974, when the local superintendent had evicted her. She said the superintendent had ordered her out, saying she could not afford to live in the house alone.

Mrs Maleka said: "I have been living with other people as a lodger since I was evicted. I am really suffering because no-one can spend their whole life as a lodger. I have been to social workers so many times and each time they promise they will help but nothing has been done so far.

"I don't have any belongings because I had to sell everything I had when I was told to move. I have been on the road since 1974. When I inquired if there was an old-age home I could stay at, I was told there was none besides in Lesotho."

Mrs Maleka said she had requested assistance from her local community councillor, Mr M Tjeeko, who had taken her to the superintendent. They had been told that nothing could be done for her as she was a pensioner and could not afford rent and still be able to eat.

She was told to bring a friend or a relative whom she knew who had accommodation and the superintendent would talk to that person to take her in as a lodger. Mrs Maleka said

Mr Tjeeko yesterday said he was still trying to find Mrs Maleka accommodation. "She was ordered out of her house when there was still a regulation that widows could not occupy houses alone. Mrs Maleka has no children but I believe that if she can afford to pay rent then she should be given a house."

Mr J G Jacobs of the Soweto Council said he did not know anything about Mrs Maleka's plight but added that he would try to help her if her case was brought to his notice.

MRS MERCY MALEKA . . . homeless for eight years.

Pic: Vusi Zwane.

Pensioner power

CAPE TIMES 5/10/82 300

WHAT?

THE Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners (ARPP) was established in February this year. Eight branch offices are now in operation. The non-racial association aims to unite all retired persons in a single organization "for their common good".

WHO?

ANY resident of the Republic irrespective of race, colour, creed, or nationality who has retired from regular occupation because of age or ill-health, spouses of the above, and interested persons who may become associate members.

HOW?

ORGANIZED self-help to achieve non-commercial housing at low rentals, cheaper insurance, social involvement, suitable employment, concessions on transport, entertainment, services, rates and taxes, and "anything else which could promote an increase in income or decrease in expenditure for members".

HOW MUCH?

THE liability of members is limited to R1.

WHERE?

PO Box 12075, Mill Street, Cape Town 8010, or tel 46-2683 between 9am and 12.30pm weekdays.

Ciskei, SA in joint talks

ZWELITSHA — An interstate committee of officials from Ciskei and South Africa met recently to discuss certain agreements that exist between the two states.

Among issues discussed were the establishment of an unemployment insurance fund in Ciskei and assistance in the form of expertise from South Africa, according to a statement released by the Department of Foreign Affairs here.

Also discussed were problems encountered with the movement of Ciskei citizens between the states and the employment of Ciskeians in South Africa.

Both parties are to report back to their respective governments and the amended agreements would be compiled for signature, according to the statement.

Ciskei was represented by: Mr T. Nghona, Prof W. Botha, Mr D. J. Michau, Mr C. Meyers, Mr D. Takane, Mr L. Pretorius, Mr J. Grieb and Mr R. Ngcofe.

Representing South Africa were Mr M. H. Noordwyk, Mr J. Berger, Mr W. A. van der Merwe, Mr A. S. C. Barkhuizen, Mr A. P. Barton and Mr E. F. du Plessis. — DDR.

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★ The Cape Times, Friday, (

8/10/82

Appeal made for WCAB tennants

Staff Reporter

THE chairman of the Guguletu Residents' Association, Mr Goodwell Botha, has appealed to the Western Cape Administration Board (WCAB) to lower the rent for old-age pensioners and not to evict them for rent arrears.

Mr Botha said yesterday that old-age pensioners who were evicted had nowhere to go, as their only income, their pension, was "too little".

He cited 70-year-old Mrs Miriam January and her family of 12 as an example.

Mrs January's rent was in arrears by R6 and when she went to pay it on September 23, she was told she was a day too late.

She had returned home to find her belongings in the street and her home allocated to a new family.

"It shouldn't be so easy to throw these people out of their houses," Mr Botha said.

"Instead of evicting people, the board must do something about it, like lowering the rent for old-age pensioners.

"Their pension is just not enough.

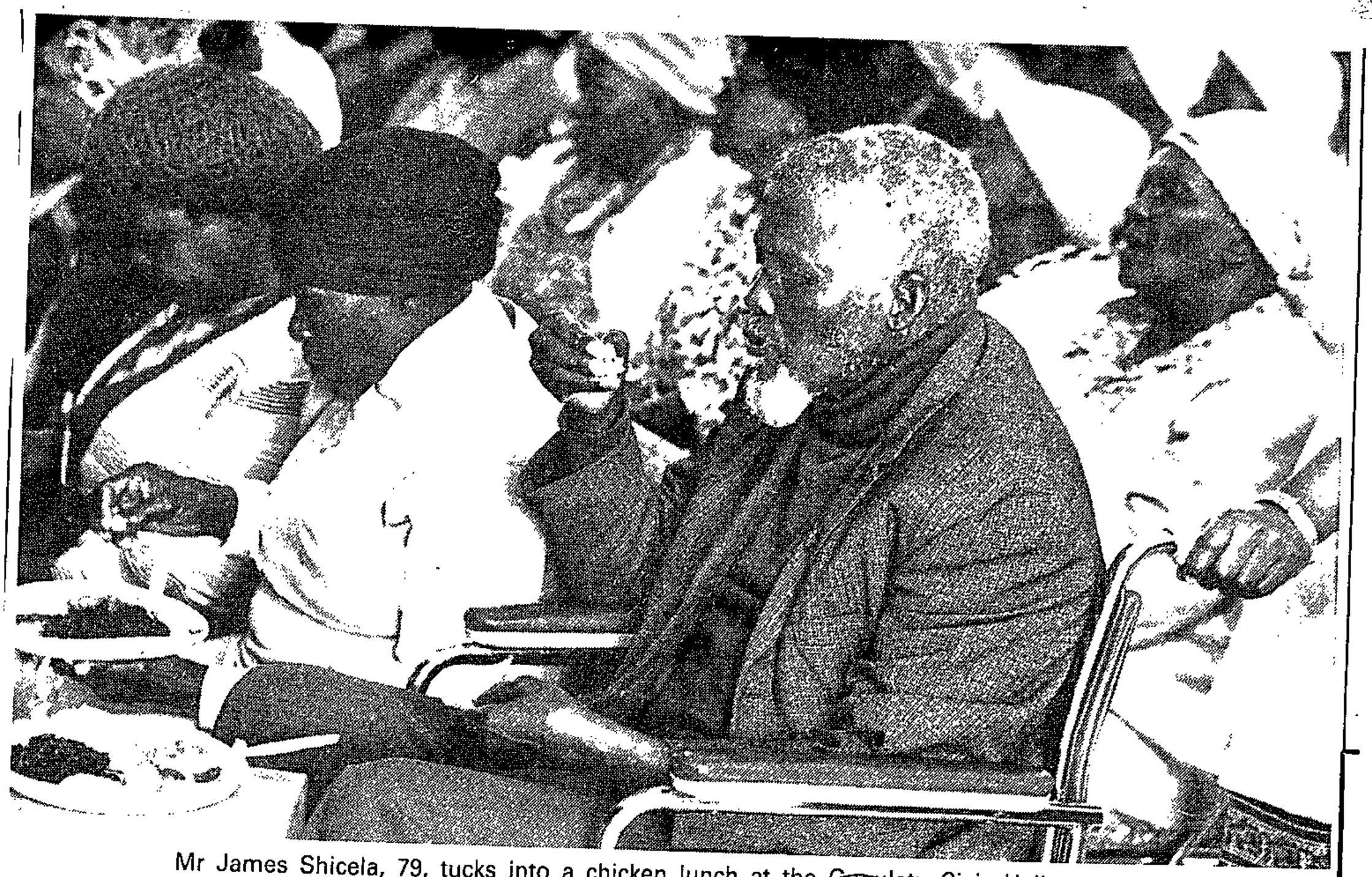
"Mrs January has had to move in with her son, but he doesn't have enough room for her."

● A group of Guguletu residents said teargas was fired at them yesterday as they tried to prevent (WCAB) officials from arresting the January family for trespassing in the house they have been evicted from.

However Captain T Vermeulen, a police liaison officer for the Western Cape, denied that the police had fired teargas in Guguletu yesterday and said he knew nothing about the incident.

The January family — nine children and three adults — said they were later released after one of them, Miss Rona January, started experiencing labour pains at the board offices.

It was the second time they had been arrested for trespassing since the family were evicted from the house, where they had been staying since 1963, on September 23.



Mr James Shicela, 79, tucks into a chicken lunch at the Guguletu Civic Hall yesterday.

Feast for Guguletu's aged

By CLARE STERN

ABOUT 2 000 delighted pensioners from the Cape townships were given a mouth and eye-watering feast at the Guguletu Civic Hall yesterday.

The "25-star" luncheon of hot chicken, vegetables, pudding and soft drinks brought tears to the eyes of many senior citizens, some them with no-one to cook for them.

Such sumptious fare after a daily diet of mealie-meal, bread and tea, was like Christmas, New Year and Easter all wrapped up in one.

The free three-course treat was laid on by wealthy supermarket owner Mr Stan Vokwana, whose praises were sung by master of ceremonies Mr Windsor Skweyiya:

"I do not know of a single businessman who has undertaken such a mammoth task," he said.

The lavish feast was prepared by 24 doting cooks and they certainly did not spoil the broth, generously ladled over enormous helpings of chicken.

The guests, some of whom were handicapped and confined to wheelchairs, were deeply moved by "hymns of hope" sung by various choirs before the food was served.

"I am full of tears and very touched," said Mrs Constance Gobile, a grandmother of eight, as she mopped her eyes with an enormous handkerchief.

One of the cooks, nursery school teacher Mrs Adelaide Mrubata, described the happiness on the faces of the elderly guests as "quite a joy to behold".

"I wish they could have this every day," she said.

Fire brigade under attack

By Mzikayise Edom

THE TEMBISA Committee for the Care of the Aged is planning to build an old age home to mark the Year of the Aged.

Mrs Emeldah Tsotsane, the secretary of the organisation, told The SOWETAN that the committee had organised a string of fund-raising projects to raise money for the project.

She said that, for a start, they had organised a variety show which would be held on October 23 at the Rabasotho Hall. They were also hoping to organise more fund-raising shows in the near future.

Mrs Tsotsane also said that the committee was still arranging an outing for the aged to the Pretoria or Johannesburg Zoo some time next month. She also said that a Christmas party would be held in December for the aged.

Recently, the committee held a prayer day for the aged at the Rabasotho Hall. Food and drinks were served to the aged and those who attended the ceremony which lasted about three hours.

Ignorance on pensions

300
COM 12/10/82

Financial Reporter

MOST South Africans are ignorant and apathetic about pension benefits, a surevy on attitudes towards pension funds has found.

The survey, commissioned by Legal & General Volkskas, was conducted among white men aged 25 to 50 who worked for companies which offered pension schemes.

Among the findings were that:-

- Most (78%) of the men were not interested in how their company's pension fund assets were invested or how they performed.
- Most were unable to say how their pension benefits would be calculated.
- The nature of wives' or dependants' benefits was a mystery to many and 23% did not even think it necessary to inform dependants ("they would benefit anyway").
- In most cases, although employees were aware of life and disability cover, further prompting disclosed ignorance about the extent of such compensation.

Comenting on the findings, L&GV managing director, Mr Ken Palmer, said: "The shortsightedness of youth and trust in others have left the responsibility of future security in the hands of old age and the employer.

"It seems that today's Mr Average prefers not to contemplate the long-term future."

As a result of the survey, L&GV has launched an advisory service about pension fund benefits and how to spend life in retirement. It includes audio-visual presentations informing employees of pension fund benefits, tailor-made to administered pension fund clients' requirements.

CAPE TIMES 13/10/81

Evictions: Boycott planned

Staff Reporter

THE Western Cape Civic Association has launched a boycott of businesses of community councillors and beerhalls run by the Western Cape Administration Board (WCAB) in protest against recent evictions in Guguletu.

The boycott call was made at a mass meeting of Guguletu residents on Monday night at which the evictions of two families — the Januarys and the Fenis — and the acute housing shortage in the Western Cape were discussed.

Mrs Miriam January, an old-age pensioner, and her family of 12 were forcibly evicted last week after refusing to move from the house they had lived in since 1963. They claimed they were R6 in arrears and had gone to pay the amount a day late.

Family of 18

Mr J Feni, who has refused to move despite facing charges for trespassing, is unemployed and his wife is the only breadwinner in a family of 18.

Speakers at the meeting alleged there was widespread corruption in the allocation of houses and that certain people were paying large amounts to get houses even though they were not on the waiting list. Three people told the meeting that their houses had been "sold" to other people.

According to the WCAB, there are more than 2 000 people on the waiting list for houses in the Peninsula, some of whom have been waiting for up to 10 years.

The names and businesses of the community councillors, who include taxi drivers, a shopkeeper, an undertaker and a butcher, were mentioned at the meeting and it was resolved to boycott their businesses until they resigned from the "dummy" community council. It was felt that the community councils were spearheading the evictions.

It was also resolved that the WCAB's beerhalls be boycotted and that the civic halls be put at the disposal of the Western Cape Civic Association, which is an umbrella body representing more than 20 township community organizations.

WOMEN'S PAGE

Helping the forgotten ones

Some people have not forgotten Johannesburg's impoverished aged, reports BARRY RONGE.

When the Hillbrow Rotary Club launched its "Forgotten Ones" project in October 1980, it was highly praised and enthusiastically welcomed, but no one really expected it to grow quite as impressively as it has.

The project set out to answer the most pressing needs of the aged and infirm in and around Johannesburg's flatland. These people are all on fixed incomes and eke out a meagre living on a skimpy budget. The slightest upset of their routine can leave them destitute.

Lester Feldshon, director of club services for Hillbrow Rotary, says: "If for just one month their pension cheque is delayed for a week, they have nothing to fall back on. If they become ill and have to buy medicine, or see a doctor, merely the bus fare or cab fare involved in getting to the health services can so upset their budget that they can be without food for days.

"When we hear of cases like this we undertake to be at the person's door within hours with a parcel of food, and supply of the medicine they need, with no questions asked, no forms to fill in and, above all, no delay.

"The need of these people is immediate, and it does not help them to have sympathetic bureaucrats promising to see what they can do when they are hungry and cold right now."

The members of Rotary make themselves available full-time to perform these charitable errands but, in the process, they discovered things which moved them to even greater efforts.

They found people supplementing their diets with canned pet food; some who rationed themselves to read only a few hundred words each day of the one monthly magazine they could afford; an aged woman who had not left her flat for weeks because her shoes had finally disintegrated.

These heart-wrenching discoveries spurred them on to even greater fund-raising efforts, so much so that by the end of 1981 the "Forgotten Ones," was named Rotary project of the year.

On October 18 their work reaches a high point when they open a special charity art show in the Carlton Hotel. All paintings on show have been supplied by various dealers, and a substantial portion of the proceeds of all sales will go to further the work of the "Forgotten Ones" and other club projects.

During the two-week period of the show, it will be staffed by Rotary members, and for that time police majors and tailors, booksellers and computer programmers, bankers and property tycoons will become salesmen on behalf of Johannesburg's needy.

It is a show of community spirit which proves the forgotten ones are not, in fact, forgotten, and that a spirit of love and caring still flourishes in Hillbrow's brash, cold heart.

THE FORGOTTEN ONES — the aged who live in loneliness and will be the recipients of the proceeds of a charity art show organised by the Hillbrow Rotary Club.

● If you feel you can help with any of the club projects or want more details about the art show telephone Lester Feldshon at Johannesburg 833-4811.

.....CUTTING...COPY...CUTTING...COPY.....

Total income: R153 p.m.
Needs: 9 X R17 = R153 - R58 = R95 per month.

(i) Mrs E.Sinecco. Her husband died in 1978, some months after x being in detention. She lives with her son's widow, and four of her son's children. She is 66 years old. She chars, and earns R60 p.m.
Total income: R60 p.m.
Needs: 6 X R20 = R120 - R60 = R60 per month.

Star 14/10/82

Pensioners work their way to holiday at coast

(300)

By Olga Horowitz

Sixty coloured pensioners are looking forward to the holiday of a lifetime — a 10-day stay at the Butterworth Hotel in Durban. They will leave on November 9.

The pensioners have sponsored themselves to the tune of R40 each from their small pension of R83,50 and are trying to raise what they can by fund-raising in their own areas.

The Johannesburg Association for the Aged (Jafta) recently held a multiracial dance at the Johannesburg City Hall to raise funds for the holiday. The proceeds were R500.

Jafta agreed to match rand for rand raised at the dance, so will contribute another R500.

Time to CARE for the aged

★ ★ ★

The Flower Foundation will hold a morning market from 9 am to noon on Saturday, October 30, at Waverley House, 5 Murray Street, Waverley.

There will be handmade articles, many of them made by the residents, homemade cakes, jams and preserves, books and a white elephant stall.

'Youthful' attitude to art by the aged

DURBAN'S old folk have a refreshingly youthful attitude to art, according to Paulette Baker, painter and convenor of a Year of the Aged art workshop which ends today.

Seen here putting some of the budding artists through their paces yesterday, Mrs Baker said that since Monday the group had worked enthusiastically — and shown real talent — with clay, pencil and ink drawings, twig paintings and collages. Yesterday they learned about primary colours and painted scenes from the immediate environment of the Athena Club in London House.

Their work will be on display tomorrow.

From left, Mrs Vera Noel, Mrs Phil Smith, Mrs Marge Mickelwood, Mrs Peggy Lowe, Mrs Violet Leaf-Wright, Mrs Baker and Mrs Cathy Brown.

Home for coloureds 'not shelved'

Mercury Reporter

THE building of a 'frail-age' home for coloureds in Durban would not be shelved, the Mayor, Councillor Sybil Hotz, said yesterday.

She said that in spite of the Town and Regional Planning Appeal Board decision to uphold an appeal from Wentworth residents against the siting of a R2 000 000 home in Assegai Place, Austerville, the project would not be axed.

'We will have to find another suitable site either in Wentworth or some other coloured area in Durban,' she said, adding that it was an indictment on the community of Durban not to have, in 1982, a frail-age home for coloureds.

She said 1982 was the Year of the Aged and every effort was being made to provide a frail-age home for coloureds.

The Mayor said it was unfortunate that there had been opposition to the siting of the home in Assegai Place.

However, Mr Cecil Kippen, a spokesman for the Assegai Place residents, said the coloured community of Wenwtorth had not been opposed to a home but were against the site which had been chosen for it.

He said a mosque, church and several homes would have had to be demolished to make way for the home if their appeal had been rejected.

Mr Kippen said there were several alternative sites in Wenwtorth, Marriannridge and Newlands East where the home could be sited.

'All our suggestions for an alternative have been rejected in the past,' he said.

He said he would be glad to work with the council in choosing a new site for the home.

MR ROEL Reitsma, who wants to employ retired people.

Work plan for the retired

Mercury Reporter

PENSIONERS who find they are getting bored in their retirement and would like to earn extra money may have the opportunity of doing so.

Mr Roel Reitsma, joint owner of a light engineering firm in Umbilo, recently placed an advertisement in the Press offering part-time jobs for pensioners.

'I think that some old people, who are still perfectly capable of working, get bored in retirement. Playing bowls and golf cannot keep a person fully occupied all the time.

'I also think that some pensioners could use extra money.'

Mr Reitsma said he needed employees at his firm to help with various jobs, ranging from lawn mower sharpening to bookkeeping.

Part time

'But I only want to employ pensioners on a part-time basis. If they each work for one or two days a week, I can employ a few people to fill each available vacancy and give more pensioners a chance to earn a little extra money.'

He said the response to his advertisements had been 'overwhelming'.

'The amount of experience the people who have written to me have is unbelievable.'

Meanwhile, a national organisation for pensioners and retired people intends opening a branch in Durban.

The Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners will be holding a meeting on Thursday at the Royal Durban Light Infantry Bowling Club and retired people and pensioners are invited to attend.

CAPE Times 15/10/82 300 ~~FORM 4 [illegible]~~

Evicted at 62 and he can't afford to move

Staff Reporter

A 62-YEAR-OLD pensioner who is being evicted from his rented room in Eversdal has had to turn down a R25-a-month two-bedroomed house in Nababeep because he cannot afford the cost — between R800 and R1 500 — of transporting his belongings there.

Mr Raymond Thomas, who battles to make ends meet on his monthly pension of R39,90, applied for one of 30 houses made available to struggling pensioners by the O'Okiep Copper Company earlier this year, as its contribution to the Year of the Aged.

'Still vacant site'

"I would have moved into the house offered to me, but cartage companies charge a minimum of R800 for the 597km from here to Nababeep," said Mr Thomas, a war veteran, who was compelled to move out of his City flat in 1977 "when a government garage was planned on the still vacant site".

Mr Thomas said he knew of another pensioner who was unable to accept a house in Nababeep because he could not afford to transport his furniture there. "I wonder how many other pensioners are in the same boat."

Mr Thomas has been asked to move out of his Eversdal room because the owners need it for an ailing relative.

"I have applied for accommodation in old age homes and for a City Council flat, but bachelors under 65 are not eligible, although 60-year-old married females can apply for the flats."

This was confirmed by a Cape Town City Council spokesman who said flats were also available to 60-year-old spinsters provided they received a pension or a disability grant.

Mrs H S S Schreuder, housing manager of O'Okiep Copper Company said that only five of the 30 houses allocated to pensioners were still unoccupied.

"We have just given the houses away to have people living there. We are working on borrowed money and it is far-fetched to ask us to pay their removal costs as well."

Mrs Schreuder said most of the pensioners who had moved in to the houses were Namaqualanders.

"They know the harsh climate — hot semi-desert conditions. It is not Cape Town and not everyone realizes this. The pensioners must be healthy and self-sufficient as we do not have the facilities to care for them."

● Age In Action, a photographic competition, with big prizes to be won, is being run jointly by the Cape Times and the Community Chest of the Western Cape to mark the Year of the Aged. Black and white photographs (20 x 25cm) or colour slides, depicting AGE IN ACTION, should be sent to the Community Chest, P O Box 3836 Cape Town 8 000 or delivered by hand to City Centre, 2nd Floor, 71 Loop Street, Cape Town.

More benefits

PROVIDENT FUND benefits for thousands of garment workers in the Transvaal are to be increased.

This decision was taken by the Industrial Council at a meeting of the Provident Fund Administrative Committee during which the funds actuary recommended that disability benefits be increased to R42 and that death benefits be increased to R250.

The Garment Workers' Union's president, Dr Anna Scheepers, has expressed her pleasure in supporting this suggestion and, in particular, was pleased that the disability grant would go to those older workers who had to stop work due to ill health.

She pointed out that the death benefits were really a benefit for the survivors while the disability benefits were of direct value to a member still living although in bad health.

The meeting also agreed that a further R54 000 should be allocated to members who had repaid their loans.

The Industrial Council's general secretary, Mr J Thomas, has pointed out that the loan repayments were made from July 1959 by way of weekly contributions.

This has resulted in discrimination against persons who had repaid their loans, and consequently, to put matters right, the additional amount should be allocated to them.

Putco 'useless'

THE PUTCO bus service in Vosloorus near Boksburg has been described as "useless and unreliable" by commuters in the area.

The commuters also claimed that buses in the area were dirty, old, did not keep to the time tables in most cases and that bus drivers were rude.

Commuters interviewed by The SOWETAN claimed that the buses only kept to the time table during peak hours but that during the day they did not.

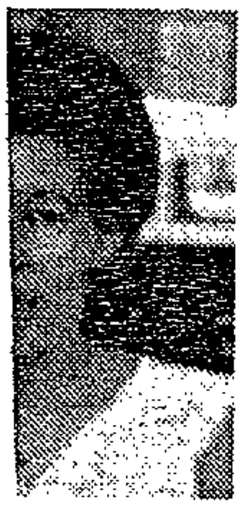
One commuter, Mrs Sophie Mokate, said that most of the buses in the area were dirty and old and that bus drivers were rude. She also said that during the day buses did not keep to the time table and that one frequently had to wait for more than an hour at a bus stop before a bus arrived.

Another commuter said: "If one does not have a weekly bus coupon the drivers often refuse him or her entry into the bus saying that they do not have change".

A few months back Mr Pat Rogers, the PRO for Putco, promised to investigate allegations that the bus service in the area was not up to standard and he also promised that a new machine costing thousands of rands would be installed at the Vosloorus bus depot to clean the buses. However, this machine has not been installed as yet.

Mr Rogers was not available for comment yesterday.

roud of my service."



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tr

Scottburgh fails to make old-age complex decision

Mercury Reporter 20/10/82 308

SCOTTBURGH Town Council last night failed to reach a decision on the old-age complex at the luxury Freeland Park suburb.

The decision on whether to allow the R1 000 000 development to go ahead was deferred for further discussion.

The chairman and trustee of the Johannesburg-based welfare organisation, the Malvern and Belgravia Boys' and Girls' Club and Old Age Centre, Mr Ron West, said last night that he was not optimistic because the council had not decided.

'They are going to debate it further themselves, and I've told them I'm leaving for Johannesburg on the 25 th and that I would like a reply in writing to take back with me.

'I have to report back to my board of management in Johannesburg and I will certainly not take a verbal message,' he said.

Mr West said earlier this year he had received a call from Mr Ray Haslam, MEC in charge of town and regional planning, and had been asked to attend a meeting on September 2 where the matter was fully discussed with representatives of the Scottburgh Town Council and the Regional Town and Planning Commission.

'The commission agreed they would accept 80 people in the complex instead of the original proposal of 102 pensioners. We also accepted a figure of 80,' he said.

Mr West added that the three representatives from Scottburgh naturally decided to take the matter back to their council before making a decision.

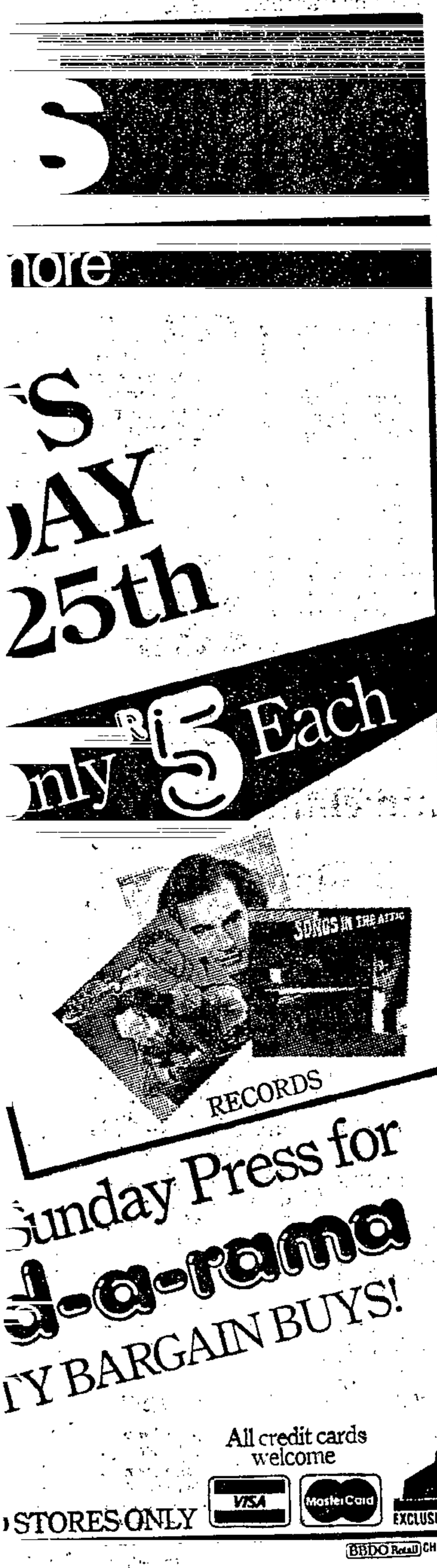
Pleaded

'When I arrived here on holiday at the beginning of October I was told that the council would accept only 52 people,' he said.

He said Mr Haslam, addressing the council last night, had pleaded with the council to reconsider the limited number.

'I pointed out that we were not prepared to use such valuable land for a token use like this. It's just a waste of the property,' Mr West said.

PARDON me if I'm ...



Time to CARE for the aged

Congress to probe problems of ageing

By Olga Horowitz

The Jewish Family and Community of the Transvaal will hold a national conference on the Care of the Jewish Aged at Our Parents' Home, High Road, Gardens, Johannesburg, on October 24.

The conference is a contribution to the Year of the Aged which has highlighted the problems of the aged in society today.

The chairman will be Mr Martin Seehof, who is also chairman of the Jewish Family and Community Council.

The opening address will be given by Mr Alf Widman, MP, Mrs F Richter of the Flower Foundation will speak on "ageing is changing in modern society" and a doctor will speak on "Day care — help for the captive family."

Mrs Zerilda Nel of the National Council for the Care of the Aged will give a talk on "Community services — all for one and one for all" and Mrs Sylvia Nell will speak on "Ageing — the universal dilemma."

"Engaging the ageing — are we retiring our resources" will be discussed by Rabbi Y Goldman.

In the afternoon there will be workshops on homes for the aged, the care of the aged in the open community and on intermediate care (day care, special housing and other services).

Media image 'an insult to the over-60s'

By Lawrence Bedford

Press, television and radio coverage of the Year of the Aged in South Africa has so far painted an insulting image of the majority of over 60s, says a retirement expert.

Mr Hugh Goyns, the national director of the Johannesburg-based Retirement Association, says all the media have done to date is underline the problems of senility and decay.

Life for the over-60s can be a period of continued mental and physical growth and can lead to a time of great joy and achievement, says Mr Goyns (72), who climbed Mount Kenya on his 70th birthday.

The association — an employers' body — helps prepare workers from the age of 45 up to help themselves and continue to be an asset in later life and not a community liability.

It does this through "Design for Living" courses in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Kimberley, Witbank, the Western Transvaal, Northern Natal and the Lowveld, which have been attended by 36 000 people since 1968.

The courses are for husband and wife. "A man's continuation depends on his wife's knowledge and the great thing is to teach women about health," said Mr Goyns.

The main causes of death in the mature aged group are heart disease, cancer and diabetes. The disease incidence does not change in relation to social strata.

The problem of coping was not always financial, Mr Goyns said. In all sectors of the population ignorance had to be overcome by education.

Widows now outnumber widowers by six to one, and by 2000 there will be about 300 000 white widows in South Africa. This underlines the importance of preparing a wife for a life on her own, says Mr Goyns.

He believes reforms should start in the policy and image of the health services, private and public, and that universities have an important part to play in helping the mature age group.

He is working with the University of the Witwatersrand to get facilities there for a "University of the Third Age" to enable people of 45 and older to plan for a new career or gain knowledge to help them develop in retirement.

About 80 000 people have attended similar universities set up in Germany, France, Italy, Sweden and Belgium in recent years. Mr Goyns says the facilities in South Africa should be free.

He added: "Retirement is not just a pension or an income. It is a phase in life — during which you may struggle for existence or sit back and freewheel.

"The choice is yours."

CUT OUT SUMMER

Mamelodi pensioners dealt a low blow

By MONK NKOMO

THE Mamelodi Community Council will increase the board and lodging fee for pensioners staying at the Boikhutso Old Age Home by 25 percent as from November 1.

The council also resolved that the fee would include clothing and medical care.

This means that pensioners who receive an average of R80 every two months will now pay R60 bi-monthly for their upkeep at the home. They are currently paying 50 percent of their earnings towards board and lodging.

Already opposition groups in the area have condemned this decision saying it reduces the pensioners' pitiful incomes.

"An inmate contributes R20 per month towards his upkeep whereas the running cost of the council per inmate comes to R60 per month (calculated according to 1982/83 estimates)," councillors said.

"It is also known that the pensioners generally squander their money as they do not have any financial obligations."

A Mamelodi Residents' Committee member Mr Thomas Tselane said: "The council's insensitive decision should be reversed immediately.

"They should try subsidise the old age home. The move is not only disturbing but insensible to an alarming degree."

A pensioner, Mr E Nonyana, said the aged were "forgotten people who were punished at a time when we should be living our best and last lives."

Council firm on complex decision

Mercury Reporter

THE Scottburgh Town Council is sticking to its decision that no more than 56 people will be accommodated in the yet-to-be-built St Theresa's retirement complex.

At a council meeting this week a proposal from the Malvern and Belgravia Boys' and Girls' Club and Old Age Centre to accommodate 84 people in the Freeland Park complex was turned down.

According to the chairman and trustee of the Malvern and Belgravia Club, Mr Ron West, the development of the complex is not worthwhile if more people cannot be accommodated.

However, a spokesman for the town council said yesterday their decision to accept only 56 people in the complex was 'unanimously reaffirmed' after the council had met a deputation from the Malvern and Belgravia Club on Tuesday.

The council's decision will only be implemented on condition that the applicants make a fresh application, the spokesman said. He added that their decision was based on the decision of the Town and Regional Planners and a directive of the Appeal Board.

23/10/82 (300)

Hobby leads to home in the country for aged (300)

Mr Tadeusz Kaufman, whose building hobby has led to 24 chalets being erected for the aged at Halfway House.

When Mr Tadeusz Kaufman took up building as a hobby three years ago, he decided to build his own home. But the building "bug" didn't end there, and now 24 chalet-type homes are standing on his vast Halfway House property being occupied by the aged.

This unique retirement home, set in beautiful grounds with a view that stretches to the Hillbrow skyline, provides single and double rooms, each with private bathroom.

The design, by architect Robert Ludlow, is open plan with each bedsitter having direct access to paved courtyards and the spacious, landscaped grounds.

The buildings are finished with rustic face brick and blend into the landscape creating a pleasant and serene atmosphere.

Meals will be provided in a large dining room and there are two lounges and a reception area. All rooms are tastefully decorated and comfortably furnished.

The overall atmosphere, in fact, is one of a private home and is far removed from the customary institutional appearance. There is, however, a 24-hour nursing supervision and all rooms are connected to the duty room by intercom.

Mr Kaufman, together with his wife, who is a lecturer in medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand, embarked on the scheme 10 years ago when they saw the lack of suitable accommodation for elderly people who had some financial means but few places to go.

The project took longer than expected because the one hectare site had to be specially zoned for an old age home. In order to proclaim the land as such the owners had to go through the laborious procedure of township development, which included the provision of electricity, sewerage and water reticulation.

At the time this had been completed Mr Kaufman had already built his own home adjacent to the complex. He decided to go ahead and had the complex built under his supervision.

Occupation commenced at the beginning of this month with residents able to either purchase accommodation under a special loan repayment scheme or rent it by the month.

Provision has been made for extensions. Mr Kaufman is even investigating the possibility of building a bowling green along with other forms of recreation.

Two areas show optimistic signs of reasonable growth rate

'Explosion' of aged could swamp world

Youth of tomorrow will bear burden, says UN

By Rob Soutter

The world population of the aged is heading for an explosion, overwhelming social welfare systems and leaving the elderly to fend for themselves in miserable conditions, a United Nations conference has warned.

The World Assembly on Ageing, organised by the UN in Vienna recently, concluded that falling birth rates and longer life expectancies would create enormous problems within societies as populations age unevenly.

In Austria there were already only two workers for every pensioner, said one report.

The conference, which was reviewed in The Futurist magazine's latest issues, warned that time-honoured social welfare systems could be overwhelmed as relatively fewer young people were left to care for greater numbers of aged.

By 2025 one person in five would be over 60, predicted the UN.

This would destroy a centuries-old population structure in which the young greatly outnumbered the old. And as countries became industrialised, jobs would open up in cities — attracting the young away and leaving the elderly family members forgotten and neglected.

The conference urged governments to encourage old people to remain productive in economies as long as possible.

Referring to Kenya, one report said the elderly make up the poorest of the poor, living in the slums around Nairobi.

But working groups had been established to improve conditions and change the traditional attitude towards the elderly in that country.

Elderly slum dwellers shared free lunches with schoolchildren who personally cared for bedridden people. In return old people helped the community become more productive by looking after the children of working mothers and by growing vegetables.

The future of the aged was rosier in China, where restricted migration and laws requiring the young to look after the old had kept families together with pooled resources, said the report.

The retirement programme was also flexible, varying according to the level of youth employment, and work was guaranteed.

The conference noted that, in contrast, compulsory retirement ages in industrialised countries had the effect of discarding valuable productive members of the economy, making them burdens on society.

In future, said the report, governments might face conflicting demands: on one hand workers facing huge tax bills would demand reduced State expenditure on pensions, while the aged might become a potent political force making their own demands.

The UN conference estimated that by 2025, one in three voters in industrialised nations would be over 60, so that the "senior vote" could become a major factor forcing unwilling governments to act.

CAPE TOWN
NSWER BOOK

Section D
(Labour)

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

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OM report

only our equities, whereas many other life offices base their equity performance on the overall performance of their "balanced" funds — that is, their funds in which equities account for less than half the investments and prescribed assets for the rest."

These points are well taken.

Unfortunately, they do not entirely explain away the fact that in the June-to-June period OM's Equity Fund declined (market value) faster and further than at any time since the beginning of the Seventies — by 20,5%.

This compares with declines in the JSE Actuaries All-Share Index of 25% and in the Industrial Share Index of 18,3%.

So the market was beaten by the OM men.

But other life companies actually produced ***positive figures*** (for instance, plus 3% or 4%,) over similar if slightly more favourable 12-month periods.

"This had to be the most adverse period possible to choose for measuring our performance, with the JSE diving and yields on fixed-interest government stock rising to an all-time high only a fortnight after the close of the period.

"But we went public with our equity management in this period nevertheless, as it happens to coincide with our financial year.

"Also, we show the performance of our equities ***and***

funds this year

for single premiums.

The mix of the group's Multifund assets is roughly 21% government stock, 33% other prescribed assets, including cash and liquid assets, 32% equities, 10% properties and 4% "other".

OM is adamant that the performance of its equities, as reflected in the report, is acceptable, all things considered.

"For instance, our table shows our equities performance in the year June last year to last June.

Premium income has climbed from R189-million only four years ago to R459-million.

In the same period, funds administered have risen from R751-million to R2 258-million.

Old Mutual managers tell me their organisation now accounts for 40% of all linked funds and about 25% of all single and recurring premium incomes, but with the stress heavily on the latter (well over 30%) compared with not more than about 10%

R2 500-m for pension fu

By Stephen Orpen

EMPLOYERS will contribute a staggering R2 500-million to employee pension funds in 1982.

This represents an increase of more than 500% over the past 10 years, says Dr Jan van der Horst, chairman of Old Mutual, in Old Mutual's pensions services annual report, released this weekend.

Principal features of the past year's pensions business include:

- Old Mutual's pensions premium income increased by 20,2% to R459-million in the year to June 30.
- Employee benefit assets administered rose to R2 258-million.
- The amount paid out to members of pension funds in the form of pensions rose by no less than 36% to more than R23-million.
- No less than 2 258 funds are now administered by Old Mutual.
- 1,650-million families participate in OM's group benefit plans.

Dr JAN VAN DER HORST

R2,5m from employers

CAPE TOWN. — It is estimated that employers will contribute R2 500-million to employee pension funds in 1982.

This is an increase of more than 500% over the past 10 years, says Dr J G van der Horst, chairman of Old Mutual, in Old Mutual's pensions services annual report.

Old Mutual's pensions premium income increased by 20,2% to R459-million in the year to June 30, 1982. Employee benefit assets administered rose to R2 258-million.

The amount paid in pensions rose by 36% to more than R23-million in the past financial year.

High rates of inflation have often rendered provision for retirement inadequate, says Dr Van der Horst. With the increased number of pensioners, many of the long-time problems, such as social difficulties involved in changing from an employment centred lifestyle to retired life, have become apparent. These aspects have stressed the need for individuals to prepare for retirement.

According to the report, 2 258 funds are administered by Old Mutual, and 650 000 families take part in Old Mutual's group benefit plans. These represent increases of 25,1% and 16,2% respectively. — Sapa.

Millions unclaimed in funds for workers

Labour Reporter

MILLIONS of rands have accumulated in provident funds round the country because of members' failure to collect their money, and fund officials say they don't know what to do about it.

Provident funds were formed by industrial councils in a number of industries to provide assistance for workers when they reached pensionable age.

Unlike pension funds, they require small subscriptions — about 50 c a week — and pay out a lump sum when an employee leaves the industry.

But thousands of workers every year fail to collect their money which, after a short period, is forfeited either to the fund or to the industrial council.

Mr J H Thomas, the general secretary of the Industrial Council for the Clothing Industry (Transvaal), said each year about R60 000 was not collected from the provident fund 'largely by people who have worked in the industry for a couple of weeks and then thrown it up'.

Large amounts

'The individual amount not claimed by a worker is usually very small but occasionally we come across amounts of R600 to R700,' he said.

All the provident funds contacted by the Mercury sent off notices to the members' last addresses, placed adverts in the local papers, sent lists to the various factories and, in one case, on printed reminders to members on every pay envelope. But the lists of unclaimed money grew every year.

Mr Thomas said the fund often had problems tracing a member because employers did not register a worker when he had worked for a short time in the firm 'and in their records he is down as "John" with no address'.

Left

Mr Mark Ansell, secretary of the provident fund for Natal's clothing industry, said about 2 000 people a year left the industry without collecting their money.

He said the problem was much more noticeable in the clothing industry because it had a 'fluid' workforce with about 9 000 workers 'coming and going every year'.

According to the general secretary of the Textile Workers' Industrial Union, Mr Norman Daniels, the problem could be located in the waiting period prescribed by most provident funds.

The funds usually laid down that members could not withdraw their moneys until a year had passed from the time they have left the industry.

Mr Daniels said black workers tended to leave the industry and go back to their farms and it was thus difficult for them to come back to collect their money.

It cost granny R160 to fetch old-age pension

By JIMMY MATYU

AN 84-YEAR-OLD grandmother in poor health, Mrs Sarian Siwundla, hired a pirate taxi for R160 to collect her old-age pension in Middledrift this month because a Department of Justice clerk insisted on paying her personally.

Pensions are usually paid out every two months.

The pay-out clerk refused to give the August-September pension money to a relative, Miss Dorothy Hogana, who has the power-of-attorney to collect Mrs Siwundla's money.

Mrs Siwundla's daughter, Miss Grace Siwundla, a domestic worker in Port Elizabeth, said she was confused by the situation.

"They could have arranged with the police in Butterworth to check whether my mother is 'still alive," she said.

"As it is, the whole amount of R160 has to go to the taximan, who charges R80 a single trip. I just feel unhappy about the whole matter."

An official said today: "It is one of the regulations that, at least twice a year, those handicapped people whose money is collected at pay-out points by relatives have to report personally to the office to confirm they are still alive.

"All are informed in good time when to call so that arrangements can be made by their people."

In the past relatives had continued collecting the pension money long after the pensioner had died.

When asked if a letter or a call from the police in Butterworth would not have been satisfactiry he said a personal appearance was necessary.

Mrs Siwundla has now been paid R160, which includes her September money.

Miss Hogana usually cllects the money, sending it to Miss Siwundla who forwards it to her mother.

Miss Siwundla said she took her mother to live with her married niece in Butterworth after she and her employer failed to get her accommodation at the Nompumelelo Old Age Home in Peddie.

"Also I had difficulty with a woman I had asked to look after her in Middledrift. If there were an old age home in New Brighton I would bring her to be near me," she said.

She believes that instead of her mother having to report personally to the pay office in Middledrift, she could report to the Butterworth police, who could issue an affidavit.

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(In block letters)

First Name(s) LAURIE NEIL

Date 31/10/79

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Many 'not aware of pensions'

Mercury Reporter

SOME pensionable people appear unaware that they qualify for State pensions or are ignorant about the full monthly amounts to which they are entitled, says Durban Central MP Mr Peter Gastrow, who runs an advice bureau in Durban.

He has come across a number of cases in which people could have been drawing social pensions for the past few years had they only known their rights.

In such instances, for example, those who submitted 'delayed applications' would receive a supplementary allowance ranging from R5 to R12 a month.

Basic new pension rates from October 1 were R138 — a R16 increase from the previous amount, and in addition there were various other grants and allowances payable.

Income

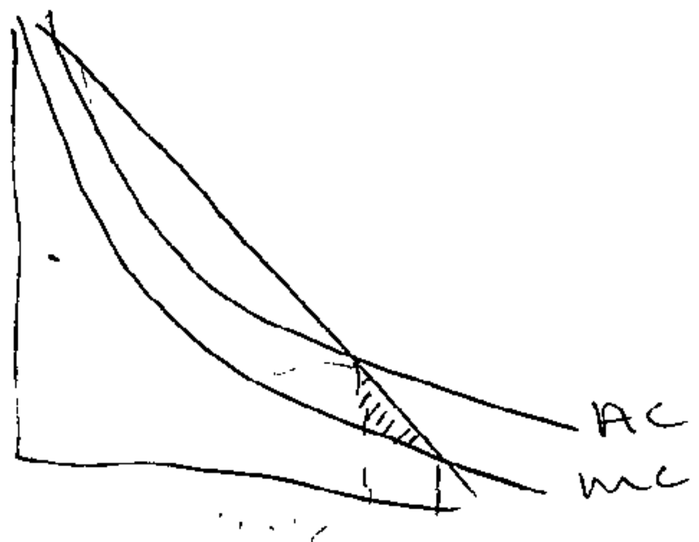
Also war veterans of more than 60 would receive an extra R15 a month.

Qualifications for old-age pensions were basically that men had to be 65 and women 60, that they were South African citizens or had lived in the country for more than five years on a permanent residence permit.

Regarding the means test, Mr Gastrow said a single person was assessed on income as well as combined assets according to a table obtainable from himself (telephone 39-2095) or the Department of Health and Welfare.

According to the table the following were not regarded as income for purposes of the means test: wages and salaries for men over 70 and women over 65; financial assistance from children or charities; lodging paid by not more than two lodgers; rents from letting of own property; usufructs and income from investments.

A married person was assessed on half the joint income as well as the total combined assets of the married couple. A house or flat, whether share block or sectional title, was valued at R9 800 providing the applicant lived there.



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GENERAL NEWS

Star 15/11/82

Cottages to go on sale at village for the elderly

By Olga Horowitz

Thirty-six cottages are to be built in January at the Alan woodrow Park retirement village in Boksburg. They will be offered for sale by the Knights of Da Gama, a Roman Catholic welfare organisation, at a meeting on Wednesday.

The new village will have 36 homes (30 one-bedroom cottages and six with two bedrooms) and a haven for the frail, with provision for a geriatric centre and additional cottages later.

The existing building already has dining, library and laundry facilities which will be at the disposal of the residents of the cottages.

All the cotatages will have bedrooms, living rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a porch.

The village has been designed with gardens and interleading walkways.

"The scheme will be financed by and built for the residents," said a spokesman for the Knights of Da Gama.

"The retirement village will offer many advantages — independence, no burden on families, compatible neighbours, security for the residents' remaining years and mutual support and help."

The Knights have designed the village on the principle that having an adequate income does not provide the complete solution to the problem of age.

Time to CARE for the aged

"This takes no account of the fact that people in the middle and higher income groups can also become lonely, old and frail," the spokesman said.

In addition to buying a cottage — the "founder's fee"—each resident will pay a monthly levy for operating costs.

The meeting on Wednesday will be held in the Catholic Church Hall, Montague Street, Boksburg, at 10 am.

PENSION POWER!

Durban oldies get together to battle for a better deal

IS there a giant force a-stirring?

Could be, and appropriately enough it is still the Year of the Aged, for the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners — ARPP — has just formed a branch in Durban.

Able Vic Broad is heading it, and exhorting the retired and pensioned to emerge from their cocoons and volunteer for active service.

In sheer numbers retired persons in this country are a formidable force but a catalyst was needed to form a single force.

Commandant Mac Joynt did this in Cape Town where the ARPP is 3 000-strong. Vic Broad is chairman in Durban and already there are more than 400 members, recruited in almost as many hours, and the show most definitely is on the road.

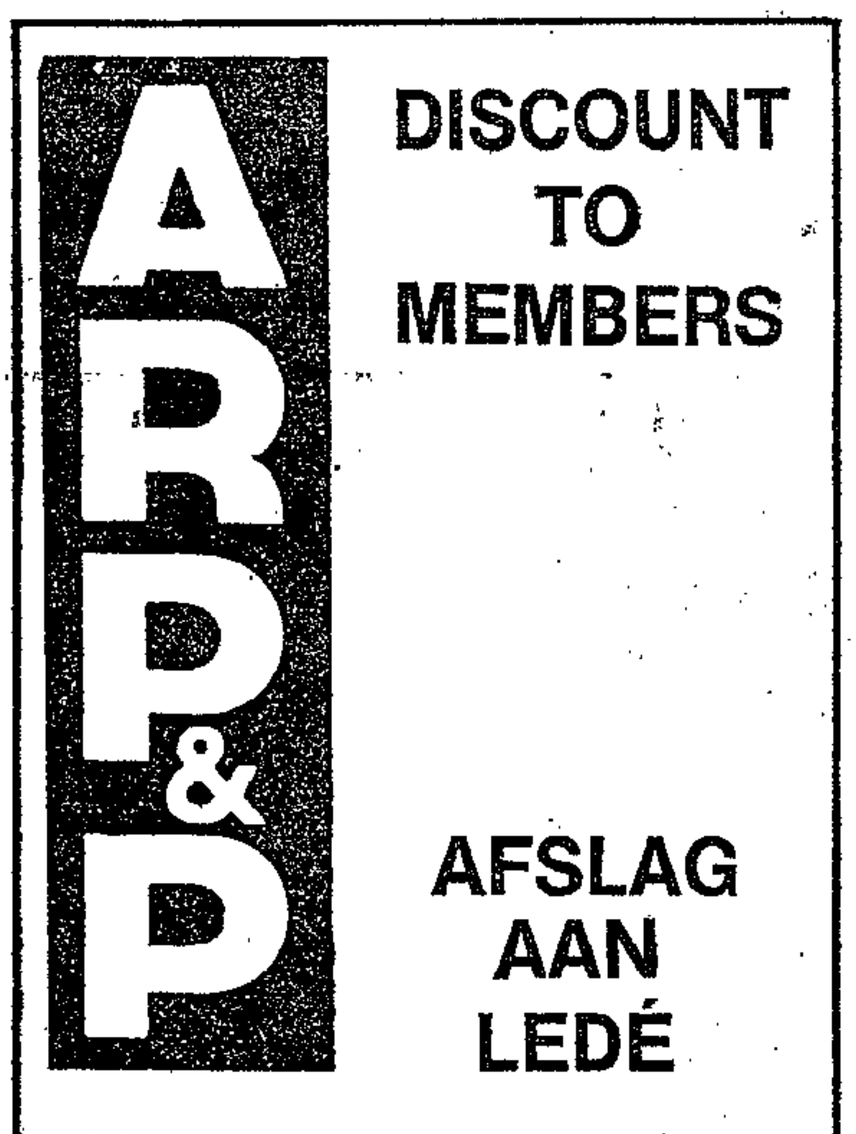
It is no charity char-a-banc. It is not an association seeking hand-outs. Their motto is *Each one reach one* and their aim *Self Help*, and that says it all. In fact it says more. These awakened folk are ready to help others and in so doing must surely help themselves.

The facts: The ARPP has a rent free office on the first floor, NBS Building, 52 Field Street, with furniture donated by Barclays Bank. It is manned by capable ex-businessmen and women and this office is their operations room. Tel: 66815

What operations? Plenty to interest the retired and pensioned, including:

● **HOUSING AND ACCOMODATION:** A committee deals with queries from those under threat of eviction from lodgings. It also tries to find accommodation or at least set members in the right direction.

● **INSURANCE:** ARPP cardholders may be entitled to reduce costs and discounts on some policies, negotiations being under way with some companies already.



The ARPP's discount card

Suggestion

This is an appropriate point to offer a suggestion. If you took out a life policy years ago, it probably was a non-profit policy, earning no interest, and you could be throwing good money after bad in these times of inflation. Examine your policy. Is it worth pursuing? Perhaps you should surrender it and invest instead in participation bonds?

Fred Hoffmann, 84, took out a life policy in 1951. Cover was R2 400; premiums paid to date are R2 880; surrender value is R1 590. However, invested at 17 percent interest for five years it can grow to R3 500. And even at 84 Mr Hoffmann has decided it is worth a chance.

You may be only 74, or 64. Might it be worth it? Consult an insurance company or, if you are a member of ARPP, ask your committee member.

● **EMPLOYMENT:** This committee tries to solve the problem of work-seekers and has already placed members in positions. Contact has also been made with the Government about situations which are chronically short-staffed, and an approach is to be made to comerce and industry.

However, the accent is on odd jobs and part-time work. There is a wealth of expertise lying idle — tutors, photographers, carpenters, technicians, bookkeepers, tax consultants, medical men and women and others. These people are eager to supplement pensions and also to revive an interest in living, not just to be put out to grass on the bowling greens.

There is a saying: "The hardest work is to go idle."

● **SELF HELP:** This encourages members to trade skills and help each other, painting, carpentry whatever. They certainly won't be charging R30 an hour and will take great pride in their work.

On this theme of helping others, at the first meeting of ARPP in Durban at which I was an observer, a member offered to let his fully-equipped caravan at Ifafa Beach to members for R5 a day or R25 a week. This is "self help" and "help others" in operation, the whole concept of the association. No hand-outs but rather shared benefits.

● **CONCESSIONS:** These are available to State pensioners in, for example, transport and entertainment, but ARPP aims to have its card recognised as well and is already negotiating with the Durban City Council for the same benefits as State pensioners.

Requests have also been made for TV licences to be reduced to R24 for all cardholders and pensioners, and for air fares to be cut during quiet periods.

● **DISCOUNTS:** Moves are afoot with over 500 business concerns, including clothing and food stores, for cardholders to qualify for discounts.

The ARPP argues that if stores are prepared to pay 5 percent to the banks on credit cards, (a scheme which cash customers virtually subsidise), then why can't stores give CASH cards — ARPP cards — the same benefit?

The stores would be asked to display the ARPP logo in their windows. And it would not be a hand-out — it would be an entitlement to those on pensions.

● **WORKSHOPS:** Still on the self-help theme, workshops could be set up where members can meet and anything they make will be sold. I saw a most beautiful crochet-dressed doll made by a woman of 92.

● **SOCIAL WELFARE:** Although ARPP definitely is not a charitable body, this committee will promote good neighbourliness. Caring for the lonely, and helping the not-so-able members is all part of the plan. ARPP intends to work in co-operation with welfare organisations in all aspects of its operation.

● **LEGAL:** This committee will give free legal advice in respect of pensions and matters relating to the aged.

● **INFORMATION:** On all official matters — sick benefits, free clinics, hospital services, State pensions and other such queries.

One long term aim of ARPP is to rectify the present anomaly of State pensions — R122 a month — whereby if extra money is earned then the pension is reduced or even stopped. There is the argument that the Government cannot support every pensioner and those that can fend for themselves should do so.

However the counter-argument is that this does not encourage initiative. Added to this, if people earned enough by supplementing their pensions, they might keep healthier and so be less of a burden on State services.

Legislation

Perhaps legislation could be amended to raise the amount able to be earned before the State pension is forfeited?

ARPP annual membership fees are from R2 to R10, graded solely on income, and to be used for administration. Members receive identity cards with photographs and if the response is really good, these could well be passports to rewarding retirement.

The outcome rests with the retired and pensioned. ARPP has a very positive outlook but needs substantial membership support to realise its aims.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if, at the end of this Year of the Aged, the elderly could face the future with the positive aim of what they were about to achieve?

To support the Year of the Aged, a hairdressing salon in Durban North, "Upstairs", is giving 20 percent discount on all hair services to State pensioners on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Just produce your pension card.

Pensions for domestics

EAST LONDON — Domestic workers are the intended focus of a new retirement plan announced by Natal Building Society.

The plan provides for the payment of regular monthly contributions by the worker, with or without the participation of the employer. The money goes into a special subscription account and remains the property of the worker. A spokesman said it can be withdrawn at any time and goes with the worker in any change of job.

In addition, life assurance cover of up to R5 000 is offered, and if a worker becomes unemployed, the plan can be suspended without monthly payments for up to six months.

The upper age limit under the plan is 65, but retirement before that is a matter of choice. In any event the worker retains full control of the money invested. — DDR

R1m extension planned for Stirling Lodge

D Dispatch 29/11/82

EAST LONDON — A residence for elderly people here, Stirling Lodge, is to be extended at a cost of R1 million.

Work on the project, which will include a three-storey annex to Stirling Lodge, is to start early next year.

The development has been made possible by a grant received from the Douglas Murray Trust, a Cape Town based fund which has been instrumental in providing accommodation for the elderly in several centres in the country.

The chairman of the Stirling Lodge Utility Company, Mr Mick Belchers, said yesterday the extension would be a "terrific" amenity to East London.

"It is wonderful that it has come in the Year of the Aged. Not only for local people, but also for the aged from other centres who wish to settle in East London," he added.

Mr Belchers said the grant came as a "great surprise". He felt the ties Mr Desmond Baker, a former executive chairman of a leading construction company associated with the Douglas Murray Trust, had with East London played a role in the grant being made available to Stirling Lodge.

Mr Baker, a former Dux pupil of Selborne College and one of South Africa's best known engineers, died earlier this year.

It is expected that the annex will provide accommodation for some 40 people. "The rooms will be bed-sitters with a private bathroom and a small balcony. Residents will have facilities in these rooms to boil an egg or make a cup of tea," said Mr Belchers.

Residents would be allowed to furnish their own bed-sitters as the idea was to provide them with an environment they were accustomed to.

"We plan to make it truly superior accommodation for the elderly and it will be constructed in a way which allows for future extensions," said Mr Belchers.

Other alterations to Stirling Lodge will include extensions to the present diningroom, kitchen, laundry and sickbay facilities, and servants' quarters.

The annex, which will have a lift, will be named the Douglas Murray wing. — DDR.

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DOMESTIC WORKERS: Special retirement plan.

New plan aims at independent scheme

Pension fund for domestics

ONE of the country's leading building societies has announced a special retirement plan for domestic workers.

By SELLO RABOTHATA

The National Building Society said the plan has been approved by the Domestic Workers Employment Project (Dwep) and the South African Domestic Workers Association (Sadwa).

The plan includes tax-free savings and life assurance cover.

The project has been launched in response to a need for a financial plan that was not entirely dependent on the financial co-operation or goodwill of employers, a spokesperson for the NBS said.

Research conducted by the company indicated that many urban domestics were aware of the importance of providing for their retirement years. At the same time they were often sceptical about available pension plans, since these depended on the goodwill and participation of their employers. Some reported that employers were simply not interested in assisting them with a pension contribution.

Mr John Bennett, managing director of NBS, said: "The answer seems to be a more flexible plan that if necessary, can be operated directly by domestics without employers. Obviously we would like to think that domestics, assist their workers with the monthly payments, ideally with a matching contribution."

Highlights of the domestic workers retirement plan (DWEP) are:

- the domestic worker can choose the amount to be invested each month, with a minimum of R5, increasing in multiples of R1;
- They can choose their own retirement date. The youngest age at which a domestic can apply for entry into the plan is 16 years and the oldest age is normally 55 years. A domestic may not remain on the plan beyond the age of 65;
- a monthly payment of R20 over a 30-year period will provide a lump sum of R92 088, made up of R7 200 in savings plus R84 888 interest, at current interest rates.
- The plan is registered in the name of the domestic worker and all money paid remains the property of the worker, with a change of jobs the plan goes with the worker;
- the amount saved during the domestic's working life, plus interest, may be withdrawn as a tax-free lump sum, but the company suggests that the sum be reinvested to ensure regular monthly payments, in the interest of the worker;
- Should a domestic be unemployed; the plan can be suspended without monthly payments for up to six months;
- life assurance cover of up to R5 000 is offered by the plan. When opening the retirement plan applicants will sign a will to avoid complications with tribal laws which require that money be paid out to male relatives regardless.

Ms Leah Tutu, spokesperson for the Domestic Workers' Employment Project (Dwep), yesterday told **The SOWETAN** that her organisation supported the special retirement plan.

...day, November 18.

Discount scheme for pensioners

A pensioners' discount scheme, offering a six percent discount on all items bought, has been introduced by the Checkers stores group.

The discount is available to all people over 65, all women over 60 who are receiving an old age or social pension and anyone receiving a war veteran's pension.

Pensioners will be given an identity card at the store where they plan to shop. They will have to supply a passport-size photograph.

The discount scheme will operate one week each month. Pensioners can register from next Monday, when the scheme will begin.

Holders of the discount card will be refunded six percent of their total purchase price in cash.

...firm.

Teachers' head accused at meeting of the SAIC

Mercury Reporter Mercury 11/4/82

THE head of the 6 000-strong Teachers' Association of South Africa, Mr Pat Samuels, was yesterday 'rapped over the knuckles' for refusing to co-operate with the South African Indian Council on matters concerning Indian education.

Unleashing the SAIC onslaught, Mr Amichand Rajbansi, chairman of the council's executive committee, accused Mr Samuels of adopting 'double standards'.

He said he could not understand why Mr Samuels was still retaining his position as president of a racial body when he was so conscious of racialism.

'If Mr Pat Samuels and Tasa want to have no dealings with the Indian Council because we are working within the system why he is prepared to talk to Cabinet ministers who are also part of the system?

'We are still prepared to co-operate with Tasa and we will go down to them in noble condescension for the welfare of education,' he said.

Attack

Mr Rajbansi, however, sounded a veiled warning to Tasa that the Indian Council would not rule out the possibility of the Government withdrawing Tasa's stop-order facilities.

He said if this were done the organisation's more than 6 000 members would have to find some other way of paying their subscription fees.

The SAIC attack followed grave dissention in the teachers' body over the SAIC's executive committee taking over partial control of Indian education.

It was felt that the Indian Council, as a political body, was not competent to handle matters concerning education.

Mr Rajbansi said every effort was being made to have promotions finalised by Monday.

He said 1 827 teachers had applied for 242 vacant posts in the division.

Three ministers to meet Indians

Mercury Reporter

THE Government's constitutional proposals for Indians are expected to be spelled out by the Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Chris Heunis, when he meets the South African Indian Council in Durban tomorrow.

Mr Heunis is one of three Cabinet ministers expected to attend the meeting.

The others are Mr F W de Klerk, Minister of Internal Affairs, and Mr Pen Kotze, Minister of Community Development.

Mr Amichand Rajbansi, executive chairman, said it would be the first time that three Cabinet Ministers would attend the council's meeting.

Call for equal pensions

Mercury Reporter

THE South African Indian Council yesterday called on the Government for equality in pensions to all race groups.

Mr Baldeo Dookie, an executive member, told the meeting that the Government's proposals for constitutional reform would be meaningless unless racial discrimination were removed.

The gap between pensions paid to whites, coloureds, Indians and blacks should be bridged.

Earlier, Mr Madanlall Mohanlall, who is also chairman of the Durban Indian Benevolent Society, said increased costs were having a serious effect on low wage earners and pensioners.

The meeting was told that white pensioners were paid R137 per month, while Indians and coloureds received R87 and blacks R49 a month.

Guns surrendered

Mercury Reporter

SECURITY officials at the headquarters of the South African Indian Council in Durban took possession of six firearms from five members and a journalist attending the Indian Council meeting yesterday.

Mr Jack Webb, the chief security officer at the Stanger Street Government Building, yesterday confirmed that guns were surrendered before the owners were allowed into the debating chamber.

However, all the guns were returned after the meeting.

The clampdown on firearms in the council chamber followed a ruling by the chairman, Mr Essa Mahommed, earlier this week.

GENERAL NEWS

Goal is security of tenure for pensioners

Time to CARE for the aged

Homes trust takes off

By Olga Horowitz

The Johannesburg Association for the Aged (Jafta) has launched a homes trust to provide housing of good quality in everyday surroundings for old people of all communities.

The intention is to give pensioners a better quality of life than they now enjoy and secure tenure, banishing their fears of a homeless old age.

Jafta already owns a block of flats and a hotel in Hillbrow. In the next two years it hopes to acquire further housing units and a convalescent home for the aged.

Recently Rosebank Round Table handed Jafta a cheque for R5 000.

"The money was part of a sum raised through donations and fund-raising activities," said Mr Bob Rosenthal, chairman of Rosebank Round Table.

"When we heard of the establishment of the homes trust as a longer term investment programme to provide housing for Johannesburg's aged we decided that the money would be well used."

Rosebank Round Table raised a further R4 000 recently at a beerfest. This was given to the Round Table Central Transvaal area project to raise R120 000 to provide accommodation units for the United Cerebral Palsy Association.

Mr Bob Rosenthal (right), chairman of Round Table, Rosebank, hands a cheque for R5 000 to Mr Tony Simpson, chairman of Jafta (Johannesburg Association for the Aged). On the left is Mrs Hermine du Buisson, PRO for Jafta.

The Round Table is an organisation open to men aged between 18 and 40 and is always looking for new members. Telephone Bob Rosenthal 21-0961 (office) or 706-6806 (home).

★ ★ ★

The Harvest Ingathering Appeal, which runs the Seventh Day Adventist meals on wheels scheme, plans to make Christmas a special time for pensioners in the Transvaal.

During this Year of the Aged its organisers hope to invite hundreds of less fortunate aged people throughout the Transvaal to Christmas parties.

Those unable to attend will have dinners delivered to their homes. Service organisations and concerned individuals, it is hoped, will help those who would like the unusual experience of eating out, by providing transport to the nearest participating hotel or centre.

A mail appeal has been made to the public to help finance this big undertaking.

Further details are available from Neville Mandy at 683-2504.

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Rosebank to get centre for elderly

By Olga Horowitz

The Johannesburg Association for the Aged (Jafta) is extending its network of service centres for the recreation, entertainment and therapy of elderly people to the northern suburbs.

This has been made possible by a gift to Jafta from the Johannesburg City Council of a house in Keyes Avenue, Rosebank.

Jafta has five service centres in operation in the city and will open a sixth in January at Wemmer Pan in La Rochelle. Rosebank will be the seventh.

"Jafta is concerned with the needs of elderly people of all income groups," said a spokesman.

"We are delighted to have this house in the heart of Rosebank where many people live alone in comfortable flats, not in need of material help, but possibly lonely, and lacking companionship.

"The emphasis at this service centre will be on bridge, billiards, stimulating talks and meetings.

"It will be a place for togetherness where people will enjoy similar interests.

Lodge Jerusalem of the Hebrew Order of David has undertaken to organise a premiere on November 17 of the Brickhill-Burke production of "Mame" at the Johannesburg Civic Theatre in aid of the Rosebank centre.

The proceeds of the premiere will be used to renovate and furnish the house.

"We want this centre to have the feel of a neighbourhood club," said Jafta.

"The Rosebank Library adjoins the house and we plan a coverway to link the two buildings."

The Hebrew Order of David's work for charity is interdenominational. It helps the handicapped, underprivileged, lonely and aged of all races and religions.

Tickets for the premiere can be obtained from the Jafta offices, telephone 725-5330, or from Mr Morrie Mindel and Mr Julyan Amler at 51-5741 (office hours) or 440-4646 and 786-9557 (evenings).

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asked to stand to be welcomed, I was so moved that my eyes filled with tears. I felt privileged to be a part of St John."

Representatives participated in a parade of flags of all the nations attending the show. The South African flag was carried by two St John cadets from Cape Town, Miss Sheila Hoskins and Mr Adriaan Pheiffer.

Mrs Van Antwerpen also witnessed the first attempt to lift the Mary Rose, King Henry VIII's old flagship.

"The tension was high and everyone was very disappointed when work was temporarily stopped because of bad weather and technical difficulties," she said.

Bedford developing into a haven for pensioners

E Post 9/11/82

300

Post Reporter

THE Town Council of Bedford is set to develop more than 50 erven to attract retired people to the little Karoo town with a white population of 1 000.

In 1975 Bedford was considered "a ghost town" with more than 30% of its houses standing vacant.

According to the Town Clerk, Mr Godfrey Rudman, the white population — mostly made up of retired pensioners — has now increased to a level where houses and stands are at a premium.

Nine retired ex-Rhodesian couples have settled together in a small community dubbed "Little Rhodesia", and Mr Rudman says he has even received inquiries from such places as the Isle of Man in the United Kingdom.

"Somehow people have taken a liking to our little town — mostly people who want to get away from the city hustle and bustle."

He says the town's attraction as a place to retire is also boosted by the large property grounds and the low cost of land.

Presently 0,2 hectare plots (half an acre) are worth between R800 and R1 000 each. The new erven, dubbed Bedford Extension 2, will probably be sold at between R1 200 and R1 500 each, says Mr Rudman.

He expects the land to be ready for sale in March.

Despite a demand for houses in Bedford since the property boom early in 1981 nothing has been available Mr Rudman says that since then the number of electricity consumers has increased by only two.

N BAKKIES.
JK TO TASK.

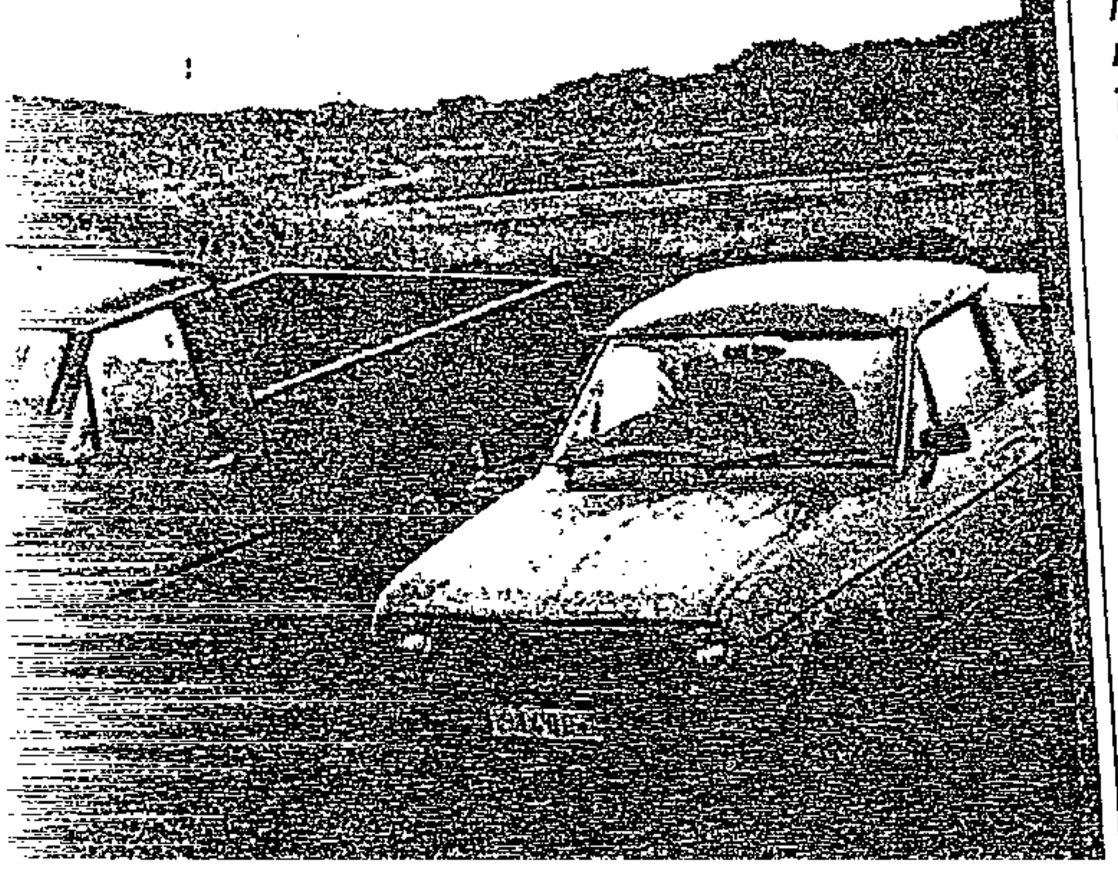
Datsun bakkies have won their reputation for toughness. On hard ground and soft. On road. And off.

But you'll hardly feel the wheels working. Because the suspension keeps the wheels on the track – not buffeting you in the back. And the power plant proves itself time and again. Economically. Effortlessly. No matter what your load.

When you're buying bakkies, that's what it's all about. So the Datsun bakkies have reinforced, double-walled side panels and tailgates, with the tailgate opening low and wide to minimize loading time and effort.

Load up. Climb aboard. Cradle yourself in the form-fitting luxury of the padded seats. Extend your elbows. And move out. By now you'll have forgotten entirely that there's a load behind. Don't worry, it'll be there, safe and sound when you get to your destination. Even if no-one's ever been to your destination before.

Our destination was the toughest terrain we could find. We took the 1400, 1800, King Cab and the 4x4 Tracker to a tank testing ground to play tag with a tank. They took the tank to task. Through mud, slush, hills, dongas – the works. Sure surprised the tank commander. And the bakkies' fantastic fuel



Domestic body rejects pension plan

Argus 8/11/82

Labour Reporter

THE Domestic Workers' Association (DWA) has dissociated itself from a retirement plan for domestic workers devised by the Natal Building Society

In a Press statement released today, the NBS said the retirement plan had been approved by both the Domestic Workers' Employment Project (DWEP) and DWA

However, when approached for comment, Miss Maggie Oewies, the chairwoman of DWA, said the NBS had not consulted DWA about the scheme.

CONFUSION

Mr Kingsley Loney, NBS Cape regional manager, explained that the confusion had arisen over the fact that DWEP's "operating arm" was called the South African Domestic Workers' Association (SADWA).

"The names of the two organisations are similar and this created the confusion," said Mr Loney.

The NBS plan depends on contributions from workers alone and not on joint contributions involving employers.

In the statement, Mr Loney said research among urban domestics had shown they were "acutely aware" of the importance of providing for their retirement years.

"SCEPTICAL"

"At the same time, they are often sceptical about available pension plans as they depend on the goodwill and participation of their employers. Others report that employers are simply not interested in assisting them with a pension contribution," said Mr Loney.

The NBS plan was a "more flexible" one, allowing domestics to invest their own money without necessarily relying on the employers to make contributions, he added.

According to the Press statement, one of the "highlights" of the plan is that workers can choose the amount to be invested each month with the minimum amount being R5.

A monthly payment of R20 over a 30-year period will provide a lump sum of R92 088, made up of R7 200 in savings and R84 888 in interest

AGE

The youngest age of entry into the plan is 16 and the oldest 55.

Should a domestic be unemployed, the plan can be suspended without monthly payments for up to six months

Commenting on the plan, Miss Oewies said the "whole point" about a pension scheme was that employers should contribute.

"Which domestic can afford to pay R20 a month into a pension scheme when they are already living on the breadline?" she said.

A spokeswoman for DWEP in Johannesburg said the reaserch among domestic workers had been done in Johannesburg and Durban.

The NBS had had several meetings with DWEP, who had approved the scheme, she said.

Driving force for the aged

Mrs Zerilda Droskie is director of the SA National Council for the Aged, was the first social worker in South Africa to specialise in the care of the aged and has been the driving force behind this year's national campaign for the aged.

"Our goal for the year is to make the community more aware of the responsibility they have towards old people and to educate them so they realise older people have a contribution to make to society and to the economy of the country," she says.

In her 17 years as director of the SA National Council for the Aged, Mrs Droskie has strived to make care for the aged less institutionalised and more geared towards self-help.

"Old people are usually regarded paternalistically and as a problem when, in fact, most want to — and do — live full and independent lives," she says.

There is little to do with the aged which this vibrant woman has not been involved. Meals on wheels, laundry services, an information centre, retirement programmes and a bi-monthly newspaper are just some of the schemes she has personally pioneered in South Africa.

At present her main concerns are to help introduce self-help schemes into black communities, to try to increase their subsidies and to work towards getting pensioners paid on a monthly basis.

The strong community spirit which has motivated Mrs Droskie (who has a Masters degree in social science) since she graduated from the University of Stellenbosch in 1940 permeates her private life too. She has three children of her own, but she and her husband have adopted two more, who live with them in Cape Town.

"I also brought up our maid's daughter and now she works for the National Council for the Aged," she says proudly.

Care for the aged is not the only organisation in which she is involved, however. While most women would feel this full-time job demanded sufficient time, Mrs Droskie has become an active member of many others, "because I needed some perspective and balance for my full-time work."

She serves on the Northern Areas Hospital Board and has been an active member of the Business and Professional Women's Club for many years. From 1975 to 1978 she was the club's national president.

Another organisation in which she is involved is the Women's Bureau. She holds its retirement portfolio.

"A woman has to look to her own future. She cannot rely on her husband to organise her finances or to provide for her forever," she says.

MRS ZERILDA DROSKIE — director of the SA National Council for the Aged and first social worker to specialise in this field.

Building society scheme for domestic servants

Staff Reporter

A SPECIAL retirement plan for domestic workers in South Africa was announced by the Natal Building Society at the weekend

The scheme, which has been approved by the Domestic Workers' Employment Project and the Domestic Workers' Association, includes tax-free savings and life assurance cover.

The building society's Cape regional manager, Mr Kingsley Loney, said the scheme was aimed mainly at domestic workers so that they would not be entirely dependent on the financial co-operation or goodwill of their employers.

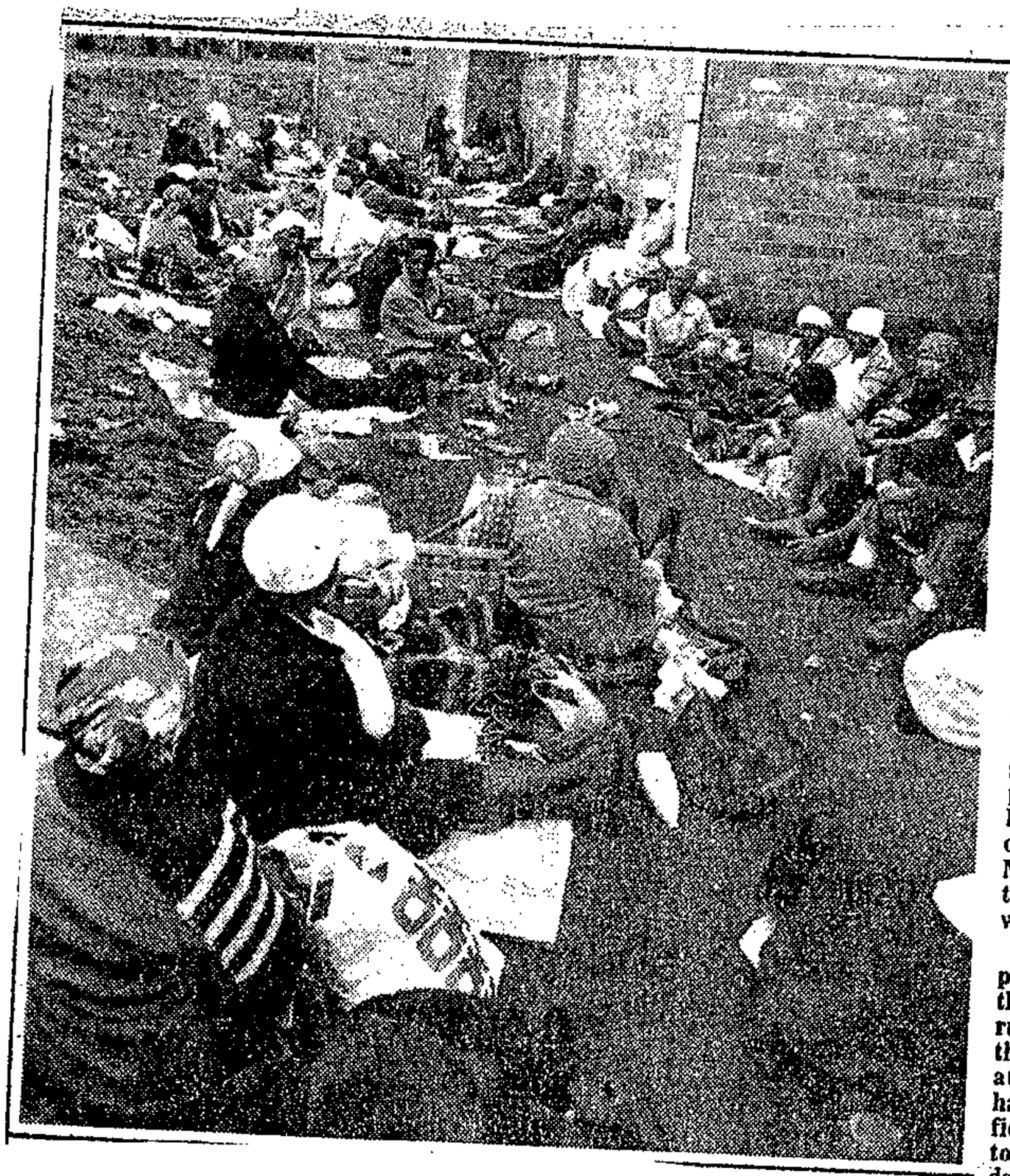
He said research by the NBS showed that many domestic workers were acutely aware of the importance of providing for their retirement years. But they were often sceptical about available pension plans which depended on the goodwill and participation of their employers.

"The answer is a more flexible plan that can be operated directly by domestics without employer aid," he said. "Obviously we would like to think that employers, in their own interest and with a view to retaining the loyalty of their domestic workers, will assist their workers with the monthly payments — ideally with a matching contribution."

Features

Some of the features of the plan are:

- The domestic worker can choose the amount to be invested each month, from a minimum of R5.
- Domestic workers can choose their own retirement age, although they cannot remain on the plan beyond the age of 65. The minimum age for participation in the scheme is 16 and the maximum 55.
- The plan is registered in the name of the domestic worker and all money paid remains her property, whether she remains in the same job or moves.
- The amount saved during her working life, plus interest, may be withdrawn as a tax-free lump sum, but the NBS suggests that the sum be re-invested to ensure regular monthly payments.
- Should she be unemployed, the plan can be suspended without monthly payments for up to six months.
- Life assurance cover of up to R5 000 is offered by the plan. When opening the retirement plan, applicants will sign a will to avoid complications with tribal laws requiring money to be paid out exclusively to male relatives.



Aged camp out to collect their pensions

African Affairs Reporter

KWA Mashu residents camped at the community hall in C section last night to beat the queue of thousands of pensioners flocking from other areas to collect their old age pensions there.

The campers, pictured yesterday, told the Mercury, that although pensions were paid today to pensioners from B, C and D sections, residents from other sections, including Ntuzuma, rushed to C section because pensions were paid there first.

They claimed that in the past they had not received their money because it had run out and officials from the Department of Co-operation and Development had returned to their offices early, advising people to return the following day.

Mrs Hild Dlamini said she had camped for two days at the hall while others had been sleeping on the veranda since Sunday. She said they needed money desperately and had to camp there to make sure they got it.

An official from the Commissioner's Office said the situation had been corrected. Staff now remained at pay-out points until everybody had been paid. In the past staff had finished work early to be back at the office at 4 p m but that had been changed.

He said the paying of pensions ran from 9 a m until 6 p m and there was sufficient money to pay the pensioners.

Star 2/11/82

New look at pensions urged

The unexpected surge in industrial unrest which followed the proposed legislation on pension preservation in 1980 heralded a major change in employee benefits, Mr L D Lewis, director of Price Forbes Federale, said yesterday.

Addressing a seminar on "Industrial unrest — a practical approach to employee - benefit planning," hhe said pension funds and general employee benefits had become irrevocably linked with industrial relations and underlying political implications.

The proposed legislation had caused considerable black labour unrest, industrial unrest and mass withdrawal from pension funds, and the proposals were eventually withdrawn.

Legislation intending to preserve pensions resulted in blacks forgoing millions of rands in accrued pension benefits and thousands being without death and disability cover.

The withdrawal of the proposals had been hailed as a great union victory, with the loss of benefits completely ignored.

What was needed now was a reassessment of the basic fundamentals of employee-benefit planning. — Sapa.

NMC.

Survey on needs of black pensioners

30 Weekend Post 28/11/82

By NOREEN SUTCLIFFE

A SURVEY is to be undertaken next year by Rhodes University on the basic needs of black pensioners in Grahamstown and the extent of their numbers.

Mr B B Zondani, recently elected chairman of the Grahamstown Welfare Liaison Committee, told Weekend Post the survey, the first of its kind on black pensioners, is to be undertaken by the Institute for Social and Economic Research under Professor Simon Bekker and Professor W A Mitchell, assisted by Miss J du Plessis, social worker at Settlers Hospital.

The meeting highlighted the Year of the Aged and, said Mr Zondani, stores and wholesalers in the city were to be approached this coming week to allow tins to be set up outside their businesses to collect any commodities to ease the plight of the aged.

A Christmas party is being planned for the pensioners in the township this year on December 16 for selected pensioners who otherwise would face a grim Christmas.

Mr Zondani said the efforts of the committee to brighten the lives of the old age pensioners had the full backing of the South African Council for the Aged.

The plight of the inmates of the Sunnyside Home for the Aged, a temporary old age home, was highlighted by Sister T B Sabata, who said gangsterism and the home's isolation was making life difficult for the old people.

These people, she said, had been housed in temporary accommodation after they had been removed from the Good Samaritan Home in Fingo Village.

The meeting felt that every effort should be made to help these old people, said Mr Zondani.

Grahamstown is to share in R900 000 set aside for 72 towns in the Eastern Cape and Border for sports facilities by the Department of Co-operation and Development.

According to Mr J H Steenkamp, a senior official of the department, who came from Pretoria for the meeting, Grahamstown is to receive R67 000 which, said Mr Zondani, would be spent partly on the J D Dlepu Stadium, at King Flats, Grahamstown, which is in a bad state of repair.

"It is intended to use part of the money for the stadium which is shared by soccer and rugby, while cricket, tennis and golf facilities will also be improved.

"In addition, we are planning to turn the Albert Hall into a community centre," said Mr Zondani.

Mr Zondani said he was the first black man to head the Welfare Liaison Committee.

The vice-chairman, also unanimously elected, was Prof Mitchell, of Rhodes University.

Sowetan
23/11/82

Chain store plan to help aged

FIRST: Mrs Annie Patterson and Mrs Bertha Makau delight at the savings in

A DISCOUNT scheme to "rescue" pensioners from the ever-rising cost of living has been introduced by a chain store.

The scheme will also contribute to the International Year of the Aged and covers all people over 65, women over 60 qualifying for an old-age or social pension. and anyone who receives a war veteran pension.

"We have decided to introduce this scheme, not only to mark the International Year of the Aged, but to help pensioners hard-hit by inflation and price increases, to have benefits in the years to come," said Mr Gordon Utian, managing director for Checkers.

Pensioners interested in the scheme will be issued with identity cards at the store where they plan to have their shopping done. They will be entitled to a six percent discount on all items purchased at the stores.

The discounts will be made available during the weeks when most pensions are paid out and will operate for one week a month.

Registration started on November 15 and those interested should supply passport-size photographs at their store.

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JCC calls for pensions overhaul

(308)

from 23/11/82

Labour Correspondent

THE Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce has called for major changes to the running of employer pension funds in an attempt to allay growing distrust of funds among black workers and unions, which began with last year's pension strikes.

Besides recommending a range of changes to the funds themselves, a JCC committee has also urged that the Government increase unemployment benefits so that unskilled black workers do not have to rely on their pensions to tide them over when they are jobless.

It also suggests scrapping race discrimination in State pensions and that the "means test" for pensions be pegged to the "real" cost of living so workers do not have to rely solely on private pension funds.

These proposals are the result of an in-depth study by a special JCC committee into the pensions issue.

It was prompted by the pensions unrest and by what the committee sees as "growing distrust" by black workers and unions of private pension funds.

The committee backs employer-run pension funds and a form of "freezing" pensions until retirement — the idea which sparked the unrest — but notes worker criticisms of both "freezing" and the funds themselves.

The committee suggests several key measures to win black worker confidence in pension funds, and to pave the way for new pensions legislation, although it says this must be delayed until the labour relations climate has settled.

Among the measures it proposes are:

- That a formula be worked out for worker representation on pension fund boards — although workers should not be in a majority.
- That investing pension monies in black residential areas, although the committee noted that this may not always provide high-yield investments, should be considered
- Reconsidering the percentage of pension money which has to be invested in Government stock
- Improving administration to ensure black contract workers receive pension pay-outs
- Lowering the retirement age for workers who do manual labour and therefore have a shorter life-span
- A unified management-union approach to pension legislation
- Effective communication with workers on pensions, which entails the strengthening of trade unionism

House endowed to senior citizens

EAST LONDON — The East London Senior Citizens' Association (ELSCA) will take over Canterbury House here next month.

The owners of the Southernwood residence for the past 19 years, Mr and Mrs George Lee, have sold the establishment to the association at a nominal fee.

They have also endowed the building and its contents to the association.

An ELSCA sub-committee chairman, Mr Cyril Bauer, yesterday described the endowment as a "truly magnificent gesture" on the part of the couple.

The 40-room residence, he said, would in time become accommodation exclusively for people over 60.

"There are still a couple of young folk staying in the residence and we wouldn't like to simply evict them," he said.

Canterbury House was in "excellent" repair and the association had no immediate plans for altering or renovating the residence.

"We have not yet considered establishing eating facilities there as the Manor is close by and residents could have their meals there," said Mr Bauer.

Mr and Mrs Bauer have offered to manage the residence at no charge until the association has made alternative arrangements. — DDR

Izelle greets new centre for aged

Making her maiden speech at the Randburg Town Council meeting last night, Mayor Izelle Swart expressed appreciation for official consent to use a council house in Selkirk Street as a community centre for senior citizens.

Miss Swart proposes to channel R100 000 to amenities for the aged this year. The amount includes all proceeds of her mayoral fund.

She said the decision to convert the council house for use by old people was a gesture of communication between the authorities and the elderly.

It had been established there were about 2 000 State pensioners in Randburg, she said. The number of civil pensioners was still to be ascertained.

Number 18 Selkirk Avenue will be used as a combined community centre for the aged and cultural centre for organisations in the town.

Miss Swart . . . R100 000 her aim.

Amateur cultural organisations should contact the Public Relations Officer at 789-2111 or to write to the Town Clerk at Private Bag 1, Randburg, 2125.

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E·Post 24/11/82

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Waiting 2 years for his old age pension

Post Reporter

FOR two years 70-year-old Mr Samson Mathile, of Walmer Township, has relied on the generosity of friends and relatives to stay alive.

Mr Mathile applied for an old age pension in September, 1980, and two years later he is still waiting.

He is one of many people who have gone to Mr Paddy McNamee, of Main Road, Walmer for help.

Mr McNamee said that this year there had been three queries from the Department of Co-operation and Development about Mr Mathile's application "and still nothing has been done about getting this poor old man his pension".

The latest query, received earlier this month, asked for Mr Mathile's fingerprints. They had been sent many months ago after an earlier inquiry.

"The local office of the Department of Community Development has been very sympathetic and helpful and the hold-up seems to be in Pretoria," Mr McNamee said.

Mr F J Fourie, Port Elizabeth Commissioner for Co-operation and Development, said today the long delay in sorting out Mr Mathile's pension, was due to the fact that he was a stranger to this area and various inquiries and investigations had had to be undertaken.

"But I am sure he will receive his pension shortly," Mr Fourie said.

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Rent reprieve for pensioners

Sowetan 29/4/82

ABOUT 40 Soweto pensioners, who have no other source of income except their meagre bimonthly pension, have been granted a rent reprieve.

This means that pensioners who have no children or other relatives living with them, will not be paying rent for the next three months until the Soweto Council reviews their cases.

Council's chairman Mr David Thebehali said the council received hundreds of applications from the aged for a rent reprieve and that only those pensioners who have no other source of income except pension were approved.

An Orlando East councillor, Mr T J Ramathibela, has claimed that some pensioners — despite having had their rent remitted — were expected to pay their electricity bills. He said in terms of the Urban Areas Act the council was supposed to disqualify pensioners from rent and electricity bills.

The council is to investigate these claims.

FLASHBACK: Milling company public relations officer Mr Legau Mathabathe and a colleague distributing blankets to pensioners. This was one of those occasions when the elderly were not neglected. But on the whole The Year of the Aged was a real tough and unpleasant one for the old folk.

OLD FOLK LEFT IN THE LURCH

Sowetan 29/11/82 (300)

The International Year of the Aged is fading out and little has been done for the plight of the black pensioners.

By ALINAH DUBE

Most of the senior citizens hoped the year has something in store for them but things did not turn the way they were expected. They say they thought they would be built a prestigious home, a new system be introduced to alleviate long queues at pay-out centers and community projects be initiated.

At different functions organised by various organisations throughout the year, it was emphasised that society care for the old. The youth was also called upon to look after the senior citizens in their retirement years.

But it was also pointed out that blacks did not have the same privileges as whites.

Through efforts by organisations such as the women's section of the Transvaal United African Teachers' Association (Tuta), thousands of grannies were presented with blankets and groceries to mark the Year of the Aged.

Mrs A Sithole, woman consultant of the Moroka branch in Soweto, told **The SOWETAN** that female teachers felt they had to do something for the community.

"They realised there was need for women to come together and get to grips with community problems."

"We help when there are funerals or any kind of gathering. We help organise pots, chairs and other utensils required on such occasion," Mrs Sithole said.

Their main duty was educating parents on the buying of school uniforms. There are representatives appointed to organise community projects or festivities for elderly people.

But the organisation often encountered problems from senior citizens not understanding what some of the celebrations are meant for, according to Mrs Sithole.

Women consultants, she said, invite a certain number which they know will be able to get presents at a party. But usually the event is flooded with hundreds of grannies attending, hence the problem of who to give a present.

P. T. O.

Over-65 concession open to visitors too

300 Mercury 30/11/87

Municipal Reporter

ANYONE from anywhere in South Africa over the age of 65 now qualifies for Durban's 'senior citizen concession' on bus fares, concerts and sporting facilities — and may even enjoy commercial discounts.

Yesterday the city council agreed to extend its over-65 privileges to visitors as well as residents.

Councillor Pieter Breytenbach emphasised that the concessions were available to all races and to all income brackets. While it had been argued that some over-65s could well afford to pay their way, they were only a fraction of the older population.

Special ID cards would be issued to those who complied with the registration formalities and paid R1. But, Mr Breytenbach warned, the city would need a little time to gear itself to the system. There would be announcements when the corporation was ready to process applications.

Index-linked stock urged for pensions

ARGUS 2/12/82 (300)

PENSION funds and other savings institutions should be allowed to buy Government stock with the capital value linked to the consumer price index to protect it against inflation.

Mr J G van der Horst, chairman of Old Mutual Life Assurance Society, suggests this in his annual report today.

He says these investments should be available only to people saving on a long-term basis to support themselves in retirement or ill-health, or to provide for their dependants.

They are hardest hit by inflation and the least able to protect themselves from its effects.

A FAILURE

Widespread indexation has been tried in several countries to cushion the effects of inflation, but it has been a failure.

Another type of indexation has been introduced recently in Britain.

"This type of indexation has primarily been motivated and implemented as a tool to reduce inflation, by the issuing of index-linked Government stock with a guaranteed real rate of return.

"This indexation is quite deliberately limited to one specific area and has been introduced in the context of strict financial policies designed to control inflation."

HAS LIMITS

The application of strict monetary and fiscal policies to reduce inflation has limits in this country "because of the unacceptable political implications of the necessarily severe short-term economic consequences.

"On the other hand, the continuation of high inflation poses the real threat of drastic curtailment or even destruction of our savings industry and with it the largest part of the stable capital formation system so vital to the continued growth of our relatively free market economy.

"Those who save for their old age, possible long-term ill health and for their dependants in the event of their untimely death are in my opinion the people most disadvantaged through inflation."

Indexation would simultaneously promote savings in spite of inflation and give the Government an incentive to reduce inflation by cutting its borrowing costs.

GREATER RISKS

"There are risks in this scheme, but in my opinion there are probably much greater risks in maintaining the status quo.

"If the inflation rate, or the expectation thereof, falls, such indexed stocks will not be in demand.

"But if inflation or its expectancy increases, the demand will justifiably be more substantial."

Tokyo peaks

TOKYO. — Speculation that Japanese interest rates were set to fall pushed Tokyo share prices yesterday to their highest level of the year.

In active trading, which saw 480-million shares change hands, the market average jumped 71,15 to close at 7 966,77. — Sapa-Reuter.

Good news for Mamelodi pensioners

(300) Sunretan 9/12/82

By ALINAH DUBE

A MOVE to have all pension funds for the Mamelodi residents paid out every month was yesterday welcomed by the local senior citizens.

At a celebration held at the Ikageng Hall to mark the International Year of the Aged, pensioners chanted songs of happiness when an announcement about plans to have their funds paid out every month was made.

Asked if they were happy, they shouted: "We want our money every month. Let us be treated the same as white pensioners."

A regional representative for the National Society for Care of the Aged, Mrs Zerilda Nel, said negotiations with the Government to give black pensioners their money every month, were at an advanced stage.

"All we still needed to do was gauge the feelings of the people concerned. That is why I asked the old people to say what they feel would be of help to them," Mrs Nel said.

A social worker, Mr W S Kekana, told the gathering that it was through the Press that some changes had been made to meet the plight of the black pensioner. He called on elderly people to form committees to cater for those unable to walk to various community centres for different activities.

"Being a pensioner does not mean sitting back and not getting involved in community work. It is up to senior citizens to show the young generation the importance of not being beggars by doing the least they can," Mr Kekana concluded.

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Free bus rides for Daveyton aged

12/12/82

THE aged in Daveyton near Benoni will in future be exempted from paying bus fare on all buses operating in the township.

This was announced by the chairman of the Daveyton Community Council, Mr Tom Boya at a function for the aged held at the Sinaba Stadium at the weekend.

The function started at 10am and was organised by the Benoni Black Council of the Aged, to celebrate the International Year of the Aged. About 300 people, mostly pensioners, attended the function.

Mr Boya told the crowd that the council, which owns the bus service in the township, was still planning a coupon system for all aged in the township which would allow them to use the buses in the township free of charge.

Mr Boya said the Council hoped to implement the system next year.

Grandma and Grandpa of Daveyton 1982 were also crowned at this ceremony. Last Friday Mrs Thetha was judged as Grandma Daveyton 1982 with "princesses" Mrs Norah Jangu taking second place and Mrs Mabel Ngwenya third position. Mr Meshack Sibanyoni was judged Grandpa of Daveyton 1982.

The Council for the Care of the Aged was formed early this year with the purpose of raising funds to build an old age home in the township.

The Council, which is affiliated to the Southern Council for the Care of the Aged, has already conducted a survey in Daveyton and Wattville to ascertain the number of elderly people who would like to live in the proposed old age home. So far nearly 400 residents have indicated they require such accommodation.

Coloured home 'to be built at Wentworth'

300 Mercury 21/12/82

Mercury Reporter

A HOME for the coloured frail will be built in Wentworth — possibly at the controversial Assegai Place site which had been turned down by the Town and Regional Planning Appeals Board, Durban's Mayor, Mrs Sybil Hotz, said yesterday.

She was responding to a call by Wentworth community elders for a multiracial frail-age home in Cato Manor.

Mrs Hotz said the Department of Community Development, owners of the land in Assegai Place which had been ear-marked for a frail-age home, had applied for area to be re-zoned in terms of the urban renewal scheme.

'The familes which would have been affected by the home will have to move out in time,' Mrs Hotz said, adding that the council was holding thumbs for a favourable outcome to the department's application.

The mayor said because of the Group Areas Act it was not possible to push for a multiracial home in Cato Manor.

'There is an urgent need for a frail-age home for coloureds and we are hoping to go ahead with one in Wentworth.

'Someone has to go and it would be unfortunate if the four families in Assegai Place were to move to make way for a home,' Mrs Hotz said.

Mr Cecil Kippen, a community elder in Wentworth who opposed council moves to build a home in Assegai Place, said he was surprised that the council seemed determined to build a frail-age home on the affected site, particularly when the Appeals Board had set aside the council's earlier decision.

Accommodation and recreation facilities for active elderly in new EL centre

EAST LONDON — A centre for the elderly, providing accomodation for 132 retired people as well as a recreation block for another 300, is to open here in April.

Known as the East London Old Timers Centre, the project is the culmination of 11 years of planning by the Board of directors and has as its objective the provision of comfortable housing for the needy active aged and a centre for the active elderly to enjoy a more complete existence in their older years.

Mr Richard Mogg, chairman of the centre, stressed yesterday that the centre was not intended as an old age home and only applicants who were medically fit and active were considered.

He denied claims that the rentals were too high, explaining that they were pegged to the income of residents. "Rentals are subsidised for people with incomes below a certain level while those with higher salaries will be paying a premium."

Mr Mogg said the company which was running the centre was a non-profit organisation.

The centre will contain the following facilities when it is opened in April:

- A spacious main hall for entertaining and relaxing;
- Kitchens which will be open for use by residents in the afternoon. A wholesome midday meal will be served daily from Mondays to Fridays.
- An arts studio where residents can get lessons in art, sculpture, dressmaking, tapestry, toy making and jewellery making;
- A laundrette costing 60c a load for washing;
- A TV room with a video recorder and a hi-fi set which can be used during the day time for card games;
- A shop for people who make things to sell their crafts;
- A room which can be used for church services, cinema shows, discussion groups and meetings of the dramatic society;
- A games room with a billiard table;
- A woodwork and metalwork room with a pottery wheel.

Membership of the centre is open to non-resident women over 60 and men over 65. It has been designed for 300 people who will pay a nominal fee of R6 a year membership.

For residents, rentals operate on a sliding scale. For a single room a person with an income of R100 a month will pay a rent of R45, which means a subsidy of R18 by the government.

For those with an income of R110 the rental will be R45,50, a subsidy of R17,50. Rentals increase by 50c for every extra R10 of income up to R200.

Above a R200 income people will pay R50 a month rent and upwards. For every R1 of income over R200 25c is added to the rent. Thus a person getting R400 a month will pay R100 in rent.

For double units a combined income of R100 will mean a rental of R60. R32 of which is subsidised.

This increases by 50c for every R10 of income up to R400. Above R400 rentals increase 25c for every R1. Thus an income of R500 means a rental of R100.

The rooms, which have been criticised for being too small, appear adequate. Mr Mogg says: "They should be regarded as en suite rooms in a large house."

Rooms include a balcony, a private bathroom, a kitchenette with a stove and oven and a built-in cupboard. — DDR

Oldfield backs shopping plan

(300) Mercury 1/1/82

Mercury Reporter

A BLUFF woman's campaign to fight for a better shopping deal for pensioners of all race groups has received the backing of Mr Geoff Oldfield, MPC, the New Republic Party's spokesman on pensions.

Launching her campaign, Mrs Olive Atkinson, a pensioner herself, said she was determined to 'fight to the hilt' for greater recognition by commerce of the rights of Durban's senior citizens.

'I am particularly interested in getting reductions in the price of food and clothing for pensioners,' she said.

Hailing the plan as a 'very good idea', Mr Oldfield said he was prepared to offer any assistance he could to help make it a success. He was happy that the plan included members of all race groups.

'I am also pleased that pensioners are trying to organise themselves to help themselves. They are a group of people who require assistance in view of the high cost of living.

'I hope Mrs Atkinson gets the co-operation of all businessmen,' he said.

Although reluctant to commit the Durban Chamber of Commerce, its spokesman admitted that Mrs Atkinson's plan had merit but added that whether all traders would support it was open to question.

He said a number of shops and some cinemas in the city already were offering special discounts to pensioners on certain days.

Meanwhile, Mrs Atkinson has reported receiving 'overwhelming' response from pensioners from all parts of the country following last Friday's Mercury report of her plan.

She is planning to convene a meeting of pensioners soon to discuss her plans. Mr Oldfield would be invited to address the meeting.

Fewer foreigners visited SA in 1981

Mercury Reporter

THERE has been a systematic decrease, when compared with 1980, in the number of foreign visitors to South Africa, according to figures released by the Department of Statistics.

The Cape Tourism Authority says that the greatest setback suffered by the western Cape is the diminishing number of Argentinian visitors, with inflation preventing the middle-class Argentinian from visiting Cape Town.

The Germans, encouraged by the introduction of the direct flight from Frankfurt to Cape Town, says the CTA, are fast catching up to the British as the biggest source of overseas visitors, with the United States providing the third-largest source.

During the first six months of 1981, almost 334 000 foreign tourists came to South Africa, compared with 339 000 for the same period in 1980.

Although final figures for the whole of 1981 have not yet been compiled, the travel industry believes it will not meet 1980's total of 703 000.

A decrease also has been noted in the number

(3)

Temp

if SW

No cheaper bus fares for PE pensioners

4/1/82 E. Post

300

Municipal Reporter

ALTHOUGH it is the Year of the Aged it seems that Port Elizabeth pensioners will still have to pay full fares on buses — unlike Johannesburg.

There commuters aged 60 and more already have subsidised fares. Pensioners who are over 70 have been entitled to travel free on all buses — even during peak hours — from the beginning of this year.

But in Port Elizabeth, the City Council and PE Tramways each regard the other as being responsible for providing subsidised transport for the elderly, and it looks as though nothing will be done this year.

The general manager of PE Tramways, Mr Carl Coetzer, said in an interview today that subsidies should be the responsibility of local government.

His company was prepared to bear a quarter of the cost of a fare if the City Council and a sponsor each contributed a quarter. The pensioner would then pay for the remaining quarter.

"But we are not prepared to do this unless the council is involved," he said.

For years he had been trying to get council assistance on this matter, but the council had adopted the attitude that it was not their responsibility.

"I have always been very willing to do something for elderly commuters, but to be frank I have now given up," he said.

The chairman of the Works and Traffic Committee, Mr Bill Hayward, pointed out that whereas the Johannesburg buses were run by the municipality, Port Elizabeth had a private bus company.

If the council were to subsidise bus fares then rates would go up substantially, he said.

Already the council had made provision for special rebates on rates for old pensioners.

"I don't see the council setting a precedent by subsidising fares for aged people," he said.

Mr Hayward pointed out that the Johannesburg bus service, being a municipal concern, was not run at a profit.

He said that as this was the Year of the Aged he felt the council should have a "substantial" grant-in-aid to the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged which they could use to help needy elderly people.

The Mayor, Mr H van zyl Cillié, said that he had an open mind on the question of subsidised fares.

The item was not on the 1982 budget, but he would be prepared to discuss the matter at committee level.

However, it was debatable whether the council should enter into the "sphere of social welfare".

● Last year the council turned down a request to pay R15 000 towards subsidised fares.

The Star Tuesday January 12 1982

Rents nearly [illegible] as councillor

By Lucille McNamara, Municipal Reporter

There will be no birthday celebration when Mrs Minnie West turns 80 this month. She probably will not even be able to buy any food because she has to meet a rent increase on her flat in the centre of Johannesburg.

Mrs West lives at Brittery Court in Frere Street.

Like 12 other social pensioners in the block, she is faced with a rent increase from R60 to R100,80 a month — retrospective to October.

Their pension is R122. They also have to pay for electricity, and monthly levies of R3 for a geyser and R2,50 for a stove. That leaves R7,62 — excluding electricity bill — on which to live.

Mrs West is stunned.

"How can they do this to us?" she asks. "I won't be able to pay, so they will just have to throw me out. But where will I go?"

Another resident is Mrs Patricia Woods (76). She believes she is luckier than most because her son helps her — she works for him "as a sort of Girl Friday."

This handful of old people represent just the tip of the iceberg of loneliness and hopelessness suffered by hundreds of Johannesburg old citizens.

Councillor Mrs M Hy[illegible]

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Mrs Patricia Woods . . . "I don't know how they can do this to us."

Do you qualify to fill a senior factory post?

The Damelin Management School Diploma in Production Management will give you the skills and training you need to qualify for a high salary management position.

ARGUS 13/1/82

New old-age home

300

Municipal Reporter

A HOME for the aged costing nearly R10-million is to be built by the Housing League in Diep River.

The complex, which will have 460 living units and a service centre, will be built with a sub-economic loan from the Department of Community Development.

The site is in Musgrave Park in Diep River and the plan is being sponsored by the City Council.

The annual running costs will be about R413 950 and will be recovered from the tenants by way of monthly rentals.

The City Council has also agreed to sponsor a loan for the Afrikaanse Christelike Vroueverenig of R705 000 to build a home for the aged in Brooklyn.

The building is nearing completion and the council has agreed to sponsor a further R34 000 to enclose the balconies of the home.

The Woodside Sanctuary in Rondebosch East has applied for a loan of R629 000 to build two additional wings to house more severely handicapped children.

Move soon for pensioner union

ARGUS 15/1/02 300

A MEETING in Cape Town on February 9 would start organising a national 'union' for pensioners and other retired people, Commandant H M (Mac) Joynt, retired commanding officer of the Wynberg Commando, said today.

Addressing a meeting in the Civic Centre today, Commandant Joynt said he had received 'an overwhelmingly positive' response to his moves to establish such a union.

It had become necessary to establish an organisational foundation with executive members and steering and administration committees and to elect office-bearers.

Tentatively named the Retired Persons' and Pensioners' Union, the new body would concentrate on improving the standard of living of retired people whether they received pensions or not.

'We aim to create an organisation within which professional and technical pensioners will provide services to other pensioners at reduced rates, or even free; in which people with large and empty homes can be brought in contact with those seeking accommodation and in which organised discounts can be arranged,' he said.

Fresh bid for lower pensioner bus fares

By NOREEN SUTCLIFFE

A FRESH bid is being made to get subsidised bus fares for pensioners in Port Elizabeth.

City councillor Mr Terry Herbst has asked the Town Clerk to place the item on the next agenda of the relevant committee.

He told Weekend Post that over the past few months many welfare organisations had asked him to get the City Council to reconsider its decision not to take part in the scheme.

This year being the Year of the Aged, Mr Herbst said, the council could well help the elderly by providing R15 000, the amount needed as the council's contribution to the scheme.

In March last year, the Policy and Resources Committee chairman, Mr Alan Ward Able, said it was not a City Council's function to subsidise bus fares.

The committee, he said, had, therefore, recommended no action be taken on a proposal that the council contribute R15 000 to a scheme whereby people over the age of 65 would pay a quarter of normal bus fares — the rest to be made up by PE Tramways and a hypermarket.

The decision incensed many old age pensioners, one of whom accused the council of being "completely out of touch with the ordinary man".

Various city councillors were asked for their comments.

Mr Bill Hayward, chairman of the Works and Traffic Committee, pointed out that, whereas the Johannesburg buses (with sponsored fares for the elderly) were run by the municipality, Port Elizabeth had a private bus company.

If the council were to subsidise bus fares then rates would go up substantially, he said

Already the council had made provision for special rebates on rates for pensioners.

"I don't see the council setting a precedent by subsidising fares for aged people," he said.

He also said that as this was the Year of the Aged he felt the council should have a substantial grant in aid to the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged which they could use to help needy elderly people.

When the Mayor, Mr H van Zyl Cillié, was approached, he said he had an open mind on the question of subsidised fares.

The item, he said, was not on the 1982 budget, but he would be prepared to discuss the matter at committee level.

However, it was debatable whether the council should enter into the "sphere of social welfare", the Mayor said.

When asked about the R15 000 involved, Mr Herbst told Weekend Post he felt sure the small amount involved could be found in the coffers of the council without any trouble or hardship.

Mr Carl Coetzer, general manager of PE Tramways, has been pushing for subsidies for the aged, which he felt was the responsibility of local government.

His company was prepared to bear a quarter of the cost of a fare if the City Council and the sponsor each contributed a quarter.

The pensioner would then pay for the remaining quarter.

Mr Herbst said he felt it was "very important" that everything possible be done to try to ease the plight of pensioners, particularly today in view of escalating costs.

Pensioners to start a union

CAPE TIMES 16/1/82 (300)

Staff Reporter

PENSIONERS with carpentry skills should get involved in the "lucrative trade" of making coffins both as a cottage industry and to assist other elderly people with the "cost of dying".

This was one of the suggestions made to about 25 pensioners at a preparatory meeting for the launching of a National Pensioners and Retired Persons' Union at the Cape Town Civic Centre yesterday.

The meeting, according to its convener, Commandant H M "Mac" Joynt, 66, "acted as a barometer as to how the whole thing will be received by the 1,5 million pensioners all over the Republic."

Commandant Joynt

Long overdue

Interviewed afterwards he said he was very happy that everyone at the meeting supported its aims and agreed that it was long overdue.

He said the broad aim of the organization was to help pensioners with the services that other pensioners and even non-pensioners were prepared to offer.

He told the meeting that the organization could provide:

● Professional assistance — free or very cheap medical or legal assistance and advice from retired professionals.

● Social involvement — "there are people who want nothing more in life than to be taken back into society again."

● Accommodation — "many pensioners are in need of accommodation while many others sit with spare rooms and want someone congenial to move in with them."

● Odd jobs — retired people with specific skills could do odd jobs for other retired people either free or very cheaply.

● Discount shopping — "we could channel our purchasing power, through the organization, to those shops that will offer discounts to us."

● Own industry — "many pensioners have carpentry skills and we should get involved, for example, in the lucrative trade of making coffins. The cost of dying is higher than the cost of living."

● The organization would also make representations to the authorities and lobby on behalf of pensioners on issues affecting them, said Commandant Joynt.

He said a major problem would be making the union attractive to all classes of retired people from black social pensioners receiving R40 a month to retired general managers of big businesses receiving R1 500 each month.

"The former may not be able to afford even a R2 membership fee while the latter may not believe that the union can possibly do anything for them.

"Yet a black pensioner sitting in Gugeletu and a white one in Highlands Estate can both benefit from cheap potatoes being sold from the organization's vegetable van," he said.

Mr G C Terry, a pensioner at the meeting, described the proposed organization as "very impressive indeed".

Ordinary man

"It touches everyone, from the well-off pensioner right down to the ordinary little coloured man who struggles to get by," he said.

The inaugural meeting of the organisation will be on February 9. Inquires can be directed to The Convener, P O Box 12 075, Cape Town 8000, or ☎462821.

● Lion's Head Rotary Club has announced that it is helping to set up a retired professional and business people's club in the Sea Point area.

Once this Rotary Project, code named "Probus" has been established, the club will be run by its own committee of retired people, according to the members' wishes.

The first meeting of the year will be held in the Functions Room of the Regency Hotel at 3pm on Tuesday, January 26.

Aged 'sent home to die'

ARGUS 25/1/82

300

Medical Reporter

SEVERAL geriatric patients had to be sent home to die with reluctant relatives in Cape Town last year — because of a lack of facilities for the aged and sick in the city.

This admission was made today by Professor P de V Meiring, holder of the William Slater chair of geriatrics, in Cape Town during the University of Cape Town Summer School's seminar on the Aged in a Modern Society.

Professor Meiring, discussing the subject of care for the elderly, said Cape Town needed a geriatric hospital of its own and that the several million rands required to build it would have to be collected.

HEARTBREAKING

'When you see what can be done, indeed has been done, the facilities with which I was expected to start a geriatric service in October last year are absolutely heartbreaking.

'Do you know, for instance, that in the multi-million rand complex that has been designed as the new Groote Schuur, not a bed has been allocated for a separate geriatric unit?

'Do you know what I am doing at present? I am borrowing a bed here and a bed there from equally- hard-pressed- colleagues, and my present geriatric practice is scattered all over Groote Schuur and overflows into a surrounding hospita or two.'

PLANNING

Professor Meiring asked if there were any people in the audience with some financial expertise in the planning of a geriatric hospital.

Turning to the community's role in helping the aged, Professor Meiring said the greatest contribution a community could make was in the realm of personal prevention and growing old gracefully and with a healthy lifestyle.

'Attention to health, especially in conditions with disabling potential such as high blood-pressure, obesity and smoking, will do wonders in producing healthy elderly persons.

'Moderation in diet and drink and the maintenance of spiritually clean lives have wonderful potential for good health at an advanced age as have adequate exercise, sensible rest and proper economic and occupational planning for "retirement".'

Professor Meiring said individuals also could do a great deal by helping in their spare time with the many tasks which required voluntary helpers.

All that was needed was a simple telephone call to the nearest organisation caring for the aged.

OPPORTUNITIES

'Many public-spirited schools collect funds for the aged; children 'adopt' grannies, and so on. There are endless opportunities open to individuals.'

Referring to the doctor's role, Professor Meiring said a doctor should muster what influence he could to persuade the administrators and politicians to make the necessary financial arrangements to facilitate an acceptable minimum.

ARGUS 27/1/82

Bottlenecks in care for aged sick—Kotze

300

Medical Reporter

THE Director of Hospital Services, Dr R L M Kotze, said yesterday that there was a serious bottleneck sometimes in finding suitable places for the aged sick.

And he added there was no doubt that facilities should be upgraded for the aged sick in sick bays at old-age homes and community care programmes — and not necessarily at hospitals.

Dr Kotze was reacting yesterday to an Argus report this week that several geriatric patients had to be sent home to die with reluctant relatives in Cape Town last year because of a lack of facilities for the aged sick in the city.

The report was based on a speech by Professor P de V Meiring, professor of geriatrics at the University of Cape Town, who said the city needed a geriatric hospital of its own.

'HEARTBREAK'

Professor Meiring had also said the facilities with which he had been expected to start a geriatric service in October last year, were 'heartbreaking'.

Dr Kotze said in a statement yesterday the main objective of care for the aged was not a geriatric hospital.

'The objective should rather be to have facilities to be able to make a good diagnosis of the illness — body, mind and spirit-wise — and to institute suitable curative and rehabilitative treatment.

'Finally, a satisfactory destination for such a person should be found, a destination which will meet with his needs whatever they may be.

HOME

'The destination may be, if his illness is satisfactorily remedied, back to his home, state-owned, private or subsidised, with or without help of one kind or another, be it of a medical, nursing, or social and community nature.

'Or the destination may be to a state-owned, private or subsidised institution for the chronic sick and frail aged if he needs continual medical and nursing care.'

An alternative to a special hospital for the chronic sick was the general hospital.

'In the Cape Province, we have opened the doors of our hospitals wider for admission of the chronic sick and frail aged, especially in our district and cottage-type hospitals, and a close interaction is ensured with the old age home with its sick bays and nursing and medical attendance.

'SATISFACTORY'

'In the Cape we are satisfactorily provided for by such hospital accommodation, and we do not presently anticipate any hospitals other than the existing facilities for the chronic sick and frail aged.'

Dr Kotze said the process of diagnosing, treating and finding a satisfactory place for the aged after illness was termed 'geriatric assessment'.

Dr R L M Kotze

'It should be realised that a large percentage of aged patients who become ill present no geriatric problem, because they are cared for in similar fashion to other patients, being admitted to the same wards, diagnosed, treated and sent home.'

Those, however, who showed any delay in recovery should be dealt with by the full range of geriatric assessment measures, including further treatment and rehabilitation.

WARNING

'I would, therefore, like to sound a warning,' said Dr Kotze. 'If a plea for a geriatric hospital in Cape Town is made what would be its object? Is it meant to contain a full geriatric assessment unit, plus treatment areas and beds for the sick aged?

'If the answer is in the affirmative, it should be pointed out that we are already provided with full assessment facilities at our foremost hospitals, either on an interdisciplinary basis, or on a specialised basis.

Dr Kotze said a choice between an interdisciplinary or specialised assessment depended on taste.

'We allow both. I give the assurance that it is not the habit of these hospitals to discharge a patient into a vacuum.'

'BOTTLENECK'

Dr Kotze said in spite of what he had said, there was room for improvement.

'A serious bottleneck which is sometimes experienced is the problem in finding a suitable destination for a patient who has had a stroke and is now bedridden, paralysed or unconscious.'

Dr Kotze appealed that further efforts be made 'for better co-ordination between the central Government departments concerned, the Provincial Administration's Department of Hospital Services, with its academic teaching experts, the local authorities and the private sector, by taking each other's hand, and not attempting wrongfully to lay the blame on hospitals only.'

Professor Meiring told The Argus he did not wish to comment on the matter.

Working effectively with black unions

DURBAN — Results in the giant C. G. Smith group are "very close" to budgets, the retiring chairman, Mr Mike Rosholt, said at the annual meeting in Durban. He indicated that the budgets had been drawn up "envisaging a slowing down in the exceptional rates of growth experienced over the past few years."

He said Mr Warren Clewlow, executive vice-chairman, had been appointed chairman.

Mr Rosholt said the group was "addressing itself to the developing black industrial relations scene and acknowledged that we, as employers, have to work for effective negotiations with the increasingly organised and competent black unions."

The nature of future retirement benefits was an issue for such negotiation.

He noted that the majority of black workers in the sugar division had withdrawn from the pension fund and he believed that this was not in their or their families' best interests.

Mr Rosholt said the expected fall-off in consumer spending on semi-durables had affected many of the Romatex product lines.

The Nampack results were better than expected and they intended to go ahead with a R35m glass container project.

For the sugar interests good spring and summer rains had fallen: which augured well for next season's crop, but the world sugar price was still a cause for concern.

Earnings up again

With the tax bill in the cement division down to nil, Blue Circle shrugged aside a much higher depreciation charge to end 1981 with earnings up 34% to 109c (1980: 81.3c).

A final dividend of 27.5c has been declared, making 38.5c (32c) for the year to December — a gain of 20%. Cover has been raised to 2.8 (2.5).

At the interim, earnings were ahead by only 17%, which means they leapt 41% in the second half.

Blue Circle revalued its assets by R35 700 000 last year and this lifted the depreciation charge no less than 59% to R10 800 000. In addition, the interest bill virtually doubled to R8 930 000 (R4 480 000).

As a result, pre-tax profit was actually down 11% to R25-million (R28 100 000).

But thanks to investment allowances on its new Lichtenburg cement kiln, Blue Circle Ltd, the cement division, paid no tax.

As a result, the group tax rate plummeted to 7,2% from 37,8% and taxed attributable profit was R22 900 000, a gain of 34%. Earnings rose in line.

Turnover was 23% better at R321-million.

Blue Circle chairman, Mr Trevor Coulson, said this was the 9th year in which the group increased earnings. He said the group had achieved an average annual compound earnings growth rate of 29.5% in the past nine years.

Textile jubilee

Mooi River Textiles made a pre-tax profit of R5 190 000 in 1981 against R3 750 000 in 1980.

Tax was R1 260 000 (R1 200 000).

The final dividend has been raised from 30c to 75c to make a total of 105c (50c).

A special "jubilee" dividend of 150c has been declared. This special payment is said to mark the 25th anniversary o of the Dutch-owned group.

Mooi River has also announced that talks with another unnamed group on some kind of tie-up have been discontinued.

Earnings a share last year were 231,5c (150,1c).

The group is proposing a four-to-one share split with the 1 700 000 ordinaries being enlarged to 6 800 000.

The rise in earnings last year was 54%.

Turnover was R19 680 000 (R16 370 000).

Colliery profit

ANGLO-Transvaal Collieries raised its taxed profit by 32.4% in the six months ended December 31, to R2 251 000 from R1 700 000, equivalent to 133.1c (100.3c) a share.

Dividends on AT Colls fixed investment in Witbank Colliery rose to R2 258 000 from R1 720 000, while other income rose to R20 000 from R6 000 and expenditure fell to R19 000 from R24 000.

The market value of the company's listed investments at December 31 was R76 349 000 compared with R69 897 000 at the end of 1980, while the book value on both dates was R3 256 000.

Platinum projects

RUSTENBURG Platinum Holdings plans to spend a total of R40-million on capital projects in the year to August 31, said the chairman, Mr Gordon Waddell.

He told shareholders at the annual meeting in Johannesburg that R14-million would be spent this year on expansion and a further R26-million on the maintenance of capacity.

The R46 700 000 allocated for expansion at Rustenburg would be incurred in due course to meet the additional metal requirements arising from the company's various new contracts with the automobile industry.

Mr Waddell said further applications of platinum catalysts were being developed in the chemical and petroleum industries, in an attempt to increase efficiency and reduce energy requirements.

In the past year substantial progress had been made in developing a platinum catalyst for controlling emissions from diesel engines.

This technology was being developed primarily to meet proposed United States legislation, but also had application in specialised uses of diesel engines, such as underground locomotives.

A further extension of the use of catalysts on cars could occur in Europe after 1986, said Mr Waddell.

Developments in the glass industry were likely to extend the applications of platinum metals and result in increased use, said Mr Waddell.

Fuel cells were unlikely to be produced on a large scale during the next five years, but "as and when fuel cells prove to be competitive with alternative methods of power generation, demand for platinum for this use could become significant."

Working loss continues

An increase in tonnage and an associated drop in working costs were not enough to turn Witwatersrand Nigel's fortunes around in the December quarter, and the taxed loss was R466 283 compared with R487 081 in the previous quarter.

The State-assisted mine milled 82 598 tons of ore during the quarter compared with 76 142 tons in the September period, raising gold production to 295.2 kg from 274,5 kg in spite of a fall in average grade to 3.57 g/t from 3.60 g t.

The directors say, the working loss before sundry revenue rose to R520 761 from R510 603, while sundry revenue was unchanged at R39 000 and there was a tax credit of R15 478.

Capital expenditure, which has been limited to essential projects, fell to R464 351 from R690 075, but the average rate for the past two quarters is expected to continue for the next two.

Wit Nigel received R450 000 in State aid during the December quarter, which reduces the net loss for the period to R16 283.

Analysing the first half performance, the directors point to the R14 341 a kg gold price required to cover working costs and capital expenditure under State aid conditions, against the actual R13 057 a kg received in the six months to December.

Without State assistance Wit Nigel required an average gold price of R17 034 a kg or $530 an ounce to break even.

Best year on record

The best year on record for Goodyear South Africa, was 1981 thanks to buoyant economic conditions, a record year for motor manufacturers and a steady demand for industrial rubber products. And, although the motor industry expects a tail-off this year, Goodyear can expect another excellent 12-month period.

This is the view of the company's managing director, Mr W. F. Life.

He said all sectors of the motor industry — passenger car, light and heavy duty truck and tractor — reported record sales in 1981 and this naturally and a spin-off on the tyre and rubber industry.

"What we must not lose sight of is the fact that the excellent sales over the past two years — more than 856 000 units — augurs well for the replacement market," said Mr Life.

Turning to the mining industry, Mr Life said some operations had been cut back because of economic recessions in other countries.

The major exception was the coal mining industry, which had shown rapid expansion which was likely to continue through 1982.

"Within these mines, Goodyear has found an excellent market for its range of conveyor belting," he said.

Mercury 30/12/82

Defy workers strike again over pension fund payments

Mercury Reporter

ALMOST the entire black workforce at the Defy plant in Jacobs have stopped work in an effort to have their pension contributions repaid.

The Group Metal Industries Pension Fund, to which the Defy workers have to belong, was the centre of a strike at the Defy plant in November, and in spite of meetings between representatives of the fund and various trade unions, the issue of pension contribution withdrawals has not been settled.

A Defy worker said yesterday that Monday's evening shift had refused to work. More than 2 000 workers were involved in the stoppage yesterday and production at the plant had come to a standstill, he said.

An official for the South African Allied Workers' Union, who represent most of the Defy workers, said yesterday that a meeting was being held between representatives from the union, Defy and the Group Metal Industries Pension Fund.

The outcome of the meeting is not yet known.

Grievances

In a statement released to workers yesterday two of Defy's directors, Mr R B Collie and Mr W Ferguson, said they were aware of the workers grievances and that the Defy Corporation had made an urgent application to the National Industrial Council to withdraw from the Group Metal Industries Pension Fund and start a private pension fund for Defy employees.

The statement also said that the directors of Defy would continue to work for the establishment of a private pension fund to ensure that workers could receive their pension fund contributions as soon as it was legally possible.

Indians: old-age pensions

(350) 9.6.1.68 19/2/52

Cr. M. R. E. CODDAIL asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:

(1) How many Indian persons applied for old-age pensions in 1981:

(2) What was the total number of Indian persons receiving old-age pensions as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

(1) 2 461.

(2) 19 511 on 31 January 1982.

vestigation on which the President's Council has as yet not advised the State President.

Ministers:

Hansard Q. Col. 43
340 10/2/82

Western Cape: Black labour

*4. Dr. A. L. BORAINE asked the Minister of Manpower:

(1) How many applications for employment of Black labour in the Western Cape were refused in the second half of 1981;

(2) how many potential Black workers were affected by such refusals?

†The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

(1) 241.

(2) 1 045.

Hansard Q. Col. 43
300 10/2/82

Aged Black citizens: housing

*5. Mr. H. H. SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

Whether he or his Department has initiated an investigation into the need for housing in respect of aged Black citizens; if not, why not; if so, (a) when was such investigation commenced, (b) by whom is it being conducted and (c) when is it anticipated that a report on the matter will be submitted?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

Investigations concerning the welfare needs of Black communities are being initiated on a regional basis by the seven Black Regional Welfare Boards who determine priorities and stimulate services. The need for old age homes so ascertained are included in each of the Board's regional programmes. Regional Welfare Boards operate as autonomous bodies and excellent co-operation and liason is maintained between the Department of Co-operation, private welfare bodies and Regional Welfare Boards. The general p... is that old age homes are being subsi... in accordance with a fixed formula... actual erection of such homes and the co... trol thereof is undertaken by local auth... ities or welfare bodies and institut... Various such old age homes are registere... with the Department of Co-operation ... Development and would thus be subs... dized. The Department of Co-operat... and Development is further assisting ... persons who voluntarily report at the ... offices of the Department to return ... their places of origin in the national sta... They are supplied with travelling ticket... free of charge and in the event of them b... ing of frail health they are also provided with an escort. The Department of Co-op... eration and Development further assis... aged persons in the tracing of their fam... ilies and place them in their care if it's ac... ceptable to them. Aged persons in old age homes are also placed with families at their own request, wherever they may be.

The Western Transvaal Administration Board also administers a project called the "Letsema Project". In this project groups of 10 couples of old age pensioners help each other with the erection of two roomed houses. The material and technical staff are supplied by the Administration Board concerned. 94 of these houses have already been erected in this manner and more are still being built. These houses are erected at a cost of ± R650 each. Other Administration Boards are also busy implementing this scheme.

Sandton: pollution of rivers/streams

*6. Mr. D. J. DALLING asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether his Department took any action during 1981 in regard to the pollution of rivers and streams which flow through Sandton; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action, (b) in respect of which rivers and streams and (c) with what result?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Yes.

...) Apart fro... toring, th... ment Aff... of a new ... monitorin... complain... upper re... also inve...

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The an... ...ning ... tion fr... encour... Klein ... electr... to ho... ...ster ... organ... ...ove...

...7. Mr. ... of Indu...

Whet... amend... come in ... and (b)...

†The ... COMME...

No.

(a) C... h... a... r... t... u...

(b)

New association for pensioners

CAPE TIMES 10/2/82 (300) ~~136~~

Staff Reporter

A NEW non-racial association which will create more than 4 000 jobs for pensioners and retired people and enable them to provide advice and services among themselves, was launched at a public meeting in the Good Hope Centre yesterday.

To be called the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners (ARP&P), it is estimated that about one-and-a-half million people in South Africa are eligible for membership.

Opening the inaugural meeting, attended by about 150 pensioners and retired people, the Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Kosie van Zyl said: "I myself am a retired person and pensioner and I have experience of how one has to manage on a fixed income and how money values have depreciated over the years.

"The older generation is still capable of making a worthwhile contribution to society and have experience, knowledge and skills to offer."

Commandant H M Joynt, founder and chairman of the association, explained how the association would work.

"We have established this association to extend the purchasing power of your income by whatever legal means possible," he told the audience.

"We will not let increasing charges drive us to charitable organizations for our daily bread — not without a fight.

"We want to move away from charity in order to regain our chin-up posture."

Commandant Joynt said 165 branch offices of the association (one in every parliamentary constituency) would be set up. These offices would be manned by six association members each, providing jobs for 990 pensioners and retired people. Work at these offices would include administration and information, membership enrolment, book-keeping, data-processing, reception/typing and clerical work.

In addition, each branch office would be controlled by a management committee, which would provide a further 1 155 job vacancies.

Part of the services of these offices would be to help pensioners obtain advice and services among themselves.

"In this way the best advice can be obtained free or at a nominal charge by members of the association who have built up know-how over the years which, at the moment, is going to waste. We can do things for each other," said Commandant Joynt.

He said a further 1 980 job vacancies existed in the association's self-help and help from businesses programmes.

"There is no need to die of lonelines. We should provide the life-line. We should be there the moment you need us," he said.

Membership fees are proportionate to income and range from R2 to R10 annually.

Pospective members should apply to: The Secretary, ARP&P, P O Box 12075, Cape Town 8010.

thirty feet high. You go to the very top of the tree and loop your rope over the highest crotch. You have to choose this crotch depending upon the strength of the wood. For instance, in an Elm tree you can choose a small crotch and in a Maple tree, you must choose a large one. Then you slip into your saddle, which was tied before climbing the tree, take the other rope and tie the slip knot around this rope with the tail rope left from the saddle knot. When this is done, you are completely secure and it is practically impossible to fall out. You may stay in these small trees for a week or two, until you can move around in the tree with some ease, and have some faith in the fact that your rope will hold you.

At this point, you will consider yourself an expert, and suggest that you can get into some larger trees. When your teacher elects a good size Elm tree, you can consider yourself in the tree business. To most people climbing an Elm tree would be a simple task, but when a climbing line is the difference between life and death, climbing becomes a frightening job. Particularly

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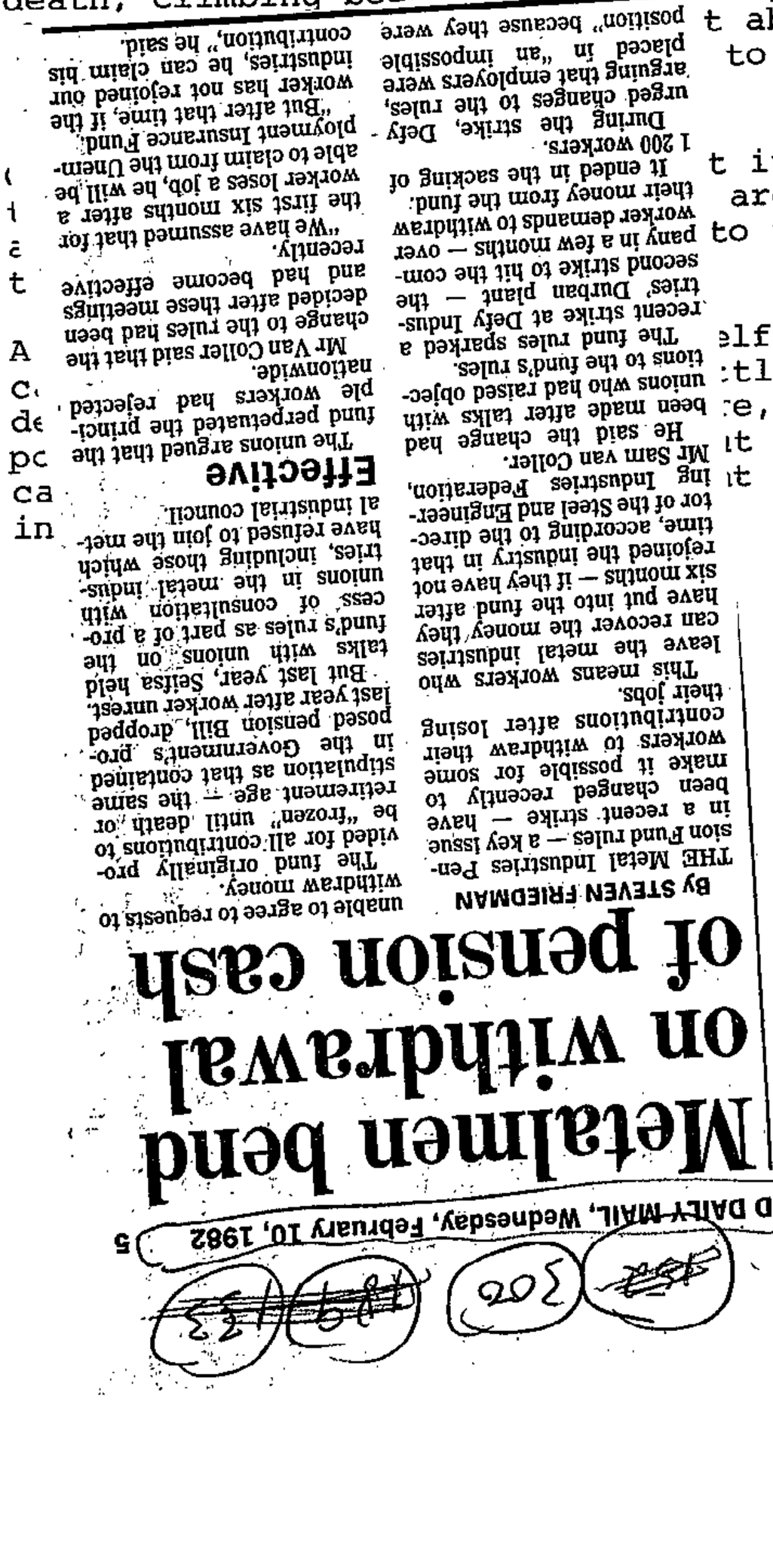


Metalmen bend on withdrawal of pension cash

RAND DAILY MAIL, Wednesday, February 10, 1982 5

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN

THE Metal Industries Pension Fund rules — a key issue in a recent strike — have been changed recently to make it possible for some workers to withdraw their contributions after losing their jobs.

This means workers who leave the metal industries can recover the money they have put into the fund after six months — if they have not rejoined the industry in that time, according to the director of the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation, Mr Sam van Coller.

He said the change had been made after talks with unions who had raised objections to the fund's rules.

The fund rules sparked a recent strike at Defy Industries' Durban plant — the second strike to hit the company in a few months — over workers demands to withdraw their money from the fund.

It ended in the sacking of 1 200 workers.

During the strike, Defy urged changes to the rules, arguing that employers were placed in "an impossible position" because they were unable to agree to requests to withdraw money.

The fund originally provided for all contributions to be "frozen" until death or retirement age — the same stipulation as that contained in the Government's proposed pension Bill, dropped last year after worker unrest.

But last year, Seifsa held talks with unions on the fund's rules as part of a process of consultation with unions in the metal industries, including those which have refused to join the metal industrial council.

The unions argued that the fund perpetuated the principle workers had rejected nationwide.

Mr Van Coller said that the change to the rules had been decided after these meetings and had become effective recently.

"We have assumed that for the first six months after a worker loses a job, he will be able to claim from the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

"But after that time, if the worker has not rejoined our industries, he can claim his contribution," he said.

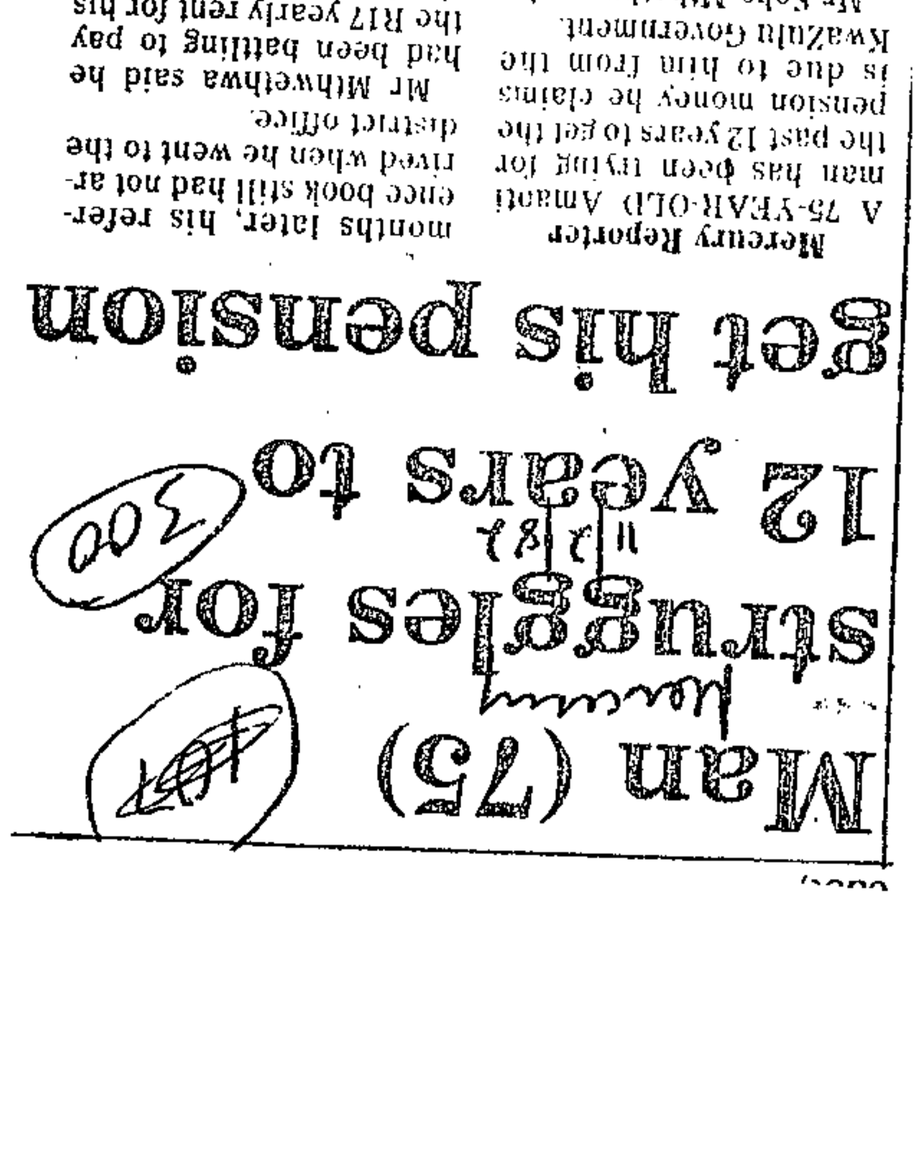
Effective

11.7 The Parable

"Rosemary is a girl of about 21 years of age. For several months she has been engaged to a young man named -- let's call him Geoffrey. The problem she faces is that between her and her betrothed there lies a river. No ordinary river mind you, but a deep, wide river infested with hungry crocodiles.

"Rosemary ponders how she can cross the river. She thinks of a man she knows, who has a boat. We'll call him Sinbad. So she approaches Sinbad, asking him to take her across. He replies, 'Yes, I'll take you across if you'll spend the night with me.' Shocked at this offer, she turns to another acquaintance, a certain Frederick, and tells him her story. Frederick responds by saying, 'Yes, Rosemary, I understand your problem -- but -- it's your problem, not mine.' Rosemary decides to return to Sinbad, and spend the night with him. In the morning he takes her across the river.

"Her reunion with Geoffrey is warm. But on the evening before they are to be married, Rosemary feels compelled to tell Geoffrey how she succeeded in getting across the river. Geoffrey responds by saying, 'I wouldn't marry you if you were the last woman on earth.'



Mercury Reporter

A 75-YEAR-OLD Amanti man has been trying for the past 12 years to get the pension money he claims is due to him from the KwaZulu Government.

Mr Soka Mthethwa, who was a staff sgt before his retirement, said in 1969 he had been exempted from paying any tax and was eligible to apply for his pension.

But since then he said he had been shunted from one government office to another as each area declared they were responsible for him.

Mr Mthethwa said finally the Maphumulo district office in 1979 asked him to first get a copy of his marriage certificate. He did this, but then was told that his reference book was too old and he would have to apply for another.

He was told this would take only three months but yesterday, nearly six months later, his reference book still had not arrived when he went to the district office.

Mr Mthethwa said he had been battling to pay the R17 yearly rent for his shack at Amaoti near Inanda.

From this year the rent is to be increased to R20 and he said he had no idea how he would be able to afford this without his pension money.

Up to now, Mr Mthethwa had managed to raise the rent by helping to build shacks in Amaoti.

He said his position was made more difficult by the fact that he and his wife were looking after their 10-year-old granddaughter.

A spokesman for the KwaZulu Department of Pensions said yesterday he would investigate.

Difficult

Man (75) struggles for 12 years to get his pension

14/2/82

300

maintain data banks of information of all kinds useful to pensioners.

Commandant Joynt said he had already received indications of tremendous nation-wide support.

"I predict that this project is going to get off the ground really fast.

"This is not a charity scheme. It is a case of pensioners and retired people standing on their own feet.

"We will use the skills of elderly people on a large scale through members indicating in what way they are able and willing to help their fellow members."

He sees shop on wheels schemes, insurance agencies and eventually even factories being established and staffed by pensioners.

ARE AFTER YOU.

By TONY SPENCER-SMITH

"We foresee retired plumbers, electricians, doctors, lawyers, whatever, providing inexpensive or free service for their fellow members.

"People joining are asked to indicate what they can do to help and if they say they are available only an hour a month, we respect that.

"Look what happens if my hot water cylinder gives in. An electrician charges me R15 just to come to the house. Then he looks at the thing and says he can't do anything because it is older than I am and he can't get parts, but I must expect his bill for R25 shortly.

"Now one of my members can come along, have a cup of tea, and tell me what the position is for R5 — extending my purchasing power by R20.

"Inflation is what is giving pensioners such a headache. Every year they are a little worse off.

"And when inflation goes up 10 percent, the big people, the grabbers, use this as an excuse for pushing their profits to 30 percent — and boast about it. That is what makes me so mad."

Commandant Joynt said prospective members should apply to the secretary at P.O. Box 12075, Cape Town 8010.

(300)

SUNDAY TRIBUNE, FEBRUARY 14, 1982

OLDIES ON THE MARCH

WATCH out profiteers — the old people are marching to get you! That was the message this week from Commandant Mac Joynt, whose national "union" of pensioners was inaugurated at a meeting in Cape Town.

Commandant Joynt, 66, the first chairman of the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners, said in an interview he believed that Pensioner Power, organised for the first time in this country, would be able to strike a major blow against exploitative commercial practices.

And he warned that the association would be in a position to direct the purchasing power of pensioners into areas where they would get most for their rands, and not put them in the pockets of profiteers.

"I would not like to call this boycotting, but we'll be able to help people to get the best produce at the best prices."

Estimates indicate that about 1,5 million people of all races are eligible to join the new organisation, at membership fees ranging from R2 to R10 a year depending on income.

The establishment of the organisation this week is appropriate as this is the Year of the Aged.

A total of 165 branch offices, mainly manned by pensioners, are to be set up throughout the country and will

Commandant Mac Joynt

PROFITEERS WATCH OUT . . . THE PENSIONERS

(1) Whether the Development Bank for Southern Africa has been established; if not, why not; if so, (a) what is its (i) capitalization and (ii) objectives and (b) who are the members of its board of directors;

(2) whether such Bank has granted any (a) facilities and (b) assistance to any bodies or persons; if not, why not; if so, (i) to whom and (ii) to what amount?

The PRIME MINISTER:

The Development Bank is, for the following reasons, taking more time to take shape than was originally expected:

(a) An altogether new international, non-political field is being entered, and rather than set about things overhastily, preparatory steps have to be completed properly.

(b) The process of discussions and mutual consultation cannot be disposed of over a short period. All leaders and interested persons must be given sufficient opportunity to satisfy themselves as to the importance of such an institution before finally committing themselves to membership.

(c) Consultation with the private sector and with overseas organizations that will be indispensable as regards execution and financing, must be completed first.

However, the Government attaches great importance to the formation of the Bank and a sum of R17-million has already been voted for this purpose. The process of consultation and negotiation is continuing and a special committee on which both the private and the public sector are represented, has been appointed to take the matter further and to submit firm proposals on the outstanding issues as soon as possible after 28 February 1982.

The Committee consists of the following:

Chairman: Dr. S. S. Brand.

Members: Drs. W. de Villiers, L. Mc-Crystal, B. G. Fourie, F. Cronje, J. de Loor and Messrs. A. van den Berg, J. Maree and D. Marvin.

Mr. H. H. SCHWARZ: Mr. Speaker, arising out of the reply given by the hon. the Prime Minister, could he indicate to us the date by which he hopes that this bank will be in operation?

The PRIME MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, I cannot specify any date. I have, however, asked the committee to do its best to come forward with a report as soon as possible.

Ministers:

300 Hansard Q. Col. 114

Lydenburg area: pensions of Blacks 17/2/82

*1. Mrs. H. SUZMAN asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether irregularities have occurred in the payment of pensions to Blacks in the Lydenburg area over the past two years; if so, what is the (a) nature and (b) amount involved in such irregularities;

(2) whether steps have been taken to investigate the matter; if so, (a) what steps and (b) with what result?

†The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

~~Alleged~~ irregularities have been investigated by the S.A. Police. As a person is to be charged in the regional court in the near future the matter is *sub judice*.

†Mr. G. B. D. McINTOSH: It seems to me the whole country is *sub judice*.

†Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for Pietermaritzburg North must restrain himself.

Hansard Q. Col 114 - 115

Black pensioners 17/2/82

*2. Mrs. H. SUZMAN asked the Minister of Co-operation and Developement:

(300) Hansard Q. Col 114-115 17/2/82

Black pensioners

*2. Mrs. H. SUZMAN asked the Minister of Co-operation and Developement:

Whether any steps are being taken to ensure that Black pensioners are paid the pensions due to them; if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Yes.

Comprehensive departmental instructions have been issued to District Officers of the Department of Co-operation and Development to ensure that pensioners receive the amounts due to them. The Department is continuously looking for ways of improving the system to prevent irregularities.

Ministers: Hansard Q. Col. 114

300 **Lydenburg area: pensions of Blacks** 17/2/82

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Metal men strike for pay rise at two plants

Members of Fosatu's Metal and Allied Workers' Union (Mawu) have struck at two factories this week with demands for pay rises.

These are the latest in a series of strikes by black metal workers centring on demands for wage bargaining at plant level rather than Industrial Council level.

At Dresser SA in Wadeville, Germiston, about 500 workers are still on strike for a R1-an-hour across-the-board increase.

Talks between Mawu and the management broke down yesterday, but are scheduled to resume today.

At McKinnon Chain in Maritzburg, about 80 workers were cleared from factory premises by police on Monday afternoon. They had been dismissed after striking for a pay rise.

Meanwhile, the 10-day strike by about 130 workers at Anglo American's Mondi timber mill at Port Durnford, Natal, is over.

A spokesman for Fosatu's Paper, Wood and Allied Workers Union said the workers returned on Monday. Their demand for repayment of pensions contributions was not met.

An Anglo American spokesman said the workers faced loss of benefits if they withdrew from the fund.

Police Reserve Force Q.61 139 18/2/82

143. Mr. S. S. VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Police:

(1) How many persons joined the Police Reserve Force at the police stations of (a) Sea Point, (b) Cape Town and (c) Woodstock in 1981;

(2) how many reservists attached to each of these stations retired from service in 1981?

The MINISTER OF POLICE:

	(1)	(2)
(a)	10	4
(b)	4	3
(c)	3	2

THURSDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 1982

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†Indicates translated version.

For written reply: Hansard Q. 61. 139

300 **Coloureds: old-age pensions** 18/2/82

70. Mr. B. B. GOODALL asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:

(1) How many Coloured persons applied for old-age pensions in 1981;

(2) how many of these applications (a) were (i) granted and (ii) refused and (b) are still under consideration?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

(1) 8 672.

(2) (a) (i) 7 683.

(ii) 751.

(b) 238.

Liquid fuel

72. Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

What percentage of the South African liquid fuel demand was met from internal sources in each of the latest specified five years for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

The information requested is sensitive and if made available can have detrimental consequences for the Republic of South Africa. The divulgement of such information is thus prohibited in terms of the provisions of the Petroleum Products Act (Act 120 of 1977) as amended.

Similar requests to that of the hon. member's question have also been refused previously.

Permanent and temporary residence/work permits Hansard Q. 61. 140 18/2/82

73. Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:

What is the average length of time taken to process applications received from (a) Great Britain and (b) Zimbabwe for (i)(aa) permanent and (bb) temporary residence and (ii) work permits?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

(a) (i) (aa) Four months.

(bb) One and a half to two months.

(ii) Two months.

(b) (i) (aa) Two months.

(bb) One week.

(ii) Six weeks.

Farm workers: housing loans Hansard

100. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:

Q. 61. 140 - 142 18/2/82

PENSION FUNDS 1

Old Mutual grows

300 FM 19/2/82

Most of the statistics concerning Old Mutual's pension fund operations in 1981 grew appreciably faster than the rate of inflation.

Total premium income advanced 28%. from R299m to R382m, the Multifund Portfolio grew 26% to R627m (R498m), total funds administered rose 28% to R1 805m (R1 410m) and total group life assurance in force went up by nearly 29% to R8 725m (R6 780m).

In its report on this highly successful pensions year, the Old Mutual highlights the unhappy experience of the preservation legislation. Commenting on the labour unrest that followed the threat of preservation, the report points out that many workers see as one of the major values of pension funds "the fact that they provide a cash benefit at the time they become unemployed." Since, elsewhere, preservation is widely seen as desirable, "continued urgent and purposeful efforts must be made by all interested parties to achieve a widely acceptable basis."

In the meantime, the Old Mutual urges a voluntary approach that the *FM* fully endorses: "We strongly advocate that pension funds continue to develop preservation options that can be elected by resigning members."

The Old Mutual also deals with the problem of employee communications, noting, with some surprise, that the vast majority of employees have no idea at all what their pension funds are all about.

"Many employees view their pension fund as a type of compulsory savings club." An organised communications programme is the answer, and the best way for both employer and employee to get maximum benefit from the fund.

to recommend to the Government that they should provide industry with certain expenditure for the switch over or provide some form of subsidy on the transportation of coal, the transportation being more expensive than the coal itself.

3. The use of oil fuelled engines for pumping, etc. and to establish whether this could be done more cheaply by connecting up to ESCOM when this is available.

These are but some of the issues which will have to be looked into and discussed.

We are sure you will give Mr Johnson every co-operation in his present task.

QUESTIONS

1. Compare these memoranda in terms of the audiences for whom they were written, and their appropriateness to those audiences. Your answer should include a discussion of style, tone, vocabulary and any elements of jargon they may contain. Justify your answer with quotations from the texts.

2. Choose EITHER Passage (a) OR Passage (b) and analyse its discourse structure. Pay particular attention to sentence and paragraph structure. Quote from the text to substantiate your answer.

3. Devise written answer in Ques you thi you would have Foods, basing your h you chose to analyse e original content own.

Thousands may benefit from rebate on rates

Morning 19/2/82

Political Reporter

THOUSANDS of white, coloured and Indian pensioners who own and live in their own homes will be able to apply for a 40 percent rates rebate in terms of an amendment which will be before the Natal Provincial Council next week.

Mr Frank Martin, MEC in charge of local government, said yesterday the concession — which leaves the discretion with local authorities — would give pensioners the same right as people affected by the Group Areas Act.

Mr Geoff Oldfield, the New Republic Party spokesman on pensions, welcomed the amendment and said it could help alleviate the hardships pensioners faced in keeping their homes.

The rising costs of maintenance and rates often forced pensioners to sell their homes as they could not afford to keep them on limited incomes.

There were long waiting lists for old age homes, but most pensioners did not want to sell their properties.

He said pensioners in the Durban area were also benefiting from a Tafta scheme by which retired tradesmen provided maintenance at a nominal cost. The amendment to the local authorities ordinance also applied to buildings which have been declared national monuments.

There were long waiting

378

300

SOWETAN, Monday, February 15, 1982

300

Pension scheme led to unrest

A FAILURE to bring about adequate understanding amongst members of their pension benefits has contributed to the labour unrest experienced in South Africa during 1981, Mr M J (Mike) Levett says in his insurance society's pensions services' annual report.

During the past decade many concerned employers have extended membership of their pension funds to include all members of their staff. They did not however, adequatly communicate the pension fund benefits to the new groups of members. These in the main were workers who are less financially sophisticated.

The proposed legislation for the preservation of pension rights acted as a catalyst in the situation. The absence of specific information before the publication of the draft bill made it difficult for employers to provide satisfatory answers to questions being asked by employees. This resulted in rumours circulating that were accepted by many as the truth.

In South Africa with its diverse cultures and languages, the communication of a sophisticated finacial concept presents a tremendous challenge.

"We look forward to playing our part in assisting employers in the vital field of employee communications," Mr Levett says.

One aspect that has emerged from the recent unrest is that many employees regard their pension fund contributions as a compulsory savings club. Proceeds from this "club" become available to them during periods of unemployment — and many view this as far more important than provision for retirement.

The preservation proposals were seen as a threat to this source of unemployment provision, says Mr Levett in an article on "the preservation option."

The lack of adequate provisions for unemployment is a much more imminent problem for industrial type workers than retirement. As seen by the workers therefore, one of the major values of a pension fund, is that it provides a cash benefit at the time they become unemployed.

One method of providing for this unemployed need, is to encourage voluntary saving schemes that would become available on resignation.

Despite the very real problems that have arisen, the principle of preservation has been welcomed in most quarters. It is generally accepted that the concept of preservation seeks to address a critical loophole in the present pension system whereby retirement savings are often used for non-retirement purposes.

It is essential that continued efforts be made by all interested parties to achieve a widely acceptable basis, Mr Levett says.

According to the annual report, Old Mutual's income, in respect of employee benefits is its past financial year rose by R82-million to R382-million, total funds administered rose by 28 percent to R1 805-million and total life assurance in force to R9-billion. The number of families participating in group benefit plans increased to 1 421 000.

Families. The total bonus payable rose from 14 percent to 17 percent. Of the new bonus of 17 percent, 11 percent was in respect of basic bonus and six percent in respect of terminal bonus.

Pensions fiasco cost a fortune

S-Times 7/2/82

200

By Elizabeth Rouse

WITHDRAWAL of the controversial Pensions Bill, has wiped out thousands of man hours and hundreds of thousands of rands spent on preparing to cope with pension preservation.

Many companies, heeding the advice of the registrar that preservation was certainly coming, did much work to prepare themselves.

Some companies such as the Mutual had established sophisticated and costly administration systems to cope with the requirements of the Bill.

Consensus in the pension industry is that, while the concept of pension perservation is not dead, it certainly has been put in cold storage for at least five to 10 years.

If another Bill on pension preservation should eventuate, it would almost certainly be in a different form from that of the recent proposals, according to industry sources.

It is now realised that the recent draft Bill was probably 10 years too early in the development of pension funds in South Africa.

In the UK, where the concept of pension funds has been widely established and accepted many years longer than in South Africa, pension preservation was introduced only in the early 1970s.

Many parties would like to keep the concept alive. Mr R C Lloyd, last year's chairman of the powerful Life Offices Association, has stated that the issue deserves the highest priority.

The LOA had consistently supported the preservation of pension rights simply because, without an effective system of preservation, South Africa would end up with a national pension scheme — with undesirable consequences.

"It is fairly obvious," says Allan Dellbridge, managing director of the Associated Pensions Group, "that the unexpected decision to scrap the Bill must have emanated at Cabinet level, undoubtedly because of the rising tide of discontent the Bill had generated among blacks."

In all the discussion stages preceding the original report and the subsequent Bill, the pensions industry warned the Government about interfering with the blacks' pension funds.

Blacks, says Mr Dellbridge, have traditionally looked upon their pension funds not as a source of retirement income but as emergency cash during times of hardship such as unemployment and sickness.

"It was rather facile to assume that all the labour unrest that arose as a result of the controversial Bill was due to misunderstandings, and that all that was needed was more time to explain matters and all would be well.

"It involves a fundamental change in the blacks' philosophy, and this is not going to change overnight."

Unfortunately, says Mr Dellbridge, some blacks have experienced bureaucratic difficulties in the past in claiming benefits.

If a black leaves the industry or migrates to his homeland, he often does not claim the benefits to which he is entitled.

It is a major problem to trace these old fund members with accrued benefits, and there must be millions of rands in unclaimed benefits lying around.

GENERAL NEWS

Defy plant hit by pensions strike

Star 4/2/82.

By Tony Davis
Labour Reporter

The large Defy plant in Durban has again been hit by a pensions strike.

The workforce of about 1 200 went on strike on Tuesday over demands that management pay out their pension contributions. Workers were still out this morning while more talks were held.

The factory had a pension strike last October.

Talks with the South African Allied Workers' Union (Saawu) seem to have been inconclusive. Workers object to the preservation clauses in the metal industry's pension fund which freeze contributions until retirement.

SCHEME

The industry's umbrella body — the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of SA (Seifsa) — only recently announced a scheme entitling former workers to their contributions if not re-engaged within six months of termination of service.

Talks were held between Defy management and Saawu officials over the pensions issue.

A management spokesman said Defy was willing to seek exemption from the metal industry's pension fund and allow workers to receive their contributions when they left.

Defy had already discussed the dispute with Seifsa, the spokesman said.

In Johannesburg, Seifsa's director, Mr Sam van Coller, said the pension fund's board of management had analysed submissions from industry, unions and other sources dealing with the fund and was ready for face-to-face interviews.

students

By CHERYL VAN EYSSEN

THE shortage of social workers was extremely critical, the president of the Society of Social Workers of South Africa, Mrs Sheila Hefert, said yesterday.

Universities enrolling social work students had recorded a 50 percent drop in the registration of first year students, she said.

"The recruitment of social workers and how effective they are is handicapped by the totally inadequate salaries. And of prime importance is that racial discrimination in salary scales should be abolished."

Of further importance was the inconvenience to social workers in having to deal with three different Government departments in their day-to-day work.

These were the departments of Health and Welfare, Internal Affairs and Co-operation and Development, she said.

She suggested that social workers should be required to deal with only one department.

Mrs Hefert did not want to comment on the submission by Dr L A P A Munnik of a social workers' memorandum, spelling out all these problems, to the Commission for Administration, without taking direct action himself.

This year, a 50 percent drop in the number of first-year students registering in social sciences was experienced in most universities except the University of the Witwatersrand.

The memorandum pointed out that 14,2 percent fewer women and 33,3 percent fewer men were entering practice.

The imbalance between men and women in social work was blamed on the poor salaries.

It was pointed out that the classification of blacks in the professional divisions of the Government was not the same as for whites, and that black social workers were not "free to move" from one administration board area to another.

At the Reef meeting of social workers on Tuesday, great indignation was expressed at the fact that Dr Munnik had not replied to their memorandum, but had sent it to the Commission of Administration in Cape Town instead.

Crackdown

MOSCOW. — Soviet authorities are cracking down on shopkeepers in some cities who hoard food and sell it at above market prices. The campaign follows the third consecutive poor Soviet grain harvest. — Sapa-AP.

Inquest on former world champion

Mail Reporter

AN INQUEST into the death of Arnold Taylor, South Africa's former world bantamweight boxing champion who died in a Johannesburg road accident in November, is expected to be held today in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court.

Taylor, 38, was killed early on November 22 while riding his daughter's motorcycle to their home at Mayfair, after visiting friends. He was taken to hosapital, where he was certified dead on arrival.

He became world bantamweight champion in November 1973 when he knocked out Mexican Romeo Anaya in a world title fight in Johannesburg.

He lost the title on points six months later when he was beaten in Durban by a Korean, Soo-Hwan Hong.

Taylor fought 49 bouts during his boxing career and won 17 on knockouts. He lost only eight fights.

His first boxing success came in May 1969 when he won the South African featherweight title by beating former Empire flyweight champion Dennis Adams.

More than 200 friends, relatives and former boxers attended his cremation.

Taylor is survived by his wife Regina and three daughters.

A spokesman for the Department of Justice said at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday he expected the inquest to be held today.

Strikers are defiant over pensions

THE number of workers who have struck in the past three days rose to more than 3 000 yesterday as new strikes were reported at two large plants — one in Durban and one in Johannesburg.

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN

Workers at the Defy Industries plant in Jacobs, Durban, have struck on pension demands for the second time in a few months, and a Johannesburg firm Krost Brothers was hit by a strike yesterday over demands that union shop stewards be recognised.

Earlier this week, 500 workers at Corobrik in Bedfordview struck in support of union recognition demands and an Edenvale plant, Nampak Recycling Industries, was hit by a wage strike.

A Nampak spokesman said the strike had been settled.

A Corobrik statement said 300 of the 500 had returned and the rest were "provided with company transport to the nearest railway station".

Return

At the Krost Brothers plant in Heriotdale, Johannesburg, the firm's 1 300 workers struck yesterday morning but are expected to return to work today.

A spokesman for Fosatu's Metal and Allied Workers Union said workers agreed to return after the company said it would recognise union shop stewards and sign a written recognition agreement with Mawu "as a matter of urgency".

The firm's managing director, Mr Cecil Krost, said the strike had come after talks with Mawu on recognition had commenced. The company had agreed to recognise the union because it represented a majority, but "we still have a lot to discuss".

Late last week the company had received a petition from workers calling for their liaison committee to be disbanded and replaced by union shop stewards. It listed other grievances.

Mr Krost said the company agreed to disband the committee, but had asked workers to elect a new one until the union was recognised, at which stage the committee would be replaced by Mawu shop stewards. "But we told them we could not recognise the stewards yet."

He added: "They did not come back to us on this, but struck this (Wednesday) morning demanding that we recognise 10 workers they had chosen as shop stewards.

"After calling in union officials, we agreed to call the representatives shop stewards and continue talks. I expect workers to return tomorrow (Thursday)."

At Defy, all 1 400 workers struck on Monday over demands that their pension money be refunded.

A company spokesman, Mr Brian Gavin, said workers were still on strike and negotiations were continuing.

Defy is covered by the metal industries' pension fund which has the same provision for freezing workers' pension contributions as the Government's proposed pensions Bill, which was dropped after worker unrest last year.

The company has been urging the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation to amend the fund's rules.

NPU rejects Press curbs

Political Reporter

ORGANISED resistance to proposed statutory clamps on the Press mounted yesterday when the executive council of the Newspaper Press Union (NPU) rejected the main recommendations of the Steyn Commission at a special meeting in Johannesburg.

In a statement after the meeting the president of the NPU, Mr Peter McLean, said: "The NPU unanimously rejected outright the proposed register of journalists, and certain provisions regarding ownership (of newspapers)."

He also announced the appointment of a committee of NPU representatives and members of the Conference of Editors to analyse the

Building societies take a hard line

By PENNY CUMMINS

WHEN the next increase in the mortgage rate is announced, probably at the end of the month, home-owners will have to dip deeper into their pockets to keep up bond instalments.

Mr Hendrik Sloet, president of the Association of Building Societies, says the societies will not extend the repayment period on loans, and borrowers will have to increase monthly repayments.

He predicts the interest increase will be as much as 1 percent.

The new rate will also affect house-buyers, as they will have to satisfy higher income requirements to obtain a loan. The building societies calculate bond repayments should not exceed 25 percent of gross income, and a wife's salary is not always taken into account.

The last time the mortgage rate went up was in August, also by 1 percent.

Thank

Borrowers can thank their lucky stars that the views of Mr Henri de Villiers did not prevail. He is the managing director of the Standard Bank, which incorporates the Standard Building Society.

Mr De Villiers believes there should be a steeper differential than now in mortgage rates, and people who can afford the bigger bonds should pay a minimum of 16 percent interest.

A property economist, Mr Neville Berkowitz, says a 1 percent increase still keeps mortgage rates below the 17% interest payable on a bank overdraft.

In the long run, says Mr Piet Badenhorst, joint managing director of the United Building Society, the increase in rates will mean more money becoming available for loans, since higher interest rates will attract investors back to the building societies.

"It is often elderly folk whose savings are financing the young home-buyers. Home-buyers are winning hands down as they are using cheap money to buy a house which is appreciating in value," says Mr Badenhorst.

Even with the projected increase, the interest rate on mortgage loans will be lower than the general rate of inflation, running at about 15 percent.

Call by Pressmen overseas

NM

5/2/82

for on

Defence bonds

Mr Horwood said the decision meant that adjustments would also have to be mad to conditions applicable to national defence bonds and defence bonus bonds. However due to technical problems this could not be done immediately.

He also announced that Treasury bills with redemption dates coinciding with tax payment dates would again be sold to provisional taxpayers.

Mr Horwood said the Reserve Bank had made arrangements to utilise that part of South Africa's official foreign reserves held in the form of special drawing rights to obtain foreign bridging finance.

Amounts which could be made available through this and the so-called 'reserve tranche' at the International Monetary Fund totalled R107,4 million and R115,2 million.

Mr Schwarz said this was 'an indication of the deteriorating foreign exchange position and particularly the adverse current account of the balance of payments which has serious implications for the economy as a whole'.

In his statement, Mr Horwood also said a number of improvements in the method of issuing Government stock had been made recently, but after representations from market institutions and investors, it had been decided to experiment with one of the new marketing techniques which was receiving attention from the De Kock Commission.

The next issue by the Treasury was scheduled for April but as a test run, tenders would be invited for issue prices on the reissue of two existing Government stocks.

Mr Schwarz said this decision meant that no long-term stock would be offered in the first half of 1982 and this would have the effect of pushing up rates on long-term stock.

Govt move point
S

to higher bond ra
rates

NM 5/22/82

300 184 152 3

Parliamentary Correspondent

CAPE TOWN—Mortgage rates could rise again following yesterday's increased rates of interest on tax-free treasury bonds.

Minister of Finance Owen Horwood said the interest rate on tax-free indefinite treasury bonds would be increased from 8,75 percent to 9.5 percent from February 1, 1982.

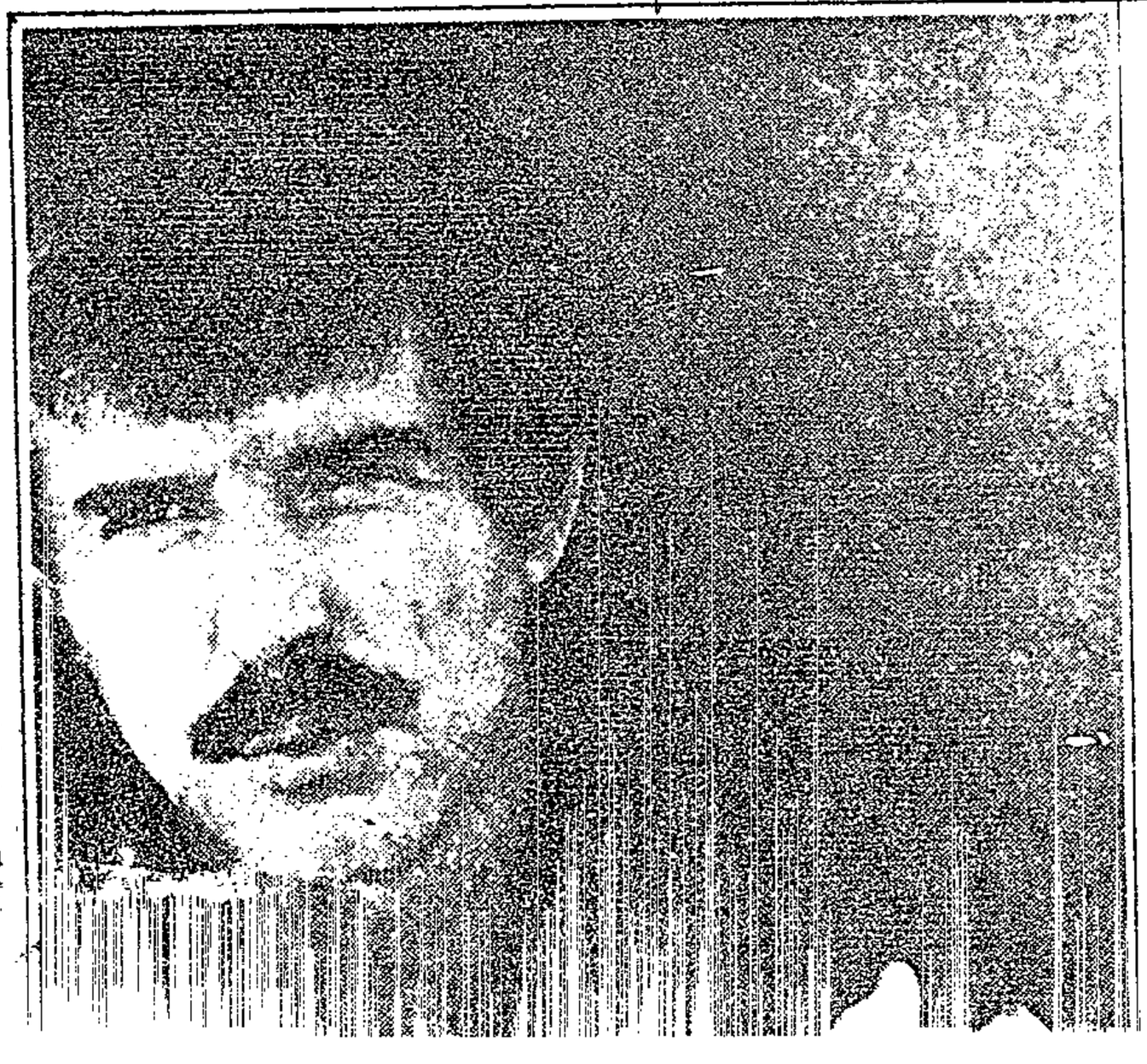
The Opposition spokesman on finance, Mr Harry Schwarz, MP, said this decision was 'a symptom of the escalating interest rates, and building society tax-free rates will have to go up'.

'This means mortgage rates will go up once again.'

It follows a prediction earlier this week by Mr H A Sloet president of the Association of Building Societies, that the rate could go up by as much as 1 percent before the end of the month.

If the rate rose by 1 percent, it would mean that on a bond of [illegible] the monthly payment would [illegible] by [illegible]

...ence bonds



Buenos Aires GP is off as row goes on

London Bureau

THE Argentina Grand Prix, second round in the 1982 world championship, scheduled for March 7, will not take place.

This was confirmed yesterday by Bernie Ecclestone, President of Foca (Formula One Constructors' Associ-

Defy ... 1 200 strike

Mercury Reporter

THE Defy Corporation dismissed its 1 200 black workers yesterday as a strike at the Jacobs' plant entered its third day.

The workers had asked to withdraw their pension fund contributions.

In terms of the National Metal Industries Pension Fund, to which the Defy work...s have to belong pension fund contributions cannot be withdrawn unless the employee leaves the industry.

A statement issued to the workers by

300

Matjila tackles pension problem

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

IN a move to alleviate the plight facing pensioners, the Vaal Community Council has asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development that pensioners be paid through the offices of township managers.

The council's chairman, Mr Josia "Knox" Matjila, told **The SOWETAN** yesterday that the present system of paying pensioners presented a number of problems.

This move, if implemented, will come as a relief to thousands of pensioners who flock to the regional offices of the Department of Co-operation and Development on paydays.

Some pensioners wake-up early in the morning in order to be the first on the queue, while others actually sleep near the offices — exposed to bad weather — waiting for their pay.

Mr Matjila said his council strongly motivated the proposal in order to alleviate the plight of pensioners. The council thought this was "a good idea".

He suggested the new system would have a great effect because pensioners would no longer have to wait for hours as they could be paid in their different wards.

The council was also looking into the possibility of issuing a reprieve on house rents in some deserving cases. Those who wished to get the reprieve would be expected to negotiate with the council.

There were incidents where some pensioners had been offered reprieve in case of old age, certain handicaps and other difficulties in the Vaal complex.

Referring to the possible removal of Bophelong township near Vanderbijlpark, Mr Matjila said his council was opposed to the policy of resettling people as this practice involved thousands of rands.

The council wanted to remove this fear in the hearts of Bophelong residents who have been told they should no longer improve their present structures in view of the removal scheme.

However, he advised residents of Bophelong not to rush with plans to build extra rooms pending the council's request from the authorities on the proposed removal.

His council believed in a policy of consultation with residents to solve their problems. It was also going to restructure its staff and employ more people to help the residents.

The council was busy negotiating for the replanning of Residensia township near Evaton. This township, previously a white area, would be redeveloped and blacks would in future be allowed to buy property there.

PENSION PROBLEMS: 'Knox' Matjila.

Pensioners angered by treatment at pay-out

300 Sowetan 29/1/82

SCORES of Atteridgeville pensioners strongly objected to the treatment they received at their pay-out point at the local community hall last week.

The pensioners said they were sent back home on three consecutive days last week without any valid reasons. The pensioners claimed that at one stage, they were told to go back home because the hall was full.

Mr D Smit, the chief commissioner of the Department of Cooperation and Development in Pretoria, said there was a misunderstanding at the hall which was caused by a man who took money which was not his.

"During the confusion, the paymaster was crowded and he had to stop paying the pensioners. He asked the constable who was with him to re-arrange the pensioners," said Mr Smit.

He said there was a large number of new pensioners.

"We don't know where these pensioners come from and we are investigating the matter," he said.

Pension scheme for farm workers

CAPE TIMES 12/1/82

BOLAND BANK has announced that their pension division has designed a country-wide pension scheme for farm workers. The scheme is underwritten by Metropolitan Homes Trust Life.

Mr G Z Liebenberg, managing director of Boland Bank, said that the scheme would satisfy an important need in the farming community.

"Over the past few years farmers have been convinced that there are many advantages for themselves and their employees in a pension scheme, but practical and administrative problems have always prohibited the implementation of potential schemes. The new scheme gives farmers and co-operatives the opportunity to plan the retirement of their workers on a systematic basis," Mr Liebenberg said.

Mr Liebenberg said that intensive marketing research showed that farmers gave priority to two aspects of their workers' finances, namely pension benefits on retirement and funeral cover for the worker and his dependants.

The scheme meets both these needs at an attractive minimum monthly premium per worker.

Mr Jacques de Villiers, general manager and actuary of Metropolitan Homes Trust Life, said that many administrative problems had been foreseen during the planning stages. These were overcome and participating farmers and co-operatives would only have to deal with one form a month.

The scheme starts on February 1, but the marketing begins immediately.

Interested farmers, farmers' associations and co-operatives can contact the nearest Boland Bank for further information," Mr Liebenberg said.

300 ~~[illegible]~~ RDM 9/1/82.

Concern at pension payout malpractices

THE Black Sash will consider holding a watching brief at future pension pay-outs in Soweto in an attempt to frustrate malpractices, Mrs Sheena Duncan, an executive member of the organisation, said yesterday.

By HARRY MASHABELA

She was reacting to a report on the terrible conditions prevailing outside the Soweto Council chamber on Thursday when the aged collected their pensions.

Mrs Duncan said the Department of Co-operation and Development would have to do something about stamping out the practice of greasing palms to jump queues.

Something would also have to be done to eliminate the extraordinarily long queues.

Fingerprinting

Some of the hundreds of people in the queue had actually spent the night in the cold in an attempt to be in front, but their efforts proved fruitless because of malpractices.

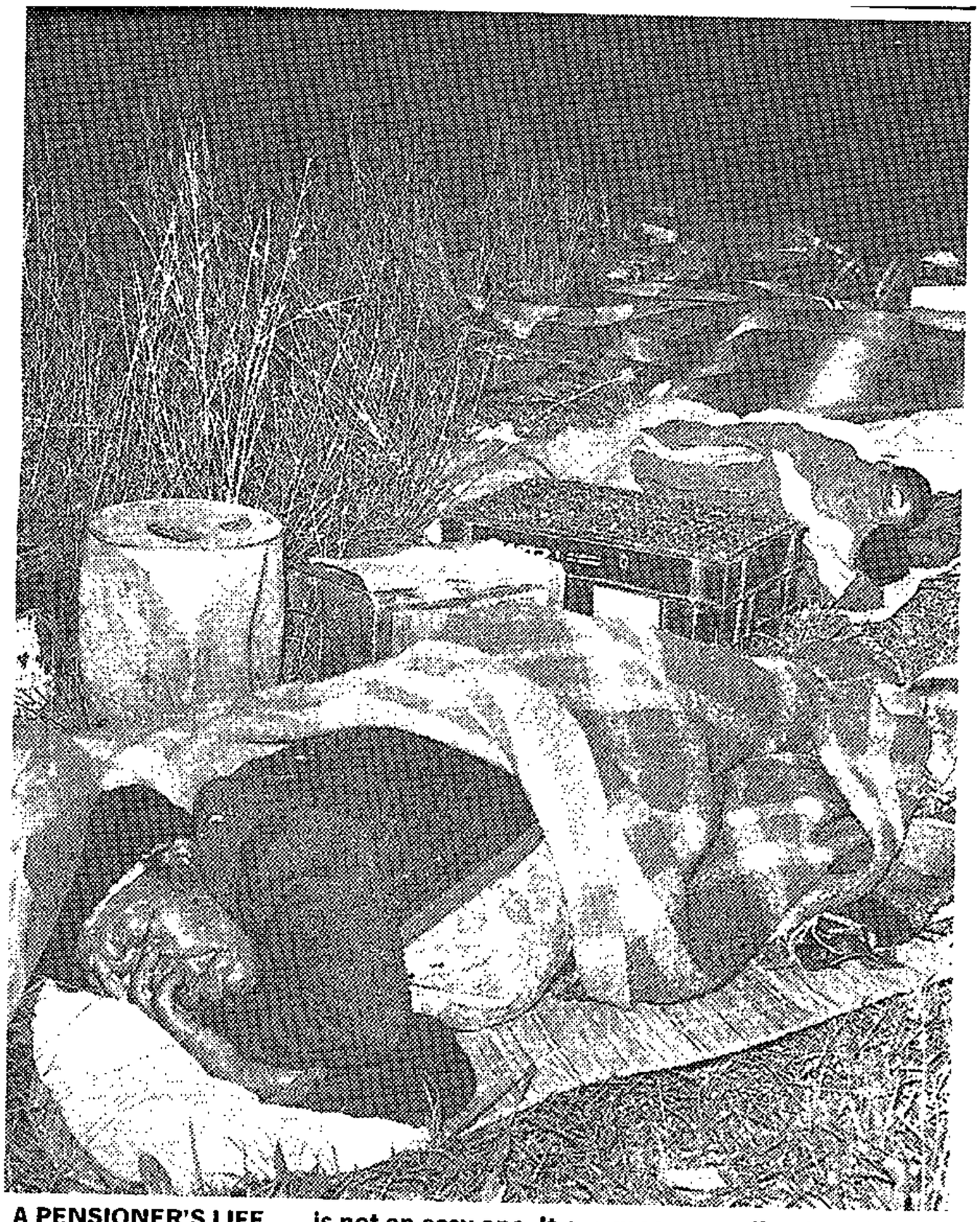
"There is a need, too, for the people affected to make proper complaints to officials so that these ridiculous practices may be stamped out," Mrs Duncan said.

Mrs Duncan condemned the practice of finger-printing pensioners before they actually received their money because it was the equivalent of signing in advance.

Pensioners were supposed to get R80 once in two months. Problems were likely for anyone who found he had been underpaid because he would already have been finger-printed.

The Johannesburg Commissioner for Co-operation and Development was not available for comment yesterday. A secretary said he would not be available until Monday.

● Meanwhile at Daveyton, in Benoni, conditions have been improved by introducing two more payout points for pensioners.



A PENSIONER'S LIFE . . . is not an easy one. It can mean spending the night in the open to avoid an agonising day's wait to be paid out.

Picture: ROBERT TSHABALALA

300 RDM 8/1/82

2km-long queue as aged await pensions

THOUSANDS of people, most of them aged women, stood in a winding almost 2km-long queue outside the Soweto council chambers early yesterday for their bi-monthly pensions.

By HARRY MASHABELA

People began lining up about 9pm the previous day — more than 12 hours before paying began at 9.30am yesterday — meaning some had actually slept in the cold to be up front in the queue.

The pensioners, including the disabled, had come in their thousands by foot, horse cart, wheelbarrow, taxi and private car, to the pay-out centre.

Queue marshals moved the infirm to the front and and men were told they would be paid today.

From about 8am those in the winding queue were joined by a huge crowd which had gathered in front of the chamber offices.

Some sat in cars while others simply hung around.

About 20 minutes before pay-out time, three tables were set up in front of the offices at which pensioners gave personal details.

The pensioners were paid by officials sitting in vehicles behind the tables.

The move seemed to speed up payment, with processing taking up as little as three minutes a pensioner.

But the queue itself hardly moved because the crowd in front of the queue seemed to get in first.

They even appeared popular with some of clerks involved in the processing.

...Murder and Robbery Squad with their investigations and was still 'assisting' them in connection with similar offences committed in the Transvaal area.

Some heat off but S A not out of trouble

Mercury Reporter

THE decision by the Attorney-General of Natal, Mr Cecil Rees, to prosecute all the mercenaries allegedly involved in the hijacking has been welcomed by diplomats in Washington but greeted cautiously by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Diplomats in Washington and the State Department who were watching events in South Africa closely said they regarded the decision as 'positive news'.

They said it was important for the international community to see that justice was running its course.

Speaking from Montreal yesterday, a spokesman for ICAO said the council had always made it clear that it expected South Africa, as a full participating member, to live up to the obligations it had signed.

He said news of the decision to prosecute all the mercenaries had only just been released in the morning papers in Canada and so it was difficult to say what effect it would have on the council.

Majority

He anticipated that the matter would still be discussed in full when representatives of the 33 countries which made up ICAO met for the general session beginning in March.

He said that while a majority could vote South Africa out of the council, the organisation had no power to impose any form of air sanctions against SAA.

'That is a decision which can only be taken by the individual countries themselves,' he said.

However, reliable sources indicate that a decision of this sort or even one by ICAO to expel South Africa is highly unlikely because airlines earning high profits from travel to southern Africa would strongly oppose efforts of Third World politicians to use the incident to beat the sanctions drum.

But they point out that the incident has already done damage in turning ICAO an...

Court, Durban.

In papers before Mr Justice Shearer yesterday, Miss Hannan said that for as long as she could remember, her father had had a drinking problem.

He was continuously changing his job and in 19 years he had had between 40 and 50 jobs. As a result of his pattern of life, she had attended 21 schools and eventually matriculated in 1980.

When she was nine, her parents were divorced but they remarried a year later and were still married. Her mother had made six attempts to commit suicide and had been treated in a variety of institutions for psychiatric illness, she said.

Miss Hannan told the Court that at the beginning of 1981 she came to work in Durban. Her father, who had given permission, arranged for her to stay with an elderly couple and she went home at weekends when possible.

Her father had resumed drinking to excess and was involved in a religious organisation called the Assembly of God.

Locked

During a weekend visit in late November, her father told her he would not allow her to return to work in Durban because 'the Bible said she must stay at home until a man comes to take her away'. He also called church ministers and members of the congregation to speak to her.

When she informed him she was determined to return to work, he locked her in the house and on the Monday telephoned her employers to cancel her employment. She succeeded in leaving the house the next day and telephoned her Durban landlady to send someone to fetch her.

Miss Hannan said her father telephoned her on the Thursday to tell her that her mother had attempted suicide once more. He blamed her for what happened and accused her of 'killing one of the family'.

Later that day he arrived at her work and asked her to get into his car to speak to her sister about their mother. He drove off to Stottburgh where he bundled her into the house and locked all the doors.

After drinking liquor he started to assault her with a leather belt, which he afterwards told her to eat, the Court was told. He ordered her to take off all her clothes and sit on the floor where he pulled her hair.

Thereafter he instructed her to go and telephone the couple, with whom she stayed in Durban, to fetch her. She borrowed clothes from her 16-year-old sister and went to a nearby hotel to do so.

When she came out of the telephone booth, her father was waiting. He grabbed her by the hair and dragged her out of the hotel.

Dragged

Miss Hannan said he then told her the telephone call was a trap to bring the couple to his house so he could kill them. He also told her ...

Workers peeved about Mercury pension pay-outs

Mercury Reporter

DISSATISFACTION over contributions to a compulsory pension fund led to a work stoppage yesterday involving 400 black employees of McWillaw Iron and Steel Foundry at Isipingo.

A strike was averted when the workers agreed to go back to their jobs on condition that the management stops making pension contributions compulsory and approaches the Metal Industries Group Pension Fund to establish when current pension contributions would be refunded.

Mr T S Khumalo, secretary of the Steel, Iron and Engineering Workers' Union, said that a joint letter, signed by himself and the manager of the foundry, Mr Bill Evans, would be sent to the fund.

He said there would be a meeting of the pension fund on January 19 when it was hoped the issue would be resolved.

Delay

Mr Khumalo explained that the management of McWillaw Iron and Steel had a problem in that they had entered into an agreement with the pension fund.

He said that his union was not happy with the delay of six months before workers received their pension contributions. Pension monies were normally paid out at 65 — the normal retirement age for whites.

Mr Khumalo pointed out, however, that most blacks did not live that long. Only two out of 10 blacks reached the age of 65.

The investment of pension monies was not in the interests of blacks but helped white institutions, he declared.

In addition, there were often problems with the payout of pensions. Sometimes unnecessary documents such as a medical report were demanded as well as a death certificate.

Mr Evans declined to speak to the Press while the stoppage was in progress.

Top lawman

PRETORIA—Mr J E Knoll has been elected president of the Association of Law

...the system of ...

In July last year banks represented by the SA Petroleum Federation won a 2 percent collection fee on credit card petrol sales be charged to filling station owners, claiming they were losing because they got no return on petrol sales. The Motor Industries' Federation did not accept this, saying the fee would absorb nearly a third of profits on petrol sales.

Negotiation

Government sources suggested the matter be passed on to the Wage Board, but this proved unacceptable to bank representatives who claimed it would interfere with international credit card procedures.

After recent negotiation the issue was not resolved and it was decided to rescind the credit card facility altogether from January 15.

Yesterday Mr Turk said that, as a last minute effort to prevent the facility being withdrawn, he was making representations to the Minister for motorists to be charged 1 cent per litre when they bought petrol by credit card.

'A similar system of fees ... quantity of ... This was the ... be paid for ... niences of the ... ing more for petrol,' he said.

The banks would ... their money and motorists still would enjoy the facility.

Mr Turk's suggestion was met with mixed feelings by Durban garage owners yesterday.

Mr J R Horne of Super Tyres said it would be a sorry day' for motorists if credit cards were done away with.

'I have spoken to dozens of my customers, who all agree that they would gladly pay extra for the benefit of keeping their cards,' he said.

'People who travel by car a lot will be forced to travel round the country with large sums of money, which makes them valuable to attack.

Surcharge

'Garages too will obviously have substantially larger amounts of cash on their premises overnight and be more vulnerable to robbery,' he said.

Mr Ken Hosken, general manager of the Durban Chamber of Commerce, said he could not ... stand.

He said it would be a great loss to the motorist, who should be given the opportunity of paying extra to preserve the privilege if he wanted it.

David Freedman, of Edgerson Motors, however, said other garages and motorists would be only too glad to see the end of credit cards.

Mr Freedman said the average bill in his garage was small and free service stations ... than now after the ... and the handling of credit cards was simply another burden they had to bear.

People who ... of credit cards ... Mercury ...

TOWARDS the end of last year, Business Times issued a challenge to insurers conducting "managed pension fund" business.

The challenge urged these companies to disclose the investment yields they were achieving in this sphere of their business.

A unique feature of a managed pension fund is that the client participates directly in the investment fortunes (or misfortunes) of the insurer in respect of this business.

The investment yield is therefore of vital interest to the client, who is ultimately the employer and salary earner contributing monthly sums to the pension fund concerned.

Business Times strongly believes that the investment results achieved by managed pension funds should be publicly aired in order to enable those responsible for their companies' pension moneys to measure the adequacy or otherwise of the yields which they are receiving.

Some insurers responded to the challenge by pointing out that they do periodically publish the yields they have achieved.

However, Business Times found that these published yields do not form a reliable basis for comparing the relative performances of different insurers, because of such factors as inconsistencies in formulae and differing reporting dates.

It was therefore decided, in conjunction with a leading firm of consulting actuaries which has extensive experience in the field of investment performance measurement, to launch an investigation into the relative investment performances of those insurers offering managed pension funds.

Today Business Times publishes — as a public service — the first of the results (to September 30, 1981) to have come to hand.

Of the 12 insurers active in this field, nine (with a total market value of R460-million under managed pension fund administration) co-operated with Business Times and supplied the figures requested.

The remaining three — Old Mutual, Sanlam and Southern Life — declined to supply the necessary data.

pensi

By JOHN SPIRA

Those people contributing to managed pension funds must be left to draw their own conclusions from the unwillingness of these three insurers to participate in the investigation.

Hopefully, the reticent three will in due course fall in line with majority and agree to submit their figures.

A 13th company, Standard General, stated that its managed pension fund portfolio was too small to justify submitting data at this stage.

Each of the nine insurers supplied quarterly details of the market value of the total assets held by it in respect of its managed pension funds.

They also furnished details of the net new cash flows emanating from these funds.

To arrive at the yields, these details were integrated by the following general formula:

Market value of all assets at the end of the period, minus the market value of all assets at the start of the period, minus net new money invested over the period — the result being divided by the market value of all assets at the start of the period plus 50% of net new money invested over the period.

The same formula was used for all insurers, the only variation being to allow for the fact that in some instances the cash flow was received in the middle of each month and in other instances at the beginning or end of each month.

Insurers were requested to assign the same market values to their assets as those that they used to determine the periodical unit prices applicable under their managed

300

STimes
2/12/82

following:

● The yields quoted seek to relate to *all* managed pension funds operated by the office concerned.

Owing to timing differences — which the Business Times formula seeks to eliminate in the interests of obtaining a valid comparison between insurers — it is possible that these yields might differ from those achieved by individual clients of that office.

● The yield formula adopted has been designed to apply to all insurers so as to enable valid comparisons to be made. The quoted yields could thus differ slightly from those published by some of the insurers and calculated on the insurer's own formula.

● The yields quoted are intended as a guide to the return that clients of a particular insurer have received on the monies they have invested with that insurer — by whatever means the insurer has produced that return.

Subject to these provisos, Legal & General Volkskas is currently leading the field, followed by Prudential and Liberty Life.

The remaining offices are closely grouped at a slightly lower level, with the exception of National Mutual, which lags by a considerable margin.

These ratings are derived from the three-year yields as only five of the nine insurers responding to the investigation have a five-year history.

As time passes, more insurers will move into the five-year category and a more reliable picture of performance will emerge.

Liberty Life has asked Business Times to state that its 1981 market values contain only an estimate of the value of its property investments.

The yields achieved to December 31, 1981 by participating insurers, which Business Times hopes to publish shortly, will reflect Liberty's final 1981 property values.

Quite possibly, a similar proviso applies in the case of other insurers as well.

Of considerable interest is that the managed pension fund yields of all the insurers tabulated here beat the rate of inflation.

The average inflation rate (as measured by the consumer price index) was 14,4% for the past three years, and 13,1% for the past five years.

1982

Business talks

STimes
21/12/82
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the lid off managed on funds

300
S. Times
21/2/82

MANAGED PENSION FUNDS — HOW THEY PERFORMED

	AVERAGE ANNUAL COMPOUND YIELD TO SEPT 30, 1981	
	PAST 3 YRS %	PAST 5 YRS %
Anglo American Life (Formerly African Eagle)	**22,2**	**—**
Federated Life	**22,6**	**21,3**
Legal & General Volkskas	**29,9**	**28,0**
Liberty Life	**23,9**	**—**
Metropolitan Homes Trust	**22,1**	**23,0**
National Mutual	**17,5**	**18,4**
Norwich Union	**21,4**	**—**
Prudential	**24,2**	**23,8**

pension funds.

The resulting yields were confirmed with each insurer.

Some insurers pointed out that they offered clients the facility of directing the proportions in which their contributions were to be invested in various avenues (gilts, equities, property) and that as a result the insurer was not wholly responsbile for the yield produced.

Business Times is happy to record this proviso. But as it would appear that few clients in fact make use of this facility, the point is probably academic in practice.

Where it was possible to exclude this factor (such as in the case of Anglo American Life and Metropolitan Homes Trust, which operate separate portfolios for clients who wish to direct their funds' investment philosophy), this was done.

It goes without saying that investment performances should not be compared over short periods.

Often the strategy adopted by an insurer takes some time to come to fruition, with the result that it is normally advisable to base comparisons on the average yield over a period of not less than five years.

The primary basis of comparison used by Business Times is therefore the average annual compound yield achieved by each insurer over the past five years on all assets underlying its managed pension funds.

L & GV heads performance ratings . . .

However, some insurers have not as yet operated managed pension funds for as long as five years, and in order not to exclude these offices, a three-year yield has also been calculated.

Although not as reliable as a five-year yield for comparative purposes, this nevertheless still provides an initial guide to performance.

One office supplying data — Commercial Union — has not yet had its managed fund portfolio in operation for three years. Accordingly, this company has not been included in the accompanying tabulation.

This will be done once Commercial Union completes its first three years of operation in this field.

The resulting yields to September 30, 1981, are shown alphabetically in the accompanying table.

In assessing the data, Business Times stresses the

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO PURC

300 Sowetan 22/2/82

Home still to be built

By SAM MOTHEI

CONSTRUCTION of the building for an old age home in Soweto by the Transvaal National Council for the Aged has not yet started.

This was said by Mrs Z Nel, the regional representative of the Transvaal National Council for the aged. She said plans for the building were available. The only thing left was to contact the Soweto Community Council for approval.

Mrs Nel said the home will not only serve the aged but the whole community.

"The home will also serve as a day nursery centre, and there will be a clinic", explained Mrs Nel.

(b) 4 066.

(c) 629.

(3) 1 138.

300 Hansard Q. Col. 171 22/2/82

Pension applications

74. Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

How many pension applications submitted to his Department had not been processed as at (a) 31 January 1982 and (b) 31 January 1981?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(a) 2 560

(b) Not available as statistics in this regard were not kept during 1981.

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Black social pensioners

97. Mr. H. H. SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(a) What is the number of social pensioners, based on the latest available figures, who are Black and (b) in respect of what date is the figure given?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(a) 312 282 (White Areas).

(b) 31 December 1981.

In addition to the above 258 189 Black persons in national states were in receipt of a social pension on 31 December 1981.

Body Building	1 714
Bowls	186
Netball/Basketball	11 158
Tenniquoits	306
Soccer	400 000
Rugby	17 980
Tennis	16 305
Volleyball	814
Athletics	16 144
Golf	4 957
Cricket	3 831
Karate/Judo	6 779
Weight Lifting	1 710
Cycling	156
Table Tennis	2 760
Chess	744
Darts	280
Softball	4 301
Snooker	50
Dominoes	675
Draughts	100
Swimming	3 262
Dancing	1 564
Life-saving	176
Trampoline	14
Wrestling	84
Squash	35
Badminton	126
Fresh Water Fishing	20
Tug of War	16
Gymnastics	1 732

(2) 31 December 1981.

Unlicensed radio listeners/television sets

34. Mr. D. J. DALLING asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information:

(a) (i) What is the estimated number of unlicensed (aa) radio listeners and (bb) television sets in the Republic and (ii) what is the estimated loss of revenue suffered by the SABC as a result and (b) what steps are contemplated and/or being taken to combat such listening and viewing?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION:

(a) (i) The number of unlicensed households

(aa) with radio sets is about 1 100 000 and

(bb) with television sets is about 85 000.

(ii) The estimated loss of income is about R11 million.

(b) Pirate listening is, as was mentioned in the 1980 annual report of the SABC, a serious problem and a large part of licence income is collected through licences which are taken out at the time of purchase of the radio sets, but which are never renewed thereafter. The problem with tracing pirate listeners as well as the cost and extraordinary administrative burden of the collection of radio licences has, *inter alia*, induced the SABC to abolish radio licences from October 1982. A comprehensive computer record of television licence holders is kept up to date by the SABC and steps which have been taken to strengthen this system, as well as the availability of a larger number of inspectors (as a result of the abolition of radio licences) to attend to follow-up work will hopefully keep the number of pirate viewers to a minimum.

Broadcasting hours

35. Mr. D. J. DALLING asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information:

(1) What is the total number of broadcasting hours utilized weekly by the (a) English Service (non-commercial), (b) Afrikaans Service (non-commercial), (c) Springbok Radio, (d) Radio Highveld, (e) Radio Good Hope, (f) Radio Port Natal and (g) Radio Five;

(2) how many hours per week are devoted to programmes of special interest to Indian listeners by each of the above services;

(3) whether any representations have been received in regard to such programmes; if so, (a) from whom and (b) to what effect?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION:

(1) The total number of broadcasting hours per week is as follows:

(a) English Service	125 hours
(b) Afrikaans Service	125 hours
(c) Springbok Radio	132 hours
(d) Radio Highveld	132 hours
(e) Radio Good Hope	132 hours
(f) Radio Port Natal	132 hours
(g) Radio Five	132 hours

The SABC also broadcast an all night service which is relayed over all the commercial services' transmitters i.e. the services mentioned under (c) to (g) above. All the commercial service transmitters therefore carry programmes for 24 hours per day (168 hours per week).

(2) The number of hours per week which each of the above services devotes to programs of special interest to Indian listeners, is as follows:

(a) English Service	1,66 hours
(b) Afrikaans Service	None
(c) Springbok Radio	None
(d) Radio Highveld	None
(e) Radio Good Hope	None
(f) Radio Port Natal	4,5 hours
(g) Radio Five	None

It should however be emphasized that the abovementioned hours only represent the programs which are specifically directed at the Indian Community. There are, however, obviously Indian contributions to numerous other programs as well as participation by Indian listeners, for example, in request programs and competitions. Many other programs, which are broadcast in the official languages, including news and actuality programs are not directed at any group in particular and are of just as much interest to Indian listeners as to any other population group.

(3) (a) Requests are received from time to time from the Indian Community for more programs to be presented for them.

(b) Provision is made to an increasing extent to make the necessary facilities available for the development of radio programs specifically for the Indian Community. The SABC Board has already approved the planning of a radio service for Indians in Durban and environs. Certain technical problems must still be overcome but good progress has already been made with the planning of the proposed service, which will hopefully be launched early in 1983.

300 Hansard Q. 61. 170-1

22/2/82

Old age pensions: White persons

69. Mr. B. B. GOODALL asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:†

(1) How many White persons applied for old age pensions in 1981;

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

(3) how many of the refusals were due to the applicants' assets exceeding the limits laid down in the means test?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) 13 394.

(2) (a) 8 699.

Father denied pension

Sowetan 22/2/82

A SICKLY 67-year-old Winterveldt man is unable to get the old-age pension because he has been declared a "foreigner" after being in South Africa for 42 years.

BY NORMAN NGALE

Mr Charles Nkosi told The **SOWETAN** from his Winterveldt home, where he is a squatter, that he had been refused a new reference book after the old one was damaged and told to return to Swaziland.

He said he had applied for a new book at the Pretoria Reference Bureau three years back and waited for the usual three weeks. He was told he could not get it, but should return to Swaziland where he was born.

According to his temporary identity handed back to him then, he was born in Swaziland in 1915, arrived in South Africa in 1940 and first worked for a hotel in Johannesburg.

He received official permission to work in Pretoria on September 2, 1953, while employed by Tip Top Confectionaries. He said he worked for this confectionary until late in 1979 when he resigned because of ill health.

A spokesman for Tip Top confirmed that Mr Nkosi had worked for them for a long time, although management changed hands during that period. He said his company did not have any pension scheme and what they deducted from Mr Nkosi's wages was tax and unemployment fund contributions.

Mr Nkosi said he could not understand why he had to be sent to Swaziland after he had spent all his working days in the Republic.

"I am sickly now. No firm can employ an old man of my age and because of lack of a reference book, I cannot apply for the old age pension fund," Mr Nkosi said.

Asked whether he would return to Swaziland, Mr Nkosi said there was no point after he had spent all his active years in the Republic, married a Pretoria woman and had five children born in Pretoria.

He said he regarded Pretoria as his home and did not have any other outside South Africa.

All he asked for was his reference book so that he can apply for the Bophuthatwana or the Republican fund for the aged.

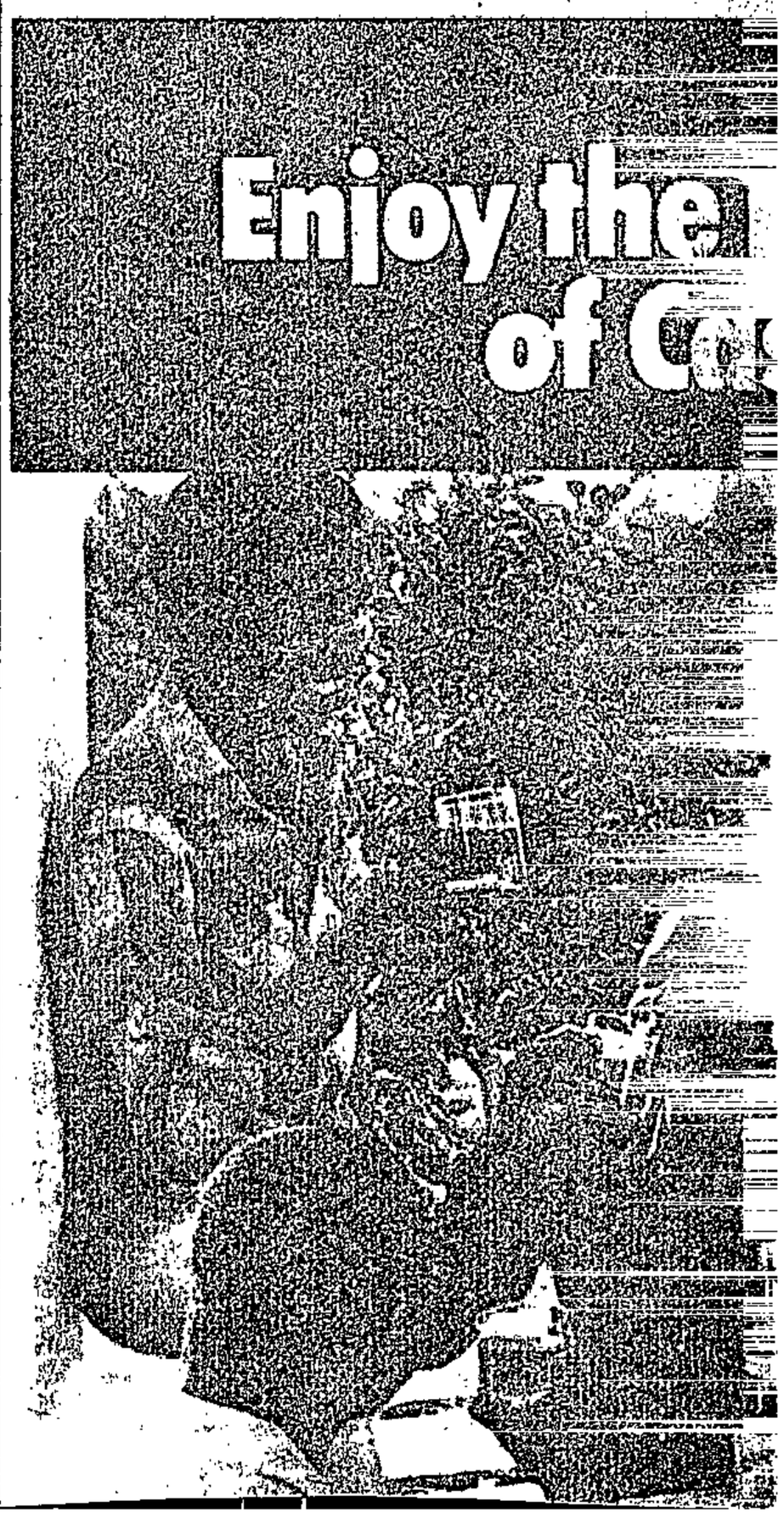
His family decided to squat in Winterveldt in 1970 after fruitless efforts to obtain a house in Atteridgeville, Mamelodi and Mabopane.

This, he said, was despite the fact that he had been on the housing list in Atteridgeville for a long time.

An official at the Pretoria Reference Book Bureau said yesterday that if there was truth in Mr Nkosi's claims, he did qualify under Section 10 by virtue of the fact that he had worked for one employer for more than 20 years.

He said Mr Nkosi should reapply for a new reference book and that his application be accompanied by a declaration stating his life history in the Republic, and that such declaration should be witnessed by a Commissioner of Oaths. The official advised that Mr Nkosi take his declaration to any police station.

ACCIDENT: Ray Nkwe burial Sunday.



Women need a pension scheme of their own

300 E. Post 25/2/82

By YVONNE STEYNBERG
Woman's Editor

IN VIEW of the present extraordinarily high divorce rate in South Africa, and the ease with which divorce can be obtained, we must accept that many women will never enjoy the benefits of their husband's pension scheme.

Added to this is the fact, statistically proved, that women outlive men and stand a good chance of being widowed after 20 to 30 years of marriage.

If a woman decides to remarry she could lose the pension she is receiving from her husband's scheme.

This could cause hardship, especially if a woman loses her second husband and becomes dependent on a State pension.

These disturbing facts have been brought to the attention of women by Mrs Zerilda Droskie, chairman of the Women's Bureau of South Africa's working group on "Women and Retirement".

She urges women to prepare their own pension or annuity schemes for their old age — and so avoid having to live on a State pension.

Women already formed more than one-third of the country's total labour force and the number is virtually increasing daily.

However, the Women's Bureau is worried about the position of working women and pension schemes.

The Interdepartmental Committee of Inquiry into Certain Specific Pension Matters said in March, 1980, that women are becoming increasingly financially independent, that in fact, the whole family is becoming more dependent on her income as well as that of the husband and father of the house.

The committee foresaw that provision for future security for women may become compulsory, but for the present recommended that a married woman must be able at any time, subject to the rules of the fund, to "defreeze" the capital to which she is entitled.

Mrs Droskie said that a considerable percentage of married women are either entirely or largely dependent on their husbands and, as a rule, share in the husband's pension.

But the committee is obviously not taking into account the high divorce rate and death statistics of men.

Women could be left in a very vulnerable position, often with children to support or educate.

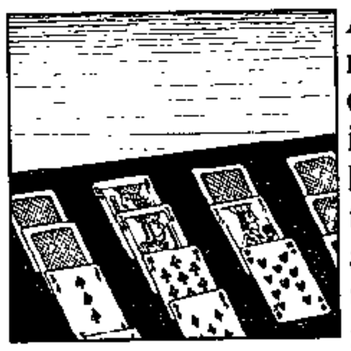
"It is essential that women should provide for their old age through their own pension or annuity schemes," Mrs Droskie said.

THE AGED

FM 16/2/82

Unhappily into the future

300



As a people, South Africans are growing older — and are enjoying it less. Better health care, better nutrition and a greater awareness of what it takes to live longer mean that here, as in the rest of the Western world, the life span is increasing.

Hence the age of society is rising; there are more old people and they are living longer in retirement. The median age of society is rising. In 1970, 7% of whites were 65 or older. This percentage is expected to rise to 10% by the end of the century and to 15% by the year 2020. While no reliable figures for blacks are available, it seems probable that, although their life expectancies are significantly lower than those for whites, they are rising on a similar pattern.

The biggest single problem that this statistic gives rise to is the fact that, as the number of aged increases, so the amount of resources devoted to their care will need to increase; that means that a larger amount will need to be diverted from current production to provide for their needs. Put baldly, an ever smaller proportion of younger, working producers will have to carry an ever-increasing burden of the aged.

Unless, of course, the aged provide for themselves — as indeed they should. And as many do, in increasing numbers. With better education and rising awareness of the problems of age, ever more people are making adequate provision for a full and happy retirement. But the unfortunate, the indigent and the improvident will always be with us. And inflation can — and in fact is — torpedoing the carefully laid plans of many.

Retirement should be a gentle shifting into yet another phase of living, a time to relax and enjoy the fruits of one's labours. Unhappily, that is not usually the case. Consider the following:

☐ The burden on the State from people who are unable or unwilling to provide for their retirement may rise sharply in the future. An increasing flow of people to towns and cities is expected in the decades ahead and — and it is likely that there will be rising demand for the kind of social services, such as pensions, which accompany urbanisation. Government's plans to narrow the gap between black and white social pensions will result in an added burden.

☐ People are living longer and need to make financial arrangements to cater for this. Where in 1890 a white South African male aged 65 had a life expectancy of 10,8 years, this has now risen to 13,8 years and is expected to rise to 14,1 years by 1990. And, of course, their numbers grow steadily.

☐ South Africans are not providing adequately for their declining years. At present, only about 40% of the working population of SA contributes to a pension scheme. But there are government statistics which indicate that only one in 10 white South Africans makes adequate provision for retirement. The reason for this is that many of them cash in pension benefits when they change jobs or do not take the effects of double-digit inflation into account. In fact, Zerilda Droskie, director of the SA National Council for the Aged, believes that one in 10 might be too high an estimate. Translated, this means that a startling 90% or more of whites are not providing adequately for retirement.

☐ Inflation is ravaging the buying power of people living on fixed incomes. The rand of 1975 is now worth less than 50c. A fairly basic list of commodities bought at a supermarket now for R100 would have cost only R43 five years ago.

☐ Suicide prevention centres are reporting a noticable increase in the number of elderly people calling for help.

When should one start preparing for the financial implications of retirement? At least 20 years in advance, according to some executives in the pension fund industry. "Anybody earning more than R1 000 a month and over the age of 40 should have a personal retirement annuity policy," says Charles Schlamm, MD of Price Forbes Federale (Personal Financial Management).

People have to realise, he says, that few company pension funds provide enough to care for the average person's needs. A man who earns a salary of R1 000 a month and who has worked for a company for 20 years before retirement is likely to get a pension of only R400 a month. Assuming an annual inflation rate of 10%, the purchasing power of that R400 will be about R74 after 15 years.

Hennie Pelser, marketing director (corporate services) of Financial Planning Services, lists four main channels of providing for retirement:

☐ A company pension fund
☐ A retirement annuity
☐ A provident fund
☐ A deferred payment contract.

Increasing use is being made of deferred payment contracts, he says. In the past this has been a benefit enjoyed mainly by executives in the upper income brackets, but there is a perceptable shift towards granting this to people in lower income groups.

Self-employed people — entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers etc — make use of retirement annuities, normally diverting 15% of their income (the limit of tax deductability) into these.

To cope with inflation, about 30% of pension funds in SA are providing escalating pensions, he says. The annual increase varies from 3% to 7%, depending on how well their investments have fared.

Pelser agrees with the estimate that only one in 10 white South Africans makes adequate provision for their retirement. Surveys his company have carried out have confirmed this. Virtually no blacks make adequate provision.

"There are not many people who stay 25 years or more with the same company," he says, emphasising that South Africans are simply not sufficiently aware of the need to preserve their pension benefits.

Senior men in government are concerned about the possibility of an increasingly heavy burden being placed on the State by those who have not made adequate provision for retirement. Minister of Health, Social Welfare and Pensions Lapa Munnik is not despondent, however. In an interview

with the *FM* he said there are signs that South Africans are becoming increasingly aware of the need to prepare themselves financially. The present pension burden on the State, he says, is a legacy of the years in the first half of this century when there were few pension funds available. There were wars, flu epidemics and the depression years. "Many people out of that era had no way of making provision," he says.

Munnik remains strongly opposed to a national pension scheme. "Wherever this has been tried it has been a fiasco," he says. Even so, the State pension provisions of many European countries, even though they are an ever-increasing burden on taxpayers, do provide an element of security.

Some senior public servants are not convinced that South Africans are sufficiently aware of the problems of retirement and are especially concerned about the problem of convincing blacks to prepare themselves. They are bitterly disappointed that the Preservation of Pensions Bill was scrapped last year due to pressure from trade unions. Much of this pressure was political, of course, but officially, the Bill is now a dead letter. However, there are indications that this matter is still the subject of intense discussions at a high level in government, and in the pensions industry itself. The possibility of a new strategy to preserve pensions benefits should not be ruled out. Hopefully, this will be on a voluntary basis, thus avoiding the coercion that was such an unsatisfactory element of the proposed legislation.

Preparing for the psychological impact of retirement can be almost as difficult as making financial arrangements for it in a time of high inflation. Many black South Africans still rely on an extended family system for financial aid and live in a culture where elderly people are given a great deal of respect. Many whites, however, find themselves unable to cope with old age in a society which places such undue emphasis on youth.

Valuable work is being done by the Retirement Association, which comprises more than 70 companies and groups who recognise they have a responsibility to prepare their employees for retirement. The association designs and presents courses on preparing for retirement. Member companies can nominate employees to these courses, initially 15 years, then five and two years before retirement. Courses cover issues such as mental and physical health, nutrition, development of mental potential, finance in all its aspects, and the need for continuing education. The association also provides an employment bureau for people over the age of 60.

The Standard Bank is among the organisations which encourages its employees to attend courses run by the association. The bank's senior management expresses satisfaction with courses, but also emphasises that the Standard Bank itself regards preparation for retirement as a continuing process and tries to help employees prepare themselves financially.

The association is campaigning for the reverse annuity mortgage — a system that enables pensioners to earn a monthly income from their own house while retaining ownership. The system has already taken root in the US and Britain, where retired people can negotiate a loan based on the value of their property. This is paid in the form of a monthly income and during the lifetime of the owner the house remains his or her property and any appreciation in value will be to his or her benefit.

There are also plans to establish a national "union" for pensioners which will have offices in all parliamentary constituencies where elderly people can go for help and advice. Its founder, 66-year-old Commandant Mac Joynt, reports widespread support for the body since he announced plans for its formation last year.

Retirement ... boredom, loneliness — or a hobby?

Doctors who specialise in geriatric medicine are highly critical of the lack of coordination in services provided for the aged. Where the trend in many Western nations is towards helping elderly people remain part of a community, there is a tendency in SA to isolate them in old age homes. There is then a great danger that these elderly people will stagnate.

One medical man commented angrily on government policies which actually encourage people to be admitted to old age homes. He said elderly people who cannot live alone for medical reasons receive substantial State aid in addition to their pensions if they are admitted to old age homes. However, none of this aid is forthcoming if they live with relatives or friends who are willing to look after them.

Psychologist Professor Lily Gerdes says a sudden retirement amounts to "a special form of cruelty." She believes it is possible to distinguish between three groups — those who are content to retire at the mandatory age, those who would like to continue working, but at a slower pace, and those who would like to continue working as usual and would probably die of boredom if they did not.

"Many men derive their whole sense of identity from their occupations. For them, retirement does not only mean a loss of colleagues, but a loss of self."

One indication that the skills of elderly people are wanted comes from the growth of employment agencies which cater specifically for senior citizens. They report a growing awareness among employers of the vast reservoir of talent. "We have a continuing demand for skilled pensioners — from artisans through to people with CAs," says an agency spokesman.

All this begs the question: why should people be forced to retire at a mandatory 60 or 65? Just as government needs to encourage people to take on the responsibility for preparing for their retiring years, so can commerce and industry do much to solve problems faced by the aged. At a time when SA is faced by a critical shortage of skilled manpower it seems foolish to discard the services of trained and experienced people who want to carry on working on a part-time basis or in a less senior position.

Perhaps we should look to the US example, where there has been a major rethink of the issue of mandatory retirement ages. In 1978, Congress passed legislation to defer the mandatory retirement age for most employees from 65 to 70 and to prohibit discrimination on account of age in hiring, job retention, compensation, conditions and privileges of employment. The Department of Labour has authority to investigate possible violations and bring actions in court to enforce the legislation. Individuals can institute proceedings and employers can even be liable for criminal penalties.

There is, in fact, no fixed retiring age for politicians. Soviet leaders are in their seventies, so is President Ronald Reagan. Jomo Kenyatta was reputed to be 89 when he died in harness, while Winston Churchill was 81 before he stepped down.

Despite the problems they face, many retired South Africans do lead highly satisfying lives. Former *Sunday Times* editor Joel Mervis, 73, insists that he never retired in the true sense of the word when he left the newspaper seven years ago. For example, in the past 10 days he has been busy with his work as a provincial councillor, has spent a few days in Stellenbosch judging entries for the Stellenbosch Wineries Awards for enterprising journalism, and has written his regular Passing Show column for the *Sunday Times*.

"I can understand that someone else might be very happy spending their time reading or playing golf," he says, emphasising that not everyone wants to lead the kind of life that keeps him happy.

But Mervis and the other successful and happy "retirees" are, ... happily, the exceptions. For the majority, retirement in particular and old age in general is a time of often painful readjustment. Many fail to adjust at all.

(500) Hansard Q.601.29

Old-age pensions

26/2/82

71. Mr. B. B. GOODALL asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) How many Black persons were granted old-age pensions in 1981;

(2) what was the total number of Black persons receiving old-age pensions as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) The statistics kept do not enable me to furnish an exact figure, but in 1981 pensions were granted to 33 844 Black persons and it is estimated that 70% thereof were old-age pensions.

(2) 217 417

31 December 1981.

The above figures are only in respect of pensions administered by the Department of Co-operation and Development and do not include those in regard to national states. It is estimated that ±212 000 Blacks in national states were in receipt of old-age pensions during September 1981.

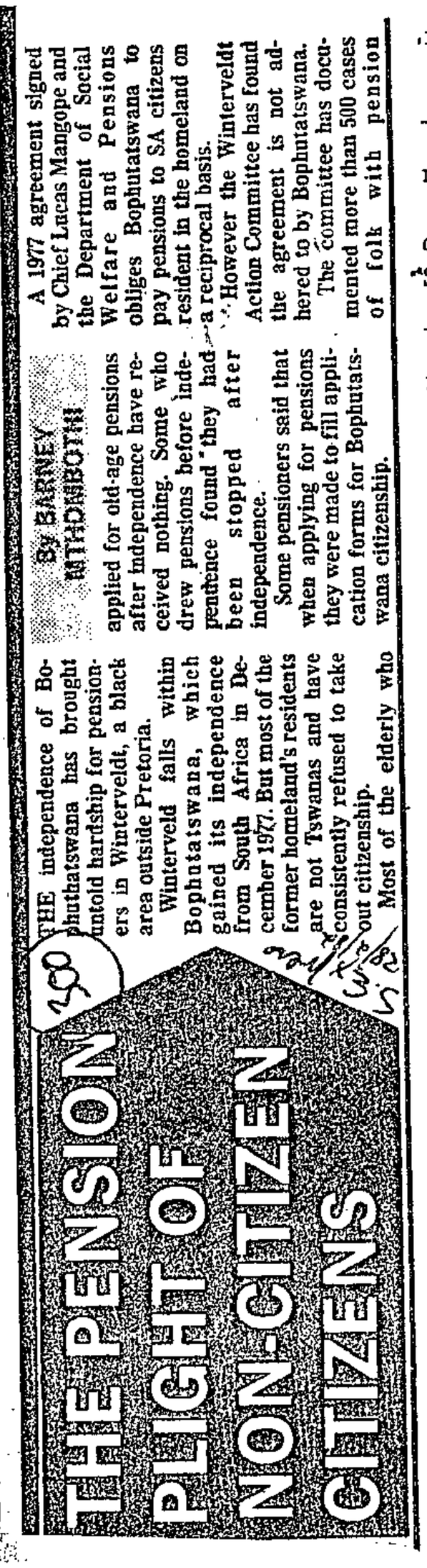
(2) Premiums Treated as an Asset - Cont'd:

Year 02 - same as year 01

ife Policy	300	
Bank		300
ncome Statement	60	
Life Policy		60
olicy written down to surrender value (See Note 1 below)		
ife Policy	300	
Bank		300
ebtor (Insurance Company)	24 000	
Life Policy		540
Income from Life Policy		23 460
eing accrual of proceeds receivable		
come from Life Policy	23 460	
Income Statement		23 460
ing closing entry		
nk	24 000	
Debtor		24 000
ing receipt of proceeds		

03, the life policy would be reflected on the partnership non-current asset at its surrender value of R240.

tner automatically dissolves the partnership as legal and s. For this reason a partnership income statement would have the period up to the date of death of the partner so as to ect balance on his capital account. The proceeds from the life own as income in this income statement and NOT credited direct apital accounts.



New look at black pension funds

300 Mercury 1/3/82

MR David Tweedale and Mr Max Maisela providing alternatives to the pension schemes which black workers have been rejecting.

Mercury Reporter

A VISITING expert on pensions from Johannesburg has outlined the major reasons for black workers rejecting white employee orientated funds.

He believes that the whole issue goes beyond objections to the original legislative proposals on preservation of pension interests'.

And the Natal branch of the insurance broking company that he works for has proposed some alternatives to the conventional pension schemes that black workers are objecting to.

Forced

The pension fund issue which erupted in Natal last year and continued to cause dissatisfaction among black workers, even after the Government had withdrawn its controversial Draft Preservation of Pension Interests Bill, does not seem to be over.

Since the beginning of this year at least one Durban company, Defy Industries (Pty) Ltd, has been forced out of production for a week because of black workers demanding the withdrawal of their pension fund contributions.

Mr Max Maisela, the national divisional manager of the employee benefits consultants division of the Minet Group, told the Mercury in an interview last week that according to his research black workers had always had objections to their pension schemes, but these have never before been brought to the attention of management.

'In my experience I have found that general communication between management and employees is very poor, and it is only since the reaction to the Government's legislation that companies have been attempting to improve lines of communication to their workforce.'

Gulf

Mr Maisela gave several reasons for blacks rejecting their companies' pension schemes.

'Firstly, the enormous gulf in culture between the different race groups must be considered.

'A white employee works and saves for his retirement, but the black man in his traditional beliefs cannot foresee any security when he retires.'

'In black culture the aged and young are traditionally taken care of by the extended family system. For the black worker it is important to provide a good standard of living for his family and to provide his children with a good education now, and he feels that he needs his pension deduction to do this.'

Another objection to current pension schemes is that membership is a condition of employment, Mr Maisela said.

'The Government insists that workers of a certain category belong to a pension fund, and because they are rarely consulted about the formation and running of their pension funds the employer is seen as taking a paternal view of his employees' interests.'

Other reasons listed by Mr Maisela included black workers viewing pension deductions as a form of forced savings to tide them over periods of unemployment, and many black workers, because of their comparatively lower life expectancy rate, not being able to imagine themselves reaching a retirement age of 65.

'Another major objection is how the money is invested.

'Workers are now aware that more than half of pension fund assets are invested in Government securities. They naturally object to this.'

Mr Maisela concluded that although companies had provided pension benefits with all good intent, the present system was not working. 'If companies are serious in their intent to provide meaningful security, changes must be undertaken.'

The big question was what changes could be undertaken?

Mr David Tweedale, executive director of the employees' benefit division of the Minet Group, put forward some alternatives.

Saving

'Each employer must examine his company's existing benefit structure to determine, in consultation with his employees, which employees the existing pension fund might still be suitable for. This will effect those employees who have a long service record and are close to retirement.'

'Then alternatives can be presented to the employees. A formalised saving fund made up of their own contributions can be offered. On retirement or dismissal contributions can be withdrawn, including realistic interest in excess of present pension fund interest.'

Mr Tweedale said this fund would have to be offered on a voluntary basis, and could be used for major loans such as housing.

'Employers can offer to contribute an amount to the fund on an incentive basis, for example his proportion would be available to the employee after a medium term period of about 10 years.'

Mr Tweedale suggested that bigger international firms could offer pension funds on a non-contributory bases.

(SCA)

15 FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

MUNSAMY. — The Funeral Service of ANGAMMAH MUNSAMY (ANIKALI) (beloved wife of Iyavoo Gangan (formerly of Gengans Temple, Sea View; loving mother of Ruby, Morris, Saroj, Devi, Desio, Reggie, Tiny, Mano and Priscilla; loving sister of Harry Murugasen, brothers and sisters; sister-in-law of Govindsamy, Dorrie, Gordon, Mariammah and Kamatchee and a loving mother-in-law of Stanley, Charles, Robin and Monica) will leave her late residence Road 749, No. 46, Unit 7, Chatsworth THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON at 3.15 p.m. proceeding to the Mobeni Heights Cemetery. Friends and relatives are kindly requested to attend. — SHANTHI FUNERAL SERVICES, 212 Chatsworth Main Road, Umhlatuzana Township. Phone 431944 and 434314 day and night.

NAIKER. — The Cremation service of VELOO NAIKER (of Gaysands Restaurant, Shallcross; formerly of Rubicon Tea room, Bellair Road, Cato Manor, beloved husband of the late Rosy, son of the late Narain Naiker; loving brother of M.T. Naiker, Ganas, Selvan and Sadha Naiker; father-in-law of Sandy Naidoo, Krish Naidoo and Deena Naidoo). The body will be in state at the Gaysands Restaurant THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON from 2.30 p.m. and funeral procession will leave at 4.30 p.m. proceeding to the Clare Estate Crematorium. Friends and relatives are kindly requested to attend. — SHANTHI FUNERAL SERVICES, 212 Chatsworth Main Road, Umhlatuzana Township. Phone 431944 and 434314 day and night.

NIXON-JAMES. — A Memorial Service for THOMAS (TOM) NIXON-JAMES (late of 11 Edgecourt Road, Rose Glen, Durban; dearly loved husband of Ann and loved father of Brett and Tracey and father-in-law of Leanne and only son of Lyda Nixon-James) will take place at the church of the Nazarene TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON at 3.00 o'clock. The cremation will take place privately. No flowers by request suggest donations to M. S. Society, c/o St. Anne, 26 High Road, Durban. —COVES & ADAM REID (PTY) LTD., 20 Fynn Street, Durban. Phone 316082.

THOMPSON. — A Memorial Service for the late AGNES MINNA AUGUSTE THOMPSON (loving wife of the late Lawrence; beloved mother of Lionel and the late Raymond and Mariel will take place at the Alexander Park Home, Scottburgh TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON at 4.00 o'clock. The Cremation will take place privately. — DOVES & ADLAM REID (PTY) LTD., 20 Fynn Street, Durban. Phone 316082

17 TOMBSTONE CONSECRATIONS

TEMPLE DAVID CHEVRA KADISHA

The Unveiling and Solemn Consecration of the Memorial erected in loving memory of the LATE MOSES (MAX) PEIMER will take place at the Jewish Cemetery, Redhill, on Monday afternoon, 8 MARCH 1982 at 4.00 p.m.

FUNERALS

Durban's new men's home caters specially for the aged

Mercury 4/3/82

Mercury Reporter

DURBAN seemed to be an ideal place to retire — which is why the city had the largest over-60 population in the country, Durban's Mayor, Mrs Sybil Hotz said yesterday.

Because of this the new men's home in the central Durban area, Peel House, was appreciated. Mrs Hotz said when she officially opened the new home yesterday.

Peel House, in West Street, was the first phase of a project to vacate the old mens' home in Queen Street, and it provided alternative accommodation for more than 40 pensioners, said Mrs Hotz.

It had been bought on a R500 000 loan from the Department of Community Development for which the Durban City Council had agreed to stand security.

The home has 67 rooms all fitted with wash-basins with hot and cold water, and bedside lights.

The home also had a lounge with television and a library, a recreation centre and large sundeck.

Mrs Hotz said Peel House's central situation also was ideal for the residents because most of the city's facilities were within walking distance.

Mrs Hotz, who also is a trustee of the Homes for Men, said the opening of Peel House coincided with the Year of the Aged, and was indicative of the City Council's concern for its pensioners.

DURBAN'S Mayor, Mrs Sybil Hotz, chats to Mr Ernest Burnett, one of the residents of Peel House — the city's newest home for men. Mrs Hotz officially opened the home yesterday.

'Lethal' balloons sold in Durban

Mercury Reporter

A MAJOR Durban toy wholesaler will no longer be distributing whistling balloons labelled 'potentially lethal toys' by a Uni-

Warning of strains on pension funds

300
E. Post
3/3/82

By FRED ROFFEY
Business Editor

PENSION funds in industrialised countries are heading for trouble — and South Africa may not be far behind.

The reason is that those who work must support those who do not — and the number of elderly who do not work, and who live longer as a result of State health care, is increasing steadily.

At the same time, the high level of unemployment throughout the world means there are fewer people contributing to company pensions.

To meet this rising bill, Governments have had to increase the rates of contributions paid by those who are working, in addition to strengthening public financial participation or transferring resources from other branches of social security to help the retired people.

In 1950, some industrialised countries had four to five pension contributors to support one beneficiary.

As a result of declining birthrates, the ratio will be three to one at the turn of the century and is expected to become worse in the year 2020.

In South Africa, a steady flow of people from the farms to cities is expected in the decades ahead.

This urbanisation will lead to increased demands for pensions and other social services.

There will also be increased costs as a result of the Government's plans to narrow the gap between black and white social pensions.

An added burden is in the form of people who do not make adequate provision for their later years, according to a report in the Financial Mail.

It points out that:

● Only about 40% of the working population of South Africa contributes to a pension fund.

● Government statistics indicate that only one in 10 white South Africans make adequate provision for retirement, as many cash in their pension benefits when they change jobs or do not take the effects of double-digit inflation into account.

● Inflation is ravaging the buying power of people living on fixed incomes, and the rand of 1975 is now worth less than 50c.

The report gives the advice of several experts on when one should start preparing financially for retirement.

They say one should start preparing at least 20 years in advance.

According to Mr Charles Schlamm, managing director of Price Forbes Federale (Personal Financial Management), anybody earning more than R1 000 a month and over the age of 40 should have a personal retirement annuity policy.

He says people have to realise that few company pension funds provide adequately.

He points out that a man who earns a salary of R1 000 a month and who has worked for a company for 20 years before retirement is likely to get a pension of only R400 a month.

Assuming an annual inflation rate of 10%, the purchasing power of the R400 will be about R74 after 15 years.

Mr Hennie Pelser, marketing director (corporate services) of Financial Planning Services, lists four main channels of providing for retirement — a company pension fund, a retirement annuity, a provident fund, and a deferred payment contract.

He warns that South Africans are simply not sufficiently aware of the need to perserve their pension benefits to cope with inflation.

Pensioners' plight

Savings for Vacuum

Provision of black pensioners

● from Page 8

ing in Guardbank units failed to beat inflation by a considerable amount.

"In only one year, 1974, did the capital value of the units purchased in 1970 actually decline. However, even in this case dividends would have softened the blow.

"One should compare this with other non-withdrawal retirement plans where the money is in for much more than five years anyway.

"Most guaranteed fixed-interest and building-society schemes do not exceed 12% at most."

Another scheme which has attracted a great deal of attention recently has been the domestic pension fund, an example of which is that offered by CRP Group Services. Lionel Phillips of CRP comments:

"On entering the field we were aware of the fact that another insurance company had offered a group pension plan for individual domestic workers, with a low contribution and no death or disability benefits.

"However, we felt that self-administered pension funds handled by us offered advantages beyond the scope of any other existing pensions specifically designed for individual domestic workers.

"We deal with many employers as though they were part of a group pension and insurance scheme fund.

"We are advised by our actuary, and all the usual pension-linked benefits are insured, while funds are invested with large insurance companies.

"The minimum premium is R10 a month. After costs, including administration, death and disability benefits are offered to the extent of R2 500 each, with the balance going into a pension fund.

"Pension-fund accumulation is added to possible death payout.

"In the case of disability, the accumulated funds are paid out as a pension.

"Death and disability cover are offered with no medical examination being required. There is no mimimum age, and the maximum age is 60.

"There are only two prerequisites: that the person should not have spent more than one month off work — continuously — for illness in the past six months, and that they should be working.

"On leaving the employer there is no loss to the employee and there is no payout.

"He cannot withdraw until he is 55. The employer is the sole contributor and therefore the employee's view of preservation problems is not relevant.

"The fund is registered from the start in the name of the employee and can be transferred from one employer to another.

"It differs from the majority of pension funds and is therefore of interest in this comparative analysis in that it is available to any individual domestic worker, teamaker, or flat or hotel cleaner."

Mr Phillips says that the creation of the fund was requested by clients wishing to have accumulated savings which they had undertaken for their domestics transferred into a pension fund with death and disability benefits.

Possibly the most popular means of assisting individual lowest-paid employees with provision for their old age is still through the building society.

It has the obvious advantages of convenience through the large number of branches, it is easily understood by unsophisticated staff, there is no confusion as to ownership of money saved, besides the link between building society nest-eggs and home ownership.

Peter van Notten, branch manager of the Allied Building Society, feels that building societies have a slight edge in terms of solving retirement problems.

"The simple operation of the savings account and the clear presentation of the expected return are attractive to many of the lowest income group."

As the problem is aggravated every year by inflation, it is hoped that business as well as individuals will inform employees regarding the best savings/investment/pension possibilities to avert a situation which can be envisaged when considering the forecast of 29-million aged persons in South Africa alone by the year 2000.

S. Times 7/2/82

300

ALMOST without exception, companies are facing growing problems providing for the retirement of their lowest-paid staff — mainly black.

Many do not yet qualify for membership of a pension fund, nor do they benefit from any form of insurance, ranging from assisted saving schemes to group pension funds.

According to Colin Lishman, managing director of Minet Financial Services, there are a considerable number of staff at the lower end of the income scale who are not covered by group pension funds.

"I see the plight of the average urban black as being one which will lead to terrible retirement problems in the future.

"Those that *are* covered are often insufficiently provided for as long as inflation remains at or near 15%.

"Most people in the lower income bracket need to be advised of supplementary savings plans."

In view of continued inflationary pressure and the sharp reaction of black unions to the preservation proposals of the recent inter-departmental report into pensions, Mr Lishman recommends to employers:

- First, the use of specialised brokers and an increased awareness of what their employees are getting for the 8%-12% of the payroll that goes on pension.

He suggests that it is important to be aware of what percentage of expenses are admin-linked and what percentage are investment-linked.

"The responsibility factor can be illustrated by the fact that the bulk of people covered for death, disability and retirement receive this cover exclusively from pension funds."

- Secondly, he feels that existing pension benefits should also be communicated to staff so that the employer can benefit in terms of morale and so that the staff can be aware of the rand value of their benefits every year.
- Thirdly, it is important to explore supplementary and alternative savings schemes and inform employees of what is available to them as individuals.

By ANNAMARIE

Insurance companies have been quick to realise that the sharp reaction to preservation has opened the way to retirement-related policies.

IGI was among the first to launch a series of policies concentrating benefits for the black employee market specifically.

STimes 9/2/82

HOW BEST TO PROVIDE: A RANDOM SAMPLE OF ASSISTED SAVINGS, A PENSION, RETIREMENT POLICIES AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS

	*Projected payout after 20 years to participants aged +35 (calculated on R10 p.m. contribution)	Minimum contribution	Capital growth p.a. (plus interest compounded over 5 yrs)	Cash availability	Possible risk of short-term loss	Value of benefits other than retirement (R10 p.m. savings contribution)	Suitable for R100 to R300 p.m. wage earners (domestic)	Suitable for R300 to R1 000 p.m. wage earners
Save-as-you-earn plan (Guardbank Growth Fund Units)	*Projections not permitted. Actual payout after 11 yrs was R7 027	R20 payable 2 monthly or quarterly as preferred	22%	Yes	Yes	None	Yes	Yes
Group Pension Fund (Domestic Workers Fund)	R8 260 alternatively R2 753 in cash plus R64,39 per month pension. Pension only: R96,59 per month (projected on approx 10% growth)	R10 per month	15% estimated for 1981	No withdrawals	None	R2 500 death (plus accumulated pension) R2 500 disability (plus accumulated pension)	Yes	Yes
Retirement policy	R9 751 (projected on 10% growth)	R10 per month for 1 unit & upwards in units of R10 each	18%	No withdrawals (but loans after 2 yrs)	None	1. Personal accident, R217 p.m. 2. Personal disability R5 000 3. Death R3 903 + R5 000 accident cover 4. Burial R500 + option on dependant's burial @ R1 p.m. extra premium	Yes (single unit)	Yes (multiple units @ R10 each)

*Based on current rates at time of going to press.

MOLTENO

Personal accident cover and income protection benefits have been of particular interest to this market.

The "Her Life" policy, an endowment contract with multiracial appeal and incorporating maternity benefits, has been heavily sold directly to the black mass market.

"After their experience with certain burial societies in the past, most blacks are keen to deal with a large, well-established company," says Michael Lewis, chief executive of IGI.

"The trend towards quality-seeking in black purchases cannot be overemphasised.

"Much of our recent business is linked to group cover, but most of our policies are available to individuals as well.

"Much of our success is based on the fact that blacks know that the policies are transferable from one employer to another.

"Since the discontent arising from the proposed preservation measures, many companies have taken responsibility for subsidising premiums in this type of scheme instead of a standard pension."

As an example, the Protector offered by IGI and similar policies (such as Miniflex from Old Mutual, Midas Range by Commercial Union and other annually-costed deposit administration money-purchase policies) cover unemployment benefits, 24-hour personal cover, including assault, disability, death and retirement cover as well as funeral expenses.

In the case of the IGI policy, an average of R2,88 a week can purchase a unit of insurance.

Units are available from about R10 a single unit a month to four units at around R40 a month, which will purchase R24,56 to R98 respectively for a 24-year-old at age 55.

A person aged 44 will get from R3 490 for one unit to R13 960 for four units at retirement.

The number of units that may be bought depends on income, which prevents unnecessary policy lapses.

The extent to which this type of control is applied varies from one insurance company to another.

The value of benefits fluctuates in different policies, giving a higher retirement pay-out for slightly reduced value of other benefits and vice versa.

Unemployment insurance takes the form of six months' premiums, which must be paid on recommencing employment.

In the news at the moment are growth fund units.

Growth funds offer an advantage over pension funds for the individual seeking to invest in that there is no statutory requirement for prescribed investment in gilts, thus making all the money available for channelling into high-growth equities and not into long-term State and semi-State investments with yields below the inflation rate.

'Plight of the average urban black will lead to terrible retirement problems'

Save-as-you-earn plans offered by growth funds permit the less privileged to invest regular amounts monthly.

Using the Guardbank version, R100 a month invested since the inception of Guardbank would have been worth R70 272 at December 31 1981 as against a total cost of R14 400 at that date.

All income distributions would have been reinvested, which is a feature of these plans.

Investors have thus been able to obtain an annual compound return as high as 22%.

This growth far exceeds that offered by any other savings facility.

An advantage is that staff members reaching retirement age and wishing to go home, or find a deposit for a new home, can sell part of the fund or use it at any time for medical or unemployment expenses.

The success of the Guardbank fund is typical of the unit trusts or growth funds as a whole.

Hugo Bierman, a general manager of Guardian Liberty Investment, points out that investment success is based on a constant assessment of the management effectiveness and growth potential in various sectors.

Of course there are drawbacks. As the Registrar of Financial Institutions is at pains to point out, growth funds are not guaranteed.

There is no absolute certainty that they will, in fact, grow, being equity-based.

Again taking the Guardbank fund as an illustration, their stewardship of funds has been particularly good, and the only year in which there was an actual drop in the funds invested was between 1973 and 1974.

A criticism which has been made of the use of the units as a saving scheme for the lowest paid, and therefore least sophisticated, is: "Will they understand it if the value of their fund decreases?"

According to Mr Bierman: "Since 1970 the investment climate has contained at least three troughs — 1975 to 1977 was the worst recession of the decade.

"Over such a period there is naturally a lower growth rate, and dramatic increases in the value of units such as experienced this year must not be expected as an annual event.

"However, over any five-year period in the past decade, no person invest-

● To Page 9

THE FEAR THAT KEEPS HOSPITALS FILLED

Terror of the twilight years

DURBAN'S old folk are seeking refuge at Addington Hospital waiting rooms where friends, a few pills and a cuppa help their fight against boredom and loneliness.

Addington Hospital offers a service and medication to the aged for a nominal fee, and if they're over 70, they don't pay.

They make what is for some a very long, tedious and difficult journey to get there. One woman of 78 has to take a bus, a train and then another bus to get to the hospital.

The journey costs her R2.

The outpatients department sees an average of 600 people a day — 170 are over 65.

Some of the old people go home with four or five bottles of pills to comfort them — tablets for the heart, sleeping, arthritis and water.

Others often leave their pills behind in the waiting room or tuck shop next door after having a cup of tea. They never return to collect them — they were there only for the companionship.

OUTPATIENTS department at Addington . . . a place to escape from loneliness?

By Dominic Gilbert

"Oh, I love coming to Addington," said pensioner Charlotte Vincent, 82. "I actually look forward to my visits. You often meet the same people here and after a while you get to recognise quite a few faces. I've never been here without speaking to somebody," added Mrs Vincent.

"We're generally a jolly lot when we get together, and the nurses are very nice, and so kind."

The Sunday Tribune found that many of the old folk who visit Addington are scared and lonely.

They fear they may be rejected by society because they're "useless" and as they grow older their minds dwell relentlessly in the past.

They fear the indignities they face with old age — loss of eyesight and hearing and are embarrassed by speech impediments from wearing false teeth.

Some suffer constant pain, and fear they may never be able to walk again.

When a Mrs Venton, also 82, was recently widowed, her dying husband said: "I'm sorry I have to die and leave you behind to face it alone."

She has no children or relatives in South Africa. Tidying up and cleaning her flat is all she has to keep herself occupied.

a fruit bowl and decide which pill to take according to the colour they preferred," she said.

Dr Barlow was recently criticised for saying old people should be left to die if they want to die, and it is mostly guilt-ridden relatives who want to keep dying old people alive.

She said many of the sick aged beg to be left to die.

"By unnaturally prolonging the existence of these people we have taken away the quality of life and the dignity of death. Relatives who ignore their old folk for years, dump them on hospitals and old-age homes when they get sick and threaten to become a burden.

"It's very expensive. Can any country in the world afford this expense?"

Dr Barlow is a member of the South African Voluntary Euthanasia Society, SAVES, and carried with her at all times a "living will" stating that she did not wish to be kept alive by machines and wants to be allowed to die with dignity.

"Death is frighten-

"When you're old and lonely it's difficult to make friends. It's easier for some, but we're not all like that," she said.

"At least I can always go to Addington Hospital where I can talk with some of the other people."

Pensioner Mrs Joey Eppel, 83, lives in a tiny room near Addington.

Widowed for 13 years, she has no children or relatives. Her room is sparsely furnished, with only the barest necessities. Luxuries like a refrigerator or her own bath are missing.

She is scared of venturing out from her four walls. She fears drunks and vagrants may rob her.

"My eyesight is getting worse, and I find it difficult to walk, so I can't go to church very often," she said.

She's a patient at Addington outpatients department and takes 12 tablets every day.

In the block where she lives, there are a number of state pensioners who receive R133 a month, and for them the extra 80 cents increase on their rent is cause for alarm.

Some are being cared for by social workers and organisations like Tafta. Nearly all are patients at Addington.

The superintendent of Addington, Dr Margaret Barlow, said a survey carried out on the outpatients proved 82 percent were there unnecessarily and didn't need the tablets they were getting.

"Taking too many pills can make them dizzy, and they could be knocked over crossing a street."

Only eight percent of the old people who go to Adddington for medicines take the whole courses of tablets prescribed to them.

"Some swop pills. One couple were known to put all their pills into

ing but people should be more prepared to face it when the time comes," she said.

She said handing out medicines to many old folk was often treating the sympton and not the problem, when all they needed was a little TLC, —tender loving care.

But many of the old folk the Sunday Tribune spoke to feel threatened by her statement, and fear they'll be left to die, that it is an excuse to be rid of them because they're becoming a burden.

A Durban psychiatrist said a rough estimate of 50 percent of all patients seen by psychiatrists are people over 65.

A survey conducted in Britain showed that 10 percent of people over 65 and 25 percent living at home suffer from psychiatric disorders of varying degrees.

With old age comes a decay of mental faculties, and he believes the aged should remain as a part of the community for as long as possible. It affords them with a better quality of life for a longer period.

"But there are no prescriptions for boredom and loneliness, which are reactive depressions."

Durban city councillor Pieter Breytenbach said all efforts to help the aged "are only scratching the surface."

Financial difficulties torment many of them, and they have a constant threat of having to move out of their flats with nowhere to go.

"We hope to establish a chair of geriatrics at the University of Natal, and to arrange various forms of entertainment for them, like a senior citizens cinema club and a library service. There are other projects in the offing too.

"One of the greatest tragedies of life can be growing old."

07/03/82

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(300) 9/3/82
Hansard Q. Col. 324

Social pensioners

240. Mr. H. H. SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:

(a) What is the number of social pensioners, based on the latest available figures, who are (i) Coloured and (ii) Indian and (b) in respect of what dates are the figures given?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

(a) (i) 211 462

(ii) 53 452

(b) 31 January 1982.

Children in welfare homes: maintenance

300 Hermond

Military disability pensions

Q Col-321 9/3/82

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

(a) How many persons are in receipt of military disability pensions and (b) what amount was paid out in such pensions in respect of the year ended 31 March 1981?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(a) 13 079

(b) R20 325 008

Lair 11/2

THE PLIGHT OF THE PENSIONERS

Mrs Bertha Austin . . . once had tasted the good life but financial disaster left her penniless. Her pension does not allow her to buy fresh food.

Pensioners face up to a deadly winter

By DEBRA CLEVELAND

JOHANNESBURG'S pensioners face the approaching winter with dread, and city councillor Molly Kopel fears that for many it will be the last.

Ms Kopel, who sees an average of 10 pensioners a day in her central Johannesburg ward, says: "This winter there'll be an astronomical number of deaths among pensioners — they can't manage anymore.

"Most are chronically ill and will no longer be able to get free medical attention because of the change in hospital policy. They suffer from malnutrition because they cannot afford food, and rents are sky-high."

Provincial hospitals recently changed their policy of low-cost care for low income groups and now charge R3 a visit to people with a monthly income of more than R40. The white pension is R122 a month.

This week the Sunday Express spoke to a 70-year-old woman with chronic arthritis. Her right calf is permanently bandaged. She says matter-of-factly that she's on the last stage before death.

Mrs Mabel Sason, of Alpheun House, Loveday Street, has no money left at the end of the month. She buys a new dress once a year — with the aid of a charity organisation — and does not eat anything apart from basic foods unless she is given it.

Her basic costs every month are R56 for rent, R5 for electricity and R45 for food — leaving R16 for cigarettes, tips to the in-house domestic worker (who is employed by her landlord) for cleaning her flat and going to the shops for her as she cannot walk long distances, and any other expenses.

She laughed when I asked whether she had a heater. "My darling, I can't afford either a heater, nor the extra money for the electricity it'll use. Besides, this flat is so draughty because the windows don't close properly, I'd probably catch pneumonia."

Mrs Sason has her shopping done for her every Tuesday: R4 worth of mutton chops (about three chops), bread, onions, tomatoes, and sometimes an extra vegetable.

She eats three sparse meals a day: Bread for breakfast, a sliver of a chop and a potato for lunch, and a slice of bread for dinner. She has a cup of coffee in the morning and tea at night.

Because she cannot walk any distance, she is confined to her flat all day. "I can't read because my eyes are too bad and during the day I sit by the window and watch what happens on the street. That's when I have my cigarette."

That is all Mrs Sason can do to pass the time. She has arthritis, th[illegible]

● Mrs Mabel Sason . . . her only contact with the world is through a window [illegible] bottomed brats who need the

body, two ulcers on her foot and can only just get about her little flat.

Another forgotten person is Mrs Bertha Austen, who lives in a Bree Street rooming house.

Her story has a double edge since she is relatively new to poverty. Her husband lost his entire fortune and their large Kensington house in a stock collapse and then died.

She said she has lived in her room for years, but cannot remember exactly how many. Her costs are R55 rent, R5 to the caretaker for collecting her pension and paying her rent and R50 for food — leaving R12 to cover getting to the hospital and medicines since she suffers from a heart complaint and can hardly walk.

She says she is "not a big eater" and eats — irregularly — dry biscuits, bread, potatoes, and canned vegetables and meat since she cannot afford to buy fresh food.

"I can't go out at all because I'm overweight, so I have to send a domestic worker as well as giving her tips. I even struggle to walk to the bathroom (right at the other end of the passage) and when I bath, I bath with the water running in case I slip and can't get out."

She never buys clothes and received her first food parcel for years this Christmas. "I can't get out of this room because of my legs, so I read a lot — if my eyes aren't hurting too much — clean up my room, and look out the window.

"It's quite difficult for me to get used to eating mainly bread and potatoes — all I can afford — because I've always been used to better things. But I have no choice, either I just get used to it, or I won't survive."

Mrs Austen also laughed when I asked whether she had a heater and said it was far too expensive.

The Opposition spokesman for Health, Welfare and Pensions, Dr Marius Barnard, said: "Although we (the tragic plight of the pensioner, there seems to be a reticence on the Government's part to accept the facts as presented by us.

"During some of my visits to pensioners I have seen some of them eating pet food because any other food is just too expensive for them. I've also been to places where you can hardly see anything when the light is on because the strength of the bulb has been cut to save electricity.

"We've brought the problem up time and time again in Parliament, but with no satisfaction. But I can assure you we will bringing it up again during the Minister's vote, and again during the Budget debate.

"If pensioners have to continue living on R122 a month when their situation and living conditions are already unbearable, things will become much worse, evidence of acute malnutrition will increase, and there will a definite possibility of a higher death rate."

When pensioners pay for ideology

Reports tabled at the Black Sash conference at the weekend underline the plight of blacks, young and old, under apartheid. STEVEN FRIEDMAN reports.

HUNDREDS of black pensioners in the Winterveld area of the Northern Transvaal are not being paid their pensions because they are living in the wrong homeland according to separate development ideology.

This charge is made in a report to the Black Sash conference by Ms Annica van Gylswyk. She says 767 cases have been documented of Winterveld people who qualify for pensions but who do not receive them "and in most cases have no income whatsoever".

The vast majority are not getting their pensions because they have the wrong "ethnic origin".

The Winterveld area falls within BophuthaTswana, an "independent black state". But about 90% of the population in the area are not Tswanas, and therefore don't have BophuthaTswana citizenship.

The 1978 Pensions Act states that pensioners must be BophuthaTswana citizens to qualify for pensions.

However, says Ms van Gylswyk, an agreement signed between Pretoria and BophuthaTswana before "independence" provided for non-citizens living in BophuthaTswana to qualify for their pensions in the homeland.

But, she charges, "in direct contradiction to this agreement, BophuthaTswana authorities demand proof of citizenship and tell people to go to their own 'homelands'."

There is also evidence, she says, of people applying for pensions, being given slips of paper and sent to an office in Mabopane township. There they find that "they in fact had applied for citizenship".

BophuthaTswana, says Ms van Gylswyk, is now seeking legal advice to have the agreement on pensions declared invalid and pension cases have now "been put on ice".

A Winterveld Committee, comprised mainly of residents, has been pursuing the issue and has appealed to the BophuthaTswana Minister reponsible, the territory's chief justice, Mr Justice Hiemstra and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha.

A survey has also been conducted in the area to gather information on the problem.

According to Ms van Gylswyk, Mr Justice Hiemstra replied that the BophuthaTswana government would investigate the problem, Mr Botha had simply noted receiving the letter, but there had been no other action.

But, says Ms van Gylswyk, the committee had received proof of "South Africa's knowledge of the plight of pensioners in our area".

She says it had received copies of letters between the Department of Co-Operation and Development and the Foreign Affairs departments of SA and BophuthaTswana on the issue, to which 223 names of people who qualify for pensions in the area were attached.

Still no action has been taken, however, and Ms van Gylswyk argues that the pensioners are the responsibility of the South African Government, who is shifting the burden of responsibility to BophuthaTswana.

"The greatest mystery is how these people (the pensioners) manage to stay alive while the powers-that-be are 'giving the matter urgen attention," says Ms van Gylswyk.

MRS SHEENA DUNCAN . . . outlining the cost of apartheid.

Children 'the big losers at independence'

BLACK people who are citizens of a homeland which opts for "indepedence" not only lose their South African citizenship, they stand to lose other benefits as well — and their children will lose still more.

This is the conclusion of a paper presented to the Black Sash conference by Mrs Sheena Duncan.

In terms of the 1970 Black Homelands Citizenship Acts, all blacks are automatically citizens of a homeland.

Thus far, four of these territories have opted for "independence" and in almost all cases, their citizens automatically become foreigners. Many of these "citizens" have lived their entire lives in "white" South Africa.

While citizens of independent homelands do have the right to renounce their citizenship and apply for South African citizenship — which means citizenship of a non-independent homeland — this is only granted if an error was made or if women who are married to a non-homeland citizen apply.

"We know of no case where the application has been granted simply because the person wished to remain South African," says Mrs Duncan.

Citizenship of an independent homeland, says Mrs Duncan, means losing a claim to political rights and a share of the country's wealth in South Africa.

The present generation of homeland citizens retain the all-important right to live permanently in the cities.

But their children born after independence will lose these rights, even if they would otherwise be entitled to them. They can only stay in the cities as "foreign workers", and permission to stay can be withdrawn at any time.

Even those who retain their Section 10 rights are not safe, however. They are "aliens" and can be deported without trial at any time — an action the authorities could not take if they were still SA ctizens.

And independent homeland citizens who lease homes under the 99-year lease system can bequeath the house to their children born after independence — but, although the heir will own the house, he or she will only have the right to live in it if the authorities grant a permit.

Pensioners who are independent homeland citizens will continue to get their State pensions in the normal way if they live in "white" South Africa.

But if they live in the "homeland", they must get their pension from the homeland Government which can decrease or increase the amount payable.

One loss of rights which will affect present citizens of independent homelands is unemployment insurance.

Workers inside these territories cease to be members of the Unemployment Insurance Fund after "independence" as do commuters — who live in homelands but work in "white" South Africa — and contract workers in "white"areas.

Commuters and contract workers will, however, be entitled to unemployment benefits for three years after indepedence.

And, although citizens of these territories are technically supposed to carry passports instead of pass books. the passport continues to operate in the same way as a "dompas", says Mrs Duncan.

Solution to GL5 (Cont'd)

(2) Premiums Treated as an Asset - Cont'd:

Year 02 - same as year 01

03, Jan 1:	Life Policy	300	
	Bank		300
Dec 31:	Income Statement	60	
	Life Policy		60
	Policy written down to surrender value		

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Note 2:

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Black pensions 'red tape' as R2,4m lies idle

Post Reporters

THE Government last year apparently did not need R2,4 million budgeted for black pensioners, but many pensioners have complained about being hindered from getting their money by masses of red tape.

In Parliament this week, the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, said that the amount of R2,4 million had been overbudgeted by his department.

In reply to a question by the Progressive Federal Party MP for Walmer, Mr Andrew Savage, he said this was a "healthy" situation.

Mr Savage had said that with an increase in the pensions budget last year a rise rather than a drop in payouts could have been expected.

Today a Rhodes University anthropologist, Professor Mike Whisson, and Mrs Rosemary Smith, of the Grahamstown Advice Office, criticised what they described as inefficiency in the pension pay-out system.

For two years Prof Whisson has been channelling to Dr Koornhof complaints by pensioners living in the Glenmore resettlement area concerning non-payment of pensions.

The reasons given for pensioners not receiving their money were usually that the pension pay-out point had run out of cash, or that a particular pensioner's docket was not at the pay-out point, Prof Whisson said.

"The problem is probably bureaucratic inefficiency at the lower levels. A local doctor would find a person eligible for such a pension, but it would be turned down by the authorities in Pretoria.

"The whole system is chaotic, because of the number of people involved and the system of pay-outs. It would be vastly improved if a special pensions office was established and there were more pay-out days," Mrs Smith said.

In a study conducted by the Advice Office two years ago it was found there were 4 000 black pensioners in Grahamstown.

Pensions were paid out on four consecutive days, with about 1 000 pensioners being dealt with a day.

They queued up in and outside a hall for up to 10 hours before being paid out. Often the cash ran out, and pensioners were forced to return the following day.

At the beginning of 1982 the dates of pension payouts in Grahamstown were moved on by two weeks, Mrs Smith said.

"This meant pensioners' already meagre incomes had to be stretched from early November to the third week in January."

Black pensioners receive money every second month.

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More aged could use lunch facility

By NOREEN SUTCLIFFE

DESPITE the rising cost of living, many pensioners have not taken advantage of a new service by the Red Cross Society which provides a full three-course midday meal every day for as little as 50c.

The meal is served at the society's Bagshaw Street Service Centre.

Mrs A Vercuil, public relations officer of the society, and Miss K L Bebington, the Red Cross social worker, told Weekend Post people were not taking advantage of the lunches.

And not only are the meals served during the week, but the centre has also introduced a Sunday midday lunch, at the same price.

At present, 100 Sunday lunches are being served but there is still room for other would-be diners.

"The society feels the aged are not making full use of the facilities offered, yet some people complain of loneliness and lack of friendship.

"We see to it that those people who are semi-mobile are transported to and from the centre at a minimal cost so they are not left between four walls without any friends or proper meals," said Mrs Vercuil.

The Red Cross Society has also introduced another service for the frail and disabled who are living in Red Cross complexes or others who need care.

Every month their pensions are handled by society officials who collect them and deliver them personally.

Red Cross are now busy preparing for the four-day tour to Knysna and George which, through the help of Lions, and Red Cross in Knysna, it will be possible for the travellers to have meals and tea in the towns and thereby keep the cost of the tour down.

Miss Bebington said that if people knew of anybody who was lonely and who would benefit from the activities of the centre, they should contact Mrs H Rossouw, the community organiser at Bagshaw Street, at ☎ 5441492.

"Church organisations who may have some members in need of help are welcome to send names through to us," the Red Cross representatives said.

Urgent talks wanted on homes

Mercury 15/3/82

Mercury Reporter

THE South African Indian Council called at the weekend for urgent round table talks with the Department of Community Development to resolve the housing problem of pensioners from two sugar mills on the South Coast.

Mr S Ramphal, a member for Umkomaas, said there were 121 widows and pensioners in addition to 286 of their dependants at the Illovo and Sezela mill barracks who required urgent resettlement.

'Since the mill has a moral obligation towards the welfare of the pensioners, the management had been making representations to the Department of Community Development and the Development and Services Board to resettle the pensioners in the proposed phase three of the Craigieburn Township.

'However, the resettlement programme has been disrupted because of a ruling by the Craigieburn Advisory Board, which maintains that priority for housing be given to residents of Umkomaas,' he added.

Mr Ramphal said the mill management had approached the Indian Council for help in persuading the all-Indian Craigieburn Advisory Board to reconsider its decision.

He said there was urgent need for round table talks with the Development and Services Board, Department of Community Development, the management of the Sezela and Illovo sugar mills, Craigieburn Advisory Board and the Indian Council to resolve the problem.

Mr Naren Singh, chairman of the Craigieburn Advisory Board, told the Mercury that his board was not opposed to the housing of pensioners from Illovo and Sezela in Umkomaas.

'But, preference for housing in phase three of the Craigieburn Township must be given to residents of Umkomaas. We desperately need housing for local residents.

'It will be totally unfair that people from outside our area should receive priority for housing. This we are totally against and we'll fight it to the hilt.'

Mr A van der Riet, acting general manager of the C G Smith controlled sugar mill at Sezela, could not be reached for comment.

15/3/82 (~~135~~) 300 Sowetan

Pandemonium at meeting

A MASSIVE meeting of the National Union of Furniture and Allied Workers of SA, attended by close to 10 000 people at the Johannesburg City Hall on Saturday, got off to a rowdy start and ended abruptly when three-quarters of those present walked out.

The meeting, dominated by insults, rough treatment of members, disrespect for the executive, aimless shouting and general disorderliness, started at 9 am but ended about 45 minutes later.

The meeting was called to discuss a number of burning issues, including the Provident Fund and election of new members into the executive.

It was chaired by the white vice-president of the union, a Mr Tibserani, who refused to talk to the Press or to give his full name.

A report by the general secretary, Mr Moham Laralam, sparked off the row when members were given the platform.

Discussions centred on the Provident Fund, with members demanding that employers be told that they would only accept 100 percent of their pension and not take the employers' offer of 50 percent, with the other half invested.

In his report Mr Laralam said they had discussed the workers' demands with employers, but management remained firm on their 50 percent offer.

A coloured member grabbed the microphone and accused the executive of selling out and said "these mnagwe ... yos are eating with the employers".

A group of blacks in a corner were caucusing loudly and plotting to replace the white members in the executive with blacks and coloureds.

The microphones on the executive table were taken over by members who were all speaking at the same time — one moving a motion of no-confidence, another proposing closure, another proposing the executive be assaulted and another asking for calm.

They insulted each other, threatened to sort each other out physically and made the meeting the noisiest ever on a Saturday morning in the middle of town.

They demanded that the Industrial Council be scrapped and promised to defy it or get "rid of it ourselves".

Big nonracial union hit by pensions row

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Reporter

A MAJOR Tucsa-affiliated union, the 15 000-strong nonracial National Union of Furniture and Allied Workers, is racked by dissent over pensions and its attitude to employers.

But the union's general secretary, Mr Mohan Lalaram, said yesterday that the dissenters were "a small group" and rejected claims that workers felt the union was too sympathetic to employers.

He also described as "nonsense" a report in The Sowetan that an "unruly" union meeting in the Johannesburg City Hall at the weekend had ended with three-quarters of those present staging a walkout and that workers had demanded the scrapping of the industrial council.

The dissent in the union is a sequel to last year's pensions unrest, in which workers demanded that their contributions be refunded.

The union negotiated an agreement with employers under which workers' contributions — "plus a little more", according to Mr Lalaram — will be refunded to them on April 1, but they will not get the employer contribution.

A union member told the Rand Daily Mail workers were dissatisfied with the running of the pension fund and other benefits, and with the union itself.

"The leaders seem to have cosy relations with the employers," he said.

The union is the product of an amalgamation between a coloured and white union. It opened to blacks after the new labour dispensation was introduced.

At the city hall meeting, members reportedly opposed the pension agreement.

But Mr Lalaram yesterday rejected The Sowetan's report and claimed widespread support for the leadership.

"About 11 500 workers have already applied for their pension money on the terms we agreed — they seem perfectly happy," he said.

In terms of the agreement, members who withdrew their money would not lose any benefits and, even if they ceased contributing, the employer contribution would accumulate and they would receive benefits based on it.

"Members are lucky we were able to negotiate the pension deal we did. It is nonsense to say the employers benefit from it," he said.

Mr Lalaram added that the union offered members a "wide range of benefits — wider than those offered by most other organisations".

He said it had paid out R61 000 in educational benefits for members' children.

Boer War pensioners fading away

Political Staff

TIME is taking its steady toll of Boer War veterans, but 82 people were still receiving pensions last year for a war which finished more than 80 years ago.

However, their number has halved in the last two years. There were 160 Boer War pensioners, including two women, in 1979, but only 81 men and one woman survived to receive pensions last year.

The figures, published in the 1981 report of the Department of Health and Welfare, tabled in Parliament yesterday, show three remaining pensioners from the 1906 Bambata rebellion.

The number of "protesting burgers" from the 1914 rebellion receiving pensions dropped from 141 in 1979 to 92 last year.

There are still 1 396 people, 44 of them women, receiving pensions from the 1914-1918 World War and 11 588 veterans, 1 764 of them women, from the 1939-1945 War.

Yes, but what about the pensioners?

ARGUS 17/3/82

300

WILL 1982, the 'Year of the Aged' remain a year of mere expectation or will it motivate the Government and private sector to accept it as a challenge to improve the lot of the pensioner who, through no fault of his own, now finds himself living in an inflationary world on a pre-inflationary pension?

Recently homes for the aged were advertised at between R30 000 and R60 000 with an annual levy of R325 which no doubt will keep pace with the inflation rate. This standard of accommodation is only of interest to pensioners in the higher income group; but will it become the norm, say, in 10 years' time, for pensioners in the other income groups?

If you have not reached the age of 60 and receive an inflationary salary with increments each year to match the rise in the consumer price index, do not be misled about the future. After all, today's salary earner is tomorrow's pensioner.

If the future of a country lies in its youth and provision is made for them, then by the same token it should be obligatory to give material aid to and look after the over 60s as well. What a golden opportunity the Government and the private sector have this year to tackle the problems of the pensioner. The principles they establish now would be an insurance for the future.

The Government has stated quite categorically that its policy is that the individual must provide for his or her pension. But how can the pensioner who made provision, say 10 years ago, to own his house on retirement and saved to supplement his pension take steps to combat the erosion of the rand? His pension is not increased annually at a level to keep pace with the inflation rate.

The following item appeared in The Argus (Sept 17). "The consumer price index for ALL income groups rose by 1,7 percent last month to bring the total increase since August last year to 16,1 percent, according to the figures given by the Department of Statistics in Pretoria today." Commerce and industry and farmers used the inflation rate to justify 'unavoidable' increases. Trade unions and employee organisations also took note of this rise and used it as a lever to negotiate higher salaries and wages so that their members could maintain their standard of living.

Here it is interesting to note that during these negotiations they apparently did not consider the plight of their old colleagues, the pensioners — for are they not also entitled to a modest standard of living?

The pensioner who tried to provide for his retirement is a proud citizen and does not want to go cap in hand to beg for charity. But he does have a serious financial problem. Status as a pensioner must be recognised

Today's comfortable salary earner is tomorrow's inflation - harried pensioner, warns 'DICK' GALANIS, who speaks from seven years' experience on pension.

and he must be granted material relief so that he can maintain a modest standard of living to which all good citizens who have paid their taxes for, say, 40 years and served their country, are entitled.

The Minister of Finance has said that pensioners earning up to R4 000 a year are free from tax. But while pensioners in this category are exempted from direct taxation they will of course be taxed indirectly through GST.

If 75 percent of that income, that is R3 000, is spent on food and clothing, then the pensioner will pay R150 in GST. The additional primary rebate of R120 he receives as a pensioner is therefore paid back in GST and he is back to square one. Perhaps the Minister has observed this anomaly and in his forthcoming budget will raise the non-taxable level.

Under the system of indirect taxation there is no person who does not pay tax. Even a child who spends pocket money pays tax.

With the high interest rates available on their investments, pension funds should be able to increase pensions to reduce the disparity between pensions based on salaries paid years ago and present high salaries. Companies can help by granting its pensioners a 13th cheque from its profits. Shareholders would not begrudge pensioners a small portion of these profits.

The pensioner in most cases is compelled to tailor his suit according to his cloth. However, in doing this he is faced with two categories of expenditure (a) controllable and (b) uncontrollable. He can control expenditure on electricity, water, food, clothing, entertainment and holidays to keep within a budget. He has no control over the increases in rates, tax (direct or indirect), various licence fees, medical fees and insurance premiums.

It is in these areas that relief is urgently needed. The problem must be tackled now before matters get completely out of hand. We must formulate sound, basic plans which provide for both the present and the future.

Remember the population growth. If we can't resolve the problems now, what are we going to do in 10 or 20 years' time? It makes no sense to provide subsidised housing now if we know that when the owners reach the age of 60 they will not be able to pay their rates in their retirement. If there is no reasonable guarantee that they will be able to, are we not creating an uncontrollable monster? Will they become a new breed of squatters?

I have some constructive suggestions to relieve the burden on senior citizens and help them cope with inflation. These will be discussed in a following article.

(To be concluded)

Benefits: 'workers should have say'

Mail Reporter

THERE were no winners in the recent strikes over the proposed pension legislation, but black employees had shown clearly that they wanted to have a say over the benefits to which they contributed, Mr W L Vos of Firestone told a Manpower and Management Foundation conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

And forward thinking employers should involve workers in planning benefits and other issues which materially affected them, he said.

"The advent of black unions and the muscle which they can wield means that wage and benefit packages made up by personnel managers unilaterally may have to go through new, bilateral channels in the future," Mr Vos said.

He recommended that companies should consult their employees about benefit provisions.

He said the struggle over pension payouts was a "pyrrhic victory" for both sides.

Mr Vos suggested that companies reinstituting pension schemes should consult employee representatives constantly when sketching out a new scheme and ensure that the rest of the workforce was fully informed at each stage of the negotiations.

Conditions should be fully understood by everyone before they participated.

Sowetan (300) 18/3/82

Pensioners resettled

THE inmates of Katlehong "Transit Camp", near Germiston, have been removed and resettled in eight four-roomed houses in Ncala and Maphanga Sections, in the township.

The camp, situated next to an ash dump, in Jlahatse section, served as an old age home for the past ten years, but in the past few years became an eyesore and health hazard to the more than 30 occupants and their children.

Inmates of the camp had complained that doors could not be locked, roofs were leaking, surroundings were a health hazard, the fence around the place had fallen down and that the premises had not been painted for years. They also complained that they had to scavenge for food at the nearby ash dump because the pension money they are receiving from the Government, and the food parcels they were receiving from local social workers, once a month, were not sufficient to keep them going for the whole month.

The inmates who were not paying any rent at the camp, are staying free of charge in their new four-roomed houses.

Mr A P Khumalo, chairman of the Katlehong Community Council, said yesterday that the camp, also known as Mzilikazi, was not fit for habitation and that it would be demolished soon. He also said the council was at the moment busy converting the men's hostel in Maphanga section into an old age home.

He said: "We hope to be through with our renovations by the end of the year. We also hope to accommodate about 300 aged people when renovations at the hostel are completed."

Mr Khumalo said the 40 people living in the eight four-roomed houses, which are serving as a temporary old age home, will again be removed and resettled in a new old age home the council is busy renovating. He said the aged people are receiving food parcels from the local social workers once a week and not once a month as before.

A way out for pensioners?

DICK GALANIS, himself a pensioner, has a thought-provoking plan to help pensioners beat inflation.

TO relieve the ever-growing burden on pensioners and help them cope with inflation I offer the following suggestions for the consideration of the authorities. Let us group them into a PROPEN (for the pensioners) Plan, which would apply to all pensioners who are South African citizens and in the year they turn 60.

RATES: The rates assessments for the year 1982 (payable by June 30) less any rebates already granted should be frozen at that level. Future accounts would be prepared and rendered in the normal way showing the actual amount due for the year but would also be overstamped to indicate the 'frozen' figure payable.

Rates should not be increased above the frozen figure for as long as senior citizen or his spouse own and personally live on the property. Sharing the property with any person other than a senior citizen or unmarried son or daughter would automatically cancel the arrangement and the current assessment as shown on the account would apply.

In the event of the senior citizen selling his property, the buyer would be responsible for paying the rates at the current amount. In other words the frozen figure would fall away. If the buyer were a senior citizen then the current amount would set the level at which the rates were frozen.

If a senior citizen should let his property for more than two months (nine weeks) then he would be liable for the payment of rates at the current amount for that year.

These arrangements would not apply to vacant land, a farm or a flat occupied by a senior citizen who owned the block and let the other flats.

An immigrant who is a senior citizen with a pension from a country outside South Africa should not qualify and should pay rates at the current amount for property he may purchase.

The present rebate system should be scrapped.

Loss of revenue to the local authority should be recovered from the Provincial Administration. As a last resort a small levy of 2½ percent could be imposed on all ratepayers under the age of 60. This would be a very nominal amount as insurance for the benefit they could enjoy when they themselves become senior citizens.

TAX: The Minister of Finance should raise the level at which no income is payable, from R4 000 to R7 000.

LICENCE FEES: The licence fee for one motorcar only should be frozen as from 1982 at the figure shown on the current registration document. If registration documents were issued when fees were increased or if the increase were by a percentage, the senior citizen should merely be required to produce his 1982 registration document together with proof of age to qualify for the frozen fee.

When a senior citizen sold his motorcar the buyer should pay the licence fee at the current amount. If the buyer were a senior citizen then the current fee would set the level at which it should be frozen.

It has already been announced that as from October this year old age pensioners (social) will only pay R24 a year for a TV licence. With the amount of revenue derived from advertising it should be feasible to extend this consession to all senior citizens.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL: Dental and medical fees have risen sharply over the past years. Dentists and doctors are not immune from inflation. But have their Associations given consideration to introducing a special tariff for senior citizens?

Dentists and doctors know only too well that their patients in this age group require their services more than ever. Clinic and Government hospitals are of course available but is it the intention that everybody should be reduced to charity with the resulting increase in Government expenditure and, of course, increased tax?

INSURANCE: A recent circular to owners of a householders policy stated: 'In view of increasing costs we have in line with other insurance companies found it necessary to increase our premium levels.' A slip attached to the circular received by a widow of 70 advised that her premium would be increased from R61 to R111! She is now faced with the option of not renewing the policy or reducing the sum insured and in the event of a claim accepting settlement in terms of the average clause.

The premiums on all insurance have increased considerably. If this trend continues it won't be long before the senior citizen is forced out of this market.

But insurance is a necessity for the senior citizen as he cannot afford to replace losses through theft, fire, and so on.

Would it not be feasible for insurance companies to divide their operations into two categories: one for the under 60s and the other for the over 60s with special tariffs? Statistics should show where their risks lie. In the case of motorcars the major risk appears to be in the under 30 year age group.

Alternatively, is the climate not ideal for the establishment of a separate company to handle the business from senior citizens. High salaries, it would appear, are one of the main reasons for increased costs. The employment of active senior citizens with experience in the insurance world could provide the necessary stabilisation.

COMMERCE: Recently building societies announced a higher interest rate for investors aged 60 and over. This makes sense as the pensioner is the ideal investor because in most cases his money remains invested.

Banks should follow suit and waive their management fee of half a percent in respect of participation bonds.

To help senior citizens in their fight against inflation the Chamber of Commerce should encourage their members to offer a five percent discount for cash. Payment by credit card and other credit systems would not qualify.

Shopkeepers could display notices in their windows announcing that they offer a discount to senior citizens who pay cash.

Supermarkets and other similar stores could reserve a special cash desk to deal with senior citizens and at the same time maintain a tight control over any possible abuse of the offer of discount.

IDENTIFICATION CARD: A quick and easy means of identification would be essential. On attaining the age of 60 every South African citizen should be provided with (at a fee if necessary) an official card, which would include the identity number and a photograph of the holder, stating that he or she is a Senior Citizen. The production of this card would be proof that the holder is entitled to or qualifies for any benefits granted or offered. The onus would rest upon the individual to apply for the card.

The Receiver of Revenue is the obvious authority to issue these cards at a nominal charge. Large companies and municipalities could assist, in liaison with the department, by issuing such cards to its pensioners with the status of Senior Citizens.

In the interim the Identity Document (Book of Life) which shows the date of birth could be used.

The only purpose of this article is to draw attention to the main problem facing senior citizens and to offer some constructive and possible solutions. In this Year of the Aged it is hoped that the Government and the private sector will be motivated to undertake in depth studies of the plight of senior citizens and then let their conscience be their guide to taking positive action.

4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

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EXPRESSCOPE LOOKS AT THE SOARING COST OF EXISTING

Twin threats for city pensioners

By DEBRA CLEVELAND

MORE than 200 central Johannesburg pensioners have died in the past 10 months. And for many more the coming months threaten homelessness and poverty.

City councillor and champion of Johannesburg pensioners Molly Kopel told the Sunday Express this week she knew of 224 pensioners in the central city who had died since last April.

"I would say that most of these deaths were caused by malnutrition, lack of care and all the sickness that comes with old age, combined with neglect."

But now hundreds more are going to have to look for alternative accommodation, since their buildings are either being closed down or converted into office blocks.

Last week, the Sunday Express published an article on pensioners, giving a rundown on their monthly costs and medical expenses. The article concluded that they cannot live on their R122 a month pension without fear of death or malnutrition.

As a result of the article, both Mrs Kopel and the Sunday Express were flooded with offers of help from the public.

In the latest evictions, Tower Buildings, a residential block of flats in Plein Street, has been sold and is to be converted into an office block.

Residents — mostly pensioners — have been given four months rent-free notice. Although this is a much better deal than many, residents are frantic with worry.

Mrs Ida Mills is 83 and has been living in her flat for 45 years.

"I can't possibly pack all my things together, let alone carry them because of my arthritis, and you know what it costs to move today."

Mrs Mills has the next four months to find a flat, but with the acute accommodation shortage in Johannesburg, she's going to have a long search.

Two other pensioners in the same block — one on a disability pension — are sharing a bachelor flat to save rent.

Mrs Hester Levy is a blind 86-year-old. She shares a bachelor flat with Mr Gerald Grant, 45, who is on a disability pension since he has only one leg.

Mr Grant, the son of a now-dead friend, and Mrs Levy have been sharing accommodation for the past 10 years. They have moved three times in the past 18 months.

Their last move cost them R90 — paid to a furniture removal company to move goods just two blocks.

"We try to put away a little every month so we were lucky that we had the money," Mrs Levy said. "But as we've only been here for five months, we havn't been able to save all that much yet — certainly not enough for a removal van again."

Mrs Kopel sees the only solution to the pensioner's accommodation problem as being Government rent subsidy.

"I also feel that rent-controlled flats or buildings should be reserved for those with limited incomes. That would alleviate the problem to a large extent."

She also said pensioners were being intimidated into accepting less-than-satisfactory living conditions.

"If they complain about anything — such as the flats not being cleaned as laid down in the lease or too much being charged for rent — they're told 'like it or lump it'.

● Mrs Hester Levy is 86 — but she's blind and has to move out of her flat in four months.
Picture by HORACE POTTER

"There is a strong case for encouraging labour-intensive industries. It is being done to some extent with a decentralisation subsidy. But too many companies in South Africa are using first world technology in a third world situation.

"I am in favour of a solution that is not acceptable to the Government — wage and price control.

"The Government is unfortunately using traditional methods to combat inflation. If old policy measures are used success cannot be expected against the inflation we have."

Checkers' Mr Rex Glanville said one of the negative effects of increased interest rates was that supermarkets were not able to stockpile at the rate they used to to cushion price increases.

This meant the burden of increased costs would be passed on sooner to consumers.

An example of how stockpiling helped consumers can be seen with frozen chickens.

They have remained at 1980 prices because of massive stockpiling by supermarkets which release stocks at low prices whenever producers push up prices.

He said the Railways Budget and sugar price increases had been a disaster for consumers because of the ripple effect it has on all costs.

Mr Glanville said a substantial wheat price increase would push up the price of flour and bread.

The Government has warned it will not keep increasing the bread subsidy.

He predicted a maize price increase of about 15% — and increases in the price of poultry, frozen vegetables fish, eggs and all sugar products including sweets, cool drinks, biscuits and icecream.

A cigarette price increase is expected next week although housewives can look forward to a margarine price war soon when a new brand is launched.

Both Checkers and Pick 'n Pay favour GST being lifted from at least five basic foods — maize meal, flour, bread, milk and meat. They have frequently assured the Government they will be able to cope with the exemptions at their tills.

BUDGET '82

'Not enough to combat inflation'

Pension increases 'close the gap'

Staff Reporter

THE director of the National Council for the Aged, Mrs Zerilda Droskie, said yesterday that the council was "very pleased" with the pension increases announced yesterday.

"It truly is a Year of the Aged Budget and we are very pleased that Mr Horwood remembered."

In addition to the increases of R16 a month for white pensioners to R138, R12 for coloured and Asian pensioners to R83 and R9 a month for blacks to R49, one had to take into account the double bonus that would be granted.

A bonus of R30 for whites, R24 for coloureds and Asians, and R18 for blacks would be granted in May and November.

"We are also pleased that the gap between white and coloured pensions is closing in monetary terms. In the past it has been widening.

"In 1981 the gap between white and coloured pensions was R58 and now it is R55 so there is a move to close the gap.

"However, the gap between white and black pensions is still R89 — exactly the same. But at least if it isn't closing, it isn't widening either."

"We are also very pleased about the increase in military pensions and the 10 percent for civil pensioners plus one percent for every year that they have been retired."

Commandant H M Joynt, chairman of the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners, yesterday welcomed the concessions to pensioners.

"We must be grateful for any thing that comes our way," he said.

Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY — The government has handed out nearly R200 million in pension increases and benefits but opposition spokesmen were critical yesterday of the differences between what is paid out to white, coloured and Asian, and black people.

Both Mr Harry Schwarz, chief opposition finance spokesman, and Mr George Bartlett, spokesman for the New Republic Party, said they believed that a greater effort should have been made to narrow the gap.

They said too that the increases were not enough to combat inflation.

Mr Owen Horwood announced yesterday that social pensions would go up from October 1 by R16 a month for whites, R12 a month for coloureds and Asians, and R9 a month for blacks.

There would also be two "bonus" payments amounting to R30 for whites, R24 for coloureds and Indians and R18 for blacks which would cost the state R47,3-million.

Military pensions would be adjusted by 15 percent from April 1 at a cost of R3,3-million and an upward adjustment for "old-guard" civil pensioners. This will be 10 percent plus one percent for every year of complete retirement before March 31 this year.

The civil pensions stabilisation account would carry R62.4-million of the cost and the Exchequer R4-million.

In addition, civil pensioners who had not been on medical aid before would be enabled to join from October 1 at a cost to the state of R5,2-million.

Mr Schwarz said that one of the positive aspects of the budget was the pension allowances and the previously requested medical aid for civil pensioners.

"However, we are still concerned that there has been no adjustment to the means tests and the gap in absolute terms between the race groups is actually increasing," said Mr Schwarz. "In any event, the increases will not really enable them to keep up with inflation."

Mr Bartlett said that although attempts to assist pensioners were appreciated, the effects are being substantially diminished by delaying payment until October when inflation will have eaten away half of it anyway.

"We also believe that more should have been done to reduce the gap between white and coloured and Asian, and black pensions."

'Long time to wait for an increase'

DURBAN — Representatives from old-age welfare communities here yesterday strongly criticized the Minister of Finance's announcement that social pensions would increase by an overall 10 percent from October 1.

Mr Owen Horwood announced yesterday that pensions were to rise by R16 a month for whites, R12 for coloureds and Indians, and R9 for blacks. This means that from October 1, whites will receive R138 a month, coloureds and Indians R83 and blacks R49.

Speaking for Durban's white community, the director of Tafta, Mr M H Claye, said the R16 rise was far below the inflation rate. Although he was thankful something had been done to improve the lot of the pensioners in the present economic situation, it was "a long time to wait for an increase".

"The situation is certainly no cause to jump for joy."

The former secretary of the Durban Senior Citizens' Association for the coloured community, Mrs I McDonald, said the new budget would hit the coloured people particularly hard because the cost of living and high rentals.

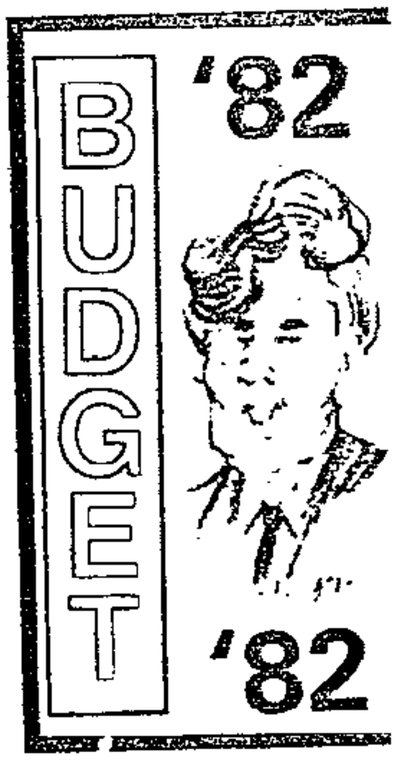
"It's the usual disappointment. October is a long time to have to wait."

A Durban social worker in the Indian community, Mrs A Maistry, said Mr Horwood's promise to "bridge the gap" had not been fulfilled.

"What we want is equal pay for everyone," said Mrs Maistry. "If white pensioners can hardly make out on R138 a month, what are the other rates supposed to do? It all comes down to the question of humanity."

A Kwa Mashu town councillor and active welfare worker, Mrs Albertina Mnuguni, was stunned at the discrepancy between the pensions of blacks and whites.

"The situation is very unfair. If everbody, no matter whether they are black or white, is charged the same prices for food and general sales tax, why is there such a large discrepancy."



what about pensioners?

most cases we use premises that are established by the administration boards," said Mr Makhurunzi.

He said there was still no need for black pensioners to report to the pay-out centres the night before or in the early hours of the morning.

He believes that the question of educating the aged on this will be a long process. Pensioners generally believe they may not get their pay as a result of a money shortage yet the pay-out personnel are compelled by regulations to deposit the money at the Reserve Bank if there is any left before the bank closes.

He added that it was important for pensioners to stick to their recommended centres to avoid confusion during the pay-out process.

During an investigation on conditions at pay-out centres, **The SOWETAN** established that:

- Pensioners still have to stand in long queues where they are often exposed to unfavourable weather. However there has been a fair decrease in the number of hours spent in queues since men and women in an area get paid on sep-

who died from exposure. These were among pensioners who spent the night at their pay-out centres in Thembisa.

Another incident where pensioners were given shocking treatment took place in the heart of Soweto's Urban Chambers, when the policemen chased out pensioners who slept there. The latter had spent the night on hard burnt grass in the middle of winter.

None of the Chamber officials, including the mayor of Soweto, had borne any sympathy with the aging group.

When questioned about the incident, Mr David Thebehali referred reporters to the "so-called leaders in Soweto" whom he claimed were doing nothing for the welfare of the people of Soweto.

The pensioners were however comforted by members of the Moletsane Civic Association who organized brazziers to keep them warm for the night.

A similar incident took place in Pretoria a few years ago when two pensioners were reported dead as a result of exposure, recalls Mr Makhurunzi, He maintains that the authorities need not carry all the blame for this.

Sacca has already established [illegible]

STILL THE SAME: Pensioners queueing for their monthly payout in 1981 — but things haven't changed much.

SOWETAN

25/03/82 300

- They get loose money and have no pay packets.
- They are not protected from vendors who often rob them of their change.

The black pensioner has suffered this unfair treatment for years now. There were several reports two years ago about pensioners clubs in Soweto and others in Pretoria, East Rand and the Vaal.

Pensioners meet at least once a week and are taught arts and crafts and cooking (their favourite meals) and undergo exercises which are demonstrated by a professional physiotherapist.

tive Council, University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg

Munnik 'insensitive'

ARGUS 26/3/82 3M

Political Staff

THE Minister of Health, Welfare and Pensions, Dr L A P A Munnik, had finally proved he was almost completely insensitive to the plight of pensioners, a Progressive Federal Party spokesman said today.

Mr Brian Goodall, MP, was reacting to a TV interview yesterday in which Dr Munnik said black pensioners had a lower cost of living because their housing was cheaper, and this justified lower pensions.

Mr Goodall said: 'This argument is about as senseless and as cynical as his statement last year that pensioners could feed themselves on R20 a month.

'Firstly, the only reason why the housing for blacks is cheaper is because they are not allowed to own homes in so-called white South Africa.

'But he does not explain why Indians and coloureds receive lower pensions than whites.

'He did not give any figures to support his argument and, on the face of it, even if his argument were acceptable it does not stand up.

'The difference in the cost of housing is probably in the region of about R40 a month. This would mean that blacks should receive a pension of R98 a month and not R49 a month.'

Mr Goodall said it was quite obvious from Dr Munnik's statement that the Government was avoiding its own policy of 'separate but equal.'

The statement 'makes it clear that he is condemning blacks to a subservient position.

'People are going to realise that equality cannot be practised in a society dominated by apartheid.'

STRUCK OFF register

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Three teachers convicted in court of offences under the Immorality Act could be struck off the teachers' register.

Mr Andries Petrus van der Walt and Mr Gerrit Weers had been convicted of 'immoral or indecent acts with boys,' while Mr [illegible] was found guilty of attempting to have 'unlawful carnal intercourse with a coloured female person.'

Inquiries into their conduct were held by the disciplinary committee of the South African Teachers' Council for Whites in Pretoria yesterday.

The committee recommended that all three men be struck from the teachers' register for contravening the professional code of conduct for teachers.

The final decision rests with the full committee of the teachers' council, and the men have 30 days to appeal against being removed from the register.

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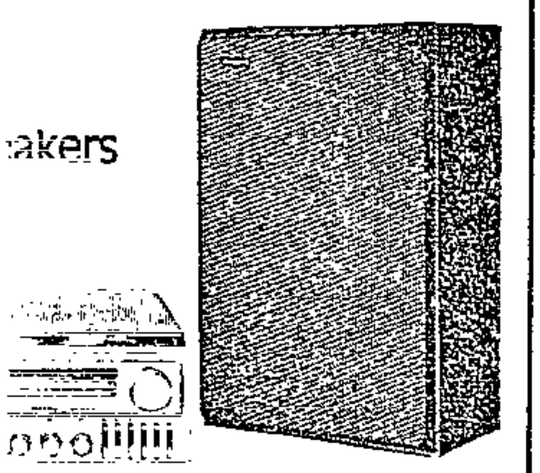

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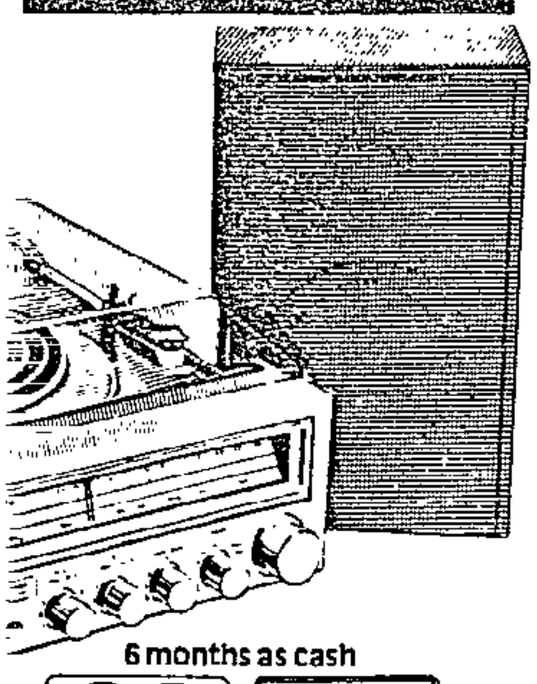

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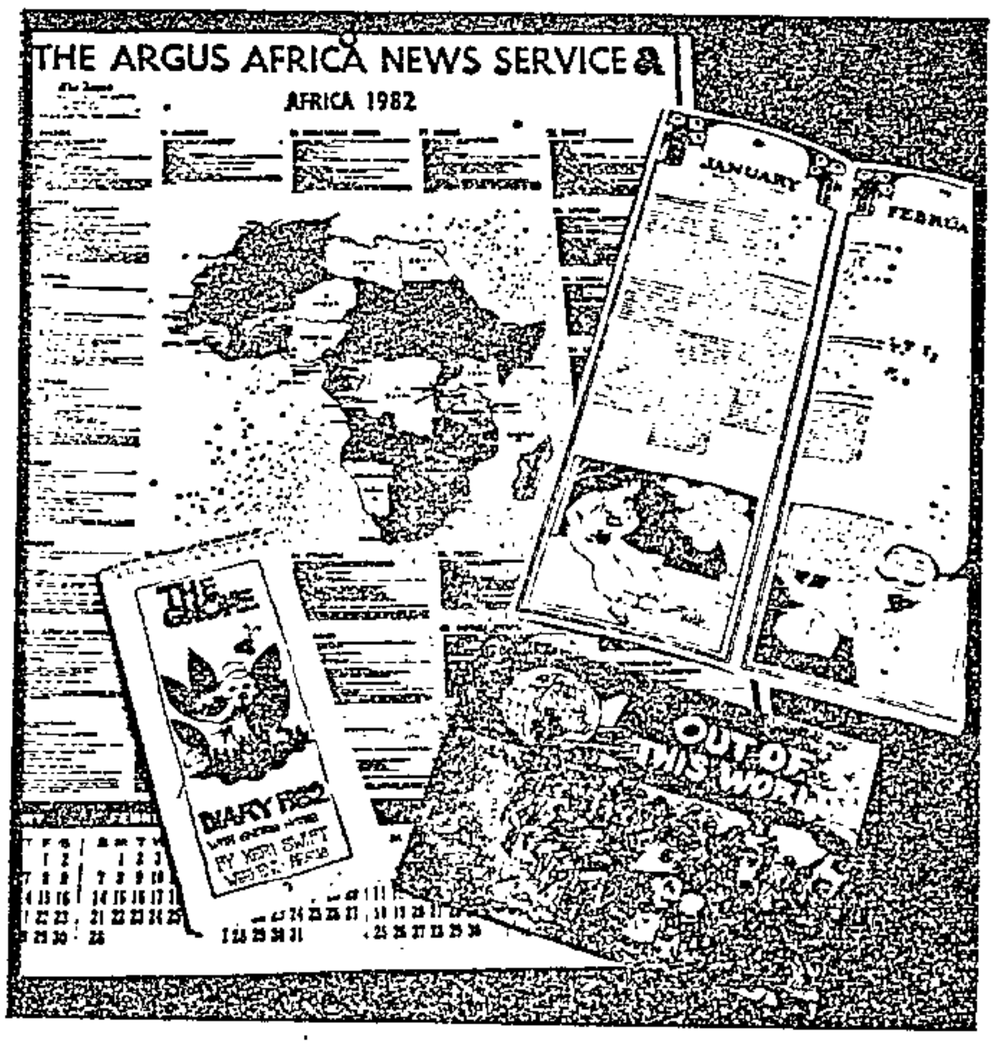

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Pensions gap will be long in closing

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — If the Government continues to close the pension gap at the present pace blacks will have to wait until 2003 and coloured people and Indians until 2006 to achieve the same pensions as whites.

And, in the meantime, the gap in real terms will continue to widen with the turning point for coloured people and Indians being reached in 1989 and for blacks in 1992.

In Wednesday's Budget the Minister of Finance, Mr Horwood, announced an increase in black pensions of 18,37 percent. Coloured people and Indians received 14,45 percent and whites 11,59 percent.

REAL TERMS

But this meant that the difference in real terms between whites and blacks grew by R7 to R89 a month, between whites and coloured people by R4 to R55 a month and between coloured people and blacks by R3 to R34 a month.

At the turnabout points the difference between whites and blacks will be R154 a month and, between whites and coloured people and Indians, R80 a month.

Mr Horwood has followed the policy of giving greater percentage increases to blacks, coloured people and Indians for several years starting in the 1976/7 financial year when the gap between black and white pensioners was R53,50.

The South African Legion is dissatisfied with the pension increase for war disabled persons announced in the Budget.

The legion's national secretary, Mr L H Kretschmer, said in a percent a year in that period.

Mr Kretschmer said that, of the approximately 40 000 war pensioners in the country, 1 400 were disabled in World War 1 and 11 500 in World War 2 and, unlike many of those injured more recently, could no longer augment their incomes by doing limited work.

He said that repeated representations to the Government had not had satisfactory results.

"Two increases in seven years totalling just 28,8 percent wren inflation totalled 110 percent represents unjust treatment of our war-disabled pensioners and the legion protests most strongly," Mr Kretschmer said.

"Adequate compensation to war casualties is vital to morale and is just as important as defence spending."

Argus 26/3/82

Pensions parity for all — by year 2006

(300)

Political Staff

IF the Government continues to close the pension gap at the present pace blacks will have to wait until the year 2003 and coloureds and Indians until 2006 to achieve the same pensions as whites.

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Mr Horwood has followed the policy of giving greater percentage increases to blacks, coloureds and Indians for a number of years, beginning in the 1976/7 financial year when the gap between black and white pensioners was R53,50.

Outcry on pensions

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

BLACKS have expressed concern about discrimination in increases in social pensions, following Wednesday's Budget.

In his Budget speech, Finance Minister Owen Horwood said that pensions increases were a meaningful concession which would cost the Government R154 400 000 in a full financial year.

The monthly pension increases, which will begin on October 1, are R16 for whites, R12 for Indians and coloureds and only R9 for blacks per month.

This means whites will now get R138, Indians and coloureds R83 and blacks R49.

A Soweto pensioner, Mrs Joyce Ramasetle, told The SOWETAN that the increase would not be enough for her to meet her demands.

"I have to pay increased rentals, buy food, clothes and other things. This money falls short of most black people's demands.

"However, we do appreciate that the Government considers us after all, but it forgets that it is through our labour that such cities as Johannesburg were built," she said.

Surely black pensioners have worked strenuously, just as other race groups, and should not be discriminated against, she said.

Another pensioner from Soweto, Mr Simon Sealanyane, said the cost of living was going up every day and blacks were not getting enough money to support their families.

He did not see how many pensioners were going to cope with the escalating cost of living and still manage without the Government cutting down on food bills.

The fact that the Government proposes to increase the price of bread in October will definitely hit the black people harder. Blacks buy the same commodities at supermarkets as whites, but they were not earning the same salaries.

A Soweto sociologist, Mrs Joyce Siwani, said that it was "surprising" that people who earned more money should get the "bigger slice of bread" than those who earned starvation wages.

"Blacks are reeling under the already increased GST; Putco is to increase its fares, house rents have gone up and generally everything seems to be on the increase.

"How are our people expected to face all these things? The Government should have cut its expenditure on the army and increased our pensioners' allowances."

After all, she said, blacks could not be blamed for the "war situation in our country." As such, they should not be made to pay for that situation.

SACC's general secretary, Bishop Desmond Tutu, said the Government was using blacks to subsidise its apartheid policies.

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Homelands cut out

THE Government has made it quite clear in legislation before Parliament that it does not see the non-independent homelands as part of South Africa.

The legislation which affects the nursing association comes despite many assurances given by the Government that no homeland would be forced into accepting independence.

Mr Ray Swart MP, Natal leader of the Progressive Federal Party, yesterday strongly criticised the Bill, accusing the Government of being "cynical in the extreme"

In terms of the Bill no nurse practising her profession in a non-independent national state may belong to the South African Nursing Association.

The Bill states clearly that for its purposes self-governing territories "shall be deemed not to form part of the Republic."

Mr Swart said that the Bill was yet "another example of the Government assuming the independence of the so-called self-governing states."

HURRY, hurry, crowds wearing T-sirts.

Already the me there are still ing.

The T-shirts have ing and have a

Walked 40km for pension: still waiting

(300)

E. Post 26/3/82

By GRANT AUBIN

MR CORNELIUS MJACU, who claims to be 105 years old, walked from Walmer location to North End twice this week in order to receive his pension — but was unsuccessful both times.

Yesterday a despondent Mr Mjacu sat in front of his home and said he was "so hungry". His legs are badly blistered and swollen from his two walks — each return journey being a distance of some 20km.

Mr Mjacu's home is newly built as his last one was burnt down in a fire more than a month ago.

The fire is at the root of his problem. His identity papers were lost in the blaze, but he still has his "dompas" (ID document), which has his pension number on it.

He says he had no problems claiming his pension in January but when he arrived at Africa House, in North End, on Monday, he was told that he would have to come back on Wednesday.

But on Wednesday he was still out of luck.

"They didn't find it then, either," he said.

Now Mr Mjacu and his wife are hungry and they do not know whether or not they will get the pension money.

Mr Mjacu said he was born in Hankey in 1877 and came to Port Elizabeth in 1916 — "to work on the railway".

Mr C MJACU
... 105 and hungry

After "42 years' service" he retired in 1958 and was paid out a small "pension" in a lump sum.

He used this to build a house in Walmer location.

● An official at Africa House was given Mr Mjacu's ID number by the Evening Post and said he would investigate the claims.

Black-white pension gap up in hard cash

Cape Times 26/3/82 (300)

Staff Reporter

WHILE the ratio between white and black pensions has been narrowing constantly, the gap in hard cash has grown larger every year.

The Cape Times yesterday analysed State civil pensions over the past 10 years and found that while the percentage ratios showed a steady move toward parity, the position had in fact deteriorated in cash terms.

The ratio between white and coloured/Asian pensions had narrowed from 100:50 in 1972 to 100:60,1 in 1982. During the same period, the ratio of white to black pensions improved from 100:15,9 in 1972 to 100:35,5 this year.

However, the racial discrepancy in cash terms shows an annual increase. Following the increases announced in Wednesday's Budget, white pensioners will now receive R138 a month, coloured and Asians R83 a month and blacks R49 a month.

This means that the present discrepancy between white and coloured pensions is R55 and the difference between white and black pensions R89 compared to R51 and R82 respectively last year.

In 1972, the discrepancy between white and coloured pensions was R10,50 while between white and black pensions it was R34,50. In 1975, the corresponding differences grew to R30 and R59 and in 1978 to R40,25 and R64,25.

The following tables show the percentage ratios and actual maximum social pensions over the past 10 years:

Percentage ratio of social pensions

YEAR	WHITE	COL	INDIAN	AFRICAN
1972	100	50,0	50,0	15,9
1973	100	50,0	50,0	17,0
1974	100	51,8	51,8	19,7
1975	100	53,1	53,1	23,4
1976	100	53,5	53,5	25,7
1977	100	53,8	53,8	25,9
1978	100	53,9	53,9	27,0
1979	100	55,7	55,7	28,4
1980	100	56,9	56,9	30,3
1981	100	58,2	58,2	33,6
1982	100	60,1	60,1	35,5

Maximum social pensions in rands

YEAR	WHITE	COL	INDIAN	AFRICAN
1972	41	20,50	20,50	6,50
1973	47	23,50	23,50	8,00
1974	57	29,50	29,50	11,25
1975	64	34,00	34,00	15,00
1976	72	38,50	38,50	18,50
1977	79	42,50	42,50	20,50
1978	88	47,75	47,75	23,75
1979	97	54,00	54,00	27,50
1980	105	62,00	62,00	33,00
1981	122	71,00	71,00	40,00
1982	138	83,00	83,00	49,00

Gelvandale old folk get meals from new van

Weekend Post Reporter

OLD people in Gelvandale can look forward to getting their meals on wheels quicker and hotter, thanks to the generosity of a Port Elizabeth service club.

The president of the Rotary Club of Port Elizabeth West, Mr Bill Taylor, yesterday presented an economy vehicle and trailer to Mrs Val de Jager, president of Meals on Wheels.

Mrs Hazel Beaton, president of the Federation of the Seventh Day Adventist Community Services, which runs Meals on Wheels, was also a guest at the function.

Meals on Wheels is a service provided to the "twilight" people of Port Elizabeth — senior citizens who live on their own and who depend on the service for their main source of contact with everyday life.

The new panel van and trailer will ensure that the elderly in Gelvandale and surrounding areas will have their meals on time. The previous vehicle had just about reached the end of the road.

The meals are prepared in the basement of the church hall in Geldenhuys Street, Springdale, and on a Tuesday between 30 to 40 hot meals are taken to the aged and frail.

But it is not only the aged who will benefit from the project, according to Mrs De Jager, but also the children of Helenvale.

On Wednesdays, between 100 and 120 children get bread and soup from the soup kitchen through the efforts of the Meals on Wheels workers. During the school holidays this figure increases to nearly 400.

The money needed for the new vehicle was collected by the Rotarians through the "Know Your Car" course and other projects.

The choice of a trailer was a particularly happy one, because it will make transportation much easier and more meals can be packed into it.

And, in addition, the running costs of the smaller panel van and trailer, would be less than the costs experienced with the older and bigger van.

'Dead' granny fights for pension

Sowetan 7/4/82 300

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

A FRAIL-LOOKING Sebokeng granny, Mrs Martha Maboe (116) has spent almost two years without getting her pension money because authorities maintain that she is dead.

Mrs Maboe, who is semi-blind and finds it difficult to walk, received her last pension pay during 1979 at the Evaton Commissioner's office.

Mrs Maboe told The SOWETAN: "I have been going to the offices in Evaton but have been told that my money is not available because according to records I am supposed to be dead.

"On numerous occasions I told the commissioner and other authorities that I was still alive, but all to no avail," she said.

She had to abandon her house in Zone 7, Sebokeng and give it to her great grand-child because "I cannot afford to run the household and pay house rents without assistance," she said.

Mrs. Maboe, who is now staying with her daughter, Mrs Annah Mogare, said officials had asked her to produce her "pass book" so that she could be identified.

"This practice has been going on for a long time until I lost courage. The clerks at the pay-out depots do not talk to us properly. They treat us like small children," she said.

Her children have also tried to help her to get the money from the Evaton Commissioner's offices. "Things have not been too rosy for us," she said.

A spokesman for the Department of Cooperation and Development Commission in Sebokeng said that it is true that she is alive, there was a mistake somewhere.

The spokesman said that if the family could produce proof then she would be paid retrospective the time she was not paid. The family should demand to talk to the commissioner himself.

ALIVE: Mrs Maboe.

ter was brought to the attention of Bophuthatswana Authorities through diplomatic channels. The Bophuthatswana Authorities have indicated that the matter is still receiving attention.

(3) Statistics are not available.

(4) No.

Winterveld area: pensions

*4. Mrs. H. SUZMAN asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether his Department has received representations regarding the payment of pensions to South African citizens resident in the Winterveld area of Bophuthatswana; if so, (a) from whom and (b) what was (i) the nature of the representations and (ii) his response thereto;

(2) whether he has initiated any action as a result of such representations; if so, (a) what action and (b) with what result;

(3) how many non-Tswana residents in the Winterveld area are eligible for pensions;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) Yes.

(a) Private individuals.

(b) (i) Representations have been received in connection with the non payment of social pensions to certain persons alledgedly eligible for pensions.

(ii) and (2)(a) and (b) The matter was brought to the attention of Bophuthatswana Authorities through diplomatic channels. The Bophuthatswana Authorities have indicated that the matter is still receiving attention.

(3) Statistics are not available.

(4) No.

Winterveld area: pensions

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(2) whether he has initiated any action as a result of such representations; if so, (a) what action and (b) with what result;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION:

(1) Yes.

(a) The representations were received from an organization called "Winterveld Action Committee"—

(b) (i) that I intervene with the Bophuthatswana Government in connection with the alleged non-payment of pensions; and

(ii) that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information had been instructed to investigate the matter.

(2) Yes.

(a) The matter has been raised with the Bophuthatswana authorities.

(b) The Bophuthatswana authorities indicated that each case would be investigated individually and considered for the payment of a social pension.

(3) No.

Tswanas to probe pension backlog

Political Staff

THE BophuthaTswana Government is investigating the non-payment of pensions in the Winterveld area.

Both the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, said in Parliament yesterday the matter had been raised with the BophuthaTswana Government.

This came after representations to the South African Government by the Winterveld action committee.

Replying to questions which had been tabled in Parliament by Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP Houghton), the Ministers said the matter had been brought to the attention of the BophuthaTswana Government through diplomatic channels.

Mr Botha said the BophuthaTswana authorities had indicated "each case would be investigated individually and considered for the payment of a social pension".

He also said the Winterveld action committee had made representations that he intervene with the BophuthaTswana Government "in connection with alleged non-payment of pensions".

Mr Botha refused to make a statement about the matter.

Dr Koornhof, who said the representations had come from "private individuals" added that the statistics of the number of non-Tswana residents in the Winterveld were "not available". He also refused to make a statement about the matter.

Rates rebates for aged supported

300 24614 Mercury 13/4/82

Municipal Reporter

THERE are strong indications that Durban City Council will call for a rethink on the Management Committee's rejection of a rates rebate system for the aged, when it meets on Monday — and a Tafta spokesman has highlighted the weakness of the present deferment system.

Earlier this week, Manco voted against taking advantage of a new ordinance which allows local authorities to introduce a rebate system. Instead it opted to stick to the present system of deferred rates for the aged.

The chairman, Mr Neil MacLennan said the rebate system would subsidise the homeowner's heirs and place an unneccessary burden on other ratepayers. Manco felt the present system of rates deferment was in the best interest of the city's aged.

But yesterday Mr Mike Clay, Tafta director, said: 'The present system which allows those over the age of 65 to defer payment of rates until they die has certainly been very discouraging. They are charged an annual interest rate and if a man defers rates from the age of 65 until 85 that adds up to a huge sum with interest — which comes out of his estate.'

According to Mr MacLennan a large percentage of Durban's ratepayers are pensioners and a rates rebate would have to be subsidised by the remaining ratepayers. And when the property passed to the heirs they would inherit very much more if deferred rates did not have to be deducted from the estate first.

Mr Frank Martin, MEC in charge of local government, said the ordinance allowing rates rebates had been introduced at the request of several local authorities.

'It is up to each local authority to do what they believe is in the best interest of the citizens. But there is a problem with deferred rates because they have to be claimed from the estate,' he said.

Mr Morris Barry, senior legal adviser, explained that if the heirs were unable to pay the rates the council could apply to the courts for an order to auction the property and recover the rates, penalties, collection charges and costs. And would have preference on any mortgage security or claim affecting the property.

Meanwhile, some councillors have indicated that they will not accept the Manco recommendation at Monday's council meeting.

Councillor Pieter Breytenbach, chairman of the Durban Year of the Aged Committee said he would certainly press for further investigation into the rebate system, as practised in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Council may call for 'rethink' by Manco

y. he had a gaping ...und on his head and ... said she was told ...t his body was found the Railway Police ... home with torn clothes and reported that he had been assaulted.

Mr Mnguni will be buried on Saturday.

ritual killers

...cause one could see ...ide

"He seemed to have ...n hacked with an axe his cheeks were a ...ss — he had in fact ...n brutally murdered. ...e are still wondering ...o could have done it ...cause police have not arrested anybody in connection with his death so far."

Mr Kwalete, who is survived by his parents, brothers and sisters, will be buried at the Avalon cemetery on Saturday after a service starting at 12 noon at the Roman Catholic Church.

...JACKERS REFUSED PLEA'

C...ORIA, Sey... The first wit... ... in the hijack trial ...mission here said ar... ...d men at Mahe island ...ort had turned down pleas to divert the India Boeing which allegedly hijacked here on November 25.

Mr M J L Loustau-Lalanne, director of civil aviation in Seychelles, said he had considered it necessary to divert the aircraft because landing would be unsafe. — SANS.

'Organise for the aged'

Source: Sun 15/4/82 300

By ALINAH DUBE

IT WAS high time blacks stood on their feet, initiated community centres and organised projects for building a home for the aged in Soweto.

East Rand community worker, Mrs C P Makhene, told this to a symposium yesterday, aimed at finding out exactly what the needs of the aged are.

The Soweto Care of the Aged steering committee organised the meeting at the Diepkloof hostel workshop.

Mrs Makhene blamed the black pensioners' sufferings on lack of facilities. Projects are to be undertaken by putting pressure on community councils.

Mrs Makhene said the churches were doing nothing for elderly people. Churches, she said, "have turned into money outlets and are insensitive to the needs of our people, whereas they could be used for certain projects."

Mr B P Nteso, a social worker, attacked community councils for neglecting the health of the aged. He said they were only interested in resources where money came in.

BUCK GIN FIGHT FACTS: 5

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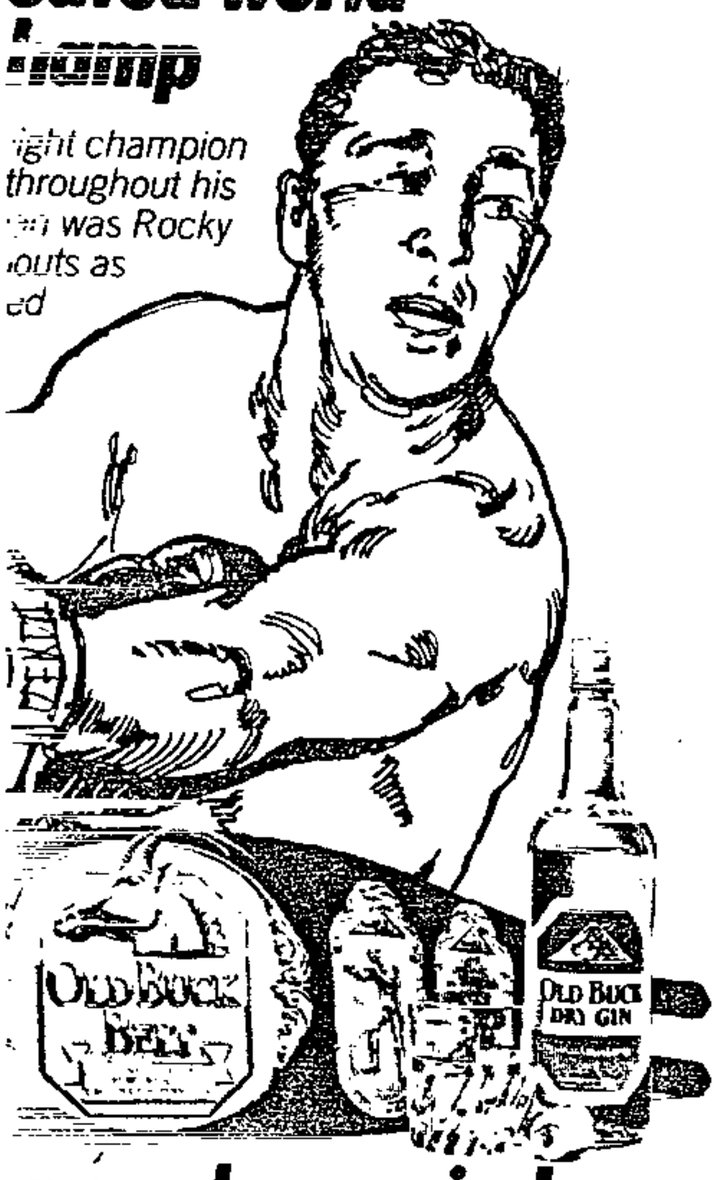
...ight champion throughout his ...n was Rocky ...outs as ...ed



man always wins!

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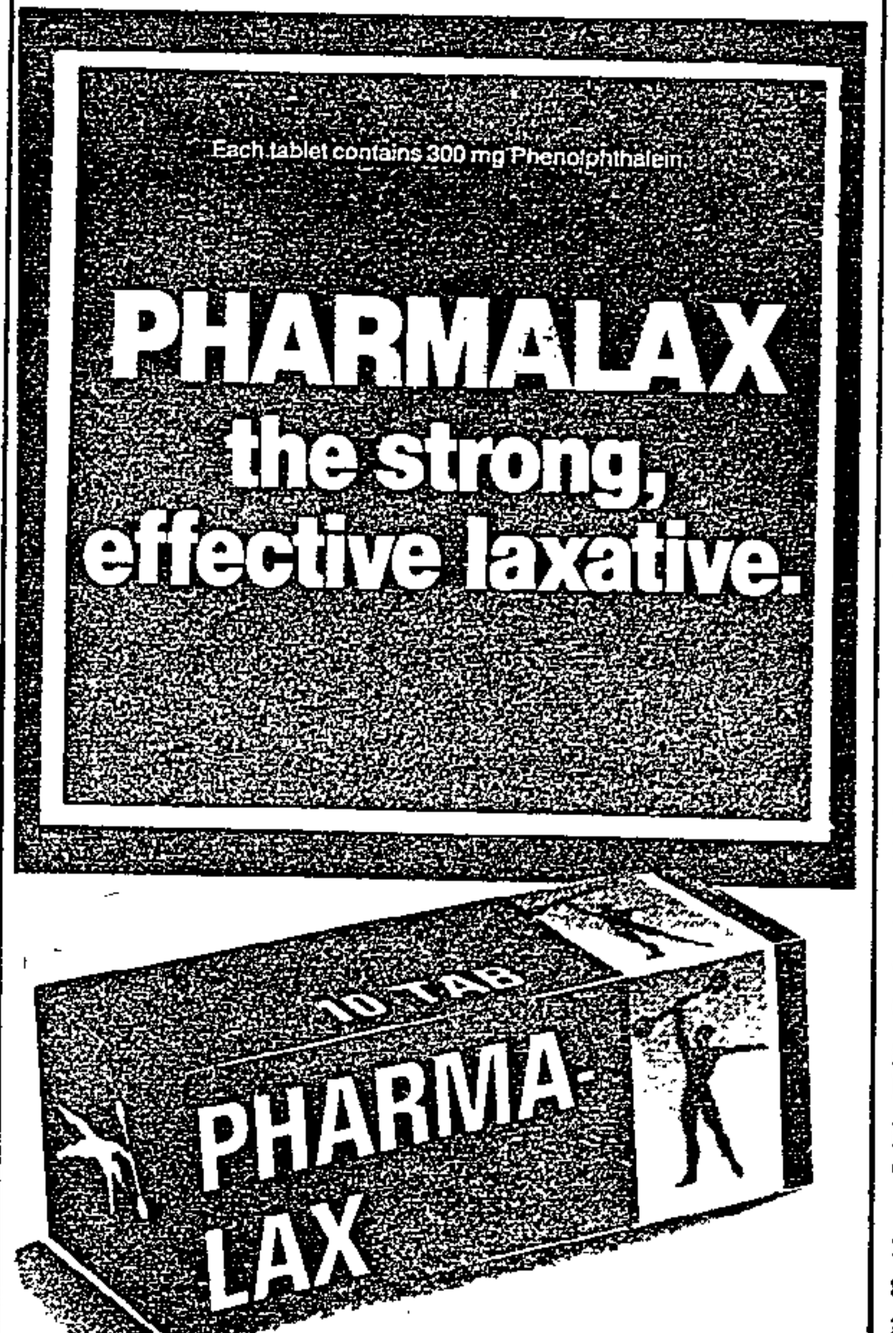

Available at all chemists and stores.

...leader of the Opposition, Dr ...

Speaking in the Assembly on ... Minister's Budget vote, Dr Slabbert debate would give Mr P W Botha the ...nity to clarify National Party reform ...

"The time for woolly ambiguity is finally over. We are now confronted by a new hard reality: the logic of the constitutional argument changes not at all whether one talks only of whites, coloureds and Asians, or whether one includes the blacks.

OPPORTUNITY: Dr van Zyl Slabbert.

"The Prime Minister now has a golden opportunity to give South Africa leadership in this regard.

"If he does not do so, the NP is going to be finely ground between those who desire reform and those who oppose it."

Dr Slabbert said the nub of the split in the NP concerned a difference of interpretation of the party's 1977 proposals involving a limited form of joint decision-making between Asians, coloureds and whites which, according to Mr P W Botha, contained elements of power-sharing.

The NP stressed that the power-sharing was very limited while the Conservative Party argued that no matter how limited, any form of power-sharing was unacceptable.

Dr Slabbert said that from exhaustive research in South Africa in recent years it was known that:

● The vast majority of blacks preferred a ...unitary system ...man one vote ...vast majority ...rejected;

● The vast ... of whites ... ...cy of inde... ...tional states ... on the basis ... ...dent home... ...opment, whi... ...jected by ... majority of ...

● A growi... of whites wo... to prevent a... power-shar... costs, but the ... of whites wer... pared to sac... sharing compr...

● A growing ... of blacks was ... to violence as ... means to br... change, but the ... of blacks were ... pared to sa... sharing comp...

"Therefore ... that if we are ... have consti... change which ... form to the P... ...ter's own crit... ...ceptability,... ... sharing for... ...tween black ... coloured an... South Africans ... to be found.

"The facts ... any other ver... ...tile and ignore... dangerous pr... polarization ... gaining mom... present."

Dr Slabbert ... debate betwee... and the CP ... power-sharing ... coloureds, A... whites in ter... 1977 proposals ... relevant to ... acceptable ... ...tutional change ... Africa as a ... the Sahara."

However, th... the NP and th... ...quent debate ... be ignored for ... portant reasons.

One was th... ...forded the Co... the opportunity ... its position cle... "small but grow... wing" and the ... that whites ha... the initiative f... ...ful evolutionary

For 2 years, she's been battling to get her pension

NO PENSION: For Mrs Mhlanga.

A SOWETO grandmother who has been battling for two years to get her pension money has lost hope of ever getting paid.

By LEN MASEKO

A divorced Mrs Doris Mhlanga (71) of Meadowlands, has spent the last two years moving from one West Rand Administration Board office to another, inquiring about her pension. She last recieved it in April 1980.

Mrs Mhlanga, who stays with one of her six children, told **The SOWETAN** that trouble started after she was admitted to Baragwanath Hospital for a leg injury. After being discharged a month later, she went to the Diepmeadow Council's offices to fetch her pension but was told her papers were "not in order".

An angry Mrs Mhlanga said: "From there I went to the Commissioner's offices in town where I was told my papers would be sent to Pretoria for checking. I went back two weeks later but, to my rudest shock, was told my papers had been turned down and that I won't be receiving any pension henceforth.

"I consulted a doctor who gave me a letter in which he insisted that I should be paid. At the Department of Co-operation and Development's offices I was told to wait for two weeks. I called again after two weeks but was told to come back in two weeks' time.

"Since then, I have been to different offices, hoping that I'll ultimately get my pension money. I am giving up any hope of ever getting the money. What makes matters worse is that I am not being told what is causing all this delay".

Mr J Kradenburg, an official at the Commissioner's office, said said yesterday he would investigate the matter. He has asked, Mrs Mhlanga to contact him as soon as possible.

The thoughts of two old age pensioners

C-Herald 300 17/4/82

HORACE AND LULU WEBB live in Grassy Park, in a small, back-room flat, in conditions less than ideal. Horace, a former English teacher at some of Cape Town's best schools, will admit to having been less than prudent in his younger days.

As a result, he is now paying the penalty, so to speak.

Here are some of his thoughts on growing old, on how to be a pensioner.

IN this 'Year of the Aged' my thoughts have repeatedly turned to this question of ageing, now that I am myself approaching the Biblical allotted span of three-score-years-and-10.

A wiseacre has said somewhere that we spend the first half of our lives trying to understand the older generation, and the second half trying to understand the younger generation.

How true that is! Not only is there a time-lag between the two age-groups, but also a definite mental gap, making it difficult for the one group to communicate intelligently or intelligibly with the other. In today's phraseology, they are not 'with-it' or on the same wave length.

But growing old is a natural process — common to all life, be it animal, vegetable or human. Surely, it should not be regarded as a form of disease, or at worst, a disgrace.

There are three primary or basic necessities that afflict all of us, irrespective of age: housing, food and the ability to clothe ourselves decently.

SPIDER AND WEB

Perhaps the greatest threat to survival is that of the security of a home. To be without a home is like depriving a mollusc of its shell or a tortoise of its carapace or a spider of its web.

And to deprive a senior citizen (as the old-aged have been charitably called) is to undermine his dignity as a human being and an individual. Once he is threatened with eviction by an unscrupulous landlord, he is robbed of his essence, what the French call his *joie de vivre* or *raison d'être*.

IN this International Year of the Aged, Cape Herald invites the not-so-young to write and tell readers about anything interesting that happened to them — or is still happening to them.

Do you enjoy old age? Have you made proper arrangements for financial security? If not, why not? Write and tell us.

All letters used on these pages will be paid for.

Letters should be addressed to: Cape Herald Year of the Aged, Box 11150, Vlaeberg 8018.

Now that we, too, are growing old, we are better able to appreciate what growing old really means.

No longer is it an academic topic or a dispassionate 'Alice, through the Looking Glass' theoretical exercise. It has become intensely personal and subjective.

Old-age pensioners have presently to subsist on a State allowance of R71 per month, out of which they have to pay for their rent, food, clothing and the bare essentials of life. Many of them cannot make ends meet on this 'chicken-feed' which is their only income.

Unless they live on dependants. And many children and grandchildren bluntly refuse to be saddled with doddering decrepit, over-demanding old-agers.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS

My wife and I who have both recently become eligible for old-age pensions, live in a 3,05 m by 3,66 m room, for which we pay a monthly rental of R50. There is an adjoining bathroom (but without benefit of bath!), which we have to share with two other family units. Fortunately, lights and water are inclusive.

An added benefit is that we are not blessed (?) or cursed with children.

Nevertheless, running a home for two old-age pensioners makes a sizeable dent into our pockets. Paraffin is 53c a litre, sugar 58c a kilo, cigarettes (for me) 62c a packet of 20, a return bus trip to Wynberg 80c a piece and so forth. Is there much more to smile about?

Apart from these physical and financial harassments, there is also the emotional hardship of living lonesome lives, isolated from erstwhile friends and acquaintances. People seem to give a wide berth, once you are old, as if you are suffering from an infectious disease. Teenagers ignore your company for the same reason, or as if age will prematurely rub off on their youth.

All in all, old age is not a happy stadium of life. Unless we are well-adjusted, psychologically, we cannot turn back into the past, and the future holds little good for us. We can only brood on fond memories. And what-might-have-beens. That job, that romance, and so on.

Man cannot live in a vacuum, or as the poet John Donne expressed it 'as an island, entire unto itself'.

And old people, more than anyone else, cannot paddle their own canoe or fend for themselves. In many ways, they are like babes-in-arms, who need constant loving — care and attention and love — with a capital L.

Anyway, let us be thankful to God that we are still alive and breathing, and that the year 1982 — the 'Year of the Aged' is but in its infancy and promises well for the future.

The old Latin tag has it in 'While I breathe, there's hope' — dum spiro, spero.

City aged are facing eviction and death

By Rob Soutter

More than 150 elderly people and pensioners could be thrown onto the streets this winter when their city flats are converted to offices.

And many other pensioners in the city and Hillbrow face death from malnutrition and lack of warmth in the coming cold weather, said city councillor Ms Molly Kopel.

"Even dog food is now too expensive for them to buy," she said.

"It sounds unbelievable but I know several old people who have had to buy pet food to make their meagre pension money last the month."

Ms Kopel is leading a campaign with fellow councillor Mrs Rae Graham to help alleviate the problems of Johannesburg's aged.

"The basic social welfare pension for whites is being increased from R122 to R138 a month in October. But this is not enough. The pension for blacks is criminally low at R49 a month.

"And the increase will not be received until after the winter. For many this will be too late."

The elderly are in a desperate situation, Ms Kopel said. Rents, food and the prices of every other commodity are constantly increasing — but pensions do not keep pace.

According to the Consumer Price Index, released by the Department of Statistics in Pretoria, food prices have more than doubled since 1976.

Rentals have increased so much that most pensioners cannot live in flats which are not under rent control. The average rental is R85, leaving less than R40 for everything else, said Ms Kopel.

"I admit that owners cannot get an adequate return on rent-controlled buildings but I have to fight against rent increases on behalf of the elderly tenants."

Now the owners are applying to have their buildings converted to offices.

One block has already given its tenants notice to leave by August and the owners of another have confirmed they intend to convert, says Ms Kopel.

Homes schemes approved

Two new housing schemes to accommodate 350 elderly people at a cost of R2,4 million were approved at a Johannesburg management committee meeting this week.

A further 648 people will be accommodated within the next two years, said Mr Carel Venter, who is a member of the management committee, and chairman of the housing committee.

The city council presently houses 884 elderly people, but there is a waiting list of more than 300, which is expected to increase significantly.

Mr Venter said the council is dedicated to improving the plight of Johannesburg's elderly residents, but the lack of funds has caused serious problems.

"We are concentrating on increasing the available housing, because we feel this is the key problem," he said.

This housing is made available to the most needy. They do not pay more than 25 percent of their pension on rent.

"The aim is to build self-contained old-age villages in the suburbs, with medical clinics attached. The atmosphere of the city centre and Hillbrow, where most pensioners live, is not healthy for older people," he said.

Apart from the council's own housing schemes, it makes available more than R130 000 in grants-in-aid to private organisations which provide housing for the aged.

Many deaths

"This will affect more than 150 people and I believe that the owners of six other buildings are considering conversion. This threatens a further 400 people.

"I have written to the Minister of Community Development asking him to investigate this situation because the tenants of rent-controlled blocks are supposed to be protected."

There is no alternative cheap accommodation available, she said. Once an elderly person was out on the street, he was dead because he had nowhere else to go.

Ms Kopel said there would be many deaths among the aged this winter.

"They are already unable to afford adequate food for the whole month and are surviving on watery broth made from bones and scraps.

● See also Page 5 — A lot of people do care . . .

Old-agers: there are a lot of people who care

(300)

Star 17/4/82

This is the Year of the Aged and, at a time when the old-style family unit is breaking down and inflation is leaving pensioners struggling financially, Rob Soutter looks at what Johannesburg does for its senior citizens.

"The commitment is yours now — if you don't visit her, no one will."

This is what Johannesburg city councillor Mrs Rae Graham tells all volunteer helpers when she introduces them to elderly people.

"The aged need more than increased pensions and subsidised housing — vital as it is — to live and not merely survive," she told The Star. "Above all else they need to feel human, which means friends to talk to, visits, and a belief that someone cares about them."

Mrs Graham has led a personal campaign to help Johannesburg's elderly citizens for many years.

"I became involved through political canvassing. By knocking on every person's door in a block of flats, I discovered many old people, especially the forgotten ones, living on pensions in dismal little rooms."

They had enough money to pay for rent and food, but there was little or nothing left for entertainment, clothes or personal comforts.

"Now, wherever I go, I ask for anything to help these people, and all the local welfare organisations and church groups help with the distribution.

Mrs Graham launched an "adopt a pensioner" scheme before Christmas last year, and many people responded.

Many of Johannesburg's elderly residents are not aware of the services and forms of assistance available to them.

These services range from price reductions on medical equipment such as dentures and spectacles to subsidised housing, free bus trips and cut-price films.

It also includes specialised help with specific problems, such as chronic arthritis, blindness and alcoholism.

The many organisations that provide advice and help, include:

● The Citizens' Advice Bureau which is independent, non-racial, non-religious and non-political. It offers free advice and information on any question. No financial assistance is given. Telephone 836-0818/9.

● Caring for older people and visiting them in their homes, the Anglican Mothers' Union aims at the maintenance of family life, and can be contacted through local Anglican priests (or telephone 28-2251/2/3).

● Catholic coloured and Asian aged people can contact the Catholic Family Welfare Society (Telephone 37-7500) or the Society of St Vincent de Paul (Telephone 725-2909) which offer help with groceries, clothing and counselling.

● Branches of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in Riverlea, Bosmont, Western Coloured Township and Lenasia, as well as the Good Shepherd Community, (Telephone 945-1926) offer counselling and social welfare services.

Other organisations are listed in the Citizens' Advice Bureau pamphlet on amenities available to the elderly in Johannesburg.

Free bus rides for pensioners of all races are offered by the Johannesburg Transport Department on production of a certificate which can be obtained at the bus coupon office at the City Hall.

Ambulance service is free for pensioners who travel to provincial hospitals.

Legal aid is available at no charge to pensioners and other people with limited means at several places: Legal Aid Bureau (telephone 29-4875, Legal Aid Board (telephone) 836-0421, Legal Resources Centre (telephone 29-5356/7) and the Rand Afrikaans University's Law Clinic (telephone 726-5000).

Specialised help is available free or at reduced cost in many fields of medicine.

The city council runs medical clinics in all white and coloured areas, which cater particularly for the aged and infirm. Inoculations against influenza are offered free to pensioners, and 25 000 doses are administered each year. Telephone 29-5241 for details.

There is also free medical treatment for elderly coloured people and Indians at the Coronationville Hospital, telephone: 673-4200.

Dental treatment is available at Coronationville and at the University of the Witwatersrand's Dental Hospital (telephone 39-4366).

The Dental Hospital fee for a full set of upper and lower dentures is R40 for a pensioner.

Eye testing is available free for the elderly at the St John's Opthalmic Hospital, Baragwanath. (telephone 944-1100). Lions International runs a "bright sight" project to provide free spectacles to pensioners (telephone 23-5682).

Wheelchairs and home nursing equipment can be hired from the Red Cross Society or St John's Ambulance.

Applications for free wheelchairs and other medical aids can be made to the Department of Internal Affairs (telephone 836-7161).

Pensioners with emotional problems can obtain help and advice from the Mental Health Society of the Witwatersrand, (telephone 37-9254/5/6/7/8).

The South Western Johannesburg Society for Alcoholism, (telephone 838-1372) provides preventive services, medical treatment, after-care help and counselling for alcoholics and their families.

The Transvaal Cripple Care Association deals superficially with orthopaedic cases, and offers transport, artificial limbs, treatment and accommodation for the elderly infirm.

Pensioners seeking temporary or full-time employment can contact the Retirement Association (telephone 37-4864/5) or the Senior Citizens' Employment Bureau (telephone 29-1761). The Retirement Association also helps people adjust to the loss of a full-time job.

Recreation is important for elderly people with time on their hands, and there are several opportunities in Johannesburg.

Metro cinemas offer morning and afternoon films for pensioners on weekdays at a cost of 35c. The same offer is available at Ster-Kinekor theatres on Tuesdays only. Cine 303 in President Street and Mini Cine 1 in Hillbrow admit pensioners to any performance for 50c.

The Johannesburg Public Library runs a free "shut in" service for house-bound pensioners. Telephone 724-1121 extension 562, for details.

Elderly people are contacted by the Johannesburg Council for the Care of the Aged (telephone 725-3250) when outings are offered by individuals or groups.

Non-sectarian entertainment is offered on Sunday nights for pensioners and lonely people at the Temple Israel in Claim Street. Return journeys are also provided.

Holidays for the elderly are offered at reduced prices by several organisations, including: Rotary (834-7909), the Johannesburg Council for the Care of the Aged, Holiday Homes for the Aged (21-6767) and the Silver Thread Service Centre (614-8035).

The city council runs service clubs and recreation centres in many areas, which provide programmes for elderly people. Telephone 725-3250 or 728-7252 for more information.

Hot meals are provided at greatly reduced cost throughout Johannesburg by various organisations. Details can be obtained from the Citizens' Advice Bureau or their pamphlets on amenities for pensioners.

From October this year, radio licences are issued free to pensioners by the Post Office, and television licenses cost R24.

Back pay for war veterans

Own Correspondent

Black war veterans will now have the same back-pay arrangements on their pensions as white, coloured and Asian ex-servicemen.

The South African Legion has announced that, after prolonged negotiations with the Department of Co-operation and Development pensions will now be paid from the date of application.

The new provision is back-dated to December 1981, until when initial payments of war pensions were only made on the first bi-monthly payment.

Family of 10 lives off one pension

300 Sowetan 20/4/82

By ALINAH DUBE

A SOWETO family of 10 is living on an old woman's pension after its sole breadwinner was allegedly fired after sustaining injuries while at work.

The Sebetlela family of 494A Naledi, say their breadwinner, deaf Mr Elias Sebetla (37), was not paid Workman's Compensation after his eyes were severely injured. He worked for Ozalid South Africa Pty. Ltd. for more than 10 years.

His father, Mr David Sebetlela (61), told **The SOWETAN** that the family depended on the meagre pension income of his wife.

"My son, who used to maintain us all, had a very unfortunate fate. He went to the hospital with a problem ear. The doctors operated — and he ended up completely deaf. That was the beginning of our problems," Mr Sebetlela said.

Last year, Elias' sight was injured at work "because of the kind of work he was doing."

Senior Mr Sebetlela said he has also never received the old age pension from the Commissioner's offices when he had gone to apply.

"I owed tax for several years and they told me I wouldn't qualify," Mr Sebetlela said.

A spokesman for Ozalid said it was not company policy to dismiss workers because of ill-health.

Payment of pensions 21/4/82

300 Hansard Q.col. 656-658

*10. Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether his Department failed to pay out certain pensions in March 1982; if so, (a) how many and (b) why;

(2) whether any steps are being taken to prevent a recurrence of incidents of this nature; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION:

As social pensions are being paid by the Department of Co-operation and Development to approximately 316 000 persons it is possible that failure to pay pensions may have occurred in individual cases. Instructions have again been issued to officials to ensure that pensioners receive their pensions timeously. The Department is continuously looking for ways of improving the system.

Payment of pension

*11. Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether his Department paid out the pension of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply, in Port Elizabeth in March 1982; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will he receive his pension for March;

(2) whether the person concerned will receive compensation for the late payment of his pension and the inconvenience suffered by him; if not, why not;

(3) whether steps are being taken to prevent a recurrence of incidents of this nature; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION:

(1) The pension of the person referred to was not paid during March 1982 due to an unfortunate entanglement of identities resulting in his pension being inadvertently stopped. The matter has since been rectified and he can call at the Commissioner's Office, Port Elizabeth on 3 May 1982 to collect his pension for March.

(2) Yes, until such time as his pension for March is paid rations are being issued to him by the said Commissioner.

(3) Instructions have again been issued to officials to ensure that pensioners receive their pensions timeously. The Department is continuously looking for ways of improving the system.

Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister, is he aware that the person concerned is 105 years of age and lives 10 kilometres from the point where his pension is paid? Would he therefore consider, rather than to pay him the pension that was due to him in March on 3 May, having his Department deliver the pension due to this person as soon as possible in order to save him having to walk the necessary 10 kilometres to receive it?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, I was not aware that this particular person is 105 years of age. I should like to tell the hon. member, in reply to his supplementary question, that special attention will now be given to the matter in order to see whether we cannot accommodate this person by paying him his pension at his home.

This union was incorporated into the Nat
Allied Workers. (See page 202).

WINE, SPIRITS AND ALLIED

262

Anti-flu shots for the elderly

THE Johannesburg City Council's Health Department had announced an immunisation programme against influenza for all aged over 70 years.

An amount of R25 000 has been made available by the City Council to finance this undertaking. The immunisation programme will be administered to the elderly free of charge by a team of nurses and doctors.

People under 70 years who suffer from chronic chest and heart conditions, diabetes and who have no access to normal anti-influenza treatment may also get the injections.

The inoculation will provide an almost complete immunity from this year's predicated influenza strain, and may give immunity for several years thereafter. People who have been previously injected against influenza are advised to get the new shots as well.

The immunisation programme will begin in Soweto in May at pension pay-out centres.

300 Sowetan 22/4/82

Pensions-on-wheels?

Political Correspondent

A 105-YEAR-OLD pensioner may in future have his pension delivered to him at home.

The plight of the pensioner was raised in the Assembly yesterday through a number of questions put by Mr D J N Malcomess (PFP, Port Elizabeth Central).

The Deputy Minister of Cooperation and Development, Dr G de V Morrison, said the man's pension had not been paid to him during March 1982 due to an unfortunate 'entanglement of identities' resulting in his pension being inadvertently stopped.

The matter had been rectified and he could now collect his March pension on May 3.

Until then rations were being issued to him by the department's commissio ner in Port Elizabeth.

When pressed further by Mr Malcomess who pointed out that the pensioner lived 10 km from the post office where he had to collect the pension, Dr Morrison said the department had not been aware the man was so old and arrangements could possibly be made to pay his pension to him at his home.

PE man, 105, is paid his pension

Post Reporter

A PENSIONER, aged 105, who could not collect his pension last month because of a clerical error, yesterday received the money owing to him.

Mr Cornelius Mjacu walked twice from his home in Walmer to Africa House in North End, a distance of 10 kilometres, last month without receiving his pension.

He was told he could not be paid because his ticket could not be found.

The commissioner at Africa House, Mr F J Fourie, who falls under the Department of Co-operation and Development, said Mr Mjacu had been paid all the money owing to him.

"We took the cheque to Mr Mjacu's house yesterday afternoon," Mr Fourie said.

The mix-up occurred after Mr Mjacu lost his identity papers when his house caught fire. He still had a document with his pension number on it.

After his two long walks to Africa House, Mr Mjuca was unable to walk on his badly swollen legs and blistered feet.

His predicament was reported in the Evening Post. Several people later offered assistance in the form of food and money.

The matter was sorted out after being raised in Parliament this week.

23/4/82 (300) ~~(127)~~ Sowetan

Row over boarding fees

Plight of pensioners

MAMELODI PENSIONERS staying at the local old-age home pay fifty percent of their monthly earnings for board and lodging, The SOWETAN was told yesterday.

By MONK NKOMO

A spokesman for the Mamelodi Welfare Department said pensioners paid because they stayed in a proper home.

He added: "Where can you stay free nowadays? They must contribute towards their upkeep. After all, they have no dependants and have nothing to do with the money they get from the State. Instead they spend it on liquor.

"My parents are staying in an old-age home and pay three-quarters of their earnings for board and lodging."

MEALS

He went on: "They get three meals a day, the facilities are clean and we also do their washing. There is also a staff that takes care of the sick.

"If they earn R70, we take R35 to provide them with all the necessities and there is no reason to complain."

A 47-year-old pensioner, Mr Erens Nonyana, who stayed for a short while at the old-age home and has since moved to Atteridgeville, said yesterday he was shocked when told to pay half of his earnings received early last month for board and lodging.

Mr Nonyana, who suffers from arthritis, received his first of two month pension earnings of R160 last month. He showed The SOWETAN a receipt signed by the caretaker stating: "Received the amount of R80 lodger's money for March and April months."

He said the three meals served were "bad" and comprised "pap and vleis" twice a day with soft porridge in the morning. "I do not know why we are treated like this. Black pensioners have been forgotten by social workers who do nothing towards the plight of the nation."

He added: "We shared a room, being three. The whole place stinks and has no heaters. That is no place for the aged. The authorities have no right to demand half of our earnings for a shabby place like that."

Supporting the welfare department's statement, local community council chairman Mr W M Aphane said the resolution to let pensioners pay was taken by advisory boards following a directive from the Government.

"We cannot spoon-feed pensioners. Where on earth do you expect anybody to live free? They get the best treatment which warrants paying fifty percent of their earnings." Mr Aphane said.

Cops o

THERE is a new style wiregang, or a number of copy-cat gangs, operating in deadly silence in most Soweto townships that has residents gripped in fear.

And Brig J J Viktor, Chief of the Soweto CID said he has put the Soweto Murder and Robbery Squad to smash the gang or gangs.

Brig Viktor told The SOWETAN that he was using the Murder and Robbery Squad because the gangs are now committing serious robberies.

He said the original Wiregang which was given publicity in the Press was smashed but others have now taken over their style and methods. So far police

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NOTE CAREFULLY

1. Enter at the top of each p of the block on this cov question you are answeri
2. Blue or black ink must answers. The use of a ball point pe able. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.
4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

Sash scorns Govt's Inanda squatter claim

Mercury Reporter 308

THE Black Sash, using a recent statistical survey to show that few people in so-called squatter camps were from rural areas, has reacted strongly to the statement made by the Deputy Minister of Co-operation and Development in Parliament on Thursday that the Government would have to act against new squatters 'flocking to the Inanda area'.

Dr George Morrison said in Parliament that 'new squatters' were creating a health hazard in Inanda and were 'erecting buildings all over the place'.

According to the survey, conducted by statisticians for the Iso Lomizi Health and Family Welfare Organisation, nearly 80 percent of the people presently living in Phizangu, an area of Inanda where people were recently served with eviction notices, were from either Inanda or other urban townships.

The survey also indicates that only 31 percent of the people living in the area have been there for less than four years.

This, says Jillian Nicholson, supervisor of the Black Sash's Natal Coastal Region advice office, disproves the Government's theory that urban squatting problems in Inanda are caused by rural people flocking to the township, and also proves that most of the people in the area are not new arrivals.

'Dr Morrison cannot understand the situation in Inanda', Mrs Nicholson said. 'He should visit Inanda and talk to the people himself.'

Mrs Nicholson said the critical shortage of Government housing in urban areas like Kwa Mashu, Chesterville, Lamontville and Ntuzuma was forcing people to move to the more rural area of Inanda and build whatever type of makeshift homes they could.

'I have met people living in Inanda who would qualify for a house in an urban township if there was one available for them. No new houses have been built in Chesterville since 1945, and in Lamontville since 1968,' she said.

SECTION A

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

	Internal	External
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	65	
3	27, 32 } 59	
Examiners' Initials		

NING

No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.

Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.

3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

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Rent increase eats into war pension

300

RDM 24/4/82

By CHERYL VAN EYSSEN

A WAR veteran yesterday sobbed and shrugged his shoulders as he wandered through the dingy two-bedroomed Turffontein, Johannesburg, home for which he pays more than three-quarters of his war-pension.

The 70-year-old pensioner, Mr Cecil Wilmot, of Park Road, receives a R137 monthly pension, and in January the rent on the house, which he has occupied for the last 14 years, was increased from R50 to R116.

But Mr Wilmot was not as aggrieved over the increase as he was over the "manner in which it was done".

In a letter shown to the Rand Daily Mail, Mr Wilmot appealed to the Rent Control Board in March this year, stating there was "gross injustice and one-sidedness" in the granting of rent-increases.

"It's all a farce, and totally in favour of the owner of the property. I was not given ample chance to put my side," he stated in the letter.

In the letter Mr Wilmot claimed the owner of his rented property had not produced documentary evidence on the municipal evaluation of house or the stand when the application for increased rent was granted on January 13 this year.

Mr Wilmot said, with tears rolling over his face: "It hurts to think I fought for this country and have to live on the small pension."

Mr Wilmot also claimed the owner, in applying for the increased rent, said he invested money into the property.

"It's a lie. The place badly needs repair.

"There's a slow combustion stove emitting dust which circulates the house and is injurious to my health," he said.

As a result of a laryngectomy eight years ago, Mr Wilmot breathes through 1,5cm hole in his his throat.

He said he could not afford a council house and his chances of gettng a home from Community Development were remote.

Mr D Rossouw, the regional representative of the Department of Community Development in Johannesburg, acknowledged the receipt of Mr Wilmot's letter of appeal.

"But the appeal was not properly lodged and sent back to him this week. Until a properly lodged appeal was received, the Rent Control Board will not investigate the allegations," he said.

TOBACCO WORKERS UNION OF AFRICAN WOMEN

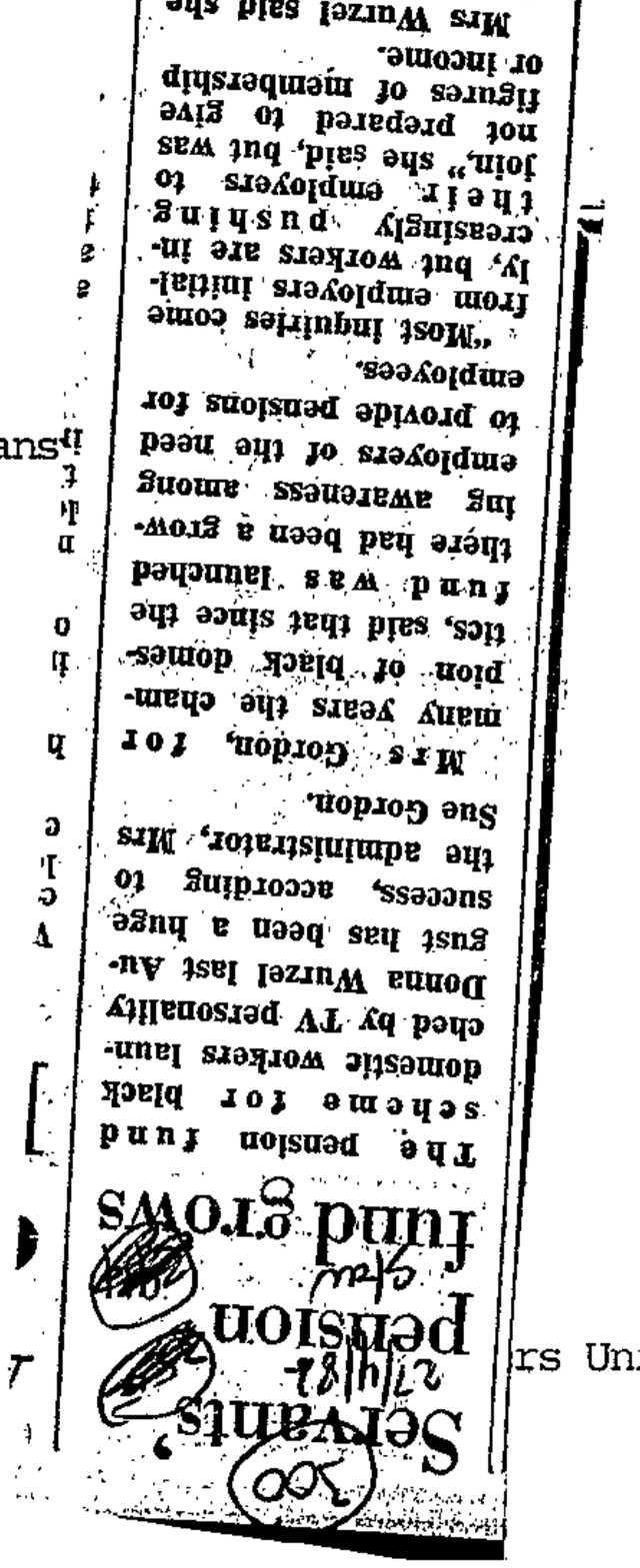
Year	Membership			
	African	Asian and Coloured	White	Total
1970	..			..
1971	..			..
1972	..			..
1973	..			..
1974	70			70 *
1975	70			70 *
1976	100			100 *
1977	80			80 *
1978	80			80 *
1979	80			80 *
1980				

Area of Operation: Trans

Founded: 1959?

Registration: No

1980 Incorporated into rs Union (See page 50).



Servants' pension fund grows

The pension fund scheme for black domestic workers launched by TV personality Donna Wurzel last August has been a huge success, according to the administrator, Mrs Sue Gordon.

Mrs Gordon, for many years the champion of black domestics, said that since the fund was launched there had been a growing awareness among employers of the need to provide pensions for employees.

"Most inquiries come from employers initially, but workers are increasingly pushing their employers to join," she said, but was not prepared to give figures of membership or income.

Mrs Wurzel said she was no longer actively involved in the day-to-day running of the fund, but is still a trustee.

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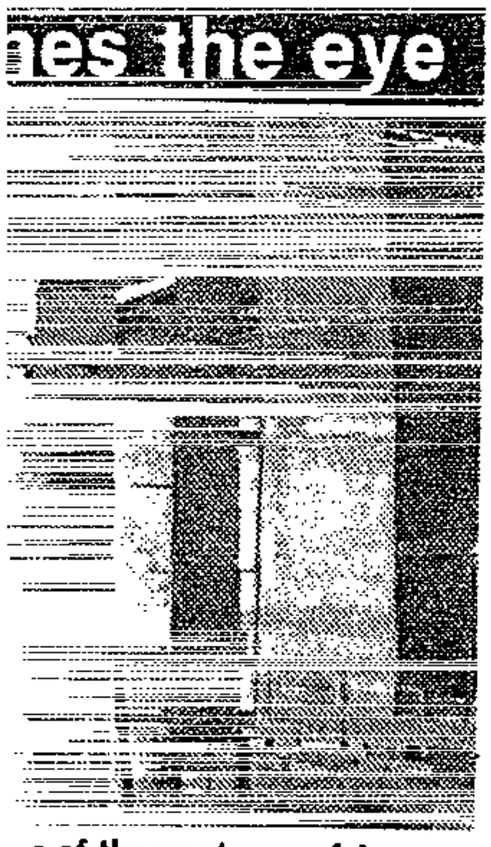

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Raw deal for the aged say Sacol

By Lynn Carlisle

GOVERNMENT is to be asked by the powerful all-White SA Confederation of Labour (Sacol) to resuscitate the controversial legislation for the preservation of pension benefits — even if it affects only White employees.

Disclosing this to Industrial Week, Sacol president Brian Currie says the matter is likely to be discussed in depth by an executive committee of the 125 000 strong umbrella union along with other requests.

These include the "partial re-introduction" of rent control affecting pensioners and a comprehensive State-owned housing project for the aged.

"We see no benefit to workers nor the taxpayer when employees are paid out their pension contributions willy nilly.

We believe pension preservations should apply to all race groups, but misunderstanding over and opposition to the preservation of pensions by Blacks should not stop Government introducing it to Whites if it does not see its way clear to enforce it on all employees," says Currie.

The proposed legislation was shelved for three years following opposition to it which resulted in widespread strikes by non-White workers — mainly in the Eastern Cape.

While any blanket revival of rent control would seriously discourage entrepreneurs from building accommodation for tenants, concedes Currie many cases of aged tenants being exploited by landlords, have been evidenced.

"Government should look at the partial re-introduction of rent control where hardships affecting aged tenants are involved and comprehensive State projects on housing for the aged should be tackled," adds Currie.

Marine firm grabs CT contract

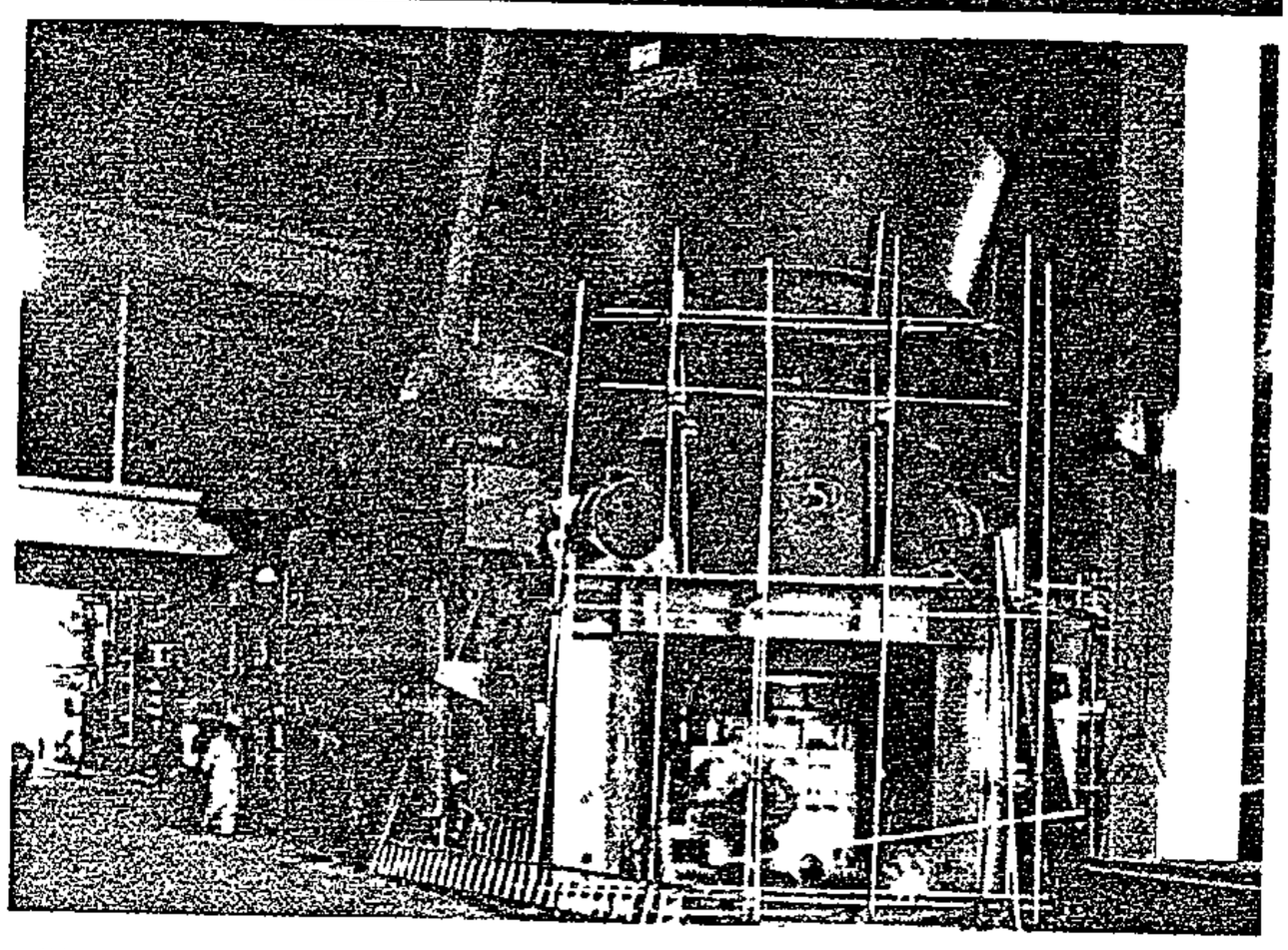
LAND & Marine and Salvage Contractors has been awarded a R6-million contract by the Cape Town City Council for the construction of the marine sewer outfall at Green Point, Cape Town.

L&M&S have already handled underwater pipelaying projects at Oranjemund, Cape Town and Durban.

This experience enabled them to offer a price 4% below their competitors tenders.

For the project the company has taken over staff from both their associate civil engineering company, Murray & Roberts Civils and from their partner company, SA Diving Services.

First of a dozen Duvha mills



THE first of 12 coal pulverising mills which Loesche SA is supplying to Escom's Duvha power stations is nearing completion. Each mill will weigh about 200 tons and be capable of grinding 100 tons of coal an hour.

Forthcoming events

- ACADEMY of Applied Technology — two-day Extractive Metallurgy Symposium, Sandton Holiday Inn, June 9 - 10.
- THE Instruments division of Telkor — Vibration Course June 14 - 16 and 21 - 23 — Kyalami Ranch Hotel.
- THE Institute of Lighting Engineers of SA — Outdoor Lighting Seminar, Pretoria, Cape Town and Durban, June 3, 16 and 17 respectively.
- HEWLETT Packard seminars — Business Graphics, Cape Town, April 30; Computer Applications, June 24, Rosebank Hotel, Johannesburg.

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300 Hansard Q Col. 758

Pensions/gratuities: interest

5/5/82

*11. Mr. K. M. ANDREW asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

Whether civil pensioners are paid any interest on (a) pensions and (b) gratuities which are paid out late to them, if not, why not; if so, on what basis is the interest calculated?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(a) and (b) Yes, in cases where pension benefits are paid out after the expiry of the prescribed period of 60 days calculated as from the date on which the duly completed retirement documents are received by the Department of Health and Welfare, such pensioners have a claim to interest calculated at a rate laid down from time to time in terms of section 1 of the Prescribed Rate of Interest Act, 1975 (Act 55 of 1975).

A shattering message — Mrs Magdalena Swanepoel, of the Jan Hofmeyr Home for the Aged, displays the brick hurled through her window at midnight.

Picture: PIERRE OOSTHUYSEN

Women tell of terror reign at old age home

By JO SHALLIS

AGED residents in a council housing complex in western Johannesburg have demanded protection from a reign of terror by white youths from a neighbouring suburb.

In the latest incident, Mrs Magdalena Swanepoel of the Jan Hofmeyr Home for the Aged was woken at midnight on Sunday by a half-brick crashing through her window.

The home, nestled between the Brixton Cemetery and the Jan Hofmeyr suburb, provides accommodation for about 50 aged women.

But the peace of the area has been continually disrupted by vandals over the past few months, a number of residents said yesterday.

The persecution has included abusive language, loud knocking on the door late at night, several stone-throwing incidents and the disappearance of doormats, plants and washing.

Yesterday, Mrs Swanepoel and her next-door neighbour, who did not wish to be named, described the brick throwing incident.

"We went out to investigate and saw a white youth, dressed in a black lumber jacket and black jeans, sitting on a wall, staring down at us", she said.

When told police had been notified, the youth immediately jumped off the wall and disappeared.

Neither woman could suggest any motive for the reign of terror.

Another resident, Mrs Elsie van den Berg, says the cemetery is an all-night venue for drunks and dagga smokers.

When the partying in the cemetery stops, the revellers take a short-cut through the grounds of the home to the Hofmeyer housing estate on the other side, she said.

"I moved here three years ago because I was told a nightwatchman would patrol the area," Mrs Van den Berg said.

Mrs Nellie Nugent complained that every morning brought fresh reports of overnight disturbances.

"It isn't safe to leave anything outside any more, and the other day I was told a man had slept outside my door right through the night", she said.

The director of housing for the Johannesburg City Council, Mr M P Wilsnach, said yesterday his department was upset to hear about the events.

"It will be decided quite soon whether a night security patrol will be provided in the area", he said.

He said, however, that residents had in the past turned down an offer by the council to provide burglar guards on the windows and special door-locks, saying they did not want to feel they were living in a prison.

Mr Wilsnach also said that his deputy had recently met police to discuss police surveillance of the area.

JEWELLERS AND GOLDSMITHS UNION

Year	Membership				
	African	Asian and Coloured	White	Total	
1970					
1971					
1972					
1973		98	320	418	*
1974		28	294	322	*
1975		26	305	331	*
1976		21	201	222	*
1977		30	347	377	*
1978				..	
1979				445	$
1980				460	

Fosatu Annual Report 1980/81

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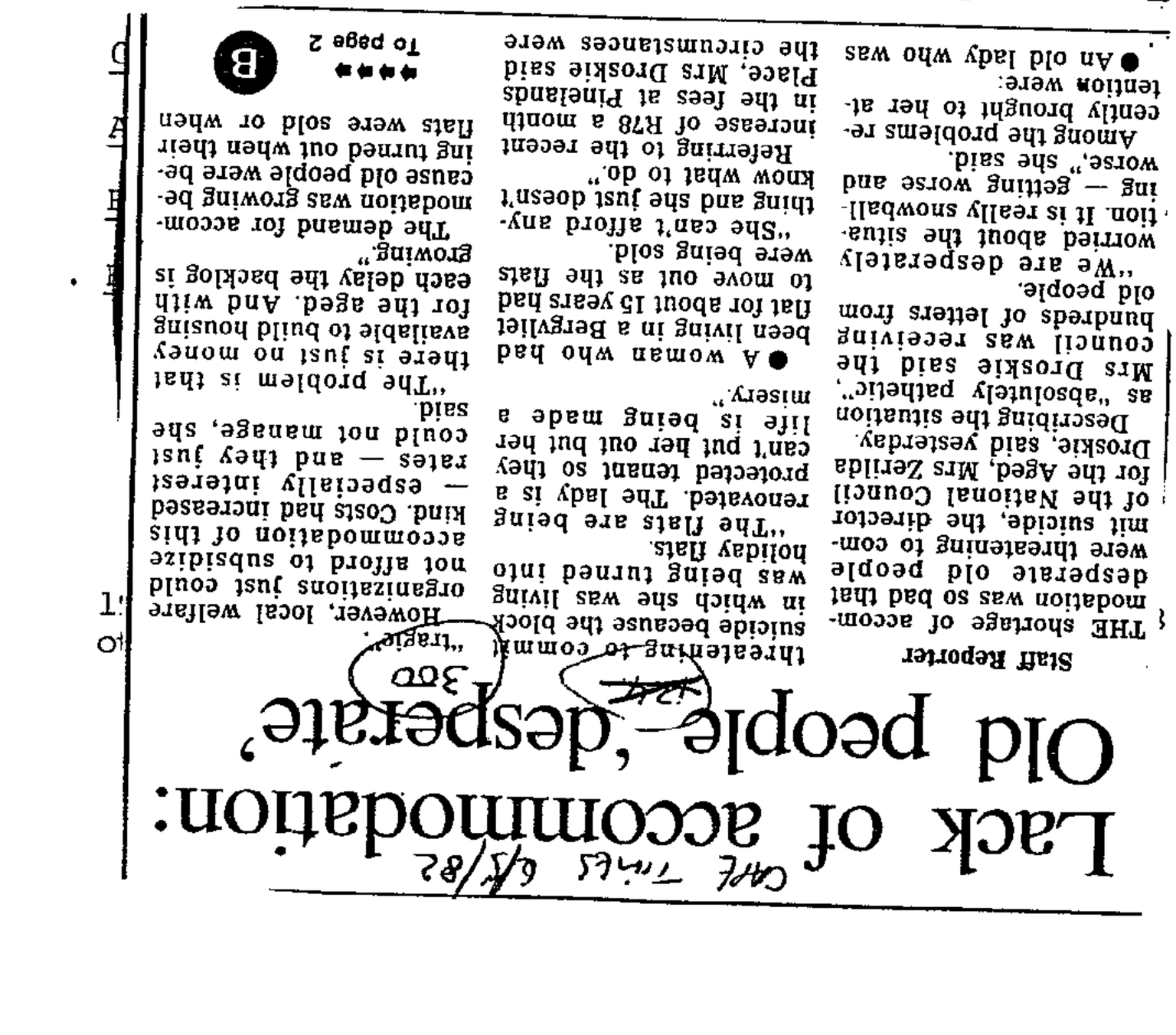


Lack of accommodation:
Old people 'desperate'

Cape Times 6/5/82

Staff Reporter

THE shortage of accommodation was so bad that desperate old people were threatening to commit suicide, the director of the National Council for the Aged, Mrs Zerilda Droskie, said yesterday.

Describing the situation as "absolutely pathetic", Mrs Droskie said the council was receiving hundreds of letters from old people.

"We are desperately worried about the situation. It is really snowballing — getting worse and worse," she said.

Among the problems recently brought to her attention were:

● An old lady who was threatening to commit suicide because the block in which she was living was being turned into holiday flats.

"The flats are being renovated. The lady is a protected tenant so they can't put her out but her life is being made a misery."

● A woman who had been living in a Bergvliet flat for about 15 years had to move out as the flats were being sold.

"She can't afford anything and she just doesn't know what to do."

Referring to the recent increase of R78 a month in the fees at Pinelands Place, Mrs Droskie said the circumstances were

To page 2

"tragic".

However, local welfare organizations just could not afford to subsidize accommodation of this kind. Costs had increased — especially interest rates — and they just could not manage, she said.

"The problem is that there is just no money available to build housing for the aged. And with each delay the backlog is growing."

The demand for accommodation was growing because old people were being turned out when their flats were sold or when

7/5/82

(300) **Port Elizabeth: official dealing with old-age pensions** Hansard Q. 61. 779

*8. Mr. A. SAVAGE asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

Whether his Department (a) has taken or (b) intends to take steps to ensure that a qualified person will be available to take the place of the official dealing with old-age pensions in the regional office of his Department in Port Elizabeth when such official takes his annual leave; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(a) and (b) Yes; it is normal procedure. As a matter of fact more than one qualified officer is available in that office to deal with old-age pensions.

Old people must wait two years for a home

Mercury Reporter

7/5/82

THERE are at least 800 elderly people waiting for accommodation in old-age homes in Durban, and for many it will be as long as two years before there is somewhere for them to stay.

In the meantime, most are living with their children or paying out most of their income on flats.

A spokesman for The Association For The Aged (Tafta) said yesterday that there were more than 750 names on their waiting lists, but there must be more old people who had applied directly to old-age homes which did not fall under the auspices of Tafta.

He said the waiting period for accommodation in Durban ranged from at least three months to about two years.

At the Southern Residences complex in Point Road the waiting list was about eight weeks, but at places such as Ocean View and Kings Hall would-be residents could wait as long as two years before getting in.

Pension

The spokesman paid tribute to elderly people who, he said, seemed to manage — 'I don't know how they do it, but they do.'

Mr Geoff Oldfield, MPC, told the Mercury yesterday that he knew of some aged people who were spending R90 of their R122 pension on a flat.

Not one day went by without a call from an old person who asked him to try to organise accommodation in an old-age home.

'No matter how much I would like to help, all I can suggest is that they put their names down on the list,' Mr Oldfield said.

One way of solving the problem was for the Government or the private sector to assist welfare organisations so that blocks of flats or boarding houses could be bought and converted into old-age accommodation.

Plight of elderly fuels campaign

(EXM) (300) Star 7/5/82

By Rob Soutter

Johannesburg's aged face a miserable winter, huddled in dingy rooms, lonely, cold, hungry and fearful of their future.

"They know any rent increase will force further cuts in their meagre food and medicine. They do not look for cheaper accommodation because there isn't any," city councillor Rae Graham said today.

"But, although the shortage of cheap accommodation, insufficient pension, and lack of food and warmth are important, loneliness is crucial, whether the person lives in Soweto or Sandton."

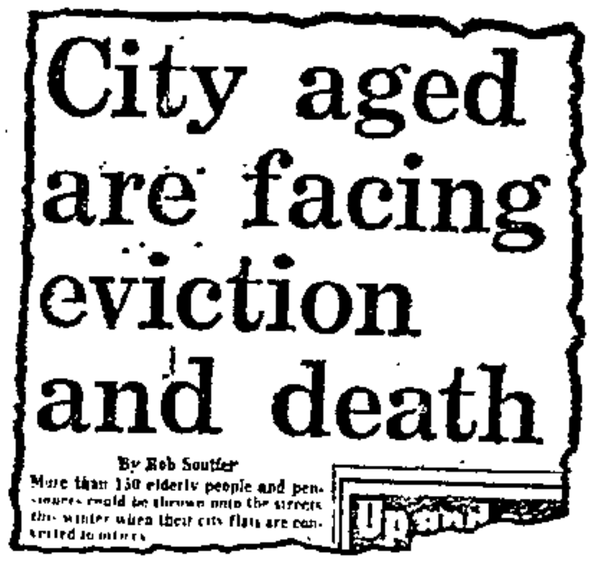
Mrs Graham said the aged needed friends to talk to, visitors and a belief that someone cared about them.

Mrs Graham, who has campaigned for many years to improve the plight of Johannesburg's aged, was interviewed on television's "Midweek" programme on Wednesday night, in a report on the elderly.

The programme followed several articles in The Star investigating the plight of the aged. It provoked a tremendous reaction throughout the country, according to Gail Morrison, one of the "Midweek" team, who said it touched a raw nerve in South African society.

"I painted a bleak picture on the programme," said Mrs Graham, "but unfortunately, the solutions I out lined were not broadcast.

"I believe any answer to the problem must include the encouragement of personal contact with the elderly. And this is the Year of the Aged."


City aged are facing eviction and death

By Rob Soutter

More than 150 elderly people and pensioners could be thrown onto the streets this winter when their city flats are converted to offices

Update

The plight of the aged was highlighted in the Page 1 main report of The Star on April 17.

By encouraging younger people to visit elderly people, other needs can be fulfilled," she said.

"Many people desperately need to help others, to gain fulfilment in their own lives."

With the help of The Star, Mrs Graham launched an unofficial "Adopt a Pensioner" scheme before Christmas last year and there was a good response.

● See Page 4.

300 Hansard Q. 61. 820 →

Payment of pension benefits

14/5/82

*7. Mr. K. M. ANDREW asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(1) How many civil pensioners who went on pension in (a) 1980 and (b) 1981 and gave the prescribed notice (i) experienced and (ii) did not experience delays in the payment of their pension benefits;

(2) (a) what was the average duration of such delays and (b) what was the total amount of money involved in the delays in each of these years?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) and (2) Statistics are not kept and it would entail a tremendous amount of work by an already depleted staff to obtain the particulars. Under the circumstances the information can unfortunately not be furnished.

Mr. K. M. ANDREW: Mr. Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon. the Minister, may I ask him whether he is aware of what appears to be widespread discontent amongst large numbers of civil pensioners whose pensions, when they retire, are paid out extremely late, in spite of the fact that they have completed the necessary forms in good time?

The MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, there will be a small addition to my reply to Question 9. The hon. member has another question on the Question Paper and the answer to that question might indeed satisfy the hon. member.

(300) Hansard Q. 61. 822 - 823

Payment of pension benefits 14/5/82

*9. Mr. K. M. ANDREW asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(1) Whether civil pensioners are automatically paid interest in cases where pension benefits are paid out late; if not, (a) why not and (b) within what period of time are claims for unpaid interest to be made;

(2) whether steps are being taken to inform civil pensioners of their having a

claim to receiving interest on pension benefits paid out late to them; if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) No;

(a) the Department of Health and Welfare is not necessarily responsible for the delay and therefore not necessarily liable in respect of claims, and

(b) the time limit prescribed by the laws pertaining to the lodgement of claims;

(2) no.

In addition I wish to inform the hon. member that I have had complaints in regard to this problem, and the Department of Health and Welfare is investigating the whole issue of the payment of pension benefits.

UNIONS OPERATING IN 1981 GROUPED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

Unions have been classified according to the Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities. The full extent of the operation of the following general workers unions has not been established:

National Federation of Workers
Orange-Vaal General Workers Union
General and Allied Workers Union

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

Black Allied Workers Union
Farmworkers Union
Food and Canning Workers Union
National Certified Fishing Officers Association
Orange-Vaal General Workers Union
Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union

MINING AND QUARRYING

Amalgamated Engineering Union of S.A.
Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers
Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers of S.A.
Black Allied Workers Union
Black Mineworkers Union
Federa
Iron
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Mine
Mine
S.A.
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MANUF

Food &

Africa
Amalga
Bakery
Black
Bolan
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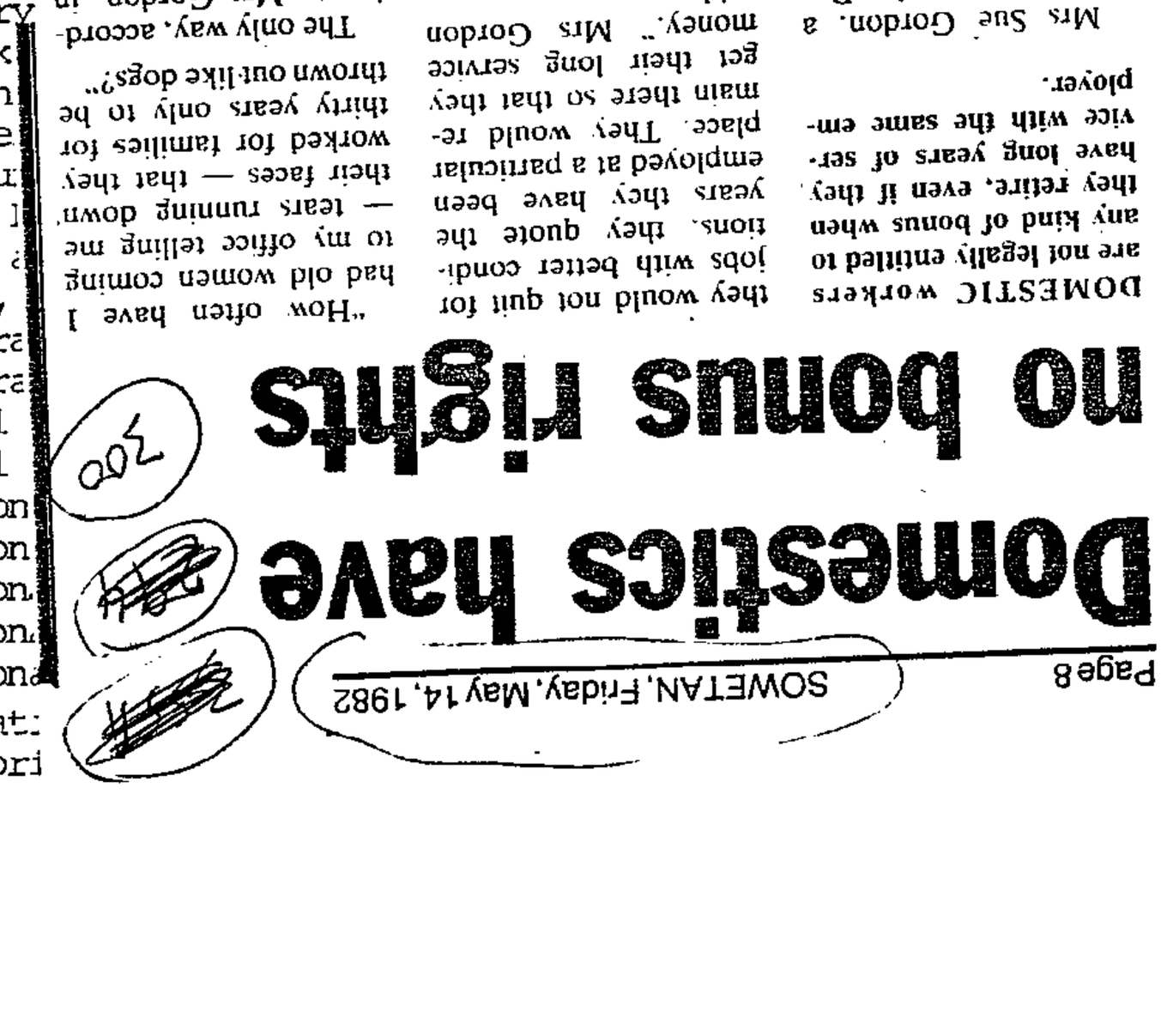
Society



Domestics have no bonus rights

SOWETAN, Friday, May 14, 1982

Page 8

"During the past 11 years in which I have been working with domestic workers, I found that so many remain in jobs where they are bitterly unhappy, inadequately paid and treated with scant respect. When asked why they would not quit for jobs with better conditions, they quote the few exceptional cases where a domestic worker was built a house by an employer or given a substantial sum of money when she left. Imagine every employer will do likewise.

She said some employees, who have heard of a

"How often have I had old women coming to my office telling me — tears running down their faces — that they worked for families for thirty years only to be thrown out like dogs?"

The only way, according to Mrs Gordon, in which domestic workers can be protected is if employers enrol them with the DPF. In this way a worker will be certain to receive a sum of money the size of which will depend upon contributions made by an employer over the years.

Mrs Gordon said the kind of employer who treats a domestic badly is certainly not likely to give any kind of bonus when she leaves — even after 20 years of service.

"Some employers start the fund off with a fairly large amount which ensures a worker a better pension. The minimum payment is R10 a month," said Mrs Gordon.

DOMESTIC workers are not legally entitled to any kind of bonus when they retire, even if they have long years of service with the same employer.

Mrs Sue Gordon, a consultant for the Domestic Pension Fund (DPF), told The SOWETAN in an interview that domestic workers, in many cases, were under the misunderstanding that they would be given long service money when they retire.

Other

Diamond Cutters
Jewellers and
Optical Workers
S.A. Associati
S.A. Diamond W

ELECTRICITY, G

Cape Town Gas
Escom (Cape We
Escom Salaried
Escom Workers
General Workers
Johannesburg M

CONSTRUCTION

Amalgamated Soci
Amalgamated Engi
Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers
Black Allied Workers Union
Blankebouwerkersvakbond
Building, Construction and Allied Workers Union
Building Workers Union
Electrical and Allied Trades Union of South Africa
Electrical and Allied Workers Union of South Africa
Engineering and Allied Workers Union
Engineering Industrial Workers Union of South Africa
General Workers Union
Metal and Allied Workers Union
National Union of Engineering, Industrial and Allied Workers
Port Elizabeth Operative, Plumbers Employees Association
S.A. Operative Masons' Society
S.A. Woodworkers
Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers Union
S.A. Electrical Workers Association

WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE AND CATERING AND ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

Wholesale & Retail Trade

Black Allied Workers Union
Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union
Concession Stores and Allied Trades Assistants Union
Domestic Workers and Salesladies Association
Kimberley Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks Association
National Union of Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers
National Union of Distributive Workers
Pretoriase Vakbond vir die Kleinhandel Vleisbedryf
Transvaal Retail Meat Trade Employees Union

Catering and Accommodation

Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union
East London Liquor & Catering Trades Employees Union

Pension queues are 'unnecessary'

Sowetan 14/5/82

300

PENSIONERS sleeping out in the cold on the eve of the pay-out day to be first in the queue are doing this at their own risk, a Johannesburg Commissioner of Co-operation and Development warned.

Mr A Bayne told The SOWETAN yesterday that his officers had repeatedly appealed to pensioners to stop sleeping near pay-out centres on the eve of the pension day but their pleas had fallen on deaf ears. The authorities could not be blamed for this, he said.

The SOWETAN found more than 50 old men and women braving the cold weather for the pay-out day, on Wednesday. They had gathered next to the Jabulani Council Chambers, and some had brought mattresses and benches.

"This type of situation is not necessary," Mr Bayne said. "We have told them they should come on the morning of the pay-out but they don't want to listen. Our officers give out pay from 9 am until 3 pm, and by that time all have been served."

"There is absolutely nothing we can do about this. Nobody has told them to sleep there. They are doing this at their own risk," he added.

Horwood promises a better pensions deal

(300) Star 18/5/82

DURBAN — The Government intends going ahead with legislation to preserve pensions but will defer the controversial provision for freezing contributions, the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, said yesterday.

Addressing the annual conference of the Association of Pension and Provident Funds, Mr Horwood said the resistance last year to proposals for the compulsory preservation of pensions had revealed the worrying fact that a number of workers appeared to regard membership of a pension fund as an irksome form of compulsory short-term saving.

"Perhaps the most controversial item in the draft Bill on pension preservation is the freezing of pension interests within an enclosure for pension provision," he said.

The resistance to this provision is also the main reason for the introduction of the Bill being postponed.

There are however certain other measures which will improve the pensions system, such as the establishment of special frozen savings accounts at the Post Office, banks and building societies.

"I believe such instruments can play a major role in bringing home to less sophisticated members of our society the purpose and workings of pension provision.

"The migratory worker, the contract worker, the counter assistant in a small shop and the housewife with a temporary job in the mornings are a few examples of the sort of worker who will be afforded the opportunity to make provision for old age on a preferential tax basis through a vehicle they know, understand and trust," Mr Horwood said.

"These accounts should be capable of receiving both regular, new contributions and bulk transfers from other instruments such as pension and retirement annuity funds." — Sapa.

R1/2-million for Daveyton aged

(300) Sowetan 18/5/82

THE Benoni Black Council for the Care of the Aged, will start building an old age home in Daveyton in the next few weeks, to be ready for use at the end of February next year.

A spokesman for the council said yesterday that forms for this project were already available and that they were only waiting to obtain a site from the Daveyton Community Council before starting with the building of the home.

He said: "Plans for the building of the home have been completed. The private sector has already donated money towards the building, which will cost more than R500 000."

He said that they have already contacted the local community council concerning a site for its erection. At its monthly meeting this week the council resolved that the housing committee investigate and identify a suitable site for the home.

The spokesman said that, for a start, the old age home will accommodate about 100 aged people and that, as time goes on, more people will be accommodated.

I would like to emphasize that, among other things, in order to practice social work effectively, it is imperative that the practicner must be able to express himself clearly when talking to clients and to others on behalf of his clients such as lawyers, physicians and clergymen. And they must also be able to write simple, intelligible reports. Unfortunately, many social work students cannot do this by the time they graduate, which raises an interesting question about what kind of "professionals" we are turning loose on an unsuspecting public. (The fact that they know little or no Afrikaans and that they many of them have expressed disparaging views to me about Afrikaans, is another matter which I shall not go into here. I would like to add, however, that in my view no student should be allowed to receive a professional social work degree unless he is fluent in both official languages. I have been in South Africa long enough to realize that one cannot possibly practice social work or medicine or law without being bi-lingual). effective

The interesting thing about the seventeen essays mentioned above is that although five of the seventeen failed and that six others barely passed, two were outstanding and one of the two was of such high caliber that I believe it has a good chance of being accepted for publication by one of the top social work journals in the U.K. or the U.S.A., provided some minor changes are made and that about 800 - 1000 words are deleted. I offered to help the student prepare her manuscript for publication if she wishes to put forth the additional effort required. I should add, that my elation over reading her fine essay was considerably dampened when she indicated to me over the telephone that she was considering dropping out of the social work course because she was disenchanted. I urged her to reconsider and told her that we desperately need sensitive persons with good minds in South African social work.

I realize that it is always easy to criticize and to bemoan the fact that the "current" generation of students is lazy, irresponsible, rude or even "subversive" - in other words that it is "going to the dogs." But I would like to offer what I hope is a constructive recommendation and one which I trust will receive serious consideration from the Planning and Development Committee. The recommendation follows:

1. I recommend that the University establish a "Writing Laboratory," preferably housed with the English Department or, if that is not feasible, in two or three rooms in a separate location.

2. Such a laboratory should be staffed by a corps of part-time persons who, themselves, have an excellent command of English, who are sympathetic towards students who have difficulty with the language, and who are genuinely interested in helping them overcome such difficulty.

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Pensions plan: Govt will go ahead

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"The migratory worker, the contract worker, counter assistant in a small shop and the housewife with a temporary job in the mornings are a few examples of the sort of worker who will be afforded the opportunity to make provision for old age — on a preferential tax basis — through a vehicle they know, understand and trust," Mr Horwood said.

Fears of elderly rise with rents

ARGUS 18/5/82 300

In this, the Year of the Aged, Cape Town's senior citizens face a multitude of increasing problems. Over the next few days The Argus will focus on, among others, the housing shortage, increasing rentals, the removal of rent control and the effects of sectional title.

THE abolition of rent control could be a critical blow for the Peninsula's aged.

Last week the Government announced a Parliamentary select committee to investigate the desirability of removing the vestiges of rent control which afford the aged limited protection.

Already hardships caused by booming sectional title sales and escalating rentals are intensifying their plight.

The sectional title market has become a R2 400-million industry." Last year, 127 more schemes were sold by sectional title in Cape Town than in the year before.

6 476 UNITS

A total of 6 476 flats and townhouses were sold, compared with 2 803 units in 1980.

Soaring costs and increased interest rates on loans are pushing up rentals everywhere.

Even the non-profit-making Cape Peninsula Welfare Organisation for the Aged has imposed a R78 increase from July on more than 70 residents in the Pinelands Place home for the aged.

Steep rent increases on the Cape Flats last year saw the formation of action committees and calls on the Government to take responsibility for housing.

The aged are teetering under pensions that do not keep pace with rent increases and the sectional title system.

HOME OWNERSHIP

When legislation brought in sectional title registration in 1973, it gave many the chance of home ownership. But it also put on to the streets many elderly who could not afford to buy their flats, usually because of low and static incomes and capital that had been withered away paying rents over the years.

A tenant who has occupied a flat continuously since it was decontrolled and has an income of less than R360 a month if single, and R650 for families, is "protected"

Yet this protection is against eviction under sale by sectional title, it is not protection against rent increases approved by the Rent Board.

In a Diep River block where there are protected tenants an increase from R68 to R95 a month for bachelor flats was granted last month.

Typically, the increase takes effect from January, so a protected tenant with a garage has paid R157,50 in arrears alone for the first five months of this year. Another, on a civil pension of R279 a month, paid a total of R203 in May.

She said: "It's just as well I suspected this and had the money."

Rent control affords no protection to anyone who fails to pay their rent or an increase.

Rent control means a building cannot be put up for sale by sectional title if there are protected tenants, but these tenants can be pushed on the streets to look for cheaper accommodation by rent increases.

Protected tenants may appeal against increases.

In an uncontrolled Green Point block, an old-age pensioner and widow, over 70, must accept two months' notice of a rent increase or give notice to vacate. She says her rent will rise from R168 to R235 from July.

Pension increases are just not keeping up with rent hikes such as these: 24,8 percent at Pinelands Place, 39,7 percent at Diep River and 39.8 percent at Green Point.

This year the Government announced a pension increase of R16 (12 percent) to R138 a month for whites; R12 (14,5 percent) to R84 a month for coloured and Indians, and R9 (18 percent) to R49 a month for blacks.

EXACTLY DOUBLE

A pensioner says the rent of his two-room flat at Mouille point has increased by R54 in two years and his pension has increased over the same period by R27.

An ironic twist is that as the elderly, even under a measure of rent control, are forced by steep increases to look for cheaper accommodation, less and less rented accommodation is available.

Businessmen say that as long as rent control is on the statutes, they will not invest in new blocks of flats.

Announcing the committee to investigate the removal of control, the Minister, Mr Pen Kotze, said the "checkmate position" had to be ended.

Rents would continue to rise until equilibrium had been restored in the market.

Yet the removal of rent control without provision of more accommodation for the elderly could bring them more drastic rent hikes.

Mrs Zoe Ida Droskie, director of the National Council for the Aged, tells of a new slant to the problem

Tenants in controlled flats are losing their protection when given notice to vacate so that the flats can be renovated.

They do not realise they have to reapply for protection and make arrangements to return, she says

Eighty-six-year-old Mr Robert William Atkinson leaves the Jeppestown Post Office on pension day, hand in hand with the sole companion of his old age, Gilbert Goniwe. Mr Atkinson was an air mechanic at Swartkops in World War 2. Today he lives alone in a run-down cottage in Jeppe. He never goes out—except on pension day and never has a visitor.

Time to CARE for the aged

"To many old people, pension day is an outing. They come out of their rooms and exchange gossip. It is a happening in their lonely lives."

Who says newspaper people are hard boiled? I am haunted by a memory of Mr Robert William Atkinson (86), who lives in an old cottage in Fox Street, Jeppe. He was brought to the Post Office by Mr Gilbert Goniwe, now his sole companion.

"I have three daughters. No, I never see them," says Mr Atkinson matter-of-factly.

"He never goes out. Nobody ever comes to visit him," offers Mr Goniwe.

"MOTHER"

The monthly pension day at Jeppestown is made as pleasant as possible by the Salvation Army, which sets up a table with tea, cake and biscuits. City councillor John Fossett is a familiar figure to pensioners, characteristically seen bearing large platters of sandwiches made by his wife early in the morning. The pensioners call Mrs Fossett "the mother of Jeppe."

Mrs Lucy Helm (78) of Fairview, who lives alone in a small house, tells how she was attacked and robbed of her last R37.

Did anybody replace the money, I asked. "Who gives anything," she responds. "People are all for themselves today." But she survived the attack and has maintained a positive outlook on life, taking pleasure in the gift of a dress.

Mrs M Lefevre, a widow, has an anxious request. She needs a wheel chair for her brother-in-law who is recovering from an amputation and cannot get out into the sun. He is 74.

There is a flurry of agitation in the queue today caused by two recent murders of pensioners in Jeppe — a former Railways man in his 70s and a woman of 84 — "one of the most gracious ladies you could have met," says Mr Fossett.

Onward down the queue. Mr Roy Eppel (70) wears a blazer with a St John Ambulance Corps badge on the pocket. He used to be an electrical engineer, and a St John captain. He has a leg injury.

"I don't come out well on my pension," he confides. "I am looking for a couple of jobs to do at home — anything electrical."

Mr George Neal (76), a coach builder by trade who says he built the first luxury bus in South Africa in 1947, wears neat clothes with a jaunty air. His rent is R65 a month, his pension R122. "I'm not a big eater," he says. Three years ago his dreams changed drastically, his second wife died on the day they were married. "We had planned to look after one another . . ."

And so it goes. A story a person. Marvellous to meet are Mr and Mrs J C van der Westhuizen, who manage splendidly on their combined pensions plus a small amount from another source.

Captain S M Ferreira (74) of the Salvation Army and Mrs C A van Loggerenberg (70), a Salvationist who lives in a home for the aged, are on hand twice a month to provide refreshments — once for old age pensioners and once for disability grant recipients. They are welcomed by one and all.

Captain Ferreira receives R50 a month from an anonymous donor to buy food parcels which he distributes to seven people. He is grateful for this help.

● See Page 6.

STAR
14/5/82
300

19/5/82 By Olga Horowitz (300) Star

Pensionday pageant of gallantry and stoicism

Pension day at the Post Office is pretty depressing. But it is also a moving show of gallantry, toughness, stoicism . . . and resignation.

I went to the Jeppestown Post Office. This was a special pension day because of the pay-out of the R30 bonus provided in the last Budget. Minister of Finance Mr Horwood would have been heartened to see what this gift meant to social pensioners. Meat for a while, perhaps. A little extra to cope with a rent increase.

Money works wonders. They all smiled when they spoke of the extra R30 which brought their pensions, for this one magic month, to a maximum of R152.

The queue had started early in the morning. It grew constantly as the old people arrived, some on sticks, some with bandaged legs, some crippled with arthritis.

There were those who were incredibly neat and proud. Others — in near ragged clothes — were still proud.

It was interesting that none of them need have been there. The Government would willingly lodge pensions in bank accounts or other savings accounts, to be collected by pensioners at their leisure.

HAUNTED

But many feared this arrangement and could not bring themselves to trust banks. They like the cash to be paid into their own hands. Also they want the money on the day it is due. They need it immediately as there is usually not a cent left in the kitty.

In addition to many old people, pension day is an outing. They come out of their rooms and exchange [illegible]. It is a happen-

examination book(s) are used.

4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

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TRIO-RAND/S.P.C.T.

Made in South Africa

300
19/5/82

In this, the Year of the Aged, Cape Town's senior citizens face a multitude of increasing problems. This week The Argus focuses on, among others, the housing shortage, increasing rentals, the removal of rent control and the effects of sectional title.

Aged dilemma: Between housing shortage and unprotected rents

AS the responsibility of alleviating the housing crisis for the aged is passed between the Government and the private sector, the city's aged are left in the balance between a housing shortage and inadequate protection under rent control.

Renewed calls have been made to the Government to weigh the scales the ageds' way.

The housing crisis for the aged reached such proportions that an urgent "summit meeting" was called for in the Assembly last week to seek a solution.

The Cape Peninsula Welfare Organisation for the Aged has called for more adequate financial aid from the authorities for organisations that run homes for the aged.

The MP for Maitland, Mr Kent Durr, said last week more rent-controlled buildings should be taken into public ownership to alleviate the hardship of lower income tenants.

The private sector seems to be shirking the provision of housing for the lower income groups as long as the last phase of rent control remains on the statutes.

Organisations that provide for the elderly in the Peninsula are struggling to meet the needs of special homes and housing schemes for the aged.

FUNDS

The CPWOA which provides for approximately 1 130 elderly in seven homes and 870 people who can care for themselves in seven residences, is running up heavy financial losses and has long waiting lists every year.

The Citizen's Housing League which houses 600 elderly in Government-subsidised housing schemes has a waiting list of more than 900.

It is waiting for funds to start proposed schemes at Ysterplaat and Lakeside which, when completed, will house 171 elderly.

The Dutch Reformed Church which in 1981 housed 2374 elderly, 1701 of these in institutions for the aged, is also waiting for funds from the Department of Community Development to advertise for tenders for 13 projects totalling about R6,2 million.

Another eight applications for old age homes are awaiting the green light from the Department of Health and Welfare.

"One of the biggest problems facing this organisation and others rendering similar services, is the fact that the subsidies provided for running homes for frail aged are totally inadequate," said Mr D F Kerswill, director of the CPWOA.

EXPENSIVE

"The residents of these homes do not require the sophisticated and far more expensive care given by hospitals.

"It would therefore seem logical that the authorities realise that unless homes run by CPWOA and other organisations receive adequate financial aid, hospitals themselves will have to care for the frail aged, at a considerably higher cost to the tax payer."

Mr Kerswill said the seven homes run by the CPWOA were subsidised "totally inadequately" by the Department of Health and Welfare.

The department subsidises a total of 6 282 aged in 84 homes in the Cape Western region, and another 1 060 will be included when projects under construction are complete.

The worst hit by the housing crisis are the aged in the low and middle income groups who struggle to make ends meet against an exorbitant cost of living.

An increasing number are being forced by rent increases to look for cheaper accommodation in a market that, through sectional title sales and rent control, provides less and less rented housing.

DESPERATE

"The situation is desperate and people don't know where to go," Mrs Zerilda Droskie of the National Council for the Aged said.

"We have to accept that rent control has been phased out, and there has to be some consideration for the aged.

"When sectional title was brought in in America, church and welfare organisations bought out flats and let them to old people at reasonable rates," she said.

"Surely the same can be done in South Africa?"

Many have called on the Government to play a greater role in caring for the older community.

Mr Kent Durr said some rent-controlled homes should be taken into public ownership to prevent hardship to lower income tenants because rent control had not been an adequate protection.

The private sector is not providing rented accommodation while rent control remains.

"It's highly immoral to ask a man who has put up a building for people on low incomes and pensions to be chained by rent control," Mr Don Kennedy, executive director of the South African Property Owners' Association, said.

"It's basically not a problem of the businessman because he is responsible to share-holders and he has to put their money to work."

Ironically, while there is a critical nationwide housing shortage for the lower income aged, there is also a blossoming of luxury accommodation for the aged all over the Peninsula.

This contrasts the real needs of the aged in the lower income groups in the community who face the greatest hardship from the shortage of adequate housing. Many feel the time is ripe for the Government to step in.

19/5/82 (306)

ONE of Cape Town's elderly, Mrs Saaida Parish . . . reflecting on 105 years.

Pensions race gap justified — Munnik

By ADA STUIJT

THE ever-increasing gap between social pensions for whites and other races, was yesterday defended by Dr L A P A Munnik, Minister of Health, Welfare and Pensions.

Dr Munnik said white pensioners needed more money because they had to pay property taxes, whereas pensioners of other races did not.

Social pensions for whites have shown a much greater increase over the past ten years than those of other races, as the accompanying graph by Rand Daily Mail artist Gail Irwin clearly illustrates.

Opposition spokesmen have expressed criticism of the "race gap" which has considerably widened the payout between whites, coloureds, Asians and blacks.

Mr Harry Schwarz of the Progressive Federal Party, and Mr George Bartlett of the New Republic Party, both said the Government should have made a greater effort to narrow the gap in the most recent Budget.

Dr Munnik said that white pensioners needed more funds "mainly because they frequently had to pay property taxes on their homes".

"Many of the black, Indian or coloured pensioners, living in sub-economic rental homes, don't need the extra funds required to pay property taxes and such," he said.

Pensioners in Europe and Great Britain receive considerably better pensions than those in South Africa.

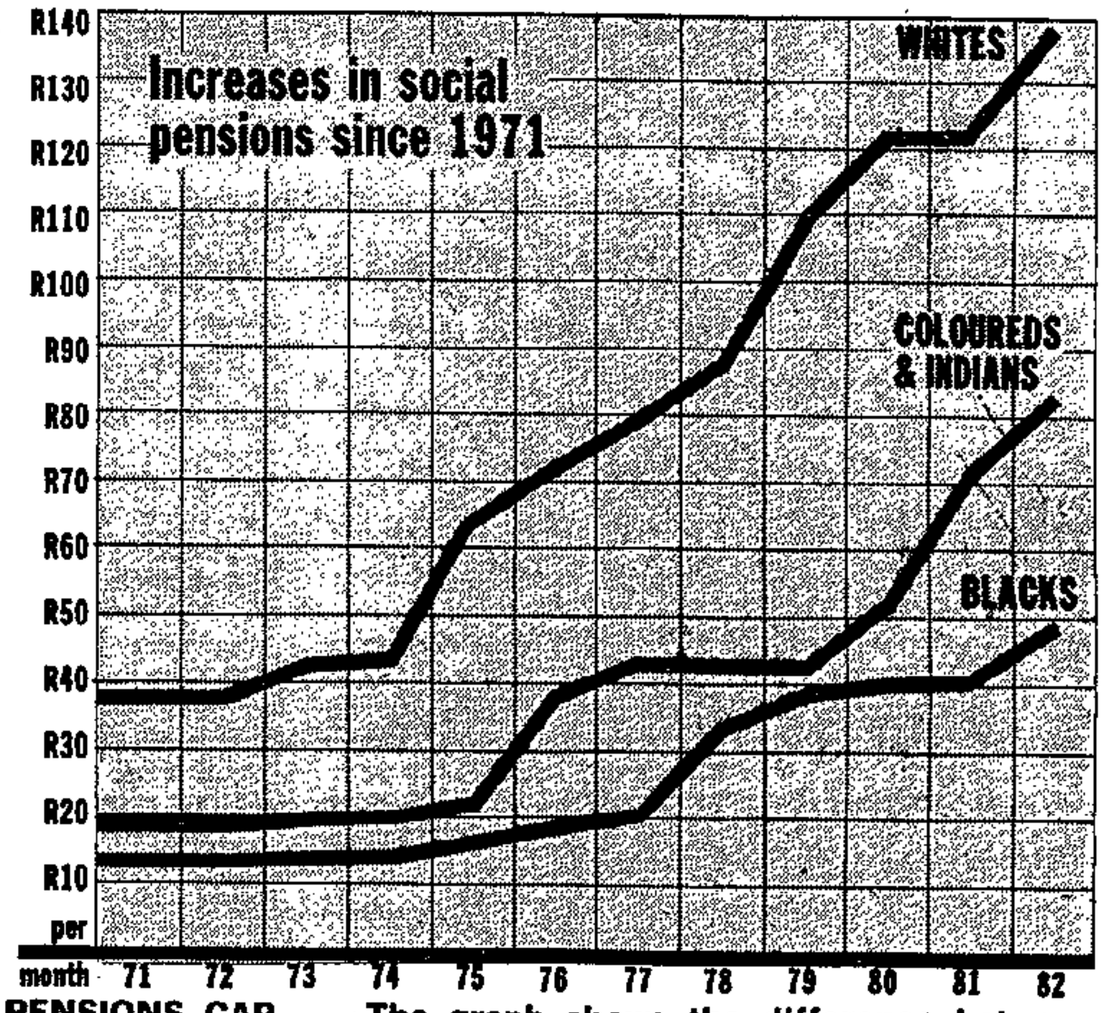
For instance, in most European Common Market countries, single pensioners aged 65 receive R580 a month and married couples R620 plus free medical care.

Pensioners who retire at 60 receive R490 monthly, and married couples R590 a month.

These pension payments fluctuate, as they are tied to the cost of living index.

In the United Kingdom, single old-age pensioners receive R116,40 a week — which will be increased to R132,40 weekly in November.

Married couples receive R189,40 a week and this pension will rise to R220,20 a week.



PENSIONS GAP ... The graph shows the difference between payouts to the different race groups.

Clerical error caused old man to miss pension

Post Reporter

IT was all the result of a clerical error that Mr Cornelius Mjacu, 105, did not receive his pension this month.

Now he will have to wait until the next payout in May — simply because his card was filed in the wrong place.

On Monday last week, Mr Mjacu set off on foot from his home in Walmer Township to Africa House, a distance of about 10 kilometres. He was told to return on the Wednesday, because his "ticket" could not be found.

On Wednesday he once again walked all the way to Africa House. Again he did not get his pension.

Mr F J Fourie, commissioner at Africa House, which falls under the Department of Co-operation and Development, said yesterday his department had been in contact with Pretoria and had corrected the error.

He explained that Mr Mjacu's card had been mistakenly filed, under "a cancellation of pension" section.

However, he would only be paid out in May.

Mr Fourie said Mr Mjacu could come to Africa House for rations in the meantime.

But the two long hikes have taken their toll. Mr Mjacu is in bed, unable to walk on swollen, blistered legs.

His daughter said she would try to help him until he got his pension.

Meanwhile, two Evening Post readers have tried to ease his plight. One sent R10 and another donated four large bags of groceries.

Mr Mjacu said he was deeply thankful. The donations would certainly help to make life easier.

re wrong about race n pensions, Dr Munnik'

300

RDM 3/3/82

One of the most alarming aspects of Minister Owen Horwood's 1982 Budget was the widening in real terms of the racial gap in social old-age pensions. It has been projected that at the current annual rate of increase the gap will not be closed until after the turn of the century. The Minister of Social Welfare and Pensions, Dr L A P A Munnik, has introduced a new element into the debate by claiming that when determining the amount paid to old-age pensioners the difference in the costs of living between blacks and whites must be taken into account. In a speech during the Budget debate in Parliament this week Mr Brian Goodall, the official Opposition's chief spokesman on pensions, challenged the Government to say if it was still committed to the concept of the equalisation of social old-age pensions between the various race groups. Here is an edited version of his speech.

that this Minister wants to condemn social old-age pensioners of colour to a state of perpetual subservience to whites.

The theory of separate but equal is to be thrown out of the window. The moral content that separate development had is destroyed if you do not accept the concept of eventual equality between people of colour.

What is to take its place? Pragmatic white baasskap?

Or are we going to play the old number games and grant equal pensions to whites and coloureds but not to blacks?

I think it is necessary for us to get an unequivocal statement from this Government as to whether it is still committed to the concept of the equalisation of social old-age pensions between the various race groups.

Moreover, in view of the recent statements of the Minister of Social Welfare and Pensions it is necessary for the Government to spell out quite clearly what it means when it speaks about equalisation.

Does it mean, as we on these benches understand it, that eventually a coloured, Indian, or black social old age pensioner will receive the same pension as a white social old age pensioner if his or her investments or pension is the same as that of a white?

If this is what the Government means, then the argument by the Minister of Social Welfare and Pensions about taking into account the cost of accommodation is a spurious one.

Moreover, the reason blacks pay less for their accommodation than whites is that the policy of this Government has not allowed them to own or finance their own homes in the areas where they work.

This is what makes the difference between black and white in South Africa fundamentally different from the gap between rich and poor in other countries.

In other civilized countries a man is allowed to live where he can afford to.

In South Africa the colour of your skin determines where you are allowed to live.

Indeed in South Africa we have reversed the situation. In most industrialized countries, the poor live close to the city centres, and the rich live away from the city centres.

The reason for this is obvious. Transport costs are cheaper if you live close to the city centre compared to living far away.

In South Africa we have reversed this.

The rich live close to the cities and the poor are compelled to live far away.

If the Government has a different understanding of the concept of the equalisation of social old-age pensions then let it spell it out. Moreover, let it be aware of the consequences of its actions.

At present in South Africa there are approximately 145 000 white social old-age pensioners and about 300 000 social old age pensioners of colour.

They are particularly keen to know what the Government means when it talks about eliminating the differences based on the grounds of race. The question of pensions is a touchy one in South Africa at present.

Indeed, black trade unions felt so strongly about the matter that the Government was forced to shelve its plan on the preservation and transferability of pensions. The point, that has to be made, is that this is a touchy subject and should be handled with care.

About a year ago, the Minister saw fit to antagonize most white social old-age pensions with his fatuous advice on dieting.

Having earned the ire of one third of all social old-age pensioners he now seems intent on trying to antagonize the remaining two-thirds of social old-age pensioners by condemning them to perpetual subservience.

A subservience, moreover, which arises predominantly because of a policy of this Government.

The cost of the improvements in the social old-age pensions recently announced in the Budget amounts to R154 400 000 in a full financial year. To see this figure in perspective, one should note that in 1973 the total cost of social old-age pensions paid by the state to whites, coloureds, Asians and blacks amounted to R88-million. In 1975, it cost R141-million.

This shows the extent to which the cost of social old-age pensions is escalating.

Last year, the Minister of Finance indicated that by the year 2000 social old-age pensions could cost the state as much as R2000-million.

If we continue on the present basis, this will be a gross underestimation. I have argued in this House before that something must be done to tackle this problem now.

Within the next 18 years we will have an additional 1-million aged people in South Africa. In 38 year's time there will be more than three times as many aged people in South Africa as there are now, and yet the Government continues to show an unwillingness to tackle the problem.

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'You' gap

I AM sorry that the gap between the social old age pension paid to various race groups is widening.

In this Budget whites have been granted an increase of R16 a month while blacks have been granted R7 a month less and coloureds and Asians R4 a month less.

It was the policy of this Government that eventually we should eliminate all discrimination based on the grounds of colour as far as the social old-age pension system is concerned.

We, in the PFP, have agreed with the Government that this is desirable. Indeed we argued this should be done at a faster pace if possible. It is no good talking about percentage increases. Accommodation is not paid for with percentages, nor is food and clothing.

The only thing that counts is what you receive in rand terms.

If a white receives a pension increase of R16 per month while a coloured receives a pension increase of R12 a month, then the gap between the two has been widened.

Without any doubt whatsoever, the coloured person has less money to spend than the white person.

To argue that the one has received a greater percentage increase than the other is seen by most people as a deceitful exercise in semantics.

It reduces the credibility of the Government when it professes that its policy is to close the gap. That credibility has been even further damaged by the statements made by the Minister of Social Welfare and Pensions, Dr Lapa Munnik on TV and radio.

MR BRIAN GOODALL
challenging the Government

Because now we have a new element beginning to enter into the debate.

The Minister tells us now that when considering the amount paid to social old age pensioners we must take into account the difference in the respective costs of living between blacks and whites.

Blacks pay less for accomodation than whites, hence they must receive smaller social old age pensions.

It is in terms of the policy of this Government that blacks are forced to live under the present housing system. Under the policy of this Government 9-million urban blacks are not allowed to acquire free-hold title to land in urban South Africa.

Indeed, for years, they could not even acquire leasehold rights to land in urban South Africa.

Now, the Minister of Social Welfare and Pensions says to them; you cannot expect to receive the same social old-age pension as whites because your accommodation costs less than that of whites.

In effect, he is saying that under this Government's policy you were not entitled to provide your own accommodation in urban South Africa and now I am going to penalise you for it.

I sometimes wonder if the Minister is aware of the contents of what he is saying. In effect, if one accepts what he is saying at face value then the only logical conclusion that can be drawn is

RDM

31/3/82

300

RAND DAILY MAIL, Wednesday, March 31, 1982

Bring back the Pensions Bill, says congress

Pretoria Bureau

THE South African Confederation of Labour yesterday called on the Government to implement the Preservation of Pensions Bill which it earlier shelved in the face of mass black opposition.

And at the bi-annual congress in Pretoria yesterday, the president of the all-white confederation, Mr B L Currie, urged members to accept changes in the labour laws and "react positively" to them.

The congress later issued a statement expressing its "dismay" at the shelving of the Pensions Act and calling for its implementation.

This was the only way white pensioners would be assured of a living pension when they retired, Mr Arrie Paulus, vice-president of the confederation, said.

The confederation also appealed to the Minister of Manpower to retain closed shop agreements and industrial councils.

The Government was urged to double the existing period of 30 days during which parties can react to proposed legislation or amendments.

The confederation announced that its ad hoc committee on price increases, which was convened in 1978, would become a full-time independent body.

It called for the reinstatement of a form of rent control in cases of tenant exploitation and for the lifting of the ceiling on economic housing to at least R15 000 a year. At the moment, only those earning less than R7 800 are eligible to buy economic houses.

The confederation also announced:

- It was considering proposals on amendments to the Workman's Compensation Act to allow the R12 000 ceiling to be lifted to R15 000;
- It would ask for overtime pay to be exempted from tax or else for other concessions in this area;
- It would appeal for interest on mortage bonds to be exempted from tax.

Rebates for pensioners

Political Reporter

A CHANGE to the Local Authorities Ordinance which gives pensioners the right to apply to local authorities for rates rebates became law in Natal yesterday.

The new provision applies to certain classes of people, including pensioners, who own and occupy their own premises.

Owners of buildings which are declared national monuments may also apply for rates rebates.

The provisions, published in an exraordinary provincial gazette, already provides for people who are adversely affected in terms of the Group Areas Act.

Pensioners get a reprieve

300
Sowetan
1/4/82

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

MORE than 1 000 pensioners and disabled residents have been reprieved from paying house rentals in townships in the Vaal complex since the beginning of the year.

The chairman of the Vaal Community Council, Mr Josia "Knox" Matjila, said that the council was considering the cases of many other people who fail or cannot afford to pay rents.

He was commenting on reports that hundreds of residents have had their homes locked or have been evicted for failing to pay the increased house rentals which came into operation from March 1.

The council had resolved to increase the rents in the area by R10 and electricity tariffs by R2-R4.

Mr Matjila said the council had been approached by many people who complained that they could not afford the increased rentals and tariffs in general.

"We treat every case on its merits and those who cannot afford to pay are granted a reprieve, or an alternative method of making such person to get accommodation is found.

"The council has done so with many pensioners, cripples and other people whose cases are critical. But, in no way is the council going to just give reprieves," he said.

Referring to the cases of people who have either had their house locked or been evicted, Mr Matjila said that considerable time was given to every resident to voice his or her complaint to the council before such "drastic steps are taken."

The last method the council would take against any person would be to evict him. He warned residents to pay their house rents in "good time to avoid disappointment".

The council was considering reducing the housing backlog, which is estimated to be over 4 000 in the area.

About 2 300 houses would be completed in Zone 11 and 12, Sebokeng, by the end of the year. Already 300 houses have been erected in that area.

The council was trying to find alternative accommodation for people by housing them at old disused hostels, but this type of accommodation would only be temporary.

The council was also considering building more schools, creches and other recreational facilities in all townships this year. These projects could only be implemented if residents cooperated with the council.

He did not see house rents going up for the better part of this year, but the escalating cost of living and inflation might change things, he said.

GENERAL NEWS

Keep pensions law—Sacla

(300) (1 Col) Star 1/4/82

By Drew Forrest

The exclusively white SA Confederation of Labour has called on the Government to reintroduce its legislation for preservation of pensions, shelved last year after bitter opposition from black workers.

At its seventh biannual congress, held in Pretoria this week Sacla held that the pensions law should not be halted.

Mr Arrie Paulus of the Mine Workers' Union, a prominent Sacla member, said even if the law was not acceptable for blacks, it should be implemented to cover white workers.

Twelve affiliates were represented at the congress, with a total membership of some 124 000. At least eight unions have withdrawn from the federation in the past two years after opening their ranks to other races.

On the labour front, the confederation expressed its support for the industrial council system and called on the Government to maintain the closed shop principle

It urged the Government to double the current 30-day period during which interested parties can respond to proposed legislation.

Sacla is also considering proposed amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, including a raised incomes ceiling of R15 000.

Other resolutions, aimed at bettering the lot of white workers, were:

- Sacla would ask for interest on mortgage bonds to be tax-free.
- A call for the Government to raise the annual earnings ceiling in regard to sub-economic housing for whites from R7 800 to R15 000.

Lean times ahead for black worker

THE black worker faces a lean time during the coming months, when various increases announced by the Government come into effect.

Pensioners, too, in spite of increased income, will find it difficult to make ends meet.

In his Budget address, Finance Minister Owen Horwood announced a change in the bread subsidy system which will see this basic commodity rise by between 20 and 30 percent.

From October brown bread will cost about 46 cents a loaf and white bread 48 cents.

On the eve of the Budget the petrol price was also increased, which will have its spinoff in a hike in the paraffin price and increased bus fares.

Bus companies do not have to make a special application to increase fares if there has been a petrol price increase.

TRAIN

Travelling by train will also be more expensive. An average 15 percent increase in rail tariffs comes into effect on April 1. This is likely to cause an increase in a whole series of household essentials as retailers pass on increased rail tariffs to the public.

Postal charges also increase next month.

Home building and alterations will also cost more. Price controls have been abolished and a major producer has already pushed up its price.

Further increases are likely to follow as price control on cement, crushed stone, burglar proofing and wooden blocks has also been done away with.

RETURNS

People earning under R585 a month will in future no longer have to submit income tax returns. They will have a predetermined tax deducted.

The higher wage earners will in addition to normal tax, also pay a five percent loan levy.

Some good news is that the tax deduction of married women is to be increased from R1 400 to R1 600.

The taxable income of life assurers has also been increased, which will inevitably lead to an increase in premiums.

For the pensioner a slight consolation was offered in last week's budget.

The pensions of 'coloured' and Asians was increased by R12 to R83 a month, while African pensioners will receive R9 a month more to bring their income to R49.

This falls far short of white pensions which have been increased by R16 to R138 a month.

PENSIONS 1

Pressing ahead

Government intends to press ahead with the Preservation of Pensions Bill despite strong opposition to the draft legislation.

Finance Minister Owen Horwood told a conference of the Association of Pension and Provident Funds in Durban this week that he had instructed the Registrar to examine which elements of the Bill need not be deferred and to proceed with the drafting of amending legislation.

The introduction of the Bill had to be postponed this year following widespread worker unrest and dissatisfaction with some of the proposals. Probably the most controversial aspect was the provision for freezing pension interests within the fund, rather than making lump sum payments to workers when they vacated jobs. According to fund managers, black workers in particular viewed pension payments as an irksome form of compulsory saving. They wanted to retain the flexibility of taking a cash settlement on the termination of employment.

But government remains convinced that not enough people are making adequate provision for their retirement and that some form of pension preservation is necessary. Horwood told the Durban conference that certain other pension preservation measures were being considered. One was the establishment of special frozen savings accounts at the Post Office, banks and building societies. These would allow people to make provision for old age, on a preferential tax basis, "through a vehicle that they know, understand and trust."

According to Horwood, these accounts would be capable of receiving both regular contributions and bulk transfers from other sources such as pension or retirement annuity funds. "In this manner the first step in preserving pension benefits can be taken," he said.

The track record of the average worker in SA has not been good when it comes to making provision for old age. According to figures quoted by Horwood, 35% of total pension payments made in SA each year was paid out by the State in the form of old age pensions.

In other Western countries workers who are not adequately provided for in the private sector are forced to join State-run schemes. Such a course of action is, happily, not being contemplated in SA. Says

Horwood: "Government is committed to private enterprise and I would like to believe that the matter can be dealt with satisfactorily in the private sector."

PENSIONS 2 (300)

Index-linked bond

FM 21/5/82

The suggestion that the private sector should take the initiative in launching index-linked debentures was aired by Pierre Steyn, GM of Sanlam, at the annual congress of the Association of Pension and Provident Funds in Durban.

Steyn believes there is a clear need and justification for index-linked securities. In a paper to the congress, he suggested that an innovative merchant bank could seriously consider placing an index-linked debenture on the market for a client, especially for one whose turnover and profits followed inflation fairly closely.

From the point of view of the investor, the creation of index-linked securities for pension funds also had attractions by giving real rates of return during periods of high inflation, he added.

In Johannesburg, merchant bankers said they liked the idea. However, they wondered whether companies would want to borrow in the present climate and whether project finance was not the right type of vehicle for borrowing, rather than equities or securities.

The question of what the securities would be linked to was another problem area — whether it would be the consumer price index or a floating overdraft rate.

It was pointed out that the idea — which was not new — was not approved by Pretoria since it implies an acceptance of inflation. The proposal had met a mixed response in the UK, where gilts have been index-linked for a while, bankers added.

PENSIONS INTENTION 300

Government announces its ~~intention~~ of pressing ahead with its controversial preservation of pensions legislation. But it intends deferring the provision for freezing contributions. FM 21/5/82

State pushing ahead with pensions Bill

BUS. ARGUS 22/5/82 (300)

THE Government is pressing ahead with its plans for legislation for the preservation of pension rights, the Minister of Finance, Mr O P F Horwood, has announced.

He said he had asked the Registrar of Pension Funds to discuss with all interested parties those measures in the Draft Bill on Pension Preservation which need not be deferred and to proceed as soon as possible with the drafting of the necessary amending legislation.

This statement will be welcomed by the life assurance companies and pension funds which in the past few years have been making provisions for pension preservation.

PROTESTED

The Government's original proposals were withdrawn after African workers protested against them on the grounds that pension preservation would deprive them of cash if they were to lose their jobs.

It is presumed that the new legislation will make provision for this.

Mr Horwood said the resistance to the freezing of pension interests was the main reason why the introduction of the draft Bill was postponed.

But there were other measures in the Bill that would improve the pension system.

One was the establishment of special, frozen savings accounts at the post office and registered banks and building societies.

These could play a major role in bringing home, especially to the less sophisticated members of society, the purpose and workings of pension provision.

Experience had shown that after the establishment of a scheme many employers tended to discontinue whatever educational or communication function they might have performed initially.

A recent survey had found that 46 percent of employees had never had their pension scheme or the reason for pension deductions explained to them.

South Africa now has 11 000 pension funds with a membership of about 5-million and assets of about R25-billion. Their assets are rising by about 25 percent a year.

In contrast, at the end of 1958 there were only 2 771 pension funds with a membership of 700 000 and assets of R384-million.

atement of objectives appears very simple, yet if objectives are too broadly, e.g. "keeping academic considerations paramount", ecome little more than truisms of little analytical value.

ademic objective" for example, may be stated as "maximising the unities which students have in selecting a variety of courses" maximising the opportunities which staff may have in co-operating nose with whom they have most in common". The objective selected necessarily influence the structures planned and the spending ons.

. should not be used to set up one objective against another. , given the objective P.P.B.S. should be used to find the best f achieving it. It should present the decision-makers with a f reasonable alternatives.

. can not be used to detect objectives. Objectives must be o the system by the decision-makers, the "planners". But . ought to help us to see how well we are doing on the road achieving the set objectives.

Possible Application of P.P.B.S. Thinking within the Context

ue within the University is the dissatisfaction with the priorities ns of funds for staffing, equipment and space as between Faculties ts. The Faculty of Arts has passed a resolution requesting a investigation of funds alloted for various purposes as between

y Department expressed its open dissatisfaction with the treatment. as received in the Faculty of Science and has tried to form a o in a new "Faculty of the Humanities" glued together with certain n the Faculty of Arts which were invited to "secede".

Within the Faculty of Arts the Social Anthropology Department has come forward with a system of more or less cognate Schools in a re-united Faculty of Arts and Social Science. The School of Economics, on the other hand, has favoured a more fundamental re-orientation of structures to meet stated academic objectives in a long-range University plan.

The Faculty of Science has re-organised itself into Schools which should, presumably, take over some of the functions previously exercised by the Faculty of Science as a body, the Faculty Board becoming something in the nature of

a forum /

.....

Rents and pensions in spiralling economy put aged in jeopardy

E. Post

300

22/5/82

By SALLY KERNOHAN

WAITING lists for accommodation in Port Elizabeth homes for the elderly are now running into the hundreds as spiralling rents take their toll on the purses of pensioners.

Many spry old people have had to sacrifice their independence with reluctance and accept institutional care. But by no means all have the choice.

Many are still having to battle it out on shrinking savings in what remains of the city's cheap accommodation.

The Algoa Bay Council for the Aged has closed its list at Cuylerholme in Western Road.

The Red Cross, which provides housing and institutional care, has waiting lists of 300 names and more.

And lists for other housing complexes for the elderly also run into the hundreds.

All social workers spoken to indicated that the housing plight for the elderly in Port Elizabeth was worsening. The major problem was hefty increases in rents.

"It used to be the norm that working people were expected to spend 25% of their income on housing," said one social worker, "but, in most cases among the elderly, this figure is now more than 50%.

"The basic old age pension is R122 a month. From this, the person has to house, feed and clothe himself and allow for transport and other odds and ends.

"Fortunately, Port Elizabeth is better endowed with housing complexes for the elderly than most other cities in the country," said Mrs A Bolton, senior social worker for the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged.

"But it must be remembered that a lot of pensioners are independent and physically able to help themselves. The thought of institutional care appals them and they prefer to live in flats, boarding houses or lodgings."

However, the choice for these people is fast dwindling.

Rents are increasing all the time and even the limited number of boarding and lodging houses charge R60 a month or more — in some cases with no meals provided.

The only flats now being built are prestige blocks, or blocks to be sold under sectional title. There are now flats available, planned or under construction which pensioners could hope to afford on their very limited budgets.

One elderly woman was paying a rental of R60 a month in a flat in Belmont Terrace — half of her old-age pension.

In March her rent was increased to R100. After discussions, the owner allowed a freeze on her rent until July.

Fortunately, this desperate woman, with the help of the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged, has found accommodation in one of the municipal complexes.

In another case, a person drawing a pension of R129 was paying R100 a month for her flat.

Her rent went up a further R35 and she now faces another 16% increase in October.

She is getting some financial assistance from her family, but this is fast dwindling.

"These two cases clearly illustrate the plight of these people," said Mrs Bolton.

Weekend Post asked social workers what options elderly people had when seeking a roof over their heads.

A little-known fact that emerged was that children of the elderly can actually be forced through the maintenance courts to support their parents.

Called reciprocal duty of support, provision for this measure is contained in the Maintenance Act of 1967.

Elderly parents in need of assistance can apply to the courts for support which can be granted provided the children are in a position to pay.

Other options open to them are:

- Pensioners living in blocks of flats can apply under special circumstances to be protected tenants and exempted from rental increases.
- They can look for accommodation in the limited number of boarding and lodging houses still available in the city — if they can afford the rates.
- They can turn to the various welfare organisations for help in finding accommodation in homes for the elderly or subsidised municipal housing schemes.
- They can move in with their children.

For some, these options are extremely distasteful, but, because of the chronic countrywide housing shortage, many senior citizens have no alternative.

Eviction equals suicide for the lonely old folk

INFLATION STALKING PENSIONERS IN THE CITY WITHOUT A HEART

By DEBRA CLEVELAND

A CENTRAL Johannesburg pensioner who has spent every day of the past two months looking for a new place to live, tried to commit suicide last week.

Experts say a growing number of pensioners are killing themselves because they can't make ends meet.

The elderly woman pensioner, whom friends would not name, is in her early 70s and has a month left to find another home. The block of flats in Bree Street where she now lives is being converted into offices.

She took an overdose of sleeping pills and went to sleep — hoping never to wake up to destitution and the never-ending worry of surviving on R122 a month.

She would have died had a concerned neighbour not found her the next morning — on the brink of death.

Her only hope now is that somebody will find her a home.

Johannesburg City Councillor Molly Kopel has promised to find her somewhere to live — a promise that will be difficult to fulfil because all old-age homes are full, rentals in central Johannesburg have rocketed sky-high and many residential blocks are being converted to offices.

"Her attempted suicide was a direct result of fear of homelessness. She suffers incredible pain from arthritis and she didn't even mention this when speaking of her reasons for taking an overdose," said Mrs Kopel.

"She is terrified of landing up on the streets — and has good reason to be, since she has tramped the streets of Johannesburg going to all the estate agents every single day for the past two months, and has found nothing."

This woman could have become one of the more than 200 Johannesburg pensioners who have died in the past 10 months. Some have died of neglect. Others deaths have been reported briefly in the daily newspapers, saying a pensioner 'fell' from a fourth-floor balcony, or was 'found dead in a gas-filled room — no crime suspected'.

Mr Johnny Cousins, 78, who died in his flat in Raybum Mansions, Kruis Street, threatened suicides, according to Mrs Kopel and Mr Sam Bloomberg of Suicides Anonymous.

Mrs Kopel knows of 224 pensioners living in the central city who have died since the General Election in April last year.

"Hundreds of pensioners are going to have to look for alternative accommodation because their buildings are either being closed down or converted to offices.

"Can you imagine an old person, who can't afford day-to-day living expenses anyway, having to search for a new flat or room — and also pay all the extra costs?" said Mrs Kopel.

● **Molly Kopel ... 'the old folk are terrified'**

"This winter there will be a high number of deaths among pensioners. They cannot manage anymore.

"Most are chronically ill and will no longer be able to get free medical attention because of the change in hospital policy. They suffer from malnutrition because they cannot afford food, and rents are sky-high.

"This winter is going to be a death sentence since none of them can afford the extra heating costs or the other extras."

Mr Bloomberg told the Sunday Express there had been a marked increase in the number of older people committing suicide.

"We are getting several calls a day from pensioners threatening suicide — for a variety of very real reasons: some have been forced out of their homes by increased rents; some are totally incapable of looking after themselves.

"None of them can survive on their ludicrously low pensions.

"There is almost no positive advice we can offer them since the old-age homes are full.

"One hears of pensioner suicides all the time — people drowning in the bath, stopping eating and starving, not bothering to take tablets essential to their health."

Winter is now here. That means higher electricity bills, which most pensioners cannot afford — even if they had the heaters to ward off the cold. It will be a cold — and deadly — time.

● Alone, old and terrified and by next week she might not have a home — the plight of a pensioner in the City of Gold.

JEWELLERS AND GOLDSMITHS UNION

Year	Membership				
	African	Asian and Coloured	White	Total	
1970					
1971					
1972					
1973		98	320	418	*
1974		28	294	322	*
1975		26	305	331	*
1976		21	201	222	*
1977		30	347	377	*
1978				..	
1979				445	$
1980				460	

Fosatu Annual Report 1980/81

Address: 201/4 City Centr
Corporation Stre
Cape Town
8001

hone: (021) 433658

Officials: Secretary: A.

Area of Operation: Wester

Founded: 1939

Registration: Yes

th

Pensions for all—Currie

TWO leading trade unionists have come out against the SA Confederation of Labour's (Sacol) call to reinstate the controversial legislation for the preservation of pension benefits, writes Hugh Poulter.

Recently Sacol president, Brian Currie said an executive committee of the 125 000 strong umbrella union would ask But Tatty Adler, of Fosatu, the huge umbrella union for Black workers, says the union is against legislation enforcing the preservation of pensions benefits, "until the entire pension deal is re-negotiated."

Negotiation

"We believe pension preservations should apply to all race groups," says Currie, who sees no benefit to workers nor taxpayers if pension contributions are paid out "willy nilly".

Currie, who sees no benefit to workers nor taxpayers if pension contributions are paid out "willy nilly".

Dr Anna Scheepers, president of Tucsa says the principal of the legislation was good but there is a complete lack of understanding from the Black worker.

"It is essential that Black workers are given the opportunity of preserving their pensions, but at the same time an education programme for the Blacks should be introduced.

The issue cannot be forced as an adverse reaction could again result," says Dr Scheepers.

Black workers

"Until now pension schemes benefit the skilled and higher paid worker — in other words, the White worker — while Black worker's contributions have bolstered pension funds to the detriment of the Black worker," says Adler.

orders for receiving old-age pensions from the State;

(2) whether the State has decided to amend the relevant regulations; if so, (a) in what circumstances and (b) as from what date will priests and members of religious orders be able to qualify for old-age pensions in future?

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) Yes;

(2) yes;

(a) provision is made so that any person who has voluntary worked without remuneration at any time and who was in consequence thereof unable to provide for his own maintenance after his retirement shall, subject to provisions of the relative pension laws, be entitled to a pension after a period of 5 years have elapsed from the date on which he—

(i) could no longer be employed on account of poor health or any other good reason; or

(ii) has reached the prescribed age of 65 years in the case of men or 60 in the case of women,

whichever date is the earlier.

(b) the regulations will come into operation on 1 October 1982 and any person who then meets the requirements will be eligible for a pension.

Priests/members of religious orders: old-age pension

*6. Mr. C. W. EGLIN asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(1) Whether he has received any representations in regard to amending the regulations relating to the eligibility of priests and members of religious

"Servamus"

*7. Mr. P. J. F. ROUX asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether an article under the heading 'Ver-regse groepe in Suid Afrika' appeared in *Servamus*, the official

Chemical & Chemical Products, Coal, Rubber & Plastic Products

Black Allied Workers Union
Cape Explosives Industrial Workers Union
Chemical and Allied Workers Union
Chemical Workers Industrial Union
Chemical Workers Union
Durban Rubber Industrial Union
Engineering and Allied Workers Union
Engineering Industrial Workers Union of S.A.
Federated Mining, Explosives and Chemical Employees Union
Industrial Salaried Staff Association
General Workers Union
Metal and Allied Workers Union
National Union of Engineering, Industrial & Allied Workers
National Union of Motor Assembly & Rubber Workers of South Africa
S.A. Chemical Workers Union
South African
Steel, Engine
Umbogintwini
Weskaapse Plo

Non-Metallic M

Building, Cons
Glass & Allied
Glass Workers
National Cemen
National Union
Transport & Ge

Base Metal Indu
Machinery and E

Amalgamated Eng
Amalgamated Soc
Black Allied Wo
Electrical and
Electrical and
Engineering and
Engineering Indu
General Workers
General Workers
Iron Moulders Sc
Metal and Allied
Motor Assembly C
Motor Industry E
Motor Industry C
Motor Industry St
National Union of
National Union of
Radio Television,
S.A. Boilermakers,
S.A. Electrical Wo
S.A. Iron, Steel a
S.A. Tin Workers U
South African Alli
Steel, Engineering
Transvaal, Radio,
United African Moto

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and Welders

workers union

Municipal Reporter

A PLAN which could lead to thousands of rands becoming available to try to solve the housing crisis for Cape Town's senior citizens will be debated by the City Council at its monthly meeting tomorrow.

A motion by a councillor, Mr E S A Merrington, asks the council to investigate the feasibility of setting up a fund to build accommodation for the elderly by way of a one percent levy on all rates.

In 1981 the council's rate income was R68,5-million.

In an interview last night Mr Merrington said he had been motivated by the tremendous problem of housing for the elderly.

CRISIS

"I believe it is a crisis situation. We hear that the Government must do something. But I believe in self-help and getting all the allies you can," he said.

Mr Merrington said the council would also have to go into the legislative changes necessary, but he foresaw the funds being administered on a similar basis to the Shelter scheme in Cape Town.

"Who knows, maybe we could persuade the

●

The emergency telephone numbers for the ambulance, police, hospital, poisoning cases, sea rescue, fire brigade, electricity, water and other services in Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula are listed on page two, three and four of the new Cape Peninsula Telephone Directory.

State to come in on a rand-for-rand basis. It is, I believe, an exciting concept with exciting possibilities," he added.

Municipal Reporter

CAPE TOWN'S Ambulance and Rescue Service (CARS), formerly the Cape Peninsula Local Authorities' Ambulance Service, has two additional telephone numbers for emergency use. The new numbers are 51-5152 and 51-5153.

The old numbers, 51-5151 and 65-3931 are also still available. All four numbers are for emergency use only when an ambulance or a rescue team or both are necessary.

Emergency telephones

Homes for elderly — levy on rates plan

METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

Year	Membership				
	African	Asian and Coloured	White	Total	
1970					
1971					
1972					
1973					
1974	3 900			3 900	+
1975	3 900			3 900	x
1976	6 700			6 700	x
1977	7 000			7 000	x
1978				..	
1979				..	
1980				8 400	Fosatu Annual Report Nov. 1980/81

Address: 1 Central Court
125 Gale Street
Durban
4001

Telephone: (031) 69215

Officials: Sec

Area of Opera

Founded: 19

Registration:

Recognition:

Membership: 1

McKennon Chairs
Alusaf
Vosa
Craft Engineering
Selchain
Stone Street & Hansen
Barlows

Priests to get state pensions

Came 7th 27/5/82

Political Correspondent

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
— Priests and members of religious orders who have taken a vow of poverty are to qualify for old-age pensions for the first time.

They will, however, have to wait five years longer than laymen before being able to draw state pensions.

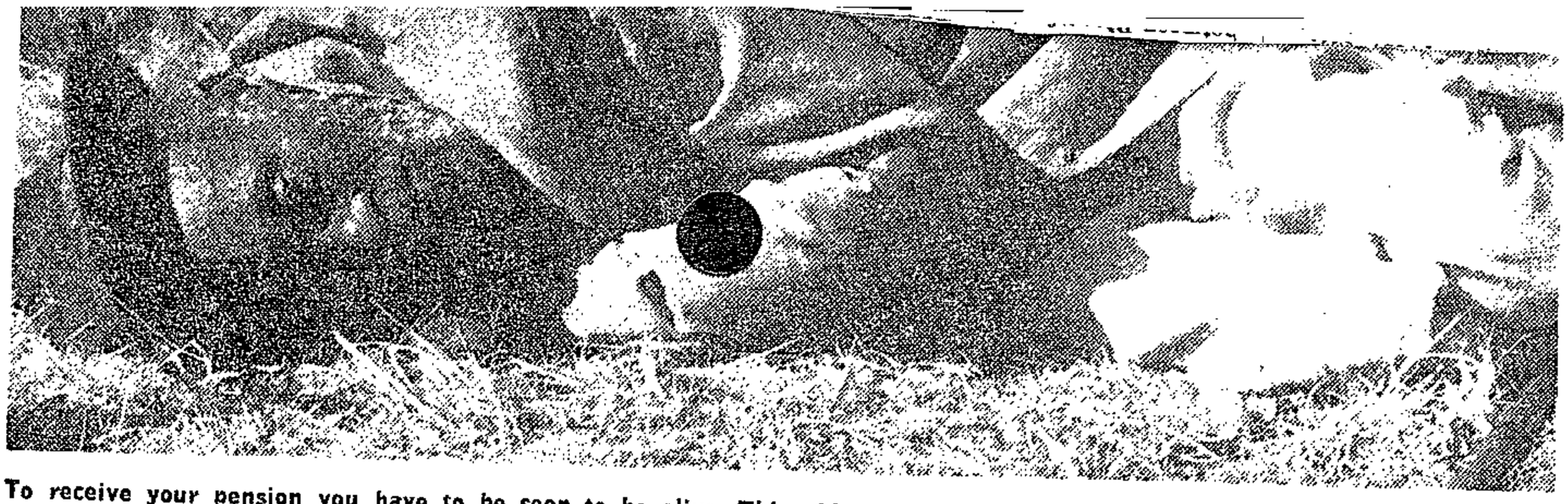
The new regulations, which will affect Roman Catholic priests, brothers and sisters particularly, were announced yesterday by the Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr L A P A Munnik.

Dr Munnik said in reply to a question from Mr Colin Eglin (PFP Sea Point), that they would come into effect from October 1 this year.

Dr Munnik said yesterday that people who had worked voluntarily without remuneration at any time, and had therefore been unable to provide for their own retirement, would now be entitled to state pensions.

The pensions will, however, only be paid from five years after the person became unemployable due to ill-health or other good reasons, or five years after he or she reached the prescribed pensionable age of 65 years for men and 60 years for women.

Mr Eglin said afterwards that the decision was the culmination of 18 months of continuous representations to the government.



To receive your pension you have to be seen to be alive. This old man had left hospital the day before the pension pay-out at Mofolo, Soweto. He had not yet recovered his health and could not stand any longer in the endless queues.

Kind hearts can dispel this nightmare

300
Star
27/5/82

From page 1

covered offal, dresses, brooms, mounds of vivid oranges, vetkoeks, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, bundles of thatch.

Some pensioners perch wearily on paraffin tins they have brought from their homes. Others have lugged dining-room chairs.

The police van comes riding into the square, bringing the money. A truck delivers tables for the pay-out. The lines move forward.

Care and practical help in the form of tea, soup and bread are, thank heaven, at hand.

PERSONAL CARING

It is called, in Sesotho, Paballo ya Batsofe (Ministry for the Aged). "Paballo" means a very personal, deep kind of caring, a love which identifies both him who gives it and him who receives it. A kind of spiritual love. All whom it touches are deeply aware of it.

Mrs Anne Evans — the pensioners call her Thandi, "The one who is loved" — wife of Canon W R Evans of the Anglican Church, started the paballo which is now present at every pension pay-out day.

Paballo filled a tremendous gap with such force that it has, in a few months, evolved into a united Christian ministry.

Nearly every mainline church in Soweto is involved — the Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Salvation Army, Presbyterians, Methodists, Toc H and an ecumenical prayer group called "The Family of God."

"The situation as a whole, the lack of facilities, is ungodly. It simply has to be improved. It is a festering sore," says Mrs Evans.

She longs for carport-type shelters and seats, for volunteer transport for the disabled to the pay-out points and to take the frail home so they won't be mugged.

Of the pensioners she says: "Their generation is a special breed. They have strength and independence."

● See Page 4.

Mrs Anne Evans, wife of Canon W R Evans of the Anglican Church, helps the old pensioner into a sitting position.

● Pictures by Gisele Wulfsohn.

The least they need is someone they can trust

Paballo ya Batsofe, the Ministry for the Aged, desperately needs volunteers at the pension pay-out centres in the black areas to transport the frail, to help provide food and serve it, to make soup and help the aged cope with many different kinds of problems.

The pensioners could have their pensions paid by power of attorney to someone else, but many of them have no one to trust.

The call for blankets is unceasing. At least 23 000 are needed so that each pensioner can have one for the winter.

Kind (300) souls can dispel nightmare

Time to CARE for the aged

Star 27/5/82

By Olga Horowitz

If pension pay-out day at the Jeppestown Post Office is depressing, the black pension pay-out points in Soweto are a nightmare. A nightmare set in a fairground.

A kaleidoscope of horror, with hawkers selling their wares, officials sitting under coloured umbrellas — and interminable queues of the very old and the disabled.

Soweto has 23 000 black pensioners. Each is paid a pension every two months — R49 a month, R98 for the two months — if the recipient has not more than R29 additional income.

I went to Mofolo, with only 1 600 pensioners one of the smaller operations and the last of this series.

The situation is an agony.

INCREDIBLY PATIENT

The lines of pensioners sway like bewildered flocks of sheep, incredibly patient in all weathers — blistering heat, foul, dusty wind, freezing cold and, on one epic snowy day last September, a blizzard which swept the frail from their feet. In summer there are frequent cases of heat exhaustion.

First you queue to get a card. Then another queue to have your thumbprint put on the card. Then the final queue.

You present the card and your book and the money is pushed through a slit in a security van protected with wire mesh.

Like justice, the pensioner must "manifestly and undoubtedly" be seen. This creates terrible circumstances.

A grizzled man lies on the ground waiting his turn. He was discharged from hospital yesterday. The maimed, the deaf, the blind are everywhere. There are a lot of children brought by grandparents. They could not be left at home on their own. Others are kept from school to lead the aged.

The hawkers, creating an infernal din, compound the confusion for the aged. They sell live, squawking poultry, dead chickens, fly-

To Page 3, Col 4

'Crisis' in housing for elderly

CAPE TIMES (Late) 28/5/82 300

Staff Reporter

A PLEA was made in the City Council yesterday for the executive committee to investigate a one percent levy on rates to finance housing for the aged.

Mr Eric Merrington said there was a "crisis" in the City as far as housing for senior citizens was concerned. The levy would raise R750 000 which could be used to alleviate the situation.

Supporting him, Mr N Osburn said the amount raised would be small compared to the need but it would be a "symbolic gesture" which could encourage other bodies to follow suit.

The levy would cost ratepayers about R7 a year which most people would "hardly notice", she said.

The council voted that the executive committee investigate the feasibility of such a levy.

28/5/82

(500)

ses, and also for the aged. In March 1981, the council adopted a policy of allowing granny flats to be built. This required proposing an amendment to the by-law.

The granny "flat" has to be built in such a way that it is part of the main house under the same roof. At a later stage it can then be reconverted into part of the house. We have had several applications to do this, but are still waiting for approval from the Administrator.

The Randburg Municipality does not have a vast amount of open land to donate for old aged homes. There are, however, several areas where the council has donated land and dwelling units have been built.

The theme of this year's mayor of Randburg, Miss Izelle Swart, is the Year of the Aged and we will do all that is possible to help." — Mr Ian Mackay, Assistant Chief Town Planner of Randburg.

SANDTON: "We do not take formal steps as a municipality as such, but have built some 2 000 housing units during the last couple of years. We do encourage the development of townships but not sub-economic developments.

We have donated a piece of land for a village for the aged consisting of 34 simplex townhouses.

The picture for first time buyers in our area is very attractive if they have a lot of money." — Mr B Bristow, Director of Urban Planning of Sandton.

housing schemes which have been successfully completed recently, quite a few of which are for senior citizens.

There is the village at Kruinhof where we have developed 82 independent units and 521 sub-economic and economic units at Klopper Park. The problem is that there is nothing available at the moment. There are hundreds of people on waiting lists for all these developments." — Mr A M L Klopper, Chairman of the Housing Committee for Germiston.

ROODEPOORT: "We have plenty of vacant erven and are encouraging sub-economic developments. Recently we bought land for homes for the aged which are being built by various welfare organisations.

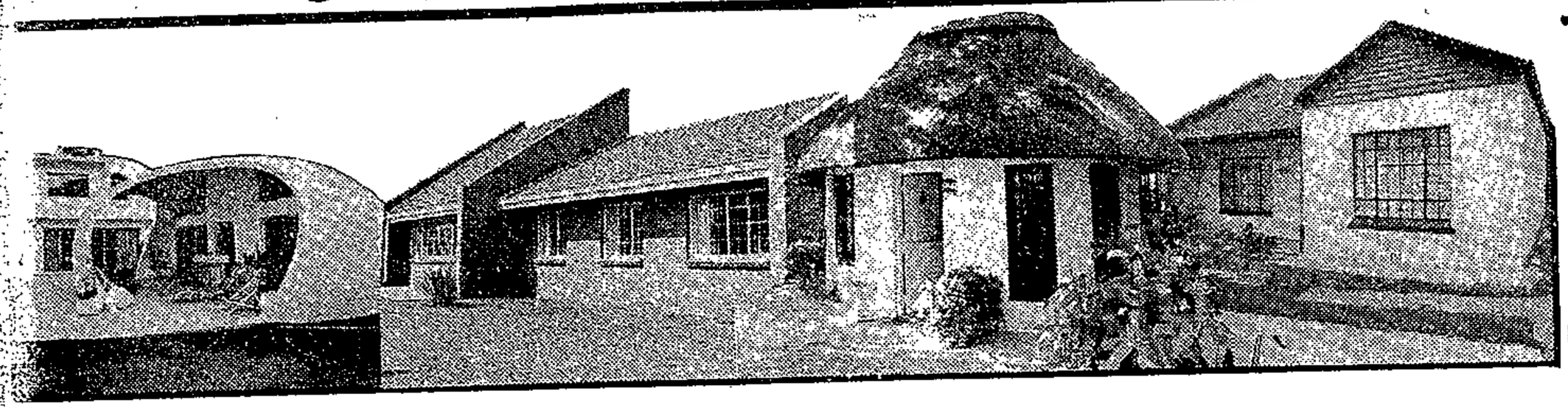
We are also buying blocks of flats which we are then letting out to people who work for the municipality" — Mr J Shaw, City Engineer of Roodepoort.

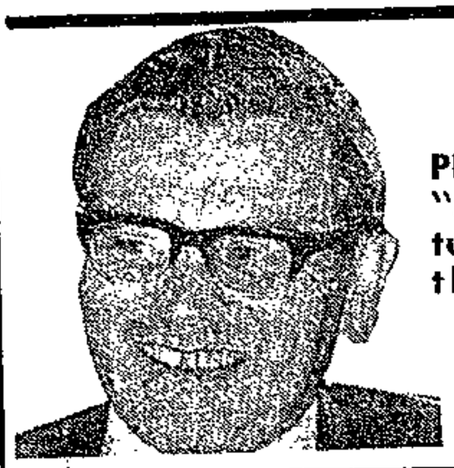
"The municipality has completed a development recently in Florida Extension 10 where there are units available for people who earn R650 a month or less. This development is one of townhouses with four or five units attached. We obtain our funds from the National Housing Commission and it is this that gauges how many developments we build or finance.

We are conscious of the problem people are having obtaining accommodation and we are trying to do something for the people in our area." — Mr W Lourens, Assistant City Secretary for Roodepoort.

The Star Friday May 28 1982

Summing up the property predicament





PIETER REINECKE . . . "Johannesburg's future housing lies in the southern suburbs."

Municipalities claim to do their bit

Lower income earners are being hit hardest by the housing shortage. Town and city councils throughout the Transvaal are aware of this problem and all are concerned. Sub-economic developments and dwelling units for pensioners are some of the ways they are trying to ease the situation. WENDY ROBERTSON spoke to town planning departments from five municipalities.

Lack of funds and cheap accommodation are problems facing many people at the moment, and the authorities do not see an immediate light at the end of the tunnel. What can these people expect from their municipalities and what is already being done?

JOHANNESBURG: "We are very concerned about our aged people. Councillors are continuously pressing for housing in their areas. We have a housing department which takes it upon itself to assist those who cannot help themselves to find somewhere to live. This affects pensioners in particular.

We have built a number of successful housing schemes for the aged, but do not build old aged homes as such. That is the task of various welfare organisations. They secure a loan from the Department of Community Development and the council guarantees the loan.

We also intend to buy old blocks of flats in areas like Jeppe and Hillbrow to house the aged particularly.

The future of housing in Johannesburg lies in the southern suburbs, especially for first time buyers." — Mr Peter Reinecke, Director of Town Planning for Johannesburg.

RANDBURG: "In Randburg we appreciate that there is a crisis for young married couples who can[illegible] to buy hou[illegible]

GERMISTON: "The crux of the matter is that no municipality is able to finance any development entirely on its own. Each is dependent on funds from theDepartment of Community Development.

The department has already told us that there is no money available this year. However, a condition laid down by the department is that as a council we must concentrate on sub-economic developments, which we have done.

More development depends on whether or not we can procure funds.

"There [illegible]

STATISTICS ON BUILDING PLANS IN THE CITY OF ROODEPOORT

Other	
Diamond Cu	
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Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union
East London Liquor & Catering Trades Employees Union

Other

Diamond … South Africa
Jewelle … Union
Optical …
S.A. As … Mechanicians
S.A. Di …

ELECTRI…

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CONSTRUC…

Amalgama… workers
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WHOLESALE

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Mr Kerrigan hopes that the UN assembly to be held in July in Vienna will draw international attention to the problems of ageing and prompt world-wide efforts to improve the lot of the elderly.

The conference will prepare an "international action plan."

Governments had to be made aware that compulsory retirement, once considered a major social achievement, was not good for old people, Mr Kerrigan said.

"To deny the aged a chance to participate in society can amount to discrimination of the worst kind.

"Retirement policies should be based on the ability and wish of an older person to work — not on their chronological age." — Sapa-Reuter.

ACTION PLAN

"There will be twice as many grandparents as babies in 40 years time.

"They can't simply be put out to pasture or dumped in rocking chairs — that's another way of sentencing them to death."

"This is the age of ageing," he said. "A unique demographic shift is taking place as more people live into their 60s than ever before."

The UN predicts life expectancy will rise to 70 years by 2025, pushing the number of over-60s beyond the billion mark, compared to 350-million in 1975.

"Also, one should not

"First, one ought to eat a good breakfast every day. That helps your metabolism. Then it seems to be far better to take alcohol in moderation than it is to take none at all.

By following certain commonsense rules, people could do themselves far more good than medical science could do.

METABOLISM

"You can't stop the biological time-clock. But you can add any number of years by doing things that are good for you," said Mr William Kerrigan, Secretary-General of a forthcoming UN assembly on ageing.

And as people live longer and healthier lives, they should not be forced to retire at an ever younger age, he said in an interview.

VIENNA. — A good breakfast, sex and moderate drinking are the keys to a happy old age, according to a United States expert.

Recipe for happy aged: Sex and drink

Akeus 31/5/82

38c

Former student leader withdraws damages action

Court Reporter

A FORMER student leader, Mr Bonisile Matthews Mbikanye, today withdrew his civil damages action against the Minister of Police.

The case, which started in the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court last week, arose from an alleged assault on Mr Mbikanye by members of the security police on May 20, 1980.

Mr Mbikanye calimed R7 000 damages, which he said arose from injuries he suffered in the alleged assault.

He called Dr J Moodliar to testify about the injuries he found when he examined him on May 4, 1980. Mr Mbikanye then testified himself.

While his next witness, Mr Mlandi Stemele — who was arrested with him during the schools boycott — was being cross-examined, Mr Mbikanye decided to withdraw his claim.

The court noted his withdrawal and made no order as to costs.

Mr Justice Zietsman was on the Bench. Mr H J Van der Linde (instructed by Herbert Fischat and Associates) appeared for Mr Mbikanye. Mr P J De Bruin (instructed by the Deputy State Attorney) appeared for the Minister.

rgent need to expand feeding scheme

Soweto need is 'endless'

By Olga Horowitz

So many aged pensioners in Soweto need urgent help that the extent of their plight can hardly be visualised.

The need is nearly endless, says a spokesman for the Methodist Food Relief Scheme, which regularly feeds 600 pensioners in Soweto and delivers 1 000 food parcels a month there.

The scheme plans to set up a service centre with a large hall which will act as a meeting place for pensioners on pay-out days.

The scheme's organiser, Mr John Rees, said a veranda would encircle the building and it was hoped to incorporate a pay-out point not exposed to the heat, dust or freezing cold in which pensioners had to queue.

The organisers of the scheme are deeply concerned about the plight of the pensioners and hope the service centre will provide some urgent relief.

"Our awareness of these conditions caused us to launch the food relief scheme so that at least we could alleviate one area of great concern. So many pensioners were eating only once in every two days," Mr Rees said.

"In its care for the aged project The Star has highlighted one of the most distressing areas of need in Johannesburg. "We have been heartened by the response. Already we have received and distributed more than 5 000 warm garments among pensioners and have received for our meals on wheels kitchen huge quantities of vegetables, meat and meal.

"In addition 30 people have pledged themselves to deliver monthly food parcels worth R12 each. I would like to thank an anonymous donor who sent R2 000 for meals on wheels.

"The current cost of our meals on wheels in Soweto is R4 000 a month. The kitchen could produce 1 000 meals a day if enough money was available. The meals are well balanced and nutritious and the helpings generous.

"We charge 10c a meal. This helps the pensioners to retain their dignity. The people gather at churches for distribution of the meals. The disabled and infirm are given an identification card and so can send others to fetch their meals."

Time to CARE for the aged

aged stand in seemingly endless queues at the pension pay-out point but a cup of soup from the ministry to the aged brings a little relief.

Every year the Methodist Food Relief Scheme gives a blanket to every recipient of parcels and meals. This winter 2 000 blankets have already been distributed. A touching aspect of this is that in many old age homes in Johannesburg white social pensioners are crocheting blankets for pensioners in Soweto.

Every penny, every scrap of food and all clothing are swallowed up the moment they are received. The scheme, including the proposed new service centre, is open to all denominations.

● Donations can be sent to: The Methodist Food Relief Scheme, PO Box 261373 Excom, 2023. Deliveries can be made to the Methodist central church, on the corner of Kruis and Pritchard streets, Johannesburg.

METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

Year	Membership				
	African	Asian and Coloured	White	Total	
1970					
1971					
1972					
1973					
1974	3 900			3 900	+
1975	3 900			3 900	*
1976	6 700			6 700	*
1977	7 000			7 000	*
1978				..	
197				..	
19				8 400	Fosatu Annual Report Nov. 1980/81

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Workers 'quoted Horwood's address

Mercury Reporter

ABOUT 800 workers from Romatex group's Van Dyck Carpet factory at Reunion downed tools yesterday in support of their demand for the immediate refund of their pension money.

Workers on Wednesday raised their demand and many of them stopped work but yesterday morning they were joined by almost the entire workforce.

Van Dyck management felt that the issue had been sparked off by the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood's address at the annual meeting of the Association of Pension and Provident Funds in Durban recently where he told delegates that plans for pension fund legislation had not been dropped.

'Workers had quoted Mr Horwood's address which had been reported in a/local black newspaper,' a spokesman said.

The Pension Preservation Bill had been proposed last year but following a wave of pension strikes countrywide and appeals from organised commerce and industry for the Bill to be shelved, the Government dropped the Bill.

Workers yesterday told the Mercury: 'We are afraid that the Government will take away our money and then only give it to us bit by bit when we are 65 years old.'

'We would rather we had the money to put in the bank so that we can get the interest,' workers added.

Worker representatives and the branch secretary of the South African Allied Workers' Union (Saawu), Mr Isaac Ngcobo spoke to management about the workers' grievances.

They later addressed workers telling them that a meeting had been arranged for June 17 to discuss the pension issue. But, they said, workers must return to work by today.

The management spokesman confirmed that a meeting of the entire group had been arranged for June 17 but this had been done before the present stoppage.

their positions a... range to meet with VW management to discuss the issue.

VW's manager of public affairs, Mr approach for a meeting to discuss Mr had yet been made by the union.

VW experienced several work sto after 316 workers were retrenched.

nnon Chairs
af
t Engineering
hain
e Street & Hansen
ows

Cuylerholme residents are responsible for the organisation of their own breakfasts and evening meals. Busy with supper in one of the service kitchens are brothers KEITH and MATTHEW FOSTER. Keith is doing the cooking while Matthew waits his turn.

LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

● The Port Elizabeth Ladies' Benevolent Society runs the centrally-situated **Sanctuary Cottages** between Westbourne and Cape Roads.

This complex consists of 40 unserviced and unfurnished double and single cottage units, each of which is equipped with a fridge and stove.

Admission is subject to the applicants being able to care for themselves. They must have lived in Port Elizabeth for at least five years.

The reasonable rentals, which cover electricity and water, are determined by a means test based on the old age pension.

Individuals with the greatest need for this type of accommodation and those without the benefit of supportive family ties are given preference.

●

● The seven-bed **Jubilee Cottage** accommodates, on a full-board basis, those Sanctuary residents who have become frail and unable to manage on their own.

PE EX-SERVICEMEN'S HOUSING:

● Port Elizabeth Ex-Servicemen's Housing (not for gain) is controlled by a board of ex-servicemen directors, who are responsible for the administration of the **Almaza housing scheme** in Union Road, Walmer.

A complex of 16 unserviced cottage units, each comprising a lounge, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom, provide accommodation for ex-servicemen pensioners at sub-economic rentals which include water charges.

The grounds are maintained by the organisation, although the residents are encouraged to tend their own individual garden areas, should they desire to do so.

The residents of this library, TV and hairdressing facilities, as well as social activities.

Application is open to folk over 60 years of age who are able to care for themselves.

Residents with so-called economic means, pay a graduated rental for this accommodation while those with sub-economic incomes pay less.

PE MUNICIPALITY:

● **The Port Elizabeth Municipal Housing Department administers five housing schemes for the white aged in Port Elizabeth.**

They are the **Adcock** and **Van der Vyver** complexes in Kensington which consist of 75 units ranging from one to three rooms; the **Adolph Schauder complex** in Steytler Township which offers 26 self-contained one-bedroomed cottages; the **Louis Dubb complex** in Kabega Park which has 227 units ranging from bedsitters with kitchens to self-contained cottages; and the **Buffelsfontein complex** in Walmer which has 306 units also ranging in size from bedsitters to cottages.

●

These complexes are essentially housing schemes as opposed to homes for the aged, and do not offer full-care facilities or meals.

The rooms are neither furnished nor serviced and this type of accommodation is obviously most suitable for people who are still able to care for themselves.

Each complex has a community centre and among the many facilities offered are regular clinics, tuckshops, libraries, opportunities to participate in indoor and outdoor recreational and social activities, bus services to and from the complexes, mobile post-office visits and church services.

The large centres have hairdressing salons and a putting green is planned for the Buffelsfontein complex.

Resident custodians, who act in a supervisory capacity, visit tenants regularly to hear any problems.

Rentals are determined by the type and size of dependent family unit.

●

● **Three Port Elizabeth municipal housing schemes for coloured old folk are administered in the Korsten area.**

The **Adcock home** has 70 units comprising single and double rooms with communal bathrooms; the **Elizabeth Stuurman home** has 170 similar units; while the **Allan Hendrickse complex** offers 13 two-roomed units with communal bathrooms.

This complex has been designed to integrate accommodation for the aged with other municipal housing projects for the benefit of families generally.

Another municipal scheme for coloureds is the **Bethelsdorp home** which has 170 units — again large and small rooms with communal bathrooms.

All these complexes have fully furnished and equipped community centres with TV sets, where regular social activities take place.

The establishment of clinic facilities is being planned.

As in the white municipal housing schemes, furnishing and servicing of the units is the responsibility of the tenants and no sickbay facilities or meals are provided.

There are resident custodians attached to each complex.

UITENHAGE MUNICIPALITY:

● The Uitenhage Municipality maintains the **Nic Claassen cottage scheme** for the white aged.

There are 30 detached cottages, each with lounge, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom, the rentals of which are set according to the income of the tenants, who must be pensioners and able to care for themselves.

An extension of this housing scheme is being planned.

● The **Thomas Gamble pensioners' scheme** in Uitenhage provides coloured municipal housing in the form of 40 two-roomed semi-detached units with outside taps and toilet facilities.

4/6/82

300

4/6/82

Taking a stroll in Sanctuary Close is this cheerful group of women, all of whom are residents of the Sanctuary Cottages complex, one of the housing schemes for senior citizens in Port Elizabeth.

Homes for the Aged — Part 4

housing scheme are essentially people who can care for themselves.

ALGOA BAY COUNCIL FOR THE AGED:

● **Cuylerholme**, in Western Road, is run by the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged, and offers furnished and serviced single and double rooms for 50 residents.

Bathrooms are shared and there are a number of service kitchens where the residents can prepare their own meals.

The residents all belong to the Cuylerholme Service Centre which provides lunches [illegible]

accommodation as well as the income of the tenant.

● In cases where an elderly couple, or an elderly person with a dependant, is unable to secure accommodation in one of these municipal schemes, they might be considered for tenancy of one-bedroomed accommodation in one of the four **municipal blocks of flats** situated in Forest Hill, Sydenham, Kensington and Kabega Park.

These flats were not designed to accommodate the aged specifically and would only suit a fully in-

Posing among their flowers and plants at the Louis Dubb municipal housing complex in Kabega Park, Port Elizabeth, are green-fingered Mrs LEONORE MORRIS (left) and Mrs ANN VENTER.

Members of the broom brigade at the Elizabeth Stuurman Home, a municipal scheme for coloured old folk in Port Elizabeth, are (from the left) Mrs DORA PRINSLOO, Miss GLADYS JOHNSON and Mrs BERTHA JOHNSON.

The value of useful activities is stressed at the Gelvan Park Old Age Home. Mr JANNIE ERASMUS (left) is a dab hand at macramé work, for instance, and some of his output has been sold to shops. Here he makes a bag, with the help of Mr GEORGE ROACH.

State pensioners.

Members of the Indian community are also eligible.

While admission selection favours the frail aged, applications from people who are still able to care for themselves are also considered.

Psycho-geriatric patients are catered for, too.

● In view of the tremendous need for this type of full-care accommodation, the Port Elizabeth Association for the Aged has decided to build another home for frail coloured old folk and is presently negotiating with the City Council for the construction of a home in the Bethelsdorp area.

Apart from those white housing schemes already mentioned, there are a number of others, both privately and municipally controlled. They are described below:

MOTHS:

● The Moth Ex-Servicemen's Cottage Association administers a 29-cottage housing scheme in Main Road, Walmer.

Each cottage comprises a lounge, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom and has its own little garden.

The residents are responsible for servicing their cottages and maintaining their gardens.

The rental for these cottages is R45 a month, which includes electricity and water.

There are no sickbay facilities and the residents and their families are made aware of the fact that alternative accommodation will have to be found should they become chronically sick or unable to care for themselves.

There is a community centre in which film shows, card games and other social activities are held.

In order to be considered for tenancy of one of these cottages, the applicants must be members of the Moth or Mothwa associations, ex-servicemen, at least 60 years of age and have a genuine financial need for this type of accommodation.

6/6/82

4/6/82 (300)

All they want is a roof over their heads

Complexes cater for coloureds

Playing dominoes is a popular pastime for male residents of the Gelvan Park Frail Aged Home in Port Elizabeth. Enjoying a game here are (from the left) Mr WILLIAM JOSEPHS, Mr GIEM PECK, Mr DIRK PRINCE and Mr DAVID LIBERTY.

An in-depth survey by VAL BOTHA

THE Gelvan Pa Frail Aged Hom which was opened 1979, is the only fu care institution acco modating frail c oured senior citizens the Eastern Cape. It administered by t Port Elizabeth Asso ation for the Aged, registered welfa organisation.

One hundred reside are housed in doub rooms, four bedrooms a a large sickbay ar which is manned by professional nursing st and nursing assistants.

The accommodation bright and cheerful a includes a large loun which is the venue for t handcraft sessions a other therapeutic pr grammes organised the full-time soci worker.

The home has its ov chapel in which inte denominational servic are held.

The enclosed garde besides being visual pleasing, provide a sour of activity for green-fi gered residents.

The residents, who pa 80% of their pensions f the full-care accommod tion, are drawn from a

'Dead' gran demands her pension

300
C. Herald
5/6/82

TWO weeks ago Mr Dennis Schroeder of Lentegeur went to the Cape Town General Post Office to collect his 100-year-old grandmother's State pension of R71 and was told that he could not get it — because she had been "presumed dead."

His grandmother, Mrs Magdalena Schroeder and her family were among the last people to be kicked out of Bloemhof Flats in District Six last year.

Mr Schroeder, a qualified litho printer, gave up his job to look after the woman who had reared him after the death of his mother at an early age.

"Every month I go to collect my grandmother's pension at the Post Office in Cape Town, but this time they told me that her card had been sent to Pretoria because it was thought she was dead.

"I can't understand how they could have thought that. I certainly didn't send them any certificate to say that my grandmother was dead.

INVESTIGATORS

"The people at the Post Office sent me to the Department of Internal Affairs in Wynberg where I was told that they would have to send their investigators to check if my grandmother was alive before arranging for her pension to be reinstated.

"That was two weeks ago and they haven't been yet.

"They said that once it is confirmed that she is still alive, it might take up to three months before she got anything.

"This all comes as a big blow to us. My brother, Reginald, who is an epileptic, receives a disability grant and I have some money saved up, but there's a limit to that.

"That R71 could have paid for the month's rent and electricity."

Mr Schroeder said that he felt he could not work at the moment because his brother and grandmother needed looking after.

"When we lived in Cape Town I could ask the neighbours to pop into our flat now and then to check if everything was OK, but here in Lentegeur we hardly know the people.

"We've been waiting eight months for a telephone too."

Mrs Schroeder, who will celebrate her 101st birthday on November 8 this year, is very sickly and is paid a monthly visit by the minister of St Paul's Church in Bree Street, where she was married 80 years ago.

Horwood pension talk stirs up Natal workers

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Correspondent

FRESH worker pension unrest, sparked by a speech by the Minister of Finance Mr Owen Horwood, threatens several Natal industries — and Natal unionists and employers fear the unrest could escalate if the speech is not clarified.

Workers interpreted reports of the speech to mean the Government was planning to reintroduce a law — dropped last year — to "freeze" their pension contributions.

It appears, however, that although new pension legislation is planned — perhaps in 1983 — the "freezing" provision is not in the pipeline.

Concern about the speech led to a strike on Thursday by about 800 workers at Romatex subsidiary Van Dyck carpets, where workers demanded the refund of their pension money.

The Rand Daily Mail's Durban correspondent reports that strikers agreed to return on Monday, but have warned of further unrest if the issue is not settled by June 17.

Natal sources also report threatened unrest at two paper mills and several textile plants. They say plants organised by Fosatu's National Union of Textile Workers are not affected as NUTW has negotiated the withdrawal of workers' pension contributions at its plants.

And yesterday a Federated Chamber of Industries source said there was mounting concern among Natal employers about fresh unrest and said the FCI was likely to issue a clarifying statement in an attempt to allay worker fears.

It is understood that some Natal employers are unhappy with Mr Horwood's speech and believe it has harmed labour relations.

The speech was made to a pension industry meeting in Durban last month.

In it Mr Horwood said he had instructed the Registrar of Financial Institutions to discuss measures in last year's Bill "which need not be deferred" and to draft legislation "as soon as possible'.

He mentioned specifically plans to introduce special frozen savings accounts at post offices, banks and building societies for workers who wanted to make use of them.

Informed sources insist the speech ruled out reintroducing compulsory "freezing". The idea of the special accounts is, they say, to allow workers to opt for building up a pension in a "frozen" account if they wish.

Address: 1 Central Court
125 Gale Street
Durban
4001

Telephone: (031) 69215

Year	Membership			
	African	Asian and Coloured	White	Total
1970				
1971				
1972				
1973				
1974	3 900			3 900 +
1975	3 900			3 900 *
1976	6 700			6 700 *
1977	7 000			7 000 *
1978				..
1979				..
1980				8 400

Fosatu Annual Report Nov.

D. Dispatch

Registrar: no plans to freeze pensions

300

10/6/82

JOHANNESBURG — The Registrar of Financial Institutions, Mr Naas van Staden, has given a categorical assurance that the government is not planning a law which would "freeze" workers' pension money.

"No legislation is contemplated which will interfere with the right of any worker who is a member of a pension fund to withdraw his money when he leaves a job," Mr Van Staden said.

"I cannot make it more categorical than that — we are amazed at speculation that we are planning to reintroduce such a law," he added.

Last year, a Pensions Bill which proposed the "freezing" of employees' pension contributions was dropped after nation-wide strikes by black workers.

Mr Van Staden was reacting to reports of a sharp increase in labour unrest and threatened strike action by Natal black workers on the pension issue.

The workers have been reacting to a speech made by the Minister of Finance, Mr Horwood, to a meeting of the pension industry in Durban last month.

Mr Horwood said then that he had given instructions for fresh pension legislation, incorporating some of the provisions of the Pensions Bill which was dropped last year, to be drawn up.

But he implied that the government was not planning to reintroduce the "freezing" clause.

Workers know little of pensions, says study

Cape Times 10/6/82 (300 Word)

Staff Reporter

BLACK workers are badly informed about their pension rights, according to a Human Sciences Research Council investigation.

Mr Kobus Slabbert, of the council's Institute for Manpower Research, conducted a study into attitudes to pension schemes among black workers in New Brighton and Zwide townships in Port Elizabeth.

He found that the workers were badly informed about the safeguarding of their pension contributions and knew little about the procedure of paying pensions.

The study was based on a suspicion that a number of strikes last year were caused by a misunderstanding of the controversial Preservation of Pensions Interest Bill. The bill was scrapped.

There are also reports of a fresh wave of worker unrest over pensions in Natal following a speech by the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, in which he said the Registrar of Financial Institutions had been instructed to draft new pensions legislation "as soon as possible".

According to the study — which excluded contract workers and unemployed people — the majority of workers interviewed (83 percent) had pension contributions deducted from their wages.

Of these, 45,7 percent said their deductions had never been explained to them, though most (78 percent) understood what was involved.

However, one out of five was not sure whether he would receive an amount of money every month after his retirement and almost 40 percent were not sure they would get their contributions back if they resigned.

Many thought that if they died before their retirement their dependants would not benefit from the fund.

According to Mr Slabbert this was an "alarming" state of affairs, if one considered that the test group had a relatively high standard of education and the majority did skilled or semi-skilled work.

Summing up, he said: "The investigation stresses once again how important it is that workers as a group should be properly informed about all aspects of remuneration, deductions of money and conditions of service."

CAPE TIMES 11/6/80

Home for SAR pensioners

300 270

Staff Reporter

AN old age home to house 285 white Railways pensioners will be built in Parow North. It will cost the Department of Community Development more than R4-million.

The Minister of Transport, Mr Pen Kotze, told a meeting of the Parow City Council yesterday that his department would give an initial R2 856 000 for the complex to be built on a seven-hectare open lot between the Paarl National Road and Sonnendal. Parow falls in his constituency.

The Mayor of Parow, Mr Jan Burger, who is also the chairman of the Western Cape Region of the South African Railways Association for the Care of the Aged, said yesterday that the building plans for the project had been drawn.

"The minister gave us the go ahead to get tenders. Building will probably start before the end of the year."

(300) Hansard Q. Col. 1043 – 1044 11/6/82

Assegai, Austerville

734. Mr. P. H. P. GASTROW asked the Minister of Community Development:

(1) Whether his Department intends to sell a portion of Assegai, Austerville, to permit of the construction of an old-age home; if so, (a) to whom, (b) when, (c) at what price is it to be sold, (d) how many existing houses will have to be demolished and (e) how many families will be affected;

(2) whether his Department has investigated the possibility of selling vacant land in the vicinity of Austerville to permit of the construction of the old-age home; if so, what was the outcome of the investigation?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No, but a property was already sold on 11 August 1981 for an amount of R6 938 to the Durban Senior Citizen's Association. Three existing houses, occupied by an equal number of families will be demolished when alternative housing has been provided to the occupants.

(2) Yes, the departmental town planners have, after consultation with the City Council, found that a portion of stand 1065, Austerville is the only suitable site for the erection of an old-age home.

MR Eric Louw (left), development manager of Southern's pensions division and Mr Jeremy Kahn, marketing projects co-ordinator, who are responsible for developing the Southern's new communication passage.

300 Mercury 11/6/82

Package explains pensions benefits to black workers

THE CONTROVERSY over the pensions preservation draft legislation has resulted in an educational package, developed by the Southern Life Association to communicate the benefits of pension schemes to black workers.

'One message came across loud and clear as a result of the recent strikes and stoppages,' said Mr Chris Liddle, assistant general manager (pensions) of the Southern Life Association.

'This was that the vast majority of black workers misunderstood pension schemes and the deduction of contributions.'

The audio-visual educational aid, which is now available to companies in either Xhosa, Zulu, Southern Sotho or English, centres around a slide presentation.

Posters and leaflets are included for distribution among the workforce, and a user manual gives management ideas and hints on how to put the programme across effectively.

Black personnel executives, emerging union views and employers directly involved in the pensions disputes were closely consulted to produce a straightforward educational package aimed at bridging cultural and language barriers, Mr Liddle said.

Customised packages for individual companies are also available.

SECTION A

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE T
EXAMINATION ANSWER

All answer books must be numbered

Number of books handed in	4
Number of this book	2.

Surname....

First Name(

Date ....31.

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BLACK PENSIONS (30)

Fresh approach

FM 11/6/84

A large sum of money flowed out of the coffers of the insurance industry as a result of the dispute over the Preservation of Pensions Bill last year. Informed sources variously put the estimate at around R8m. What is clear is that many who withdrew their pension money in a panic of misconception suffered a loss of irreplaceable benefits.

Had there been better understanding, strike action and the loss of pension rights may have been avoided. As an example, an employee demanded and received a cash payout of R995 only three years before going on to a pension. Had he waited his benefit would have been R7 600 plus R130 a month for life. Meanwhile he lost life cover of over R10 000 for the rest of his working life.

Another case involved a man who received a cash payout of R700 just *two* days before retirement. Indeed, he did not even know he was due for a pension after 23 years of service with his company. Had he waited two days he would have received a lump sum of R1 638 plus R45 a month for life. Furthermore, even an offer by the insurance company to re-instate his pension was refused. Insurers must be partly to blame for this dire lack of understanding, which gave unions support through ignorance. Southern Life has just launched an education package in an attempt to avoid further losses to all concerned. Based on an audio visual presentation it will be available to any employer who wishes to educate workers about the importance of a pension scheme for income after retirement.

Traditionally, in black family life, it had always been the case that retiring parents were supported by their children. But for some time a rift has been developing between young and old, fostered by the rising cost of living, smaller families and a move toward Western style of living.

However, many older members of black society still cling to the idea that their children are their pension funds, so that withdrawals of pension monies at Christmas, for example, have become a habit. The industrial disputes and large outflows from pension funds have highlighted this problem.

Black pensioners . . . avoiding the panic of misconception

"There is no overnight solution," says Chris Liddle, AGM Pensions at Southern Life. "The benefits of a pension scheme are long-term and therefore not easily appreciated. A problem as deep-rooted as the one we are facing must be attacked from as many angles as possible."

Meanwhile the government is pressing ahead with its Preservation of Pensions Bill, though in a limited form. It is also considering the concept of frozen savings accounts that might be established at Post Offices, banks and building societies. Certain provisions may also be adopted voluntarily by the Association of Pension and Provident Funds.

With over 500 000 blacks in pension schemes, the need to improve communication between employers, workers and the insurance industry in general is of increasing importance if the incidents of last year are to be avoided.

There is plenty of business in the market with black expenditure on pension funds (and life assurance) increasing faster than relative purchasing power. Between 1970 and 1975 the purchasing power of urban black households increased by 5,7% a year while their total expenditure on life assurance and pension funds increased by about 35% a year.

The problems associated with black insurance are not confined to pensions. Judging by lapse rates in life policies, insurers have much progress still to make in this field to achieve a more secure inroad into the business of insurance for blacks.

The employer has become the key to the administration of both pensions and life assurance payments, but considerable difficulties still arise in cases where an employee loses his job. The pension benefits are lost to a cash benefit

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Saturday, June 12, 1982 ★

CAPE TIMES 12/6/82 (300)

Govt pension fund proposal

THE government is not proceeding with legislation for preservation of pension fund benefits in any form, though there is a possibility of a voluntary scheme involving frozen savings accounts.

This emerged yesterday from a statement by the Financial Mail in which it corrects aspects of an article on the preservation of pension fund benefits in this week's issue.

The article suggested that the government was proceeding with preservation legislation in limited form. This suggestion was based upon a misinterpretation of a speech made by the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, in Durban on May 18 to the annual conference of the Association of Pension and Provident Funds.

The statement said the Financial Mail had been advised that the government was not proceeding with preservation legislation in any form. The possibility of a voluntary concept of frozen savings accounts at the Post Office, banks and building societies was being investigated.

The Financial Mail would publish an article on the government's decision not to proceed with pension preservation laws in any form in its next issue, the statement said.

but there aren't enough roofs to go round

ew housing

Projects to be sited in black areas, Greenacres, old campus

ıdies enjoying a mild exercise session at the entre in the Feather Market Hall are led by EDITH DEVEREUX-QUICKE (left) and Mrs BERNICE HARRISON.

An annual membership of R4 is payable at each of these centres. Membership of both centres costs R5 a year.

The Cuylerholme centre has about 200 members (including the 50 Cuylerholme residents) and Eleanor Murray about 300.

The Red Cross North End Service Centre in Bagshaw Street has 150 members who pay 25c a month.

These centres offer members social worker services as well as library, hairdressing and clinic facilities.

A variety of entertainment, recreational and educational programmes,

Mrs HESTER PIENAAR (left) keeps company with the oldest resident of the ACVV's Despatch old age home, Mrs SUSANNA NORTJE, who is now 93.

to frail old people in the community.

HOME CARE:

A supportive project in its infancy is the Red Cross training home nursing service which is de-

pensioners who live in housing schemes and in the community at a cost of 60c a meal.

Coloured pensioners pay 30c a meal, delivered once a week. At present

12/6/82 (300)

All they want is a roof over their heads —

Plans for n

Homes for the Aged —Part 5

A NUMBER of new housing projects for the benefit of the aged are being planned by various organisations in the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area.

An in-depth survey by VAL BOTHA

● The Red Cross has plans for a new housing scheme for the aged to be built in **Admiralty Way**, Summerstrand.

This scheme will consist of some 50 cottages, which will be financed by the sale of life rights of occupation; a high-rise building of 80 rentable flats for pensioners, and a 40-bedroom home for the frail aged.

Construction of the cottages is expected to commence later this year.

● The NG Kerk has already bought ground and had its plans approved for the construction of a 60-bed home for the frail aged at **Greenacres** in Port Elizabeth.

The NG Kerk's plan for a complex in **Despatch** consisting of single and double units with their own gardens and service centre, to be offered at sub-economic rentals, has also been approved by the Departments of Community Development and Health and Welfare.

●

● Another projected retirement centre is to be built for and administered by the local committee of the South African Railways Association for the Care of the Aged, at **Fairbridge Heights, Uitenhage.**

This centre is being designed to cater basically for the needs of railway pensioners although applications from other senior citizens will also be considered.

plex of flats and cottage units.

Construction of the single and double room aspect of the project will hopefully begin later this year.

This exciting venture will be known as **Rosebank Gardens** and application will be open to white senior citizens.

The great need for more accommodation for our old people is illustrated by the fact that, even prior to the proverbial first brick being laid for this scheme, the Methodist Home for the Aged Organisation already has a waiting list of 300 interested applicants.

INDIANS:

● While there is no accommodation facility in existence at present purely for the benefit of the Indian senior citizen in this area, a need survey has already been completed with regard to a proposed home in **Malabar.**

This Red Cross project is expected to provide accommodation for 35 frail and fit pensioners and applications will be considered from people in the Eastern Cape and Border regions.

A report motivating the need for such a facility has already been submitted to the Department of

WAITING LISTS:

● While this analysis of existing and planned accommodation for senior citizens in the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area might give the impression that sufficient provision is being made for the institutionalised care and accommodation needs of whites at any rate, the fact of the matter is that waiting lists are chronically long.

There is a desperate need for more accommodation, both for individuals with sub-economic means and for those falling into the economic bracket.

There are very few private boarding houses with accommodation facilities within the means of the average pensioner, and accommodation in a decent rooming house with no meals provided, is just as hard to find.

●

SALVATION ARMY:

● In this connection, a new venture by the Salvation Army in Port Elizabeth must be mentioned.

Full board, serviced and furnished accommodation is offered to nine women pensioners in a rambling old house with a lovely garden setting, known as the **Ray Schauder Home**, in Buckingham Road.

The residents are expected to pay R100 a month for a single room and R75 a month for a shared double room.

Unfortunately, other

A group of cheerful la Eleanor Murray day c "drill sergeant" Mrs

ing there while their families are away on holiday.

HOSPITALS:

● A different aspect of accommodation facilities for the aged, and one which does not exist in the area under discussion, is the incorporation of a section for geriatric patients in provincial hospitals.

An example of an established scheme of this nature is the one at the **Settler's Hospital** in Grahamstown where four 44-bed geriatric wards — two for whites and two for non-whites — provide full nursing care facilities for patients on an indefinite or permanent basis.

These sections have

1216182 BOO

Stage one of the project will be the establishment of a 42-bed home for the infirm aged, as well as a complex of 24 double and 72 single rooms, all serviced.

All meals will be provided for the residents.

A cottage scheme is to be constructed at a later stage.

The centre will be modelled on the Ravensklip Retirement Centre in Boksburg and will be the first South African Railways centre of its kind in the Eastern Cape.

● The Methodist Homes for the Aged (Eastern Cape) organisation is negotiating (at the time of writing) with the University of Port Elizabeth to turn its old campus property in Bird Street, Port Elizabeth, into a project for the aged.

This organisation envisages the establishment of a complex incorporating a home for the infirm aged with full-care facilities, as well as a section with single and double rooms with full-board and sickbay facilities.

Future developments might incorporate a com-

Indian approval.

●

AFRICANS:

● Institutionalised accommodation facilities for our black senior citizens in the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area are non-existent.

For those of the about 6 800 old age pensioners and 50 war veteran pensioners in Port Elizabeth's black areas who require institutionalised care here, the situation is very bleak.

Particularly pressing is the need for homes providing full-care facilities for the frail aged, and to this end, the Red Cross has already undertaken viability studies for the establishment of a facility for aged blacks in New Brighton.

The society has proposed the construction of a home with full-care facilities accommodating 120 frail residents opposite the Dora Nginza Hospital.

The infrastructure of this home would be designed to allow provision for a further 240 beds.

tering specifically for pensioners, are virtually non-existent within the community.

TEMPORARY CARE:

● More institutional facilities to cater for the frail aged, both on a long-term and short-term basis, are also desperately needed.

A stepping-stone-type establishment which would provide temporary convalescent care for folk who have been hospitalised and who cannot return to the community because they require full-care facilities, either during their convalescence or while awaiting admission to a home for the frail aged, is an example of such a need.

This type of establishment could also provide temporary accommodation for elderly people living with their families in the community, who require the security which would be offered by stay-

their own lounges and TV rooms, and the patients have church services, entertainment programs and hairdressing facilities.

●

To effect payment for this full-care accommodation, social pensioners have their pensions substantially reduced for the duration of their hospitalisation and a small amount is paid to the hospital authorities for administration on their behalf.

Individuals with private incomes are charged according to their means, but after an initial period of 180 days, hospitalisation becomes free.

ELIZABETH DONKIN:

● The Elizabeth Donkin Hospital in Port Elizabeth does have a section accommodating elderly patients on a short-term basis but this

Blustery weather is n dent of the Federatio Elizabeth's coloured a of the coloured Mea make their we

facility exists purely for psycho-geriatric cases, and not for those requiring full-care facilities because they are chronically sick or frail.

'FOSTER CARE':

● In an attempt to meet the needs of elderly citizens already on waiting lists for old age homes but who desperately require interim accommodation, the ACVV is considering the desirability of the institution of a "foster-care" type service.

Such a service would involve the "matching-up" and placing of an elderly person with a suitable family for a period, the administration of

All races

Enjoying the sunshine with Matron RUTH PAGE (centre) are four residents of the Salvation Army Ray Schauder home in Buckingham Road, Port Elizabeth. They are (from the left) Mrs LASSIE McCOCK, Mrs MARGERY VILJOEN, Mrs CARRIE BOALCH, who at 85, is the oldest resident, and Miss EDNA BIGGS.

12/06/82 (300)

terrent for Mrs HAZEL BEATON (left) presi- of the Harvest In-gathering Appeal in Port as, and Mrs VALERIE DE JAGER, president n-Wheels organisation, as they prepare to y deliveries to deserving pensioners.

he financial aspects of his arrangement and regular scrutiny thereof by he ACVV as well as supervision by the Department of Health and Welfare.

●

The ACVV envisages the establishment of a list of families deemed suitable for this foster-care service once they and their home circumstances have been adequately screened.

Members of the public who might be interested in this type of programme are encouraged to contact the regional representative of the ACVV.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:

● It is apparent that more supportive services are required to assist elderly members of all our population groups to remain resident within the community either because they want to, or because they are awaiting or unable to secure, admission to an old age home or housing scheme.

SERVICE CENTRES:

The Algoa Bay Council for the Aged runs two service centres in Port Elizabeth — the Cuylerholme Service Centre in Western Road and the Eleanor Murray centre in the Feather Market Hall.

outings and holidays are also organised.

●

Midday meals are provided at a cost of 50c a meal at the Eleanor Murray and Red Cross centres, while the price per meal at the Cuylerholme centre is 70c.

The Eleanor Murray centre is open Mondays to Fridays, as is the Red Cross centre which also offers one Sunday midday meal a month. Cuylerholme centre is open every day, including weekends.

Membership of these service centres is open to whites over 60.

VOLUNTEER NURSES:

An example of another supportive service is that offered by the Red Cross voluntary nursing unit under the auspices of which a group of non-practising trained nurses provide home bathing assistance

signed to train family members in aspects of home care of a frail relative before admission to an old age home.

Further examples of existing supportive community services are the home help projects administered by both the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged and the Red Cross Society which are designed to render assistance with domestic and personal tasks to senior citizens resident within the community.

●

MEALS-ON-WHEELS:

The Meals-on-Wheels service provides and delivers nourishing two-course meals to white and coloured senior citizens who live in and outside old age housing schemes.

The service is sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventist Church and run by the PE branch of the Harvest Ingathering Appeal, a registered welfare organisation.

The meals are provided on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday to white

fered only to people living in the Gelvandale, West End and Salsoneville areas.

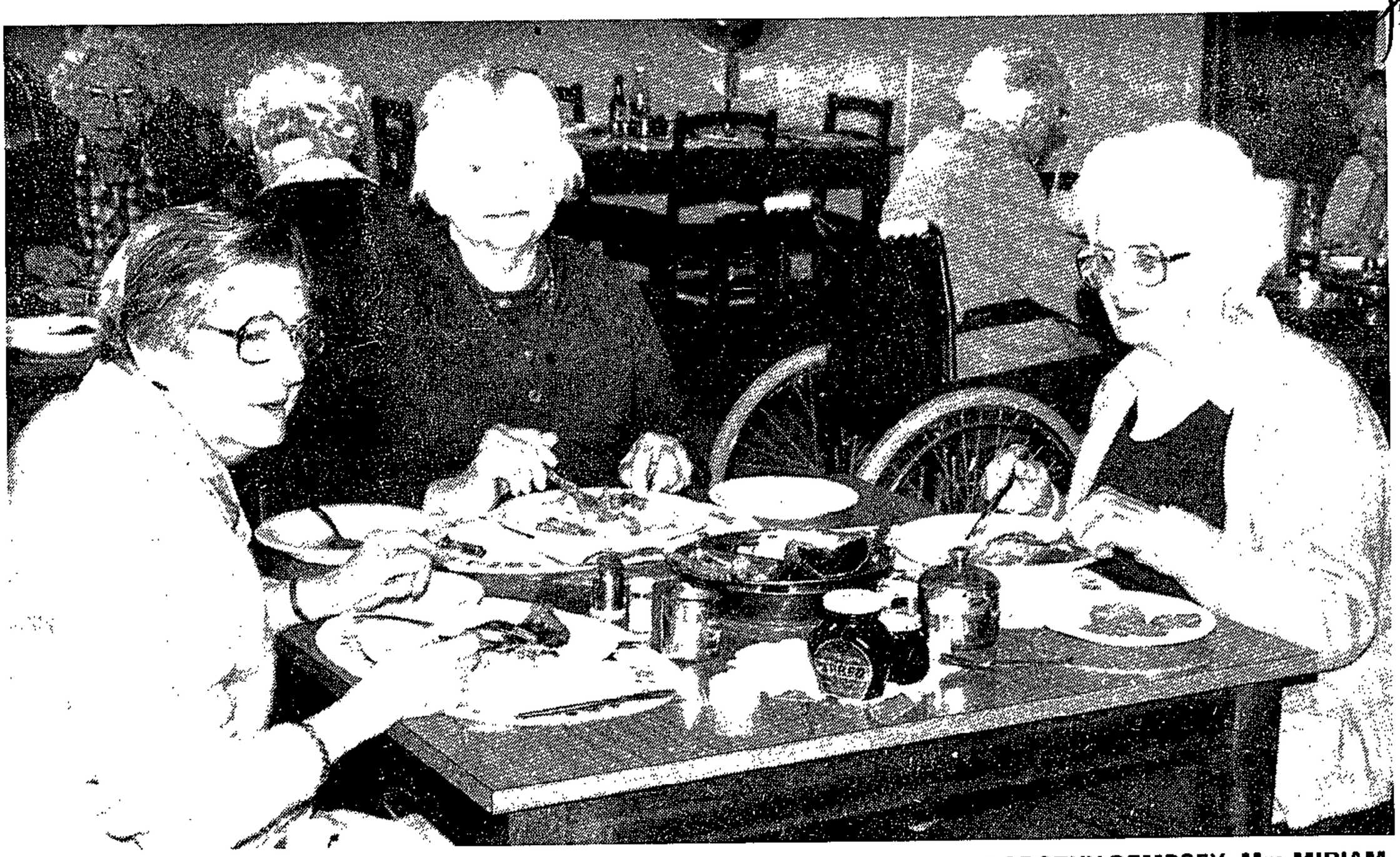
In very needy cases, meals are provided free.

Our non-white communities are particularly badly off as far as supportive community resources for the benefit of the aged are concerned and this is even more significant when the shortage or lack of institutionalised and housing scheme accommodation for them is taken into account.

The sterling work that is undertaken by service organisations and other voluntary community groups for the benefit of senior citizens in housing projects and in the community, cannot possibly be detailed here.

Their humanitarian work is proof of a tremendous awareness in the community generally that the existence of old folk in our midst must be recognised more compassionately and that their needs must be catered for more adequately.

to benefit



Tucking into lunch at the Rosa Munch home in Uitenhage áre, from the left, Mrs DOROTHY DEMPSEY, Mrs MIRIAM DUNCAN and Mrs WINIFRED DOWNEY.

12/6/82 (300)

Banana to open Parliament today

HARARE — Zimbabwe's President, the Rev Canaan Banana, will open the third post-independent session of Parliament in the capital today.

This parliamentary session will be the first since the political turmoil earlier this year which resulted in the sacking of Mr Joshau Nkomo and three of his senior Patroitic Front (Zapu) officials from Mr Robert Mugabe's cabinet

It will also be the first time that white parliamentary ranks have been divided since Zimbabwe's independence more than two years ago.

The Republican Front (RF) Party of former Rhodesian premier, Mr Ian Smith, will now be on an equal footing with the nine white independent parliamentarians, who deserted the RF a few months ago.

Two RF parliamentarians are expected to miss this session. One of them, Mr Dennis Walker, will probably lose his seat. — DDC.

Rhodes professor has winning game

GRAHAMSTOWN — A computer science professor at Rhodes University has won a world-wide competition on the design of new electronic games.

Professor Alan Sartori-Angus said the game — Cosmic Conquest — was the result of nearly two years' refinement of his original concept of a game he designed for his students.

The competition was run by the American computer magazine, Byte, and Professor Sartori-Angus won a prize of $500 for submitting the winning entry. There were hundreds of other entries from all over the world.

Professor Sartori-Angus said that his game differed from the usual run of video electronic games in that it involved planning and stragegy.

"Video games only depend on one's reflexes, speed of hand and eye," he said. "With Cosmic Conquest one has to play against the computer in conquering planets, which can help you to conquer other planets by being taxed to provide legions and space-ships.

"However planets can also revolt if over-taxed, and there is always the computer who is also conquering planets who must be considered before each decision.

"However time does not stand still and if one deliberates too long the computer, which is constantly on the move, will have you surrounded before you can blink a light emitting decode."

Professor Sartori-Angus holds the copyright to the game and is confident that video game manufacturers will take an interest in it.

Cosmic Conquest was designed to be fought on an Apple computer, so there are none of the flashing lights and realistic sound effects of video games. However these could easily be simulated if the game is adapted for video use. — DDC.

Pensions: firm to canvass workers

DURBAN — The Romatex group is to canvass employees on how best to provide for their benefits in the future.

The dissatisfaction over draft pension legislation which manifested itself among employees throughout much of the industrial and commercial sector in November 1981, led the group to call for worker representation on a committee to investigate the dissatisfaction among its own employees.

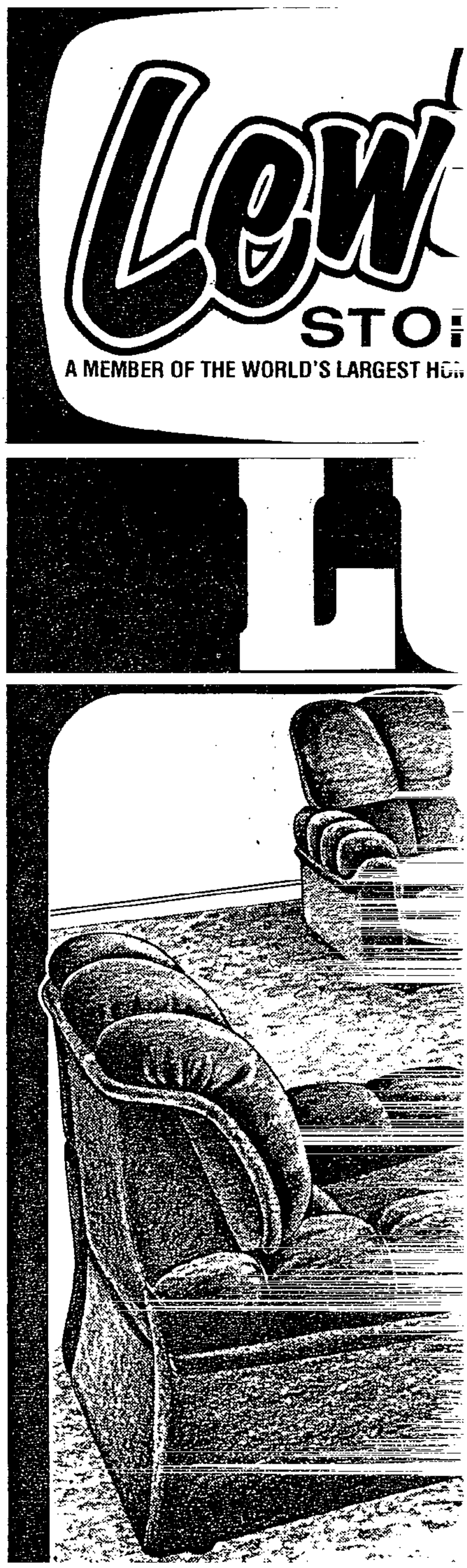
Each division of the group was asked to elect employee representatives to the committee and the first of a series of meetings to seek a workable and acceptable system will be held this week.

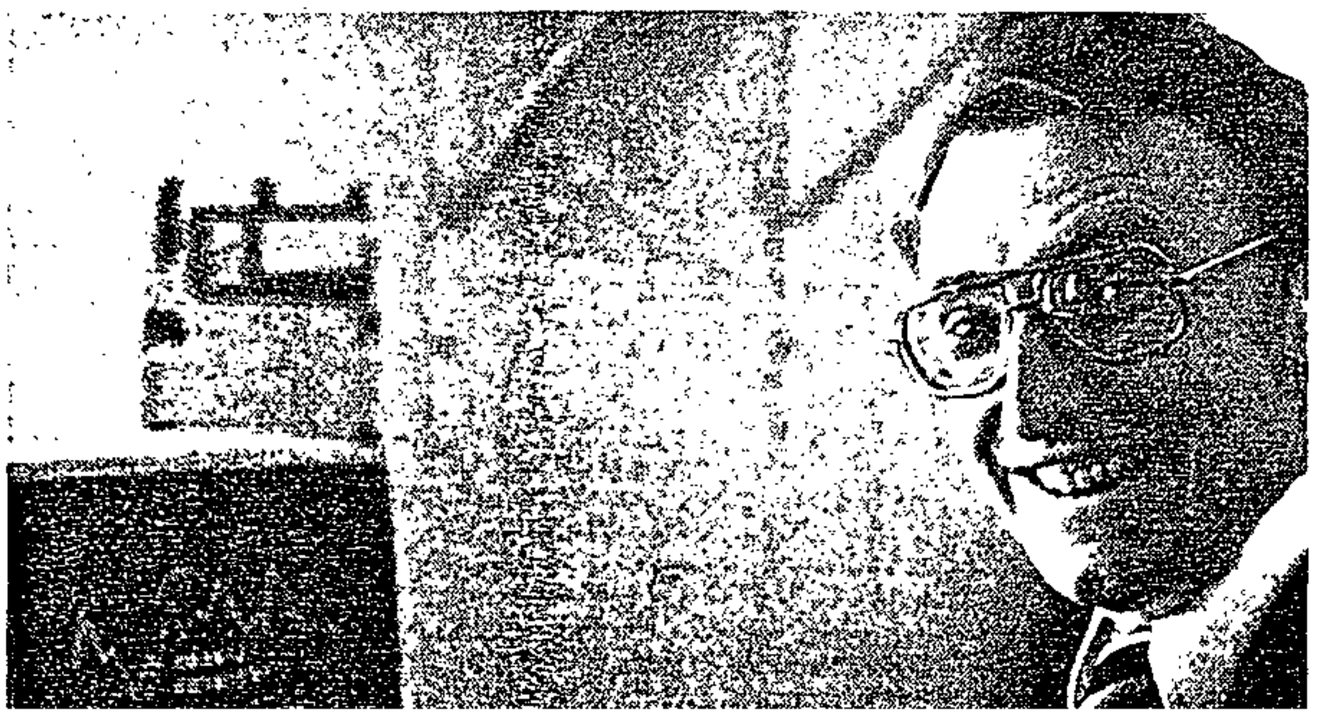
"We are approaching these meetings with no preconceived ideas of what our employees requirements are.

"We are told that our current pension fund is a good one but if it is not what our employees want, we have to be flexible enough to change it or to produce, within reason, an alternative which will give our staff what they feel they need," according to Mr Harold Bruce, group industrial relations director.

The group has a pension fund which all permanent employees are required to join.

"If there is significant dissatisfaction with our present pension fund, then we want employees to tell us what improvements they need or what alternatives they would find acceptable," Mr Bruce said in a statement. — SAPA.





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RAND DAILY MAIL, Tuesday, Ju

Horrifying plight of city pensioners

By MARTIN FEINSTEIN
Education Reporter

A JOHANNESBURG economist's hunt for the truth about Johannesburg's aged poor has taken him on a horrifying journey into the city's seamy core.

And the scores of pensioners found in dire straits so far by Mr Tony Pringle have convinced him that the State is "utterly insensitive" to their plight.

Mr Pringle, an economics lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, is busy with a project to see how the position of pensioners has changed in the past 10 years.

So far he has interviewed about 50 Johannesburg pensioners out of a planned total of 500, but already the conclusions are — almost without exception — that they cannot make ends meet.

The project has taken Mr Pringle into flats so filthy and dangerous that he carries a gun during his visits.

The project under the auspices of the Wits Department of Economics was prompted by last year's notorious remark by the Minister of Health, Dr L A P A Munnik, that pensioners could live on R20 a month.

"We thought we'd go out and see how much their pensions were, what they actually needed, how much they spent and on what," Mr Pringle said.

"We decided to start with central Johannesburg, where people are the poorest and rents the highest."

The fieldwork is not easy. Many pensioners greet a knock on the door with fear.

"I've discovered that they think I am either a mugger out to rob them, or some sort of Government inspector looking for extra income in order to cut their pensions," he says.

Many of the buildings — with entrances half-hidden between rows of city-centre shops — are revolting, with ruined lifts, the stairs chipped beyond use, the landings covered in vomit and many of the rooms inhabited by prostitutes, drunkards and layabouts.

"Almost without exception, these people cannot come out on their pensions. Their rents are going through the roof, leaving them an average of about R30 a month for food, clothes and everything else.

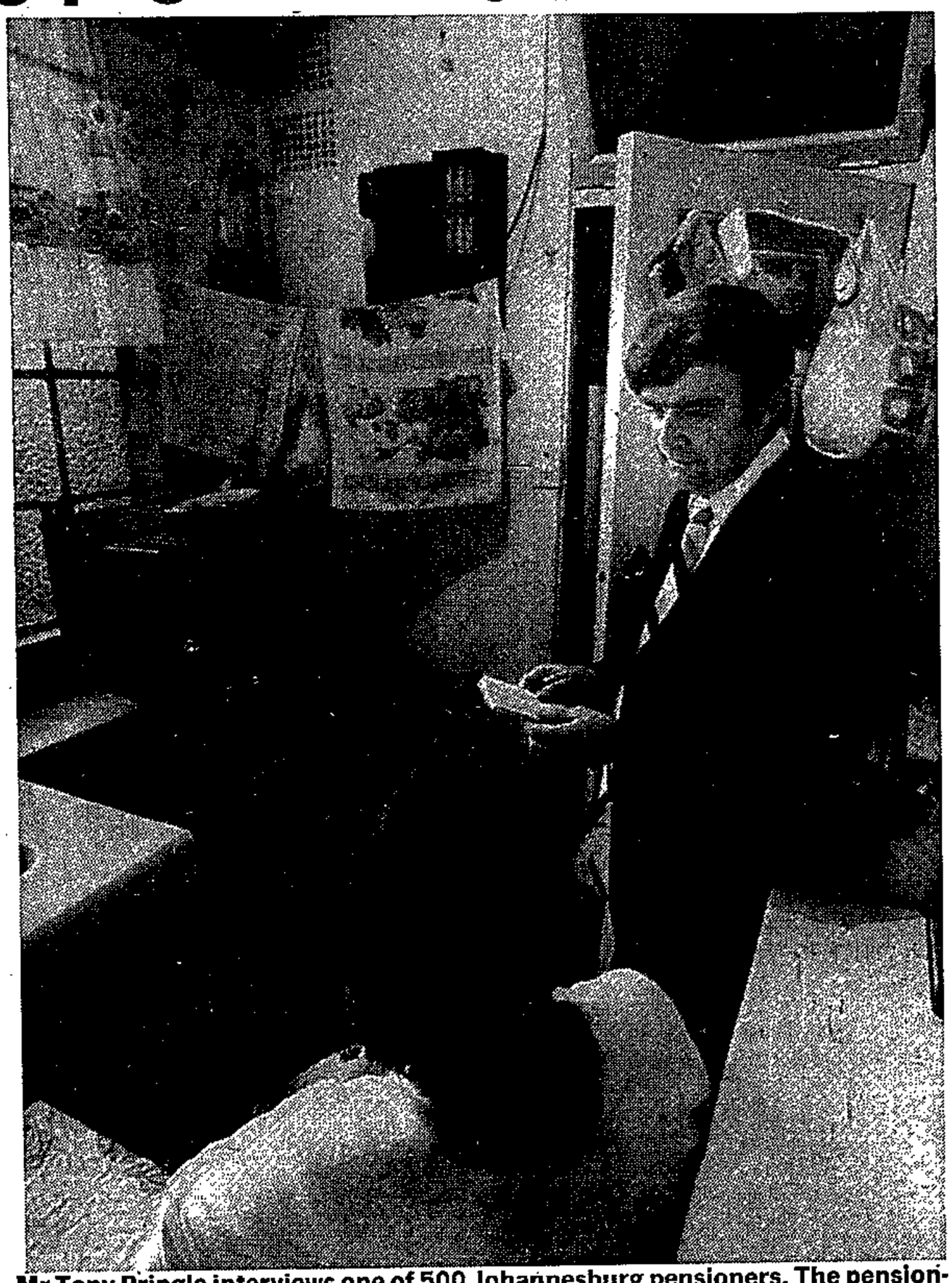
"As a result, they are finding sad little sidelines like fortune-telling and punting to help them out. Others have friends or relatives who give them one good meal a week, if they're lucky."

After working out that inflation has increased Dr Munnik's R20 figure to about R25, Mr Pringle tried to work out the pensioners' minimum expenditure on food.

"The lowest amount we've had so far is R45, but most can barely come out at R65," he said.

Pensioners also often cannot buy in bulk, cannot walk to cheaper shops and, if disabled, can be taken for a ride by servants who do their shopping.

"We pride ourselves on being a nation of free enterprise. But while the State puts millions into industry, it has snubbed the people who have done so much in the past," Mr Pringle said.



Mr Tony Pringle interviews one of 500 Johannesburg pensioners. The pensioner is one of many Mr Pringle has found living in appalling conditions.

Picture: DAVID SANDISON

Pension thrift may be less than rewarding . . .

(300) Star 16/6/82

Time to CARE for the aged

By Rob Soutter

A person who provided for old age by contributing to a pension fund could theoretically be worse off than someone who made no provision and became a State pensioner.

A fact sheet on pensions, released by the Progressive Federal Party, shows there is little Government encouragement for people to continue working for the first five years after they reach retirement age.

It reveals that the minimum monthly pension for whites is R48 — R1 less than the maximum pension for blacks, which is R49.

A white person can qualify for as little as R48 only if he has another, limited, source of income. The black person can qualify for R49 only if he has no other source of income.

The fact sheet, which deals almost exclusively with whites, shows that a person who works for the first five years of his retirement — and contributes to the economy — could be worse off than a person who simply sits at home and collects a pension.

A person earning more than R150 a month is excluded from receiving a social pension (R143 a month from October).

Although he is still receiving more money than a pensioner, he loses out because he cannot receive the special benefits available to social pensioners including heavily subsidised transport, food and entertainment concessions.

However, women over the age of 65 and men over 70 can take a job and continue receiving their pension whatever their salary.

If while working, the person contributed to a pension fund to prepare for retirement and prevent himself becoming a burden on the State, he could also be worse off than if he had done nothing.

At present if his pension fund pays out between R116 and R121 a month he will be receiving less than the present maximum social pension of R122 and is not eligible for the amenities for state pensioners.

He is also disqualified from receiving a State pension.

And from October, when the maximum monthly pension will be R143, an elderly person tied to a pension fund could be losing as much as R324 a year.

Other information on the fact sheet includes details of where to apply for a pension, necessary documentation, the ruling on assets and the means test, war veterans and attendants.

For further information, telephone the PFP office at 29-0211.

HOPELESS: Deaf and dumb Mr Elias Sebetlela.

Mute breadwinner loses hope of compensation

Ten live off one pension

BY ALINAH DUBE

A SOWETO deaf and dumb man has lost hope of ever being compensated by a company he served for more than 10 years.

Mr Elias Sebetlela (38) of Naledi, sole breadwinner for a family of 10, was allegedly fired from Ozalid Pty Ltd after getting injured at work.

According to his family, he was not paid workmanship's compensation after his eyes were severely injured.

The Sebetlelas now depend on a meagre pension of an old woman.

The group personnel manager for Ozalid, a Mr Visser, earlier told **The SOWETAN** that Mr Sebetlela's money was waiting for him and that he only had to submit proof of his birth as soon as possible.

Mr Visser had said Mr Sebetlela was put on early pension because of ill-health. He had earlier mentioned it was not the policy of his company to dismiss people after having sustained injuries while on duty.

"The thought of having to repeatedly go to this company only to be dismissed without getting the money, leaves me hopeless," said Mrs Violet Sebetlela senior.

Mrs Sebetlela said she had on two occasions accompanied her son to his former work-place and was told it was not a birth certificate they wanted but a medical certificate.

"This really confused me as I had read in **The SOWETAN** that all my son had to submit was his birth certificate," she said.

Mrs Sebetlela said she was told to send her son for a medical check-up.

"After I had taken the trouble of having Elias checked at the Baragwanath Hospital, I was told the medical certificate we had was invalid. This gives me a feeling I am going to spend all my pension money on transport to these people," Mrs Sebetlela said.

This time Mr Visser said a birth certificate was just one of the things needed before Mr Sebetlela could be compensated.

"We told those people to wait until we got a doctor of our own to check on Elias — and that I think has been organised by now. Anyway, we will get in touch with them very soon," Mr Visser promised.

After having asked if I personally knew Mr Sebetlela, Mr Visser commented, "as you've seen he is a danger to any industrial situation."

Joshua Nkomo - the end of the road?

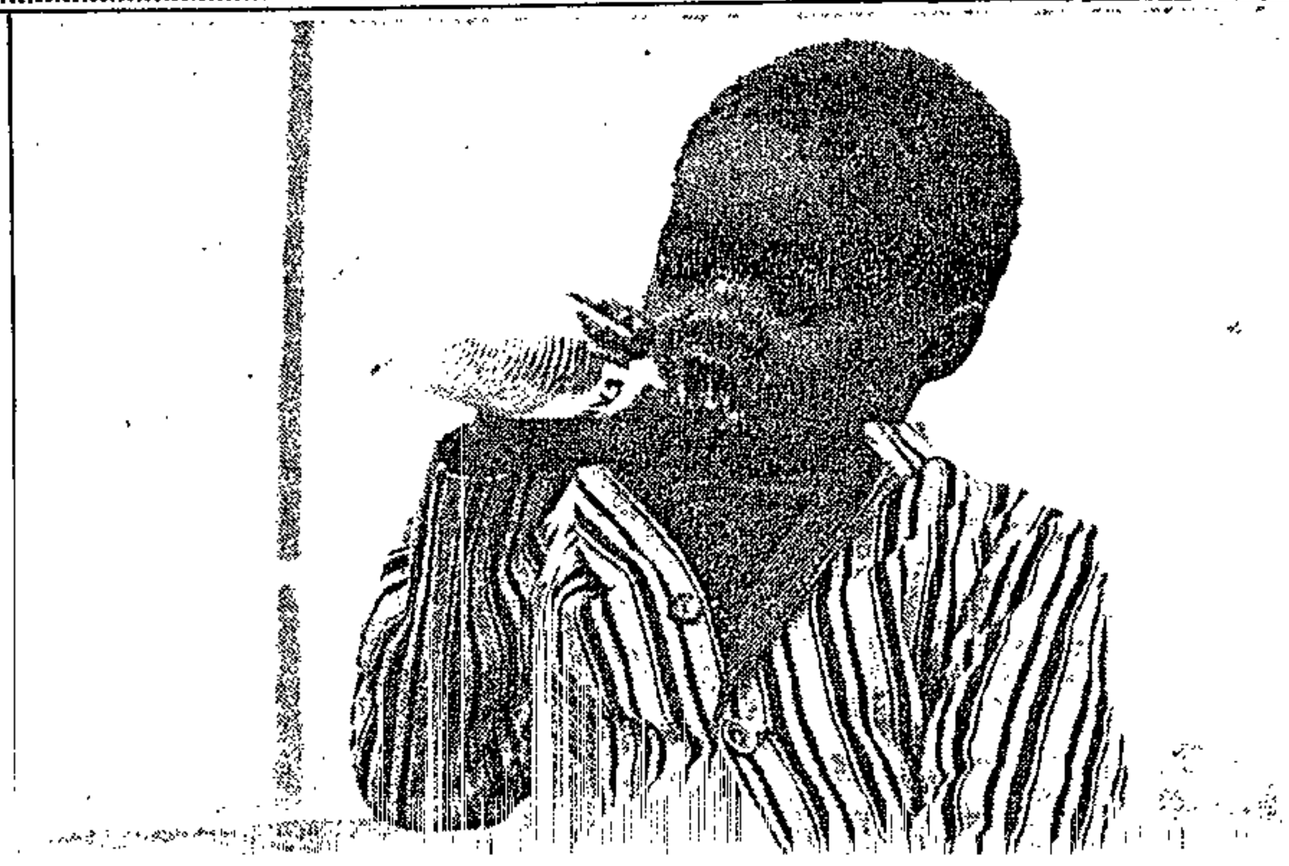
FOR a man who was being vilified daily by Zimbabwe's leaders a few months ago and faced imprisonment for allegedly plotting a coup, Joshua Nkomo is in a pretty buoyant mood these days.

"Are you an assassin?" he asked jocularly of a correspondent who had come to his modest home in the black residential area of Pelandaba. "My spies tell me that a man who poses as a journalist is com-

the Matabeleland province, and more than 25 killings. Much of this activity is banditry but a political motive is becoming increasingly evident as the dissidents start turning their guns on government targets.

For the time being, it is being reasoned in government circles, it would be unwise to provoke further unrest by bringing charges against Nkomo over the arms caches.

Privately Nkomo scoffs at suggestions that he



Riot police disperse Alusaf workers

Mercury Reporter

ABOUT 1 700 workers were dispersed by riot police early yesterday at the Richards Bay Alusaf plant when they stopped work in support of wage and pension demands.

Alusaf's managing director, Mr D E J van Vuuren, said they had been discussing certain issues with the workers' committee over the past few months and their major problem had been the metal industries' pension fund, administered by Seifsa.

The Seifsa fund sparked off a number of the pension strikes last year which had continued even after the proposed Pension Preservation Bill had been dropped because the fund had its own preservation clause.

Mr van Vuuren said he had explained to the committee that the preservation clause no longer existed and that a member's contribution would be paid out six months after he left the company.

Increase

The workers' committee suggested that their pension money be withdrawn from the Seifsa fund and insisted they be allowed to join the Alusaf pension fund, he said.

He said they had also discussed wage increases, which, following the Metal Industries' Industrial Council agreement, would be a general increase of 30c an hour — putting the minimum wage up to R1,36.

Workers had not accepted this and had demanded that their wages be put up to a minimum of R2 an hour, he added.

The entire black workforce had staged a sit-in at the company premises, demanding that they be given a guarantee that their pension money would be transferred to the company's fund and that the management discuss their wage demand.

Mr van Vuuren said he had tried to explain the company's position to them and then gave them half an hour to think it over and either return to work or go home.

'When they refused to disperse I had no choice but to call in the police,' he said.

Workers still out

Mercury Reporter

STRIKING workers from Richards Bay Coal Terminal yesterday continued their stoppage in demand for the immediate repayment of their pension money.

The managing director of the company, Mr Mike Dunn, said yesterday about 455 workers had 'discharged themselves' by walking off the plant on Tuesday.

However, he said he had given them 'certain conditions' under which they could be re-employed.

300 FM 18/6/82

STILL AN EXPLOSIVE

If ever there was a phyrrhic victory, it was the black worker's successful opposition last year to the preservation of pension rights. It remains, however, an explosive issue, as events last week illustrate.

The Draft Bill intended to give compulsory preservation the force of law had to be withdrawn in the face of strikes and strike threats.

Last week the matter was at flashpoint again in Natal and the Eastern Cape. An article in the June 11 edition of the *FM* was apparently interpreted by some workers to mean that government had not given up on preservation. Strikes were being threatened.

Official assurances to the contrary were given to the belligerent workers. And, the Registrar of Financial Institutions, Naas van Staden, appealed also to the *FM* to make an immediate clarifying statement. Under the circumstances, the *FM* was happy to set the record straight, which it did in a statement released last Friday.

The article in question drew attention to Finance Minister Owen Horwood's speech in Durban last month in which he said certain arrangements which would encourage some element of preservation would be pursued.

The *FM* understood him to mean that the Draft Bill would go ahead in a limited form. He said that resistance to preservation was "the main reason why the introduction of the Draft Bill was postponed. There are, however, certain other measures contemplated in the Draft Bill that will improve our pensions system and which we can pursue..."

These other measures, he said, were special, frozen Post Office, bank and building society savings accounts.

As Van Staden pointed out to the *FM*, use of these accounts will be voluntary. They do not require legislative enactment. The Draft Bill has, therefore, been withdrawn entirely. Workers will continue to be able to withdraw their contributions to pension funds.

As the *FM* pointed out last week, panic withdrawals are not only needless, but sometimes carry great disadvantages. On record is one man who demanded R700 two days before retirement, after which he would have received R1 638 and a R45/month pension for life. Another withdrew R995 in cash three years before retirement. Had he waited he would have received a lump sum of R7 600, R130/month pension and R10 000 insurance cover for his working life.

The *FM* believes that those who encourage workers to withdraw their contributions must be mischievous.

PENSIONS (300) FM 18/6/82

The importance of preservation

Just how emotional an issue the preservation of pensions is to black workers has been vividly illustrated yet again. A rash of strikes has followed recent suggestions (which turned out to be wrong) that government intends reintroducing sections of the Preservation of Pensions Bill shelved last year.

The Bill was withdrawn after widespread protests by black workers. In the wake of the latest strikes, government spokesmen have hastily given an assurance that there are no plans to freeze pension monies (see *Economy* p1346).

There the matter rests for the moment. However, none of the three parties involved — government, employers and trade unions — can draw any satisfaction from this impasse. One of the most basic factors behind the economic growth of the Western world has always been an awareness of the need to plan ahead. The mobilisation of savings through pension and insurance funds has provided the means to finance the escape from the poverty trap in the West over the past two centuries.

The principles underlying efforts to preserve pension monies are sound. However, a sane approach to implementing them is urgently needed and each of the three parties involved has a role to play.

☐ Government must realise that it is impossible to implement preservation without fully consulting worker representatives — something it has failed to do so far. Only through consultation can it wean black workers away from the notion that pension contributions are a form of short-term savings to be used in times of unemployment. It needs also to heed union calls for private contributory pension schemes to be regarded as supplementing — not substituting — State pensions.

☐ Trade union leaders can play a vital role in calming emotions and putting forward the employees' case in a sober, rational manner. They are justified in complaining that black workers have little say in how their pension funds are administered. But the wisdom of demands for worker control of these funds is open to question — particularly in view of the fact that companies usually contribute the larger share of pension payments.

☐ Employers need to do more to help their employees understand and appreciate pension benefits. A recent Human Sciences Research Council study in the eastern Cape has shown that nearly half of the workers interviewed had not been given any explanation for their pension deductions.

There is a pressing need for further discussion to find a formula which serves the interests of all concerned. Preservation must not be allowed to fade out.

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many of the frail elderly in homes have lost the ability and the will to move, often because those looking after them have not known how to keep them mobile, or have not realised the importance of maintain mobility in the elderly," said Mrs A Stewart, chairman of the Southern Transvaal branch of the SA Society of Physiotherapy.

"It is marvellous how the whole attitude of some elderly people changes when they learn they can do exercises. They find renewed joy in movement.

"It is vital to get away from the idea that old age is just a time for sitting and becoming increasingly dependent and immobile. It is also a time for being sprightly and enjoying being alive."

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Time to CARE for the aged

The struggle to live on R49 pm

300 Star 18/6/82

Plight of black aged

By Rob Soutter

Black pensioners are struggling to survive the two months between pension payouts and have to spend their meagre allowance in expensive township shops.

"A pension of R49 a month is very little to live on," said the Rev Nathaniel Khumalo, chairman of the Soweto Care of the Aged, the only registered welfare organisation for the elderly in the township.

"To make matters worse, their pension is paid out in double sums of R98 every two months," he said.

"White pensioners find it difficult to make R122 last one month. Imagine the misery involved with making R98 last two."

Another major problem with the pension was that there were pitifully few supermarkets in Soweto where food could be bought cheaply.

The SCA, part of the South African National Council for the Aged, is building up a club organisation in the township, he said.

There are 12 clubs with a total membership of more than 600. There are about 23 000 elderly people registered in Soweto.

A big problem was lack of accommodation, said Dr Khumalo. Eight clubs had to meet in houses.

"One of the main purposes of these clubs is to organise fitness classes, but how can you do this when 50 people are crammed into one of the Soweto box houses?" he asked.

The need for basic accommodation was becoming critical. It was estimated in 1977 that there were more than 1 000 elderly people looking for homes.

"Since then the extended family system has begun to break down. Young people no longer want their elderly and infirm relatives staying with them."

This had increased the number of people seeking accommodation, said Mr Khumalo.

"Many have not registered for a pension and did not complete the census form because they do not have a permit to reside in the township and are afraid of being forced to return to a homeland which they may have left many years before."

Overall, their position was serious and likely to become worse.

If you can assist, or want further information, write to Soweto Care of the Aged, c/o National Council for the Aged, PO Box 738, Johannesburg, 2000, or telephone 23-6146/7/8.

The lines on her face tell of the unending struggle to make a meagre pension of R98 last for two months, paying for rent, food and everything else that must be bought to live.

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GENERAL NEWS

Alusaf issues dismissal ultimatum to 1600 strikers

Star 18/6/82

By Drew Forrest

About 1 600 workers on strike at the Alusaf aluminium smelting plant in Richards Bay face dismissal today if they are not back at work at their normal shift times.

The strike began on Tuesday night. It centres on demands for an immediate payout of contributions to the metal industries' group pension fund and a pay claim.

Aout 500 workers at the Richards Bay Coal Terminal nearby, who struck earlier in the week over pensions, have already lost their jobs.

Alusaf's managing director, Mr Danie van Vuuren, said the company's hands were tied on the pension issue. "We are negotiating to withdraw from the metal industries' fund — but it takes time," he said.

Alusaf employees had been told of the recent change in the fund's rules, in terms of which contributions could be recovered six months after workers left the industry, but they were not interested, Mr van Vuuren said.

Management had reiterated its view in discussions yesterday with an in-house committee dominated by members of the Metal and Allied Workers Union (Mawu).

Mawu has alleged eight workers were taken to hospital, two in a critical condition, after police cleared strikers from Alusaf premises on Tuesday night.

Mr van Vuuren said abut 60 workers of a total black workforce of 1 700 had returned to work. The rest had been told to man their posts today or be dismissed.

Production had been maintained at normal levels by administrative and maintenance staff, he said.

More trouble hits Richards Bay

Mail Correspondent

DURBAN. — The Richards Bay stoppages spread yesterday as major construction sites were forced to close down when employees from the Enseleni township did not turn up to work.

The strikes at Alusaf and Richards Bay Coal Terminal involving more than 2 000 workers continued, aggravated by the non-arrival at work of about 1 500 construction workers when Enselini township buses did not operate.

Although, the construction industry appeared to be hardest hit, Enseleni township is one of three serving the Empangeni and Richards Bay area and other industries may have been affected.

Empangeni transport's managing director, Mr J J Steenkamp, said some of their Enseleni buses did not run due to intimidation.

The managing director of Grinaker Construction in Zululand, Mr R Bennett, said about 700 workers from the construction site extending the Alusaf factory either did not come to work or asked that they be allowed to leave.

Construction of the Richards Bay Coal Terminal was affected on Saturday when 47 D and H Construction employees downed tools.

They appeared in an Empangeni Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The workers pleaded guilty of charges of attending a prohibited gathering — this followed the banning this weekend of all public meetings in the Mtunzini and Empangeni district — and were fined R30 (or 30 days).

The workers had downed tools when the company refused to reinstate 15 of their colleagues who earlier last week approached management after one of the workers had been insulted by a foreman, union sources said.

Meanwhile, about 500 strikers from the Richards Bay Coal Terminal held a meeting with their shop stewards yesterday. The shop stewards said the men were determined not to return to work until they had been paid out their pension money.

The Alusaf workers have demanded that their pension money, which is being held in the Seifsa fund, be transferred to a private pension fund.

Alusaf's managing director, Mr Danie van Vuuren, said he had agreed to contact the general secretary of the Seifsa pension fund in an attempt to arrange a discussion with workers

Mr Van Vuuren said the company still maintained the workers had been discharged but would be willing to consider them for re-employment.

Strikes once again revolve around pensions

By Joshua Raboroko

THE preservation of pensions among black workers has once again become the cause of strikes.

Some 1600 workers employed by Alusaf Aluminium Smelting in Richards Bay last week went on strike demanding an immediate pay-out of contributions to Metal Industries' Groups pension fund and pay claim.

The workers at Alusaf were subsequently sacked by management after they were warned to return to their jobs on Friday, but only about 300 did so.

About 500 workers at the Richards Bay Coal Terminal nearby, who struck earlier in the week over pensions have already lost their jobs.

Sources say the Government must realise that it is impossible to implement pension preservation without fully consulting workers representatives — something which it has not done so far.

However, trade union leaders are also expected to play a significant part in calming emotions and putting forward the employees' case in a reasonable manner.

The employer on the other hand is also expected to help their workers understand pension benefits.

These three factors have given rise to concern for a need for further discussions to find a formula which will serve the interests of all.

The preservation of Pension Bill was withdrawn in Parliament last year following a wave of strikes that swept through the country in fear that the Government intended "freezing" pension money.

The registrar of Financial Institutions, Mr Naas van Staden, said the Government was not planning to "freeze" workers' pensions.

He said the Government would not have any legislation that would interfere with the right of any worker, who is a member of a pension fund, to withdraw their money when they leave their jobs.

Workers are encouraged to belong to a pension scheme because it would be to their own benefit when they retire.

"I cannot explain the matter more clearly than that," he said.

Alusaf's managing director, Mr Danie van Vuuren, is reported to have said that the company's hands were tied on the pension issue.

"We are negotiating to withdraw from the Metal Industries Fund — but it takes time," he said.

Workers had been told of the recent change in the fund's rules, in terms of which contributions could be recovered six months after workers left the industry, but they were not interested.

Management had reiterated its view in discussions with an in-house committee dominated by members of the Metal and Allied Workers Union (Mawu).

Mawu has claimed that eight workers were taken to hospital, two in a critical condition after police had cleared strikers from Alusaf premises last week.

The union claimed that it would represent workers at the company by trying to open new negotiations with the management.

Strikes in Richards Bay spread

June 1982

Mercury Reporter

RICHARDS Bay work stoppages spread yesterday as major construction sites were forced to close when workers from the Enseleni township did not turn up for work.

As the strikes at Alusaf and Richards Bay Coal Terminal, involving more than 2 000 workers, continued, it appeared that about 1 500 construction workers had joined the stoppages.

Although the construction industry appeared to be hardest hit, Enseleni township is one of three serving the Empangeni and Richards Bay area and it is likely that other industries were also affected.

Empangeni Transport's managing director, Mr J J Steenkamp, said that some of their Enseleni buses had not run due to 'intimidation'.

Workers yesterday also stoned an Alusaf bus in the Esikhawini township but not much damage had been done and nobody had been injured.

Not affected

The managing director of Grinaker Construction in Zululand, Mr R Bennett, said about 700 workers from the construction site extending the Alusaf factory 'either did not come to work or asked that they be allowed to leave'.

He said it appeared as though Enselini was the only township which had been 'effectively picketed' as workers on the company's other sites and living in areas not effected by the stoppages had continued to work yesterday.

Employer sources said other major construction sites in the area had also been affected.

Meanwhile 47 D and H construction workers, who downed tools at the Richards Bay Coal Terminal on Saturday, appeared in an Empangeni Magistrate's Court yesterday.

They pleaded guilty to charges of attending a prohibited gathering — this followed the banning this weekend of all public meetings in the Mtunzini and Empangeni district this weekend — and were fined R30 (or 30 days').

Disputed

Union sources said the workers had stopped work when the company had refused to reinstate 15 of their colleagues who earlier last week had approached the management after one of the workers had allegedly been insulted by a foreman.

The acting site manager of D and H construction, Mr W Schutte, said yesterday half his workforce, about 60 workers, had turned up to work yesterday. This was disputed by union sources who claim 300 workers were involved in the stoppage.

Richards Bay Coal Terminal shop stewards, after a meeting with about 500 striking workers, yesterday said they were determined not to return to work until they had been paid out their pension money.

Officials from the Fosatu-affiliated Metal and Allied Workers Union and Alusaf shop stewards held a meeting with the company late yesterday but 'nothing was resolved'.

Demanded

Alusaf's managing director, Mr Danie van Vuuren, said he had agreed to contact the general secretary of the Seifsa pension fund in an attempt to arrange a meeting with workers to discuss their grievances.

The Alusaf workers have demanded that their pension money, which is being held in the Seifsa fund, be transferred to a private pension fund.

Mr van Vuuren said the company still stood by its position that the workers had been discharged but would be willing to consider them for re-employment.

'Unfortunately we would not now be able to re-employ them all as we have since employed some workers from outside,' he said.

... and Van der Merwe for while the event is under way.

RDM 24/6/82

Talks fail to resolve pensions strike

Mail Correspondent

DURBAN. — No hope for a settlement appears to be in sight between officials of the Metal Industries' Pension Fund and 1 700 striking workers at Alusaf, Richards Bay, in spite of a meeting yesterday between representatives of the two groups.

The Alusaf workers have been on strike since last week Tuesday after demanding that their pension money be transferred from the Metal Industries' Pension Fund — administered by the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of SA (Seifsa) — to a private fund.

Alusaf have argued they could not acceed to the workers' demands as the company was bound by the pension legislation laid down by the metal industries' industrial council which required all workers to be members of the industries' pension fund.

A spokesman for the Federation of SA Trade Unions (Fosatu) said it was apparent from the meeting that Alusaf had made no application for exemption from the pension fund in spite of a petition put forward by workers demanding their withdrawl from the fund.

He said it had been agreed to discuss the issue at a meeting on July 13.

Alusaf's managing director, Mr Danie van Vuuren, said last night that he had already told workers that the firm could not apply for exemption from the fund "until we have investigated all other alternatives".

Worker attendance at Richards Bay construction sites could not be assessed yesterday as two major firms gave contradictory reports.

Grinaker's Zululand managing director, Mr Roy Bennett, said the firm's sites where workers had stayed away had reported an "improved attendance".

But, CMGM's area manager, Mr I S Massey, said there had been no improved worker attendance yesterday and on some sites fewer workers had turned up.

At the D and H Construction site at Richards Bay Coal Terminal, the site manager, Mr W Schutte, said all the workers had worked yesterday including the 56 who were fined R30 (or 30 days) for attending a prohibited meeting.

About 500 strikers at Richards Bay Coal Terminal were yesterday still refusing to return to work.

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Cato Ridge strikers back at work

Mercury Reporter

ABOUT 550 striking workers from Uniply's Cato Ridge plant returned to work yesterday after a dispute over the dismissal of a colleague while the strike at Non-Ferrous Metals involving about 200 workers continued.

The Uniply workers downed tools on Tuesday when the company dismissed a worker who had refused to work overtime, which is apparently not compulsory, a spokesman for the Fosatu-affiliated Paper Wood and Allied Workers' Union said yesterday. The workers had demanded his reinstatement.

According to a statement released by Uniply, the entire workforce including those dismissed had returned to work after discussions between representatives of management and workers.

The statement said: 'It would appear that there was a misinterpretation of an instruction by an employee regarding a request to work overtime.'

Downed tools

The workers at Non-Ferrous Metals who downed tools on Monday over pensions had not returned to work yesterday.

Non-Ferrous Metals' managing director, Mr Bernhard Lazarus, said the company still stuck by its Tuesday dismissal of the workers and their wage packets were available at the Metal Industries' Industrial Council's local office.

He said that although he would start hiring new workers from next week, he would be willing to re-employ workers selectively.

A local industrial council official said yesterday that in terms of the council's legislation he could not reveal how many workers had collected their pay.

The branch secretary of the South African Allied Workers' Union, Mr Isaac Ngcobo, who says he represents the Non-Ferrous Metals' workers, said a meeting had been set up with the company for Monday. This was confirmed by Mr Lazarus.

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

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NOTE CAREFULLY

1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.
4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

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2 500 striking Natal metal workers fired

DURBAN. — About 2 500 metal industry workers have been fired in Natal in the past week after they downed tools in protest over pension rights.

The issue sparked off a rash of strikes and at least three factories in Richards Bay and Durban were hit by the work stoppages.

The strike by about 1 700 workers at the Alusaf plant in Richards Bay entered its eighth day yesterday with no prospect of an early settlement.

The workers want their pension contributions transferred from the metal industry's fund to the company's own pension fund.

The managing director of Alusaf, Mr D E J van Vuuren, said his firm had launched an investigation to establish a new pension scheme.

At the nearby Richards Bay coal terminal where more than 450 workers are demanding an immediate refund of their pension contributions, management has made a full return to work the basis for negotiation, an official of the Fosatu-affiliated Metal and Allied Workers' Union said

At Non-Ferrous Metal Works in Durban about 200 workers were dismissed on Tuesday over the same issue.

Germiston

● More than 200 workers at a Germiston plant, SA Woodbox Manufacturers, have been sacked after striking over a union recognition dispute — but the workers are refusing to re-apply for their jobs, according to a union spokesman.

And sources in the area say a second factory, a waste disposal plant, had also been hit by a strike but the company's name is not known.

At SA Woodbox, a spokesman for Fosatu's Paper, Wood and Allied Workers Union said workers downed tools late on Tuesday after a "misunderstanding".

A management spokesman confirmed the stoppage. He said the union had "lost control of their members and are now trying to save face". — Sapa and Own Correspondent

The problem of black pensions

Mercury 25/6/82 (300)

MAJOR South African employers have undertaken to 'come to grips' with the problem of black pensions.

And accordingly trade unions, representing mainly black workers, have given their 100 percent support to the idea of pensions but warned of specific problems related to present schemes adopted by South African employers.

This emerged from a sounding of employers' and trade unions' views on the controversial pensions issue in the light of past and present worker unrest.

Employers primarily attributed pensions unrest to the highly intricate nature of pensions which made them extremely difficult for workers, and not only black workers, to understand.

Paying for their mistake

But a number of employers admitted that when pensions were initially introduced not sufficient effort had been made to explain pension funds to black workers and they were now paying for that mistake.

Employers pointed out that Government interference could not be ignored in its contribution to the whole unrest over pensions — and many had been highly critical of this interference.

Last year's wave of strikes had been sparked off by the proposed Pensions Preservation Bill and then the present pension strikes had been caused by what many employers called 'a bungle' on the part of Finance Minister Horwood in referring to the sensitive issue of pensions legislation — whether he intended re-introducing the controversial 'freeze' clause or not, they said.

It was obvious that a number of trade unions had last year tried to capitalise on the pensions issue and 'one or two' had been 'badly burnt'. Generally, according to an employer source, this had not been the case.

'Trade unions saw this as an opportunity at this time of high inflation to put some money in the hands of their workers. This must have been an attractive proposition to workers. Not only black workers took this advantage but a number of whites had also withdrawn their pensions,' the source said.

The points at issue

A publication issued by the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu) on pensions outlines the problems as being:

- **Workers have never been consulted about pension schemes and are denied access to adequate information on the funds.**
- **Many workers do not get their benefits because a satisfactory method of tracing and paying pensioners has not been laid down.**
- **Many pensions prescribe a minimum period of service before employer contributions are added into the pension.**
- **The rate of interest given to worker contributions is far below interest payable at banks.**
- **Many workers believe they can use the money more fruitfully when they are younger.**

They suggest that two courses of action are available to the workers. Either workers request companies to close down their pension schemes — which would be generally be unacceptable — or workers argue for majority representation on the pension fund's board of trustees and re-negotiate the pension's funds rules.

a few years.

This was further aggravated by the Govern-

pension scheme.

Mr Van As saw the need to talk to worker representatives about the pension fund to see whether possible changes were needed.

'But,' he said, 'it could not be a one-sided thing with the workers demanding changes. Changes to the pension scheme have to be agreed to by both parties involved.'

The personnel director of major Natal sugar company C G Smith, Mr W B Horlock, said in the next few weeks they would be meeting with black trade unions to discuss the pension issue.

The situation had arisen from last year's unrest where half of the black employees of C G Smith have remained with the fund whereas the other half are 'standing naked', he said.

Retirement age

Mr Horlock said the problems facing them were firstly that the retirement age of 65 years was a bone of contention and secondly — which he felt was the core of the pension problem — workers still mistrusted the legislators and feared their pensions would be frozen.

He said they were investigating the possibilities of a contributory provident fund which would provide a retiring worker a lump sum of money of sufficient size to enable him 'to extend his house or buy some cattle'.

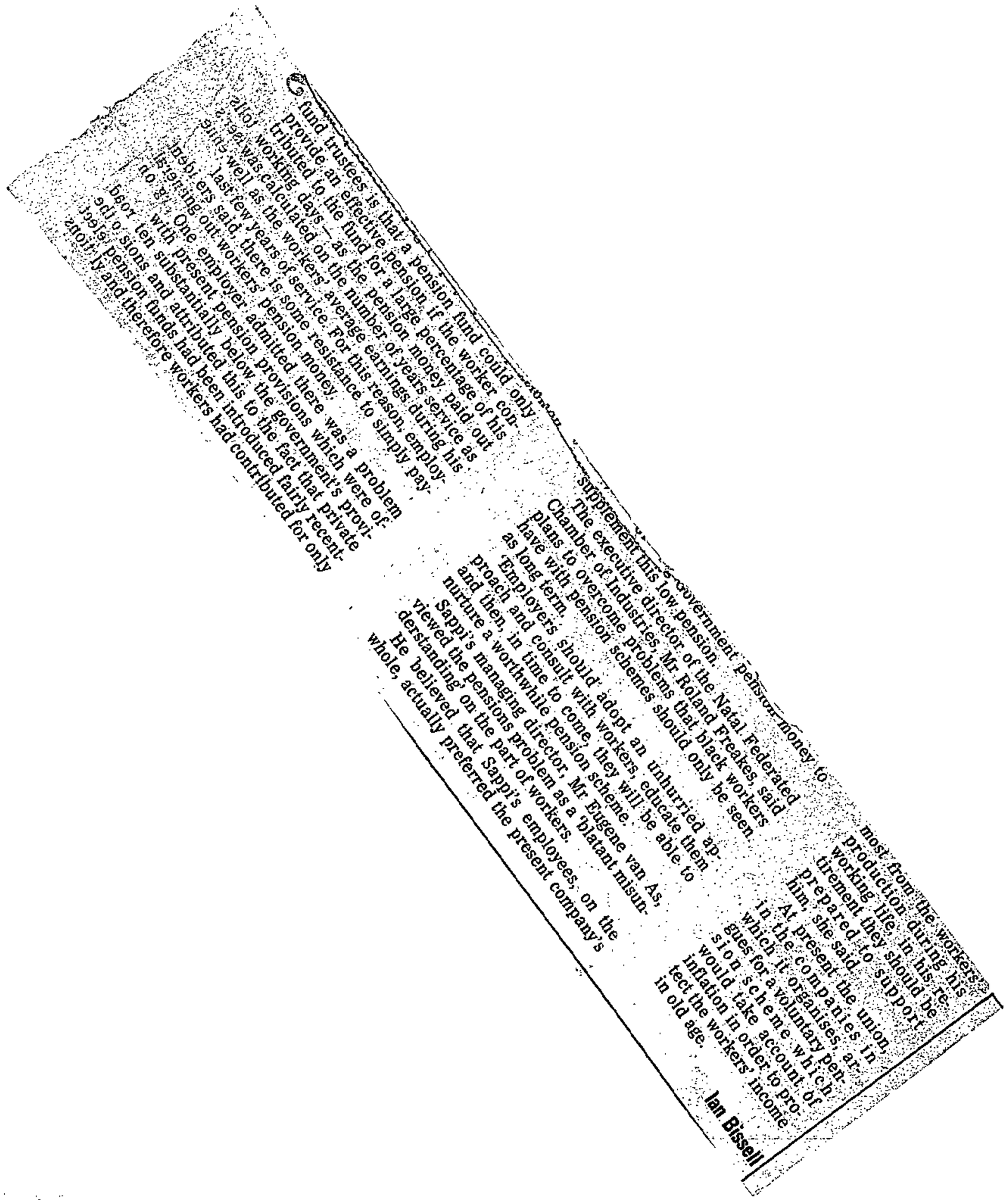
Other alternatives were non-contributory pension or provident funds which only the employer would pay into, but this would mean that the benefits provided would be less favourable, he said.

A General Workers' Union spokesman saw pensions as 'being something desirable' and felt the government and employers should be moving towards a non-contributory pension fund.

'As they benefitted the

Mercury

28/7/82



fund trustees is that a pension fund could only provide an effective pension if the worker contributed to the fund for a large percentage of his working days — as the pension money paid out was calculated on the number of years service as well as the workers' average earnings during his last few years of service. For this reason, employers said, there is some resistance to simply paying out workers' pension money.

One employer admitted there was a problem with present pension provisions which were of no benefit to substantially below the government's provision for ten substantially below this to the fact that private pensions and attributed fairly recently and therefore workers had contributed for only a short time.

supplement this low pension most from the workers' money to

The executive director of the Natal Federated Chamber of Industries, Mr Roland Freakes, said production during his working life, in his retirement they should be plans to overcome problems that black workers prepared to support have with pension schemes should only be seen him, she said. as long term.

'Employers should adopt an unhurried approach and then, in time to come, they will be able to nurture a worthwhile pension scheme.

Sappi's managing director, Mr Eugene van As, viewed the pensions problem as a 'blatant misunderstanding' on the part of workers.

He believed that Sappi's employees, on the whole, actually preferred the present company's

At present the union, in the companies in which it organises, argues for a voluntary pension scheme which would take account of inflation in order to protect the workers' income in old age.

Ian Bissell

MORE than 10 000 entries were received for the Natal Mercury-Oceanair 'Win a Trip to Portugal' competition, the winner of which was drawn yesterday. She is Mrs Lyn Roper of 128 Rockdale Avenue, Westville, and can look forward to a 10-day holiday for two in Algarve, Portugal. In the picture are the unlucky pair, Miss Suzanne Dale and Mrs Carol Buck, who had to sort the multitude of entries.

Richards Bay strikers decide to stay away

(Mercury 25/6/82)

Mercury Reporter

THE striking Alusaf workers at Richards Bay have decided not to return to work until after the July 13 meeting of the metal industries' pension fund, union sources said yesterday.

And about 500 Richards Bay coal terminal workers, who downed tools on Tuesday last week demanding that the company repay their pension money, also had elected to continue their stoppage until their demands were met, a union source said.

But at Richards Bay construction sites worker attendance improved markedly yesterday after a stayaway by employees living in either Esikhawini or Enselini townships earlier this week. Major construction firms reported between 80 percent and 88 percent attendance.

Transfer

The Alusaf workers' decision follows an undertaking by a pension fund delegation, who met worker representatives on Thursday, to consider the Alusaf worker's requests at a pension fund meeting on July 13.

About 1 700 workers, who have been on strike for nine days, have demanded the transfer of their pension money from the Seifsa-administered metal industries' pension fund to a private pension fund.

A spokesman for the Fosatu-affiliated Metal and Allied Workers' Union said workers were 'still determined' to continue the strike and were not afraid of reports of 'scab' labour being employed by the company.

She said workers had discussed reports that Alusaf would only re-employ workers selectively and had decided to extend their demands to include reinstatement of all workers on their return to work.

Alusaf managing director Danie van Vuuren said about 120 former employees had come to collect their pay yesterday and had applied for re-employment, but first their applications would have to be processed.

He said 600 were working at the factory yesterday and of these only about 140 were new workers. The union has disputed this.

Re-employed

Richards Bay coal terminal's managing director, Mr Mike Dunn, said the situation at the terminal 'was much the same' with workers returning in 'drabs'.

Meanwhile, Non-Ferrous Metals at Isipingo near Durban reported that a group of striking workers had asked to be re-employed.

But managing director Bernhard Lazarus said he would be re-employing workers only selectively from Monday.

● See also Page 5

North Ridge Road were still being drawn up and the suggestion was shelved.

In 1975 when Mr Jock Reilly, the ward councillor, learned of a Durban Corporation move to zone the land for maisonette development, he managed to stop this.

Mr Walsh said they were then given to understand that the land would probably be used for extensions to the reservoir.

The council's recent decision to zone the ground for duplex development in preference to maisonettes apparently had been based on a City Engineer's report which said the City Council would get R50 000 more on the sale of the land and the developer would get 12 units rather than 10.

'Can you imagine 12 duplex units all in a row with direct access to Burman Drive,' Mr Walsh said.

Several constructive suggestions for development of the site would be made at Tuesday's meeting.

Mauritian for capital

Mercury Reporter

A BARRISTER from Mauritius, Mr Doorgesh Ramsewak, who is also legal adviser to the Government of Mauritius, will open the week-long diamond jubilee celebrations of the Shri Vishnu Temple in Pietermaritzburg on July 12.

Mr Ramsewak, who is also vice-chairman of the Mauritius Brahman Maha Sabha, will give a series of lectures on religion, fasts and festivals at the capital's Lotus Hall.

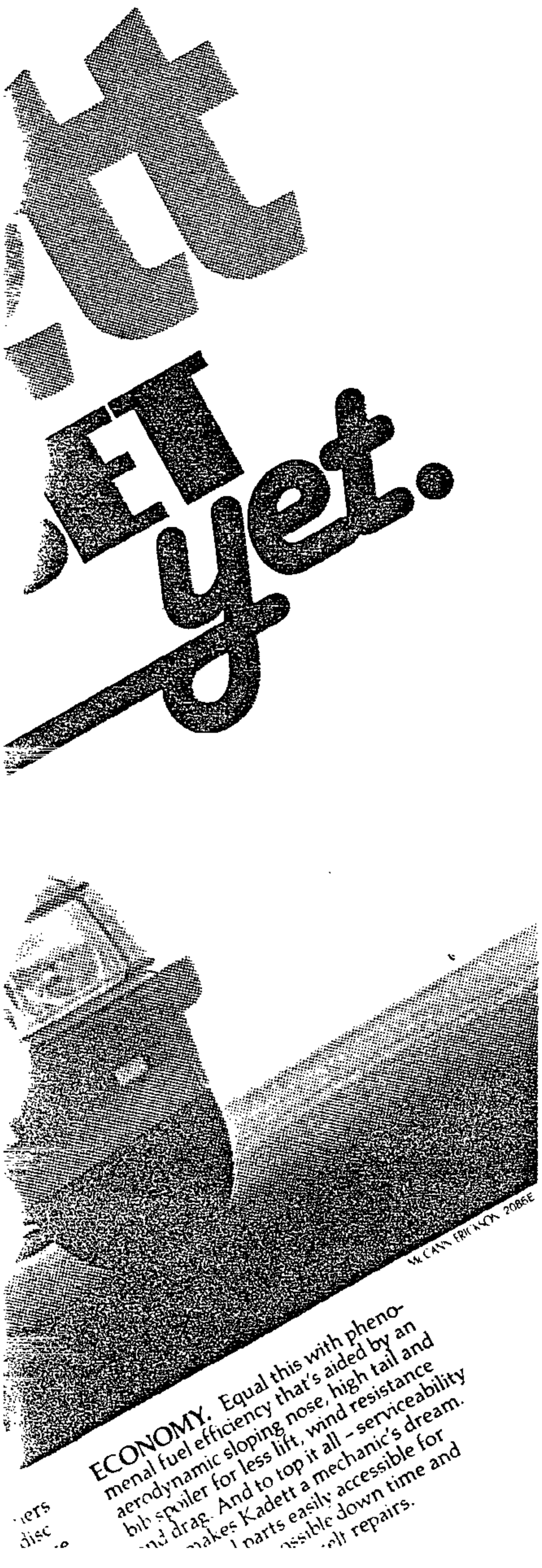
Temple secretary Sukraj Bridglall said yesterday more than 3 000 people were expected to attend.

'Hot debate' on the cards

Mercury Reporter

THE two key proposals to be discussed at the Natal Teachers' Society conference next month will be the formulation of a salary policy according to qualifications and changes in the promotion system.

NTS chairman, Mrs Pix



TOTALLY WITHOUT RESERVE

IMPORTANT AUCTION OF PERSIAN CARPETS

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP EASTGATE AUCTION GALLERY CLOSING DOWN

AT THE MESSENGER OF THE COURT PREMISES

Pension benefits explained

300 S. Tribune 27/6/82

Finance Editor

IN THE wake of the present uncertainty and misunderstanding among black workers over the benefits of pension schemes, the Southern Life Association has taken the initiative to produce a communications package which demonstrates the value of such schemes.

It is a 12-minute audio visual presentation with a choice of Xhosas, Zulu, Southern Sotho and English tapes. Poster for the factory leaflets in picture book style reproduced from the audio visual and a user manual, giving a wide range of ideas and useful hints on how to put the programme across to the workforce, are also available.

The package, which was shown in Durban recently and can also be demonstrated in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, is expected to be sold to companies for about R650.

It is the first of its kind to be produced since the Government withdrew its draft legislation on pensions preservation last year and the call was made for "more time to educate the workforce."

Recently there has been more labour unrest over the pensions issue and the need for such audio visual presentations to stimulate awareness of the need for income on retirement is bound to grow.

Says Chris Liddle, Southern's assistant general manager (pensions): "In devising the presentation it was obvious that an understanding of pensions schemes alone wasn't all that was needed.

"What we had to produce was a programme that dealt with the problems and perceptions unique to black people in the South African situation."

Expert advice of social scientists directly in touch with the black community was sought. Black personnel executives countrywide were consulted and views of the emerging unions gathered. The experience of employers directly involved in past pension disputes and the viewpoints of their workers were also taken into account.

Workers say strikes could have been avoided

S. Tribune 27/6/82

By Barney Mthombothi

WORKERS claim the wave of labour unrest which hit Richards Bay could have been avoided if managements had acted on complaints.

More than 2 000 workers, from at least six companies, have been on strike since Tuesday last week.

Hardest hit by the strike is Alusaf, the primary aluminium metal producer and the biggest employer in the area, where more than 1 000 of their 1 700 black workers are out on strike. The workers are striking in support of demands for the transfer of their pension from the Seifsa-administered pension fund to a private fund.

A shop steward at Alusaf this week said the strike could have been avoided had management acted promptly on workers' dissatisfaction about the way their pension contributions were administered.

"We started negotiating with management five years ago on the issue," he said. "But it seems they didn't take it seriously."

He said in January this year, when it was realised management had done nothing to solve the problem, workers gave management 30 days to resolve the issue or face a strike.

Worker representatives were then flown to Johannesburg to meet officials of the Metal Industries' Pension Fund. According to the shop steward it was agreed that Alusaf would apply for exemption from the fund.

"We came back and collected 1 200 signatures from workers for a petition that would accompany the company's application. But on Tuesday last week we were shocked to find that management had done nothing about the matter."

"If the company had applied for exemption, even if they had been turned down and come back to the workers and told them about it, I'm certain something could have been worked out. What annoyed workers was their total indifference as far as the matter was concerned," the spokesman said.

"Workers have now resolved not to go back until this has been sorted out."

Alusaf managing director, Danie van Vuuren, was asked by the shop stewards to address the workers who had already downed tools.

One worker said: "We wanted to speak to Mr van Vuuren. After all he is our employer and the problem will not be solved without speaking to him. But he came and gave us instructions to disperse within 15 minutes or he would call the police to deal with us."

Another worker said Mr Van Vuuren called the police when he spoke to them.

"The police came immediately after he had left. He was not even at his office when police came and gave us a minute to leave, and then it was three seconds."

Workers alleged they

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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
EXAMINATION ANSWER BOOK

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Striking workers mill around before a meeting at the Roman Catholic Church at Sikhawini, near Richards Bay this week

were baton-charged by the police and many of them had to be treated in hospital for injuries sustained during the confrontation which took place at 3am on Wednesday.

Mr Van Vuuren said he called the police because the workers were trespassing.

"If the workers want to blame somebody for calling the police, then they must blame me," Mr Van Vuuren said.

"I told them they were trespassing because this was private property. Those who wanted to work should clock in and those who wanted to go should go. We had buses laid on for them outside the premises, but they wouldn't listen."

Mr Van Vuuren said he gave the workers more than 45 minutes to either leave or go back to work. "I think that was fair warning."

He denied that his company had at any time given an under taking to apply for an exemption.

"I don't understand how they could have thought we would apply in a hurry because I'm bound in my freedom by the law and I'll have to consult my board because the company would have to agree to contribute more than they are doing at the moment. The workers themselves should be prepared to pay more."

Mr Van Vuuren said the problems which led to the strike were twofold. The workers want the minimum wage to be increased by 94c to R2 an hour, while the company, in line with Seifsa, is offering an increase of 30c across the board.

"But it now seems the wage demand is no longer an issue."

Mr Van Vuuren said his company had just received a report from Old Mutual on the pension scheme which the workers want.

"We had not even had the opportunity to study it when they walked out on us. The workers want the money to be paid back to them and they also want to get loans out of it.

"What these people don't realise is that this is not a problem you can solve overnight. We're bound by law to contribute to Seifsa. I'm not prepared to put the cart before the horse and apply for exemption before I know the financial implication."

According to Mr Van Vuuren, although fewer than 600 employees are at work, production was never affected.

"We're still running as normal. Naturally people have to work 12-hours. The thing about this process is that once it stops, it's very difficult to get it going again."

All the workers were dismissed this week but Mr Van Vuuren said he would prefer having them back than recruiting a new workforce.

"We've invested a lot in our old workers, but if this thing drags on we'd have no alternative but to hire new people."

Mr Van Vuuren said the strike took him by surprise.

"It surprised me because the discussions at the meeting on Tuesday were conducted on a good basis and were amicable. I didn't expect this explosion."

A spokesman for the Metal and Allied Workers' Union, a Fosatu affiliate which is negotiating on behalf of the workers' had accused Mr Van Vuuren of taking a dictatorial attitude in his dealings wih the workers.

"Negotiation doesn't mean giving instructions, which is what Mr Van Vuuren did to the workers. Managements will have to learn to negotiate with their employees if trouble is to be avoided."

There is a real fear among workers of losing their pensions. Also hanging ominously is the Pensions Preservation Bill which was withdrawn by the Government last year.

A worker from Richards Bay coal terminal, where about 500 workers are out on strike, quoted a speech by the Minister of Finance, Owen Horwood, in Durban early this year in which he said the Government was still investigating the matter.

The worker said this proved the Government was still intent on depriving the workers of their pensions.

Coal terminal workers said they were promised their contributions by a general manager of the company last year when a wave of pension strikes swept the country.

This has, however, been denied by the managing director Mike Dunn.

...secretary for Dave Finlayson, MD of South African agents Terraquip.

Southern attempts to end pension stigma

Eric Le Roux (left), marketing development manager of Southern's pension division, and Jeremy Kahn, marketing project co-ordinator.

ONE message that has come across clearly through recent strikes and stoppages, is that the vast majority of Black workers misunderstand pensions schemes and the deduction of contributions, claims Chris Liddle, assistant general manager (pensions) of The Southern Life Association.

"The Southern is introducing a communications package specifically aimed at workers which is designed to assist employers," says Liddle.

Liddle points out that the many facets of effective cross-cultural communication were given close attention by his company and the interlinking applications of print and audio-visual material were developed in collaboration with communication specialists.

"But throughout it remained an objective to make the programme as straightforward as possible.

"We have provided management with a bridge over cultural and language barriers to more effective communication".

The programme is designed to stimulate awareness of the need for income when they are too old to work, to present a pension as the available solution, and it will show how a pension fund offers something work having.

Each communications package contains a carousel of 75 slides which is governed by a pulsed sound tape produced in a choice of Zulu, Xhosa, Southern Sotho or English.

About half of Richards Bay strikers back in jobs

Mercury 29/6/82

Mercury Reporter

NEARLY half the striking workers from Alusaf and Richards Bay Coal Terminal who downed tools after pensions' disputes nearly two weeks ago have returned to work, employers said yesterday.

But a Fosatu spokesman denied this. She said most of the striking workers from both industries had attended meetings yesterday in Esikhawini and Enselini townships.

An Alusaf spokesman said more than 800 workers out of a total of 1 700 were working yesterday.

Applied

The Alusaf workers downed tools on June 16 demanding the transfer of their pension money from the metal industries' pension fund to a private fund.

The spokesman said that at the weekend a large number of previous employees had returned and about 100 had applied for re-employment yesterday.

He said they had had 'quite a lot of applications' from new workers seeking employment, which would be processed along with applications from previous employees.

Richards Bay Coal Terminal managing director Mike Dunn said he 'was a lot happier' yesterday with nearly half the terminal's workforce having returned.

The workers had downed tools on June 15 demanding repayment of their pensions.

He said that had one of the Esikhawini buses not been turned back by intimidation the terminal would have had 50 percent of its workforce back.

Mr Dunn said they would mainly be employing previous employees but certain jobs had been filled already by new workers.

Meanwhile, at Mtunzini Magistrate's Court yesterday seven workers who allegedly stopped workers from going to work on June 21 briefly appeared on charges under the new Intimidation Act.

The court prosecutor, Mr Deon Breedt, said they had not been asked to plead and their trial had been postponed until July 12.

Also in the Mtunzini court, Mr Msindiseni Mjadu, 29, appeared on a charge of malicious damage to property after he allegedly stoned a bus on June 21 in Esikhawini township.

Gradually

His trial also has been postponed until July 12.

At Non-Ferrous Metals in Prospecton near Durban, where about 200 workers downed tools a week ago demanding the repayment of their pensions, managing director Bernhard Lazarus said yesterday they had started recruiting workers gradually.

But, he said, they would only be re-employing part of the firm's original workforce because of the 'current slowdown in the economy'.

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l answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

Made in South Africa TRIO-RAND/S.P.C.T. PSL/UPD 100 000 1978 PD UCT AM7a Vervaardig in Suid-Afrika

fought a strenuous campaign to keep Ingwavuma as part of KwaZulu, warned last night that he could not be held responsible for what might happen as a result of the new proclamation.

The Government plans to cede Ingwavuma to Swaziland, but Zulu feelings are running high over the deal. Ingwavuma contains the grave of the Zulu king, Dingane.

In a statement last night the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, said "The proclamation was issued to ensure stability, effective administration and good order in Ingwavuma so that negotiations in connection with the future of the area and its people can proceed freely."

Mr Botha stressed that calm and stability were vital to reconciliation of diverging interests and reiterated that Parliament would have the final say in any border adjustments between Swaziland and South Africa

On Friday in Durban Mr Justice Shearer found the original proclamation of June 18, excising Ingwavuma from KwaZulu and placing it under the Department of Co-operation and Development, to be illegal because the action had been taken with insufficient consultation with the KwaZulu Cabinet.

Giving judgment on an urgent application by Dr Oscar Dhlomo, KwaZulu Minister of Education, Mr Justice Shearer ordered that the territory be returned to KwaZulu until the matter was heard before Supreme Court on August 2.

The original proclamation was issued under the Black States Constitution Act and it was in terms of that Act that Mr Justice Shearer found the required consultation had not taken place.

Yesterday's proclamation was issued in terms of the Black Administration Act of 1927, which, according to Professor Marinus Wiechers, of Unisa, grants the State President power to alter the borders of KwaZulu without consultation.

It repealed the original proclamation and was made retroactively operative from June 18.

Describing Pretoria's lastest move on the Ingwavuma dispute as "stoking the fires," Chief Buthelezi said: "I am suprised that the Government did not wait until the date of return of the Supreme Court order, but instead showed kragdadigheid."

The KwaZulu Government, however, is determined to contest the validity of the new proclamation.

Prof Wiechers said of the new proclamation: "It is a pity that they have made use of a notorious section of the Black Administration Act to circumvent the decision of the Supreme Court."

Place in sun for elderly Sowetans

Pretoria Bureau

AN old-age home and a care centre are to be built in Soweto

Dr Piet Koornhof, the Minister of Co-operation and Development yesterday gave his official seal for the project during a luncheon at the Johannesburg North Rotary Club, which is involved in the venture.

Dr Koornhof said a 1978 survey had shown there were 600 000 registered pensioners in Soweto. He said the aged should remain an integral part of the community for as long as possible. Accommodation in an old-age home should be a last resort.

"The proposed home in Soweto should therefore provide accommodation only for those who have no family to care for them or those who are chronically ill," he said.

The home would accommodate 122 people while the care centre would provide care for pensioners who were still living in the community, he said.

No further details of the project were released.

INSIDE

Rand at critical low

The rand dropped below another critical level yesterday when it was quoted on the foreign exchange markets below 87 US cents for the first time. It reached a low point of 86,77c during the day but recovered towards the close to finish a shade under 87c. The gold price was quoted at $303,75 at the second fixing.

● See Page 13

Black miners pay increase

Only a day before the mining industry is due to announce its annual wage increase for black miners, the Anglo American group has released details of new average black wages which come into effect tomorrow.

● See Page 2

Plus

Gilbey's PUNTER'S FRIEND

Call for public aid

The public has been asked,

Magic! Showing a leg at the launch yesterday o British singer and comedienne, flanked by danc a magical theme with flying girls, waterfalls, ci

Doubles fall to three sets

Mail Correspondent

WIMBLEDON. — The men's doubles competition will be limited to a best-of-three sets during the first two rounds, Wimbledon officials announced yesterday.

The move is an attempt to catch up on a schedule severely hampered by last week's rain.

It is believed to be the first time this step has been taken at Wimbledon.

Officials said to catch up

It's sw

By DAVID MOLLETT

TRAINER Bert Sage terday gave the T vaal colt Sweet Wond clean bill of healt much to the relie many Transvaal pu who have backed horse for Saturday's H mans July Handicap.

It had been reported the colt, winner of month's Republic Day H cap and a 10-1 shot for t race, had injured his

Pension day burden eased

Report by Themba Molefe

The youth of Alexandra Township have made it their priority to ease the burden of the aged in the township, according to Alexandra Youth Council organiser, Mr Darkie Rametsi.

Shortly after the formation of the Youth Council in 1979, the Itlhokomeleng Association for the Aged and Disabled was started and has been the vehicle for projects to assist the 3 000 pensioners in Alexandra.

Through the association the aged have gained several concessions, the most important being an agreement with local office of the Department of Co-operation and Development regarding the paying out of the bi-monthly pension in the area.

Mr Rametsi said pension pay-out days have since been extended from one day to three days, every two months which means pensioners no longer have to queue for long hours.

He said the previous system of only one pay day resulted in some old people sleeping over at the Wynberg offices of the Department of Cooperation and Development so that they could be at the head of the long queue on pay day.

"Pensioners are divided into three groups and now receive their money over a three-day period," said Mr Rametsi.

Time to CARE for the aged

Mr Rametsi said Putco also agreed to provide the pensioners with free transport on pension day and has been doing so since 1979.

"Two buses have since been provided to transport the pensioners to and from Wynberg. The first bus takes its round and picks the aged at strategic points in the township at 8 am. The second one follows at 8.30 am," Mr Rametsi said.

Mr Rametsi said another important task of Itlhokomeleng was to entrust specially appointed Youth Council members with the permanent duty of being on the guard for any form of negative action from members of the community which may jeopardise the welfare and security of the aged citiens.

"Our campaign to look after the aged by providing a network of projects for their welfare did not only begin this year because it was the International Year of the Aged. It dates back to the days of the Save Alexandra Campaign. We compaigned not only for the township's reprieve but for everyone," he said.

Blow to G'town donkey owners

By JIMMY MATYU

PENSIONERS in Grahamstown who supplement their bi-monthly pensions by renting out donkey carts, have had their donkeys impounded.

The vice-chairman of the Grahamstown Fingo Village Ratepayers' Association, Mr Vuma Nkosinkulu, has approached the municipality without success.

Mr Nkosinkulu said: "I spoke to Mr S C Rock, the poundmaster, and asked for an extension to be given to these people to enable them to raise money to pay the fines. He refused."

He said the municipality had ruled that all donkeys in the area be kept in the commonage and that strays be impounded. The municipal order caused much inconvenience and hardship.

The poundmaster was not available today.

It's tickets to cheap bus travel

PENSIONERS will be the only commuters not affected by the proposed rise in bus fares announced in the annual Johannesburg budget yesterday

Mr Francois Oberholzer, chairman of the city's management committee, announced that the council would be applying for a 15% hike in bus fares from September 1.

The application will have to be approved by the local road transportation board.

The increase will affect all services in Johannesburg as well as link services to areas outside the municipal boundaries, such as Randburg.

Pensioners will still pay 3c per fare or 5c for a coupon and the over-70s will continue to ride free.

The last increase in Johannesburg's bus fares was a year ago when they went up by 15%.

If the new recommendations are accepted, white scholars will pay 25c — an increase of 5c — for their coupons.

A quarterly season ticket for white students would go up from R16,50 to R19,00.

Cash fares for whites would rise from 40c to 45c for Zone 1 passengers, from 50c to 60c for Zone 2, from 60c to 70c for Zone 3, from 70c to 80c for Zone 4 and from 80c to 90c for Zone 5.

Coupons would go up from 23c to 26c per trip for Zone 1 passengers and 26c per trip for Zone 5 passengers. Zones 2, 3 and 4 hikes will fall in between these.

The cheapest all-day monthly season ticket could go up fom R9,70 to R10,90 (Zone 1) and the most expensive from R28,20 to R32,30 (Zone 5).

Off-peak monthly season tickets will rise by 60c to R18,10 for Zone 1 passengers and by R2,30 to R18,10 for Zone 5 passengers.

Cash tickets for white children will rise by 2c to 13c for Zone 1 and by 5c to 39c for Zone 5 passengers.

Children's coupons will go up from 20c to 25c for Zone 1 and 40c to 45c for Zone 5.

Tickets for one day unlimited travel will remain unchanged.

For coloureds and Asians, cash tickets will go up 5c for Zone 1, 2 and 3 passengers. Coupons will go up from 11 to 13c for Zone 1 passengers, from 22c to 25c for Zone 2 and 25c to 29c for Zone 3.

BUS FARES UP 15% IN SEPT

JMT proposed fares for white, coloured and Asian services

	CASH PER FARE		COUPON PER FARE monthly cost (40 rides) in brackets		SCHOLAR COUPON PER FARE		PENSIONER PER FARE
	NOW	SEPT	NOW	SEPT	NOW	SEPT	NO CHANGE
ZONE 1	40c	45c	23c (R9.20)	26c (R10,40)			Cash
ZONE 2	50c	60c	34c (R13.60)	39c (R15,60)			5c
ZONE 3	60c	70c	45c (R18.00)	52c (R20,80)	20c	25c	Coupon
ZONE 4	70c	80c	56c (R22,40)	64c (R25,60)			3c
ZONE 5	80c	90c	67c (R26,80)	77c (R30,80)	—	—	

SEASON TICKETS

	ALL DAY monthly unlimited trips		OFF-PEAK monthly unlimited trips		STUDENT quarterly off-peak buses	
	NOW	SEPT	NOW	SEPT	NOW	SEPT
ZONE 1	R9,70	R10,90	R5,50	R6,10		
ZONE 2	R14,30	R16,40	R8,00	R9,20		
ZONE 3	R18,90	R21,80	R10,60	R12,20	R16,50	R19,00
ZONE 4	R23,50	R26,90	R13,20	R15,10		
ZONE 5	R28,20	R32,30	R15,80	R18,10		

STRIKES FM 2/7/82

Pensions again

300

Pensions remain a focus for ~~worker~~ grievances — in spite of assurances that government is not going ahead with its proposed Pension Preservation Bill. In Natal, pension issues have been at the centre of four major work stoppages in recent weeks.

Richards Bay seems to be the area most severely hit. According to some estimates there are as many as 3 000 workers from Alusaf, Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT) and a number of construction companies still on strike.

Mike Dunn, MD of RBCT confirmed to the *FM* that workers at his plant were the first to go out. The issue, once again, was pensions. Workers wanted their funds withdrawn from the Transvaal Coal Owners Association Pension Fund and lodged in a private pension fund. The work stoppage spread to the nearby Alusaf plant where management and workers were engaged in mid-year wage negotiations.

Alusaf MD, Danie van Vuuren, says the wage talks were rapidly superseded by the pension issue as the major grievance. Workers requested an immediate withdrawal of their contributions from the Siefsa-run company pension fund — a request which Van Vuuren says management had no legal authority to grant. Workers at construction sites belonging to the two companies walked off their jobs in sympathy. At the time of going to press most of the construction workers were back but the majority of workers at Alusaf and RBCT were still out on strike.

Last year — at the height of the Pension Preservation Bill controversy, there was a total of 62 strikes in Natal. Even after government agreed to shelve its draft Pensions Bill, strikes in the Province showed no sign of abating. There have been 27 strikes in Natal so far this year — many of them relating to pensions. The main sectors affected are the steel, paper, textile and sugar industries.

Fosatu organiser, Pat Horn, says that while workers seem satisfied that government has dropped its pension preservation plans, the controversy caused them to examine their pension funds more closely and this has given rise to a host of new grievances. "Pension fund trustees, who have negotiated on several issues, seem to be missing the main point — that is that the people here in Natal don't seem to want a pension fund. They would rather have the money now and use it for the education of their children."

Horn is convinced the issue will remain a source of discontent unless companies renegotiate pension fund rules. Some options, she says, could be voluntary or non-contributory pension funds, savings schemes, lowering the retirement age or allowing workers to borrow against their pension funds.

Roland Freakes, the executive director of the Natal Chamber of Industries, says there is no doubt that looked at from a pure economic point of view pension preservation is desirable. Employers, he says, should be more understanding and spend more time educating workers about the advantages of saving for their retirement.

Strikers go back

Mercury Reporter

STRIKING Richards Bay Coal Terminal workers have decided to return to work following negotiations between worker representatives and the company.

But the other pensions strike in the area at Alusaf continued with little progress having been made towards a settlement.

Meanwhile, at the Mtunzini Magistrate's Court 12 workers — including two Alusaf shop stewards — appeared on charges relating to the alleged intimidation of workers. Their trial will continue on Monday.

Old folk sleep out in the cold

ABOUT 40 pensioners slept in the freezing open veld outside the Soweto Council Chambers on Monday night in an attempt to beat yesterday's long queue for their bi-monthly pension payouts.

By SAM MABE

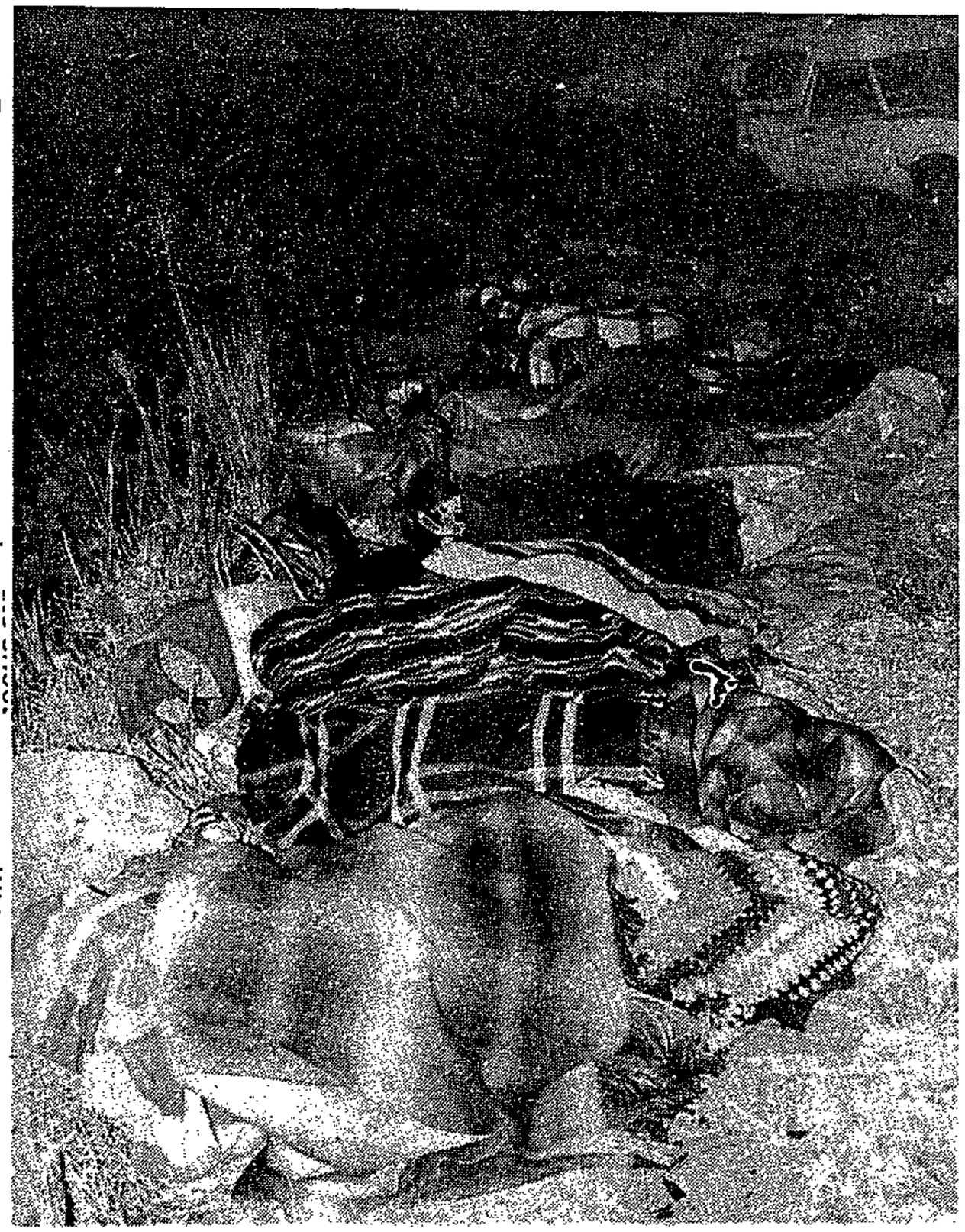
For the pensioners, who started assembling near the chambers at about 9pm, it meant queueing in the cold for more than 12 hours before they could start receiving their pensions.

Some of them had brought along scraps of cardboard, which they used for making fires to keep themselves warm, while others stayed away from the fire out of fear of losing their positions in the queue.

Others had umbrellas, which they said would be useful in case it started raining, or to protect themselves against the sun the following day.

Mrs Elizabeth Morake, who said she believed that her age could be 75, said she had always used to wake up at 5am, to secure a good position in the queue. But things are changing and the number of people who get pension money is increasing. So coming here at 5am is too late.

"The best way to get into the front of the queue is to be here the night before. In that way, you'll have no problems," she added.



PENSIONERS: With their heads covered in blankets to protect themselves from the cold, pensioners sleep in a queue waiting for the sun to rise.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

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Sappi pension fund rules amended

Mercury 7/7/82

Mercury Reporter

PULP and paper giant, Sappi, employing a black labour force of 14 000, has made significant changes to the company's pension rules following a year of negotiations with worker representatives.

Negotiations have been on the go since workers at Sappi's Tugela mill downed tools during last year's wave of strikes sparked off by the proposed Pensions Preservation Bill.

In the light of the discussions, the trustees of the fund have recently agreed to amend the rules in order to accommodate some of the grievances raised by Sappi workers.

The trustees raised the interest rates on members' contributions from 4 percent to 6 percent compound interest, the retirement age has been changed from 65 to 55 and a funeral benefit has been introduced which pays out R500 to the widow.

The company also agreed to make it possible for workers to get education and housing loans.

Addressing the problem of a three- to six-month delay in getting tax clearance before pension moneys can be paid out, the company agreed to pay a maximum of R600 to a worker immediately on leaving the company which would then be deducted from his pension money when cleared.

But, a union source said, a major worker request that the fund be made voluntary was refused by the company.

Elderly lose out in bid to improve area

By GILLIAN McAINSH

RENOVATIONS and alterations to houses and flats in Central have certainly given the area a facelift.

But for several pensioners, it has meant a move from the area in which they lived for many years.

Some were asked to leave and others could not afford the new increased rentals for the renovated houses and flats.

Others are afraid that it will be their turn next.

Mr Philip Beukes, 65, and his wife Judith, 66, moved into one flat of a three-flat block in Tulla Street 46 years ago.

Recently the landlord told them to leave as the block was to be renovated and sold.

"He didn't even write us a letter, he just came and told us to get out," said Mrs Beukes.

Mr and Mrs Beukes now live in a small municipal house in Forest Hill, but have had to sell some treasured bits of furniture because of a space problem in their new home.

"I've never moved in my married life — the Second World War was on when I was living there," said Mrs Beukes.

"I told the landlord he could even put the rent up a little, but he told us he wanted to sell."

Mr Billy Mitchell, 65, and his wife Jacoba, 68, are old age pensioners who have had to move from a Tulla Street house because it was being renovated and would cost too much to live in now.

"We lived there for the past 43 years," said Mr Mitchell, "and staying in a place that long, you'd definitely like to stay."

Other pensioners, both State and private, said they struggled with the increased rent, although they had not yet been forced to leave Central.

One 73-year-old woman said her rent had increased disproportionately in the past few years.

In 1976 she paid R61,23 for her one bedroom flat off Park Drive, in 1977, R76; in 1979, R82,30 and in 1981 it was R102,50. In February this year, the rent increased to R142 — an increase of nearly 40%.

"The rent was R14 a month when I first came," she said disconsolately.

One reason she was given for the higher rent was an increase in "value of occupation" — directly linked to the new, upgraded tone of Central.

A Whitlock Street war veteran pensioner, Miss M Stuthers, 73, said her landlord was intending to raise the rent by R30 a month once renovations had taken place.

"If they do the renovating our rents will go sky-high. Then you've got to either get out or pay up — and we just can't afford to pay up.

"I've been in this block of flats since 1940, so where can I go to? Property owners all seem so greedy — they are all for sectional title sales because that's where the money is."

One Clyde Street couple, who did not want to be named in case they lost their accommodation, also blamed sectional title sales and Central renovation for the increased rents.

"I've tried to get into old age homes, but they just laugh at you and tell you you are 300th on the list. The waiting list is so long I'll be dead before I get in," said the elderly woman.

"Central is looking more beautiful but we don't benefit. I haven't got anything from the Year of the Aged except increased rent."

Mr Colin Moag, 80, an Escom pensioner, and his wife Sheila, left their previous flat in Western Road because it was part of a block sold under sectional title and they could not afford to buy it.

The Moags now live in a Doncaster Road block of flats and in February their rent increased from R115 to R160 a month.

"It's a big jump, but today they are all on the band wagon for money," said Mr Moag.

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4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

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9/7/82

300

Sowetan

New pension payout plan

IT IS not necessary for pensioners to sleep in the open veld on freezing nights to queue for pension payouts to be made the following day, says a spokesman for the Department of Co-operation and Development, Mr Johan Oosthuysen.

Reacting to a report in The SOWETAN this week about 40 pensioners who had slept near the Soweto Council chambers on Monday night, Mr Oosthuysen said his department had devised a means of making it possible for pensioners to get their pay not too far from their homes.

He said there were 11 payout centres in Soweto and to reduce the number of pensioners who congregate at each centre on pay day, the department had decided on dividing men and women pensioners so they could get their money on separate days.

"We ensured that each pensioner lives not further than 3 kilometres from the centre where his money is paid out. Putco has also offered a service to transport the pensioners to and from the payout centres.

"Admittedly, there were shortcomings in the past which resulted in payments not being possible to be made in one day because too many people were paid from one centre," Mr Oothuysen said.

F CAPE TOWN
ANSWER BOOK

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Mix-up over 'pension rent'

A MAPETLA hostel pensioner has been threatened with eviction for owing five months rent despite the announcement last year by the chairman of the Soweto Council that pensioners were exempt from paying rent.

Mr Joseph Sekamo (63) of room 89 Block 4 Mapetla hostel said that on Saturday he was told that he would be evicted today.

"I pleaded with them because I will get my pension money tomorrow," he said. "The superintendent would not give me a chance and emphasised that I would be evicted today," he said.

News about pensioners being exempt from paying rent came late last year from the chairman of the Soweto Council, Mr David Thebehali.

Mr Nico Malan of the Soweto Council said: "I was not aware that this was the case and I will be making investigations." Mr Malan said that "only pensioners who had applied for their rents to be remitted are not paying

300 13/7/82 Soweton

NOTE CAREFULLY

1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.
4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

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2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
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Nelspruit is hit by a strike

Labour Correspondent

NELSPRUIT this week became the newest area to be hit by labour unrest as about 400 workers at major metal firm Delta Manganese downed tools in protest at retrenchments.

Worker demands to withdraw from the metal industries pension fund played a key role in the dispute.

Many workers at the plant are members of the National Union of Sugar Refining and Manufacturing Employees, a Natal-based union which has branched out to the metal industries.

The company's managing director, Mr L J Carter said yesterday that the dispute had ended.

He said workers gathered outside the plant on Thursday and refused to start work. However he said they returned yesterday and "we have been interviewing them all to ensure this does not happen again". He said production was normal.

Mr Carter said the strike was sparked by the retrenchment of 45 workers who lost their jobs because of a cutback in plant operations.

But he confirmed Delta had been holding "extensive discussions" with workers on a demand that their pension money be refunded. The metal industries' pension fund does not allow workers to withdraw their money from the fund until six months after they leave the metal industries.

"We were sympathetic to this and asked the fund for an exemption enabling us to refund the money. But this was refused," he said.

On the wage issue Mr Carter said Delta had a "house agreement" which meant it did not have to pay the same rates as those in the industries' wage agreement.

● Workers at OK Bazaars' KwaMashu branch downed tools yesterday and won the resinstatement of retrenched colleagues a Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union spokesman announced.

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The visitor with a special touch

CAPE TIMES 22/7/82 (300)

"I'm too heavy for Henry to lift in and out of the bath, and most of the time, I have to make do with "strip-washing myself" in the wheelchair.

"I really bless Annelie, who comes in three times a week and gives me a blanket bath. She even arranges, with the help of a couple of other volunteers, the occasional real bath, when they lift me in and out of the warm, perfumed water.

"That's absolute bliss."

Annelie, a wife and mother with an already busy life of her own, is one of St John Ambulance's Home Care Nursing Aides. It's a service provided free by the organization for people, young and old, who need a little daily nursing care — bed-bathing as in Mrs Manning's case, the changing of wound dressings, special appliances or home nursing comforts for disabled people.

When Annelie took the first aid and home nursing course provided by St John Ambulance, she learned of the desperate need for volunteers and decided to give up three mornings a week to help people unable to help themselves.

Among her current "customers" as she calls them, is a heavily-built young man, badly injured in a motorcycle accident whose tiny, pregnant wife is unable to manoeuvre his immobilised body around sufficiently to bed-bath him herself; an 80-year-old Malay lady, completely bedridden by arthritis who cannot even pull herself up in bed and has to be checked constantly for bedsores on pressure points; and a little boy whose accident wounds have to be cleaned and dressed daily.

But Annelie doesn't find her job at all depressing. "Most people are a little reserved initially, especially the older ones, but we quickly get to know each other and both usually end up enjoying my visits enormously.

"They tell me about their families, and I run little errands for them, bringing in a magazine or a bit of shopping they need, and I'm as delighted with any progress as they are.

"Sometimes extra problems become apparent that we weren't aware of initially, and I'm able to suggest other areas where St John Ambulance can be of help."

Things like the loan of medical comforts — wheelchairs, crutches, commodes, — which make life easier for disabled or elderly people. Transport to hospital for out-patients who would otherwise be unable to receive treatment, a community health programme with trained auxillary workers visiting homes to give advice on health, hygiene and nutrition. And outings on which groups of old people are regularly taken.

And warm, human contact for people who are neglected, forgotten, or simply to frail to go out and find it for themselves.

"There are some people I still visit regularly, although they don't need my services anymore," said Annelie, "it's just like dropping in for a chat with old friends."

● St John Ambulance desperately needs more people like Annelie. They will train you in first aid and home nursing if necessary and they, and their grateful "customers" will be happy with whatever time you can spare to help.

Please phone ☎22 2741 for more information on this, and other St John Ambulance services.

MAUREEN PITHEY

Preparing fish and mashed potatoes for the day's Meals on Wheels menu are cook Mrs SARAH BUGA (right) and Mrs PRIMROSE MAFANI.

The fourth in the series *Meeting a Challenge* takes a look at a day in the lives of the voluntary workers who provide hot meals for old folk in the city. Doing the rounds with Meals on Wheels gives an insight into the plight and lives of our sometimes-forgotten senior citizens.

What has happened to the traditional belief that your children will take care of you in your old age?

Spending a day with Meals on Wheels, doing their rounds in the Friendly City, was a shattering eye-opener to me.

I left early for the Louis Dubb Home in Kabega Park, where the voluntary workers have the use of the kitchen to prepare the meals.

Years ago they used a tiny church kitchen, but somehow they still managed.

At work when I arrived on the Tuesday were Mrs Shirley Andrews, one of the stalwarts, Mrs Anna Gerritz, who lives in the Louis Dubb complex and likes to help, Mrs Sarah Buga, who has been cooking for more than two years, and Mrs Primrose Mafani, her assistant.

Janine, Mrs Andrews's 14-year-old daughter, came along to help because during school holidays there is sometimes a shortage of voluntary workers.

Meals are delivered every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

The organisation is part of the Harvest-Ingathering Appeal and is entirely dependant on donations and help from the public and business organisations.

It was first started in East London in 1964, and Port Elizabeth workers began delivering meals in 1966.

At the outset the average number of meals a day was about 25, and there was ample time to prepare fresh vegetables.

When I was there nearly 140 meals were being packed, which was low compared to other days.

The meal consisted of delicious fried fish, mixed vegetables, mashed potatoes and tomato salad, with stewed cherries, jelly and custard packed separately.

The price of the meal (delivered) is only 60c, although the cooking and delivery costs are more than double that amount.

The four vans go to different parts of the city, including deliveries to old age homes like Buffelsfontein Centre, Moth Cottages and Red Cross.

Mrs Ann Meyers and Mrs Rosemarie Hines arrived to help with the packing and sealing, and Mr Bob Buxton, who retired recently and offers his services voluntarily, drove one of the vans with Mrs Yates as deliverer of the day.

I followed — once the meals are packed in, the van only seats two people. Our route was to take us to Newton Park, Westering, Cape Road, and then into the old part of Central.

● Mrs A has lived alone in her home in Willet Street since her husband's death.

She has a locked guard door at the front through which she received her hot meal.

She says that on her pension she cannot afford a maid, but is adamant that she will never leave her home, although she was "feeling properly poorly".

"My husband left me this home, and here they will carry me out."

I encountered this rather stubborn attitude among many of the older people, refusing to move where help would be nearer or companionship available.

Chatting politely to obviously lonely people can make the deliverers fall behind on their schedules, but they nevertheless have a friendly word for those who need it.

● Outside a once-stately home in Cape Road, now a rooming house, Miss H was waiting for her meal to be delivered.

She had the empties from the previous time ready, as well as her coupon for the meal.

She smiled shyly, and scurried back into the dark and cold passage to her room.

Does anyone know much about her, I wondered?

By this time the deliverer, Mrs Mary Yates, was wiping her brow.

Driving through traffic, looking for addresses, and then getting up two to four flights of stairs in old flat buildings keeps her literally on the hop.

I noticed that, as an experienced deliverer, she wore jeans and flat jogging shoes — when I saw some of the slippery cement staircases she had to negotiate, I understood her choice.

Many of the older blocks of flats where some of the old folk — mostly women on their own — live, seem to be in a sad state of neglect.

Few of the once-polished red cement steps had handrails, and if you tried to steady yourself — carrying hot food — on the brick balustrade, your hands were soon black with encrusted dirt.

● The gentlemanly Mr S is in a wheelchair, and lives alone in a furnished room in Central.

He was doing the crossword puzzle and greeted Mrs Yates enthusiastically.

"Life is not treating me too badly. On days when Meals on Wheels do not deliver, I get someone to fetch hot food from one of the take-aways in this vicinity," he said.

Maybe it is this feeling of belonging to things happening around them that makes so many of the old folk want to live in Central and nowhere else.

They persist in this, even if it means that changing circumstances confine them to pokey, dark and often damp rooms, many of which seem to be over-priced for what is offered.

● Miss A is paralysed from a rare spinal disease.

She lives upstairs in a small older block of flats, with her little dog as a companion.

Fortunately she is an avid reader and has friends who can help her down the stairs for drives.

Her daily domestic helper takes the dog for walks.

● Mrs W lives upstairs in an old block of flats near Bird Street.

I gave her one of the African violets which I brought along to give to some of the people on our rounds.

"I love flowers and plants, but have no facilities for anything like that — I have been here since my husband died 17 years ago."

The livingroom furniture is amply covered by her crochet work, her main hobby.

No television — it is too expensive.

● A call at a large home, where Mrs Yates went through a side gate to the back yard, brought us to a lovely little flat in a leafy courtyard filled with pot plants.

Mrs X, who looked like a grandmother from a picture book, received her hot meal with thanks and introduced us to her lovely granddaughter.

Her daughter lives in the main house, but the thought struck me that Mrs X probably wanted to show her independance by arranging some of her meals herself.

The van sped on to make two more deliveries, before returning to Kabega Park to offload the empties.

"Although we deliver three times a week, we are busy all the time. There is shopping and planning to do and quite a bit of organising for each day's trips," Mrs Andrews said.

The voluntary workers of Meals on Wheels deserve the grateful thanks of an entire community

Preparing to fill the hot food containers in an assembly line fashion are (from the left) JANINE EDWARDS, who helps during school holidays, her mother, Mrs SHIRLEY ANDREWS, and Mrs ANNA GERRITZ.

Spend a day with Meals on Wheels

300 S. Post 20/7/82

By YVONNE STEYNBERG
Woman's Editor

THE room was dingy, dark, with spartan, broken-down furniture — the very bare essentials. Not a ray of sunlight filtered through the window, which faced a high blank wall in an alley.

The old man rose from the lumpy bed and accepted his hot meal and separate sealed pack of dessert gratefully.

His routine — "I just sit and stare at the blank walls; my eyesight is too bad to venture outside" — for that day in his bleak life had been broken.

The bleak room is in a dilapidated rooming house in Central, Port Elizabeth.

He pays about R70 a month for the room. No food, coffee or tea is provided.

He says his son lives in a suburb of Port Elizabeth, but he does not see him often.

His only hot meals are delivered to him by Meals on Wheels, with Mrs Mary Yates bringing that day's sunshine

Post Focus

serves Ethel Walt in her article, *Homelands — or Hungerlands.*

Every year between 15 000 and 25 000 new workseekers come on the job market. Only a fraction of Tomlinson Commission — and a decreasing fraction

Tens of thousands of others have been moved from urban areas, "black spots", and consolidated areas.

tiny mountainous kingdom. Its population has increased by nearly 1 000% in 10 years due to resettlement. Still 85% of

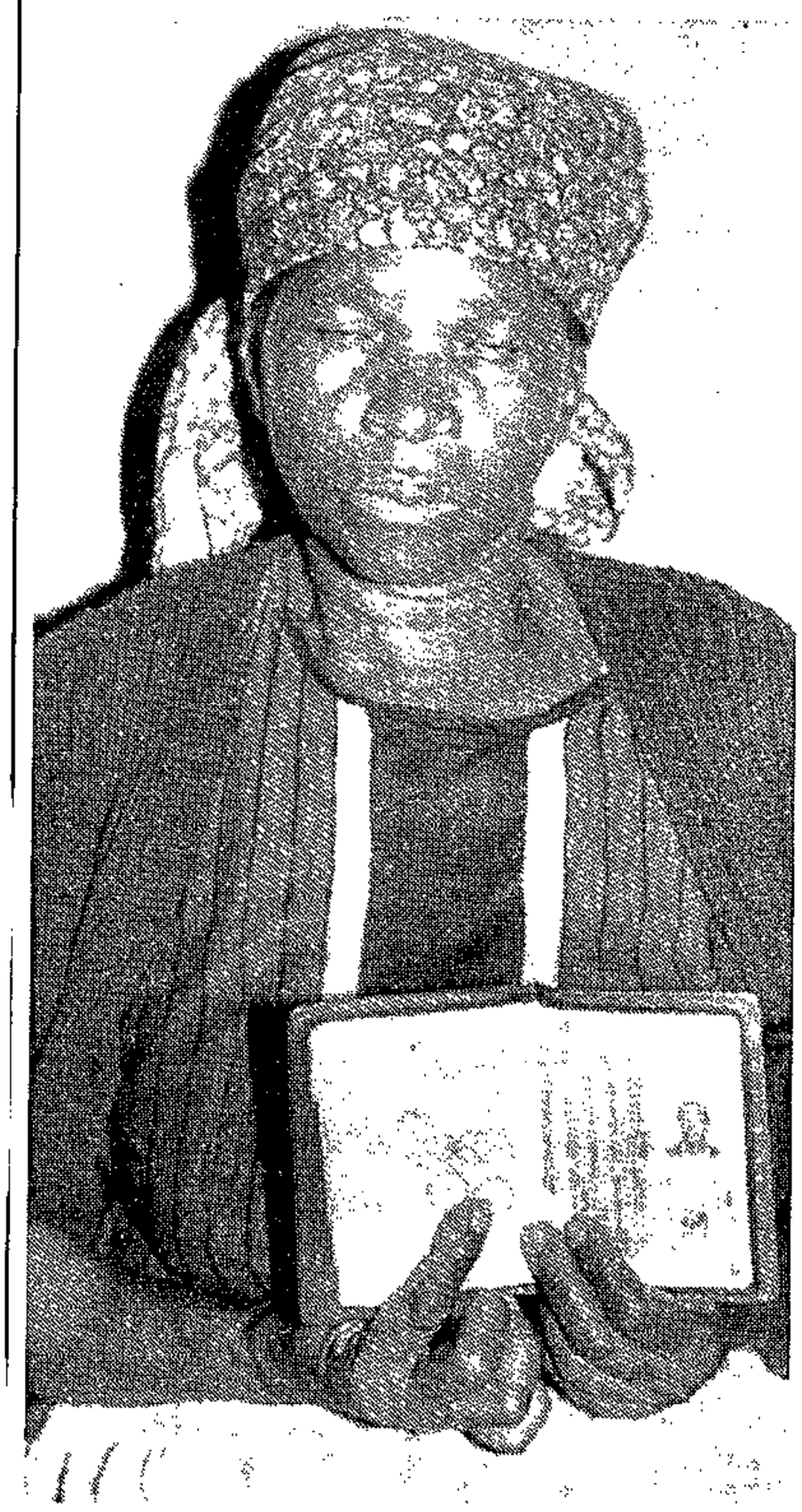
Mean household monthly income is R72 — almost 60% of households earn less than R50 a month and 20% have less than

malnutrition.

So much for the base on which the Government hopes to build a new political order for South Africa.

itself. There is a constant flux of people, but removal has been particularly intense recently.

Disabled woman refused pension



Miss NOMAZA MAPITIZA holds up her passbook showing the cancellation of her disability allowance.

Forced to live on handouts from friends

By GILLIAN McAINSH

A KWAZAKELE woman has been told she does not qualify for a State old-age pension because she is receiving a disability grant.

But Miss Nomaza Elda Mapitiza, 61, has not received her grant since July 1979, and it was officially cancelled in October 1980.

She has had no official income for three years and has had to exist on handouts from friends.

Miss Mapitiza received a disability grant from the Department of Co-operation and Development in 1978 when she could no longer work because of severe pains in her legs.

She was told to collect it every second month from Africa House but says that in September 1979, she was told by a clerk that her card could not be found.

In 1980 she visited Africa House regularly, from January to October, to find out what had happened to her card. Each time she was told to come back the following month.

In October that year her passbook was endorsed. Over the pink stamp proclaiming her entitled to a pension was written "cancelled" and above the cancellation the words "afgekeur onvoldoende" — rejected incomplete.

In April 1981, Miss Mapitiza turned 60 and applied for a State pension.

Seven months later she received a letter from the pensions office at Africa House telling her to report to them. She did, on November 6, hoping to get her long-awaited pension.

"When I got there, one of the clerks asked me why I had applied for an old age pension when I was receiving a disability grant.

"I told them that I didn't have a job or a son or a husband to support me, and that no-one at home had a job," she said.

Miss Mapitiza was told to return the next month. She did but nothing had been sorted out.

In May, one of the clerks — "a new man" — gave her a grocery ration slip which she exchanged for R11 worth of groceries.

"That was the first and the last," she said.

Miss Mapitiza used to work as a nanny for an Amsterdamhoek family and they still give her presents of groceries when she visits. But her legs are now so painful she is unable to travel far and relies totally on help from friends.

Recently a young couple with a baby lost their house in a fire in Soweto, and Miss Mapitiza offered to share her tiny house with them.

This means there are now five people staying in the cramped one-bedroomed Site and Service house. None are employed.

The commissioner for the Department of Co-operation and Development, Mr P Fourie, said Miss Mapitiza was definitely entitled to a pension. He confirmed that her disability grant was cancelled in October 1980, and that she had applied for an old-age pension in April 1981.

He had no explanation for the gap in payment between July 1979 and the stopping of the grant in 1980.

It was cancelled after "Miss Mapitiza was found to be fit for work by the district surgeon," he said.

On hearing why Miss Mapitiza had been told she was not entitled to an old-age pension he said: "That is very strange to me — she should come to the office."

He said he had no record in his files of the frequent visits Miss Mapitiza said she had made to Africa House.

"I have phoned Pretoria, and will send in a duplicate application for her if necessary," he said.

PENSIONS (300)

Lack of control

FM 6/8/82

Competition is fierce amongst the bigger life offices to take over the job of administering the troubled Natal Joint Municipal Pension Fund.

In the midst of this market activity came last week's announcement that Natal's Provincial Administrator had handed a report on mismanagement of the fund to the Attorney General.

This case highlights the responsibility of pension fund managers to their members.

In this particular case the Fund lost R4,4m between 1977 and 1981 as a direct result of its speculative investment policy. The report of a provincial commission of inquiry, chaired by Desmond Tees, makes it clear there is no question of the funds being misappropriated.

It is generally felt that the relevant legislation as it stands is adequate.

Rather, the problem was one of control. One person, the fund's secretary, was unhindered by other management committee members when he became, to say the least, over-enthusiastic about his high risk investment strategy. This is demonstrated, the commission found, by the fact that at one point the fund had forward commitments of about R40m while its annual income was around R10m. The current actuarial valuation of the Fund's total assets is about R40m.

Just as the first check, in the form of the management committee, failed, so did the second. The auditor, in this case the Provincial Auditor, did not raise the alarm as to the extent of the fund's forward commitments.

But the Registrar of Financial Institutions, Naas van Staden, points out that this and other municipal pension funds are exempt from direct control from Pretoria. Instead they are the responsibility of the individual provincial administrations. He does not believe that this exemption will necessarily be reversed as a result of the Natal case. He says: "We approach this case as a shortcoming, possibly with the management, within a single fund. We would rather not see it as a general problem facing all funds."

The pensions industry generally takes the view that there is always a risk that investment managers will be either over-conservative or unduly speculative. In the Natal case, the misjudgment was clearly on the side of too many high-risk deals. But sources stress that as much could be lost, in the form of forgone potential earnings, by an over-conservative investment policy. However, the over-cautious manager, who in terms of this is as guilty of bad judgment as the risk-orientated investment manager, is less likely to find himself facing public charges of mismanagement.

In the end it is the fund's members and municipal taxpayers who will pay for this particular case of mismanagement. They will have to make up any shortfall if the fund cannot meet benefit commitments.

State aid for aged extended

The Government has taken a step to help more elderly people in homes qualify for State-subsidised accommodation.

The income limit of residents of homes for the aged and handicapped subsidised by the State would rise from R200 to R300 a month, the Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr C V van der Merwe, said in Pretoria yesterday.

The increase is retrospective to April 1 this year.

From April 1 1983 the managements of subsidised homes will be allowed to increase the number of these residents by 20 percent a year. — Sapa.

Shock awaits Soweto aged

HUNDREDS of Soweto residents who bought insurance policies from a black-owned Johannesburg company, are in for a shock — they are as good as not being insured.

If the insured person or members of their families die, they would only be liable to R24 or less for funeral expenses — a far cry from the coffin and hearse, the Safrican Association promised its clients.

But this shock disclosure, according to the company's general manager Mr S Robinson, will not affect people who have increased their premiums. He said all clients had been approached to improve their premiums but most had been reluctant to do so.

By LEN MASEKO

Before Safrican Association was taken over from blacks by a leading insurance group in 1971, it had offered R24 towards funeral expenses for a monthly premium of 25 cents. With the cost of living biting hard, the company decided to increase its premiums soon after the takeover and its benefits rose to a maximum of R1 000.

Many people — mostly pensioners who used to stay in Sophiatown where the company was started — are still continuing to pay their 25-cent premiums unaware that this will not cover funeral costs.

The whole saga came into the open last week when a family of an Orlando East pensioner was told they would receive only R24 towards her burial costs. According to the family, Mrs Elizabeth Masimong (83) had been paying her premiums since 1937, and had also paid in advance up to January next year.

Mr Robinson said: "This is a problem we've been trying unsuccessfully to solve. These people have ignored our notices that they should improve their premiums. It is costing our company a lot of money to cover their 25-cent premiums. We can't even tell these people to stop paying their premiums because this is against insurance laws. Nor are we allowed to give them their money back.

Reference book delay costs man a pension

By GILLIAN McAINSH

A 72-YEAR-OLD Walmer Township resident cannot apply for his old age pension before he has received his reference book.

But Mr Wilson Gungxe says he has been waiting for his reference book since April, 1981.

However, no one from the Department of Co-operation and Development had any knowledge of Mr Gungxe and in November 1981 police were asked to assist in tracing records of his existence. The investigation drew a blank.

Last month he was asked to produce a statement from a relative confirming his age, which he did.

Since than, he says, nothing has happened.

Another Walmer Township man, Mr Ndimeni Booi, 27, has been waiting seven years for his reference book.

In 1975 Mr Booi received a temporary identification document which expires every two months.

He showed the Evening Post the most recent one — a flimsy piece of paper issued in 1979 and stamped and restamped.

It was worn along the creases and has had to be taped together with adhesive tape.

"I can do nothing with that paper because it is not a reference book," he said.

A former employee of the East Cape Administration Board, who is involved with black pensioners, said pension and reference book administration was in a "shambles".

"You can imagine what might happen if Mr Gungxe has to wait for seven years for his reference book — he might not even live that long."

The Regional Commissioner for the Department of Co-operation and Development, Mr J F Fourie, said the delay in obtaining a reference book for Mr Gungxe was because he "never applied in his whole life for a reference book and he has never paid taxes".

Mr Fourie said: "He really owes us back taxes, but I think in his case we'll have to make an exception because he has no source of income."

When he heard of Mr Booi's plight, he said the seven-year wait was "very long" and suggested that Mr Booi come to him personally.

Domestic pension fund takes off

Sowetan 18/8/82

THERE'S been a "pretty good" response from all sections of the community to a call by the Domestic Pension Fund in Johannesburg to employers to buy full pension covers for their domestic employees.

Ms Judy Powell, a consultant on the Domestic Pension Fund in Johannesburg, said in an interview that, whilst whites and some Indians and coloureds have enrolled, blacks have accepted the idea with much enthusiasm.

"Being initially an employer responsibility, the response from whites has been pretty good.

"Blacks were a little bit wary about our motion in the beginning. Once they knew the full facts, they accepted it with a great deal of enthusiasm," said Ms Powell.

The fund was set up countrywide recently as a kind of insurance by employers for their domestic employees against the odds of disability, dismissal and death.

Brochures circulated stated that for as little as R10 per month, a full pension cover could be bought for domestic employees.

How to help a domestic worker get an old age pension when she's 60

E. Post 25/8/81

By YVONNE STEYNBERG
Woman's Editor

FAITHFUL Emma has been the domestic helper for two families for a total of nearly 30 years.

Now this faithful black woman is old and weary, her eyesight is failing and her legs plague her because of her varicose veins.

She looks older but she is actually approaching 60, the age at which she will qualify for an old age pension.

But how to go about it?

She has heard many tales from others who gave up their permanent jobs in anticipation of the pension, and then the pension never materialised.

Because Emma is known to me, I decided to find out whatever I could of the procedure for her pension application and at the same time give employers who want to help their employees the facts of what to do.

I called on Mr F J Fourie, Commissioner of Co-operation and Development, Eastern Cape.

Also present was Mr C E Kritzinger, section head in charge of accounts at the offices in Africa House.

This is the section directly involved with the paying out of pensions to black men and women.

"When you consider that we pay out pensions for more than 12 500 black men and women over a 14-day period every two months, then the complaints of delays or non-payment is a mere drop in the ocean," Mr Fourie said.

He said the payouts were handled on a bi-monthly basis, otherwise the staff would be 100% involved with payouts and the system would be unworkable.

It is anticipated that the present monthly pension of R40 for blacks will be increased to nearly R50 by October, giving them a bi-monthly payout of R100, or the equivalent (according to statistics) of the amount older black women are earning in some Port Elizabeth households.

This is what Emma will have to do to get her pension.

First of all, it is not necessary for her to produce a birth certificate.

Her identity book will give her date of birth and is acceptable as proof.

Should such proof not be available, a recognised assessment of age, which can be done at Africa House, or a medical certificate, will be accepted.

Form DSO305, available at Africa House, must be correctly completed and submitted for processing in Pretoria.

If everything is in order, it will take about two to three months before the applicant is advised on form R60a whether the application has been successful.

If the application is successful, the date on which first payment is made will be given on the form, and the new pensioner will also get a year's scheduled programmes of dates on which the pensions will be paid out.

When the first payment is made, the pensioner is again reminded of the next date.

"This is to ensure that they come and collect their pension on the due date at the correct centre," Mr Kritzinger said.

Such precautions and reminders are necessary because if a pension is not claimed for six months — three payments — it will lapse.

No pension is payable while a pensioner is detained in a Government institution, for example in prison.

"Often applications do not contain all the correct information, such as stating when an application has already been made in the past, or lapses in payment, and then the computer will reject an application, leading to delays in payouts," Mr Fourie said.

He said most of the difficulties encountered were usually with incorrect or incomplete applications of foreign labourers.

The means test is applicable for as long as the pension is received.

A pensioner is allowed to earn about R30 a month without losing his or her pension.

"You would be amazed at how many people phone us to find out if their gardener or domestic worker could not have his or her salary from them reduced so that he/she can qualify for a pension — but keep on working for them, virtually subsidised by the State," Mr Fourie said.

He said such callers were usually reluctant to give their names or addresses.

Payouts are mostly made in community centre halls where they are available, like the Centenary Hall in New Brighton, Daku Hall in Kwazakele, the Zwide and Veeplaas rent offices, and at the Walmer Location.

A bi-monthly visit is also made to Livingstone Hospital, where bedridden patients are paid out — if the department is notified that the pensioner is in hospital.

In the case of a bedridden patient being at home and unable to collect the pension, a relative or friend can obtain a power of attorney from Africa House to collect the pension.

Assistance is also given for the funerals of pensioners.

The person holding the power of attorney can claim, upon presenting receipts for funeral expenses, the last pension due, or portion thereof, towards the expenses.

"Many are under the misapprehension that we will pay for the entire funeral but it is only the amount of the pension due or portion thereof which will be given towards it," Mr Kritzinger said.

In worthy cases assistance is given to pensioners who are waiting for pension payouts in the form of blankets kept in store, and orders for essential groceries, which can be bought at any store which will accept the department's order and send the account.

If a genuine delay has occurred in the pay-out of a pension, arrear amounts are included with the first payment.

For disability pensions a medical certificate is necessary with the application.

Payouts are also made on farms, and farmers who want to apply on behalf of their farm workers for old age pensions, can obtain form DSO305 by telephoning or calling at Africa House.

However, because of tales of delays some black women and men may be tempted to apply for their pension a few months before they turn 60, or 65 in the case of men.

"It is best to make an application say not more than one month before the time, because the computer will reject the claim on the grounds of the age not yet being 60," Mr Fourie said.

He said the applicant must then wait about two to three months for notification of acceptance, and possibly two months for the first payment to start — but that payment will include all the back pension payments due.

From then on, few problems are experienced with the regular payouts.

Row flares up over pension

300 ~~+[illegible] 184~~ Sowetan 26/8/82

THE controversial preservation of pension issue which sparked off labour unrest in the country last year, has resulted in a new row flaring up between Fosatu-affiliate Metal and Allied Workers Union and a Pietermaritzburg company.

Hullets Aluminium, a subsidiary of the giant Tongaat-Hullets, has claimed that all but two of the 450 workers who were reinstated following the strike were "buying back" their full pension rights.

Mawu disputes this and said workers had been 'pressurised' into 'buying' their jobs back through a loan by the company.

Hullets Aliminium was hit by labour unrest in July last year when about 900 workers went on strike against the pension Bill that was later withdrawn, and 600 resigned to get their pension contributions.

RDM 27/8/82

Metal council rules face major legal test

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Correspondent

WORKERS at a Durban metal plant are considering seeking a court order declaring that the rules of the country's biggest industrial council pension fund, which affects nearly half a million workers, have no legal force for black workers.

The move would have major implications for industrial relations in the metal industries. If the action succeeds, lawyers say, it will mean the metal industrial council agreement is also not applicable to blacks.

Industrial councils are a cornerstone of the country's official bargaining system. The metal council is the biggest, fixing minimum wages and work conditions for more than 450 000 workers of all races.

The possible court action is the latest development in an ongoing attempt by workers at Defy Metal Industries to have their contributions to the metal industries pension fund refunded.

The workers, most of whom belong to the SA Allied Workers' Union, struck over this demand and have been negotiating it with Defy for about nine months.

But Defy cannot meet the demand as the fund's rules do not allow workers to withdraw their money unless they have retired or have left the industry for six months.

Earlier this year, the company applied unsuccessfully to the council for an exemption from its rules.

Talks continued, but on Friday Defy told the union nothing further could be done, short of breaking the law.

A Saawu representative said yesterday that the union had decided this week to consider three courses of action.

They would either appeal to the Minister of Manpower against the council's decision not to grant an exemption, ask the company to establish a non-contributory pension fund or seek the Supreme Court order.

The application for the order would argue that the agreement setting up the pension fund should not have been extended to black workers because the unions which negotiated it were not representative of them.

A course of action would be chosen next week.

"The workers believe they were not consulted about setting up the fund. They also have no control over how it invests its money or detailed knowledge of how it is administered. They therefore do not want to belong to it.

"The company's attitude is sympathetic, but the council has adopted a no-compromise stance. The workers therefore feel they must take further action," he said.

The director of the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation, Mr Sam van Coller, yesterday confirmed that Defy had been refused an exemption. He said exemptions were granted to companies only on the basis of guidelines established by precedent.

Defy general manager Mr Ron Colley confirmed yesterday that talks had been taking place on the issue.

Defy had honoured its commitment to the workers and Saawu to keep them informed of its attempts to persuade the fund's board of management to change its rules, but it had ultimately been faced "with a situation over which we have no control".

The company believed communication with workers and the union had improved and that it had done everything it could to settle the issue, Mr Colley said.

EL Staff to Loy Strike

By BRIAN POTTINGER
Political Correspondent

THE Government — through the Unemployment Insurance Fund — is to make available R2 million to help motor industry workers in the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage-East London areas who have been affected by the strike actions of other workers.

Announcing this today, Mr Fanie Botha, the Minister of Manpower, also appealed for the private sector to match the Government's initiative in helping workers who, through no fault of their own, were affected by strike actions.

The move will have major implications for the motor industry, where substantial numbers of workers have been affected at different periods by strike action undertaken by members of other unions.

The scheme announced by Mr Botha involves combating unemployment by finding work for loyal employees who have no earnings during work stoppages.

Mr Botha said the scheme would be applicable only to future instances of losses caused by worker stoppages and would be administered by the Department of Manpower.

"This is an indication of the sincerity of the Government to give assistance out of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, which is administered under their aegis to workers who act responsibly and who lose earnings through no fault of their own," he said.

Mr Botha emphasised that the Government did not stand aloof from the problems of workers caught up through no wish of their own in strike action.

The Government placed a high premium on that section of the worker force that was stable, loyal and experienced.

Mr Botha suggested employers should seek ways to reward the loyalty of its workers.

Speaking later to assembled businessmen, Mr Botha warned that any businessman who neglected the interests of the responsible and loyal part of his work force was courting disaster and deserved little sympathy.

"No employer can forsake the loyalty of that party of his workforce which acts responsibly and which still respects the rule of law," the Minister said.

The time had come for employers in South Africa to practise the philosophy of self-government in such a way that they retained their self-respect instead of bowing to the dictates of outsiders or militants.

His message to them was to stop hiding behind the Government, to put their own houses in order and face up to their responsibilities.

"Stand by those loyal workers who lose time and income as a result of the actions of others," he said.

Mr Botha also criticised as "irresponsible" companies in the Eastern Cape who responded to industrial unrest by threatening to move their operations elsewhere.

● See Page 4

Council gives Soweto aged rent reprieve

THE Soweto Council has exempted 45 pensioners from paying rent to protect them from being evicted from their homes.

The council is also considering hundreds of other applications from pensioners, disabled and other handicapped people who cannot afford to pay house rentals.

By LEN MASEKO

According to the council, these pensioners had no other source of income except the pension money they received every two months. Most of the applications came from the Orlando East and White City Jabavu.

CHILDREN

The council ensured that the pensioners applying for remission had no employed children or families residing with them as sub-tenants.

The council's housing director, Mr J J Oosthuizen, told The SOWETAN yesterday that it was part of a scheme aimed at ensuring "life residence" for Soweto's aged.

His council introduced a regulation that would protect pensioners from being evicted by their children.

"There have been so many cases of parents being evicted by their children that the council felt there was a need for this new clause to be introduced," Mr Oosthuizen said.

WOZA Albert has scored an international triumph.

Its performance at the Edinburgh Festival, also known as the International Festival Fringe, has won it a first prize out of the 800 plays that were presented.

Twelve performances were staged at the city's experimental Traverse Theatre from August 24 as part of the International Festival Fringe.

The Traverse, always open to new

Fort Hare 1 500 wai

JUDGMENT has been reserved in the hearing in the Ciskei Supreme Court of an application by four expelled Fort Hare students for an order to have the 1 500 expelled students reinstated immediately.

Ciskei's Chief Justice, Mr Justice de Wet, reserved judgment this week at the close of the two-day hearing, which drew capacity crowds to the court in Zwelitsha, outside King William's Town.

He said he would hand down judgment as soon as possible.

The students brought an application for an interdict declaring their dismissal on July 29 invalid.

Mr Ian Farlam, SC, argued for the students that the action of the rector, Professor J A Lamprecht, in dismissing the students was grossly unreaso and accordingly a valid.

Mr Frank Kro for the university that the rector had within the regulat the university. H been very reaso

Secrecy hides Sobhuza's body

LOBAMBA — The cloak of secrecy around the death rites of King Sobhuza II hangs as heavy as the shroud of mourning on the Swazi nation as it prepares a State funeral for its lion and leader of 60 years.

Foreign dignitaries and diplomats, ranging from Britain's Prince Michael of Kent to American jazz musician Lionel Hampton, began arriving on Thursday for the State funeral tomorrow afternoon.

Notably, mourners are expected to include both the South African Government delegation and one from the African National Congress (ANC).

Mystery surrounds the whereabouts King's body. So servers there main has already been in a secret cave mountains overl the royal kraal. Government spo is adamant that not yet been buri

The chiefs a riors of the regiments gathe the royal kraal, their voices rise each morning mountain king mists, will not say they are among who know.

• SEE PAGE

People who know choose
SNOW WHITE

You can't get a job
If you don't know how to do a job.
You need us
To help you learn something that
You can do
in computers.
HAWK

Many don't know of meals service

3/7/82 (300) C. Times

Staff Reporter

THE Disa Service Centre in the Gardens wants to increase its Meals-on-Wheels system to senior citizens but cannot because many are not even aware of the centre's existence.

In addition, many elderly people have stopped using the system because of the unpopular plastic containers used to hold the meals — although this is soon to change.

The Cape Peninsula Welfare Organization for the Aged is replacing these with 250 new aluminium containers which it thinks will make meals easier for the elderly.

The assistant director of operations for the organization, Mr A A Johnson, said the plastic containers had several disadvantages.

"When the food cools down, it creates a vacuum between the food and the lid, and old folks with arthritis just can't operate it.

Squashed

"Also, the round bottom of the bowl means that the food does waltz around a bit and get squashed. Some of the elderly folk even put the plastic containers on the stove or in the oven — and you can imagine what happens then."

Mr Johnson said the aluminium containers should be in operation within six weeks, but it would cost "a lot of money".

The centre delivers 50 cooked meals — consisting of soup, meat, vegetables and dessert — every day except Sunday, and charges a rate in keeping with the person's income.

"We could easily double the number, but people just don't know we exist," said Mrs N Bicket, the organizer in charge of the Disa Service Centre.

Social workers

"It's very important to let the aged know that we do offer these services, as many of them never come into contact with social workers who could inform them."

Mrs Bicket said social workers would visit any elderly person interested in receiving meals to see whether he or she qualified.

The food is prepared at a cost of R1 a meal and the average amount received by the centre is 60-70 cents a meal.

Warmers will be installed in the delivery vans to keep the aluminium containers hot and present the senior citizens with piping-hot food.

Two of Guguletu's aged residents, Mrs E Kalipa, left, and Mrs M Cetyiwe yesterday took a closer look at both the sketch plans and the site of a proposed old age home, Khayalethu for the Aged. The home will be the first old-age home for blacks in the Western Cape.

First old-age home for blacks

C. Times 3/9/82 300

Staff Reporter

THE first old-age home for blacks in the Western Cape, is to be built in Guguletu soon.

The home, which will cost about R2-million, will be known as Khayalethu for the Aged, and will provide accommodation for 125 aged people from the townships of Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu.

Yesterday a representative of a magazine for black people, handed the chairman of the old-age home's committee, Mr Charles Mehana, a cheque of R5 000 towards building costs.

Mr Mehana said the idea for a home had first been mooted in 1978 after a building, used as temporary transit camp for aged people, burnt down with the loss of one life.

The concerned local community rallied and formed the Friends of the Disabled and Aged Association, which was given a mandate by the community to investigate the need of a proper home.

This was followed by a breakthrough in government policy which resulted in ministerial approval for the erection of a proper old-age home in the Western Cape.

The association later withdrew its support when it became known that a government loan would ultimately be used to build it.

Three new committees, respectively from Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga, formed a joint steering committee, which, under the guidance of the Cape Peninsula Welfare Organization for the Aged, will continue to raise funds for the proposed home.

The home will be built on a 15 000 square metre site opposite the Guguletu Day Hospital.

According to Mr Mehana there is a waiting list of more than 200 people.

New centre for the aged

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

THE SECOND service centre for the aged in Daveyton, near Benoni, will be opened soon.

The Benoni Golden Round Table 181, this week donated a total of R1 500 to the Benoni Black Council for the Care of the Aged towards this project. This money will be used to buy a stove, washing and sewing machines and utensils, which will be used by inmates for their cooking.

The first service centre in the area was opened early this year at the local Methodist church. The aged meet every Friday at this centre and are taught sewing, handwork and how to crochet, by social workers. They are also provided with free food and drinks.

The money was presented by Mr Mike Gown on behalf of the Round Table 181. A few months ago, the same organisation presented 100 blankets to the aged in the area.

The Daveyton Community Council also donated R40 and three buses to take the aged to the Pretoria Zoo on September 17 and the Benoni Black Council for the Aged has also promised to donate about R180 which will be used to buy the aged food and drinks on this day.

In an interview with **The SOWETAN** after the presentation, a spokesman for the Council for the Care of the Aged, said the second service centre would probably be opened next month at the Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church.

4. AFFILIATIONS TO INDUSTRIAL FEDERATIONS CONTINUED:

	Federation of Salaried Staff Associations of South Africa
	Pulp and Paper Industry's Joint Committee
	Rand Water Board Unions Joint Committee
	South African Council of Mining Unions
	South African Federation of Leather Trade Unions
	South African Council of Transport Workers
	South African Federation of Chemical and Allied Workers Union

5. In the light of the 1979 amendments to the Industrial Conciliation Act, could you please indicate if your union has made any application for extensions in scope. If so,

a) where.....

b) to whom .....

c) for what additional area.....

Black earnings claim disputed by academic

By SANDRA SMITH

THE generally-recognised "substantial growth" in aggregate black earnings over the past few years was almost exclusively accounted for by increased pension contributions and overtime work and not by any real increase in wages.

This is the view of a University of the Witwatersrand social anthropologist, Professor Jeremy Keenan, who makes this claim in a paper entitled "The legitimisation and effect of retrenchments in South Africa in 1982".

Prof Keenan asks whether the discrepancy in the figures was due to "professional incompetance or ideological distortion".

If pension contributions and overtime pay were excluded, real basic wages showed a decline, Prof Keenan says.

Nevertheless, as long as official information could show that black wages had increased greatly during this period, managements could more easily legitimise their current practices of "wage restraint".

"This distortion of 'official' wage figures seems to have reached new heights with the tabling in Parliament in June of the National Manpower Commission report," Prof Keenan says.

The commission reported that the past year had been characterised by a particularly high increase in average earnings and that, among blacks, the average earnings for the nine months to September, 1981, increased by 24,9%.

The consumer price index had risen by 15,2% between 1980 and 1981, which meant the real earnings increased by more than 10%, the commission said.

"Just how the commission conjured up these figures is not clear," Prof Keenan says.

The commission claimed to have taken the figures from the Department of Statistics figures, but the department's figures showed that real black earnings increased by only 2,3% for this period.

The Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, told Parliament that 50% of SA's inflation was due to black wage increases and the Defence budget.

Old folk in rent increase puzzle

By Moira Levy

In spite of assurances by the city's housing director that there would be no rent increases for coloured pensioners, old folk in Noordgesig in Western Coloured Township have received notices warning them of rises next month.

Mr Thys Wilsnach, director of housing, said he could not explain why this had happened, and endorsed the council's policy of keeping pensioners' rents below 25 percent of their monthly income.

"We sent letters to all pensioners in the area telling them their rents have been reassessed, but that they would not have to pay more than 25 percent of their incomes. Any amount above that will be paid by the council." he said.

Yet most pensioners who contacted The Star are paying rents exceeding 25 percent of their incomes, and they say they have not had any assurances from the council that they will not have to pay the increases.

Mr John Harris of Noordgesig said he knew of six pensioners who had been notified of increases in one day.

"And we are charged rent increases every year. We are the people least able to afford it. We are told the increases are to cover the department's growing overhead costs, yet there are never any improvements to our houses, so where does the money go?"

Domestic workers get pension fund

300 Sowetan 17/2/82

ALREADY two families have received payments from the newly-launched Domestic Pension Fund scheme, which provides pensions and death and disability benefits for domestic workers.

In Durban, the family of the late Albertina Zungu, who died recently and had been a member since November last year, was presented with R2 535. The money was received by her daughter and grandson.

Another payment of R2 563 was made to the Johannesburg wife of a domestic worker.

A statement released by the assurance company that manages the fund says the scheme is the brainchild of a Johannesburg benefits consultant, Mr Lionel Phillips.

Monthly premiums are from R10. A person may transfer savings to the fund to swell the monthly pension and premiums can be increased in units of R5.

If the person leaves his/her job, the employer's obligation to pay monthly premiums is discontinued. The account remains in force, earning interest, until the employee finds a new employer willing to resume contributions.

The domestic has death and disability cover for six months after premiums have been discontinued, provided at least six contributions have been made in the previous 12 months.

This may be an advantage to a domestic worker who cannot find work immediately after leaving a job.

For further information on the Domestic Pension Fund, telephone Johannesburg (011) 37-5798.

UNIVERSITY OF CA
EXAMINATION ANS

All answer books must be numbered

Number of books handed in	
Number of this book	

PENSIONERS 300

The rents trap

FM 17/9/82

The resources of SA's white State pensioners are being stretched to the limit. A survey in Durban has revealed that many are paying as much as 70% of their incomes on rent alone.

The situation, says Michael Claye, director of The Association For the Aged (Tafta) in Natal, is alarming. According to him, of 517 people seeking accommodation in a Tafta building, 76,4% had incomes of less than R300/month. Only 5,2% received more than R600/month. Of those with less than R150/month — the category which includes all State pensioners — 38% were paying more than 70% of their income on rent and in some cases, rent bills were as high as 80% of income.

Says Claye: "Situations where people are paying more than 50% of their income on rent give cause for concern. In cases where people are paying as much as 80% of their income on rent, malnutrition is inevitable."

The rapidly rising cost of rented accommodation is said to be the main reason for pensioners' financial discomfort. Claye says he knows of one rent controlled building in Durban where rents of R84,70/month will rise to R120/month next month. In another building rents of R106/month will soon jump to R191/month

State pensions are currently R122/month, although they are being increased to R138/month in October. Although Tafta will help find alternative accommodation for hard-pressed pensioners, Claye notes that the housing position is becoming increasingly critical. Tafta has 500 people on its waiting list and Claye says he knows of another 450 living in sub-standard accommodation who need re-housing. If Tafta cannot re-house victims of spiralling rent increases, Claye says it will probably subsidise their rent payments. The money will come from community fund-raising schemes and not the State.

He sees subsidisation as a short-term solution only. Long-term solutions, he believes, could be a lot harder to find. But one remedy could lie in providing Tafta with more funds to purchase more of its own buildings. Tafta currently owns five blocks of flats in Durban where rentals are pegged at affordable levels. The buildings were bought with government loans, redeemable over 40 years, at 1% interest.

According to Claye, Tafta would still be looking for additional properties had government not frozen all Department of Community Development loans. "They turned off the tap at the crucial time," he laments.

A fundamental solution to the erosion of pensioners' incomes, he believes, lies in solving the housing problem. If you peg the amount pensioners pay on rent, he argues, all they have to contend with is the escalations on food and other essentials.

"The way things stand at the moment," Claye says, "you could easily double pensions in order to meet rent increases. From the taxpayers' point of view the best solution would be to streamline the Housing Act and provide welfare organisations with the funds to purchase their own buildings. Once people have a roof over their heads, you can start providing additional care."

Pensioners ... rents burden becoming intolerable

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3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.
4. Do not write in the left hand margin.

3. No part of answer [illegible]
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

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Slow progress in tracing black ex-servicemen

18/9/82 Post D. Dispatch 300

EAST LONDON — The tracing of black ex-servicemen was difficult, but progress was being made, Mr P. Zulu, the Natal contact officer for the SA Legion, said here yesterday.

Of the 80 000-plus black soldiers who fought in the world wars there were approximately 60 000 still living and who probably qualified for war veterans' pensions.

However, only 1 400 claims for war pensions had been received.

"There is some reluctance to come forward because in many cases the men are in arrears with their poll tax and fear arrest if they register for pensions," Mr Zulu said.

"In some cases the Legion has paid the poll tax arrears for the person, thus enabling them to qualify," he added.

The chairman of the black ex-servicemen's liaison committee, Mr E. F. Rowston, said in his report to congress that progress was also being made with the establishment of Legion branches in Soweto, Everton, Kwa Mashu and several other "black cities".

The issue of dissatisfaction with increases in pensions paid to ex-servicemen was also discusssed yesterday. Resolutions concerning the issues will be put to congress to today.

The national secretary of the Legion, Mr Lou Kretschmer, said the Legion was pushing for parity in pensions paid to whites, coloureds, Asians and blacks.

"We are all veterans. During the wars we signed a blank cheque and gave our all for what we believed in. All of us did: colour, race or creed did not come into it," Mr Kretschmer said. — DDR

Man unconscious when his first pension arrived

300

E. Post

20/9/82

By RAYMOND HILL

SHORTLY after 60-year-old Mr James Vandala's pension was approved, officials of the Department of Co-operation and Development made a special trip to the Walmer Township home of the desperately ill man to give him his money.

When they arrived he was unconscious. He died in hospital soon afterwards.

The money was given to a woman who looked after him and will go towards paying for the funeral arrangements.

Mr Vandala will be buried in the Walmer cemetery on Saturday.

A retired official of the East Cape Administration Board (Ecab), Mr Paddy McNamee, today praised the officials concerned for their "display of compassion".

Mr McNamee was responsible for sending Mr Vandala's application to the authorities.

He said Mr Vandala was informed on August 16 that his application had been approved and that he could collect the money on September 27.

However, when the officials learnt that Mr Vandala was seriously ill on September 7 they made a special trip to his home, in January Street, to give him the money.

The sum was R80.

According to a neighbour, Miss Vera Lupuwana, Mr Vandala was unconscious and the money was given to her on his behalf. Mr Vandala did not regain consciousness and never knew about the money.

Miss Lupuwana previously bought groceries for Mr Vandala and his two schoolgoing children, Totman and Bijana.

Prices cut for retired people

Cape Times 23/9/82

Staff Reporter

THE Guardian National Insurance Company Limited has offered a 20 percent discount on insurance premiums to all pensioners from October 1, it was announced at a meeting of the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners yesterday.

A packed hall of pensioners cheered and applauded when Commandant H M Joynt, chairman of the association, said he expected other insurance companies "to be jumping up with offers".

He also announced that association members would in future be able to buy goods at a five percent discount from 400 Pep Store branches, and receive a ten percent discount from 15 Nannucci depots.

Launched last February, the association now has eight branches in the Peninsula. It recently sent out circulars to trade and commercial institutions asking for a five percent discount on consumer goods and a competitive discount on other commodities.

Commandant Joynt said he had received letters from pensioners who were so lonely that they were contemplating suicide.

"We plan to establish social clubs for senior citizens in areas where there are none. We won't give in and say shoot yourself because we can't do anything for you."

The ageing face of the future

Rom 24/9/82

300

By GERALD REILLY of the Mail's Pretoria Bureau

A REVISION of attitude to the country's snowballing problem of the aged population is essential if a social disaster is to be avoided at the end of the century, say sociologists.

This view is supported by the PFP's finance spokesman, Mr Harry Schwarz, who warns, too, that the cost to the community of non-discriminatory pensions for the country's expected nearly 2-million population of over-65s at the close of the century will be staggering.

Like other authorities, Mr Schwarz emphasises that with the white population sliding to zero growth, fewer working taxpayers will have to foot the "stupendous" costs of looking after greater numbers of old people.

Figures supplied by the Human Sciences Research Council illustrate the massive proportions of the problem which could escalate out of control into a social catastrophe.

By the year 2000, the number of whites over 65 will have increased from 7,09% of the total white population of 4 274 600 in 1975, to nearly 500 000 or 10% of the then estimated white population of 5-million, and by 2020 it will be nearly 15%.

The number of blacks older than 65 in 1975 was 602 410 or 3,07% of the black population of 19 642 990. By 2000 the total will escalate to 1 156 320 or 3,80% of the estimated black population of 30-million.

Coloureds over 65 will increase from 69 240 in 1975 to 143 910 or 4,03% of total coloured population by the end of the century.

Asians older than 65 in 1975 totalled 15 070. By 2000 this will have increased to 52 190 or 4,63% of the Asian population.

The number of over 65s of all groups in 1975 was 950 780 in a population of 24 737 840. By 2000 This will have doubled to 1 839 550 in an estimated population of 40 349 620 or 4,56%.

In 1904, according to the HSRC, only 2% of the white population was 65 or older. By 1970 the percentage had shot up to nearly 7%.

A projection by the National Institute for Sociological, Demographic and Criminological Research of the HSRC is that by the year 2000 the over-65s will constitute 10% of the white population, and 15% by 2020.

The number of aged in other population groups has not increased as a percentage of their total populations because of the high birthrate among blacks, coloureds and Asians.

However the number of elderly falling in those three racial groups will rise rapidly in the coming two decades.

The HSRC research debunks certain stereotypes often applied to the aged.

It is generally believed that retired people, especially those compelled to retire, seek other work. However the reality is that the majority of retired white men are not interested in working again.

They are not therefore, according to the HSRC, a potential source of trained labour.

Another finding is that after retirement pensioners do not lose the status they enjoyed in the community before retirement.

A third of the men who responded to the survey also said their health improved after retirement.

It was found, too, that — unlike the white population — all elderly Indian people formed part of the extended family. The result was that they had a high degree of emotional and financial security.

Another alarming finding was that four out of five white old age pensioners are women — because of a higher life expectancy.

The HSRC report points out that the rapid increase of aged people will have enormous financial, political and social consequences. In the 1979-80 financial year nearly R300-million was budgeted for old age pensions. This would increase enormously by the end of the century.

Mr Harry Schwarz says it is imperative that preparations be made now for an aged problem which could deteriorate into a disaster by the end of the century.

Like other authorities, Mr Schwarz believes a retirement age of 70 would result in more old people remaining independent.

To force retirement on a man or woman when they are physically fit, and mentally able to cope with their work responsibilities, is a flagrant waste of skilled workers.

Mr Schwarz says the problem will take on massive proportions unless the ground work is done now to accommodate a situation where the aged of all population groups creep up to more than 4% of the total population.

He claims the whole pensions system is in dire need of revision. Company pension funds for black workers had become a loaded political issue. The Government had blundered headlong into a problem area without first embarking on an education programme to eliminate worker opposition.

In need of revision, too, were social values, so that the community accepted some of the responsibility for caring for the aged. There was a time when children, unquestioning, took on the task of looking after their aged parents.

With the fragmentation of family life which has taken place over the past 40 years, sociologists say, many children are prepared to abandon their parents to charity when they get old.

Here again, Mr Schwarz stresses, there is a need for education.

The Government must also prepare for a non-discriminatory pension system in what will develop inexorably into a non-discriminatory society.

One of the major causes of the fall of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's government was the issue of pensions and the neglected care of the aged.

In South Africa, too, it could become a raging issue, especially with the increasing political clout, if measured in numbers alone, of the older section of the population.

Iscor's pension policy is to change

Mail Correspondent

DURBAN. — The iron and steel giant Iscor has decided to drop its pension fund's "freeze" clause and will pay out discharged employees' contributions from the begining of next year, the group's personnel manager Mr C J M Prinsloo said yesterday.

Pension "freeze" clauses, which prevent workers withdrawing their contributions before they reach retirement age, have been attacked by independent trade unions since the wave of strikes last year which forced the Government to back down on a move to legislate pension preservation.

And Iscor's pension fund has come under fire from the Natal based Black Allied Workers Union for the past year.

Bawu's general secretary, Mr B E Khumalo, said more than 500 discharged employees were still waiting to be paid out — including three who had since died.

Mr Khumalo said they had received a letter from Iscor earlier this year suggesting that company representatives meet the union to discuss their "future relationship" but "we are not going to talk until these workers have been refunded".

Mr Prinsloo said yesterday the decision to drop the preservation clause taken at a recent board meeting followed approaches by Iscor employees, "not only through trade unions but also through existing liaison committees".

He said the board's decision had also been influenced by the present economic climate.

Although employees would now be paid out their pension contributions at the termination of service, Mr Prinsloo said, attempts would be made to persuade them to leave their money in the fund with a view to a better sum paid out at retirement.

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Iscor drops pension 'freeze' clause

Labour Reporter

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And Iscor's pension fund has come under fire for the past year from the Natal-based Black Allied Workers' Union over its preservation clause.

Bawu's general secretary, Mr B E Khumalo, said more than 500 discharged employees were still waiting to be paid out their money — including three that had since died.

Board decided

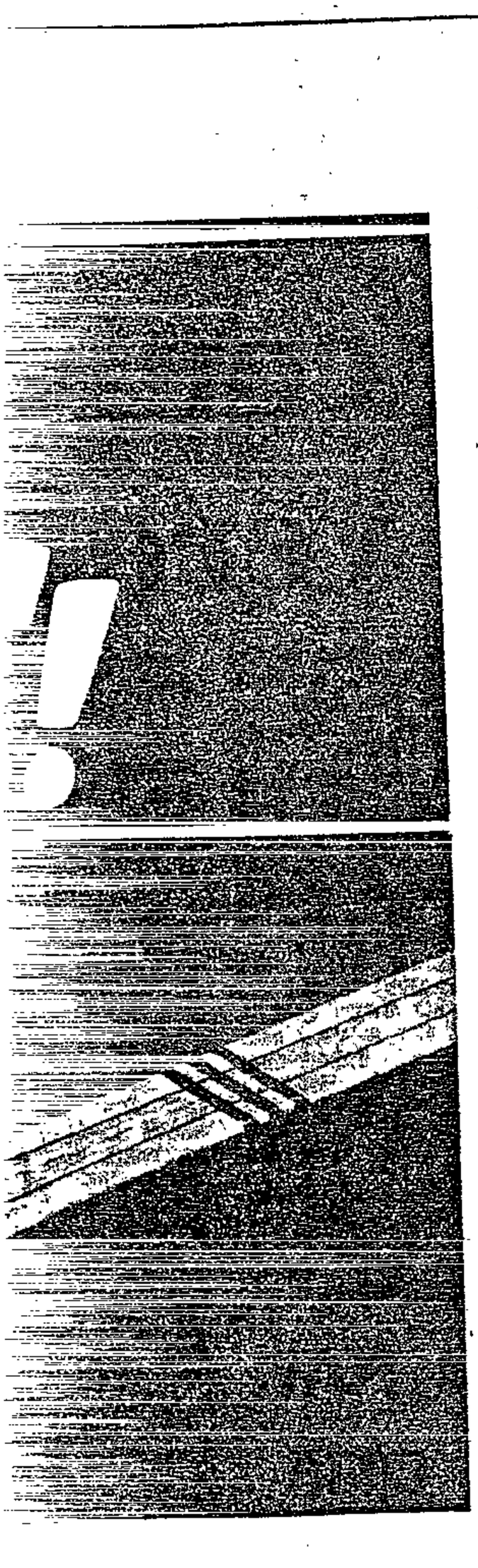
Mr Khumalo said they had received a letter from Iscor earlier this year suggesting that company representatives meet the union to discuss their 'future relationship' but 'we are not going to talk until these workers have been refunded their contributions'.

Mr Prinsloo said yesterday that the decision to drop the preservation clause, taken at a recent board meeting, followed approaches made by Iscor employees, 'not only through trade unions but also through existing liaison committees'.

He said the board's decision had also been influenced by the present economic climate where 'cash in hand would tide a retrenched worker over his period of unemployment'.

Although employees would now be paid out their pension contributions at the termination of service, Mr Prinsloo said, attempts would be made to persuade them to leave their money in the fund with a view to a better sum paid out at retirement.

Details of how the contributions would repaid had not yet been worked out.



DUNLOP
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295

GENERAL NEWS

SA's old age population explosion

Pretoria Bureau

A "silent revolution"—in the form of a growing number of old people—is taking place in South Africa.

This is the finding of senior chief research officer at the Human Sciences Research Council, Dr W P Mostert, who said the figure had doubled since 1951 to more than one million in 1980.

He put this rapid growth down to a drop in the country's mortality rate brought about by improved social services and living standards.

On the other hand, according to Dr Mostert, the number of young people is dropping. Birth rates, particularly in the Western world are declining, with many women even electing to be childless.

BIRTH RATES

If this continued, the number of people under the age of 14 would come to represent a mere 14 percent of the population, with those over 65 making up 22 percent.

"This could change the whole structure of society, with more families having old people in their homes," Dr Mostert said.

"Housing schemes would have to be tailored to meet the needs of an older market, as would the range of products on the shelves of supermarkets."

On population growth in general, Dr Mostert said there was a decline in birth rates among whites and Indians, but the black population explosion had begun and was gaining momentum.

If the current trend continued, he said South Africa would, 200 years from now, be home to more than 4 000 million blacks.

SA dentist dodges UK fine

The Star Bureau

LONDON — A dentist from South Africa who gave patients treatment they did not need and claimed up to five times more from the National Health Service than other dentists has left for home before he could be fined R100 000.

The dentist, who has not been named, also charged for treatment his patients did not receive. His fees for the financial year 1981/82 were R577 556.

Hertfordshire Family Practitioner committee investigators found that he was claiming an average fee of R172 a patient compared with the average R28 to R30 claimed by other dentists.

But the dentist resigned and left for South Africa a week before the case against him was heard by the Dental Service committee in March.

The fine, believed to be the highest imposed on a dentist, has not been collected.

Now an urgent review of the system of checks on dental fees is being called for to reduce misuse of public money.

SOCIAL SECURITY_

PENSIONS AND CARE OF THE AGED

1983

JAN. — DEC.

The Monastery: Plea for aged

Chief Reporter

MR COLIN EGLIN, MP for Sea Point, and Dr John Sonnenberg, MPC for the area and also one of its representatives on the Cape Town City Council, are playing leading roles in a community effort to save the property formerly known as The Monastery, Sea Point — and to have it adapted to serve the needs of the aged.

Mr Eglin, who raised the matter in Parliament last year and who has subsequently discussed it with cabinet ministers and with private developers, said yesterday that he was determined a solution be found to the problems — mainly financial — in the way of achieving this.

In his view, such a solution lay in a joint effort by government and the public.

Hospital

While Mr Eglin sees the property as a future "retirement village" for elderly people able to fend for themselves, Dr Sonnenberg has renewed a plea he made in the Provincial Council last year — that the property be acquired by the Provincial Administration for use as a badly-needed geriatric hospital.

The 2-ha property, off High Level Road, is now known as Sea Point Clinic. Its present owners are Clinic Holdings of Johannesburg, who will no longer require the property when the firm opens a new medical centre in City Park, Bree Street, at the end of the year.

Mr Eglin

Dr Sonnenberg

It has been estimated that the present market value of The Monastery property is between R1, and R2 million. Rumours have been rife that this prime site is wanted by developers for a large-scale townhouse project.

'No funds'

Mr Eglin said yesterday that when approached by him, the Ministers of Community Development and of Health and Social Welfare had agreed that the property was well-suited to development as a centre for the aged, but had said government funds were not available at present.

● Dr Sonnenberg said it would be "a tragic loss" if The Monastery were allowed "to fall to the bulldozers". It had been shown that Sea Point had the highest number of elderly people in the Peninsula, and there was a pressing need for a geriatric facility in the area.

"Such a facility would make available more accommodation at old-age homes, which are hard-pressed at present. People who are frail and sick are occupying accommodation which could be made available to people capable of seeing to their own needs."

Dr Sonnenberg said it might eventually be necessary to appeal to the National Monuments Council.

GARMENT WORKE ROVINCE)

Year	African	White	Total	
1970		..	22 000	Ø
1971		..	25 000	Ø
1972		..	30 000	Ø
1973		693	35 406	+
1974		..	34 000	Ø
1975		1 342	34 000	$
1976		1 342	34 500	$
1977		1 342	40 500	$
1978		1 342	40 500	$
1979		588	43 665	$
1980		314	46 000	$

Address: Industria Hous
350 Victoria I
Salt River
7925

Telephone: (021) 474570

Officials: Secretary:

Area of Operation: Wes

Founded: 1927

Registration: Yes (1)

Industrial Council: 1) for Clothing Industry Cape
2) for Clothing Industry Cape -
ement
3) for Clothing Industry Cape
(Knitting Division agreement)
4) Industrial Council for the Millinery Industry (Cape)

Membership: 1981 = 51 000

(1) The Union has applied to extend its scope of registration to include blacks.

Aged 'should stay active'

CAPE Times 17/1/83

300

Staff Reporter

SENIOR citizens should be a source of manpower and not a burden, says Mrs Zerilda Droskie, director of the South African National Council of the Aged.

Addressing about 100 members and prospective members of the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners (ARPP) in Fish Hoek last week, Mrs Droskie said the Year of the Aged had made people aware that they could still contribute to society.

"If people keep active, there is no need to fear senility."

The ARPP's new information section had issued pamphlets dealing with tenants' rights, what to do if a flat were sold under sectional title, pensions and health.

"Commerce and industry have been generous in funding such projects and the Minister of Community Development has announced that R20-million is being made available for building loans for senior citizens."

Mrs Droskie said the increased number of assaults on elderly people was a pressing problem which had been dealt with in a police pamphlet obtainable at any police station. As a project for 1983, Mrs Droskie suggested "support for elderly people who have been assaulted, and the formation of volunteer groups to help the police by surveillance and reporting on criminal incidents".

"Our citizens must make a contribution to ensure a better future for our retired people," she said.

JEWELLERS AND GOLDSMITHS UNION

Year	Membership				
	African	Asian and Coloured	White	Total	
1970					
1971					
1972					
1973		98	320	418	*
1974		28	294	322	*
1975		26	305	331	*
1976		21	201	222	*
1977		30	347	377	*
1978				..	
1979			-	445	$
19				460	

Fosatu Annual Report 1980/81

433658

and with

R2-m aged home still set for 1983

Rotary looks for assistance

Some from 300

19/1/83

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

THE BUILDING of a R2-million old age home and care centre in Soweto — which it was hoped would start early this year — is to be delayed for several months because of a money shortage.

Mr Dan Howe, Chairman of the Johannesburg North central liaison committee of the Rotary Club, told **The SOWETAN** they were still awaiting a reply from the Government to the application they made for assistance towards the home.

He said they were also engaged in diverse fundraising campaigns in Soweto, other parts of the country and even overseas to acquire the capital because they wanted the centre to be of a modern standard.

"Although I cannot tell exactly when the building is to go up, it is definitely this year. We are finalising a brochure that will help us raise the funds," he said.

The centre will be built in Central Western Jabavu and a site has already been set aside next to the Methodist Youth Centre. It will accommodate 120 residents and will be able to provide meals for 300 people.

There will be rooms for married couples but four single people will share a room.

"The place has been well-designed and it will be well-built. We want it to be part of the new Soweto which will last into the next century.

"In our planning, we are co-operating with the Soweto Committee for the Aged and we hope the Soweto residents will be fully involved in this project. They must feel it is their's because they have played a part in its construction," Mr Howe said.

He added that the centre would have leisure facilities such as a patiout to watch television, a hobby section for things like basket making and gardens to plant vegetables.

"We are also looking forward to establishing a library because as time goes on residents will more and more be sophisticated and educated," he said.

Civic association pleads for pensioners

Give them free houses

THE Orlando Civic Association is to call on the Soweto Council to cinsider giving the Orlando East houses free of charge to their occupants, most of whom are pensioners who have lived in the houses for more then 30 years.

The chairman of the OCA, Mr S S Ngakane, said the issue would be raised at a public meeting to be held at the NG Kerk in Orlando East on Sunday, January 30, at 1.30 pm.

Mr Ngakane said the houses in Orlando East were built before World War II and that they were so old that the area had been turned into a slum. The costs of building were so low at the time that no losses could be incurred if the houses were given away for free.

"We appreciate the fact that some amount of pride will be instilled among residents if they can buy their homes and be assured of some form of permanance, but there are a number of factors that have to be taken into consideration before asking people to buy.

"There are people who were the first to take occupation of these houses when they were built in 1931. These people have been paying rent for their houses since then.

"Is it not possible for the council to seriously consider allowing these people to own those houses without having to buy them because there is very little left of Orlando East that can be said to be worth buying.

"Besides, the pensioners are poor and they cannot afford the costs, no matter how low the prices can be brought down. Few of them can afford the rentals which seem to be going up daily," said Mr Ngakane.

He added that he was particularly interested in seeing members of the Sofasonke Party at the meeting.

CAPE TIMES 5/2/83

Delay in Zimbabwe pensions

Chief Reporter

HUNDREDS of ex-Rhodesian disability pensioners living in South Africa — 60 of them in Cape Town alone and some of them wholly dependent on their pensions — have for two months failed to receive the payments due to them from the Zimbabwe authorities.

The pensioners were said yesterday to be furious over reports suggesting that pension money placed in the trust of the Zimbabwe High Commissioner in London may have been used in the purchase of a R1,2-million residence for himself, in a fashionable area.

The High Commissioner, Mr Robert Zwinoira, has blamed the "ignorance and inexperience" of himself and his staff for the purchase, which has been the subject of a Zimbabwe Government inquiry.

It was explained in Cape Town yesterday that disability pensions, formerly paid directly to pensioners in South Africa, have for the past two years been channelled through Zimbabwe House in London, which transmits the pension money to South Africa through the Standard Chartered Bank in London.

A Standard Bank official in Cape Town said yesterday that no payments had been received from London for December and January, and that there had been no reply to any of the many telex messages and letters sent to Zimbabwe House by the bank.

There are about 40 former Rhodesians now living in Cape Town who draw civil service disability pensions and there are also 20 workmen's compensation cases.

About half those drawing disability pensions are widows, and at least one of them — a woman entitled to R600 a month — was said yesterday to be "quite desperate" and to be dipping into her meagre savings to pay her monthly bills.

A former Rhodesian government official who was disabled in the course of his work and who has been living in Cape Town since 1969 said: "The problem with many of us is that because of our disabilites we are unable to take on work, to earn some money.

"I am fortunate in that I also draw an ordinary service pension, which is still paid to me directly from Zimbabwe. But there are many ex-Rhodesians who are wholly dependent on their disability pensions and obviously these people have been very badly hit by the lack of income for the past two months."

● A London report published in the Cape Times yesterday said a Zimbabwe parliamentary committee had criticized the purchase of a five-storey house in London's fashionable Mayfair area for the Zimbabwe High Commissioner.

The committee said some of the money committed to the residence had been "placed in his trust for pensions".

SECTION R

Zimbabwe pensions arrive

300

CAPE TIMES 8/2/83

Chief Reporter

PART of the overdue disability pensions payable to ex-Rhodesians living in Cape Town arrived in the City yesterday by special courier from the Zimbabwe High Commission in London, which has been the subject of a Zimbabwe government inquiry over the R1,2-million purchase of a new home for the High Commissioner.

As reported in the Cape Times on Saturday, about 60 ex-Rhodesians in the Cape, some of them wholly dependent on their disability pensions, had not received the monthly payments for December and January.

Telex messages and letters to Zimbabwe House, London, through which the disability pension payments have been transmitted to South Africa for the past two years, were said to have gone unanswered.

The payment received by the Standard Bank in Cape Town yesterday was for December only.

In a telephone call to Zimbabwe House yesterday, the Cape Times was told by a deputy High Commissioner — he did not give his name: "We have been honouring all our commitments to disability pensioners in South Africa".

Asked why there had been no replies to queries from Cape Town, he replied:

"My dear fellow, I have just told you we have paid everything that is due. We owe no-one anything — and if any of the disability pensioners have a complaint, they can write to us in London, or to the pensions office in Harare.

The deputy High Commissioner terminated the conversation abruptly at this point.

● A Zimbabwe parliamentary committee has criticized the purchase of a five-storey house in London'sfashionable Mayfair area for the Zimbabwe High Commissioner, Mr Robert Zwinoira.

The parliamentary committee is reported to have said some of the money committed to the residence had been placed in the High Commissioner's trust for pensions.

All answer

Number o

Number o

Surname.....

First Name(

Date.....

Degree/Dip
you are req

Subject.....
(to be cc

Paper No.....
(to be cc

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

Section B - (1)	Internal (2)	External (3)
4b.	8	
5a.	3	
Examiners' Initials		

NOTE CAREFULLY

1. The answers only on the right hand pages will be marked. The left hand pages may be used for rough work, but no credit will be given for such work.
2. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
3. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
4. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.

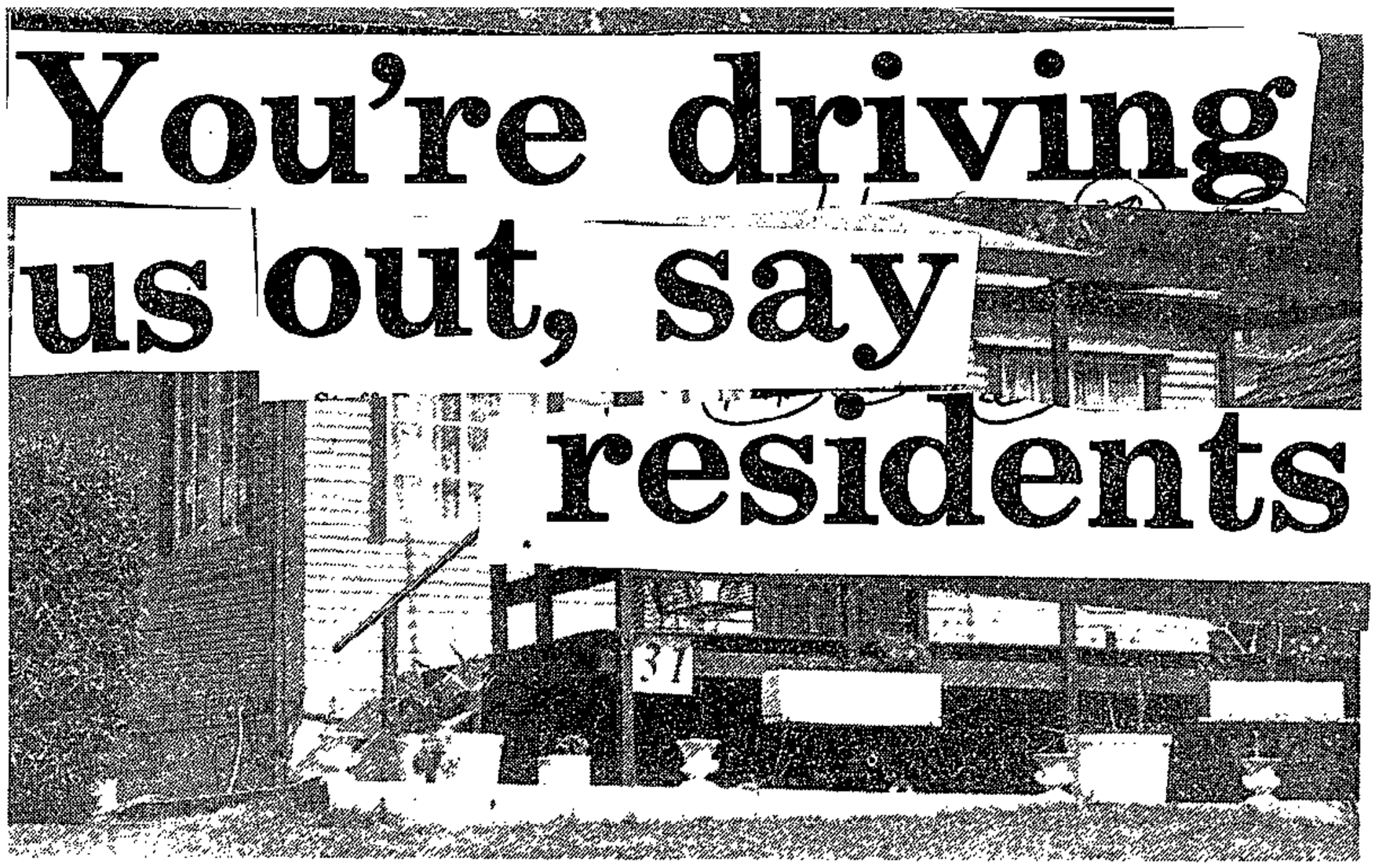
WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

EDSON

You're driving us out, say residents



A typically styled bungalow at Bakoven.

THE proposed increase in site rents for bungalows in Clifton, Camps Bay and Bakoven is still under consideration in spite of protests from the residents.

Although the decision by the City Council's housing committee has still to be ratified by the executive committee and a full council meeting, the proposed increases — up to 800 percent in some cases — could result in many of the residents having to move.

The increase raises little-known and little-understood aspects of commonage.

The Clifton commonage or leasehold land owned by the Cape Town City Council came into being after World War 1 when returning troops added to the housing shortage in Cape Town.

Such were the overcrowded conditions that after the crippling effects of the 1918 flu epidemic, something clearly had to be done.

Exclusive

So the council gave the go-ahead for the erection of seaside bungalows along the then deserted stretch of Atlantic coastline below Victoria Road from Clifton First Beach to Bakoven, now one of the Peninsula's most exclusive areas.

Classified as a sub-economic scheme, the homes were makeshift — wood and iron — and the council allowed it to become a permanent housing area by tacit consent.

The land was leased by the council and homeowners paid a nominal rentals for the ground the houses occupied, and a slightly lower rate for the buildings, based on their value.

Today there is a risk attached to owning one of these houses as there is nothing on paper to assure residents of "permanent" leasehold.

"World's worst"

Staff reporter Carol Gey van Pittius interviewed a number of residents about their feelings on the proposed increases.

"The council is making a mess of this place — they are the world's worst."

These were the words of one of Bakoven's oldest residents. Grey-haired and bent, Mr Len Violett, 81, said angrily: "What do they think we are ... millionaires? We used to be so happy here before."

STAFF REPORTER 300

For Mr Violett and his wife Peggy the increases could mean a move from the bungalow that has been their home for 25 years.

"We will be very sad to leave. My husband's family has lived in this area since 1908 — it's almost the only home he has known.

They are pensioners, and Mrs Violett has to continue working to supplement their meagre pensions.

No rebate

"Because I work — though only half-days — we do not qualify for a rebate," she said: "To qualify for this rebate, a couple's income has to be less than R500 a month."

Another resident of Bakoven, Mrs Thelma Kaye, was shocked at the proposed big increase in rentals.

"We do realise that there is a need for the rentals to be updated in the light of today's rising costs, but it will not be long before many of us are priced right out of our homes.

"It does seem tough that after living at Bakoven from the time of our marriage — almost 32 years ago — thinking we would continue to live out the rest of our lives here, we are suddenly confronted by a committee of officials who see fit to make it impossible for people like ourselves to remain living in the environment to which we are accustomed. We could be forced to relinquish our homes."

When the Kayes first discovered "this little bit of heaven" it was not like it is today. The bungalow was nothing more than a beach shack, the grass was waist high and the trees were sky high and growing wild.

"With no help from the council we, the bungalow owners, have with hard labour and money made it the delightful spot it is today."

Mr Kenny Paarman of Glen Beach said that one aspect which had not been highlighted was that the bungalow owners, with no title of tenure, paid rates and taxes on the rented council property.

"I'm not a Johnny-come-lately — I have being living here a long time. My bungalow has been in the family since 1894, and I don't want to lose a family heirloom."

Also approaching retirement, Mr Paarman said with that the proposed increase in rentals would mean he would soon not be able to pay the rent.

Not happy

Above Clifton's fashionable Third Beach Mrs Betty Sacks — soon to be another affected by the rent increase — has spent 44 years building and improving her bungalow.

"We are unhappy about the news. Although we do own the bungalow we do pay rent and rates on the property. Does it have to be such an enormous increase?" she asked.

The chairman of the Clifton's Bungalow Association, Mr Geoffrey Hirschmann, said: "Many residents have lived here all their lives and do not want to give up this uniquely simple lifestyle. But the mammoth rental increases would force some to move."

ARGUS 9/2/83

Mr and Mrs Len Violett, on the balcony of their Bakoven home. Soon they may have to move because their pensions will not cover a rise in rentals.

Mr Hirschmann, who is also an owner of a bungalow above Clifton's famed Fourth Beach, said that some of the bungalows would be bought by "jet-setters" who would add to the number of absentee owners, creating a "most unsatisfactory" situation.

He said it was not denied that the rentals may be subject to adjustments because of inflation, but it should not be overlooked that the bungalow owners were also paying municipal rates on their sites on the same basis as freeehold properties, and were now paying rent on their garden areas when, until 1974, rental was charged only on the ground covered by the bungalows.

"The best solution would be for the council to offer the land to the tenants at a realistic price, which would give a substantial boost to the council's coffers, while providing peace of mind to all residents."

'It's never too early to start planning'

CAPE TIMES 10/3/83

OK

WHILE fixing their gaze at the top, most ambitious men have climbed a few rungs up their career ladder by the time they reach their mid-thirties.

They work hard to support a young family, pay off their bonds and buy the car they want — in short, they concentrate only on the "now" things in life.

Almost halfway through their lives, few 30-year-olds spare a thought for their eventual retirement because it is so far away, beyond the scope of their imagination.

But, unless they have made a start on planning for retirement, they are in for a shock.

Assuming your company has its own pension scheme which you enter at 30, you will usually receive about 70 percent of your final salary when you retire at 65.

If inflation is held at the low level of 10 percent, the buying power of your pension will reduce to less than 40 percent of its original by the time you are 75.

"However," explains Metboard's Nick Winearls, "few people settle in their final jobs much before 35 to 40, which means they usually have only 25 to 30 years in which to build up an adequate pension."

Retirement plan

"It is never too early to begin a retirement plan, while membership of a pension fund is vital, in itself it is not enough."

Winearls suggests that, apart from contributing to your company's pension fund, you should also look at a planned systematic savings through to retirement. Here professional advice from a broker or a trust company is a must.

He goes on to say that a systematic analysis of your financial affairs should commence at an early age, to include your life assurance, disability cover, pension and retirement annuity benefits as well as a review of your Will and Estate Duty liability.

This analysis should be updated every 2 to 3 years to ensure that the structure of your affairs is relevant to any changed circumstances.

Winearls says: "Such analyses can bring to light some startling inadequacies in prior planning. For example, most young people are so busy developing their careers and their businesses that they remain unaware of the amount of Estate Duty which will be payable on their death, making the taxman a major beneficiary of their Estates.

"By taking the appropriate steps to peg the value of major growth assets for estate duty purposes, your Estate Duty liability can be limited to its present level with all future growth accruing to your family.

"A trap which many married couples fall into is making wills in favour of each other. By doing this Estate Duty is paid twice over — on each of their death's, an unnecessary duplication which can be avoided.

"You owe it to your next-of-kin to seek professional advice both in retirement planning and to ensure that on your death the taxman doesn't benefit at your family's expense."

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WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

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Preparing for Retirement

pensioners

Avoid the plight of many

TO avoid the plight of many pensioners and the problems of a family on the death of its breadwinner, the need for financial and estate planning has become vital, says Mr Niel Raubenheimer, a legal advisor (advanced sales services) with the Southern Life Association.

There are two distinct aspects to an estate:

The first is that it provides for our needs while we are alive and the second is that on death, when all economic activities cease, the estate must be wound up.

When an estate is wound up the assets and liabilities are balanced against one another and, should the answer be a minus sum, then the estate would naturally be insolvent. However, in most cases it is solvent.

Solvency does not mean there will be no immediate crisis in the estate. For instance, some of the estate liabilities may, upon death, become immediate and there must be sufficient cash within the estate to meet them.

If sufficient cash is not available, some of the estate assets have to be sold, often at well below their real market value.

Large estates

It is not only in large estates that a cash crisis or shortage of liquidity can exist. The larger the estate the greater the cash demands, but whether an estate is worth R50 000 or R5 million, there are still cash demands on the estate such as estate duty in the case of larger estates and executors fees in the case of both larger and smaller estates.

And, it is no use making cash bequests when the estate cannot pay those bequests or when all the assets in the estate consist of fixed properties which must be sold at much below their market values.

Says Mr Raubenheimer: "One has to try to determine how much cash one's estate will need and make sure there will be sufficient cash to provide for these cash requirements.

"An obvious answer to this is a life policy which would give an immediate cash payment on death thereby taking care of any possible cash crisis that might arise."

We accumulate cash and other assets in the form of salaries, investment income or rental income and perhaps we also acquire assets such as investments, homes, motorcars and household necessities.

Daily needs

The cash or income we accumulate we usually use to fund our daily needs. Ideally, we all put away some of our income which accumulates over a period of time and, when we die, represents part of our estate.

"Let us look at some of the lifetime needs for which our estates must provide. Firstly, we require funds when whe get married. If a wife does not work then we have two people living off one income.

Mr Niel Raubenheimer, a legal advisor with the Southern Life Association.

"Secondly, at the birth of children, we have more people living off one income and we need funds to provide for this enlarged family.

"Thirdly, children need education which can cost a lot of money. Fourthly, there are our personal needs such as holidays, houses and household necessities such as food and clothing."

Fifthly, we must provide for our retirement which needs very careful planning to accumulate enough. Life assurance can, in some way or another, provide for or protect most of these needs.

Don't overlook the effects of inflation on these everyday needs. The escalation of property prices over recent years has largely been inflationary. Inflation can worsen the cash crisis in an estate.

"What we must do is protect the estate against these increased cash demands by planning and keeping pace with the inflationary increase," says Mr Raubenheimer.

"Depending on when we intend retiring, at a nominal rate of inflaton of 10 percent, for each R1 we need now we will need R2,59 in ten years time, R4,18 in 15 years time, R6,73 in 20 years time and R10,83 in 25 years time. Then — comes the problem of living on a fixed income.

If we take an inflation rate of 14 percent, we see that over a period of ten years the purchasing power of R1 000 reduces to R270. We see that this is exactly the problem with which many pensioners are faced today as most people who have retired have to live on fixed incomes.

We must, therefore, think beyond retirement and make provision for an income in real terms for those retirement years.

The solutions, Mr Raubenheimer says are to make use of investments.

But we must make sure the investments are geared to inflation, for example, property, equities or even life assurance which enjoys a spread of investments in property, equities and fixed interest investments.

Expert advice

However, we must take expert advice.

"If we decide on some sort of savings plan whereby we invest a certain amount of money each month or each quarter or each year, we must make sure that the amount which is invested retains its value in rand terms."

There are ways of pegging the growth of our estates in a nominal way. Many professions are involved in estate planning.

The family investment company is a popular method of pegging the growth of an estate: A company is floated and shares are transferred to the husband, the wife, the children and possibly the grandchildren and to the intended beneficiaries to the estate.

Assets are then transferred to the company and any increase in the value of those assets takes place in the company and not in the hands of the person who is attempting to peg the value of his estate.

"Another popular method is the use of trust. Again, assets are transferred to a trust which is merely a separate fund which holds assets for the benfit of beneficiaries. Those beneficiaries are usually intended beneficiaries under the will.

Beneficiaries

"The property increases in value in the hands of those beneficiaries and not in the hands of the estate planner. One must always bear in mind that there is a problem of donations tax.

"The situation should, therefore, be carefully investigated to see whether it is worthwhile paying donations tax or not, because donations tax is deductable on any eventual liability for estate duty.

"Cessions of life assurance policies are merely donations of these policies and what I have said about donations inter vivos also applies to cessions of policies.

"Creation of a limited interest generally saves estate duty not for a person creating a limited interest but for the beneficiary of that limited interest.

"Lastly, we must make sure our wills are up to date. Any estate plan no matter how complicated it is, will fail if our will does not correspond with the estate plan. This could mean making a new will every six months or two years.

Some examples of retirement planning are pension funds, retirement annuity funds and investments."

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Decorate your rooms with colourful designs — patches

WHEN IT comes to decorating old wives' tales are strictly for the birds.

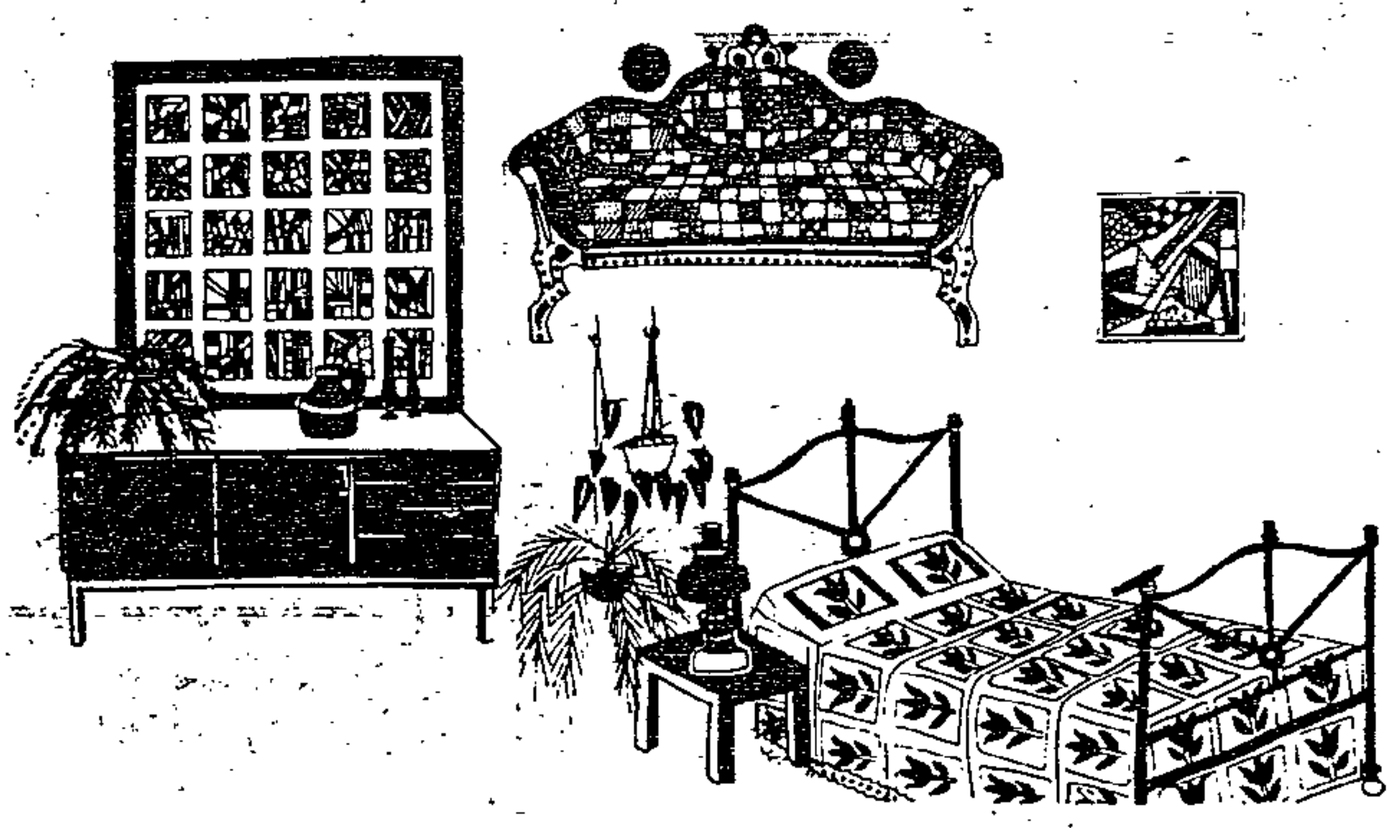
Why saddle yourself with outmoded ideas when all you need do is break with tradition. It pays to adopt a more outrageous approach to design — one that will inspire you to achieve the right formula.

Two of the most neglected old wives' tales are patchwork and applique. Grandma stuck these beautiful pieces of handiwork across a bed. More imaginative considerations were not, it seems, envisaged.

Patches and/or applique are the perfect cover-ups for couches — so long as the stitching is strong enough to take the inevitable strain.

Walls embellished with fabric wall hangings can look most endearing. Patchwork draped across a chest may add sparkle to a dull corner.

Because fashion no longer dictates what you or your home should wear the only rule to consider is this: the right way is your way.



A retireme

MANAGER: Horace Hlope.

IF YOUR parents are domestic workers and you are concerned about their future and that you may be saddled with looking after them when they retire. . .relax. They can now provide for their own future, thanks to the Natal Building Society's domestic retirement plan.

According to the society's local branch man- agers, Mes- Rakau an Hlophe, i' known as " Workers' : Plan, was .. year to c.. workers w other work try, had no facilities could secu on retiring.

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A retirement plan worked out for domestic workers

MANAGER: Horace Hlope.

IF YOUR parents are domestic workers and you are concerned about their future and that you may be saddled with looking after them when they retire. . .relax. They can now provide for their own future, thanks to the Natal Building Society's domestic retirement plan.

According to the society's local branch managers, Messrs Dominic Rakau and Horace Hlophe, the scheme, known as the Domestic Workers' Retirement Plan, was developed last year to cover domestic workers who, unlike other workers in industry, had no pension fund facilities whereby they could secure their future on retiring.

The scheme is open only to domestic workers, but employers may contribute if they wish. Employees decide how much they can afford to contribute regularly and at what age they wish to retire.

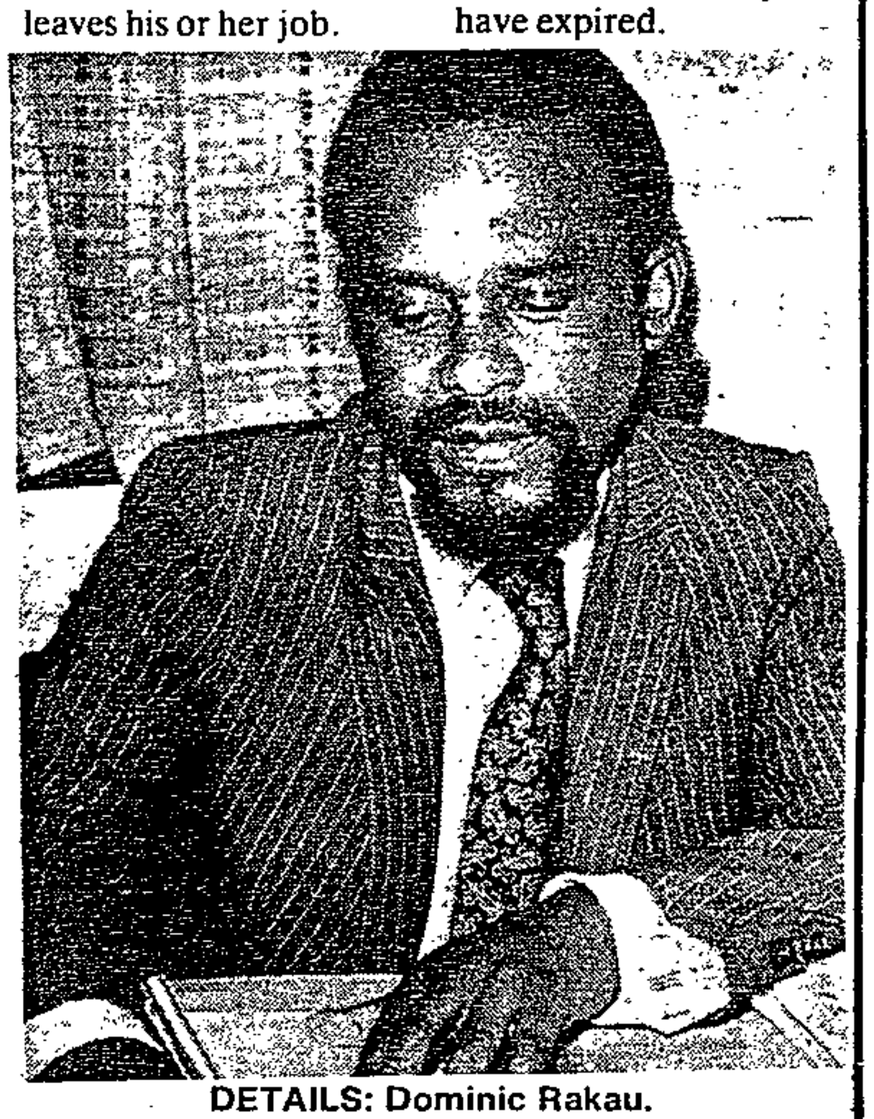
The scheme carries a maximum R5 000 cover and a minimum R5 monthly payment. It's open to workers between 16 and 55 years of age, but can be taken out up to an age of 60.

Messrs K Rakau and Hlophe say that workers can also nominate the executor of his/her estate and the beneficiary at the same time.

If a worker falls ill, payments are suspended for six months until the worker is able to resume payments. If the illness is indefinite, the scheme falls away but people get what they paid in plus interest which will be paid out according to current rates.

On the death of a client prior to retirement, the client's estate is paid the amount he or she would have received on retirement up to a maximum of R5 000. Provision is also made for when the domestic leaves his or her job.

The two managers stress that no monies can be drawn out by a client until three years have lapsed, even if the worker stops working before the three years have expired.



DETAILS: Dominic Rakau.

Collett Dickenson Pearce

Firm offers insurance plan for domestics

By SANDRA SMITH

"YOU have no doubt made provision for your own retirement. But what will happen to your domestic worker when she is too old to work?"

This is the question asked by the manageress of an insurance company, Mrs Rozette Bredenkamp.

Employers often asked how they could offer their domestic workers some kind of security for their retirement.

To meet this need, Mrs Bredenkamp said her company had developed an insurance policy under which employers can make provision for their domestic workers.

The policy would be marketed in Port Elizabeth through the Domestic Workers Association of South Africa (Dwasa) and would cost employers only R11 a month.

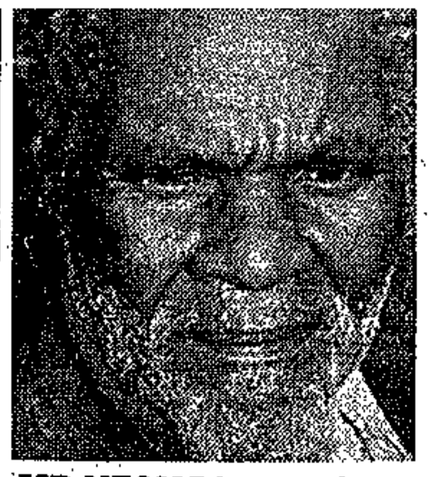
"If you offer your domestic worker added benefits, she will be loyal to you. I also believe this kind of policy will result in greater stability among this group of workers," Mrs Bredenkamp said.

The policy was a combination of accident, life, funeral and retirement benefits.

It assured payment of a sum of money to the worker's family if she died, retirement benefits in a lump sum or in monthly payments, immediate burial expenses for the worker's spouse or dependents and payments if the worker became disabled.

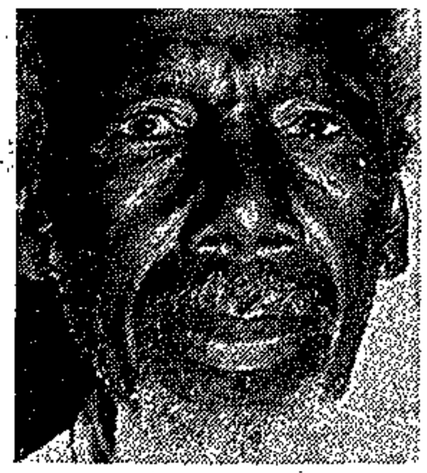
The scheme could also be transferred from one employer to another.

The general secretary of Dwasa, Mrs Pat Maqina, said: "People often say that their domestic worker is 'part of the family'. If that is the case then this is a good way for the family to provide for their domestic worker's old age."



MR NZONGA . . . prices keep rising

MRS MNYILA . . . makes bleach to supplement pension.



MR LALISILE . . . rooms given to younger people.

D. Dispatch 19/2/83

An uphill struggle say pensioners

MDANTSANE — "Eating up money I don't have, like a thief," was but one of many comments from pensioners interviewed here on how they live.

Other comments were: "An uphill struggle," "living from hand to mouth," "borrowing and not knowing what we will pay with" and "finding myself living from one day to the next."

Nevertheless most pensioners seemed to be cheerful and living full lives.

There was the odd instance in which the man or woman found some trade or odd-job to supplement income.

The main problem is most of them depend entirely on the R79 every-second-month pension from the government.

"Before we get it it's spent on food and we cannot buy anything else, not even clothes and medicine," said Mrs Nolasi Manqatha, who lives with a disabled son and a crippled daughter.

Her home is one of the better homes in the old-age section of Zone Four. Their income is made up of her R79, her son's R80 and her daughter's R80 in pensions and grants.

For 80-year-old Mr Nyanza Nzonga ("I was born at the end of the Boer War") who has lived in the area with his-68-year-old wife for 10 years, everything has been getting more difficult as the years go by.

When he got a smaller pension they seemed to make ends meet, but with rising prices it has been "an uphill struggle."

Mrs Ntombizakhe Matiya, 64, who could not remember how long she had lived in her old-age home, does not get a pension.

"I used to sell Jabulani (sorghum beer) but since moving to this house I have had to give up because this is a rough area," she said.

Other than that she survives on begging for something to eat and taking on odd-jobs around the township.

Asked why she had not been able to get a pension, she said soon after making an application more than two years ago, she lost her reference book and has not been able to raise money to get a new one.

On her R80 pension Mrs Esther Qinga has to look after herself and two dependants.

"When money runs out — which is usually on the day I get my pension or soon thereafter — we live on handouts and credit," she said.

There were other problems which seemed to arise from the Ciskei Government's desire to provide accommodation for more people in the area.

Mrs Cecilia Thokoa, who occupies two rooms which are well furnished from what she earned when she was still employed, is faced with having to part with some of her belongings to make room for another resident in one of the rooms she has lived in since 1972.

"I have been to Zwelitsha and the party people here and I have been given two weeks to move my belongings to one room," she said.

Mr Mntukanti Lalisile said many pensioners in the area had had to give up their second rooms to younger people.

Mrs Georgina Mnyila seems to have found an answer to problems of the area.

"I buy some stuff from the chemist and make bleach which I sell around here," she said.

It paid well but there were times when she used up all the money she made and was left with no income to buy more raw material for her trade.

But the general story in the area was one of asking and living on credit. — DDR

300 Hansard Q. Col. 277 ~ 278
23/2/83

Old-age pensions

149. Mr. B. B. GOODALL asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:

(1) How many Coloured persons applied for old-age pensions in 1982;

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

(3) how many Coloured persons were receiving old-age pensions as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

(1) 8 114.

(2) (a) (i) 7 415.

(ii) 607.

(b) 92.

(3) 94 251 as at 31 January 1983.

(300) Hansard Q. Col. 283

Old-age pensions 23/2/83

236 Mr B. B Goodall asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(1) How many White persons applied for old-age pensions in 1982;

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

(3) how many of the refusals were attributable to the fact that the applicants' assets exceeded the limits laid down by the means test?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) 12 616.

(2) (a) 8 319.

(b) 3 765.

(c) 532.

(3) 866.

'Pensioners don't get a fair deal' —

CAPE TIMES 4/3/83 (300

PENSIONERS are not getting a fair deal. This is the unanimous view of the dozens of people who phoned teleletters yesterday.

Mr R Vermeulen of Steurhof said: "I think that pensioners are the loneliest people in the world and they are the ones who suffer most in this country.

"I feel it is up to the Prime Minister to increase this (pension) money in his budget in Parliament this year so that the elderly may enjoy a happier life."

"The cause of the plight of pensioners is that a great number of them are on fixed incomes which high inflation has eroded to below subsistence level," said **Mrs J Reid** of Constantia.

Mr C Dilley of Somerset West, a company manager, felt pensioners had a "raw deal as far as the government allowance goes".

"I have a lot to do with pensioners in Somerset West and I assist them as much as possible. If I can do a small job for nothing, I will," he said.

Mrs J J Neeser of Oranjezicht said that as a civil pensioner, her father received R360 a month.

"They refuse to give my mother a pension because they say my father is getting enough. But they can't come out on R360 a month because the doctors' bills take up almost all the pension."

Miss Jenny Boyd of St James said: "Even if pensioners didn't provide for their pensions earlier in their lives, what's done is done. In any event, we aren't living for old age, we are living for each day. I think it is really ridiculous."

Mrs M B Simcox of Mowbray said she was a widow whose husband had had 37 years' unbroken service with the SAR&H.

"For so many years' service he would have been entitled to an overseas trip with me," said Mrs Simcox. However, Mr Simcox died before he could take the trip.

"Widows then lose that concession on the death of their husbands. Surely the SAR could allow widows that once-in-a-lifetime free air ticket to visit their relations overseas?"

Mr D Trevitt of Devil's Peak said it was the "means test" applied to pensioners which he felt was unfair.

"According to that test you are not entitled to a pension if you have more than about R33 000 in the bank. Yet there are people who own houses and they get pensions because the municipal value of their house is what is taken into consideration. In other words it's not worth having money in the bank."

Mrs B Sanders of Gardens said: "There are 12 of us pensioners staying in this block of flats and I want to know if you think it is a fair deal that a gentleman has now bought the flats and given us six months' notice to get out. Where must we go on the R139 a month pension we get? We are all in our seventies."

The wife of a railways pensioner said she was quite unable to make ends meet.

"My husband gets R102 a month. I get R58,50 as an old-age pensioner," said **Mrs Marie Hardman** of Manenberg. "I would like to know why they give me so little."

Mr G H Slaughter of Wynberg said he felt governments tended to lose sight of the needs of the older person.

"I am retired and don't receive a pension because I am not entitled to one. When I retired in 1976 I thought I had provided adequately for my retirement but of course inflation has overtaken me."

Mr J Duffett of Kenilworth believed that if the compassion and conscience of a nation was measured by its treatment of the aged, then South Africa would come bottom of the list.

"The government should bring in a compulsory national pension scheme such as in Holland. Inflation is rampant and devalues pensioners' savings year by year."

Mr J H Barnard of Milnerton said he was a civil pensioner who had started to work again in the civil service.

"Before I started working again I paid R240 a year income tax. I now earn a measley salary of R570 a month and my income tax per year amounts to R2 400.

"This does not encourage us to work, yet the civil service admits it needs pensioners since it can't recruit junior clerks because of the vast difference in pay between the civil service and the commercial world," he said.

If you would like to comment on these letters or on any other issue, phone Teleletters at 41 3361 ext 219 between 9am and 12 noon today.

Who is to blame for pensioners' plight?

Cape Times 5/3/83 300

ONCE again dozens of readers phoned Teleletters yesterday on the subject of pensions but this time not everyone felt the system was entirely to blame.

"The government is blamed for everything that goes on," said **Mr Owen Letcher** of Woodstock. "I feel families should help a bit more. The pensioners who need the money are those who have no families at all. Children definitely have a responsibility. Many pensioners have worked hard and put their children in a position to get good jobs. The children should give a bit back because their parents are not going to live forever."

Mrs J Wilkins of Mouille Point said: "Many pensioners, through force of circumstance, never had the means to save for their old age. Why should they be punished in the twilight of their lives when they are already burdened with regrets? It is our duty, as the young people, to look after them now as many of them looked after us when we were children."

Mr H P Robinson of Meadowridge said he was afraid of becoming an "imposition". "I have well-to-do relatives who want me to live with them but I feel it wouldn't be right," he said.

Mr H M Joynt, national chairman of the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners, appealed to all such people to join the association by writing to PO Box 12075, Cape Town, 8010. "By solidarity, they are in a position to create the benefits they seek. Discounts on every kind of expenditure could be organized, as well as numerous other benefits," he said.

Said **Mr D Sherman** of Green Point: "I ask you, are we heartless in this rich South Africa? Must this inhumanity go on? After all, it is the pensioners who helped build this country of ours. I will be going on pension one of these days and believe me, I am dreading it."

Mrs J van Staden of Heathfield said she thought it was "ridiculously unfair" that non-white pensioners received up to R60 a month. "How on earth are they expected to manage? After all, they buy milk, bread, sugar and meat at the same prices as everyone else."

Mrs S A Ferreira of Tokai said a social pension should be a way of saying "thank you" to everyone. "Social pensions are geared to the amount of income a person has. I feel this is wrong. A social pension of a fixed amount should be granted to everyone who reaches the age of retirement. Otherwise people are being penalized for having worked and saved all their lives. The pension should be a bonus and a way of saying thank you."

Miss L Kronkamp of Retreat said: "Fair is fair. Most of our senior citizens did not provide for old age. What about those who loaf around today and when they are old expect a pension from our government which we, the taxpayers, must pay?"

Said **Miss M Hope** of Lakeside: "The government should find a way to make every taxpayer pay a small portion of his or her wage or salary to make provision for pensions — in the same way that people contribute towards the UIF fund. Perhaps this would enable the government to increase state pensions."

Mrs M Nel of Kenwyn said two old-age pensioners had been staying with her for five years. "Unfortunately they must now find alternative accommodation and although I have phoned every old-age home and the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Community Development, I can't find any accommodation they can afford.

You may be in line for old-age pension: here's how to check

By Zenaide Vendeiro

There could be many elderly people who are entitled to old-age pensions and don't know about it, says Mr J H Stander, regional representative for the Department of Health, Welfare and Pensions.

"If they are in any doubt about their eligibility or how to apply for a pension, they must contact their local office of the Department of Health Welfare and Pensions," he said.

Old-age pensions are available, subject to a means test, to women over the age of 60 and men over the age of 65 if they are South African citizens or have been resident in the Republic for five years.

Applications can be made on forms obtainable from the local office of the Department of Health, Welfare and Pensions, or from the office of the local magistrate.

Completed application forms, together with details of income and assets and documentary evidence of financial position, date of birth, population classification and marital status, must be handed back to the local office. It will then be forwarded to Pretoria.

The amount of pension will be determined by a means test based on income and the value of assets. The means of applicants who have reached the age of 100 years or are veterans of the Anglo-Boer War are not taken into consideration.

INCOME: Gross salary (less certain compulsory deductions, eg UIF, medical aid and pension fund contributions) is taken into account. An amount of R408 is deducted from the joint income of a married couple and from the income of a single person before applying the means test.

The earnings of men over the age of 70 and women over the age of 65 are not assessed.

Profits derived from farming by an owner or usufructuary are assessed at R144 per annum irrespective of the actual profit made.

The yearly net profit of a business is regarded as income and the capital is taken as an asset.

Rent paid by unmarried children and rent received from less than three lodgers is exempt from the means test. If the applicant has three or more lodgers one quarter of the total rent paid is regarded as income.

Where rooms in hired property are sublet to more than two persons, one quarter of the gross rental received is regarded as income.

If the personal income of a husband is less than 50 percent of his wife's salary, only one-quarter of her salary together with his personal income is taken into account.

The personal earnings of a blind applicant are halved when calculating his pension.

It is important to remember that the combined income of a married couple is halved for the application of the means test. The income value of assets is not halved, however.

ASSETS: If the applicant owns and occupies property situated within a municipal area, then the property's value is assessed at an amount not exceeding R9 800 irrespective of its actual value.

In the case of farms and smallholdings the value of the dwelling is fixed at not more than R9 800 and the value of the land and improvements added.

The amount of investments is taken into account and the actual income gained is disregarded.

The value of usufruct is assessed but is disregarded after the expiration of a period of five years from the date on which the usufructuary became entitled to it.

Assets donated within a period of five years before the date of application are taken into account.

If property is rented for farming purposes the agricultural value of the land is calculated and the actual profits derived from farming disregarded.

HOW THE MEANS TEST IS APPLIED: Pensions are calculated on an individual basis on the divided assessed income (in the case of a married person) plus the full income value of assessed assets.

The means plus pension limitation is R1 968 and the minimum basic pension is R1 656 a year per person (R138 per month) which means that R504 a year per person is "free income".

An unmarried person with an assessed income of up to R504 a year (R42 per month) is therefore entitled to a pension of R138 a month.

For every R24 per annum by which a person's income exceeds the "free income" of R504 a year, the pension is reduced by R24 per year.

If the physical or mental condition of an old-age pensioner is such that he or she needs to be regularly attended by another person, the pensioner may be granted an attendant's allowance of R20 a month in addition to the pension.

These details offer merely a general guide to the pensions picture and are subject to a host of variable factors.

HOW THE MEANS TEST WORKS

Income

- Salaries and pension less compulsory deductions, eg UIF, medical aid and pension.
- Profits from farming assessed at R144 a year.
- The yearly net profit of a business.
- Rent paid by three or more lodgers. Rent from unmarried children not taken into consideration.
- If rooms of hired property are sublet to more than two people a quarter of rent is regarded as income.

Assets

- Fixed property: If occupied by applicant and within municipal area, its value is assessed at not more than R9 800.
- Investments: Actual amount taken into account and interest disregarded.
- Usufruct: Disregarded after 5 years from application.
- Donated Assets: Assets donated within 5 years before application.
- Property rented for farming: Agricultural value of land calculated but profits disregarded.

MR HOWARD FERREIRA: Child welfare needs money.

Row over welfare grants

Sowetan 9/3/83

DISCRIMINATION between different race groups in the form of social grants and pensions has placed child welfare agencies in a financial mess.

This was said in Johannesburg by the director of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, Mr Howard Ferreira, who added that this was in spite of the very many occasions on which they had approached the Government to ask it to rectify the situation.

Addressing a Press conference, Mr Ferreira said child welfare had got nowhere with their numerous pleas to the State and they now felt it was the public's right to know the facts.

He gave figures to illustrate the "sorry" situation, adding that the foster care allowance paid by the State for black foster children had, since 1978, been R24 a month, while the coloured allowances was R71 and that for whites R90 a month per child.

Mr Ferreira, who said his society was concerned about the lack of response from the State, added that the differences between these foster care allowances were getting greater. For example, the foster care allowance was raised from R13,25 per black child to R24 (an increase of 81 percent) while for whites it was raised from R48 to R90 (an increase of 87,5 percent)."

Mr Ferreira said another major factor preventing the proper expansion of child welfare services was the present tax system under which a contributor to social welfare organisations was not allowed to deduct these contributions from his income tax.

Mr Ferreira also hit out at the system of granting subsidies. He said the present maximum monthly subsidy for black social workers differentiated between males and females — R705 for the males and R686 for the females. The maximum subsidy payable per month for whites is R1 138 — a difference of R482 a month — between a female black social worker and her white counterpart.

Showing pensioners the secrets of living in the twilight years

Star 9/3/83 300

Network, The Star's public involvement project, began in January with an in-depth look at what future the pensioners of tomorrow face.

The conclusions of the study pointed to a situation in the not too distant future in which welfare and pension facilities could collapse completely under the weight of numbers.

There are more and more elderly people living longer and longer, while there are proportionately fewer working people to support them.

This will place an added burden on future pensioners to provide for themselves and not rely on welfare and pension funds.

But if this is to be the future of the elderly, how do they prepare for it?

One organisation, which has been working for more than 15 years in this field, is the Retirement Association.

Here are its views in response to the Network series on the aged.

By Anthony Duigan

The average individual can retire with a quarter of his or her active years stretching into the unknown. Some enter this period without having really thought about the consequences; some with great apprehension.

Mr Hugh Goyns, director of the Retirement Association, told Network: "In South Africa this situation affects 600 000 citizens, most of whom played some part in the country's recent development.

"These people, if unprepared, deteriorate almost visibly to the stage where they become a burden to themselves and a burden to the community.

"At the age of 60 we may be experts at earning a living. But thrown on our own resources, we soon discover gaps in our knowledge of living itself."

It is too late to find out after retirement that one has no purpose in life. Before one finishes work it is essential to find fulfilment outside the job which has brought in the monthly salary.

"The answer is preparation. And preparation calls for education. Unfortunately, orthodox education falls very far short of preparing people for life outside the narrow confines of making a daily living for a limited period. Therefore, education for retirement is essential."

The priority of the Retirement Association is to promote health consciousness among those approaching the retirement threshold and to help them utilise their accumulated knowledge, wisdom and experience for the benefit of the community at large.

The Retirement Association was formed in 1967 as an organisation not for gain. Its prime objective is to prepare men and women for ultimate retirement.

Its services are open to all races and are supported by the subscriptions of 125 firms. As members of the RA, these firms may send their employees and their spouses to its courses, titled Design for Living. Individuals may attend privately for a small charge.

Besides a programme aimed at achieving a balanced health outlook in individuals, the RA focuses on the financial aspects of retirement — pensions, investments, wills and insurance — and includes ideas on how to cope with the ravages of inflation.

Then the Design for Living courses look at how and where one will live when retired, and the need for an occupation when the regular job finishes.

The RA is also in touch with similar organisations in the United States and Europe.

"With more than 40 000 people having gone through our courses (almost 1 000 people a month are doing them at present) we claim to have come to grips with the problems affecting retirement," the spokesman said.

In 1977 the RA formed the Continuity Club to give members ongoing contact with the parent association and to enable them to participate in a wide range of activities, such as hiking and cultural events. The club is at present arranging a hiking tour of Greece for October.

Besides this club, the RA runs an employment bureau, which is free to the public over the age of 60 years. In its first 10 years it placed more than 800 people in post-retirement jobs.

The offices of RA are at 80 Pasteur Chambers, 191 Jeppe Street, Johannesburg. The telephone number is (011)37-4864.

be met in order to qualify as a protesting burgher for pension purposes; if so, what are these requirements?

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) (a) The Social Pensions Act, 1973 (Act 37 of 1973). Attention is invited to paragraph (c) of the definition of "War Veteran" under that act;

(b) October 1966;

(2) yes;

(i) application on the prescribed form;

(ii) proof that the applicant was a protesting burgher; and

(iii) compliance with the prescribed residential qualifications and the means test.

†Mr. G. B. D. McINTOSH: Mr. Speaker, arising out of the hon. the Minister's reply, are the protesting burghers those who are generally known as the rebels of the First World War?

†The PRIME MINISTER: Precisely!

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE: Mr. Speaker, I think the Act gives a very clear description of who these people are, that is, of course, if the hon. member can read. [Interjections.]

†Mr. G. B. D. McINTOSH: Mr. Speaker, further arising out of the hon. the Minister's reply, if Jopie Fourie had not been executed, would he have been entitled to such a pension today?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That has nothing whatsoever to do with the question under discussion.

†The MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, nowhere

(30) Hansard Q. 61, 593 – 595 – 11/3/83

Protesting burghers: pensions

*3. Mr. G. B. D. McINTOSH asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(1) (a) In terms of what statutory provision are pensions paid to protesting burghers and (b) when was the first such pension paid;

(2) whether certain requirements have to

in the world do dead people ever get a pension. [Interjections.]

†Mr. J. H. VAN DER MERWE: But they do vote in elections sometimes. [Interjections.]

300 Hansard Q. Col. 626 — 627

Social pensioners

11/3/83

454. Mr. H. H. SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(a) What is the number of social pensioners, based on the latest available figures, who are White and (b) in respect of what date is the figure given?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(a) (1) 182 934 (Old aged, war veterans, disability and blind pensions)

(2) 20 006 (Maintenance and family allowances)

(b) February 1983.

Social pensioners

456. Mr. H. H. SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:

(a) What is the number of social pensioners, based on the latest available figures, who are (i) Coloured and (ii) Indian and (b) in respect of what dates are the figures given?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

		(i)	(ii)
(a)	Old age pension	94 270	20 613
	War veterans' pension	7 931	260
	Blind persons' pension	1 566	256

	(i)	(ii)
Disability grant	61 334	17 465
Maintenance grant	52 920	16 511

★ The Cape Times, Wednesday,

Workers: Call for consultation

300 C. Times 16/3/83

Labour Reporter

A CALL for greater consultation with workers if laws were proposed which directly affected their earnings was made yesterday by Mr Peter Morum, managing director of Firestone SA.

Speaking at the third annual conference of the Association of Pension and Provident Funds in the City, Mr Morum said black people looked on pension and medical-aid contributions as another means of providing the government with funds.

Sketching the background to two strikes over the pensions issue which took place at Firestone's Port Elizabeth plant, he said the issue was more than industrial action.

"We were seeing evidence of community solidarity in the Eastern Cape, and more particularly, greater concern with social issues than with industrial-relations issues.

"Did we really hear the fears of our employees with regard to government intervention, or did we simply apply our thinking and acceptance of the legislation?"

Mr Morum said the Eastern Cape was the "cutting edge of black political aspirations" and this factor was superimposed on all industrial relations.

"All of us must realize that we are witnessing political and industrial change, and it is imperative that we adapt to this change."

He said there were great gulfs of credibility between black and white, government and blacks and management and black workers.

"If legislation is proposed which directly affects earnings, we must consult to a far greater degree than has been done in the past.

"Industrial workers do not have the financial reserves that people in this room enjoy and when we experience times like the present and workers are laid off, they need the money they have in the pension scheme."

Mr Morum said that if the question of pensions legislation was revived, then "the authorities must be certain it is in a form acceptable to organized labour".

pension fund mess!

Fix the 'credibility'

SUGAR MAN CALLS FOR ACTION TO RESTORE FUNDS' CREDIBILITY

By MIKE PEIRSON

A CALL to re-establish the credibility of pension funds was made this week by Barry Horlock, personnel director of C G Smith Sugar when he spoke at the annual conference of the Association of Pension and Provident Funds in Cape Town.

"The root causes of our problem lie in more deeper social issues and it is therefore my objective to persuade you to try and stop the debate," he said.

"After all, the debate started over compulsory preservation of pensions. This has achieved the destruction of pension provisions of thousands of people in Natal, the complete opposite of preservation, and as soon as someone as much mentions the word again, particularly if that person should be a Government source, I am sure the destruction process will start all over again."

He explained that when the pension issue started to emerge in 1981 in the sugar industry, against a background of widespread strikes, his company decided they were not going to have a fight with their employees or the union leaders over the matter.

"Our attitude," said Horlock, "was that we believed in preservation, would strive hard to keep our employees in the fund, but in the end would allow employees to withdraw on a technical resignation and then rejoin.

"Having reached a situation after many years whereby all our employees, irrespective of race, belonged to the same fund, what we thought was a very satisfactory situation now lies very battered, to say the least, although some 2 500 of our black employees took no action and remained in the fund with uninterrupted pensionable service.

"There are 15 sugar mills in Natal and without exception everyone got caught up in the pension fund mess.

"We have now been talking more than a year with our employees, or rather in particular with their union representatives, over possible future pension arrangements, with no success to date.

"The bogey in the system is that soon after everybody had pulled out of the various pension funds, a union insurance scheme linked to the membership of the union was introduced and I cannot see us resolving the pension fund problem until we get that insurance scheme out of our system.

"Employees certainly won't contribute to our pension fund and the union scheme. One of them is going to end up the loser."

One important lesson to come out of these experiences was the role of black leadership. Had there been a highly visible national black leader stand up in 1981 and warn employees of the consequences of their actions, perhaps there would have been less of a problem today.

A recent research project carried out by Professor Lawrence Schlemmer of the University of Natal showed that while the white Government was trusted the least, it was still expected to fund old age pensions for blacks.

"One factor we cannot overlook is that traditionally black culture and society is socialistic whereas the concept of self-funding of pensions is more closely linked to a capitalist society.

"However the leader of capitalism in the free world, the US, has many social welfare programmes for the less fortunate, including pensions."

He said the authorities should open up a debate with black leaders of independent and self-governing states over future funding of pensions.

Other points he made were:

. There was a direct correlation between education and acceptability of pensions.

. Preservation, whether compulsory or voluntary, would destruct many more pensions against the background of lack of job stability and mistrust among black people.

Regrettable

. The short term solution would appear to be a non-contributory scheme funded by employers, with correspondingly poorer benefits.

"Regrettably we have opted for this course until our employee's representatives re-open the subject with us," Horlock concluded.

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~~270~~ Hansard Q.601.744

300 21/3/83

Transport Services: annuities

515. Mr. G. B. D. McINTOSH asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

Whether he has exercised his discretion in terms of section 13(1) of the Railways and Harbours Service Act, No. 22 of 1960, to grant an annuity to any non-White employee of the South African Transport Services dismissed after 20 years' service for reasons other than fraud or theft; if not, why not; if so, in how many cases?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

No. The provisions of section 13(1) of the Railways and Harbours Service Act, 1960 (Act 22 of 1960), are only applicable to members of the New Railways and Harbours Superannuation Fund.

Pension benefits to Coloured, Indian and Black employees are payable in terms of the Railways and Harbours Pensions for Non-Whites Act, 1974 (Act 43 of 1974).

Pension fund dispute

23/3/83

Labour Reporter

A SHORT work stoppage took place at the S A Wire plant in Glen Anil yesterday morning when workers downed tools in support of their demands to withdraw their pension fund contributions and for the company to recognise their union.

A South African Allied Workers' Union official said more than 400 people were involved in the stoppage, although a spokesman for the company set the figure at 250.

He confirmed that the stoppage was over pensions and union recognition. Employees had resumed work when the management told them that a delegation from the Metal Industries Pension Fund would visit the plant to discuss pensions.

The conditions of the Metal Industries Pension Fund are that money cannot be withdrawn until an employee resigns or reaches retiring age.

Pensioners critical of rents

Staff Reporter

DOZENS of pensioners called TELELETTERS yesterday to plead for the retention of rent control.

"The old people, who were the foundation of our society, must be protected," said **Mr L Fowler** of Kenilworth. "We would have white squatters on Rondebosch Common if rent control were abolished."

Mr C Lategan, Kraaifontein, said: "Rent control should only be abolished once all pensioners have been registered and they have been found proper accommodation by the government. For a flat-owner to loose out is unfair, but it is just as unfair for a pensioner to loose out."

The owner of a rent-controlled premises, **Mr S Stavrou (junior)** of Kalk Bay, said: "Eight years ago I was forced to retire for health reasons and I bought a block of flats in Vredehoek which I hoped would finance my family and me.

"The tenants are not struggling, some of them even own property. My maintenance costs are just as high as those of newer blocks. I am in a worse position than some of them."

Mrs D Sadur of Sea Point said: "The abolition of rent control has not increased the supply of flats except for some new high-priced units. The outlook for insecure tenants has never been worse."

"I am a widowed pensioner," said **Mrs M Heyns** of Claremont, "and they have just put my rent up so that it is more than my pension. Fortunately my son is able to help to me. What if he decides to get married?"

Adding that he was speaking on behalf of

many people, **Mr D Dlesndsor** of Sea Point said: "Last year the government sent a delegation to America to study rent control; are they still sleeping? Many of us are living on borrowed time!"

Mr G Slaughter of Wynberg said he and his wife had saved for their retirement, but were uncertain if it would be enough. "Why do we have to suffer this when we contributed to the country all our lives?"

Mrs K Stephens of Rondebosch said: "I am a widow and have been in my flat for 23 years. Who on earth would want to buy property at 67? All the old-age homes are full. One can't sleep at night for the worry."

"I think the fault lies with the government," said **Mr L Conway** of Kenilworth. "They should introduce further tax incentives to encourage entrepreneurs to build."

A flat-owner, who said his sole source of income was from two blocks of flats he owned, said: "My statistics show that 90 percent of tenants earn far more than the minimum level specified in the rent-control agreement. Originally the measures were introduced to protect people earning below a certain level."

Mr J Andrue of Sea Point said rent control should not be abolished while there was an accommodation shortage.

If anyone would like to comment on issues relating to this column they are welcome to phone TELELETTERS at ☎ 41 3361 — ext 219.

Outcry follows death in pension queue

300

Sowetan 25/3/83

BLACK leaders yesterday reacted angrily to reports of the death of a 64-year-old ailing pensioner who died while queueing for her bi-monthly pension in Soweto this week.

By ALI MPHAKI

The leaders blamed Mrs Florence Rikhotso's death on the system whereby hundreds of pensioners have to queue for several hours for their pension.

Mrs Rikhotso, of Mofolo Village, arrived at a queue at the Mofolo pay-out centre at 4am on Monday and collapsed about an hour later. It is believed that although she had been unwell, she was in a cheerful mood that morning.

Her brother, Mr George Makhubela, said it had been very cold the Monday morning his sister died.

The publicity secretary of Azapo, Mr Ishmael Mkhabela, said it was time community or political organisations took up the matter of old people in order to redress the prevailing situation.

Leader of the Orlando East based Sofasonke Party, Mr Ambition Brown, said it was appalling that our old people had to undergo such strain to get their meagre pay packets.

"The Soweto Council should at least provide shelter and employ more teams at pay-out centres," he said.

1 d general

(photographs, not stated) (not stated). — Sapa.

Home 'unaware inmate, 86, had collapsed

ARGUS 25/3/83 300

Medical Reporter

AN 86-year-old woman who collapsed after locking herself in her room in a Cape Town old-age home allegedly remained undiscovered for two days.

Mrs R C Beukman is thought to have had a mild stroke and is recovering in the sick bay of Huis Luckhoff in Rosebank.

Her daughter, Mrs Helen van Wyk says: "My mother could have died if I hadn't gone to pick her up. What worries me most is that the same thing could happen to some other old person."

INVESTIGATION

The matter is being investigated by the Synodale Kommissie van die Diens van Barmhartigheid of the Ned Geref Kerk, which administers the home. The Rev D J du Toit, secretary of the kommissie, said: "We cannot comment at this stage because the matter is being investigated. But there must be other sides to the story.

"We do for instance have a bell in the old people's rooms in case they are sick and need help."

Mrs van Wyk said she went to Huis Luckhoff last Friday morning to collect her mother for the weekend. Her door was locked and there was no reply from the room. None of the residents could say where she had gone.

She asked what had happened to her mother and was allegedly told: "Somebody took her out late in the afternoon".

Mrs van Wyk said a nurse who took Mrs Beukman her food said the door had been locked since Wednesday evening. The nurse said she had twice complained she had not been notified that Mrs Beukman was going away.

Mrs van Wyk added that while she was telephoning a relative to try to establish what had happened to her mother, one of the domestic staff came and said: "Old madam is in her room."

"I ran up to her room but they didn't have any spare keys, so I asked them to break through the window. Fortunately it was open, so they sent the gardener in and discovered my mother lying on the bed in her clothes.

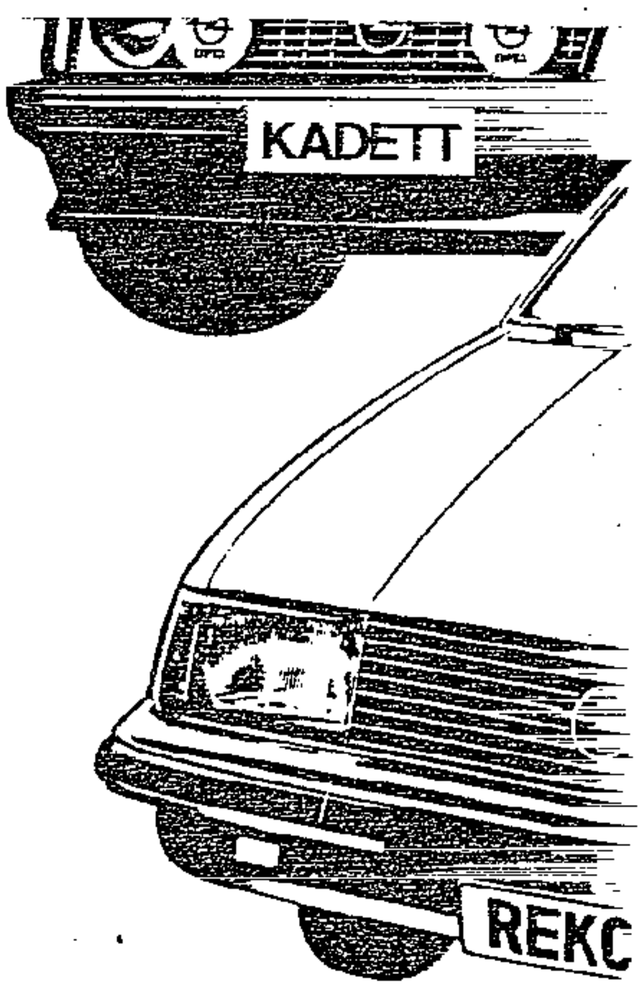
"When I got into the room I took her in my arms and held her to me. I felt so guilty. She said: 'Helen, I've been calling for you and calling for you and you didn't come.' She also called for my children and my husband — somehow hoping they would come and help her.

"All she could say was that she was tired and thirsty and had been vomiting for two nights. There is a bell in her room, but she was too weak to reach it.

KEY FOUND

"She didn't know how she came to be locked in, but we found the key in the room."

Her husband, Mr Schalk van Wyk, said: "They should have a book in which all the old people note where they are going and for how long to prevent this sort of incident happening again."



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Mr Tolbert said today

Reporter

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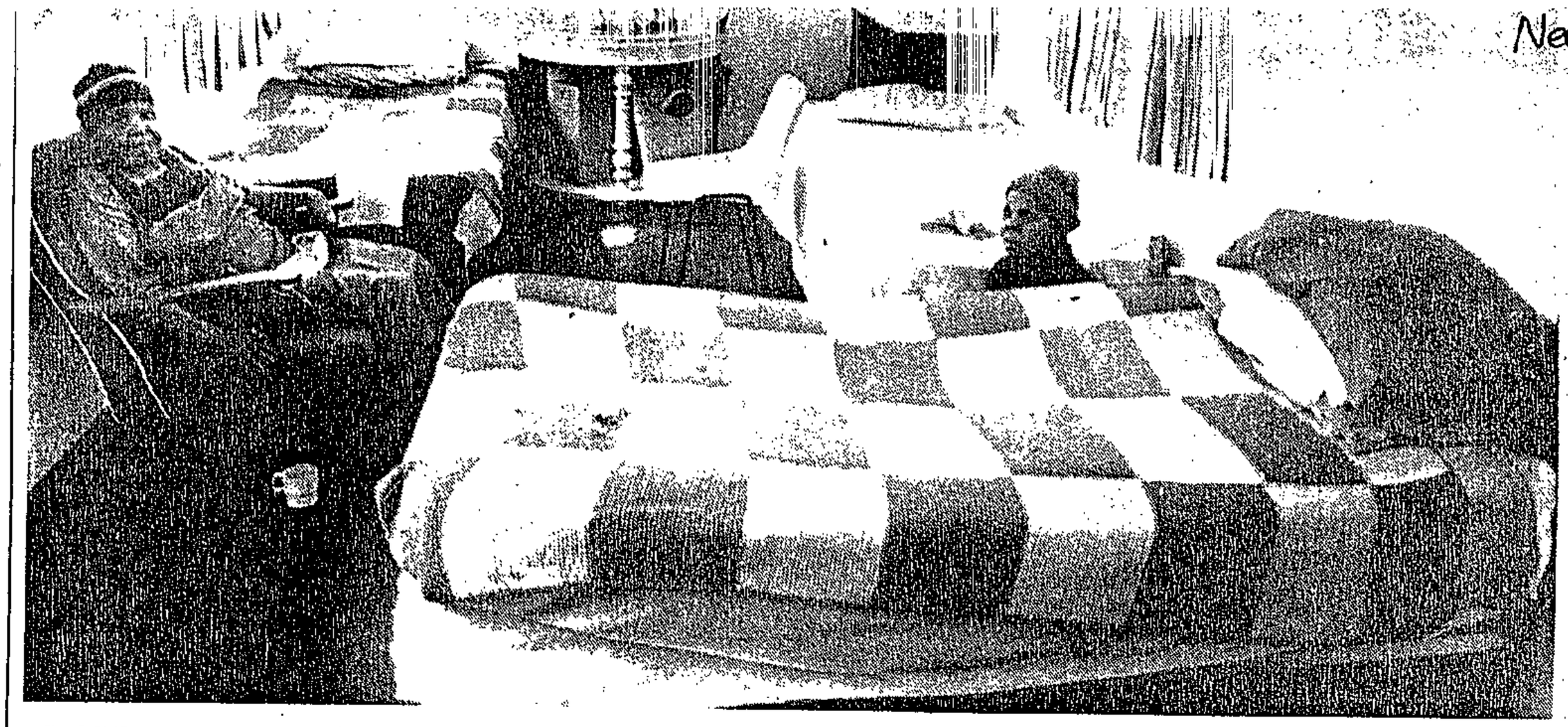
She was addressing

Education Reporter

UNIVERSITY of Cape Town students have been urged to "campaign with all their might" for an end to military conscription.

The call was made yesterday by Dr Margaret Nash, former education officer of the South African Council of Churches and a member of the Black Sash.



New

Tale of rest for two

Left: Two of the old people who are cared for at The Haven relax in their new home, which will be opened by the Bishop of Port Elizabeth tomorrow.

Tin shanty replaced by a comfortable new house

(R24) (300) E. Post 26/3/83

By LINDA GALLOWAY

A HOME for the aged and infirm is being opened in the Walmer Township tomorrow by Bishop John Murphy, Roman Catholic Bishop of Port Elizabeth. It is the first planned construction since the Government announced the township's eventual demolition.

The home, built by the Society of St Vincent de Paul, replaces a tin and iron shanty "haven" and has been constructed with the approval of the East Cape Administration Board.

One of the society's members, Mr John Molyneaux, had the idea for building the home from polystyrene after seeing tests done at a factory. He explained to Weekend Post this week that the construction was a revolutionary concept, which should be investigated with a view to black housing.

The slabs of polystyrene are glued together, meshed in chicken wire and plastered with cement, producing walls of considerable strength. Polystyrene is also used for the roof and floor, surfaced with asbestos sheeting and cement respectively.

"It is second to none in certain essential properties," he said. "It has exceptional insulating value, both as regards heat and cold.

"If set upon a firm base it has a surprising ability to support load. It is waterproof and light, inexpensive, and it's available in virtually any thickness.

"It does not burn — it melts when a naked flame is applied, giving off carbon monoxide well within regulation limits."

The society has been active in the Walmer Township for 30 years, taking groceries to needy families.

"On their visits, members became aware of certain isolated people, bedridden with no family to feed them or attend to their basic needs, starving to death in bed linen that was never washed or changed," said Mr Molyneaux.

"There was this old man living in a corrugated iron tank on its side, no bottom or top, the ends closed with scraps of sacking and loose bits of planking.

"We gathered these people together in a shack which we called The Haven, where we found someone to care for them.

"Then the Walmer Centre of Concern, who knew we were visiting people in the township, invited us to their annual meeting, where we asked them what was the most pressing need of the township.

"They said it was a home for the uncared-for aged, and so the idea for The Haven was born.

"We were going to pull down the room the old people were in and rebuild it, but the East Cape Administration Board offered us a plot where a house had burnt down, on condition that we replaced only what we had already, and we went ahead with our plans."

The house is in the shape of a cross, which Mr Molyneaux says is purely incidental.

"Working on the fact that there would invariably be more women than men, we added a room which can be converted into another bedroom and found that the building was a perfect cross. That, to my mind, was a sign that our work was blessed."

The shell of the building took just 20 days to complete, and then the floors, also reinforced polystyrene, had to be laid.

The seven residents moved in during the first week of January.

Nearly all the material for the building was donated by companies in the area, including paint, door frames and a portable toilet.

The haven has been named after Mr Paddy McNamee, who has been a regular visitor to the township for 30 years and who was instrumental in gaining acceptance of the plans for The Haven.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion fr... University

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PSL/PD UCT

Made in South Africa

Aged face cutbacks in welfare services

Star 28/3/83

300

By Lynne Cornfield,
Welfare Reporter

The Johannesburg Association for the Aged is in serious financial trouble and about 10 000 old people in the city face severe cutbacks in services which they cannot get anywhere else.

The association spent R111 750 a month more than it received from city council and government subsidies and, unless there was a sharp increase in public donations, the city's elderly would suffer, said Mr Bill Balsdon, vice-chairman of the association.

The only other solution was to reduce the shortfall by cutting services. This would mean cutting to the minimum the only home aid and help service available to senior citizens, he said.

Errands

This service offers assistance to elderly people who need someone to run errands and do chores for them and it also helps those just out of hospital who cannot look after themselves. The association employs more than 160 people to meet this need.

Mr Balsdon said fund raising efforts this year had not raised as much as last year and he appealed urgently to members of the public to make bequests to the association in their wills.

Another alternative would be to "adopt" a senior citizen for R150 which would cover the association's costs.

Mr Balsdon said it was an indictment of Johannesburg that it was a long way behind Cape Town and Durban in caring for the aged. He said that not only was the Johannesburg association unable to cope with its present load in providing facilities for 10 000 elderly people but it catered to less than 20 percent of Johannesburg's over-65 population of 60 000.

Subsidies

The association spends R125 000 a month, of which less than 10 percent is spent on administration, and receives only R13 250 in subsidies. It provides home aid, counselling services, holiday clubs, health services, poor relief, subsidised accommodation in flats, a residential hotel and a home for the frail aged. There are 20 service centres throughout the city at which cheap meals, recreational, educational and occupational facilities, and libraries are provided.

(300) Transport Services: pensions 2.8/3/k3

Hansard 9.61.824

514. Mr. G. B. D. McINTOSH asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

Whether any privileges relating to the condonation of breaks in service for pension purposes have been granted to (a)(i) Coloured, (ii) Asian and (iii) Black and (b) White employees of the South African Transport Services since 1 April 1982; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(a) (i), (ii), (iii) and (b) No. This is not provided for in legislation.

Hansard 29/3/83

(300) Q. Col. 836 - 837

Social pensioners

453. Mr. H. H. SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(a) What is the number of social pensioners, based on the latest available figures, who are Black and (b) in respect of what date is the figure given?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(a) 326 875 (White areas).

(b) 28 February 1983.

In addition to the abovementioned number of Black social pensioners, 287 555 Black persons in the national states were in receipt of social pensions on 28 February 1983.

Pensioners' increase 'an insult'

THE budget, SATV and crime prevention were some of the subjects discussed by readers who called Teletters yesterday.

A retired emeritus professor phoned to say he thought the five percent increase granted to pensioners was an insult, particularly to those who retired more than 10 years ago. He said: "After spending 40 years educating people in the medical world this is our reward. It's obscene: South Africa's pensions are lower than any other country's anyway."

An Elsie's River man, **Mr Adam Hoosain**, said he did not see the budget concessions to new householders as a boost. "The Asiatics cannot benefit because in the two areas we are allocated at the moment no houses have been built for the past two or three years. We need more areas in which to live."

Mrs M H Morgan of Observatory said: "I don't understand the means test for pensioners. I have an aunt who gets a private pension of R126 and is told she doesn't qualify for further aid from the State. State pensioners get R152 as well as countless benefits. The system is wrong."

Mrs Helen Pitt of Bantry Bay wondered why the Hotline home delivery service, so valuable to handicapped and elderly people, had never been resumed after it was stopped some months ago. "I am crippled and it was my lifeline. I know many people in this position and I really think someone should start the service again. The delivery fee was small compared to the service provided."

Finance was an issue with many readers.

Mr W Middleton of Vrijzee said: "The increase in air fares is not justified in the light of the petrol price decrease."

Mr J C Williams of Pinelands was unhappy with bank charges. "The banks are fussing so much now about interest on current accounts, but if people are stupid enough to

leave R500 in a current account they get very little for it."

Mrs J Higgo of Maitland was worried about misuse of the Under R40 column. "People take advantage of it. I wanted to buy an empty whiskey bottle in a cradle, advertised for R5, but on phoning the woman said there was a mistake and she wanted R7 for it. When I went to fetch it that evening she said she was terribly sorry but had decided she wanted R10 for it. I wonder how much of this goes on."

Radio and TV services received attention too.

Mr Rodney Pearce of Mossel Bay would like to see the establishment of an alternative radio station operation from international waters. "We need a station that will

The Cape Times, Friday, April 1, 1983 9

300

reader

...range of good ...rovide unbi... ...late reports ...s. I am tired ...e same 20 re... ...ed on Radio ...We need com... ...the broadcast... ...ss to wake

...ewspaper edi... ...e TV service ... Radio pro... ...are often better. ...s is slanted and ... while Saturday ... ill-balanced. ... too few quality ...s."

Mr David Mantell of Rondebosch said: "Many men in the army are doing nothing. They should be posted at subways and other areas where bag-snatching and mugging often occurs, to act as a deterrent and apprehend culprits."

Mr A Booysen of Grassy Park said: "Advertisements screened on TV and displayed everywhere lead to decadence, such as the liquor adverts. Crime will continue to increase while these are in evidence."

A picture in this week's Carfinder showing Miss South Africa, Sandy de Meyer, hitch-hiking while dressed in skimpy shorts drew critism from **Miss D Bailey** of Tokai. She said: "We have always been taught not to hitch-hike, especially in clothing like that. Sandy de Meyer is shown setting a very poor example."

Tuesday will be the next opportunity for readers to phone Teleletters at 413361 ext 219 between 9am and 12am to comment on any issue.

01/04/83

300

Staff crisis hits pensions office

Star 2/4/83

By Sheryl Raine

The Registrar of Pension Funds has revealed that staff shortages in his office have reached such proportions that it is no longer possible to perform even the most basic checks on pension funds involving more than 5,3 million members and assets valued at over R20 000 million.

Mr E W van Staden, Registrar of Pensions in the Department of Finance, just released his financial report for 1980 in Pretoria this week.

A spokesman for the Registrar's office, said the staff situation reflected in the report had "remained unchanged" even though two years had lapsed.

"I regret to report that the staff position of this office has now deteriorated to a point where it is no longer possible to perform effectively all the functions that are required of it by the Pensions Act," Mr van Staden wrote in his report.

"As a result of resignations, particularly by staff in the entry and middle grades, and the inability to recruit replacements at the prescribed salary, the stage has now been reached where not even the most basic of functions, such the examination of financial statements and actuarial valuation reports submitted by pension funds, can be attended to properly.

"Efforts to recruit sufficient and suitably qualified staff at the rates of remuneration which the Department is allowed to offer, have failed," he concluded.

This week, the Minister of Finance confirmed in his Budget speech what civil servants and the Public Servants Association had feared.

Civil servants will get no salary increases this year unless the economy improves dramatically.

There will, however, be R295-million set aside to improve service conditions. These benefits are unlikely to ease the recruitment of staff particularly at entry and middle levels.

At the end of December 1980, there were 11 111 pension funds registered with the Financial Institutions Office of the Department of Finance.

All these funds together had R5 323 770 members, including 301 892 pensioners and assets valued at about R20 059-million.

During 1980 members and employers contributed R1 978-million to pension funds governed by the Pensions Act while total contributions to all funds amounted R2 742-million.

Elderly tenants stunned by big rent increases

Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN'S flat tenants, especially elderly pensioners, fear they will "end up on the streets" as rents in many city blocks soar.

At least eight women pensioners, all "protected tenants" in their 70s, had the rents of their Duncan View flats in Brooklyn raised by 155 percent this month.

They said they had had to find R318 in back rent to cover the increases for their small, one-bedroomed flats from January this year.

While they are classified "protected tenants" — because their monthly income is lower than R360 — they can remain in their flats only if they meet their rentals.

They alleged that their rents had been increased from R45 to R115, while some "unprotected" tenants were paying only R105.

Most of these women have a monthly income of R145 and not one brings in more than R200. For many, these increases leave them with about R23 a month from their State or other pensions to pay for groceries, water, electricity and medication.

TWO of the eight Brooklyn pensioners who have had their rents raised by 155 percent: Mrs D Oxham, left, and Mrs M Watkins.

At a meeting held at their flats this week, the pensioners drew up a letter they will send to the Minister of Community Development, Mr S F Kotze, calling on him to help them in their plight.

They said they feared they would "end up on the streets" because they could not afford the increases, and did not know where they could go.

A tearful Mrs M Watson, 76, said she had walked the streets to find other accommodation.

"But there is nothing," she said. "Even if there were vacant flats, the rents are soaring everywhere and all the flats in the area have waiting lists the length of my arm. On my monthly income of R138 I could not afford a flat — even if I could find one.

(Turn to Page 3, col 4)

Big rent increases hit elderly tenants

(Contd from Page 1)

"I have lived in this block for 10 years. Why can't they just leave me in peace and take pity on us," she said.

Mrs E McCarthy, 74, who has lived at Duncan View since 1959, said she was desperate and, like her friends, had heard that rents for most other flats in the area were being increased.

"I do not have a family I can turn to for help," she said.

Mrs D Pool, 74, said she was slightly better off than most of the others because "at least my children can assist me with a little food now and again".

"TO SURVIVE"

The youngest of the affected residents is 56-year-old Mrs E de Villiers, who does not yet qualify for a State pension. She receives R128 a month, leaving her R3 for food, electricity and water.

"Every day I walk to Milnerton to look after children in order to survive, because I cannot afford the 80c busfare," she said.

Mr L Rabinowitz of Broll Estate Agents, which controls the building, confirmed that the rents had been increased, but said it was a Rent Board determination.

"The rents of the unprotected tenants will go up way above that which the protected tenants have been told to pay.

"They all received letters of notification last year that an application for rent increases had been made to the Rent Control Board.

"What do they expect? Why should businesses have to subsidise old-age pensioners. That is the job of the State. It is for purely business reasons that these rents have had to be increased," he said.

At the rent-controlled Van Riebeek Hof A flats in Knysna Road, Milnerton, residents have been given six-month eviction notices — which expire at the end of the month.

Some of the tenants have already moved out, but seven tenants have refused to budge.

latest specified five years for which figures are available;

(2) at what interest rate (a) was money borrowed for the erection of homes for the aged in each such year and (b) is it being borrowed at present;

(3) what rental is at present being paid by the aged for flats erected with funds supplied by the National Housing Fund?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

(1) 1977-'78—R5 617 788.
1978-'79—R10 328 111.
1979-'80—R19 879 189.
1980-'81—R17 809 757.
1981-'82—R21 441 597.

(2) (a) and (b) 1% or 1/20% (the difference in interest between 1% and 1/20% is subsidised in respect of the aged whose incomes do not exceed R300 per month);

(3) rentals are equivalent to the lowest amount calculated on the following alternative bases:

(a) 5% of the occupants income; or

(b) interest and redemption at 1% over 40 years.

In addition an extra amount of rental is payable in respect of occupants whose incomes exceed R300 per month in the case of single persons and R600 per month in the case of married couples. The additional amount is equivalent to 25% of that portion of the occupant's income by which the limit is exceeded. A maximum rental equivalent to an amount calculated on an annuity basis at 9% per annum over 30 years is, however, payable.

Housing for aged persons

628. Mr. A. F. FOUCHÉ asked the Minister of Community Development:†

(1) What amount was spent on housing for White aged persons in each of the

EVENING POST, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1983

Senior citizens hit hard by PE housing crisis

By GARTH KING

THOUSANDS of old age pensioners in Port Elizabeth wait in vain for a space in choc-a-bloc accommodation for the elderly.

The upsurge in sectional title units, ever-increasing accommodation rentals and greater longevity continue to multiply the numbers of elderly who urgently require subsidised board and lodging.

Port Elizabeth's 29 old age homes and 14 institutions for the chronically sick and frail cater almost exclusively for the white population.

The plight of old and infirm black pensioners is especially great — yet little is known about the extent of their need as their cause is overshadowed by the backlog already existing in general black housing.

The chairman of the Kwazekele Residents' Association and executive member of the Port Elizabeth Black Civic Organisation (Pebco), Mr Jackson Mdongwe, said pensioners unable to pay rent in the townships were stripped of occupancy rights by the East Cape Administration Board (Ecab). New families were moved into their houses and they were left at the mercy of the new occupants. Many were then turfed out, he said.

"As far back as 1981 Pebco pleaded with the Government for extensive old age homes in Port Elizabeth's townships." Mr Mdongwe said an old age home in New Brighton was, years ago, changed into a hostel for single women and the black aged were sometimes given a place to stay in Peddie in Ciskei.

He said there was no way that a pension could provide for even a meagre existence for senior black citizens.

White platteland pensioners, unable to find a place to stay in small towns, are also swelling the ranks of those who wait for space in Port Elizabeth's old age homes.

The senior social worker at the Algoa Bay Council for the Aged, Mrs Ann Bolton, acknowedged there was "a terrible shortage" of accommodation and that this was worsened by the fact that "people who shouldn't be in old age homes and could look after themselves" were seeking board because they were being "squeezed out of a normal existence" by high rentals and the upsurge in sectional title units.

Some old age homes contacted reported that the situation was "terrible".

Some said that they were perpetually inundated with *bona fide* urgent requests, but their hands were tied by the lack of facilities.

The director of the SA Red Cross (Eastern Cape), which has several old age homes for whites, Mr Paul Kruger, said that all the Red Cross homes had long waiting lists.

He agreed that a prime cause for an increased and unsatisfied demand for white senior citizen housing was high rentals and sectional titling.

He said the new Okkie Oosthuizen Park home in Summerstrand would shortly provide 40 beds. Plans were proceeding for a 35-bed complex in Malabar, a 120-bed home for the black aged infirm in Zwide and a five-story block of 80 flatlets in Summerstrand — all scheduled for completion by the end of 1984.

He said a recent survey among the black community had revealed a desperate need for care of the aged infirm and housing for the healthy.

The secretary of the Port Elizabeth Community Council, Mr Danie Bezuidenhout, said that at present there were no facilities in the townships despite a great need.

He said the situation was "uncomfortable" rather than "critical" but said there were "plenty of old people whose children did not look after them".

The deputy director of the city council's Department of Housing, Mr E C Samuels, said a recent comprehensive survey among white and coloured applicants for inclusion in the department's old age housing schemes had revealed high rentals and sectional titling as motivating factors for many applications, but other factors included:

- Children no longer wanted them in the same house.
- A need for company and security.
- A need to live near children.
- A desire for permanent, structurally sound accommodation.

300 Hansard
Pension applications 18/4/83
Q.Ca1.1005 -1006

539. Mr D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

How many pension applications submitted to his Department had not been processed as at 31 January 1983?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

A total of 1 087 applications had not been processed on 31 January 1983.

The Department of Co-operation and Development is presently busy to consider the said 1 087 applications and it is endeavoured to finalize it as soon as possible.

Status quo condemns millions to poverty

Something needs to be done about the use of pensions

300
april 1983

NETWORK
COMMUNICATING IDEAS THROUGH THE STAR

ANDRE SPIER of Syncom analyses reactions from readers and institutions to Network's series on future pensioners. It warned of the possibility of a breakdown in private and State pensions funds in the not very distant future and discussed how to ensure a serene and meaningful old age

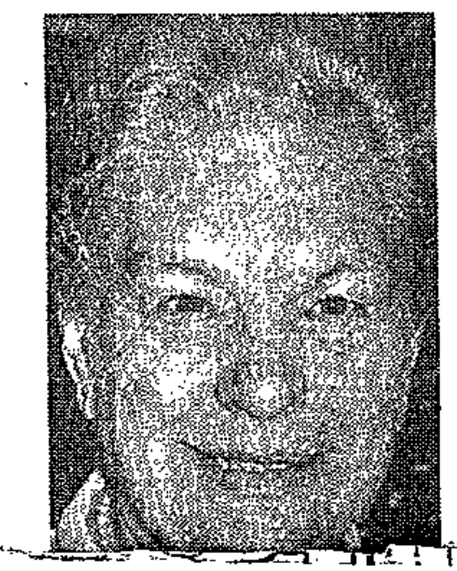
First let me say that in spite of our first topic being one which many people, especially the young, might normally find a "switch off", reader response was positive and gratifyingly voluminous.

The only reaction from the pension funds themselves was that they have faith in continued economic growth and in the continued growth of city centres in which they invest fairly heavily. Network's evidence seriously questions the ability of pension funds — private and state-run — to maintain the status quo.

Indeed, as we showed, the structure is showing signs of crumbling in several countries.

But even the status quo condemns millions of aged people to lives of poverty and despair. Something obviously has to be done about it.

Readers who responded will be pleased to know that a conference is being organised towards the end of the year by the Flower Foundation and that Network will assist by arranging workshops to prepare for that conference. The intention of the conference is not to discuss the problems all over again but to debate solutions and translate them into concrete proposals for action.



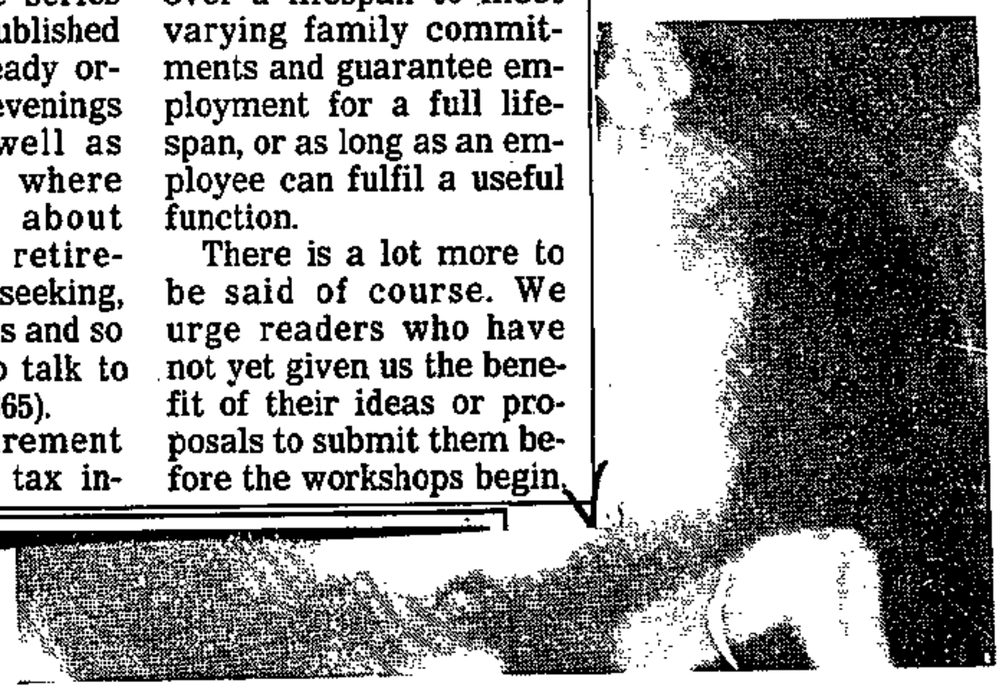
Here are some of the ideas put forward by readers which I found particularly relevant:

- Our approach to old age lacks depth of vision. We often lose sight of the potential value to society of many retired people. The longer they remain in some kind of active and useful employment the better for them and society.
- Plan and establish retirement villages of appropriate size — and let the pensioners themselves run them. It emerged that the Flower Foundation is doing just that. If you are interested, then telephone Mrs Florrie Richter 392627 (I might add that putting people in touch with people with common interests is part of the aim of Network).
- Income from employment should be tax-free for all over 66. This will encourage an active person to prolong his or her working life.
- Pensioners should have the choice of realising the capital sum they have ac-

participate in a midday meal and to develop new skills.

- Many made the point that education for retirement is essential. As one reader put it: a systematic preparation for retirement, psychological and educational, will assist many more people to engage in a purposeful life in retirement. (I should add here that the Retirement Association, which responded to the series with an article published by The Star, already organises regular evenings for retired as well as younger people, where they can learn about preparation for retirement, about job seeking, learning new skills and so on. The person to talk to is Mr Fidlier 374865).
- People of retirement age do not need tax incentives as much as greater flexibility: there are, after all, acknowledged systems of job-sharing, half-time jobs, consultative positions and so on.
- Use active and skilful pensioners to revitalise small villages in rural areas which are attractive and have a basic infrastructure of services and communications.
- Readjust income levels over a lifespan to meet varying family commitments and guarantee employment for a full lifespan, or as long as an employee can fulfil a useful function.

There is a lot more to be said of course. We urge readers who have not yet given us the benefit of their ideas or proposals to submit them before the workshops begin.



STAR
APRIL 1983
300

With 233 years of experience between them these three well-known South Africans are all well beyond retirement age, yet each is still very much involved in national and international opinion-making. Mr Harry Oppenheimer (74) still heads De Beers and is a vital leader in many other spheres. Mrs Margaret Lessing (69) was recently named Businesswoman of the Year and Professor Raymond Dart (90) is still internationally active in anthropology. "Age," said Professor Dart recently, "is a state of mind." But how many brilliant people are lost to society because tradition says that at 65 one is "over the hill"?

Spreading Network set to put education in spotlight

By James Clarke

The Star's Network is a project designed for readers. Its object is to address today's problems by presenting relevant details and then inviting readers to comment and suggest solutions. It also aims to put people with common interests in touch with each other to solve problems.

"Networking" is, in fact, a worldwide phenomenom. The first subject area it tackled was the problem of pension funds running out of money.

It warned there was a very real danger that State and private pension funds might run out of money in a few years' time. They might not be able to meet their commitments to people now middle-aged and younger who are paying into pension schemes.

One day we may view today's pensioners as privileged.

Several private pension funds in the United States went bankrupt last year and the government warned the public it could not rescue pensioners who were left high and dry.

So many unemployed people, schoolchildren, students and pensioners in several European countries are dependent on State funds that welfare funds are running dangerously low. And, as unemployment grows, there are fewer and fewer workers supporting more and more non-productive people.

Network, an offshoot of The Star's CARE campaign, is backed by the think-tank organisation Syncom. Syncom's director, Mr Andre Spier — who is an economist and futures consultant — is supplying Network with the data and then analysing the results of the "playback" from readers and institutions.

Thereafter Network will, if necessary, set up conferences or workshops in specific subject areas to sift through the possible solutions. Network will then publish, in handbook form, the relevant facts, figures and directions which emerge as a reference for those working on or studying that particular topic.

Network has so far tackled pensions (the results are analysed on this page), and unemployment (readers' responses are still to be analysed). Its next subject, beginning in a few days time, will be education.

cumulated during their years of contributions and investing it as they see fit. The would-be pensioner then becomes his own insurer, retaining full control of his capital and receiving interest or dividends. He could use the asset at any stage to buy into a retirement village.

- Investigate possible modifications of current income tax procedures; higher ceilings for deductions for pensions; separate taxation of husband's and wife's income; more flexible procedures for tax-free donations to kith and kin; encouragement to private and commercial retirement schemes.
- Old people must be able to take their own decisions about their own lives. They should have the fullest possible choice and a major say in decisions that affect them. Choice is a key factor in the well-being of the aged.
- The Sectional Titles Deeds Act and the phasing out of rent control have had a devastating effect on older tenants. It needs investigation.
- There is a need for more community-based service centres providing an opportunity for old people to socialise, to

BOOTED OUT, THEN...

Buti Seyabi . . . his story had a happy ending.
Pic: EVANS MBOWENI

BUTI GETS HIS ROOM BACK

ALEXANDRA — Wrab Black Jacks this week threw 70-year-old pensioner Buti Seyabi out of his rent-free room — for rent arrears.

By STAN MHLONGO

Sitting in the street with his meagre belongings afterwards, he told City Press: "I've been in this room for four years, and have never paid rent. Wrab gave me the room because I'm a pensioner, and said I didn't have to pay rent."

All alone in the world — he last saw his daughter Snowy 10 years ago — he didn't know where to turn. "The police often raid rent defaulters around here, but they've never raided me because they know I'm here rent-free," he said.

But the story has a happy ending.

Approached by City Press for comment, Alex township manager Gert Steyn said: "The police made a mistake. I will make sure he gets his room back.

Dependants' rise seen as cold comfort

Star 29/4/83

By Lynne Cornfield, Welfare Reporter

A 16 percent increase from October 1 in the monthly pensions for widows and dependent children of the victims of occupational diseases has been at once welcomed and condemned.

The increase, which will also be extended to sufferers whose cardio—respiratory systems have been affected by up to half, was announced yesterday by the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Pietie du Plessis.

The present pension paid to widows is R132 a month, with an additional R59 for each dependant child.

A smaller increase of 12 percent will be paid to sufferers whose diseases have incapacitated their cardio—respiratory systems by more than 50 percent.

Mr Arrie Paulus, general secretary of the Mine Workers Union, said the increased pensions would bring relief but are not nearly adequate enough. He said a 30 percent increase would have been more realistic.

Mr Paulus said this was the first increase in the occupational diseases pensions since 1981, whereas the old-age pension had been increased in 1981, 1982 and 1983.

A spokesman from the Compensation Commissioner's office of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs made the point, however, that the occupational diseases pension was a compensation rather than a pension as such.

Widows receiving the pensions echoed Mr Paulus's sentiments.

Mrs E T Arnold, who will turn 80 this month, said she would not be able to exist if it wasn't for her job as a caretaker.

"Some days I just feel I can't go on working," she told The Star, "but then I consider what would happen to me if I stopped."

Unions want pension control

Labour Correspondent

THE future of the Metal Industries Group Pension Fund, which covers about half a million workers, hangs in the balance between three unions and the employers who refused to agree to a renewal setting up the fund.

None of the three are members of the metal industrial council, which set up the fund, and therefore, could, without them. be renewed without the government or the pension agreement. However, unions who do not belong to council might then refuse to extend the pension fund to workers who do not belong to unions.

In a statement yesterday, the Metal and Allied Workers' Union announced that it and two other unions, the General Workers' Union and Chemical Union, had refused to support the renewal at a meeting last week.

Their key demand is that worker representatives should make up more than half of the members of the board which runs the fund.

The pension fund was set up five years ago and the agreement setting it up is now due for renewal.

The three unions are due to meet the fund's board of management, made up of employers and unionists who are on the council, on May 27, to discuss their demands for changes.

The statement said the unions' two demands were that unions' representation on the board should be based on the steel and engineering industries' and that the number of members their number should be less than half the seats.

Both Seifsa and the Confederation of Metal and Building Unions, whose members belong to the council, want the fund to continue in its present form.

Seifsa told the unions it would never give up 50% representation on the board because its members contribute 50% of the fund's revenue.

The CMBU argued that employer help was needed to run the fund.

The statement said the three unions rejected this, arguing that "the money paid by Seifsa is only deferred wages — which the worker can claim later".

It also said most workers were dissatisfied with the fund, which was made up of worker money and should be controlled by worker organisations.

TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 1983

O. Q. 1. 1098 - 1100

+Indicates translated version.

For written reply. (300) Hammond

Homes for aged persons: subsidy

629. Mr. A. F. FOUCHE asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(a) What *per capita* subsidy in respect of homes for White aged persons was spent per month on residents in (i) category A, (ii) category B and (iii) category C homes, in each of the latest specified five years for which figures are available and (b) what is the total amount so spent in each such year?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(a)

Financial Year	Category A	Category B	Category C
	R	R	R
1978/79	38,87	64,63	132,04
1979/80	47,36	77,43	157,29
1980/81	54,75	88,79	179,19
1981/82	71,10	111,95	220,43

(b)

	R
1978/79	9 442 738
1979/80	14 507 457
1980/81	18 360 544
1981/82	25 698 818

The present subsidy scheme is only in operation since 1978/79. Figures for 1982/83 are not yet available.

CAPE TIMES 22/4/83 300

Elderly tenants refuse to leave their flats

Staff Reporters

SEVERAL elderly people are refusing to leave their rent-controlled Milnerton flats this week, although they have had notice to get out since November last year from the owners, who said they wanted to effect essential repairs.

Time runs out this week for the tenants of Van Riebeeckhof flats in Knysna Road, Milnerton, who have been told to be out by April 30. Their representative consulted with a lawyer for several hours yesterday.

"Some of them do not regard the proposed repairs as essential, nor do they think it necessary for them to vacate the flats before repairs are done," said PFP organizer Mr Roy Ainslie, who has taken their case in hand.

The tenants believe the "essential repairs" are a ploy, he added.

"They suppose the owners are hoping they will not return after repairs have been done, and fear that if they do return, it will be conditional on the payment of higher rents."

PFP organizer Mr Roy Ainslie confers with tenants Mrs Dorien Lumley-Hinton and Mr Richard Hinton, who face eviction from their flats on Saturday.

Mr A Luck, managing director of Repco and director of National Properties Limited, which owns the block and administers it through Propcor Trust, said the tenants had been given the statutory six months notice of plans to "undertake rebuilding and construction work", which would include re-plumbing, rewiring, and new bathrooms and kitchens.

He said maximizing one's assets was a fundamental principle of a capitalist system. The owners were merely increasing the potential of the flats.

The new rents would be determined by the Rent Control Board.

(340) (300) Hansard

Administration Boards: temporary employees

Q. Col. 1194 – 1195 4/5/83

*23 Mr K. M. ANDREW asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether any steps (a) have been taken or (b) are being contemplated to allow Black temporary employees of Administration Boards to join a pension fund; if not, why not; if so, (i) what steps and (ii) when is it anticipated that such employees will be able to join a pension fund;

(2) whether any conditions will apply to

such temporary employees; if so, (a) what conditions and (b) why?

†The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a) and (b) Yes.

(i) and (ii) The Department is at present negotiating with administration boards to institute a pension fund for temporary employees in terms of the Temporary Employees Pension Fund Act, 1979. Due to the fact that various Black working committees have to be consulted on the matter it is impossible at this stage to indicate when such employees will be able to join the Pension Fund.

(2) The conditions of the above-mentioned Act will apply.

Question standing over from Friday, 29 April 1983.

Soweto Council helps pensioners

THE SOWETO Council has written off more than R3 000 owing in rentals by 86 Soweto pensioners who cannot afford to pay for their houses.

The decision to write off a debt of R3 091.55 was taken at the Soweto Council's monthly meeting yesterday, where it was decided to write off the debts because the pensioners had no other sources of income besides the old-age pensions they received once every two months.

Mr David Thebehali, chairman of the Soweto Council, said that several other pensioners who could not afford to pay their monthly rentals could have them remitted if they informed their township managers of their plight.

Answering an accusation by Councillor J Ramathibela that the majority of remissions were for rentals owing in Jabavu, which is Mr Thebehali's ward, Mr Thebehali said many pensioners, widows and divorcees lived in Jabavu and that economically Jabavu was the most depressed area in Soweto.

Lack of funds forces aid to elderly to be cut by 25 pc

STAR

By Lynne Cornfield,
Welfare Reporter

300

30 APR 1987

Services to Johannesburg senior citizens will be severely reduced at the end of April because the Johannesburg Association for the Aged (Jafta) can no longer afford to provide them.

Mr Tony Simpson, Jafta chairman, told The Star his association planned a 25 percent reduction in home aid service. Nurse aides will now be sent out only for emergencies. Help was previously sent regularly to the homes of the elderly to run errands for them, to change sheets for the bed—ridden, and to check they were in touch with Meals-on-Wheels.

Jafta will also close down services whereby voluntary workers are trained for jobs by professionals. Other cut-backs include:

- Social work services will be trimmed as vacated posts are not filled.
- The chiropody service will, in future, be only for those who can pay for it and a number of clubs will have to be closed.

Mr Simpson said the situation could be saved if Jafta recieved funds on a regular basis. He appealed to service clubs, trust funds and commercial organisations to adopt a service for a year.

Costs include R500 a month for voluntary services, R1 500 for the home aid service, R200 to save a club, R150 for chiropody and R70 a month for the subsidised bus service which takes the elderly to an exercise club in Mandeville.

Mr Simpson said the crisis period could be over in a year as the country pulled out of the recession.

He was saddened that Jafta, which had boosted its service to the elderly from R60 000 a year six years ago to R1 million at present, was faced with chopping its projects. Durban and Cape Town, he said, were able to provide services for R3 million a year. "Based on that, Johannesburg should be spending at least R4 million," he said.

Huge rent rises at old-age home

By GLEN GARVEN

HIGH rent increases have turned a Sea Point home for the aged from a haven into a place of fear, tension and uncertainty.

Some 300 pensioners, most in their 80s and older, are facing massive rent increases from July 1. In some cases rents have gone up from R190 a month to R560.

The home is Sea Point Place, an eight-storey building on the beachfront run by the Cape Peninsula Welfare Organization for the Aged and opened on February 1, 1980.

Income details

The increases were announced about a month ago, when residents were asked to give details of their income and savings.

Their new rents were compiled from these figures, with the totally dependent paying 75 percent of their pensions and those with private incomes paying two-thirds of their incomes. This is the first time rents have been linked to income.

All are too scared to complain.

"I will be left with just over R30 a month," said one old woman, a widow. "I have no family, nothing left any more. What am I going to do?"

No names

The pensioners said they were very unhappy with the increases, but they had nowhere to go.

"We don't want our names used," several told the Cape Times. "They (the authorities in charge of the home) might get a down on us."

"I was sick, and on my own," said one woman well into her 80s. "I wasn't eating properly, and had no-one to talk to. I was desperately lonely. And then I came here.

"I am eating properly, and have company all day. I don't want to leave, but I don't know what I'm going to do."

The director of the CPWOA, Mr Ian Tedder, told the Cape Times that he realized the new rents would be "rather steep", but that this would make up for the "low" rents charged over the past three years.

Pensioners, who receive meals and medical attention, pay 75 percent of their income to the organization. The maximum was R270. Mr Tedder has raised this to R500.

Those with private incomes, mainly couples, who live in the home's flats, were paying fixed charges of between R140 and R190 a person for their small apartments. In future they will be charged a maximum of R400 each.

Mr Tedder said that nobody from Sea Point Place would be put out on the streets.

"I have personally interviewed all those people who were apprehensive about the increases, and they have now accepted the situation," he said.

Mawu wants control over pension fund

THE MORE than 100 000-strong Metal and Allied Workers' Union (Mawu) is pushing for worker control of the multi-million rand metal industries' pension fund.

By MONO BADELA

The fund to which more than 450 000 workers contribute contained 586 million rand at the end of last year and at present is controlled by a board dominated by management representatives. Mawu's general secretary, Mr David Sebabi, said that it was crucial that workers who were members of the fund should be able to control the fund.

He said workers would then be able to make the changes to the fund that they wanted. At a meeting with the employers' association Seifsa last month, Mawu argued that the unions with the most members in the fund should have the most seats on the controlling board and that employers should have less than half the seats on this board.

Cape Times 14/5/83

Rent rises attacked

Staff Reporter

CITY councillor and MPC Dr John Sonnenberg has described the rent increases at a Green Point welfare home for the aged as "iniquitous".

Some of the 300 elderly people at Sea Point Place, most of whom are well into their 80s, are facing such severe increases that they are being forced to look for somewhere else to live.

The Cape Peninsula Welfare Organization for the Aged (CPWOA), a non-profit organization that runs this beachfront home and a string of others, justifies the increase by pointing out that the home must pay for itself.

"We are losing money on this home and it must be put on an economic footing," said CPWOA director Mr Ian Tedder.

Under the new system, the elderly people who live in the apartment section of Sea Point Place will have to pay two-thirds of their total income for a small, unfurnished flat in the building. The only thing the CPWOA supplies is free electricity and one meal a day, at midday.

"I am very unhappy at this drastic decision," Dr Sonnenberg said.

No room for Benoni's poor pensioners

14 MAY 1983

300

SPAR

By Olga Horowitz

The plight of dozens of old people in Benoni is parlous even though the town has a good record of looking after its aged, says Mrs Vibeke Thompson, chairman of the town's consumer centre.

There is the 66-year-old pensioner widow who has been evicted from a crumbling house with its only toilet in an outbuilding.

The bonus was the rent of R65 a month, able to be paid from a pension of R138. The landlady, however, wanted the house for her daughter.

Lawyers were consulted. "It is your bad luck", one said.

There were two ways of evicting a person from a rent-controlled building. One was to request it for a member of your family and the other was to demolish.

A shocking aspect of the affair was the element of "terrorism" which was evident. Stones were thrown on the roof at night and there was knocking on the windows. The pensioner has no children but a distant relative in Johannesburg has given her a couch in the lounge. Kind and helpful, but certainly no long-term solution.

Next to this dilapidated old house is a dwelling in which a woman cares for her 80-year-old mother. They also fear the future.

"The sad thing is that even if elderly people have a fighting spirit they panic under a feeling of insecurity and of not being wanted," said Mrs Thompson.

She is also concerned about the 74-year-old pensioner (income R140 month; her husband was a miner) who with help was paying R160 a month for a flat.

Two years ago the landlord tried to increase the rent to R190 a month but the Benoni Consumer Centre took the case further and applied for protected tenancy.

Last Christmas the owner returned to the attack, saying he wanted the flat for his 16-year-old son. There was no appeal against this and the woman has been taken in by a daughter. But what about her furniture, lovingly cared for since her marriage so long ago?

"I have written to city councillors and to MPs, very often without receiving a reply," said Mrs Thompson. "Looking for any place to live under R100 a month is like looking for gold. There should be official concern for the aged. The pension alone, and it is woefully little, is not the answer."

all Black social pensioners; if not, (a) why not and (b) in which areas have such pensioners not yet received these bonuses;

(3) whether steps are being taken to rectify the matter; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION:

(1) Yes. The Minister of Finance announced in his budget speech that a bonus would be paid to all social pensioners and all other social beneficiaries.

(a) R22.

(b) July 1983. Due to the time factor and the large number of beneficiaries involved it is not possible to issue the bonus payments earlier.

(c) (i) The Department of Co-operation and Development and Governments of the national states concerned.

(ii) 30 March 1983.

(2) and (3) Fall away.

Supplementary reply to question 26 by Mr. K. M. Andrew on Wednesday, 23 March 1983:

†The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention to the reply given to Question 26 of 23 March 1983 in connection with the remuneration of members of the Commission for Co-operation and Development. In the reply only the fixed remuneration and conditions of service of members were mentioned and the temporary allowance of R100,00 per month which the Chairman and each member receive was erroneously not stated.

This mistake was detected by the Department shortly after the question was answered and the hon. member for Cape Town Gardens who put the question has been informed thereof per letter. For record purposes, however, I would like to inform the House as such and also that the figure for the total expenditure on salaries and temporary allowances for members of the Commission for 1982 should therefore be R89 031 and not R74 631 as originally stated.

Bonus for pensioners

*17. Mr. P. G. SOAL asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether Black old-age pensioners are to be paid a bonus in the current financial year; if so, (a) for what amount, (b) when and (c)(i) by whom and (ii) when was the announcement to this effect made;

(2) whether this bonus has been paid to

300 Hansard 15 1983 Q. col. 1416 - 1418

Soweto—30 September 1982.

Stilfontein—16 September 1982.

Wakkerstroom—14 September 1982.

Administration Boards: pension fund

851. Mr. K. M. ANDREW asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

(1) Whether the negotiations with Administration Boards on the institution of a pension fund for temporary employees, as referred to in his reply to Question No. 23 on 4 May 1983, have been completed; if so, when were they completed; if not,

(2) whether the Administration Boards have been asked to investigate and report on this matter; if so, on what date or dates were they so asked;

(3) whether any Administration Boards have (a) completed their investigations and (b) reported on them to his Department; if so, which Administration Boards (i) have done so and (ii) have yet to do so;

(4) whether any Administration Boards are in favour of such pension scheme; if so, which Administration Boards?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No.

(2) Yes. On 19 November 1982.

(3) (a) Yes.

(b) All but one, namely the Port Natal Administration, have already reported back.

(4) Yes. West Rand Administration Board, Southern OFS Administration Board, Western Cape Administration Board, Western Transvaal Administration Board, Eastern Cape Administration Board, Central Transvaal Administration Board.

The remainder are not in principle against such a scheme but have reservations on the financial aspects in view of their individual financial positions. The matter is, however, being further investigated.

Workers' bid to control fund

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Correspondent

A MEETING with key implications for the future of the metal industries' pension fund, which affects about 500 000 workers, takes place in Johannesburg today.

Three emerging unions, the Metal and Allied Workers Union, General Workers Union and Chemical Workers Industrial Union, will meet the board of management of the Metal Industries' Group Pension Fund to discuss their demand for majority worker representation on the fund's board.

Unionists on the metal industrial council — who support the fund and sit on its board — fear that this demand could spell the end of the fund and leave metal workers without pension cover.

But the three unions claim workers are dissatisfed with the fund and that they are seeking to reform it, rather than to have it scrapped.

The issue has come to a head because the five-year-old industrial council agreement setting up the fund is due for renewal.

While none of the three belong to the council at present, they were asked by the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation, which represents metal employers, to agree to a renewal of the agreement setting up the fund.

The unions said they had reservations about the fund, but would do so if their demand for majority worker representation on the fund's board was met.

Half the members of the fund's board are employer representatives and half represent unions on the metal council.

The three unions argued that the fund was financed by worker money and that workers therefore ought to have a majority say in how it was run.

But Seifsa rejected this, arguing that employers contributed half the money in the fund and were therefore entitled to half the seats on the board.

Today's meeting has been called in an attempt to resolve the impasse.

Although the metal council could renew the agreement without the three unions' consent, it would still have to be extended to workers who do not belong to council unions by the Department of Manpower.

Unions on the council fear the department would be unable to do this if it was clear that a substantial body of workers — the members of the three unions — did not want the agreement extended.

It would be impossible to continue the fund unless all metal workers belonged, and if the deadlock continues, the fund's future will be in jeopardy.

Emerging union sources say they will stick to their demands at the meeting.

"The question of representation is crucial to us and we cannot agree to an extension of the agreement unless this is settled," a source said.

Unions on the council believe it may be possible to find a formula to allow the fund to continue even if emerging unions withhold support.

Pensioners are invited to apply for rates rebates

PENSIONERS living in Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage and Despatch are invited to apply for rates rebates.

Port Elizabeth's Assistant City Treasurer, Mr Andre Lemmer, said rebates were available for male pensioners over 65 years and female pensioners over 60 who occupied their own properties.

Rebates of 40%, 30% and 20% would be paid, depending on whether their monthly income did not exceed R200, R300 or R400 respectively.

The Uitenhage Town Treasurer, Mr Albert Boliter, said a 40% rebate was applicable to pensioners who owned properties valued at not more than R20 000 and who earned less than R400 a month. Applicants had to be over 65 years in the case of males and over 60 in the case of females.

The Town Clerk of Despatch, Mr U W Erasmus, said the council made an amount available each year for rates rebates. The extent of relief was decided on the basis of the number of applicants.

Applicants had to occupy the dwelling and earn not more than R300 a month.

The closing date for Despatch applications is June 27. Closing dates for Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth have not yet been decided.

Strike over pensions

Mail Correspondent

DURBAN. — Hundreds of black workers at Nampak Products Ltd, in Mobeni, yesterday downed tools and demanded a refund of their pension contributions.

A spokesman for the workers said yesterday that they were also demanding the right of their union to be recognised at the factory.

He said they had been contributing towards their pension fund since 1978 and while most other factories had paid out the money to its workers, the Nampak workers still had not received their money.

"We will continue our protest until such time that management meets our demands," he added.

Mr R Campbell, the company's industrial relations manager, yesterday confirmed that the workers had stopped work. He said they refused to speak to management and insisted that management contact the representative of the South African Allied Workers' Union.

"This union is not yet recognised but management nonetheless attempted to make contact. Management were told that the official was not available.

"It now appears that the workers want a refund of their pension contribution. This is still being considered," he added.

Workers demand pension refund

Mercury Reporter

HUNDREDS of black workers at Nampak Products Ltd, in Mobeni, downed tools yesterday, demanding a refund of their pension contributions.

A spokesman for the workers told the Mercury yesterday that they were also demanding the right of their union to be recognised at the factory.

He said they had been contributing towards the pension fund since 1978 and while most other factory workers had been paid out, Nampak workers still had not received their money.

Mr R Campbell, the company's industrial relations manager, yesterday confirmed that the workers stopped work at 6 30 a m.

Not available

He said they had refused to speak to the management and had insisted that the management contact the representative of the South African Allied Workers' Union.

'This union is not yet recognised — the management attempted to make contact but were told that the officjal was not available.

'It now appears that the workers want a refund of their pension contribution. This is still being considered,' he said.

Mr Isaack Ngcobo, national treasurer of the union, said union officials had met the workers' committee late yesterday and the union would be holding talks with the Nampak management today.

EVENING POST, TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1983

500 U'hage pensioners wait for places in homes for aged

By LESLEY LAMBERT

MORE THAN 500 pensioners in Uitenhage are waiting to be accepted by old age homes, cottages and flats which are at present able to accommodate only about 200 people.

But new developments for the aged in Uitenhage may solve much of the problem by reducing or even absorbing the growing waiting lists.

A proposed new old age home for railway pensioners, extensions to the Nic Claassen Cottages for the Aged and new block of flats designed for Uitenhage's aged may alleviate the problem.

Uitenhage's Town Clerk, Mr Barry Erasmus, said application had been made for the extension of 44 new cottages to the Nic Claassen Cottages for the Aged.

The cottages, subsidised by the municipality, were able to accommodate 30 couples and the 44 new double cottages would absorb less than half of the waiting list of 190.

Mr Erasmus said the Town Council had virtually given the railways a large tract of ground in Fairbridge Heights for the building of an old age home for railway pensioners.

Mr T J Barnard said a new block of flats in Cannon Street, Uitenhage, would be ready for occupation in September and would provide 30 single and 32 double units.

Mrs Joan McIntyre, former chairman of Rosa Munch House in Uitenhage, said the home accommodated 59 residents and had a waiting list of 45.

Nursing Sister R Clarke, of the Rosa Munch Home, said the home's sick bay, which accommodated 13 patients, was permanently filled with those in need of care 24 hours a day.

A spokesman for the Afrikaanse Christelike Vroue Vereniging old aged home, Aandmymerings, said the home could accommodate 72 residents and had a waiting list of about 100.

Vital move for black unions in metal industry

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Correspondent

IN A move regarded as a breakthrough, mainly-black unions in the metal industries are to be given an opportunity to have a say in running the industries' pension fund — whether or not they are registered and members of the metal industrial council.

The fund covers nearly 500 000 workers and has assets of well over R500-million. It is the biggest of its kind in the country.

A meeting of the industries' board of management — which is made up of employers and unions on the metal council — agreed this week that the 10 unions in the industries who have most members covered by the fund will each be entitled to a seat on its board. Employers will hold the other 10 seats.

This will apply whether or not the unions are members of the metal industrial council or are registered with the Government.

On the other hand, emerging unions, whose opposition to the fund at one stage threatened its existence, have agreed to apply to serve on the fund's board.

This arrangement is believed to be unprecedented and, although black union representatives will be a minority on the fund's board, it is expected that they will be able to exert considerable influence on the fund's direction.

This week's meeting at which the agreement was reached follows a period during which the fund's continued existence was in jeopardy.

The five-year-old agreement setting it up has been due for renewal and three emerging unions — the Metal and Allied Workers' Union, the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union and the General Workers' Union — refused to agree to renewal unless their demands for changes in the fund's boards were accepted.

These were that unions have a majority on the board — they now have half the seats — and that bigger unions hold more seats than smaller ones.

Unions on the council argued that this deadlock could make it impossible for the agreement setting up the fund to be renewed.

According to sources at this week's meeting, the agreement setting up the fund will now be renewed for six months, although it could be amended if all parties agree to this.

The three unions once again failed to win acceptance for their demand that workers hold a majority of seats on the board, but have agreed to apply to sit on it and will not oppose the agreement's renewal.

The sources said the three expressed dissatisfaction with the decision not to grant workers a majority and said they would raise this again soon.

The director of the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation, Mr Sam van Coller, yesterday confirmed details of the agreement and said a procedure for determining which 10 unions qualified for seats had been agreed.

This procedure was being put into motion now, he said.

Emerging unions who win seats on the council are expected to use them to push for major changes to the fund in response to what they say is mounting black worker dissatisfaction with it.

Domestics liable to lose State pension

PRIVATE FUND COULD RULE THEM OUT, EVEN IF IT PAYS LESS

By Shaun Harris

BLACK domestic workers run the risk of losing their State pensions if they belong to a private pension fund or retirement plan, even if the private scheme pays them less than the State pension — currently R49 a month.

The Black Sash has issued a statement warning the public that black members of private pension schemes can be disqualified from drawing a State pension if their income is more than R29,50 a month.

This means, according to the Black Sash, that, if a member of a private scheme is drawing more than R29,50 a month but less than the State pension rate of R49 a month, the member is in a worse-off position than he would be if he did not belong to a private scheme at all.

The Black Sash points out that, while its warning is not intended as a criticism of private companies and organisations which run pension funds, it is concerned about "contributors who, by reason of the age at which they join or the amount they contribute, would, on retirement, receive less than the present State pension of R49 a month".

"A black person whose income is more than R29,50 a month is completely disqualified from receiving any pension from the State because this sum is the cut-off point in the present means test," the statement said.

The statement appeals to employers who have bought or intend buying schemes for their domestic servants to check carefully the implications of the scheme, because "in some instances the only beneficiary is the company selling the scheme".

■ ■ ■

In Durban the supervisor of the Black Sash advice office, Jillian Nicholson, said it was "amiss that some companies had not made themselves familiar with Government policy".

Companies which run private schemes have responded, however, by saying that the information they had received regarding State pensions was incorrect, and pointed out that their schemes offered benefits not included in State pensions.

According to Carol Ditz, who runs the domestic pension fund in Durban, members of the fund were covered for death and disability even before retirement age.

"We are aware that many old-age pensions are inadequate because pension provision has not commenced until relatively close to retirement.

"If the resulting pension is small, then we believe this is not a criticism of pension schemes but due to the fact that the provision for old age has not commenced early enough," she said.

Taking into account increases in State pensions, it was difficult to determine whether members of the domestic pension fund ran the risk of losing State pensions.

"Because it is difficult to determine a member's future circumstances, we feel it is not our duty to warn them about the possibility of losing State pensions. However, if they do ask about State pensions we will than tell them of the risk," she said.

■ ■ ■

Brian Short, general manager of the Natal Building Society, which runs a domestic workers retirement plan, said the possibility of contributors losing out on State pensions had been investigated before the NBS launched its scheme.

"According to our research, a member's State pension would not be affected. It seems now that our information was not entirely correct, and we will be looking into the matter.

"As far as we are concerned our scheme still stands. We will inform contributors who may be affected of the risk of losing State pensions."

Mr Short said he supported the Black Sash warning, and considered the State means test of R29,50 to be the pitfall which might prevent some domestic workers from receiving State pensions.

Unions score a big breakthrough

NEGOTIATIONS on the future of the metal industries' pension fund this week produced an agreement whose impact might be felt for a long time to come.

Readers may recall that the agreement setting up the fund, which covers nearly 500 000 workers and has assets of over R500-million, is due for renewal.

Three emerging unions, the Metal and Allied. General Workers and Chemical Workers Industrial unions, refused to agree to this unless the fund's board — composed of employers and unionists on the metal council — agreed to changes in the board's composition.

These were that worker leaders hold most of the seats and that bigger unions have more seats than smaller ones.

The clash over these demands threatened the fund's continued existence.

But last week a formula was found which will allow the fund to continue and the agreement is to be extended for six months.

As expected, union demands for a majority of seats were not met.

But, in a major departure, the board has agreed that the 10 unions with most members in the fund will sit on the board — whether or not they are registered or sit on the metal council.

The fact that mainly black unions, particularly those not on councils, now have a say over a fund worth R500-million is clearly an event of moment.

Although the mainly black unions will be in a minority on the board, they may well exert a good deal of influence over decisions.

Indeed, this may be the first time black representatives have been given a say over the investment of this much money.

But in one key area, union decision-making power will be sorely limited.

One of their demands is that pension money be invested to the benefit of the black community. They are unlikely to class investing in the Government in that category.

But the law stipulates that over half the investments of all pension funds must be in Government stock.

Labour Week

By STEPHEN FRIEDMAN

'Exempt blind from means test'

E. Post 21/6/83

Post Reporter

WORKERS at the workshop run by the Port Elizabeth Society for the Blind should not be subjected to the means test which seriously affects their income, according to the secretary of the society, Mr Denis Glendining.

Mr Glendining was commenting on a complaint by one of the workers, Mr John Petersen, of Bongo Street, Gelvandale, whose wages were reduced from R27 a week to R8 a week so he could retain his pension of R83 a month.

Mr Petersen told the Evening Post he was employed at the workshop for nearly 21 years and found it hard to make ends meet because of his reduced income. His wife, Mrs Leah Petersen, was also blind and received the same pension and wages.

Mr Petersen claimed the society had deliberately reduced his wages. But this was denied by Mr Glendining, who said it was done at Mr Petersen's request.

He said Mr Petersen was afraid of losing his pension and had asked for his wages to be cut instead.

Mr Glendining said the Government's means test made it difficult for people like Mr Petersen to earn enough money because if their earnings were too high they were in danger of losing their pension.

Mr Glendining appealed to the authorities not to subject blind people to a means test.

91 old people await rent decision

Cape Times 24/6/83

300

Staff Reporter

RESIDENTS at a Green Point haven for the aged, many of them in their 80s and 90s, will know tomorrow whether their old-age home has become as expensive as a five-star hotel.

Many of the 91 residents who live in the apartment section of Sea Point Place are facing rents that from July 1 were due to rocket from less than R200 to, in some cases, as much as R500-plus.

The residents were told of the proposed increases in April by the organization that runs the home, the Cape Peninsula Welfare Organization for the Aged (CPWOA).

But last month the CPWOA chairman, Mr Ivan Hampshire, promised a full investigation before the staggering increases were implemented.

Yesterday, only seven days before the rent increases are due, he said that an investigation had been instituted, and that the results would be brought before the organization's council.

The director of the CPWOA, Mr Ian Tedder, said the decision would be taken by the council today.

In spite of this, however, those residents who will be affected say that at no time since the investigation was promised have the organization's officials contacted them, sent them a questionnaire, or made any inquiries of them.

"They did promise that the food would be better, but I haven't noticed it," said one woman resident.

The haven is divided into the section which caters for the near-helpless and the sick, and the apartments.

The 200-odd residents in the home section pay 75 percent of their pension for full care and lodging that includes three meals a day and medical assistance.

At the apartments, however, the rent system has been changed, which has led to the massive increases.

Residents there have always paid a set rate for their small apartments and their one free meal a day, a rental that was commensurate with what they were receiving.

Early last year, however, they were told that they would, from July 1, be paying two-thirds of their total income, and were asked for the first time to give full details of income from investments.

This caused resentment and several residents have made plans to leave.

Labour hitch delaying Plet project

Weekend Post Correspondent

PLETTENBERG BAY — Labour problems have caused the multi-million-rand Formosa Garden Village retirement project to be delayed by more than seven months.

This was contained in the reviewed delivered by the chairman of the Garden Village executive, Mr Ken Redfern, said at its annual meeting this week.

Labour has been in short supply and available hands have not always been experienced ones.

The inclement weather last year was another delaying factor, and instead of being ready in October, 1982 the village will only be fully occupied in August this year.

Despite the problems nine of the cottages are already occupied.

The committee hopes to have the sanatorium, Frailhaven, with six beds, in use in August.

Mr Redfern announced that the Frailhaven was not a fully-fledged geriatric sanatorium. One envisaged for 40 people would be built on land adjoining the retirement village in the next five to seven years.

Apart from 150 elderly people who would live in the village, other couples were retiring to Plettenberg Bay and it was imperative that facilities for people requiring 24 hour nursing service be made available, he said.

The village has aroused unprecedented interest and all 30 units built with a Government loan were allocated this year, he said.

Of the 60 units built for sponsors, only one flat was available for sponsoring.

Thirteen members who have donated cottages will only occupy these later and they can be leased.

This leaves 12 cottages and flats to let. The Formosa Garden Village has fixed assets of R3 353 810.

CANDIDATE MUST enter in (1) the number of each question ed (in the order in which it has swered); leave columns (2) and .

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1. Enter at the top of each page and in column (1) of the block on this cover the number of the question you are answering.
2. Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book (s) are used.

WARNING

1. No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
3. No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
4. All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

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EXPRESS June 26, 1983

Please, Dr K, we'll starve without our pensions

26/6/83
300
S. Express

THIS is a peek into the mail box of the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof.

The Minister received these letters earlier this year as part of a bundle written by elderly, poverty-stricken women scratching a living in the doomed black south-eastern Transvaal settlement of Driefontein.

For Dr Koornhof they were only a tiny fraction of the flood of letters to be investigated and answered by his departmental bureaucracy.

For the women, most of whom asked not to be identified, they were a desperate, last-ditch attempt to obtain the R49-a-month State pension they hope will rescue them from near-starvation and a miserable existence.

One of the women has been trying to obtain State aid for the last four years, while an 82-year-old widow was told by clerks in the Wakkerstroom district commissioner's office that she was "too young" to qualify.

Dear Dr Koornhof,

I am 66 years of age . . . I have several times over a number of years made application for an old age pension and have been told by the clerks to get married.

The magistrate told me to go and stay at home.

— 66-year-old applicant for a pension.

Dear Dr Koornhof,

I have applied many times for an old age pension and I have been refused. I don't know why because they do not give me any reason. In my reference book it simply says 'geweier 27.1.81'. I think I was born before the 1914 war. I have no income.

— 'Mrs H'

● Pension applicant Mrs Hilda Gamede, 82, anxiously waits in her Driefontein home for a letter from Dr Piet Koornhof. Picture by HERBERT MABUZA

By ARLENE GETZ

"Dear Sir, I am 82 years old and lawfully resident in Driefontein, as stamped in my reference book," Mrs Hilda Gamede, widow of the former headmaster of Driefontein's Cabangani Higher Primary School, wrote to Dr Koornhof in March.

She told the Minister that she had made several unsuccessful pension applications during the last three years.

Each time the clerks had told her "to go away and get married".

"I shall be grateful if you will assist me in this matter," she wrote.

Another would-be pensioner, 65-year-old Mrs N, said she and 30 other applicants had been summarily turned away by clerks in the Wakkerstroom office.

Her husband, who was several years her senior "and too old to work", had also been refused a pension.

Other applicants included Mrs V, 64 — who has had no reply to a pension application made when her husband deserted her five years ago — and Mrs K, 63, who has been trying to obtain a pension for three years.

"I am a widow and have nobody to help me, that is why I am writing to you," Mrs K told Dr Koornhof.

A spokesman for the Department of Co-operation and Development said this week the department was aware of the letters and was investigating each case.

He did not know how long it would take before the women received replies.

Meanwhile, Black Sash president Mrs Sheena Duncan has condemned the pension problems experienced by Driefontein residents as a tactic to force them to accept resettlement.

"This has happened in other threatened communities, when pension applicants are promised their money when they move," she said in an interview.

"But often this only causes further delays as people are moved from so-called 'white South Africa' into one of the Bantustans and a different Government is expected to pay out their pensions."

Describing Driefontein's pension problems as typical of many rural areas, Mrs Duncan said large numbers of elderly black people were not receiving pensions for which they qualified.

One of the problems was the incorrect dates of birth given out by Pretoria's central reference computer following the submission of the fingerprints of black applicants.

"I've seen 80-year-olds being told they're too young because their date of birth is recorded as 1930," said Mrs Duncan.

lands "besmirched" the of the plan.

Relief as Sea Point Place rents frozen

Staff Reporter

THE elderly residents of Sea Point Place have temporarily won their battle over rents at the seaside haven that is their home.

Since April the residents, most in their 80s and 90s, have been living under the threat of massive increases in rent that were due to become effective on Friday, July 1.

In many cases the rent would have more than doubled for a small unfurnished room and one meal a day.

All rents have now been frozen.

"The increases in board and lodging charges will be deferred until further notice," said Mr Ivan Hampshire, chairman of the Cape Peninsula Welfare Organization for the Aged, which runs Sea Point Place.

The reprieve has been greeted with unabashed delight by residents.

One elderly woman, close to tears, said: "If they had gone ahead, it would have meant that many of us would have had to do without the small luxuries that bring you so much joy in old age."

Since Sea Point Place was opened in February 1980, rents in the apartment section have been at a fixed rate.

Under the new system, the CPWOA authorities proposed to charge the elderly people two-thirds of their total monthly income.

The extra income, according to CPWOA director Mr Ian Tedder, would have been used to defray the home's deficit, which he says has risen to over R140 000 in the past two years.

Mr Hampshire told the Cape Times yesterday that this deficit would be recovered "over a period of time", and that a fuller investigation would be undertaken.

City engineer helped build Amsat satellite

Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN electrical engineer Mr Gordon Hardman helped build and launch an amateur satellite that orbits the earth every 627 minutes and passes over Cape Town at least once a day.

Mr Hardman, of Brackenfell, is over the moon about the successful launching of the Amsat Oscar 10 from the European Space Agency test range at Kourou in French Guyana, South America, this month.

"It was a textbook launch, aimed at improving radio amateur communications," said Mr Hardman, systems engineer of the project and vice-president of SA Amsat (Amateur Satellite Corporation).

The satellite's parts were built in many countries by Amsat radio hams. After being tested in Germany, they were sent to Amsat Laboratories in Washington, where Mr Hardman spent 16 months helping to assemble them.

The Oscar 10 is the 10th in a series of amateur spacecraft launched by Amsat. It has a lifespan of about five years and will greatly improve amateur radio communications.

262 bags of dagga seized

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON. — R4,6-million worth of dagga has been seized by police at roadblocks in the Free State and Aliwal North.

A total of 262 bags of dagga were confiscated, of which 25 bags were seized after a high-speed car chase near Aliwal North on Sunday. The driver of the getaway car died of bullet wounds.

the car crashed. They have been placed under police guard in the Aliwal North hospital.

Road blocks in the Free State were put up between Friday and Monday and police arrested 13 men and recovered seven stolen motor vehicles.

Major W W Brown, police liaison officer for the border, said members of the Narcotics Bureau and the Gold and Diamond Squad

Pru takes lead in pension table

300 S. Times 3/7/83

By Alec Hogg

THERE is another change at the top in the Business Times quarterly survey of managed pension funds.

In the analysis of yields achieved over the past three years, Prudential, recently listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, has ended Anglo American Life's short run as the best performer with a return of 22,6% compared with 21,8%.

Legal & General Volkskas, which was displaced from the No 1 slot for the first time in the quarter ended December, has fallen well back in the latest survey, although it is still unchallenged when returns for four years and longer are compared.

There was a great divergence of investment returns by the participants in the three months to end March, with yields ranging from a negative 2,1% to plus 10%.

It is to be expected that quarterly returns show large differences, as a low yield in one quarter could be due to strategic action which will show benefits only well into the future.

The 12 months to the end of March show yields ranging from 21% to 50%, but, as one year is too short a period to compare what are essentially long-term investors, Business Times's tables are based on a minimum period of three years.

Five years is usually regarded as the best time period for comparison, although the shorter periods more effectively illustrate the trends which are occurring in the marketplace.

At times, some of the life offices in the Business Times table publish results which differ materially from the figures which we publish.

The reason for the apparent conflict is that the yields which we reproduce are calculated on a basis which ensures consistency, and as such should be regarded as indices of performance.

Independently calculated results usually seek to measure the yield which has been physically produced, which can easily contain distortions — ie, by valuing gilts at book instead of market value — which make them useless as a basis for comparison.

Commercial Union has asked Business Times to record that its result includes the adverse effect of the yield in the company's first year of operation when the asset portfolio was being built up out of the fund's own resources.

Liberty Life has also asked that it be borne in mind that their figures include an estimate of the 1983 property bonus.

Regrettably, the Old Mutual, Sanlam, and Southern Life still refuse to participate in the survey.

MANAGED PENSION FUNDS: HOW THEY PERFORMED

	Average annual compound yield to March 31 1983			
	Past 3 years %	Past 4 years %	Past 5 years %	Past 6 years %
Anglo-American Life	21,8	24,0	25,4	—
Commercial Union	11,6*	—	—	—
Federated Life	19,3	24,4	25,4	24,5
Legal & General Volkskas	19,9	25,1	29,5	27,2
Liberty Life	21,1	23,8	25,2	—
Metropolitan Homes Trust	17,7	21,5	25,7	25,8
National Mutual	20,3	22,5	25,8	24,7
Norwich Union	20,8	22,8	25,3	—
Prudential	22,6	24,3	27,7	26,8
Corresponding inflation rate (per Consumer Price Index)	15,1	14,6	14,2	13,5

3
* See comment in body of article

Inflation-linked pensions can prove to be too costly for funds

By Ben Temkin

While the plight of pensioners on fixed incomes is a perpetual topic of discussion, pensions linked to inflation can be prohibitively costly for pension funds.

At a recent conference of the Insurance Institute of South Africa, Arnold Basserabie, managing director of Federated Life Assurance Company, presented some startling figures on the subject. His most dramatic revelation was that the cost of funding a pension escalator of just half the rate of inflation could increase the oveall costs of a pension fund by between 30 to 40 percent.

For example, in a fund yielding 12 percent a year, the funding rate will rise from 11 percent of payroll to more than 17 percent as inflation rates move from 10 to 14 percent a year.

If a pension escalator of just half the rate of inflation is built in, the cost or funding rate rises from 11 to 14 percent of payroll when inflation is 10 percent and from 17 to almost 27 percent when inflation is 14 percent.

If pension fund contributions (from both employer and employees) to a typical fund are already at, say, R200 000 a year, to find an additional R60 000 to R80 000 is going to be both difficult and unpopular.

REALISTIC INCREASES

This is why most employers hope that the investment returns of their pension funds will more than counter the effects of inflation with resulting surpluses in the fund. These surpluses can then, they hope, be applied to increasing the pensions of existing pensioners.

Pension fund investments managed by insurers have provided returns in excess of inflation, and these funds may be able to pay realistic post-retirement increases in pensions.

Unfortunately, as Mr Basserabie pointed out, some funds have not built up sufficient reserves to make increases of this sort. Fortunately, however, most South African pension funds don't have many pensioners, so it's relatively inexpensive to supplement pensions from current income. At the same time additional contributions have to be made to build up reserves to pay pension increases for future pensioners.

When related to periods of service and final salary, pension funds in this country do generally provide adequate benefits at retirement. The problem is that people, in changing jobs, erode their benefits and don't have enough time to rebuild them.

The answer to this problem is to have compulsry transferability between funds. This would stop employees cashing in their benefits, would enable them to continue to enjoy the contributions made on their behalf by their employers and would give them time to build up adequate retirement benefits.

● *Ben Temkin is a Johannesburg investment analyst.*

Pensioners may be left homeless if firm collapses

By DREW TORCHIA

PRIVATE investors face the prospect of losing millions of rands as a result of a Johannesburg businessman declaring himself and three of his investment companies "hopelessly insolvent".

About 1 250 investors in Ifafa Trust, which operates a caravan park on the Natal south coast, are desperately trying to prevent a total collapse of the company, which would cost them at least R4 000 000.

Many of the investors are pensioners who sank their life savings into the scheme and now live on the site.

Also hard-hit is the controversial Macadamia nut-growing enterprise, which lent R1 200 000 to the businessman, Mr Charles Barrett, who was at the time a director of Macadamia.

Macadamia is soon to go public in an effort to prevent collapse and a R7 000 000 wipe-out for investors.

This week, Mr Peter Dielwart, Macadamia's financial adviser, said recovering the loan could mean the difference between success and failure for the enterprise, since it required R1 500 000 to R2 000 000 to meet its current obligations.

But he put the chances of obtaining the money at "nil". And he added that the only way of getting the money would be by selling the caravan site — which would destroy the hopes of the Ifafa Trust investors.

The Ifafa scheme, launched in 1970, was originally billed as a fantastic bargain for holidaymakers and pensioners.

This week Mr Ian Adams, head of the action committee formed to rescue Ifafa Trust, said individual investors had been asked to contribute R2 000 to save the trust, in addition to the R2 000 to R8 500 they had originally paid.

Many investors had voluntarily contributed a lot more than R2 000 to protect their investments.

"We've raised in excess of R500 000 but we need at least another R200 000 to have a chance of making this work," said Mr Adams.

"We're just hoping that Ifafa Trust's creditors will give us enough time."

Mr Dielwart said Mr Barrett had guaranteed his R1 200 000 loan from Macadamia with his 50% shareholding in the company, but that the shares were at present "pretty worthless".

Macadamia was previously a cause of controversy when it was revealed that the 5 000 investors who had put R7 000 000 into the enterprise since it was established 10 years ago had received pitifully small returns, despite promises of huge profits.

Mr Barrett told a recent insolvency inquiry that three of his 15 companies were in liquidation and that their debts far exceeded their assets.

During the inquiry it also emerged that Mr Barrett:

- Failed to submit the required annual financial statements or pay taxes on behalf of Ifafa Marina, the company owning the caravan site, since 1975.
- Allegedly failed to register the individual leases of investors correctly, with the result that they might now have no legal rights to the land.

Former business colleagues did not know Mr Barrett's whereabouts and the Sunday Express was unable to reach him for comment.

Domestic pensions scheme closes

By RICH MKHONDO

THE Old Mutual Group Pension Plan for domestic workers will be discontinued from October 1 because of lack of support from the public.

An Old Mutual spokesman said the plan was not popular. In its five years of existence, it had attracted only 200 members.

Mr T J Pritchard, the organisation's pension services manager, said yesterday that to make the scheme viable, administrative charges would be needed and this would be too costly for the company.

"This would mean that such a small net contribution of R5 to R10 a month would be available for investment to provide the eventual benefit, and we do not believe this to be in the long interests of the members," he said.

The assistant general manager of Old Mutual, Mr R Munroe, said when they started the scheme five years ago, nobody "in the market place" was offering it.

"Now building societies with more than 1 000 branches offer better value than we do," he said.

Mr Munroe said the Old Mutural had decided to give members their money back and suggest to them that they approach building societies if they wished to continue with such pension schemes.

Asked how much pensioners would get if a transferred scheme was a success, Mr Munroe said it would depend on how much was paid a month.

"Obviously with such a small contribution, the pension would also be very little."

The president of Black Sash, Mrs Sheena Duncan, said they were aware of such schemes.

She said that for a pension scheme to be worthwhile, it must pay more than the state pension — which is at present R49 a month.

An employer — who declined to be identified — of a domestic worker said yesterday that the Old Mutual's "moral stance in the matter leaves a great deal to be desired.

" I simply do not understand how they can justify starting a scheme and then arbitrarily drop it".

Inflation forces up pensions

Argus 2/8/83

Mr Pierre Steyn

INFLATION has caused a large number of companies to give increases to their pensioners during the past three years, a survey carried out by Sanlam shows.

Many intend improving benefits within the next year. And provision for growth in pensions is receiving special attention.

The survey was answered by 341 of the 700 companies and institutions invited to take part in it.

The report says:"The survey reveals the concern felt by employers about the detrimental effect of inflation on pensions, as 80 percent of the respondents give their pensioners increases in some way or another.

Several

"The average increase in pensions over the past three years was between 7 percent and 8 percent a year.

"Several funds have granted substantial one-off increases too".

Mr Pierre Steyn, senior general manager in charge of the survey, said that 36 percent of the funds improved their retirement benefits over the past two years while 26 percent improved death benefits, 30 percent improved disability benefits and 52 percent improved the benefits of pensioners or provided growth in pensions for the first time.

It was encouraging to note that almost half of the pension funds which answered the survey intend improving their benefits within the next 12 months with the main emphasis on retirement benefits.

"Where it has been possible to make a meaningful comparison with Sanlam's survey of two years ago it appears as if a gradual improvement in the benefit structure of pension funds in general has taken place.

"One aspect which has apparently received special attention is the provision for growth in pensions, as a substantially higher percentage of funds are now providing growth compared with two years ago."

Other facts revealed by the survey were that 86 percent of the pension funds allow employees of all races to become members of the same fund.

Two out of three of the companies which do not do this make separate provision — only 5 percent make no provision for employees of all races.

Highest

Men usually retire at 65 and women at 60, and 54 percent of employees of both sexes retire on 54 percent of their average salary for the final three years or for the three consecutive years in which it was at its highest.

More than 90 percent of funds allow early retirement in good health. More than 70 percent of these reduce pensions by a fixed percentage in the case of early retirement.

In 82 percent of cases deferred retirement is allowed, and in 54 percent of these cases pension contributions cease at the normal retirement date.

Growth in pension is provided on an ad hoc basis by 64 percent of funds and on a fixed percentage by 11 percent.

Some funds guarantee a minimum growth but augment it on an ad hoc basis.

Over 50 percent of funds pay both a lump sum and a widow's and children's pension when an employee dies before retirement.

Monopoly firm under attack

Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — John Waddington, the Monopoly game maker under attack from two rival predators, has promised shareholders improved profits and dividends if they remain loyal to the group.

The company says profits for the year to March will be about R5-million against R450 000 for this year.

Concern felt by employers about effect of inflation on pensions

SANLAM has published the findings of a survey on the benefit structures of South African pension funds.

Of the seven companies and institutions covering the whole spectrum of the South African economy which were invited by Sanlam to participate, 341 responded.

"A 49 percent participation," said Mr Pierre Steyn, senior general manager, "exceeded all our expectations, as a 15 percent response is considered to be normal for this type of survey."

The survey reveals the concern felt by employers about the detrimental effect of inflation on pensions, as 80 percent of the respondents give their pensioners increases in some way or another.

The average increase in pensions over the past three years was between seven and eight percent per annum.

Several funds have granted substantial one-off increases too.

Other salient features established by the survey are the following:

- Eighty-six percent of the pension funds allow employees of all races to become members of the same pension fund. Two out of every three of the companies which do not allow all races to become members of one pension fund, make separate provision for their employees. Only about five percent of the companies which participated in the survey do not make provision in some way or another for employees of all races.
- Sixty-five remains the predominant retirement age for males, while more than 95 percent of funds require females to retire at the age of 60 or above, with the age of 60 being the most common.
- The most popular formula for calculating retirement benefits is by multiplying the number of years of pensionable service by two percent of final average salary. The final average salary is usually based on either the average of the salaries of the last three years of service or the average of the salaries of any three consecutive years giving the highest result.
- Death-in-service benefits as well as death benefits after retirement are in the majority of cases provided by means of a widow's and orphan's pension. The widow's pension is usually 50 percent of the member's prospective pension in the case of death in service and 50 percent of the member's actual pension in the case of death after retirement.
- About 75 percent of the funds provide for the payment of a monthly income for the period in which a member is totally disabled.
- The majority of funds require males as well as females to contribute between six and eight percent of their salaries to the pension fund, while employers contribute on average more than 1½ that of the employees.
- Thirty-six percent of the funds improved their retirement benefits over the past two years, while 26 percent improved death benefits, 30 percent improved disability benefits and 52 percent improved the benefits of pensioners or provided growth in pensions for the first time.

Mr R R Pym has been promoted to production manager of the commercial services of the SABC in Cape Town.

Unless otherwise stated, all financial news in this issue was compiled by Paul Dold and sub-edited by Godfrey Heynes.

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Men miss out on pensions

By Kate McKinnell

Men, not women, are discriminated against in South Africa's pension system although the situation is changing.

When a man dies a sum based on his projected pension at retirement is automatically paid to his widow.

However a widower is often not so fortunate. The husband of a Government employee who dies receives no "widower's" pension. When a woman dies her survivors are paid an amount considerably less than a widow's pension.

The big companies vary in the amount of such discrimination.

An OK Bazaars spokesman said only a widow's pension was paid at the moment, but the introduction of a spouse's pension was being negotiated, which would provide equal benefits for widows and widowers.

Old Mutual's Mr J W Bruton said 85 percent of the funds his company managed had pensions for widows, but not for widowers.

Pick 'n Pay, Barlow Rand and Argus all provide spouses pensions, while at Anglo American a man has to prove he was dependent on his wife to qualify for a widower's pension.

"Funds which do not provide a spouse's pension when a woman employee dies feel this is justified because they demand smaller monthly contributions from women," Mr Bruton said.

The OK Bazaars spokesman said the reason for the different treatment was that men were traditionally seen as the providers in the family. "It is less likely for a man to be dependent on his wife and need a pension when she dies.

"However social conditions are changing and the trend is to equalise all aspects of pension schemes."

Another difference in some funds is the retirement age. Three-quarters of the Old Mutual's schemes allow women to retire five years earlier than men.

An actuary said it was a continuation of a rule which had been made many years ago, when women were regarded as the weaker sex, but there was no reason for it today.

The OK does not allow women to join its pension fund until they have worked for the company for a year.

"This is because the jobs with a high turnover of staff are mostly done by women and we cannot continually pay out to people who resign," a spokesman said.

A woman who works in a pension's office said: "We have been fighting this discrimination in pensions for years, as there seems to be absolutely no reason for it. There have been changes, but not enough."

This

By Lynne Cornfiel

Little girls and little who grow up in ins tions never know wh is to nip into the kit and take a piec cheese from the refr ator.

Nor do they know it is to set a table, w television in privac to do a thousand t that a child does family.

They also don't role models to imita to learn from.

Many little girls stitutions have ex enced men only as bi drunk, or sexually sive. In an institu where there are few or none, they have o portunity to learn o wise.

These are some sons why the Johan burg Children's H

Pension increases since 1976

DATE	Pension (black)	Increase	Pension ('coloured')	Increase	Pension (white)	Increase	Increase in cost of living
1-10-76	R18-50	-	R38	-	R72	-	-
1-10-77	R20-50	10,8%	R42,50	10,4%	R79	9,7%	11,3%
1-10-78	R23-50	15,9%	R47,45	11,6%	R88	11,4%	10,9%
1-10-79	R27-50	15,8%	R54	13,8%	R97	10,2%	13,2%
1-10-80	R33-00	20,0%	R62	14,8%	R109	12,4%	13,8%
1-10-81	R40-00	21,2%	R83	14,45%	R138	11,59%	

The increase in pensions has been greater than the increase in the cost of living as is reflected in the above table. However, the actual rand value amounts on which percentage increases in pensions have been determined are minimal and thus the annual rand value increase is *negligible*. The percentage increases should have been far greater than the percentage increase in the cost of living. (4)

In a study undertaken by the University of Port Elizabeth in April 1982, household subsistence levels for the various population groups was reflected as follows:

African in Cape Town: R238.16 per month
'Coloured' in Cape Town: R242.96 per month

These amounts reflect the basic essentials required for a family of 2 adults and 2 children. Over the past few years there has been a particularly high increase in the cost of basic foodstuffs - maize, sugar, bread, vegetables, eggs and dairy products. These are precisely the foodstuffs on which the lower income groups such as old age pensioners are dependent.

In 1981, Minister Horwood stated that: 'The increases are a meaningful concession which would cost the government R154,400,000 in a full financial year.' Defence expenditure for 1981 - 82 was increased by R747,000,000 (5). In most European countries, pension payments fluctuate, as they are tied to the cost of living index. In the United Kingdom, single old age pensioners receive R132.40 a week. Married couples receive R220.20 a week. (6)

Criteria for State Pensions
For all racial groups, the age of eligibility for pensions is 65 years for males and 60 years for females.

The qualification for whites is South African citizenship or permanent residence. The qualification for blacks is 16 years residency in South Africa or South African citizenship. The qualification for 'coloureds' and Indians is South African citizenship.

Pensions for citizens of the 'homelands' are paid out in the 'homelands', so it is virtually impossible for a pensioner who has lived all his life, for example, in Soweto but who may have been forced to become a Transkeian citizen to receive a pension in Soweto. This helps to push the unemployed, disabled and old workers out of the urban areas and away from the workplace, thus increasing the control which homeland governments have over people's lives. (7)

There are 11 pay-out points for pensioners in Soweto who have to queue to receive their pensions personally, irrespective of how sick or disabled they are. Pensioners have to wait for long hours before being paid out. The officials constantly check the pensioner's age, income and assets such as cattle, to make sure they qualify for pensions (8)

UNEMPLOYMENT
In terms of the Black Labour Act of 1964, there were 72,720 black males and 44,604 black females seeking work in December 1981.

INFLUX CONTROL
In the second half of 1981 there were 13,630 people tried for, and 13,032 people convicted of offences relating to influx control and identity documents. In the same period 49,865 people were arrested for offences relating to reference books and influx control.

In 1982 more blacks were arrested in the Western Cape than in any of the previous five years. More of those arrested people were fined than during any of the previous five years. Altogether 23,000 people were arrested for pass offences in the Western Cape.

(Star 1/3/83)

R180,910.00 was obtained by the Administration Board of the Western Cape in the 2nd half of 1981 from fines imposed for offences relating to influx control and identity documents.

(Minister of Co-operation and Development, 22 February 1982)

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL
The cost of building houses for the chairmen of committees of the President's Council up to 31 December 1981 totalled R705,334.00

(Minister of Community Development)

RAPE
A total of 15,535 rape cases were reported in South Africa during the period July 1, 1981 to June 30 1982 — about 200 more than the previous year. Rape crisis organisations believe this is just the tip of the iceberg. Most cases, they claim, go unreported. A member of POWA (People Opposed to Women's Abuse) says the majority of women who come to them for counselling after being raped did not report their case to the police, probably because there is a lack of qualified, sympathetic staff in the police, the courts and among district surgeons. Only 2 percent of all reported rapes in South Africa were found to be false.

(Star 7/3/83)

GROUP AREAS REMOVALS
Nearly 82,000 coloured families throughout SA were removed from their homes under the Group Areas Act up to the end of December last year. A further 5,000 families have still to be moved. More than 39,000 families have been removed from their homes under the Act, with nearly 4,000 still to be moved. By comparison, fewer than 2,400 white families have been affected by the workings of the Act.

(Financial Mail 1/4/83)

PASS LAWS
In 1982 76,844 men and 16,532 women were arrested by the police for offences under the pass laws. Over 40,000 such arrests were made in Johannesburg. In the same period, Administration Board officials arrested 112,646 people, including almost 36,000 on the East Rand.

(Financial Mail 1/4/83)

LIQUOR REVENUE
Out of total revenue of R656,900 collected by the Eastern Cape Administration Board in 1981-82 in Walmer Township, PE, R565,470 was from the sale of liquor.

(Financial Mail 1/4/83)

99-YEAR LEASEHOLD
Since the inception of the scheme, the following 99-year leases have been registered: 2,402 on the West Rand, 629 on the East Rand, 60 in Bloemfontein, 387 in Vanderbijlpark/Sasolburg, 64 in Pretoria, 51 in Port Elizabeth and nil in Maritzburg, Durban, Cape Town and Kimberly.

(Financial Mail 1/4/83)

ROBBEN ISLAND
There are 550 prisoners on Robben Island, 286 of whom are political prisoners held under maximum security.

(Financial Mail 1/4/83)

ERRATUM: FACT SHEET NO.4
The 1st paragraph of the 'Did you know' section should read:- At the time of printing 191 people are known to be in detention.

(Detainees Parents Support Committee)

8,672 'Coloured' people applied for old age pensions in 1981. 7,883 were granted. 751 were refused. 238 were under consideration.

13,394 white people applied for old age pensions in 1981.
Of these 8,699 were granted.
4066 were refused.
629 were still under consideration.
Of the refusals 1,138 were due to applications whose assets exceeded the limits laid down in the means test.

2,560 pension applications submitted to the Department of the Minister of Co-operation and Development had not been processed by 31 January 1982.

According to the Minister of Co-operation and Development, 31,2282 blacks in 'white areas' were social pensioners. (on 31 December 1981) In addition, 25,8189 blacks in 'National States' were in receipt of a social pension at the same date.

33,844 pensions were granted to black persons (it is estimated that 70 percent thereof were old age pensions). The total number of blacks getting old age pensions at December 31st 1981 was 27,417 (figures don't include those in regard to 'National States') It is estimated that about 212,000 blacks in 'National States' were in receipt of old age pensions during September 1981.

2,461 Indians applied for old age pensions in 1981. By 31 January 1982, 19,511 Indians were receiving old age pensions. (9)

HOUSING

At present there is an acute housing shortage in South Africa.

New housing units needed annually for the growing population are:
White 5500
'Coloured' 13500
Indian 4030
African 31600
TOTAL 54630 (10)

The existing backlog for African, 'Coloured' and Indian people is 200,000 units. Obviously during such acute housing shortages, the worst hit are the poorest, a large proportion of which are the aged.

The following is a list of resources available for the aged in the Johannesburg area:

	White	Black	Coloured	Indian
Private and state subsidised homes	62	—	5	—
Housing schemes	3	—	—	—
Residential hotels	4	—	—	—
Health services (e.g. out-patient clinics, ambulances)	43	3	16	10
Personal Social Services (e.g. meals on wheels, clothing, food)	73	10	17	10
Financial Services (e.g. employment, social security, pensions)	29	2	3	1

(11)

Many elderly white pensioners live in flats and have been hit by soaring rents and abolition of rent control. Buildings built before 20 October 1949 are rent controlled. Rental on flats built between this time and 30 June 1966 may be decontrolled. If a person is a tenant in the flat on the date of proclamation and qualifies for rent control in terms of the Housing Act, then he/she is still protected. Tenants qualify for rent control if as a single person household income is not more than R350 per month, or R650 per month for a family. Thus the tenant may not be evicted provided that rent is paid on the due date or not more than 7 days later. However many people in flats are unaware of their rights and may be intimidated by unsympathetic owners.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE AGED

Social redundancy, loneliness and alienation seem to be chronic conditions of the aged. Whilst the subculture of youth has been examined and psychoanalysed, few have even wanted to admit the existence of a subculture of the aged, with its implications of segregation and isolation. Many of the psychological, social and physical needs of the elderly are not met resulting in depression, amongst other things. (12)

Psychological needs

- recognition of the individual as respected human being
- sense of worth and personal responsibilities
- acceptance of age
- opportunities for self-actualisation
- opportunities to maintain intellectual interests

Physical needs

- clothing
- food
- health and maintainence of health
- financial security
- accomodation

Social needs

- desire to participate in society's activities
- need for companionship

Legislation and industrialisation in South Africa over the years has led to the disintegration of family units resulting in redundancy and displacement of the aged.

In the South African economy, emphasis is placed on the economically active primarily and thus the elderly are often neglected. This fact sheet has attempted to highlight some of the problems facing the aged.

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Domestic workers' pension fund shut

300

C. Herald 6/8/83

LACK of public support has forced the closure of South Africa's oldest pension scheme for domestic workers.

This raises the question of why so few South African employers are prepared to invest in their domestic workers' old age.

The Old Mutual Group recently announced that its pension plan for domestic workers — pioneered in 1975 — would be discontinued as from October 1.

It had fewer than 200 members — not enough, they felt, to make the scheme viable.

The Domestic Pension Fund, which hit the headlines two years ago when it was launched by television personality Donna Wurzel, now has about 3 000 members.

"When one considers the population of domestic workers in South Africa one realises that even this number is negligible.

"It is a strong indication that the idea of pension schemes for domestic workers has not caught on," said Mr Reg Munro, assistant general manager of pensions for the Old Mutual Group.

He added that earning a living wage and unemployment insurance were more pressing issues for most domestic workers.

"This does not mean I do not believe in the necessity of pension schemes. I believe it is the responsibility of all employers to provide for their domestic workers' old age," Mr Munro said.

The Old Mutual had started its domestic worker's pension scheme because at the time no similar scheme was offered.

Now, said Mr Munro, there were several schemes on the market which could offer better value for money.

Mrs B Meleniclis, a former marketer for a pension scheme, said she found most employers of domestic workers reluctant to make the small monthly investment for a pension fund.

"Some of these housewives would spend R80 on a hair-do. Yet they said they needed their husbands' consent before agreeing to pay R3 a month towards a pension scheme for their domestic workers," she said.

REMINDING

Many employers who did invest in this pension fund needed constant reminding and prodding before they would pay.

Mrs Lulu Lipworth, a consultant for the Domestic Worker's Pension Scheme, said she believed it was largely through ignorance that employers did not enlist their domestic workers in a pension scheme.

The pension offered to blacks by the State, she added, was extremely inadequate.

To qualify, a single person could not have an income of more than R29 a month. He would then be eligible for a pension of R49 a month.

QUALIFIED

According to Mrs Lipworth, only about one percent of the black population qualified for a State pension.

For a minimum of R10 a month the Domestic Pension Fund organised pension schemes to cover death or disability.

If the fund started when the domestic worker was 30 and she retired at 65 she would get a pension of R503 a month, said Mrs Lipworth.

"R10 buys you so little these days — yet that sum can give your employee security in old age," she added.

Munsieville's aged fear for their survival

Sowetan 9/8/83

MRS KGONGOANE: Concern for the aged.

THEY'RE old and have been living happily in Munsieville township for the past decades. But now they are deeply concerned about their own survival in the coming years.

By LEN MASEKO

With the future of the township in the balance, the position of the aged living there, whose main source of income is a meagre bi-monthly pension, has become one of unbearable insecurity.

Meanwhile the Munsieville/Kagiso Community Council, under whose jurisdiction the township falls, does not provide for rent exemption for the pensioned tenants and there is widespread fear among the senior citizens who believe they will not be able to afford the rent on their new homes.

Hence the township's old people have urged the authorities to build a home for the aged where all those who cannot afford to rent houses can be accommodated.

A campaigner for such a place, Ms Catherine Kgongoane, believes that older residents, "unlike the younger generation", will not be able to start a new life after the township is razed.

"Even the sub-economic houses the Government is offering for the lower income groups cannot match the meagre pension we get. In addition one has to pay electricity and water bills, and, I think, most old people will find themselves in the streets because of the high cost of living," said Ms Kgongoane, who is also a local councillor.

D.

Jean-Danie

International Industrial Relations Association

Fifth World Congress

Paris, 3-7 September 1979

Black pension systems need reform — survey

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Correspondent

EMPLOYER and Government pension systems for blacks are a "potential flashpoint" and are in need of major reforms, according to a detailed research document on pensions released yesterday.

The document, a Special Report on Pensions by the Human Awareness Project, a Johannesburg research and education group, examines the pension system for blacks and makes detailed recommendations on the issue.

It calls for state pensions to be substantially increased and for regular negotiations between workers and employers on the issue.

It comes in the wake of massive pensions unrest by black workers in 1981 and recent signs that pensions are a key issue among emerging trade unions.

It says State pensions for blacks are well below the minimum needed for them to exist and are also racially discriminatory. The "means test" limits the pensions of even those receiving a modest income — R15 a month.

In rural areas, the number of blacks claiming pensions is rising, it says, and "homeland" governments often do not have enough money to pay all pensioners their pensions.

Because of mounting unemployment in these areas, pensions are often used to support pensioners' unemployed family members as well, it says.

The report says private pension schemes are usually introduced without negotiation with black workers who often have very different perceptions on pensions to their employers.

The stipulation that 53% of pension fund money must be invested in Government or semi-Government stock has angered black workers.

It also finds that these schemes are often "inappropriate" to black migrant workers who have little job security and are often unable to claim their pensions after they retire.

Pension schemes which pay workers R29-59 a month are, in fact, a disadvantage to them because the means test then prevents them from receiving a full State pension.

It suggests employers hold "high-level" discussions with the Government on the pensions issue because it "is likely to provoke disruptive action on the part of black workers unless an aceptable solution can be found".

Among issues which should be raised, it suggests, are a linking of State pensions to "subsistence levels" — the minimum a family needs to exist — and raising unemployment benefits so workers do not need to use pension money to tide them over when they lose jobs.

It says pensions should be negotiated with worker and union representatives. Employers should also make information available to workers on the different pension options available.

...previous year.

ARGUS 15/8/83 300

Long waiting lists at homes for aged

By BRIAN STUART
Religion Reporter

UNABLE to make ends meet, hundreds of elderly people in the Western Cape are on waiting lists for admission to homes for the aged — and the lists are growing longer.

Pensioners have been hardest hit by sharply rising food costs, inability to meet higher rentals or the sale of their flats by sectional title at prices far beyond their means.

There is, in fact, no hope of accommodating a sizeable proportion of these senior citizens. Even the Ned Geref Kerk, with 33 homes in the Western Cape and two new homes being built, admits that little can be done to improve the situation.

UNIT COST

The Rev Daan du Toit of the NGK's Western Cape Welfare Commission says waiting lists at NGK homes, which admit whites of any denomination, have risen to more than 1 000.

The NGK found that the unit cost of accommodating a single pensioner has risen by 90 percent since 1979. And building costs are still increasing at more than 25 percent a year — to which must be added food and service costs.

The Dr H M Beets of the Sendingkerk's Welfare Commission, with six homes in the coloured community, said: "Churches are simply not in a position to build more accommodation because of the economic conditions and rising costs."

The State subsidises the care of every aged person in sub-economic homes — and that includes all social pensioners.

In the white community there are also economic homes for the aged — homes for those with an income of R300 a month or a more, who can pay their own way.

But there are no economic homes for coloured pensioners.

"We desperately need economic schemes for those coloured people who can afford to pay for their accommodation," said Dr Beets.

While the Department of Community Development grants loans for old age homes, regardless of race, funds are just not available. The Government has requests for loans amounting to R21-million — also on a waiting list.

NOT COPING

Mrs Zerilda Droskie, director of the SA National Council for the Aged, said: "We are not even coping with existing plans. Schemes on the drawing board, approved schemes, are not being built because of the shortage of funds.

"There is an absolute crisis in South Africa in the provision of accommodation for old people, especially in the white sector. They can't manage financially in the community any longer and waiting lists for accommodation have built up to the extent that many homes have closed their lists."

GREATEST NEED

"The greatest need is for economic accommodation. This applies to both the white and coloured people of the Peninsula and Western Cape."

But, said Mrs Droskie, while the Peninsula area has a "very high" population of older people — 10,2 percent of the white population and 3,1 percent of the coloured population here are 65 or more — it also has the highest number of homes.

There are 76 homes for the care of the aged in the Western Cape, compared with 28 in the whole of Natal or 54 in Johannesburg.

GONE AHEAD

"Organisations caring for the aged, such as the Cape Province Welfare Organisation for the Aged, the Afrikaans Christelike Vroueverenging (ACVV) and others, have gone ahead and provided for our old people," said Mrs Droskie.

"The real crisis areas are Johannesburg and Durban."

Mrs Droskie said there was a part-solution to the problem.

MORE SERVICES

"There is no doubt in my mind that services to old people living independently in the community will have to be expanded — meals on wheels, home help and laundry services, for example.

Harvard 17/8/83
300 **Social pensioners/beneficiaries** Q. col. 1892

*41. Mr. K. M. ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether (a) social pensioners and (b) other social beneficiaries are to be paid bonuses during November 1983; if not, why not; if so, (i) what will be the amount of these bonuses and (ii) when was it decided to pay them?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

No such indication was given in my latest budget and I do not think any good purpose will be served by engendering speculation on the matter at this stage. I may add that on the facts the present Government's record in regard to sympathetic treatment of the aged is without parallel in this country and that record will be maintained.

PENSIONS' PRESERVATION

Constructive action needed

300

Just how strongly black workers believe that pensions are a crucial aspect of working conditions was demonstrated by the widespread strikes of 1981. Those strikes erupted in the wake of the Preservation of Pensions Interests Bill, which provided for preservation or transferability of pension benefits until retirement.

Although the Bill has been withdrawn and the memory of those strikes has begun to fade, the pensions' issue remains a potential flashpoint. Preservation may be highly desirable, but a warning has come from two sources this month that black workers' resistance to it must be addressed constructively.

Both Fred Ferreira, director of industrial relations of the Ford Motor Company of SA, and researchers of the Human Awareness Programme (HAP), an independent educational trust, have offered a number of suggestions. It is worth taking two of these very seriously.

Firstly, they emphasise the importance of involving unions and worker representatives in decisions on pension matters. This, they believe, will contribute to stable relationships between management and unions, and help workers to become better informed about pension matters. Ferreira, one of SA's most respected and experienced industrial relations practitioners, says bluntly: "No system is going to succeed in future unless it comes about through consultation and negotiation."

Secondly, they focus attention on one of the most important reasons why black workers have resisted preservation: black workers' view of pension benefits as a form of unemployment insurance. This view has resulted from the inadequacy of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) which provides a maximum benefit of 45% workers' basic wages for only 26 weeks.

Ferreira points out that a down phase in the business cycle lasts much longer than this period. He raises the question of how unemployed people can be expected to obtain jobs within 26 weeks when the average downturn is at least three times that long. He has urged that benefits should be paid for at least 78 weeks, provided that recipients are still available for, and capable of, work.

The HAP expresses a similar view and argues that UIF payments of 75% of basic wages would be a more realistic unemployment insurance benefit. It proposes that employers should discuss the introduction of alternative loan or savings schemes for funds needed earlier in life with employees. This would remove the pressure for pension benefits to be paid out when employees either leave, or lose, their jobs.

The HAP report emphasises the danger of further labour unrest being provoked by the pensions' issue. Yet it does strike one optimistic note. It points out that government's move towards increasing the employers' role in providing social security, grants the business community the opportunity to act positively and creatively on this issue.

It remains, however, a responsibility of business to ensure that all workers — both white and black — are educated toward better a understanding of their pension rights.

Financial Mail August 19 1983

300 Star 23/8/83

Wheeling in some health and care as . . .

More pensioners are on the poverty line now

By Olga Horowitz

More elderly Johannesburg citizens were finding it hard to feed themselves, the Seventh Day Adventist Church's Meals on Wheels southern president said.

Mrs Beryl Bergh said: "Every few days I get requests to take meals to new addresses."

DELIVERS

Her southern suburbs branch delivers 170 meals twice a week from its kitchen in Turffontein. Two coloured and two white branches service the Johannesburg area.

Many elderly people would not be able to afford two hot and nourishing meals a week, but the need was not always based on financial hardship, Mrs Bergh said.

"Some of our clients can pay for food but are unable to go out and buy it," she said.

"They lack either health and strength, or transport, or even the most necessary inclination to eat properly. An added bonus in our work is that these people start to look and feel better once we begin feeding them.

"It is so easy for old people living alone to try to subsist on bread and tea. This plays havoc with their health."

Many were forced by circumstances beyond their control to live out their years on the brink of starvation. "The amount of help we can offer is limited by the support we receive from concerned people in the larger community," Mrs Bergh said.

The sadness of the situation was emphasised at Christmas when lonely people tended to be even more forgotten and alone because everybody around them was so busy.

"Last year we introduced a new facet of our service — sponsorships of Christmas meals at R8 a meal. About 7 000 people benefited in the Transvaal and now we are making the appeal national.

"We have 32 kitchens around the country serving almost 200 000 meals a year. We would like to make the spirit of Christmas meaningful for as many needy people as possible."

The R8 covers a Christmas dinner, a small gift, sweets, Christmas pudding and crackers and an old fashioned sing-along to bring a little Christmas cheer into what could otherwise be a sad and depressing festive season. The Christmas meal is delivered to pensioners unable to get out of their homes — usually dingy flats or rooms.

DIGNITY

"Our volunteers make every effort to restore happiness and dignity to our older citizens in distress," Mrs Bergh said. "All we ask is for more fortunate members of society to make a Christmas dream come true for others not so well off."

Sponsors can send contributions to PO Box 57497, Springfield 2137.

Meals on Wheels volunteer Mrs Ursula van Gils delivers a welcome hot meal to a pensioner.

'Illegals tell of WCAB promise

Staff Reporter

PROMISES of alternative accommodation by a senior Western Cape Administration Board (WCAB) official prompted a group of Hout Bay squatters to remain on a Disa River farm till their sudden arrest last month, a Wynberg magistrate heard this week.

This was alleged by two of 10 people who pleaded not guilty to charges of squatting and being in an area longer than 72 hours without official permission.

An 11th person, Peter Mgoboka, 36, of Lady Frere, Transkei, was sentenced to R60 (or 60 days), suspended for two years, and ordered to return to Transkei unless he could obtain legal permission by September 18 to be in the Peninsula.

He was sentenced to a further R50 (or 50 days), suspended for two years, for illegal squatting and was warned by the magistrate, Mr D Visagie, that if he persisted in this offence he could be fined R10 (or seven days) for every day that he illegally squatted.

Pleaded guilty

Mgoboka had pleaded guilty to the charges.

He and five of the 11 have been in custody since their arrest on July 18.

The five, Elliot Blackie Badman, 29, Gila Mathofa Dumuzweni, 43, Albert Mteto Matyeleni, 26, Mrs Priscilla Kwatshube, 32, and Michael Zwela Solani, 31, also face a second charge of being in the Peninsula illegally.

Bail of R50 was extended for Mrs Kwatshube, Michael Solani, Mathula Majola, 35, Atwell Mhaga, 50, Ziphekele Booi, 35, Mawntu Magwaca, 25, and Mrs Perseverance Ntantiso, 31. They face only a charge of squatting.

Giving evidence in his defence, contract labourer Ziphekele Booi said he "became very happy" when he heard from his wife in 1979 that Chief Inspector Theron of the WCAB had told the squatters to stay on the farm while he arranged alternative accommodation.

At no stage was he asked to leave the farm.

Mr Theron had written down a number of names on meeting them, he said.

The case continues.

The magistrate was Mr D Visagie. Mr R Metz prosecuted. Mr L Bozalek and Mr A Varney appeared for the accused.

ARGUS 22/8/83 300

Appeal on death benefits dismissed

Supreme Court Reporter

AN APPEAL by the Building Workers' Union against a judgment in favour of one of its former members for the payment of additional death benefits of R400 has been dismissed with costs.

The appeal today in the Cape Town Supreme Court was against a judgment in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court in November last year.

The magistrate, Mr P L May, ordered that the estate of the late Mr P W Bailey be paid R400, over and above the R200 received from the union by his wife, Mrs C Bailey, following her husband's death in July, 1981.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the Magistrate's Court proceedings, Mrs Bailey of Lotus River, claimed her husband's subscriptions were fully paid to the date of his death.

She said that the burial allowance payable to dependants of a deceased member was increased to R600 at an annual general meeting of the union held in April, 1981.

However, the union had only paid an amount of R200 into the estate of her husband. She claimed a balance of R400 was still due.

The union claimed that a death benefit of R600 was payable, in terms of the principles laid down by the union's executive committee, to members who had paid 67 cents a week when employed, or 20 cents a week for 52 consecutive weeks when unemployed, and were not 13 weeks or more in arrears.

They claimed Mr Bailey had not made such payments and was accordingly only entitled to a death benefit of R200, which had been paid.

Giving judgment today, Mr Justice Friedman, with Mr Justice de Kock, said the court was satisfied the magistrate's decision was correct, and dismissed the appeal with costs.

The judge said it appeared from the evidence of the secretary of the union that the executive committee felt it might not be in a position to pay increased benefits provided for in the guidelines if the members fell into arrears, and did not pay the increased subscriptions over a period of 52 weeks.

"It is clear, however, that Mr Bailey had paid an increased rate of subscriptions as laid down by the Union before his death. He had also paid in full the amount he was required to pay in terms of the constitution.

"There is no doubt that he has paid for the requisite period and at the requisite rate," the judge said.

The only basis on which the union sought to disqualify the widow of R600 was that the arrears were more than R15, and he did not pay the R15 for the full 52 weeks, said Mr Justice Friedman.

The judge said the court was satisfied that the executive committee of the union was not entitled to disqualify Mrs Bailey of receiving R600 as her late husband had paid whatever he was obliged to pay in terms of the constitution.

Mr John Whitehead, instructed by Tom Walters, appeared for the Building Workers' Union. Mr W van Staden, instructed by Truter and partners, appeared for Mrs Bailey.

PEOPLE

'Pathetic' amount spent on SA's aged

ARGUS 25/8/83 300

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The imbalance in medical services in South Africa has been blamed for the unfavourable situation of the aged in this country.

A "pathetic" two percent of the health budget is expended on promotive and preventive care and an "overwhelming" amount on curative care, an article in the August 13 edition of the SA Medical Journal has said.

"If the two percent were only doubled, curative costs and expenditure on old-age homes would diminish drastically," the article says.

Few taxpayers

South Africa was largely a developing country with a relatively small taxpaying population. All race groups were gradually becoming older and would need more services for their elderly.

The National Council for the Aged was aware of these needs and was promoting community work in this direction, particularly for the black aged.

There were 348 homes for whites in South Africa and of a sample of 36 studied from all four provinces, all were full with waiting lists averaging 141.

In community

Although there was a shortage of beds in old-age homes throughout the country, a "fair" proportion of the residents could well be cared for in the community if services were expanded.

There were 25 homes for the coloured group and 13 for blacks in South Africa, the article says. Natal had two homes for Indians.

More preventive and socio-medical facilities should be developed to keep elderly people out of institutions and in the community, the article — written by Dr L R Tibbit, medical officer of health and vice-chairman of the SA National Council for the Aged — says.

Not welfare

The health and welfare budget should be adjusted accordingly, Dr Tibbit says.

The community, however, should change its attitude and take more responsibility — financially and in other ways — in caring for the aged.

"One must remember this is not a welfare state," he says.

S. Times 28/8/83

300

Whole sectio

BUSINESS TIMES LOOKS AT PENSION FUNDS

RETIREMENT should be the "golden" time of life, a time to be enjoyed.

It should be the reward for your 30-odd years of hard work. But in many cases this does not work out as planned. The key to a happy and prosperous retirement lies in its planning.

In South Africa, ample opportunities exist for the individual to plan for the crowning years of his life in a society where social security is not as comprehensive as in countries like Britain and New Zealand.

Most companies offer benefits through pension funds, but these are not always deemed adequate by the individual concerned.

Further, a good proportion of the workforce are either self-employed or part-timers, which puts them outside the net which is serviced by pension funds.

Of the numerous avenues available for people with these needs, retirement annuity plans (RAs) remain one of the most effective provisions for retirement, according to the experts.

The RA corresponds in many ways with ordinary assurance, for example the claim value is paid after a certain period or at death.

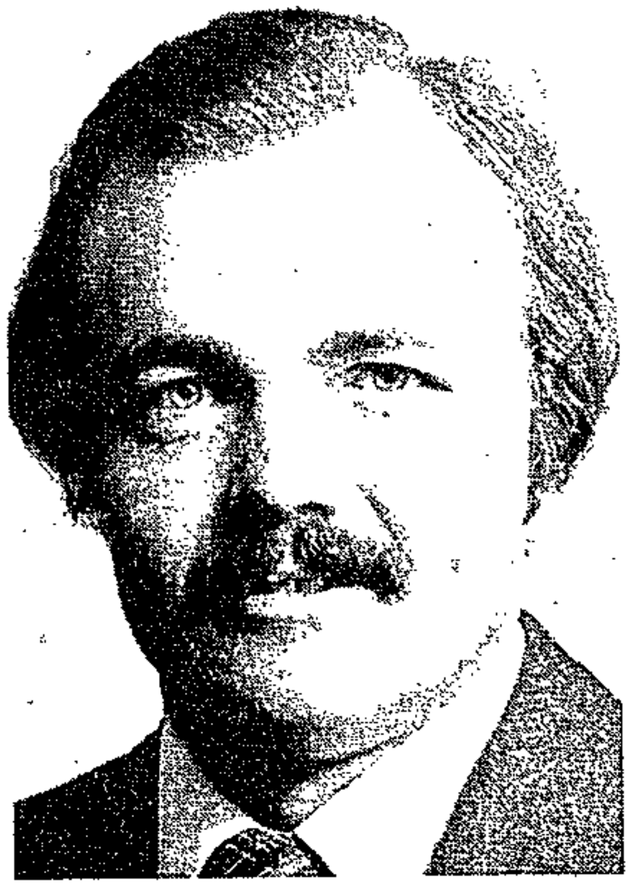
The rules and regulations of RA funds are similar to those of a pension fund except for the fact that they are not "tied" to an employer.

Due to the amendment of existing legislation this year, funding RAs can be done from any source of taxable income — including interest or dividends, and even from existing pension income.

Contributions can be made on a monthly, quarterly, half yearly, and annual basis, or even as a single premium from own cash resources.

Desmond Smith ... three types

Graeme Hill ... early start



Chris Cunningham-Moorat

How to provide for your 'golden time'

THE KEY TO A PROSPEROUS RETIREMENT LIES IN ITS PLANNING

Don't neglect your domestic

Sanlam general manager Desmond Smith points out, however, that there are maximum deductible contributions.

Deductible

He explains that as a rule of thumb, these can be determined as the greater of the following:

- 15% of annual taxable income (excluding income derived from any retirement funding employment).
- R3 500 a year less deductible contributions (of both spouses) to a pension fund.
- R1 750 a year.

Mr Smith says: "There are three different types of retirement annuities.

Firstly, one has an RA which offers no death cover (except repayment of contributions), this allowing the full contribution (after costs) to be invested and providing a larger annuity or pension.

"Secondly, one may purchase an RA with normal death cover, thus providing an income to dependants at one's death prior to retirement, but also ensuring an income after retirement.

"Thirdly, an RA with increased or reinforced death cover can be purchased thus providing a still greater income to one's dependants at prior death, but reducing the amount available for retirement income, as the cost of the life cover reduces the investment portion of the contribution to a greater extent."

Mr Smith adds: "The age at which the RA becomes payable may also vary between the age of 55 years attained to 70 years next birthday. Up to one-third of the maturity value may be commuted for cash, or the alternative of a greater monthly income may be opted for, without commuting any cash.

"At the claim date a certain term of up to 10 years may be chosen, guaranteeing that the pension payable will continue at least for a certain term chosen even though the annuitant may die before the expiry of the chosen term.

Joint

One may also opt for a joint pension payable at retirement age, ensuring that one's spouse will receive a guaranteed income until his/her death," he says.

Graeme Hill, assistant general manager of Southern Life, points out that income during retirement is essentially derived from accumulated capital plus the interest, dividends and appreciation earned on it.

He believes: "When examining what kind of annuity is best suited to the individual, the most important questions are how to accumulate capital, and how much capital is required.

"A pension fund could, to a varying extent, provide for a reasonably secure retirement, but for anyone who wishes to have a little more room to manoeuvre, the alternatives do not always provide satisfactory results," says Mr Hill.

Arnold Basserabie, managing director of Federated Life, is categoric: "A RA has to be the best way for a person to provide for his retirement where he is not a member of a pension fund.

"This is because the investment is made from pre-tax income. Thus, although there will be a tax liability later, enormous additional potential is given to the investment through the tax concessions on contributions."

As chief actuary of the Prudential, Anthony Asher explains: "The State actively encourages RAs by giving tax relief.

"Up to 15% of income can be contributed to RAs, and up to R1 500 a year is available to make up any shortfall in contributions in previous years — all this can be deducted from taxable income."

Mr Asher notes: "Everyone, whether belonging to a pension fund or not, must ask themselves whether their pension will be enough.

"A rule of thumb is that a person's pension contributions should amount to 10% of earnings. If this amount is contributed over 40 years the pension available should be adequate, but few people stay at one company for that long," Mr Asher says.

L&GV's general manager marketing, Chris Cunningham-Moorat, supports this view: "A cost approach to retirement planning, which seems popular with many investors, facilitates budgetary planning but doesn't focus on retirement needs.

"By merely making a stab at retirement funding by contributing a fixed amount (to your pension fund) you certainly provide yourself with an end benefit, but this does not always lead to a comfortable retirement," Mr Cunningham-Moorat adds.

Having established that in many cases one's pension provision is not adequate, one needs to look at the alternatives.

Mr Hill argues: "Investments in building societies or the post office provide for a tax-free return on investments, but there is no compulsion to save. And neither is there real protection of savings against inflation.

"The rate of interest varies, and although it can be attractive from time to time, it is not always related to the inflation rate," Mr Hill says.

Rewarding

Another possible rewarding avenue to build up that additional capital sum could be share investments. But this area, because the rewards are potentially higher, also carries more risk.

Mr Hill points out that the average man cannot afford a large spread of shares, and the smaller his portfolio, the bigger the risks. Also, there is no guarantee for the safeguarding of capital or dividends, while the cost of a portfolio manager can at times be prohibitive.

Unit trusts overcome these problems, but there is still no capital guarantee and they have limited tax incentives.

Mr Hill suggests that the answer lies in either an endowment policy, which provides for a tax-free capital sum at retirement age, but which has limited tax incentives, or a retirement annuity plan which provides for income after retirement plus a considerable tax advantage in the pre-retirement period.

Both offer the added benefit in that life cover can be included, which can provide for a widow's benefit or for disability.

As the retirement annuity contract is protected by law from insolvency, it cannot be ceded or surrendered. It is protected against the temptation to use capital for short-term benefit.

A person can have his retirement annuity linked to share or property investments, and life offices will also guarantee a minimum growth rate on invested capital.

Mr Hill points out that a capital lump sum for retirement has distinct disadvantages. Not only is there the problem of investment, but the capital is eroded within a very short period of time.

For example, assume a capital sum of R10 000 is invested in a tax-free deposit earning 9,5%: if the individual draws R300 a month, the capital sum will be eroded to nil in 38 months.

If the drawing is higher, say R700, the capital will be zero within 15 months, while a drawing of R1 000 a month will exhaust the fund in less than a year.

If the capital sum of R10 000 is kept intact, on the same investment, the interest will be only R2,60 a day — hardly enough to live on.

The above calculations should be seen against the proven statistics for the expected average life after retirement, namely 21 years for a white male who retired at the age of 55, 17 years on retirement at 60 and 14 years at retirement age 65. For white females, the life expectancies are a few years longer.

An annuity purchased from a life office can guarantee the running down capital and pay a fixed monthly sum for as long as the retired person lives (although tax must be paid on the interest content).

Mr Hill points out that a retirement annuity, by comparison, provides for favourable tax advantages during the pre-retirement period.

Although the annuity will be taxable in full at the time of retirement, current legislation permits up to R80 000 or R3 000 times the number of years for which the mem-

S. Times 08/04/85

300

S. Times 28/8/83 300

A SECTOR of the employee market which has been badly neglected is the domestic servants.

After the initial fanfare which accompanied the launch of pensions for domestic servants, pension fund managers report that there has been little throughput.

"While employers of domestic servants pay lip service to the concept of providing pensions for these people, that is as far as it goes," says Ben Gildenhuys, general manager of IGI Life.

"It is time that employers appreciate that domestic servants are often not able to make provision for their retirement. In most instances they cannot afford it, but possibly the major reason is that they do not know how to organise suitable assurance policies," Mr Gildenhuys adds.

There are a number of such policies in the market. One specific fund examined by Business Times, assuming the domestic's age next birthday is 40, offers for a monthly premium of R11:

Benefits

- Payment of the sum assured of R2 138 on death.
- Retirement benefits — either as a monthly pension of R57 and a lump sum of R4 455 (presuming growth of 10% a year) at the age of 65 when the policy matures.
- Immediate burial expenses of R500 for the domestic, her spouse and their children.
- Double the sum assured on accidental death.
- On total disability of the domestic, payment of the full sum assured will be made over 60 months, that is R35,63 a month.
- Transferability from one employer to another.
- Paid-up values after three years.

These benefits increase proportionately, with a maximum monthly premium of R55 allowed under this scheme, giving a sum assured of R10 690.

In addition, the soone one starts, the greater the benefits. For example, if a pension scheme of R11 a month is started for a domestic whose age next birthday is 25, the retirement benefit will be R16 540 (again assuming the conservative growth rate of 10% a year), and the monthly pension at least R213 at age 65.

Most important, work from the employer's side is minimal. The domestic servant has to complete a simple proposal form, and the employer can make the payment monthly through a bank debit order or a transmission account.

ber contributed to the fund, whichever is the greater, as a tax-free benefit.

"In the end, a golden rule applies. Whichever way a man decides to accumulate his capital for retirement, he must start as soon as possible and regularly review his savings pattern," Mr Hill says.

28/8/83

Performance

The race is on in the yield stakes...

In survey after survey, Prudential's growth fund has been turning in astonishing performance – meaning that our growth fund clients are getting exceptional value for money. Squeezing that extra return from fund assets can have breathtaking consequences especially when you consider that even 1% better yield compounded over a long period can lead to over 25% more assets.

Consistency of performance is the key. The same Prudential investment team have been managing the fund since its inception with a now proven track record. That speaks volumes for future prospects.

Let's show you how we can do better for your company's pension plan. Ask your adviser to ring us – Group Marketing (011) 838-8061.

Inception date	Period (years)	Equivalent level annual yield achieved to 30.6.1983	
		Lump sums	Regular monthly contributions
		%	%
30.6.1972	11	17,7	21,1
30.6.1973	10	17,1	22,4
30.6.1974	9	19,7	23,9
30.6.1975	8	20,7	25,1
30.6.1976	7	23,3	26,3
30.6.1977	6	27,3	26,8
30.6.1978	5	27,0	26,5
30.6.1979	4	26,6	27,0
30.6.1980	3	23,2	29,7
30.6.1981	2	31,5	37,0
30.6.1982	1	63,9	43,4

Prudential

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The Prudential Assurance Company of South Africa Limited

1932 - 1982

28/8/83 500

Shop around for the best deal

ANDRE IMMELMAN
IGI Life

SO much about retirement annuities is clouded in shrouds of taxation matters that sight is often lost of some of the very important details which concern retirement annuity benefits — for example, securing the best annuity rates, believes Andre Immelman, actuarial manager of IGI Life.

Most retirement annuity funds managed by life assurers promote "untied" benefits, implying that the member has the option to transfer the emerging benefit to any other life office which is prepared to offer a higher annuity amount for the same capital price.

Mr Immelman estimates that R100-million is paid out annually in the form of annuity benefits, but that a mere 15% of the capital cost, amounting to approximately R1 200-million, has been utilised to the optimum advantage of the annuitant.

"This is often due to the fact that the member has over the years lost contact with his broker, or is simply left ignorant of all the options of which he can avail himself," Mr Immelman says.

Life assurers find themselves acting as brokers by default and, regrettably, there exists a strong tendency to keep the funds "in house" by failing to encourage potential annuitants to "shop around".

Furthermore, the unfortunate investor is, on occasion, faced with a very reluctant broker who finds the minimal amount of commission which falls due to him hardly worth the effort of placing often small amounts profitably.

It has been the case that under critical analysis, actual annuities could have been improved upon by as much as 22%, had the annuitant been properly advised, Mr Immelman says.

A critical decision which needs to be made before an annuity is finally purchased is whether or not any part of the benefit is to be commuted for cash.

Any portion of the benefit which is taken in cash results in an annuity which is roughly proportionately reduced and, barring any overriding income tax considerations, it is nearly always true that commutation of the maximum amount permitted by statue offers the most profitable benefit since all of the "outstanding" payments could be forfeited in the event of the untimely death of the annuitant.

Immediate annuities can best be explained if these are regarded as "loans" to the life office which redeems the loan, usually by equal monthly instalments, over the future expectation of the life of the annuitant.

Volatile

As with any loan, the higher the rate of interest which is being charged, the higher the instalment of annuity payable to the annuitant would be; the only difference being that in this case the rate of interest is dictated by the lender.

The immediate annuity market is a highly volatile one, and life assurers constantly adjust their rates to fall in line with investment opportunities which are available to them.

Competitive annuity rates currently assume earnings in the region of 14% per annum which, considering the cost of having acquired this income net of generous tax rebates which are allowed, and despite the fact that the full annuity will be taxed as income in the hands of the recipient, clearly implies an excellent investment return.

Retirement annuity funds generally allow considerable flexibility in the design of an annuity contract and the expert advice of a broker is needed to take advantage of the many permutations which are possible.

Dependent

Depending upon the annuitant's personal circumstances, it may be beneficial for him to select, for example, an annuity which is guaranteed to be paid until his children become self-supporting despite the fact that he may die in the meantime, or an annuity which is conditional upon one spouse surviving, Mr Immelman says.

It is an unfortunate feature of the SA immediate annuity market that life assurers generally refer uncomplicated annuity business, unlike the UK market where annuities can be purchased on a "with-profit" basis, which keeps pace with the eroding effects of inflation, or more generous annuities are granted if the prospective annuitant is able to prove a state of sub-standard health.

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28/8/83

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BUSINESS TIMES LOOKS AT PENSION FUNDS

Retirement: The neglected majority . . .

LIFE assurers have recognised a definite need to concentrate on the retirement arrangements provided to the numerous trade union members of the various industries in South Africa.

According to Kevan Ward, assistant manager industrial funds marketing at Liberty Life, advantages of providing retirement schemes to industries as a whole, rather than to the individual companies that make up these industries, include:

● The natural movement of employees between employers within an industry would not affect the continuity and uniformity of benefits provided by a blanket scheme;

● The principle of continuity of benefits would ultimately result in providing the members of such a scheme, at a relatively low cost, with realistic and meaningful benefits at the date of retirement.

Experience, Mr Ward explains, has identified that the most significant problem areas are:

(i) ensuring that employee movement does not affect the continuity of benefits for each member; and

(ii) being able efficiently to cope with the large volume of data that such schemes generate.

While bearing this information in mind, Liberty Life has developed a computerised system specifically to cater for the Industry Retirement Scheme.

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Mr Ward says the survey revealed that 18 (40%) of these industries had no formal industry retirement scheme.

Although the companies in the industry may have private retirement schemes for employees, these would not provide continuity and uniformity of benefits.

Twenty (44%) of these industries had formal industry retirement schemes that were managed by committees appointed for this purpose. Generally, these schemes tended to be inadequate in terms of contribution rates payable and therefore the benefits provided.

Seven (16%) of these industries had formal industry retirement schemes that were managed by insurance companies. These were the schemes that appeared to provide the most acceptable and adequate retirement benefits.

According to recent statistics, there are approximately one million members of trade unions both affiliated and unaffiliated to the Trade Union Council of South Africa.

According to Mr Ward, the Liberty Life survey dealt with more than half of these trade union members and it indicated that the majority of them tended to be inadequately provided for in respect of retirement benefits.

Prov fund forg bene

By ROGER KING

THE most meaningful reward for an employee's years of hard endeavour and dedication to building up the company is a tax-favoured lump sum cheque at retirement.

This special cash incentive for top employees can play a major role in enabling a company to attract and retain high calibre people. An approved vehicle that can provide this handsome reward is a company provident fund.

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A company is allowed to contribute an amount equal to 10% of an employee's earnings in any one tax year to a pension and/or provident fund, as a trading expense.

The Commissioner for Inland Revenue has discretionary powers to allow larger amounts for tax purposes, provided that they are justifiable in terms of the employee's value to the company.

A provident fund complements other fringe benefits and can be of advantage whether or not a company already has a pension scheme.

A provident fund is simple to install and maintain and can be applied to large and small companies.

It can be tailored to the needs of individual companies and can be used to reward selected classes of employees.

Keeping the lump sum benefit separate from any group pension fund, allows the company to keep the arrangements confidential.

The forgotten benefit:

Many employers have a pension fund for their employees, and some have deferred compensation plans for their executives, but very few have utilised a provident fund to provide additional retirement capital for their senior or selected employees.

● Up to an amount of R80 000 or R3 000 x number of years of which the taxpayer had been a member, whichever the greater, can be tax free.

It is surprising that such a useful vehicle is often not given consideration by employers when retirement planning for their employees.

This is especially so in an inflationary period when all retirement capital accumulation plans should be made to work for the individual.

One reason why provident funds have become the forgotten benefit is that assurance companies do not actively market them.

The second reason is the confusion that still abounds within the market following the introduction and subsequent withdrawal of the Preservation of Pensions Interests Bill, which touch upon provident funds.

A third reason was the in-

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I don't know, Edna. Since Oswald died.

25/8/83 309

Easing of exchange control will help

Global trends affect SA funds

INTERNATIONAL developments are vitally important to the South African pension fund industry.

Not only are a number of local companies subsidiaries of multi-national firms, but international trends in pension funds affect the benefit structure in South Africa considerably.

Desmond Krogh, executive deputy chairman of L&GV, explained that historically the trend in US pension funding and benefits was copied by Europe and then copied by the Third World countries, which, in this context, includes South Africa.

THE anticipated relaxation of exchange control, together with the possibility that the preservation of pensions may still become a reality, offer exciting possibilities according to Luciano Orlando, assistant general manager of Standard General.

Mr Orlando says that once these happen, pension rights would be transferred from one country to another, which would result in individuals enjoying what he calls "an uninterrupted pensionable service to their multi-national employer."

He adds: "Top level and skilled personnel would not interrupt their pension rights overseas when transferred to South Africa on contract. This would assist the country in attracting the skilled people it needs."

Mr Orlando noted that the free transfer of profits in a profit-sharing agreement would strengthen the financial base of the multi-national companies' employee benefit plan, which in turn would result in the upgrading of pension benefits.

Attractive

Dr Krogh, former governor of the Rhodesian Reserve Bank, said: "Following double digit inflation for the majority of the 1970s in most European countries and the US, concern was felt on who was going to finance the final salary pension fund.

"A trend in the US is for final salary pension funds to be converted onto a money purchase basis where the unknown factor (the employer's contribution) disappears.

"This trend is demonstrated in the UK where one life office which is showing the biggest growth in the pension area specialises only in money purchase pension funds."

Dr DESMOND KROGH
Local reflections

With lower inflation at the moment in the US and the UK, the money purchase trend appears to be abating, said Dr Krogh, but the benefit of employers knowing what their fixed pension liability costs were going to be was still attractive.

"In the local context with double digit inflation, the already discernable trend towards money purchase benefit structures will accelerate," said Dr Krogh.

Pension preservation is another thorny issue in South Africa.

Dr Krogh said that such a scheme was recently introduced in the UK where a direct partnership between the pensions industry and the State secured preservations.

"I believe that after a suitable period of education of South African pension fund employees, a similar form of preservation should be introduced here."

Another interesting development follows the anti-sex discrimination act in the US where the retirement ages of males and females have become uniform.

"This is an actuarial disaster with the difference in longevity between the sexes," said Dr Krogh.

"Although understanding the desire for equal retirement ages, we cannot align ourselves to equal annuity rates."

Horizons

Looking more specifically at the possibility of local pension funds being allowed to invest internationally, the general manager of AA Mutual Life, Brian Benfield, believes the major markets which will be used are North America, UK, contintental Europe and the Far East.

EVERY month a deduction appears on your salary statement as a contribution to a pension fund.

The amount differs according to the company's pension scheme, but is usually between 6% and 8% of gross salary. In other words, for every R100 you earn, between R6 and R8 is put away for your pension.

Despite the visibility of this deduction, few employees take the trouble of looking at the rules of their company's pension fund, and worse, what happens to this monthly forced saving.

Alan McCulloch, marketing manager pensions of the Prudential explained: "Your deduction together with those of your colleagues and the contribution made by your employer are paid over each month to the administrators of your company pension fund.

First levy

"The first levy on the contributions is the cost of any death and disability benefits that your pension fund gives. In all but the largest funds these are insured with an insurance company and cost around 20% of total contributions to the fund.

"The second levy is around 5% to pay for the cost of administration. Both levies generally come from the employer's contributions leaving yours invested in full."

The pensions general manager at Sanlam, Johan Neetling, explained it this way: "Your contributions are invested approximately in the ratio of 20,5% in government stock, 22,5% in other prescribed assets and 47% in ordinary shares and fixed property."

These investments are forced through Section 19 of the Pension Funds Act 1956 because "of the need to ensure that pension funds invest wisely and in a socially desirable manner", Mr McCulloch added.

Compensate

To compensate for the enforced investment in government and public sector stock, pension funds enjoy tax exempt status, which means that they do not have to pay income tax on dividend and interest earnings.

In any one year, an average of 55% of the total contributions is used to strengthen the asset base of the pension fund, while 12% is paid out in death or disability claims.

Of the balance, 22% is earmarked for withdrawals from the fund, 6% for lump

Employers ARE concerned about the effects of inflation

SANLAM, South Africa's second largest life office, and the biggest administrator of pension funds in the country, has just published the results of its bi-annual survey which examines the benefit structure of South African pension funds.

Of the 700 companies and institutions which were asked to participate, 341 responded, illustrating the importance with which this definitive analysis is regarded.

The survey reveals that employers are concerned about the effect of inflation on pensions.

Some 80% of the respondents claim to give their pensioners a cost of living adjustment, although with the average at 8% a year over the past three years, this is still well below the current inflation rate.

Other features worthy of note include:

● Discrimination in the pensions industry is almost non-existent. Eighty six percent of the pension funds allow employees of all races to join, while two thirds of those that do not, have seperate schemes for other races.

● The most common retirement age for males remains 65, while more than 95% of the funds require female staff members to retire at 60.

● The most popular formula for calculating pension benefits involves multiplying the number of years worked by 2% of the average salary earned over the last three years of employment.

● People who die before retirement are adequately covered, with, in the majority of cases, provision made through a widows' and orphans' pension.

The most usual benefit to widows is 50% of the member's prospective pension benefit if the person died while in service, and 50% of the actual pension if he dies after retirement.

● Three quarters of the funds which responded to the survey provide for a monthly income if the member is totally disabled at a time when he is in the company's employ.

● Most funds require males and females to contribute between 6% and 8% of their gross salaries, while on average the employers match this more than one and half times.

● Over the past two years, 36% of the funds improved their retirement benefits, 26% improved death benefits, 30% improved disability benefits and 52% improved the benefits of pensioners or provided growth in pensions for the first time.

According to Sanlam's senior general manager, Pierre Steyn, when one compares the recent survey with the one conducted in 1981, it is apparent that in general the benefit structure of pension funds is improving.

300

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Pr... ret... ... ben...

By ROGER K...

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Provident funds: The forgotten benefit

By ROGER KING of the Old Mutual

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One reason why provident funds have become the forgotten benefit is that assurance companies do not actively market them.

The second reason is the confusion that still abounds within the market following the introduction and subsequent withdrawal of the Preservation of Pensions Interests Bill, which touch upon provident funds.

A third reason was the introduction through an amendment to the Income Tax Act of the concept of "retirement funding employment" (during 1977) and the effect that this has on providing for retirement by way of the various retirement vehicles.

Retirement Funding Employment:

This is defined, briefly, as employment that involves membership of, or contributions to, an approved pension or provident fund.

Maximum annual contributions to retirement annuity funds which may be deducted from income for tax purposes are limited to the greatest of.

- 15% of taxable income from sources that are not "retirement-funding".
- R3 500, less allowable contributions to approved pension funds, or
- R1 750.

The extent of the tax relief on a contributon to a retirement annuity fund is, therefore, largely dependent upon the nature of a person's income i.e. whether or not he is a member of, or is contributing to, an approved pension or provident fund.

Consequently, where an employer whose employees are not members of an approved pension fund, expresses interest in establishing a provident fund, it is of utmost importance that the tax effect of such membership be fully understood by him. This situation is fairly common amongst employees directly of small private companies.

Effect of provident fund membership:

Provident fund membership will place a limit of R3 500 p.a. on the possible tax relief available for contributions to a retirement annuity fund.

This tax relief could be greater where the employee is in receipt of income in excess of R23 333 p.a. provided such income is not from "retirement-funding employment".

The desirability, or otherwise, of belonging to a provident fund from the point of view of tax necessitates a careful examination of the prospective member's sources of income.

Regulations:

To qualify the fund as a recognised provident fund, certain regulations must be observed.

Your insurance consultant or broker can arrange the necessary formalities through Old Mutual, viz:

- A suitable board minute.
- Acceptable Provident Fund rules.
- Application to the Commissioner for Inland Revenue for approval.
- Application to the Registrar of Pension Funds for registration.
- Implementation and administration of the fund.

A provident fund is certainly worth considering next time you review the retirement benefits your company employee's enjoy.

A cash lump sum at retirement is a meaningful reward that will be greatly appreciated by your top employees.

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Star 24/3/83 300

Shortage of homes hits pensioners

By Jennifer Tennant

Already struggling to make ends meet, many of South Africa's elderly are now facing the prospect of having nowhere to live.

The lack of accommodation for the elderly in South Africa, and particularly in Johannesburg, could be reaching a crisis said Mr L Starfield, director of the Johannesburg Association for the Aged (Jafta).

"With the Government's policy of abolishing rent control many of the cheaper premises occupied by the elderly in the city centres have been decontrolled and pensioners can no longer afford to pay the rents," he said in an interview.

The shortage of housing was being exploited. Rents were being raised and many flats were being sold on sectional title.

If this continued many pensioners would be driven to finding the cheapest accommodation regardless of quality.

Increased rents were forcing many elderly people to apply for admission to homes and waiting lists were growing longer.

In Natal there were 28 homes for the care of the aged.

Johannesburg had 54 homes and the Western Cape 76.

"More economic units need to be built to accommodate the increasing number of pensioners," said Mr Starfield. He considered this the most urgent need.

The director of the South African National Council for the Aged, Mrs Zerilda Droskie, said pensioners had been hard hit by sharply rising food costs and the inability to meet higher rentals.

"Elderly people can't manage financially in the community any longer," she said.

The housing situation for old people, especially in the white sector, was critical.

"In the black community elderly people are traditionally cared for by other members of the family."

But, she said, there was a growing awareness of the need for accommodation in this sector as well.

"Little can be done to improve the situation at present."

Councils formed to aid the aged were short of money.

"Approved schemes which are on the drawing board cannot be carried out because we don't have the funds to implement them," said Mrs Droskie.

She suggested that a temporary solution to the crisis was to expand services, such as meals on wheels, to those living independently in the community.

"The more people we can help to maintain their independence within the community the better."

Pensioners complain

AFRICANS receiving social pensions have to wait two months for their money while white, coloured and Asian pensioners receive theirs the same month, black pensioners complain.

A spokesman for the office of the Commissioner for the Department of Co-operation and Development in Cape Town said his office had made a number of requests to the ministry for African pension payments to be made monthly instead of every second month.

However, the reply had been that this would involve too much administrative work, he said.

Spokesmen for the Department of Health, Welfare and Pensions and the Department of Internal Affairs, said white, coloured and Asian pensions were paid every month, on the month they were due.

Mrs Sue Joynt, Cape Town organiser of the Black Sash, said; "It is quite iniquitous that people on the bottom end of the pension scale should be treated so unfairly".

Black Social pensions are now R49 a month rising to R57 from October while white social pensions are R138 becoming R152.

After 29/8/83 300

Blacks treated unfairly, say pensioners

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Blacks on social pension must wait two months for their money while white, coloured and Indian pensioners receive their pensions the same month, black pensioners have complained.

"I appeal to our father the Government to have mercy for we blacks and change his mind," a Guguletu pensioner wrote to The Argus newspaper.

A spokesman for the office of the Commissioner for Co-operation and Development in Cape Town said his office had made a number of requests to the Ministry for pension payments to blacks to be made monthly instead of every second month.

However the reply had been that this would involve too much administrative work, he said.

He said blacks receive the pension payment for January and February in March, payment for March and April in May, and so on.

He confirmed that pensioners had complained this led to hardship.

Spokesmen for the departments of Internal Affairs and Health, Welfare and Pensions, said white, coloured and Indian pensions were paid every month, in the due month.

Mrs Sue Joynt, Cape Town organiser for the Black Sash, said: "It is quite iniquitous that people on the bottom end of the pension scale should be treated so unfairly."

All social pensions will be increased from October.

Black pensions will rise from R49 to R57, whites will get an increase from R138 to R152, and coloured and Indian pensions will be R93, an increase of R10.

Mrs Joynt said irregularities and long queues occurred in other parts of the country and the problems were less serious in Cape Town.

"They do not run out of money here," she said.

Problems included long delays between applying for pensions and receiving them, and pensions being stopped suddenly for no apparent reason, she said.

~~220~~ 300 Hansard Q.Col. 2016

State pension funds 31/8/83

1118. Mr. B. B. GOODALL asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:

(a) What amount of money is there in each specified State pension fund and (b) what percentage of each pension contribution is contributed by the (i) individual and (ii) State?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

It is unfortunately not clear to which pension funds are being referred to, but the following information of the position as on 31 March 1983, are nevertheless furnished.

(a)	(b)(i)	(b)(ii)
Government Service Pension Fund amount: R5 115 281 958,62	male 8% female 6%	male 21,35% female 16,0125% (state's contribution)
Associated Institutions Pension Fund amount: R1 045 154 639,09	male 8% female 6%	male 16,32% female 12,24% (employer's contribution)
Temporary Employees Pension Fund amount: R644 327 843,99	male and female 5%	male and female 10% (state's contribution)

(a)	(b)(i)	(b)(ii)
Authorities' Service Pension Fund amount: R237 070 096,25	male 8% female 6%	male 15,888% female 11,916% (state's contribution)
Authorities' Service Superannuation Fund amount: R19 313 651,00	male and female 5%	male and female 6,5% (state's contribution)

CAPE TIMES 11/9/83 (300) Sobering

Senior citizens who have no blessings

From Miss N G NDABA (Research Division, School of Economics, University of Cape Town):

I WRITE to reiterate Miss Clark's comments on the plight of senior citizens (Cape Times, August 23). I could not agree more that it must be terribly hard for senior citizens to live nowadays with prices as astronomical as they are.

However, there are still blessings to be counted for those who are fortunate enough to be non-black. The plight of black senior citizens is simply incomparable; none of them could ever save anything during their younger days, for they invariably lived from hand to mouth.

They have to depend on a state pension, which is so often tied with red tape. It is not uncommon for up to a year to elapse between the date of application for a pension and the actual receipt of the latter.

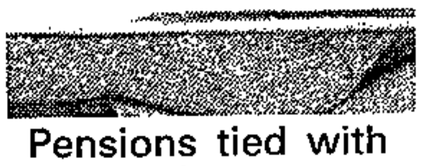
Not infrequently a pension comes through when the applicant has died, or a woman is told, at 65, to go and find a man and marry because she is still young.

Those who do get a pension, get it ONCE every two months. The amount varies between R98 and R110. Recently my travels took me to a small location of some 50 houses on the outskirts of a place called Willowmore in the Cape midlands. A good 75 percent of the residents there are pensioners.

They told me they had had their last pension in July, and the next pension day is September 9; out of their pension they have to pay rent for two months, which is R22,30 and they are then left with about R78 to live on for the next two months. The place was freezing cold and one old lady told me she had only one blanket.

With such meagre resources these helpless people are at the mercy of the local shopkeeper, who lets them buy all their food on credit. They cannot even clear their debt when they get their pensions, not to mention being able to buy foods the rural shopkeeper does not stock, like fresh fruits and vegetables, which their bodies so desperately need.

They just keep alive with bread, tea or coffee and mealie-pap, by no means from choice as is so often arrogantly



Pensions tied with red tape

claimed by those who suggest that "'these' people are malnourished because they eat the wrong foods."

If this is the way God treats His friends, one wonders how many true friends He is now left with.

Prepare

More will qualify for old-age pensions

Mercury Reporter

MORE old people will qualify for old-age and war veteran's pensions when the means test is relaxed on October 1.

Mr Geoff Oldfield, chairman of the Natal Provincial Council and former New Republic Party spokesman in Parliament on social welfare and pensions, said yesterday that old people with greater assets and private income than was formerly allowed would qualify for State pensions.

He will address a meeting at the Norwegian Hall, St Thomas Road, at 10 a m on Thursday, September 8 to explain the new provisions which were announced in the Budget earlier this year.

The highest other income a pensioner could earn while qualifying for a State pension had been raised from R116 to R160 a month, Mr Oldfield said.

Minimum

At the same time the value of assets allowed had been increased from R34 800 to R42 000.

'This is the first time since 1980 that the means test has been relaxed,' he said.

But the minimum pension payable to a white person at the private income ceiling had dropped from R64 a month to R34, because the ceiling had been raised.

Pensions were paid on a sliding scale related to the value of other income gained by a pensioner.

'Unfortunately, the four-two-one ratio in pensions for whites, coloureds and Indians and blacks remains,' said Mr Oldfield.

This meant that while the basic pension, paid to someone with no other income, was now R152 a month for whites, coloureds and Indians would receive only R93 a month and blacks just R57.

'I foresee that when the new constitution comes in it will be a thorny problem to find the funds to establish parity in pensions, as will surely be demanded,' Mr Oldfield said.

Old age home rents doubled

7/9/83

C. Times

By GLEN GARVEN

OLD PEOPLE at a City haven for the aged are to be asked, as from October 1, to pay more than double the rent for their tiny rooms in the old age home.

As from next month, the new rents become mandatory. They will see increases from R153 to R370; from R162 to R400; from R185 to R400; and from R242 to as high as R560.

The home, Sea Point Place, is run by the Cape Peninsula Welfare Organization for the Aged, which runs a string of old age homes in the Western Cape.

This decision by the CPWOA to increase the rent so drastically comes after an outcry over the renting system that forced officials to institute an inquiry.

Residents of the apartment section, many in their 90s, were told in April to give a complete breakdown, to the cent, of their income. They were then informed that each would have to pay two-thirds of their total income for their small unfurnished rooms and a midday meal.

'Very real trauma'

"There was very real trauma among the elderly people here at that announcement," said one resident. "To put it simply, we were terrified."

CPWOA chairman Mr Ivan Hampshire instituted an investigation, and a circular, dated September 1, was sent out to the residents outlining the new rentals.

"We have decided to scrap the sliding scale system and bring in these new fixed rents," Mr Ian Tedder, director of the CPWOA, told the Cape Times yesterday.

He said that new residents would be paying the full rates, but people now living in Sea Point Place who could not afford the increases would not be forced to pay them.

But many residents are "distressed" at the increases and a senior medical professor at the University of Cape Town, Professor Ralph Kirsch, said yesterday that the insecurity at Sea Point Place had affected the health of residents he had seen.

(300) Hansard 9/9/83
Q. Col. 2098

State: pension funds

1130. Mr. P. H. P. GASTROW asked the Minister of Health and Welfare:†

What amounts of money were contributed by the State to the (a) Government Service Pension Fund, (b) Associated Institutions Pension Fund, (c) Temporary Employees Pension Fund, (d) Authorities' Service Pension Fund and (e) Authorities' Service Superannuation Fund in the 1980, 1981 and 1982 financial years, respectively?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

	1980/81 R	1981/82 R	1982/83 R
(a)	391 236 320,95	483 342 164,61	607 997 874,19
(b)	61 935 019,81	75 689 159,31	98 089 639,33

	1980/81 R	1981/82 R	1982/83 R
(c)	77 948 144,09	90 715 760,03	114 112 842,34
(d)	21 641 905,55	25 012 615,96	30 092 876,96
(e)	1 587 630,24	2 769 061,51	2 331 337,66

1 500 PE aged wait for accommodation

M/9/83 300 Ref E. Post

Post Reporter

ABOUT 1 500 elderly coloured and white people in Port Elizabeth are on waiting lists for a room, flat or cottage in the city's old age complexes.

Some have been waiting for years and will have to wait even longer.

According to the heads of several organisations offering accommodation for the aged, many are desperate.

For most, renting a flat is impossible because rents are escalating monthly and with the small pension they receive they cannot afford a conventional flat.

A great many of these people are miserable because they are having to live with family, which often causes a great deal of unhappiness on both sides.

The Red Cross Society is probably the largest organisation catering for the elderly, but even they have a large number of elderly people on their waiting list.

In Port Elizabeth alone, the society has accommodation available for 833 people in homes, cottages and flats.

And still there are 300 on the list for the cottages and 400 on the list for homes.

Says the regional chairman of Red Cross, Mr Paul Kruger:"Yes, the situation is critical, but we are doing all we can".

"We have housing in Grahamstown, Port Alfred, Uitenhage, Patensie and Steynsburg under survey. But that is outside Port Elizabeth. The problem still remains here."

The Port Elizabeth Municipality has a waiting list of 367.

The Deputy Director of Housing for Port Elizabeth, Mr Eddie Samuels, said homes and cottages combined catered for more than 1 000 elderly people in Port ELizabeth but the waiting list was still long.

The annual turnover of housing units varied from year to year, being higher in the frail and infirm homes than in the other homes and cottages where the elderly were usually in better health.

Fairhaven caterered for about 170 elderly people in two homes, 14 flats and 67 cottages.

They had 282 old people on their waiting list, he said.

Mr Lake, manager of Fairhaven, said the situation was desperate.

He said there were many cases of aged people who were unhappy living with family "but if there is nowhere to accommodate them, they must stick it out".

The Afrikaanse Christelike Vroueverenigingen (ACVV), which has one home and one block of flats in which they can accommodate 139 elderly people, has a waiting list of 140.

Woman's plight

Mrs Sylvia Ngema (left) and her mother, Mrs Zondose Ngcobo — battling for a pension.

Mother's pension stays unpaid

Mercury Reporter

A DURBAN domestic servant is desperate to get her ailing mother's pension paid. . . having received only three payments during the past two years.

Mrs Sylvia Ngema, 55, said yesterday — after another fruitless trip to the pension office in Mtwalume — she was 'tired of all this now'.

She said she was supposed to collect R89 every two months.

Mrs Ngema's mother, Mrs Zondose Ngcobo, whom she claims is more than 100 years old, had collected her own pension until two years ago when she became bed-ridden.

Because her mother was unable to look after herself any longer, Mrs Ngema moved her from Port Shepstone to her home in Kwa Mashu, but was unable to get her pension transferred.

Since then, Mrs Ngema has made numerous trips down the coast to collect her mother's pension.

'I've only managed to get money three times out of all the times I've been there. Every time I go, they tell me there's no money.

'I don't know whether it's because they've run out of money, or because my mother can't go there herself.'

Nothing

Mrs Ngema said she had paid R45 on one occasion to hire a taxi to take her mother to Mtwalume after being told by the authorities that her mother had to collect her pension herself.

'Even then, we were told there was no money.'

Mrs Ngema said she had power of attorney to act on her mother's behalf and had also produced an affidavit to prove to the authorities that her mother was still alive.

'But nothing seems to help,' she said.

She received a salary of R155 a month and was battling to make ends meet with having to support two children and her mother.

'Instead of gaining from my mother's pension, I lose money every time I go there, paying train fares for nothing.'

A spokesman for the KwaZulu government's Department of Health and Welfare said yesterday they would investigate the matter.

HOMES FOR THE AGED
An Argus survey

A long, long waiting list

This is the first article in a three-part series on housing problems for the aged, by Staff Reporter DAVID BREIER

YOU must wait about 100 years to find a place to live in some of the blocks of flats for the aged in the Peninsula. And if you are already getting on in years, that makes your chances of finding accommodation somewhat slender.

Waiting lists are becoming so long, that as many people are waiting for accommodation as are now occupying available space.

The Cape Peninsula Welfare Organisation for the Aged, which runs 14 old-age homes and residences, has a waiting list of about 2 000. It provides accommodation for 2 010 people.

Four a year

The waiting list for flats at Sea Point Place, for example, is 394 and at Disa House it is 448.

As about four beds become available at these residences every year, it would take, theoretically speaking, about a hundred years for someone at the end of the waiting list to get in.

And according to population projections for the year 2000, the housing plight of the aged is going to get a lot worse.

According to the 1980 census, there were 350 000 whites aged 65 and over. But by the year 2000 this is expected to increse to 500 000.

The number of coloured people over 65 is expected to leap from 76 000 to 150 000 in this period, while the number of Asians in this age group will increase from 21 000 to 50 000. The number of Africans over 65 is expected to increase from 600 000 to a staggering 1,1 million.

Living longer

With higher life expectancy coupled with dropping birthrates, the proportion of people over the age of 65 is likely to rise dramatically.

For whites, this proportion was only two percent back in 1904. In 1978 it was calculated at 7,6 percent and by the year 2020 about 15 percent of the white population of South Africa is expected to be in the geriatric class.

The cost of providing special accommodation in old age homes or flats for the vigorous young people of today who will be the aged of the 21st century, is incalculable.

The Department of Community Development, which provides building subsidies in the form of one percent loans repayable over 40 years, subsidised white housing for the aged by R105-million between 1978 and 1982. The subsidy for the coloured aged in this period was R7,5-million and for Indians it was R2-million.

A spokesman for the Department in Pretoria said blacks did not need accommodation for the aged as black families looked after their aged relatives. Coloured and Indian aged needed less subsidies as these communities had a more developed extended family system to care for the aged than did the whites, he said.

But Mrs R N Robb, director of the Black Sash Advice Office in Cape Town, said: "It is even harder for blacks to look after their parents. They are paid less and their food costs the same."

Mrs Zerilda Droskie, director of the SA National Council for the Aged, said there were two "transit homes" for African aged in Cape Town — in Nyanga and Guguletu, catering for 48 people each.

A new home to house 125 aged, was being planned for Guguletu, she said.

White aged had proportionately the worst problem because they had no extended family system.

Independence

"Older (white) people want to retain their independence. They do not want to be under the feet of their children. They say they cannot stand the pop music their grandchildren play," she said.

"I had a phone call yesterday from an old woman living in her own little cottage in Claremont. She said she had given up taking the medicine her doctor had prescribed because she cannot afford it. She is buying less food," Mrs Droskie said.

The woman could not take in boarders as she had only one bedroom. "She cannot sell the cottage, because where would she go to? As a pensioner she has the benefit of lower rates and taxes," Mrs Droskie added.

She suggested that elderly widows should follow the example of a Kalk Bay woman who took in four white, coloured and Indian," she said.

She said the Government was sympathetic, but was two years behind on financing projects due to lack of funds.

However Mr Wilfred Rhodes, chairman of the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (Cahac) said housing was the State's responsibility.

He said the housing crisis was created in the first place by the State which moved people from their traditional homes in terms of the Group Areas Act.

Clear message

The director of the Cape Peninsula Welfare Organistion for the Aged, Mr Ian Tedder, said that after top level discussions in Pretoria with the departments of Health and of Community Development, "the very clear message for us was that both departments would only provide funds for the frail aged and for community services.

"This is because of the heavy pressure on funds, brought about by the economic climate, for housing projects for the aged."

The organisation was entering a 20-year expansion programme based on the principal of endowment schemes to finance them.

It is provided all the women with security and gave the widow an income.

On the whole, welfare bodies and the Government sector agree that the only solution to the housing crisis lies in the greater participation of the private sector.

Endowments

Mrs Droskie cited schemes in Benoni, Margate and East London, where housing units were financed through endowments paid by people who secured them for their retirement.

Another example was the Huis Altena in the Strand, built by a non-profit utility company where old people obtained interest in the money they put down for a flat. The capital reverted to their estate at their death, she added.

"Firms should have blocks of flats which they can let to their pensioners. They should be available to all communities, black,

scheme in Tokai next year while negotiations were under way at three other sites with the backing of the Department of Community Development.

Work was to start soon on a new residence at Lotus River, and further developments were planned at Mitchell's Plain, Elsies River and Belhar.

The organisation also runs a large community service for aged not in special accommodation. This includes meals on wheels, service centres, home help and social work.

The prospects for the aged in the Western Cape seem less bleak than in the rest of South Africa.

There are 76 homes for the aged in the Western Cape compared to 54 in Johannesburg and 28 in the whole of Natal.

Tomorrow: Intimidation

22/9/83

300

HOMES FOR THE AGED
An Argus survey

Getting rid of tenants

This is the second article in a three-part series on housing problems for the old aged, by Staff Reporter DAVID BREIER

andlords are increasingly us-
g the tactic of building ren-
'ations as a pretext for get-
ng rid of protected tenants
om their buildings, welfare
'ganisations and rent control
:perts report.

"The name of the game at
ie moment is to get rid of pro-
:cted tenants by renovating
uildings," Mrs Zerilda Dros-
ie, director of the South Afri-
an National Council for the
are of the Aged.

"Old people are open to in-
midation. They live in abso-
ite fear and do not know what
he future holds for them," she
aid

Feeling the pinch

"People in the middle in-
:ome bracket are really feel-
ng the pinch because rents of
lats are going up by leaps and
)ounds.

"They are applying to enter
)ld-age homes although they
;hould retain their indepen-
lence in the community," she
;aid.

In terms of the Rents Act, single people with incomes of up to R450 a month and families with incomes of up to R850 a month are classified as protected tenants.

Six months

Rents for protected tenants can be increased only on application to the Rent Board. In the event of repairs and renovation, a protected tenant must be given six months to vacate and has the right to return to the premises on completion of work, unless he waives his rights.

But Mr Alf Widman, MP for Hillbrow and a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Rent Control, said that in practice, tenants had to find alternative accommodation in the meanwhile, and were unlikely to return to the renovated flat.

"Although people have rights as protected tenants, this is one way of getting rid of a tenant," he said.

At present an owner had to obtain a court order in order to demolish a building and give tenants six months notice.

But an owner who wished to renovate a building needed only to give six months notice and no court order was needed, he said.

Amendment

The Select Committee had agreed to make a court order necessary and the Cabinet had supported this, he said.

But it had been decided not include this measure in the amendment to the Sectional Title Act which was expected to take effect on October 1.

Instead it might be included in the proposed Tenants Protection Bill which is to be published for comment towards the end of this year.

This Bill will abolish the Rents Act but will give protection to tenants who need it.

The Department of Community Development is working towards promulgating the amendment to the Sectional Title Act to take effect on October 1, a spokesman for the department said.

This amendment will make it possible to owners to open a sectional title register on rent controlled buildings or buildings housing protected tenants.

Non-protected tenants will have a 90 day option to buy the flat while protected tenants will have a year's option.

However tenants aged 65 and more and falling within the income limit for protected tenants, will have the sole right to buy the flat and no other person may buy it.

A spokesman for a large development company who declined to be named, said this would effectively make such people "life tenants".

He defended the rights of owners to renovate their buildings.

"If you want to upgrade your property in terms of the capitalist system, nothing says you cannot do so," he said.

The Rent Board had to ensure that the vacation of the property was necessary for the renovations, he said.

The board acted as a watchdog and would not give its permission unless it was necessary, he said.

"They wont let you get away with just slapping on a coat of paint that takes five minutes" he said.

Tenants were sent notices to inform the company if they wished to return to their flats after renovation, he added. In at least one block renovated by the company in Kenilworth, a few tenants were coming back.

Tomorrow: Housing plans

Guide to pensions

300 Mercury 23/9/83

Means test

Income received and assets held by a prospective social pensioner must be below certain levels.

For whites, the maximum value of assets allowed for a social pension to be awarded is R42 000. The maximum income allowed from other sources is R160 a month. Coloureds and Indians are allowed half of these amounts, and blacks a quarter.

At these maximums the pension payable to whites is R76 a month, while for a pensioner with assets of up to R22 800 and no other income, or other income of up to R84 a month and no assets, receives the full pension of R152.

The value of pensions is calculated on a sliding scale related to other income received and assets possessed.

War veterans receive an extra R15 a month. Any pensioner who is unable to see to his everyday needs gets an allowance of R20 a month.

The maximum pension for coloureds and Indians is R93 a month and for blacks just R57.

Applicants for all social pensions must live in South Africa and be South African citizens or have lived here for five years immediately before applying. Non-citizens must have permanent residence rights.

Income

Income from investments is disregarded — but investments, as assets, must be within limits.

Pensions from former employers are taken into account, but medical aid contributions are deducted.

Income from employment, minus compulsory deductions such as medical aid, unemployment insurance and pension fund contributions, is taken into account unless you are a man over 70 or a woman over 65. If you are self-employed, this concession is not made.

The net profit from business is considered income unless you are a farmer in which case only R144 a year is considered.

If you let rooms or have lodgers, rent paid to you is disregarded unless you have more than two lodgers, when a quarter of what they pay you is taken into account.

The combined income of a married couple is halved, unless you are a man earning less than half of what your working wife does, when only a quarter of your wife's earnings plus your full earnings are taken into account.

Assets

A married couple's combined assets are taken into account and are **not** halved.

Investments are taken at their full value.

If you live in your own flat or house, the value of the property is assessed at a maximum of R9 800. If you do not live in it, then it is taken into account at the municipal valuation minus any bond still owed.

Assets given away up to five years before you apply for a pension are still considered — so giving your house to your children, for example, may not be such a good idea.

If you let your property for farming the agricultural value of the land is calculated and considered, but rent paid to you is ignored.

Old Age Pensions

Men qualify for old age pensions at the age of 65, and women at the age of 60.

War Veteran

Both men and women must be at least 60 years old to qualify for war veteran's pensions. You must also be able to prove your full-time service in the Anglo-Boer War, the Bambata Rebellion, the Protesting Burgher affair, World War I, World War II or the Korean War.

If you are unfit for employment you may be paid the pension even if you are younger than 60.

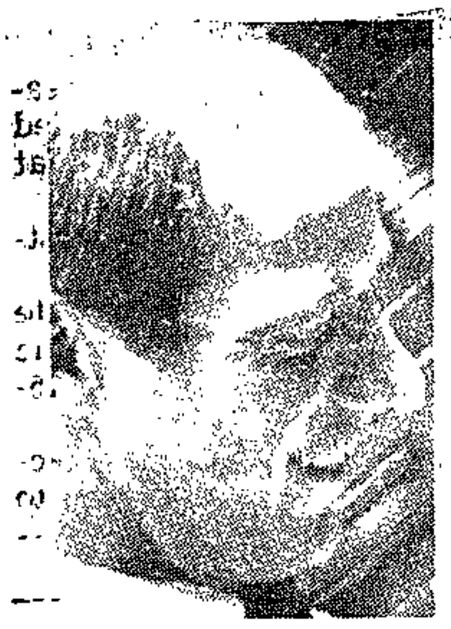
Blind Persons

You must be registered as a blind person, at least 19 years old, and be able to show proof of your blindness.

Disability

You must be 16 or older and unfit for employment because of a permanent disability. You will have to produce medical evidence and probably have to be examined by a district surgeon.

You must accept any work offered which you are able to do.



Johannes Petrus van Niekerk ... convicted of fraud.

'Dead man' admits pension fund fraud

Mrs Elize van Niekerk ... magistrate changed plea to not guilty.

By Gavin Engelbrecht,
West Rand Bureau

A miner who with his ex-wife altered his father's death certificate and then posed as dead in order that his wife could claim R14 481 in benefits, was convicted of fraud in the Randfontein Regional Court yesterday.

Johannes Petrus van Niekerk (30), address given as West Rand Construction, and Mrs Elize van Niekerk (32), address given as Merryman Street, Randfontein, appeared before Mr H J Oosthuizen charged with defrauding the Mineworkers' Pension and Benefit Fund between April and May 1981.

Both pleaded guilty. Mr Oosthuizen later charged Mrs van Niekerk's plea to that of not guilty after she said she had been forced to partake in the crime.

Van Niekerk said he had instigated the plan but denied having forced his ex-wife. He said he shared the same name as that of his dead father and had decided to change the birth date on his father's death certificate to that of his and to alter the death date to March 7 1981.

He said Mrs van Niekerk deleted the necessary particulars before making alterations. The place of birth was also changed from Stilfontein to Westonaria.

Mrs van Niekerk went to the police station and made an affidavit saying he had died in a car accident. A photostat copy of the forged document along with the affidavit were handed to the Pension and Benefit Fund with a claim of R14 481.

The fund paid out R9 349. Van Niekerk said this was used to pay debt.

When he tried to get employment again he experienced problems and was instructed to go to the revenue office to get a tax number. The court heard this proved to be his undoing.

Van Niekerk said he had gone to the Mineworkers' Pension offices and told a Mr Groenewald that he was "tired of being dead". He told the court he regretted what he had done and was prepared to repay the money.

Mrs van Niekerk admitted having participated in the plan but said her husband had forced her to do so.

Mr H B Roode, appearing for Van Niekerk, said in mitigation of sentence that he had co-operated with the police in their investigations. "It was very unpractical for him to be dead," he said. He added Van Niekerk was supporting two children after his divorce a year ago. Mrs van Niekerk had subsequently married Van Niekerk's brother, Mr Dries van Niekerk.

Mr Oosthuizen, the magistrate, said he was astounded that the mine authorities could have accepted a photostat copy of a death certificate without reservation and added this was inexcusable.

He said Van Niekerk was a first offender and he would give him the chance to "stay out of jail and allow him to look after his two children". He fined him R200 or two years with a further two years' imprisonment conditionally suspended for five years.

Mrs van Niekerk will appear in the same court for trial on December 20 and bail of R200 was extended.

Mr Jock du Preez appeared for Mrs Van Niekerk and Mr R van Abo prosecuted.

HOMES FOR THE AGED

An Argus survey

Plans in the pipeline

This is the final article in a three-part series on housing problems for the aged, by Staff Reporter DAVID BREIER

MANY senior South African citizens feel they are receiving a raw housing deal from the State. But they are not so badly off compared with the country's children.

Last year the Department of Health and Welfare alone subsidised the running costs of old age homes by about R32,5 million. Service centres for the aged received another R1,2 million subsidy.

By contrast, the same department subsidised the running of children's homes by R10,5 million.

At the same time old-age and war veterans' pensions paid by the department amounted to more than R260 million while various grants including maintenance and foster care grants for children amounted to just under R50 million.

Longer life

A spokesman for the department said this reflected the growing life expectancy and the declining birth rate of the last decade or two.

According to the 1980 census figures, the percentage of whites over the age of 65 in the Peninsula was 10,2 percent, well over the national average of 7,87 percent.

Among coloured people, 3,1 percent on the Peninsula were over 65 while the national average was 3,59.

A possible doubling of the geriatric population among coloured, Indian and black peoples by the year 2 000 was forecast by the Human Sciences Research Council, while the white increase is likely to be more than 40 percent

Substantial plans are in the pipeline to supplement housing for the aged.

For example, in the Peninsula alone, there is subsidised accommodation for 1 933 whites, according to Department of Health and Welfare statistics.

Plans to accommodate another 1 777 have already been approved and are awaiting funding by the Department of Community Development which provides loans at one percent repayable over 40 years.

The Southern Suburbs are at present the best off with 1 644 subsidised beds for the aged compared to 289 in the Northern Suburbs.

However the Tygerberg area is to receive its fair share in future, with plans for 890 old people in the pipeline compared to 887 in the Southern Suburbs.

For coloured aged, who fall under the Department of Internal Affairs, there are in the whole of South Africa a total of 29 homes with 2 336 beds. A further 11 homes have been approved and await funding. A spokesman said the amount of bedspace involved was still to be calculated.

Dr Gert Du Preez, spokesman for the Western Cape Administration Board, said two homes at present catered for the aged in the black townships of the Peninsula.

A new project by the welfare organisation Khayalethu for the Aged, was planned to accommodate 125 people in Guguletu.

The project will cost R2,1 million. Fundraising had begun in January this year and R20 000 had been collected.

Dr du Preez said the extended family system through which blacks traditionally cared for their aged, was in the process of disintegrating, especially in the urban areas.

This left many aged blacks destitute and people rejected by their families and unable to care for themselves, needed shelter.

Mr F C Roussouw, regional representative, welfare, for the Department of Health and Welfare in Cape Town, said it was the department's policy that the aged should be left as long as possible as part of their community, and that subsidies should be for the frail aged.

Future schemes

Bodies such as the Housing League, a non-profit utility company, and the Cape Peninsula Welfare Organisation for the Aged (CPWOA), as well as the churches, had provided the enterprise which the State could only subsidise.

The organisation's planned residences all follow the lines of modern thinking on housing for the aged.

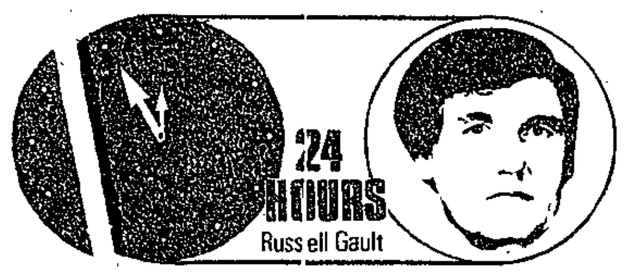
Each home will have a residential section for the fit aged, a home for the frail aged and a service centre to provide social and health services as well as companionship.

As more people live longer lives, a trend in housing for the aged is clearly emerging.

People must increasingly plan to finance their own retirement housing.

South Africa's aged face a hopeless and homeless future

outh Africa's aged tenants face a bleak future .. they are being turned out of their rent-ontrolled flats, sometimes their homes for ears, by developers intent on renovating the uildings to win a bigger slice of the financial ake. Spiralling costs and fixed incomes may orce many of the old people to become omeless.



Miss "Binks" Bloch and her sister Ivy, face a tragic uture.

They have until October 31 to get out of their rent-ontrolled flat in Berea which is to be renovated by ts new owners, Sable Holdings.

Their problem is they are unable to find an alter-ıative flat which they can afford on their fixed in-:ome.

Another complication is that Ivy has been bedrid-len for the past 25 years...

They are among the growing legion of people being lisplaced by new owners of rent-controlled buildings)lanning to renovate them.

At a meeting of some remaining Marina Court ten-ınts, it was decided to ignore the notices to vacate ınd face court eviction orders.

A South African Housewives' League national exec-ıtive member, Mrs Muriel Preller, said: "No old per-son ever believed we would have a Government which would defuse the Rents Act. The Welfare and Community Development Deputy Minister, Mr Pierre Cronje, t(old me I had done right in telling Marina Court tena ınts to sit tight and face legal action — yet he is maki ug it easy for the developers.

"These r renovations are supposed to be essential, but how ca n they be so suddenly essential in blocks all over the country?"

Many eld erly people seen by 24 Hours indicated that they hac l little idea where they were going once their notices expired.

In some cas es, the owners had offered to find alternative accomc dation which suited working tenants.

But in those involving aged tenants on fixed incomes, the sea rch was often hopeless because rents were invariably higher and above their means.

The 24 Hours inquiry revealed blocks all over the Hillbrow-Berea area which were being vacated by order of the owne rs.

A Sable Holding s director, Mr George Kontominas, said his company had abo ut 600 rental units in Johannesburg. Many dev elopers were renovating rent-controlled buildings.

Marina Court in Berea is one of the rent-controlled blocks of flats to be redevel oped.

> The Lessor intends to effect and execute repairs and renovations to the premises which are occupied by you.
>
> Since the Lessor reasonably requires your premises to enable it to effect and execute the repairs and renovations and since the nature and extent of the repairs and renovations are such that it is essential for you to vacate the premises, we hereby give you six months' notice...

"We have made efforts to find accommodation for people, but frankly it is not the job of private enterprise to subsidise accommodation for people. That is the State's job but it has tried to avoid the responsibility."

Miss Bloch said the care of the aged, particularly those without the means to afford care in expensive nursing homes, was a reflection on the country.

"There are a lot of people who are lost, who don't know what the future holds for them," she said.

Another elderly Marina Court tenant, Miss Joan Pretorious, was unsure what she would do.

"I think a lot of people are going to be forced out of the city to small towns where costs are lower, away from everyone they know."

Another block owned by Sable and where tenants have been notified to leave, Broad Windsor, in Joubert Park, has seen many old people move out.

Long-time tenant Mr David Green, said his family had lived in the building for about 40 years.

"It's a dirty low trick to get people out of the place by claiming it needs renovating. That's what these developers are saying about every building they get their hands on.

"I'm a retired lawyer and I know how the game works. At this rate they will have every rent-controlled building in town being renovated. Then they will either rent them at much higher rents or sell them. Either way they do well."

Sable's general manager Mr Paul Nash was adamant that the buildings his firm were interested in needed extensive repairs including new electrical and plumbing facilities.

"The buildings are going to be closed down for months while work is done. There's no way people can stay on as tenants while these basic facilities are not working."

Another prominent developer is Incity Real Estate, which has a close relationship with Sable. The two firms work in concert in some projects, one buying and developing while the other rents or sells the flats, Mr Nash said.

Its directors include S I Davidoff, P J S Corrigall, B Juris and Mark Wainer.

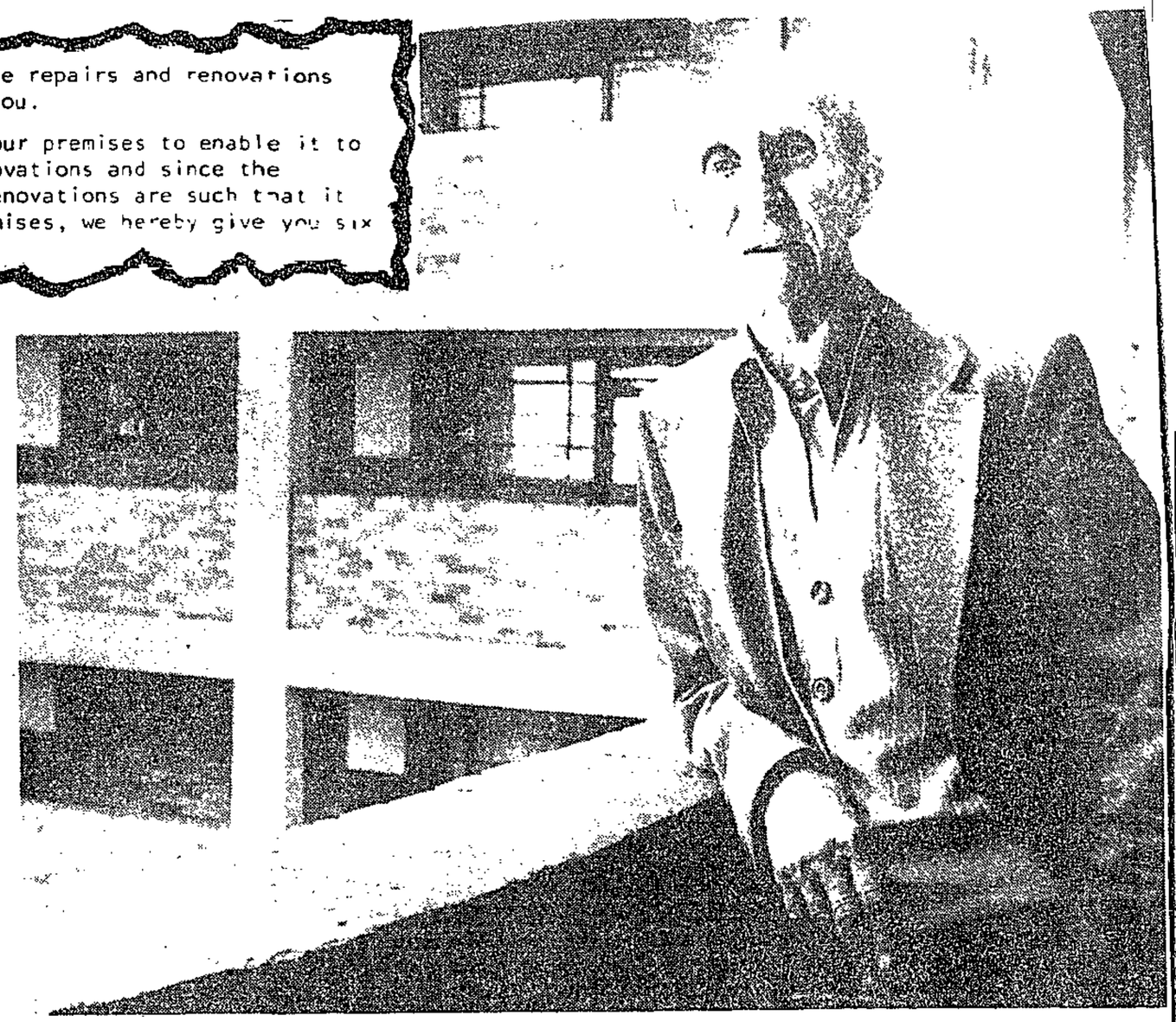
As far as could be determined by The Star, renovations to buildings were superficial with new light fittings, new tiling in bathrooms and kitchens, new kitchen cupboards and new cheap electric ranges. In some cases new front doors were installed.

Each flat was repainted and new electrical wiring installed.

The same tiles, light fittings and kitchen fittings were seen in several blocks undergoing renovations.

Mrs Preller said she believed the authorities were determined to phase out rent control without making adequate provision for elderly people, and "what is happening now is a major step towards under-mining the security of the aged".

The Star's inquiries indicate that existing legislation is ambiguous and vague as to what constitutes extensive renovations which would in turn allow a developer to legally demand tenants to vacate while he does the job and turn a controlled block into a most profitable enterprise.



Above: Mr David Green has lived in Broad Windsor for 40 years and now has to get out because the new owners want to renovate the rent-controlled block. Right: One of the blocks being redeveloped. Inset (top): Typical section of a letter sent to a tenant.

Pictures by Etienne Rothbart

STAR
26/08/83
500

Pensions: former bus workers complain

EAST LONDON — A large number of the 307 workers retrenched by Gompo Transport here in the wake of the bus boycott yesterday refused to take their pension money because they said the company had underpaid them.

In meetings held since Monday the workers insisted they be paid all contributions made to their pensions, including money paid in by the company and the Ciskei Government.

Yesterday they claimed the money paid out was the worker's contribution plus 2 per cent interest.

They also argued that the money was paid out in cheques from a bank and not from the insurance company into which they knew it to have been paid.

In a statement the workers said that after lengthy discussions they had been told workers who had been retrenched were not treated differently from workers who had resigned or been fired in terms of pension payment.

"We were also told that four workers, aged over 65 years, would not get their full pensions because they had stupidly contributed to the wrong fund and not to the provident fund."

They said the company officials had informed them the insurance company paying out had given the employers a lump sum of R50 000 and the workers were being paid from this amount. Any balance would have to be returned to the insurance company, they said they had been told.

Workers also complained that when they gathered on the company's premises on Monday police with dogs had been called in.

"We were also told the meetings we were holding on our problems were illegal. We had not gone there for meetings but to get money," the workers said.

Asked for comment on the presence of police dogs at the bus depot, the police public relations officer for the Border area, Major W. W. Brown, said police did not take any action at the bus depot.

Asked whether police had been at the depot with dogs, he said: "I have no information of any action at the depot."

Reacting to the workers' claims, the public relations officer for the Ciskei Transport Corporation, Mr Wessel van Wyk said that on Monday the workers retrenched by the company recently had gathered at the depot to collect their pension.

"I am told that according to personnel regulations they are entitled to be paid their own contributions plus 2 per cent a month interest on that," he said.

He said that after the retrenchment of 307 workers the company had tried to find them jobs with other companies and 93 workers had been interviewed by some companies.

"We do not know what the outcome of that has been," he said.

He added that half the workers retrenched had accepted their cheques and they were still dealing with the other half. — DDR

Former bus company workers at the Braelynn bus depot in East London yesterday.

NATIONAL

Aged : State must give them housing Stott

Argus 28/9/83

300

Staff Reporter

IT IS grossly unfair that people who work for the State and large corporations should receive housing subsidies while others who work just as hard receive nothing.

This is the view of Mrs Eulalie Stott, chairman of Cape Town City Council's housing committee. She was commenting on The Argus's survey of housing for the aged.

The survey found that the general view of those involved in providing housing for the aged was that the private sector would have to become increasingly involved in this field and that the State could not afford to finance housing.

But Mrs Stott said it was up to the State to provide housing for the aged.

The State already subsidised housing for its own employees by more than R1 000-million a year — while all its other housing provisions amounted to only R450-million a year, she said.

Mrs Eulalie Stott

This showed that the State had the money to provide housing for the aged and the less affluent, she said.

Taxpayers were in effect paying for the subsidy of civil servants' housing without receiving aid themselves.

She said there should not merely be a separate tax on perks, but that perks such as housing subsidies should be included as part of gross income for tax purposes.

People without subsidies paid the same tax as those who received them, and yet they received no housing perks themselves, she said.

Mrs Stott also proposed that a form of buy-aid should exist in order to give old people a special shopping discount. This should apply to all stores and not only to supermarkets, which many aged were unable to visit with ease.

KEEPING STARVATION AWAY

Pensioners have to eat pet food

W/C Argus 1/10/83 300

Staff Reporter

MANY pensioners have to eat pet food to hold starvation at bay, the Meals-on-Wheels for the Aged organisation reports.

"Most of these people who have been rejected by both society and their immediate families are forced to subsist on a meagre Government pension of R138 a month," according to Mr Neville Mandy, national director of the organisation.

"Some pay as much as R120 a month to rent what are little better than tumbledown backyard hovels.

"This leaves little over to pay for either heating or food," he said.

From October, the social pension for whites will increase from R138 a month to R152, for coloured and Indian people from R83 to R93 and for Africans from R49 to R57.

Meals-on-Wheels for the Aged currently operates 32 kitchens and 47 special panel vans throughout the country to deliver nearly 200 000 hot meals a year to the needy.

Mr Mandy said this only scratched the surface of the problem as the organisation was limited by severe financial constraints.

A spokesman for the organisation in the Western Cape said that not all recipients were aged.

She cited a Zimbabwean woman whose husband was killed in the bush war and who was now destitute in Cape Town.

If reforms don't come soon, black pensions seem a likely flashpoint

THE PENSION BOMB

By LESLEY LAMBERT

PENSIONS for blacks — a field allegedly fraught with corruption, delays, poor administration and confusion — may become a flashpoint unless there are major reforms.

This warning is contained in a report of the Human Awareness Programme — a Johannesburg education and research centre — after an in-depth study of black pensions in both the private and public sectors.

The report concluded that almost every aspect of the apartheid structure aimed at keeping black people in an economically dependent position is reflected in the pensions issue.

It said racial inequalities were clearly visible in benefit scales and means tests for state pensioners of different race groups. Even the administration of pensions was different for the different groups, it said.

It found pensions were inadequate and did not keep up with the rising cost of living.

The report said the state was responsible for more than 35% — or about 700 000 — of the total number of pensions paid in South Africa. Of these, black pensioners numbered about 300 000 or 1,5% of the South African population.

The number of black pensioners was relatively small because of apparent difficulties blacks experienced in applying for and receiving their monthly R57 from the State.

The handing over of pensions administration to homeland governments had increased the "delays, irregularities, corruption and confusion", the report said.

Both the KwaZulu and Ciskei departments of health and welfare spent at least 50% of their budget on pensions, and still could not supply all the needed pensions.

Obstacles facing people, particularly those in rural and resettlement areas, who wanted to apply for old age pensions were so great that they generally became apathetic and hopeless.

Obstacles cited by the report and backed by extensive case studies included:

● Restrictions of applications to specific days, making it possible to apply only twice a year in some areas. At other pension offices, people were subjected to the whim of the clerk when they

● Mrs Sheena Duncan

Who gets how much

PENSIONS for black people will rise from R49 to R57 a month this week — and a new means test entitling a person earning up to R21 per month to a full state pension will become effective.

But a person earning over R40 a month will not receive a state pension.

Pensions for whites will increase from R138 to R152 per month, while coloured and Indian pensions will go up to R93 a month, an increase of R10.

Blacks subscribing to private pension schemes could find themselves worse off than people who had not contributed to any pension fund, Mrs Sheena Duncan, president of the Black Sash, said in a statement this week.

"People whose firms' pensions are more than R40 a month — but less than R57 — will have been contributing for a pension less than they could receive from the State.

"This is without having made extra contributions over and above what they have paid in taxes throughout their lives," said Mrs Duncan.

taken to process an application should be no longer than two months, the wait from application to receipt of pension could be as long as 24 to 36 months. Pensioners were rarely repaid for delays in the processing of applications.

● Queueing overnight outside payout points because large numbers have to be served, and uncertainty that pensions would arrive.

The report also hit out at the homelands policy, migrant labour policy, resettlement and influx control. All of these, it said, were conceived and engineered by white politicians to serve their interests only.

Turning to private pension funds, the report said companies had not consulted black workers about pension schemes and had not given of tracing pensioners and paying them their benefits was inadequate.

The withholding of pensions had been used as a disciplinary measure, according to some workers.

The report said there were at least 30 strikes in 1981 involving 27 000 workers following the publication of the Preservation of Pensions Interest Bill, which provided for the transfer of pensions from one fund to another when a worker changed jobs.

This prompted the government at first to delay the Bill's implementation and then to withdraw it completely.

The report said black workers saw it as an attempt to entrench a pension system which they believed used their money to serve the interests of others.

The Human ... Programme's recommendations for reform include:

● The scrapping of race discrimination in state pensions and the linking of state and social security benefits to subsistance levels.

● The training and supply of efficient pension officers to update the backlog of unprocessed applications.

● A review of the administrative procedure for disability pensions.

● The paying of unemployment insurance benefits of 75% of workers' wages for a longer period.

● Making private pension schemes compulsory but allowing more flexibility to brokers, companies and unions to choose the pension funds.

● Discussion and clarification of the current compulsory investment of pension money in government stocks.

● A unified management-union approach to pension legislation.

approached to make an application.
● Inadequate staff, meaning some rural areas were not covered.
● Delays. Although the time ... them information abou... their benefits.
The report said many workers, particularly contract workers, complained that the companies' system

A new deal needed for aged — expert

By Russell Gault

Massive new financing schemes had to be found if South Africa's pensioners were to get adequate retirement incomes, an insurance expert said in Johannesburg yesterday.

The Old Mutual's assistant general manager, Mr Reg Munro, gave that ominous warning to delegates at the second day of The Star's Network conference on the future of pensioner housing and finances.

Mr Munro said it was vital for people to plan their finances in detail to pave the way for a secure retirement.

"We already have many pensioners who are in real trouble because their pensions don't cover their basic living costs — their pensions have been so seriously eroded by inflation," he said.

People joining pension funds today, about 20 years before retirement, would probably end up with about 20 percent of their final salary as their pension.

"Unless they have made other financial provisions for their old age how are they going to live?

"Take a bank manager who retired 15 years ago. I quote a case where the man is now on a pension of R280 a month. He is in serious trouble. This is one of the weaknesses of non-increasing pensions. That's one of the reasons why there have to be significant changes in the future.

"Until inflation came along 10 years ago we had no idea what problems were going to result," Mr Munro said.

Network is a combination of The Star's CARE campaign and the think tank group, Syncom. Syncom's Mr Andre Spier is hosting this week's workshops where delegates are gathering data for a national conference next year on retirement.

Delegates were told that financing of pensions was one of the major problems facing the world's aged.

Mr Spier said the middle class was becoming an impoverished group because the world economic boom had fizzled and there was not enough money available to stop their economic position from declining.

"The welfare states are already staring at bankruptcy. Holland will not be able to cope within five years. It just won't have the money for benefits.

"The United States is spending 24 million dollars a day more on welfare than comes into the government coffers. There is a need for entirely new investment ideas to provide for the elderly."

Delegates questioned whether pension schemes should be compulsory, whether the State should be running a national scheme and whether everyone's contributions, including those of employers, should be significantly increased.

"The trouble is that there is a trend in South Africa for people to think short-term rather than make adequate provision for their retirement," Mr Munro said.

An investment expert suggested that if people planned properly they could invest in mutual funds, unit trusts and even property in a balanced programme designed to earn money for themselves in retirement in addition to a company pension.

He said a person could buy a property with a bond and write off the bond servicing charges against tax. By retirement time the property should be generating a significant sum. He also urged people to be careful of their will details to ensure that spouses paid as little estate duty as legally possible.

However, the main need was to approach a recognised and reputable expert on investment.

Unions endorse pension books

By Carolyn Dempster,
Labour Reporter

Emergent unions involved in the 1981/2 pension strikes have welcomed the introduction of "pension documents" to combat worker mistrust of pension funds.

The service, introduced by the Southern Life Association last month, gives a detailed statement of pension contributions and accumulated benefits to individual pension fund members.

All information is contained in a document closely resembling a savings bank book and is available in five languages.

The decision to introduce a personalised pension book followed the widespread 1981/2 pension strikes. It is modelled on the type of service provided by pension funds overseas.

However the concept was slow in taking root in South Africa because of the multilingual society, the Association's marketing manager in the pensions division, Mr E le Roux, said.

RIGHT DIRECTION

The implementation of the pension document service is seen by Council of Unions of South Africa (Cusa) head Piroshaw Camay as a "step in the right direction".

"One of the grievances during the pension disturbances was that workers did not know what their benefits were, or what their accumulated contributions amounted to."

A call on the companies to supply these details to workers was just one of the demands made by the unions at the time.

"This is a factor which will de-mystify the pension fund schemes, but it is not the factor of greatest importance to the workers.

"Worker participation and their involvement in determining investment is obviously of greater long-term importance," he added.

Workers new say on funds

Labour Reporter

Star 5/10/83

The struggle by the emergent unions to bring pension funds under the control of the workers has been partly successful in the metal industry.

There are now four unions, one unregistered, on the board of the Metal Industries Group Pension Fund.

A full list of unions represented on the fund, constituted in June this year, was given for the first time yesterday in a union newsletter.

The decision to admit union representatives to the board, based on membership size, was taken after pressure from the unions, foremost among them the Metal and Allied Workers Union.

The unions argued that several unions with seats on the board did not represent the majority of the workers in the fund.

After discussions with the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa (Seifsa) it was agreed that only the 10 unions with majority membership in the fund would have seats.

An audited certificate check was carried out and the four unions to gain seats on the board were MAWU, the Steel Engineering and Allied Workers Union, the Engineering and Allied Workers Union and the unregistered General Workers Union.

This is the first time representation on the fund has been dictated by membership size and not membership of the Industrial Council.

It is also the first time that unions with a largely black membership have been put in a position to push for social benefits for workers outside the strict parameters of the pension fund.

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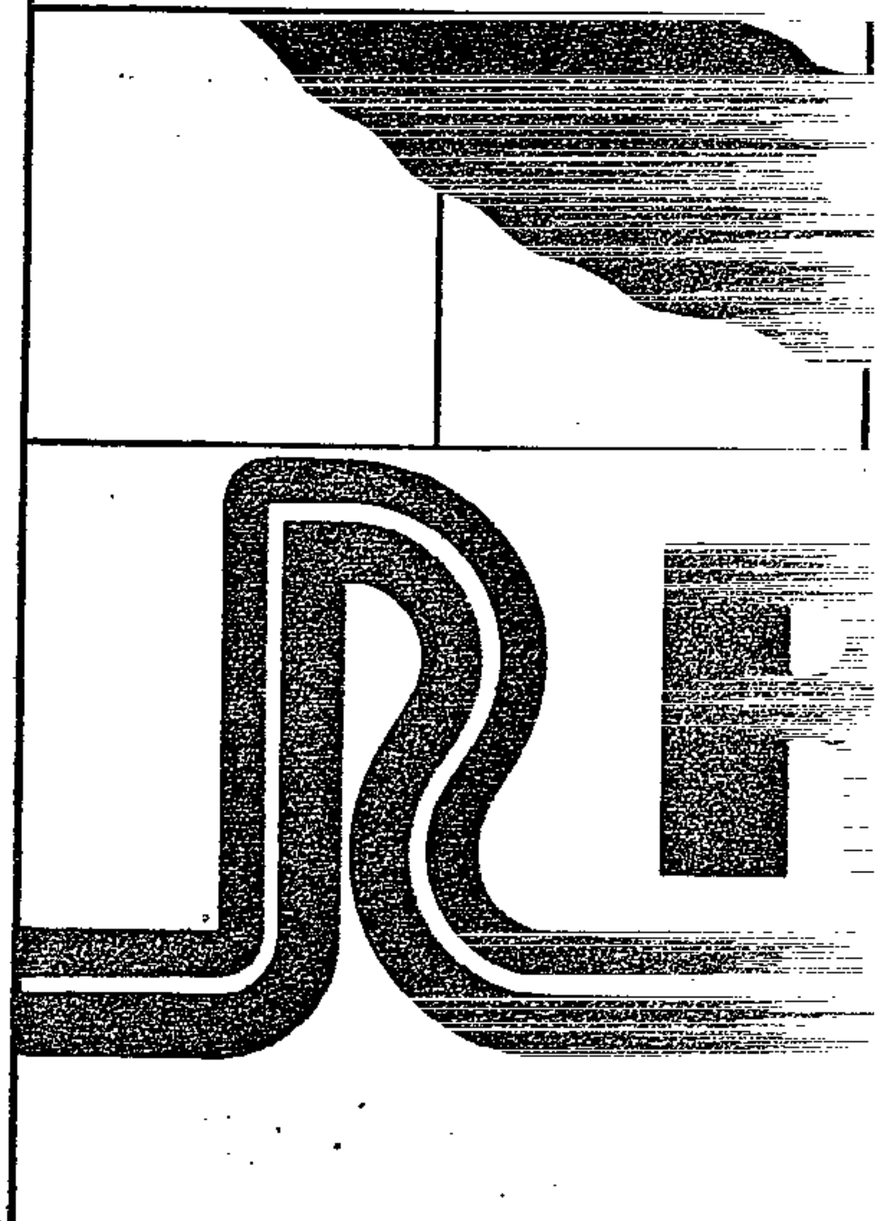


of 125

A second special court was arranged yesterday to accommodate all the accused.

Mr E P H Olivier presided over this court and

Citizens arrest

New unions win seats on board

FOUR emerging trade unions — including one which is unregistered — have won seats on the board of the giant Metal Industries Group Pension Fund.

The fund, to which semi- and unskilled metal workers, most of whom are black, must belong, has assets of more than R500m. This is the first time emerging, mainly black, unions have achieved a direct say in how a major pension fund is to be run.

It is also the first time an unregistered union has been represented on an official body in the metal industry and the first time seats on such a body have been determined by union size — not Industrial Council membership.

The fund is not run by the Metal Council but was set up by it.

It is expected that emerging unions will now use their seats on the board to press for majority worker representation and for the fund's assets to be invested in social programmes of benefit to workers.

The four emerging unions on the board are Fosatu's Metal and Allied Workers' Union; Cusa's Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers' Union; the Engineering and Allied Workers' Union; and the General Workers' Union, which is unregistered.

Steve Friedman's Labour Week — Page 14

The unions gained the right to representation on the board earlier this year when metal unions and the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation (Seifsa) agreed that the 10 unions with most members in the fund would each receive one seat on the board.

This would apply whether or not they were registered or members of the Metal Council.

This followed demands by emerging unions that union representation on the board should be in accordance with membership rather than whether they belonged to the council.

The unions also demanded a majority of seats on the board — Seifsa has half the seats — but this was resisted by employers.

In terms of the agreement, unions were to submit audited membership certificates to the fund and the top 10 were to gain a seat each.

Although the certification exercise was held some time ago, and the new board has already met, its composition was disclosed only yesterday in a newsletter of the Metal and Allied Workers' Union. The details were confirmed by Seifsa's director, Mr Sam van Coller.

In the exercise, MAWU emerged as the biggest metal union in the categories concerned. The General Workers' Union was sixth.

Since then two unions, SEAWU and EAWU, submitted late applications and qualified for seats on the board. The Black Allied Workers' Union, which was tenth in the original exercise, dropped out.

According to MAWU, only the first six unions in the initial exercise each had more than 1 000 members in the fund. The others have "only a couple of hundred members each".

It says it suggested that unions with fewer than 500 members should not qualify for seats on the board. This was refused.

Mr Van Coller replied yesterday that Seifsa saw this issue was one for unions to resolve among themselves. 'We don't mind an adjustment of this sort as long as it occurs constitutionally."

● The other unions on the board in order of size are SA Boilermakers' Society; Engineering Industrial Workers' Union; Electrical and Allied Workers' Union; Radio, TV, Electronic and Allied Workers' Union; EP and Border Engineering and General Workers' Union; and the Iron Moulders' Society.

BAWU to fight move to bar it from pension board

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Correspondent

THE Black Allied Workers' Union (BAWU) is to resist attempts to deny it a seat on the board of the biggest pension fund for black workers of its kind in the country.

Although the union has apparently been dropped from the board, it intends to attend a meeting of it tomorrow.

The fund is the Metal Industries Group Pension Fund, which is open to all workers in the giant metal industries below a particular skill level. It has assets of over R500-million.

Four emerging unions recently won seats on the fund's board.

This is the first time mainly black unions have won a direct say in how a fund this size is to be run and also the first time unions have been allowed a say in a key official body in the metal industries whether or not they are members of the metal industrial council.

Which unions would sit on the board was determined by a test in which all were asked to submit audited certificates of their membership in the job grades covered by the fund. The 10 unions with the biggest number of members covered then qualified for a seat.

According to sources on the fund's board, BAWU initially won a seat because it had the 10th biggest membership of unions who submitted certificates.

But two other unions, the Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers' Union and the Engineering and Allied Workers' Union, submitted late certificates.

Because both had more members in the fund than BAWU, they were awarded seats and BAWU dropped out.

Yesterday, however, a Bawu spokesman, MR B P Kumalo, said the union had no knowledge of having been removed from the board.

"Nobody has told us about this and we regard ourselves as members. Any attempt to remove us would be unconstitutional," he said.

BAWU intended to attend tomorrow's meeting of the fund's board.

"We will take our seats and anybody who does not want us there will have to remove us," he said.

Call for a 'university' for retired

(300 words 6/10/83)

Education after retirement is important for the positive self-image of the elderly.

This was agreed by delegates to the Network series of workshops on the problems of the retired, sponsored by The Star and by the Syncom think tank group headed by Mr Andre Spier.

The third day of the series concentrated on skills, interests and health care.

In the discussions, experts from all fields said retirement should be seen as another part of human development.

More facilities should be made available to retired people.

These should include a "university of the third age" which would enable elderly people to learn at a level above the elementary and below the academic.

Overseas, hundreds of thousands of the elderly were going to university for the first time at these third-age institutions, delegates were told.

Retired people should be helped, preferably by people of their own peer group, to develop skills and interests which kept them active and happy.

Throughout the workshops delegates returned to the basic theme — and the main concern of those involved with the elderly — housing and liveable pensions.

Mrs Muriel Preller, of the South African Housewives' League, cited the case of an Orange Free State coal mine manager who had lived in a company house and had had many free benefits.

"He retired and came to Johannesburg with what he thought was a reasonable pension — and expected to rent a superior flat for R350 a month.

"Of course he hit reality when he looked around, and has now had to settle for a significant drop in his living standards.

"But he is like so many people in this country who have had company houses either free or on a very low rental basis.

"They are placed in a dreadful position when they retire.

"These companies virtually lock-in their employees with tax-free benefits, and retirement becomes the time of reckoning," Mrs Preller said.

Prepare yourself for the days of the R3 newspaper

By Duncan Collings

By the year 2000 a loaf of bread will cost about R5, a newspaper R3, a medium-size car R100 000 and a four-bedroom house R1 million.

Chilling statistics?

Not really. They are based on the reality of inflation as we know it today and must be offset against the fact that it is estimated that a R2 000-a-month salary today will have grown to R16 000 in 15 years.

But the future shock of inflation has severe implications if one retires today on a fixed income based on today's costs.

It is for this reason that more and more people have considered it desirable — if not essential — to purchase life insurance to bolster their company pension scheme.

Some people who are retiring now, the lucky ones who had the foresight to provide additional funds for their retirement years, are drawing seemingly massive sums of money as their retirement annuities mature. By law two-thirds of the sum drawn must be reinvested to provide a pension.

But unless these seemingly enormous sums — probably more than a person has ever held in his life before — are nurtured and invested well, they will soon be eroded by inflation and one's retirement years could turn into a nightmare of an ever-decreasing standard of living.

The most common method of providing additional funds for retirement is to buy a retirement annuity of which, when it matures, a minimum of two-thirds is re-invested in an immediate annuity.

But what many people, indeed most, do not realise is that they need not buy an immediate annuity (pension) from the same company which holds the retirement annuity.

It would be most unwise to accept automatically the pension offered by one's existing insurance company. Shop around and look for the best rates.

At any time insurers are quoting different investment rates on immediate annuities and the difference on the amount of money one has in hand can make a difference of several hundred rand a month on one's pension — and that is for the balance of one's life. A mistake at the beginning can cost tens of thousands of rands over one's retirement years, and more important, could result in untold trauma as the cost of living outstrips income.

So great is the importance of choosing the right insurance company for an immediate annuity that two services were launched recently in South Africa to advise on this important decision.

They operate in a similar fashion, and can roughly be described as a pension rates exchange where the entire range of rates offered by insurance companies can be bought for a nominal fee.

One such exchange is called Immediate Annuities Advisory Service. The other operating in the local market is called Computerised Pensions Bureau.

Mr Frank Gardiner of Immediate Annuities Advisory Service says that rates quoted by insurance houses for immediate annuities can vary widely, sometimes resulting in substantial loss of income to pensioners who didn't happen to buy pensions at the best rate.

CAN GO ANYWHERE

"Knowledge of where the best rate is to be found can result in a substantially enhanced income for the pensioner," he says.

He says pensioners do not always get the best deal from insurance companies when the time comes to retire.

"People do not appreciate that they have the option to put their money on the open market."

Mr Walter Pope of Computerised Pensions Bureau says his company aims to provide immediate up-to-date data on pensions from all insurance companies.

"A difference of one quarter of one percent in the underlying interest rate quoted by insurance companies can make a considerable difference."

Anyone retiring or close to retirement would be well advised to consult one of these advisory services to ensure that they receive independent, unbiased advice on the best pension for them.

Shock for pensioners

Sowetan 17/10/83

By ALINAH DUBE 300

PENSIONERS who are employed on a part-time basis and who earn more than R480 per year cash have their pension earnings withdrawn by the Department of Co-operation and Development.

This means that any pensioner who earns a meagre R40 a month to augment his other monthly income could be disqualified from receiving pension benefits by the Government.

In an interview with **The SOWETAN**, a PRO for the department, Mr Johan Oosthuizen, said pensioners were only allowed to take up jobs which paid up to R252 per annum. Such people, he said, were entitled to full pension pay. Those whose salaries ranged from R253 to R480 per annum were only given a fraction of their monthly pay.

DOMESTIC

Mrs Elizabeth Mokoni (67), a part-time domestic servant in Villeria, Pretoria, was recently threatened with the withdrawal of her pension earnings if she went on with her part-time job. Her part-time earnings amount to R250 per annum.

Mrs Mokoni originates from the Potgietersrus area and has to keep her present job in a bid to augment the R57 she gets once every two months from the department. "With the cost of living so high, I find it very hard to live on the meagre income I have to spend two months waiting for. My heart bleeds every time I get threats from the authorities that I may end up being disqualified from receiving my pension if I keep on working," said Mrs Mokoni.

Compared to the R57 she receives every second month, her white counterpart receives R152 monthly. She said it was very inconsiderate of the Government to think that pensioners who earned R40 a month would cope with the ever rising cost of living. "It is even more embarrassing because the money we get from the department was deducted from our salaries long time ago," she said.

Mr Oosthuizen said Mrs Mokoni's pension earnings would in no way be withdrawn if she earned less than R480 per annum.

High living costs force old couple to live in garage

By Russell Gault

Mr Henry Willers is 77. A few weeks ago he and his 70-year-old wife went to live in a converted garage on a plot outside Vereeniging.

They could not afford to live in their house in town any longer.

Rates, water, electricity and maintenance bills were swamping them.

Their last rates and water bill was R127. Food takes at least R120 a month — "and believe me we eat simply", he said.

Due to the increase in state pensions at the start of this month, his pension is now R152 and his wife's R150. He has a R54 a month pension as a retired builder and his wife has R30 a month in alternative income.

A total of R386.

"We couldn't get any kind of pensioner accommodation in Vereeniging and flats are renting for between R300 and R350 a month," Mr Willers said.

24 HOURS
The team that wraps up the news

The couple now pay R120 a month for their new home.

"We are nowhere nearly as badly off as many pensioners who are fighting just to eat. The State has abandoned the old. You work a lifetime for a country so it should help you at the end of your life.

"Instead we are pushed aside, ignored."

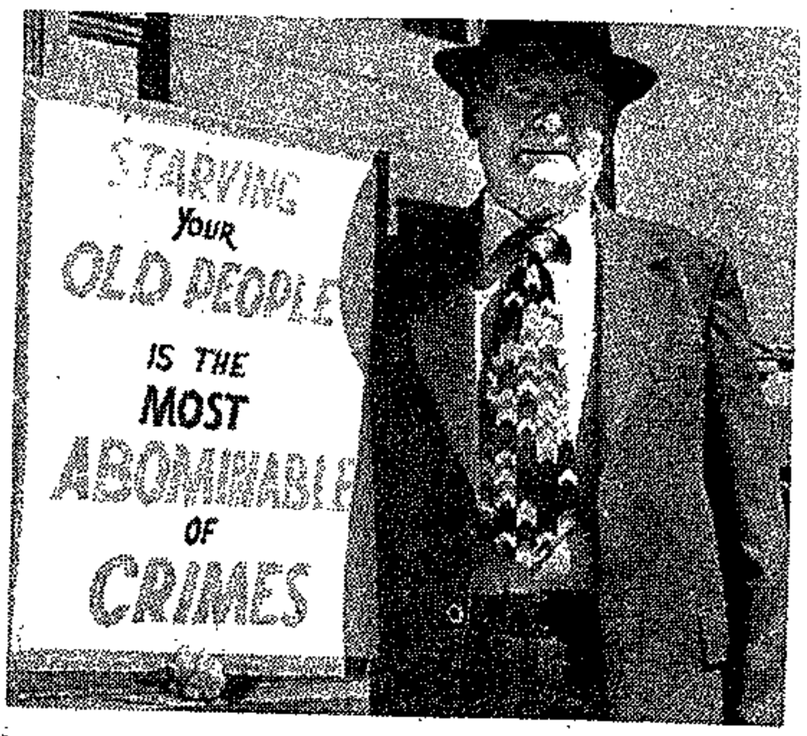
Mr Willers believes the State should start a pension fund with deductions from all wages with contributions and payouts increasing with inflation.

Now he has taken to the streets with his placard to make people aware of the plight of the elderly on small and fixed incomes.

"In Vereeniging, Checkers and Pick 'n Pay offer specials and even discounts to pensioners on their purchases — those firms shame the Government.

"It's not their job to look after us.

"Tell me, are we really a Christian nation? Do we really care about people?," he asked.



Mr Henry Willers of Vereeniging . . . telling the public old people are battling to make ends meet.

'Human problem' of poor and elderly facing Wrab

By LIN MENGE

ALTHOUGH a Cabinet committee decided way back in March (see cut-out) that "new applications for the 30-year home ownership scheme should no longer be considered", Wrab is still selling a few single and semi-detached houses every week under home ownership.

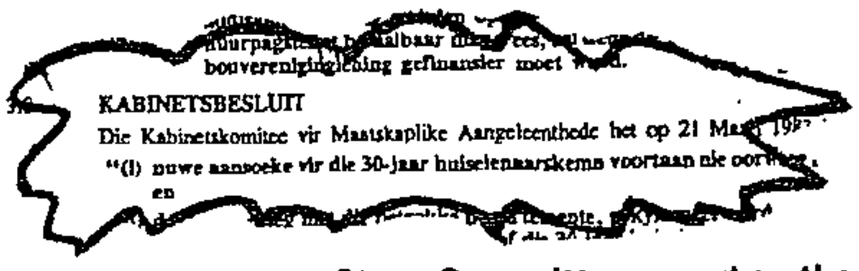
Since July 1, when the 99-year-leasehold Big Sale started, Wrab has sold some 255 properties under home ownership. In most cases these were to tenants of semi-detacheds, who could not immediately buy under the discount, but they are able to do so now. So why are home ownership sales of singles and semis still going on?

Is Wrab being difficult? No, they say, it is a human problem. They are faced with the poor and the elderly who can't afford the cash to buy under the Big Sale discount, who are simply not interested in 99-year-leasehold, but who are fearful of losing their homes if they don't buy, so they get a loan to buy under home ownership.

But won't this block the sale of houses to people who can afford to buy for cash? If the old people cannot afford the discount prices, and cannot afford the rent increases ahead if they continue to rent, shouldn't they be given other accommodation?

Yes. But that is the problem. There isn't any.

That is where the Big Sale sticks fast in Soweto: with numbers of elderly tenants who Don't Want to Know and have Nowhere Else To Go.



KABINETSBESLUIT

Die Kabinetskomitee vir Maatskaplike Aangeleenthede het op 21 Maart 19[illegible]

"(i) nuwe aansoeke vir die 30-jaar huiseienaarskema voortaan nie oorweeg nie, en

An extract from the Steyn Committee report on the Cabinet committee decision on home ownership. It didn't take into account the dilemma of the old.

SOWETO SALES PROPERTY GUIDE

Lucky Soweto buyer

Homefront Reporter

HOME FRONT

THERE is always something new out of Soweto, and this time it is the first re-sale of a house bought in the Big Sale. So what happened? It was sold at a loss.

The house was bought from Wrab in September for R1 596. It was re-sold, privately, this week for R1 500.

Silly? No. There are more important things in life than money, to some people anyway. In this case the person who bought the house had decided to return to the homelands, so he sold the house to a relative. He was not interested in making a profit on the deal.

The buyer is twice lucky: he not only acquired a house, but he got it at the Big Sale discount price.

The number of houses bought in the week October 12 to 18 in Soweto in the Big Sale was 29, bringing the total since July 1 to 324.

Highest prices fetched went for houses on larger than average stands: Three-roomed houses in Orlando West ranged from R2 447 to R2 503. Four-rooms in Moroka went for R1 596 to R1 767, in Mofolo South (R1 563), in Kagiso (R1 530) and in Diepkloof (R1 439 to R1 515).

Semi-detacheds in Zola fetched R1 244 to R1 315.

Council helps staff housing

By JEANETTE MINNIE
Municipal Correspondent

TWELVE black Johannesburg city council employees yesterday became the first recipients of the council's new housing gratuity fund.

The gratuity fund is being made available to employees of long standing service who do not belong to the council's Pension Fund.

Employees qualify for the housing gratuity if they have completed either 10 years of unbroken service or if they have 15 years of actual service, even if the service was broken. The gratuity is paid out when the employee reaches the age of 60, or becomes medically unfit for work, or becomes redundant because of re-organisation. If the employee should die after having qualified for the gratuity, it is paid out to a specified member of the family.

But because employees also need to secure their future before they retire, the council is willing to pay out up to 50% of the gratuity to qualified employees on the condition that the money is used for housing purposes.

Yesterday the mayor of Johannesburg, Mr Alan Gadd, who handed the first gratuity payments to the 12 employees, said the council initiated the scheme to assist its black staff to buy, build or improve their own homes.

The gratuity scheme was drawn up by the council's Staff Board under the direction of its chairman, Mr Japie de Villiers.

Eight of the employees yesterday received gratuity cheques which cover the full purchase price of their homes from WRAB.

Three employees received cheques as advances to build houses on stands which they own in the homelands.

Another employee received a gratuity cheque to purchase his home in Soweto and a further amount to improve his home.

Business Day

Pension funds lose out to the regulations

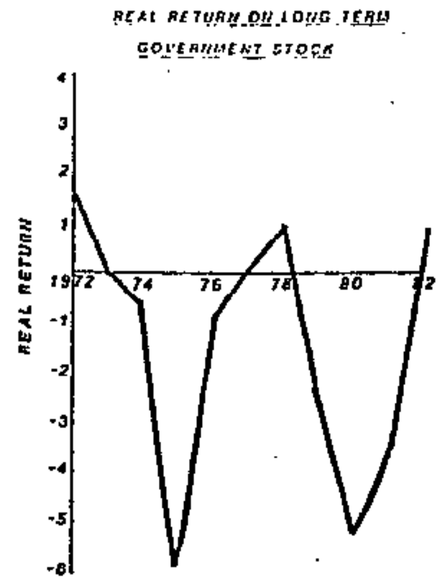
By BEN TEMKIN

IN the last 25 years, the number of pension funds in South Africa has quadrupled from 3 771 to 10 819, and the number of members has increased more than fivefold from 675 404 to 3 849 564. The number of people receiving benefits from pension funds is more than 10 times what it was 25 years ago.

This picture of dramatic growth in the funding of retirement by the private sector was painted for the Insurance Institute of South Africa by Mr Arnold Basserabie, managing director of Federated Life Assurance Company.

The growth in retirement funding through pension funds has been encouraged by the Government in three important ways:

- Members of pension funds may claim tax relief on their contributions to the fund.
- Employers may claim tax relief on their contributions.
- A registered pension fund does not pay tax on its investment income, whether this is in dividend or interest income or capital growth.



Although these concessons encourage the establishment of pension funds, there is an element of paradox in the approach of the authorities to the investments of these funds — especially in a time of high inflation.

The paradox arises for two reasons:

- There is a statutory requirement that pension funds invest 53% of their assets in fixed-interest Government and semi-Goverment stocks. This means that although these investments earn fixed rates of return and cannot, except by astute timing of sales and purchases, counter inflation, they constitute the larger portion of pension-fund assets.
- The Government and other authorities issuing these prescribed stocks benefit in general from lower rates of interest than those which would possibly prevail were there a free market in such securities.

The accompanying graph shows how interest rates on Government stock compare with the rate of inflation over the past 10 years.

Mr Basserabie says: "Although the real rate of return has generally been negative, Government and semi-Government stocks have become more actively traded in recent years and, by active management of investments in these securities, it has been possible for life insurers to improve the basic returns offered by these investments."

In spite of the opportunities for capital gains on fixed-interest stocks by careful timing of purchases and sales, Mr Basserabie argues that there is a strong case for index-linked securities.

"Since pension funds are obliged by law to invest a fixed percentage of their assets in prescribed securities, it would be appropriate for the Government to issue index-linked investments to pension funds."

Post office homes for retired workers

Finance Reporter

THE Department of Posts and Telecommunications is to start building retirement complexes for Post Office pensioners.

Postmaster General, Mr Henry Bester, announced yesterday that legislation enabling this is expected to be submitted to Parliament next year.

He was speaking in George where he addressed a gathering of post office pensioners living in the southern Cape area.

Facilities

The first of the complexes is planned for Pretoria and a second one for Milnerton in the Cape, provided the necessary funds can be made available, Mr Bester said.

Mr Bester also revealed that the post office was investigating the possibility of paying civil pensions directly into Telebank, on request. This would give pensioners the benefit of easy withdrawals and tax-free interest on their current savings accounts.

Telebank facilities are currently available at 148 Post Offices and are planned for a further 300 Post Offices during 1984.

Mr Bester said this could relieve pensioners of the inconvenience of queuing for their monthly withdrawals at post offices, or of having to pay transfer fees or tax on the interest on their savings at other financial institutions.

After collaboration with post office pensioners clubs, the Department of Posts and Telecommunications has decided to issue an identification card, known as a Post Office Veteran's Card.

This will be free of charge and will allow pensioners to make a free telephone call from any official or public telephone in cases of emergency.

PO pension queues could soon be over

By Olga Horowitz

A new deal for Post Office pensioners, incorporating three major improvements, one of which will benefit all social pensioners, has been announced by the Postmaster-General, Mr Henry Bester.

The first improvement is legislation next year to enable the building of retirement complexes for Post Office pensioners — the first in Pretoria and a second at Milnerton in the Cape, provided funds can be made available.

The second improvement could vastly benefit all social pensioners. It is designed to do away with the tiring monthly queues at Post Offices on pension days by having all pensions (on individual request) paid directly into Telebank, the Post Office's automatic banking service.

The possibilities of doing this are now being investigated.

And the third advance is the issue of an identification card, known as a Post Office veterans card, free of charge to Post Office pensioners to allow them to make a free telephone call from any official or public telephone in cases of emergency or need.

Pensioners may apply for the card after April 1 next year.

"These are all meaningful plans and concessions which we welcome most sincerely," said Mr WJS Balsdon, chairman of the Johannesburg Association for the Aged.

"Our hope, of course, is that these innovative moves on the part of the Postmaster-General will be followed by similar measures of relief not only for pensioners in other branches of the public service, but for all social pensioners who have never worked for the Government.

"These are most positive moves."

BENEFIT

The payment of all civil pensions directly into Telebank will give pensioners the benefit of easy withdrawals and of tax-free interest (now at 6,5 percent) on their current Post Office savings accounts.

Telebank facilities are already available at 148 post offices and there are plans to extend them to a further 300 post offices during 1984.

● There are about 4 000 post office pensioners in South Africa.

Campus romance ended in tragedy

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The campus romance of two University of Cape Town students ended in tragedy when the car in which they were travelling overturned near Joubertina.

Miss Jane Margaret Place (20) of Oatlands Road, Grahamstown, a final-year BA student at UCT was killed in the accident on Monday afternoon — about three weeks before her 21st birthday.

Her boyfriend, Mr John White of Echo Road, Fish Hoek, who was severely shocked, was treated at Joubertina Hospital and discharged. He is a first-year geology student at UCT.

Miss Place was the daughter of Mr and Mrs J E Place of Grahamstown. She had asked Mr White to drive her home to visit her father who was ill.

John's mother, Mrs Nelly White, said: "Jane asked John to drive her home. She and my daughter, Loreth, were in the same class at UCT and were close friends.

"John telephoned from Joubertina and told me of the accident."

Mrs White described her son as a "very careful driver".

She said: "His father, Mr John White, died after an illness about three years ago."

PRODUCE MARKET

The Department of Agriculture reports the following prices in cents realised in bulk transactions for produce sold on the Johannesburg Produce Market yesterday.

Potatoes — (Pockets) N Tvl. Good demand. Class 1 large 600 to 700, medium 350 to 450, small 200 to 280. Class 2 large 550 to 650, medium 300 to 350, small 170 to 250.

Vegetables — Green Beans (pockets) 100 to 500, (cartons) 350 to 1 000. Beetroot (crates) 700 to 1 200, (pockets) 100 to 200. Cabbages (crates) 250 to 300, (bags) 60 to 200. Carrots (crates) 200 to 1 200, (pockets) 20 to 200. Cucumbers (pockets) 50 to 200, (cartons) 200 to 1 200. Cauliflower (crates) 350 to 1 200. Gem Squash (pockets) 250 to 500. Hubbard Squash (sugar bags) 700 to 1 200, (bags) 1 600 to 2 000. Lettuce Class 1, 1 400 to 1 800, Class 2, 1 000 to 1 200. Avocadoes (trays). Good demand, Class 1, 600 to 900, Class 2, 300 to 550. Grape Fruit. Poor demand (small pockets) 100 to 230, (cartons) 450. Cherries (trays) 400 to 2 000. Lemons (pockets). Poor demand, 200 to 350, (cartons) 200 to 400. Nartjies (double layers) 300 to 750. Oranges (pockets) 200 to 350. Papaws (boxes) 150 to 600. Pineapples. Queens (std boxes) 250 to 850. Peaches (trays) Class 1, 200 to 700, lowest class 80 to 200. Pears (cartons). Poor demand 1 800 to 2 000. Bananas (boxes) 1 125 to 1 130. Strawberries (punnets) 60 to 250, Muskmelons 300 to 1 000. Sweetmelons 400 to 550. Watermelons (each) 70 to 300.

The following is yesterday's report on meat sales held at the Johannesburg abattoir.

APPLIANCES
Excl GST

FULLY AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINE
R345

TUMBLE DRYER
5 kg R245

FRIDGES FROM
R199,00

Stockists of AEG, Miele, Speed Queen, Philips, Indesit, TEK, Stiebel Eltron,

Pensioners 'entitled to more'

BKGUS 11/11/83 300

Political Staff

HUNDREDS of retired people in the Cape Peninsula may not be getting old age pensions to which they are now entitled.

Mr Colin Eglin, Progressive Federal Party MP for Sea Point, said today that until the end of September many people did not qualify for an additional pension because their incomes exceeded old means-test levels.

These means-test levels had been raised from October 1, he said.

The old level for single whites was R1 392 a year, and has now been increased to R1 920.

The level for a married couple was R2 784 a year and is now R3 840.

The limit for assets has also been increased from R34 000 to R42 000.

Mr Eglin advised women over 60 and men over 65 who qualify to apply immediately to the Department of Social Welfare, 48 Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town, 8000.

He said pensioners could also get advice from an office he runs at 206 Medical Centre, Sea Point, where staff are available to deal with pension inquiries.

Mr Eglin will hold a number of a pension clinics. The first will be at the advice office at 10 am on Tuesday.

The means level for coloured people and Indians has been increased to R960 and the black level to R480. The levels for married couples are double these amounts.

Coloured people and Indians should inquire at the Department of Internal Affairs, and blacks at the Department of Co-operation and Development.

The maximum white old-age pension is now R152 a month, and the minimum is R76.

Coloured people's pensions vary between R93 and R55 and those for blacks between R57 and R38.

Safeguard that pension!

300

C. Herald 17/11/83

BY the year 2000 a loaf of bread will cost about R5, a newspaper R3, a medium-size car R100 000 and a four-bedroom house R1 million.

Chilling statistics?

Not really. They are based on the reality of inflation as we know it today and must be offset against the fact that it is estimated that a R2 000-a-month salary today will have grown to R16 000 in 15 years.

But the future shock of inflation has severe implications if one retires today on a fixed income based on today's costs.

It is for this reason that more and more people have considered it desirable — if not essential — to purchase life insurance to bolster their company pension scheme.

Some people who are retiring now, the lucky ones who had the foresight to provide additional funds for their retirement years, are drawing seemingly massive sums of money as their retirement annuities mature. By law two-thirds of the sum drawn must be reinvested to provide a pension.

But unless these seemingly enormous sums — probably more than a person has ever held in his life before — are nurtured and invested well, they will soon be eroded by inflation and one's retirement years could turn into a nightmare of an ever-decreasing standard of living.

ANNUITY

The most common method of providing additional funds for retirement is to buy a retirement annuity of which, when it matures, a minimum of two-thirds is re-invested in an immediate annuity.

But what many people, indeed most, do not realise is that they need not buy an immediate annuity (pension) from the same company which holds the retirement annuity.

It would be most unwise to accept automatically the pension offered by one's existing insurance company. Shop around and look for the best rates.

So great is the importance of choosing the right insurance company for an immediate annuity that two services were launched recently in South Africa to advise on this important decision.

They operate in a similar fashion, and can roughly be described as a pension rates exchange where the entire range of rates offered by insurance companies can be bought for a nominal fee.

One such exchange is called Immediate Annuities Advisory Service. The other operating in the local market is called Computerised Pensions Bureau.

ENHANCED

"Knowledge of where the best rate is to be found can result in a substantially enhanced income for the pensioner," says a spokesman for one of them.

He says pensioners do not always get the best deal from insurance companies when the time comes to retire.

Another says that people do not appreciate that they have the option to put their money on the open market.

Anyone retiring or close to retirement would be well advised to consult one of these advisory services to ensure that they receive independent, unbiased advice on the best pension for them.

Fund-raising for aged

300 Soweton 7/11/83

THE newly-formed Soweto Care for the Aged which aims at building a R2-million old-age-home in Jabulani is to hold a beauty contest at the DOCC Hall on Saturday at 8 pm.

The association's chairman, the Reverend T Mbabane, said the project was to be completed within a period of two years and in order to achieve this objective "we intend holding fund-raising events throughout Soweto."

The site for the building of the home has already been approved by the West Rand Administration Board and support from the community will be greatly appreciated. For further information please contact Mr Mbabane at telephone 930-4414 or 930-5415 Soweto.

A sued gay is noted

LES. — An aero-neer has sued the elligence Agency, the agency re-top-secret security because he was ho-

Green, 50, who has classified defence TRW Incorpora-rance, California, ars, said he had ealed his homo- while holding one iest security rat- by the US Govern-

sought reinstate-s security privi- challenged the on homosexuals earances.

contends he has ted to a "paper job.

cy has a policy omosexuals from curity clearances y could be secur-subjected to black-— Sapa-AP.

Elderly suffer because State pensions low

POOR food, dismal accommodation, loneliness, financial hardship and legal persecution are the devastating facts of life for many of South Africa's 350 000 elderly whites.

A Human Sciences Research Council study released in Pretoria yesterday disclosed the specific living conditions of 80 elderly whites, aged between 65 and 90. The results, said chief researcher, Mr Chris van der Burgh, were indicative of broad trends.

The study, he said, was requested by the Pretoria Coordinating Committee for the Care of the Aged, which indirectly advises the Department of Health and Welfare on the needs of the aged.

The HSRC report showed that the worst hit financially were single and widowed women and State pensioners. Furthermore, pensions for civil servants and war veterans were found to be inadequate for economic well-being

The effectiveness of the State pension programme was often weakened by unnecessarily stringent regulations

An elderly person's assets, or those of relatives, were in many cases unduly held against the pensioner These assets prevented the pensioner from getting subsidised housing and free medical care for which he or she qualified.

Those who were needy, but had modest savings, were penalised by having their pension allowances drastically cut or denied altogether.

The basic State pension payable to whites since October last year is R138 a month.

Half those interviwed were dissatisfied with their housing, and worried about being evicted. — Sapa.

'mess night' at the society shebeen!

— A total of 176 abweans were ar- "shebeen" in the hern Harare sub-lands at the week-e spokesman said

the owner of the e the shebeen was aid a fine of R109 member of the drinking party paid R10.90 admission of guilt fines.

Shebeens are usually associated with black communities in Zimbabwe, but in recent years many whites have taken to gathering at "mess" parties at homes where liquor is sold to guests, often members of informal drinking clubs. Police have recently cracked down on shebeens, angering many blacks who say they are often more convenient places of relaxation than licensed bars.

The spokesman said police confiscated large quantities of beer, spirits and soft drinks during the Highlands raid. — Sapa-Reuter.

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SAVE MORE this Christmas on

Jewellery

SHO
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available at CITY STORE, RANDBURG, BOKSBURG.

19.88 Dion's Low Price

9ct GOLD BABY

9ct GOLD SLEEPER EARRINGS

9ct GOL
PULL-TI
EARRIN

Ius!

300 Sow 22/11/83

A positive look at the aged's lives

By Olga Horowitz

The problems of looking after elderly people have a positive aspect: they must be educated and encouraged to help themselves.

That is the main message in a new booklet, "You and the Years Ahead", issued by the Retirement Association in Johannesburg.

The booklet says human rights apply not only to race and colour but also to age. High on the list should be the individual's right to earn his own living and remain independent as long as he can.

"In no other age group is there anything like the diversity in health, finance, status and activity levels. Instead of being categorised as an inevitable national liability, they should be recognised, and used, like other age groups, as a communal asset. Many of them will spend a third of their active lives beyond the age when they are officially classified as redundant."

On finance, it says: "Almost without exception, by 2000, the average pension will be totally inadequate to maintain a satisfactory way of life. To meet the need for additional income, there is a marked trend to revise existing retirement regulations.

"The prime need is to combat inflation: for people in the higher age groups who depend on fixed incomes without being in a position to supplement them, the eroding value of money takes away the incentive to save for the years ahead."

On the problem of housing, it says: "Only in cases of dire need should the individual consider moving to an institution: such accommodation should be designed and reserved for the frail aged who need help. It should not be occupied by individuals who are still healthy and able to fend for themselves. Ideally the individual should remain independent as long as is humanly possible."

It also comes out strongly against alcohol and smoking: "Any government which professes to be motivated by religious principles should not deviate from these principles because of pressure from vested interests.

"In this context, the duty of the State is to publicise the inevitable effects of alcohol and smoking on health, family life and society in general: at the same time the industries concerned and the media should be prohibited from deliberately misrepresenting the association of alcohol and smoking with manliness, health and sporting prowess.

Building linked with stormy past

Own Correspondent

PAARL — The restoration of one of the best known historical buildings here is under way. The building has links with a bizarre and stormy chapter in the history of the town.

The building, known as the Paarl Residential Building, is believed to have been the 19th century headquarters of a horse-drawn omnibus company that was launched to foment a boycott of the railway service between Paarl and Wellington in 1862.

The omnibus company was formed through the ef-

Argus 23/11/83

Nowhere to go for black aged

TODAY'S WOMAN

MARY ROBINSON

ACCOMMODATION in old age homes for blacks in Cape Town is minimal — there's one home in Nyanga for 24 old people and another in Zone 17 sharing 50 places with the disabled.

These serve 2 500 registered pensioners alone — excluding the many thousands of unregistered old people at Crossroads and elsewhere.

The situation doesn't improve outside Cape Town either — according to a report in the SA Medical Journal, there are 348 old age homes for whites in South Africa and a mere 13 for black people.

Ah, well, murmur some, it's traditional that extended black families care for their parents.

No longer, says social worker Christine Henda of the Cape Peninsula Welfare Organisation for the Aged (CPWOA).

"Such care is practically impossible today — both men and women must work to earn a living so there's no one at home and there's also a chronic lack of space.

"Even those who do keep their ageing parents and grandparents have houses that are already overcrowded. So hokkies are built outside or they've got to sleep in the bath on blankets."

And families aren't always benevolent. "Many old people are exploited by their children for their State pensions — a maximum of R107 every two months. There's a whole mesh of desperate needs — widespread poverty, high unemployment, no housing.

"The abuse of power of attorney is also terrible. Bedridden or senile old people have no protection against those with power of attorney grabbing the money at the pay point and rushing off."

IN response to an urgent need, the organistion called Khayalethu ('our home') for the Aged was formed in late 1980 to raise funds for a 125-bed home and service centre.

Land owned by the Administration Board has been set aside and application for a loan for the building has been made to the Department of Community Development.

A further R300 000 is needed to equip and furnish the home, and a concert with four adult choirs and a teenage harmonising choir will be held at the City Hall on Saturday to raise funds. The concert is at 6.45 pm for 7 pm. Unreserved seats are R2 each. All proceeds to Khayalethu for the Aged (Fund-raising No 08 800415 000 2). Inquiries Mrs Mama, telephone 67 7969.

More money for some pensioners

By Olga Horowitz

The means test for social pensioners and war veterans has been amended and pensioners are advised to go to relevant authorities to see if they qualify for more money.

The only people exempted from the means test are Anglo Boer War veterans and the few South Africans who have reached the age of 100.

The maximum pension payable is now R167 a month. The free-income limit has been doubled from R504 a year to R1 008.

Maximum income allowed is R1 920 a year (married R3 480) for the minimum penson of R91 a month, providing assets do not exceed R10 000.

Without monthly income and assets of R26 800 the maximum pension of R167 will be paid. Where there is no income and assets do not exceed R42 000, a modified pension of R91 a month will be paid.

Initial investment is taken into account but actual income gained (interest) is disregarded for means test purposes.

If the physical or mental condition of a pensioner is such that he requires regular attendance by another person, an allowance of R20 a month will be paid (supported by a medical certificate) in addition to the pension. An allowance is automatically paid to a pensioner on reaching the age of 85.

An additional R15 a month, known as a veterans' allowance, is payable to a war veteran.

The qualifying age for a pension for men and women is 60 years and earned income from 70 years for men and 65 years for women is disregarded for means test purposes. However, an income from monthly pensions is not disregarded and is calculated as regular income.

Applications for pensions may be lodged for whites and Chinese at the Department of Health and Welfare and with magistrates; for coloured people and Indians at the Department of Internal Affairs (coloured) and with magistrates; and for blacks at the Department of Co-Operation and Development and with magistrates.

Almost daily there are reports or letters in the media about the plight of pensioners, particularly social pensioners. The questions are repeatedly asked whether the Government is doing too little or whether people themselves do too little in preparing for their final years. Mr Brian Goodall, the Progressive Federal Party spokesman on pensions, has been having a hard look at the position and laid out the situation as he saw it in an interview with BRUCE CAMERON of our Political Staff.

Goodall: Pensions burdening taxpayers

About 10 percent of South Africa's Budget goes towards pensions, making the care of the aged the third biggest expense to taxpayers after defence and education.

And according to Mr Goodall the bill can be expected to grow rapidly over the next few years.

Over the past 10 years the cost of social pensions has leapt from R88 million to R1 123 million, while the taxpayers' share of pensions for civil pensions — for people who worked for State or quasi-Government organisations — has reached about R1 000 million.

The allocation for defence in the last Budget was R3 092 million.

Mr Goodall warns that unless immediate long-term steps are taken the position is likely to get out of hand, pushing up personal tax to exceedingly high levels.

Delays cost money

"For every year there is a delay in finding a proper solution it will cost the country at least an extra R450 million."

Mr Goodall said the main reason for the situation was an "old age boom".

At the beginning of the century the life expectancy of a person in a Western industrialised society was 42. It was now over 70. The trend of increasing life expectancy was also found among all race groups in South Africa.

Based on figures provided by the Human Sciences Research Council, Mr Goodall said SA could anticipate that the number of senior citizens would nearly double between 1980 and the end of the century and would nearly quadruple by the year 2020.

The problem was exacerbated in South Africa by declaring women as pensionable at 60 — five years before men — even though on average they outlived men by six to seven years.

The breakdown of the extended family as a result of growing urbanisation, particulary among blacks, was becoming a major factor in the increase in the cost of pensions.

More and more aged people, who previously formed an important function in looking after and educating children, were being left to fend for themselves.

In other words, said Mr Goodall, more people were relying on the State and fewer on themselves or their families to look after them in their final years.

Another problem unique to South Africa was the differentiation of pensions based on race.

"The cost of making pensions equal is substantial. I estimate it would cost about R340 million if former homelands are excluded and R600 million if included."

Mr Goodall warned that with the introduction of the new constitution the unequal pensions paid to different race groups would clearly be one of the major targets of Indian and coloured politicians.

"The big question is who is going to provide the money.

"The one inescapable fact is that fewer will be bearing the burden for more."

In the United States in 1950 the ratio of pensioners to workers was 12:1, but had now declined to 3:1.

Mr Goodall warned that in South Africa the situation could well become worse.

Current methods of dealing with the situation did not solve any problems.

At the end of 1980 there were 11 111 pension funds with more than five million members, of whom 300 000 were pensioners.

This meant that less than five million of the 11 million economically active people in South Africa were contributing to pension funds.

Civil pensioners had one of the best schemes in the world — only bettered by the pension scheme for South African Members of Parliament.

This in itself held dangers.

"One is reminded of the situation which arose in Los Angeles, where half of the property taxes were used to pay the pensions of retired municipal workers," said Mr Goodall.

Problems unsolved

Attempts by the Government to solve the problem had failed.

In 1964 a commission of inquiry was appointed and subsequently recommended the compulsory preservation of pension benefits.

In 1975 a departmental inquiry's recommendations for a national pension scheme and the compulsory transferability of pension rights were not implemented.

A few years ago legislation dealing with the transfer of pensions and the widening of the pension net led to industrial unrest among blacks and was scrapped.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
EXAMINATION ANSWER BOOK

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and

raised their prime overdraft rates to 19%, will nonetheless be pleased that they have been given a slightly larger gap in which to exercise discretion on loan pricing.

The new rates look like this:

☐ For money lending transactions:

Up to R2 000	26%
R2 000 to R5 000	24%
R5 000 to R100 000	22%

☐ For credit transactions:

Up to R10 000	26%
R10 000 to R100 000	24%

PENSION FUNDS
Soft pedalling

The authorities seem to have backed down from their original ruling that shortfalls in pension fund assets should be deemed a debt to be acknowledged by the employer.

Anxious to remove a major objection to the Preservation of Pension Interests Bill, the previous Registrar of Financial Institutions, Naas van Staden, issued circular PF58 last February. It was intended to bring tighter control over pension funds by defining certain matters such as financial soundness and the criteria for solvency (see FM June 17 1983).

Critics who believed Pretoria had gone overboard in its approach will be pleased with the backdown. They had pointed out that in terms of the 1956 Pension Funds Act, it was illegal for the employer's fund to lend money to the employer. So it was asked, rightly, how could the employer therefore be forced to acknowledge a debt?

Added to this, if a debt were to be acknowledged, then the fund would have to buy prescribed assets to the value of 53% of the debt to comply with section 19 of the act. In practice this would mean the fund selling sufficient of its discretionary assets to fund the purchase of further prescribed assets.

Nonsense

The nonsense of all this has finally been appreciated by the Registrar's office. At a meeting of the Actuarial Society of SA on November 2 1983, the State actuary, Willem Swanepoel, "explained" what the circular really meant.

For funds with assets of less than 95% of liabilities a scheme to return the fund to "solvency" had to be referred to him for approval. However, it is believed Swanepoel then inferred that the final part of circular PF58, concerning the debt position, should not be taken too seriously. It was only meant to show how undesirable an unfunded position was, but that a shortfall was not really a "loan" because the authorities had later ruled that such a debt would not have to appear on the asset side of the fund's balance sheet.

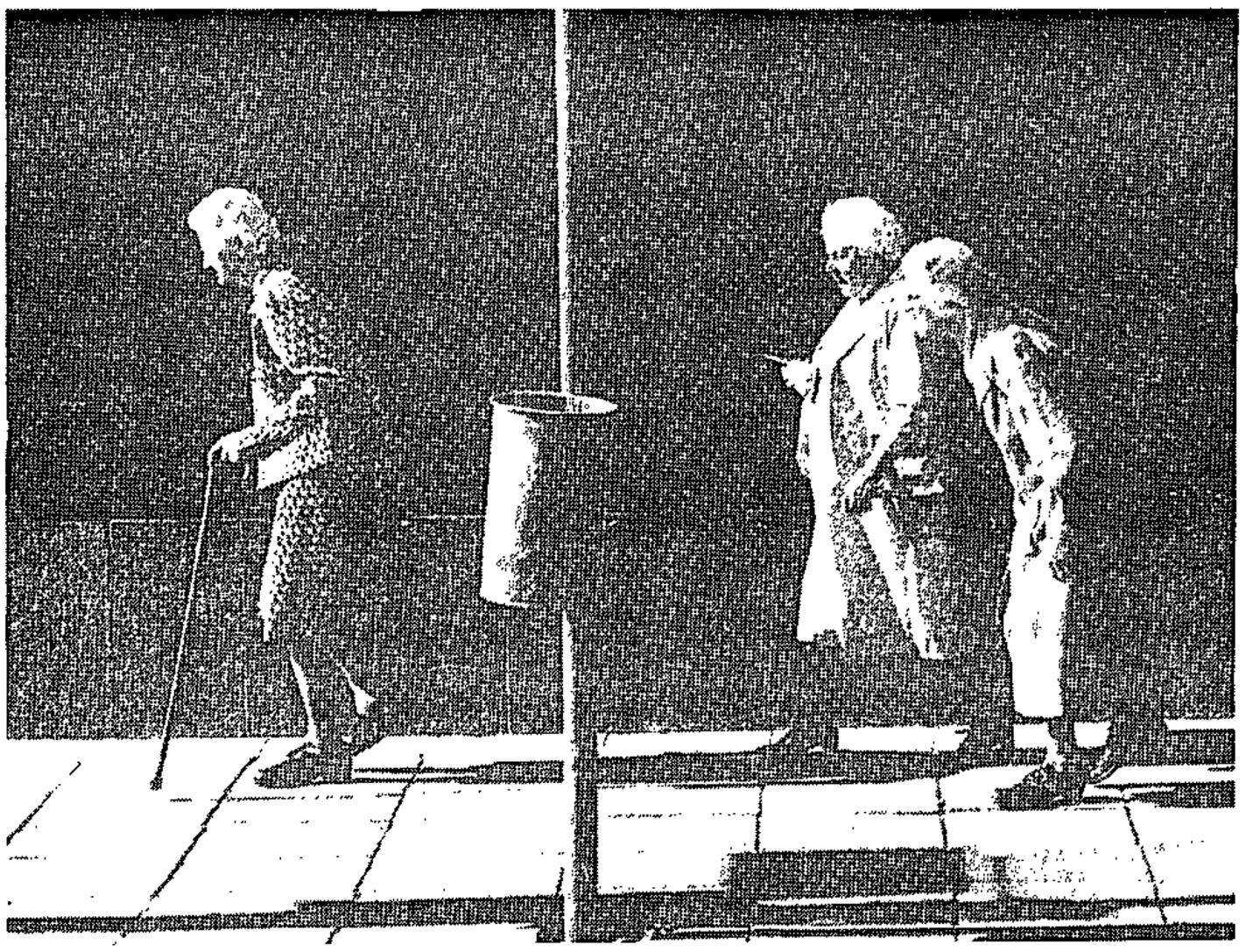
Unfortunately, Swanepoel was not prepared to talk to the *FM* to explain further. So companies must be left with the distinct impression that any shortfall must be treated "as if a loan," and that they must take steps to liquidate it over a reasonable time or face a winding-up order.

It is believed that in certain cases the Minister of Finance, Owen Horwood, has made use of a provision in the Pension Funds Act to give temporary exemption from compliance with the debt prohibition. One major insurer is aware of one case where the employer has been permitted a liability to his pension fund of up to a maximum of 5% of the fund's assets.

The PF58 ruling, of course, affects only those funds which must have a full actuarial valuation. In most cases, these are the "final average salary" types where pension benefits are based on the last two or three years' salary. These constitute a benefit promise, which must be proven to have sound financial backing by regular actuarial valuation.

One insurance actuary commented: "In spite of the harsh tone of PF58, it looks as though the authorities in practice are taking a more lenient view." He added that though there were a few funds that did have problems, schemes were being satisfactorily negotiated with the Registrar.

In practice it is believed that some 70% of the funds affected by the ruling are either already in a solvent position, or will be able to reach such a position fairly easily. Most of the other funds will be brought to heel in the next four or five years over the period before their valuation reports fall due. Only a few funds will have to be referred to the Registrar for a special long-term retrieval scheme which could take up to 10 years.



Pensioners . . . authorities back down

CONSUMER SPENDING
Farewell to luxury

The pattern of SA consumer spending has changed dramatically. From 1960 until the mid-Seventies, according to Senbank, rising standards of living produced an increasing trend in the proportion of total consumer

FREE FALL

Rates in the short-term money market went into a free fall on Wednesday as the gold price rose through the $400/oz level. The demand for all types of investment paper was heavy.

Early on Wednesday morning the key three month bankers' acceptance rate was fixed at 17,4%. By lunchtime it had dropped to 17,15%. There were similar types of movement in other liquid and non-liquid assets.

The shortage at the end of Tuesday's business was R791m. There were, by the following day, R1 billion of repurchase agreements in existence. Adding the two together, the speculation was that the month-end shortage could be in the region of R2,1 billion, since heavy tax payments by the mining houses were expected.

Overhanging the market, in addition, was the Sasol rights issue. Cheques for this have to be made out in the first week or so of December.

"But the month-end shortage and the Sasol issue pale beside the impact on sentiment of the gold price rise," said one dealer.

Pension-fund managers well tested

By Alec Hogg

THE third quarter of this year was a severe test on the expertise of institutional fund managers.

The latest Business Times quarterly survey of managed pension funds shows that in the three months to end-September returns achieved by individual funds ranged from 0,8% to nearly 7%.

Over the 12-month period ending on the same date, the lowest yield was 17% and the highest a sparkling 37%.

As pensions are essentially long-term investments, however, Business Times does not disclose these fluctuations, preferring to illustrate performance over the past three years and longer.

The table shows that the different returns achieved by the nine respondents are roughly similar over these periods.

A notable exception is Commercial Union, which has a significantly lower figure because the fund was started just three years ago, and its results still show the adverse effect of the yield in the first year when the asset portfolio was being built up through own resources.

Last year, for example, Commercial Union achieved a return of 23,1%, and it compares more favourably with the competition on a two-year view with a yield of 18,1%.

For the first time the survey shows the performances achieved by four assurers over a seven-year period. According to the independent actuaries who compile the survey, the longer the term used the greater is the value of a comparison.

Over this period, Legal & General Volkskas is comfortably ahead of the competition, while this institution is also at the top in every comparison longer than four years.

Even the institution which performed worst over the five-year comparison outpaced the growth in the inflation rate by nearly 10% a year.

This achievement cannot be over-emphasised, as one percentage point a year means a difference of 11% in the size of the fund at the end of a 20-year period.

Old Mutual, Sanlam and Southern Life have refused to participate in Business Times's quarterly survey for managed pension funds.

But another independent investment performance monitor compiled by AFC Benefit Consultants shows that in the five-and-a-half years to end-June the three large Cape mutuals fare badly in a comparison of nine life offices.

Federated and Liberty Life, which are rated first and second by AFC with returns of more than 26% a year over the period, are both more than five percentage points better than the best of the Cape mutuals, Southern Life, which recorded a return of 20,6%.

According to AFC Benefit Consultants' comparison, Sanlam's return over the same period was a less-than-impressive 20,5%, while the Old Mutual is at the bottom of the list at [illegible]

Pensioners unite for a better deal

By BRUCE HOPWOOD
Weekend Argus Reporter

"GRANDAD'S ARMY" is gathering force but their fight is a peaceful struggle to improve the pensioners' unhappy lot.

Just more than a year after being formed, the Association of Retired Persons and Pensioners (ARP & P) is in the position to negotiate shopping discounts and buying aids, plan housing estates, share skills in a self-help project and provide social outings for the lonely.

The force behind the association — which functions as a trade union, interest group and a social club — is Commandant H M "Mac" Joynt, 68, the former Officer Commanding Wynberg Commando.

Using the skills he developed during a recruitment drive in the 'Sixties to get men to join the commandos, Commandant Joynt began his latest campaign two years ago with R125 worth of stationary and stamps.

In his letters he explained his vision of uniting 1,5-million retired people and pensioners into a single organisation to fight for their rights and give them organised bargaining power.

The national membership is now more than 5 000 and since August last year the ARP & P has been registered as a non-profit company.

Self-help

"We want to help ourselves with our own expertise and skills," Commandant Joynt, national chairman, said this week. "At the moment the skills which the pensioner spent a lifetime learning are being put into cotton wool, waiting for the grave.

"We were the only unorganised body in South Africa and I don't think we were getting as good a deal as we should have been. All pensioners feel the pinch and they have to cut down on all the things they were used to in order to survive."

"Mac" Joynt

New members are asked what their pre-retirement occupations were and whether they are willing to perform services for other members at reduced charges. They are also asked what their most pressing problem is.

For a lot of people it is loneliness.

"Pensioners have the time to organise and if left inactive they will age much faster. We can still maintain some sort of productivity on a leisurely scale.

"It costs a lot of money to call in a plumber or an electrician and there is no reason why a pensioner can't call in a retired plumber for advice about a problem.

Intentions

"This could be done either in exchange for some other job or at a small fee."

Some of the major intentions in the pipeline include: discounts from leading supermarket chains, more housing estates, rail travel at 40 percent and television licences at R24 for all pensioners, and a rates and taxes freeze.

Early next year Commandant Joynt will meet the board of directors of a leading supermarket chain to ask for an annual R1-million sponsorship.

"It will be good publicity," says Commandant Joynt.

● Anyone interested in applying for membership should write to the ARP & P, PO Box 12075, Mill Street, Cape Town 8010.

Grandad's Army fighting for rights

3rd 28/11/83 Argus p/c

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...sked to comment ...allegations against ...registered opera-

MR H EHLERS, assistant manager for the ...stern Cape region, ...the AA employed ...se such operators ...he area. AA towing ...s applied only to ...akdowns. Accident ...vage was for the ...n's own account or ...of his insurance ...pany.

...A towing rates for ...akdowns are R15 ...ing business hours ...R20 for after ...rs. The cost per ki...tre is 70c. I do not ...ieve that any of our ...rators would ...rge R85 for a ...ightforward acci... towaway.'

...ATCHDOG advises: ...your car is not ...cking the traffic ...e is no hurry to en-

Left speechless by the sorry business of private pensions

CAPE TIMES 13/12/83 300

THE writer, like thousands of others, paid into a pension fund for a quarter of century and ended up on the breadline.

He asked the insurance company to explain why inflation had not been built into the pension and was given a one-sentence reply referring him back to his old employer and saying "no such clause" was in his contract.

'Furious'

"This letter is from a furious man. My pension started in 1946 when I returned to (my old firm) after two years' service with the SAAF in Tripolitania and Algeria.

I spoke to the Cape Town office (of the insurance company) but was told they did not handle pension queries. Said what nonsense you can contact Johannesburg and tell them my case.

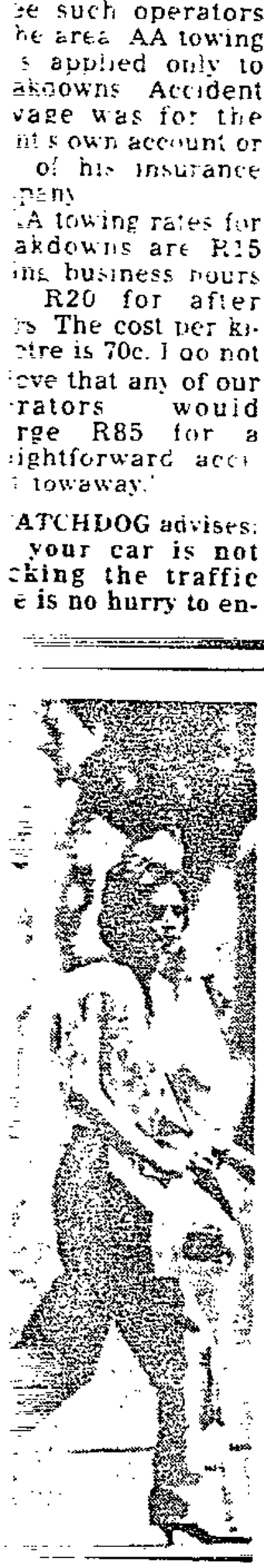
The lady I spoke to was obviously tied by red tape but she agreed to contact Johannesburg. She told them my pension (payments) commenced in 1946 and I retired in 1971.

The pension was, and still is, R170.83 a month. It should have been higher as even then escalation (inflation) had already started in a small way. Contributions by (my firm) and myself had been put into bricks and mortar or gilt-edged investments and even in 1971 were worth at least twice their original.

In other words, the percentage profit had increased considerably while mine stayed the same. (Taking inflation into account) I should be getting at least five times what I am

I know all pension schemes taken out before 1966 approximately with insurance companies did not have escalation (inflation) clauses. All companies are trying to get away with the same treatment, but to try and fob me off by saying no such clause was included in my contract when I know that full well makes me mad and speechless."

□ Sir, you are one of many in the same position. Private pensions are a national disgrace. What is desperately needed is some kind of national supervision of this lucrative market to sort out the whole sorry business.



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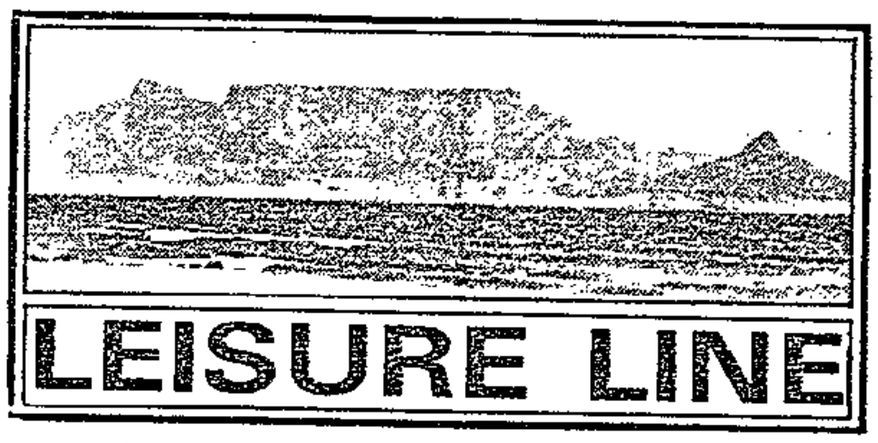
3/12/83 ...to ...ided'

'Ten Commandments' for novice mountain climbers

By GLEN GARVEN



LEISURE LINE

BEFORE we take a wander down to some of our other splendid beaches, let's look at them from the top — from the beautiful heights of Table Mountain.

As far as the Mountain Club of South Africa is concerned, there is only one safe way up — by cable-car. The death this weekend of a young Durban visitor highlighted the dangers. Table Mountain is not to be trifled with.

Our friends at the MCSA have made a list of 'don'ts — the novice's 10 Commandments — to help you get down safely if you attempt a mountain climb. And, the Search and Rescue Committee tells us, they are all-important.

Guide book

● Go with somebody who genuinely knows the way, or carry a guide book. Until you know your way around, keep to the straightforward routes on constructed paths. Follow the same route down, or one that you know well.

● Tell someone where you are going, and stick to that route.

● Never climb alone. Four is an ideal size for a party.

● Allow plenty of time to get up and down again in daylight.

● Every party should have a leader. The larger the group, the greater the need for one. Keep together and travel at the pace of the slowest. Do not split up and go off in different directions.

Strong boots

● Always carry warm and windproof clothing, even at this time of the year. A shirt and shorts alone is inadequate. The Cape weather can deteriorate very rapidly, and the temperature drops the higher you climb. Footgear is important. Strong boots or shoes, with non-slippery soles, should be worn. "Slip-slops" and high-heeled shoes are dangerous. Carry your extra clothing, food and flask in a rucksack which leaves your arms and hands free.

● If lost in mist or overtaken by darkness, seek shelter out of the wind and stay where you are.

● Should someone have an accident, keep calm and try to find out exactly the extent of their injuries. Do not rush off immediately to report an accident — some 15 minutes spent in making the injured person comfortable and observing their reactions is time well spent. Someone should always be left with an injured climber, and it is imperative that they remain until rescuers arrive.

Radio police

● Report accidents to SA Police Radio Control — **phone 10111** — from the nearest telephone. Remain available until questioned by the Mountain Club rescue leader. Be able to guide a party to the place, or to be able to describe the exact location of the accident.

● Do not forget that fires and camping stoves are prohibited in the Cape Peninsula, except in a few specially-designated spots.

Tomorrow we'll tell you a little more about the mountain that towers over Cape Town, and about the Mountain Club of South Africa.

What's on today:

MAGICIAN Desmond Teale works his magic, 10.30am in Muizenberg, on the lawns near the promenade.

Two magic shows at the Sea Point Pavilion's children's corner, the first by Cape Entertainers at 3.45pm, followed by Desmond Teale at 4.30pm.

Christmas pantomime, **Aladdin,** at 7.30pm and the play **There's a Freebee in My Fishbowl,** 11am and 2.30pm at the Baxter Theatre in Rosebank.

At Claremont's Cavendish Square shopping complex, we have Fun With Face Paints, 10am to noon, a Punch and Judy show at 3pm and Roger Moore as James Bond in "Octopussy" at 10am and 2pm.

There will be eight Walt Disney cartoons at the South African National Gallery in the Gardens, starting at 10.30am.

By 2000 few will survive on 300 Stew pensions

19|12|83

By Zenaide Vendeiro

Very few people will be able to survive solely on a pension by the year 2000, says the executive director of the Retirement Association, Mr Hugh Goyns.

"Almost without exception, the average pension will be totally inadequate to maintain a satisfactory way of life and will need to be supplemented from other sources of income.

"If this is the position in the developed nations, it follows that in countries where resources are already inadequate the situation will be catastrophic."

In an article on ageing trends in the association's quarterly publication, "South African Maturity", Mr Goyns analysed a report by the United Nation's World Assembly on Ageing.

Demographic forecasts contained in the assembly's preliminary report predict that by the year 2000 the over-60 population will grow by 40 to 60 percent and the proportion of the over-80s will increase by 100 percent or more.

"The situation will be that an increasing proportion of the population which is non-productive will be dependent for its support on a decreasing proportion of the population which is productive," said Mr Goyns.

"Consequently the tax burden on the working population will escalate, with the inevitable upsurge in resentment and intergenerational conflict allied to greater stress on existing pension, welfare and social structures."

Mr Goyns said existing retirement regulations would have to be revised to meet the need for additional income.

"The demand is to eliminate compulsory retirement and allow the individual to continue earning a living as long as he is capable of doing so," he said.

CAPE Times 20/12/83 300

Pity the pensioners who carry the insurance can

LAST week "Furious Pensioner" told WATCHDOG how he had paid into a pension fund for a quarter of a century and ended up with a monthly income barely sufficient to keep him off the breadline.

We pointed that he was not alone.

Private pension funds, largely backed by the insurance industry, have created a whole generation of new poor. What is needed is some kind of national supervision of this lucrative market to sort out the whole sorry business.

WATCHDOG reader Mr J Dyason sees inflation and government controls on pension fund investments as the real causes of poor pension performance, and thinks WATCHDOG is barking up the wrong tree.

"It is also apparent that you seem to be unaware that almost all the major insurance companies are mutual companies, which means they have no outside shareholders, and that all profits accrue to their own policyholders.

"Competition within the industry is extremely intense and more regulation would only serve to stifle initiative and increase costs with the additional burden of yet another bureaucratic albatross."

Mr Dyason also felt WATCHDOG was opposed to business and profit-making in general.

WATCHDOG says: With respect, Mr Dyason is barking up the wrong tree. It is overfed complacency we have been smelling out, not the lean, clean, competitive air of a real free enterprise system. To get a glimpse of bureaucracy par excellence, try filling out a claims form or ask a mutual fund how much of its premium rand is spent on adminstration.

Better still, ask a counter clerk for the latest update on your pension fund. Having obtained the information, try to understand it.

Concidentally answering Mr Dyason, Mr Brian MacLeod, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, gives the following example of how a private fund can make adequate provision for its pensioners, despite inflation.

"The Chambers of Commerce pension fund, which any member of a Chamber of Commerce can join, is self-underwritten so that every cent of profit made is retained and used to enhance pension benefits.

"The fund is able to make excellent profits because it does not have to provide such payments as commission, dividends to shareholders etc.

"Administrative costs are minimal and, coupled with efficient management of investments, the fund has been able to make substantial profits as revealed in actuarial valuations undertaken every three years.

Pensions paid to members, as well as pensions accruing, have been increased by as much as 45 percent over a single three-year period.

"In 1978, the fund decided to increase pensions, as well as accrued pensions, automatically each year by three percent. This figure has now been increased to six percent so that from January 1, 1983 all pensions paid as well as pensions accruing will automatically go up by six percent each year.

"A special bonus addition of 35 percent was paid to all pensioners, accrued benefits to members having been increased by a like amount. This special bonus addition is equivalent to a compound increase of 10,5 percent a year for the period.

"Taken with the three percent automatic increase the total rate of increase amounts to 13,5 percent a year compounded, which is close to the average rate of inflation for the three-year period in question.

"There will, of course, be a valuation covering the three years ended December 31, 1985, and no doubt it will be possible to declare a further bonus.

"Referring to the letter from 'Furious' published by you: had he been a member of the Chambers of Commerce pension fund, the pension of R170,83 per month in 1971 would today have increased to R554,71 per month. There are other pension funds which could no doubt equal these benefits."

WATCHDOG doubts that last statement about other funds, but is willing to be convinced. The following anguished cry is from a Rondebosch reader for whom a private pension fund has done very little:

"I can understand why your challenge continues to appear at the head of your column, apparently unanswered and certainly unaccepted by the insurance industry, just as I can understand and associate myself with the anguish of your correspondent whose 25 years of contributions won him a pension of R170,83 a month.

"Circumstances compelled me to terminate my Cape Chamber of Industries (pension fund) membership in 1971 after I had been paying contributions (as a self-employed person) for 22 years. I was informed that my premiums would be frozen and would earn me one of three options: a pension payable at 55, 60 or 65.

"I opted for 55. For 12 years now I have been drawing R115,67 a month.

"What really hurts is not so much the miserliness of the amount, but the miserliness of the underwriting insurance society which, when across-the-board pension increases have been announced for beneficiaries under the scheme, denied me these on the pretext that I was not a pensioner but the recipient of "a self-financed annuity".

"I am in no way cheered by the thought that other premium payers are being similarly deprived — and I am sure it is with deliberation — by insurance industry casuistry.

"Oh Ombudsman, when will the insurance industry take up the WATCHDOG challenge and allow the country's thousands of insurance victims to be heard?"

WATCHDOG says: When it gets the message that a satisfied consumer will buy more insurance, not less.

A rose by any other name...

AN insurance company executive "with 40 years experience" claims WATCHDOG is using the term "insurance" incorrectly when referring to the life industry which properly is concerned only with "assurance".

Apart from the fact that the quibble is in itself symptomatic of where the industry is — still in the dark ages of Victorian commerce — we believe one year's experience repeated 40 times doesn't necessarily lead to wisdom.

The Insurance Act, as amended, lumps it all together, as do both Witherby's and Davids' dictionaries of insurance — not forgetting our own Gordon and Getz (1983) on the South African law of insurance.

WATCHDOG doesn't run courses for insurance execs, but will be happy to supply photocopies on request.