

CAPE WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL.

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Mrs. J. Pare. Mrs. V. Davie. Mrs. M. Birt.

Mrs. N. Day. Mrs. P. Duncan. Miss F. Thorne.

JOB RESERVATION DEMONSTRATION.

On Wednesday, 13th. November, 120 Sashers took part in a Demonstration from 12.30 p.m. - 1.15 p.m. against the Reservation of Jobs in the Clothing Industry. They stood in 3 groups in Adderley Street. At the top, one group flanked the "Book", a wooden replica of the Book of the Constitution into which the poster of the day is fitted. The islands outside Stuttafords and Fletchers were surrounded by the other two groups, holding a banner and two posters bearing the same declaration - CLOTHING INDUSTRY JOB RESERVATION UNJUST. - in English and Afrikaans. Somerset West combined in a stand at Somerset West while Hermanus sent a contingent of 14 to join us in Cape Town! This demonstration was particularly gratifying as there had been considerable inconvenience in the last-minute change of date. Well done everyone!

COOK'S BUSH.

Informally the Sash met the Departmental Heads of the Divisional Council to discuss what could be done about the deprivation of civil rights which is suffered by each family as a result of the enforced move.

It was stressed that the Sash is interesting itself only as far as deprivation of Civil Rights and Liberties is concerned and with a view to bringing facts to the notice of the appropriate authorities.

VISIT TO CAPE MIDLANDS.

One result of the National Council Meeting in September is that the Cape Midlands Region invited Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Spottiswoode to visit Beaufort West and Graaff Reinet to give lectures on 26th and 27th November.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTER FROM MRS. POWER TO MRS. ROBB. 3rd. Nov. '57

I spent yesterday afternoon 2.30 to 6.30 p.m. non-stop at a meeting in the Caxton Hall on South African University Apartheid. I couldn't help feeling what a pity it was that those who say the Black Sash is too liberal or goes too far, could be here to hear the speakers - learned, distinguished and oh! so respectable men and women, and to sense the atmosphere of the meeting as a whole. Living in South Africa it is so easy to let custom and tradition and convenience, both social and political, cloud one's assessment of the situation so that one loses sight of the fundamental issues of what is right and what is wrong. The speakers yesterday, and in fact all people here who think about it at all, take for granted so many things such as the basic equality of all men, the desirability of social integration etc., etc., which most South Africans (myself most certainly included) can only accept, if at all, after a tremendous inner conflict between instinct and reason. That there should be such a struggle is understandable in view of South African life and conditions, but it is not reasonable that having faced up to that conflict and come out of it with reason and justice prevailing over prejudice and fear, that one should be labelled dangerous, traitorous and pink - if not scarlet - when such an attitude of mind is taken for granted in the rest of the world. It would be impossible to live over here for any length of time, to listen with an open mind to radio and television, to read the more intellectual type of newspaper, including the Times and listen to ordinary conversation without realising how terribly out of touch with world thought and opinion is the traditional South African attitude to colour, and how more isolated she is becoming.

You are right when you say the pace set by the leaders of the Sash must not be too fast, but don't let it be too slow either - to keep the right pace is your terribly grave responsibility. I saw Peggy Britten in London on Monday and had a very pleasant talk with her. One of the things we discussed was the inevitable swing away from liberalism in the Sash due to the proximity of the election. The next day I received your letter saying just this was happening, it is inevitable. It is a pity the Liberal Party can't find another name for itself - the sort of liberalism preached by the Sash, which is after all, only humanitarianism and justice, is not necessarily the liberalism advocated by the Liberal Party, but of course the two are confused.

Several South Africans speaking at the meeting yesterday said that they had to live outside their country before they had any opportunity to get to know how South African Natives and Coloured people felt and thought.

I have had 3 trips to London this week on Black Sash affairs plus yesterday's meeting. On Wednesday I addressed a lunch hour meeting of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. On Friday I lunched with Mrs. Corbett Ashloy to discuss a closer alliance between the Sash and the International Alliance of Women. I have 4 articles to write and 4 talks in the near future.

GROUP AREAS CONFERENCE.

The Conference on the Group Areas Act will be held on 25th. and 26th. January.

It is being sponsored by the S.A. Institute of Race Relations, Civil Rights League and the Co-ordinating Committee on Group Areas together with the Sash.

The object of the Conference is to debate ways and means of combating the Group Areas Act and also how best to get across to the public the implications of the Act.

MANNEQUIN PARADE.

Last year the Council raised £645 towards general funds. By September they had achieved £445 and in an effort to reach the same target this year, a very successful Mannequin Parade was staged at Wynberg, largely through the hard work of Mrs. Pare. In spite of heavy expenses, our members supported it so well that we were able to make £81 clear profit.

BLACK SASH BOOK. by Mirabel Rogers, for sale to Members at 15/-.

How about sending copies as Christmas presents to friends throughout the world?

One Member donated 2 Books which the Regional Council decided to send to Mrs. Roosevelt and the National President of the International Alliance of Women of Ceylon.

Another tip for Christmas gifts - Black Sash Diaries - for sale at 3/9 each, from Branch Chairs or the Office.

PAMPHLETS FOR SALE.

"The Citizen and His Rights of Association", by the late Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Reverend G.H. Clayton, issued by the Civil Rights League. Price 1/-

"IN A JUST CAUSE - THE WEAK O'ERCOME THE STRONG." Sophocles.

SYMPOSIUM ON UNIVERSITY APARTHEID.

Friday, 18th. October, was a memorable day in the history of the Sash in Stellenbosch. The local Branch arranged a Symposium of different views on the advantages and disadvantages of Separate Universities Education for Whites and non-Whites. The speakers were Prof. Beinart of Cape Town, Prof. Gunter of Stellenbosch and Prof. Van der Ross of Battswood Training College. To our great pleasure the audience consisted not only of Black Sash members; many of the audience were Nationalists.

Prof. Beinart spoke first and expressed the considered views of the open Universities which were publicised during the last Session. Prof. Gunter, Prof. of Educational Philosophy, a member of Sabra, and a Nationalist, then spoke with emphasis and decision on his personal views, which were that no State, except under very serious circumstances, had the moral right to interfere with the academic freedom of Universities. He said that there was a need for more facilities for higher education for non-Europeans and that, therefore, the founding of separate Universities was justified, but only if they were to be equal in every way to the existing Universities. He expressed doubt as to whether the country could afford such separate institutions. He emphasised that there should be no compulsion by Law for non-Whites to attend these separate Colleges, as that would mean the removal of a long established right.... they should have the free choice to go where they wished. Dr. Van der Ross followed, giving the wishes of the non-Europeans, which were that the recent system at the open Universities should be retained and further expressed concern that his people were denied entrance to a University such as Stellenbosch. He said that in no case had attendance at a mixed University led to any inter-marriage between White and non-White. His recent visit to America had shown him that the mixed Universities there were of a considerably higher standard than those confined to White only and that those confined to Negroes had the lowest standard of all. We feel that this meeting was a great step forward towards better understanding of the objects of the Sash, as the atmosphere of the meeting was pleasant and co-operative. The audience had obviously come to listen and many questions were asked. There were none of the disturbances which hitherto had characterised all the public appearances of the Sash in Stellenbosch.

Your Editors, "BLACK" and "SERP".