



From the editor • Van die redakteur

The 5th General Practitioners' Congress Johannesburg Sun, 13 to 18 April 1986

A most exciting and vibrant congress is over. The emphasis on skills was popular. Workshop sessions were well attended. In each session delegates learnt to improve and extend their skills in a very practical way. The pharmaceutical industry was well represented, and with many services for congress delegates such as photocopying, photography and a hospitality suite, assisted greatly in making this a very effective congress.

Minister's remarks

Readers of *SA Family Practice* will all have seen the great deal of publicity the daily press gave to a few introductory political remarks made by the Minister of Health, Dr W van Niekerk. The Congress organisers and the Academy Council had wished not to comment. There was, however, such pressure from the media that the following statement was issued to the press. It was sometimes half quoted or not at all. We therefore place it here in full, as well as his main speech elsewhere in this issue, which shows a very perceptive and positive attitude towards our discipline.

Academy Statement

Statement unanimously accepted by the Council of the South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care on Wednesday, 16th April 1986.

"That while this Council has high regard for Dr W van Niekerk as a fellow scientist and accepts his belief that nobody is above the law and believes that his statement made at the opening of the 5th General Practitioners Academic Congress, which accused unnamed doctors as belonging to an unspecified group of revolutionary activity, was inappropriate to the occasion and created a misconceived image of our profession.

The Council also wished to express its sincerest appreciation for the positive and realistic attitude which is held by the Honourable Minister of National Health and Population Development in respect of the present and future priority to be given to primary care as the basis of successful health care to the whole community of South Africa."

Sam Felsen