

CAPE WESTERN REPORT

THE BANTU LAWS AMENDMENT BILL finally appeared before Parliament and on the 19th and 20th June stands were held outside the House during the lunch hours. The posters read:

"Total insecurity for Employers of Africans"

"Total insecurity for African wives and children"

"Total insecurity for African Breadwinners"

On the 21st April the Region called a public meeting to examine the Bill. Invitations to attend the meeting were sent to business men, churchmen and Members of Parliament. It is to be regretted that more did not benefit from hearing the excellent address by Mrs. Noel Robb, on the implications of the Bill itself, and by Mr. Francis Wilson, of the Economics Dept. of University of Cape Town, on the Bill's economic effects. A memorandum on this Bill was drawn up by Mrs. R. N. Robb. Copies were sent to interested people and to M.P.'s, whom we trust also found it helpful!

A stand in support of Academic Freedom was held on June 11, again outside the Houses

of Parliament. June 11th was the 10th anniversary of the actual signing.

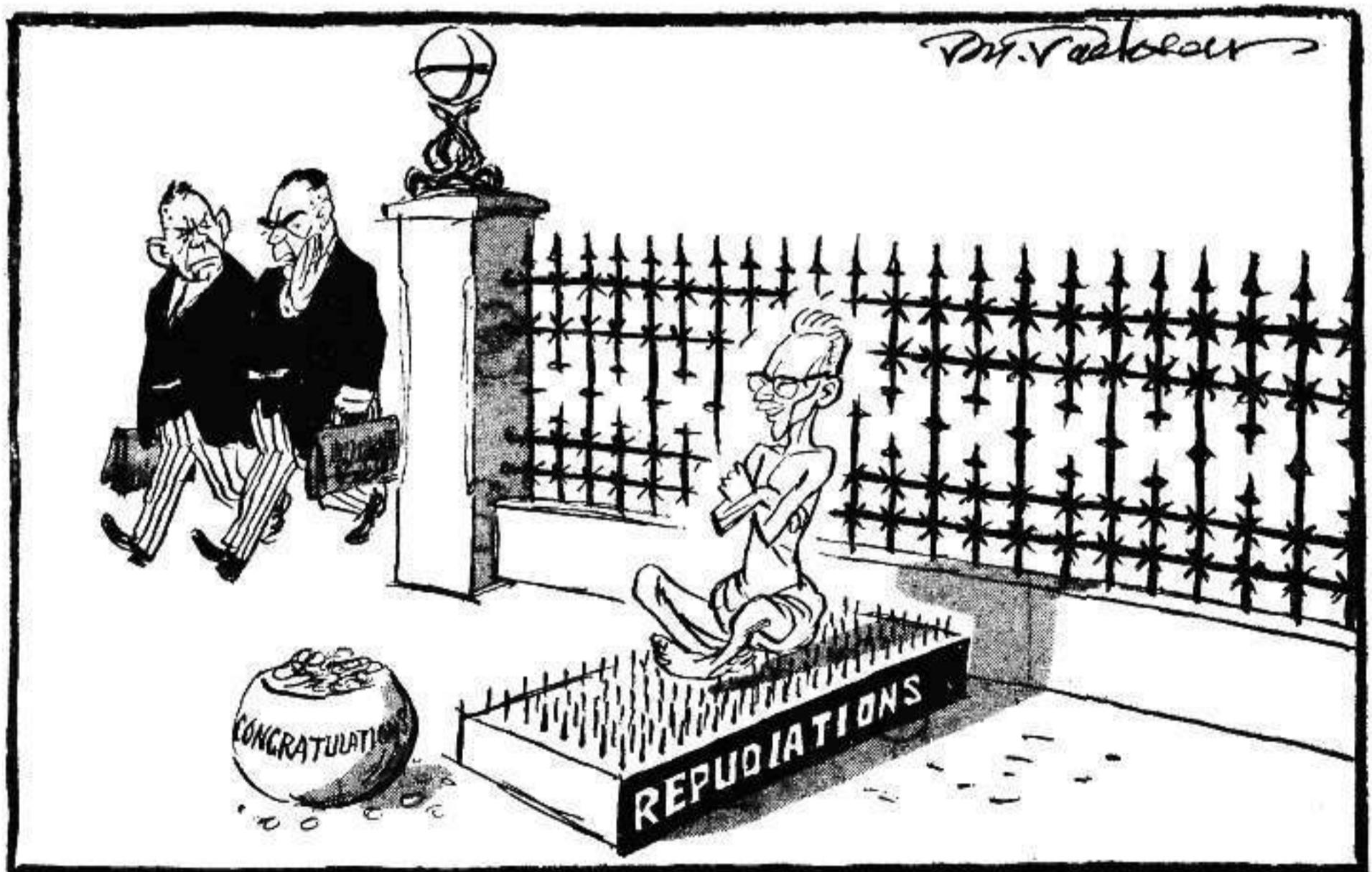
We are still trying to find a suitable place for the commemorative plaque for Group Areas Removals, which would be a symbol representing all such removals.

Careful and regular study of Hansard and Government Gazettes as they appear keeps members of the Regional Council aware of what is going on and enables them to call public attention, by letters to the Press, public meetings or protest stands, to hardships and to unjust legislation.

Mrs. Roberts had an interesting and profitable interview with Mr. Marais Steyn on the question of the drop in numbers of "Bachelors" in the Labour Market. We are anxious to know whether they have found gainful employment elsewhere.

Attempts have been made to call public attention to the seriousness of drought conditions in the Transkei and information has been sent to the Press.

The Region was gratified to receive a letter from the Johannesburg City Librarian requesting a copy of Mrs. Wilks' "Alice in



'I almost preferred the Black Sash.'

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Colourland", to be added to the Africana section of the library.

All Branches

At our meeting in April Mrs. Robb gave an explanation of the Bantu Laws Amendment Bill.

In May Mr. David Welsh, a lecturer at U.C.T., gave us a preview of his paper entitled "Urbanisation and the Solidarity of Afrikaner Nationalism", which added a new dimension to our understanding of the verligte/verkrampste conflict. And in June Mr. Theo Kotze, of the Christian Institute, challenged and inspired us with his talk on "Religion in an Apartheid Society".

Several branches are to be congratulated on successful and worthwhile multi-racial gatherings they have held. In view of the increasing difficulties involved in getting to know people of other races, these efforts are to be especially commended. The Elgin picnic, held again this year on Miss Denniston's farm, not only provided R180 for Sash funds, but enabled all those who attended to spend a most relaxing and enjoyable day — in spite of inclement weather. Elgin branch members continue to keep in touch with the former residents of New Town, who are in resettlement villages.

Gardens Branch had an interesting and stimulating evening of music as their form of a Sash party. The sixty people who attended were most enthusiastic and responsive. Rosebank too succeeded in having a different sort of party. Theirs took the form of a play reading, which was very well received — as was the supper provided for the 80 odd members and guests.

The Tuesday Club, inspired by the Rondebosch Branch, has become so popular that a more accommodating venue has had to be found. The sharing in the running and organisation of the club has meant greater member participation and interest and a renewed vitality in the club.

Letters to the Press:

31.3.1969—Cape Argus — Bantu Amendment Bill

21.4.1969 — Cape Times — Community Development Amendment Bill.

12.5.1969 — Cape Times — on "raids" to enforce registrations for the Coloured Cadet training centres.

9.6.1969 — Cape Argus — on African education.

17.6.1969 — Cape Times — General Laws Amendment Bill.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO REDRESS

GOD of Righteousness and Father of all Mankind, we pray for those Thy children who, through bodily infirmity or mental weakness, poverty or unemployment, social position or colour, circumstances or economic conditions, are deprived of the privilege of enjoying their Human Rights, or are precluded from seeking redress against the exploitation of which they are victims, and the wrongs which their fellowmen have inflicted upon them through thoughtlessness, selfishness or wilfulness.

Be Thou their Champion, O Lord! Forgive and suppress man's inhumanity to man — personal, social, legislative. Teach us the folly of professing love towards God Whom we cannot see, while we wrong those whom we do see. May we learn to keep the Great Injunction to love God above all that can be loved, and to love our fellowman, whatever his race, creed or colour, as much as we love ourselves.

Teach us so to live that we, under Thy Divine Guidance, may build a new hate-free, fear-free, greed-free world. Amen.

TRANSVAAL REGION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

PROBLEM OF MAKING AN IMPACT:

THIS year we have been brought up against the problem of making an impact on the public and of getting our point of view across to people. This problem has been discussed every time we have discussed any course of action on any issue. A few weeks ago we received a report from one of the delegates at National Conference who had found all the fact papers and discussion rather boring and wondered if we were not too academic as an organisation. She felt that we were not making any appeal to people in general and that our methods of making protests were rather up in the air. This problem will, of course be discussed fully at conference this year. In the Transvaal we have come to feel that we cannot hope to influence anybody or to change any attitudes at all and that all we can do is to state our protest as strongly as is in our power, which is not always as strongly as we would like. Should we worry at all what our public image is? How important is the collection of facts and the presentation of these facts to the few people who will bother to