

Dear Member,

June 16th 1977 was preceded by a feeling of apprehension and although incidents did take place, one is thankful that events were not as horrible as in 1976. But the shock waves continue and will go on because of the feeling of black consciousness among the youths and of their thwarted aspirations. As has been seen, despondency can lead to despair and despair to violence.

HOUSING PUBLICATIONS:

Dr Margaret Nash (a Black Sash member) has just produced a 2nd edition of "Home". This is a book to be read by all of us and is available from the office at the cost of R1.00. The Afrikaans edition is about to go to print and donations towards the cost of publishing are urgently needed. Donations can be sent, ear-marked for 'The Afrikaans edition of "Home"' to C.F.C.I.A., St. Saviour's Church, Claremont.

Also available from the Institute of Race Relations is "Squatters of the Western Cape: some causes and remedies", price R4.50.

SQUATTERS:

Members have been working in close conjunction with C.F.C.I.A., particularly in the Kraaifontein area and special tribute must be paid to Joan Grover.

As this newsletter goes out attention has switched to Modderdam and Unibell. Over the past 18 months they have developed a neighbourly crime-free community in which Coloured and African families have cooperated and cared for one another. They have struggled against great difficulties - a complete lack of water and sanitation, insecurity, and constant harrassment. They have even built themselves a church-cum-community centre shack which the PWD have pulled down.

At present they are desperate. The community is being torn apart, with Coloureds being told to go to Rifle Range (Skietbaan) near Kuils River and legal Africans to Nyanga (KTC site). Some coloured families paid their R8 site-tax and moved to Rifle Range - to return to Modderdam within 48 hours because of the unsafe conditions (including a murder last weekend). Some are still there, trying in this cold and rainy weather to re-erect their shacks.

Illegal Africans have been told to apply for assistance to return to the homelands. That is to say, families have been told to split up, with the men remaining here to work and the women and children going 'home'. The Africans, legal and illegal, feel they have been pushed from pillar to post - Werkgenot, KTC, Kraaifontein, Modderdam - and cannot face another move. They want to stay where they are. All they ask for is security of tenure, and elementary services (water, refuse removal). For the rest they are prepared to carry on being an orderly, socially-productive community. Is that too much to ask?

What can you do? You can go, and persuade others to go, to the Modderdam Camp and visit the people. You can see for yourself what the situation is, and you can come back and share your experiences. In particular, you can convey your concern to those in authority and urge them not to set their regulations above the higher law of preserving the family as the fundamental unit of a healthy society. (The above information is taken from a pamphlet issued by the squatter sub-committee of the Board of Social Responsibility, Anglican Diocese of Cape Town.)

SQUATTER FUND APPEAL:

The response to the appeal for the Squatters' fund has been most gratifying. Members' contributions to date amount to R838-40. In addition R500.00 has come from an outside source. Legal expenses have amounted to R1032.50 and Miss Nabe's salary has accounted for a further R167.00. The balance is therefore R138.90. The Regional Council expects that there will be further legal expenses to meet so you are asked to keep the fund in mind.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

The Black Sash National Conference held in Johannesburg from March 14th - 17th is well reviewed in the May edition of Sash magazine. Sheena Duncan's address is outstanding and one continues to feel pride in and admiration for our National President.

On Friday 27th May, Sheena spoke to students at the University of Cape Town at a lunch hour meeting on the "Problem of the African Labourer" and later Black Sash members met her for tea at the home of our Regional Chairman, Mary Burton.

CILLIE COMMISSION:

Mrs Robb and Mrs Brock attended the first Cillie Commission and reported back on same at our All Branches Meeting on Nov. 29th at Callow House. Black Sash members attended the further Cillie Commission hearings held in Cape Town, and reports of this were widely published in the newspapers.

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

The following are the members of Regional Council for 1977:

M. Burton (Chairman)
N. Robb)
J. Dichmont) (Vice-Chairmen)
M. Howes (Secretary)
M. Graham (Treasurer)
D. Hacking (Minute Secretary)
M. Coke (Grapevine)
L. Herbstein (Press Cuttings)
C. Malherbe (Magazine Contact)
J. Grover, B. Aitchison, D. Andrews, M. Livingstone,
A. Browne, M. Nash, L. Platzky, P. Wilson.

SPEAKERS AT ALL BRANCH MEETINGS:

Prof. Njisane, Ambassador for Transkei, on "The Implications of Independence for Transkeians".

Mr Rene de Villiers on "The Newspaper Bill".

Mr D. Enthoven who spoke in place of Senator Bamford on "The Political Scene".

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Penny Wilson has been most assiduous in attending meetings and reporting back to the Regional Council.

COURT ATTENDANCE:

Bridget Scoble continues to arrange for members to attend but finds difficulty in getting people to attend regularly. Mary Coke is indefatigable - attends every Tuesday and sometimes oftener. If you are able to help Bridget her telephone number is 71 7236 - lunch time preferably - or you can ring the office.

ADVICE OFFICE:

Continues to be very busy and there are many enquiries re U.I.F. Many cases are despairingly complicated and those of us who try to advise are often filled with frustration and anger over the dreadful inequality of our laws in relation to our black people.

Thanks to the initiative and thoughtfulness of Peggy Roberts, presentations have been made to Mrs Lettie Malindi and Mr David Viti for their many years of devoted service as interpreters. They are persons of outstanding qualities with extraordinary knowledge of the complicated work connected with the Advice Office.

MORNING MARKET:

The Claremont Civic Centre has been booked for November 12th and it is hoped that last year's record figure of R6571.17 will be equalled if not exceeded. Fund raising for the year started with the Elgin Picnic which raised R433.00 and the Mini Market in Greenmarket Square R234.00. Some branches have already raised money so we are getting off to a good start.

Mrs Parsons is willing to sell rummage at any time and would be grateful for it. It can be left at the office. Also now is the time for you to prepare for the Morning Market - please make your marmalade, take your slips and cuttings, knit and sew!!

LETTERS TO THE PRESS:

The following are a list of letters sent to the press from the Region since the last newsletter:

Human Rights Day	Cape Times	7.12.76
Detentions	" "	1.12.76
Opening of Parliament	" "	17. 1.77
Detention of Mr Temba Nolutshungu	" "	1. 2.77
Role of riot police during Christmas violence	Argus	2. 2.77
Death in detention of Matthews Marwale Mabelane	Cape Times	24. 2.77
Detentions	" "	8. 3.77
Deportation of Prof. Wolfgang Thomas	" "	10. 3.77
Newspaper Bill	" "	15. 3.77
Bantu Education Amendment Bill	" "	18. 4.77
Bannings of Mrs Phakathi and Mr Aderom	" "	18. 4.77
Restriction of Bierfest to Whites Only	" "	18. 4.77
Festival Tavern	Cape Herald	20.5. 77
Squatters on Rondebosch Common	" "	27. 5.77
Detained children	Argus	24. 5.77
Unemployment Insurance Fund	" "	24. 5.77
The Right to a passport	Cape Times	24. 5.77
Kraaifontein Squatters	" "	3. 6.77
Kraaifontein Squatters	Die Burger	29. 6.77

NEW MEMBERS:

Gardens/Sea Point: Mrs J. Hope, Mrs V.J. Heard, Mrs M. Smith, Miss M. Hulshoff

Plumstead: Mrs M. Wheeldon, Mrs Mary Young, Mrs Ros Richardson, Mrs Hildur Amato.

Rondebosch: Mrs M. Bamford, Mrs Susan Joynt, Miss F.M. McLachlan, Miss E.B. van Heyningen, Ms Helen Bradford.

Rosebank: Mrs J. Jefferies, Mrs E. Sher.

Somerset West /Elgin: Mrs C.M. Elias

Wynberg: Mrs C.G. Rossi

False Bay: Mrs Ray Carter (transferred from Johannesburg)

Two members have resigned.

In Memoriam: It is with regret that we record the deaths of four of our members: Mrs C. Jaffe, Mrs Cornish-Bowden, Mrs Gurney, Mrs Glyn Baker.

Honorary membership: It is with pleasure that we note that Miss Effie Taylor has accepted an honorary life membership.

Branch Affiliation: Simonstown has now joined with False Bay.

ROTATING MEETINGS:

Claremont, Plumstead and Wynberg have decided to rotate their monthly Branch meetings and other branches are welcome to attend, particularly when there is a speaker. False Bay are availing themselves of this invitation.

NEW MEMBERSHIP:

On July 20th, Laurine Platzky is organising a meeting for prospective new members at St. Saviour's Parish Hall, Brook St., Claremont at 8.00 p.m. The film "Women on the March" will be shown and discussion will follow. Although this meeting is primarily designed for prospective members, all are invited to attend.

LEGISLATION PASSED THIS SESSION:

Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Act 1977: Under this Act illegal squatters need not be given any notice at all of the intention to demolish their shack. Not only the material but also the contents of the shack may be removed. There is no recourse to the court whatever against the proposed demolition, the actual demolition or the removal of property. Any judgment already given ceases to be in force now that the Act has been promulgated.

Bantu Laws Amendment Act 1977: Under this Act fines both for Africans working illegally and employers employing Africans illegally have been increased to R100 maximum.

Indemnity Act: No action may be brought against police acting in terms of their work during the riots of 1976.

Unemployment Insurance Amendment Act: There is now a new system of calculating benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Scheme. This benefits the higher paid worker but not the lowest paid group. Broadly speaking the worker receives 45% of the salary he was earning at the time he became unemployed - he must have worked 13 weeks during the last 12 months, must be registered as a work seeker. He can receive a maximum of 26 weeks benefits in any 12 months period.

STUDY GROUP:

During April and May Mrs Robb has run a study group on the effects of legislation on race relations. Although numbers have been small, those attending have found it most informative. The next meetings are at Mrs Robb's home, 2Highwick Drive, Kenilworth, on Tuesday 19th and Tuesday 26th July.

This newsletter has been drafted for us by Lily Herbstein and I am very grateful to her.

With good wishes to you all,

M. Burton
Mary Burton
Chairman.

5 Long Street,
Mowbray.