

dhu - Diggs 357 F 25

CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.
13TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

05-01

[Handwritten signature] F: S.A. Sugar
Lister

DETROIT OFFICES:
EASTSIDE: 1201 E. GRAND BLVD. 48211
AREA CODE 313, 925-8300
WESTSIDE: 6523 GRAND RIVER 48208
AREA CODE 313, 896-8900

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AFRICA, CHAIRMAN
ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AD HOC COMMITTEE:
CHAIRMAN,
CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS

MISS DOROTHY QUARKER
CHIEF OF STAFF
June 9, 1971

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2464 RAYBURN BUILDING
AREA CODE 202, 225-2261

Dear Colleague:

A critical moment is before us. This Thursday, June 11, the "Sugar Act Amendment Bill of 1971" will be coming up for vote. Because it contains a provision to continue a quota for rich but racist South Africa, the undersigned submit that passage of this Bill will only serve to further alienate Black Americans and Black Africans. It will also illustrate to millions of other people of good will the sheer hypocrisy of U. S. pronouncements against apartheid at the U.N. and other forums.

Opposition to a sugar quota for South Africa is coming from those of us who support civil rights as well as from those who seek wiser U. S. aid policies. We wish to underscore the reasons why a sugar quota for South Africa is anathema.

South Africa is a land of diamonds and gold and, even disregarding its racist policies, there is no economic justification for our giving South Africa, a developed country, a five million dollar yearly subsidy.

The United States should give its assistance to economically hard pressed countries, such as the sugar producing countries of Black Africa, to many of whom additional sugar markets are vital to their prospects for development.

The few African sugar growers in South Africa do not receive more than an infinitesimal part of the subsidy we pay South Africa. Similarly, this subsidy does not sift down to either the African mill hands or field workers, some of whom are receiving as little as \$15 a month.

The United States has complicity with apartheid not only by guaranteeing South Africa a market for its sugar, but by paying South Africa twice what it could get on the world market for sugar.

Thus, the American housewife has had to pay premium prices for South African sugar, the production capacity of the American domestic market is held down to provide this subsidy, attention to the critical needs of Black majority ruled sugar producing African countries is restricted, and American labour is competing with the "slave" labour system of South Africa.

On Thursday, we urge opposition to the South African Sugar Quota. We consider it one of the key civil rights votes since 1965.

CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR., Chairman
Congressional Black Caucus
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM
GEORGE COLLINS
RONALD DELLUMS
WALTER FAUNTROY
AUGUSTUS HAWKINS

RALPH METCALFE
PARREN MITCHELL
CHARLES RANGEL
LOUIS STOKES
JOHN CONYERS
WILLIAM CLAY
ROBERT N. C. NIX