

P.O.Box 81, C2 229
Alice, C.P.
Union of South Africa.
8-2-60

Miss Esther Simpson,
5 Old Burlington Street,
London, W.1
England.

Dear Miss Simpson,

Thank you for your letter of 14th January, 1960 in which you inquire about my position since my resignation from the University College of Fort Hare.

I should like to say at the outset how deeply appreciative I am of the interest of your Society not only in me personally but in all those who have been dismissed or who have resigned from Fort Hare. It is good to know that our professional colleagues in other parts of the world sympathise with us in the predicament in which we have been placed by the Union Government's political onslaught on university education for non-whites in South Africa.

I have filled in the questionnaire which you sent me. I hope I have answered all the questions to your satisfaction. As I have indicated I have been offered temporary Visiting Professorships by a number of American institutions, namely, Union Theological Seminary in New York, the New School of Social Research in New York and Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. But my acceptance of any of these offers is dependent upon my getting a passport from the Union Government. The same applies to an inquiry I have had from the University College of Ghana in connection with their new Institute of African Law. I am not very optimistic about the possibility of my getting a passport, but I am making the necessary application. In the meantime I have commenced legal practice as an Attorney in Alice. It will naturally take time before I can be assured of a steady income from this source. My chief anxiety at the present time is in connection with the education of the children who are still dependent upon me. These include a son, John Knox, to whose position I have referred in answering the questionnaire, a daughter, Frieda, who is also a medical student at the Non-European Medical School in Durban, Natal and another daughter, Ethel, who is training as a nurse at the McCord Mission Hospital, also in Durban, Natal, but as I say I am chiefly worried about the position of my son at Birmingham University.

I am also in receipt of yours of 25th January 1960 in which you inquire about Lady Agnew.

No doubt Lady Agnew has given you all the you require about her academic qualifications. All I wish to say is that during her stay at Fort Hare we found her to be a capable head of the Department of Geography. In a short time she built up the Geography Department into one of the largest and the most efficiently run in the College. She obtained excellent results with her students with whom she got on very well. In the College as a whole, i.e. outside her Department she played a full part in all staff and student activities and in the Senate and its various Committees. I have no hesitation in saying that she would be a valuable addition to the staff of any university college. She gets on so well with non-white students that I personally would prefer to see her return to some part of Africa, say, Makerere College in Uganda. She is a keen research student and would I am sure in time make a valuable contribution to the development of geographical studies in Africa.

Thanking you again for your kind interest,

Yours sincerely,

J. K. Wadsworth