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SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS : Natal Region.

COLOURED FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE.

Minutes of a meeting of the Coloured Fact-Finding Committee
held at the Institute Offices on 20th March, 1961 at 5.15 p.m.

PRESENT: The Rev. H.E.J. Goodyer (Chairman), Mr. Bidel, Mr. Dickie-Clarke,
Miss A. Fannin and Sister Lawler.
Mr. D. Welsh (Regional Organiser).
Miss J. Thorpe (Regional Secretary).

1. APOLOGIES. Dr. G.H. Caiger.
2. MINUTES. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.
3. CHANGE IN NAME OF COMMITTEE. It was AGREED that the name of the Committee should be the 'Coloured Fact-Finding Sub-Committee'.
4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE. The Chairman reported that the Regional Committee had endorsed the suggestion that persons who were not necessarily members of the Institute should be invited to join the Fact-Finding Committee.
5. FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEE. Rev. Goodyer said he would like to make it clear that the Institute was not dividing people up into camps, but it was felt that more could be achieved by a special Sub-Committee, so that well-documented and specialised information could be put before the Regional Committee for further discussion and, if necessary, action.
6. UNEMPLOYMENT, JOB-RESERVATION AND RACE CLASSIFICATION. Mr. Welsh (Regional Organiser) said he would be grateful for information on the number of Coloured persons affected by job reservations, whether there was any marked increase in unemployment and also information regarding cases of hardship caused by race classification.

Unemployment: Mr. Bidel said it was very difficult to get correct figures from the Unemployment Office, as only those persons who were drawing unemployment benefits were recorded. Amongst the various causes of unemployment were :-

- (a) the closing of avenues for Coloured apprentices in the Motor Industry, i.e. Coloured trimmers were being replaced by Europeans.
- (b) the fact that industry had to provide separate changing facilities for each race and the Coloured workers, being in the minority, were the first to be retrenched.
- (c) Coloured workers were often taken on on a very casual basis, with little or no selection and this made for impermanency in employment.

Job Reservations. The main effects of job reservation were to be found in the building industry. Large numbers of Coloured artisans were going out into country areas where White people would not go.

The Chairman suggested that the Institute should put the facts and figures to the Chamber of Commerce. It was also suggested that the National Development Foundation should be approached.

Mr. Bidel suggested that we should obtain figures from the Technical College regarding the number of apprentices attending classes.

It was agreed that the question of unemployment should be further discussed at the next meeting.

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