

Congressman
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news release

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FOR RELEASE: FAUNTROY ENCOURAGED BY HOUSE SOUTH AFRICA VOTE

The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday voted 380-48 in favor of the Conference Report on H.R. 1460, the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985, that would impose sanctions on South Africa.

Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.) said, "The overwhelming vote in the House in support of the sanctions called for in the Conference Report, and the expected favorable vote in the Senate next month are a source of tremendous encouragement to the millions of Americans who have joined the Free South Africa Movement in demanding an end to apartheid."

The conference report would ban bank loans, the importation of krugerrands, and the sale of computer and nuclear technology to the South African government. In addition, the bill calls for an end to new private investment in South Africa if it fails to make progress toward ending apartheid.

The House vote came on the last day before the Congress adjourned for a month-long recess. However, Senate action on the Conference Report was delayed because of a threatened filibuster by eight Senators led by Sen. Jesse Helms. Final action on this measure is expected in September.

The vote preceded by one day, the arraignment of Congressman Fauntroy and others who had been arrested for a second time for demonstrating in front of the South African Embassy. The charges growing out of the arrest were again dismissed by the United States Attorney's Office. "The fact that the U.S. Attorney dropped the charges after vowing to prosecute any second time arrestees at the Embassy is an open acknowledgement by the Administration that it is ashamed to defend in public its abominable South African ally, and that the American people were right in demanding that their elected representatives and Senators vote to impose these sanctions," Fauntroy said.

Since November 21, 1984, The Free South Africa Movement of which Congressman Fauntroy serves as co-chair, has enlisted thousands of participants in daily demonstrations across the United States. Nearly 4,000 people have offered themselves for arrest.

"The Founding Fathers would have been proud of the way in which our non-violent exercise of our First Amendment right of peaceable assembly has both raised the consciousness and pricked the conscience of the American people. Without the sacrifice of so many exercising these rights, passage of a South Africa sanctions bill may not have been possible."

"This is not the end but an important beginning in a long effort to root out the evil of apartheid. Recent actions by the government of South Africa clearly demonstrate that the United States must undertake a more effective policy in its relations with South Africa. We will not quit until our government responds to our legitimate appeal," concluded Fauntroy.