

**The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums**  
**U.S. Representative of California (1971–1998)**

**Events: Civil Rights**

**The Dellums Amendment: Part Two**

Representative Dellums reflects on the possible impact of the passage of his measure for U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa in 1986.

*Interview recorded June 19, 2012*

Siljander walks into the well, and he says, “Ron, I made you a hero for a moment.” He said, “I like you, I respect you, you didn’t lie, you didn’t say that you guaranteed that disinvestment was going to work. You said you thought this was the only option. I respect that. But look, man, this is way too radical. My party controls the Senate, it’s going to die. It’s never going to happen. Okay? So, but I made you a hero for a moment.” And he shook my hand, he started to walk away, and I said, “Siljander, hold on for just a moment. Let me give you another thought. Tomorrow morning, front page of every major newspaper in the country is going to say, ‘House passes bill to bring sanctions against South Africa.’ Every television station, tonight and tomorrow morning, lead story, ‘Congress passes bill.’ There’s a movement out there. Movements are strengthened by victories. People in the movement will be buoyed by, and strengthened by, this effort. And while you think this is going to die, I would suggest to you that what you have inadvertently done has brought much more pressure on the Republican-controlled Senate. They’re going to do more than they would have done had this bill not passed. So maybe I’ll have the last laugh, my friend.”