

CIRCULAR NO. 32.

ESTELLA HOUSE,  
47a, MAIN ROAD,  
CLAREMONT. Cape.

TO ALL REGIONS.

11th February, 1960.

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION.

The C.E. are calling a national demonstration to take place at the time (if possible) of the second reading of the legislation to enable the Government to hold a Referendum on a Republic.

The points against which the C.E. feels the Sash should protest are:-

1. The refusal to allow non-Whites to participate in the Referendum.
2. A majority of one is quite insufficient to decide such an important issue. A two-thirds majority should be required.
3. The issue of whether or not South Africa should remain in the Commonwealth should not be decided by Parliament but also by a Referendum.

FORM OF DEMONSTRATION:

The C.E. suggests that every region should start straight away to hold protest meetings in every town and village where they have members, against the proposed form of the Referendum. Wherever possible, it would be helpful if these protest meetings could take the form of symposiums or brains trusts in which African, Coloured, Indian, Nationalists and members of other political parties could give their point of view.

While the legislation for the Referendum is under discussion in Parliament, there should be a nation-wide stand with posters in which every region and branch should try to take part. If any region is utterly unable to muster a stand, would they please try to make their protest known by letters to the local papers, personal approaches to Nationalists in their area and letters to their local M.P.

It would be helpful if the posters covered the three points on which the Sash is protesting. The C.E. suggests as one slogan -

" BIG ISSUES REQUIRE BIG MAJORITIES " - but they have not been able to think up any other adequate slogans and would welcome suggestions from regions.

If regions have slogans they want to use, would they please send them to the C.E. so that the C.E. can know what regions have in mind.

PRESS STATEMENT:

It is suggested that the enclosed press statement should be released by all regions as soon as the legislation on the Referendum comes before Parliament.

TIME OF DEMONSTRATION:

It is not known as yet when the legislation will come up for discussion. As soon as the C.E. know, they will wire all regions but we may not ourselves have more than 24 hours notice. For this reason, the C.E. would be glad if Regions could have everything prepared in order to be able to go into action at short notice.

I M P O R T A N T:

CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN THAT THE EMPHASIS AT PROTEST MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IS ON THE FORM OF THE REFERENDUM AND NOT ON THE REPUBLIC. THE PUBLIC EASILY GET THE TWO ISSUES CONFUSED.

M.C. PETERSEN.

NATIONAL CHAIRWOMAN.