



No. 10

# BOYCOTT SHELL

## B · U · L · L · E · T · I · N

## ACTIONS PLANNED MARCH 19-26

Shell boycott supporters throughout the nation are planning actions for the week of March 19-26.

The actions are timed to commemorate the anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre. On March 21, 1960, 69 people were gunned down by South African security police during a peaceful protest against the apartheid system.

In a letter to boycott supporters, UAW President Owen Bieber and Mine Workers President Richard Trumka said, "We urge you to organize rallies in front of your local Shell headquarters, regional offices, or service stations."

Local coalitions also will use the Week of Action to unveil a new series of radio spots featuring well-known entertainers and athletes endorsing the boycott. Local groups interested in helping

to get the radio ads on the air should contact the Boycott Shell Campaign at the phone number or address shown on the back page.

Coordinated activities in March can help lay the groundwork for campaigns this year to persuade cities and states to stop using Shell products, the call for action noted.

"These state and local contracts,

which may include the purchase of Shell gasoline or heating oil or the use of Shell credit cards, provide important revenue to the company. By cutting off large contracts with Shell, we can make a strong public statement against Shell's presence in South Africa and, more importantly, effectively hurt the company where it counts—in the pocketbook."

## TV Viewers Learn About Boycott

On a Sunday morning shortly before the Iowa presidential caucuses, the voters, candidates, and reporters covering the campaign woke up to see a program featuring the Shell boycott on

a major network affiliate.

Meanwhile, a church group in New Hampshire was showing the same program to voters before that state's primary.

And in cities and towns throughout the South, where another round of early primaries was scheduled, TV stations also were showing "The American Connection," a half-hour public affairs documentary which highlights working Americans telling why they're involved in the Shell boycott.

In its first few months of distribution, "The American Connection" already has been seen by viewers in every part of the nation. The show has been broadcast by hundreds of commercial, public, and cable stations, both in major markets like Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Syracuse and in small cities and towns.

Both the 27-minute and 10-minute versions of the program also have been used by unions, churches, and other organizations to show at conferences, workshops, and other events, along with the campaign slide show/video, "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell."

For ordering information, see the back page.



**DANISH VIEW:** This cartoon on the cover of the Danish General Workers Union magazine is just one example of international reaction to the secret plan commissioned by Shell Oil Co. for fighting the boycott. The plan, developed by consultants Pagan International, recommended attempts to sweet talk boycott supporters while the Shell companies continue to fuel the apartheid system.



## Report From Australia . . . 'Shell Under Seige'

*The following is excerpted from the December 11, 1987 edition of Business Review Weekly, an Australian publication covering the financial community.*

"Shell Australia has, over the past 18 months, been a target of an international political campaign urging its parent, the Royal Dutch/Shell group, to withdraw from South Africa . . .

"Every corporate management team prays it will never be besieged by pres-

sure groups intent on damaging its company's community and business reputation . . .

"Unhappily for Shell Australia, that day has dawned, and its prayers to be left in peace have been answered in the form of a local campaign against it organized and led by the Uniting Church of Australia.

"So far the campaign has involved:

- Exhortations that consumers boycott Shell Australia service stations and all products manufactured by Shell, and the distribution of bumper stickers and printed slogans . . .

- Demonstrations, including six this year at the Melbourne headquarters of Shell Australia and at the company's offices in Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Sydney . . .

- Phone campaigns directed at Shell's head office and letter-writing campaigns directed at Shell dealers.

- More recently, a sudden widening of the campaign to include political groups with a wider following, such as environmentalists, public service unions and the Australian Democrats . . ."

## FUEL FOR THOUGHT

Two black South African union leaders on Thursday urged Congress to impose a total trade ban on their country as a "last resort" before blacks turn to violence against South Africa's whites . . .

They rejected the views of the Reagan administration and of Republicans in Congress that additional sanctions would lead only to poverty and unemployment for South Africa's 26 million blacks.

"We are suffering at the present moment," said James Motlatsi, president of the National Union of Mineworkers. "We are being paid starvation wages, we don't have the right to vote—why should we be told by outsiders what is good or bad for us?"

*Miami Herald, November 6, 1987*

They are brothers now—two men from vastly different backgrounds brought together for a cause, to wage a fight centered on the other side of the world...

That pleases Tommy Buchanan and Sidney Hill, Jr., officers with the United Mine Workers of America in Birmingham.

Buchanan is a lanky older man. White, not slick, but eloquent in an earnest manner. Hill is a young black man. He grew up in the city, and wears dark suits to work. He looks sharp and speaks in well-thought-out terms. . .

For Buchanan, who grew up in the mining camp of Edgewater and whose brothers and father have worked in the mines, waging the Shell boycott is not only a moral cause.

"We've had some members tell us that it doesn't seem important to them, that they have a house payment to make, but I explain to them, 'Buddy, the slave labor over there can take your job and you won't be making your house payment.' Then they start to listen," Buchanan said.

Buchanan points to last spring when more than 500,000 tons of Jim Walter coal piled up at the Port of Mobile because Japanese steelmakers, under contract to pick up that coal, weren't doing that. Instead, they were buying cheaper South African coal, Buchanan said. The result was that Alabama miners were laid off for several weeks until the surplus was worked down.

*Birmingham News  
December 7, 1987*

There's a new reason for wood products workers to support the labor-backed Shell boycott. The Shell companies, no longer just involved in the oil business, are now "competing" in the world forestry market by using cheap labor in South Africa, Brazil, and Chile. Shell forest products from these countries are produced by workers who are paid only a few dollars a day and face severe limits on their right to organize. *United Paperworkers  
International Union newspaper  
January, 1988*

In South Africa, top pay for Shell forestry workers is less than \$10 per day. Workers as young as 16 are employed for less than \$7 per day.

Shell recently bought millions of dollars of forest lands there and evicted more than 300 people from their homes . . .

By supporting the Shell boycott, you can help let big corporations like Shell know that Americans are tired of having our own working conditions undercut by exploitation of workers in other countries.

It's time to give workers in other countries basic rights and decent conditions, instead of telling us that we must give up our way of life to "compete" with slave labor abroad.

*International Woodworkers of America newspaper  
January 22, 1988*

When divestment proponents go big-game hunting in South Africa, the big trophy is Shell Oil. South Africa has no natural oil reserves so the oil companies particularly irk groups fighting to get foreign companies out. And Royal Dutch/Shell is the main target. In Great Britain, Shell is the official No. 1 target for 1987 of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, which last year claimed responsibility for driving Barclays Bank—with a workforce 10 times that of Shell—out of South Africa. *Tampa Tribune, October 18, 1987*



## Rep. Wise's Bill Aims To Cut Off Oil

Legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Bob Wise (D-WV) would impose severe penalties on Shell and other oil companies that do business with South Africa.

The bill, H.R. 3317, would require U.S.-based oil companies to divest South African holdings within 12 months.

To make sure there is no loophole for European-based companies like Royal Dutch/Shell, the bill would prohibit any oil company which refines, stores, transports, or distributes crude or refined petroleum products in South Africa from acquiring new U.S. federal coal, oil, or gas leases.

Shell Oil, as a subsidiary of Royal Dutch/Shell, makes heavy use of those federal leases and would be severely affected by that provision.

## City Of Seattle Asks Shell Withdrawal

The mayor and city council of Seattle joined in a resolution Dec. 28 which says that "the involvement of Royal Dutch/Shell in the Republic of South Africa and Namibia is declared unacceptable to the City of Seattle."

The resolution notes that "the Royal Dutch/Shell Group continues to support apartheid in South Africa through its investments, trade, and operations of subsidiaries in Namibia and South Africa in spite of the fact that Shell has publicly renounced apartheid."

## International Pressure Continues To Build

The international Boycott Shell campaign has now spread to 14 industrialized countries, with anti-apartheid coalitions in Finland and New Zealand the latest to launch boycott activities.

Recent developments in the campaign include the following:

- A major Norwegian business daily paper reported that Shell has suffered a

## Shell Leader Shares Vision For Future

Will black South Africans—who make up 85 percent of their country's population—share appropriately in their nation's wealth as long as companies like Royal Dutch/Shell play a key role in their economy?

Not any time soon, according to the comments of Shell South Africa chairman John Wilson.

Wilson said in a *Johannesburg Sunday Star* interview that while other South African companies may decide to rapidly increase black employment, Shell does not want to be "guilty of tokenism."

"One of the tragedies of today's South African business scene," Wilson claimed, "is that there are so many companies willing to take a black at any cost . . ."

"We've established targets, by job groups, for the numbers of senior black employees that we wish to

have on our staff and we're looking at ways and means of achieving those targets," he added.

"In the senior management group, we would see 20 percent of these positions being occupied by blacks within the next five to six years. It's a stiff mountain to climb, but we aim to get there."

Wilson also said Shell is a "dominant force in the marketplace and in South African society."

Asked if Royal Dutch/Shell doesn't therefore have a responsibility to stop fueling South Africa until the apartheid system is ended and a non-racial, democratic government installed, Wilson explained why management cannot voluntarily agree to such a step.

"Once we pull out of the South African market," he explained, "we could never get back again."

significant loss in market share in Norway. The paper said the boycott campaign may have been the main cause.

- Representatives of 49 Dutch city councils met with Shell Netherlands to demand that Shell withdraw from South Africa.

- In the Dutch cities of Amsterdam and Groningen, 50,000 leaflets promoting the boycott were distributed to commuters.

- A major international conference organized by the African National Congress and attended by 500 delegates from more than 40 countries resolved that the "Shell campaign should be intensified internationally and that African countries and the people of South Africa and Namibia should actively join the campaign against Shell."

## Dutch University Takes Back Shell Exec's Award

Holland's prestigious Delft Technical University has withdrawn plans to award an honorary doctoral degree to Royal Dutch/Shell President L.C. van Wachem, citing the company's prac-

tice of fueling South Africa's apartheid system.

The university's ruling council, in voting to reverse plans to award the degree, cited a 1979 policy resolution against entering into or promoting relations with South Africa.

Van Wachem is a graduate of Delft, and many of Shell's top managers have been educated there.

## Teamsters Back Boycott

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters has officially urged its 1.7 million members to actively participate in the Shell boycott.

According to the IBT, union members can help by . . .

- Refusing to buy Shell products and by cutting up Shell credit cards.
- Publicizing the boycott with bumper stickers and buttons.
- Helping to leaflet consumers and ask stores, businesses, and government agencies not to do business with Shell.
- Calling Shell at the company's expense to express their views about the company's involvement in South Africa. (Call 1-800-331-3703.)



# The Boycott On Video

**"Our companies, factories, were being closed down. And then we discovered they were going to countries like South Africa and down in South America. And people were working for little or nothing. We call that slave labor. And for that reason we want to put a stop to it."**

Vera Brown, schoolteacher  
Birmingham, Alabama

Working people telling why they support the Shell boycott are featured in the new video, "The American Connection."

The show also presents rarely seen footage of South African police violence and an interview with a representative of South Africa's largest union.

It's available in a 10-minute version for use at meetings and a 27-minute version which includes a dis-

cussion with Bill Lucy of AFSCME and Gretchen Eick of the United Church of Christ.

The boycott also is explained in a 9-minute slide show/video, "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell," which features boycott leaders Walter Fauntroy, Rich Trumka, Owen Bieber, Randall Robinson, Coretta King, and Eleanor Smeal.

To order, please use the coupon below.

QTY.	SHELL BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN MATERIALS	COST
	<b>Bumper sticker:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> # ____ "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" <input type="checkbox"/> # ____ "Save U.S. Jobs, Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 50¢ for 1-200, 15¢ for over 200.	
	<b>Buttons:</b> "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 50¢ for 1-200, 30¢ for over 200.	
	<b>Wallet-size "Discredit Card":</b> A reminder of your commitment to boycott Shell products. \$2.50/hundred.	
	<b>Basic 16-page booklet:</b> Gives the basics on apartheid, why Shell is a boycott target, and Shell's involvement in South Africa. 75¢ for 1-100, 50¢ for over 100.	
	<b>Basic leaflets:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> # ____ A leaflet to use while picketing, explaining the campaign. <input type="checkbox"/> # ____ A leaflet for particular use in labor meetings and conferences. <input type="checkbox"/> # ____ A leaflet for outreach to sympathetic general audiences. \$5/hundred.	
	<b>Campaign slide/tape show:</b> A 9-minute show featuring boycott leaders and the president of the South African National Union of Mineworkers. Also available in video format. \$40 each. No rentals.	
	<b>"The American Connection":</b> A TV documentary on Americans and South Africa that features the boycott. ½-inch VHS format. <input type="checkbox"/> # ____ 10-minute version. <input type="checkbox"/> # ____ 27-minute version. \$40 each. No rentals.	
	<b>Workplace stickers:</b> "Stop Apartheid, Boycott Shell" 10¢ for 1-100, 5¢ for over 100.	
	<b>Poster-size "Discredit Card":</b> \$5 each. (Free with orders of \$250 or more.)	
	<b>Poster for stores:</b> "No Shell Products Sold Here" and why. 50¢ for 1-200, 15¢ for over 200.	
	<b>"Protect Our Jobs" brochure:</b> How the Shell campaign helps preserve coal jobs in the U.S. \$5/hundred.	
	<b>"Boycott Shell" Bulletin:</b> 40¢ for 1-50, 25¢ for over 50.	
Please add 25 percent for postage and handling.		

ORDER FORM
Name _____
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<b>Make checks payable to Boycott Shell Campaign and send c/o United Mine Workers of America, 900 15th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.</b>
<b>Phone: (202) 842-7350</b>
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