SENATE REJECTS KENNEDY AMENDMENT TO CANCEL SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR QUOTA

The hard fought campaign to cancel the 57,745 ton sugar quota worth $8.6 million for the Republic of South Africa over the next three years was defeated in the Senate on two votes taken July 27th and 28th.

During the heated debate on the Senate floor, Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D. -Mass.) and Fred Harris (D. -Okla.) argued, sometimes passionately, that the allocation to South Africa represented a callous subsidy to the economy of that racist country. Joining the Kennedy-Harris advocates, Senator John Sherman Cooper, a Kentucky Republican, pointed out that South Africa is the only state in the world where racial discrimination is the law of the land.

Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke decried the fact that the allocations of sugar quotas reported out of the Senate Finance Committee had sustained a quota for South Africa, while eliminating allocations for both Uganda and Malawi and slicing Mauritius from 30,000 tons to 17,000 tons.

The opposition was led by Senator Russell B. Long (D. -La.), chairman of the Finance Committee and the conservative Wallace F. Bennett (R. - Utah).

The vote on the 27th was 47-45 against the Kennedy amendment to end the South African quota, which failed by a larger margin of 55-43 when reintroduced in a slightly altered version by Senator Harris on the following day.

A major psychological defeat for our campaign was evidenced by the No votes of the two Hawaiian Senators, Hiram L. Fong, a Republican, and his colleague, Daniel K. Inouye. Inouye side-stepped the racial issue to concentrate on commercial implications. The issue is trade, said the Member from Hawaii and "trade is an international language."

But, in this view, the issue was aid, in the form of an economic subsidy to racist South Africa, where both Inouye and Fong would be classified as "coloured", and severely restricted in the application of basic human rights provisions.
THE AMBASSADOR TO APARTHEID

The people who offered us Carswell and Haynsworth did give us John G. Hurd, a Laredo, Texas oil-and-cattleman millionaire as the U.S. Ambassador to South Africa. And Ambassador Hurd has been doing his thing in the land of apartheid: agreeing to attend the racially segregated opening of the Malan Opera House in May at Cape Town; and after being pressured by the State Department not to attend, throwing a segregated social function of his own.

On June 1st, the Ambassador hosted an all-white reception in Cape Town. Students connected with the National Union of South African Students walked out in protest.

Subsequently, Congressman Diggs wrote Secretary of State William P. Rogers that "such action by a U.S. official of deliberate omission of Africans, Coloureds and Asians on the grounds of race cannot but raise fundamental legal questions."

Senator Kennedy, in a letter to Mr. Rogers, called the segregated reception an "apparent departure from consistent American policy in the past in South Africa."

When Hurd was nominated for the post last June, ACOA testified against the nomination before Senator Fulbright's Foreign Relations Committee. At that time we pointed out that the nominee lacked professional experience in diplomacy and appeared to have no concern for social justice. We wrote that he was a perfect Nixon man. Now we see that he is rather a classic apartheid-lover, a white South African with a Texas accent.

KENYA CHARGES TWELVE ON CONSPIRACY

The Republic of Kenya has charged twelve persons, including government officials, of conspiring to plot the overthrow of the Jomo Kenyatta regime.

Nine of the accused have admitted their complicity in the alleged plot, according to an information bulletin from the Kenya U.N. Mission, released in June. The nine are Joseph Pius Ben Muga Ouma; Apollo A.W. Odare; Juvenalis B. Aoko; Joseph Omoth S. Ooko; Eliud K. arap Langat; Daniel K. arap Langat; Joseph D. Owino; Silvanes C.O. Odour; and Eric Kimtai Chepkwony.

Ouma, the former senior lecturer at Makerere University and holder of a PhD in Fluvial Geomorphology from the University of Sydney in Australia, had recently been appointed chairman of the Faculty of Geography at the University of Zambia.

Wakiaga Odere has been deputy general manager of the Kenya Cotton Marketing Board. And Juvenalis Aoko was stationmaster of the Nairobi railway station.
Some observers here see the charges as an attempt by the pro-Western Kenyatta regime to eliminate the circle of dissenting progressive elements within Kenya.

CONGRESSMAN DIGGS TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA

Charles C. Diggs, Jr., the Michigan Democratic chairman of the House Subcommittee on Africa will begin an eight-day visit to the Republic of South Africa and Namibia on August 11th. Diggs, twice denied a visa by the South African authorities, is reported to have been cleared by the Embassy here in a surprise move.

The visit is reported by Mr. Diggs' office to be a fact-finding mission as to the conditions inside the Republic as well as a first inspection of Namibia.

The World Court recently ruled that South Africa's administration of Namibia is illegal. The Southwest African territory has been the locale of growing U.S. mining exploration despite a decision by the State Department that American investments would be discouraged.

CONGRESSMEN DELLUMS AND BINGHAM HIT MILITARY AID TO PORTUGAL

Representatives Ronald V. Dellums (D. -Calif.) and Jonathan Bingham (D. -New York) will sponsor an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act intended to remove Portuguese assistance allocations because of Lisbon's use of such aid in conducting the colonial wars in Guinea-Bissau, Angola, and in Mozambique.

Last month the Washington office of ACOA wrote Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. David D. Newsom, to protest the sale of two Boeing 707 intercontinental jetliners to Lisbon because of Portugal's announced intention to use the planes as troop carriers in the African territories. Simultaneously, George Houser, Executive Director of ACOA wrote to Secretary of State William Rogers on the same subject. Both the New York and Washington offices of this Committee are waiting for replies from State.

CONGRESS SET TO RECESS AUGUST 6th

Pressed to an evaporating time schedule and a heavy legislative load, the Congress expects to take a one month recess early in August after disposing on legislation to bail-out Lockheed and to approve the White House sponsored welfare bill. Concurrently, the Washington office will be closed for vacation until August 23rd.