

Oct. 22, 1953

M.R.A. AND THE MINE WORKERS

JOHANNESBURG.

"I say without fear of contradiction that moral rearmament has done for my union what no other force could ever have achieved," said Mr. E. R. van Rensburg, general secretary of the Mine Workers' Union of South Africa, addressing the World Assembly of Moral Rearmament at Caux, Switzerland.

"Leaders of my union were the first to apply the principles of M.R.A. in negotiations with the management. It has brought a complete change for the better; it has brought unity in our ranks . . ."

But while Mr. van Rensburg was using these glowing phrases the executive committee of the Mine Workers' Union was being severely criticised for appointing Mr. D. E. Ellis as acting general secretary of the union.

A well-attended meeting of the Far East Rand District Committee of the Mine Workers' Union held last week unanimously demanded Mr. Ellis's dismissal and the resignation of all executive members who voted for his appointment.

Mr. Ellis resigned as general secretary of the Mine Workers' Union when he was found guilty by the Regional Court in Johannesburg in April of accepting a bribe or inducement from Mr. F. J. Kritzinger to buy Trans-Africa House for a certain figure. A sentence of 18 months imprisonment was imposed, but an appeal is pending.