

statement was issued by Mr. Louw, who was a member of the Nationalist Party, and he is quoted as saying:

Many farmers in this country are not fair to their farm labourers. Like some industrialists, they exploit their workers. Fortunately, they are in the minority.

Two days later some 500,000 workers, about half of them Afrikaners, in the commercial distributor trade were granted wage increases according to a wage board determination published in the *Government Gazette*. These increases came about after threats by branches of the National Union of Distributor Workers to strike unless the determination was released.

Under this new scale of wages, qualified shop assistants get 95 rand a month, compared with 82 under the 1968 determination, and 88 rand a month after an adjustment beginning in 1972. During the first year, a learner shop assistant will get 72 rand per month, compared with 48 in 1968, and 63 from January 1972. A female sales assistant in the first year will get 81 rand a month, compared with 48 in 1968, and 63 from the beginning of last year. Qualified sales assistants have been raised to 116 rand per month, compared with 82 and 96. Male sales assistants will start at 85 rand per month, and after qualifying will get 170 rand a month.

An interesting sidelight on the pay situation is the way other countries than South Africa have been taking advantage of the blacks by paying lower wages. The Cape Town *Argus* of Friday, May 11 said:

The National Union of Seamen (of Great Britain) has decided to press for equal pay for all merchant seamen on British ships. This would end the situation exposed last month by the case of the Zulu seamen where British seamen earn more than four times as much as their Asian and African counterparts in the same ship.

There are some shocking stories about some of our own good Canadian companies, such as Bata. We read in last night's Ottawa *Citizen* the low wages they are paying to their black workers. I may say, I visited this particular plant. Again, the blacks are so illiterate that, not being organized, they do not know the facts of life, so there is no discontent in this particular factory, but it would be a good place for any trade union organizer to go.

One of the positive signs of change in Africa is that many South African businessmen and industrial leaders are calling, not only for payment of higher wages to the Bantu, but also for a step-up in the training program so that the productivity of the Bantu workers can be increased.

South Africa is suffering from a very high degree of inflation, up to 16 per cent, it has been said in the first three months of 1973, and this is causing a great deal of concern. Business leaders, such as Mr. Jan de Necker, the outgoing president of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut, in an address to 600 of the country's leading Afrikaner-controlled businesses, said that the high rate of inflation was causing concern and it was vitally important that it be brought under control. He stated:

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In my opinion the solution to the present inflation problem is greater growth. Faster growth and greater

profits will in the present circumstances enable enterprises to absorb increased costs more easily.

He said he thought faster growth depended on increased productivity, and a closer study of South Africa's growing untrained labour force would indicate many labour situations where productivity could be improved.

Mr. de Necker emphasized the need for adequate training and said that responsibility for this fell squarely on every employer, but that it was also important to maintain salaries and wages at a level with productivity. Referring to labour unrest and increases in African wages, he said everyone wanted to see blacks enjoying a better living. It was important to understand that blacks were not yet entrepreneurs and employers and it was still the responsibility of the whites to ensure that the blacks had employment and a means of earning a living.

I might say here that if you take the case of a man working in the gold mines, he is getting about \$115 a month, plus room, food, medical care and so on. The room is not particularly good, because these will be married men with wives who live several hundred miles away. These men live 20 to a bunkhouse, just as the threshers did here years ago. Then they go home every three or four months to their three or four wives and 20 kids.

The foregoing discussion presents some of the problems that are exercising the minds of the leaders in both black and white Africa today. However, to get away from problems for a time, I would like to spend the next few minutes discussing some other aspects of the life in South Africa.

We spent some time at the South African Standards Bureau which is a magnificent complex engaged in most sophisticated and progressive programs aimed at promoting the standardization of equipment and materials. This Bureau of Standards maintains 54 laboratories with testing equipment to the value of three and a half million rand, which would be nearly \$5 million, staffed by over 600 scientists and technicians. The objects of the bureau are to promote standardization in industry and commerce; to prepare, frame, modify or amend specifications and codes of practice; to provide facilities for the testing and calibration of precision instruments, gauges and scientific apparatus; to provide facilities for the examination and testing of commodities and any material or substance from or with which they may be manufactured, produced, processed or treated; to control the use of standardization marks and distinctive marks; to encourage or undertake educational work in connection with standardization; to assist state departments, public bodies and local authorities in the preparation of any specifications or codes of practices; to co-operate with industry, state departments, local authorities or public bodies or any persons with a view to bringing about standardization in connection with commodities. This is a first-class establishment by any standard, and it is making a vital contribution to the high quality production in many lines of industry in South Africa.

The gold mining industry is one of the main props of the South African economy, and it is interesting to note that many Canadians are playing a leading role in it. Mr. J. F. Goode, a graduate of McGill, is the president of the South African Bureau of Mines. He is also the general manager