

*Mr. Godfrey, Miss Becklake* ) *Summaries*

NOTES FOR ADDRESS TO MID-RAND BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL  
WOMEN'S CLUB: 23RD FEBRUARY, 1968.

---

~~5/11~~

3/17

1. Apology - Inability of Mayor and Mayoress to attend. A
2. Theme of organization for the year THE CHALLENGE OF A CHANGING WORLD IN COMMUNITY LIFE.

What is the object of having a theme?

Being an international organization creates a sense of unity - the feeling that all bodies study the same theme.

In studying such a theme there must be the objective of what can be done and to what extent events can be influenced as a result of such study.

3. Is it a changing world? If so, what are some of the significant changes. Are they changes for good? *or for bad.*

What challenges do such changes create in our community life?

Can I tell you of some changes which I regard as significant, which create a challenge?

4. Canada's centenary celebrations. Cities' centennial projects. Toronto - small organization - Bureau of Municipal Research. Ambitious scheme to organise conference on DEVELOPMENT OF METROPOLITAN AREAS. Metropolitan areas the core cities with influence over a wide area.

Forty cities invited with populations of over one million. These cities scattered throughout the world. Johannesburg one of the cities asked. Wife and I attended.

5. Wide range of subjects discussed, which had particular implications for metropolitan areas.
6. Thanks to members of their organization, Mrs. Borckenhagen and Miss Moore who assisted.

7. Startling impact of population explosion. From

350 A.D. to 1850 - 1500 years - world's population doubled.

1850 - 1950 doubled again.

1950 - 1990 that is 40 years, again doubled.

A century ago five cities in the world had populations of over a million, today there are 100.

1960 - 285 million persons lived in metropolitan areas of a million, and by the year 2000 - 1285 million people.

In areas of from 300,000 to 1 million it will increase from 154 million to 820 million.

How does this affect us locally?



Population - Johannesburg Metropolitan Area:

	<u>Whites</u>	<u>Coloured</u>	<u>Asiatic</u>	<u>Bantu</u>	<u>Total</u>
1960	413,153	59,467	28,993	650,912	1,152,525
5	456,000	69,000	32,000	726,000	1,283,000
85	698,000	133,000	52,000	1,137,000	2,020,000
2000	943,000	230,000	71,000	1,623,000	2,867,000

Part of the population increase is due to the greater life expectancy.

In addition to the population explosion, the great phenomena of our era is the movement of persons from the rural areas to the city, and the growth of the size of the cities.

Let us take America as an example :

In 1850 - 15.3% of the American population lived in urban areas.

In 1900 - 39.7%

In 1960 - 69.9% and, in the year

2000 - it is estimated that 82% will live in the urban areas.

Population living in localities of  
100,000 inhabitants or more -

% of world population

Year	1800	1.7
	1850	2.3
	1900	5.5
	1950	13.1
	1960	19.9
	1975	28.0
	2000	42.0

1 million and over

Year	1960	10.0
	1975	13.0
	2000	21.0

8. In Johannesburg we are aware of the worldwide phenomena of the bigger cities getting bigger and bigger.

The development of metropolitan regions.

LONDON: 90 local authorities form the London County Council covering an area of 117 sq. miles. The area of the Greater London Council has now been extended to 620 sq. miles, and the number of local authorities reduced to 32.

SWEDEN: In 1946 there were 2400 communes - these were then reduced to 800 and now the 800 are being reduced to 280 by amalgamation and merger.

TORONTO: Was the first city in North America to have a metropolitan region. Then 13 boroughs joined and formed the Metropolitan Toronto. Since then the population has increased considerably, and it has now been reduced to 6 boroughs.

Why is this and why do people move to the cities?

There are many factors :

Economic considerations: better schooling:  
better universities: situation of railway  
centres: government centres: air terminals:  
financial centres: specialists attract other  
specialists.



9. What a challenge this changing world presents to us in Johannesburg.

Where are the people to be housed?

Where are the children to be educated?

Where are the open spaces for their recreation?

*where will there be street space for cars & transport.*

It means that in the next 33 years we have to double the living accommodation we have today.

How are we going to integrate all these people into our city's activities?

Areas such as Doornfontein will have to be completely re-built to house a much larger population. Plans are already afoot for an urban renewal scheme in Troyeville, Fairview and Jeppestown.

As the Parktown of yesterday is changing character from a residential area to an educational and institutional area, so other areas will change character.

10. At the Toronto Conference great emphasis was laid on the need for planning, not on a local, but on a regional and national basis.

Great stress was also laid on a revision of the relationship between the various tiers of government.

City planning association formed with the blessing of the City Council.

City cannot plan alone and wants the interest of the citizens. Hope that their organization will play a prominent part in the deliberations of that organization.

All guilty of day dreaming and wishful thinking. Is it too far fetched to hope that with the increase in urban population, and presumably the increase of representatives of urban authorities in Provincial and Central Government, that the cities will be recognised for their important role in the national economy, and get more say and sympathetic hearing from higher authorities - if this could be done surely it would be a changing world.



11. Challenge of assisting country folk who come to this great metropolis - many are scared stiff - out of their depth - need guidance and a friendly hand - difficult adjustment to make.

How can we guard against their losing contact with the land, with the veld, with nature? Will they have to be spectators in sport instead of participants?

INSERT AFRIKAANS PARA —

12. Glad to hear of their arrangements during International Week to tour Soweto, that CITY WITHIN A CITY. If ever there was a challenge of a changing world affecting community life it has occurred in South Africa where the rural Bantu have left their kraals to come to the cities.

They were a pastoral people whose agricultural methods were primitive, who now found themselves restricted in the land available to them, and especially in times of drought found it difficult to provide for their families. So they came to the cities to work, to earn the cash which would provide them with the food they needed.

At end of 11 —  
Page 9.

In die Afrikaanse gemeenskap van Johannesburg het daar in die afgelope half-eeu ook groot veranderinge plaasgevind. Aan die begin van die eeu het die Afrikaaners in hul honderd-talle van die platteland na die stad getrek om n heenkome to vind.

Hulle was meesal ongeskoolde werkers wat hulle by totaal vreemde omstandighede moes aanpas. In Vrededorp en Braamfontein het baie van hul in armoede gelewe, maar met die taaie vollarding wat hulle voor-ouers gekenmerk het, het hulle vooruit gebeur, en vandag staan hulle hul plekke vol op alle terreine van die samelewing.

Die van hulle wat aan die Nasionale Party behoort dreig self om binne die volgende 10 jaar die bestuur van die stad oor te neem. Ook op kulture gebiede het die Afrikaanse gemeenskap ver gevorder. In vergelyking met die paar Afrikaans-medium skole in die twintig jare is daar vandag talle laer en hoër skole en nou ook n Onderwyskollege

en hul eie Afrikaanse Universiteit. Ek glo dat die Afrikaans-sprekendes hulle meer en meer met Johannesburg sal vereenslewig en nog veel tot die vooruitgang van n gesonde en welvarende gemeenskap in die stad sal bydra.



At first it was the men who came and worked for short spells, returning home to join their families and only coming back to the city when funds had given out. It was indeed a very different way of life from that in their homelands, and they were not equipped, with their tribal beliefs and training, for the new life in the towns and cities. Instead of the sun being their time-piece, they had to work to the inelastic and unsympathetic clock of the white man, and instead of working within the circle of the clan, where everyone knew everyone else, they were among strangers who did not care or worry about them.

Everything about life in the city was different. There were no kinsmen with whom they could consult, they had to make decisions on their own, their food was different, their dress, their medicine, and instead of a barter economy ready cash was necessary. In the clan initiative was not encouraged, but in the city the opposite was the case; they were judged on their merits and were expected to develop individuality. At home there was respect for the elders, but the daily battle of life in the city gradually obscured this, and self came first. What an adjustment to make!

The migratory worker, away from his womenfolk could not be expected to observe tribal sanctions and restraints, and so began the process which has caused a most heart-rending upheaval in the structure of Bantu society, particularly in family life.

In days gone by, while customs varied from tribe to tribe, pre-marital pregnancies would have had serious consequences for both parties, but in the city no such sanctions existed and illegitimate children became accepted without the lift of an eyebrow.

In rural communities women tilled the fields and harvested the crop, but in the city there was no such work, so they joined the throngs seeking work for cash. As a result many children grew up without discipline or the desire for regular employment, and lived by their wits. The role of the women of the tribe was well defined and very different from that of women in western societies, but what a change was brought about on coming to an urban area.

Over the years greater skills were acquired and

the men tended to return home at less frequent intervals; instead the women now started to come to the city, and by 1927 the ratio of men to women in Johannesburg was six to one. By 1939 the ratio of men to women was three to one, and today the Bantu population is approximately one-third men, one-third women and one-third children, and if we take the people living under family conditions in Council controlled Soweto we find that 54.76 are aged 19 and under.

Today the women of Soweto play an ever-increasingly important role in the structure of a stable society, and they are the stimulating force in educating children and in many households they skimp and scrape to find the funds to enable the children to acquire the knowledge they were unable to obtain.

One of the ever present problems is of making ends meet. Poverty in rural areas is one thing, because there people share, but in the city cash is required for everything - for rent - for food - for clothing - for medicine. Fortunately, however, in these days of full employment and more adequate wages, the hardship of a large portion of the Soweto population has been mitigated, but life is a struggle, especially if the men gamble, drink or spend their money on girl friends.



This city of E-Goli is the melting pot into which people of varying tribal backgrounds, various stages of education and civilization have been thrown, and what are the results? I can only marvel at the resilience, at the good humour, the philosophical attitude and extreme good sense of the people.

Their homes are well kept, their gardens neat, they dress tidily and often well. Who could have thought thirty, twenty, even ten years ago, that so many skills would have been acquired by these country people. Today there are Bantu matrons at Baragwanath Hospital, and a thousand Bantu(nurses) students trained there have qualified as nurses by passing the same examinations as set for European students by the South African Nursing Council. Municipal treasury officials, builders, bricklayers, drain layers, electrical wiremen, lorry drivers have acquired the skills required for industry, and carry them out well. There are actors, producers of plays and composers. They have done well for themselves, these Bantu people of ours, in a comparatively short time.

I know, and you know, that all is not well, all is not as it should be. When there is a social upheaval people get hurt, and it will take time, patience and

understanding to heal the wounds caused by the destruction of a social order before another has taken its place. The beliefs of the Bantu, the concepts of kinship, the belief in ancestral spirits, the belief in signs, in omens good and bad, the belief that one can be bewitched, that one can bewitch one's enemy, the belief in the witchdoctor's occult powers, in his medicines - these and many others are deep rooted and will be a part of Bantu thinking for generations to come.

In Soweto today a class structure is emerging based on education, occupation, wealth and way of life. Possession of material goods is a symbol of success and status. The better educated, professional persons, teachers, shopkeepers, nurses, senior officials in administration, tend to form the elite of society. There are church associations, choral societies, football clubs, school associations, chambers of commerce, advisory boards, cutting right across ethnic grouping, and these activities determine one's associates and place in the new society.

Unfortunately there are also, as in other large

cities, the city slickers and spivs, the people who want to make money the easy way, not caring whom they rape or rob, or how they maim. I often feel that today the greatest need in Soweto is to find some way of providing the law-abiding citizen with protection from the molestation of his fellow. The urban dweller of today has travelled a long way on the path of material progress, and his standard of living, his abilities, his outlook and those of his city-bred children are vastly different from those of yesteryear.

CONCLUSION:

I believe we are living in a most exciting and stimulating period of Johannesburg's history. Just in the same way as our parents met their challenge in the development of the city, so I believe will we.

As a City Council we are only too well aware of our need for citizen participation in our plans, and we are well aware, too, that we as a City cannot plan for our borders - there must be planning on a far wider scale.



I have confidence because I believe in the people of Johannesburg. It is not because of our bricks and mortar, our sky-scrapers, the fact that we can claim we are a financial centre, or a sportsman's mecca, it is because of the quality of our people.

We have our scamps and spivs and our money grabbers, but thank goodness we have a solid core of intrinsically good people, kindly, warm hearted and industrious, who care for their fellows.

Your organization is one of the many in this city endeavouring to serve the community. I always like a definition I heard some time ago of a gentleman or gentlewoman .. IT IS A PERSON WHO PUTS MORE IN THAN HE OR SHE TAKES OUT... and I am proud to be able to call you ladies and gentlemen.

It now gives me great pleasure to propose a toast to the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.....

JOHANNESBURG:

February 23, 1968.

**Collection Number: A1132**

**Collection Name: Patrick LEWIS Papers, 1949-1987**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

*Location:* Johannesburg

©2016

***LEGAL NOTICES:***

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

This collection forms part of a collection, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.