

MINUTES FROM FINAL PLENARY OF CONFERENCE AGAINST
INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA - JUNE 13, 1981, N.Y.

The final plenary session was designed to give conference participants an opportunity to contribute suggestions for how the campaign for state and municipal divestment legislation should develop following the conference. Some of these recommendations came from workshops; others came from individuals. Workshop reports which were only summaries of the presentations are not included in these minutes.

Suggestions for the Campaign:

Source:

- * produce a newsletter on the progress of the campaign and of legislation in various states morning workshop I
- * co-ordinate fundraising for a second conference "
- * provide conference participants with a list of resources on the various topics covered "
- * mail all participants a list of participants morning workshop II
- * produce an "ABC's" handbook on how to conduct a local divestment legislation campaign /or it may be possible to distribute such a resource produced by a local group, such as the Berkeley, Calif. group/ "
- * prepare a summary of the Connecticut success story "
- * organize a workshop on divestment legislation at the annual convention of the National Conference of State Legislators (in Atlanta in July) and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators in December "
- * don't lose the focus on individual corporations during legislative campaigns; Tim Smith i.e. in Connecticut write to all corporations from which funds are being divested explaining the action
- * emphasize linkage between South Africa divestment issue and community reinvestment; " deal with both in the same bill or in companion bills
- * possibility of a special campaign against Citicorp, in part because of its connection with Anglo-American Corporation's Monorco corporations which is investing South African capital in the U.S. Tina Simsic
- * communicate nationally not only the anatomy of the Connecticut victory but also the monitoring of impelmentation of the Connecticut bill, so legislators in other states can show that another state has done it and can judge the financial performance of the alternative investments morning workshop III
- * target types of public funds to cover in legislation carefully, with attention to what committee will get jurisdiction (along with other factors) "

- * it is essential to involve retirees at all stages of the campaign, from the very beginning; find some caucus even if leadership is conservative afternoon workshop I
- * emphasize divestment from corporate bonds, since they have a more significant impact on corporation's financial position than sale of stocks (Randy Barber) "
- * the campaign should inform activists and networks in advance of legislative campaigns in particular states so they can help organize support afternoon workshop II
- * try to work with managers of investment funds; learn legal restrictions on investments "
- * don't work just with liberals; build alliances among legislators
- * urge local unions to support the posture of their national unions on corporate responsibility and pension fund control issues
- * campaign co-ordinating committee should develop a working relationship or an endorsement from the AFL-CIO clearinghouse on shareholder resolutions that was established at their August 1980 convention. They have developed policy recommendations on pension funds. John Harrington
- * work with National Governors' Association. California and Illinois governors have set up task forces on social responsibility in investment; so has Chicago mayor "
- * consider holding of regional conferences, especially drawing on west coast officials; don't be east-coast oriented exclusively (mentioned twice) "
- * at national level make links with community groups and unions; expand and co-ordinating committee to include representatives from these types of groups Ann Beaudry
- * an in-depth session on South Africa should be convened at the December meeting of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. Black legislators have credibility on South Africa legislation; they need all the facts. Virgil Smith
- * the co-ordinating committee should send out notice of the Oct. 9-11 ICSA conference to all conference participants Melba Smith
- * statement against bank loans to South Africa by local legislators would help national and local bank campaigns Carole Collins
- * don't alienate public employees by identifying their pension funds as public funds Randy Barber
- * don't forget option of city initiative that increases public participation as opposed to legislation for divestment Miloanne Hecathorn
- * the California-based Corporate Data Center can help get information on corps. "
- * it is important that Black women be heard from in this and other southern Africa campaigns Maryamu Eltayeb

Adoption of resolution:

A resolution endorsing the state and municipal divestment legislation campaign was unanimously adopted by the conference participants. Its adoption was moved by Rep. Dyson of Connecticut and seconded by Rep. Price of Texas.

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