

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD AT
BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE: JOHANNESBURG.

ON SUNDAY 21st, OCTOBER, 1945.

TIME: 9 A.M. - - - - 5.30 P.M.

A G E N D A.

MORNING SESSION: = 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS By : Mr. W. NKOMO -9 A.M.
2. READING OF REPORTS:
 - (a) Secretary's Report by Mr. O. Thambo -9.25A.M.
 - (b) Treasurer's " " Mr. W. Sisulu -9.25A.M.
 - (c) Organiser's " " Mr. P. Mda -9.35A.M.
 - (d) DISCUSSION. -9.45A.M.
3. (a) "OUR SOCIAL STRUGGLE" Mr. Borman 10 .15A.M.
 (b) OUR ECONOMIC STRUGGLE Mr. V.V. Mbobo 10 .35A.M.
 (c) OUR EDUCATIONAL STRUGGLE Mr. J. Malepe 10 .55A.M.
 (d) OUR CULTURAL STRUGGLE Mr. P. Mda 11.15A.M.
 (e) OUR POLITICAL STRUGGLE Mr. A.M. Lembede 11. 35A.M.
 (f) DISCUSSION.
4. COUNCILLOR R.V. SELOPE THEMA - 12.30 A.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION 2 P.M. = 5.30 P.M.

5. (a) Presidential Address By Mr. A.M. Lembede 2.00 P.M.
6. (b) Discussion: 2.30 P.M.
7. (c) MENDI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND REV. MPITSO 3.00 P.M.
8. (a) Proposed African Youth Labour Camps By J.R. Malle 3.30 P.M.
 (b) DISCUSSION. 4.00 P.M.
 Election of New Office - Bearers 4.30 P.M.
9. GENERAL

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- (v) (i) He shall read in Conference or Meeting Official letters received.
(ii) He shall keep copies of all Official letters written unless and until the Executive decides otherwise.
(iii) He shall immediately hand over to the Treasurer all monies received on behalf of the Congress Youth League.
(iv) He shall be a co-signatory to all cheques
- (d) VICE-SECRETARY: In the unavoidable absence of the Secretary the Vice-Secretary shall enjoy the same rights, discharge the same duties and exercise the same powers as the Secretary.
- (e) TREASURER:
(i) He shall collect, receive and bank all monies belonging to the Congress Youth League.
(ii) He shall issue receipts to all payers.
(iii) He shall lay before the meeting or Conference plans for raising funds for the Congress Youth League.
(iv) He shall sign all cheques on behalf of the Congress Y.L.
(v) He shall present to the Executive Committee at the end of each year an audited revenue and expenditure account and a balance sheet made up for the year; The same shall be presented to the Conference by the Executive Committee.
- (f) P.O.P.O:
(i) He shall see to it that the true attitude and policy of the Congress Youth League is well reflected in the Press and in Public.
(ii) He shall send articles at least once a month to the Press unless the Executive deems it harmful or prejudicial to the interests of the Congress Youth League.
(iii) He shall organise the branches of the Congress Youth League and report in the Executive Committee meetings in Conference and in the Press about his Organisational activities.
(iv) He shall hand over to the Treasurer all monies that he may receive on behalf of the Congress Youth League.

IV.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- (a) CONSTITUTION: The Executive Committee shall consist of the officials and five additional members; all shall be elected by Conference. Vacancies shall be filled by co-option by the Executive Committee.
- (b) DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
(i) To promote and implement the aims of the Congress Youth League
(ii) To initiate and speak on measures and proposals and to arrange a definite programme and Agenda before Conference.
(iii) To carry out the wishes and decisions of the Conference.
(iv) To report all its activities in every general Conference.
(v) To appoint or elect officials other than the ten President from among the ten elected members of the Executive.
(vi) To expel, or cause to resign, any official if it deems it right in the interests of the Congress Youth League.

- (vii) The Branch and Provincial Executive Committees shall meet every second week of the month. The National Executive shall meet once every three months. Emergency meetings may be convened at any time.

V

CONFERENCE:-

- (a) Provincial Conference will meet twice a year and the National Conference, Annually.
 (b) Only members shall have the right to vote;
 (c) Conference shall discuss anything connected with the Youth League.
 (d) If the Conference has lost confidence of the President, he and his Executive must resign and the Speaker must immediately conduct election
 (e) Conference shall elect the President and his Committee.
 (f) Conference shall be presided over by Speaker or Deputy Speaker.
 (g) Conference shall make rules for the running and management of the meetings.

MEMBERSHIP.

- (a) Membership is open to all African men and women between the ages of 12 and 40.
 (b) Members shall pay a registration fee of 2/- Adults, 6d for children under 17; who have read and understood and made pledge to abide by the Youth League's Creed.
 (c) Those above the age of 40, may be honorary members with no right to vote.
 (d) Young members of the other sections of the community who live like and with Africans and whose general outlook on life is similar to that of the Africans may become full members with age limits as in (a)
 (e) There shall be a Ceremony for admitting new members.
 (f) Members above 17 years of age become automatically members of the African National Congress and become liable to 2/6 Annual Subscription and 1/- fee. that body.
 (g) Annual registration fees are due in January of each year and a member who is in arrears with his or her annual registration fees for the current year ceases to be a member on the 6th day of April of that year.

VII.

FINANCE.

- (a) An Annual Registration fee of 2/- per member.
 (b) Funds may be raised by donations, street collections, concerts dinner parties, Bazaars etc.
 (c) The National Executive Committee shall appoint, at its first meeting of the year, an Auditor.
 (d) Treasurer shall appoint a financial Committee from among to plan ways and means of raising funds. This Committee shall be answerable to the Executive and shall have power to co-opt persons outside the Executive.

CONGRESS YOUTH LEAGUE BRANCHES.

- (a) Fifteen members or more may found a branch if the Congress Youth League.
 (b) In an area where no African National Congress Branch exists, a Congress Youth League shall for purposes of Finance be taken and regarded as an African National Congress branch.
 (c) In an Locality where there exists several branches a District Committee may be formed from the Executives of respective branches to act as a Co-ordinating Committee provided always that the approval of C.Y.L. Executive is required.

- (d) The National Conference may lay down a method of representation by delegates of branches in Provincial and National Conferences

WORKING COMMITTEE.

- (a) The National Executive Committee shall immediately upon election instruct the President to appoint a working committee of seven members provided that the said members of the working committee are residents within 50 miles radius of the President's place of abode and provided further that where a sufficient number cannot be obtained from the members of the National Executive, The President, with or without, consultation with other Executive Committee members shall have the right to co-opt additional Congress Youth League members to make up the required number.
- (b) The Working committee shall be responsible to the National Executive
- (c) The working Committee shall be given by the National Executive an outline plan of policy and programme of action and immediately upon receipt of this, the working committee shall set to work to carry this or these out.
- (d) The working Committee shall submit the reports to the National Executive once every three months.
- (e) The Working Committee shall hold its routine meetings once every month but may meet at any other time should circumstances demand.

RESIGNATION:

If any member wishes to resign from the Executive Committee he shall give a written notice of his resignation to the Executive except in the case of a vote of no confidence in which case an immediate resignation is the result.

AMENDMENT.

Two thirds majority of vote by members in a special Session of the National Youth Conference shall be required for any Amendment or repeal of this Constitution.

GENERAL.

If any matter arises for which this Constitution makes no provision, the constitution of the African National Congress shall mutatis mutandis apply or be followed.

The place of the Negro in American Society was the subject of an address by Mrs. Ellen Hellman at the last meeting of the Joint Council. Mrs. Hellman has recently returned from the United States and this was her first address to the Joint Council since her return.

The position in America, stated Mrs. Hellman, was this that the American Negro was not yet intergrated in the scene of Democracy. The fact that the Constitution guaranteed citizenship rights to all American was being used by Negro and white reform organisations as a spring-board for the implimentation of these rights. In the North, said the speaker, the Negro was relatively better off, but the South was much slower to accord to the Negro the same priviledges and rights which other Americans enjoy. In the South the view prevailed that the Negro was not yet ripe to take an equal share in American society.

NEGRO LEADERSHIP: Mrs. Hellman went on to say that in the South to-day, due to emergence of the Negro as a leader of his people and the growth of Negro and white organisations fighting for democratic rights for the Negro in the South, the question was now being put: "IS THE SOUTH FOR OR AGAINST SEGREGATION?"

Population Composition: Whereas in South Africa, said the speaker, the whites numbered less than the Africans, in America the Negro population of 13 million consituted a minority in a country whose total population was about 130 millicn. The Negro shared a common language, common culture and common allegiance with other Americans. Sociologists and Psychologists were engaged in scientific study in an attempt to determine the origin of the Negro. Indeed examination of certain language expressions, certain traits showed similarities with the people of West Africa. But to these "sterile intellectual investigations" the Negro objected very strongly. He would like to be considered as a fellow-American and considers that to emphasise differences between himself and other Americans is not only undesirable but also dangerous.

One fifth of the Negro population, said the speaker, was concentrated in the North whilst the rest were in the South. In as much as conditions in the North were comparatively better for the Negro than in the South, it was not to be assumed that the North was a paradise for the Negro. There was still a great deal of segregation. A large percentage of Negroes were unskilled workers, they were still the poorest people and therefore were concentrated in the poorer areas of Northern cities. The Negro had great difficulty in finding hotel accomodation in many of the best hotels and restruants in the North. The speaker pointed out that inasmuch as the proprietors of hotels and restnarants were hesitant to accomodate Negroes, they could however not base their refusal on racial grounds, because if that were the case and the person concerned took recourse to law, the owner of such an hotel or restuarant was fined by the courts. Negro organisations encouraged these cases, but generally, the American Negro was not interested so much in fighting for social equality than he was for full employment, for better wages and better consideration.

NO PASS LAWS: The laws which apply to Africans in the Union, do not exist in the United States. The Federal Government has entrenched citizenship laws. At worst the position in the South, i.e. the many disabilities suffered by the Negro, constituted an evasion of the law. Many of the practices in the South were illegal. Lynching, which was still going on, but to a lesser degree, was not countenanced by the law. There seemed to be an eternal tension between the Federal Government intent and the prejudices of the Southerner.

A great deal of effort was being put in by various organisations to get the South to accord constitutional rights to the Negro. The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, a Negro organisation has been fighting for a long time to abolish the difference in teachers' salaries. They demanded the same wages for all members of the teaching profession irrespective of race or colour. By Supreme Court action, the practice of differentiation was declared unconstitutional. This did not mean that the practice was discontinued. In the South there was still a great deal of differentiation. The N.A.A.C.P. was still fighting to have the rule of equal pay and equal work applicable to all teachers.

An attempt had been made said the speaker to give employment to all Americans on a non-colour-bar basis. The formation of the Fair Employment Practices Commission was an earnest of this desire. The organisation is a new one and was formed mainly to assure that there would be no discrimination in employment in war industries. The F.E.P.C. had achieved a great deal of success as, in 1944 there were 8.3 per cent Negroes employed in war work and industry, whilst before that there were only about 3 per cent. This organisation had enabled Negroes to get a fair chance in skilled and semi-skilled employment. The Anti-Discrimination Act removed the right which, formally employers exercised, the right to refuse employment to Negroes simply on the grounds of colour.

NEGRO LEADERSHIP: There were two types of Negro leadership in America to-day, said Mrs. Hellman. In the North you had a militant leadership which insisted on equality for the Negro. The N.A.A.C.P. was the vanguard of this militancy. Court actions were being fought, demonstrations organisations and an endless number of pamphlets was being published, stating the case of the Negro. As against this type of leadership you had the leadership of the Southerners which was an accommodating leadership; more conciliatory, cautious and humble. The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, said the speaker, had some 571 branches, 136 Youth Councils and a membership of 400,000 the majority of whom were Negroes. She visited the offices of the N.A.A.C.P. where a staff of 60 persons was employed. The work was departmentalised with an efficient legal section and an effective propaganda section. The staff was entirely Negro and the whole organisation most efficiently run. The main duties of the N.A.A.C.P. went on the speaker, were to fight against the poll tax which made it difficult for many Negroes as well as the poorer white Americans to vote; to fight against discrimination and to fight for equality of opportunity in employment in education. Some of the achievements of the N.A.A.C.P. were to get the Boiler Makers Union to accept Negroes into membership. What happened before was that Negroes were formed into auxiliary unions which were very often recognised. There were to-day the speaker said about half a million Negroes in organised Trade Unions

The Federal Government took the view that there could be separation on racial lines, but there must be complete equality. In the North there was complete equality in Education.

The Urban League, another inter-racial organisation but having a majority of Negro members, unlike the N.A.A.C.P. was a more conciliatory movement and keeps out of court. There were nearly ~~xxxxxxx~~ 400 branches of this movement and in 1944 the movement had funds amounting to nearly two thousand pounds.

Both the N.A.A.C.P. and the National Urban League said Mrs. Hellman were not mass movements of the American Negro. There were a great many organisations. In 1944 in the city of New York alone, there were 4,000 clubs, associations, church societies etc. Mrs. Hellman found that the prevalence of a common struggle was not a unifying factor among the Negro. The assumption that a common struggle against

THE REWARD OF THE BRAVE.

By Julius G. Malie.

As I sat in the official enclosure at the Wanderers Grounds on Friday, 5th October, the day members of the Non-European Army Services received medals from the Officer Administering the Government for various feats of bravery - I threw my mind back in retrospect and re-enacted the scenes which had brought such glory to these dark sons of the soil - the glory which had culminated in this very auspicious occasion. The mental pictures I created were fantasies of glorious achievement in a global war, no less astounding than the recorded and internationally acclaimed acts of daring that these men had performed.

The story of the blowing up of an enemy vessel is a hair-raising story at any time, whilst the carrying of the dead and wounded from the field of battle under enemy fire, by a man with several bullet and shrapnel wounds in his body, shows not only bravery but the highest peak of human endurance and sympathy which cannot be easily rivalled. Within myself as I sat there reflecting, I saw in the dark cloud of war a silver lining of nobility and hope. I saw in war the supreme testing ground of human relationship and it gave me a great deal of pleasure that there had been this war so that my fellow-men found the opportunity to display to the world their valour, their sincerity, their trustworthiness and their humanitarianism.

To the Government and perhaps no less to the officers who created the Non-European Army Services the presentation of medals to the African, Coloured and Indian heroes marks the successful ending of a hazard; the hazard of the creation of a Non-European Army which might easily have surpassed in numerical strength, had it been necessary, the white forces of the Union. There was also the possibility of arming these black forces; with what consequences? Only the enemies of racial tolerance and co-operation could conjecture! That the need to arm the African soldier did not arise is a circumstance which, perhaps, in the future will operate in the favour of the government, but one which nevertheless will leave our brave black heroes with a deep sense of frustration. They would surely have welcomed the opportunity to shoot at the enemy.

THE WAR GOES ON. Now, the wheels of the government of our country have been adjusted to pursue the course of peace. The tragic play has had a happy ending. The officers of the N.E.A.S. will take their places in this same machinery. To them, the war is now well on its way to the limbo of the forgotten past. But to those brave sons of Africa who stood in mute and bewildered silence in the presence of that imposing array of legislators, high-placed military officials, representatives of foreign governments and a small but none the less appreciative gathering of white people, the occasion was merely the closing scene of a long and continuous drama - the drama of the struggle for self-realisation, the struggle for recognition.

A Blind Hero. Among the 34 heroes was Sergeant Cloete, a member of the Cape Corps who lost his eye sight through enemy action in the service of his country. There must have been many people in the mixed audience who felt sorry for this young soldier whose life has been blighted by blindness. As a mark of respect the audience rose, at the request of the Officer Administering the Government, whilst he pinned the M.M. on this soldier's breast. It must have been comforting to him as well as to all who have fought in this war when General Smuts said: "South Africa will not forget you". Now we can all sit back and wait. As much as this great day permitted one's thoughts to wander in fearful and uncertain paths there was notwithstanding some diversion to be found. The smartness with which the units marched past as His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government took the salute, commended itself to the admiration of all. In the years to come, when the/....

THE AMERICAN NEGRO - DEMOCRACY'S UNFINISHED BUSINESS (CONTD.)

mutual suffering tended to bring members of a race together was an assumption not borne by facts. There was an upper class among the Negro, the speaker found, and education, higher education seemed to provide the entry to that class.

The struggle was still going to get an increasing number of white Americans to interpret in practical form the letter of the law. The American Negro was thus still the unfinished business of democracy.

THE REARD OF THE BRAVE (CONTD.)

the war and its evils have receded into the background of memory, we shall not forget the many parades of the N.M.C. led by its famous band, and when we think of the N.M.C. band the memory of Nkosi the tall and graceful Drum Major will stand out.

THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES. There are other men whose record in this war has not been less conspicuous. To them, unfortunately, has fallen the task of paying with their lives for the freedom of tyranny the world now enjoys. Of them we must, with William Collins, lament:-

How sleep the brave, who sink to rest
By all their country's wishes blessed!
When spring, with dewy fingers cold,
Returns to deck their hallowed mould,
She there shall dress a squalid sod
Than fancy's feet have ever trod.

By fairy hands their knell is rung;
By forms unseen their dirge is sung;
There Honour comes, a pilgrim grey,
To bless the turf that wraps their clay;
And freedom shall awhile repair,
to dwell, a weeping hermit, there!

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