
On October 26, 1976 the Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa introduced into the Madison Common Council a bill forcing the City to take legal measures to oppose corporate investments with the apartheid regime in South Africa. This bold effort is the first of its kind in the United States and comes only four months after the Common Council passed a MACSA resolution urging economic and diplomatic means as agents for social change in South Africa.

Resolutions directed at specific corporations have had little results in Washington D.C., Gary, Indiana and East Lansing, Michigan. The Madison effort goes beyond the resolution format and for the first time seeks to put 'selective purchasing' intentions into law. Co-sponsored by Alderperson Rich Gross and Council Chairperson Michael Sack the Ordinance entails no financial obligation on the City and has the broad support of the African Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin.

In short, the Ordinance requires the City of Madison to provide for public inspection a list of all corporations having economic interests in South Africa with which the City has contracts currently in force. The City is also required to seek future contracts with companies which have chosen not to develop economic interests in South Africa and to attach to all contracts and correspondence with corporations having such economic interests a note deploring the company's policy of investing in the apartheid regime.

The Madison City Attorney has reviewed the Ordinance and has submitted it to the Common Council without amendment or legal alteration. Community approval of the legislation is all that is needed now to ensure passage. The Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa strongly requests that you assist in acquiring quick passage for this bill and thereby help the cause of freedom in southern Africa.

- * write or call your Alderperson and urge him/her to vote in favor of the bill
- * have church or university groups issue public support
- * sign MACSA petitions to be presented to Common Council
- * send 'letters-to-editor' to help gain public recognition for the bill
- * call MACSA (256-0944) to give ideas or support
