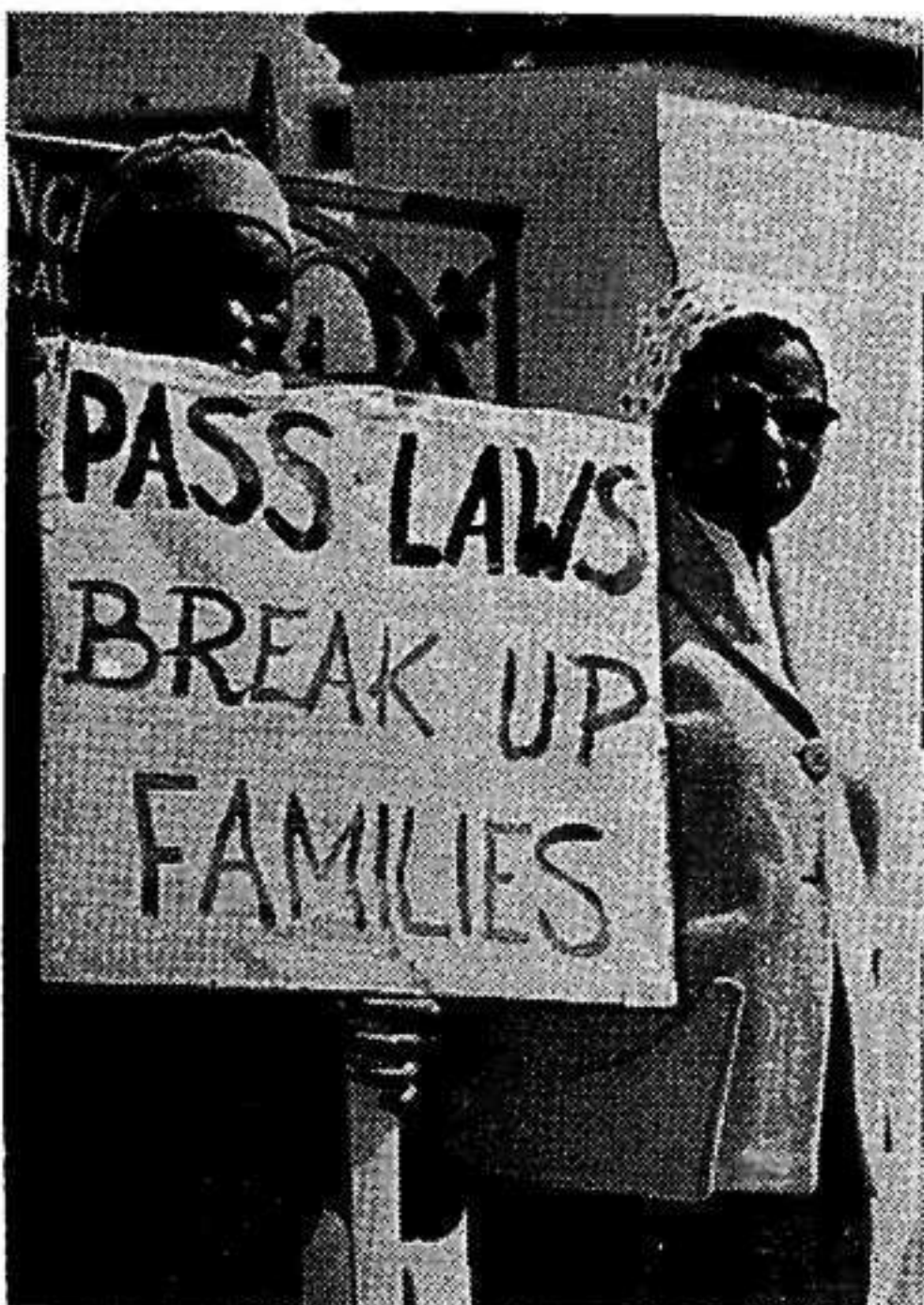


SOUTHERN TRANSVAAL STATES THE FACTS

NINETEEN questions on the pass laws are posed and answered in a memorandum drawn up by the Southern Transvaal Region, extracts from which appear below. The document explains what a pass is and shows how materially it differs from the identity card system for non-Africans introduced by the Population Registration Act of 1950.

- What are the effects of the pass laws on the lives of Africans?

THE possibility of summary arrest for non-production of his reference book on demand haunts the African night and day.



His every move is subject to unceasing control. His choice of work and of employer are restricted. He has little or no hope of advancement, nor can he change his type of work.

He cannot obtain a house or pension, etc., unless he has a reference book.

His family life is constantly disrupted, causing, among other things, an increase in illegitimacy and crime.

Money for food becomes money for fines, and whether the offender pays the fine, reducing his poor earnings to even less, or goes to jail, thereby rendering himself unable to support his family, the results are the same — poverty, malnutrition, disease, and the complete breakdown of family life.

Early introduction to prison on technical offences crowds the jails, and encourages criminality. Technical offenders can become hardened criminals.

—To the African, unfortunately, the police represent tyranny and injustice, because the law is different for white and black. A pathological hatred of the law is developing, largely because of the harshness of these laws, and the way in which they have been administered.

As a result of this harshness, injustice and discrimination, the African tends to look upon all Whites with suspicion.

- What is the cost of the system to the taxpayer?

ACCURATE costs are impossible to calculate. However, we know that:

£380,000 (according to the statement of the Minister of Native Affairs in the Senate in 1952) was the cost of printing the first issue of reference books;

£33,500 was set aside in the 1959 estimates for plastic wallets to contain reference books;

£40,000 was set aside in the 1958 estimates for photographic material and equipment alone;

£328,935 was spent in 1959 for the maintenance of the Central Reference Bureau.

No accurate figures are available for the cost of large and expensive staffs of clerks, technicians, printers, photographers and fingerprint experts, or of recording equipment, offices, files, etc., but the cost to the country must be enormous.

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NEWS FROM REGIONS—continued

of necessity be confined largely to keeping our members and others alive to what is happening in the country. It is undramatic work and often disheartening, but worth doing in spite of the real difficulties.

CAPE WESTERN

LATELY our All-Branches meetings have been particularly well attended—the attraction being, no doubt, the guest speakers.

The first of them was Miss Christina van Heyningin (Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Natal), who stressed the urgent need to resist any move towards a uniform system of education.

The system of education should be as flexible as possible, she said, and pupils should receive every encouragement to think for themselves. Many of the doctrines of Christian National Education had been introduced into Transvaal High Schools and there were danger signals in other Provinces.

On behalf of all Sashers we presented Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, our second speaker, with a white-gold Sash badge in token of the affection and esteem in which she is held.

She has been forced to retire from Parliament after 23 years as a "Natives' Representative" in terms of the Promotion of Bantu Self-Government Act.

Mrs. Ballinger received a standing ovation from the meeting. During the simple ceremony of presentation all were moved by the poignancy of the occasion.

Mrs. Ballinger, in her address, asked us not only to continue our work against the pass laws but to campaign for a benevolent system of labour bureaux to replace the existing pass laws.

Our third speaker was Mr. Anthony Delius, well known writer and authority on African affairs. In his lecture, "What is Africa in 1960?", he outlined the successive stages of emergent African States; discussed the "moderate" demands of the Africans in the Union and the point blank refusal of the Government to consider them during the last parliamentary session; and visualised for the future a possible federation of multi-racial states and Bantustans in the larger areas such as the Transkei and Vendaland. Another suggestion was that Africa may become the experimental area for some kind of world control.

*You forget the means condition the end;
If the means be vile, be sure the end
will be viler.*

Musette Morell.

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In 1956, 337,604 Africans were convicted for breaches of the pass laws. It is impossible to estimate the cost to the taxpayer of extra courts, prisons, officials and files. The loss of man-hours spent in attendance at Pass Offices, jails, courts, and jails again, affects both employer and employee.

The extra expense of police raids for the express purpose of finding offenders under the Native Urban Areas Act cannot be assessed in terms of money alone. It is believed that 50 per cent. of our entire police force is engaged on the implementation of the Pass Laws!

£233,712 was spent during the year ended June, 1959, by one municipality alone — Johannesburg — on the administration of the Non-European Affairs Department.

• Could society be organised without pass laws?

IN our opinion, yes! It could be organised if the abolition of the pass laws were accompanied by provisions such as housing schemes for Africans in rural as well as urban areas; labour bureaux, and other measures designed to improve the economic and social conditions, and consequently the stability, of the African urban and rural population; the economic development of areas mainly populated by Africans; the proper training of Africans, and opportunities for advancement and the full use and development of skill and knowledge; the establishment of a minimum wage for all labourers, including farm labour; the use of migratory labour only where it is unavoidable, e.g., for the harvesting of seasonal crops in certain types of farming.

The abolition of the pass laws and influx control would cause a profound change in labour conditions in South Africa, and it would be necessary for a Commission to draw up workable plans and find ways and means of bringing about a gradual and peaceful change.