Guide to the Materials on the divestment controversy and policy of the University of California, 1985-1986

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Preferred Citation
In January 1985 then Student Regent Fred Gaines introduced a resolution calling for investigation by the Treasurer of the Regents' investments in companies doing business in South Africa. The Treasurer's report was issued on June 1, 1985, but by that time the controversy surrounding the issue had sparked demonstrations on several of the campuses, beginning with Berkeley in April, and the formation of several student and faculty groups protesting these investments.

In addition to the social concerns against apartheid expressed by these groups, there were numerous other factors, especially legal ones, which came into play as this controversy continued. One of these concerned the legal obligation of the Regents' to protect their invested funds by not selling investments in such a way as to decrease the value of their holdings.

This collection, transferred from the Library of the Office of the President in April 1993, contains reports, statements, articles, etc., from the University administration as well as various groups constituted during this controversy. In addition there are materials on the legal aspects of the divestment issue as well as statements made by such bodies as the Fair Political Practices Commission on possible conflict of interest concerns among the Regents.

The collection is largely composed of photocopies of materials circulating either in the Office of the President or in the Secretary of the Regents office, but there is no statement as to which office actually assembled the collection. The collection was housed in a series of three-ring binders and has been transferred to folders for ease of handling; the folder titles reflect without change the divisions already established when the collection was received.

Box 1, folder 1  Chronology
folder 2  Regents' actions
folder 3  David P. Gardner statements
folder 4  Treasurer's report
folder 5  Committees on divestment
folder 6  University Advisory Committee for Investment Responsibility (UACIR)
folder 7-9  Regents
folder 10  Faculty
folder 11  Staff
folder 12  Students
folder 13  Chancellors
folder 14  Public
folder 15  Public officials
folder 16  Legislative action
folder 17  Press releases/media
folder 18  Articles on divestment
folder 19  Legal aspects
folder 20  Fair Political Practices Commission
folder 21  Actions by other colleges and universities
folder 22  Actions by U.S. companies
folder 23  Miscellaneous