The following is the text of the speech presented to the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois at the hearings held on Thursday, November 16, 1978 by Harold Miller, Vice President, Twin City Federation of Labor:

Last week the Twin City Federation of Labor voted to urge the University of Illinois to divest itself of stocks in corporations doing business in South Africa.

Black workers in South Africa are not allowed to form effective unions. They cannot engage in collective bargaining on behalf of their members and they do not have the right to strike. American unions are concerned about this situation because of the unfair labor practices which prevent Black workers from getting rid of discrimination and getting better wages. One way to help is to stop U. S. support of the apartheid system.

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has endorsed the following action: "U. S. corporations should immediately divest themselves of South African affiliates, and sever all ties with South African corporations." District Council 31 of the Steel Workers Union and District 1199, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees voted to endorse the divestment campaign. The International Officers of the International Longshoreman's and Warehouseman's Union have taken the next step and called on their pension fund managers to "divest themselves of investment they have in U.S. firms doing business in South Africa." The International Longshoremen also resolved to end all handling of goods to or from South Africa.
Unions have been asking banks to stop loaning money to South Africa. Some of the labor organizations which are withdrawing funds from banks that loan to South Africa are:

United Auto Workers
District Council 31 of the United Steel Workers
District 1199 of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees
Joint Furriers Council
United Electrical Workers
United Radio, Electrical, and Machinewokers Union
Fur, Leather, and Machinist Workers Union

Last year the Twin City Federation of Labor sent a letter to the Board of Trustees asking them to vote to adopt a policy of voting its stockholder proxies in favor of corporate withdrawal from South Africa. The policy was adopted, and the University has been voting for stockholder resolutions to withdraw from South Africa. Since then, it has become obvious that stronger measures are needed. The Twin City Federation of Labor now calls on the University of Illinois to divest itself of stocks of corporations doing business in South Africa.