

1, Kildare Road,
Claremont, Cape.

Dear Sashers,

Those of you who were not present at the All Branches meeting in August will be eager to hear an account of the National Council meeting which was held recently. Very briefly, since space here is limited, the unanimous opinion was that it was the best that has been held and there was an atmosphere of mutual trust which was a great credit to the new Central Executive. It is difficult to sum up in a nutshell the course of the meeting, but a two-pronged fork emerged which was, firstly, to influence the white electorate and, secondly, by practical work, to build bridges to show up the hardships inflicted by the laws we oppose. To influence the white electorate we have our demonstrations, our educational programme (Brains Trusts, Symposiums, recordings, pamphlets, magazine) and also our approach to the Nationalists. The latter is only being done by Cape Western but other regions agreed to attempt to do this. Our practical work is evidenced by Cape Western's Bail Fund and Group Areas work, Cape Eastern, Natal Coastal and Border are also occupied with Group Areas, N. Midlands with Pass Laws and Southern Transvaal is doing magnificent work with farm labour.

The Central Executive also resolved to ask experts to draft possible new constitutions for South Africa to be published near Union Day 1960 and an appeal was made for suggestions from members for ideas for commemorating Union Day next year. If you have any ideas on the subject, please send them in to us.

Thanks go to Mrs. Oliver and her helpers for their part in the success of the National Council meeting. Their catering was superb and the organisation of it was so efficient that they can be assured they have a job for life, as long as conventions, conferences and council meetings are held down here. Credit, too, for the pleasant atmosphere, goes to Mrs. Robb who so kindly lent her house for the meeting.

Details of the National Council's deliberations appear in our magazine and here, let me tell you that a sub-committee has been formed to boost the magazine sales. It is a surprising fact that not all Sashers take the magazine, since many non-Sashers praise it highly. The Cape Argus and the Contact editorials particularly mention the "Pass" issue and we are proud to be associated with such adult work. We really would urge Sashers to do everything they can to increase our circulation. If members would only buy a few extra copies they would have no difficulty in selling them to their friends every month. We speak from experience. Nobody feels sixpence once a month and it is one way of getting information to the general public which, after all, is one of our aims.

Details appear in the magazine, too of the Archbishop's Conference for which we did the secretarial work, the teas and made all the necessary arrangements for its organisation. An ad hoc committee was formed and a resolution taken, details of which were sent to you all through your branches. It is only possible, in the quarterly news sheet, to give you a glimpse of what we are doing, that is why it is so important that you read your Sash magazine regularly so that you know all about our activities.

One activity we have fortunately been spared lately, is "Stands" the last one being held at the end of the Parliamentary session. It was gratifying to see such an excellent turn-out of members, despite the last minute decision to call you out.

We hope you are conserving your strength and your energy for an all-out effort for the fete. Despite some grumbling, last years effort was an enormous success and everyone enjoyed it. It looks like being an annual event so please work hard and make this year's fete even more successful. For those who are vague about the stalls, here is a list of branches and the stalls they are responsible for:-

Rosebank.....	Teas.
Claremont & Sea Point.....	Sweets.
Fish Hoek.....	Tombola.
Pinelands & Rondebosch.....	Cakes.
Stellenbosch, Elgin & Durbanville.....	Produce.
False Bay.....	Delicatessen.
Plumstead & Wynberg.....	Christmas gifts & decorations.

No special stall has been allocated to Wellington, Gardens and other branches not mentioned here but they are asked to do what they can and give what they can. Bellville is running a hat stall and you are urgently requested to dig into your cupboards and dig out all those hats that have been gathering dust with the years. You have changed your hair-style and you aren't so young any more and that hat that you wore once five years ago will never suit you again, so please stop thinking that it may come in handy one day, and give it, together with all the others you know you won't wear again, to swell Black Sash funds.

But where does the money go? Well, Cape Western was happy to be in a position (perhaps because of the excellent results of last year's fete?) to donate £100 to Central Executive, for expenses to enable members to visit other regions. These visits are a real tonic to those areas and do a lot to awaken interest which is apt to wane occasionally through lack of activity, and also to further those good relations which exist between Sashers.

Interest in our work has always been felt amongst a large section of the students at U.C.T. and with the extension of the vote to the 18 year olds, it is felt that it may be possible to start a University branch. To start the ball rolling, an invitation was issued to meet at Mrs. Isaac's house, where they were addressed by Mrs. Stott. The girls asked forthright and intelligent questions and were particularly interested in our practical programme with which they wanted to help. For the time being, those who wish to join will be enrolled in Rondebosch branch until such time as their numbers warrant a separate branch of their own.

Certainly their help will be most welcome, particularly with our Bail Fund. It is gaining such ground that it has been necessary to open an office near Athlone which is open from 9 - 12 every morning. An African woman attends daily as our interpreter and women from various branches attend every morning by rota. Helpers are still urgently needed and also chairs, cups, saucers, etc. Please do not ignore this appeal.

We appeal to you also for suggestions for the commemoration of Union Day 1960. If you have any ideas, please let us know. We really should like to get the feeling of Sashers as to the approach we should take.

Lastly, news of our education programme. Can one ever have enough? As my Mother-in-law (also a Sasher) says, "Education is something they can never take away from you." It is the only way to combat the ignorance that prevails even in our enlightened Black Sash circles. Come to our Brains Trust on Poverty on 19th October in the Mowbray Town Hall at 8 p.m.

"Poverty is always with us" says the Man on the Spot. It is easy to say but not so easy to understand. We are arranging for a widely assorted group of people of different opinions to speak on the subject; it should be interesting and stimulating and we hope you will come. Those who heard the Brains Trust on Influx Control will be pleased to hear that the recording is now ready and can be obtained from the office. A Brains Trust in Afrikaans is being held at Mooresburg on "A Republic." in an effort to take education to the country. It should arouse enormous interest in those parts and those who wish to attend can get full particulars from the office.

We close our letter with the very best of news for you. Mrs. Roberts is now back in our midst and this is indeed cause for celebration. We, in the Council, particularly missed the humour, the wit and the realistic approach she brought to our meetings and it is a joy to have her with us again.

To Mrs. Marquard, who stepped into the breach so wonderfully and so willingly, we all owe an enormous debt of gratitude.

And a big "Welcome Home" to Mrs. Robb, now returned from overseas. We are happy to have her back.

With best wishes,

"Swart" and "Serp".

P.S. We enclose an article written by our Regional Chairman, Mrs. M.G. Roberts, in her private capacity, for the Port Elizabeth Evening Post.