

7/23/81

Apartheid protesters want Albany to bar South African team

By R. VICTOR STEWART
Knickerbocker News Reporter

The chairman of a new protest group, the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid, says a petition is being circulated to stop the South African National Rugby Team from playing a team of American all-stars Sept. 22 at Blecker Stadium in Albany.

Michael Dollard of 243 Mount Hope Drive, Albany, says his group is opposed to the team's appearance because its members represent a country where apartheid — separation of races — is official policy.

The group has called a public meeting of supporters for 7:30 tonight at the Arbor Hill Community Center.

Dollard said the group plans to petition Gov. Hugh Carey and Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II to bar the South African team from playing on any publicly owned field.

Thomas Selfridge, of Albany, president of the Eastern Rugby Football Union — which is sponsoring appearances of the team in Albany, New York City and Chicago — said Wednesday that politics and sports should be kept separate and the South African team's appearance should not be interpreted as an endorsement of apartheid policy.

"It is a sporting event and not a political event," Selfridge said. "If these people have a complaint about politics, they should take it to the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C."

Selfridge said he has spoken with Corning about the team's appearance in Albany, and the mayor agreed with his position on sports and politics.

However, Sal Garufi, city commissioner of parks and recreation, said he has no official word that the South

African team will be playing in Blecker Stadium Sept. 22.

Garufi said the Albany Knickerbockers, a local rugby team, has tentatively reserved the stadium for that date, but the reservation has not been confirmed.

The mayor is out of town on a fishing vacation and could not confirm any conversation or arrangements with Selfridge.

Asked what he would do about a petition protest, Garufi said, "I'm going to have to take a wait-and-see attitude to see what kind of a protest is lodged and what the reasons for it are."

Last week, the U.S. State Department gave visas to 30 team members and four officials of the South African team. But spokesman Alan Romberg said the issuance of the visas should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the country's apartheid policy.

"The South African officials and players were eligible for American visas and were thus not refused. Issuing the visas also was fully consistent with our policy of not interfering in private sport exchanges, and they are coming to the United States without approval by the government," Romberg said. He said the team members and officials had applied for visas as individuals.

On Tuesday, New York City Mayor Edward Koch rejected a protest lodged by the Organization of African Unity, representing black nations in the United Nations, against the South Africans' use of Downing Stadium on Randall's Island.

Koch said, "The use of city athletic facilities in no way expresses the city's endorsement of the politics of those using the facilities."

Continued on Page 6-A

7/23/81

Apartheid protesters

CONTINUED

Selfridge said he personally extended an invitation to the South Africans in December, after earning the team, known as the Springboks (named after a small African antelope), would be going on a world tour.

"It is part of our organization's effort to upgrade the level of rugby play in this country. This is the premier world power of rugby, and they will be playing a team in Albany called the Colonials, which is an all-star group made up of the best players from 23 Eastern states," Selfridge said.

Selfridge said he did not expect any difficulty when he extended the invitation, and theorized the protests are a result of a change in the United States since the boycott of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow after Russia's invasion of Afghanistan.

Dollard said his group's protest is "a small part" of the international sports boycott of South Africa launched several years ago to protest "a system of formal repression which keeps the black African majority as second-class citizens, while it keeps the white minority in positions of power and wealth."

He said he and his friends already have made several individual protests to Corning's office about the South African team's use of any city-owned facility.

would bar team ...

Dollard said the steering committee of the protest group includes Dr. Japhet Zwanja and Dr. Frank Pogue of the African Studies Department at the State University at Albany; Dr. Barbara Ellery of the Bethlehem High School teaching staff; James Bouldin of the Arbor Hill Neighborhood Association; Sister Cecilia Holbrook of the College of Saint Rose; and James Campbell of the Albany Council of Churches.

Rugby is a physical contact game that is a mixture of soccer and football. It is considered to be the forerunner of American football.

'Sports and Politics Don't Mix'—

ERU Won't Budge; Springboks Welcome

By TOM BOGGIE
Gazette Sportswriter

While the opposition to a United States tour by a South African rugby team grows in intensity each day, Tom Selfridge of Schenectady, the president of the Eastern Rugby Union, is finding himself in the middle of an international controversy.

Selfridge, in fact, is reportedly getting pressure from a number of groups, including the powerful United States Olympic Committee, to cancel the Springboks' American tour. But because rugby isn't an Olympic sport, all the USOC can do is try to persuade Selfridge to cancel the tour.

During it all, Selfridge, a distinguished rugger himself who has played for the U.S. team — the Eagles — in international matches, tries to keep the issue in a sports-related light.

"In no way does our invitation to South Africa indicate an acceptance, or endorsement, of their political viewpoint," Selfridge said yesterday. "I have no opinion at all on that point. When I heard the Springboks were going to be in New Zealand, I knew they had to get home somehow, so I got them to come here first. I'd invite Darth Vadar and his Rugby 15 to play

Selfridge feels that the Springboks are being made scapegoats because they represent the premier sport in South Africa. "The PGA lets Gary Player play, don't they? The Cosmos have a player from South Africa (Steve Wegerle). The fact that the Springboks represent more people in the sports community, that they're the premier sport, that's the reason they're picking on them."

"One of our (the ERU) biggest objectives is to bring this off as a non-political event," he continued. "When I became president of the Eastern Rugby Union in December 1980, one of my big objectives was to see rugby rise from a game to a sport. One, we had to change the image. Two, we had to attract the great athletes. There are a lot of athletes who get out of college and never do anything again. We feel the



TOM SELFRIDGE
'Man in the Middle'

us if they were passing through."

great athletes will see and respond if they can play against great competition. Non-boxing fans would come out to see Muhammad Ali in his prime because he represented the best in his sport, and I think the non-rugby person would come out to see the best team in the world."

Despite Selfridge's efforts, the opposition mounts. The Springboks are currently in New Zealand, where air force planes had to fly police to the university city of Hamilton to prepare for large scale demonstrations this weekend. The Capital District Committee Against Apartheid met last night to develop opposition for the game in Albany in September. The group is trying to convince city officials not to make any city facilities, especially Blecker Stadium, available to the ERU and to the Springboks.

But the game is booked at Blecker and, insists Selfridge, it will be played as scheduled.

"Talking from a pure sports sense, this is the biggest thing we've ever done," he said. "Forget all the other nonsense. If we had to play (the Springboks) in a locked stadium, with no one there, it would be worth it. It would just be the thrill of playing against the best."

While the controversy surrounding the Springboks is political, Selfridge refuses to abandon his sport-only approach to the rugby matches. He has been asked to present his views for *The New York Times* sports opinion page, but his reply was, "Sports and politics don't mix. If we're talking sports, we have nothing to talk about," he said. "We're having a rugby game, and that's it. End of conversation."

"Our (the ERU) official position is that the playing of any sporting event is not the place where political statements should be made. But you have to recognize reality. If someone wants to come out and make a political viewpoint, well, that's what's great about America."

"Our own State Department's comment was that there was no reason not to let them in. They didn't have to grant them (the Springboks) visas. Guys can make all the smokescreen they want, but there's no reason not to let them come."

While local opposition to the Springbok's tour doesn't really seem to bother Selfridge, he is upset by the growing opposition by the International Olympic Committee and USOC, which seem to be worried about possible repercussions at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles as a result of the tour. Already, some black African national Olympic committees have threatened to stay away from Los Angeles if the Springboks play in this country.

"They're trying to make us the heavys," said Selfridge. "They just figure that if we play the Springboks, there will be no Games. I'm very surprised that a sports organization that promotes amateur athletics, especially IOC, would be against another organization doing something like this."

From the Schenectady Gazette ■ July 24, 1981

Ad Hoc Committee Works Against South African Rugby Team Visit

By PHIL BLANCHARD
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — An ad hoc committee formed to oppose the planned visit of a South African rugby team in September will try to convince Mayor Erastus Corning to deny permission for the team to play at Bleecker Stadium.

* * *
The South African national team, nicknamed the "Springboks," is scheduled to oppose an American all-star team in Albany Sept. 22. The Eastern Rugby Football Union is sponsoring a three-city tour for the team, with stops in Albany, New York and Chicago. (See related story on page 28.)

* * *
Michael Dollard of Albany said yesterday that he organized a committee to prevent the South African team from using the city-owned stadium after reading newspaper accounts of the planned tour. His group, called the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid, considers the tour "a propaganda tool of the government of South Africa and its policy of apartheid."

Apartheid is the system of social and economic segregation in South Africa that excludes blacks, who comprise the majority of that nation's population, from the economic and social benefits that whites enjoy.

Dollard said that, if his group cannot force the city to refuse permission for the South African team to appear, it will attempt to organize a boycott and a demonstration during the game.

The impending appearance of the team in New York City has been the target of a similar protest by anti-apartheid groups. Mayor Edward I. Koch said a game to be played at the city-owned Downing Stadium would be allowed to go on as scheduled.

* * *
Mayor Erastus Corning II was unavailable for comment yesterday. Sal Garufi, city parks and recreation commissioner, said that, while the final permit for the game has not yet been issued, "I can see no reason why the South African team can't play rugby in Bleecker Stadium." Garufi said no one

from Dollard's committee had approached him about the matter.

Thomas Selfridge, president of the Eastern Rugby Football Union, said "our basic premise is that sports and politics don't mix." The organization, he said, has sponsored several appearances by South African teams in the United States during the past year and has encountered no opposition to them.

Selfridge said the South African team is considered to be one of the best of the world and "is selected solely by merit," not on the basis of race. He said the team to visit Albany in the fall includes the first black ever to make the South African national team, center Errol Tobias, and a black coach.

Selfridge added that "the PGA (Professional Golfers Association) has had Gary Player on the tour for years and no one has gone after them."

* * *
Dollard said that his committee would sponsor a series of public meetings in September in an attempt to rouse public support for its cause.

Schenectady Gazette
7/29/81

Mayor Says Rugby Team Issue Open

By PHIL BLANCHARD
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — The decision to permit the South African national rugby team's scheduled Sept. 22 appearance at Bleecker Stadium is "not irrevocable," Mayor Erastus Corning II said yesterday.

But, he reserved decision on whether he'll intervene in the controversy, as requested by a committee formed last week to protest the appearance.

* * *
The South African team is currently on a world tour and plans to make stops in Albany, New York and Chicago. It is scheduled to play an American all-star team organized by the Eastern Rugby Football Union and it is that plan that led to formation of the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid.

A committee spokesman, Michael Dollard of Albany, said the group wants the city to deny use of the city-owned stadium by the South African team and, failing that, will organize a boycott and demonstration.

Corning said he had yet to hear from the committee, but a committee member, Sister Cecilia Holbrook, said she met with the mayor yesterday afternoon to discuss the group's objections to the scheduled game.

She said Corning told her he would need a couple of days to review the situation, but that "he would have nothing to do with it and do nothing on behalf of the city to welcome the team."

Corning said that the Eastern Rugby Football Union "has been coming in here for years and we have taken part in their activities." It was on the basis of that longstanding relationship, Corning said, that a permit was issued for the September game.

But Corning said he will consider the anti-apartheid group's arguments, acknowledging that the team's current appearances in New Zealand are causing problems.

Violent demonstrations have marked the South African team's games in that country and government officials there are reportedly considering whether to cancel the remainder of its schedule.

8/3/81

... maintain he was unaware that he w.

Rugby unit solicited U.S. firms

T.U.
8/3/81

By Ronald Kermani
Staff Writer

The president of the Eastern Rugby Union solicited about 300 U.S. companies which do business in South Africa and asked them to contribute money to support the union-sponsored tour of a South African rugby team.

The team, Springboks, an all-star rugby team from South Africa, will play in Albany Sept. 22. The team has been involved in controversy since all through its current world tour, including riots and protests when it played in New Zealand.

Thomas Selfridge, president of the union, wrote in a letter mailed to the firms in June that "your company will benefit from this support in the South African community."

None of the companies donated, Selfridge said Tuesday.

The letter, sent to companies such as Citibank, Tupperware and Kentucky Fried Chicken, among others, explained the tour's schedule, asked for money, and said a donation "can either be recognized in the program or remain anonymous."

The program ads could generate favorable public relations in South Africa, Selfridge said. On Sunday, it was reported that Selfridge, on behalf of the union, accepted \$25,000 from a Johannesburg businessman who has served as a conduit for South African government funds in the past.

Selfridge said the contribution had nothing to do with the tour, and was used for upgrading coaching and refereeing in the union, which represents rugby clubs throughout the East and is based in Schenectady.

According to Selfridge, rugby in South Africa is comparable to baseball or football in the U. S. — the games draw large crowds and corporate advertising budgets.

"Ford Motor Co. doesn't put a dime into American rugby, but it puts lots of money into rugby in South Africa," Selfridge said. "It's a big sport there."

Contributors to the Springboks tour could remain anonymous, Selfridge said, to avoid calls from other donation seekers who scan event programs to see who has contributed money.

Leaders of local minority and religious organizations have said they will demonstrate if the game is held, stressing the tour was designed to help solicit support for the South African government's policy of racial separation, or apartheid.

From the Schenectady Gazette

From the Schenectady
Gazette August 5, 1981

8
August 4, 1981
GAZETTE PHONE 374-4141

8/4/81

9

In Albany—

Blacks Condemn Rugby Team Visit

By STEVE NELSON
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — A Sept. 22 visit here by the South African rugby team is a slap in the face to the city's black community that the Common Council and the city must not tolerate or support, black leaders said last night.

* * *
"The blacks in Arbor Hill are saying 'hell, no' to apartheid and 'hell, no' to the South African rugby team," said Fifth Ward alderman Nebraska Brace as he introduced the small group on hand to seek council's backing. "This is a slap in the face to 26 million blacks in the nation and the 14,000 blacks in this area."

The rugby team from South Africa, a country whose laws embrace rigid race separation and discrimination policies, has been granted visas by the State Department to tour the United States playing rugby. One of the team's planned stops is Albany, where they will play a match in Bleecker Stadium against a local team.

Recently, the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid was formed to prevent the South African team from stopping in Albany.

Brace said the "pulse is running high" in the black community over the impending visit. The alderman said he would offer a resolution at the next council meeting condemning the visit.

Among those on hand last night to express their opposition to the visit were Clara Satterfield, president of the Albany chapter of the NAACP; Joseph Brown, vice chairman of the local Black and Hispanic Political Caucus; and Sam Burton, president of the West Hill Neighborhood Association, the area in which Bleecker Stadium is located.

Some aldermen expressed their support for preventing the visit. Ward 7 alderman Nancy Burton and Ward 14 alderman Philip DiPace vowed their support following the council session.

Despite the growing community pressure to halt the visit, Mayor Corning said last night he could do nothing to halt the match or prevent the visit.

"I have no power to stop them from playing in Albany," he said. "If they are going to play here, I'm certainly not going to welcome them. I'm not going to help them in anyway..."

Corning agrees with New York City Mayor Ed Koch that the city cannot revoke a permit issued to a public group for the use of a public facility. The Eastern Rugby Football Union is sponsoring the event. The Albany Knickerbockers, a local rugby team, will battle the South African contingent.

"I'm completely opposed to the entire philosophy of South Africa, but they have received visas from the federal government," Corning said. "How can you say you can come into the United States anywhere but Albany?"

The mayor said he would try to keep the entire event as low-key as possible. He said he preferred the match take place in Bleecker Stadium rather than in "some open field" where the city could not provide adequate security for fans and players.

The Gazette's Albany bureaus are located in the Wellington Hotel, on State Street in the city, and at 1338 Central Ave.

Reporters Steve Nelson, Stephen Goldstein and Phil Blanchard may be reached at 434-2912 at the Wellington, while Pam Snook and Carlo Wolff may be reached at 458-7955 at the Central Avenue office.

Continuing Protests Over Rugby Team

By PHIL BLANCHARD
Gazette Reporter 8/4/81

ALBANY — A committee of the Capital Area Council of Churches voted yesterday to support opponents of a planned Sept. 22 appearance by the South African national rugby team at Bleecker Stadium.

The international affairs committee of the church group adopted a resolution urging Mayor Erastus Corning II to revoke a permit granted to the Eastern Rugby Football Union for the game. The committee acted after hearing an appeal from Dr. Japhel Zwana, a professor of Afro-American Studies at Albany State University and a member of the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid.

* * *
The anti-apartheid group is also seeking the support of other community and religious groups in the Capital District.

Tonight, the Schenectady Inner City Ministry's membership will listen to committee representatives and, according to chairman Florence Reimer, decide whether to take a stand on the matter.

Reimer said that SICM's steering committee declined to adopt a position on the rugby game because, she said, "It is generally not the nature of the organization to concern itself with issues outside Schenectady." It was decided, though, to leave the final decision up to the general membership.

Correction

ALBANY — The Albany Knickerbockers rugby team will not play the South African Springbok team at Bleecker Stadium on Sept. 22, as reported in yesterday's Gazette. The South Africans will actually face an all-star team gleaned from the membership of the Eastern Rugby Football Union. The Gazette regrets the error.

8/7/81

T.U.

8/7/81

Compromise sought over rugby protests

Combined wire and local reports

Anti-apartheid protesters have made good their promises to continue demonstrations while the New Zealand government seeks a "middle ground" solution to the Springbok rugby tour crisis now disrupting that country and threatening to erupt in Albany and other American cities next month.

The visiting South African team took to the field in Wanganui untroubled by demonstrators to play its fourth rugby game Wednesday against a provincial squad. But anti-tour groups marshalled their numbers in the North Island's main centers of Auckland and Wellington for a series of rowdy displays.

Although there were several scuffles with police in both cities, where crowds of 600 to 700 protesters took to the streets, violence was largely avoided. A number of arrests were made.

The Springboks trounced the local side in Wanganui 45-9.

Neither rugby officials nor protest leaders reported any progress Wednesday on the latest proposal to settle the crisis by canceling the final test between the Springboks and New Zealand's All-Blacks (the name of the team) and substituting this with a massive nationwide anti-apartheid rally.

The same proposal contains provisions for anti-apartheid sentiments to be made public by a protest group spokesman for a set time before each future Springbok game.

The idea was presented to a meeting headed by Prime Minister Robert Muldoon on Tuesday in an attempt to open negotiations between the Rugby Union, hosts to the visiting Springboks, and the various protest organizations.

However, the *Dominion* newspaper in Wellington reported Wednesday that an anti-apartheid publicity campaign associated with every Springbok match from now on might well lead to the South African team being called home.

Quoting government sources, the newspaper said the airing of political feelings in this manner could be viewed in South Africa as an insult to both the team and the government of Pretoria.

In Albany, where the South African team is scheduled to play in September, a committee has been pressuring Mayor Erastus Corning II to cancel permission for the match, scheduled for city-owned Bleecker Stadium.

Also under pressure to cancel a slated September Springbok match is New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch.

8/9/84

ALBANY AVENUE MAIL BOX WAY ONE, II

Blacks: S. African ^{Aug 9/84} team not welcome

By SUSAN SCHULMAN
Knickerbocker News Reporter

Anger is mounting in Albany's black community over the city's giving the South African rugby team permission to play at Bleecker Stadium in September.

"I haven't organized a march since 1962, but I haven't forgotten how," said Clara Satterfield, president of Albany's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Ms. Satterfield was one of a group of blacks appearing at Monday night's Common Council meeting to show the black community's opposition to South Africa's racial policies and to oppose the 30-man South African team, known as the Springboks, using Albany facilities as part of its world tour.

Rodney Littles said the West Hill Neighborhood Association he belongs to has denounced the team's visit to Albany and will join the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid in a protest rally scheduled for noon today at 910 Madison Ave.

"An international issue is at the doorsteps of city hall," he said.

Littles said that Mayor Erastus Corning II has been "blitzed" with phone calls from the black community protesting the games being played here.

Corning, who was not available for comment following Monday night's Common Council meeting, has previously said the city's giving the rugby team permission to play at Bleecker Stadium was not an endorsement of South Africa's apartheid policy.

The mayor also said the city may review the decision to permit the team in Albany if there is strong community protest against the game.

Alderman Nebraska Brace, who rep-

resents Arbor Hill, gave an emotional speech before the Common Council opposing the South African team. Following the meeting, Brace said he may introduce a resolution opposing the game coming to Albany.

"We are saying, 'Hell no' to apartheid and 'Hell no' to South Africa's rugby team," Brace said. "It's a slap in the face to 26 million blacks, including 14,000 blacks in the city of Albany."

Brace's comments were met by a round of applause by the Common Council and a separate offer of support from Alderwoman Nancy Burton.

In addition to Albany, the South African team is scheduled to play in Chicago and New York City. Brace predicted that if the games are allowed to be played downstate "all hell will break loose."

The New York City Common Council has opposed the games, but Mayor Edward Koch has refused to forbid the team from using city facilities.

Ms. Satterfield said the national NAACP is opposing any games being played in the United States. She said telegrams have been sent to President Reagan and Gov. Hugh Carey.

Brace said that the eyes of the nation will be watching to see if Albany allows the South African team to use its facilities.

The Capital District Committee Against Apartheid has publicly denounced its the match, calling it a propaganda effort to soften criticism against South Africa's repressive racial policies.

South Africa, which is governed by a white minority, practices legal segregation of blacks and whites.

During the South African teams' game in New Zealand last month, almost 300 persons were arrested at demonstrations in New Zealand.

Times-Union 8/9/81

Albany aide to seek rugby team ban

Albany City Council member Nebraska Brace said Saturday he will introduce a resolution to the council Aug. 17 urging Mayor Erastus Corning II to reverse his position and ban a South African rugby team from playing in the city's stadium in late September.

Brace, speaking after a meeting of minority and religious groups in Albany, added peaceful demonstrations will be staged at Blecker Stadium and at city hall if the Springboks team is permitted to play a local rugby team Sept. 22.

The alderman said he has not started lobbying other legislators for support of his measure.

Officials of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and other minority and religious groups concerned about the team's appearance have scheduled a press conference for 12:30 p.m. Monday at the Urban League headquarters at 93 Livingston Ave. in Albany to announce their position against the game.

The game has generated considera-

ble controversy since the South African team's schedule to play in New York City, Albany and Chicago was announced.

Various minority and neighborhood groups in Albany have opposed the game because of the South African government's apartheid policy — a system of rigid racial separation.

Corning has said he will permit the team to play at city-owned Blecker Stadium, adding his permission to play doesn't intimate approval of the gov-

See ALBANY AIDE/ C-6

Albany aide seeks rugby ban

Continued from C-1

ernment's racial policies.

New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch reversed an earlier decision Friday and announced the national Digby team would not be permitted to play on city property. He cited the fear of violence and the cost of establishing adequate security measures.

Local community group leaders reiterated their protests to the game.

Saturday, adding they will lobby their city aldermen and picket city hall in an attempt to persuade Corning to change his mind.

"It will be construed as a slap in the face of the black community for Corning to allow such an event to occur" in light of the local protests, said Joseph Brown, vice chairman of the Black and Hispanic Political Caucus of Albany.

From the Albany Times-Union August 9, 1981

x

10

From the Schenectady Gazette August 11, 1981

Opposition to Rugby Relentless

By PHIL BLANCHARD
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — Buoyed by a decision to withdraw permission for a South African rugby team to use a New York City-owned stadium on its planned September U.S. tour, opponents of the team's scheduled Sept. 22 Albany appearance yesterday announced their plans for a demonstration against the game plans at City Hall Wednesday.

Schenectady Gazette 8/11/81

Clara Satterfield, president of the Albany NAACP branch, renewed a call on Mayor Erasius Corning II to deny use of Blecker Stadium to the South African "Springbok" rugby team. The team, considered by rugby buffs to be among the best in the world, is to oppose an all-star team organized by the Eastern Rugby Football Union.

Satterfield was acting as a spokesman for a newly formed coalition of civil rights and community organizations organized to increase pressure on Corning to cancel the Blecker Stadium game. The groups oppose the game because of South Africa's policy of apartheid, under which blacks and other non-European races are denied the social and economic benefits available to whites.

The coalition said it would demonstrate against the team's appearance in front of city hall at 12 p.m. Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the city's top legal officer, Corporation Counsel Vincent McArdle, said there appears to be no legal basis for denying a permit to the South Africans.

"As a general rule, if we offer the facilities for use by anybody, we have to do it on a non-discriminatory basis," McArdle said. He noted that Mayor Koch had taken his action on the advice of his police commissioner, who estimated it would cost \$400,000 to keep order at a demonstration-planned game at city-owned Downing Stadium.

Corning, though, has said that if the game is to be played in Albany, he would prefer that it be at Blecker Stadium because crowds would be easier to police.

In a letter to the NAACP released by Satterfield, Corning said: "The mayor has no power whatsoever to prevent this team from playing in Albany. I am in accord with your philosophy on South Africa. I want it played in as low a key fashion as possible with the best of security for both the police and everyone else."

Michael Dollard, a spokes-

man for another committee formed in recent weeks to oppose the South African team's appearance, said he believed the city could use its police powers to cancel the game. But Satterfield, asked on what legal grounds the game could be canceled, said: "I don't know. I'm not a lawyer."

Dollard also raised the spectre of a large demonstration in Albany should plans for staging the game continue. He released a statement from an officer of the New York-based American Coordinating Committee for Equality in Sport and Society (ACCESS) that suggested that a "national demonstration" that had been planned for New York might be moved to Albany or Chicago.

X

Protest set on S. Africa

By Von Jones
Staff Writer
and Wire Reports
8/11/81 T.U.

In an attempt to pressure Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II to change his mind about welcoming a South African rugby team to play in the city, members of the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid said Monday they will conduct a rally at city hall Wednesday.

But Corning won't be there.

Corning aide Paul Doran said the mayor is vacationing in Maine and won't be available until next week.

Meanwhile, officials of a national anti-apartheid movement were reported Monday to be considering Albany as the site of a national demonstration against South Africa's enforced policy of apartheid, or separation of the races.

The scheduled Sept. 22 rugby game at city-owned Bleeker Stadium between the South African Springboks team and a national all-star team is part of a world tour by the Springboks.

The Springboks have been encountering demonstrators this month in New Zealand, where one of the team's matches was cancelled after 300 protesters occupied the playing field and could not be moved.

See PROTEST, Page 2

8/11/81

TU
8/11/81

Protest set on S. African visit

Continued from Page 1

In Albany, the anti-apartheid coalition, comprised of about 10 groups, was organized specifically to protest the scheduled game at Bleeker Stadium.

Coalition secretary Michael J. Dollard said the chairman of Stop the Apartheid Rugby Tour, a national coalition opposed to South Africa's policy of racial separation, may decide to conduct a national anti-apartheid demonstration in Albany.

According to Dollard, the organization had planned the demonstration for New York City, but since Mayor Edward Koch denied the Springboks use of public facilities for a Sept. 26 match there, the organization is considering Albany or Chicago — the other two announced sites of Springbok rugby matches in the United States.

At a press conference Monday to announce the 1:30 p.m. Wednesday rally, Albany NAACP president Clara Satterfield said she received a letter from Corning stating he did not have the authority to prevent the game and noting the team is traveling on visas issued by the State Department.

The use of a public facility for the South African rugby game would constitute a flagrant disrespect for the public interest, said Alderman Nebras-

ka Brace of Albany's Fifth ward, which has a sizable black population.

Brace noted that white organizations have joined blacks in protesting the planned matches.

Also urging cancellation of the Albany event Monday was the Northeast Region Black and Hispanic Political Caucus.

The City of Albany should not sanction South Africa's apartheid policy by making its public facilities available to the team, caucus spokeswoman Risa Faussette said.

A wave of nationwide protest against the tour has risen from civil rights, political, religious and athletic groups.

In Chicago, the organizer of a Sept. 19 game between the Midwest Rugby Football Union and the South African team said Monday it may be played in secret because of growing threats of civil rights protests.

David Hall, the organizer, said the site of the match will not be made public. Several other locations will be considered as last-minute alternatives in efforts to avoid confrontation, he said.

The leaders of several civil rights groups in Chicago have warned they

will organize demonstrations against the game.

Among those planning to stage a protest is the Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of Operation PUSH, who said demonstrators will "engage in civil disobedience" on the scheduled game day.

Jackson said several other groups will meet this week to devise a strategy.

Conrad Worrill of the Black United Front of Chicago said the September tour by the South African team was "part of a major international campaign ... to break out of sports isolation." He said opposition to the tour was crucial.

Hall said, however, politics should be kept out of the game.

"It was organized by two private bodies," he said. "It had nothing to do with politics. I don't think it has anything to do with Jesse Jackson or the black community. It's just a rugby game."

Hall noted that two members of the South African squad are non-whites — one a player and another an assistant manager — which he said indicates South Africa's movement toward "multi-racialism" in its sports teams.

12

Albany, N.Y., Tuesday, August 11, 1981



PROTEST PRESS CONFERENCE — Albany Alderman Nebraska Brace, left, Albany NAACP President Clara Satterfield and Albany Coalition secretary Michael Dollard speak out at a press conference Monday.

Staff photo by Jack Madigan

18/11/81

B

1st Area Editorial Against Tour

Knickerbocker News

Rugby? No!

K-N Editorial
8/13/81

Numerous protests have been launched against the planned Sept. 22 appearance of a South African rugby team at Albany's Meecker Stadium.

Some of those who favor the exhibition say protestors are politicizing sports. We disagree — strongly.

Mayor Erastus Corning II has said the city cannot prevent the game. We feel it must. Sports is not being politicized by the protestors, who present a rational voice speaking from a depth of conviction. It already has been politicized by the South African government which is sponsoring the team's international tour.

The mayor is a man of intellect and feeling for the people, just as are the people who object to the proposed exhibition. Our nation, whatever its faults, has nothing as bad as the vicious apartheid espoused by South Africa as a way of life. It is abhorrent to us, and we who oppose it must send a message to those who embrace it.

Albany, through the mayor's decision not to allow a public facility to be used by representatives of South Africa, can send that message.

Schenectady Gazette
August 14, 1981

**Meeting Set
On Apartheid
Set in Albany**

ALBANY — The Capital District Committee Against Apartheid will hold a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Aug. 19, at the Albany Public Library main branch, Washington Ave.

The main speaker will be Bowji Jordan, field organizer for the Pan-Africanist Congress of South Africa.

A South African refugee, Jordan will talk about life in the South African system and the liberationist movements' fight to achieve racial equality.

Jordan is also one of the leaders of the national movement to stop the South African rugby team from touring the United States in September.

For more information, call Michael J. Dollard of Albany after 6 p.m.



x

14

Minorities, churches again urge Corning to ban rugby team

By Ronald Kermani

Staff Writer
and Wire Reports

A coalition of area minority and religious group leaders Wednesday again urged Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II to reverse his position and prohibit the South African rugby team from playing at the city's stadium Sept. 22.

Michael Dollard, secretary of the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid, told a press conference outside city hall that Corning "is in the same position" as New York City Mayor Edward Koch.

The South African team was scheduled to play in New York City Sept. 26, but last week Koch reversed his position and said the team could not play on city land because of the cost of security provisions and the threat of violent demonstrations.

Protest continued in New York even as it raged in New Zealand, where the South African team, named the Springboks, is now playing part of its world tour. Ten children interrupted debate in New Zealand's parliament Wednesday to protest South Africa's racial policies.

The team's schedule, which also includes Albany and Chicago, has created controversy because of the South African government's policy of

apartheid — a system of inflexible racial separation.

Corning has said he will allow the national team to play at city-operated Bleecker Stadium. His approval, however, does not mean he condones the government's racial policies, he has said.

Koch said Wednesday his cancellation of a permit for the Springboks team was not political, but based on cost and public safety factors.

Koch said he decided to revoke the permit after the police commissioner advised him that groups protesting the racial policies of South Africa could cause a major disruption and cost the city \$400,000 to protect the event.

Local minority group leaders opposed to the team's stop in Albany stressed Wednesday they will continue to hold peaceful demonstrations until Corning changes his mind and bans the team from playing here.

About 35 people showed up for Wednesday's press conference and rally.

Organizers said they will demonstrate outside of the common council chambers in City Hall at 7 p.m. Monday, before the council meets.

Alderman Nebraska Brace said he will introduce a resolution urging Corning to reverse his position and prohibit



Staff photo by Surferwing

WANTS GAME CANCELED — Michael Dollard, secretary of the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid, urges Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II to cancel a controversial rugby game with a South African team. To Dollard's left at Wednesday's press conference in Albany is Clara Satterfield, president of the Albany NAACP.

the team from playing at Bleecker Stadium.

Three of the 16 legislators have said they support the resolution.

Corning was vacationing in Maine Wednesday and is expected to return to Albany Monday. William Keefe, secretary to the mayor, said he telephoned Corning about the City Hall demonstra-

tion and said that about 10 phone calls and about as many letters have been received regarding the issue. "The mayor said he would take a good hard look at the situation," Keefe said. Albany may be the site of a national demonstration against the team if the game is not canceled, Dollard said.

8/13/81

"We've been"

Rugby organizers say 'go', while protesters say 'no'

By SUSAN SCHULMAN
Knickerbocker News Reporter

The president of the Eastern Rugby Football Union says his organization has no plans to cancel games, including one in Albany, with a South African team.

If protesters convince Mayor Erastus Corning II to ban the South African team from using city facilities, the union will consider holding the game at a private site in the area, union president Thomas Selfridge said. He said the union already is looking for a new location to hold a game scheduled to be played at Randall's Island in New York City. Citing high security costs, Mayor Edward Koch announced last week the Sept. 26 game cannot be held at the Randall's Island stadium.

"We are considering many options (in New York City)," Selfridge said. "We may look at other sites in New York City, or other states, or we may press the Randall's Island issue on the basis that we haven't done anything wrong and we are being threatened by some groups."

Opponents of the Albany game conducted a rally Wednesday in front of City Hall to protest South Africa's apartheid policy permitting racial segregation and to pressure Corning into prohibiting the South African team

from playing at Blecker Stadium in Albany Sept. 22.

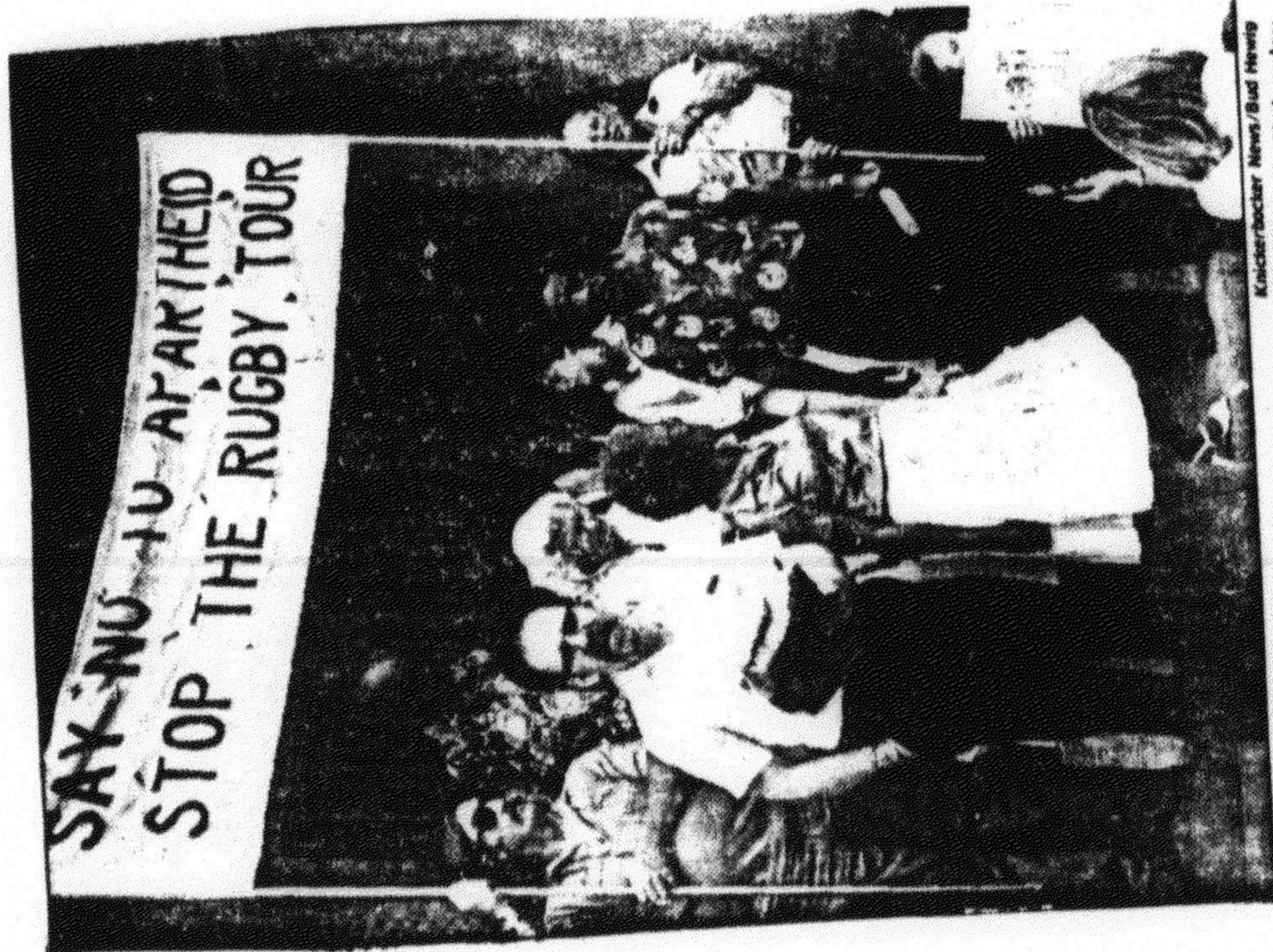
Seventh Ward Alderman Nebraska Brace, one of the approximately 50 persons attending the rally, is planning to introduce a resolution condemning the game at the Common Council's Aug. 17 meeting.

Although Corning was the target of Wednesday's demonstration, the mayor is on vacation and not expected to return to Albany until Aug. 17.

Selfridge said his organization is apolitical. He also said the Springbok team is not financially supported by the South African government and that Albany was selected as a site for the games because of its central location, not for any political reasons.

Selfridge criticized the groups protesting the scheduled games, saying they are giving out misleading information and that, to be consistent, they should actively oppose all of the United States ties with South Africa.

"As I understand it, there are 35 businesses doing business in South Africa," Selfridge said. "All gold and diamonds come from South Africa. If they want to be consistent, they should probably look at all these areas. If they have a difficulty with our games, they should be talking with our State Department."



RUGBY PROTEST — Speaking at an Albany City Hall rally Wednesday to protest the upcoming area appearance of a South African rugby team are, in front from left, Michael Dollard, secretary of the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid; NAACP President Clara Satterfield; and 7th Ward Alderman Nebraska Brace.

Albany rugby game kicking up a storm

By Ronald Kermani
staff writer
Times Union
8/16/81

Springboks, an all-star, integrated team from South Africa, will be held as planned, whether it be in city-owned Blecker Stadium, surrounded by police and protesters or on an out-of-the-way private field.

Since the Springbok tour was announced, dozens of local and national minority, neighborhood and religious groups in Capitaland have urged local officials to withdraw playing permits and cancel the games.

The Springboks were scheduled to play in municipally-owned Downing Stadium in New York City, but Mayor Edward I. Koch reversed his position and withdrew the stadium permit, saying crowd control and police protection would be too expensive.

"We have no intentions of canceling the games" scheduled in Albany, New York City on Sept. 26, and Chicago later in September, said Selfridge, organizer of the tour.

Opponents of the tour have denounced the South African team's visit to the U.S. on the grounds that the players are trying to garner acceptance for the South African government's

policy of apartheid — an official policy of racial separation.

See PAGE 8-11

- more -

Rugby game kicks up a storm in Albany

Continued from B-1

Despite the loss of the city permit, Selfridge, a Schenectady resident, said the Springboks will play as scheduled in New York, on a private field.

Similar opposition has been heard in Albany the last two weeks. Members of the local NAACP, Council of Churches, and other minority and community groups, banded together to protest the game.

During press conferences and demonstrations in front of Albany City Hall, speakers for anti-apartheid groups have urged Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II to reverse his position and deny Selfridge the stadium permit.

Before he left for vacation in Maine, Corning decided to allow the game to be held as planned, saying his permission in no way intimates an endorsement of apartheid or discrimination.

In his absence, however, the controversy roiled, and sentiment against the game, and the South African players, increased.

Albany Alderman Nebraska Brace said he will introduce a resolution to the Common Council Monday night urging Corning to reconsider his position and withdraw the permit.

It's uncertain how many of the city's 16 aldermen support the resolution. Many aldermen are not commenting until they know which way Corning is leaning.

Corning could not be reached Saturday for comment.

Late last week, William Keefe, secretary to the mayor, said his boss would "make a good, hard look" at the issue.

the protests and possible solutions before making a final decision on the stadium's use.

Meanwhile, protesters are planning a demonstration outside the Common Council chambers Monday night.

And Selfridge said he is planning to sell more than the 900, \$5 tickets he has already distributed.

"The Eastern Rugby Union is firmly and strongly united in deploring the apartheid governmental policies of South Africa," Selfridge said. "They are an abhorrence to us all."

Although he doesn't agree with South African governmental policies, Selfridge said he believes local rugby teams should play the world's finest rugby team — which just happens to be from South Africa.

After all, he argued, democracy and capitalism really didn't beat communism when the U.S. hockey team defeated the Russians at Lake Placid last year.

"Sports and politics don't mix, because if they do, we cannot decide where to draw the line," Selfridge said. "The American rugby position is that we will welcome any team or any player from any team if they play the game according to the spirit of its laws," he added.

Several misconceptions have been formed about the Springboks, Selfridge said.

The South African team is integrated. It has one black player, Errol Tobias, and a black coach. Critics have cited this as an example of tokenism, placing a black on an all-white team to bill the group as integrated.

"Tobias is a world-class player and

can play on any world class team in the world," Selfridge said.

The South African team is not supported by the South African government, and as an all-star team is composed of the best rugby players within the national sports federation, Selfridge said.

Since 1978, all rugby players in South Africa, regardless of their color, were eligible for the Springbok team, Selfridge said.

Tobias was the first black with the playing ability to be selected to the traveling team in 1980.

Despite the local protests, Selfridge said he wants the team to play at Blecker Stadium, where as many as 5,000 rugby fans from the East can watch without distraction.

"The protesters are the ones who are speaking to violence," Selfridge said, "and we are very concerned about that. We have no intention of doing anything other than playing rugby," he added.

"Rugby people do not judge the political systems of the people they are playing. We've played teams from Cuba and Russia."

The controversy, however, has affected local ticket sales.

Selfridge said he hoped to set a Blecker Stadium attendance record with about 8,000 ticket sales but has sold only about 900 tickets as of Saturday. Most tickets have been sold to area rugby teams and clubs, he said.

He explained that the reason Albany was chosen for the match is the fact it is situated conveniently in a large rugby

area, which includes New York City, Rochester and Springfield, Mass.

The controversy surrounding the game has also forced the rugby union to cancel a fund-raising agreement for a local charity, which Selfridge refused to identify, that was estimated to net about \$15,000, he said.

"We didn't want to embarrass anyone in regards to this," he said.

Proceeds from the tickets, available only through rugby clubs and not at the gate, will benefit the Eastern Rugby Union, Selfridge said.

If Corning changes his position and withdraws the Blecker Stadium permit, Selfridge said he has a private field to use. He would not disclose that location.

"If we get Blecker Stadium, we will play there" despite protests, Selfridge said. "I don't mean to sound advisory," he added, but the rugby union has a right "to conduct a lawful and legal game."

In the 10 years he has played rugby, five of them for the U.S. National Team, Selfridge said he has "had a ball."

Now the controversy in Albany threatens to change that feeling, he noted.

"This could be an unbelievable night in Albany," he said, referring to the throngs of rugby fans who would flock to Blecker Stadium to watch world-class competition.

"And," he added, remembering the threats of demonstrations, "it may still be an unbelievable night in Albany."

8/16/81

Man Tied to S. African Scandal Gives \$25,000 to U.S. Rugby Union

By Reed Kramer
Special to The Washington Post

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 — The Eastern Rugby Union of America, which is sponsoring next month's controversial U.S. tour by the South African Springbok rugby team, accepted a \$25,000 donation from a Johannesburg businessman who has previously served as a conduit for secret South African government funds.

The donation was made in December, the same month that the American rugby union issued an invitation to South Africa's Springboks. Because of that country's racial policies, South Africa has been barred from the Olympics and most international sports competition, and no national South African sports team has visited the United States since 1978.

The Springboks are scheduled to play three mid-September matches in Chicago, Albany, N.Y., and New York City following a turbulent six-week tour of New Zealand marked by large and sometimes violent anti-apartheid demonstrations.

If the U.S. matches take place, they are expected to draw similar protests. They will also dim the hopes of the U.S. Olympic Committee, host of the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, for a grand American return to Olympic competition after the 1980 Moscow boycott. African nations, which stayed away from the Montreal Olympics in 1976 to protest New Zealand's sports ties with South Africa, have said the U.S. tour would force them into another boycott in 1984.

U.S. Olympic Committee President William Simon has appealed to the rugby union to cancel the tour, but he has no jurisdiction since rugby is not an Olympic sport. New York Mayor Edward Koch has withdrawn permission for a Sept. 26 match in a city-owned stadium, and local organizers in Chicago have moved the game to a private facility. But the rugby group says it will go ahead with play in each city.

According to Eastern Rugby Union documents, the \$25,000 grant in December was provided by Louis Luyt, chairman and chief executive officer of the South Africa-based Triomf Fertilizer, "for upgrading coaching/refereeing the ERU." Luyt confirmed the grant in a statement to Washington Post correspondent Caryle Murphy in Johannesburg today, and asserted that there was nothing improper about the donation.

Richard Lapchick, one of the organizers of the Stop Apartheid Rugby Tour Coalition, which received the documents from dissident rugby union members, believes the Luyt contribution is "part of a major South African effort to use money to break the international sports boycott." He cites large purses being offered to American boxers, golfers and other athletes for competing in South Africa.

The coalition describes itself as being composed of nearly 100 religious, sports, civil rights and other American groups opposed to South Africa's rigid system of racial segregation, known as apartheid.

The donor, Luyt, was a key player in the worldwide South African public relations drive that produced a scandal in the late 1970s. The operation used secret Information Department funds to buy influence, both at home and abroad, until press exposes uncovered the story, forcing prime minister John Vorster and his chosen successor from office.

Official inquiries at the time identified Luyt as conduit for about \$15 million in secret funds for The Citizen, a progovernment English language newspaper he established in 1976.

Luyt said in Johannesburg that he provided the \$25,000 from his personal funds at the request of the U.S. rugby group's president, Tom Selfridge. He said the money has already been spent, and therefore will not be used for the Springboks tour.

Luyt said the grant "doesn't make a dent" in the Eastern Rugby Union's expenses. He said he made the donation because South Africans "want more rugby playing countries" and the sport is not yet popular in the United States. He added, "I've donated more than \$2 million to sports in the past two years." Luyt said he plans to go to the United States next month and may do some coaching for the rugby union at that time.

The \$25,000 Luyt gave the Eastern Rugby Union amounts to a significant boost in income for the association, whose membership comprises clubs in 23 northeastern and southern states. Treasurer Bill Hafner had projected a 1981 budget of \$32,350, and in a recent memo on "money" sent to member clubs, reported that "the pains of growth in funding program's [sic] was eased" by the large grant. The 1981 budget figure does not include the grant from Luyt, according to Tom Selfridge, the rugby union president.

Hafner said in a telephone interview that an effort to solicit financial support for the Springbok tour from U.S. corporations with South African subsidiaries had "brought in nothing," despite an appeal letter from

Selfridge arguing that "your company will benefit from this support in the South African community."

In June, the Mystic River Rugby Club wrote to Selfridge to "express concern" about the "political overtones" associated with the tour. The Massachusetts club also asked "who from South Africa" had made the gift and "what is the connection between the donation and the South African tour?"

Selfridge named Luyt in his June 26 reply, but denied that the money was a factor in deciding to invite the Springboks. Selfridge also said that Luyt's grant had been disclosed at the rugby union's annual meeting in December.

"This is amateur sport at its purest form. We don't feel sports and politics mix at all," Selfridge said in

Schenectady Gazette 8/17/81

Schenectady
GAZETTE PHONE 374-4141

8/17/81

9

In S. African Team's Visit to Albany— Local Rugby Spokesman Says Monetary Gift Not an Issue

By STEVE NELSON
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — The Eastern Rugby Football Union last year received a \$25,000 donation from a prominent South African businessman, ERFU union president says that money isn't connected in any fashion with the funding of a U.S. tour by a South African rugby team.

Thomas Selfridge admitted Sunday that the ERFU received \$25,000 in December from Dr. Louis Luyt, a wealthy Johannesburg businessman and former world-class rugby player with the Springboks club.

"I met him in 1978 when I was over there playing rugby," Selfridge said. He and Dr. Luyt discussed the growth of rugby in America, he said.

Known for his financial contributions to the sport of rugby in South Africa and elsewhere, Selfridge said he asked Dr. Luyt to donate money to the ERFU to fund clinics and the training of coaches and referees in the United States.

Selfridge said there was no secret made about the contribution. At the ERFU's annual meeting in December, the donation was made public, he said.

Selfridge said the idea of an American tour by the Spring-

boks was discussed with Dr. Luyt long after the donation had been made.

Selfridge denied a report in Sunday's Washington Post that the contribution was funding the tour.

Selfridge claimed the foreign team is funded by a private sports federation in South Africa. No funding for the team comes from the government, he maintained.

A separate \$32,000 has been set aside for the trip, which includes the controversial stop in Albany.

The ERFU president said Dr. Luyt is just one of many contributors to the union.

Letters soliciting funds are sent out regularly to about 300 companies, Selfridge said.

In fact, one large sporting-goods concern approached the ERFU president for help in breaking into the South African sporting goods market, Selfridge said. He did not identify the firm, but said it now supplies much of the sports wear and equipment used by the 325 rugby clubs in the union.

Dr. Luyt was identified in the late 1970's as a conduit for money from a \$73 million secret fund set up by the white minority government.

Through Dr. Luyt, a million-

aire who made his money in fertilizers, the government allegedly funneled \$15 million dollars to a white, independent publication called 'The Citizen.'

The newspaper is considered by some to be a propaganda arm of the government. Public disclosure of the slush fund in 1979 brought about the ouster of then Prime Minister Vorster.

Selfridge pointed out the South African team's stop in Albany to play an all-star American rugby team was his decision.

He said the high concentration of rugby players in the area and the accessibility of Bleecker Stadium figured largely in making Albany a stop on the tour.

He further claimed the Springboks have one mixed-race player and a black assistant coach. The mixed race player, Earrol Tobias, has been playing with the team for three months. He said players make the Springboks team on their merit as rugby footballers.

Albany's black community, as well as other human rights groups, have been up in arms since the Springboks visit was announced about a month ago.

Mayor Erastus Corning II has been asked to prevent the team from playing in Bleecker Stadium, but the Mayor has refused to rescind the permit.

8/13

to U.S. rugby union

Link to team tour denied

By R.L. McManus

The Eastern Rugby Union of America, sponsors of the U.S. tour that will bring the South African rugby team to Albany next month, got a \$25,000 contribution from a Johannesburg businessman who has served as a conduit for secret South Africa government funds in the past.

But the contribution has "nothing to do with" the controversial American tour by the Springbok rugby team, union president Tom Selfridge of Schenectady asserted Monday.

The donation was made last December — the same month the union invited the Springbok rugby club of South Africa to make the American tour — but "has never been a secret and has



NEBRASKA BRACE ... opposed to game



TOM SELFRIDGE ... rugby union chief

nothing to do with the tour," Selfridge said.

Selfridge said the union has received no contributions from any other nation.

The Springboks are scheduled to play three games in the United States next month — in Chicago, Albany and New York City — but the tour has been threatened by steadily increasing controversy in each municipality over South Africa's racial policies.

According to reports published Sunday in the Washington Post, South African industrialist Louis Luyt provided the \$25,000 grant to the rugby union, which has its headquarters in Schenectady, for "upgrading coaching/refereeing the ERU."

See S. AFRICAN, Page 4

13/8/18
①

8/18/81

18/8/81
(2)

S. African gave money to rugby group

Continued from Page 1

Luyt, according to the report, was instrumental in a 1974 South African undertaking which used secret government funds to buy influence and favorable publicity in that country and abroad.

The effort resulted in a scandal which forced the government of Prime Minister John Vorster from office.

In an interview Monday, Selfridge said he met Luyt in 1978 "when I played (rugby) in South Africa. I met him after a game. I have no knowledge of his personal background other than in the past couple of years he has given several million (dollars) to rugby in South Africa."

"There were absolutely no strings attached to this grant. It was to be spent any way we wanted to spend it," he said. "We don't look at the backgrounds of people who choose to get involved in international rugby."

Selfridge said the union used the grant to underwrite "coaching clinics, a film library, rugby workshops and for distribution of a newsletter."

"It was a one-time offer," he said.

He said the cost of the Springbok tour — about \$32,000 for the New York and Albany games — will be financed by gate receipts and program sales. He said he was not sure how much the Chicago game would cost, adding, "They're responsible for their part of the tour."

The union is an umbrella organization which supervises amateur rugby in the United States. Somewhat similar to American football, rugby is most popular in many former colonies of Great Britain, although other countries field teams.

The union had a projected 1981 operating budget of

\$32,000, exclusive of the Luyt grant, according to the report.

South Africa's strict policies of racial separation are at the root of the present controversy, with those who oppose the policy — known as apartheid — contending that permitting the tour amounts to tacit approval of the policy.

Locally, a coalition of anti-apartheid groups has petitioned Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II to withdraw permission for the Springboks to use Blecker Stadium on Sept. 22 as scheduled.

Corning said Monday that he is considering the request and should have a decision "at the end of this week or the beginning of next."

He said that he received 12 letters concerning the game last week, eight in opposition and four in favor.

According to Selfridge, the Springbok team is racially mixed, with a black player and a black assistant coach.

However, Michael Dollard, a spokesman for a local anti-apartheid group, contended Monday the two "blacks" are in fact "colored" and that Selfridge's claims are misleading.

Selfridge said Monday, "I stopped calling non-whites 'colored' in 1967. I call them blacks just like everybody else in this country." However, racial separation is rigidly enforced in South Africa as a matter of government policy, with whites, blacks and "coloreds" required to live apart.

South Africa's central apartheid law, the Population Registration Act of 1950, orders the assignment of every citizen to one of three groups: white, colored or African, with social status assigned in declining order, from white to African. Coloreds include Asians and those of mixed race.

8/18/81 *Gayle*

8/15/81

Let Them Play Rugby

Albany's Mayor Corning should let the rugby game between a regional all-star team and a touring South African team go on. In the end, there's really no reason to stop it.

Those who want the game cancelled point to South Africa's policy of apartheid, government-sanctioned racial segregation condemned almost universally as immoral and illegal. They maintain that letting our guys play a game with theirs is to lend support to that policy. We don't see how.

When U.S. athletes compete against those from the U.S.S.R., does that signal an acceptance of their system? It is an acceptance of the reality of that country — ignoring it would be foolish and dangerous — but hardly of the system.

It's true that some nations, including ideological opposites Russia and South Africa, view sport as a propaganda instrument. So what? Nobody is deceived. A few gold medals don't make totalitarianism any more attractive, nor do a few rugby games make apartheid any less repugnant.

But most believe that sport, like the arts, is something that should transcend

politics. Yes, there are inconsistencies. Politics won out when America boycotted the 1980 Olympics after Russia's invasion of Afghanistan. But that was an extraordinary situation. We would probably have competed against the Soviets anywhere but in Moscow; in fact, we played hockey against them here in the Winter Olympics. While it seemed the only thing to do at the time, in retrospect, it didn't make much difference, except to set a bad precedent and ruin the dreams of hundreds of young athletes.

Sports can be politicized, just as they have become increasingly commercialized. Presidents and prime ministers can choose to let their people compete only against those from like-minded countries. And if governors or mayors don't agree with their choice, they too can call the game.

But there's a principle here: free and open exchanges — even with those with whom we don't agree. This country has wisely decided to keep sports and politics as separate as possible. People can and should protest apartheid, but that has little to do with a rugby game played in Albany. Let them play.

8/13/81

Rugby? No! *Kuch N.*

Numerous protests have been launched against the planned Sept. 22 appearance of a South African rugby team at Albany's Bleecker Stadium.

Some of those who favor the exhibition say protestors are politicizing sports. We disagree — strongly.

Mayor Erastus Corning II has said the city cannot prevent the game. We feel it must. Sports is not being politicized by the protestors, who present a rational voice speaking from a depth of conviction. It *already* has been politicized by the South African government which is sponsoring the team's international tour.

The mayor is a man of intellect and feeling for the people, just as are the people who object to the proposed exhibition. Our nation, whatever its faults, has nothing as bad as the vicious apartheid espoused by South Africa as a way of life. It is abhorrent to us, and we who oppose it must send a message to those who embrace it.

Albany, through the mayor's decision not to allow a public facility to be used by representatives of South Africa, can send that message.

8/18/81
①

Albany council ^{knick} delays rugby vote ^{8/18/81}

By E.J. McMAHON Jr.

Knickerbocker News Reporter

In a move denounced by one of its members as "cowardly," Albany's Common Council sidestepped an immediate vote on a resolution urging Mayor Erastus Corning II to cancel the scheduled use of Bleecker Stadium for a rugby match featuring a South African team.

A boisterous crowd of about 60 people, including sign-carrying protesters who demonstrated in front of City Hall before Monday's meeting, filled the council chamber with boos and catcalls during the debate. The 11-3 vote sent the resolution to the council's Law Committee for study.

Council President James Giblin asked the Law Committee chairman, Alderman Philip DiPace, to begin the study of the resolution as soon as possible and have a report ready for the next council meeting Sept. 7.

Hours before the meeting, Corning said he had not changed his position in favor of allowing the match to go on as scheduled Sept. 22. But the mayor said he would "examine and reflect on" the arguments made by organized opponents of the match last week, when he was away on vacation, and make known any change in his position by early next week.

The team's visit is opposed because of the South African government's practice of apartheid, or strict separation of races.

Asked if passage by the council of a resolution opposing the match would affect his position, Corning said: "As far as I'm concerned, the council is an independent body."

The resolution — sponsored by Alderman Nebraska Brace, one of two blacks in the 16-member council — sparked a sort of desperate parliamentary maneuvering rarely seen in the Albany Common Council.

At one point during the members' caucus before the meeting, Brace informed Giblin he would go along with sending the resolution to committee without a roll-call vote. But after a reporter reminded him the next council meeting would take place less than two weeks before the match, Brace changed his position and said he would insist on a roll-call vote.

Several aldermen complained in the caucus they had not seen the resolution until 20 minutes before the meeting. Others said they were bothered by the strong wording of the resolution, which said the rugby game "is basically just a propaganda ploy on the part of South Africa."

"If I were to vote against this, it looks like I'm for racism," Alderman Joseph Buechs said in the caucus.

The resolution urged Corning "to forbid the use of Bleecker Stadium" for the match between the Albany Knickerbockers and the South Africans, and it concluded: "Out of human decency, let this body say, once and for all, 'no' to apartheid, 'no' to racism and 'no' to the usage of our municipal facility."

Once the measure had reached the floor, Brace said the resolution was not intended to "back the mayor against the wall."

"We're simply asking the mayor to change his position," Brace said.

Before Alderman Stephen McArdle could make his motion to send the measure to committee, Alderwoman Nancy Burton stood and said, "I think this body is about ready to take a cowardly action."

That remark appeared to anger Giblin, who said "this council has always acted in responsible fashion in the 19 or 20 years I've been here."

Montage to

8/18/81
②

McArdle said he wanted the resolution sent to committee because "I believe more time is needed to study this very controversial issue."

After some confusion over parliamentary procedure, Brace moved for a roll-call vote to overrule Giblin on sending the resolution to committee. The only votes in favor of Brace's motion were cast by Brace, Ms. Burton and Alderman Thomas Burch. Absent were Aldermen Marvin Tanksley, the other black council member, and William Weden.

Alderman Peter Horan said: "To me it's appalling that sports should be dragged into the political field."

"Apartheid, no; sports, yes. I think we have a right as a body to find out what the facts are."

"There isn't an alderman or a person in this room who's got a touch of racism," Giblin said when the vote was over. That statement was greeted with loud snickers from persons in the audience, some of whom marched out of the room chanting "Whitewash, whitewash," when the council moved on to another matter.

Clara Satterfield, president of the Albany chapter of the NAACP, said she was "disappointed but not suprised" by the council's action.

"I suspected it might revert to committee," Ms. Satterfield said. She had presented Giblin with a petition signed by more than 1,000 Capital District residents opposed to the match.

□
Meanwhile a former leader of South Africa's banned Pan-African Congress is slated to speak in Albany Wednesday on behalf of a local group trying to block a visit by the South African national rugby team.

Boji Jordan, described by the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid as a teacher and lawyer who observes the United Nations for the black nationalist group, is to meet with other opponents of the Sept. 22 game planned for Albany.

□
The *Washington Post* has reported that the Eastern Rugby Union of America, which is sponsoring next month's controversial U.S. tour by the South African rugby team, accepted a \$25,000 donation from a Johannesburg businessman who has previously served as a conduit for secret South African government funds.

The donation was made in December, the same month that the American rugby union issued an invitation to South Africa's Springboks. Because of that country's racial policies, South Africa has been barred from the Olympics and most international sports competition, and no national South African sports team has visited the United States since 1978.

According to Eastern Rugby Union documents, the \$25,000 grant in December was provided by Louis Luyt, chairman and chief executive officer of the South Africa-based company Triomf Fertilizer, "for upgrading coaching-refereeing the ERU." Luyt confirmed the grant in a statement to *Washington Post* correspondent Caryle Murphy in Johannesburg, and asserted that there was nothing improper about the donation.

Richard Lapchick, one of the organizers of the Stop Apartheid Rugby Tour Coalition, which received the documents from dissident rugby union members, believes the Luyt contribution is "part of a major South African effort to use money to break the international sports boycott."

City Preparing to Police Rugby Game

By PHIL BLANCHARD
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — City police officials have not yet planned how to deal with the expected anti-apartheid demonstration at Bleecker Stadium Sept. 22; but, they have taken steps to ensure there will be enough police officers on hand to deal with whatever occurs.

* * *
Capt. John Dale, the department's community relations officer, said yesterday that all officers who had planned to take the day off have been told to report for duty.

The order does not affect officers who are scheduled to be on vacation or leave that day.

Officers who are normally off-duty during the 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. shift can expect to be called in, Dale said, although it's not yet known how many officers will be needed to keep order outside the stadium.

Dale said the department's strategy for policing the demonstration will be worked out in coming days. "We still have

plenty of time," he said.

The South African Springboks rugby team is scheduled to play an all-star team organized by the Eastern Rugby Union at 7 p.m. that evening.

Because the game will be the only one of three scheduled Springboks appearances in the United States this month to be played in a municipally owned stadium, it has been targeted by anti-apartheid groups as the site of a national demonstration.

The city will absorb possible overtime costs for police coverage at the demonstration, Dale said. This is usual for demonstrations, with which Albany police are familiar as the force in a capital city.

Security inside the stadium, however, is the responsibility of the sponsor. Usually, Dale said, arrangements are made for off-duty policemen to earn extra money by working such duty. No arrangements have yet been made with the Eastern Rugby Union and, because of the demonstration, it isn't certain off-duty officers will be available.

cancel days off

From: Schenectady Gazette August 19, 1981

Schenectady Gazette 8/19/81 Let Them Play Rugby

Albany's Mayor Corning should let the rugby game between a regional all-star team and a touring South African team go on. In the end, there's really no reason to stop it.

Those who want the game cancelled point to South Africa's policy of apartheid, government-sanctioned racial segregation condemned almost universally as immoral and illegal. They maintain that letting our guys play a game with theirs is to lend support to that policy. We don't see how.

When U.S. athletes compete against those from the U.S.S.R., does that signal an acceptance of their system? It is an acceptance of the reality of that country — ignoring it would be foolish and dangerous — but hardly of the system.

It's true that some nations, including ideological opposites Russia and South Africa, view sport as a propaganda instrument. So what? Nobody is deceived. A few gold medals don't make totalitarianism any more attractive, nor do a few rugby games make apartheid any less repugnant.

But most believe that sport, like the arts, is something that should transcend

politics. Yes, there are inconsistencies. Politics won out when America boycotted the 1980 Olympics after Russia's invasion of Afghanistan. But that was an extraordinary situation. We would probably have competed against the Soviets anywhere but in Moscow; in fact, we played hockey against them here in the Winter Olympics. While it seemed the only thing to do at the time, in retrospect, it didn't make much difference, except to set a bad precedent and ruin the dreams of hundreds of young athletes.

Sports can be politicized, just as they have become increasingly commercialized. Presidents and prime ministers can choose to let their people compete only against those from like-minded countries. And if governors or mayors don't agree with their choice, they too can call the game.

But there's a principle here: free and open exchanges — even with those with whom we don't agree. This country has wisely decided to keep sports and politics as separate as possible. People can and should protest apartheid, but that has little to do with a rugby game played in Albany. Let them play.

From:

Schenectady Gazette
August 22, 1981

More Groups Oppose Rugby Team's Visit

ALBANY — The heads of six area religious denominations have joined the opposition to a scheduled appearance in Albany by a South African rugby team.

The leaders of the Roman Catholic, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, Reformed Church, Presbyterian and Baptist denominations in the Albany area said the planned game between the South African Springboks and an American all-star team should be canceled because of South Africa's policy of apartheid.

The signers urged the rugby

union to cancel the tour and the city to deny use of its facilities for the scheduled Sept. 22 game.

Signing the statement were Bishop Howard Hubbard of the Roman Catholic Diocese, Bishop Wilbur Hogg of the Episcopal Diocese, Rev. Ronald Kurtz of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Donald Troest of the Reformed Church in America's Albany Synod, Rev. James Miller of the Presbytery of Albany, and Rev. Herbert Miller, Jr., of the American Baptist Churches, Capital District Association.

Match Is More Than a Game: Boji Jordan

ALBANY (UPI) — A political exile from South Africa Wednesday said permitting a South African rugby team to play in Albany Sept. 22 would encourage the killing of more black citizens of his country.

Boji Jordan of the Pan-Africanist Congress, a group supporting black rule in South Africa, said the tour of the Springboks rugby team was being pushed by the embattled South African government to improve its image worldwide.

"South Africa desperately needs this tour as a demonstration that, despite its policies of apartheid, it is still welcome in certain countries," he said.

If Albany permits the Springboks team to play the Eastern Rugby Football Union in a city-owned stadium, Jordan warned, "It will encourage them (the South African government) to continue murder, murder, murder."

Jordan's appearance was sponsored by the Capital District Committee Against Apartheid. That group has asked Albany Mayor Erastus Corning to cancel the match as a protest against South African apartheid laws which segregate the non-white minority from the ruling white minority.

"We want to use this issue to educate people about the inequities and wickedness of apartheid," explained Jordan, a former teacher who left his country 20 years ago to avoid being jailed.

Promoters of the rugby tour have argued that the South African team is integrated and is not financially sponsored by the South African government.

But Jordan called the two non-whites on the team "tokens." He said they were not blacks, but "coloreds" — a different social class than blacks in his country. And he said financial support for the team is clearly from the government, though it may be channeled through other sources.

Of three matches scheduled to be played by the Springboks in the United States, only the Albany one is still firmly booked. New York City Mayor Edward Koch recently canceled a city permit for the team to play in Downing stadium, although arrangements reportedly are underway to find a private field.

The Springboks played recently in New Zealand and their arrival sparked a civil disturbance.

"You may ask if all this is worth it just for a rugby match. Believe me, it is! I know apartheid first hand..." he told a news conference.

"It is a vicious brutal system that enslaves 24 million blacks and makes animals out of 4 million whites. It is a system that is every bit as horrible as Hitler's Germany," he added.

By Wednesday—

Corning to Decide Rugby Match Fate

By PHIL BLANCHARD
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — A decision whether to withdraw permission for a South African rugby team to use Bleecker Stadium will be announced by next Wednesday, Mayor Erastus Corning II said yesterday.

The mayor made his promise after meeting yesterday afternoon with representatives of groups opposed to the Springboks' appearance because of South Africa's policy of apartheid, or forced separation of races.

Corning has said he lacks the power to deny use of the city-owned stadium for the game, but said yesterday that "a lot of things have happened since permission was first granted."

"Since I stated my position a couple of weeks ago, there has been a lot of pressure and a lot of conversation," said the mayor. He and the common council have been the targets of demonstrations by anti-apartheid groups calling upon him to cancel the game that would pit the Springboks against an American all-star team organized by the Eastern Rugby Football Union.

Corning, though, remained noncommittal, saying only: "I

have listened very carefully to many people who had a lot to say on the subject."

The mayor said mail to him on the subject has been about two and a half to one against the city allowing the game to go on.

Among those who met with Corning yesterday was Boji Jordan, a representative of the Pan-African Congress and a native South African. At a news conference prior to the meeting at city hall, Jordan said Albany "can expect a fleet of buses from New York" filled with demonstrators if the game is allowed to go on.

Thomas Selfridge, president of the rugby group organizing the Springboks tour, has said the game will be played in private facilities if the permit for use of Bleecker Stadium is revoked. Jordan said yesterday, "wherever they are, we'll trace them."

Jordan said he lived in South Africa for 26 years before he was forced to leave in the early 1960s, "and if I went back, I'd be lucky to get 20 years" in prison. He added, however, that he wanted to go back if and when apartheid is overturned "to kill the enemies of the people."

8/21/81

APICK NEWS - 8/21/81

Religious heads urge halting rugby match

Leaders of six of the area's Christian denominations and the Capital District Board of Rabbis have called on Mayor Erastus Corning II to cancel a city permit that will allow the Springboks, a South African rugby team, to play a local team at the city-owned Bleecker Stadium.

The leaders of the Christian denominations — among them Bishop Howard Hubbard of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany and Bishop Wilbur Hogg of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany — released a statement Thursday. It labeled the tour a "propaganda tool" for the South African government, which conducts a policy of apartheid, the segregation of the non-white majority from the ruling white minority.

The rugby game is to be played at Albany's Bleecker Stadium Sept. 22.

The statement was released on behalf of the Christian denominations by the Albany-based ecumenical group Christians United in Mission. The statement referred to "repugnant oppressive conditions" toward blacks in South Africa.

The rabbis group issued a similar statement Thursday night.

The religious heads called for cancellation of the tour by its sponsor, the Eastern Rugby Union; withdrawal of city permission for use of the Bleecker Stadium by the Springboks; full disclosure by the union of the sources of its financial underwriting; and a general public boycott of the event.

The statement released by the Christian group was authorized at a meeting two weeks ago. In addition to Bishops Hubbard and Hogg, others signing the statement were: the Rev. Ronald Kurtz, United Church of Christ, Hudson-Mohawk Association; the Rev. Donald Troost, Reformed Church in America, Synod of Albany; the Rev. James Miller, United Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Albany; and the Rev. Herbert J. Murray Jr., American Baptist Churches, Capital District Association.

"It will not be just another game when the national rugby team of South Africa plays in Albany this September. The unpleasant reality of international sports tours is that they have become

an important propaganda tool, and this visit is no exception," the statement by the Christian leaders said.

"Perceptive persons would not be fooled" by South African assurances "things are gradually improving for blacks in their country," the statement also said.

The statement from the board of rabbis was announced by Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, secretary-treasurer of the board.

"To dignify and to accept the South African rugby team on its own terms is to associate ourselves with racism, to reject our spiritual teachings and to forsake our historical memories. We urge Mayor Corning to revoke the permit for the rugby match," the rabbis' statement said in part.

Thomas Selfridge of Schenectady, president of the Eastern Rugby Union, commenting on the statement, said, "That's what's great about America. Everyone has a right to his own opinion."

"It would be unfair for me to comment without physically seeing the letter. If it's appropriate to comment, we will be happy to comment on it," he added.

Corning has said the game will go on unless he is convinced the public outcry against it is loud enough to warrant cancellation. He said he would decide by next week whether he would withdraw the permit.

8/22/81

Group: No rugby for Albany

TU
8/22/81

The scheduled appearance of a South African rugby team in Albany next month drew opposition from another community group Friday, as Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II continued to evaluate whether to revoke permission for the team to play in city-owned Bleeker Stadium.

The Greater Albany Jewish Federation joined a host of other area religious groups Friday in protesting the planned appearance of a South African rugby team in Albany next month.

The federation, an umbrella organization for groups such as the Jewish Community Center and the Daughters of Sarah Nursing Home, voted at a regular board meeting Friday to endorse the same statement issued Thursday by the Capital District Board of Rabbis.

That statement said in part: "To dignify and accept the South African rugby team on its own terms is to associate ourselves with racism."

Opponents of the game have cited the South African government's policy of apartheid, or enforced segregation of the country's non-white majority.

Corning said Friday that it would probably be Monday before he announces his decision about allowing the team, the Springboks, to play in Bleeker Stadium.

When controversy began to develop about the team, Corning said that he would not revoke a permit already issued to the Eastern Rugby Union to hold the game unless there was a community outcry.

A number of church leaders, including Bishop Howard Hubbard of the Albany Roman Catholic Diocese and Bishop Wilbur Hogg of the Episcopal Church, issued a joint statement Thursday condemning the South African tour and calling for a boycott of the game.

Asked his assessment of the church leaders' statements, Corning said, "I wouldn't want to characterize it as a public outcry, but it is an expression of concern. It will certainly be taken into consideration."

Mismatched players take the

50 CENTS (75 cents beyond 30-mile zone from the Albany, N.Y. area)

stage for rugby drama

By Nancy Connell
Staff Writer

It was only a little match between teams who play a game, rugby, that few people know anything about.

Today, because of that little game, the mayor of Albany is mulling what he called "a very difficult question, one that I have spent a lot of time on."

In a Saturday morning interview, the mayor clearly seemed troubled by the decision he said he would make on Monday.

He was referring to his refusal so far to withdraw permission for the controversial

South African rugby team to use municipally-owned Bleecker Stadium for a Sept. 22 game. "My own bishop has come out against it," he mused.

That would be the Most Rev. Wilbur E. Hogg, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. The following persons and organizations also have publicly come out urging the mayor to withdraw permission for the South Africans to use the stadium:

The Most Rev. Howard J. Hubbard, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany; the Capital District Board of Rabbis; the Rev. Ronald Kurtz, head of the United Church of

Christ Hudson-Mohawk Association; the Rev. Donald Troost, head of the Reformed Church in America, Synod of Albany; the Rev. James Miller, head of the United Presbyterian Church's Presbytery of Albany; the Rev. Herbert J. Murray Jr., head of the American Baptist Churches, Capital District Association. Also: the Greater Albany Jewish Federation; the Albany YWCA; three city aldermen; and Fred Dusenbury, who is running for mayor.

Clearly, the mayor is caught between a rock and a hard place on an issue in which he is opposed, he said, "by a tremendous number of

people for whom I have the greatest respect." He said he had not, as of Saturday, decided what he would do Monday. "There's that little corner of your mind," he said, that still needs to be explored. "I want to give it a little more time."

One thing bothers him, he said, and that is what he regards as a public perception that "all I wanted was a lot of people to say, 'Goddammit, don't let them play,' — and that is not the point." Public opinion, he said "will be considered." So, he said, will what he maintains is a "constitutional question."

All of this over a rugby game?

The commotion that now swirls around City Hall had begun quietly enough, more than a month ago, as little more than a couple of three- or four-paragraph stories on the international news wires. The South African rugby team, the stories said, was encountering protests and even riots as it played in New Zealand. New Zealanders opposed to the South African government's oppressive racial policies saw the team as a propaganda tool of that government.

See ROSTER / A-3

Albany professor's report on South Africa
Page C-1

8/23/81
①