

Dear Member,

Though the problems the Black Sash will need to face this year are as great as ever, we have begun 1971 with two matters to encourage us: first, the Annual Conference, held in Cape Town, was voted an unqualified success by all who attended it; and secondly, we have been glad to welcome a large number of new members, many of whom are young and (we trust!), active and brimful of ideas.

The National Conference has decided to return to October as the month for the Conference- for the very valid reason that there is little time in the new year to organise and prepare. Proceedings opened at an evening meeting when, after the address by our National Chairman, Mrs. Jean Sinclair, Professor Jonathan Suzman, spoke on "The Value of Protest". His message was consoling as he stressed the fact that it was the Protest itself and not just the result that mattered. Conference welcomed a new region, centred on Grahamstown and to be known as Albany.

Some excellent papers were given during the three days of Conference.

Professor Hansie Pollak spoke on Coloured Education; Mrs. Jeanette Carlson spoke on involvement of younger members, An excellent piece of research was done by our Rondebosch Branch on pre-school education. This paper will be given again at a future All Branches meeting. Elgin Branch gave an interesting paper on outlook in Elgin; Mrs. Herbstein initiated discussion on Re-settlement camps; A paper on "Pensions" will be produced later as a pamphlet.

One of the most important events at the Conference was the presentation to Parliament by Mrs. Helen Suzman of a Charter of Women's Rights which had been drawn up by Headquarters. This charter will be duplicated and distributed as widely as possible.

As the levy does not cover the running expenses of Headquarters it was decided that a grant should be paid to them this year by Cape Western. It was also agreed that the cost of a round trip to enable the National Chairman to visit different regions should be donated by Cape Western, this year. These decisions were ratified later by "All Branches".

A very successful and well-attended Cocktail Party was given by Cape Western to Conference delegates and a selected list of guests who have been helpful to, or shown interest in, the activities of the Sash.

Before the Conference closed, Transvaal was once again enthusiastically elected as Headquarters Region with Mrs. Jean Sinclair as National President.

CAPE WESTERN REGION 1971

Mrs. Wilks has been elected Chairman with Mrs. Robb and Mrs. Dichmont as Vice-Chairs.

ACTION PANEL

Conforming with a Regional Conference resolution it has been decided to have an "Action Panel" to involve more Sash members in the working of our organisation. Mrs. Finsen will be the Convenor with Mrs. Shepherd as assistant. Will anyone interested in joining this, please contact her Branch Chair.

MORNING MARKET

For this we had splendid publicity with a resultant increase in the total raised. The final figure was R4,052.66c. This year's Market will be held on Saturday 20th November on the Claremont Civic Centre.

ALL BRANCHES

Dr. David Welsh spoke at an evening meeting on "Race Relations in the U.S.A."

Mr. David Curry gave us a talk on "What the Coloured Person wants."

Professor Hansie Pollak spoke on "The Indians in Natal". These talks greatly interested those who heard them.

ATHLONE ADVICE OFFICE

Many of our recent cases have dealt with men and women from the Kya Mandi location in Stellenbosch where temporary homes are being demolished to make way for a new church. Because no new houses are being built for them, husbands and wives who qualify - some even as "borners" - are being re-settled, or in the case of men, being sent to the so-called "bachelor" quarters.

STANDS

- i) On Christmas Eve - with posters reading - "Think of the Msini family" - "Remember the thousands like them" - "Laws of the Land separate African families".
- ii) On the detention of about 20 people (or possibly more) under the Terrorism Act.
- iii) Near the Airport when the deported clergymen left Cape Town.
- iv) On the proposed removal of Coloured voters from the Municipal Roll.

LETTERS TO THE PRESS

- i) New Bantu Laws Amendment Bill.
- ii) Removal of Coloured Voters from the Municipal Roll.

"WHO CARES" LEAFLET

About 6,000 of these valuable leaflets have been mailed to voters in the Constantia constituency; grateful thanks to all who assisted in this essential task.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Willis

F. Wilks.
Chairman.