

Congressional Black Caucus

306 House Annex

Washington, D.C. 20515

202--225-1691

Charles Rangel, Chairman, N.Y.
Yvonne B. Burke, Vice Chairperson, Calif.
Walter Fauntroy, Secretary, D.C.
Andrew Young, Treasurer, Georgia

June 19, 1975

Shirley Chisholm, N.Y.
William Clay, Mo.
Caroiss Collins, Ill.
John Conyers, Mich.
Ronald Dellums, Calif.
Charles Diggs, Mich.
Harold Ford, Tenn.
Augustus Hawkins, Calif.
Barbara Jordan, Texas
Ralph Metcalfe, Ill.
Parren Mitchell, Md.
Robert N. C. Nix, Pa.
Louis Stokes, Ohio

ACTION TAKEN

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS MEETING

JUNE 17, 1975

POLICY DECISIONS AREAS

I. House Intelligence Committee

Congressman Dellums, the sole black member of the House Intelligence Committee, briefed the Caucus on developments within the Committee and urged the Caucus to (a) take a unified position on his continued participation on the Committee in a letter to Speaker Albert and the importance of black input in the Committee deliberation; (b) vote against referring to the Rules Committee the decision regarding the fate of the Intelligence Committee; and (c) vote against the abolition of the Committee because of the importance of continued areas of inquiry related to the scope of CIA economic and political ties of the country. The Caucus members agreed to send a letter to the Speaker. Dellums agreed to keep the Caucus briefed on other developments concerning the Committee.

II. South Africa Proposal

Congressman Young discussed the need for CBC to consider conducting a one day hearing either in New York or Washington on the current status of South Africa. The hearing would be conducted in close communication with Ambassadors of African countries while the U. N. General Assembly session is in progress. Congressman Young stated that the successful CBC May 20th Full Employment Forum should be repeated in other critical issue areas. A number of points were raised: (a) CBC should hold closed door session with Ambassadors of both

African and Caribbean countries on areas of common interest, followed by a press conference on the issues discussed, (b) CBC should develop a position in one potentially controversial area, illegal aliens, which must be addressed in terms of impact on jobs, other equity considerations and the Judiciary Committee bill, (c) the Charge' d'Affaires of one Caribbean nation, who works closely with CBC members, will be contacted for his input and suggestions on involvement of Caribbean nations in such a meeting. Congressman Young, Africa specialists who may serve as staff organizers for the meeting, and the CBC staff will meet to discuss the details of such a meeting and report to the Executive Committee. Congressman Diggs will be asked to assist in the preparation of an agenda for such a meeting.

III. Congressman Stark Response

A number of CBC members, Congressmen Diggs, Dellums, Young, and Rangel, suggested changes in the Caucus' response to Congressman Stark's membership request which would (a) shift the emphasis from Stark personally to the need for a broader congressional vehicle dealing with minority and poor constituents, and (b) clearly state that all CBC members have both non-black and black staffs. Language for an accompanying release was discussed which would take CBC off the defensive and put the issue in proper context.

IV. CBC Dinner Questions

Time did not permit discussion of areas of the Dinner Weekend which need CBC input: Honorees, Keynote Speaker, Awardees and Executive Committee decision to provide each CBC member with one ticket only to maximize Dinner profits. A meeting will be held with CBC staff liaisons to discuss this area to expedite efforts of the Dinner Planning Committee chaired by Congressman Fauntroy.

INFORMATION ONLY

- I. Liberia/Senegal Trip (June 27 - July 7); Mozambique Independence Celebration, June 25th

Congressmen Rangel, Clay, and Metcalfe will make the CBC Liberia/Senegal Trip during the July 4th recess. Congresswoman Collins, Congressmen Diggs and Stokes will attend the Mozambique Independence Celebration on June 25th.

- II. CBC Press Reception. On Wednesday, June 25th the first of two or three CBC press receptions announcing plans for the upcoming Fifth Annual Fundraising Dinner will take place. Singer Johnny Nash (originally from Houston), will be special guest and is being introduced by Congresswoman Jordan. Emphasis in the press reception will be on the projection of the substantive program of CBC. Essence Magazine, the nation's fastest growing woman's magazine, (2 million national reach), owned primarily by blacks, will sponsor the reception. Johnny Nash will dedicate a special song to CBC played to the tune of his hit: "I Can See Clearly Now" Press, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, administrative representatives, House and Senate members who have been working on issues important to CBC legislative priorities, Key Hill staff, Heads of National Organizations, and presidential candidates will be invited.
- III. Dedication of Foxtrappe Town Club: On Tuesday, June 24th, 6 - 8 P.M, CBC members have been asked to participate with other government and organization leaders in the dedication of the Foxtrappe Town Club. Black business and professional persons who created the Club, plan to dedicate a special Congressional Black Caucus Room as a unique feature of the private club which will hopefully serve as a hospitality house for black elected officials and others frequently in and out of the city providing them with a special place for meetings.
- IV. CBC Retreat. From Friday evening, July 18th to Sunday, July 20th, a retreat for CBC members, staffs, spouses or special guests, and children at the spacious and unique Pine Point, Maryland getaway. The retreat will allow CBC Members and their staff, to get to know each other better, and discuss a number of important issues related to CBC purpose, direction, and operation in a very relaxed setting. Members with issues they feel important to discuss should contact Barbara Williams.