

Joint Council

1.4.2

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

27th April, 1936.

The Honourable Patrick Duncan, K.C., C.M.G., M.P.,
Houses of Parliament,
CAPE TOWN.

Dear Sir,

NATIVES LAND AND TRUST BILL

I have been instructed to write to you in connection with the financial provision which will be made by Parliament for the purposes of the Native Trust which it is proposed to set up. My Council is very much concerned to see that adequate funds are provided now, not only for the purchase of land, but also for the agricultural and other development of the Reserves. The Council has made enquiries in several quarters, and is satisfied that the capital sum which should be made available to the Trust should be £30,000,000. This is regarded as the minimum amount required to purchase and develop the scheduled areas, and we would urge you to use your influence to see that this sum is provided by Parliament.

POLICE AND NATIVES

I am instructed to write to you on this matter also, which has been the cause of grave concern to my Council for many years past. On several occasions we have made representations to the Minister of Justice urging him to appoint a Commission to investigate the highly unsatisfactory relations which exist between Natives and the police. Allegations of bribery and mishandling which are so frequently made are very difficult to prove, but we feel even if many of the allegations are exaggerated, the situation is sufficiently serious to warrant careful investigation.

We would urge you, therefore, to make every effort to ensure

--that--

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that the scope of the enquiry, which has been foreshadowed by the Minister of Justice, should be extended to include all aspects of the relations between Natives and the police.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

LYNN SAFFERY

HONORARY SECRETARY

ALS/ML.

May 7th, 1937.

To the Editor of The Star

Sir:-

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Johannesburg Joint Council of Europeans and Africans, we wish to thank you for your statesmanlike leader, in your issue of Thursday, the 6th instant, in opposition to the Government's declared intention to rush the Native Laws Amendment Bill through in the closing days of this Session.

The Johannesburg Joint Council has telegraphed to Members of Parliament who are opposed to steam-rolling this Bill through the Assembly without adequate consideration, urging them to fight against its passage by every constitutional weapon, even at the price of indefinite prolongation of the Session.

The main reasons why the Bill should not now be passed, may be briefly recapitulated:-

1. Public opinion, both European and Native, is insufficiently acquainted with the details of the Bill, in the form in which it has recently emerged from the Select Committee.
2. So far as details have become known, they arouse grave misgivings both concerning the justice and the practicability of many of its provisions.
3. It is essential to the forming of the proper judgment on the Bill that it should be studied side by side with the report of the Barrett-Young Commission on the urban Native. But this report was only made available to Members of Parliament when the Bill was reported out of the Select Committee and is not yet available to the general public.

4. Many Churches and Mission Societies are deeply disturbed by the apparent injury to their work among the Natives; and, apart from protests by individual Churches, the Church Council has telegraphed a protest, signed by the Rev. W. Nicol, Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church in the Transvaal.
5. Whatever may, or may not, have been the Prime Minister's promise concerning representatives of Native opinion being consulted, the Government's determination to force the Bill through now, just before the Natives Representation Act, passed last year (with the election, in June, of a Native Representative Council, of four members of Senate, and three members of the Assembly) comes into effect, will be felt by all Natives to be a breach of faith, in the spirit, if not in the letter. Rightly or wrongly, the Government's haste suggests that Ministers are afraid to expose the Bill to the criticism of the spokesmen, Native and European, of Native interests.
6. With the pressure of legislation still to be disposed of at the end of the Session, a Bill of such complexity as this, to which more than six pages of amendments have already been tabled, has no chance of the careful and detailed consideration which it requires. No Bill affecting Europeans would be treated in such cavalier fashion.

For these reasons, the Johannesburg Joint Council desires, even at this late stage, to appeal once more to the Government, not to proceed with the Bill until it has been submitted to the Native Representative Council, and can be discussed in a Parliament in which White representatives of Native opinion, elected by the Natives themselves, have taken their places.

CHAIRMAN

Safety

PAST CHAIRMAN

JOHANNESBURG JOINT COUNCIL OF EUROPEANS
AND AFRICANS



UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND.
JOHANNESBURG.

TELEGRAMS: "UNIVERSITY."
TELEPHONE NO. 44-3781.

P. O. Box 1176.
JOHANNESBURG.

Edith Van Colter
at

~~Johannesburg Joint Council~~ We urge Dominion Party
wages (you)

to fight against passage of Native Laws
Amendment Bill by every constitutional
weapon means even at price of indefinite pro-
longation of session. Please communicate
this telegram to all United Party sym-
patizers.

J.H.S. J.C.

Collier

We urge Dominion Party to fight
.....
..... Session.



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JOHANNESBURG.

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TELEPHONE NO. 44-3781.

P. O. BOX 1176.
JOHANNESBURG.

Molteno:

Please urge all members of Assembly, who
voted against Second Reading Native Lands
Amendment Bill and any others who are
opponents of Bill to ~~fight~~ ^{fight} ~~resist~~ its passage every
~~opposed to~~ inch of the way even at price of indefinite
prolongation of session.

A. 54.

May 14th
1934.

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(Skryf asseblief duidelik—Please write distinctly.)						Om—At _____ m.
AAN TO						Na—To _____
Molteno, 4 Male St. Dimple Chamber I.O.						Deur—By _____

Please urge all assembly members who voted against 2nd Reading Native Laws Amendment Bill and any other opponents of Bill to fight its passage every inch of the way even at price of indefinite prolongation of session.

VAN
FROM Jhb. Jt. Council

§ G.P.—S.8669—1936—5,000—200. S.

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A. 54.

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						Deur—By _____

I urge you to fight against passage of
 thate Louis Amendment Bill by every
 constitutional weapon even at price of
 indefinite prolongation of session
 Please communicate this telegram to all
 United Party sympathisers.

VAN FROM Jhb. Jt. Lorraine

§ G.P.-S.8669—1936—5,000—200. S.

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AAN TO <i>Coulter, House of Assembly. Et.</i>						Na—To _____
						Deur—By _____

the urge Dominion Party to fight against passage of native laws amendment Bill by every constitutional weapon even at price of indefinite prolongation of session.

VAN FROM

Jhb. J. Council

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