

X5=PC

14 Charles Lane  
New York, N.Y. 10014  
March 14, 1979

Lew Jones  
Oakland

Dear Lew,

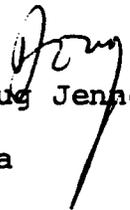
I noticed in the minutes we received today of the Berkeley branch meeting held on February 25 that the branch approved a proposal to support a ballot initiative on divestment.

I'm writing to inquire whether or not it has been discussed by the district committee yet and if it is being referred to the Political Committee.

If you recall, the December plenum of the National Committee voted that "proposals for endorsement of or support for referenda, initiatives, and other similar ballot items be referred to the Political Committee by branches, locals, or districts in the same way that party endorsement for any nonparty candidate is brought before the PC."

In order to consider it here, it would be helpful to receive a copy of the initiative and the report motivating support for it.

Comradely,

  
Doug Jenness

cc: Arlene Rubenstein, Catarino Garza

Over

March 12

# Study Outlines Shift of Berkeley To Laboratory of Radical Politics

and former

Special to The New York Times

BERKELEY, Calif., March 11 — Taking what he called "a leadership role in the international movement against apartheid," Mayor Warren Widener has endorsed two initiatives on the April 17 city ballot that call for the withdrawal of an estimated \$10 million in city funds from banks that make loans to the Republic of South Africa.

The initiatives appear to have a good chance of passing, according to Mr. Widener and other close followers of political events here.

Few city electorates vote on initiatives so directly linked to international issues, such as apartheid. However, in Berkeley, where Mayor Widener was elected on an anti-Vietnam war platform in 1971, voters have often considered issues focused beyond the city's boundaries.

In an attempt to understand how this once-quiet, Republican college town became identified as a national center of radical political experimentation, the Institute of Government Studies at the University of California at Berkeley recently published a study of local politics that draws on personal recollections of a dozen residents who participated in municipal affairs beginning in 1950.

## Leadership and Upheavals

The study traces how Berkeley community leaders experienced the political upheavals with which the city has come to be identified, such as the civil rights movement, free speech and antiwar movements, the People's Park disturbances, which involved the use of university land for a park, and the rise of the counterculture.

The study includes essays by present

and former City Council members, a former Mayor, community organizers and the former owners of a local bookstore. The study is entitled "Experiment in Change in Berkeley: Essays on City Politics 1950-1975," and is edited by Harriet Nathan and Stanley Scott.

Political views include those of traditional conservatives, New Leftists and self-styled "progressives."

Progressives espouse a left-Democratic populism and support citizen participation in government and a broad range of social service programs. A loose coalition of progressives has governed Berkeley since 1971.

## Third Term Sought

Mr. Widener, a 41-year-old black lawyer, is running for his third four-year term as mayor, a part-time position that pays \$600 a month. There are four candidates opposing him in the nonpartisan contest, the most conservative of whom would be described as a liberal in most other parts of the country. Four of the eight other City Council seats will also be decided in next month's election. Council posts are four-year, part-time positions that pay \$300 a month.

Thomas L. McLaren, a conservative City Council member from 1969 to 1973, writes in the Berkeley study that conservatives controlled the City Council until 1961, when liberal Democrats took control. The People's Park battle in May 1969 signaled a further leftward trend that led to the incumbent progressive City Council of four men and five women.

Today, Mr. McLaren writes, "The pendulum has swung so far to the left, it is impossible to elect anyone to local office who isn't out in left field."

# Harvard Is Warned on Activism

Special to The New York Times

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., March 11 — Harvard University's academic and financial independence could be threatened if the university took political stands on issues that did not directly involve it, according to Harvard's president, Derek C. Bok.

In the first of a series of open letters to Harvard's faculty and students, Mr. Bok responded Friday to demands from student groups that the university examine the ethical practices of companies with which it does business. Some students have specifically opposed Harvard stock holdings in corporations with investments in South Africa.

Mr. Bok wrote that educational institutions could not expect to maintain their

"There comes a point where symbolism must give way to real threats of academic freedom, real financial losses and real administrative burdens," he concluded in the four-page letter that was distributed throughout the campus.

Mr. Bok acknowledged that some questions concerning the university's "regular activities," investments, and educational policies were unavoidable and required moral judgments that might be out of place in other contexts.

"The students deserve some answers from us," Mr. Bok said, adding that he wanted Harvard's 22,000 students to understand that he was "wrestling with the problem."