

Dear Member,

Since the last News Letter was sent out in June 1976, widespread rioting throughout the urban areas has brought white South Africa face to face with the parlous state of race relations in this multi-racial land. Shock waves have run through our complacent electorate and we note how people who gave little thought to the injustice of apartheid policies so long as business was good and they themselves felt secure, are now beginning to realise that it is these very policies, supported by their votes or by their apathy, which have created this menacing racial tension. Such people are now anxiously casting around for solutions and are much more likely to contemplate political change now than they were before the rioting. A back-lash to black rioting has sent some people into the white laager of course, but this does not seem to be the predominant mood.

In this period of potential change, the Black Sash has its part to play. For twenty one years, from the Senate Act onwards we have opposed Apartheid and fought in turn all its discriminatory laws and divisive practices. The message carried by our protest stands, public meetings, brains trusts and symposia, has mostly fallen on deaf ears but now perhaps people will be more disposed to listen. We must carry on then along the well-worn road, keeping abreast of events, running the advice offices, endeavouring to enlist the concern of the public and keeping dialogue going in whatever ways are open to us across the chasms that are opening up between the races.

Stands and pamphlet distributions are no longer possible; the Riotous Assemblies Act has put a stop to that, and instead, we have experimented with a set form of protest advertisement on bannings and detentions put into the papers as the occasion arises. We were able to hold one Banning Walk-About on Friday July 16th and 2,500 pamphlets were distributed. A National Campaign on the "Need for Change" with the slogan R.E.A.C.H. (Real Equality is the Answer to the Challenge) has been postponed for the time being. However, the Region organised a very successful symposium on "The Need for Change" in the Rondebosch Town Hall on the evening of October 13th. The hall was full and the speakers were Mrs. Sheena Duncan (Bantu Education), Bishop S. Naidoo (The need to remove the hurts suffered by black people), Mr. Haysom (The role of Universities in a changing society) and Dr. Francis Wilson, who brought together the different aspects of the symposium and expanded its scope. Canon Matolengwe, Suffragan Bishop Elect of The Anglican Church in the Western Cape, who was to have dealt with the ten points that he had submitted to the press as being changes required to bring about peace, was prevented from attending the meeting by his concern for the unrest in his neighbourhood. There is a tape recording of the entire meeting which can be borrowed by branches or members. We also have Mrs. Duncan's and Dr. Wilson's speeches in typed form.

ALL BRANCH MEETINGS

JULY No meeting was held as the Region was in recess.

AUGUST 2nd. An afternoon meeting at Callow House. Mrs. Dallas who had just returned from the U.S.A., spoke on The Human Rights Commission and the legal safeguards existing in the U.S.A.

SEPTEMBER 7th. An afternoon meeting at Callow House. Mrs. Sue Gordon and Mrs. Leah Tutu spoke on the work of DWEP (Domestic Workers and Employers Project).

OCTOBER 4th. An evening meeting "Silverhurst". Canon Matolengwe spoke on the Ten Points for Peace that he had submitted to the press.

NOVEMBER 1st. An afternoon meeting at Callow House. Mrs. Daphne Wilson spoke on Bantu Education. She has given permission for her talk to be sent to the Black Sash Magazine editor, and a précis was published in the Cape Times of 20.11.76.

BRANCH MEETINGS

Most branches have held regular monthly meetings.

- RONDEBOSCH - JULY. Mr. Norman Bromberger spoke on "What we can hope for the future in South Africa".
- SEPTEMBER. Mr. Wilmot of "Caminploy" was the speaker. This is an employment agency specialising in Coloured, African, Indian, Malay and Chinese staff.
- OCTOBER. Professor Paul Hare of U.C.T. Sociology Faculty spoke on methods that can be employed to bring about agreement between dissenting groups.

SOMERSET WEST

- AUGUST. Mrs. Burton spoke on the roles that we can play in the development of the community.
- SEPTEMBER. Guest speakers on living conditions in Umfoleni.

PLUMSTEAD

- SEPTEMBER. Dr. Margaret Elsworth spoke on the causes of unrest in African Schools.

FALSE BAY

- SEPTEMBER. Mrs. Robb spoke on the causes of unrest.

WYNBERG

- SEPTEMBER. Mrs. Robb spoke on the aspirations of African students.

N.B.

The last date to diarise for this year is the ALL BRANCHES meeting on November 29th at Callow House at 2 p.m. The speakers will be Mrs. Brock and Mrs. Robb on the Cillie Commission. It is sad to record that Elgin has felt it could no longer continue as a separate branch and has therefore amalgamated with Somerset West. Somerset West is becoming a very lively branch and is acquiring new members.

MEMBERSHIP

During the last five months sixteen new members have been welcomed into the Black Sash.

- FALSE BAY Mrs. Sharples, Mrs. N. Lucas, Mrs. E. Barton
- CLAREMONT Miss B. Sales, Mrs. P. Wilson, Mrs. G. McClaren, Mrs. D. Stevens-Guille
- SOMERSET WEST Mrs. J. Hodgson, Mrs. S. Huelin, Dr. J. Murray
- RONDEBOSCH Mrs. K. Feurstein, Miss J. Cole, Mrs. J. Smith, Mrs. M. Coetzec, Mrs. H. Voisey, Mrs. P. O'Brien?

A special meeting for new members was held on November 24th at my house.

There have been two resignations.

There are 85 members who have not paid their subscriptions. Please if this applies to you send your subscription to your branch treasurer. The number of our delegation to National Conference depends on our paid-up membership and we pay a levy to Headquarters for all our members.

On the whole there has been a heartening influx of new blood into the Region but so far this has not reached the Regional Council. Your Council needs at least six additional members and is in dire need of an Hon. Secretary. Since the last A.G.M., Mrs. Graham has virtually been doubling up on the jobs of Secretary and Treasurer and this cannot be allowed to continue. Who will volunteer? This is obviously a key position but it need not be too arduous. It entails attendance at the Regional Council meetings every Monday morning and perhaps two visits in addition during the week to the office. The office is open every week day morning between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and is run by Mrs. Norma Gabriel. Some experience of secretarial work is obviously an asset but is not essential.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

The main money-spinner of the year is of course the Morning Market which was held on Saturday, November 6th at the Claremont Civic Centre. It was convened by a committee of Margaret Barker, Margaret Bewick, Ruth Suter, with the advice and assistance of Bunty Aitchison.

They are very much to be congratulated on the excellent results. The total figure raised so far is R6260 which is not far short of the record. This is an achievement at a time when money is so short and we are deeply grateful to Mrs. Barker and her team. Next year the Morning Market will have to move to Rondebosch Town Hall as the Claremont Civic Centre, by November 13th 1976, was already booked for every Saturday from July - December 1977!

Mrs. Parsons of Sea Point branch has given a tremendous fillip to fund-raising this year and has earned our heart-felt thanks, by convening two Mini-Markets on Green Market Square in April and October. These together raised a very welcome R657.32, and Mrs. Parsons is willing to continue with her good work provided that she can collect goods from the branches and get help for the day. So, please remember if you have anything that will sell on Greenmarket Square and almost anything does'. please get into touch with Mrs. Parsons. The Annual Appeal sent out by the Treasurer has brought in a total of R1689.30 and in addition we have received R1445.21 in members donations and R268 in bequests and unsolicited donations. Income is just about keeping up with the cost of living!

CONFERENCES

The next National Conference takes place in Johannesburg in March 1977 from March 14th-17th and delegates for Cape Western Region will be elected at our Extraordinary Regional Conference on February 7th, 1977. (Venue not yet decided)

The Regional Conference will be held on March 7th 1977 at Callow House from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Resolutions or items of discussion intended for the National Conference must be brought up at the All Branches meeting on November 29th 1976.

LETTERS TO THE PRESS

These have been many, both from the Region and from members writing in their private capacities. Letters sent from the Region appear below:

Theron Commission	Cape Times	23.6.76
Banning (Mrs. Fatima Meer)	" "	2.8.76
In support of Mrs. Stott re grant for Transkei Independence celebrations.	" "	2.8.76
Terrorism Act (No. 85 of 1967)	" "	10.8.76
Detentions	The Argus	10.8.76
Unrest	Cape Herald	14.9.76
Unrest	The Drum	14.9.76
Unrest	Muslim News	14.9.76
Unrest	The World	14.9.76
Unrest	Imvo	14.9.76
Missing Individuals	Argus	20.9.76
Missing Individuals	Burger	20.9.76
Missing Individuals	Herald	20.9.76
Missing Individuals	Cape Times	20.9.76
Arrests and Detentions	Cape Times	19.10.76
Arrests and Detentions	Daily Dispatch	19.10.76
Detention Mr. Temba Nolutshungu	Cape Times	8.11.76
Expulsion of Mr. Herbstein	Cape Times	11.11.76
State of the Nation	The Argus	17.11.76

COURT ATTENDANCE

During 1976 Mrs. Bridget Scoble has organised a roster for observers attending the Courts at Langa, Athlone and Wynberg. When defended Advice Office cases appear in court an observer is always present. The roster worked smoothly up to the time of the unrest in the Western Cape when for a period it was impossible to go to Langa and Athlone Courts. Attendance is returning to normal now and observers are also attending the sessions of The Cillie Commission of Inquiry which as I write is sitting in Cape Town in the Hendrik Verwoerd Building. (A memorandum on the unrest has been sent to the Cillie Commission by the Advice Office together with that of the Institute of Race Relations.) It is also hoped to continue to have members attending the meetings of the City and Divisional Councils. Mrs. Scoble thanks the small team which has faithfully carried out its obligations to the roster and appeals for more members to help with this very worth while job.

Her phone number is 71-7236 and she would be grateful if you could phone her during the lunch hour.

ADVICE OFFICE

As a full report will soon appear, I shall just mention three points:

1) That there has been a big increase in the number of unemployed contract workers, many of whom have had their contracts broken by employers who are retrenching. 2) There has been a heavy drain on the Bail Fund and contributions (which would be an interest free loan) would be very welcome. 3) The charge of R10 per shack per month levied on Crossroads for Divisional Council services (latrines and water points) is far too high and The Advice Office is asking the Divisional Council to reconsider its decision.

GENERAL

Here are two more items of interest to all members: Legal Opinion on Transkei Citizenship, sought by the Region, has been received from Mr. Robin Marais S.C. and during July, copies were sent to Chief George Mantanzima and Mr. Knowledge Guzana. Mr. Marais' Opinion is a detailed study of several misgivings we felt regarding the constitution of the Transkei, regarding citizenship qualifications in particular. A précis will be presented at Regional Conference.

The Region congratulates Dr. Margaret Nash (Claremont Branch) on her publication "Home?" which came out in July. "Home?" is an introduction to the housing crises in Cape Town and deals particularly with the plight of squatters. The Region ordered 100 copies and these have all been sold but book orders can be sent to:- CFCIA OFFICE, CHURCH HALL, BROOKE STREET, CLAREMONT 7700. All proceeds from the sale of this production will be used by CFCIA to assist squatter self-help projects once expenses have been met. Cost per booklet is 50c

The Black Sash Office and the Advice Office close for the Christmas holiday on December 15th 1976 and reopen on January 13th 1977. 1976 has been a black, destructive year for South Africa and we shall all be glad to see the end of it, but at least one good thing has emerged; the credibility of Apartheid as a way of life for this country has been finally destroyed and this can give us hope for 1977.

This newsletter has been written for us by Mrs. Dorothy Hacking, and I am very grateful to her.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Yours sincerely,

Mary Burton

Mary Burton
Chairman

In Memoriam: It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of two valued members, Mrs. Doris Wilks of the Wynberg Branch and Mrs. Lennox Gordon of Claremont Branch.

NEW OFFICE PHONE NUMBER 65-3513