

SASH vs. RADIO S.A.—Continued

wage. They only receive a mere pittance in comparison to what their husbands earn.

"I say NO to the Black Sash. Give us a more popular message, one which has or embraces a more clear-cut policy, not that of continual besmirchment of Government policies when no alternative solution is forthcoming.

"My hat off to the one-third of the delegates who deemed it fit to allow the S.A.B.C. representative in their midst. They felt that they had nothing to hide or be ashamed of."

Mrs. Daphne Curry, Regional chairman, replied to this letter and advised the writer to replace his hat.

"The one-third to whom he took off his hat voted as they did on the grounds that any news, albeit distorted, which advertises the Black Sash, is better than no news, leading to the assumption that the Sash is dead. The Black Sash is not dead. The Sash is alive and its aim is to ensure

that there is a sufficient number of Whites and non-Whites with mutual respect and trust to work out a policy guaranteeing basic rights and liberties to all."

Further publicity for the Black Sash protest against the use of the S.A.B.C. as a propaganda instrument was given by the *Sunday Times* and other newspapers when Mrs. Jean Sinclair, National President, announced that the Sash would organise a nation-wide petition, if possible in co-operation with other bodies.

It was subsequently reported in several newspapers that the Sash had been refused permission from Port Elizabeth businessmen in Main Street to put petition tables outside their shops. The reports quoted Mrs. Alison Pirie, chairman of Cape Eastern Region, as saying: "I think they are afraid their business interests might suffer. We have reached a sorry state of affairs in this country when fear seems to have become the over-riding factor in people's lives."

Press Statement from the Sash Conference :

CONSIDERATION of the past year's work, and plans for the future, revealed the Black Sash's continued efforts to improve race relations through public and informal meetings of all races.

The first category included brains trusts, lectures, films and multi-racial forums. The second category comprised more informal contacts. Regions reported holding regular discussion groups, the subjects ranging from civics, education, race relations, to those of particular interest to women. These were juvenile delinquency, teenage problems, and low wages, together with the ever-spiralling cost of living.

In addition, the Black Sash continued trying to assist the victims of unjust laws by providing bail for Pass-Law offenders, and advice on the multiplicity of problems resulting from apartheid laws.

The bridges thus established are considered invaluable for future race relations in South Africa.

The conference further decided that the Black Sash, in its efforts to work for justice for all South Africans, categorically rejects discrimination on grounds of race, colour or creed. It will work to change the attitudes of mind which are governed by prejudice and fear.

The Black Sash is, and always has been, a body of women voters pledged to fight against wrongs brought about by voters, and having as its driving force a sense of personal responsibility.

If it were considered that the aims of the movement would be better served by changing the whole character of the Black Sash through opening the membership to men and non-voters, it would not hesitate to do so.

As non-white political organisations know, the Black Sash, as in the past, is always willing to co-operate on matters of common interest on a basis of complete equality.

The policy of the S.A.B.C., from its inception, was to provide entertainment and objective news and comment. Broadcasting is recognised as the most powerful publicity agent in the country. The Black Sash condemns the change in policy which has converted Radio South Africa into an instrument for Government propaganda. This gradual and insidious change is now so blatant that the time has come for the public forcefully to express its disapproval.

Delegates appreciate that there are difficult years ahead, but are determined to continue by all constitutional means their fight against the Verwoerd Government.