

Delegates were not in favour of Africans being excused payment of income tax. There had, in the past, been just cause for criticism in so far that certain Africans paid Native tax as well as income tax. Under the Income Tax Act of 1944 special provisions had been made relating to the payment of income tax by Natives. In the case of income tax being less than Native tax, the Native would be exempted from the payment of income tax. Where the income tax was higher than the Native tax, the amount paid for Native tax would be deducted from the amount paid as income tax. These provisions were retrospective and refunds would be made accordingly.

- (b) Native Tax: A resolution was submitted by the African Conference requesting that Native Tax be payable only between the ages of 18 and 55 years.

A resolution had also been submitted by the Plumtree Society requesting the Federation to investigate the present incidence of Hut Tax with a view to recommending to Government that

- (a) a more equitable method of taxation be devised in which payment of tax should bear some relation to the income of the African tax payer;
- (b) the taxable age be raised to 21 years.

Delegates expressed the view that a thorough investigation into the whole question of Native taxation was required, and the following resolution was adopted :-

"THE FEDERATION REQUESTS ITS ORGANISING SECRETARY  
(A) TO INVESTIGATE THE PRESENT INCIDENCE OF  
NATIVE TAX  
(B) TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL THAT THE TAXABLE AGE  
BE RAISED TO 21 YEARS  
(C) TO EXAMINE THE CURRENT PASS LAWS WITH A VIEW  
TO RECOMMENDING SIMPLIFICATION."

After these investigations had been completed, a memorandum to be prepared for circulation to members of the Federation Council.

Employment Bureaux: The African Conference requested the establishment of employment bureaux in the large urban areas. Representations had already been made to Government on the need for these employment bureaux, and it was decided to take no further steps at the present juncture.

Locations: Resolutions were submitted by the African Conference requesting that location buildings be erected by Native artisans, and that stores, eating houses, etc. be erected in the locations. These matters had already been dealt with and representations made to local authorities.

African Burials: The African Conference had reported that in certain areas Africans who died in Hospital and had no relatives were sometimes buried naked, and requested that representations be made to Government to stop this undesirable practice. The Organising Secretary reported that he had made investigations and so far as he had been able to ascertain, the position as stated by the African Conference applied to one or two centres only. Delegates expressed the view that in no circumstances should an African be buried naked.

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IT WAS DECIDED TO BRING THIS MATTER TO THE NOTICE OF GOVERNMENT WITH THE REQUEST THAT WHERE THIS UNDESIRABLE PRACTICE EXISTS, IT SHOULD BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY.

Labour at Dip Tanks: The following resolution submitted by the African Conference was passed with approval:-

"THAT PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE FOR ALL LABOUR USED AT DIP TANKS. THERE SHOULD BE UNIFORM PRACTICE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY."

African Education: The following resolution was submitted by the African Conference :-

"THAT THIS CONFERENCE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE FEDERATION MAKE IMMEDIATE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE CONTROL AND FINANCING OF AFRICAN EDUCATION IN THE COLONY."

In submitting this resolution, the African Conference had pointed out many unsatisfactory features of the present position. The question of opening or closing a school was frequently decided by the consideration of Church interests and not the education of children. Denominationalism within the sphere of education was deplored. The African Conference recognised the valuable educational work which had been undertaken by Missions, but considered that education should be the concern of the State and not Missions.

Rev. Carter expressed the opinion that the attainments of Missions in the sphere of education had been commendable. Financial grants to Missions were to be increased, but these would not cover the full cost of education. He fully agreed that Government should bear full financial responsibility for Native education, but urged the importance of Missions retaining an essential place in education.

Rev. Morley Wright said that in his view it would be impossible to hand over the whole of African education to Government, but there might be a strong case for full Government control and financing of primary education.

Mr. Miller expressed the view that there was increasing opposition among Africans to Church interests receiving prior consideration in the opening or closing of schools.

Mr. Lenfesty said it would be impossible for Government to finance the cost of universal education for Africans, and he suggested that a Commission be appointed to examine the whole question of Native education.

The Chairman expressed the view that, though the discussion had been most helpful, it was necessary to give this important subject much more thought than was possible at the present meeting, and suggested that Societies have full discussions on the issues involved; the Organising Secretary to issue a memorandum outlining previous discussions on

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the same subject at Council Meetings. This suggestion was adopted and it was agreed that the question of Native education be fully discussed at the next meeting of the Council. Mr. Carter indicated that the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference was preparing a statement on the relation of the State to Missions in education, and this statement might also be circulated to Societies. This suggestion was adopted.

A resolution from the Plumtree Society requesting that consideration be given to a national scale of African teachers salaries was withdrawn.

State Lotteries: A resolution had been submitted by the African Conference requesting that Africans be allowed to participate in the Colony's State Lotteries. Delegates considered this most undesirable and the resolution was unanimously rejected.

African Representation on Council of Federation: The African Conference had requested that two African observers be allowed to attend the meetings of the Council.

X | The view was expressed that no real benefit would accrue from acceding to this request at the present time. African delegates had their own Conference, and representations were very carefully considered. It was decided to inform the African Conference that consideration had been given to their request, but it was considered that no useful purpose would be served at the present time by allowing African representatives to attend the meetings of the Council. Though at a later stage this might be desirable, it was considered that the time was not ripe for such a step to be taken.

6. NEXT MEETING AFRICAN CONFERENCE: The suggestion was approved that the next Conference be held in Gwelo towards the end of the year, and the Organising Secretary was requested to make the necessary arrangements. It was suggested that the Agenda of the African Conference should be curtailed so as to cover matters which had not been previously dealt with. The practice of repeating similar resolutions year after year was not satisfactory and it was suggested that local Societies might render assistance to their African sections in this matter. It was further agreed that the African Conference should consist of delegates appointed by the various Societies. Visitors, apart from those specially invited, to be excluded.
7. AFRICAN REPRESENTATION: The following resolution was submitted by the Plumtree Society:-  
"THAT THE FEDERATION OPPOSES STRONGLY ANY METHOD OF REPRESENTATION OF AFRICANS WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ABOLITION OF THE COMMON VOTERS ROLL."

Mr. Miller, in moving the resolution, urged the importance of the pressure of the right to vote. Under present conditions the majority of members of Parliament felt that they had some responsibility towards Africans, but if special representatives were

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appointed, the remaining members of Parliament would feel that they had no responsibility toward Africans. The Prime Minister in his White Paper on "Native Policy" had indicated that if a system of African representation were introduced, no African would be eligible to be placed on the common voting roll, at all events until the general average knowledge of the Africans had been considerably raised. Mr. Miller stressed that the system of African representation in the Union had not proved satisfactory, and urged that in Southern Rhodesia no scheme of African representation be adopted which involved the abolition of the common Voters Roll.

Mr. Carter agreed with the resolution, but expressed some concern that the number of African voters registered was comparatively small, and many who were eligible did not take trouble to be placed on the Voters Roll.

The Chairman did not share the fears expressed by Mr. Miller. If two representatives of African interests were appointed, they would have support of other members in the House. In order to secure effective representation, there should be a willingness to sacrifice the common Voters Roll.

Mr. Gilchrist pointed out that there had been considerable improvement in the attitude of members of Parliament on questions of African welfare and uplift. The tone of the House was better than it had been before. Mr. Morley Wright, though recognising this improvement, pointed out that the attitude might change in the future.

After considerable discussion, the resolution from Plumtree Society was put to the vote, but was not carried.

8. SURVEY OF AFRICAN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: The Organising Secretary reported that this survey was proceeding satisfactorily and much valuable information was being obtained. The co-operation of the Department of Justice and the Native Affairs Department was greatly appreciated. It was anticipated that the investigations would be completed towards the end of the year.
9. AFRICAN PRISONERS OF WAR: The Organising Secretary reported it had been brought to his notice that certain Rhodesian Natives enlisted with the Union Forces were Prisoners of War. Relatives in Rhodesia who had received letters from these Prisoners of War were unable to understand the procedure to be adopted in sending replies. Representations had been made to the Chief Native Commissioner to issue a circular to all Native Department offices outlining the practice to be followed in sending letters to Prisoners of War. The suggestion had also been made that the Post Office officials might co-operate. The National War Fund was very anxious to secure the names and addresses of all Rhodesian Natives who were Prisoners of War in order that parcels of comforts might be sent, and the Organising Secretary was endeavouring to secure the

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necessary information. One parcel had already been despatched through the National War Fund.

10. NATIVE PRODUCTION AND TRADE COMMISSION: A request had been received that the Federation submit evidence to this Commission, but it was pointed out that several members of Native Welfare Societies throughout the Colony had already indicated their intention of giving evidence. The Organising Secretary had already been given permission to submit evidence to the Commission in his personal capacity. The suggestion that this evidence be circulated to Societies was accepted.

11. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee was appointed as follows :-

Mr. J. M. Greenfield; Mr. W. G. Vowles;  
Mr. W. A. Carnegie; Mr. R. D. Gilchrist;  
Rev. H. Carter and the Organising Secretary.

12. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: It was decided that the next Council Meeting be held in Salisbury about February 1945, the date to be arranged by the Chairman and Organising Secretary.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Council to the Que Que Municipality for kindly entertaining the delegates at a civic luncheon. This generous hospitality was greatly appreciated by all delegates. Thanks were also expressed to the Que Que and District Native Welfare Society for kindly providing teas and also assistance given in local arrangements.

The meeting terminated at 6.5 p.m.

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**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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