

Office: 2, Atgor Chambers,
Ralph Street,
CLAREMONT. C.P.

Dear Member,

It is helpful to remind ourselves from time to time of what our aims are. These, briefly, are: to examine proposed and existing laws and their practical effects; to inform the electorate of such legislation and its implications; to protest and make representations about laws that we consider unjust or a deprivation of civil and human rights and liberties; and to advise and help the victims of such laws.

Since our last letter in March the Black Sash has been busy on several "fronts". Early in April a new form of stand was held at the top of Adderley Street, against the Bantu Laws Amendment Bill (1964), which was before the Senate. On the first day there were three posters, in English and Afrikaans, calculated to arouse interest, and two more were added each day, until on April 17th there were 17 in all. Each poster proclaimed one of the many hardships suffered by the Africans under the Bantu laws, that will be aggravated by the new law, such as their inability to seek work, or to live with their families, and the fact that their whole life is controlled by permits.

The "90-day Clause": The Black Sash was represented by Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Robb and Mrs. Wilks on a committee called by the Civil Rights League under the chairmanship of Mr. Hamilton Russell, to organise a public protest against the re-promulgation of the "90-day clause". Pamphlets in English and Afrikaans - "Tyranny 90" - setting out the case against it were widely distributed, and the Black Sash assisted by addressing and mailing more than 2,250 copies. They also helped to distribute leaflets announcing the Service of Petition called by the leaders of religious bodies in the City Hall on May 24th. There were many members of the Black Sash in the audience of close on 3,000 in the City Hall, Banqueting Hall and overflowing on to the Parade, who heard the leaders of the Anglican, Jewish, Methodist, Moslem and Roman Catholic communities speak, after which a declaration was read, signed by leaders of 19 religious bodies, asking the Minister not to have the clause renewed.

Taxi-apartheid: Mrs. Stott and Mrs. Coplans represented the Black Sash at a meeting of the National Road Transportation Board when appeals were heard from taxi-drivers against the local Board's decision to implement apartheid. The attitude of the official was unsympathetic, and Mrs. Stott was allowed to speak only after it had been pointed out that she was a City Councillor. The Black Sash has twice given donations towards the cost of an appeal by the Taxi Drivers' Association against the decision of the Board, and will continue to watch the case.

Group Areas: The Black Sash lodged an objection with the Group Areas Board against the plans proposed for the centre of Cape Town, Green Point and District Six. We were invited to attend the hearing of the Board, and Mrs. Stott was present throughout the four days of its sitting, and went on the inspections of the places under discussion.

It was the first time that the Black Sash has been able to show this interest in the problems of a large, mainly coloured group, and great appreciation was expressed by Coloured and Indian business men in particular.

Mrs. Stott...

Mrs. Stott gave a most informative talk to the June meeting of All Branches on the issues involved, of which she has made a thorough study. She pointed out the hardships that non-White traders and business men would suffer at having to give up businesses they had built up over many years, some over a couple of generations, serving the whole community, to remove to residential group areas unsuited to business and out of reach of railway transport. Sports Clubs would lose the grounds at Green Point on which they had spent a lot of money, on lay-out, stands and upkeep, and where they had played time out of mind. The Indians, a very high proportion of whom were shopkeepers, serving and dependent on a multi-racial public, were to be moved to Ryelands, which has no sewage and practically no other local services, no sites for industry of any kind, and an inconsiderable buying public. As for the zoning of District Six, it would destroy a way of life that has been an intimate part of Cape Town for many generations, and would be disastrous for its more than 65,000 dwellers, White and non-White.

Mrs. Stott and Mrs. Morris have collected sufficient signatures for a petition to be presented to the Mayor, asking him to call a citizens meeting to protest against this zoning.

The other All Branches meetings have had very interesting talks. In March Mrs. Robb gave an excellent exposition of the Bantu Laws Amendment Bill 1964; in April Mr. Russell spoke on the "90-day Clause"; and in May Mrs. Stoy spoke on the work of the Defence and Aid Committee, a talk we hope to have reported in the magazine.

Coming to more domestic matters, a very successful multi-racial party was held in Wynberg on April 20th in the house of a member. There were 25 members and their husbands present, and 21 non-White guests. Members have been asked to follow-up new contacts. A second party is to be given soon by Rondebosch, and we hope to have one every two months. As contact with non-White is becoming more difficult as a result of group areas, we are glad to have these opportunities of meeting some and making worthwhile contacts which we hope will give as much pleasure to our guests as they do to us.

The Membership Drive is in full swing. In April Wynberg and Claremont had a pleasant, informal tea party at a member's house, at which there were 17 members and 7 visitors, three of whom were non-White. Mrs. Wilks spoke and four new members are being enrolled as a result of the gathering. On May 13th Rondebosch had a party with eight visitors, one of whom has joined, and on May 27th Gardens had one. Mrs. Roberts spoke at both of these meetings and at one arranged at Gordon's Bay by Mrs. Conroy.

Branches are asked, in addition to seeking new members, to get into touch with any who have lapsed, and with those who are not on the Voter's roll, who are eligible for membership.

In response to an invitation from the Institute of Citizenship, Mrs. Roberts is to address a lunch-time meeting on June 25th at 1 p.m. in the Cathedral Hall, Queen Victoria Street, on Migrant Labour. We hope for a large turnout of members.

A forum on Migrant Labour has just been held by Headquarters in Johannesburg under the title "Let no man put asunder". It was very successful, and we hope it may be possible to do the same sort of thing here.

A special edition of the Magazine will be devoted to this subject, and will print an excellent article written by Mrs. Ballinger for the Johannesburg forum.

As our funds are once more in need of a blood transfusion a letter of appeal has been sent out. By the end of May R832.60 had been received from 31 donors.

print an excellent article written by Mrs. Ballinger for the magazine. The Vote.

The Fete will be held on Saturday November 7th, in the Claremont Civic Centre, and Mr. Molteno has consented to open it. The stalls will be:-

False Bay	- Tombola	Rondebosch	- Cakes and sweets
Pinelands	- Christmas cards and calendars.	Rosebank	- Books
Plumstead	- Delicatessen	Somerset West and Elgin	- Produce
Regional Council	- Flowers	Wynberg	- White Elephant.

Claremont will help Plumstead with Delicatessen and will man a needlework stall. It is impossible for one Branch to fill a needlework stall, so we regard this as the responsibility of us all, and we appeal urgently to every member of Cape Western X to make or provide one or more attractive and saleable articles for the stall. X

Will Branches who have on their registers country members without their own Branches, please ask them to contribute in cash or kind towards the Fete?

Last year we made R1,400. Our aim this year is R2,000, and we shall reach it if every member will undertake to improve on last year's excellent effort.

Advice Office: During March, April and May the office dealt with 1,476 cases. These were:-

Men endorsed out	179
Women endorsed out	229
Miscellaneous	275
Old cases	861
Total	<u>1,476</u>

Average per day - 24.

In addition to visitors from various parts of South Africa there have been a number of from Britain, Canada, America, Australia, and one from Ghana.

The special problem that has faced our workers has been that though there is no shortage of employment in this area - on the contrary there has been a great shortage of labour in the last months - people who have been here many years, but do not yet qualify, are being endorsed out in spite of being offered employment by other firms, and their places on the labour market are being taken by migrant workers. Over 3,000 migrant workers were brought into the Western Cape from the Transkei in the first three months of this year.

Meanwhile a number of men who qualify under Section 10(i)(b), and had been away on short holiday, were unable to get their old jobs back, and were endorsed out. They came to the office, and we were successful in getting permission from the Department of Bantu Affairs for them to remain in Cape Town and seek work or accept work already offered.

A number of firms are refusing to take back men who have been in gaol on suspicion of belonging to illegal organisations. One firm manager said that he had issued instructions that no men who had been suspects will be taken back - apparently even if they have been found not guilty, or discharged with no evidence brought against them.

For your interest, out of our many records we give one case that we have dealt with recently:-

ELIZABETH MAGUBU W/F 2306170 born 18.9.40 Wynberg. Birth Certificate A434554. Lived with parents in this area until she married in 1958. (Marriage Certificate 341431 Salt River 14.4.58.) Wilson Magubu M/N 2229921 who was born in Indwe and came to Stellenbosch in 1941 where he has lived and worked ever since. Is employed at African Spun Concrete in that area.

Elizabeth states that in 1958 she was arrested two weeks after going to live with her husband in Stellenbosch and charged with being illegally in the area for more than 72 hours. Her father had her defended by Frank, Bernadt & Joffe and after the case had dragged on for six months she was fined £1. Her father paid the fine and was told to take his daughter home again. He was criticised for allowing his Cape Town daughter to marry a Stellenbosch man.

She says her father saw Mr. Rogers of Langa who investigated the case fully but could not solve it, and that her father then wrote to Dr. Verwoerd, the then Minister for Bantu Administration & Development. Her father received an answer that the matter was receiving attention and the Stellenbosch Registering Officer, a Mr. Vorster, was instructed to allow her to live in Stellenbosch with her husband. She was issued with a permit saying that she was an exempted person. However, in 1959 when she took a reference book for the first time this stamp was not repeated; she was instead given permission to remain in the Stellenbosch area while residing with her husband. At first this permission was given yearly, then six-monthly, then three-monthly, then monthly until now when she has been endorsed out with the stamp "preparing to return to her husband's home". In vain she has explained that he has no home, having left Indwe in 1940 and worked in Stellenbosch continuously since 1941.

The Athlone Advice Office asked Nyanga East officials whether she could be allowed to live with her mother who has a permanent home in Nyanga East. This was refused although she has returned home to have each of her four children, aged 7, 5, 2 and 7 months. Although Elizabeth and her husband have a well-furnished two-roomed house in Kuils River they are not allowed to live in it after May 10th - he must move into bachelor quarters at the factory where he works and she must leave Stellenbosch.

After interviews with the Registering Officer and the Magistrate at Stellenbosch, Mrs. Robb has been informed that if her husband can get a job on a farm in the Stellenbosch Divisional Area and the farmer is willing to have Elizabeth and the four children there Wilson will be allowed to accept it and she will be allowed to live with him. There is no question of their being allowed married accommodation either in the location or at the factory - only if he agrees to turn into a farmhand after working in factories for 23 years will she be allowed to live with him. Fortunately he agrees to do this and is prepared to accept less than the R5 he is earning at present if he can obtain such a job.

Seven workers and two interpreters went to Paarl recently to assist Mrs. Pearce in her excellent and unaided work there, interviewing 20 cases. The Mayor was very courteous and co-operative, and the visit will be repeated when wanted. A full account of it will appear in the magazine.

The Regional Council wrote to the Deputy Minister of Bantu Affairs asking him to receive a deputation to discuss certain aspects of the Bantu urban areas laws. He referred it to the local Bantu Affairs Department, but we have not yet succeeded in getting an interview with the Chief Commissioner.

Letters to the Press:

- March: On the Coloured Representative Council Bill.
- May: On Africans endorsed out, with no place to which they can legally go.
- May: A reply to Mr. Garfield Weston's speech on giving votes to non-Whites.

Several members have written letters to the Press, in their private capacity, on matters that concern us all. We hope more will do this.