

Statement issued by the Vigilance Committee, Grahamstown.

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We would like today to make some suggestions with reference to the matters we mentioned in the statement we put before the Council at our last interview on the 1st of November :-

1. REGULATIONS.

- (a) Municipal police boys: These should be replaced by the old ~~system~~ <sup>was</sup> system of headmen. We do not know in what respects ~~the~~ <sup>was</sup> found unsatisfactory. Under the system of headmen healthier relations between the Council and the locations can be hoped for. An understanding headman with the dressings of authority and dignity can be more respected by the people than a policeman, especially in these days of stress and tension. We believe that a healthier atmosphere would be restored if this were done at once and ungrudgingly.
- (b) Lodgers' fees: The proposed increases on lodgers' fees should be held in abeyance pending the putting into operation of the proposed building scheme of the Council. If the scheme is adequate it could ease the problem of lodgers in our location considerably.
- (c) Beer raids: These should be conducted in a more human way and, with greater respect for the privacy of the individual homes.
- (d) The Municipal Recreation Hall, should be hired out at lower rates than is the position at present. The current rates, introduced not very long ago, are considered prohibitive with the result that at the moment very few people will hire this hall for entertainments and meetings.

2 THE BEER HALL.

As we are all aware, the people do not want the beer hall. They would prefer home brewing to the present system. We would like to suggest that the present building be put to other services of more benefit to the people as a whole. The people would like to see milk bars, soup kitchens, supply of fish and chips, fortified foods, fresh fruit and vegetables, etc. services and essential commodities the people would be of more benefit to the community than the present beer service. These should be supplied and sold at subsidised rates. The Africans are a poor people. In these days of rising costs they are finding it hard to meet even the barest necessities of life. The wages are low in a rural town like Grahamstown.

3. THE HOUSING PROBLEM

A solution of this is urgent. If the Council would launch its proposed housing scheme at once, such a gesture would meet with the widest approval and general satisfaction among the people.

Other matters such as the curfew and labour regulations street lighting, disposal of refuse, roads etc. could be left over for some future time. What we have been able to put forward tonight should be sufficient for a beginning.