



## U.S. BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA:

# Connecticut Voices for Withdrawal



Many citizens of Connecticut are voicing their support for legislation which will end the investment of State monies in companies and banks doing business in South Africa. Two bills calling for divestment were submitted to Connecticut's 1981 General Assembly. Here are excerpts from some of the statements made in favor of the bills:

### **COMMUNITY**

The NAACP, along with a broad range of organizations and individuals, would like to call upon the Finance and Appropriations Committees to make a commitment to divestment from South Africa. We strongly urge the Pension Commissions on the State and City level to also take a stand on divestment.

JAMES ANDERSON, GREATER HARTFORD NAACP

The Greater Hartford Chapter of Operation P.U.S.H. (People United to Save Humanity) completely supports the position of divestiture taken by the Connecticut Anti-Apartheid Committee.

JAMES R. REED, THE GREATER HARTFORD CHAPTER OF OPERATION P.U.S.H.

Our one imperative nationally is to eliminate racism wherever it exists and by whatever means possible. Apartheid is a system of racism which pervades every aspect of South African life. We join with the international movement against apartheid and call for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. companies from South Africa. We give our support to the bills before the 1981 Assembly which call for divestment of state funds from companies and banks doing business in South Africa.

Y.W.C.A. OF THE HARTFORD REGION  
WORLD MUTUAL SERVICE COMMITTEE, Y.W.C.A.  
BETTINA BORDERS, REGIONAL BRANCH DIRECTOR, Y.W.C.A.

The Black Women's Caucus for Political Action strongly supports the Connecticut Anti-Apartheid Committee's campaign for divestment. In understanding the Sullivan Principles, we feel that they have done little to end the racist apartheid system in South Africa. Therefore, we are calling upon the Finance and Appropriations Committee to strongly consider passing HB # 5740.

BARBARA BLACKWELL, BLACK WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR POLITICAL ACTION,  
HARTFORD, CT.

### **LABOR**

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers has endorsed the principles and goals of the Connecticut Anti-Apartheid Committee. We stand four-square with the Committee in support of the proposed Bill #5470 and proposed Bill #6374. The policies of the Republic of South Africa are repulsive to all people who believe in fair play, human rights, collective bargaining, and the democratic process. Any individual, any corporation, any State or local government, that does not move to divest its interests in South Africa is flagrantly perpetuating the very worst elements of the so-called human race.

LOU KIEFER, DISTRICT 91 ORGANIZER, I.A.M.

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For more information: CONNECTICUT ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE  
P.O. BOX 727  
WATERBURY, CT 06720

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The United Auto Workers (UAW) is firmly opposed to U.S. investment in South Africa. Corporations kill two birds with one stone when they invest there. They increase their profits by paying lower wages and they weaken the domestic labor movement by creating unemployment or threatening to "run away". We support HB# 5740.

BERNIE MC KINNON, UAW CONNECTICUT STATE CAP DIRECTOR

The Connecticut State Federation of Teachers deplores the inhumane regime of apartheid presently functioning in South Africa. We urge the support of the bills before the legislature concerning divestment of State funds from South Africa. The present legislation which excuses U.S. companies which have signed the Sullivan Principles is insufficient. It is increasingly apparent that the Principles allow U.S. companies to continue their support of the apartheid regime. Teachers do not want their pension funds invested in racism.

GEORGE SPRINGER, PRESIDENT, CT. STATE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

The Board of Directors of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) urges the State Treasurer to consider divesting the State's pension funds from companies and banks with interests in South Africa which have the effect of supporting the apartheid policies of the existing white minority regime there, and to consider the positive investment of these funds in fiscally prudent ways which will have the effect of supporting policies which are more socially and environmentally positive.

FROM A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CT. EDUCATION ASSOCIATION IN APRIL, 1980.

AFSCME Local 1716 represents almost 700 municipal workers employed by the City of Hartford. On March 3, 1981, we voted to support the bills (HB #5740 and HB #6347). Our initiatives are in line with the policy of both our own International Union and the AFL-CIO. Divestment also clearly follows the intent of our International Constitution which states in part that our objectives are "(T)o work with our brothers and sisters in other lands towards the improvement of the conditions of life and work in all countries... and towards genuine fraternity of all workers." We see our stand as an affirmative response to the request for international support from trade union groups such as SACTU (South African Congress of Trade Unions ).

HOWARD E. FARGO, PRESIDENT, LOCAL 1716, AFSCME

In accordance with a January 1978 resolution passed by District 1199, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, RWDSU/AFL-CIO, which mandates that "no pension funds should be invested in any manner that would financially assist or aid or support the present government or economy of South Africa," we stand in support of proposed bills HB#5740 and HB#6374. Loans and investments from the U.S. which prop up South Africa's apartheid system are an insult to all who believe in justice.

JEROME BROWN, PRESIDENT, NEW ENGLAND HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEES UNION, DISTRICT 1199.

## **CHURCH**

Only the people of South Africa themselves can end apartheid. But there are ways in which the U.S. can help. We call on American corporations, the American government, and the American people to act now to end U.S. trade with South Africa; to halt bank loans and investment in that country; and to join with the United Nations in urging the withdrawal of all companies with existing operations in South Africa.

CAROLE BISSON, SISTER OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR, MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERFAITH CENTER ON CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

In the spirit of Christianity, the Holy Cross Fathers have always been opposed to any form of economic support of the system of apartheid in South Africa. We have ended all involvement with companies active in the country and hope that the State of Connecticut will do the same.

FATHER JOE CALLAHAN, HOLY CROSS FATHERS, EASTERN PROVINCE