

Dear Member,

The great event of this month in Cape Town has been the visit, at the invitation of N.U.S.A.S., of Senator Robert Kennedy who gave an inspiring address at the University. Three tickets were sent to the Black Sash for our Chairman and two of the Vice-Chairmen.

Mr. Kennedy addressed his remarks chiefly to the young people of South Africa to whom will fall the task of coping with the problems of the future. His forthright denouncement of discrimination and his plea for tolerance in all spheres were received with applause by a huge audience that was obviously inspired by his appeal.

YOUNG BLACK SASH PARTY.

We have felt for some time that young people might be interested in Black Sash ideals and activities and with this in mind a party was given on 16th May at the home of Mrs. Robb. About 50 people attended the gathering, mostly young married couples. Mrs. Roberts gave an excellent talk entitled "Why the Black Sash..?". The lively questions and discussion afterwards showed the interest aroused by her speech and, in consequence, several young women are likely to join our movement.

EXTRAORDINARY REGIONAL CONFERENCE:

This was held on the afternoon of Monday 4th April for the purpose of discussing changes in the Regional Constitution to bring it into line with the National Constitution. As well as a resolution affecting only the Regional Council, a decision was taken that Annual General Meetings of Branches should be held in March or April of each year.

ALL BRANCHES:

The August meeting will be an Extraordinary Regional Conference. Resolutions for this have been called for.

Interesting talks have been given at All Branches meetings. One was on various aspects of mission work in the Ciskei; another was given by Miss Elsie Rowland on her work at the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Following a discussion on "Co-operation" i.e. "the building of bridges between the different racial groups" - many valuable suggestions have been offered as to how this can be achieved. Members are asked to do all they can to stem the tide that is leading to complete separation.

MORNING MARKET IN NOVEMBER.

This will be opened by Mrs. Cecilia Sonnenberg. Every member is asked to contribute a cake and two items of needlework. In spite of the great success of our market last year, there are so many calls on the Black Sash exchequer that it has already been seriously depleted. This year's market will need to be equally successful.

The ELGIN PICNIC on 20th March brought in the excellent sum of R155.41. On 30th April the Simon's Town Branch held a book sale in lieu of holding a stall at the Morning Market. A total of R98.16 was raised and more money is to come in.

The Wynberg Branch will hold a Rummage Sale in August. Members who are able to contribute articles are asked to leave them at the office in Atgor Chambers or else telephone Mrs. Russell who will collect them.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

On 28th February the Black Sash convened a meeting which was attended by representatives of the Institute of Race Relations, Civil Rights and the National Council of Women. The Institute of Race Relations agreed to establish a committee to go into the workings of the Act. The Black Sash is still trying, with a measure of success, to trace men with money owing to them.

PARTIES.

February 28th. A party was given by the Rosebank Branch. There were 48 guests, 18 being non-White. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

June 14th. A very pleasant party attended by about 47 people was given by the Rondebosch Branch.

June 17th. Claremont Branch gave a very successful and well attended party of about 60 people.

BANNING OF N.U.S.A.S. PRESIDENT.

For two days in Cape Town the Black Sash manned tables where citizens were asked to sign a demand that those banned should be CHARGED or RELEASED. Stickers for cars were offered as well. This protest was organised by N.U.S.A.S.

GROUP AREAS - DISTRICT SIX.

The Mayor, in response to a petition of ratepayers, called a meeting in connection with the proclamation of District Six as a White Group Areas for July 6th. Unfortunately owing to the sudden illness of ex-Chief Justice A. v.d.S. Centlivres, who presented the petition, the meeting has been postponed. However, when it is called, it is strongly urged that all members of the Black Sash should attend.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Our Black Sash member, Mrs. Eulalie Stott, will be standing again. Her excellent work during the past needs no underlining as it is known to all of us. If any member in her private capacity is able to help her in her campaign this would be greatly appreciated. Please phone Mrs. Green after 7 p.m. - 6-6243.

MEMBERS are also urged to take an interest in the election of School Boards and School Committees.

SOMEONE. who can understand Afrikaans could help us in Advice Office work by attending the Magistrate's Court in Observatory where cases are heard.

EDUCATION LECTURES.

Educational lectures are being planned for the third Mondays of August, September and November, in the Minor Hall of St. Saviour's Church, Claremont at 8.15 p.m. The probable subjects for the first two lectures will be Economic Effects of Group Areas, and Apartheid in Welfare Organisations. It is hoped that all Sashers who possibly can, will attend these meetings.

ATHLONE ADVICE OFFICE.

The number of cases dealt with since the last newsletter are:

	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
Men endorsed out	27	19	23	41
Women endorsed out	43	38	19	26
Miscellaneous	61	71	51	64
Old cases returned	<u>136</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>162</u>
TOTAL	<u>267</u>	<u>293</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>293</u>

CASE:

Mr. J. came to Cape Town in 1940. He worked for one firm from 1940 to 1964, and has a certificate of service to this effect, which we have seen. In the middle of September 1965 he was granted eight months leave by his employer - to return by mid-May. He returned to Cape Town and reported to the Registering Officer on 1.6.66. He was told that as he had been out of the area for over six months he will have to go home and be contracted for by his former employer.

His employer is eager to employ him and has endeavoured to persuade the authorities to allow him to remain without success, in spite of them pointing out that this new regulation was not being enforced when he was granted leave. If he has to return on contract he will lose all his qualifications.

We have sent him to the Appeals Officer at Bantu Affairs Department to appeal against his endorsement out, on the grounds that he is a qualified man.

After we made representations to various officials he has now been allowed to return to his former employer.

Without our assistance this man would have had to return to the Transkei and have lost all his qualifications. He would have had to return to the Western Cape as a contract labourer.

STAND. May 18th: About 54 members stood in Cape Town against "Punishment without Trial".

LETTERS.

March 28th. Cape Times and Die Burger: on Banning of South African Defence and Aid Fund.

April 4th. Cape Times and Cape Herald: On Banning of Ruth Mayman.

May 5th. Cape Times: On Banning of N.U.S.A.S. President - Ian Robertson.

May 18th. Cape Argus: On Punishment without trial.

SUGGESTED READING.

Kingsley Martin: "Father Figures" - a volume of Autobiography. (Hutchinson) available in City Libraries.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Wilks

BARBARA WILKS
CHAIRMAN.