

THE BLACK SASH.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD ON OCTOBER
18TH, 19TH, 20TH and 21ST OCTOBER, 1965, HELD AT
PORT ELIZABETH.

DELEGATES ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE :

- HEADQUARTERS : President - Mrs. J. Sinclair
 Vice President - Mrs. D. Hill, Mrs. M.W. Cluver
 National Secretary - Mrs. M. W. Cluver.
 Magazine Editor - Mrs. D. Grant.
- CAPE WESTERN REGION : Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Robb, Mrs. Stott, Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Schuur, Mrs. Digby, Mrs. Bourhill and Mrs. Wilks.
- CAPE EASTERN REGION : Mrs. Levey, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Wyndham-Kelly, Mrs. Bengough.
- BORDER : Mrs. Curry - Mrs. Litchfield (from 20/10/65)
- NATAL MIDLANDS : Miss. Friday, Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Reid.
- NATAL COASTAL : Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Grice.
- TRANSVAAL : Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Driver, Mrs. Marais, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Gaynor, Mrs. Green.
-

Conference Opened at
3 p.m., 18TH OCTOBER, 1965.

1. The Dedication was read in both official languages.
2. Mrs. Levey, Chairman Cape Eastern Region, welcomed all delegates to the Conference in Port Elizabeth, and thanked the members of her Region for all their hard work.
3. Roll Call. Apologies : Border - Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Streek.
 Cape Western - Mrs. Petersen
 Natal Coastal - Mrs. Rawlins
 Headquarters - Mrs. Dyzenhaus

Mrs. Sinclair apologised for the absence of Mrs. Davidoff who is not well enough to travel.

Telegrams were received from Mrs. Herries Baird and Mrs. Davidoff. A letter of good wishes from Mrs. May Brutus was read to the Conference.

Mrs. Sinclair expressed her hopes that this 1965 Conference would give rise to constructive action on the part of the Black Sash.

4. Mrs. Levey invited delegates to attend a Press Party at her home at 6 p.m. on Wednesday October 20th.

5. The Rules of Procedure/---

5. The Rules of Procedure as set out in the Conference Agenda, were adopted.
6. Election of Press Committee : The following were elected :-
Mrs. Davis (Convener) Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Robb,
Mrs. Carlson and Miss. Friday.
7. THE MINUTES OF THE BLACK SASH CONFERENCE OF 1964 WERE CONFIRMED AND SIGNED.
8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE BLACK SASH CONFERENCE OF 1964.
Deferred until after the Section on Regional Reports.
9. REGIONAL REPORTS : These having been circulated to all delegates before Conference, verbal reports from Regional Chairmen were brief.

NATAL MIDLANDS - MISS. I. FRIDAY.

In the matter of multi-racial gatherings it had been found that the non-Whites had not been anxious to attend Black Sash functions and, therefore, more informal "private" gatherings would in future be held. The Region had tried to bring more activity into its groups, but the swing to the Right in Natal had caused difficulty in this respect. A grant in aid of the education of non-Whites had been made to a section of the University. Demonstrations were always attended by the Special Branch. During the past week the Region had made a Press statement on the banning of Mrs. Jean Hill.

BORDER - MRS. CURRY.

Many difficulties had been encountered by this Region during the past year. Members had left the area and membership now stands at 40. The Region would, however, continue to function and do all that lay in its power. A wonderful job had been done by a few women and attempts would be made to recruit younger members.

CAPE EASTERN - MRS. LEVEY.

Highlights of this Region had been the well attended Regional Conference in February, the appointing in August of a sub-committee which had produced numerous letters to the Press on the subject of prison conditions, and the resuscitation of a Black Sash Branch in Grahamstown.

TRANSVAAL - MRS. CARLSON.

The apparent drop in membership in this Region was being arrested, ten new members had been enrolled in the past few months and more were expected in the near future. The Chairman pointed out that the report for this Region must be read in conjunction with the Publicity and Propaganda and the Advice Office Reports.

CAPE WESTERN - MRS. ROBERTS.

Two corrections were made to this Regional report. On Page 1, membership should read 550, and on Page 2, the money raised by the fête should read R1,969.00.

The report should be read in conjunction with the Advice Office report, and matters pertaining to the raid by the Security Police on the Advice Office would be raised later in the Conference. A great deal of work had been done on Group Area proposals and Beach Apartheid inquiries in the Peninsula.

NATAL COASTAL - MRS. WALLACE.

This region has no branches, works well and with enthusiasm, and is recruiting new members. Of the Indian friends only one has joined the Black Sash, the rest being, possibly, afraid to do so. The news of the banning of Mrs. Jean Hill had been received by the Region with deep sorrow. The Region had demonstrated against the banning of this valued and trusted member.

The Conference delegates stood in tribute to the memory of Dr. Killie Campbell, a foundation member of the Black Sash who had died during the year.

The Chairman reported on the great success of a "Brains Trust" held in Durban which had been attended by some 400 people with all shades of political opinion including two members of the Nationalist Party, represented on the platform.

It was agreed that the Conference send a letter to Mrs. Jean Hill.

Mrs. Sinclair congratulated all Regions on their reports, making special mention of those smaller regions who had suffered victimisation and intimidation.

CONFERENCE DECISION ON THE BANNING OF MRS. JEAN HILL.

It was agreed :-

- (a) That the following Press statement be made from the Conference :
- "We the members of the Black Sash, who are colleagues of Mrs. Jean Hill, wish to register incredulity and indignation at the Banning Order placed upon her. We have known and worked with Mrs. Hill for over 10 years, and have complete faith in her integrity. All her activities have stemmed from her belief in Christianity, in non-violence and the rights of the individual. Certain that at no time has she "engaged in activities which are furthering or are calculated to further the achievements of any of the objects of Communism", this National Conference of the Black Sash demands that the Minister of Justice substantiate the accusations contained in her Banning Order".
- (b) That an open letter to Mr. Vorster be sent simultaneously to him and to the newspapers, this letter to be worded carefully but in the strongest possible terms, and with the help of our legal advisers. Headquarters to decide whether copies of this letter be sent to Cabinet Ministers.
- (c) That Regions hold public meetings on the banning, and send letters to the Press.
- (d) That Regions demonstrate against the ban and that a white card with "Jean Hill" inscribed on it be pinned onto the Black Sash.
- (e) That influential friends of Mrs. Jean Hill be urged to make representations on her behalf to the Minister of Justice.

Should any other Black Sash members be dealt with in a similar arbitrary manner, regions concerned would decide what action to take along the lines of the above plan. Should the National President be banned, a National demonstration would take place and a letter sent to the Minister of Justice.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

On the evening of Monday October 18th, Mrs. Jean Sinclair, National President of the Black Sash, addressed an audience of about 100 people in the Hall of the Conference Centre. The title of her address was

"APARTHEID AT THE COST OF FREEDOM"

The following morning Mrs. Peggy Roberts, speaking on behalf of delegates, congratulated the President, Mrs. Jean Sinclair, for her deeply moving and superb address which had summed up all that for which the Black Sash stands.

8. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1964 NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

- (1) Report on Action taken in regard to the following resolution :

"That in order/---

"That in order to further aims of the Black Sash, a planning sub-committee attached to Headquarters and a planning sub-committee in each Region be responsible for :

- (a) the consideration of a Conference on the value of Liberalism;
- (b) a practical scheme to re-orientate thinking and behaviour to form social attitudes suitable for a multi-racial society ;
- (c) a plan to make our propaganda positive and constructive to create greater public understanding of our aims;
- (d) a programme of political education, particularly of the young;
- (e) a study of the techniques of propaganda used by the Government with a view to countering them".

The following reports were tabled :

- (a) "Activity pertaining to the Resolution passed at last Conference instructing Headquarters to establish a Planning Committee" by Mrs. Davidoff.
- (b) "Report of the work of the Sub-committee of Publicity and Propaganda" by Mrs. Sheena Duncan.
- (c) "Some Observations on Propaganda" by Mrs. Joyce Harris.
- (d) "Analysis of Current Affairs" by Mrs. Muriel Fisher.

DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Stott congratulated the Transvaal-Region on the work done by these Sub-Committees - work which was both constructive and illuminating. She thanked the Planning Committee and the Sub-committee on Propaganda but advised against the use of vicious ridicule against Nationalists. She agreed to the use of verses and simple rhymes.

Miss. Friday suggested that criticisms of the S.A.B.C. should be addressed to the "Listeners Advisory Council" established in each area.

Mrs. Hill begged Regions, especially Cape Western, to start Propaganda Sub-committees in their areas, but pressure of work, it seemed, would not allow this. Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Robb agreed to investigate the possibilities of Cape Western holding a photographic exhibition of African life, even if on a small scale.

The meeting urged that the Conference on Liberalism be got under way and agreed to the holding of a Conference on Nationalism.

Mrs. Sinclair reported on slanted broadcasts.

- (2) Report on recommendation "That the Black Sash try to make a competent film on the life of a Migrant Labourer".

Mrs. Stott reported that there had been too many difficulties in the way of this project.

- (3) S.A.B.C. and the Press - This had been dealt with under (1)

10. HEADQUARTERS REPORTS.

- (1) National President's Report. Mrs. Hill wrote and presented this report and paid special tribute to the work during the year of the National President. The President spoke of the illness of Mrs. Davidoff and the Conference asked that a telegram be sent to her. The report was adopted - Proposed Mrs. Driver, Seconded Mrs. Willis.

- (2) Magazine Editor's Report/---

(2) Magazine Editor's Report. Mrs. Grant presented this report.

Mrs. Roberts spoke of the appreciation by the whole organisation of the work of the magazine editor and in this was seconded by Mrs. Levey, who stressed the value of the magazine to smaller, scattered regions. Mrs. Grant was warmly and sincerely congratulated.

It was agreed that, in spite of an apparent deficit in the magazine finances, complimentary copies should not be stopped. Cape Western volunteered to donate to Headquarters the deficit on the birthday issue of the magazine. i.e. Vol 9 No. 2.

It was agreed

- (a) that every Region send to Headquarters a complete list of addresses of people receiving complimentary copies of the magazine. This list would then be divided between the Regions on a geographical basis, and regions would pay for complimentary copies sent out by them to addresses in South Africa.
- (b) Complimentary copies sent overseas would be despatched by Headquarters Region and paid for by the Cape Western and Transvaal Regions.

Proposed by Mrs. Hill
Seconded by Mrs. Willis.

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

This to apply to the first issue of the magazine printed in 1966.
The Magazine Report was adopted.

Proposed by Mrs. Willis
Seconded by Mrs. Davis.

(3) Financial Report. Mrs. Dyzenhaus.

This report was adopted.

Proposed Mrs. Hill,
Seconded Mrs. Willis.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks go to the Hon. Auditors from this Conference.

IT WAS AGREED that the Black Sash subscription remain at a minimum of R1.00 per year.

IT WAS AGREED that the levy to Headquarters be raised to 75 cents per member per year, beginning with the second half of the financial year 1965/66.

Proposed by Mrs. Stott.
Seconded by Mrs. Willis.

IT WAS AGREED that the deficit in Headquarters finances as recorded in the Balance Sheet of the 31st March, 1965, be donated to Headquarters by Cape Western and Transvaal Regions pro rata on their membership numbers.

The Conference confirmed, by 20 votes with 8 abstentions, that the reserve fund of R300.00 be used to keep Headquarters funds fluid.

11. RESOLUTIONS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.

- (C) (1) ADVISE OFFICES - A general discussion which, it was agreed, would last a maximum of four hours.

The reports of the Athlone/---

Page Six/-

The reports of the Athlone Advice Office and the Johannesburg Advice Office were tabled.

Mrs. Parks in presenting the Athlone Advice Office report, spoke of Mrs. Robb's talk to employers entitled "Know Your African Employee" and its resulting publicity. She expressed concern about the endorsing out of the Western Province of African Women.

Mrs. Robb reported on the difficulties experienced in the Advice Office now that officials refuse to see Black Sash women with their cases.

Mrs. Sinclair reported that African women were being endorsed out in large numbers in the Transvaal, and that many entitled to residence were not allowed to seek work in the area. She outlined a scheme to produce booklets

- (a) for the guidance of employers of African labour and
- (b) for Africans on their rights in an Urban area.

Publicity on cases in newspapers, especially the "Star", had been excellent. Work was being done on the proposed hostels for servants in Johannesburg.

- (C) (3) "That before an African woman is endorsed out of a proclaimed urban area she must have a work contract to go to, and that the authorities concerned should be responsible for the cost of packaging and transport of belongings of all persons endorsed out".

CAPE WESTERN CLAREMONT BRANCH
ITEM FOR DISCUSSION.

After discussion, the following Resolution arose out of this:-

Proposed Mrs. Robb.
Seconded Mrs. Johnston.

"That the Black Sash take all possible action, including making representations to the appropriate authorities, to publicise the plight of African women in the light of its experience and investigations, with particular regard to :

- (1) Endorsement out, particularly that of African Women who are the sole support of their families and
- (2) The lack of financial assistance in moving families and their furniture and possessions.
- (3) The absence of financial and other assistance at the place of re-settlement.
- (4) The near impossibility of African women obtaining work in the rural areas to which they have been forced to go.
- (5) The inability of African women to enter Urban areas to look for or accept work even under contract.
- (6) The summary arrest of African women for Pass Offences.
- (7) Any other hardships as a result of Apartheid Legislation affecting African Women".

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cape Western stressed the value of taking cases to a Court of Law where statements made had to be accepted unless proved to be wrong.

A film showing/---

Page Seven/---

A film showing how Whites would be affected if subjected to Pass Laws, was discussed, and it was agreed

(10 FOR, 5 AGAINST, 8 ABSTENTIONS),

to consult a team of experts before embarking on such a project.

AGREED that the R2,000 donated by the Bantu Welfare Trust for the running of Advice Offices in the Black Sash for the year 1965 to 1966 be divided in the following proportions:-

R500.00 - Transvaal Region. Of the balance of R1,500.00,

2/3 to the Cape Western Region and 1/3 to the Transvaal Region.

Should the Natal Coastal Region open an Advice Office, then Cape Western would subscribe 2/3 and Transvaal 1/3 of the money necessary for this project.

AGREED 26 FOR 1 ABSTENTION.

This to be reviewed each year.

It was decided that there would be no change in the method of running Advice Offices in the future.

Possible Legal Action.

A paper on "Standard Procedure to be adopted in cases of an incident or an emergency" was tabled.

The following resolution was put to the vote :

"That any legal action taken by the Black Sash be taken in the name of the Black Sash unless otherwise agreed upon by Headquarters and Regional Chairs. That the "Standard Procedure to be adopted in cases of an incident or an emergency" be adopted when any legal action is contemplated. That this procedure be carried out except when local legal advice advocated urgent action. In this case immediate contact and consultation with Headquarters and the other Regions must take place".

Proposed Mrs. Cluver.
Seconded Mrs. Johnston.

PASSED 26 FOR, 1 AGAINST, 1 ABSTENTION.

A (1)

"The desirability of strong and constant direction from Headquarters to all other Regions".

NATAL MIDLANDS REGION

Miss. Friday explained that this was no reflection on Headquarters Executive but that Natal Midlands Region desired National direction on National questions, especially as regards Statements and Demonstrations.

It was accepted that the Item for Discussion read :

"The desirability of clear and constant guidance from Headquarters to all other Regions".

Headquarters were asked/---

Page Eight/-

Headquarters were asked to be more vigilant in the matter of examining legislation, and it was agreed that they would telegraph the Natal Midlands Region whenever action or the publication of a Statement was contemplated.

PASSED 25 FOR 1 AGAINST.

A. (3) (Withdrawn)

"Reappraisal of Black Sash work in view of present day conditions in South Africa".

CAPE WESTERN REGION.

A. (4), A (7) and D (2) TAKEN TOGETHER.

A. (4) "Whether the Black Sash is going the best way about achieving its aims and objects".

CAPE WESTERN REGION.

A. (7) "That an urgent task of the Black Sash is to create a well informed membership and general public".

- Implementation (i) courses in group leadership and the holding of group discussions.
(ii) meetings, symposia and brains trusts.

TRANSVAAL REGION.

D. (2) "That this Conference resolves that a greater effort be made by all Regions to enlighten the people of South Africa on the hardships suffered by all people through the implementation of present legislation".

CAPE EASTERN REGION.

Mrs. Stott, in speaking of the "Education and Political enlightenment of the public" spoke of its increasing importance. The laws causing political unrest in the Country must be attacked. We must state what we want for South Africa - not what we object to. Propaganda must expose false statements and draw a picture of the desirability of, as an example, life in a multiracial society.

Mrs. Davis expanded the memorandum on D (2), advocating the use of writers of good calibre to paint the picture of how life in South Africa could be conducted.

Mrs. Carlson appealed for education rather than emotion to achieve our aims, both inside and outside the Black Sash, She described group leadership courses which would result in the dissemination of knowledge. People must be convinced by reasoned argument.

The sub-committee system used by Transvaal Region was outlined and its method of involving new members and spreading the leadership of the Region explained. Arising out of discussion came the following recommendation:-

"That whenever possible Regions organise Sub-committees, dealing with various aspects of our work, in order to involve new or inactive members".

AGREED.

ALL THREE RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A (5) AND A (6) TAKEN TOGETHER /---

A (5) AND A (6) TAKEN TOGETHER

A (5) "That a concentrated effort be made to increase the membership of the Black Sash during the coming year.

- Implementation (i) recruiting of students
(ii) recruiting of young married women.
(iii) recruiting across the colour line.
and the immediate involvement in Black Sash activities of all new members.

TRANSVAAL REGION.

A (6) N.U.S.A.S.

CAPE WESTERN REGION.

Proposed by Mrs. Gaynor,
Seconded by Mrs. Johnston.

The two Resolutions were amended to read :

"That a concentrated effort be made to increase the membership of the Black Sash during the coming year with special reference to the recruiting of students and other young women, and their immediate involvement in Black Sash activities".

- Implementation (i) Work through NUSAS to approach interested students leaving University.
(ii) Try to find work that young married women can do in addition to their home commitments.
(iii) Multiracial recruiting to be given a great deal of thought.

AMENDMENT PASSED 27 FOR 1 AGAINST.

B (1) PRISONS Proposed Mrs. Johnston
Seconded Mrs. Carlson.

"That the Black Sash keeps before the public eye the conditions existing in some South African prisons".

- Implementation (i) demonstrations
(ii) meetings
(iii) statements and letters to the Press
(iv) letters to the Press.
TRANSVAAL REGION.

Amended to read :

"That the Black Sash wherever possible interest itself in Penal Reform".

- Implementation (i) Assisting in setting up of Committees.
(ii) Co-operation with existing Committees.
(iii) Research.
(iv) Publicity.

This amendment to widen the scope of resolution B (1)

There was some discussion/---

There was some discussion on whether Penal Reform fell within our scope. A vote was then taken and Conference decided

(25 FOR, 1 AGAINST)

that this was the concern of the Black Sash. The Transvaal reported that they intend doing a great deal of research into cases that have come before the Courts and hope to complete a Memorandum in the near future.

AMENDMENT PASSED 22 FOR 2 AGAINST 1 ABSTENTION.

B (2) Covered by B (1).

D (1) MATTERS DEALING WITH LEGISLATION

Proposed by Mrs. Green
Seconded by Mrs. Stott.

"Legislation which affects the principle that every man should be presumed to be innocent until found guilty in a Court of Law.

TRANSVAAL REGION.

Mrs. Green enumerated some of the many laws that have undermined the Rule of Law and pointed out that the term "a law abiding man" has ceased to have meaning. Many people do not know that they are breaking the law. She felt that these laws were the result of a deep seated cause, namely the inadequacy of our Constitution. We should start to think in terms of a new Constitution, better suited to the needs of a multiracial country.

Arising out of discussion came the following proposal :

"This Conference empowers Headquarters to commission a group of Constitutional lawyers to draft one or two outline constitutions suitable for our multiracial South Africa to be used as a basis of discussion both inside and outside the Black Sash"

PASSED 10 FOR 6 AGAINST 12 ABSTENTIONS.

D. (3) and (4) TAKEN TOGETHER.

D. (3) "The position of the Banished and their families.

TRANSVAAL REGION.

D. (4). "That in view of the failure of Members of Parliament to raise the matter in the House during the last Parliamentary Session, each Region should again approach its Member of Parliament to urge that the system of banishment without trial be fully discussed in the coming session of Parliament. In this way the electorate of South Africa will be made aware of the continuing existence of banished men who have been rendered defenceless by being deprived of the protection of Courts of Law".

CAPE EASTERN REGION.

Proposed Mrs. Levey
Seconded Mrs. Bengough.

The two resolutions were amended to read :

"In view of the failure of Members of Parliament to gain Press Publicity when the subject of banishment without trial was raised in the House during the last Parliamentary session, each region should again approach its Member of Parliament to urge that the system of banishment without trial be fully discussed in the coming session of Parliament.

In this way the electorate of South Africa will be made aware of the continuing existence of banished men who have been rendered defenceless by being deprived of the protection of Courts of law".

In speaking of the resolution Mrs. Levey suggested that as soon as the matter is seen to be coming up in Parliament, at least one member in each Region should approach U.P. Members of Parliament who should be briefed on facts and made to take responsibility for the banished men. It was agreed that Mrs. Levey be co-ordinating officer for this project.

AMENDED RESOLUTION PASSED 26 FOR 2 ABSTENTIONS.

Report by S. A. I. R. R. tabled.

D (5)

"The position of the Coloured Community, especially in the Cape (The Cape Western Region to be asked to report on the result of job reservation and other facts).

TRANSVAAL REGION.

Report by Mrs. Stott : -

91,000 people will have to move in the Cape under the Group Areas Act. In District 6 a further 41,000 non-Whites will probably also have to move out,

The Cape Town City Council can build 2,000 houses per year if land is available and it has been agreed that 25% of these will be available to displaced persons. Social prejudice and traditional pattern are worse than job reservation. Only very slowly are a few "higher" positions each year made available to non-Whites ; this in spite of a shortage of mechanics, fitters and turners etc., The Unions must take much of the blame for this situation.

Non-Whites abound among builders, plumbers and electricians, and are increasing among clerical workers. Some new industries e.g., Nylon knitting yarn, employ almost exclusively non-Whites. The same position holds in most sections of the Clothing Industry.

The Coloured Community as a whole earns more to-day than 10 years ago; there is little unemployment. They are, however, dependent on permits for many jobs and are denied the skilled, financially lucrative positions.

Mrs. Robb suggested a "Career Exhibition" in the Cape Town Drill Hall to show the contrast between what is available to White and non-White school leaving children .

Miss. Friday reported that since November 1964 in Natal, a Coloured man can be apprenticed to a White builder, but on qualifying must work with a Coloured firm.

Mrs. Stott explained that Coloured people in the Cape would be in need of much advice and help when "group areas" was implemented. She appealed to the Black Sash to help and asked all Regions to investigate the problem in their areas and communicate with her.

A Report on Workmen's Compensation by Mrs. Parks was tabled, and Mrs. Parks congratulated on her excellent piece of work.

Arising out of discussion came the following resolution :

"That the Black Sash undertake to approach other interested bodies with a view to establishing a committee to go into the distribution of Workmen's Compensation with special reference to the fact that so much of the money awarded remains "unclaimed". Employers will be approached and asked to accept responsibility for ensuring that all their employees know when they are entitled to Workmen's Compensation and how they must go about claiming it".

Proposed/---

Page Twelve/-

Proposed Mrs. Robb
Seconded Mrs. Marais.

UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Points arising from discussion :-

- (a) employers should have permanent addresses of employees.
- (b) Chambers of Commerce and Industries should be briefed to help.
- (c) All Regions must assist in the work of tracing, with Mrs. Parks as the "sorting house".

- A. (2) "That the Black Sash examine resolutions made at previous National Conferences and before making further resolutions, should resolve to consolidate and expedite those resolutions already passed.

That the next National Conference should be in the form of a Symposium, Seminar or Brains Trust rather than expend energy and time on debating and passing resolutions that are not carried out.

CAPE WESTERN PINELANDS BRANCH.

(Mrs. Wilks outlined resolutions passed by the Black Sash and not implemented)

Arising out of discussion came the following points :

- (1) In order to realise what has been achieved by Regions more time should be spent at National Conference on Regional Reports.
- (2) More "Fact Papers " should be produced at Conference, even if this means changing the form of Conference.
- (3) Resolutions should be kept to a minimum and deal with subjects that can be implemented and are matters of policy. Memoranda should accompany resolutions.
- (4) Agreed that each Region circulate to other regions a quarterly report on activity - the next to be sent in the first week of March 1966.

- D. (6) "The Homeless Servant Act".

Bantu Laws Amendment Act of 1963 (Sec. 6E No. 76/63)

which allows only one servant per household and relegates other servants to living in "batchelor" and "spinster" hostels.

TRANSVAAL REGION.

Amended to read :

Bantu Laws Amendment Act of 1963 (Sec. 6E No. 76/63)

which states that not more than one domestic servant per private householder will be exempted from living in a Bantu Residential area unless the local authority gives special permission. Other servants are relegated to living in "bachelor" and "spinster" hostels.

Points from discussion :

- (1) Investigations in the Transvaal show that hostels will be well planned with provision for privacy, bathing and cooking.

(2) It was agreed/---

Page Thirteen/-

- (2) It was agreed that the principle of men and women living in hostels must be fought especially in the case of married couples being separated.
- (3) Transport is now, and will be increasingly in the future, hopelessly overcrowded and slow.
- (4) There should be Trade Unions for domestic servants.

D. (8) Equal facilities for all Races

TRANSVAAL REGION.

It was agreed that where apartheid has not, by law, to be implemented (e.g., lifts, entrances etc.,) it should not be imposed by owners, employers and social custom.

Such things as education Conferences, and exhibitions etc., can be attended by non-Whites and these should therefore be held in multiracial halls.

D. (7) COVERED BY EARLIER RESOLUTIONS.

- E. (1) It is proposed that the National Conference reiterates its condemnation of the S.A.B.C. as a vehicle of political propaganda, and resolves to continue its efforts to expose and explain the methods used by the Corporation.

TRANSVAAL REGION.

The following Press Statement was formulated for release :-

"The Black Sash continues to deplore the blatant mis-use by the Government of the S.A.B.C. for the dissemination of Nationalist Party propaganda, fraudulently presented as the opinion of the whole nation. The S.A.B.C. is conducting a campaign to smear the English language press, the Defence and Aid Fund, certain individuals, the U.S.A., U.N.O., the United Kingdom, Holland, political parties, liberalism, the Christian Institute, the Churches and innumerable other concepts, people and organisations. We appeal to Springbok Radio sponsors to take cognisance of the proximity of their advertising to slanted and offensive programmes.

Talk by Mrs. Robb on the work of Defence and Aid.

Defence and Aid was born after Sharpeville with a multi-racial Committee. Black Sash women all over the country work on Defence and Aid in their private capacities.

The objects of the organisation are

- (1) to uphold, defend and protect by lawful means civil rights and human liberties
- (2) to provide legal defence.

Since the inception of the organisation everybody arrested on a political charge has received adequate legal defence. This is welcomed by Judges and has often resulted in reduction of sentences.

Conference decided to publish an article on Defence and Aid in the Black Sash magazine, giving facts and figures.

12. NOMINATIONS FOR HEADQUARTERS REGION 1965/1966.

TRANSVAAL Proposed by Cape Western
Seconded by Border.

Unanimously elected.

Mrs. Roberts offered the thanks of the National Conference to Transvaal for once more shouldering the burden.

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT - 1965/1966.

MRS. SINCLAIR Proposed by Mrs. Currie.
Seconded by Mrs. Wallace.

In accordance with the Black Sash Constitution, Conference agreed that Mrs. Sinclair serve in this position for another year.

Unanimously elected.

NOMINATIONS FOR TWO VICE-PRESIDENTS - 1965/1966.

MRS. HILL (nomination not accepted by Mrs. Hill)

MRS. CLUVER Proposed by Mrs. Robb.
Seconded by Mrs. Wallace.

MRS. CARLSON (nomination refused by Mrs. Carlson. Agreed by Conference that the Chair of the Transvaal Region attend and vote at all meetings of Headquarters Executive).

MRS. DAVIDOFF (refused on account of illness and other commitments).

MRS. GREEN Proposed by Mrs. Cluver
Seconded by Miss. Friday

MRS. M. W. CLUVER and MRS. N. GREEN

Unanimously elected.

13. VENUE OF NEXT CONFERENCE - CAPE TOWN.

Cape Western Region offered to contribute towards the expenses of moving Headquarters Executive to Cape Town for the Conference.

DATE OF NEXT CONFERENCE : Last half of October, 1966.

Meetings of Regional Chairs would take place only in emergencies.

14. GENERAL.

WINDING UP OF CONFERENCE BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT -
MRS. SINCLAIR.

14. GENERAL.

WINDING UP OF CONFERENCE BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT
MRS. JEAN SINCLAIR.

The Conference had been a fruitful one and had helped to prove how necessary it is for Regions to meet together every year. The Press publicity given to the Black Sash over the days of the Conference had been excellent and a sincere vote of thanks was due to the Fort Elizabeth newspapers.

Mrs. Sinclair thanked the executive office bearers - Vice Presidents Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Cluver for their support ; Mrs. Grant for her wonderful work as Magazine Editor, Mrs. Dyzenhaus whose work as Treasurer had been done under difficult personal circumstances ; Mrs. Cluver for her work as Secretary.

The President thanked the members of the Transvaal Region, especially the Chairman, Mrs. J. Carlson, for their help as Headquarters Region.

The delegates and their Regions were warmly congratulated on their work both at Conference and during the year.

Mrs. Sinclair thanked all the members of the Cape Eastern Region for their wonderful organisation of Conference affairs. The Press party had been delightful, delegates had really appreciated the flowers in their hotel bedrooms, and had been far too well fed. A special thanks went to the Grahamston, Addo and Alexandria branches for their excellent teas, and the Universal Aunts for all the help they had given both to delegates, and in the Secretarial work involved at Conference.

Mrs. P. Roberts, on behalf of the whole Conference, thanked the National President for her wonderful Chairmanship.

THE CONFERENCE ADJOURNED AT 12.45 P.M ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 21ST, 1965.