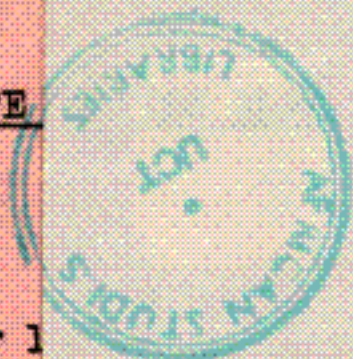


May 1969

CAPE

NEWSLETTER

No. 42



Dear Member,

Since the appearance of our 1 February, Black Sash activities have very largely centred around two main interests viz. (i) the draft Bantu Laws Amendment Bill, tabled for discussion in Parliament before this session ends and (ii) our attempts to obtain permission to place a commemorative plaque for Group Area Removals in a suitable public place.

BANTU LAWS AMENDMENT BILL. The provisions of this drastic bill have been carefully examined and explained to us by Mrs. R.N. Robb who, as well as giving her findings to the Regional Council, has written a memorandum which has been distributed to M.P's, the various regions of the Black Sash, and to other interested persons. In addition our region organised on 21st April a public meeting during the lunch hour at Electricity House, when Mrs. Robb and Dr. Francis Wilson gave excellent talks on this Bill. It is to be regretted that so few members of the public attended this enlightening meeting.

As it now seems this bill will not be brought forward this session, the protest stand we had planned will not be held.

Those members who read the "Financial Mail" will have noticed a forthright discussion of the Bill which appeared in the issue of May 16th. Alluding to the "whittling away (of) the existing rights of urban Africans", the article concludes "The proposed removal of these rights denies the urban African the chance to lead a normal family life. The direct economic cost is enormous: the cost in terms of human misery and possible social upheaval is incalculable."

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE FOR GROUP AREAS REMOVALS. We are still attempting to find a suitable place for this as we feel the importance of keeping alive the public memory of those who have suffered under Group Areas Removals. Such a plaque would be a symbol representing other such removals.

ATHLONE ADVICE OFFICE. Mrs Robb has been able to present a case from our files at a meeting of the Health, Housing and Bantu Committee of the City Council.

From Headquarters we have learned that the Dutch Reformed Church has a permanent sub-committee which investigates cases of families broken up by the pass laws. Acting on Headquarter's suggestion, we are sending this committee details of some of our cases.

HANSARD AND GOVERNMENT GAZETTES. Careful and regular study of these as they appear keeps members of the Regional Council aware of what is going on and enables them to call public attention, by letters to the Press, public meetings or protest stands, to hardships and to unjust legislation.

For a trial period of a year we are to obtain a monthly summary of Bills and Acts from Lexicon Publications.

Mrs Roberts had an interesting and profitable interview with Mr Marais Steyn on the question of the drop in numbers of "Bachelors" in the Labour Market. We are anxious to know whether they have found gainful employment elsewhere. Mrs Robb and Mrs Parks hope to see Mr. Oldfield on the subject of Workmen's Compensation. We feel that similar interviews with members of Parliament are likely to prove fruitful.

STANDS. A stand on Total Bus Apartheid was held on 1st April. The posters read:

"TOTAL BUS APARTHEID - AN INSULT AND AN INCONVENIENCE"

"TOTAL BUS APARTHEID FORCED ON CAPE TOWN"

A stand on Academic Freedom will be held on 11th June, ten years after the signing of the Act restricting University Freedom.

TRANSKEI. Attempts have been made to call public attention to the seriousness of drought conditions in the Transkei. Information has been sent to the Press. The Transkeian Government recently announced a crash programme to alleviate the hardships.

ALL BRANCHES. At the next meeting on June 2nd (an evening meeting at Mrs. Robbs'), the Rev. Theo Kotze will speak on "Religion in an Apartheid Society".

An Extraordinary Regional Conference will be held at the August All Branches meeting (4th August) to discuss resolutions for National Conference.

BRANCH NEWS. Elgin is to be congratulated on the great success of their picnic. In spite of poor weather, they made R180.00. Elgin reports that their branch keep in touch with the former residents of Newton who are now in resettlement villages.

Gardens Branch reports an interesting and stimulating evening of music as their form of a Sash party. The sixty people who attended were most enthusiastic. Mrs. Landsberg, as the organiser, must be warmly congratulated not only on this success but also in pointing the way to another type of Sash party.

Miss Olive Rowe, of the False Bay Branch, who is now living in Gordon's Bay, has been made a Life Member of the Sash in recognition of her stalwart work and unfailing loyalty since the Sash movement began.

MORNING MARKET. The Morning Market will be held on 1st November in the Claremont Civic Centre. Stalls have been allocated as follows:

Claremont)	-	Delicatessen
Plumstead)	-	
Elgin)	-	Produce
Somerset West)	-	
False Bay	-	Gifts Galore
Gardens/Sea Point	-	Tees
Rondebosch	-	Christmas Stall
Wynberg	-	White Elephant

MORNING MARKET (contd)

Simon's Town	-	Book Stall
Rosebank	-	Books
Regional Council	-	Flowers, Cakes

A convenor for the Boutique still has to be found.

All members will be asked to support the cake and food stalls and sub-committees will be formed at branch level to organise this.

There will be no needlework stall as such this year, but articles of needlework will be received very gratefully and will be given to the various gift stalls.

It has also been decided not to have an "opener" or opening address at the Morning Market this year. Instead various well-known people will be invited to act as patrons.

LETTERS.

Mrs. Wilks (Chairman, Cape Western) to "Cape Times" on Bantu Laws Amendment Bill
" " " " " " " " " Community Development
" " " " " " " " " suggested "raids" on
Coloured youths who have not yet registered for training centres. (This was followed up by an article in the "Cape Argus").

Mrs. Robb to "Cape Argus" on Bantu Laws Amendment Bill

A letter from Mrs. Sinclair (National Chairman) to the Minister of Bantu Administration and Development about the Bantu Laws Amendment Bill and the Bantu Homelands Citizenship Bill appeared in the "Cape Argus" on 30th April.

GENERAL. The region will be in recess from 23rd June to 28th July, and there will be no All Branches meeting that month.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Wilks

BARBARA WILKS
CHAIRMAN.