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news release

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FAUNTROY CALLS REAGAN'S SANCTIONS "ILLUSORY"

Responding today to President Reagan's Executive Order to impose some sanctions on the South African government, Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.) said, "Mr. Reagan has offered the nation the illusion of his Executive Order as a substitute for the substance of the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985."

Congressman Fauntroy stated, "This illusory offer is reminiscent of Aesop's Fable about a dog standing on a bridge who upon seeing a reflection of himself dropped the bone and dove into the water after the other bone. The President's offer to Congress and the conscience of the American people is a pale reflection of the sanctions we now have in hand and bids us to abandon what we have in favor of a proposal that means little or nothing."

"Consider how much an insult his measures are to the exhaustive work already done by the members of the U.S. House and Senate over the past ten months. First, the President would have us ask our allies if it is all right to ban the sale of the krugerrand in America. The members of both the House and Senate concluded after a year of study that we should, on our own, ban the sale of the krugerrand in this country. Indeed, the American people have signaled this as an appropriate action in substantially reducing the purchase of the krugerrand in this nation."

"Secondly," Fauntroy said, "the President indicates that he will ask the Secretary of the Treasury to advise him on whether we should mint a U.S. gold coin to compete with the krugerrand. The Members of the House and Senate have studied this matter for a year and have concluded that we should in fact mint such a gold coin as called for in the Conference Report," said Fauntroy.

"Thirdly, Mr. Reagan makes vague reference to offering scholarship and humanitarian aid to Black South Africans. The members of the House and Senate have studied this matter for a year and concluded at a minimum that we should provide \$34 million over the next three years to scholarships for Black South Africa and provide \$1.5 million this year for the promotion of human rights in South Africa. Again, the House and Senate Conference Report is vastly superior to the weak reflection which the President has put forth today."

"Point four, the President has words of faint praise for the Sullivan Principles, but refuses to make this mandatory as 80 members of the Senate and 380 members of the House have concluded as the best response to the South African regime's stubborn refusal to begin meaningful negotiations on apartheid."

"Lastly, and perhaps most insulting, Mr. Reagan proposes no conditions for lifting of the far weaker sanctions that he has ordered. In this regard, he lags far behind the House and Senate Report which sets very reasonable conditions over an extended period of time for lifting the sanctions. Moreover, the President lags further behind the business community in South Africa itself, which has urged the Botha Regime to begin meaningful negotiations with Nelson Mandela and other respected Black leaders in South Africa toward dismantling apartheid."

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In conclusion, Congressman Fauntroy stated, "I trust that the Members of the Senate will keep faith with the American people and refuse to drop the substantial bone of sanctions contained in the House and Senate Report for the vague and meaningless reflection that Mr. Reagan's Executive Order constitutes."

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