

1, Kildare Road,
Claremont,
Cape Town.
March, 1959.

Dear Sashers,

We hope the holiday break strengthened you all for the struggle ahead because the signs all point to this being a very busy year for all of us. In fact, this letter could very easily read like the "Situations Vacant" column in the local press:

- 1) WANTED: MEMBERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH BAIL FUND AND QUESTION-AIRRE.
- 2) WANTED: MEMBERS NEEDED FOR PROTEST STANDS.
- 3) WANTED: MEMBERS TO HELP IN OFFICE.
- 4) WANTED: MEMBERS TO HELP IN CENTRAL EXECUTIVE OFFICE.
- 5) WANTED: MEMBERS TO ATTEND LECTURES AND PROTEST MEETINGS.
- 6) WANTED: MEMBERS TO INTERVIEW PROMINENT NATIONALISTS - MEN & WOMEN.

We wonder where those members are whose enthusiasm has cooled because, they say, there is nothing to do. We think there is a wide choice for every taste.

BAIL FUND AND QUESTIONAIRE: If you like the human interest, there is nothing that would prove more satisfying than helping with the Bail Fund. So far, 11 African have been bailed out, five of them from Paarl. One of the women was successfully defended and obtained a permanent permit to reside here. Can you imagine what that means to her and can you imagine what it means in goodwill between Black and White women? But that is not the extent of the work done by our women at Langa. Questionnaires are being handed out and when they are completed, it is intended to hand them into the Native Commissioner to show the hardships caused by the Pass Laws. Mrs. Duncan met the new Native Commissioner last week to introduce herself (as our Sash representative) and advise him of the work we are doing amongst the African women and inform him also of the hardship that is being suffered. He said he knew about this but that it is the Government's policy..... Well, it is our policy to do what we can to help these women but more of you must come forward. It is too much for Mrs. Duncan and

Mrs. Jolly and their few helpers. If you would volunteer to come on ~~their~~ roster, so much work could be done.

PROTEST STANDS: If you have no time for regular work, do you support us in our protest stands? There will probably be several this year and since our Country Branches have asked that they be allowed to stand in their own villages, we are going to find our ranks sorely depleted as Country Branches used to turn out in force. Forthcoming stands will include ones against the University Apartheid Bill and the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill. So when the call comes to turn out in protest against these Bills we hope all those Sashers who have never stood before because "there will be plenty there without me", will not let us down.

OFFICE WORKERS NEEDED: If, on the other hand its a sitting down job you want, your help would be appreciated in the Cape Western office or the Central Executive office. Now that Cape Western has the Central Executive to man, double the number of workers are needed and if you would like to help them they would be very pleased to see you. Mrs. Hodgson is away on 3 months sick leave recuperating from a serious operation, and we are very lucky to have Mrs. Solomon from the False Bay Branch standing in for her.

PROTEST MEETING: Our biggest event so far this year was the Protest Meeting on January 27th, and this is the story behind that meeting. You may have seen that Mr. Harry Lawrence in The Argus, suggested that an individual or organisation should collect the signatures of 25 rate-payers to petition the Mayor to call a Protest Meeting to discuss Government interference with specific reference to Job Reservation. This the Black Sash decided to do and asked ex-Chief Justice Centlivres to present the Petition and to act as unofficial Chairman of the proceedings. On the day that our Petition was presented the Administrator announced the possibility of removing Coloured Municipal Voters from the common roll. S.A.C.P.O. immediately drew up a Petition signed by 25 ratepayers asking for a Protest meeting to discuss this. They also asked all those interested to attend the meeting. Cape Western sent Mrs. Roberts and Mrs Henderson to represent the Black Sash and a Committee has now been formed - the Cape Committee for the Preservation of the non-racial franchise on which the Black Sash is represented. This body sent a Deputation to the Administrator to discuss the threat to the Coloured Municipal Voters consisting of Judge Centlivres, Mr. D. Desai (S.A.C.P.O.), Mrs. Roberts (Cape Western - Black Sash), Mr. D.B.

Molteno, Q.C., (Race Relations). Meanwhile, it was decided to do our best to persuade the Mayor to call the two meetings together. The Council had instructed the Mayor to call a Meeting in response to our Petition, on January 27th. Thanks to the persistence and hard work of Judge Centlivres, Mr. Donald Molteno and Mrs. Roberts it was finally decided that the 2 meetings could be called simultaneously on January 27th. An ad hoc committee was quickly formed, 10,000 leaflets advertising the Meeting were distributed—5,000 by Non-European members of the Committee and 5,000 by the Black Sash by means of 2 convoys in the lunch hour. 6 Europeans and 5 Non-Europeans worked as never before to bring about in 6 days the very successful Protest Meeting. The full story of the actual meeting will be told in the next issue of the Magazine.

SYMPOSIUM ON CHRISTIAN NATIONAL EDUCATION: We hope many of you will also come to the Symposium that Mrs. Marquard has arranged for March 18th, at 8.15, on Christian National Education at St. Saviour's Church Hall. Most of our members are mothers and education is of vital interest to us all so we expect a record attendance. A great deal of work goes into arranging a lecture and it is disappointing if you find that the speaker you have gone to so much trouble to get, has to speak to a thinly sprinkled hall.

RECORDING OF PISTORIOUS LECTURE: For those of you who like to listen to a good speaker, we recommend you to get your Branches to play the recording we have of Professor Pistorious speech to the people of Cape Town, when he spoke on the eve of Human Rights Day. It is sure to be in great demand and would make an excellent addition to Branch meetings.

MAGAZINE REPRESENTATIVES: Branches could also discuss the idea amongst themselves of appointing one of their members as Magazine representative, to keep her eye open for items of interest to the Sash in the papers or any magazines she may read, or to get articles written by members of her Branch to send into the Magazine. We are not getting the support for our Magazine that we should, it is of interest to you all and of a very high standard. Many of you have never seen it and many of you order it and don't read it. It is headquartered here in Cape Town now and we in Cape Western are responsible for it. There are so many talented Sashers that a never-ending stream of articles,

letters, cartoons and other items of interest should come pouring in and it should no sooner be off the press than you should be waiting on tenterhooks for it. Members who complain that they are getting their copies late can be sure that the office will do all it can to speed up delivery to the Branches but Chairs must see that they do not lie around in their homes for weeks before they are delivered to Branch members. It would be a help too, if members would pay yearly, it is only six shillings and the monthly sixpenny collections are un-necessary extra work.

DEPUTATION TO CITY STORE: We think members will be thrilled to hear, before we close, of the success of our deputation to the management of one of the large Cape Town stores who were displaying a large "Europeans Only" sign in their library. We felt that whilst owners have the right to do as they like in their own businesses it sets a distressing precedent when private enterprise voluntarily facilitates Government policy and that it is un-necessarily hurtful to the Coloured community to be faced with large notices such as this was, when they are shopping. In this case, the management of the shop in question was most co-operative and sympathetic and readily agreed to replace the offending notice with a smaller "Rights of Admission Reserved" notice which was much less likely, in our opinion, to create even more racial antagonism than there is at the moment. It really does show the power of protest and it is gratifying to know that a large and comparatively powerful body who also wished to protest against the sign, when they heard of our success, said, "Well, the women have done it again"!

Yours sincerely,

"SWART" and "SERP"