

1, Kildare Road,
Claremont, Cape.

Dear Sashers,

We apologise for not sending you this News Letter sooner, but as many of you know, most of us have been rather busy these past few months! There have been so many urgent calls on most of us in these days of crisis and distress that it is difficult to remember all that has happened.

May saw the final stages of the Session which shocked us all - the Session in which the State of Emergency was proclaimed in many cities and towns in South Africa. Because of the State of Emergency, the Archbishop's Conference Committee were not sure whether or not the Union Day March of Protest and re-dedication would be held. However, practically at the last moment the ban on holding open-air meetings was lifted and the procession took place - the weather was wonderful and the procession, one of the greatest seen in Cape Town. The service of re-dedication was up-lifting and so encouraging to us all in those dark days. May we offer our sincerest congratulations to Mrs. Henderson and to Mrs. van Selm for the magnificent work they both did - without them we doubt if the procession would have been the huge success it was - there were thousands of people present and many who left the Service were given courage to face the future.

Another event of interest to all members of the Sash was a token stand of 11 members to protest against certain provisions of the Referendum Bill, on the 22nd April. The posters held by the eleven had the legend "WHAT AFFECTS ALL MUST BE DECIDED BY ALL" - the Police objected to the stand and took the names of some of our members, who all behaved with commendable calm and humour. The result of this was that questions were asked in the House, but not very reassuring replies were received from the Minister. The boards were taken by the Security Police - and returned months later - without any charges being brought against the Sash or its members.

Throughout the Emergency, members of the Sash did sterling work among the dependants of Detainees - they helped to feed the many dependants - mostly Africans in the townships, and arranged for transport for the families of Detainees to see them at Worcester and Simondium prisons. Mention must be made of a few of your stalwarts - Mrs. Robb, the Chair of Cape Western, sitting on the committees of S.E.R.F. and the Red Cross Relief Committee - doing all her Sash work and arranging transport. Mrs. Mary Stoy - bless her, without whom we could never run the Bail Fund Office, Mrs. Roberts, and Mrs. Green (our Treasurer) and Mrs. Hodgson, who wrestled with the many cheques which you all so kindly sent in for the Emergency Fund, and last but by no means least, all the members of the country branches and Simonstown branch - in fact, everyone connected with this work is to be congratulated, for they are really building bridges between the peoples of the different races. Many of the Detainees wrote thanking you for the work the Sash is doing - they were so grateful - here is a charming letter we received from Mildred Neusane of Far View, Mount Fletcher:

"Dear Mrs. Green,

I wish to inform you that I have received the money you've sent me, the amount of £5 being Postal Order. Thanking you so much for your kindney. Well Cheer up then.

Yours, fthly."

The Emergency has ended, but the work must go on - for there are still many men in prison, and many have lost their employment and desperately need financial and moral assistance.

In spite of the masses of work she has had to do, our Chair was determined that the Education Lectures scheduled for September would take place. She was not to be deterred by Referendums or suggestions that others were too busy - and how right she was! Mrs. Nell was invited to speak in Cape Town and Mrs. Robb made all the necessary arrangements, Mrs. Nell spoke twice a day for almost a week, and ended her stay in Cape Town by very generously speaking to the All Branches Meeting on the

12th September. She gave us all a great deal to think about in regard to the education of our children, and we are most grateful to both Mrs. Robb for making it possible and to Mrs. Nell for coming to Cape Town. As a result of these talks, an Education Council has been formed in Cape Town with many prominent educationalists on it, and it is hoped to hold an Education Conference here before the end of the year.

While on the subject of Education, we would like to offer our sincere congratulations to Mrs. Berman for the wonderful issue of the Magazine she produced on behalf of the Sash. It is, without doubt, the best issue we have had since since the Pass Laws issue and is a most authoritative and excellent journal. We would add, that the cover is quite delightful and are sure that it will continue to sell and sell.

We would like to tell you that our Mrs. Stott has "done it again"! She suggested that we hold a Brains Trust in Mooreesburg on 8th September. She sent out invitations and asked members of the various political parties to speak. There was a most critical audience, as you may well imagine, but every one of the speakers was given a fair hearing and great interest and enthusiasm was shown by the audience of well over 300.

The Institute of Race Relations sponsored a talk on Pass Laws. Many prominent people in industry and commerce were invited to Mrs. Robb's home, where Mr. Donald Molteno and Mrs. Stott spoke to a most interested audience. We feel that this is one of the ways in which we can make the public aware of what is happening in the country.

Our Regional Conference will take place on Monday 24th of October from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Saviour's Church Hall in Claremont and we hope that as many of you as possible will attend. There will be a sandwich lunch served.

We are also hoping to see as great a turn out as possible when the National Conference takes place from Monday 31st October to Thursday 3rd November, from 9.30. a.m. to 5.30 p.m. each day. This Conference will be held in Le Gourmet at the Prince's Hotel, Main Road, Newlands.

Miss Windham has very kindly consented to convene our Fete, which will take place at St. Saviour's Church Hall on 12th November, so, come along in your hundreds and bring all your friends - we are sure that you will find some lovely Christmas gifts, if we know anything about the sort of Fete the Sash usually holds!

As the day of the Referendum drew near most of us were busy working for our parties, doing what we could to ensure that a maximum effort was made to oppose this Republic. Now that it is over and we can get back to our Sash work, we, of the Cape Western Region must get on with the very important work of making the public aware of the great tragedy of the Pass Laws. It is most important that everyone be alerted to the fact that in the near future African women will be forced to carry Reference Books - we all know that great distress is caused by the men having to carry these - and it is our duty to try to educate and persuade the public of the dire consequences this new burden on the African people will have. Those of you who have worked in the Bail Fund Office know of the appalling conditions under which these people live, and the stringent laws which are so mercilessly carried out, under which they are endorsed out of the town, families are broken up and men arrested again and again. We appeal to you all to continue to protest against these unjust laws and to take every step to inform yourselves and others about them. This can best be done by organising private and public meetings. The Regional Council will undertake to provide speakers.

Yours sincerely,

"Black" and "Serp".