

I Declaration of the Rights of a Child.

The African people sincerely affirm the rights of the child as defined in the Declaration of Geneva as follows :-

- (a) Every child is entitled to normal development.
- (b) If hungry to be fed; if sick to be medically treated; if backward to be helped suitably; if delinquent to be reclaimed; if orphan to be succoured.
- (c) The child should be the first to receive relief in times of distress.
- (d) Every child must be put into a position to earn its living and guarded against exploitation.
- (e) The child should be reared with the object of serving its fellow beings.

The above principles give us a clearer and broader conception of our social responsibilities and define our social and educational objectives better than orthodox text books on Education have done. Herein we shall elucidate a few points which are necessary if the above principles are to be implemented.

II The Education of the African Child.

- (a) Education should be legally guaranteed to every African child between certain defined Age limits.
- (b) The Upper educational limit should be in keeping with that of the Childrens' Protection Act. The legal clause which allows employment to a child below 16 if the consent of the parent has been secured should be withdrawn as being in conflict with the normal development of a child in these modern times.
- (c) With a view to the effective execution of (a) and (b) adequate financial provision should be made for more schools and teachers for the African child. The leeway between the children who should be in schools and those who are actually in schools should be bridged only in this way.
- (d) The Education of the African child should be accepted as a State responsibility and should be financed out of General Consolidated Revenue.

III Provisions relating to African Juvenile Delinquency.

- (a) African youths should be brought to the level where they can educationally qualify for Apprenticeship (Std VI or VII)
- (b) Opportunities should be given for African youth to acquire skill and training necessary for their proper adjustment in the industrial world.
- (c) There should be established in every urban centre African Juvenile Affairs Employment Boards to facilitate the acquisition of jobs by African youths where they can properly utilise their energy, skill and intelligence. African Head Teachers and African Welfare Officers should serve on such boards.
- (d) The African youth should not be liable for the Poll Tax until the age of 21. The present position of requiring youngsters at 18 liable for the Native tax makes the economic system have a very powerful draw on these young people and so conduces to Juvenile delinquency.
- (e) African schools should assist with the collection and the collation of facts relating to the many students who fail to return to school, fail at the end of the year and those who drop off school in the middle of the term or year. How many such become delinquents?
- (e) With a view to retaining as many children as possible in school schooling should be made congenial by the erection of attractive school buildings, the appearance of the classrooms, the equipment of a childrens Reading Room and the organisation of a programme of sports and games during and after school by a qualified person on the permanent staff of a large school.

Delinquency and Unstable Family Conditions.

There is no doubt that some Juvenile Delinquency is due to unstable or unsuitable family conditions. The youth has not enough to eat at home because the parents cannot afford buying more food and so the children go abegging. Children of both sexes share the same room at night or they may even share the same room for sleeping as their parents. Such sex relations are vitiating to young minds; hence delinquency is the outcome. Hence these suggestin

- (a) Every African should be provided with a minimum living wage defined by legislation.
- (b) Housing provisions should such that they allow of the separation of parents from children and of the sexes for sleeping purposes.

A Programme of Local Services for the Africans.

The establishment of places of Safety and Detention for Native Juvenile Offenders. Africans to find employment in such institutions.

- (b) Suitably qualified Africans to serve at the Juvenile Courts and act as liaison officers between the Magistrate and the African Child Welfare Societies.
- (c) Africans to be encouraged and assisted financially in the organisation and maintenance of Child Welfare Societies.
- (d) A Sports and Recreational officer to be appointed to serve African youth in the schools and at the Locations. The Municipality and the Education Department should finance such appointments.
- (e) Centres of instruction in Home Economics should be established at every location and at every large school so as to serve African mothers willing to attend and girls who are still in school.
- (f) A social Welfare Agency should be established to cater to persons just out of prisons, persons just out of hospitals Destitute persons with no visible means of support, and orphan children
- (g) Arrangements should be made for medical inspection and treatment in African schools within a defined locality.

Perhaps the African National Congress might use some ^{of} the money that it has to subsidise some of these posts and services or to initiate them for a limited time until the Municipalities and the Government can take them over. It might be up to us to show the need for these services, demonstrate our ability to run them and then get the proper agencies to take them over as going concerns.

I should like to draw your attention to the recommendation I have made under (f) where a general Social Welfare Agency is envisaged. If a number of welfare agencies and establishments are set up it will mean not only reduplication of efforts, but a waste of money on capital expenditure. In my opinion there would be a considerable saving in erecting one huge building where the different branches of Native Welfare could be served — Child Welfare, Creches, Relief and Rehabilitation, Home Economics and Adult Instruction, etc., etc. Lastly I would like you to consider as part of a national and local programme the need of Africans filling some of the high administrative jobs in location administration. Being in touch with their people they could serve them better as to their needs and problems and advise the municipalities better when it comes to suggesting and carrying out policies.

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