

GREY STREET — NO CHANGE IN ZONING

Political Reporter *1/12/71*

THE MINISTER of Planning, Mr. J. J. Loots, last night made it clear that the Durban Grey Street area would not be proclaimed for residential purposes.

Addressing the annual banquet of the Natal Chamber of Industries in Durban, Mr. Loots reaffirmed that the Grey Street complex would be retained for the Indian community — but only for commercial and related purposes.

As this would not be done under Section 19 of the Group Areas Act, he intended amending the Act during the coming session of Parliament. Thereafter, the consequential proclamations would be issued.

ASSURANCES

Turning to the main theme of his address — planning — the Minister gave two assurances which he believed would give the private sector confidence that its interests would not be overlooked by the Government. These were:

● No Government can operate for long in isolation of the people for whose good it must strive and whose interests it must serve. In planning, the closest contact had to be maintained with the citizens who are affected and whose co-operation and consent must be obtained in the final analysis.

● He, the Minister, had no wish to do his job other than by the consent and co-operation of all concerned, although he wanted to bring the Central Government into the picture with regard to all aspects of planning by other government departments, provincial and local authorities.

Mr. Loots said that only with the involvement of a

practical and workable relationship between the three tiers of government in the field of physical planning could a sound basis be formed from which to proceed to the actual process of planning.

His department had already made detailed and specific recommendations which were being considered.

Praising the role which the Provincial Administrations and local authorities have played in town planning, the Minister added that any shortcomings were mainly due to the lack of properly set out relationships between these planning bodies and the Central Government.

FLOW

"By setting out a proper flow of planning activities and decisions from the highest Central Government, through the Provincial Authorities to municipal councils, it should be possible to remove most of the difficulties under which detailed town planning has had to be achieved in the past."

As an initial step in this direction, his department had already set up planning committees in respect of all major urban areas, and the new major growth point of Newcastle.

"By bringing together on these committees all interested bodies and especially government departments concerned with the provision of infra-structure services, it has been possible to guide plans indicating present and future lines of development as agreed by all concerned."

Get

"Mercury" Reporter

THE DURBAN City Council has been told bluntly to "put clean up the city abattoir behind its own house in order" and fore concentrating its efforts and criticism on the health conditions at the Indian market.

In a scathing attack on criticism of the alleged "unhygienic" conditions at the market by the City Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C. R. Mackenzie, yesterday, Mr. George Singh, a member of the executive of the Indian Market Stallholders' Association, referred to the fact that many overseas markets would not accept meat with the Durban stamp on it.

"They will not buy our meat because a couple of years ago this city abattoir of ours was roundly condemned by British medical inspectors.

PRIORITY

"Now we hear that conditions at the Indian Market are such that it poses a threat to the health of the community and people buying food there run the risk of being poisoned."

"In my opinion, this matter should receive greater priority by the health authorities and the City Council than the dislodging of 255 stallholders at the Indian market.

Get priorities in order council told

"The present market has been in existence for more than 60 years. There have never been complaints from the public in regard to unhygienic conditions.

"The stallholders are not to be blamed for the conditions about which the Medical Officer of Health is complaining.

The chairman of the Trading Undertakings Committee, which handles abattoir matters, Councillor P. E. Cryan, said that Durban was not alone in being unacceptable overseas as a meat killing source. "It applies in nearly every major centre of

the country and is the result of out-dated abattoirs," he said.

Mr. Ken Cusens, MPC, has also condemned the council for allowing the Indian Market to fall into "such a state of disrepair" as to make it an unhygienic place for the sale of food.

Commenting on Dr. Mackenzie's statement, Mr. Cusens (U.P. Durban North), said the Indian Market had been in existence for as long as he could remember, and contributed significantly to the tourist attractions of the city.

"It says much for the con-

duct of stallholders who, Dr. Mackenzie to affirm that no cases of food poisoning have been reported," he said.

It was obvious that once it was determined that extensions to the Western Free-way made the demolition of the market necessary, the council allowed the building to fall into a state of disrepair making it an unhygienic venue for the sale of food, he added.

Dr. Mackenzie yesterday confirmed his criticism of the market, but said, at the outset, "let me make it clear

I am not against the Indians themselves. I am against the market.

"As far back as 1966 the health conditions there were being criticised.

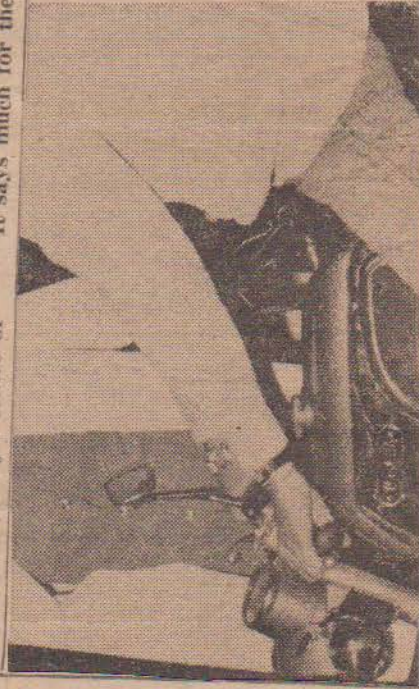
"The drainage is absolutely shocking, always blocked, cracked or overflowing, with a resultant malodorous smell.

"The place is not rodent proofed, this would not be a practical proposition.

"The grocery stores have no hand washing facilities, this applies only to food and fish counters.

"The conditions under which food is sold there do not conform to modern hygienic standards and we have had several prosecutions against offenders," he said.

'cop' to untangle traffic



20-10-71 D/N

JOINT MOVE OVER MARKET

Daily News Reporter

THE DURBAN Indian Market Stallholders' Association wants to join with the Durban City Council in making representations to the Minister of Planning, Mr J. J. Loots, about the building of a new Indian market in Victoria Street.

Recently the Department of Planning told the council that a new market was to be built in Victoria Street to replace the present market, which would make way for major road development, then the council had to build and retain ownership.

A consortium of Indian stallholders in the Victoria Street market were to have undertaken to build the market on the site of the old African beerhall.

The council wants a view with the Minister clarification on his dire-

22/11/71 D/N

Rents rise angers traders

Daily News Reporter

STALLHOLDERS at Durban's Indian market in Victoria Street are up in arms against the City Council's decision to increase rents for stalls from the beginning of this month.

According to the secretary of the Durban Indian Market Stallholders' Association, Mr R. J. Naran, the increases were more than 60 percent above previous rents.

A grocer, who previously paid a rent of R46, now paid a rent of R74. The rents of bread stalls have been increased from R25 to R40, poultry stalls from R53 to R83, butcher from R84 to R134, offal R40 to R64.

Half of the stallholders had their rents increased in August, while the others had

their rents increased from the beginning of this month.

In a memorandum to the Mayor of Durban, Mr Raoul Goldman, the association described the rents as being "exorbitant and excessive."

The memorandum said that even private landlords would be reluctant to impose such high increases on their tenants.

STARTLING

"The increases are startling and we are sure city councillors will be shocked. We appeal to the city fathers to consider the plight of the stallholders and reconsider the rentals."

The memorandum asked the Mayor to have the matter "urgently considered" by the City Council.

Mr Naran said today that the present rent increases were over and above the substantial increases imposed on the stallholders 18 months ago, and which were between 40 and 50 percent.

"These rents are excessive considering the Durban Corporation hardly provides any amenities at the market for the tenants."

"Some of the stallholders are being threatened with prosecution if they place a basket or two beyond the area allotted to them. Our association intends to make a test case if any of these people are prosecuted," he said.

Market rent rise attacked

23/11/71

Daily News Reporter

Dr M. B. Naidoo, a member of the executive of the South African Indian Council, today criticised the Durban City Council for substantially increasing rents of stallholders at the Durban Indian Market in Victoria Street.

The Durban Indian stallholders' Association, in a memorandum to the Mayor of Durban, Mr Raoul Goldman, claimed that the increases were more than 60 percent in many cases.

It also claimed that stallholders would now have to pay between 34 cents and 125 cents a 0,093sq m for the stalls as rents.

Mr Naidoo said: "There is no obvious reason for the abnormal rise in the rentals of the stalls. The staggering levies ranging from 34 cents and up to 125 cents for a 0,093sq m is grossly unjustifiable.

SINISTER MOTIVES

"Where in South Africa in the most developed White sector does one find rentals comparable to the ones exacted by the Durban City Council from an establishment so sadly lacking in amenities and hygienic conditions?" he asked.

"In the absence of improvements to the market, the high rentals are incomprehensible unless sinister motives to uproot the traders from the present market are the objectives. One does not rule out this possibility although there are many city councillors whose concern for the underprivileged Indians deserves the warmest appreciation," Mr Naidoo said.

MARKET PLAN IS OPPOSED

Municipal Reporter

MORE than 200 stallholders of Durban's famous Indian Market have declared their total opposition to the plan drawn up by senior Council officials to move the market to Chatsworth.

The stallholders' point of view has been expressed by Mr. George Singh, who is honorary legal advisor and spokesman for the Durban Indian Market Stallholders' Association.

Mr. Singh said yesterday a memorandum would be submitted to the joint meeting of the Council's Finance, Planning and Trading Undertakings Committee to be held on Friday.

"We are totally opposed to the officials' plan to move the market to Chatsworth.

"The officials seem to have overlooked the fact that the Indian Market could not exist

without the trade generated on the periphery of the central business district.

"If the Indian Market is moved it will not only be the 200-odd stallholders, their employees and families who will suffer, but the entire population of the city and the thousands of tourists who visit the market."

Mr. Singh pointed out that the Indian Market was the hub of the whole Grey Street shopping complex and that its removal would have a serious effect on business in the area.

"We take a very dim view of the Council's present plans."

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Heavy rain hits Durban

3-12-71 D/V

Daily News Reporter

THE WIDESPREAD rain which has fallen over Natal in the past three days hit Durban and surroundings with a vengeance last night cutting off some arterial roads to the city and disrupting telephone communications and power supplies.

At the same time a fault in the 400 000 volt power line between North Eastern Transvaal and Natal caused a power failure in most parts of the province, including areas of central and suburban Durban. The failure, at about 5 p.m. affected traffic lights and caused congestion in many parts of the city, ended when power was restored about 15 minutes later at 5.15 p.m.

Homeward-bound residents of Reservoir Hills were stranded when the New Germany Road was flooded by the rising waters and according to eyewitnesses, more than 50 vehicles were stuck on the road at one time as their owners struggled to get through.

STALLS DAMAGED

The rains also caused damage at several hundred rands to about a dozen stallholders, mostly grocers, at the Durban Indian Market.

The stallholders put up drums yesterday where the water leaked above their stalls. But last night the water overflowed into the stalls, and flooded the passages. Many of the stallholders were shocked to see beans, rice and other goods flowing out into the street with the water.

Officials of the Durban City Engineer's Department also barricaded the Umhlatuzana Road out of Durban, when the road became unsafe during the downpour.

Telephone services were disrupted in several areas, the worst hit being Westville and Stamford Hill, where about 1300 subscribers were affected. A post office spokesman said today that most of the services had been restored and engineers would be working through the

are enjoying the first dry day this week.

Rainfall figures and temperatures for Natal for the past 24 hours ending 8 a.m. today: re:

Durban, 24,2mm, 24deg C;
Estcourt, 16,4mm, 14deg C;
Underberg 22,5mm 10deg C;
Cedara .33,5mm, 14deg C and
Newcastle 41,6mm, 13deg C.

However, gloomy prospects of a wet weekend have been dispelled by the weatherman. A spokesman for the meteorological station at Louis Botha Airport said today that the forecast tomorrow was "cloudy to partly cloudy, with moderate easterly winds — and no rain."