

THE BLACK SASH.

DIE SWART SERP.

To all Regions:

Estella House,
47a Main Road,
Claremont,
CAPE TOWN.

CIRCULAR 20.

20th August, 1959.

In consequence of Cape Western's work in regard to Pass Laws and the Sash's participation in C.A.T.A.P.A.W. the C. E. asks Regions to enquire as to what provision is made for women who are sent from the CAPE area (endorsed out) to the country or reserves.

Cape Western wrote to the Cape Town City Council asking them whether they know where women go when they leave the Cape area. The reply was that they did not know, and that it is not their business. The C. E. will ask C. Western to furnish the names and such other particulars as are available, of some women who are endorsed out of the Western Province to the Sash Region nearest to the area to which it is understood they are being sent, and we shall be grateful if Regions and Branches will endeavour to find out whether housing, employment, schooling and other facilities are available to them.

It is noted that some National Councillors are not receiving the C. E. Minutes etc., The C. E. would like to send them direct to National Councillors unless a Region asks us specifically not to do so. Please let us know your wishes in this matter and in any case the names and addresses of all National Councillors for our records.

MAGAZINE. To increase the circulation of the magazine each member is urgently requested to sell 6 extra copies a month or preferably to find 6 new subscribers.

The C. E. draws attention to the fact that in South Africa today, it is offensive to Africans to be called by any other name such as Natives, Bantu etc., This was the first point raised by an African when discussing the questionnaire which Border Region asked the C. E. at the National Council Meeting to draw up.

Dr. Clinton Rossiter snr. Professor of American Institutions at Cornell University is lecturing in South Africa under the auspices of the United States - South Africa Leader Exchange Programme. Regions are asked to look out for his visits to the nearest University in their area. One region is considering asking him to talk to the Sash on "Constitution for a multi-racial Society." Similar lectures in every area would no doubt attract much interest. It is understood that he may be contacted through:

Department of Extra Mural Studies,
Cape Town University,
Private Bag, Rosebank.

The C. E. would like Regions to consider whether Sash members who stand for Parliament or the Provincial Councils should mention their work in the Sash in their political manifestos. They cannot actually be prevented from doing so but Mrs. Ventress who is standing as a Liberal Party candidate in Durban courteously asked the C.E.'s opinion on this matter. In the case of Sash members standing for the U.P. the same decision would have to be made.

Points for consideration are:

/ (a)

- (a) Some members political activity has been almost entirely through the Sash and it would be a pity to discourage them from standing which might happen if they were unable to mention the Sash.
- (b) We should encourage Sash members to enter Parliament and the Provincial Councils where they can have an opportunity of putting Sash principles into government.

The C. E. is interested to know what progress Regions are making in getting legal experts or others to agree to draft a new Constitution for S. Africa safeguarding the rights of all.

PASS LAW MAGAZINE. 250 copies have been ordered by Cape Western for propaganda purposes, but it is probably not worth while to have only this extra number printed as to put the type back into the printing machine costs £12.10.0. Will any other region wanting some please let us know immediately, so that we can decide whether this is worthwhile or not.

The following three resolutions were referred by the National Council to the National Conference. So please note that they will be on the agenda - your regions views' could now be obtained so that later you have only to discuss new resolutions.

An investigation to be made into the question of floggings (1) the lack of supervision of District Surgeons who by law should attend all floggings and (2) the actual obvious increase in the number of floggings actually given in S. A. per year. (Cape Eastern Region)

Further, to enquire into the Farm Gaol System and to see whether conditions in Farm Gaols are known and whether they are regularly visited as appears they should be by law. (Cape Eastern)

As the vote has now been extended to the 18 year olds, it is the opinion of the East Cape Region that a positive attitude should be taken by the Sash, towards the political education of the children in the higher standards in the schools. (Cape Eastern).

Mary But.

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19th August, 1959.

Letter received from Mrs. S. M. Johnson, Howick, Natal.
dated 4. 8. 59.

Thank you for your letter of the 1st July, received
this morning.

Personal apologies were sent to the Magistrates con-
cerned early in July, so hope the matter is now satisfac-
torily closed!

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Sheila M. Johnson.

Letter received from Mrs. M. Dyer dated 28. 7. 59.

We have been contemplating what action we should take
about the Deputy Director. We are considering a manifesto
signed by people in Natal, but are a bit apprehensive about
getting enough signatures.

We thought it was important that other parts of the
country should join in the demonstration and it seemed that
the C. E. rather than a local region, could best carry out
two suggestions made at our meeting.

- 1) Write to the Provincial Secretaries of the other
provinces (and S.W.A.) asking the Provincial Councils
to affirm their support for the principle of their rights
to have their own nominees appointed in senior positions.
- 2) Write a letter to the press - especially the Afrikaans
papers, who are very ably confusing the issue and
making statements like "un-South African" - "no place
for Afrikaners in Natal" etc., 'Die Nataller' has
never refused to print letters from us. Would you be
willing to do this?

Best wishes,
(sgd) Marie Dyer

P.S. Professor Edgar Brookes is "disposed to co-operate" in
drafting a constitution, but wants to know whether it should
be in legal language or a popular summary, and what are the
maximum and minimum lengths. Please let me know if you have
fixed any rules about this and even if you have'nt.