

January 1967.

CAPE WESTERN BLACK SASH NEWSLETTER.

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s. 70/257 No. 33.

Dear Member,

We welcome you back after the break to take up with renewed strength and courage the work to which the Black Sash is dedicated. That it will demand strength, courage and faith is certain - faith above all in the justice of our cause. Dr. Birley in his splendid address to the National Conference reminded us how these and the refusal to take defeat brought about after many years the abolition first of the slave trade and then of slavery. May you come back with fresh inspiration, bearing this in mind.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

It was, as always, most stimulating to meet old and new friends from all the Regions, both at the discussion of the resolutions laid before Conference, and at the delightful cocktail party given by Mrs. Wilks. The highlight was the public meeting on the first night, at which the National President gave her address, and Dr. Robert Birley spoke with the charm and relevance we have come to know, lifting our vexed and often bitter problems into a larger context, setting them in the light of history with an urbanity that gives us a better sense of proportion. Both these addresses appeared in the Magazine, (as did the list of resolutions and some account of the Conference), and are available on tape recordings.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE:

After discussion of resolutions the Regional Council for the new year was elected. They are: Chairman, Mrs. Wilks; vice-Chairman, Mrs. Robb and Mrs. Roberts with Mrs. Birt as a "stand-in"; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Morris assisted by Mrs. Fick; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Willis; Members: Mesdames Aitchison, Andrews, Coplans, Digby, Green, Hartford, Henderson, Marquard, Ritchken, Stott, Schurr and the Misses Henschel and Henshilwood.

Copies of the Chairman's excellent Report were sent to all the members.

MORNING MARKET:

Mrs. Cecilia Sonnenberg opened our Morning Market and added greatly to its attraction with her grace and her charming appearance. It was a great success, exceeding last year's with a credit balance of R2,383.26 up to the end of December.

Our grateful thanks go to Mrs. Digby for convening the Market and to our Treasurer for all the work we so lightly take for granted. We thank too the daughters and sons of members who came to our assistance.

This year's Morning Market will be in November.

PASS LAWS BOOKLETS:

Copies of "Memorandum on the Application of the Pass Laws and Influx Control", price 20c, and "Everybody's Guide to the Pass Laws", price 5c, may be had from the Office. A booklet of information for victims of Group Areas is being prepared.

RE-APPRAISAL...

RE-APPRAISAL OF THE BLACK SASH IMAGE:

At the All Branches meeting in December this question was discussed at length. It was felt that there is insufficient contact between Branches and the Council, and that contact could be strengthened by attendance at Council meetings of Branch Chairs, by meetings of Branch Chairs to discuss ideas for Branch meetings, and by greater attendance at All Branches meetings. It was suggested that Branches should organise multi-racial discussions and the importance of multi-racial parties was emphasised. Rondebosch and Pinelands will have one in March, and False Bay and Simon's Town in April or May.

There were various suggestions for improving our image to the outside world, and members are again asked to write more letters to the press in their own names.

EDUCATION MEETING:

On 21st November Mrs. Robb gave an excellent talk on "Value your African Employee". There were only 17 people present, and we feel that without more support, in the first place from our own members, it is unfair to ask anyone to take so much trouble to prepare a talk.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY:

A list was prepared of the number of banned and listed persons, in the hopes that an article might appear on Human Rights Day, December 10th in the Cape Times. Unfortunately it did not, but it will appear in the magazine. Up to 18th November the approximate figures were: 654 banned, 308 listed, and 56 banned and listed.

ATHLONE ADVICE OFFICE:

Mrs. Robb's admirable report on the Advice Office for the year has been widely distributed, and a copy sent to every member. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to all those members who have contributed to this most difficult and worthwhile work.

The cases dealt with in October and November were:

	<u>October</u>	<u>November.</u>
Men endorsed out	19	30
Women endorsed out	31	35
Miscellaneous	44	58
Old cases	<u>130</u>	<u>148</u>
Total	<u>224</u>	<u>271</u>
Average per day	11	12

<u>Visitors:</u>	South Africa	15
	Outside	8

Only Simon's Town Branch sends visitors regularly to the Advice Office. Other Branches are urged to get all their members to visit the office and to bring their friends.

LETTER OF APPEAL:

The response to the Appeal letter is R203 short of last year's. So please send us the names of possible donors.

ALL BRANCHES:

In November Mrs. Jackie Beck spoke on "Inside Parliament". It was a very informative and illuminating talk on the workings of Parliament. Questions in the House are still a valuable way of informing the public.

DEMONSTRATIONS:

We planned to have a continuous stand during the second reading of the "Exclusion Bill"; it was impossible to arrange a lunch hour protest meeting as no hall was available in the central city area, and two evening protest meetings in the suburbs were scheduled. In the event we stood from 2.30 to 3 p.m. on the afternoon of Monday 26th and then cancelled the rest of our stand.

A brilliant article by Mrs. Roberts outlining the enormities of this Bill did not appear in the Press owing to the postponement of the Bill.

LETTERS TO THE PRESS:

- 26th September : On the Exclusion Bill - The Cape Argus.
- 29th November: On the proclamation of Group Areas in Hermanus, Sand Bay, Onrust, Sir Lowry's Pass, Temperance Township, Mansfield and Gordon-Strand Estate (The Cape Argus).
- 25th December: On the treatment of the non-Whites as opposed to the spirit of Christmas. (Cape Times).

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Wilks

BARBARA WILKS
CHAIRMAN.