

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN GEO. W. CROCKETT, JR.
ON H.R. 2567 BEFORE TASK FORCE ON LIBRARIES AND
MEMORIALS, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
JUNE 20, 1985

Madame Chairlady and distinguished Members of this Task Force,

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for the proposed legislation to require the Smithsonian Institution to divest its financial interests in companies doing business in South Africa. One would have thought that the Smithsonian, given the nature of its origins and its dedication to the enlightenment of man, would have been out front on this issue instead of taking refuge in silence and doing nothing until there is, and I quote, "a national consensus."

The House of Representatives has spoken very forcibly on the issue with the recent passage of the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985 and this proposed legislation before us today is a natural supplement to that effort. I support this proposal, as I did the Anti-Apartheid Act, not because I believe it will force South Africa to end its repressive policy of racial segregation, but because it signals a divorce of the United States from its silent support of apartheid through its policy of constructive engagement. In short, it brings the United States back on the right side of the issue.

For what is clear to me today, more so than ever before, is that 22 million Black South Africans, now under the tyranny of South Africa's apartheid regime, will gain their freedom and will enjoy full citizenship in the land of their birth.

