

NEWS RELEASE

from **Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm**

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U.S. House of Representatives
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HOUSE WILL VOTE ON BLACK CAUCUS BUDGET

Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (D-Brooklyn) says that her alternative budget package proposed by the Congressional Black Caucus will be considered when the House of Representatives takes up the 1982 Budget Resolution. The House Rules Committee, of which Representative Chisholm is a senior member and the only Black on the panel, voted yesterday to allow the Black Caucus Budget to be one of four amendments eligible for deliberation on the House Floor. Requests by several other Members of Congress for permitting additional amendments were rejected.

House debate begins today on House Concurrent Resolution 115, and votes are expected next week on the various overall plans for federal spending in the next fiscal year.

"The House Democratic leadership was reluctant to let the Black Caucus budget come to the Floor," Representative Chisholm explained, "but I was able to convince them that the Caucus is prepared to vote in block against passage of the Budget Committee plan if we cannot also offer our budget."

"When President Reagan challenged others to come up with an economic program better than his own, the Black Caucus responded," Mrs. Chisholm said. "Our proposal demonstrates that the federal budget can be balanced, that government spending can be decreased, and tax relief can be given without necessarily cutting back valuable social programs. We believe that every Member of Congress should have the opportunity to cast his or her vote on this innovative, and comprehensive, approach to taxing and spending policies."

The Congressional Black Caucus Task Force has the following features:

- It restores approximately \$26 billion of the President's proposed cuts, and finds over \$35 billion in other tax outlay savings -- resulting in a budget surplus;
- It has lower outlay and expenditure figures for FY'82 than either the Reagan or House Budget Committee budgets;
- It increases defense spending over this year's and over the FY'82 recommendation of President Carter;
- It provides a 10% social security tax credit for both employees and employers;
- It provides for indexing of earned income tax brackets; and
- It eliminates or modifies unproductive, non-cost-effective tax expenditures and tax loopholes.

"More than numbers are at stake here," Congresswoman Chisholm warned. "The living standards of millions of Americans will rise, or plunge, depending on the votes we will soon be taking in the House."