

YOUR STATE TAXES SUPPORT RACISM IN SOUTH AFRICA!

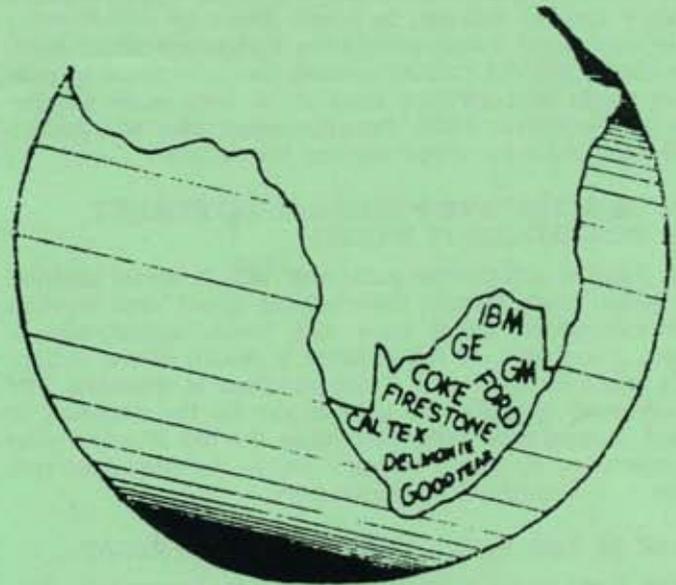
Support State Selective Purchase Bill, H. 1249

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

■ H. 1249 would stop Massachusetts state agencies from buying goods and services from companies doing business in South Africa.

■ In 1990, Nelson Mandela visited Boston and urged support for sanctions. H. 1249 passed the Mass. House of Representatives in 1989. It needs your renewed support **now** in the House.

■ Please call or write postcards or letters saying something like this:



Outwater/North Carolina Anvil

Dear _____

Please support H. 1249, the South Africa Selective Purchase Bill, which would stop most Mass. contracts with companies doing business with South Africa. H. 1249 will pressure the South African government to establish true democracy. I do not want my state taxes to go to any company that profits from South Africa's racist system. Please do everything you can to pass this bill, and let me know what actions you are taking.

Sincerely,
(signature and address)

Please address your calls, postcards, or letters to:

1. Rep. Thomas Finneran, House Chair
Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133. (Tel: 722-2990)
2. Rep. Charles Flaherty
Speaker of the House
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133. (Tel. 722-2500)
3. Your own state representative
State House, Room ???
Boston, MA 02133. (Tel. 722-2000)

For more on the bill or on other actions you can take, please see the fact sheet on the back of this leaflet. **The Coalition to End South African Purchases (CESAP)** includes individuals and community, religious, and labor groups. Please consider coming to our monthly general meetings. Call or write us for more information on events or meeting times.

JOIN US—SUPPORT SELECTIVE PURCHASE BILL, H. 1249

Partial list of endorsers: A. Philip Randolph Institute, ACTWU, AFGE 1164, AFSCME 93, AFSCME 1489, American Committee on Africa, American Friends Service Committee, Arlington St. Church, Backman Center for Social Justice, Boston Free South Africa Movement, Boston Mobilization for Survival, Boston TransAfrica, Cambridge Women's Center, Church of the United Community, CPPAX, Committee for Health Rights in Southern Africa, Cultural Resistance, District 65 UAW, Food Not Bombs, Fund for a Free South Africa, Gray Panthers, HERE Local 26, HRAAA, Jobs with Peace, Lighthouse Investments, Mass. Black Legislative Caucus, Mass. Building and Trades Council, Mass. Council of Churches, Mass. Federation of Teachers, Mass. NOW, Mass. Teachers Association, Mass. Tenants Organization, National Association of Social Workers, National Lawyers Guild-Boston, Project Bread/Hunger Hotline, Rainbow Coalition, SEIU 285 and 509, Sisters of Notre Dame Peace and Justice Organization, Sisters of St. Joseph, Steelworkers 2431 and 8751, UE Local 262, Unitarian Universalist Assn., United Church of Christ Peace Ministry, Urban League, Worcester Coalition for Southern Africa, Western Mass. Coalition Against Apartheid, WILPF-Cape Cod, WILPF-Greater Boston.

COALITION TO END SOUTH AFRICAN PURCHASES (CESAP)

c/o FREESA, 729 Boylston Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02116. (617) 354-0008.

Selective Purchase Bill, H. 1249: Questions and Answers

HAS N'T MASSACHUSETTS ALREADY DIVESTED?

In 1983, Massachusetts was one of the first states to strongly support freedom in South Africa by withdrawing its pension fund investments from companies doing business there. But the Commonwealth has continued to purchase goods and services from these very same companies. In Fiscal Year 1988, the state spent over \$25 million on these purchases. These are our tax dollars!

HOW IS SELECTIVE PURCHASE DIFFERENT, AND HOW WOULD IT WORK?

H. 1249 is a "selective purchase" bill. It would prohibit any Mass. state agency from buying goods and services from companies which have any loans, operations, licenses, franchises, or subsidiaries in South Africa. Exceptions would be made only if the purchase is essential, and the company is either the only bidder for the contract, or its bid is more than 10% lower than the bid of a company not operating in South Africa. This is the strongest language in any state bill in the country.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA?

"We want to keep South Africa white—keeping it white can only mean one thing, namely white domination, not leadership, not guidance, but control, supremacy." H. Verwoerd, a former Prime Minister of South Africa.

South Africa has been internationally condemned for its system of race rule, called **apartheid**. Black people in South Africa are 75% of the population, yet they cannot vote and have no political rights. The white minority controls most of the land and most of the wealth. Black workers are paid only about 1/6 of what whites are paid. Opponents of apartheid are still liable for imprisonment under fearsome security laws. Black people in South Africa have opposed white rule since the beginning of this century. But the white government has brutally suppressed all opposition, jailing and torturing more than 50,000 people since 1986.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SOUTH AFRICA NOW?

Apartheid has not ended. Under increasing pressure at home and abroad, the white government has made some dramatic concessions — legalizing the African National Congress (ANC) and other opposition groups, releasing Nelson Mandela, etc.

The government says it wants to negotiate — but for genuine democracy or a continuation of white minority rule in some form? Even before negotiations can begin, the government must meet black demands for freedom of political activity. Once negotiations begin, the white government might withdraw, so international pressure must be intensified until there is agreement to democracy based on one person, one vote.

WILL THE SELECTIVE PURCHASE BILL HELP?

Yes. Strong international economic pressure (sanctions) has helped force the white government to make concessions. Sanctions have cost the South African regime \$32 billion since 1985. South Africa's economy is very dependent on foreign investment and trade. US corporations sell the computers that record each person's racial classifica-

tion; they sell the trucks and jeeps that carry the police and soldiers to arrest and shoot children; they sell the gas that fuels those jeeps. US companies pay taxes to the South African government and are legally required to sell their goods to it.

Selective purchase bills encourage companies to pull out of South Africa, raising the price the white government pays to maintain apartheid. A Los Angeles engineering firm severed all ties with South Africa rather than lose its city contracts under LA's selective purchase law.

BUT DOESN'T ECONOMIC PRESSURE HURT BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA?

"It was 15 years ago when I first got that explanation that sanctions would hurt blacks. I wish they had hurt me then so that my son wouldn't be hurting so much now." African father in his mid-30's (New York Times, 4/2/85).

There is no way to put a kind face on apartheid. The only way to end the killings, the detentions, and the torture is to end apartheid. US companies provide fewer than 1% of all South African jobs. The entire anti-apartheid movement in South Africa—including the United Democratic Front, COSATU (the largest labor federation), the ANC, and religious leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu—has repeatedly called for economic pressure as an important strategy to push the white government to negotiate with black leaders for fundamental change.

WILL H. 1249 COST US MONEY OR CAUSE US PROBLEMS?

No. Four states and 39 cities, including New York, Los Angeles, and Boston, have passed selective purchase laws. According to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, "The city has not experienced any measurable increase in costs—or reduction in the quality of goods or services received—as a result of the ordinance." Both Ellen O'Connor, the Comptroller of Massachusetts, and Ric Murphy, the Mass. Purchasing Agent, have testified that Selective Purchase legislation can be implemented without major system changes or cost increases.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP PASS THE SELECTIVE PURCHASE BILL?

A. Write and call your state representative TODAY urging him or her to support the bill and to visit Representative Thomas Finneran, House Chair of Ways and Means, urging him to favorably recommend the bill to the full House. (See the suggested text on the reverse of this leaflet.) Get your friends to call.

B. Send a copy of your letter to Rep. Finneran and Rep. Flaherty. Call them. (Phone numbers are on the reverse.)

C. Ask groups to endorse H. 1248. Send copies of the endorsing letter to Finneran, Flaherty, the Boston Globe and Boston Herald, and CESAP.

D. Arrange for group members to write individual letters to the same list. Set up a phone tree.

E. Set up tables in your community for people to write postcards. Or table with CESAP.

F. Contribute what you can for leaflets and publicity.

For more information on the bill or on what you can do, please call the Coalition to End South African Purchases.