

14, 15, 1, 4

DRAFT

*Just for
affairs?*

C/A/3/1

NON-WHITE PENSIONS

The Institute has noted with pleasure that social pensions for Whites, Cape Coloured and Asians have been increased, but it sincerely regrets that the Minister has not, as he promised last year, increased the actual rates for Africans by 5%.

The help for African social welfare has taken the form of an allocation of £200,000 to the South African Native Trust for welfare work. It is understood that the Department is investigating ways by which the Bantu Authorities in Bantu areas can be made responsible for the care of those in need of assistance and for the settlement for aged Africans in Bantu areas.

The Institute warmly welcomes this token amount of £200,000 but feels that the problem of African poverty in old age requires greater allocations. The additional £200,000 is unlikely to be of assistance to the urban African aged unless they return to the Reserves.

Even if we are obliged to accept the principle of different standards of living for the various racial groups, the rate for Africans is manifestly completely inadequate, in view of the general poverty of Africans, both rural and urban, which various surveys have convincingly demonstrated. How can an individual save for his old age? How can a family provide for their own old people when such a large proportion of Africans do not earn even the bare subsistence of income?

We would be much happier if the Minister had carried out his original intention of adding 5% increase to the African rates and, in addition, had allocated the £200,000. The economy of the country would not have cracked under the strain and the White electorate would have had some easement of its conscience, which is now disturbed by the poverty of the African people.

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