

17.  
2, Currie St.,

Oaklands,

Hohannesburg.

13th Sept., 1955.

Dear Alan,

I have come to ask you to <sup>do</sup> something for the Women's Defence of the Constitution League. May I explain; we are hoping to stage demonstrations of protest in as many centres of the Union as possible to mark the dissolution of the Old Senate. These will take the form in the larger centres of a march to some point in the town of black sash women followed by men and women ~~from~~ voters of all political affiliations <sup>of many organisations</sup> carrying the banner 'Repeal the Senate Act', We in Jhbg are having a replica made of a large book, labelled the Constitution with a black <sup>sash</sup> draped over it, which will be carried by 8 to 10 women. At our destination we shall sing the hymn 'Once to every man and nation' followed by the prayer which Rev. Massey composed for the women when they assembled in Pretoria and after that we wished to read a simple dedication in which we undertake to serve our country and the aims of unity envisaged by the original act of union ; to place the welfare of all above the interests of a group , to uphold the moral values in preference to those things which are merely expedient etc. I think you have an idea of the aims of the League, of goodwill and unity rather than strife and hatred, determination to see that lust for power does not destroy what is of value in the mutual trust which should rule our relationships. You write such simple and beautiful English that we would very much like you to do this for us. As you know there will be citizens of other than Christian religions with us and their ideals must be included. Would you do this for us? We shall of course use it in Afrikaans as well as in English . Would you provide both or would you like us to translate it and send it to you for approval ? Would you mind if it were used anonymously, since as you already know, the fact of your being the <sup>prov.</sup> leader of a political party makes you dangerous in the eyes of some, since we do try not to bring prominent members of any party into the League's limelight. We

We do not know when the dissolution will take place, but are

2.

making all our arrangements so that we shall be ready to go into action all over the country at a certain point of time soon after the thing has been gazetted. We should therefore be glad if we could have this as soon as it is convenient to you, so that it can be distributed to the other centres.

I am sending you a copy of the prayer with the translation which was done by Capetown branch. We have just had a sort of a conference about which Mrs. Hill can give you details. It was a bit trying, but very necessary and cleared the air of misconceptions and brought us into line with each other; there are such vast distances in South Africa separating the provinces as we know only too well from the Liberal Party, but a bit of talking does help.

I was sorry that you were not to do the last lecture, but I understand that Prof. Durrant from Natal is a good and stimulating speaker and we are looking forward to the whole course, which starts next Wednesday 21st and will now comprise only three lectures.

Best wishes to your wife and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

*Hell Green*

*P.S. I see you got a great deal of attention in  
Dagbreek but they do have a genius for avoiding  
the real issues -*

17 -

## PRAYER

This is the prayer of the women of the Defence of the Constitution League:

O God, our Heavenly Father, who holdest in Thy mighty Hand the fate of humankind, look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, upon the object for which we meet and pray to-day. We give Thee thanks — for those who in the past have laboured and sacrificed that liberty might be ours to-day. We pray that to-day this hard-won liberty shall not be lost, and that wise counsels and tolerance may be found in the hearts of those who govern South Africa.

Hear us — as we ask for Thine own wondrous intervention in this present crisis in our land. Give unto men the perfect love that casteth out fear — that righteousness and justice shall prevail, and that all races and all peoples of this great land may live together in peace and amity. Forgive us — if by unwatchfulness we permitted this evil to grow amongst us. Forgive us — if we have failed in sacrifice or in duty, and grant that by Thy grace and guidance we may the better serve our land and people in the days to come.

Raise up in our land such men and women as shall maintain good counsel and afford wise leadership, with the example of Godly character and service — free from self-seeking.

Grant that true faith, honest dealing and mutual helpfulness may be the standard of our citizenship. So by Thy grace we may be worthy of our heritage and hope.

GOD BLESS SOUTH AFRICA!

Now — into the faithful hands of God we commit ourselves, our loved ones, our land and all our peoples, now and always. Father! Let us be Thine and remain Thine forever.

AMEN.

## GEBED

Dit is die gebed van die vroue van die Grondwetverdedigingsbond.

O God, ons Hemelse Vader, in Wie se magtige hand die lotgevalle van volke en nasies is, sien in genade neer, ons smeeek U, op die doel waarvoor ons vandag saamkom en bid. Ons dank U, Heer, vir diegene wat in die verlede gewerk en gely het vir die vryheid wat ons vandag geniet. Ons bede vandag is dat dié duurgewonne vryheid nie verlore mag gaan nie, en dat wysheid en verdraagsaamheid bevind mag word in die harte van die bewindhebbers van Suid-Afrika vandag.

Verhoor ons waar ons U smeeek om U wonderbaarlike tussenkoms in die huidige krisis in ons land. Gee aan ons mense dié volmaakte liefde wat vrees verdrywe — sodat reg en geregtigheid mag seëvier en dat alle rasse en alle mense van ons groot land in vrede en liefde mag saamwoon.

Vergewe ons — indien ons deur nalatigheid hierdie kwaad onder ons laat ontstaan het. Vergewe ons as ons gefaal het in opoffering of in plig en gee dat ons, deur U genade en leiding, ons land en volk beter mag dien in die dae wat voorlê.

Skenk — ons smeeek U, Heer — aan ons land manne en vroue wat ons met wys beraad sal bestuur en verstandige leiding aan die volk sal gee, met die voorbeeld van 'n godvresende inbors en diens — vry van alle selfsug en hebsug. Gee tog, Hemelse Vader, dat opregte geloof en onderlinge hulpvaardigheid die rigsnoere van ons burgerskap mag wees sodat ons, deur U genade, die erfenis wat ons van ons vaders gekry het, waardig mag wees.

MAG GOD SUID-AFRIKA SEËN!

En nou gee ons onself, ons dierbares, ons land en al ons mense in die hand van die Almagtige God, nou en vir altyd. Hemelse Vader! Neem ons aan as kinders, vir ewig.

AMEN.

Lynton Road,  
KLOOF,  
Natal.

17th September, 1955.

Dear Mrs. Green,

My husband is away at present and will not be back until the end of the month. I happen to know that he then has a long article to write and a review, both of which have to be done before the first week in October. Therefore he would not be able to compose the dedication before say, the 7th of October. Would that not perhaps be too late for you, seeing that you want to be quite prepared before the dissolution of the old Senate? I am sure he would agree to doing it, it's the time factor that is the snag. I am sorry I cannot get an urgent message to him as he is travelling about in the Copper Belt and did not know himself the dates when he would be where. The only address I have is Salisbury but when he expects to be there I haven't a clue. Obviously on his return to the Union. Anyway I'll drop him a line to Salisbury and hand on your request, but if you want to be sure of having the dedication in good time for your purpose, perhaps it would be wiser to get someone else to compose it. Will you let me know if October 7 is too late?

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

**Collection Number: AD1169**

**Collection Name: Alan Paton Papers, 1952-1988**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

*Location:* Johannesburg

©2016

***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, held at the Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.