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Dear Member,

Our last newsletter reached you in October 1963 and now we review our activities since that time. The National Conference was held in Johannesburg on the 22nd to 24th October. The following were the Regional Office bearers:- Mesdames Henderson, Robb, Petersen, Stott, Marquard, Green, Roberts, Birt and the Misses Henshilwood, Dermiston and Cock.

Tuesday 19th November was the date of a Public Symposium on "Can Bantustans solve Black/White Problems in South Africa?" which was held in the Rondebosch Town Hall sponsored by the Black Sash. It is to be regretted that the public attendance was so meagre, as the lecturers, Mrs. Jackie Beck, Mr. Leo Marquard and Mr. Leo Katzen, were all excellent and very informative.

The Annual Fete held on the 30th November and opened by Mr. Hamilton Russell raised the sum of R1,530.52. This amount is the highest yet realized. Mrs. Jean Sinclair was in Cape Town and visited the Fete. Mrs. Sinclair also attended the December meeting of All Branches, where she gave a resume of her address to National Conference.

Interview with Mr. de Wet Nel: At the December All Branches Mrs. Robb and Mrs. Sinclair reported on their interview with Mr. de Wet Nel. The Minister received them very courteously and devoted three hours of his time to them. When the ladies left Mr. de Wet Nel accepted written descriptions of several cases. This had been an extremely valuable and helpful interview and had particular advantages in regard to the work of the Advice Office.

On December 10th - Human Rights Day - a meeting was called jointly by the Civil Rights League, National Council of Women, the Black Sash, and the United Nations Association and to a large and very appreciative multi-racial audience in the Drill Hall, Professor Geyser spoke on "The Quality of Equality". His address was entralling and intellectual.

Saturday 7th December 1963. Members of the Black Sash assisted Simon's Town in their stand against Beach Apartheid. The posters read "Apartheid is unjust" and "Let Beaches be open to all".

Simon's Town Branch Chairman lodged an objection and members drew up a petition which was instrumental in the formation of the "Simon's Town Vigilance Society" consisting of individuals. The petition was launched at a public meeting of Simon's Town residents and 1,004 signatures were obtained.

Christmas Party: A very successful multi-racial party was held on the 17th December at the home of Mrs. Petersen. This took the form of a supper party and there were between 70 and 80 people there. All voted it a very happy evening, cementing bonds of goodwill amongst people of different races. We hope to be able to follow this idea up with similar social functions in the future.

Taxi Apartheid: Two Sash members attended the hearing of the local taxi drivers appeal against apartheid before the National Road Transportation Board. As a result of the indifferent attitude of the public and the unsympathetic hearing given by the officials it has been decided to be vigilant and attend further Transport meetings. Results of the appeal are not yet available.

Athlone Advice Office: Since October last year to the end of February the office has dealt with 1,608 cases. These were:

Men endorsed out	200
Women endorsed out	141
Miscellaneous	406
Old cases	861
Average per day - 18.	

The work is becoming more difficult with the implementation of the policies laid down by the Bantu Laws Amendment Bill. Women are losing what little rights they formerly possessed and officials have shown a certain hardening of their attitude. Members of the Sash are encouraged to visit the Advice Office and to bring friends so that this valuable work will be made known to a wider South African public. There have been a number of overseas visitors.

Elgin reports that they have opened an Advice Office which is open one day and one evening a week. They have dealt with eight cases so far.

Mr. Stanley Uys gave a very incisive and interesting talk on the Transkei Elections at the February meeting of the All Branches held in St. Saviour's Church Hall. These meetings start at 12 o'clock and all members are asked to attend whenever possible as the All Branches meeting is the vital link between the members and their Regional Council.

Bantu Laws Amendment Bill: A stand was held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - 24th 25th and 26th February to coincide with the Second Reading. This took place from 2 to 6.30 p.m. with the new posters which are 10 feet high by 6 feet wide and read "Bantu Laws Amendment Bill entrenches Migratory Labour System" "Stay together and starve or work without wife and family". The banners were in both official languages and illustrated and were very clearly visible even from a distance. We thank Somerset West for their valuable help with this stand.

The Black Sash also participated in the Citizens lunch hour protest meeting called by the Progressive Party on Thursday 5th March in the Drill Hall. Amongst prominent speakers such as Mrs. Helen Suzman, The Dean of Cape Town, the Very Rev. E. L. King, was Mrs. Molly Petersen who spoke eloquently for the Black Sash.

Meeting on Migratory Labour: On 9th March a meeting was held in Mrs. Petersen's house of representatives of church groups which had shown interest in the campaign which was started last year against the migratory labour system. Two African women expressed their thanks to those who were working in this campaign as there was little they were permitted to do about it.

#### Letters to the Press:

- 5.12.1963 Two letters to Cape Times on Simon's Town Beach Apartheid - one from Mrs. Cartwright and one from Mrs. Ritchken.
- 20.12.1963 Statement in Argus re Mr. Vorster's refusal to receive a delegation from Sash and National Council of Women.
- 23.12.1963 Mrs. Henderson's "We think of them this Christmas..." letter to Cape Times.
- 24.2.1964 Letter to Argus - Mrs. Robb re Athlone Advice Office experiences in regard to "Endorsed out" Africans who cannot legally live anywhere.
- 24.2.1964 Cape Times - Statement condemning Bantu Laws Amendment Bill.
- 12.3.1964 Letter to Cape Times on the Bill to establish Coloured Representative Councils which will lack any legislative powers.