

NATIONAL CONFERENCE,  
JOHANNESBURG, NOVEMBER 1959.

PRESIDENT: Mrs. M. C. Petersen

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Mrs. E. Stott

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE: Mrs. B. D. Willis                      Hon. Treasurer  
Mrs. M. Birt  
Mrs. E. West  
Mrs. M. Earle

BORDER: Mesdames A. Curry, G. Litchfield.

CAPE-EASTERN: Mesdames A. Pirie, D. Davis.

CAPE-WESTERN: Mesdames M. Roberts, R. N. Robb,  
M. B. Stoy, N. le Feuvre,  
H. E. Ferris, M. Solomon, D. Conroy,

NATAL COASTAL: Mesdames F. Farris, F.D.V. Powell,  
M. Shearer.

NATAL MIDLANDS: Mesdames J. O'Callaghan, S. Johnson,  
M. Corrigan.

O.F.S.: Mrs. H. O'Connor.

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL: Mesdames C.A.H. Clark (for A. Lang),  
B.R.M. Findlay.

SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL: Mesdames M.E. Fisher, D.A. Hill,  
J. Sinclair, J. Davidoff, E. Morris,  
M.W. Cluver, M. Southey.

Apologies: Mrs. Spottiswoode & Mrs. Berman - Central  
Executive.  
Mrs. M. Henderson - Cape-Western.  
Mrs. L. Marquard - Cape-Western.

OBSERVERS: Mesdames H.M. Stevem-Jennings; G. D. Millar;  
P. Guittard (Waverley, Southern Transvaal);  
K. Geen, E. Mercer (Pretoria, Northern Transvaal);  
N. Green, (Waverley, Southern Transvaal); R. Foley  
(Southern Transvaal); H. Hahn, A.I. Huskisson,  
M. Walker (Southern Transvaal); O. Wynne (Waverley  
Southern Transvaal); H. I. Retief (Rustenburg,  
Southern Transvaal); P. Britten, E.D. Grant,  
H.R. Hall, B. Beinashowitz, M.H. Blaine, R.G.  
Driver, V. Tunbridge (Southern Transvaal);  
N. Cronwright, L. Braun (Waverley, Southern  
Transvaal).

MINUTES OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
HELD AT SKYLINE HOTEL, JOHANNESBURG  
ON MONDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER 1959.

1. DEDICATION:

The Dedication was read in English by the President, and in Afrikaans by the Vice-President, of the Black Sash.

2. WELCOME BY SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL:

Mrs. J. Sinclair, Chairman of the Southern Transvaal Region, warmly welcomed the National President, the Central Executive, delegates and other members of the Black Sash.

3. NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME TO DELEGATES:

The President thanked Southern Transvaal Region for making it possible to have the Conference in Johannesburg, for their hospitality and for making all the arrangements in connection with hotels, a hall for the Conference etc., on behalf of the Central Executive.

The President welcomed the Press. The Conference would not be open to the Press after 11 o'clock.

Mrs. M. Petersen, National President, briefly assessed the events of the past year, during which there had been no let-up in the spate of repressive legislation, nor in the high-handed manner in which this legislation had been foisted on to the Statute Book. She detailed major pieces of legislation like the misnamed Extension of University Education Bill, legislation to create Bantu states, and the Industrial Conciliation Act which, in spite of the expert advice of those best qualified to judge, and with complete disregard for the reasoned arguments and pleas of native representatives and members of the opposition in Parliament, had been steam-rolled on to the Statute Book.

It was clear that the Government intended enforcing "apartheid", oblivious of the resultant wreckage of human lives. In spite of the fight the Black Sash has made over the past three and a half years, the drift towards totalitarianism and away from democracy had gone on steadily, and lack of visible results tended to create disastrous discouragement, bitterness and anger. These could destroy good judgment and blunt our sense of moral values.

The President urged delegates to do nothing to prejudice the reputation of the Black Sash for being absolutely unprejudiced and objective. There had been gleams of encouragement; it seemed that some Nationalists themselves disapproved of totalitarian methods; politicians had expressed the need for recognition of the desires of the non-white section. Mrs. Petersen felt that to claim that the Sash had been responsible was presumptuous, but the Black Sash could claim to have done something towards creating a climate of opinion in which these ideas could flourish and grow.

She felt right would always triumph in the end, and she urged Black Sash members to go ahead steadily knowing that our work was worth while, and that in the end "alles sal reg kom".

4. APOLOGIES:

Mesdames Spottiswoode and Berman of the Central Executive  
Mesdames Marquard and Henderson of Cape Western  
Mrs Herries Baird of Natal Coastal.

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE :

The Minutes of the Annual National Conference held at Cape Town on October 14/15/16/17th , 1958 had been circulated. Through-out the Minutes Mrs Rowe to read Miss Rowe.

With this amendment, the Minutes were approved and signed.

6. ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

A. Page 6. Resolution iii.a.

RECOMMENDED that a sub-Committee be formed to go into the reform of the S. African Electoral Laws, with special reference to the loaded vote.

Mrs Stott reported that nothing had really been done; various people had been approached but no one could do anything. She suggested that, in future, when proposals of this nature were made, the Region have people in mind to do the specific work.

AGREED: that each Region be asked to find someone able to do this particular job; and that Mrs Foley and Mrs Green endeavour to get the Torch Commando findings

B. Page 7. Resolution iii.b:

RECOMMENDED that a sub-committee go into the matter of the secrecy of ballot papers with the people who know the Election Laws well, to find out how to tighten these laws.

Mrs Stott reported that here too nothing had been accomplished but gave an assurance that before the next National Conference there would be a statement in the Nationalist newspapers re-assuring voters that the ballot was secret.

C. Page 7. Resolution iv:

RECOMMENDED that the Black Sash investigate the Bantu Education Act and protest against the manner in which it withholds full educational opportunities from both adult and young Africans.

Mrs Stott reported that a couple of people had become authorities and were giving lectures on the subject; there had also been a special edition of the Magazine.

D. Page 7. Resolution v:

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the Black Sash should investigate and consider the need for ensuring that people arrested in "mass" for political offences can avail themselves of bail, and do what is possible to ensure an adequate defence.

Mrs Stott reported that there was a Bail Fund in Cape Town and when money became available the possibility of extending the scheme would be discussed.



E. Further matters arising out of the Minutes:

Three further matters arising would come up later in the Agenda. AGREED that these items be left over.

6. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tuesday 3rd November, 1959 Brains' Trust on Education Delegates to meet Dr. A.B. Kazi, Mr. G.M. Pitje, Prof. Gourlay, Messrs S. Kruger and A.B. Hughes at 6 p.m. at a Finger Supper.

Wednesday 4th Press Party at Mrs J. Sinclair's flat 203, Santa Margherita, Eighth Street, Killarney at 6 p.m.

7. A. APPOINTMENT OF A PRESS COMMITTEE :

The Central Executive had been asked to make sure that the Press Statement had the consent of all members of the Press Committee. Members were therefore asked to make sure that they would be available at the end of the Conference, when the Press Statement was drawn up, before accepting nomination for the Press Committee.

Mesdames E. Stott (Convenor), J. Davidoff, R.N. Robb, F.D.V. Powell and A. Pirie were nominated. Mrs Roberts to act as alternate to Mrs Robb.

The first meeting of the Press Committee would be at lunch time on Tuesday 3rd November. Each member was asked to draw up a rough draft statement at the end of each day.

B. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION TO DISCUSS CENTRAL EXECUTIVE STATUS AND CONSTITUTION:

(Natal Mid) Mesdames A.D.-Curry (Border), A. Pirie (Cape E.) F.D.V. Powell (Natal Coastal) M. Corrigall, S. Johnson D. Grant (S. Tvl) R.N. Robb and N. le Feuvre (Cape W.) and members of the present and past Central Executive were nominated to consider the status of the Central Executive; to evolve some way for these ideas to function smoothly and to make recommendations to the Conference.

The Commission would meet at Mrs J. Sinclair's flat at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 2nd November, 1959.

8. RULES OF PROCEDURE:

The President read the Rules of Procedure and detailed a rough time schedule.

AGREED that night meetings were not advisable; that tea be served at the conference tables at 10.45 a.m.; that lunch be from 1 to 1.45 p.m.

AGREED that for the "General Discussion" the rules of procedure would not be strictly adhered to, in order to get freer discussion, but thereafter delegates were asked to keep strictly to these rules of Order.

Proposed by Mrs D. Hill (S.Tvl) and seconded by Mrs J. Sinclair (S.Tvl) that the Minutes be short, giving only resolutions.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Items for General Discussion/....

9. ITEMS FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION:

AGREED that Mrs Stott, National Vice-President, take the Chair.

1. Proposed by Mrs Sinclair (S. Swl) and seconded Mrs M. Corrigan (Natal Midlands)

That at National Conferences adequate time shall be allocated for open discussion of important matters of general interest to the Sash, and the Conference shall be empowered to formulate resolutions arising therefrom.

Proposed Mrs Foley and seconded Mrs Stott that the words "and put" be added after "to formulate" Amendment accepted by Proposer and seconder, and accepted unanimously.

Mrs Stott in the Chair:

2. The part which the Black Sash should play in the Union Day "Celebrations" in May, 1960.

The Chairman felt that this should be considered in three parts:-

- (a) Each Region to be given the opportunity to report progress made and the recommendations made at the special meetings called in conjunction with the National Council decision;
- (b) Cape W. lead their resolution on what should be done;
- (c) Any resolution which may be taken as a result of the discussion.

(a) Reports from Regions:

Natal Midlands

Mrs S. Johnson reported that Dr. Brookes had consented to draw up a perfect Constitution.

The Branches were against black flags etc, but felt the Black Sash must do something, preferably something like a re-dedication and certainly not as a celebration.

In Pietermaritzburg the City Council had agreed to hold a full meeting, declaring their loyalty to the Queen and to S. Africa but the Administrator had over ruled this decision.

Border: Mrs Curry

The reaction of their Region was rather similar - that the Black Sash should not take part in a "celebration" but in a re-dedication.

They had not asked the Council not to take part. Black flags were out.

They wanted a national statement and were starting letters to the Press stating why they felt Union Day was not a time for celebration.

Cape Eastern: Mrs A. Pirie.

No boycott - the Black Sash should participate, not in celebration but as a re-dedication. They were not averse to having a Black Sash float - again in the nature of a re-dedication. Sombre not cheerful.

Portions of the monies allocated by the Council should be used for starting bursaries as a memorial or else for assisting with school books and considered sending a deputation to the Mayor.

No reply had been received from Grahamstown about a Constitution.

G.F.S. Mrs O'Connor.

Mrs O'Connor felt she could not really comment as a Region but was in sympathy with the idea of re-dedication and liked the idea of a bursary. There was no one she could approach about a Constitution.

Natal Coastal/.....

Natal Coastal: Miss F. Farris

They had been horrified to hear that the City Council had voted £40,000 to move the statues etc in commemoration of Union Day, but pressure had scotched their plans. Durban had withdrawn £20,000 milk fund from Cato Manor as they maintained that it was wrongly administered. The Sash had written to each City Councillor asking for a day of re-dedication and prayer only. Only one had had the courtesy to answer, some felt that the Black Sash were throwing politics into municipal affairs.

They had voted £5,000 for the "celebrations" - special dinner, Boer War veterans, etc. The Black Sash had heard nothing further but were determined to stop the holus bolus spending of thousands.

Mrs Petersen asked if Natal Coastal had taken up the accusation of throwing politics into municipal affairs for any citizen was entitled to a reply for the council were the "servants" of citizens - this could be raised in the nature of a friendly discussion.

Mrs Farris replied that there had been comment in the Natal Mercury.

Mrs Powell reported that at Branch level their Sash members were not in favour of black bands etc, but all in favour of a day of re-dedication. They had not discussed a float.

N. Transvaal: Mrs B.R.M. Findlay.

The Region had not met but the members were against "celebration" but might take part in some activity.

S. Transvaal: Mrs J. Sinclair.

By and large the members were against any "celebration" but there was the point of view that we were proud of being S. Africans and there had been great achievements. They were prepared to take part in a re-dedication.

With regard to the photographic exhibition - no sooner had they returned from the Council meeting than they had learnt that someone else intended doing it, but Mrs Sinclair wondered if it would not be possible to hire a shop window for the month of May and have an exhibition and try visual education.

Mrs Rankin had written a play but it had not yet been read by the Committee. No one had been found to write a draft Constitution.

The money for scholarships had not been discussed, she personally felt it was a very good idea. It would be useless to consider the City Council as it was ruled by seven nationalists and there was trouble at the moment about the University grant

Cape W.: Mrs R.N. Robb /.....



Cape W.: Mrs R.N. Robb.

At the National Council meeting Cape W. reported that, inspired by the Conference Johannesburg had had, they went off to ask the Arch-bishop if a similar Conference could take place. 70 people, representing 30 bodies had attended and at the Conference a resolution had been taken by the members in their private capacities. A Continuation Committee had been formed, The Chairman was ex-Chief/Justices Centlivres and the Secretary, Mrs M. Henderson.

Mrs Robb read the motion passed at the Arch-bishop's Conference see Annexure A.

A great deal done by the Black Sash could be under the scheme conceived by the Arch-bishop's Conference.

This Conference called upon all organisations and individuals to observe 31st May as a day of dedication to the task of achieving three objectives - even if it were over the next fifty years.

On the Sunday before Union Day there would be a solemn march and re-dedication;

Sub-committees had been set up to work on the three tasks:

- (a) Work on the Constitution, under Mr. Donald Molteno;
- (b) meeting employers and employees to consider poverty and economic security;
- (c) to organise a Conference of all the bodies concerned with human rights.

Cape W. would like the Sash to agree nationally, but if they did not then hoped they would call similar Conferences.

They did not think it was a good idea for the small areas to do anything, but that there should be a big national demonstration in the large centres and the smaller branches should work to help the bigger areas on this Sunday before Union Day. This march was visualised as for several thousand people - all the organisations to take part. It was the Sash's job to prod all the time, mainly at the public and to get individuals to attend, as individuals.

The next meeting would be on November 24th and the sub-committees would bring their concrete resolutions and suggestions to that meeting.

The Chairman decreed that all Regions had reported fully and Conference should now decide which efforts should be national Under Regional autonomy, Regions could do those they wished to undertake.

- A. Black flags and
- B. Photographic Exhibition } Both ideas discarded.
- C. Float - suggested by Cape E. only. Danger of looking like participation in celebration.
- D. Draft Constitution - Two in Cape Town - Mr. D. Molteno and Prof. Thompson;  
One in Pietermaritzburg - Dr. Edgar Brookes.

D. Draft Constitution/.....

Activities for Union Day (continued)

D. Draft Constitution - Three

AGREED that these Constitutions be published in the Press and in booklet form.

AGREED that it had been recommended at the National Council meeting that a remuneration of approximately £50 each be offered. Natal Midlands were sponsoring the Constitution by Dr. Brookes.

E. AGREED that there be a special issue of the Black Sash Magazine giving the good and the bad aspects of Union after 50 years, written especially for the general public in terms everyone could understand.

F. Mrs Spottiswoode's Book South Africa. The Road Ahead.

Opinions of the contributors:-

Mrs Margaret Ballinger	General theme of the future
Mr. Japie Basson	" " with emphasis on our relations with the rest of the world.
Prof. Edgar Brookes	General theme.
Prof. J.C. Bruwer S.A.B.R.A.	Future of the non-white in "white areas"
Prof. J.H. Coetzee Potchefstroom	The Afrikaner and Black Nationalism in the future.
Mr. Alex Hepple	The future of Labour.
Chief Albert Luthuli	General theme.
Prof. E.G. Malherbe	The future of Education.
Prof. Z.K. Matthews	The role of the educated African in the future.
Prof. Ben Marais Pretoria	The role of the Churches.
Mr. Donald Molteno	On desirable constitutional changes.
Prof. T.V. Pistorius	General theme.
Prof J. Sadie SABRA and Dr. M.S. Louw (Sanlam)	jointly on the economic future, giving the Nat. line.
Mr. Len Samuels Witwatersrand	Economic future, giving the liberal opposition line.
Mr. Arthur Lazarus Sastri College, Durban	The future of the Indians
Dr. Rt van der Ross	The coloured people.

Pending:

A Bantu on support of separate development.

Mr Willem van Heerden

Dagbreek Pers

On the future of the Press.

Mr. Howard Timmins was publishing the book and the Sash was in no way committed for Mr Timmins considered it would sell on its merits, at 15/- to the public and 9/- to members.

A guarantee of £750 had been given to Mr. Timmins by a well-wisher and would be re-paid at the rate of 5/- per copy. Thus the 1st Edition of 3,000 copies would cover the guarantee.

Mr. Timmins would pay us 2/- per copy on all sold - including those sold to members. 1st Edition will bring us £300.

Each contributor has been offered £20. The £300 from 1st Edition will go towards paying these contributors and the deficit will be made up by donations from friends. In brief/.....



In a brief introduction Mrs Spottiswoode would state that the book had been compiled by the Black Sash of opinions objectively presented.

Mrs Sinclair (S.Tvl) said it was the most wonderful thing done by the Sash and she felt the sincere congratulations of the Conference should be sent to Mrs Spottiswoode. AGREED.

The S. Transvaal Region were proud to give financial help. ACCEPTED WITH ACCLAMATION.

F. Argus Constitutional Competition:

AGREED Mrs Stott go ahead with her investigation into a Constitution Competition, as long as there is no financial responsibility; being careful not to appear to sponsor a bad constitution; and bearing in mind the points raised.

18 for 8 against 5 abst.

Points to be borne in mind:-

- i. Rather a competition on a what is wrong with the Constitution. People were ready to be destructive and destruction lead to construction;
- ii. The political writer in the "Tribune" (Stephen la Rochelle) had launched the same type of thing and the Sash could get an idea from them how it went.
- iii. The possibility of all Regions writing to the Press suggesting we have a Competition on a Constitution, if Mr. Ollemens were doubtful about the value of running our Competition.
- iv. A competition on the best letter on "Why the Constitution should be changed - determined by a panel of judges including all sorts of experts and the Black Sash, the sponsors.
- v. Popular choice might well be contrary to the view of the Black Sash. Might be giving publicity to the merits of a Republic.
- vi. Consideration be given to other newspapers - like the Sunday Times which has the greatest circulation.

- G. Play
- i. Gordon Bagnall would complete his satire by the end of December. The Central Executive would then circulate the play to all the Regions.  
Here too there would be an introduction saying that the Black Sash had commissioned the play.  
Mr. Bagnall would be paid £50, unless some arrangement about royalties were made.
  - ii. Mrs Doreen Rankin 's play was practically ready

H. Multi-racial Conference:

- i. Arch-bishop Hurley had suggested a Multi-racial Conference in more than one centre - a local Conference on a very wide basis.
- ii. The Continuation Committee of the Arch-bishop's Conference (Cape Town) had sent letters to all the Regions asking if they could hold a Multi-racial Conference  
S. Transvaal felt it might be dangerous to have a Conference at this juncture if there was no enthusiasm. No longer the great urgency for one of the achievements of the Johannesburg Multi-racial Conference/.....

Conference was that now there were more multi-racial meetings and committees.

In Johannesburg the Congresses had said that they had the plans for this period and no one had felt it was right to ask for details.

- iii. Natal Coastal and Natal Midlands had considered the letter from the Continuation Committee. Durban would contact Arch-bishop Hurley and the two Regions would consider this together. Natal Midlands would accept the scheme of the Arch-bishops Conference as a framework but insisted on Regional autonomy.

2. The part which the Black Sash should play in the Union Day "Celebrations" in May, 1960.

- (a)
- A. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the Black Sash should take no part officially in the Union Day celebrations.
- B. AGREED that it was obvious that some Regions had already done something about Union Day and that it be left to the discretion of the Regions to do something without giving the impression that the Black Sash was boycotting the observance of the jubilee of Union and was un-South African in its outlook.

Nem. Con./abst. 7.

- C. ACCEPTED in principle that the Black Sash observes Union Day in some appropriate manner and that the most suitable form of observance should be left for the Regions to decide, provided it is within the principles of the Black Sash.

Nem con./1 abst.

The Chairman assured Cape W. that this did not exclude Cape W.

- (b) that the Black Sash adopt the resolution passed at the Arch-bishops Conference in Cape Town and give full support to any implementation of it.

Mrs Robb (Cape W.) in moving this resolution said that at the Meeting on 24th November, 1959, they were going to be asked:-

- (a) if the Black Sash would support the Arch-bishop's Conference motion, nationally, or
- (b) if Cape W. could support it as the Black Sash, or
- (c) if they have to say they are not allowed to work for or support the motion as Black Sash.

After considerable discussion IT WAS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

that the Black Sash Conference agrees with the motion passed at the Archbishop's Conference, with the phrase (c) to be amended to read

- (c) a reform of the S. African Constitution which will guarantee to all individuals the above-mentioned rights and liberties and will protect each racial community from domination.

and that the Regions will give practical and/or moral support, and will consider the implementation suitable to their Region.

Item 3/.....

IT WAS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

that Conference keep to the order of the Agenda.

9. ITEMS FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

3. What are civil rights and liberties - what are human rights and do they overlap?

Proposed Mrs O'Callaghan (Natal Midlands) seconded Mrs Roberts  
Mrs Roberts (Cape W.)

that the objects of the Black Sash, as shown in the Constitution, Clause 2(i)(b) should read:

seek to uphold human rights and liberties  
and to secure their recognition and  
protection by law.

Results of voting 16for; 13 against; 4 abstentions.

As this is not a 2/3rds majority of the total voting strength of the Conference, Clause 2, the amendment WAS LOST.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that this be discussed again

4. Discussion on the political causes of poverty in S. Africa.

Discussion was lead by Mrs Roberts and information on work done by various Regions and organisations given to Conference.

5. The future status and activities of Branches in the Regions.

Mrs Petersen in the Chair.

Mrs Driver (S.Tvl) outlined the system in the S. Transvaal Region where because of lack of office bearers the Branches had been amalgamated, generally 4 Branches to a Group. Each Group was responsible for £25. per month. The Branch still existed in the person of the "contact", all other work was done as a Group. The scheme had worked well.

One Branch (Bryanston) worked under a different scheme whereby 12 members each in turn assumed responsibility for a meeting. There was one treasurer and a general dogsbody, who refused to be called a secretary. This method had been very successful, the average attendance at meetings being 40. The member in charge of each meeting taking a great deal of trouble to get interesting speakers.

Dr. Morris (S.Tvl) felt that Branches had their own distinctive personalities and under this group system some branches fell away and the group therefore tended to become the same size as the active group that remained. She did not advise other Regions to follow this scheme.

There was a general monthly meeting.



N. Transvaal suffered from a lack of office bearers but their 80 members were unwilling to disband.

Border worked on practically the same Group scheme. Notices were sent to all members from the central headquarters. Every other month news from other Regions and Sash activities from other parts was considered; and in the alternate months every effort was made to get a great variety of speakers.

Natal Coastal were disappointed in the attendance at meetings and this was not for want of good speakers. They held All Branch meetings and made special efforts to get speakers. Eshowe and the S. Coast had packed up.

Natal Midlands whenever they had good meetings like Brains' Trusts or symposiums then the attendance was very good; but they found the ordinary meetings were badly attended. The Branches could not get office bearers.

Mrs West of the Fish Hoek Branch, Cape W. said that their meetings were open, business was done after the meeting if confidential, but other business of general interest was briefly considered before the main meeting. Quite a few business people attended regularly and this public meeting had become quite a feature.

Cape Eastern Salem Branch had a Quiz on the propaganda sent out to them. Two teams were picked and it was found that in this way they educated themselves.

Mrs Stott The following had arisen from the discussion:

1. All Branches meetings where held seem to keep Branches and members in touch;
2. There was no question of the fact that inviting good speakers and having open meetings did keep Branches alive and stimulated; she begged the smaller Branches to ask for good speakers, even just the contact over dinner and after the meeting was valuable. She specially recommended the Fish Hoek idea.
3. If Chairmen could not be found then Regions should get an O.C. Branches on their Regional Council. Notices could be roneo-ed post cards and could be sent out when there was something exciting.
4. The idea of different hostesses was an extremely practical suggestion.
5. To Natal Coastal, who felt despondent, she said that she felt sure that if they went on with good speakers and made their meetings open ones they would achieve success.

Mrs Robb (Cape W) felt perfectly certain that the best way was not in coalescing Branches. Even if only three or four members were interested they would pull their weight when it was necessary

## 6. Why the Black Sash does not support the Economic Boycott.

Mrs Stoy Cape W. There was no question of principle in a boycott. It was a weapon - one of the few to those denied civic or political rights, started by people who were denied other methods. People must work out whether it is going to benefit them or not. Bartering power against political power.

The Minutes of the National Council Meeting and the Conference at Bloemfontein, 1956, were read to establish the wording of the directive on the Economic Boycott and the reasons for the Black Sash making this decision.

A resolution that the first clause of the old resolution be reviewed and rescinded AS LOST. 11 for/14 against/ 5 ab.

## 7. Advisability of the Black Sash notifying the international Headquarters of international bodies concerning the departure due to apartheid legislation, from the international constitutions of such bodies by the S. African members of such organisations.

Mrs Petersen explained that the reason for suggesting this resolution was because she had met the Rhodesian delegate to the Inter-national Nursing Association and had been appalled at how Miss Borchards, the S. African representative, had apparently convinced the delegates to the Inter-national conference that the new legislation was by a sympathetic government, for the benefit of the non-white nurses and that their *conditions* were better than ever before.

The following points of view were expressed:-

Natal Midlands very much against the idea - we were being asked to undertake snooping activities; it was an insult to overseas organisations.

Cape W. It was unwarrantable interference; the facts about S. Africa are known to people overseas

S. Transvaal : Mrs Davidson we should find ways and means of seeing that the International Press gets the facts for once they get the information then international pressure would follow.

Mrs D. Hill Agreed with Natal Midlands that Associations in this country would object to the Black Sash becoming their conscience.

The Chairman asked

- (a) if Conference wanted the whole idea discarded; or
- (b) do you wish to discuss this further; or
- (c) if Conference would like to explore some way of seeing that Inter-national organisations are better informed than their national bodies.

Conference agreed that they did not want to discard the idea  
9 for 21 against

Proposed Mrs H.O'Connor, seconded Mrs D. Davis that this Conference resolves that methods be sought of insuring that inter-national bodies are fully aware of how apartheid legislation affects the working of their national bodies in S. Africa.

3rd Nov./.....

Natal Midlands: Mrs Corrigan could not over emphasize how strongly opposed Natal Midlands were - the Black Sash must not set itself up as a judge over other organisations. We could make it our business to see that members of the national bodies keep their own inter-national bodies informed.

Mrs O'Callaghan felt that already there was a great danger in the Black Sash to feel holier than thou; that we can impinge upon and push other groups around

Mrs Johnson said that our first duty was to fight apartheid in our own country not dissipate our energies overseas.

S. Transvaal: Mrs M. Fisher; We were fighting apartheid and all its evil consequences from every angle. She had been deeply shocked to hear how **facts in the Nursing profession** had been mis-represented. We must explore some way to put the other side of the situation to a body which had had only the nationalist side. This did not apply to all associations but only some like the Nursing Association.

Mrs E. Morris Did not think that informing the Inter-national bodies would help; the value lay in informing the international press and to make quite sure this was not done in a "snooping" way.

Mrs Sinclair not our function to take on a State Information Office. At very first Conference at Port Elizabeth strong disapproval was expressed at the suggestion of sashing Dr. Donges in London. If we adopt this resolution it would be a complete change of policy.

Cape W.: Mrs Roberts at all levels in the Cape W. and absolutely unanimously, found quite unacceptable. It had been commented upon that this was the only Region where membership had not **dropped**, and she asked if one of the reasons for this might not well be that the Black Sash did not go around antagonising people, If this became known it would be considered gross impertinence. The International Nursing Journal quotes a resolution which shows they are fully aware of the position. She knew a local non-white body which would keep the International body acutely informed.

Mrs Ferris asked what our reaction would be if we were serving on an International body and such a document came informing us of the affairs of our national body. It could be twisted to great dis-advantage and could be another tool in the hands of the nationalists who ever that disloyal S. Africans are working against their country.

Mrs Stott. Overseas pressure is very real way of making this country realise what the government is doing to our institutions. Local members not always able to talk about disabilities of African women - they feel it is wrong for any one person to inform on their own members. Surely we ~~are~~ aiming at getting sufficient pressure brought to bear on the Government. At the next Conference we could consider it in a wider aspect.

Mrs West Central Executive - said that if the resolution was capable of the interpretation which Mrs Callaghan and Mrs Corrigan had put on it and if there was any danger of antagonising associations then it should be withdrawn.

MOTION LOST. 8 for/15 against  
3 abst. 8/....



Mrs Petersen in the Chair.

9. Items for Discussion:

8. The Black Sash attitude to organised protests.

Mrs Stott explained that this had been placed on the Agenda because the Central Executive had found that some Regions were unhappy about association with Africans when taking part in some sort of campaign.

Cape Western had a ruling not to decide beforehand to undertake any kind of support - but to consider each case on its merits. The Pass Law was the greatest single cause of racial ill-will in the country and this association with Africans when taking a part in a campaign against the Pass Laws would be the burning question until the Pass Laws were repealed. Therefore we must air this carefully and make up our own minds so that the Central Executive knew the attitude "nationally".

Cape E. Mrs Davis The Federation of S.A. Women had asked Cape Eastern to come to their Congress, primarily held to protest against the Pass Laws. Very short notice was given, there was no information about other bodies invited, no agenda. Cape E. were nervous about going. They gave them some assistance, with the framing of some resolution, gave some money and felt rather feeble.

Natal Coastal - Mrs Powell said they had been invited on rather a similar plan in Durban - short notice, no details of meeting. There is still a diversity of opinion on the Pass Laws in their Region. They did not attend the Congress as Black Sash but members had been told that they could attend in their personal capacities.

For information, she also had a pamphlet written by the husband of a Branch Chair, defending the Law and giving at length the value of the Pass Laws.

Border: Mrs D. Curry could not say how much her Region envied other centre - in East London the A.N.C. was dead, the Federation of African Women did nothing politically. It was ridiculous to try to stir them up when there were no leaders. Therefore it was difficult for members in her Region, who never met African women to realise what educated African women were like. She did not know how to work it out and did not know what the reaction of the Branches would be.

Mrs Litchfield Mrs Spottiswoode had suggested that they ask Professor Matthews to address the country Branches and all fourteen members had voted in favour

S. Transvaal: Mrs D. Hill said that for those Regions who did not have a joint Committee she would like to stress how valuable S. Transvaal found the Bishop's Committee.

N. Transvaal: Mrs Findlay: Pretoria was rather a moribund Branch. Most of the members were lively and found they could work better through other organisations, mostly because their respectable members were afraid to take action which might attract official attention. How can you organise a protest and not infringe any law, she asked. The police can always find a reason and it is very nearly impossible to do anything without just overstepping the mark a bit. Thus they worked for other organisations - after the police baton charge in Lady Selborne the Black Sash collected £25 for the Fund to run the civil action for damages.

Mrs Roberts/.....

Mrs Roberts Cape W. in reply to a question from Mrs Corrigan who thought that the Black Sash was, in terms of a Conference resolution, permitted to co-operate in a protest, said that it hinged on whether breaking the law might be involved or not. The basis of what was permissible was (i) two other acceptable organisations; and (ii) that there is no question of defiance of the law, i.e.

(a) whether there is in the minds of the people defiance of the law, or

(b) whether there is previous knowledge, i.e. a sort of incitement, that helps them break the law.

It might be necessary to antagonise people for what is right and necessary; but only where strictly necessary.

Cape W. were all for gaining and keeping the confidence of the non-white, and it was ticklish problem to avoid losing that confidence and at the same time steering through, without tangling with the law.

She felt that as to whether we really needed the two other organisations is a moot point, but on the second aspect, i.e. the breaking of or defying the law - then we have to say we cannot be concerned with that. But the non-white will learn by experience that they can trust the Black Sash to rally around and to help in a practical way.

Mrs Stott said that she agreed that we did not need permission but in fact the Regions do not participate because they feel that they won't get the support of their members because they're not going to rub skirts with the Africans. We have got to try and make people feel that we can march together and work together, and by working together we can understand each other and like each other.

She begged of Regions to try and make more personal contact with the non-white.

Mrs Walker - Observer gave the interpretation of incitement - If you go to an African woman and say "I believe the Pass Laws are unjust and if you protest and break the law, I will help you with a Bail Fund and food etc." that is incitement. BUT no one is entitled to a sume you will help, therefore no precedent is set in incitement because once you helped someone.

Natal Midlands: Mrs Corrigan - It had been bad, <sup>not</sup> in Pietermaritzburg as there was no such relationship - they didn't know if they could get two Sash-acceptable organisations and they wondered, if they could not, if they could continue alone.

(Mrs D. Hill hoped never again to hear the term Sash-acceptable)

Mrs Stott made two suggestions:-

(i) closer personal contact between Africans and the Black Sash; each Region to make a special effort, and

(ii) at Branch level to get good speakers to talk about the need for co-operation with the non-whites - something that our women need to face.

Mrs Sinclair, S. Transvaal stated that one of the difficulties was that at the last moment the Black Sash was approached by a white woman and where the objects of a movement were different from our it was difficult to accept - but if the Black Sash were approached directly by the leaders of the movement our attitude

would be/.....

would be different and our differences could be discussed.

Mrs Stoy strongly recommended a joint committee like CATAPAW and Mrs Stott agreed and pointed out that CATAPAW had been set up in 1956 and only now were they getting the right kind of organisation and co-operation. The Agrican organisation is inefficient and ineffective often - in their happy haphazard way. It was certainly not a deliberate effort to out-manoeuvre anyone.

Proposed Mrs Stott, seconded Mrs Corrigan  
(Central Executive) (Natal Midlands)

that Regions of the Black Sash may assist after an organised protest; whether or not assistance is provided will depend upon what has been done and how it was done.

The words "After consultation with the Central Executive" were removed because there might not be time to do so.

THE MOTION WAS LOST. 13 for/16 against.

10. NEW RESOLUTIONS:

A.1 Mrs D. Davis, Cape Eastern proposed, Mrs Pirie, Cape E seconded:-

that an investigation be made into the question of floggings:-

- (i) the lack of supervision of District Surgeons who, by law, should attend all floggings; and
- (ii) the actual obvious increase in the number of floggings actually given in S. Africa per year.

Natal Midlands: Mrs Corrigan - Criterion for her was - if there was someone else who could do this e.g. Social Services or Penal Reform. We should approach them.

Mrs O'Callaghan by law District Surgeons are supposed to attend the floggings, not merely see that the man is fit before the flogging. This is not in our province and there are other bodies who do this.

Cape W: Mrs Roberts proposed an amendment "that the Black Sash lends its support to those organisations ..... but withdrew when the Chairman pointed out that in some areas there were no other organisations and that this would preclude Cape E. from seeing the District Surgeon and following this up.

Proposed by Mrs Sinclair and seconded Mrs E. West  
S. Transvaal Central Executive

that this be a recommendation, i.e. that the Regions may enquire into the question of floggings, if they so wish, but it is not obligatory.

AGREED. 27 for/3 against.  
A.2/.....



A. Proposed Mrs D. Davis <sup>Cape E.</sup> seconded Mrs D. Curry <sup>Border.</sup>

that the Black Sash enquire into the Farm Goal System to see whether conditions in Farm Goals are known and whether they are regularly visited as appears they should be by law.

Mrs Davis (Cape E.) quoted Quogapoort where long term prisoners were building a dam. Previously the Magistrate visited regularly but now he was not allowed to do so. There had been several instances of prisoners being sent to hospital because they had mutilated themselves badly. The Black Sash had tried to find out what the conditions were in a place which caused people to do such damage to themselves. They had written to two M.P.s who replied that everything was well under control - but nothing had been done. Mrs Pirie had spoken to the head of the A.N.C. but apparently they could not speak to the prisoners as the warders allowed no one to speak to them in the Livingstone Hospital. The N.C.W. affirmed that they had an affidavit to the effect that the prisoners worked up to their waists in water and the diet was appalling causing nasty sores.

Proposed Mrs E. West <sup>Central Ex.</sup> seconded Mrs O'Connor <sup>O.F.S.</sup> :

that it be a recommendation that the Black Sash enquire into the Goal and Prison system and see whether conditions in goals are known and whether the goals or prisons are regularly visited. as appears they should be by law.

AGREED NEM.CON. 3 abstentions.

A.3. Proposed Mrs J. Sinclair (S.Transvaal) seconded Mrs E. West (C.Ex)

that the diet of prisoners should be investigated and raised to at least Government standards. AGREED.

B.1. Proposed Mrs M.W. Cluver (S.Transvaal) and seconded Mrs S.Nell on behalf of S.Tvl- Observer - S.Tvl

that the Black Sash is opposed to regimentation in education and the transfer of educational control to the central government.

Mrs Sylvia Nell made a very stirring appeal in which she stressed the following points:-

1. There was a great deal to be said for centralisation from the point of view of administrative efficiency. There were six matriculation examinations for example, and there had been a great deal of trouble under the Apprenticeship Act and the anomalies in what was deemed to be a Std VI pass.
2. BUT, the price of centralisation was state control and uniformity was the natural result of state control
3. Uniformity was good in some things e.g. postal control, justice, security, transport services etc. but in other spheres it was the kiss of death - e.g. in newspapers, art, literature, education diversity was the very condition & life blood of progress. Progress was dependent on the utmost scope for personal initiative that was compatible with social order.

4. Uniformity defeated the ends of education because human beings are not uniform. The purpose of education is to free human beings to exercise free and unprejudiced judgement and not pre-conceived ideas. The first essential is flexibility and diversity to meet the rapidly changing world.
5. A school is only good if it serves the need of the community therefore one must never be doctrinaire in education. There is no one kind of good school; the schools and educational purposes should be as varied as the communities they serve and should be different even in different environments in the same town.
6. Most of the free countries of the world have rejected centralisation of education. The world problem today is to achieve educational and technical efficiency and to maintain freedom in Education.
7. Education in other countries:-
  - a) France education highly centralised since the time of Napoleon and since the First World War their education has suffered for it did not serve the whole community, and a country needs educated people at many levels it cannot sacrifice 80% to keep 10% at top level. France was unique in one way for they built in the safeguards of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. France now de-centralising and trying to establish Regional Councils.
  - b) Germany education excellent; technical education in advance of many countries. It was highly centralised in the belief that what you want in the State you first put into the schools. Although the education was excellent it became so highly centralised that Adolf Hitler was able to reassert the absolute right of the State alone to the supervision of the schools and could demand the oath of allegiance: "We swear we will train the youth so that they will grow up in your ideology" (c.f. Dr. Verwoerd's "een ideaal vir opvoedkunde" - your ideals are your own personal responsibility.
  - c) Russia magnificent technical achievements. State system since Catherine II and a highly centralised system today which is controlled by the Communist Party. The two corner stones of Soviet education are
    - i) loyal citizens obedient to the will of the communist party; and
    - ii) skilled trained workers at all levels and all fields as required by the State.
  - d) England 146 local education authorities. The principal in consultation with the governing body and his advisers (i.e. the inspectors) decide what they will teach, what books they will use etc. The only unifying thing is the final exam. They want education to be as diverse and flexible as possible.
  - e) U.S.A. Every town has its own director and is free to experiment and use their own ideas. Every community works out its needs and makes its own contribution. The results in some cases are bad but we get some of the most vital experiments in education.  
Mrs Nel suggested/.....

8. In S. Africa Dr. Verwoerd's legislation aims to centralise education and to impose one uniform ideal. We are told that this is for the good of the State. But we must examine tht more closely.

What is this purpose and who is the State?

Bertrand Russell said that when you talk about the State it is the purpose of a few people who have more power than you, i.e. the governing clique - it is not a child, not a person; it does not feel pain or pleasure, hopes or fears.

We are appealed to that it is good in terms of administration; But it is a bad thing educationally. The trend in the whole modern world, with its highly meshed social system is that education must be free and flexible.

Prof. F. Clarke said that the purpose of Education is not only to make men conform to their culture and environment - the overmastering purpose is to make men free - free to make new choices and new decisions and new interpretations of their cultural heritage. And Prof. Hockly said that the purpose of Education is not only to communicate the type but to provide growth beyond the type.

Mrs Nell briefly gave the history of Christian National Education which was started in 1903 by Generals Louis Botha, Jan Smuts and Beyers and Dominees Bosman, Postma and Goddefroy in reply to Lord Milner's extraordinarily stupid Ordinance No. 7 whereby the medium of instruction would be English only and Dutch used for 3 hours Bible Study only. The Boers defeated, decimated by death, impoverished, many of them homeless would not accept this imposition from above - even if Milner's intentions were of the best. The Boers said we will teach our children the way we think is best and within three years there were 200 schools in the Transvaal - a triumphant protest against Statism, against State interference no matter how well intentioned.

Mrs Nell was appalled that they should now try to use this noble thing for its present vile purpose. But there was a lesson for all of us.

The President thanked Mrs Nell for an extremely stimulating and interesting address. She appreciated the historical background and the comparisons drawn. She felt sure that all members had learnt a great deal about Education.

After considerable discussion Mrs Pirie Cape E. proposed an amendment. S. Transvaal accepted the amendment as follows:-

that the Black Sash conducts a campaign on a national scale to oppose regimentation in education and the transfer of educational control to the central government.

Mrs Birt (Central Executive) felt that until we got a definition of what centralisation in education meant we should pick out the positive things e.g. uphold the right of parents and oppose regimentation.

Mrs Petersen also felt that the Black Sash could not be too careful not to jump to conclusions and she proposed

that the Black Sash is entirely opposed to a centralised education which aims at regimentation and at one ideal in education.

Mrs. Ferris / . . . .



Mrs Ferris, Cape W. in seconding this amendment quoted a Conference of Heads of Private Schools who four years ago agreed that they could not oppose centralised education as such. They were opposed to the control of politicians and it was uniformity and regimentation we were fighting.

S. Transvaal would not accept the amendment and would not accept this statement as an introduction to their resolution. After discussion stressing that many members were opposed to centralisation and their objection needed no qualification, the amendment WAS WITHDRAWN.

IT WAS AGREED NEM. CON.:

that the Black Sash conducts a campaign on a national scale to oppose regimentation in education and the transfer of educational control to the central government.

Implementation of the resolution:

1 abstention

1. Symposium, Brains' Trusts (including Bantu Education)
2. Drawing room and General meetings; Discussion Groups.
3. a) Central Executive to try to get Mrs Nel to tour the country giving talks.  
b) A recording of a live meeting with questions.
4. Use of the Home and School pamphlets.
5. A special issue of the Magazine.
6. Visual education; shop window display with tableaux etc to demonstrate regimentation.
7. Haunting Dr. Verwoerd where-ever he goes; with placards, pamphlets etc.
8. Publication of the correspondence with the Prime Minister. Dr. Verwoerd's reply to the Central Executive gave every justification for a demonstration.

B.2. Cape E. Mrs Pirie withdrew the Grahamstown Branch resolution in favour of the amended S. Transvaal resolution.

B.3 Cape Eastern: Mrs Pirie proposed, seconded Mrs Davis - Cape E.

that as the vote has now been extended to the 18 year olds, the Black Sash is of the opinion that a positive attitude should be taken by the Black Sash towards the political education of the children in the higher standards in the schools.

2 Mrs Pirie, Cape E. wondered in what frame of mind and with what knowledge the children were going to the polls now that the vote had been extended. Her own child in Junior Matric had no idea - she had not been taught the meaning of democracy and of her civic duties. She had learnt the workings of municipal councils and provincial councils but not the responsibilities of the voter and she was not properly equipped to vote in an intelligent manner. A great deal could be done - not in indoctrination but in making the youth politically aware.  
Mrs Petersen/.....

Mrs Stott in the Chair.

Mrs Petersen It was up to the Black Sash to try to undo indoctrination and by giving all-round facts undermine the indoctrination they had received for so many years and give them a balanced outlook and so enable them to fulfill civic duties.

Mrs Robb was very keen but apparently had mis-understood the resolution. She thought we wanted political education in the schools. It would be difficult to get them to allow talks of political interest, she suggested an amendment:-

that, as the vote has been extended to the 18 year olds the Black Sash should try to reach the senior school children either through their parents or in other ways.

Cape Eastern accepted the amendment.

Miss Verrinder - told how in the September short holidays the senior members attended a citizenship course in one of the schools, which acted as hostess. There were lectures in the morning and in the afternoon visits to various institutions. This year their had been an excellent talk by Dr. v.d. Ross and the result was an amazing change in heart from selfish thoughtless youngsters. It was one of the best things going in the Cape. Only children from Peninsula schools.

Mrs O'Connor - O.F.S. said she had been approached by parents to arrange one talk a week on democracy etc, After school hours, met to hear about current affairs. This was not compulsory. A principal might be persuaded to help arrange such a Friday afternoon.

Mrs Driver - S. Transvaal Observer - reported that following the resolution passed last year her Branch/Group had arranged meetings for the youth. At the first meeting (which was by invitation) two husbands had acted as questioner and answerer. Some answers had been controversial to encourage questions. The youth had asked for more and also asked for a non-white speaker. At the time of the time of the provincial election the two candidates for that area had been asked - unfortunately only one was able to come and the meeting had been successful. A third meeting had been arranged.

IT WAS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

that, as the vote has been extended to the 18 year olds, the Black Sash should try to reach the senior school children either through their parents or in other ways.

B.4. Proposed Mrs E. Morris seconded Mrs Powell

that the Black Sash presses for a Bantu language to be included in all school educational programmes.

It was felt that it was quite wrong for 1/5 of the country to be unable to communicate with the other 4/5ths. Mrs Morris was not pressing for it to be part of the school syllabus but for a recommendation to go forward to help P.T.A.s etc with school activities. Some sort of effort of recognition of native languages. Important for history, traditions, way of life as a people etc to be brought in in some way.

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN.

C. Proposed Mrs Robb, seconded Mrs Stoy, Cape W.

that the Black Sash Cape Western Region be granted permission to attend Human Rights Day in an official capacity, each year.

Mrs Robb said that each year the Civil Rights League in Cape Town invites the Black Sash to attend Human Rights Day. The members of the Black Sash had always done all the hard work and then could not appear officially. They would like to do so officially.

At this function the Declaration of Human Rights was not read, only the Preamble which made it clear that the Declaration was something to be aimed at.

Mrs Stoy in seconding said that they were not asking the Black Sash to accept the Declaration of Human Rights as such but more to condition the public to think human rights natural, inborn and rights which should be supported by law.

S. Transvaal, Mrs J. Sinclair, and Natal Midlands, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Corrigall stated that they could not accept this until the Black Sash had accepted the Declaration of Human Rights. If Cape W. went to Human Rights Day as the Black Sash then to the rest of the country it would be the Black Sash as an organisation.

Mrs Stott in the Chair - said (i) that Cape W. had asked some time for this to be discussed, and

(ii) that the Black Sash was apparently in favour of human rights and this Human Rights Day was not Declaration of Human Rights Day.

Mrs Roberts agreed with this but after Mrs O'Connor O.F.S. Mrs Corrigall, Natal Midlands, and Mrs Sinclair, S. Transvaal pointed out that the Human Rights Day was a direct consequence of the Declaration and that the Civil Rights League had agreed to try to get public opinion in S. Africa to support and to work along those lines - Mrs Roberts withdrew her remarks.

2 Mrs Petersen accepted the point of view that Conference had no right to say any Region should attend in their official capacity if the Black Sash had not accepted the Declaration of Human Rights. She felt there was nothing more anomalous than an organisation which cried from the roof tops about human rights and yet had not accepted the Declaration and she hoped it would be discussed at the next Conference. The Black Sash would be placed more and more in a false position as the years went on.

The resolution that the Black Sash Cape W. be granted permission to attend Human Rights Day in an official capacity, each year.

WAS LOST. 11 for/12 against  
7 abstentions.

E. Cape Western motion that the Black Sash campaign to make legal defence available to all WAS WITHDRAWN because it was acknowledged, as permissible to the Black Sash as it upholds civil rights.

F. Natal Midlands/.....



- F. Proposed and seconded by Mrs Johnson and Mrs Corrigan,  
Natal Midlands,  
that since every Black Sash member is dedicated to the support of democratic principles, we should pursue these principles regardless of any criticism we may incur; and should be prepared to co-operate with other organisations when they are working towards the same end.

Mrs Johnson said that in the Natal Midlands there was a small minority - about 1/8th - who held very conservative views and from one of these Branches a resolution had been put forward for submission - that resolution was a direct negative to the above resolution which had been put forward by Pietermaritzburg and which had been passed by the Region by six votes to two. The two conservative Branches had however been assured that Mrs Johnson would put their view point. They were averse to associating with other organisations whose aims, even when parallel, lead to loss of dignity and lead to side issues.

Mrs Robb proposed a slight amendment. In the Cape W. they also had conservative members who did not like to work with other organisations but were quite happy to do so on specific projects.

Mrs Stott wanted to make an appeal that the Black Sash had grown up sufficiently to co-operate with any other organisation - Sash-acceptable, respectable or anything else because what they are doing is right. A large amount of valuable work is not done because we cannot always get Sash acceptable bodies to co-operate and if we do it is often only in name only and we do all the work. We do all the work but, in this respect lose our identity.

Not easy to get wider co-operation in all places e.g. Civil Rights in Cape Town only; Race Relations not as co-operative in other places.

It was not suggested that we should not try for obviously the more bodies we interested the better the protest but she felt that we were adult enough not to hold back in those areas where co-operation with two bodies was just not possible.

Mrs Corrigan and Mrs Cluver both registered their disapproval of the term Sash-acceptable.

Mrs Curry Border associated her Region with these sentiments as they did not have the other organisations in East London. If this resolution was passed then they could go back home and start educating their members to accept this.

Mrs Roberts Cape W preferred that this be left as a fairly flexible arrangement with the Central Executive; left to the judgement of the people concerned and if they feel it is all right to go ahead we should trust each other's judgement and not be so rigid.

Mrs Pirie - Cape E. - wished to return to her Region and to create a climate of opinion in which this resolution would be more acceptable. Port Elizabeth had no bodies with whom to co-operate.

The Chairman reminded the Regions that it was most important to use the greatest discretion when cooperating with certain organisations for what one Region did was applicable to the Black Sash as a whole. All delegates to go back and create a climate of opinion. RESOLUTION ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Proposed Mrs J. Davidoff, seconded Mrs J. Sinclair, S. Transvaal.

that from experience in our practical work it has become obvious that the Pass Laws contribute to the deterioration of race relations and that much of the immoral legislation directed against the Africans, and against which we have been protesting, can only be implemented because of the existence of the Pass Laws.

The Black Sash is therefore morally obliged to attempt to educate its members and the public as to the evil effects of these Laws, and their implementation and should concentrate on the implementation of this resolution in 1960.

Mrs Davidoff felt that this resolution was vitally important because no matter what work the Black Sash is doing sooner or later we come across the Pass Laws and its tragic effect on the lives of people.

See Annexure B.

Mrs Sinclair said that in her Region her own members were not fully behind us in this matter of the Pass Laws.

She made a very special plea for the "foreign Africans" - there were for example 40,000 Nyasas in the Union, all in dire straits.

The Pass Laws were iniquitous and opposition to these laws was because of the bogey of influx which in the opinion of the experts was not insurmountable.

Mrs Powell Natal Coastal agreed that not all our members were behind us and to emphasize this she read a document by a Native Commissioner in favour of passes. She felt we must be fair to people who sincerely had this point of view. Natal Coastal had also an excellent paper giving the other side of the picture, drawn up by Mrs Mkezi on why the African women object to passes.

Mrs M. Fisher S. Transvaal (i) stressed the significance of the two words "during 1960"

(ii) From the Bishop's Committee there was due a tape recording of the most brilliant address by Mr. Unterhalter. The Bishop's Committee had appointed a sub-committee to go into the Pass Laws and the Bishop had asked for a two month's intensive campaign; it was hoped to devote a full page in the press for the campaign.

Mrs Stoy Cape W. strongly recommended an organisation like CATAPAW and working on the Bail Fund. People are appalled when they hear of the cases and have no idea how African women, even those exempted, suffer arrest. This is a practical way and the Black Sash would get support.

RESOLUTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Two resolutions were received late from Kei Road and Stutterheim; the first was withdrawn and permission was granted by Conference to discuss the second.

that in order to further its protests against the present Pass Laws, the Black Sash should, in the same way as it is working towards the establishing of a new Constitution for S. Africa, work towards a change in the Pass Laws which would ensure more humane treatment for all.

Mrs Roberts Cape W. expressed great sympathy the Kei Rd point of view/.....



point of view.

. We dare not be equivocal - it must be all or nothing.

We must be totally against the Pass Laws. They are not required for registration or indetification - the Citizen Registration Act, which applies to all races provides for this.

The pass Laws have nothing to do with housing and accomodation of Africans. The local authorities have ample powers under their ordinary regulations to prevent the erection of unauthorised structures and irregular "squatting" Nor have the Pass Laws anything to do with employment. This is a matter for the Department of Labour, which has power under the Registration for Employment Act, 1945, applicable to workers of all races, to establish labour exchanges which can inform work-seekers where employment is available. The purpose of the Pass Laws, said Mrs Roberts, is to 'ration' African labour as between agriculture and industry, regardless of respective wage rates and conditions of employment.

The pass laws cannot be made more humane - either a worker is entitled to sell his labour in the best available market, or he is not. Either a woman is entitled as of right to live with her husband wherever he is working, or she is not.

Cape W. contact with the administrators found them quite amazing, for the most part. They make the best of a very bad job; but they are obliged to administer the law, and, as they are governed by license, unless they administer as the government wishes they may lose their license.

All Commissions sitting on the Pass Laws show the same thing - influx depends on efflux. In Port Elizabeth there had been a benign administration and a relatively excellent housing scheme and they did not have an overwhelming efflux or influx.

Mrs Stoy - Cape W. dilated on her experiences with the administrators and superintendents in the townships. They made the best of a bad set of laws, which they themselves admit to be bad. These laws are meant to control the movements of Africans but reduce them to a people with no place at all. Women who cannot get an extension of their permits are sent back and find the family has gone - the women are then lost.

Mrs Sinclair - S. Transvaal: thought we ought to try to bring pressure to bear on our own political parties. Economics was the reason for influx - the Africans have nothing to live on. If farmers would encourage them to bring their wives and families then they would stay. She quoted the experiment in the Federation whereby Africans were given land under a tenure scheme. Man should not be a prisoner in his own country - it was his right to sell his labour in the best market.

Border Mrs Litchfield - said the resolution was badly worded. At their Regional Conference the resolution was passed on condition that it was made clear that it did not merely mean a change in the Pass Laws - in fact all agreed that the present Pass Laws should be completely abolished. She detailed the situation in her part of the country and the difficulties encountered by the farmers and the many wives dumped with "the head of the family" working on the farm.

This resolution was an effort to find something better to put in the place of the present Pass Laws - a working constructively towards soem new form of control. She believed/..



She believed any work that the Sash could do, in conjunction with experts, in formulating and spreading abroad ideas of something to take the place of the present travesty of justice embodied in the Pass Laws could only do the movement good, enlist sympathy and support of members of the public who are now against the Black Sash and at the same/be doing a real service to S. Africa.  
time

Mrs D. Curry: said that her Region agreed unanimously that they must work for the abolition of the Pass Laws, but if they were asked for an alternative what would their answer be.

Mrs Roberts Cape W. we are opposed to the Pass Laws because all things with which they are concerned are covered by other legislation.

IT WAS AGREED

that in order to further its protests against the present Pass Laws, the Black Sash should, in the same way as it is working towards the establishing of a new Constitution for S. Africa, work towards the abolition of the Pass Laws, and the establishment of a system ensuring more humane treatment for all.

--/1 against  
3 abstentions.

Conference was reminded that the proposer had suggested that we should ask experts to tell us how to remedy these existing Pass Laws.

H. IT WAS AGREED

that when a suitable slogan can be found the Black Sash should, apart from topical posters, use that slogan.

--/1 against  
1 abstention.

I. Proposed Mrs M. Fisher, seconded Mrs J. Sinclair, S. Transvaal:

that the Black Sash make an investigation into the whole question of farm labour, and if the facts warrant it, press for a judicial commission of Inquiry into such farm labour.

Mrs M. Fisher The S. Transvaal Region had quite a lot of information on the farm labour scheme. 1½ million Africans were arrested per year and the reason given for these fantastic arrests was that officialdom must keep a check on wont works, potential criminals etc. The real reason was a supply of cheap labour had to be provided for the farming community. The Labour Bureaux made a show of directing labour in the urban areas but the main labour force was directed to the farms, particularly where seasonal labour was necessary. There were other types too - as far back as 1932 measures were taken to alleviate the shortage of farm labour, with convicts. There was the -/6d a day scheme whereby a first offender was handed over for the duration of his sentence. As generally happens, there were abuses and in 1947 it was recommended that the scheme be ended but officialdom could not find another scheme to replace it.

In 1953/54 100,000 were released from 165 goals all over the country/....

country on a -/9d per day scheme. These petty offenders were considered to be on parole - but not from the point of view of the farmers.

Long term offenders were also leased out and actual goals were erected - five in the Cape, one in the O.F.S., and ten in the Transvaal. The Government also used a great number. These prisoners were not paid but 2/- p.d. was paid into the Prison Fund.

The supervision of these institutions and all farm labour needed deep inquiry. Labour is sent out through two departments - Justice and Labour. There is provision for official inspectors but because of the shortage of staff this supervision is inadequate - there is only one inspector in the Transvaal. It has become obvious that what is happening is that vested interests in the rural areas are insisting on cheap farm labour. This is better than trying to compete with commerce and industry with their reasonable hours and competitive wages.

2½ million are being turned into hereditary servants. It is now practically impossible for the farm labourer ever to change his job - he will simply have to go on living and working on the farms. The farmers do not want to meet this challenge. Farming is not efficient, it is wasteful of labour and hence the government statistics of the average monthly wage paid is as low as 74/- p.m.

This cannot be laid at the door of the Nationalists only, but when the Nationalists came into power they used this to further their ideologies - cheap labour and apartheid, creating a "rootless, rightless and self-perpetuating rural population" There were so many abuses that the S. Transvaal felt that there was a very worthwhile field of work for the Black Sash.

Mrs J. Sinclair, S. Transvaal: in seconding the motion said she was horrified by all the schemes and again she made her appeal for the "foreigners".

Her suggested schemes for implementation were:-

Information from the Institute of Race Relations;  
S. Transvaal have lawyers who give a great deal of information;

There should be a roster of women to sit in the native commissioners' Courts every morning. She felt that the very presence of the Black Sash had some sort of effect and the members could find out what was happening to these pass law offenders; it would be of tremendous value as a form of education

for the severity of the sentences had increased - £8. or 8 weeks for not having a Reference Book on their person;;

Members could find out through their farmer friends, Agricultural Unions etc.

(Mrs Sinclair had asked one of the farmer's representatives, when she gave evidence on the Farm Labour Scheme, if, when farmers treated their labour well, there was any shortage; and he had said there was not.)

Mrs D., S. Transvaal in a long talk with a man doing a special article she had been horrified to hear of the proportion of convict labour - and although the figures had come from a government department she hesitated to quote the quite staggering proportion of something like 2/3rds. Apparently no difficulty had been found in going to the government department and collecting information as they saw nothing wrong with the system. Regions may find the same elsewhere.

Mrs Stoy/.....

Mrs Stoy - Cape W.: i) They did frequently go into the Native Commissioner's Court - it was a free public court;

ii) She could bear out Mrs Fisher's statement that once an African male worker got the labour category on his reference book he cannot change.

Mrs Stott asked Mrs Fisher if she meant convict labour only for she would like to go a little further and see, from Conference, an addition to this resolution that the Black Sash should state that farmers should be encouraged to pay their labourers more. The co-ops should set up training centres She begged of S. Transvaal to consider her suggestions. At the next Conference there could be some reccommodation on ordinary farm labour.

Cape W. - Both Mrs Robb and Mrs Roberts suggested the addition "or help to make". In the Cape the Institute of Race Relations were doing considerable work.

Mrs Britten - Observer - made a special plea for the Youth Camps-

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

that the Black Sash make, or assist in making, an investigation into the whole question of farm labour and if the facts, supplied through the Departments of Bantu Administration, Justice and Labour warrant it, press for a judicial Commission of Inquiry into such farm labour.

J. Proposed Mrs D. Hill, seconded Mrs J. Sinclair, S. Transvaal:

that the words "compact of Union" be deleted from the Dedication.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mrs J. Sinclair, S. Transvaal :

proposed that the Black Sash oppose the principal of the banishment of Mrs Mafekeng, without trial. No reason given, no recourse to Court.

After a great deal of information had been given about Mrs Mafekeng, her background and her activities on behalf of other women, the following suggestions WERE APPROVED:-

- 1.A. . National Statement AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.  
( A statement from every Region if the  
( National Statement did not appear. LOST 6/14))
- B. National protest on the principal that the Black Sash deplores a law which allows people to be banished without trial and with no reasons given.
2. A. A Deputation AGREED NEM CON/1 abst.  
B. A letter to the Minister of Justice " "  
and the Minister of Bantu Administration;-  
(i) protesting against the banishment without reasons; and  
(ii) demanding the reasons for the banishment.
3. In all future cases a telegram be sent.



4. A telegram of sympathy to Mrs Mafekeng. 14 for/8 ag.
5. Mrs Mafokend visited by a Black Sash representative officially, in Southey, with some kinds of comforts. This would be valuable as we would then know what we were up against and would know how to help victims in the future. Arrangements could be made with Southern or Northern Transvaal to continue. NEM CON/1 abst.

No one was in favour of a Petition.

AGREED that the letter to the Minister of Bantu Administration should be left until after Friday, 6th Nov.

11. Central Executive Reports

and Resolutions arising therefrom:-

A. HON TREASURER'S REPORT:

- i. The Treasurer gave the Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Account for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1959; eight months ended 30th Nov. 1958 Johannesburg, and four months ended 31 March, 1959 in Cape Town.

The two honorary auditors were warmly thanked and it WAS AGREED that letters of thanks from the Conference be sent to both auditors.

- ii. The Treasurer gave a very detailed analysis of Income and Expenditure for the year 1958/59. See Annexure.

THE TREASURER'S STATEMENTS WERE ADOPTED.

Mrs Dietrich paid a very sincere tribute to the Treasurer, for the excellence of her statements, the clarity and lucidity of her detailed analysis and the soundness of her financial guidance. She pointed out that the levy had been for 3/4 year.

Mrs Stott thanked Johannesburg for their £100 loan; Cape Town for their donation of £100; a member of the Central Executive for the loan of a duplicating machine and another member of the Central Executive for a donation to travelling expenses. She also paid tribute to the untiring zeal of the Hon. Treasurer.

B. MAGAZINE REPORT:

Mrs W. West presented the Magazine Report on behalf of Mrs Berman. See Annexure

Mrs Stott proposed that: the very great appreciation of the Black Sash to Mrs Berman be recorded; Congratulations were due to Mrs Berman for bringing out every issue on time;

A vote of thanks to the many very busy people who did articles - some commissioned, some not.

Mrs Sinclair seconded the adoption of the report and said that the S. Transvaal felt it was the finest report they had had.

May issue/.....

The Magazine had been excellent and we should make every effort to increase the sales. The cover was dull and a more attractive cover should be devised. Speaking on behalf of all the Regions she thanked and congratulated Mrs Berman.

- a) AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the cover be made more attractive and that the Central Executive bear the following suggestions in mind:-
- (i) cover more colourful - to attract street sales;
  - (ii) Mr. Brink of the Technical College Art Dept., Port Elizabeth, would submit a design;
  - (iii) approval of Mrs Berman's suggestion that we have a competition open to everyone, asking for designs;
  - (iv) approval of Mrs Berman's suggestion of the possibility of coloured pages.
- b) AGREED UNANIMOUSLY (i) that the number and frequency of the issues be left to the discretion of the Central Executive and Mrs Berman;
- (ii) that the number of pages of each issue be left to the discretion of Mrs Berman.
- c) AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that ways and means be considered of building up the circulation of the Magazine, the following for consideration by the Regions
- (i) Street sales - useless to sit at tables, must accost people;
  - (ii) propaganda value of special issues;
  - (iii) danger of making Magazine quarterly, a steady trickle better especially since the issues were so good;
  - (iv) danger of expecting too many things from the Magazine - the value of making it a monthly domestic organ with special issues for the public;
  - (v) no approval for canvassers;
  - (vi) to make a special effort with the next special issue - posters, tables and one particular day through-out the country not accepted unanimously - some Regions preferred to work out their own ways and means.
  - (vii) each member to get one other; or to pay for two Magazines, sending the additional one to an interested person.
- 

C. ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

- (i) Mrs Stott referred the Conference to the National Council Minutes - she felt that the amount of administrative work done was not of sufficient interest to the Regions. It was essential to try to keep members in touch - the Black Sash as a whole must know what is going on.

(ii)/....

- (ii) The Central Executive must try to get out to wider number of members - the Central Executive apologised for their short-comings in the immediate past - there were some difficulties they were unable to overcome;
- (iii) Suggested that we have National Conferences at set times so that it is known when resolutions etc should be sent in;
- (iv) Believe we should wherever possible cut down on the administrative work (classic remark that the Black Sash should almost be inefficient, made here later withdrawn!) the Black Sash should be concerned more with how to get to the public.

Mrs Corrigan suggested that further discussion be left until the status of the Central Executive is considered.

Resolutions arising out of the Central Executive reports:-

that in order to re-stimulate interest and keep closer contact with our Branches enough copies of reports of National Conferences be sent to the Regions for Branch use.

We should continue to use Secretary's Notes which gave a full report.

Mrs Sinclair thought the cost was ridiculous, and decisions of this sort should be considered under the Central Executive's status and re-organisation dependent on finances. AGREED.

D. INFORMATION, PROPAGANDA AND EDUCATION:

Mrs Stott presented the Information, Propaganda & Education report.

- (i) The Magazine had today largely replaced the old propaganda;
- (ii) The Central Executive had not had a great deal of money to spend and even more important did not have anyone with a special flair for propaganda;
- (iii) Brain's Trusts of great value - however suggest do not have Brains Trust until you have a wide divergence of opinion; a good question master, well-briefed; and a wide publicity.
- (iv) On things like the Pass Laws recommend that Regions first have someone speaking at Branch level on actual Laws.
- (v) People like Mesdames Walker, Davidoff and Hill should not write themselves off from the Central Executive, They could be valuable as a "Propaganda-prodding" sub-committee.

Suggestions:

- (i) Regions were taking on a greater responsibility and taking a greater advantage of regional autonomy, but demonstrations like those on Education, Passes, Union Day etc should be planned around a central theme - as a national campaign. She was willing to get professional advice on the set up.
- (ii) Pamphlets greatly valued.
- (iii) Small local papers only too glad to take notices of meetings/.....



meetings - they were glad to be able to fill their paper.

- (iv) Particularly now after the business in Natal we should have a pamphlet - Then and Now - Can S.A. afford to change its mind - c.f. Dr. Verwoerd and the Senate, side by side with Dr. Verwoerd and the Reduction of the Senate.  
Mrs Davidoff to work out the idea.
- (v) Previous suggestion that Black Sash members should speak to other organisations on subjects which they have studied thoroughly - offer speakers on Pass Laws, Enforced Farm Labour, L.P. records etc.

Mrs Stoy moved, Mrs Currie seconded and the REPORTS WERE ADOPTED.

E. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Mrs M. Petersen, National President, made her report.

See Annexure.

Mrs Corrigall formally moved the adoption of the report and expressed the thanks of the Regions. Mrs Curry, Border seconded

REPORT ADOPTED

Mrs Sinclair, S. Transvaal congratulated Mrs Petersen on an excellent report. Mrs Petersen replied that the work of the Central Executive had been made easier by the support of the Regions, and the friendly spirit. She could not say how much it had meant to such a small body as the Central Executive had been.

A special tribute was paid to Mrs M. Birt who had undertaken the secretarial work. The very sincere thanks of the Central Executive and the Regions was recorded.

12. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION APPOINTED TO DISCUSS CENTRAL EXECUTIVE STATUS AND THE CONSTITUTION:

Mrs D. Hill read out the recommendations of the Commission:-

- (i) The Commission felt it was not a good idea to do away with the Central Executive.
- (ii) Duties of the Central Executive:
  - a) The Central Executive to tour Regions and visit Branches;
  - b) There should be no circulation of Minutes to relieve the work of the Central Executive;
  - c) Each Region and the Central Executive shall send one copy of, either their Minutes or a report, to the Central Executive and all Regions;
  - d) The Central Executive shall organise National demonstrations and give out National statements;
  - e) Regions shall exchange ideas with each other;
  - f) If any Region should have a new project under consideration that Region shall notify all other Regions well in advance in case other Regions would like to carry out a similar project;
  - g) No National Council and one Conference p.a. as an interim measure;

h/.....

- h) A member of the Central Executive to go around to the Regions whenever a contentious issue arises and get the opinions of the Regions;
- i) The Central Executive should consist of 7 members;
- j) The Central Executive should have the power to increase their number by co-option for special purposes;
- k) Any changes agreed to at this Conference will be tried out first - and we shall continue on an interim constitution.

ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mrs D. Hill, S. Transvaal In some ways some of the suggestions are very valuable but we do not cover sufficiently a reduction in cost or the reduction in work. She would like to put it to the Regions that we do not "do our stuff" enough. All Regions must do more corresponding with the other Regions. Far more responsibility lies with us. No circulation of Minutes will make a great reduction in work but the work of the Central Executive must be reduced more - the Regions must not take all their baby problems to the Central Executive.

We must reduce the sum of money the office is costing us - it is not worth 10/- per head.

After considerable discussion and financial scheming,  
Mrs J. Sinclair S. Transvaal, proposed, Mrs le Feuvre, Cape W. seconded

that the National Levy be 6/-

AGREED.

26for/4 against.

The S. Transvaal Region donated the £100 they had lent the Central Executive; and a delegate offered to donate £10p.m. until the Central Executive were out of financial difficulties.

These donations were received with acclamation.

Discussion on the recommendations of the Commission:

- i. Conference must try to make a plan of next year's work so as to shape Black Sash activities now and to arrange as far ahead as possible.
- ii. S. Transvaal were not happy about National statements. e.g. until Mrs Nel's address the Central Executive had not appreciated the S. Transvaal point of view, and the S. Transvaal had not approved of the Central Executive's national statement. Where Regions were concerned with certain issues the Regions must see and approve of the statements first. Natal Midlands liked the National statements - they could get them into their newspapers but they too preferred to use their own discretion. They felt that if anyone had an objection to the statement they should send a telegram stating their reasons.

13. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

The Constitution was amended clause by clause. Amended Constitution attached.

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14. Election/.....

14. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The following were proposed, seconded and duly elected:

NATIONAL RESIDENT: Proposed Mrs M. Petersen  
Mrs E. Stott

DULY ELECTED Mrs M. Petersen.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

and Mrs Spottiswoode  
Mrs E. Stott.

FOUR ADDITIONAL MEMBERS :

Mrs Berman  
Mrs M. Earle  
Mrs E. West  
Mrs B.D. Willis.

Mrs Petersen thanked the delegates for the confidence they had shown in her in re-electing her President. She paid high tribute to Mrs E. Stott from whom all the inspiration had come. She thanked Mrs Stott for carrying the duties of National President during her absence last year and for her never failing support and inspiration.

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15. REGIONAL REPORTS:

Regional reports had been given to all the delegates. Points requiring discussion had been considered under different heads and past implementation had been given during the course of the Conference.

Under the new scheme of work for the Central Executive there would have to be an officer l/c Regional Reports. It was suggested that now was the time to "break in" such an officer.

In future implementation and interpretation would be considered at the National Conference. When the Central Executive sent out the notice convening the National Conference they would ask (i) for suggested implementation,

and (ii) for a brief memo on the resolution.

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16. A list of past resolutions of Conference and Council would be drawn up for reviewing and/or rescinding.

17. (a) If Natal Coastal could find themselves able to hold the Conference in 1960, it would be held in Durban;  
(b) If Natal Coastal were unable to hold the next Conference Cape Western would be happy to extend an invitation.

The next Conference of the Black Sash would be the first week in November, 1960. If the agenda warranted it the Central Executive were empowered to call a four or five day Conference.

ALL RESOLUTIONS TO BE IN BY THE 15th SEPTEMBER, 1960.

18. Tribute/....



18. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY , WITH ACCLAMATION:

that a special vote of admiration be passed and that this Conference pay tribute to the courageous stand taken by Mrs H. O'Connor in the O.F.S.

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19. THANKS:

The Southern Transvaal Region was sincerely thanked for their hospitality.

A special vote of thanks was passed to:-

- Mrs Sinclair and her Regional Council and Executive,
- Mrs Sinclair for her hospitality and the pleasure of having the parties and meetings in her flat;
- Mrs Driver and the Serviceable Sisters;
- Mrs M. Blaine and Mrs R. Hall for their efficiency and assistance;
- Mrs M.I. Britten for organising transport

and everyone concerned with a very successful Conference.

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The President, Mrs M. Petersen, expressed her appreciation of the forbearance and tolerance of the delegates, thanked them for the valuable points raised during the course of the debate and declared the Conference duly closed.

CONFIRMED: .....

National President.

Date: .....

NATIONAL CONFERENCE, JOHANNESBURG.

3/4/5th November, 1959.

ERRATA.

- A. Please correct all grammatical errors and punctuation, as you think fit.
- B. Please correct the following:-
- Page 2. Item No. 6 to be re-numbered 5.B.
- Page 2. 6.C. line 3. opportunities
- Page 3. 6. line 3. Messrs S. Krige.
- Page 4. 2(a) Natal Midlands: para.3, delete and substitute:  
In Pietermaritzburg the City Council decided to hold a full meeting declaring their loyalty to the Queen and the ideals implicit in the Act of Union, but the Administrator asked them to reconsider this decision and to form a representative Committee to decide on a celebration for all races.
- Page 5. 2(a) para. 4. accusation.
- Page 8. F. para. 2 (i), line 3. led
- Page 12. 7. sub-para. 2. line 8. Add conditions  
sub-para. 5. Mrs Davidoff (Sorry Mrs D.)
- Page 14. 8. Border: line 2. centres
- Page 15. line 5. permissible.  
Mrs Stott - second time - (i) Africans  
last line but one - ours
- Page 17. through-out gaol. Oxford Doctionary says "recent Dictionaries prefer Jail"
- Page 18/19. Mrs Nell.
- Page 20. No. 7. wherever. Also on Page 31. line 7.
- Page 21. sub-para. 1. line 4. fulfil  
sub-para. 3. line 5. there  
sub-para. 5. line 7. delete "of the time"  
4 lines from the bottom. recommndation.
- Page 25. G. line 4. identification.  
line 23. wherever.  
line 28. licence  
last line. some
- Page 26. I. line 7. scheme
- Page 27. para. 3. Mrs D. Hill
- Page 28. line 1. Cape W.  
5. could not  
12. recommndation.
- II. Line 2 and line 11. principle.
- Page 29 5. Mrs Mafokeng.  
Page 31 four lines from bottom. Add Mrs Walker was....