Dear Mrs. Howell

I'm sure for information copies of my

2 minutes on the Great Acre's

speech at the Conference on the subject

of the Act organized by the Indian

Community here - & also a reading
From the Natal Witness of 2/nd Feb. Yours sincerely
R. Peetham
14th February, 1961

The Hon. R. Feetham,
Long Barn,
164 Taunton Road,
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Dear Judge Feetham,

Thank you so much for the copies of your excellent address on the Group Areas Act, and the cutting about Mr. Naidoo. We are so glad to have these. I do hope that, as a result of the proposed amendments to the Act, the Indians will be able to retain their trading premises; but the situation of course remains a most unsatisfactory one, for they will have no security of tenure.

This Act is indeed a most dreadful piece of legislation. The Board is sitting in Germiston next week, and the proposals it will consider make no mention of any area within the Germiston boundaries for the Indians. The official plan apparently is to group all the Indians of the East Rand together in one township, possibly in Benoni. It is beyond me to understand how the persons responsible for the Act and its administration are able to sleep in peace at night.

With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Muriel Horrell (Miss)
RESEARCH OFFICER.
To

Messrs S.A. Institute of Race Relations
68, De Korte St.
Braamfontein
Johannesburg.

14 FEB 1961

Dear Sir,

Please let me know if PLASTON & Karino, is Defined Area or Controlled Area, and what is the Position of Indian Residing in this Area.

Also please let me have a book on Group Areas, inclusing 5/- in Postal order.

Very Urgent

Yours faithfully,

Abdul Hamid Gardee
Box 8

PLASTON
E. Transvaal

15/4/61

6716
16th February, 1961

Mr. Abdul Hamid Gardee,
P.O. Box 8
PLASTON,
E. TVL.

Dear Mr. Gardee,

Thank you for your letter enquiring about the position of Indians living in Plaston and Karino. I was told today by an official of the Group Areas Board that neither of these areas is a defined area, but both are, of course, controlled areas.

Unless there are special circumstances, this means that Indians in these areas occupying property which they or other Indians own may continue to occupy it, and do not need to apply to the Group Areas Board for permits before building or making alterations to existing buildings. They may sell or let their land only to other Indians (unless they obtain permits).

A copy of The Group Areas Act - Its Effect on Human Beings, by Miss Muriel Horrell, has already been posted to you - I hope it is the book which you had in mind. Thank you for the advance payment.

Yours faithfully,

Lawrence Reyburn
RESEARCH ASSISTANT.
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE NATAL REGIONAL COMMITTEE.

Group Areas Proclamation - Queensburgh.

Queensburgh has been declared an all white area under the Group Areas Act. This will entail the movement of some 8,000 people, including many whose descendants settled there more than 70 years ago. It is evident that the removal will cause considerable hardship.

All members are invited to an in loco inspection of the implications of the Group Areas Proclamation for Queensburgh.

Will members who wish to go on this tour of inspection please meet at the main entrance of the City Buildings, University of Natal, Warwick Avenue at 2.30 p.m. on SATURDAY 11th March, 1961.

Transport will be arranged for any persons who require it.
22nd March, 1961

The Hon. the Minister of the Interior,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Sir,

GROUP AREAS ACT.

My Committee will be very grateful if you will consider the following suggestion.

Many people affected by the Act only realise their position when proclamations become due and when time has expired. This is fairly human and understandable as few people read Gazettes, and newspapers do not always report or report correctly.

My Committee would therefore be glad if your Department could devise some scheme through which all persons, of any race group, likely to be affected by proclamations under the Act, are officially advised of them and of the due date by which such proclamations would become effective. It would also be helpful if they could be informed at the same time of their rights under the Act.

It may be that this service could be rendered most easily and effectively by the local authority of the affected areas.

We shall be grateful if you will consider this suggestion.

Yours faithfully,

Quintin Whyte
DIRECTOR.
Mr. C.B. van Ryneveld, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. van Ryneveld,

I have followed with great interest and admiration your speeches in the House on the Group Areas Amendment Bill, and have read the rest of the debates. Congratulations on the concessions you were able to obtain.

One point is not clear to me, and I shall be most grateful if you will elucidate it. I realize that, when the Bill becomes law, all evacuation dates which have been fixed but which have not yet arrived will be cancelled.

But what will be the position in areas proclaimed for future White or Coloured ownership and occupation? Can the Minister, after an initial period of a year, give three months' notice to occupiers of residential premises in such areas? The recent Cape Town proclamation set certain areas aside for future White or Coloured ownership (not mentioning occupation), but I think I am right in saying that other proclamations, for example that for Pretoria, zoned certain parts (e.g. Highlands) for future White occupation.

I shall much appreciate your help.

Yours sincerely,

Muriel Horrell (Miss)
RESEARCH OFFICER.
4th April, 1961.

Miss Y. de Villiers,
18 Pillans Road,
Rosebank,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Miss de Villiers,

Attached are two copies of a report I have prepared for the May issue of "Race Relations News" dealing with group areas in Cape Town. This may be of assistance if a brief report is to be presented at your Regional meeting.

We will also be sending a more detailed report to each member of your committee - this is at present being roneoed.

Further, I have prepared copies of the map you saw, which we will send under separate cover. Would you please keep one free of charge for the Regional office?

I would suggest that the office might sell the rest to members of the Progressive Party, Black Sash and others interested. If we sold them at R1 each we would almost (but not quite) recover the costs of having them printed - discounting the time we spent preparing and colouring them in. In their monthly returns the office could account to our Secretary here for any cash received from sales.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Muriel Horrell (Miss)
RESEARCH OFFICER.
Miss M. Horrell,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
Box 97,
Johannesburg.

Dear Miss Horrell,

Thank you very much for your letter of 27th March.

You ask about the effect of the amending bill on areas proclaimed for future group ownership or occupation. I assume that you are not asking about "future group areas" in the strict sense, i.e. areas defined in terms of section 21, but about areas proclaimed in terms of section 20 for white or coloured occupation and/or ownership at a future date.

The new procedure for clearing group areas applies only to occupation and similarly the amendments only cancel the dates which have been laid down for terminating occupation by disqualified persons. As you say, the recent Cape Town proclamation set certain areas aside for ownership by whites and others for ownership by coloureds. In these areas the Minister cannot after the lapse of the initial year give people 3 months' notice to vacate.

Other areas were proclaimed for white (or coloured) ownership and occupation. In these after the lapse of the initial year - or rather after the lapse of 9 months - the Minister can give residents 3 months' notice to terminate their occupation. The position would be the same if the area had been proclaimed for occupation only.

I hope that answers your question.

For your interest have a look at the Minister's reply to the 3rd reading when you get the Hansard for Wed. 5th April and see what he said about whether the new section 16 bis, which allows him to proclaim for what purpose a building or area may be used, is a concession or not. When he introduced the bill in the Senate he said it was an important concession. On Wednesday he denied that he had ever presented it as a concession.

On reflection I think one of the purposes of this new section will be to establish Indian bazaars to which Indian businesses in other parts of towns will have to move. I'm sorry I didn't put this to him specifically.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

8th April, 1961.
GROUP AREAS ACT

Following previous correspondence with the Prime Minister on this subject, on the 20th February, 1961, we wrote again referring him to our letter dated 4th April, 1957, as follows:

"We would draw your attention to a letter dated 4th April, 1957, on the above subject:

'My Council, of whose extent and influence it is hoped you are aware, has given its best attention and consideration to the implications of the above Act over a lengthy period. It has viewed the measure with a due sense of responsibility, and a due regard for the future development of our country.

Assembled in plenary session, it resolved to express to you its conviction that the Act is undemocratic and impossible to implement without grave injustice, hardship and damage to the livelihood of non-Europeans. In these circumstances, it respectfully calls on you, Sir, to take the steps necessary to repeal the Act.

In view of the distress, both physical and moral, continuously being caused by the Act, we must further respectfully beg that its repeal be considered a matter of urgency.'

We wish to state that our views have in no way altered since this letter was written, and we deplore the further legislation introduced during the past Session.

This legislation in our opinion, does more harm to race relations in this country than any other measure."

We have now received his reply as follows:

"Your letter of the 20th February, 1961, to the Honourable the Prime Minister, has been referred to the Honourable the Deputy Minister of the Interior for attention.

The Deputy Minister has asked me to say that the Group Areas Act is an Act of Parliament, and the Government cannot consider a request for the repeal thereof.

The attitude of the Government is well known and the Deputy Minister does not wish to repeat what has been said so often in the past, except that in the recent debates in Parliament, the Government re-affirmed its pledges on the two most important points, namely that the Act will be applied with equity and reason, and that nobody who cannot fend for himself will be required to leave his home unless suitable alternative accommodation is available."
Dear Members,

This is my last letter to you as National President, the three years in office have passed very rapidly; three happy years during the course of which I have learned a great deal and had the great pleasure of meeting so many members and getting to know you in your own towns.

A very great number of changes have occurred during this time—in branch membership and in branch office-bearers, but I am thinking more of the changes happening in our national way of life. More and more women are working either in full or part-time employment, and this is bound to have a very marked effect on organizations such as ours.

The days of the leisureed woman are past and life seems to gather speed not only for the younger ones, but for the older women.

I want to impress upon you all, that it must never be forgotten by members of the National Council of Women how much has been done in past years by the far seeing and wise women who made up our Council in its early years.

This was brought home to us during the Jubilee celebrations, when we looked back and realized how much had been accomplished.

Now, because so much social service has been provided by the Government through the initial schemes started by voluntary organizations to show the necessity for such services, do not let us think our work has come to an end. Here in South Africa, history is unfolding and our women who have had the vote for many years now must feel the urge and need to go forward and find the way to help the woman who is voteless and often voiceless, to grow in civic responsibility and attain to the same status that we enjoy.

In spite of so much in the way of social services already provided, there is much still to do. The Care of the Aged, a field of work in which our Council has a proud record in many towns, and in many cases pioneer service. Créches for non-White children, again our Council was among the first to see this great and pressing need.

I sometimes feel that to-day, some measure of enthusiasm is lacking, we do not show or perhaps feel our pride in being members of such a great and world-wide organization as the International Council of Women.

We are not bound by any geographical boundaries, we are members of a band of women from old and experienced countries, young emergent states, all looking for knowledge to ensure their women a fair share and true place in the life of their countries. I realized anew the enormous strength that this international status gives our Council, when
I represented South Africa at the Triennial Conference of the International Council of Women at Istanbul last year. Many complimentary things were said about the National Council of Women of South Africa and about our official organ the N.C.W. News, which is read and admired all over the world where Councils exist.

I ended up my term of office with a short visit to Natal and had the great pleasure of meeting the Board of Officers designate in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. I spoke at meetings in both places and enjoyed my contacts with these branches, a very fitting last round of visits.

To all those whom I shall not see at Kimberley, I must say "Farewell", rather sadly. You have all been so kind, it has made the touring of branches a real pleasure and helped me enormously.

Always affectionately,

IDA M. NEWTON,
National President.

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In the Name of the Council

Action taken by the Board of Officers on behalf of N.C.W.S.A.

GROUP AREAS ACT

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N.C.W. News April 1961
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Union Education Advisory Council Bill

An Address delivered to the Port Elizabeth Branch by

Mr. H. Bezemer

The title sounds attractive and may appeal to people who have experience of the differences in our provincial systems. You may know how difficult it is sometimes for a child whose parents have been transferred from one province to another, to fit in with the conditions at his new school: for example, he may have to take new subjects, or the standard of a subject at his old school was much higher or lower than at his new school. So a coordinating body that would make it its business to attend to the details of the technique of education—courses, syllabuses, examinations—would be all to the good.

But when one studies the provisions of this Bill, one soon discovers that something quite different is aimed at. Let us examine the details.

The object of the Bill is to empower the Union Minister of Education, Arts and Science to appoint a Council that will advise him on matters educational. The Council shall consist of not less than seven and not more than twelve members. The Administrators of the four Provinces shall each recommend for appointment one person who shall have special knowledge of education matters in the province concerned. No mention is made of the qualifications required of the other members: the Minister may appoint a minister of religion or an ex-Senator who is looking for a job. The appointments are for five years; they are full-time appointments, so, for instance, a Director of Education or an Inspector of Schools is not eligible unless he is prepared to give up his present post.

What are the functions of this Council?

Clause 3 reads: "The Council shall advise the Minister generally in regard to the policy to be adopted in connection with the education of white persons, and shall further advise the Minister and any Administrator in regard to all matters affecting education which the Minister or such Administrator may refer to the Council..."

The education of white persons only: this is significant. Bantu Education has already been removed from the control of the Provinces. Does this Bill indicate that the present Government intends to take away also Coloured Education from the Provinces? Congresses of the Nationalist Party have from time to time asked for this removal—another example of the extension of the Government's apartheid policy. It would vitally affect the powers of the Cape Education
Department that has a fine record in this respect over a century of good administration.

And what is meant by "Policy to be adopted in connection with education"? The word "policy" is not defined in the Bill and may therefore mean anything and everything. Beautifully vague! And in its vagueness lies a great danger. It may include the possibility that the Minister will seek the advice of the Council on the question of mother tongue instruction and, as a result, the Council may advocate single medium schools as against parallel medium schools. It may mean that the Minister be advised to abolish school committees and thereby take away the little say parents have to-day, in the running of our schools. It may mean that the Council will advise the Minister to change the training of teachers in such a manner as to make them instruments for expounding Government's policies (remember what happened in Germany during the Hitler regime!).

The next clause follows on the lines of the previous ones. Clause 4 states that the Council may appoint Committees, under the direction of the Minister, to investigate at any school (non-Government schools are excluded from the provisions of this Bill) any matter affecting basic principles of education. But, again, the term "basic principle" is not defined. Numerous text books have been written on this subject; they all differ in content. Besides general principles, they include the teaching of specific subjects. And here again, the Council or Committee may well lay down what type of history should be taught or prescribe a particular syllabus for religious instruction. I hope that you begin to realize what the implications of this Bill may be.

The greatest danger lies in Clause 6 which says: "No proposed legislation relating to the education of white persons shall be introduced in either House of Parliament or in any Provincial Council except after prior consultation between the Minister and any other Minister of State or Administrator." This is the thin end of the wedge. To-day the Provinces are in charge of primary and secondary education. They make ordinances to give effect to this power. Clause 6 of this Bill will now give power to the Minister to override any proposed legislation of a Provincial Council. The Bill opens the way to a centralized system of education under the control of a Union Minister who, of necessity, is placed there for his political views. The Provinces will have to toe the line. I am thinking in this connection in particular of the Natal Provincial Council that is agitating for wider provincial powers. I leave it to you to draw your own conclusions.

Our schools are coming in for a good deal of criticism these days. Everybody is complaining about the general deterioration in the standard of education. Responsible Bodies such as organized industry and commerce tell us that our schools are not keeping abreast with modern developments in education and that the rapid progress in scientific and technical research is affecting our community life to such an extent as to demand a thorough overhaul of our educational system.

The Government should therefore appoint a Commission to investigate the shortcomings of our schools, a Commission on which the various interests of our Society should be well represented. It should confine itself to the mechanics of teaching before a central Advisory Council is appointed.

You will remember that, as a result of the changes brought about by the last World War, the de Villiers Commission was appointed to investigate these changes as far as they affected our schools that have to train the future generation. The result was tremendous. An extension of compulsory school attendance to Std. VIII or the age of 16, the reorganization of the primary school course and the establishment of a three-year secondary course in Junior High Schools.

A similar situation has arisen to-day: A new investigation should be made. But, instead, the Government has come forward with a piece of legislation that really puts the cart before the horse. Without making out a case to show that centralization is in the interests of education, and therefore justified, it introduces a subtle measure to give the Minister all these powers. Government supporters will, of course, deny that the Minister has any intention to act in the manner I have indicated. But if this Bill is passed in its present form he will make full use of the powers vested in him.

N.C.W. News April 1961
12th April, 1961.

Mr. C.B. van Ryneveld, M.P.,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. van Ryneveld,

Thank you so much for your very prompt and helpful reply dated 8 April to my letter. I am relieved to hear that the position in areas proclaimed for White or Coloured occupation and/or ownership at a future date is not altered in terms of the amending Bill, but the position in areas which were previously "dated" is a most serious one.

I will certainly study the Minister's reply to the Third Reading—so far the Hansard has not arrived. Your conclusion that he possibly intends establishing Indian bazaars seems to me to be a sound one. This would, of course, help a few Indians, but they would form a small proportion only of the total number now engaged in trading, and the Government is still offering no alternative possibilities for all these others.

Again, thank you so much.

Yours sincerely,

Muriel Horrell (Miss)
RESEARCH OFFICER.
RELIEF FOR DISPLACED INDIAN TRADERS.

By the Hon. R. Feetham

On the 27th April of this year the Group Areas Board in Pietermaritzburg addressed a letter to the Town Clerk which frankly admits the disastrous effects on the future of local Indian traders which, in the absence of any special measures for their relief, are bound to result from enforcement of existing Group Areas Proclamations affecting Pietermaritzburg, and pleads for the City Council's active help in a suggested plan for mitigating the unhappy consequences of recommendations for which the Board, in discharge of its functions under the Group Areas Act, has apparently felt obliged to make itself responsible.

The opening paragraphs of the Board's letter read as follows:

"The Group Areas Board is experiencing some difficulty in the resettling of Indian shopkeepers on account of the fact that the Indian community is to a large extent dependent upon trade for its livelihood, and that the number of Indian shopkeepers is abnormally large in relation to the total Indian population.

"The relative group cannot, therefore, make a reasonable living, and exist as a separate and self-supporting group, if the shopkeepers are to be confined to their own racial group for trading purposes. It cannot also be expected of the Indian traders, some of whom are elderly people, to change their vocation all of a sudden."

The letter goes on to suggest that "in order to obviate a large percentage of the Indians becoming a burden upon the State after resettlement in their own Group Areas, it would appear to be desirable that the Indian areas should be so planned as to enable Indians to make a reasonable living" as shopkeepers in their own areas, and that the planning of Indian Group Areas must therefore be such as to make possible "a reasonable measure of trading with members of other racial groups", but "the concentration of non-Indians in the Indian residential areas" should, it is stated, nevertheless be avoided.

In the light of the above considerations the Board says that "it would appear to be desirable" for Indians to have
their shops "on as near the edge of the Group Areas as near as possible to an access road, and not in the residential areas as is customary", and the Board further suggests that sufficient trading lots to meet the requirements of non-Indian customers should be provided in such situations.

It is explained that the co-operation of the City Council is sought by the Board, in order to give effect to this scheme, because the zoning of lots for trading purposes falls within the scope of the City Council and not of the Group Areas Board.

There has so far apparently been no intimation of willingness on the part of the City Council, which opposes enforcement of existing Group Areas Proclamations, to co-operate on the lines suggested.

I have quoted at some length the Board's letter of the 27th April, which though issued to the Press appears to have been given very little publicity, because I regard its contents as highly significant.

For here we have a Group Areas Board in effect recognising and deploring the consequences of its own recommendations, and seeking to save Indian traders from the ruinous results of banishment from their long-established shops in Pietermaritzburg's main thoroughfares, by proposing - in what almost looks like defiance of basic principles of separation of races - to make it easy for customers of other races to go shopping in an Indian Group Area.

Admiration for the bold attitude of the Board in putting forward such a proposal must not, however, blind us to the inevitable weakness of the Board's benevolent scheme, which seems fated in the majority of cases to prove futile, because only a comparatively small proportion of former non-Indian customers can be counted on as likely to be tempted away from familiar and consequently frequented main thoroughfares to indulge in expeditions along access roads for the purpose of shopping in unfamiliar surroundings.

But the fact that such a proposal, for alleviating the hardships of displaced Indian traders, has come from a Group Areas Board should surely have a sobering and enlightening effect on many who may have hitherto been in favour of rigorous
application of the Group Areas Act in so far as Indian traders are concerned, and should lead to frank recognition that, as Indians are now to be fully recognised as part of South Africa's permanent population, they should no longer be subjected to deprivation of facilities for continuing to carry on their trading concerns side by side with other competitors, in central trading areas.
The Hon. O.D. Schreiner
President:

The Director,
S.A. Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Reference is made to your letter of 5th April, regarding Group Areas information. The Regional Committee felt that the occupiers of premises affected by the Group Areas proclamations should be informed of their position, under these proclamations. It was felt that the informing of at least the present occupiers would be practicable, and could be arranged by the authorities through the ordinary postal services or such other means as they consider efficient.

As a request to the department concerned, to take the necessary steps, was considered necessary, it was thought that such a step should be taken at the national rather than the regional level, as the implementation of separate residential areas in the towns is, itself, being brought about at the national level.

The Committee felt that the making of representations to the Minister of the Interior, in this connection, should therefore be reconsidered.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

JM.

The Hon. the Minister of the Interior,
House of Assembly,
CAPE TOWN.

Sir,

The Regional Committee of the Institute in Cape Town is very disturbed about the uncertainty caused by the Group Areas Proclamations in that area and, indeed, about the ignorance of those affected of the implications for them.

While recognising the difficulties, the Regional Committee, nevertheless, suggests that at least the present occupiers should be informed of their position. Perhaps this could be done through the post.

My Committee consider that this would do much to relieve present tension and anxieties.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Whyte,
Director.
Ministerie van Binnelandse Sake,
Ministry of the Interior,
Marks Buildings,
CAPE TOWN.


The Director,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
P.O.Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of the Interior to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th May, 1961, in connection with Group Areas Proclamations.

Your letter has been referred to the Honourable the Deputy Minister of the Interior, who is more directly concerned with the administration of the Group Areas Act.

Yours faithfully,

PRIVATE SECRETARY.
The Director,
South African Institute of Race Relations,
P.O. Box 97,
JOHANNESBURG.

Sir,

re: PROCLAMATION OF GROUP AREAS IN THE CAPE PENINSULA.

With reference to your letter of the 12th May, 1961, and by direction of the Honourable the Deputy Minister of the Interior, I wish to inform you that proclamations in connection with group areas in the Cape Peninsula were only issued after very careful consideration. Hardships which might have been occasioned by these proclamations and which may still arise will receive the necessary attention at the opportune time. As has been repeatedly stated in and outside Parliament, no person who is unable to provide for his own accommodation, will be called upon to vacate his home unless and until alternative housing could be furnished.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

SECRETARY : GROUP AREAS BOARD.
GROUP AREAS in CAPE TOWN

Like so many other group areas proclamations, the recent one for the southern suburbs of Cape Town imposes a grossly disproportionate burden of sacrifice on the Non-White people. In general, the pattern is that they will be required to leave the gracious suburbs on the mountain slopes, and the lovely Constantia valley, to move out to the sandy wastes of the Cape Flats where, as yet, many of the services necessary for civilized living are lacking.

It will be remembered that, in terms of the proclamations issued in 1957 and 1958, the entire Table Mountain area, including the Atlantic coast suburbs, was reserved for Whites, as were also the major portions of Goodwood, Vasco, Parow, Bellville and Kuils River. Malays were allowed to retain the Malay Quarter on the slopes of Signal Hill; and the Kensington area to the south of the main road to the interior, which includes the evil slum of Windermere, was allocated to Coloured people. In general, however, the scheme was that the Coloured should settle on the Cape Flats. Two undeveloped stretches of ground in the Flats were set aside for Indians.

The whole of Cape Town has not yet been zoned, the future of the central city area, Epping Village and the Black River area of Rondebosch having yet to be decided.

The proclamation of February 10, 1961, dealt with the large area stretching from Salt River in the north down to Retreat, and from Hout Bay in the west across to Zeekoe Vlei. With the exception only of the Battswood area, which the Coloured people will retain, and a small stretch of land adjoining Athlone township, the entire region west of the Cape Flats railway line is allocated to Whites. The White group will also retain Ottery, and land around Zeekoe and Ronde Vleis has been assigned to them.

The new areas allotted to the Coloured people are Battswood, land to the south of Athlone, and the Retreat/Lotus River Estate area, including Princess Vlei and Little Princess Vlei.

Varying dates were set within which disqualified persons will have to move. In a few parts where there are especially large numbers of such persons no date was fixed, the areas being demarcated for future White or future Coloured ownership. These dates will, however, fall away when the 1961 Group Areas Amendment Bill becomes law. Then, after an initial period of a year, the Minister of the Interior will be able to give three months' notice to occupiers of residential premises, and twelve months' notice to occupiers of business premises.

Numbers Affected by the Proclamations

The Group Areas Development Board intimated in 1958 that 3,000 properties were affected by the proclamation of the previous year. Approximately 16,000 persons were probably involved, nearly all Non-White.

According to information given in the Assembly by the Deputy Minister of the Interior on 7 March, 1961, the following numbers of persons were affected by the proclamations of 1958 and 1961.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1958</th>
<th>1961</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>1,829</td>
<td>5,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coloured</td>
<td>34,604</td>
<td>44,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1,511</td>
<td>2,147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|          | 37,944| 52,233|

Probable totals, then, are about 7,371 Whites, 94,148 Coloured and 4,658 Asians.
The Deputy Minister said that his figures were based on the 1951 census. Since 1951, he added, many people had moved in consequence of permit control and the eradication of slum conditions. But, of course, as against this the population has grown in the past ten years.

At the time of writing (March 1961), the Group Areas Development Board did not know how many people would have to move. Its officials were engaged in examining documents in the Deeds Office, and thereafter intended making house-to-house visits in the proclaimed areas.

Assuming, however, that the figures given above are approximately correct, this would mean that 2.6 per cent of the present White population of the metropolitan area of Cape Town are affected, as against 51.0 per cent. of the Asians and 25.7 per cent. of the Coloured people.

It would seem that the Minister’s figures in respect of the Asians are too low. Nearly all of the 9,134 of them in the metropolitan area will eventually have to move their homes.

Housing schemes for Coloured people.

As at the end of September 1960 the Cape Town City Council had provided about 10,000 dwellings for Coloured people, while the Divisional Council of the Cape had built 3,729. These authorities stated that about another 15,000 dwellings were needed for the rehousing of families living in pondokkies in their areas alone.

Besides these, very large numbers of Coloured families had built their own homes. The Cape Flats Distress Association had provided 336 dwellings at Retreat.

The municipal houses vary enormously in standard. Some of them, at Athlone, are good. Others, for example recently erected row houses off Prince George Drive, Retreat (west of Ronde Vlei), while admittedly intended for the lower income groups, are dreary in the extreme. Most of the row houses contain four dwelling units, there are no interior walls, and the plots are covered with loose sand.

The Group Areas Development Board in Cape Town, in co-operation with the National Housing Commission, is providing a “token” scheme of 150 good detached houses at Duinefontein. It handles exchanges of properties that have become necessary as the result of the group areas proclamations.

Increased funds have been offered by the National Housing Commission to the Cape Town City Council on the condition that the latter will allocate 20 per cent of the houses thus erected to persons displaced under the Group Areas Act.

Housing schemes for Coloured people at present in progress or being planned include the following:

1. The City Council is to build 5,200 dwellings at Bonteheuvel (east of Athlone), for people of the lower income groups.
2. It is extending the Factreton scheme in the Kensington area.
3. The Garden Cities Utility Company is planning a new town to be established in Bellville South, to cater for between 12,000 and 15,000 people.
4. Extensions to the Bishop Lavis Township are being planned by the Citizens’ Housing League.
5. Parow municipality intends providing a housing scheme in the south of its area.
6. Goodwood municipality will build 12,000 dwellings at Elsies River, and the Government will provide another 14,000 there.
7. The Cafda housing scheme in the Retreat area is to be extended.
8. The Garden Cities Utility Company is planning two projects, also to be established in the Retreat area.
9. The Divisional Council of the Cape is considering providing a small scheme for fishermen at Hout Bay.

In general, the local authorities are catering for people of the lower income groups, while the utility companies are providing better dwellings to be sold on a hire-purchase basis. People who wish to build for themselves may apply for individual loans from the
National Housing Commission.

So far as can be ascertained, no authority is planning a housing scheme for the Indians who will be displaced under the group areas proclamations.

According to the Provincial Education Department and the Cape School Board, Coloured people will be permitted to continue making use of educational institutions in areas now zoned for Whites for as long as these institutions are needed. The same will apply to religious institutions.

Schools are, however, being provided in the new housing areas, thus those in the White areas will gradually fall into disuse.

During the past two decades, in the area of the Cape School Board, the educational authorities have been catching up on the backlog as well as catering for the natural increase in the population. In 1946 there were some 15,000 Coloured children in the 7 to 13 age group who could not be admitted to schools in this area; by February 1959 this figure had been reduced to about 2,300.

General conclusions.

The new and extensive housing projects are, of course, to be welcomed, for thousands of Coloured families are living in pondokkies in the bush, or in tenement house in the city.

Some of these projects are excellent; but the low standard of the newer letting schemes gives cause for concern. Admittedly these dwellings are much better than pondokkies; nevertheless it seems possible that new slum conditions may develop.

There is a very great deal to be done in regard to the provision of services. So far, for example, there is no sewerage system in the whole Retreat area. Many of the streets in the Coloured townships are mere sand tracks.

While welcoming the housing schemes, one must point out that the Group Areas Act was not necessary for the provision of these, and deprecate in the strongest possible terms the heartless uprooting of so many Coloured families from pleasant suburbs where they have lived for generations.

It should also once again be stressed that as the Coloured, Indian and African townships are very far out from the centre of the city, these people are involved in high transport costs and long and tiring journeys to work.

M.H.

LUCID LEGISLATION

GROUP AREAS AMENDMENT BILL

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 28 OF ACT 77 OF 1957

Section twenty-eight of the principal Act is hereby amended:

(a) by the substitution in sub-section (1) for the words "sub-section (3) of section fifteen" of the words "paragraph (c) of sub-section (2) or sub-section fifteen", the insertion in that sub-section after the word "sixteen" where it appears for the first time of the words "paragraph (c) of section sixteen biz", the substitution in that sub-section for the words "sub-section (2) of section twenty-three" of the words "paragraph (c) of sub-section (2) or paragraph twenty-three", the deletion in that sub-section of the words "or revoke", the insertion in that sub-section after the word "conditions" of the words "or revoke any permit referred to in sub-section (13) of section eighteen", and the deletion in that sub-section of the words "by the board";

(b) by the substitution in sub-section (2) for the words "sub-section (3) of section fifteen or sub-section (2) of section twenty-three" of the words "paragraph (c) of sub-section (2) or sub-section (4) of section fifteen, paragraph (h), (i) or (o) of sub-section (2) of section seventeen or paragraph (c) of sub-section (2) or paragraph (a) of sub-section (3) of section twenty-three".
The Regional Secretary,
Cape Western Region,
203 Bree Street,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Mr. Oxley,

May I recapitulate for you some of the methods used by Natal to publicise the Group Areas proclamations? They might be of assistance to your committee.

1. A series of articles and maps was published in the local Press.

2. Two articles were written by the Regional Organiser explaining in simplified terms how to tackle the forms and compensation difficulties. These were published in the Non-European Press as well.

3. Pulls of both sets were widely distributed through ratepayers associations.

4. No office was set up to help individual queries but the Regional office acted as consultants to associations.

5. Close liaison was maintained with the officials of the Board to help them publicise the proclamations as effectively as possible. It was necessary to emphasise that the onus for enquiry is on the person affected and not on the Board to inform.

It was good to see you at the meetings.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) M. Scott,
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.
SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974

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