

KEN GRANT

THE Black Sash records with deep sorrow the death of Kenneth George Geoffrey Grant in Johannesburg in July.

Ken Grant has been more than a friend to the Black Sash through all the years of its existence. His wife, Dorothy, was the former editor of this magazine and through her he became involved in our work in a variety of ways.

His great knowledge of printing and publishing has been of inestimable value to us. He helped on countless occasions with valuable advice on lay-outs, and spent hours of his precious time making blocks and plates for this magazine and setting up most of the many pamphlets, fact sheets and illustrations we have used in the Transvaal through the years. He was always most patient with our ignorance, most efficient and helpful in our ineptitude and most kind in our importunities.

Our members all over the country will remember him with affection from the many National conferences he travelled to with Dorothy. Our love and deepest sympathy go out to her and to their son.

Johannesburg Advice Office

DURING July there has been a preponderance of teenage boys and young men whose problems are insurmountable. These young men are wishing to work, and like young men everywhere want to start their careers with prospects and hope for their future security and advancement. This they cannot have. If they cannot establish their right to be in any prescribed area the most they can look forward to is a lifetime spent away from their families on yearly contracts with little or no chance of choosing their employer and with no prospects of advancement.

Under the new labour regulations published in March last year, contracts of employment may only last for one year and the category of employment which a man chooses and is placed in, when he registers as a workseeker with his local Bantu Commissioner, is the category he must remain in for the rest of his working life.

If a young untrained man signs on as a labourer, he can hope for no more advanced type of job however hard he works and however much he seeks to train or educate himself.

MRS. N. E. D. came to the office in great distress. Two of her sons have been endorsed out of Johannesburg because they broke their residence here. They will now have to hope they will be able to return here on yearly contracts.

S.R.M. is a young man who has a driver's licence and who has been working in garages with motor cars ever since he took his first job. He comes from Zululand and wishes to work in Johannesburg because he has close relatives here. An application made for him to come as a contract worker to a local garage has been refused because no people are admitted to Johannesburg in this category. He is faced with the choice of registering as a workseeker at home as a labourer or domestic worker hoping to come to Johannesburg, in which case, under the new regulations, he would have to spend the rest of his life as a labourer, or trying to get a job with cars in a strange town where garage workers are admitted on a contract basis. He wept in the face of the decision forced upon him.

A.D. This man originally belonged in Pretoria where he pays his tax but he worked for ten years in a job in Kyalami where he was registered at Halfway House. He has since worked in Johannesburg North. When his present employer took him to the new Sandton labour office, registration was refused. Pretoria will no longer accept him as belonging there because he has worked outside the prescribed area. He seems to belong nowhere at all and his employer cannot make an application for him to be registered in employment as a contract worker because there is no area to which the application may be made.

J.M. a teenage who has been endorsed out of Johannesburg because he left here to go to school and stayed on for a further two years. He is also a displaced person who belongs nowhere although his parents live in Johannesburg and he was born here.

G.N. has been refused registration in employment in Johannesburg. He took his reference book in Duiwelskloof while at school. His name is on his father's housing permit in Meadowlands but there is a spelling mistake in their surnames, which the father, being illiterate, never realised. This clerical error is now causing G.N. endless trouble and will jeopardise his whole future if he cannot produce the proofs necessary to have it corrected.