

Civil Rights Bill Will Return

By Larry A. Still

The proposed new Civil Rights Bill, which was tabled by conservative Republican senators after it was overwhelmingly passed by Democratic members of Congress, will be the first new legislation introduced in the House of Representatives, a coalition of liberal Black and white congresspersons pledged last week.

"Shame on this body! Shame on this body!," shouted Sen. Edward M. Kennedy after the Senate voted to table any vote on the bill, so it could vote on spending appropriations for the government in final actions before adjourning to campaign for reelection. But Rep. John M. Conyers (D-Mich.) blamed the defeat upon Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) and President Ronald Reagan, who refused to speak out for the bill during the filibuster by Republican Senators Orrin Hatch (Utah) and Jesse Helms (S.C.).

House Bill No. 1 in the 99th Congress will be the Civil Rights Act of 1985 introduced next January. Reps. Don Edwards (D-Minn.), Pat Shroeder (D-Colo.), Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.) and Conyers announced following the almost victorious action in the closing weeks of the 98th Congress during the Congressional Black Caucus legislative weekend.

The 1984 proposal was passed by a 375-32 vote in the House of Representatives and it had 63 Senate co-sponsors before it was blocked by the filibuster and over 150 amendments to various spending bills to bring the government to a halt by the conservative Republicans. However, the civil rights act was supported by a growing new coalition of the CBC, the Hispanic Caucus, the Caucus of Disabled Persons and the new Women's Caucus.

The bill was designed to overturn a recent Supreme Court decision involving Grove (Calif.) College, which provided that federal funds may be used in schools, institutions and programs which discriminate on the basis of sex, race and age. The growing conservative high court ruled that government funds could be cut off for specific, individual programs on the basis of individual legal action but that entire discriminatory programs may be continued without class action in court.

Despite the defeat of the bill, several leaders said the action reunited the civil rights movement which had been splintered by the recent presidential campaign between Rev. Jesse Jackson and former vice-president Walter Mondale and recent disputes over affirmative action. "There is no question that religious leaders and Blacks and Jews came closer together in this struggle," said Ralph Ness, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, a coalition of over 100 organizations which helped lead the campaign for passage of the measure.

Labor and white women organizations also drew closer to traditional Black leadership during the debate, Ness confirmed. At one point Washington NAACP Bureau director Althea Simmons said her organization would not block a compromise vote on the 1984 measure, but influential women and educational organizations agreed to risk defeat rather than accept a "watered down" version of the bill offered by Senators Baker and Hatch.

As the debate raged in the closing minutes of the session National Urban League lobbyist Robert McAlpine told the thousands of Congressional Black Caucus supporters "while you are enjoying the festivities this weekend, I'll be trying to get cloture (end debate) so we can pass this bill".

NOW President Visits Tacoma



Judy Goldsmith, National President of NOW (National Organization of Women) was the guest speaker at a breakfast hosted by the local NOW chapter. The N.W. Dispatch salutes National Women in Business Week. Attending the event were (l to r) Mel Jackson, Ms. Goldsmith, Jackie Cockfield, Judie Fortier and Art Wang.



South African Exile Backs Investment Ban

By Carlton Lockhard

The American public has the capacity to effect an end to the racist system of apartheid in South Africa "if they care sufficiently," exiled anti-apartheid activist Dennis Brutus declared last weekend in urging support of Congressional Black Caucus legislation calling for a ban on new investments in the all-white operated African government as proposed by Rep. William H. Gray III (D-Pa.).

Brutus, classified in South Africa as "colored" or of mixed parentage, said two things are necessary to "help" in the South African freedom struggle. One is "no more money, no more technology, no more funding," to the separatist regime from outside.

The other is to eliminate "band-aid solutions like the Sullivan Act," a set of guidelines which are intended to encourage United States firms based in South Africa to advance the status of Black, native South Africans, he added.

The Sullivan Principles, developed by Rev. Leon Sullivan of the Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia and founder of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers self-help organization, have been criticized as part of the Reagan administration's policy of "constructive engagement" in the racist country. That policy does not call for an immediate end to apartheid, but encourages a slow process of negotiation, Brutus emphasized.

The South African was on one of the 50 panel discussions, forums and workshops sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and its support groups during the recent legislative weekend held in Washington, D.C.

Another panelist, Zak Yacoob, a member of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front party in South Africa, admitted the difficulty in outlining the exact steps to freedom in his country. To maintain the system, the racist government uses an "Oppressor force (the military)," while implementing an ideology which promotes the separatist morality and keeps the majority divided, Yacoob said.

Both Brutus and Yacoob said they supported the Gray amendment which calls for immediate action on banning investments. The bill is authored by Congressman Gray, chairman of the 1984 CBCF weekend activities and panel moderator. Both Gray and Sullivan are prominent Philadelphia ministers.

Gray said the Congressional Black Caucus took legislative action on his bill "Long before" the latest rash of violence in the country following the vote to BLACKS — "colored" and Asians in the government while still barring the Black, majority residents from citizenship and holding elective office.

Brutus, a Northwestern University professor, was granted political asylum in the U.S. a year ago, when the Immigration and Naturalization Service lost in its attempt to have him deported after he failed to renew a temporary visa.

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