

cranks, members of the Special Branch, and a few Nationalist M.P.C.'s and Councillors. Other political parties invariably ignore the hearing. (WHY?) Names and interests are recorded, counsel for the municipality outlines the proposals, and points of law are argued at length. Often the hearing adjourns soon after it starts so as to allow a ruling to be tested in the Supreme Court.

7. A hurried tour of inspection takes place, proposals and counter-proposals are argued at length with rapidly waning public interest, and the hearing either terminates or is adjourned pending the advertising of further proposals. (No proposals can be discussed unless previously advertised).
8. The rest is usually silence. The number of proclamations of Group Areas is insignificant in relation to the number of proposals investigated.

*(To be continued)*

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## Cape Western — Visit to the Senate

ON Thursday, 24th July, the afternoon on which the Criminal Courts Bill reached the Senate, sixteen members of the Sash went in twos to interview individual Senators (names drawn rather at random from the Transvaal, Cape and O.F.S.) to ask their co-operation in getting the Bill amended so that (1) it would not give the Minister the right to appoint judges in cases in which he represents the Prosecution; (2) it would not change conditions for the accused who would lose the right they had originally to choose a Judge and Assessors.

Many also made the point that adverse criticism from overseas would be greatly increased as news of these extraordinary powers given to the Minister became common knowledge.

Some Sashers met only the granite featured Yes-men "who vote just as their leaders tell-'em-to," but others had more lively conversations—Senators actually acknowledging a point here and there.

One Senator declared that he could do nothing about it (what is he there spending public money for?) and one made the terrific confession that if he were to try to do anything about it, it was as much as his job was worth.

We hope that this sort of visit will bring home to Legislators that there is an active body of people outside of party politics who are alerted and deeply concerned about these grave questions.

Each Senator concerned has received a letter thanking him for his kind hearing and hoping that there will be further opportunities to discuss matters of importance.

*The Black Sash, September, '58*

## THREADS FROM THE SASH

MEMBERS of the East London Branch are busy collecting money for the Mayor's school feeding fund, and Mrs. Margaret Pollock represents the Branch on the Committee. This campaign to collect money followed from the Provincial Council's refusal to introduce an amended supplementary school feeding scheme.

The first copy of the Border Bulletin is to hand, and we congratulate the editors on their enterprising effort.

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BECAUSE the members of the Northern Transvaal Regional Conference decided that they knew little about the hardships which are the result of our present laws, they have decided to study the Group Areas Act practically. They have asked H. E. Joosur, the author of "Bitterness Towards Indians," to speak to them, and are arranging a visit to the areas in Pretoria that are affected by the Group Areas Proclamations.

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THE article "The Challenge and Our Response," which appeared in the June/July issue, was a condensed version of a lecture given by Professor Monica Wilson. This was one of a group of lectures printed in a booklet issued by the Cape Western Region.

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MRS. FOLEY visited the Witbank Branch in August, and was delighted with their plans for expansion.

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NATAL Coastal Branches have worked out a novel, and very successful, way of holding meetings. Speakers are invited to answer questions at informal tea-parties, to which each member gains admission only by bringing a non-member.

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TEA parties seem to be in vogue in the Sash. Southern Transvaal are organising a series of these to which they are inviting original members, who have since resigned or become inactive. This seems a pleasant and sensible way to go about the work of consolidating the Sash.

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THE meeting on increased African Taxation, which the Southern Transvaal Region had been unable to hold on the Johannesburg City Hall Steps, was held in St. Luke's Hall on 2nd September. The meeting was addressed by Mr. R. Hacking, representing commerce, Dr. Ellen Hellman, past President of the Institute of Race Relations, and Mrs. Mary Walker, on behalf of housewives, Mr. Oliver Tambo, secretary of the A.N.C., represented "the man who must pay."