

# CONFERENCE BUSINESS

TRANSVAAL REGION was elected as headquarters again for the coming year.

The following were elected office bearers:—

NATIONAL PRESIDENT — MRS. JEAN SINCLAIR

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS -- MRS. BOBBIE CLUYER

MRS. JEANETTE CARLSON.

Some of the Resolutions passed were:—

- (1) That the Black Sash endeavours to persuade the press to publish on Human Rights Day, 1966, the number of those who have been punished without trial and how many of them have been charged and convicted *after* receiving this arbitrary punishment.
- (2) That the Black Sash, recognising that the pass laws are the paramount cause of racial tension in this country, gives priority to instituting a campaign dealing with these laws.
- (3) To publicise the ever-increasing incidence of mass arrests; the victimisation of the law-abiding non-whites; the possibility of sub-standard conditions in places of detention and the summary justice imposed in mass trials; and  
To ask the press to conduct an active campaign against mass arrests because the absence of such a campaign has contributed to the indifference of the white population and to the perpetuation of the myth that mass arrests reduce crime.
- (4) That in view of the alarming frequency of Railway accidents, particularly on short line Railways, and the development of a pattern of violence after these, the Black Sash presses for a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the causes of such accidents, with particular reference to overcrowding, driver selection and signalling systems and construction of rolling stock.
- (5) That the Black Sash pays tribute to the efforts of one Region in causing publicity to be given to the shocking conditions existing in one former transit camp for Africans who are victims of the Pass Laws and resolves that every effort be made to ascertain the number, location, condition and population of other such camps throughout the country.
- (6) That every Region of the Black Sash should where possible take steps during the coming year to inform themselves and the general public on the wages, transport costs, working and living conditions of the labour force in South Africa.
- (7) That because of the many enquiries received as to the works and aims of the Black Sash a leaflet be formulated to be sent to members and others describing and explaining such work and aims.

Discussion took place on the following subjects:—

- (1) The nature of Black Sash Protest.
- (2) The effect of the Reservation of Separate Amenities Amendment Act on The Black Sash and Black Sash activities.
- (3) Group discussion techniques.
- (4) The possibility of the Black Sash sponsoring the visit to South Africa of some suitable world personality.
- (5) Magisterial warnings and bringing the fact of their existence to the notice of the public.
- (6) The new provisions for the establishment of courts contained in the latest General Laws Amendment Act.
- (7) The possibility of Country branches keeping Headquarters informed of happenings in their areas.
- (8) Methods of counter-acting S.A.B.C. propaganda.