

Confidential.

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

SECTION ON SOCIAL WORK.

Since I was appointed I have discussed with several people what the Council can do but I have not called a meeting, so that this is purely a personal document. As such, I hope the Executive will receive it more as a statement than a report.

In trying to set out the lines on which I consider the Council's work, so far as social matters are concerned, can be most effective, I wish to add that if anyone has another plan which commends itself, I shall be only too happy that someone else be appointed convener. I am very conscious that I have done very little in these six months.

Before outlining my proposals, I wish to say that when I read in the press that a Congress was ~~being~~ convened at Durban to consider Social Security, I at once wrote to the Secretary of the Council saying that I was prepared to attend if properly nominated. I am glad to state that the President and the Secretary concurred with my feeling that the Council ought to be represented, and wrote nominating me. I feel that this Social Security Congress may well prove to be historic, so that it is satisfactory that we were represented. Several matters of fundamental importance came under discussion; one basic matter being whether the Code should be ONE for all inhabitants of South Africa, divided into sections according to economic status, or whether the four-fold Code outlined in the Agenda book should stand.

I have suggested to Mr. Grant that copies of that Agenda book be secured and circulated before the Executive meets, and I hope that I will be able to give a full verbal report.

Reverting to the main subject; there are in the Union to-day a number of bodies studying social, economic, industrial and agricultural questions. In the political sphere, the most important is the Social and Economic Planning Council set up by the Prime Minister, of which Dr. van Eck is the Chairman. This body must lay their report on the table of Parliament. One member of the Council is well known to me, so that I have been able to discuss with him the extent to which Christian thought can be put before them. He agrees that the Christian Council is the best body for the purpose, and suggests that he will give careful attention to anything sent to him in writing. Naturally, he would not sponsor anything he did not himself agree with, but the chief thing is that he is approachable, and thus a valuable liaison with the main body which has not as yet expressed any intention of directly consulting other bodies.

Of similar importance is the fact that, resulting from the Durban Social Security Congress, a number of 'Action Committees' are to be set up throughout the country.

In Church circles there are a number of bodies engaged in close study, of which I may mention the Laymen's Movement in the Methodist Church, and the Diocesan Commissions in Johannesburg and Grahamstown.

So I feel that what is needed is :-

1. Direction for study.
2. Co-ordination of effort.
3. Collation of Findings.

To secure this I feel it is essential that a small Committee should be set up of people easily convened; their first duty to be to report on 1. and 2. to the next meeting of the Executive, and then to proceed with 3. in order to present a report to the full meeting of Council which I believe is to meet in 1943.

Without having consulted them, I suggest the following :-

Rev. H. P. Junod, Chairman. (It is important that the Chair be held by a member of the Council.)

Professor J. N. Reedman, Economist.

Dr. B. Melle, or some other Medical Practitioner.

Miss M. Janisch, as representing Municipal Sociology.

The present Convener as Secretary.

(Sgd) Arthur W. Blaxall,

Convener, Social & Economic Section.

26/9/1942.

15, 4, 4

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.