

By special correspondent.

Fund raising for Congressman Donald Payne, D.NJ



A special fund raising was held in Oakland Ca. for Congressman Donald Payne, D-NJ. Present were Congresswoman Barbara Lee, D-Ca., and Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, D-Ca. In a beautiful afternoon high up in Oakland hills the Congressman was honored for his tireless effort to bring democracy and the rule of law in Africa. Congresswoman Barbara Lee introduced the distinguished guest and explained to the crowd his various accomplishments including his contribution to the fight of HIV Aids in Africa and his successful inclusion of \$50 million in the budget towards that goal. Congresswoman Woolsey talked about how she is inspired by the hard work and many travels the Congressman makes in his role as a leader.

Congressman Payne talked at length regarding the need to bring Democracy and accountability in Africa. He mentioned his early work with his Excellency Endalkahew Mekonen in the '70's. He was instrumental in the release of the imprisoned Kinijit leaders and mentioned his conversation with Meles Zenawi regarding the health and circumstances of Professor Mesfin Woldemariam. He promised the assembled crowd that he would continue the work to bring a just and Democratic government in Ethiopia in particular and Africa in general.

It was a successful fundraising for his upcoming reelection attended by the Bay Area Ethiopian community, former Oakland Mayor, African Community in the Bay Area and African American supporters of Congressman Donald Payne.