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# FRIENDS OF AFRICA.

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Dear Senator Jones,

Thank you for the Minutes of the

Pretoria meetings.

There are only two points I wish to raise in regard to them. One is in regard to the use of the word caucus under the heading - "Parliamentary Co-operation & Party Affiliations!" I. "That the group act as a caucus!"

You may remember that, at the time of the discussion, I was loth to agree to anything that might suggest a limitation of personal responsibility in favour of majority decision, and understood that our ultimate decision to act together as far as possible was made with reservations in favour of individual responsibility. It was in the belief that that reservation had been accepted I regarded the matter as temporarily closed. I could not then and do not now agree to the simple statement that we act as a caucus.

I think a great deal of the doubt I feel in this matter would be overcome if we agree to ban the word - caucus. It scarcely meets our case and has in any case unpleasant associations. I think we should find our situation best defined by the word group which you have used at the top of your report.

My second point of objection is linked to the first. It is to the use of the word "whip" which I think was not mentioned in our discussions. It is a word also with special political signification which cannot apply to us since we are not a political party - and in any case, as you will readily understand, it would be impossible for an Assembly Group to have a Senate Whip - practically if not

(over)

- theoretically -







December 31st, 1937.

Mrs. W.G. Ballinger,  
P.O. Box 3907,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mrs. Ballinger,

I thank you for your letter of the 30th and I am in complete agreement with you on the two points. The words 'caucus' and 'whip' were rather emphasised by Senator Brookes and Senator Malcomess and it was I who suggested the term 'convener'.

Since the meetings and writing of the minutes, I have not felt quite comfortable on the points mentioned by you. I now feel quite definitely that it would be a mistake to give the impression that we are a Party, and in many ways I think it would be better to encourage individual members who have Party affiliations to make use of them and thus spread the influence of the Group. I do not belong to any political Party, but I do not consider that my personal position as a Senator debars me from becoming a member of a political Party.

Perhaps the matter can stand over until we meet at Capetown.

Yours sincerely,

"Informal group"  
"Convener"

JDRJ/LM.



STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

NATIVE REPRESENTATION

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The Group met in a Committee Room of the City Hall, Pretoria, on December 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th, 1937.

December 4th at 10 a.m.

There were present Senators Brookes, Jones, Malcomson and Welsh; Mrs. Ballinger, M.P., Mr. Henning, M.P., and Mr. Burman, M.P.C.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Molteno, M.P. and Mr. Kout, M.P.C.

Senator Welsh was voted to the Chair.

Discussion took place regarding the procedure to be taken in the discussion with the Members of the Representative Council, arranged for 11 o'clock. It was agreed to let the M.R.C's bring up matters and ask for the views of the parliamentary representatives, but any of the latter wishing to bring forward matters to be free to do so after the discussions on the matters brought forward by the M.R.C's.

At 11 o'clock the M.R.C's entered the room and raised a number of matters on which discussion took place.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. and resumed at 2.30.

Message to Mr. Roberts

Senator Jones was asked to convey a message to Mr. Roberts expressing the group's appreciation of his services to the African people as Senator and member of the Native Affairs Commission.

Parliamentary Co-operation and Party Affiliations

After full discussion, it was agreed

1. That the group set as a ~~committee~~ *group* <sup>W.S.</sup>
2. That, for the present, individual members be asked to refrain from linking up with any other party caucus, this decision to be reviewed

- after -



2.

after the general election.

3. That, in regard to Native matters, the group may find it desirable to ask to be heard by the Government party caucus - or any other caucus.

#### Introductions

It was agreed that each member make his own arrangements for introduction as a new member.

#### Seating

It was agreed that the Senators and M.P.'s. endeavour to secure seats in their respective Houses on cross benches sitting together.

#### Convener of the Group

Senator Jones was asked to act as Convener

~~W.M.M.~~ *W.M.M.*

#### Committee Rooms

It was agreed to ask for a committee room in each House.

#### Reception Room

It was agreed that the Convener arrange for a Reception Room for Africans in the Senate building, there being a room available in the Assembly.

#### Meetings

The Convener was asked to keep in mind, when convening meetings, the convenience of the M.P.C's.

#### Office Arrangements

The Convener was asked to go into this matter

#### All-African Convention

It was agreed that those members who are free should endeavour to attend the meetings of the Convention on December 14th-16th, but that the decisions of the Convention are not to be recognised as binding on the group, although its decisions will always be given most careful consideration.

#### General Election and Native Matters



After discussion, it was agreed to make no public statement at present, but to take a suitable opportunity in both Houses to appeal for moderation in regard to racial matters during the forthcoming general election.

Rail Facilities for N.R.C's.

It was agreed to see the Minister of Native Affairs at Cape Town to support the issue of free railway passes for N.R.C's.

Relation with the Native Representative Council

It was agreed to ask the members of the Council to appoint a Convener (or Whip) with whom the Convener of the parliamentary group can communicate regarding matters concerning both groups.

Constitutional Position of the Senate

After discussion, it was agreed to consult interested Senators regarding the initiation of Native legislation in the Senate and the Senate's powers in regard to financial measures, more especially in respect of the Native budget.

Working of Representation of Natives Act

Senator Brookes's draft bill was considered and endorsed.

It was agreed that members be asked to prepare notes in regard to defects in the election machinery of the Act as they were revealed during the recent elections.

December 6th

Present

Senator Welsh (in the Chair), Mrs. Ballinger, Senators Brookes, Jones and Malcomess, Messrs. Hemming and Burman.



Proposed Joint Statement to Native Public

It was agreed to take no action until the close of the session.

Native Trust and Land Act

After discussion it was agreed

1. to press for facilities for the individual purchase of land;
2. to suggest to the M.R.C's. that they press for the establishment of the advisory boards (with a Native member) as provided for in the Act.

Urban Areas Act

It was agreed to suggest to the M.R.C's. that they put forward a resolution asking for amendment of the Act (as amended in 1937) to regularise the existing practice in the New Brighton Location, Port Elizabeth in the administration of the kaffir beer sections (i.e. dry and wet areas) and to permit of home brewing in Native townships which the new amendments accidentally prohibited.

Native Farm Labour

It was agreed to await the report of the Departmental Committee now sitting.

Foreign Natives

It was agreed to inform M.R.C's. of the position in regard to the threat to import Native labour for the farms from the Rhodesias, Nyasaland and Portuguese East Africa.

December 7thPresent

As before.

Taxation

Held over.

Pages

Held over (see later)



Education

The motion of the N.R.C. having disposed of this question of control, it was agreed to take no further action at present.

Protectorates

After discussion it was agreed that no opposition to transfer to the Union could be raised in principle but that the safeguards to be secured should be considered very carefully.

December 8thPresent

Mr. Hemming (voted to the Chair) Mrs. Ballinger, Senators Brookes, Malcomson and Jones.

Native Representation Act Amending Bill

In view of the opposition of the N.R.C's. to the proposal that the Governor-General should nominate the urban representative for the remainder of the five year period, it was agreed that the parliamentary representatives should explain to their own N.R.C's. the reasons for the proposal, but not to press it upon them.

The question whether the Chairman of the N.R.C. could allow a parliamentary representative to address the Council in explanation of a measure proposed by him was raised, but a proposal to send a deputation to the Chairman was held over for further consideration.

Wages and Economic Conditions

Senator Jones reported on matters raised in the Advisory Council on Labour of which he is a member.

After discussion on a number of matters, it was agreed that Mrs. Ballinger prepare a memorandum setting



out for discussion at Cape Town the fundamental points to be determined in any industrial policy supported by the group.

South West Africa

It was agreed to consider the report of the Commission when the group meets at Capetown, the Convener in the meantime to circulate copies of Race Relations containing a summary of the Report.

Police Commission's Report

Held over.

Mixed Marriages Bill

There was general agreement against legislation on mixed marriages, but it was decided to hold over discussion of the proposed Bill until a meeting in Cape Town.

Representation on Commissions

Held over.

Nominated Senators

It was agreed to approach the Prime Minister at Capetown to ask that the nomination of Senators for "their acquaintance with the reasonable wishes of the coloured races" should be in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the South Africa Act.

Elected Senators

It was agreed that each member of the group should do what he can to influence the election of Senators as much as possible in sympathy with the views of the group.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS

*Amended  
Confirmed  
by: ...  
Chairman  
16/2/38*



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