

I've decided I'm not opting out. I'm going to get my teeth into this. I'm going to write to every paper that will publish me, and I'll go out and talk on every platform that will have me. The women's associations should take this up. You can help me there. Help me to get to the people. Once I begin others will realise this must be exposed. Exposed and fought. I will get in touch with the National Council of Women at once."

And of course she did. Her vivid message, from platform and from press reached out across the Republic and was echoed by every

liberal-minded institution in the country. It even reached the soul of the Cape Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, who condemned the practice of migrant labour as 'a cancer in the life of African population.'

'Richard' (as I call her) is now 94 years young. I saw her the other day and reminded her of her proposed 'retirement' at eighty. She laughed. 'Fancy you recalling that! I didn't know anyone had remembered how it all started.'

Oh yes, we remember, 'Richard — Coeur de Lion!

Harvard Buildings — Tuesday Morning

OR HOW HEADQUARTERS WORKS

R. M. JOHNSTON

(*Bobbie Johnston is National Secretary of the Black Sash.*)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>8.15 a.m. Arrive — sort mail — read mail — start to answer mail.</p> <p>8.20 a.m. Regular mysterious telephone caller wants to know if I am the Railways.</p> <p>8.25 a.m. Office Secretary arrives — discuss day's work.</p> <p>8.30 a.m. National President arrives — says she is <i>furious</i> with <i>them</i>, have you seen in the paper what <i>they</i> have done <i>now</i>.</p> <p>8.35 a.m. Chairman arrives — with two children.</p> <p>8.36 a.m. Housewife telephones to say her servant has been told to leave Johannesburg. Talks for 10 minutes and ends "Mind you, I don't hold with these natives but this is a <i>good Girl</i>. Interpreter brings tea.</p> <p>8.50 a.m. Chairman agrees that we must <i>do something</i> about latest outrage— National President says she has <i>got an idea</i> — all groan.</p> <p>8.52 a.m. Telephone caller wants to know if we have let the barber shop.</p> <p>8.55 a.m. Decide to send out notice to all members — Office Secretary says she has <i>no money</i> for stamps and anyway we have used far too much petty cash this month.</p> | <p>9.00 a.m. Advice Office Worker wants to know what she can do about 70 year old man who has been fined for not taking work offered — and he has T.B. as well.</p> <p>9.05 a.m. Housewife telephones to say her servant has been endorsed out of town, talks for 15 minutes and ends "Of course I don't need these natives, but this is a <i>Nice Girl</i>".</p> <p>9.10 a.m. National President says should we write to the Minister. All agree— N.P. says she has half-finished a draft letter — realise we should always agree.</p> <p>9.20 a.m. Publicity Chairman arrives — breathless and late as always — says why write to Ministers — statement should go to press. Chairman says should go to both and <i>will you please be quiet?</i> Discover she is talking to children.</p> <p>9.25 a.m. African telephones to ask how does he get to Advice Office — try to tell him, have to call Interpreter who shouts.</p> <p>9.26 a.m. Ask what about <i>Agenda</i> for tomorrow. National President asks have we sent circular to other regions and how far ahead is Advice Office Report. Chairman says we must talk about Fund Raising and Office Secretary says there is no money in Petty Cash.</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Interpreter brings tea.

Publicity Chairman says she has drafted a letter about Bantu Bill and she does not like it. All read draft, say it's very good but . . . Make sixteen alterations in draft. National President says has letter not arrived from Cape Western or Border and did we see the letter in last night's Star.

Publicity Chairman says can her letter go and —

Housewife rings to say servant must leave Johannesburg — servant has three children and no means of support and husband has deserted and it is all a *Terrible Tragedy*. Thinks Bantu on the whole worthless but this is a *Good Girl*.

National President asks if anyone has been to the Sale and have they got any sheets?

Chairman says she has had no time because of the younger offspring having tonsillitis and the Magazine and how is she going to fill the next issue when nobody sends her any articles and *don't bother me now I'm busy* — we hope to the children.

Office Secretary says will someone please check this memorandum and if copies of newspapers have to go to Regions do we know that there is no money in petty cash? Ask about tomorrow's *Agenda*.

National President asks whether the pamphlets have come from the printer yet and are the envelopes ready and when will they go out?

Publicity Chairman says all these letters are too tame and is there not another way of doing things and she is frustrated and we need new ideas.

Chairman says speaker for general meeting cannot come — who should we ask now?

Telephone caller asks if we still have barbershop to let.

Editor rings up for statement, wants it this minute. National President says please let us have half-an-hour.

All draft statement — everyone talks and no-one listens.

Housewife phones to say servant has to go back to country — gives endless details and says she thinks most Natives should go there but not this one who is a *Good Boy*. Interpreter brings tea.

Statement miraculously emerges on seven sheets of well scored scrap paper. Office Secretary proves herself treasure by transcribing scribble on to one sheet of typing paper.

Advice Office Worker says what can she do about this woman who is a widow and cannot have house — son who could be tenant has been removed for no apparent reason from housing permit.

Ask what President and Chairman want on tomorrow's *Agenda*, tell them it's already..

12.15 p.m. National President says she must go — press is waiting. Chairman says she must take children to dentist. Publicity Chairman says she must go and buy light fittings. Advice Office Worker says she must fetch children from school. Office Secretary and National Secretary decide to make their own *Agenda*. Interpreter brings tea. Stagger home.

BEVY OF BOSSES

by Bob Connolly

