

Fort Hare,
Alice. C.P.
5th November 1952.

B2.86

My Dear Papa,

I have just returned from a lightning visit to Kimberley where Matji and I had to fix up a few things on behalf of the Provincial executive. I jumped at the opportunity as I wanted to see the folks at home whom I have not been able to visit since my marriage. Unfortunately I could not take Fikie along. I really was glad I went and all of them are in the pink of health. Ouma is almost her old self and she is walking about the location. I was positively amazed at her condition. After all she is just seventy four now which is getting on. She says when she first heard that I was arrested she thought more of Papa than in America than of me because she thought in America you did not realise the mood of the people. The manner in which people have fallen in with the spirit of the campaign is wonderful. After all ten years is no joke and it is saying something for relatives to almost regard the prospect with such equanimity.

I hope papa received the cable regarding the monies you have been sending to us here at home and also those sent to the A.N.C. We have received all monies and cables. I have also received the last cheque of four hundred dollars which papa sent home. I hope mama and papa are not denying themselves for our sakes here at home. I meant to ask what you were doing with the tremendous cost of living over there to send us these big instalments. Another such instalment and papa will only have the Fort Hare people to see to when you come back next year. I was thinking that with the position as it is I could from the money papa sends set aside some every month so that you will be able to have a lump to pay back this Fort Hare money. I have got twenty pounds set aside like that already..

Exams have begun and swotting goes on till the early hours of the morning. Maspie has just gone off to her chemistry prac this morning. I am praying that our ~~next~~ case does not clash with my Roman ~~text~~ papers next week. Rumour has it that the ~~case~~ starts on the ~~text~~ tenth. This would upset me completely. Anyway I would be able to sit in February. I understand that we can study in jail. I cannot ^{imagine} an atmosphere more suited to an academic career than that.

I hope mama is not unduly ~~sixty~~ disturbed by the Zwellshwa mess. The trouble poor Aunt Pearl had for only one pound a week is sufficient justification for anything that happened. She was persuaded against her will to house this man at this ridiculous fee. He was making demands for special types of food and then what with the ~~six~~ drinking and the worrying of these girls-- Enid and Co. the position became intolerable. Of course Aunt Pearl's manner of doing things was indiscreet to say the least. But to expect discretion in matters of this kind at so advanced a stage is a counsel of perfection. I do not think it is correct to say that there is some rift with the Xesi gang. That is a hasty presumption made by an Aunt Pearl who is a bit scared of ~~her~~ Omp Gqira. I would describe it as a spirit of uneasiness existing on both sides. The one group wondering how far Omp Joe went in his indiscretions and Aunt Pearl how far she herself went in hers.

Tumie has sent papa numerous cuttings which will give some idea of the progress of the campaign. Over seven thousand volunteers have gone into action since the beginning of the struggle. By the end of November the ten thousand will have been reached. I must tell you about the New Brighton Riots.

The information as far as we in the Congress have it is that an African got off the train before it stopped at New Brighton station. He was accosted by a policeman and a quarrel ensued. Two other Africans joined in the argument. After a few minutes argument a scuffle began during the course of which the policeman took out a revolver and shot this chap. The Africans who were standing around rushed into the location and told the people that an African had been shot at the station and the people rushed the place with stones. The police fired shots and killed six other Africans. The people then realising that it was no use getting shot here retired. Later during the day they started the anti whiteman cry set fire to the Rio cinema, the post office and various shops belonging to Jews in the location. Four Europeans were killed and two badly injured.

All the leaders of the A.N.C. were not at P.E. on that day and this is a pity because they might have been able to check this. But the Youth League fellows failed utterly to pacify, the mob. The following series of house to house campaigns got the people completely under control of the A.N.C. leadership. As papa can imagine this riot coupled with

the stories about the Mau Mau in Kenya was just the thing to send the European public into hysterics. The Nationalists with unusual alacrity sent minister Swart to confer with P.E. officials. Verwoerd also did his first ~~bad~~ job of investigating since he took over the portfolio of Native and rushed to P.E. Both of them arrived at the expected conclusion that this was something organised by the A.N.C. They created a war atmosphere with armed men all over and armoured cars patrolling etc. buses were not coming into New Brighton but were stopping on the edge ~~on~~ of the location. Armed police were in both trains and buses and they made it their duty to be unpleasant. We demanded the withdrawal of the ~~exp~~ police and that the buses should enter the location as the emergency was ~~was~~ non-existent. A boycott of the trains and buses was called to support the demand. After two days of total boycott the authorities called for talks and agreed to call off the police and the buses came into the location.. Meantime Nat ministers made the wildest speeches linking up the defiance campaign with this and refusing to appoint a judicial commission to enquire into the riots. We have challenged them to do so and of course they dare not as it will rob them of a useful propaganda. Others said the A.N.C. must call off the defiance campaign. Strydom says the Union government must take the same measures as are being taken in Kenya. He says the government has now lost patience with the defiance campaign. The P.E. city council fell into the trap. When Verwoerd was in P.E. he also blamed the so-called liberal policy of the council for producing this. He said if the council does not introduce passes etc . the government will have to do so. The City council met and they have decided to ask for a ban of A.N.C. meetings under the Riotous Assemblies Act and also have asked the minister to introduce a curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. We have called a strike in the Eastern Cape from the tenth November unless the Council withdraws these suggestions. The strike will be total. In the meantime we are continuing to send in batches of volunteers. The Congress cannot be intimidated in its campaign by guns and threats.. We will carry on until unjust laws specified in the Joint Planning Council are removed. The campaign is now truly Union-wide. Even the Transkei has now come within the framework of the struggle. I hope the government will be warned not to hope for miracles to smash the campaign. Nothing even armed force is now capable of crushing an organised movement such as the A.N.C. The only thing I am worried about is that groups outside the Congress might start this terrorist thing as a reaction to force and violence on the part of the government. I hope it will not happen but one never knows.. Fort Hare is normal now with the exams on . C.P.D. I gather is very cut-up by what happened as a result of his speech to the Bunga. I think he will be more ready to accept advice regarding political matters henceforth..

Well papa that is all for the present . I will write to mama sometime later in the week I am pressed for time just now. I had to renew the car insurance recently. Rayne had sent me a notice. It was £10. 14. 9. I have sent the subscription to the Race Relations people. Love from all the gang.

Your loving Son, Dave.

P.S. Papa must not get anywhere near those South Africans delegation fellows. They would ruin papa as far as our people are concerned. Finance for the campaign is an urgent necessity.