June 21, 1971

Dear Senator:

We write to urge you to vote for the amendment to the Sugar Bill (Amendment No. 19B, the South African Sugar Quota Amendment to the Sugar Act Amendment of 1971), which would exclude South Africa from receiving a quota allocation. As you are aware, the U.S. Congress must vote to extend the Sugar Act this year. On Thursday, June 10, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8866 extending the act with certain modifications. The only major effort made by a number of Congressmen to change the closed rule principle preventing amendments to the bill from the floor came on the issue of the quota allocation to South Africa. The vote of 216-166 indicates the gravity with which the South African question was taken by a significant number of members of the House. 166 members voted to eliminate the 60,000 ton quota worth $5 million allocated to South Africa.

The Senate will be voting on the Sugar Bill soon. We strongly believe that South Africa should not receive a quota. The House Agriculture Committee set six principles which should be met in granting quotas to foreign countries which supply the United States with sugar. South Africa violates three of these:

First, the Agriculture Committee said that a quota recipient should not discriminate against American citizens. South Africa by law discriminates against blacks. These laws are aimed at Africans, but as many well-known as well as less prominent Americans have discovered, they too are included. Arthur Ashe, the outstanding tennis player, is one of the most recent cases.

Second, the recipient country should be a developing one, and it should depend upon revenue from sugar sales as a source of foreign exchange and need economic aid from the United States. South Africa is defined by A.I.D. as a developed country, and does not receive any other government programmed "aid" from the U.S. except for the sugar quota. Thus the quota to South Africa violates one of the guiding principles set by the House Agriculture Committee.

Third, in the recipient country there should be a sharing of the benefits received from the quota between the sugar owners and workers. In South Africa 92 per cent of the sugar is produced by 15 white sugar firms, paying their workers wages below the minimum poverty datum line.
Finally, the quota to South Africa violates the essence of the Foreign Assistance Act which says that governments which discriminate, racially or otherwise, should not receive U.S. aid. Only in South Africa is racial segregation established by national law. There a police state has been created for eighty percent of the population who are non-white.

We urge you to take seriously the principles which should be honored in granting sugar quotas and vote to exclude South Africa. We ask that you vote for Amendment No. 198 to the Sugar Bill.

Sincerely,

George M. Houser
Executive Director