

MARCH, 1961.

CAPE WESTERN BLACK SASH NEWS LETTER. No. 16.

4, Oakdale,  
Main Street,  
Newlands. C.P.

Dear Sashers,

With an exhausting year behind us and a formidable one ahead, those Sashers who are still "in there pitching" are beginning to wonder for how long they "must go it alone". For that is exactly what is happening. Although there are many Sashers who we know can only give their moral or financial support, there are many who could give a little of their time but who are not prepared to do so.

For years now, a mere handful have worked without sparing themselves to build up the wonderful name the Sash has achieved, a reputation for unremitting labour against forces of prejudice; and a name for integrity such as few political bodies can claim. We all share in the glow of this reputation, yet how many of us really deserve it? If we are truthful, we will admit that it has been earned by a comparative few, for the glory of us all.

Now, owing to ill-health, personal problems and other pressures our fighters are growing fewer. Several stalwarts are overseas, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Marquard have withdrawn temporarily from our ranks because of illness and Mrs. Berman (our Magazine Editor) and Mrs. Coplans (our Secretary) are also on the "Temporarily Retired" list. So our working force is seriously depleted. Will you share this burden and contribute a little of your time to maintaining this reputation? Please do.

Mrs. West has stepped magnificently into one breach and has produced our next magazine issue. We hope that Mrs. Spottiswood will take over the magazine, but we ask you all to co-operate in getting articles and news for it and send them in to the office. It is difficult enough for an Editor to edit, arrange and see to the printing, without having to write the magazine also. Your responsibility is to fill it.

It was decided at the National Conference that the Central Executive should combine with one of the Regions and for this



year we have become Headquarters Region. The office address is at the head of this letter. Turn off the Main Road at Dean St. which is on the side of the Southern Life Building, and the office is in the first block of flats on the right, just after the shops on the corner.

In spite of our difficulties we have achieved a good deal in the year just begun.

A Brains Trust on 13th February at Green Point was most successful, and was well reported in the Argus. The subject was "The Road Ahead" and the speakers were Mr. Leo Marquard (Lib.) Mr. B. de Villiers (Nat. Union) Mr. Cas Greyling (Nat.) Dr. Zac de Beer (Prog.) Mr. Gordon Bagnall was Question Master. We hear that Mr. Greyling took a good deal of ribbing in very good part and the 300 or more people who attended found the evening constructive and enjoyable.

Another successful meeting was one on Group Areas held in the Town Hall at Somerset West on 30th January which was attended by almost 700 people, both White and non-White. After an introduction by Mrs. Stott, the film "Notice to Quit" was shown, then a Coloured Headmaster (Mr. Rhoda), Mrs. Cornish Bowden and Dr. van der Ross spoke. Mrs. Ferris took the Chair and spoke beautifully. £25.1.8. was collected and this will be used to fight Group Areas in Somerset West. After the meeting, a group of White and non-White people who had attended the meeting went to a local cafe together and were served with coffee. At street tables 800 signatures have been collected so far to a petition against Group Areas.

Those who have not yet seen the film "Notice to Quit" should certainly make every effort to do so. It can be borrowed by any organisation from Mr. Esdon Frost, Telephone: 6-1645.

A different kind of show has been organised at the insistent request of Mr. George Formby, an African, who is putting on an African Jazz evening in appreciation of all we have done for



his people. This will take place at the Claremont Civic Centre on 17th March and Branches will be asked to sell tickets. Help by showing your appreciation.

With her deep compassion for African women, Mrs. Stott proposed a demonstration of self-denial in sympathy with them over Christmas. After much thought and discussion this was turned down as an official Sash move, but her suggestion was not without effect, as a report from Howick shows. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on 6th December, the Branch held a vigil in church which proved a most rewarding experience to some members who participated. "It is hoped" says the report, "that the unity of the Branch will be strengthened by the sharing of such an experience. The Branch felt, however, that a demonstration could only be undertaken if

1. "The people concerned should have identified themselves to such an extent with the non-Europeans, through their unselfish services and by their example of ordinary living, that such a demonstration could be readily appreciated and understood" and
2. "That there must be sympathetic co-operation of the majority of the members of the movement.

Mrs. Stott and Mrs. Stoy had two interviews with Mr. de Wet Nel, the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development on the question of the displacement of African families and the priority given to Coloured workers. At the second of these there were also present a member of the Municipal and one of the Divisional Administration to discuss the co-ordination of this work. Mr. Nel promised to investigate cases brought to his notice of Africans who had the right to live and work no-where. Negotiations are proceeding. There will be a report in the next magazine of the cases of Gilbert and Kleinbooi.

What of banished persons? Reading the pamphlet "The Forgotten" makes one humbly grateful to draw the breath of freedom.

Southern Transvaal intends raising £60 towards the education of Chief Luthuli's three children, and asks us and Natal



to do likewise. The Council, regarding the injustice of the law of which he a victim, hopes that Branches will collect for this, as ordinary funds cannot be used. Send contributions for this purpose and for the banned to this office, naming the object.

Mrs. Solomon reported that local Africans are concerned over the fate of more than 500 Pondoland detainees and their dependants. East London or Border will be asked to investigate and approach the Red Cross.

Press Statements and Reports.

- 31/10/60 Die Burger. "69 so verklaring kry steun."  
31/10/60 Argus. "Declaration of 69"  
3/11/60 Argus. "Group Areas film applauded."  
9/11/60 Argus. "The Black Sash has built inter-racial bridges of goodwill." by Gerald Shaw.  
9/11/60 Times. "Black Sash on Mothers' problems."  
10/11/60 Argus. "The Band of Hope." Leading article.  
2/12/60 Argus. "Protest by Black Sash." (On the confiscation of Mr. Alan Paton's passport.)  
22/12/60 Argus. "Black Sash Question on 'New Deal'" (Coloured people.)  
28/12/60 Argus. "Nationalism's Black Sash." Leading article.  
31/1/61 Die Burger. "Afbakening: Sterk Protes of Somerset Wes".  
31/1/61 Argus. "Protest at Areas Proposals." Somerset West.  
4/2/61 Argus. "Attitude of Black Sash on a new Constitution."  
13/2/61 Argus. "Library Apartheid seen as extreme example of Oppressive Policy."  
21/2/61 Die Burger. "Black Sash en die Republick."  
1/3/61 Argus. Statement on wearing of Black Sashes overseas.  
22/2/61 Times. "Office to help Group Areas Victims?"