

* Speech by Councillor Po zoa. Jeris, Deputy Mayon of Johamesburu•

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It is indeed a uriviledge foe ne to have the opportunity of meting members of your Association. Although I have lived in Johamesourg ell my life, there are mong activities with which I have not been associated and it is living me great pleasure to meet organizations such as yours.

Of your Institute I knew little wail I me Mr. Rubin. If ever there was an evangelist for a cause it in lir. Rubin

I kos blue books are not usually a source of material for after-dinner speeches, but I felt it would help me to get an insight into the life insumancsfield if I had a glance at some returns Ene oi the figures made re realize the important role that life insurance plays in the economic lice of this country. What struck mine too the the rapid growth in the assets miner the control of lire insurance companies and what in means to the economy, having the annal. premiums available for investment in a vast field of activity. I became interested and nope you will not mind ane impressions of an outsider louring in. Insurance premiums on life policies increased from R 46 -million in 1950 to $\mathbb{R} 72$-minion in 1956 and in the next ten years rove than doubled to over 2165-milliono The actual income of life insurance companies from the operations in the Republic amounted to 2272 -ilion in 1.966. Guite a staggering erosith. Think of the repercussions on the country of the interest of the sum each year.

In 1950 the number of nev life policies effected during the year ias 161,000 win a premium income of ne,8-million . By 1965 this had increased to nearly 300,000 policies with annul premiums of Rlo-milion. When $I$ say the increase in commission pace to agents I resized I had trained for the wrote profession. ingle rtariilion was paid in 1950 and $26-$ million in 1955, by 1966 it was R18-rallion。

Unfortunately, the information in the blue books was not. always recorded in the sene way eecin year, which has made comparison difficult.

All these figured impressed be imoneely. Then i came upon $2 n$ asp ct that worried me. It struck me that all was not well. It struck
me that the crezulity and lack or knorledge of the rublic was being exploited. I refer to the ereat wastase duc to lapsed and sumendered policies. In the returns for the year 1950 it g'eve 40354 yoincies lapsed, of mich 17016 vere in reject of policies where premiums hed been paid for less than a quarter, 14137 for more than a quarter but less than a year. The sums insured were R58-ailision and the anmal premiumsin, 675,674 . Durins the same year 24831 policies were surrendered. In 1966, 181,8C7 policies :ith peaiums of RS,80C,000 were laped or surrendered. This has raised many queries in my aind:-

Do people know what they are doins when they take out policies?
Do the asents who write these policies take sufficient care to explein the long-tera implications when persuading persons to take out policies?

Do the companies tahe surficient care in apointing agents and scrutinizing the policies?

Is it in the best interests of the econony that savings ere wasted in this way?

I an told that policies lapsed in this wey are not beneficial to the companies. Fhat are the agents' motives in writiag policies of this nature?

Do the public unierstand ihat they are doine?
I am askine the questions, you folik mow the answers.
is an exarple, then selling policies thich qualify for the R2,000 deduction from tayable income, on what is your emphasis? on the value of the intrinsic investment of the $R 2,000$ proving that the policy is well worthwile, bscause rith the saving of tax the real cost to the taxpayer is considerably less and its on this lesser amount that the -taypayer is getting value fon his money.

You may think I heve a colossal cheek in as'ring these questions, but in I have read your litereture correctly, it seems to me that this unsatisfactor state of affairs is the justification and reasch for the founding of jour insti.tute.

Life insurance is too importent in its socisl coneecquences botin frou the wrat oenefits thet on bo dexives if coruenty used and from the wisuse of the present etate of effairs tot left to the casual unskilled and 引varicous afent, hose, sole interest is his comission.

To me a life cifices' tereet should not be ot on the nem

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policies written during the year, if those policies will shontly be lapsed oi suriendered.
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I heartily supoort your insitute's objectives and nope that the life componies will give attention to the reauction in lanses and surrenders and this cun only be echieveà by better screeming and more resporisible selling. Life insurance agents should not be recruited frow persons who have failed in other walks of life and who are turning to the sellinä of life insurence as a last resort.

You vish to make the selling of life insurence a profession. That is a proression?

The dictionary scys th: $t$ a profession is that which one practices as a celling or a vocation end zuscests that a yerson who is a member of a prozession has a special fitness or aptitude for that profession. I would like to sugeest the following seven rillars of a profession :

Firstly, technicel skill and craftemanship received by education and study. This educstion must be contimuous to keep up to date in a profiession.

Secondly, to me it is of the essence of a profession thet \#enbers :ho have acouired these skills sre prepared to spend infinite time and patience in training new merabers of the profession, so that the stindard of the profession be retained. In this competitive world this is a hard thine to ask.

Thiraly, there must be loyalty and pride in a profession, so that standards are maintained and failure of one reflects on the profession as a rhole. If one rails, one is not only lettings oneself down but also one's colleagues. In your case, with afililiation with similar institutes in other lands there is a'larcer fello ship to which one ores an allegiance. Fourthly, there rust be a sense of social responsibility. In your case you must consider the effects on familes. What satisfaction it zust give you hen you know thet through your cfforts micious anci orphens heve been saved from catestrophy. Life insurance correctly used shd correctiy sold can be of great bencit to the comiunity.

Fifthly, I hould sugeest parsonel integrity, bechuse ho: can one advise unless one has the full forts. How osin one eet the facts unless

Ere trusted and regerded as a person who will give the correct advice based on the needs of the client, for in meny instances you Rre dealing with peoxle with very little knolecge wo have not the capacity to judge the nerits of the various policies availacle to them.

Sixthly, I would suggest that one must heve a sense of purpose end faith thet there is some merning in life. Thet what one is doing is worthrhile and for the good of the community.

Lastly, sperking from my personel knowledge, I count as among the greatest in my profession people who are quiet, urassuming, vith a sense of dedicetion to their rork and their colleagues, people of great humility.

Last year I attended e world conference in Toronto. The subject of the cofference nes the development of metrovolitan areas. Johsnesburg Was cne of the 40 cities rith polulations of over one million that was asked to attend. I will desl rith only ore asvect which was forcibly brought howe to me, and that was the porulation explosion.
 of the horld doubled. The next doubling took place in a period of only 100 years, 1850 to 1950. It is now vedicted thet itwill only take 40 years, I. .. 1950 to 1990. Another phenumenon in the worla today is the shift of the population from the rursl to the urbsn areas.

It is anticipated thet Johannesburg's European population will
increase from 43,153 in 1950 to 943,000 in 2000 and thet iri the same perion the total population will increase fron 1,158525 to 2,857,000. .ith the growth in the income of the country what a great prosnect for the riting of life insurance. Vill this be exploited or will the neads be correctly catered for? It is uo to you as to shether these policies will fulsil their purpose and man their course or policies hich rill lapse. Which shall they be?
iny y your Institute continue to prosper. Bear in rind that honesty is the cest policy, provicied the policy does not; lepse.

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## The

## Life

## Underwriter

Die Tydskrif van die Vereniging van Lewensversekeringsverteenwoordigers van Suid-Afrika.

## EREKODE

Ek onderneem plegtiglik:-

1. Om die hoë aansien van my besigheid te handhaaf en te strewe om die prestige daarvan te behou.
2. Om die doel van die Vereniging van Lewensversekeringsagente
te ondersteun en bevorder, om die beginsels daarvan te hand-

No. 24
JUNE, 1968 haaf, en ten alle tye die Konstitusie en wette wat lewensassuransie beheer te gehoorsaam.
3. Om die vertroue van my klante en moontlike klante te respekteer, hul belange bo myne te stel en hulle te adviseer sonder vooroordeel en sonder inagneming van persoonlike belange.
4. Om stiptelik die hoogste standaarde van besigheids/en professionele gedrag te handhaaf.
5. Om die prorogatief te respekteer van en saam te werk met, alle ander wie se dienste konstruktiewelik saamval met die van ons in die verskaffing van die benodigdhede van klante.
6. Om nie 'n verdraaide of wanvoorstelling woordeliks of skrifteliks aan enige moontlike polishouer te maak nie.
7. Om nie toe te stem tot die vermindering van enige deel van my kommissieloon óf direk òf indirek aan 'n moontlike polishouer as ' $n$ beweegrede om ' $n$ polis uit te neem nie.
8. Om nie ' $n$ bestaande polishouer van my eie of enige ander Lewensassuransiemaatskappy oor te haal om 'n bestaande lewensassuransiepolis opsetlik te laat afkoop, verval of opbetaal met die doel om dit te vervang deur 'n nuwe polis deur my nie, en pliggetrou te poog om lewensassuransiepolisse van my eie en ander lewensassuransiemaatskappye in stand te hou.

## In this issue

Joe Steingold's address at A.G.M.

- The Banquet.
- Office Bearers 1968
- Trends in Life Assurance Marketing.


## Thanks:

Any committee can only succeed as a team and I wish to express my thanks to all the councillors who have given of their time, often at great inconvenience to themselves, in assisting me to run your affairs for the past year. I think it would be wrong to single out individuals for special praise, but I can assure you that, almost without exception, the members of the Council have dedicated themselves to our cause and have done a wonderful job of work.

## Conclusion:

Overall, I think this has been a year of progress and certain foundations have been laid which are but the stepping-stones to further progress and achievement of our aims. Even though we have not been able to
achieve all we set out to do this year, we still have hopes that many of our contemplated projects can be successfully carried out at some future date.

I shall not be offering myself for re-election as president this year, but will be on the Executive ex-officio, as immediate past president. I will continue to serve the association to the best of my ability.

Good generals and officers cannot win a war without the rank and file of any army and whilst there are men who are prepared to serve on the general and regional councils. it is up to the rank and file of our membership to pull their weight and do their share of the work. It is only by carrying out this principle that we can further the aims and objects and ensure the continued success of our Association.

## THE BANQUET

## COUNCILLOR P. R. B. LEWIS' ADDRESS

THE guest speaker at the banquet was Councillor P. R. B. Lewis, Deputy Mayor of Johannesburg and it was evident that he had done some sound homework on his subject -- Life Insurance. Some highlights of his speech were:

Insurance premiums on life policies in South Africa increased from R46 million in 1950 to R165 million in 1966. Commission paid to agents was R4 million in 1950 and R18 million in 1966.

Lapsed and surrendered policies led to great wastage. In 1966, the latest year for which figures were available, 181,807 policies with premiums of R8,800,000 were lapsed or surrendered.

The population explosion: From 350 A.D. to 1850 A.D., a period of 1.500 years, the population of the world doubled. From 1850 to 1950, a mere 100 years, it doubled again. It was now predicted that it would take only 40 years to double once more. By the year 2.000 Johannesburg's population would have increased from $1,159,000$ to $2,867,000$ and with the growth of income of the country there was a great prospect for writing life insurance.
Councillor Lewis heartily supported the
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Association's objectives and said that life insurance agents should not be recruited from persons who had failed in other walks of life and who were turning to the selling of life insurance as a last resort. He suggested seven pillars of the profession:

Firstly, technical skill and craftsmanship acquired by education and study.

Secondly, persons who had acquired the skills should spend infinite time and patience in training new members. In that way the standard of the profession would be maintained.

Thirdly, there must be loyalty and pride in the profession.

Fourthly, there must be social responsibility. Life insurance correctly used and correctly sold could be of great benefit to the community.

Fifthly, personal integrity. How could one get the facts unless one was trusted and regarded as a person who would give correct advice?

Sixthly, one must have a sense of purpose and faith that there is some meaning in life.

Seventhly, humility and a sense of dedication to work and colleagues.

THE LIFE UNDERWRITER

## AT THE BANQUET



Left to right: Reg Barry, President; the Deputy Mayor, Councillor P. R. B. Lewis; Mr. Joe Steingold, retiring President; and Mr. Ralph Ruben.


Mr. L. S. Tunbrige, Branch Manager, Sun Life, Transuaal, and Mr. I. Gilmore, Broker.

Assurance Society Limited
P. O. box 1114 Johannesburg

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGERS OFFICE

22nd April, 1968.
Mr. P.R.B. Lewis, C.A. (S.A.),
P. O. Box 9424,

Johannesburg.

Dear Mr. Lewis,
re : Insurance of Africans

The men you will be addressing at the LUASA conference are the big insurance writers. They will probably have very little experience of the insurance of Africans and most likely will not wish to be bothered with them.

African Life probably does as high a proportion of business amongst the African population as any Office, and I would say that many Offices would not issue any policies at all to Africans.

The insurances issued by the Society fall into three broad groups : -
(a) The Ordinary Branch;
(b) Pensions Department;
(c) Industrial Department.

Approximately $2 \%$ of the Society's Ordinary Branch policyholders are Africans but the average policy is very small indeed compared with the average policy issued to non-Africans. The proportion is growing - in 1961 it was only $1 \frac{1}{4} \%$.

The Pensions Department covers pension schemes approved under the Income Tax Act where the benefits are underwritten by the Society. About one-third of the members of these pension schemes are non-European. No separate figures are available for Africans, Coloureds and Asiatics but it is known that almost all of those included in the non-European class are, in fact, Africans. Pension and Life insurance benefits are normally related to earnings and, therefore, are proportionately lower in the case of Africans than for Europeans. The proportion of Africans with this Society is doubtless high because not all Societies undertake this class of business.

Very large numbers indeed are insured under Industrial policies which are policies where the premiums are paid at the homes of the policyholders to collectors appointed by the Society. The cost of individual collection is, naturally, high, particularly in view of the low average amount of premium. The value of benefits provided under Industrial policies is in no way comparable with the benefits provided by Ordinary Branch policies or by pension schemes.

The main obstacles in the way of expansion of insurance amongst Africans are the collection difficulties and the small amount available for insurance. In pension schemes, where the employer collects contributions by deduction from earnings, these difficulties do not exist and, consequently, a large number of Africans can be insured. A high proportion of Africans insured under Ordinary Branch policies are those employed by the Government or Local Authorities who are prepared to deduct insurance premiums from earnings. Even in the Industrial Department, which sends collectors into Soweto and other African areas, it is not possible to have an office in the area where policyholders might pay premiums. It is necessary for the collectors to return with their collections and hand them in to an office in an European area.

In our dealings with the European population, we have found that those persons who do not operate a bank account nor work for an employer who is prepared to deduct insurance premiums from earnings and who, therefore, have to pay premiums to one of the Society's offices in cash every month, are very expensive to administer, and the lapse rate is high. Where there are other calls on the man's resources, the payment of the insurance premium seems to come very low indeed on the list of priorities. We have no reason to believe that the position will be any different amongst the African population.

I suspect there will be no real expansion of insurance amongst Africans, except under pension schemes, until there are large numbers of Africans sufficiently prosperous to operate their own banking accounts.

Yours sincerely,


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There is an old expression, "Seven Pillars of Wisdom." With this concept and phrase in mind, I am bold enough to suggest seven pillars of a profession as I conceive them to be - in terms of the individual.

The first; technical skill and craftmanship, received by continuing education. That is a basic essential.

The second; a sense of social responsibility with an interest in community life. This is the best corrective to a narrow concern with professional matters? Too exclusive a concern, whether with one's specialty or with the world of book learning, makes for mediocrity and tameness. Tamesness because such persons have never been seared by the facts as they exist in the world outside their little provinces.

The third; a knowledge of history. This is essential for the cultivated mind and provides perspective, It is a corrective for the squirrel-like accumulation of facts which passes for education in these days.

The fourth; a knowledge of literature and the arts. This acts as a catalyst; here are to be found the world of values and the repository of what has been said and done by the best minds, Such knowledge provides a philosophy of excellence, and insight that comes from sensitiveness. It is well to remember, looking back no further than the years of this century, that the barbarians do not destroy science and technology. They destroy the vessels of liberal culture - the roots of the past - libraries, the press, religion, music, art, the belief in the essential dignity of man.

The fifth pillar; a personal integrity. On this quality rests the concept of duty, a sense of responsibility, And on such things depend the dignity and the honour of a profession.

The sixth; a faith that there is some meaning and value in life. This belief must stand high in the credo of any physician worthy of the name. It is the great bulwark in a world in which, in Thoreau's words, "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." And we cannot live on the capital of idealism built up by past generations.

The seventh and last; the grace of humility/ The constant reflection, in the searching words of John Bradford, "There, but for the grace of God, go I." In this attitude is to be found one of the finest flowers of the human epirit. It is the solvent of intolerance and selfishness and the other deadly sins./

These, I suggest are some of the qualities that make for the equilibrium of mind which is the mark of the professional man. Their expression in action and thought is what make a profession great.

An excerpt from "The Medical Jackdaw" by E.P. Scarlett, M.B.

Pgints fur the D／HMR．IN THE PREPARAGION OF HIS SPIEKCH AT ANNGAK＂んたFí und Di＝RWRIİRS ASSOCIATION＂ BANQukT $\alpha$ nad MAY 1962.
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HFE INSURANCE IN DUSTRY．
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（3）．ASSOCIATION IS AFFIMRT二 D TO SISTER ORGANISATIONS THROWGHOLT THR WORLD，HANING VERY ChOSÏ TİS WITH THE INAUQURAL ASSOCIAFION－＂FHE WATIONAH ASSOCIATION OF LIFE UNDER－ WRIEにRS OF AMERICA＂．
（4）．THIK ASSOCIATION HAS LAID DOWN A STRICT CODE OF KTHICS AND MIMMBRRS WHO TRANSGRESS IT ARK BROUGHT BKFORE A DISCI－ PLINARY COMMITTR̈́R．YOUR ASSOCIATION HORES IN FHIS DAY TO OBTAIN PROFRSSIONAL STATUS ANS FHE RRSPÄCT THAT SUCH STATUS CON－ FizRS ON MEMBERS OF SucIA $A$ gROUR．
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