The full House Of Representatives is prepared to vote on the Rhodesian sanctions bill (HR 1287) soon after the August 2 - September 7 recess. Committee action on the bill is now virtually complete, with only the procedure for floor debate still to be decided by the Rules Committee. The International Relations Committee passed the bill on July 9 by a 17 to 8 vote. The Armed Services Committee, however, voted 26 to 7 against the bill on July 23 after receiving a 10-day "sequential referral" from Speaker Carl Albert. Thus the measure will reach the floor with two conflicting reports: a favorable one from International Relations, and an unfavorable one from Armed Services.

The votes in committee indicate slight but significant slippage in support for the bill. Congressmen Zablocki, Broomfield, Yatron and duPont, who voted for the bill last year in the International Relations Committee, voted against it this time. Jim Lloyd, a freshman co-sponsor of the bill, and Floyd Hicks, a co-sponsor last year, turned against the bill in the Armed Services Committee.

The outlook is by no means all bleak, however. Firstly, no less than 31 new House members have joined in co-sponsoring the measure. They include:

- George Miller (Cal.)
- Norman Mineta
- Timothy Wirth (Colo.)
- Anthony Moffett (Conn.)
- Abner Mikva (Ill.)
- Paul Simon
- Philip H. Hayes (Ind.)
- Berkley Bedell (Iowa)
- Micheal Blouin
- Martha Keys (Kans.)
- Gladys Noon Spellman (Md.)
- Paul Tsongas (Mass.)
- Bob Carr (Mich.)
- William Brodhead
- Richard Nolan (Minn.)
- Helen Meyner (N.J.)
- Andrew Maguire
- Millicent Fenwick
- Thomas Downey (N.Y.)
- Matthew McHugh
- Richard Ottinger
- Edward Pattison
- Frederick Richmond
- James Scheuer
- Stephen Solarz
- James Weaver (Oreg.)
- Harold Ford (Tenn.)
- Allan Howe (Utah)
- Robert Edgar (Penn.)
- Don Bonker (Wash.)

Also, the four principal co-sponsors (Fraser, Diggs, Biester and Buchanan) plan to meet with President Ford soon in an effort to firm up Administration support for HR 1287. There are indications already that Secretary Kissinger is willing to take a more active role in pressing for the bill's passage in this session.

Now is a particularly crucial time to renew full United States compliance with international sanctions against Rhodesia. The recent breakdown of negotiations between the Smith regime and the African National Council leaves the future uncertain. The ANC and the members of the OAU most directly involved certainly prefer negotiations to renewed violence; but they are adamant that a negotiated settlement must pave the way to majority rule in the near future. It is up to the Ian Smith regime, then, to abandon hopes that it can forestall the inevitable through intimidation and delay, and to negotiate seriously. International pressure such as HR 1287's repeal of the Byrd Amendment can help to dispel the white regime's illusions and prevent further bloodshed.
Immediate action on the sanctions bill is also important in view of the possibility that Mozambique will close its borders with Rhodesia, across which a majority of Rhodesia's external trade flows. The FRELIMO government of Mozambique is understandably reluctant to shut off such a vital source of revenue unless compensation is forthcoming. A compensatory fund was proposed at the Commonwealth conference in Jamaica in May, and several countries pledged support for it. Even if the United States does not contribute to the fund, this nation's repeal of the Byrd Amendment would help create an international climate favorable to the concrete action which Mozambique is considering. In any case, if the Rhodesia/Mozambique border is closed, the export of chrome (and all other goods) from Rhodesia will slow to a trickle. It would surely be more credible for the U.S. to stop importing chrome now by our own action, rather than to wait until the effective supply has ceased. And it would increase the chances of satisfactory relations between the United States and the black government of Zimbabwe when independence and majority rule come, as they inevitably will.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

The fight to repeal the Byrd Amendment has suffered many delays and false starts. Still, we are confident the sanctions bill will come to a vote after the recess. The vote will be close. Your efforts to influence your representative will be crucial to a successful outcome.

Your representative will in all likelihood return to his or her home district for at least part of the August recess. Call the local office and arrange an appointment for yourself, or a small group, or your organization. If this is not possible, talk to your Representative by phone. In any case, write a letter to express your feelings on this issue. Let him or her know that the steel industry lobby does not speak for you, and many like you. If you get a reply (pro or con), we would appreciate your passing the information on to us.

It is particularly important to get in touch now with members of the Rules Committee, since that Committee's action will decide if and how a floor debate will take place. Members of the Committee whose support should be solicited include: Ray Madden (Ind.), Richard Bolling (Mo.), B.F. Sisk (Cal.), Morgan Murphy (Ill.), Gillis Long (La.).

Also important are representatives who were co-sponsors of the bill last year but not this year. They include: Ike Andrews and Richardson Preyer (N.C.), Edward Patten, Joseph Minish, and Edwin Forsythe (N.J.), Alphonzo Bell (Cal.), Edward Boland (Mass.), Bill Frenzel (Minn.), Joseph Gaydos (Penn.), and Lester Wolff (N.Y.).

We are enclosing some material which explains the bill and our reasons for supporting it. We hope you find it useful. If you have other questions or comments, feel free to contact us. We also have additional copies.

Thank you for your support. Your contribution may speed the day when all Zimbabweans can feel like citizens in their own land.