

THE ANTI-APARTHEID ACT  
AMENDMENTS

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 1988

Mrs. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, apartheid is one of the most baneful disasters of the 20th century and the American people's moral indignation and outright condemnation of that system is unequivocal. The South African Government's modus operandi of repression, hatred, fear and violence has earned it the reputation of being a true terrorist state. In order to promote democratic values in South Africa and preserve the integrity of those values at home, it is absolutely essential for the United States Government to do everything within its power to help dismantle that institutionalized form of social injustice.

The steps taken by the Anti-Apartheid Act Amendments of 1988, H.R. 1580, are sure to have a substantial effect toward this goal, H.R. 1580 is a wonderful example of legislation which lives up to the high expectations set by our principles. I applaud everyone who has contributed to this positive campaign.

I only hope at this point that our distinguished colleagues in the other body will hear the cries of righteous despondency from South Africa, recognize the urgency of this issue, and act accordingly. Such action would clearly distinguish the Congress from the Reagan administration which has consistently opposed any meaningful sanctions, even bending over backward to accommodate the South African regime. It is not only ironic, but utterly appalling, that the administration propounds worldwide democracy while supporting a cadre that allows only a small percentage of its citizens to participate in its so-called democratic process.

As the next Presidential election nears, the opportunity is ripe for the American people to choose a leader who accurately reflects our national values. Reviewing the records and positions of the two candidates, it is clear that only Gov. Michael Dukakis precisely reflects the sentiments and principles which drive our great Nation. I believe that his perception of the South African Government is accurate and that he would take concrete action to awaken the South African Government out of its institutionalized stupor.

Mr. Speaker, the South African Government simply cannot go on arrogantly ignoring the human rights of others forever. The United States Senate, House of Representatives and President must join the rest of the world in expressing disapproval and applying financial pressure to do what common sense and fundamental morality could not lead South Africa to do.

JEFFERSON BANK PROTEST

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 20, 1988

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, as the 100th Congress prepares to adjourn sine die, I would like to take this opportunity to apprise my colleagues of an important historic observance

which took place in the city of St. Louis on August 30, 1988—the reenactment of the Jefferson National Bank protest. Twenty-five years ago I was among those arrested and sent to jail for participating in this demonstration. In those days, Jefferson National Bank, like most institutions in our city and throughout our Nation was racially segregated and refused to hire blacks. Those of us who protested helped tear down some of the barriers to the employment of blacks in banks, stores, and other businesses.

Mr. Speaker, so much has changed in our society over the last quarter of a century, but we are still struggling to realize genuine racial equality in this, the greatest democratic nation in the world. I would like to share the following newspaper reports detailing the recent reenactment of this historical event.

[From the St. Louis American, Aug. 25, 1988]

JEFFERSON BANK PROTEST REENACTED AUGUST 30

(By Sharon L. Green)

A re-enactment of the Jefferson Bank Demonstration, featuring former protesters who were jailed, will be held August 30 at Jefferson Bank, 2301 Market, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of what some call the greatest moment in St. Louis' civil rights history.

Marion Oldham, then a teacher in the St. Louis Public Schools, was one of the first arrested during a protest at the bank which refused to hire or serve blacks.

"You have to understand what conditions were like back then—everything was totally segregated. It was considered a way of life but it (the protest) didn't start in 1963 it started back in 1948," said Oldham, a former curator at the University of Missouri.

Oldham was one of the first to be arrested but not until the following day when a sheriff came to her home to arrest her. The others turned themselves in the following day.

CORE members and other local leaders formed a human chain around the bank while the demonstrators were in jail. It was an historic media event locally which later became known as the highlight of the civil rights movement in St. Louis, Oldham said.

There was an immediate impact locally. Following the protest and the media coverage at Jefferson Bank, Oldham said hundreds of black people were hired in banks throughout the city. Although the protest had no legal effect on public accommodation laws, numerous protests continued followed the Aug. 30 protest at Jefferson Bank.

"The community was more up in arms then, than it has ever been since," she said.

Oldham was jailed for 11 days and later convicted for violating the bank's injunction. She said the charges were dropped months later.

[From the St. Louis Sentinel, Aug. 18, 1988]

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEFFERSON BANK DEMONSTRATION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

The 25th Anniversary of the Jefferson Bank Demonstration will occur on Tuesday, August 30, 1988, according to Norman R. Seay, General Chairman, Commemoration Planning Committee.

Three commemorative activities have been planned to observe the 1963 beginning of the civil rights movement in St. Louis. Two have been finalized. One is the Symbolic Jefferson Bank Demonstration. This peaceful, non arrest activity will occur on Tuesday, August 30, from 4-6 p.m., at the

Jefferson Bank, 2301 Market Street—across from Holiday Inn. The second activity is a dinner on Sunday, October 30, 6 p.m., at the Grand Masonic Hall. The third activity is to be identified later.

Five distinguished citizens are the Honorary Chairpersons. They are: Dr. Johnetta Haley, Director, SIU-E East St. Louis Center; Rev. Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Chairman, Clergy Coalition; Msgr. John A. Shocklee, Executive Director, Human Rights Office, Archdiocese of St. Louis; Mrs. Ruth G. Washington, civic and social leader, and Robert L. Wiltherspoon, former attorney to the 1963 Jefferson Bank demonstrators.

In 1963, CORE initiated a survey of banks in the Metropolitan area to assess the number of African American employees and their positions in the banks. Jefferson Bank (was located in the heart of the African-American neighborhood) was selected as the bank to publicly protest the lack of African-American in positions higher than porters/messengers. Therefore, on August 30, 1963, CORE and supporters picketed and interfered with the operation of Jefferson Bank to obtain access and other equal employment opportunities for African-Americans in the banking and other industries in Metropolitan St. Louis. Because of the successful impact of the demonstration, the principal leadership of CORE was jailed and then prosecuted. Among the jailed demonstrators were U.S. Congressman William L. Clay; former State Senator Raymond Howard; Attorney Charles and Mrs. Marion Oldham; Mr. Lucian Richards, Norman R. Seay and the late Robert Curtis.

While the demonstrators were jailed, support for them constantly developed. Teachers, doctors, tavern bartenders/owners, dentists, nuns, ministers, beauticians, unions and other groups collected funds and/or picketed the Jefferson Bank.

Today, according to Seay, African-Americans are employed in the financial community; however, there are many objectives to be achieved. The impact of Jefferson Bank transcended the financial institution—other industries began employing African-Americans. The 19 demonstrators and their supporters began a movement, using civil disobedience as an effective mechanism to overcome overt racism—discrimination and segregation.

For additional information, persons may write to the 25th Jefferson Bank Demonstration Committee, P.O. Box 6242, St. Louis MO 63106 or call Mr. Norman R. Seay at 553-5692.

Other elected planning committee officers are Mrs. Evelyn Haney-Gammon, Secretary, and Mr. Robert Foster, Treasurer.

[From the St. Louis Argus, August 18, 1988]

JEFFERSON BANK PROTEST REMEMBERED

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