

Press. Several letters have been written to the papers, one of which appeared as a news item in a prominent position. The stand against the **Sabotage Bill** was given good publicity, and so was the stand against **house arrest**, in both local papers.

City Council. Two members of Natal Coastal Region, **Mrs. Shearer** and **Mrs. Powell**, were elected to the Durban City Council at the last elections. Members of the Region helped with canvassing, transport, etc.

Other Activities. The Region still provides drivers once a week for **Mrs. Powell**, the **Prisoners' Friend**.

General. It is encouraging to report that membership and attendance at meetings has remained fairly steady during the past year, and great interest has been shown by everyone in the monthly meetings and other activities. Active membership has been increased by several people who were transferred from other Regions, or have returned from overseas.

NATAL MIDLANDS REGION

NATAL MIDLANDS REGION now has Branches in **Pietermaritzburg**, **Mooi River**, and **Matatiele**, and groups in **Howick**, **Kokstad**, **Ixopo** and **Underberg**.

Educational Meetings. At meetings held by **Pietermaritzburg Branch** during the year, there has been a talk on **Education** by **Mrs. S. Burnett**; "**Facts and Figures of African Education**" have been given by **Mrs. Russell**; a tape recorded talk on **Race Relations** by **Mr. Hopkinson** has been heard; and a **Brains Trust on Education** has been held with a multi-racial panel of "brains".

A meeting was held early in May by the **Mooi River Branch**, at which **Mr. Juta** of Natal University explained the Constitutional changes in other African countries, and how these changes are working out.

Regular meetings are held by **Matatiele Branch**, at which recorded talks are played, and various subjects discussed. **Howick** and **Ixopo** held meetings during the year at which the Regional Chairman brought them up to date with **Black Sash** affairs.

Protest Meetings. Together with other organizations, the **Maritzburg Branch** sponsored protest meetings on the **Sabotage Bill** in May and June. **Mrs. Lund**, Chairman of the Branch, spoke at both these meetings. Another co-sponsored protest meeting was held against **House Arrest** on October 18th.

Stands and Demonstrations. Only the **Pietermaritzburg Branch** has organized demonstrations this year, though members from other parts of the region have sometimes been able to join the demonstrations.

Demonstrations were held against the **Group Areas Amendment Bill**, the **National Education Council Bill**, and the **Publications and Entertainments Bill**; a vigil was held round the **Flame of Freedom** for 24-hours (multi-racial); a separate demonstration was held against the **National Council Education Bill**; a stand was held against the immoral legislation of the past session; and a stand was held against **House Arrest**.

LISTENING IS BAD ENOUGH

The S.A.B.C. used to be
A rather nice amenity
Which handed out from year to year
A reasonable bill of fare,
And tired toilers, switching on,
Could nearly always count upon
Something to listen to at night,
Innocuous, if rather trite.

Time marches on — today we find
That Albert's acid little mind
Has now decreed that we who pay
Must do OUR listening HIS way.
He's found the medium, devil-sent,
Which our deluded Government
Can most successfully abuse
To air their quaint, retarded views.

Ruthless, reactionary, rough,
Our Mr. Vorster plays it tough!
The S.A.B.C., duly cowed,
Relays his message long and loud.
With Communistic bogeys fed,
Depressed, we totter off to bed,
Thus buying with our licence fee
Alarm and/or despondency.

(A happier thought to take away —
Imagine if we had to pay
To see their faces every day!)

M. L. ORPEN.

(Re-printed from the *Rand Daily Mail*)

Other Demonstrations. Two members represented the Region at a wreath-laying ceremony to mourn the passing of **Liberty**. Other organizations took part. The **Pietermaritzburg Branch** joined other organizations in a poster stand against **Group Areas**; two members attended a reception for **Mrs. Luthuli**.

S.A.B.C. Petition. Branches and Groups collected signatures for this petition against slanted news and broadcasts

Work with Other Organizations. The Region is represented on the **Anti-Transfer of Coloured Education Action Committee**; the **Human Rights Committee**; the **Natal Convention Continuation Committee**; the **Education Vigilance Committee**; the **Group Areas Resistance Committee**.

This last Committee organized a **Protest March** in December, 1961, with the object of presenting a memorandum to the **City Council**, asking them to refuse to implement group areas in **Pietermaritzburg**. Permission to hold the march was cancelled after it had been given. About 200 people stood round the **City Hall** with posters, in protest.

The **Group Areas Resistance Committee** then drew up a memorandum and presented it to the **City Council**, but the Council remains adamant in its decision to implement **Group Areas**. The **Black Sash** was refused an interview with the **Group Areas Board**, and has now written its questions to the Board. Failing a satisfactory reply, a protest march is contemplated.