

Council Adopts Statement on South Africa

The APSA Council adopted a statement on South Africa at its April 18 meeting in Washington, D.C. that goes beyond APSA's already firm commitment to the Sullivan Principles.

Under APSA's Constitution the Trust and Development Fund Trustees are vested with the responsibility of managing assets of the Association, currently valued at approximately \$1.5 million, "to minimize risk while obtaining long-term growth and a reasonable short-term income," 1984-85 Treasurer Susan Welch said in her report to the Council. The role of the Council in investing these funds is advisory.

In order to improve the performance of the Fund's portfolio, the Trustees have invested 70% of the Fund in common stock mutual funds. Specific investment decisions lie in the hands of mutual fund managers and do not rest with the Trustees. As a consequence, it is difficult for the Trustees to ensure that no APSA funds be invested in companies that do not comply with the Sullivan Principles. The Trustees have, however, engaged in the following actions:

- a. Writing to each mutual fund to urge them to purge their portfolios of companies not in substantial compliance with Sullivan Principles;
- b. Investing new resources and reinvesting proceeds from sales of existing holdings in mutual funds with the best combination of return/risk record and adherence to Sullivan Principles; and
- c. Withholding investment in international mutual funds which, despite their better record of return, either disregard Sullivan Principles or do not provide dependable data regarding compliance on the companies whose stock they own.

The Council unanimously commended the Trustees for these actions and agreed that "the Trustees have gone about as far as they can go," given the fiduciary responsibility of the Trustees under APSA's constitution.

At the same time, however, the Council

recognized in its statement "that far more should and can be done by the Association." Specifically, the Council recommended the following measures be taken by APSA:

1. That the Association establish a fellowship program for graduate and undergraduate studies in political science in the United States that would contribute to peaceful transition toward genuine democracy in South Africa, to be made available to South African undergraduate and graduate students who have been victimized and isolated by *apartheid*;
2. Explore putting Project '87 on a permanent status as an institution for the encouragement and dissemination of comparative constitutional research or in other ways develop and foster programs of research and publication in comparative constitutional and electoral experiences, within the context of international conditions;
3. To these ends the Association should:
 - a) seek foundation and university financial support;
 - b) establish a mechanism for identifying and selecting students and researchers working in these areas;
 - c) appropriate \$5,000 to begin immediate implementation of these proposals.

Accuracy in Academia

In response to an initiative by APSA's Committee on Professional Ethics and a resolution submitted by APSA member John Ehrenberg dealing with Accuracy in Academia, the Council joined with other higher education associations and the ACLU's Academic Freedom Committee to affirm the principles of academic freedom and civil liberties and to condemn "any efforts to enforce ideological conformity on our profession and our discipline in particular."

New Organized Sections

The Council also approved the petitions of five new groups to become Organized Sections of the Association. They are:

Association News

- Political Methodology: John E. Jackson, University of Michigan, President.
- Religion and Politics: Hubert Morken, Oral Roberts University, Organizer.
- Politics and the Life Sciences: Thomas C. Weigele, Northern Illinois University, Organizer.
- Urban Politics: Barbara J. Burt and Kenneth R. Mladenka, Texas A&M University, Organizer.
- Applied Political Science: Howard Silver of COSSA, and Gary Andres of Southwestern Bell Corp., Organizers.

Editor's Note: For complete Council minutes see this issue's PS Appendix. □

An Historical Note on the APSA and Its Annual Meetings

Jean Walen

American Political Science Association

The APSA was very much dependent upon its two older sister organizations, the American Historical Association (AHA) and the American Economic Association (AEA), in its formation and early history. The first organizational meeting of APSA was held at the annual meetings of AHA and AEA in New Orleans in 1903; subsequent annual meetings were held in conjunction with those of AHA and AEA. In fact, annual meetings in early years were always held in conjunction with other social science associations—not only with AHA and AEA but with other organizations such as the American Sociological Society, Bibliography Society of America, American Association for Labor Legislation, National Council for the Social Studies, Society of American Archivists, American Association of Geographers, National Foundation for Education in American Citizenship, National Municipal League, New England Teacher's Association, Mississippi State Historical Society. And, in turn, the Association aided other groups to organize; at the 1939 meeting of the Association, an organizational

meeting was held for the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), which continued to meet jointly with APSA until after World War II. The 1946 meeting was the first meeting not held jointly with another organization although ASPA met two days earlier.

The seeds for the Association were planted in December, 1902, when President Charles W. Needham of Columbian University (the forerunner of George Washington University) of Washington, D.C. sent a letter to "a number of persons known to be interested" in attending an informal conference on comparative legislation at the president's office, Columbian University, December 30, 1902.

The letter of invitation stated that

the formation of an American Society of Comparative Legislation has been suggested as particularly desirable because of the complexity of our system of government. In calling the proposed conference, however, the undersigned do not commit themselves as to the necessity of a permanent organization in addition to the various learned societies already existing which take more or less active interest in legislative problems. On the contrary, one of the main objects in calling the conference is to obtain a representative expression of opinion as to whether it will be possible for existing institutions to do the work imperatively demanded in this field.

At this meeting it was decided that instead of the establishment of a Society of Comparative Legislation, a national Association should, if possible, be created, whose province should embrace the whole field of political science, and thus include comparative legislation as one of its special topics. A resolution was passed that a committee be appointed to confer with the American Economic Association and the American Historical Association, and others, regarding the advisability of forming a national political science association.

A committee of 15 was appointed with Jeremiah W. Jenks of Cornell University as chairman. The committee met at the Murray Hill Hotel, New York, April 24, 1903. Professor Jenks reported that he had sent out two hundred letters to per-