

# UNITY IN ACTION

Towards a Program to End Collaboration  
With the Apartheid Regime in South Africa

# READER

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LOS ANGELES'S FREE WEEKLY

## Apartheid Foes to Picket Fete for Bradley

Mayor Doesn't Deserve  
NAACP's Top Honor,  
Says Group's Spokesman

□ By Steve Harris

The debate on how best to deal with South Africa's apartheid policies is beginning to create as much heat as the issue of apartheid itself. With the recent protests at the South African consulate in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles has become a center to such debate. Next week, the situation may well get *real hot*.

Ron Wilkins, spokesman for an anti-apartheid coalition known as Unity in Action, has announced his organization's intention to stage a protest at the Bonaventure Hotel on Thursday, January 24, when Mayor Tom Bradley will be awarded the NAACP's Spingarn Medal. Bradley will become the sixty-ninth recipient of the award previously given for outstanding lifetime achievement to such Afro-Americans as Rosa Parks, Hank Aaron, Sammy Davis Jr., and Andrew Young.

According to Wilkins, whose group will form a picket line outside the downtown hotel, Bradley is an inappropriate recipient of the award because he gave the key to the city to the consul general of the Republic of South Africa in 1982.

But Victoria Pipkin, press secretary to the mayor, claims that the consul general was given the key as a matter of form at the conclusion of a five-minute meeting at City Hall. "The government of the United States recognizes the government of South Africa as legitimate," says Pipkin, "and the mayor simply extended the customary etiquette to its representative."

Dr. Anthony Brown, who has directed preparations for the ceremony on behalf of the NAACP's New York-based headquarters, expressed surprise and dismay when notified by the *Reader* of Unity in Action's plans.

"Of course we abhor apartheid," says Brown, "but this award is meant to honor a lifetime of dedication by a pioneering black man. I would hope that Unity in Action would reconsider their plans in that light."

Also opposing the picket plan is Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, who denounced the tactic at a meeting last week of the local chapter of Free South Africa, an anti-apartheid coalition that has staged protests at South African consulates across the United States.

But Unity in Action isn't likely to alter its plans. "This isn't just old water under the bridge," replies Wilkins. "The struggle against South Africa is more intense today than it was three years ago. We don't want to 'punish' Bradley for past actions. We want him to take the key back. And we also intend to launch a petition to request that the Los Angeles City Council adhere to United Nations sanctions against South Africa." □