

Notes for talk at Coffee Party at ... Ed 5
Sweet Home 13/10/1958.

1. Welcome opportunity of this intimate discussion about what has been happening, as do want to have opportunity of saying what has been going on, and getting people's views.

2. Last two months have been most anxious and difficult.

3. When Mr. Hymie Miller was returned unopposed to Parliament in March, I was elected Chairman of the Non-European Affairs and Housing Committee.

At that stage I had only been in the Council for ten months.

I think it is generally recognised that the Chairmanship of this Committee is one of the most difficult portfolios in the City Hall, and especially so at that time as there was a deadlock between the Council and the Minister of Native Affairs.

4. The first situation I found on my hands was a protest meeting being organised by Native women's organisations in connection with forms that had to be signed by the Nurses at the Baragwanath Hospital.

As a result of a meeting with senior Police Officers in Johannesburg, the impression was created that there was going to be a show-down. This necessitated a trip with the Mayor to see the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Rademeyer, in Pretoria. Luckily, the matter went off smoothly, largely because of the precautions taken by the Municipality.

5. The next crisis was the threatened three-day strike at Election time.

6. Meeting with Dr. Verwoerd.

His courtesy and his long harangue regarding the wrongs of the Johannesburg City Council. Advice regarding the appointment of what is now known as the Mentz Committee.

7. The reaction to the appointment of that Committee.

8. Request for an early meeting to discuss the three items.

Give some details regarding the 3/5ths and 2/5ths ratios.

9. Meeting on August 7th - can I forget that day.
The assurances requested.
The Alexandra move.
Diepkloof ground.

10. The request that the assurances be confirmed
by the Council.
Attitude of certain Councillors.
Why should we be dictated to?
Examination of the assurances.
Acceptance of factual position.
Reply from Secretary for Native Affairs.
Flight to Cape Town to interview Dr. Eiselen.
Granting of the loans.
Press release.
Quote examples of reports of different newspapers on the same memorandum.

11. Tremendous strides made since Native Building
Workers Act.
Appointment of own Housing Division.
Services Levy Fund.
Extension of the Railways.
Present problems:
Kaffir Beer

European liquor.

Residency Site.

Europeans on staff of market.

Future of the Market.

Building of Civic Centre.

Reference books for Native women.

Zoo Lake site.

Recreational facilities for Native
servants.

Should recreational facilities be pro-
vided by Parks Department or Health and
Social Affairs Department.

12. Appeal for people to take an active part in
public affairs.

Refer to some of the legislation passed by
the Nationalist Government.

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