

Since the beginning of the civil disobedience campaign, membership in the African National Congress (ANC) has been increasing rapidly. In Cape Province, alone, there were 2500 members when I left last June and the last report I have received states that membership has risen to 50,000. In addition to listed members there is a large number of volunteers, persons who participate in the work but who do not pay dues. ANC has great difficulty collecting dues, particularly in rural areas. There the yearly fee is 2/6, in urban areas 6d per month. Actually, the volunteers who cannot afford dues are more sincere and loyal to the organization's objectives than many members who pay dues but don't participate.

Because volunteers face imprisonment, the local Committee examines each volunteer very carefully before he is allowed to participate - whether he is physically able to undergo prison conditions, whether his family are able to support themselves while he is in prison, whether he is honestly interested in the organization's objectives or whether he is attempting to use ANC as a means of escaping domestic or other trouble. ANC has high standards of conduct which members and volunteers must observe. If a volunteer passes the examination he is then put on a waiting list to be used when the occasion arises.

ANC's affairs in each ^{the area} ~~province~~ ^{branch} are handled by a 5 man Executive Committee. This Committee decides when volunteers will be used and in connection with what law. It is most remarkable how violence has been kept out of the campaign, and this is largely due to the fact that training is ~~drastic~~ ^{strict} but discipline is excellent. Since the campaign began in June 51, reports have been increasingly favorable. Of the 6000 persons arrested in the total campaign, 4000 were from the Cape Province. ^{the province} Cape has its work better organized than the other four provinces and has ~~been~~ ^{more} efficient leaders.

The question of membership in the Communist Party has arisen in ANC Executive Committee meetings. It was suggested that Communists be excluded, but some members disagreed on the ground that (1) ANC is a mass movement for all Africans regardless of political belief, and (2) the way in which Communism is defined by the government would mean that ANC was playing the government's game if Communists were refused membership. The law does not permit Communists to belong to organizations of any kind. However Communist influence in ANC throughout the entire Union is negligible. The Communist Party has not been successful because the people realize it is directed from outside the country, therefore they consider Communism to be just another form of imperialism. A split in the Party between Trotskyites and Stalinites has further reduced its effectiveness. Trotskyites have joined the All African Convention; whatever Communists are in ANC are Stalinites. Two members of the Executive Committee, both from Transvaal, were Communists. One is J.M. Marks. Under the law, the Minister of Justice is charged with the liquidation of Communists. His method is to draw up a list of suspected persons, then write to each one a letter charging him with Communist membership and notify him that the burden of proof rests with him. That is the entire process and the Minister is the last word. Unless a suspected person can prove to the Minister of Justice that he is innocent, he pays the penalty for Communist membership. When Marks received his letter from the Minister, he did not even take the trouble to answer it. The Justice Department then issued notice to him to resign from ANC and to remain within his home province and not to attend any meetings. The other Executive Committee member was Morris Katane, General Secretary of the Communist Party. He defied the government edict of 31 May 52, was arrested and sent to prison for 6 months. His arrest was not connected with the civil disobedience campaign.

Although Communist influence in ANC is not strong, the issue continues to crop up from time to time. One group of prominent members, of whom Thema, a journalist connected with the Bantu World is one, is dissatisfied because they feel that all "Communists" should be expelled from the organization irrespective of what the Government does. Another group who are neither Communists themselves nor have sympathy with their beliefs oppose expelling persons known to be "Communists" because they feel that is the government's job and see no reason why ANC should help out the government.

The All-African Convention was begun in 1935 to organize a protest against the government's law denying the vote to Africans in Cape Province. All organizations were invited to send representatives. They held a meeting and decided to hold such a convention every year. This group does not attract many people although it states that membership is open to all non-white groups including Indians. There is a sprinkling of African and Indian intellectuals but on the whole these two groups have kept away from AAC. AAC has made no progress because it has no plan for carrying out its announced objective of unity among non-whites and has done nothing to implement its platform of non-cooperation with the government and boycott of all government institutions. It has had more success in gaining members from among intellectuals and teachers than any other group and wields much influence in the Teachers League. As a result, the latter has split into two groups, the Colored Educational and Professional Association being the new, anti-AAC teachers group. Members of this Association are Colored, but not pure African. The Teachers League of S. A. is the oldest Colored Teachers Organization.

ANC and AAC have not much liking for each other. AAC talks a great deal but does nothing while ANC conducts an active campaign. AAC's publication, the Torch, a fortnightly, generally expounds the ^{views} of AAC. It shows an impressive list of member organizations but close examination of this list reveals these are but different branches of the same organization.

There are separate teachers associations for Colored and Africans - The Teachers League of South Africa for Colored and the African Teachers Association, actually four provincial organizations brought together into one federal council. The Teachers League of South Africa has tried to exert influence over the Cape African Teachers Association and tried to get the latter to join the All African Congress. This caused much trouble in CATA and resulted in the members in the northwestern district of Cape Province breaking away from CATA because they did not wish to join AAC. This northwestern wing of the CATA is regarded as a political and leftist professional association. The question of CATA affiliation with AAC comes up every year and each year some members or branches break away. Many are members of ANC. AAC has not succeeded in getting teachers in other provinces to join.

Among secondary students there is no opportunity for Communist influence because they have no political organizations or any organization which would be used for political purposes. Secondary students are not allowed to take part in politics. In the universities, Communist influence must be very little because the National Union of South African Students last year voted not to affiliate with the International Students Organization. Again, whatever Communist activity there is would be far underground since the government enforces its ban very strictly, and one would not lightly label an individual as Communist because he would then be open to a libel suit.

The South African Native College at Fort Hare is for non-whites. Students are Indian, Colored and African but the majority are African. Three of the white universities admit non-whites: Johannesburg has a mixed group; in the University of Capetwon the non-whites are mostly Colored; at Natal University non-whites are mostly Indian. In these three universities the students are treated exactly alike - there are social distinctions but as far as education and facilities are concerned, there is no difference.