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TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE LIBERALS GIVE DIRECTION OR ADVISE THE PAC LEADERS IN MARCH/ APRIL 1967

To get one thing quite clear from the start, the Campaign was conceived and carried out by the PAC. We did not advise them, we did not tell them whether it should be a Pass Campaign or anything else. We came into this only after the campaign had started, and our attitude was that we had no right to instruct a group of people who seemed to be doing a perfectly good job on their own, just how they should carry out the rest of their campaign.

Where we did help, was in saying to them: These are our facilities. This is an office; here is a telephone; we are in the middle of town; we are able to raise more money than you can raise; we are able to maintain contacts and to put over your case to people you may not be able to reach. Come to us; tell us what you want done, and we will do our best to help. We won't promise to help, we won't promise what we can do any particular thing. All we can say is that we will try. That was our attitude.

-Bunting  
At no stage, other than the Kgoasana episode, do I remember us running into difficulties with the PAC through any attempts to control the PAC. In fact, knowing the PAC and their intense hostility of what they considered CSD control, or OSD control in the Congress movement, had we tried to tell them how to run their campaign, it would have been very ~~difficult~~ smartly rejected and quite rightly so.

They did come to us for advice and for help. I quote one or two instances briefly. One was when Kgoasana started the campaign in Langa and he came to us and said how could he best get this presented to the newspapers and Pat Duncan advised him and put him in touch with the right people. Another incident was when Mr. Duncan was telephoned to come down to the police station on the Friday when 5000 Africans had gathered outside, and he was very definitely asked by PAC leaders there what they should do get Kgoasana out. He did not advise them, but put them in touch with the Colonel of the Police. Again that afternoon, the same thing was done. A group of PAC came in to us with their problem, and a liason was arranged between them and the police which resulted in the problem being solved.

Again, where we did give advice and direction, was in the function where we agreed to perform. That is the supply of food was organised by us. We supplied the food after we had arranged for its collection, and the collection of the money, where the PAC had no control whatsoever. Their control came when they came into our office and gave us the list where it was needed and should go. So there was no attempt by us to control, but we took an active part.

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There may have been advice passed between my members and members of the PAC when they were driving out in trucks. There were frequent discussion; advice was given how best to distribute the food and so on. But we never once suggested that they stop their stay-at-home, or that they intensify it, or to deviate in any way from the course that they had set themselves.

I would like to add that when the police had gone through the townships beating up the people, a number of PAC people who were rather demoralised, came to us again and said: What should we do about the strike now. I gave my frank opinion at that time that this action by the police had taken the initiative away from them, and that in fact there was nothing they could really do. But to call off the strike then would have been a suicidal thing for the organisation. And that was what they felt too, and they didn't call off the strike - it just petered out.

We did advise them finally that they should put their whole case before the World Press representatives, and again we arranged interviews for them.

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