

JOHANNESBURG SOCIAL SECURITY ACTION COMMITTEE

PROPOSED STATEMENT OF POLICY

1. This Committee understands by Social Security a broad policy of increasing the economic opportunities enhancing and protecting the level of social welfare of all sections of the community, in the spirit of the Atlantic Charter and the speeches of General Smuts.

Two aspects of such a policy, in relation to the needs of South Africa, are as follows:

- (i) the extension and improvement of the social services, and
- (ii) the institution of new and better methods of safeguarding the people against the risks and emergencies of family life and livelihood.

We recognise that better social services are the paramount need of the bulk of the people, since, through increasing the skill, education, health and opportunities of all sections of the population, they play a vital part in increasing national productivity and thus the standard of living attainable by all. We recognise also that large numbers of workers, European and other, whose livelihood depends in great part on their earnings from work, require under existing conditions supplementary money benefits, to secure their living standards in sickness, unemployment, old-age, widowhood and orphanhood, etc.

2. The basic social services are education, including technical training, health, maternal and child welfare, housing and nutrition. These should be progressively made available, on an increasingly adequate scale, to all sections of the population, on the same terms and on the same level of efficiency.

They should continue to be financed, as at present, out of general taxation. To meet their rising cost, Income and Super Taxes should be more steeply graduated and Death Duties substantially increased.

3. Provision should also be made for a comprehensive and adequate scheme of benefits, available to all sections of wage and salary-earners and their dependants, in all cases where they are necessary to protect standards of living against the common contingencies of life.

These should be in principle contributory. Consideration should, however, be given to the possibility of enforcing a fairly high exemption limit and a progressive scale of percentage contributions, to ease the burden on the poorer Europeans and Non-Europeans. There should be a single Social Security Fund, to which employers and the state should also contribute.

4. An essential complement of a broad programme of social welfare is the creation of a national system of health services, both preventive and curative. This should be entirely independent of the

finance and administration of social insurance benefits.

5. This Committee strongly urges the scientific study of the essentials of a tolerable standard of living for all sections of the population, so that benefits should in all cases be properly adjusted to needs.
6. While it is no part of this Committee's function to propose detailed methods, other than better social services, by which the South African standard of living may be raised, we nevertheless affirm our belief that it requires the maximum utilisation of all our resources, both material and human, and the removal of all obstacles to this result.

In so far as the statements of policy in paragraph 1 - 6 inclusive are not adequately covered by the provisions of the Social Security Code proposed by the Durban Social Security Action Committee, this Committee undertakes to work for their revision accordingly.

JM.

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