

Dear Member,

When the September letter reached you we were on the eve of both the Regional and the National Conferences. The resolutions discussed at both were sent to all the branches beforehand for your consideration. There was a large measure of agreement over them at both conferences. As there is a report of the National Conference in the latest number of the Magazine, it needs no discussion here.

At the Regional Conference a very hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Henderson for her wonderful work as Chairman during the year, and appreciation expressed of all that she has so ably done for the Region since its inception. Mrs. Roberts was elected Chairman for the new year, and Mrs. Robb, Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Birt as Vice-Chairmen, Mrs. Wilks as Secretary, and Mrs. Willis and Mrs. Green as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. The members of Council are:-

Mrs. I. Aitchison	Miss E. Henschel	Mrs. J. Morris	Mrs. H. Russell
Mrs. R. Coplans	Miss N. Henshilwood	Mrs. M. Petersen	Mrs. M. Schurr
Miss M. Dreyer	Mrs. N. Marquard	Mrs. M. Ritchken	Mrs. E. Stott
			Mrs. M. Wilson

Transvaal has consented to act as Headquarters Region for another year, with Mrs. Sinclair as National Chairman. The next National Conference will be held at Port Elizabeth on October 17th - 21st of this year.

The most urgent issue in Cape Western Region during the last few months has been, and still is, Group Areas action passed or proposed in Cape Town, Green Point, Frasierdale, Claremont, Kalk Bay, Simon's Town, Kommetje, Stellenbosch and Hermanus. In each of these areas the hardships facing the Coloured people are very great indeed, and their removal a grave injustice. Mrs. Stott spoke to an All Branches meeting last year on what was involved in removing the Coloured, Malays and Indians from District Six, City Central and Green Point; and spokesmen for the non-White have emphasised the devastating effects, economic, social and moral, of uprooting a settled community and dumping it in a raw and undeveloped area without social cohesion, standards or responsibility, or resources to keep the young from becoming skollies.

Members collected signatures from householders in Frasierdale to a petition against zoning, to be presented to the Group Areas Board, and at the Claremont sitting Mrs. Birt represented the Black Sash, while Mrs. Stott represented the City Council.

To remove the fishermen of Kalk Bay and Simon's Town from the coast and the workers from their ancestral homes and places of work would virtually destroy their means of livelihood. In both places Black Sash members have worked splendidly to give whatever help is possible. They have attended meetings, consulted Coloured leaders, assisted where necessary in the drawing up of the several memoranda of objections of fishermen, residents and workers, which the Office has then roneed for distribution and for presentation to the Board. They organised the engagement of advocates and, in Simon's Town two members of the Black Sash are on the Group Areas Liaison Committee, Mrs. Willis as Chairman. Representations have been, or will be made by the Sash at the hearings here and in Kommetje.

The Fete in November was a great success. Mrs. Ballinger opened it in an excellent speech, and the total profit came to R1,967.00, about R400 more than last year - a most cheering result of the hard work of the convenors and the Branches.

A meeting was convened for Human Rights Day by the Civil Rights League, the United Nation Association, the N.C.W., and the Black Sash. Rev. V. Carpenter spoke on Civil Rights in the United States.

A Christmas message of goodwill and sympathy with Africans whose family life had been broken by the laws of our land appeared in the Cape Times on Christmas Day, together with the more than 600 names of those who had signed it. It was well placed and aroused a good deal of interest and comment, mostly, though not all, sympathetic.

On 2nd November Pinelands gave a multi-racial party at which there were about 45 people, 15 to 20 of them non-White. It was a very pleasant function, the only regret being that there were not more people to share the generous refreshments. We hope that more husbands of members will come to the parties this year.

As you all know, the 90-day clause has been lifted, but not abolished. It can be reimposed at any time. Its history has been a bitter one, and we are profoundly glad that it has at least been removed for the time being, and those held under it released or brought to trial.

It has been decided the monthly Education Meetings are to be arranged in different parts of the Peninsula. Meanwhile we would draw your attention to a course of lectures on Labour in South Africa to be given at the University of Cape Town Summer School from 2nd February to 12th February. They will be held each weekday evening in the Arts Block of the University, and the speakers will be Dr. Sheila van der Horst, Prof. J. L. Sadie, Mr. F. Lighton and Prof. W. F. J. Steenkamp. Information can be had from the Department of Extramural Studies of the University, Telephone 69-2805. These lectures are meant for the public, and Summer School courses have proved very popular over a number of years.

Please remember Elgin's picnic on March 21st. This has always been most enjoyable, and needs no bush to recommend it! Orders for cases of apples will be taken at the February All Branches meeting.

ADVICE OFFICE:

The Advice Office continues to help people against tremendous odds. According to instructions from the Department of Bantu Affairs any woman arriving in Cape Town without permission must be endorsed out immediately, and no file opened for her, her reference book being marked N/F. In August 19th such cases came to the office, but our workers managed to get two reconsidered because of special circumstances.

Leaflets will be prepared in Xosa for men in the Bachelor Quarters telling them the correct and legal way to obtain permission for their wives to join them for a visit.

A large number of contract workers whose contracts have been terminated by their employers before the year is up have come to us. They are almost invariably sent out of the area as not having fulfilled their contracts. The magistrate at Butterworth informed us that employers are not sufficiently specific in their applications...

for labour, and that it is difficult to supply the right type of worker. But it is of course impossible to tell what sort of employer they will work for - yet we have not had one single case in which the employer has been charged for breach of contract.

For your interest we give the following Advice Office case from our files:-
ANGELINE MEJE was born in Thabanchu, O.F.S. She came to Cape Town in 1948 and registered at Langa in 1949. She was married by Tribal custom but in 1959 her husband deserted her. She sent her children to her brother who works on a White man's farm and worked in Cape Town to support them.

She was warned to leave the area in March 1962 by Nyanga East. In January 1963 she came to us for help. We interviewed officials at Nyanga East, Department of Bantu Affairs, and Langa, obtaining her record from the Langa office, which stated that "she arrived from Tweespruit, O.F.S., in 1949 and appears to be displaced", and persuaded her employer to keep her while investigations were being made.

These investigations extended from 9.1.63 to 11.6.64 and involved 28 visits to this office. The authorities insisted that she could return to her brother but eventually found that the farmer for whom her brother works was unwilling to have her. The Department of Bantu Affairs then gave her the choice of two places in the Reserves where she could be resettled.

Angeline was by this time six months pregnant but the authorities insisted that she must leave. She was given a rail warrant by Department of Bantu Affairs to proceed to Thanbanchu and told that the magistrate would find her somewhere to live.

On 22.7.64 we received the following letter from Mrs. Meje in Thabanchu:-

"Dear Mrs.

I been recommended for transfer to Thabanchu. I been in Bantu Commissioner on 15.5.64. He say I must look for a place by the other person. The people they want money. I haven't got money to pay rent and Bantu Commissioner he said he didn't say I may come here. I'm so sick. Nobody look after me. No money to hospital. I must pay R4. She don't want me neither to hospital. I write a letter for my friend. Nobody answer me so I see I will have baby on the street.

(Sgd) Angeline Meje. "

We have written to the Bantu Affairs Commissioner, Thabanchu, and asking him to assist Mrs. Meje and also to her telling her to report to him. We have had an unsatisfactory answer telling us that he has reported fully to Bantu Affairs Commissioner, Observatory. Angeline has returned to Cape Town with her baby because she can find no where to live in Thabanchu and no way of supporting her children. Bantu Affairs Commissioner refuses to see her and Langa is unable to give her permission to remain here. Angeline refuses to return to Thabanchu to starve, so complete stalemate has been reached.

The cases dealt with during the four months ending November 1964 were:

Men endorsed out	191	
Women " "	422	
Miscellaneous	260	Average per day - 23
Old cases returned	987	
Total number of interviews	<u>1,860</u>	

There were 36 visitors from outside, and 3 from Plumstead Branch. We hope the Branches are by now following the roster for visiting the Office.

Off-prints of an illustrated article on the Advice Office by Gerald Shaw, from the Cape Times of 17th October, are available at our Office.

Talks at All Branches were:

In September, Mr. Delius on Summit Meetings in Africa against the general background of Chinese infiltration.

In December, Mrs. Stott on her visit to the Transkei.

Letters to the Press:

September: a reply to Mr. de Wet Nel's speech at M'bukwene accusing those who blamed the government for the break up of family life of wilful and hostile inaccuracy.

November: on the proposed removal of Coloured people from Simon's Town and Kalk Bay.

January: On the suspension of the 90-day Clause.

" On the prohibiting of Prof. Simons from lecturing and writing.

Yours sincerely,

L. G. Roberts

CHAIRMAN.