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CAPE WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL.

Chairman: Mrs. M. Petersen.

Vice-Chairmen: Mrs. N. Robb and Mrs. E. Stott.

Secretary: Miss F. Thorne. Treasurer: Mrs. B. Willis.

Mrs. H. Spottiswoode.	Mrs. J. Glyn Rees.	Mrs. N. le Feuvre.
Mrs. M. Roberts.	Mrs. V. Davie.	Mrs. D. Berman.
Mrs. J. Pare.	Mrs. M. Stoy.	Mrs. M. Birt.
Mrs. N. Day.	Mrs. P. Duncan.	

DEMONSTRATIONS.

On 27th May, a great number of Black Sash women, standing against Marks Buildings, found themselves facing an equally large body of University students, who were ranged along the railings of the House. Both bodies of people were there to protest against the Separate University Bill, which was being read for a second time. There was another group of women at the top of Adderley Street, and this group stood round a book, on which was written: "Academic merit is the only worthwhile standard." Other placards bore:- "No dictatorship in education" and "Learning must not be fettered by Government chains."

On the following day many Sashers from all quarters joined Stellenbosch in a stand outside the University in two groups and outside the Town Hall where the usual counter-demonstration by the students took place.

Mrs. Spottiswoode spoke to a group of about forty students who were very aggressive at first but ended up by showing the first signs of sympathy that Stellenbosch has ever experienced on a stand.

On Saturday 22nd June, the day after Parliament rose, fifty Black Sash women staged a protest stand against the several unjust Bills which had come before the House during that session. Some women stood round the book at the top of Adderley Street and the other women stood round the centre island. Their placards read:- "This Session ends with unjust, restrictive and undemocratic laws imposed on all South Africans." During this stand, pamphlets were handed out in the main streets of the city.

WORLD GOODWILL.

This international organisation has asked if it can publish an article about the Black Sash in its quarterly magazine.

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN.

This Alliance was founded in 1904, and one of its objects is "To urge women to use their rights and influence in public life to ensure that the status of every individual without distinction of sex, race or creed, shall be based on respect for human personality, the only guarantee for individual freedom."

In July, this organisation issued an invitation to the Black Sash to send a delegate to their Conference in Geneva. Mrs. Power, who now lives in London, was asked to go and she reported that delegates showed the greatest interest in the Sash.

On her first evening, she was the principle speaker at a reception given in honour of the delegates. Her report tells of "the reaction of the delegates, particularly those from Pakistan, Nigeria, Ceylon, and British Guiana, who had said that they had no idea that there was any opposition in South Africa to the "discriminatory legislation" and "Fascist tendencies", (the expressions are theirs) of the Government. She received invitations to speak in Stockholm, London, Lancashire and Athens, and many delegates asked for information to be posted.

C.A.T.A.P.A.W.

We would like to inform members as to why the Cape Association to abolish passes for African women, consisting of the National Council of Women, (Cape Town Branch) the Anglican Church Mothers' union, the African National Congress Women's League, (Cape Western Region) the Black Sash (Cape Western Region) and the Federation of S.A. Women (Cape Region) came into being.

In the course of their work all these organisations have learnt of the tragic consequences which the Pass Laws have for African women, their children and their home life. The implementation of the present laws makes it difficult for African men in the Western Province to have their wives and families with them unless the wives are needed for employment. This usually necessitates mothers of even very young children being forced into employment at the cost of their children and homes. Further, if the women are unable to obtain a pass and to produce it on demand, they are subject to immediate arrest, followed after conviction, by another fine and/or imprisonment and then removed from their husbands and homes.

C.A.T.A.P.A.W. undertook to send a deputation on 9/8/57 to the Chief Native Commissioner explaining how the application of the Pass Laws to African women was disrupting family life.

Thereafter a public meeting was held in the Old Drill Hall to hear the report of the deputation. At this meeting members of all races combined to show their disapproval of yet another interference with the fundamental rights of the individual.

The Chief Native Commissioner said that if C.A.T.A.P.A.W. would submit a memo stating their objection to the Pass Laws, giving details of the hardships complained of, he would forward it to the Secretary of Native Affairs with his comments.

This C.A.T.A.P.A.W. undertook to do.

### SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

On Monday evening, 9th September, over 300 members met in St. Saviour's Hall, Claremont, to consider the role of the Sash in the coming seven months.

Every member had previously been given a list of resolutions on this subject, sent in by Branches and individuals throughout the Region, but it was not long before it became apparent that the real issue was whether the Black Sash should go into recess or not, and what the word "recess" really meant.

Lady Clerke of Constantia put the point of view of those who wished the Sash to "close down" until after the election. Discussion continued until after 10 p.m. when a vote was taken.

The following resolutions were adopted by a large majority:-

1. That this meeting re-affirms the resolution passed by the Regional Conference in April 1957, namely:-

"That this Conference resolves that over the period of the General Election campaign, the Black Sash should limit its activities and strongly urge all its members to work for the candidate in their constituency whose principles conform most closely to those of our movement."

2. That this meeting resolves that there should be no groups of workers formed within the Sash to work for political parties.

In view of resolution 1, at the next All Branches meeting to be held on October 7th at 2 p.m. the programme of reduced activities for the coming period will be discussed. This meeting will be held at the Cecil Hotel, Newlands.

### INTERESTING VISITOR.

Mrs. Petersen met Dr. Gwendoline Carter, lecturer in Political Science at Smith University, U.S.A., who is intensely interested in the Black Sash and who wishes to write fully about us in a book which she is writing. She gave a year's subscription for the magazine and asked for the addresses of all chairwomen round the coast so that she could meet them.

### EDUCATION.

As incidents of the hardships suffered by African women through the recent application of the Pass Laws to them, came to our notice, we thought it necessary to inform ourselves on these complicated laws. Consequently on June 21st, Professor Monica Wilson, Dean of the Faculty of African Studies at the Cape Town University, spoke in St. Saviour's Hall, Claremont on the Pass Laws. Most members had the opportunity of hearing more on the subject of passes for African women at meetings held throughout the Peninsula at most of which a European woman gave the historical and political aspects and an African woman told the human side from personal experience.

On July 29th, Mr. A. C. Jordan, Senior lecturer in the Department of African Studies at the Cape Town University spoke in the Bohemian Club on the Bantu Education Act. This lecture was very well attended and all present were appalled to learn of the effect that this Act is having on Africans' education.

The next series contemplated is on Western Civilisation.

The following are some speakers and their subjects at Branch Meetings:- Mr. L.C. Gay, M.P. on the U.P. attitude to Apartheid. Mr. Leo Marquard on Race Relations. Mr. N'gwena on Apartheid. Mrs. Lewis on the Workings of the City Council. Mrs. G. Taylor, M.P.C. on the U.P. Congress at Bloemfontein.

### PROPAGANDA.

Enclosed you will find copies of propaganda issued free to the public in the last few months. Members who have not already done so are asked to buy for 1/-, the booklet with lectures by Prof. Beinart, Adv. G. Gordon, Prof. Thompson and Prof. Wilson.

Your Editors,  
"BLACK" and "SERP".