

JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL for ADULT EDUCATION.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 1949 AT 8 P.M.
IN ROOM 77 OF THE JOHANNESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY.

PRESENT:-

Mr. J. Eltershank (In the Chair)
Members of the Executive Committee
49 representatives of thirty-six
affiliated organisations.
The Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, Bishop
of Johannesburg.
Dr. H.S.B. Schoeman of the Division
of Adult Education, and other visitors.

The Chairman in declaring the meeting open, apologised for the absence of the Chairman of the Council, Dr. A. M. Keppel-Jones, who was in Rhodesia. He then welcomed the Bishop of Johannesburg and called upon him to address the Council.

ADDRESS BY
THE BISHOP OF
JOHANNESBURG:

The Bishop began by stressing the need for adult education in the modern world, a need which was not regarded as urgent in Johannesburg. It was becoming increasingly obvious that School education was no longer equipping people to live intelligently and that educationalists should give priority in thought to adult education as upon it might depend our survival.

The Bishop gave a warning that the public would not flock to adult education. So much depended on the type of education. It was not generally recognised that the great majority were not interested in intellectual pursuits of any kind. These people were the passive acceptors of education of a kind through the radio, press and cinema. An intellectual approach to these people would pass them by completely: the methods of the classroom and lecture theatre would have to be abandoned if success was to be achieved. Much experimentation in methods would be needed - the ear was used too much while the eyes, hands and stomach were neglected as educational media.

The Bishop suggested that the adult education movement might well make its objective the adult who could (a) entertain himself, (b) entertain a stranger and (c) entertain a new idea. He stressed that adult education must begin with adults where they were, not where it was thought they ought to be. The first step must be to encourage them in a field in which they were genuinely interested.

Any education which was to last must be guided by a clear view of the nature of the person being educated - and, said the Bishop, it was religion which gave such a view. People cannot be educated in a vacuum: everything was conditioned by the views of the teacher as to the nature of life, etc. It was the Christian view of man which alone did justice to all aspects of human life. Thus the Church must be vitally concerned with adult

/education.

education. His Church, he said, was beginning to awaken to the need to educate adults as well as children.

The Bishop concluded by stressing again the urgent need for adult education: without it man was not the kind of person who could use satisfactorily the knowledge he had gained.

The Chairman thanked the Bishop for his very fine address and deplored the lack of improvement in school education over the years. So much was done for children in schools, so spoonfed were they, that they lost altogether the concept that there might be a new idea in the world.

A vote of thanks was moved by Commander C.E.D. Enoch who said that the Council must back up the Bishop's plea that the matter was urgent. The help of the State and of Commerce must be sought to enable us to get the work done well and quickly.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council were approved.

MATTERS ARISING:

The Secretary reported on certain matters arising from the Minutes. The report was noted.

FINANCES:

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, the Secretary reported on the Council's financial position. He estimated that the Council would have a deficit of about £40. at the end of the financial year. The report was adopted after some discussion as to means of raising funds.

"IN TOWN TO-NIGHT".

The Secretary made a report on the Diary.

In the discussion which followed the most important points were:-

That 1/- in stamps should be asked of anyone who wanted the Diary sent to him at his own address.

That many organisations were feeling the benefit of "In Town To-Night" and attributed increased attendance at their meetings to this medium of publicity.

That the name of the Diary was not altogether suitable. In this regard the Secretary pointed out that no other name had been suggested when the question was put to affiliated organisations and that in any case only a name with popular appeal should be used.

Dr. Schoeman suggested that the Council make another approach to the Department in order to obtain further subsidy for the Diary as he was aware that it had created a profound impression in official circles. He was convinced that such an application would meet with success and was personally prepared to support it.

GRANTS-IN-AID: The Secretary reported on the last batch of applications which had been sent to the Department.

Mr. P. Thomas, the Director of the Institute of Citizenship (Wits.) stated that the Department's refusal of aid to the Institute was illogical, as a similar organisation in Cape Town had received a grant regularly. He outlined the reasons given at various times by the Department for not supporting the Institute and showed them to be untenable. He then outlined the activities of the Institute.

The Chairman informed Mr. Thomas that the Executive Committee had been convinced of the value of the Institute and would not let the matter rest.

GENERAL:

Mr. Crothall suggested that wealthy citizens should be encouraged to leave money in their wills to the adult education movement.

There was some discussion on "Lantern", the journal issued by the Division of Adult Education. Dr. Schoeman said that sales had been heavy. The Secretary outlined the distribution scheme whereby organisations could make sixpence on each copy sold.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.5 P.M.

SIGNED

DATE:

CHAIRMAN.

Collection Number: AD1715

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

PUBLISHER:

Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

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.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document forms part of the archive of the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.