

Dear Member,

The Civil Rights League have invited Sir Robert Birley to address their Annual General Meeting on 2nd September, at 8 p.m. at Claremont Civic Centre. We are sure as many of you as possible would like to be there as Sir Robert is such an old friend of the Sash.

After some delay, we finally obtained a telephone for our new office in Rosco Building, Main Road, Claremont. From the 1st May we rented a somewhat larger room in this building for our Regional Council meetings, keeping for the present our very small office.

The Regional Conference will be held on 2nd November of this year when Cape Western resolutions for the National Conference will be discussed. Resolutions from other regions will be discussed at an Extraordinary Regional Conference early in 1971. The National Conference will be held in Cape Town in February 1971, with Callow House, Kenilworth as the venue.

"H" Pamphlet

Altogether 4,000 copies of these pamphlets were ordered from Johannesburg Headquarters and have been widely distributed. As a "follow up" various Regional Councillors have agreed to hold informal meetings to discuss the implications of the pamphlet as well as those of "The Discarded People" by Father Desmond, of whose book 50 copies were ordered for sale and for the Advice Office. These meetings, though private, will not be limited to Sash members but will be held under Black Sash auspices.

Plaque of Commemoration

Three Black Sash members attended a meeting of the Puitenkant Street Methodist Church committee to discuss the question of a plaque to be set up to commemorate the removal of Coloured people from their homes in that area. It was decided to place the plaque on the outside wall of the Church. The wording will be decided later.

"Alice"

With the help of Mr. Burton, husband of the Secretary of the Regional Council, 500 copies each were printed of Mrs. Barbara Wilks' "Alice in Colourland" and "Alice in Onsland". These are being sold at ten cents each. As this type of satirical writing is all too rare in South Africa, all members are urged to buy copies and distribute them widely among their friends - especially if they are not members of the Sash.

Athlone Advice Office

Professor Hansie Pollak, the present Chairman of the Cape Branch of "Race Relations", brought a group of lecturers and students from the American "Floating University" to see the work of this office.

Mr. Norton (The Cape Times) has agreed to use any stories we submit to him.

The Dutch Reformed Church has appointed a sub-committee to discuss the cases we outlined and sent for their information.

Case: The husband of N.Q. was injured in March 1969, in an accident on the lorry which was taking him to work. He received brain and eye injuries, as a result of which he is permanently totally disabled. The firm duly lodged a claim with the Workmens' Compensation Commissioner, the final assessment of the extent of the damage sustained naturally causing delay. Also unnaturally, in that N.Q. has been left without interim means of support and without information. A year after the accident, she came to Cape Town without permission to find out what was going on. Her husband is still in hospital, in fact it is doubtful whether it will ever be possible to care for him at home. The hospital social worker was in touch with his brother in Langa, and this brother-in-law took N.Q. to the hospital where she was given a letter, as a result of which she received a visiting permit. The hospital authorities have assisted as far as they are able, and now that her time is up they have furnished her with a letter to her magistrate at Cofimvaba asking for maintenance for herself and the five children. There is no disability grant while a man is in hospital, as he is being kept there at the expense of the Province or as in this case, the State. But the Department of Bantu Affairs remains a complete dead end, and inquiries into the Compensation claim remain unanswered. "We have nothing to do with the Transkei, it is a separate country now," were the words of a senior official there in reply to our last query.

All Branches

Mrs. Ballinger spoke at the evening meeting on 4th May. Mrs. Beck spoke on the "Re-detention of the "22".

Magazine

Complimentary copies of the magazine are to be sent to persons overseas who subscribed in the past. Donors will receive a complimentary copy for two years.

Stands

A stand was held on 12th June to protest against the re-detention of the "22". As well as the usual site we were given permission to use "The Golden Acre."

Letters

- 1) To the "Sunday Times" re Alexandra Township's proposed hostels for so-called "bachelors"
- 2) On the first Government notice under the new Bantu Laws Amendment Bill.
- 3) "The Alphabet" appeared as a letter in the "Cape Times".
- 4) Statement on the "22" appeared in both the "Cape Times" and "The Argus".
- 5) A statement on "Protest" by Mrs. Robb, appeared in "The Argus".
- 6) Letter on "Family Day".
- 7) A portion of our Athlone Advice Office report and a case were quoted in the NUSAS magazine.
- 8) Mrs. Herbstein's account of her visit to Dimbaza Re-settlement camp appeared in the "Cape Times."
- 9) To celebrate our 15th birthday the "Cape Times" wrote a leader on our movement. There was also an article on the Black Sash.

May we remind members that now is the time to start putting slips into tins for the Morning Market Flower Stall.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Birt.

Acting Chairman.