

1951, since when no Report of the Social Welfare Department has been published.) The comparative figures for Europeans are given to throw into relief the inadequacy of the provision for Africans.

The news that the Native Affairs Department plans to set up four Native Youth Camps in an effort to combat the increasingly widespread uncontrollability and indiscipline of African children was accordingly hailed with great satisfaction. The need for services for Africans of the type of the Special Service Battalion, which did such outstanding work in rehabilitating European youths, has been repeatedly put before the Government since the mid 'forties and formed one of the main recommendations of the Viljoen Committee.

If, however, these four camps which, it is understood, are to take in 400 youths each, are also to accommodate the 800 pupils from Diepkloof, the relief given will be drastically reduced.

- (ii) While it is true that the juvenile delinquent, the child in need of care, and the youth who falls foul of Sections 29 or 10 of the Natives Urban Areas Act come from substantially the same general environment, those who have dealt with these different categories of children assert emphatically that there are great differences between them and that they need very different types of treatment. It is stated that one institution cannot cater for all types and that the hardened offender who is committed to a Diepkloof needs the special treatment which a reformatory is specially designed to give. This view is endorsed by the Viljoen Report, which states: "While there would seem to be no reason why children in need of care should not be admitted to these centres (i.e. camp training centres) provided the camp administration has the right of selection of all suitable applicants, it is generally agreed that it would be undesirable, both from a social and from an administrative point of view, to commit those who have been convicted to the same centres as those who enrol on a voluntary basis. It is particularly important that juveniles with pronounced criminal tendencies should not be admitted. Delinquents could best be rehabilitated by compulsory committal to one of the existing institutions for this purpose." (Para.117).
- (iii) The suitability of the proposed Native Youth Camps for urban delinquents appears to be open to grave doubt. The Viljoen Committee had this to say: "The consensus of informed opinion, however, favours their (i.e. camp training centres) siting at not too great a distance from Native residential areas, so that the severance of the trainees from their domestic ties would not be too great and their training could be as closely related as possible to the employment requirements of the centres in which they live. According to Mr. Bain of the Department of Social Welfare, American experience has shown that it is unwise to remove urban youths to training camps in a rural setting away from urban areas. Officials at Diepkloof have had similar experience. They regard it as essential to ensure that pupils, on discharge, are returned to the environment with which they are familiar. Investigations have shown that 98% of boys put into a new environment on discharge were failures.

The Diepkloof pupils are overwhelmingly urban. Analysis of 329 new admissions in 1957 shows that 215 (65%) came from Johannesburg and the Reef (160) and the major urban centres. Officials state that not more than 6 - 7% of Diepkloof pupils come from the Reserves or farms - all the rest come from urban locations. To offer such youths agricultural training and to attempt to turn them into farm workers appears to offer very little likelihood of successful rehabilitation. Yet, judging from the composition and qualifications of the staff approved for Elandsdoorn, this is what is intended: for the staff, apart from one European superintendent, trained

and/or experienced in welfare work, one Native House-father - teacher or evangelist - and his wife as house-mother, is to consist entirely of personnel with experience in agricultural work, namely, one European Assistant Superintendent, Native Agricultural Demonstrators, and one induna, "an experienced farm hand", to every 15 youths.

One of the great values of Diepkloof is its range of vocational training and the fact that this training makes the pupils highly adaptable to factory employment, which is a major reason why they are sought after by employers.

(iv) It seems likely that if Diepkloof pupils are transferred to the proposed Native Youth Camps, the number of abscondences - inevitably a major problem for institutions of this nature - will increase sharply. The absconding figure at Diepkloof has now, after great efforts, been reduced to some 5 per cent of total enrolment per year.

9. In view of all these considerations, an earnest appeal is made to the Department of Native Affairs to continue Diepkloof Reformatory School at its present site, to maintain its existing staff and to preserve and expand the important functions it now fulfils.

18th June, 1958

VISIT TO ELANDSDOORN BANTU YOUTH CAMP AND SISAL MANUFACTURING SECTION
OF SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT CENTRE BY MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN
TRANSVAAL REGION OF THE S.A. INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS
WITH MR. BIERMAN, PLANNING OFFICER, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
SECTION, DEPT. OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT -

July 15th, 1961.

Members of the Institute of Race Relations were grateful for this chance of visiting Elandsdoorn and were most interested in all they saw as well as in the information given them by Mr. Bierman and by the superintendent, Mr. Lambrecht.

The method of housing the boys in separate huts in small groups was considered good and, although far from luxurious, the conditions were thought adequate. Special mention was made by those who visited the camp of the cleanliness and of the freedom for originality in improvements which is allowed the boys. The latter must inevitably help these boys to develop some sense of pride in their surroundings.

All the visitors were impressed by the desire for improvements expressed by the superintendent and others, and would like to make the following suggestions themselves, fully realising that the superintendent and the Department are already considering some of them.

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT:

- 1). Trained Social Science workers are urgently needed to give to the boys individual guidance and interest. Similarly, such workers should be in touch with boys during an interim parole period when they leave the camp, as the transition to freedom should not be too sudden.
 - 2). Separate camps should be started for different grades of offenders, i.e. serious offenders, minor delinquents and mentally retarded boys.
 - 3). There should be an official school with fixed hours of the day allocated to lessons. In this era a knowledge of reading and writing, at the least, is essential to anyone who is to advance. The stumbling-block of illiteracy is likely to make the adjustment to normal and decent living additionally hard for the discharged boy.
 - 4). The boys should be given training in some form of occupation, a choice of several types being given them. Most of the boys appear to come from urban areas and need preparation for the life they will meet on their return home. It is not suggested that the boys should not do any of the types of work on which they are now engaged as the physical labour is doubtless good for them, but that this training should occupy some of their time.
 - 5). Additional food during the long gap from 6.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. would be welcome to hungry, growing boys.
 - 6). Camps nearer to the centres from which the inmates come would make for easier contact with relations. This applies to the Sheltered Employment and Old Age sections also. The system whereby relations can stay overnight at Elandsdoorn is sound but the distances to be travelled must prevent many otherwise possible visits because of the time and cost involved. A sense of total separation from family is bad for old and young alike.
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