

Mr. Higginson

WITHDRAWS BLOOMIN' INDIAN"

AN CITY COUNCILLOR, Mr. J. J. Higginson, an of the Council's Housing Committee, was withdraw the words "Bloomin' Indians" which he referring to the Indian housing problem at a lled by the Western Areas Indian Ratepayers' on Sunday, to protest against the Council's inten- opriate 250 acres of Indian-owned land in the a of Springfield for a sub-standard housing scheme.

on, who had earlier ing interrupted Dr. all. President of the bined Indian Rate- ation, when speak- dience of more than was referring to the of some Indian land- t with their lands to r it to proceed with emes, and said that used the "bloomin' problem."

by a member of to withdraw the "Indians," Mr. Hig- ntly without any re- obvious satisfaction it's not the bloomin' I means was the ing question."

NT MEETING

g was orderly and exercised restrained e the fact that Mr. rovided enough r an uproar when e Indians of being

responsible for the present Indian housing problem, and referred to "avaricious Indian landlords who let out tiny cottages to as many as three families at exorbitant rentals to create overcrowded conditions, in the heart of the city."

When Dr. Baboolal gave an historical background of the Indian housing question and pointed out that it was the City Council which had created the problem by removing settled communities from the various areas of Durban, and subsequently preventing them from buying land elsewhere, Mr. Higginson got up from his seat and accused Dr. Baboolal of indulging in diatribe and using the platform for propaganda purposes.

"We have given up a Sunday afternoon to come to the meeting to answer your questions sincerely, but Dr. Baboolal is dealing with matters which are irrelevant to the meeting."

The chairman of the Association, Mr. D. Judhunundhan, said that Dr. Baboolal had merely pointed out the injustices which had been perpetrated against the Indians.

"He has a right to voice his grievances as he is one of the many landowners who will be affected if the Council takes the land away from them."

THE LEADER

Friday,
Sept. 16,
1960

4d.

City councillor calls group areas act "immoral"

THE Group Areas Act was described as the "most immoral and unjust law ever perpetrated in the name of the White people" by Mr. Charles Williamson, a Durban City Councillor, at a meeting of Indian ratepayers in Asherville on Saturday.

He said the Act was a "stain upon the integrity and honour of those in power." He was ashamed that such an Act should have been passed in Parliament.

Addressing the annual meeting of the Asherville Indian Ratepayers' Association at the St. Aidan's Boy School, Asherville, Councillor Williamson pointed out that 75 per cent. of the White people did not know the implications of the Group Areas Act.

"The Indians should realise that they are not the only ones that are frustrated. The Europeans were in the same position."

Speaking on the extension of the franchise to the non-Europeans, he said: "At this stage of the country's history, I sincerely feel that you are wasting your time in talking about franchise rights for the non-Europeans.

"It is like breaking your head against a brick wall. You know where the last word in this regard lies - whether it be on a local, provincial or national level."

He did not have to apologise

for this stand, but that was outlook. He believed that a community or an individual was judged by the way in which they treat their fellow beings. The only way out of the present impasse was accepting one's fellow being as human.

On the provision of amenities in Indian areas, Mr. Williams said that the State or the Council could not give anything without taking away something from a community.

The Council needed £12,000,000 for the provision of amenities in the various suburbs of Durban, but had only £3,500,000 to spend.

He asked the ratepayers to show tolerance to other people's ideas, even the City Council's, although it might seem "foreign" in some areas.

Councillor Williamson concluded by stating that the character of a city or a country depended on the character of the individual. Matter his colour, and he advised the people to show group tolerance and understanding.



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