

Office; 2, Atgor Chambers,
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CLAREMONT. C.P.

Dear Member,

We are within sight of the National Conference, ~~22nd~~ ~~23rd~~ ~~24th~~ October in Johannesburg, and are having to take stock of our year's work.

In our last Newsletter we reported what had been done about the three Bills - the Censorship Bill, the General Laws Amendment Bill and the Bantu Laws Amendment Bill.

Since then we have held a stand against the last, with posters reading "Bantu Laws Amendment Bill creates further restrictions on employees and employer", and "Repeal unjust Laws, don't amend".

While we rejoiced that the worst clauses of the Bill were "dropped" owing, we believe, to the vigorous protests against them, we are keeping our further demonstration, pamphlets and posters in mothballs for their re-appearance next Session.

FAMILY DAY: Six members of the Sash withdrew for 24 hours on Family Day, and took their bread and water in complete silence. There was a statement in the Press, an article by Mrs. Hertslet, and a leading article on the irony of celebrating Family Day in a country where thousands of families are broken up by the law. Somerset West had a stand on the previous Saturday, 7th July, with a poster "Family life is sacred to all races".

BUS TO WORCESTER: Since the beginning of February wholesale arrests have been going on in the Western Cape. Many have been kept in prisons for weeks or months without being brought to trial, and then released or discharged. Most of those brought to court have been charged with furthering the aims of a banned organization. In Worcester gaol there were over 60 men with families in Cape Town, and as a result of an appeal by their wives the Sash arranged for a bus to take them once a month to visit their husbands. Members have taken wives of men detained under the 90 day clause by car to prisons in Malmesbury, Ceres and Stellenbosch. Although they were not allowed to see their husbands they could hand in tinned food and clean clothing. (The men at Worcester were removed to Robben Island and have all either been released or convicted and the bus has been stopped for the time being.)

Members of the Black Sash responded most hearteningly to the appeal for donations towards the cost of the bus or to C.A.F.D.A. or S.H.A.W.C.O. for food for dependants.

ALL BRANCHES MEETINGS: In August Mr. Delius gave a most informative and thought-provoking talk on the implementation of the decisions taken at the Addis Ababa Conference.

At the September meeting the question of opening our ranks to non-voters was fully discussed and the voting, including postal votes, was 97 for opening and 123 against.

MEETING ON MIGRATORY LABOUR: On 23rd August an informal discussion was held at Mrs. Petersen's house with the National Council of Women and members of various church organisations, to discuss the evils resulting from the migratory labour system. Mrs. Hertslet spoke of the damage that it does to the Africans and their families and to their whole way of life. She stressed the fact that this was a human, not a political problem.

It was agreed that all the women's organisations should inform themselves and their members as fully as possible of the facts, disseminate these as widely as possible, make separate and joint representations to the Government, and try to enlist the sympathy of industrialists and other employers of African labour.

We hope to have a follow-up meeting in about six month's time.

Pull-offs of two articles by Mrs. Hertslet are available as well as another tape recording of a talk by her.

Mrs. Petersen, Mrs. Stott and Mrs. Henderson had a meeting with Chief Sabata Delindyabo and they discussed unemployment in the Transkei and what happens to the people who are endorsed out of the Cape.

TAXI APARTHEID: This threat has been hanging over the heads of taxi-drivers and owners for a long time, and was implemented last week. Owing to vigorous protests from many directions (including the City Council and Die Burger) it has now been postponed until the New Year. On 23rd September 28 Sashers stood at the foot of the Avenue, with placards, "Taxi apartheid is unjust" and "Taxi apartheid drives Taximen to destitution", and on the 26th one Sasher at a time stood in front of the City Hall, where the City Council was discussing the matter while nearby stood a Coloured taxi-driver with a placard "Give us this day our daily bread". We are asking for an interview with the Transportation Board on the matter.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: A meeting sponsored jointly by Civil Rights League, the Black Sash, National Council of Women and U.N. Association, will be held on Secember 10th in the City Hall at 8 p.m. Professor Geysler has agreed to be the speaker. Each of the sponsoring organisations will have a number of tickets reserving seats until 7.45 p.m. available for members and their friends. There will also be notices in the press. Please make every effort to attend and bring your friends.

ATHLONE ADVICE OFFICE: Cape Western is having an excellent article on Migratory labour by Professor Monica Wilson printed as a pamphlet and will add to it a number of case histories dealt with at the Advice Office. These will give a better idea of what is happening than mere statistics. Since the end of May the office has dealt with 2,121 cases. These were:-

Men endorsed out	240
Women endorsed out	212
Miscellaneous	499
Old cases returned	1,170
Average per day	- 20

There have been a large number of visitors from South Africa and abroad, including Dr. Gwendoline Carter, author of "The Politics of Inequality" who is investigating the Transkei Bantustan, and her band of helpers.

Mrs. Birt, Mrs. Wilks and Mrs. Versveld have addressed meetings of church women's organisations on the work of the office.

THE FETE: You are reminded of the Fete that will be held on Saturday morning, 30th November in St. Savrious's Hall. Please tell all your friends about it. There will be very attractive Christmas gifts and cards, as well as all the usual stalls.

LETTERS TO THE PRESS:

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| 18th June | To the Cape Times on the Bantu Laws Amendment Bill. |
| 21st June | To the Cape Times on Mr. Cas. Greyling's remarks in a U.C.T. address on "Threats to those using Parliament as a forum for subversive activities". |
| 4th July | To the Cape Times on the Snyman Report. |
| 8th July | To the Cape Times on the Family Day Demonstration. |
| 15th August | To the Cape Argus protesting against the decision made by the Minister of Justice not to make known to the public the names of 90-day detainees until the House of Assembly meets next January. |
| 23rd August | To the Cape Times on the Government's refusing ex-chief Luthuli a visa to go to Glasgow to be installed as Rector. |
| 23rd Sept. | To the Cape Times on Taxi apartheid. |

We were delighted that a couple of members wrote letters to the Press under their own names, and we hope that more will do so. Such letters often make more impact than those coming from a "labelled" body like ours.