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2-20-96 Mfume Swearing-in C'mony (as Pres./CEO NAACP) Washington, D.C. [1]

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REMARKS BY
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR
THE HONORABLE KWEISI MFUME
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE NAACP
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, GREAT HALL
WASHINGTON, DC
FEBRUARY 20, 1996

[Acknowledgements: Myrlie Evers-Williams, for introduction; **Jason Hines**, political science senior at Morgan State University from **Warren, Arkansas**; Vice President Gore; Roger Wilkins; Cardinal Keeler; Rev. Johnson; Rev. McKenzie; Rabbi Adler; Attorney General Reno; Judge Higginbotham; Ms. Jaimie Smith of Baltimore School for the Arts; Ayinde Jean-Baptiste (EYE-YIN-DAY JON BAPTEEST) of Whitney Young Magnet High School in Chicago; and the Honorable Kweisi Mfume (KWY-EE-SEE UMM-FOO-MAY)]

I am honored to be here today to share in this celebration of rebirth and renewal for both Kweisi Mfume and the NAACP.

Before I go any further, let me say that the talent and energy in this room is truly amazing. When I heard that young Ayinde Jean-Baptiste was going to be here, I polished up on my oratory skills so I'd at least have a chance of measuring up to him.

It is also great to see so many accomplished women here today. Young Jaimie Smith appears to be well on her way to carrying on the legacy of many of the great African American women who came before her.

In my proclamation marking the observance of African American History Month this year, I urged all Americans to recognize and honor the often unsung contributions of African American heroines -- leaders like Sojourner Truth, Mary McLeod Bethune, Rosa Parks, Barbara Jordan, Dorothy Height, Mary Frances Berry and Myrlie Evers-Williams. Throughout our history, these and countless other brave and eloquent women have challenged America to end its ignoble association with the twin evils of racism and sexism. And we are all better because of their sacrifices.

This is a day of great expectation -- both for the new President and CEO of the NAACP, and for all Americans who share our hope that under his dynamic leadership the nation's most important civil rights organization will emerge from a time of turmoil, stronger and more focused than at any time in its illustrious history.

As I said in the State of the Union, we live in an age of great possibility. More Americans, from all walks of life, will have more chances to build the future of their dreams than ever before -- and our nation will be stronger for it. We see the evidence of this all around us even now.

We have the lowest combined rates of unemployment and inflation in 27 years. Unemployment in the African American community is in single digits for the first time since the Vietnam war. And for three years in a row, we have had a record number of new businesses started in our country -- nearly 100,000 of them by African Americans.

Our leadership in the world is also strong, bringing new hope for peace from the Middle East to Bosnia. And I am proud that last week we saw the first peaceful democratic transfer of power in the history of Haiti. But, perhaps most important, the American people are coming together again around our most fundamental values.

The crime rate, the welfare and food stamp rolls, the poverty rate, and teen pregnancy are all down.

The future for our children is brighter than it's ever been before. But we also know that great challenges lie ahead. This is a time of great change, requiring strength and resilience on the part of all our people. Too many of our people feel economically insecure. Too many are worried about whether they can give their children the values and care they'll need to lead successful lives. And they wonder if they and their children will be winners in the age of possibility.

Our mission is, first, to make the American Dream of opportunity a reality for all who are willing to work for it. Second, to preserve our old and enduring values as we move into the future. And third, to meet these challenges in the only way that has ever really worked in this country -- together, as one America.

All of this is why, now more than ever we need more groups doing what the NAACP has always done - - reaching out...taking the lead...helping us face up to our challenges and achieve our goals. We know that the era of big government is over. But we cannot go back to the time when our citizens were left to fend for themselves.

As Thurgood Marshall once said, "None of us has gotten where we are solely by pulling ourselves up from our own bootstraps. We got here because somebody bent down and helped us."

The only way we are going to succeed in this new environment is if all of us bend down and pull together to help people make the most of their lives and to make this nation great. That means businesses taking an active part in their communities. Schools preparing our young people for the future and teaching citizenship and values. Religious institutions bringing their teachings to life through service to the community.

Parents loving their children and teaching them right from wrong. And civic organizations like the NAACP pushing for social change, celebrating the strength of our diversity and caring about all our people where they work, where they live, and where they go to school. All of us -- expecting more of each other and facing our challenges together. The great lesson of American democracy is that when we are together we are never defeated, and when we are divided we defeat ourselves.

We are here today to pay tribute to a man who realizes that there are many different ways to move America forward.

As a Congressman and head of the Congressional Black Caucus, Kweisi Mfume captured the nation's attention with his powerful eloquence and leadership in the fight for freedom and justice at home and abroad. But he understands that government service is not the only service that matters. He understands that the NAACP, and other grassroots organizations, are essential to building strong communities, neighborhoods, and families.

That's why my initial sense of disappointment in learning that he was leaving his House seat to assume the presidency of the NAACP did not last long.

Because, even though I will miss his support in the Congress, I know that he is the right man at the right time for this important job. And I know he will continue to offer me his wise counsel in his new role.

We know that we will never save our children from gangs and drugs...give our people the security they need to work hard...renew our cities...make our schools strong unless we learn from one another, work together, and join hands in a true spirit of community. But for all the opportunity we create, we have to have people who seize the moment and take personal responsibility for making their lives better.

That is the lesson the NAACP has taught us for so many years. And that is the lesson I thought of when I heard about the 8 young Jobs Corps trainees who perished in the tragic train crash in Maryland a few days ago. Those young people were working to turn their lives around -- learning to become carpenters and nurses aides and bricklayers. They were participating in a government program that would never have been created without the struggles of groups like the NAACP. But it was a program that ultimately relied on the hard work of these young people -- taking personal responsibility.

The hope that briefly illuminated their lives is a testament to our constant search for common sense, common ground solutions to our problems.

For 87 years, the NAACP has been a beacon of grass-roots activism in the struggle for a more just America. From the darkest days of segregation to this modern age of possibility, your voice has challenged all our fellow citizens to move from antipathy to equality...from apathy to action. I know you will rise to the new challenges we face. My confidence is bolstered by the caliber of leadership you have chosen to guide you into this new era.

Kweisi Mfume is without a doubt, one of America's most thoughtful, articulate, and effective advocates for equal justice and personal responsibility. The NAACP is fortunate to bring this true gentleman warrior aboard as its new President and CEO. Congratulations President Mfume. I look forward to an even greater partnership with you and the new NAACP as we continue our work of uplifting the land we both love.

At this time I would like to turn to another giant for justice...a man whom I recently appointed to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and to whom I was proud to award the 1995 Medal of Freedom...the Honorable Judge A. Leon Higginbotham...who will administer the oath of office. Thank you.

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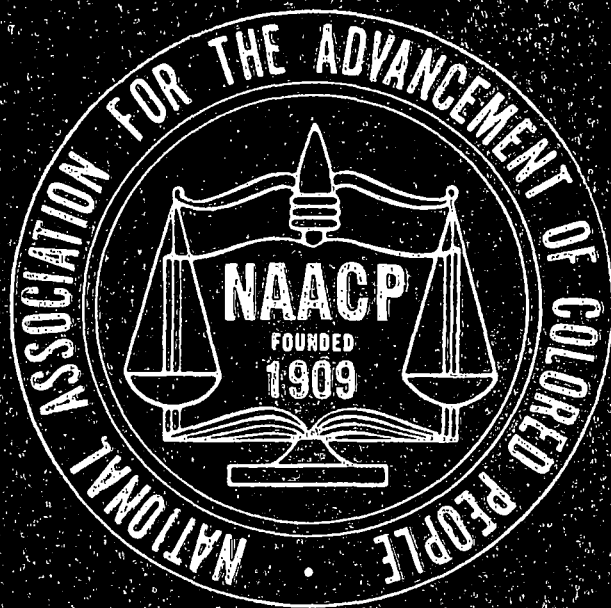
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Article Text:

Having won a close and contentious fight for the chairmanship of the N.A.A.C.P., Myrlie Evers-Williams set out yesterday on the far more difficult task of shifting the venerable group's focus from uncivil bickering to civil rights.

To that end, the widow of the slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers struck a conciliatory tone that she hopes will shift the focus from unseemly talk of financial misdeeds and sexual harassment toward an era of renewed relevance for the 86-year-old National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

'We did it because everyone on that board decided that the N.A.A.C.P. was more important than one person or personalities,' Ms. Evers-Williams said in explaining her one-vote victory over the incumbent chairman, Dr. William F. Gibson, at a meeting of the group's board of directors in New York. 'We also are weary of all of the negative publicity that we received and decided that we do want to work together, put aside all our problems internally and come out as a unified front.'

As evidence of her desire to ease tensions on the board, Ms. Evers-Williams declined to take a congratulatory telephone call from President Clinton after her victory on Saturday. Instead, she asked that he talk to the entire board, which he did by speakerphone.

Beyond trying to forge ties with those on the board who supported the 62-year-old Dr. Gibson, Ms. Evers-Williams, 61, said that her first priority was to begin a search for a new executive director. That post, which is the organization's top staff job, has been vacant since August when the board dismissed the Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. after only 15 months following charges of financial mismanagement and sexual harassment and discrimination.

In an interview on Black Entertainment Television, Ms. Evers-Williams said a search team would be assembled quickly and that the organization hoped to 'be close' to selecting a new executive director by May.

'There's a lot of us who have that foremost on our minds,' Ben F. Andrews, an investment banker and board member from Connecticut, said Saturday night. 'I have that on my mind more than anything else. The organization will not settle down until we have that one senior C.E.O. in place to run the organization.'

Settling down the N.A.A.C.P. will be no easy task. The nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization has spent a wrenching year fighting ideological wars over Mr. Chavis's efforts to forge links with the Nation of Islam and its fiery leader, Louis Farrakhan. At the same time, the organization has been peppered with charges of biased treatment of female staff members, and it remains more than \$4 million in debt.

But there is also another type of balance to achieve. The bitter internecine fight waged among opponents and supporters of Dr. Gibson, a South Carolina dentist who remains on the board, has laid bare deep regional and class divisions.

'It's not going to happen overnight,' said Rupert Richardson, president of the organization. 'That rift did not develop overnight. But we can work on it. We can work toward taking self out of the way and doing what's best for this association. This too shall pass. But don't expect that next week everything's going to be coming up roses. That's just not realistic.'

But at her first news conference since assuming the chairmanship, Ms. Evers-Williams publicly began the process, toning down the oratory she used Saturday night in the flush of her stunning victory. At that time, she said she would 'clean house' and asked, 'Where's my broom?'

Asked yesterday about the comments, she was more tactful.

'I did ask, 'Where is my broom?' yesterday, didn't I?' she said almost sheepishly. 'And one has not materialized. I think we're well on our way, really, to getting our house in order. And, as I have emphasized all along, the most important thing is for the board members to come together and decide that we would work for the best of the N.A.A.C.P. I really don't think a broom, as such, is really going to be necessary.'

Her attempts at conciliation even encompassed the leaders of the Republican-controlled Congress, although she insisted that the rights organization would fight attempts to roll back such gains as affirmative action programs.

On Saturday night she had baited Speaker Newt Gingrich, saying the association would 'make Newt old.' But yesterday she said, 'I think, too, that we can say that there will be no effort to close out anyone, including our friend-foe Newt, because it's going to be important to reach out to everyone and let them know what we are about and let them know we are strong.'

In the first weeks of the new leadership, the organization will be putting most of its emphasis on convincing its local branches as well as corporate and foundation benefactors that it is putting its financial and administrative house in order.

Ms. Evers-Williams said she planned to travel this week to Washington as well as to Baltimore, where she will meet with the staff at the association's national headquarters. In recent weeks the staff has been demoralized by unpaid furloughs and layoffs, and has been threatened with loss of their jobs if they spoke with reporters about the association's inner workings.

To underscore the point that the organization intends to become fiscally responsible, Ms. Evers-Williams at her news conference twice introduced Francisco L. Borges, who was elected the board's treasurer on Saturday night. Mr. Borges, an investment banker, served for more than seven years as state treasurer of Connecticut.

'I've had a little experience in the management of finances,' he said.

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Access No: 3000099740 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: EVERS'S WIDOW PLANS TO RUN FOR TOP POST OF N.A.A.C.P.
Authors: CATHERINE S. MANEGOLD, Special to The New York Times
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Wednesday Feb 8, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 14
Length: Long (746 words) Type: BIOGRAPHY
Subjects: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Names: GIBSON, WILLIAM F; EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE; EVERS, MEDGAR
(1925-63)
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
Abstract: Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, announced on Feb 7, 1995 that she intended to seek the post of chairwoman of the NAACP at the board's meeting in February.

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 -- In another sign of conflict within the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of a slain civil rights leader, announced today that she intended to seek the post of chairwoman at the board's meeting this month.

Her decision, after almost a year of lobbying by friends and supporters, is certain to touch off a floor fight on Feb. 18 at the board meeting in New York. An increasingly divided board must determine whether to oust the chairman, Dr. William F. Gibson, after a decade at the helm.

Today, both sides said they expected an easy victory.

Dr. Gibson has been accused by some board members of blocking an independent financial audit of the group. Last month, his critics went to Federal District Court in Baltimore, where the associations has its headquarters, to ask a judge to order such an audit.

Critics have faulted Dr. Gibson as an incompetent and corrupt administrator who failed to set up a search committee for a successor to Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., who was dismissed as the group's executive director last summer. Mr. Chavis resigned under pressure last August in the aftermath of a scandal involving his use of \$332,400 in organization money to settle a legal dispute with a former employee who had accused him of with sexual harassment.

As the group's financial dealings came under increasing scrutiny and the organization fell under a debt that approached \$4 million, Dr. Gibson's record was also scrutinized. He is accused by his critics with the misuse of organization money, billing the organization twice for the same expenses and failing to notify the board of significant financial transactions. He has denied those accusations.

Dr. Gibson won re-election to his post without a challenge for most of his 10 years as chairman.

Until Ms. Evers-Williams decided to mount a challenge, board members said Dr. Gibson, a South Carolina dentist, had a core of about 39 votes, with only 33 needed to win.

Dr. Gibson did not answer calls to his home or office today, but one of his staunchest supporters, T. H. Poole, a retired educator in Florida, discounted the challenge as another in a series of coordinated attacks by a disgruntled minority. He spoke angrily of the group's efforts to paint Dr. Gibson as a reckless and corrupt administrator and said he believed that Dr. Gibson had broad support on the board.

'Everyone has the right to run,' Mr. Poole said. 'That's the proper way to mount a challenge, not all that other stuff that's been going on in terms of climbing up on the back of Dr. Gibson and trying to make him look like a total failure.'

Dr. Gibson will face not only a rare challenge but also a formidable adversary in Ms. Evers-Williams. As the widow of Medgar Evers, a civil rights leader assassinated in Mississippi in 1963, she has come to carry her own status as a soldier in the cause. She spent 30 years trying to bring her husband's murderer to justice. Last year she succeeded with the arrest and conviction of Byron de la Beckwith, a 73-year-old Mississippian.

'She is a great woman and she will be a great chairwoman who can restore the financial and moral integrity of the N.A.A.C.P.,' said C. Delores Tucker, a harsh critic of Dr. Gibson and a leader of the movement to end his tenure as board chairman. 'She's the one who can make sure that the Newt Gingrichs of the world do not take back all the gains we have made.'

Nor does Dr. Tucker minimize the fact that Ms. Evers-Williams would be the first female chairman of an organization in which women comprise 65 percent. 'On the board, with 64 members, there are only 18 or 19 women,' she said. 'In 1909 we had a higher percentage of women than we do today.'

Chester Higgins Sr., another of Dr. Gibson's critics and a past spokesman for them, said he was celebrating Ms. Evers-Williams's decision to run. 'I think she has the courage, the integrity, the intelligence,' he

said. 'She's outstanding.'

Ms. Evers-Williams, 62, served as commissioner of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works, where she managed a \$1 billion budget and 7,000 employees. She has also been an executive at the Atlantic Richfield Company and at Seligman & Lapz, a New York advertising firm.

Remarried to a civil rights worker and former longshoreman, Walter Williams, she said last month that the main thing keeping her from a bid for Dr. Gibson's seat was her husband's illness. Mr. Williams is suffering from cancer.

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Authors: AP
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
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Names: EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE; EVERS, MEDGAR (1925-63)
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Abstract: Hoping to restore the tarnished image of the NAACP, which in Nov 1994 furloughed most of its 124-member staff to try to reduce a \$4 million deficit, members of the group's board have asked Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of the slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, to become the organization's chairwoman.

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Article Text:

BALTIMORE, Jan. 28 -- Hoping to restore the image of the N.A.A.C.P., which in November furloughed most of its 124-member staff to try to reduce a \$4 million deficit, members of the group's board have asked the widow of the slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers to become the organization's chairwoman.

Myrlie Evers-Williams confirmed on Friday that board members had asked her to seek the position, but she said had not decided if she would run. Mrs. Evers-Williams, 62, in a telephone interview from her home in Bend, Ore., said: 'Medgar would be in utter turmoil and disgust with the way things are going at this point. The association is in a precarious condition and it has to be addressed soon.'

The 64-member board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the nation's oldest civil rights group, holds its annual meeting in New York on Feb. 18, at which the board will choose a chairman.

Dr. William F. Gibson has been re-elected chairman every year since 1985, when he replaced Kelly Alexander Sr., who died. But Dr. Gibson's leadership has come into question after the group's the executive director, Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., was dismissed on Aug. 20 after agreeing to settle an employee's sex discrimination claim for \$332,400 without telling the board.

This month, seven board members filed a Federal lawsuit accusing Dr. Gibson of improperly spending \$1.4 million in pension and tax-exempt grant money.

Dr. Gibson, who has denied the allegations, did not respond to several telephone messages left at his home and dental practice in Greenville, S.C. A receptionist said on Friday that he was out of town and could not be reached.

The civil rights organization, which has its headquarters here, rehired most of the workers it laid off.

Mrs. Evers-Williams, a longtime member of the group's board, was not among those who brought the suit against Dr. Gibson. She has served as commissioner of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works, managing a \$1 billion budget and supervising 7,000 employees. She has also been an executive at the Atlantic Richfield Company, an executive at Seligman & Lapz, a New York-based advertising concern, and an administrator in the Claremont Colleges system in California.

She said her decision on whether to seek the group's leadership position would be based on the health of her husband, Walter Williams, who has cancer. She did not say which or how many board members had asked her to run.

Joseph Madison, a Washington radio talk show host who is a board member, said he was among those backing Mrs. Evers-Williams and there was 'a great deal of support' for her.

'She brings respect, knowledge and commitment that nobody could question,' Mr. Madison said. 'There is no one on the national board that

has sacrificed more than she has.'

Another board member, Hazel Dukes, said: 'It's about restoring credibility and fiscal integrity to this organization. I think she could do that.'

Medgar Evers, a field secretary of the Mississippi N.A.A.C.P., was shot to death in Jackson, Miss., on June 12, 1963. Byron De La Beckwith, a white supremacist, was convicted in his murder last year. All-white juries in two previous trials had deadlocked.

'The greatest sacrifice of all was my husband's life that was taken from me and my children because he believed in the N.A.A.C.P. and what it stood for,' Mrs. Evers-Williams said.

'My greatest accomplishment is seeing that my husband's killer was brought to justice,' she said. 'I think that says something about my perseverance.'

Caption:

Photo: Myrlie Evers-Williams (Associated Press)

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Access No: 3000102652 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: GIBSON IS OUSTED AS N.A.A.C.P. HEAD
Authors: STEVEN A. HOLMES
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Sunday Feb 19, 1995 Sec: 1 National Desk p: 1
Length: Long (1183 words) Type: BIOGRAPHY Illus: Photo
Subjects: ETHICS; BLACKS
Names: GIBSON, WILLIAM F (DR); EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Abstract: Reacting to a rising chorus of criticism and threats by corporate benefactors to withhold financial support, the board of directors of the NAACP on Feb 18, 1995 voted to replace its chairman, William F. Gibson. By a vote of 30 to 29, the board elected Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of Medgar Evers, a former NAACP official who was murdered in 1963, to the chairmanship.

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Article Text:

Reacting to a rising chorus of criticism by rank-and-file members and threats by corporate benefactors to withhold financial support, the board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People yesterday voted to replace its chairman, Dr. William F. Gibson.

By a vote of 30 to 29, the board elected Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of Medgar Evers, a former N.A.A.C.P. official who was murdered in Mississippi in 1963, to the chairmanship.

Alluding to the conviction last February of her husband's killer after 31 years of seeking to get the case reopened, Ms. Evers-Williams told a crowd of cheering supporters, 'This is the second time in just a little more than a year that I have been able to put my fist up and say, Yes!'

But with her thin margin of victory and with the N.A.A.C.P. still shackled by crushing debts, Ms. Evers-Williams inherits a deeply troubled organization that will require all her political skills and the ability to regain the trust of both the membership and corporate donors to set right.

Dr. Gibson, who had been chairman since 1985, in recent months has been accused by members and the press of spending N.A.A.C.P. money lavishly and diverting some of the organization's money for his own use. The board's vote came after rank-and-file members approved a motion of no confidence in Dr. Gibson's leadership.

'My reaction? Hallelujah!' said C. DeLores Tucker, a trustee of the Special Contribution Fund, the tax-exempt fund-raising arm of the N.A.A.C.P. Ms. Tucker, a frequent critic of Dr. Gibson, had led the fight for Ms. Evers-Williams's election.

Dr. Gibson, who is a dentist in Greenville, S.C., was not immediately available for comment.

Ms. Evers-Williams inherits a deeply troubled organization, shackled by debt and presided over by a deeply divided board.

She also must attempt to resurrect the image of the N.A.A.C.P. after a year in which it dismissed its executive director, Benjamin Chavis, amid allegations of financial mismanagement and sexual harassment and discrimination toward a former aide.

Mr. Chavis's attempts to forge a working relationship between the N.A.A.C.P. and the Nation of Islam, headed by Louis Farrakhan, also angered many of the N.A.A.C.P.'s traditional Jewish and corporate supporters.

But in recent months it was the N.A.A.C.P.'s financial situation, including allegations of misuse of funds by Dr. Gibson, that brought about the most serious crisis in the organization's 86-year history.

Before the board's vote, the rank-and-file members, in an unusual display of disapproval of the financial management of the organization, also voted not to accept the financial report presented to them by the group's treasurer, Jerry Maulden, an executive with Arkansas Power and Light, a utility company. The report, which showed that the organization had a \$2.3 million deficit at the end of 1994, up from \$336,763 in 1993, was criticized by a number of members as not being specific enough.

Officials of the organization have recently placed its debt at more than \$4 million. About \$1.4 million of that debt comes from losses stemming from the group's annual Image Awards program, although the producers of the television show have said that the show itself did not lose money and that any losses from the enterprises came from ancillary activities like ticket sales and the sale of advertisements in its souvenir program, all of which were run by the board itself.

The board took its vote before it received a preliminary report from the accounting company of Coopers & Lybrand, which is conducting an audit of spending by board officers and the organization's top staff from 1989 to 1994.

One board member familiar with the results of the audit said it showed spending of more than \$3.6 million in travel by staff and officers, including Dr. Gibson, and more than \$600,000 in questionable cash disbursements to three officials. The board member declined to name the three officials who received the cash payments.

The board member, who spoke only on the promise of anonymity, said the auditors have also turned up a lack of financial controls covering the transfer of N.A.A.C.P. money into various accounts that were to finance different organization programs; a lack, so far, of justification for much of the travel by board members and staff, and large charges for things like room service at hotels where board members and staff stayed.

One board member said the vote to replace Dr. Gibson was swayed by 'public embarrassment' over allegations of financial chicanery that had been the subject of numerous press reports and a segment last Sunday on

'60 Minutes,' the CBS magazine program. 'Detailed information reached more ears and eyes,' said Ben F. Andrews Jr., a board member.

The N.A.A.C.P. is a not-for-profit corporation registered in New York State. Yesterday's annual meeting before the board vote was analogous to a shareholders meeting in which members can question the top official of a corporate board. Dr. Gibson was scheduled to present a report to the group, but left without doing so.

The meeting, which was packed by members opposed to Dr. Gibson, was a contentious affair. Many of those attending carried signs proclaiming: 'Gib\$ on Loves \$. We Love NAACP.' Several speakers rose to challenge his leadership and demand that there be a change at the top.

Glenwood Roane, a member of the Fairfax, Va., County N.A.A.C.P. told the group that he was carrying a \$10,000 check from his branch to contribute to the N.A.A.C.P. national office. But, he said, he had been instructed by his branch 'to hold the check' until it received assurances that better financial controls would be instituted.

Other speakers, though a much smaller number, defended Dr. Gibson and appealed for an end to the divisions that have torn apart the civil rights group.

'We are like barracudas or crabs in a bucket,' said Larry Carter, a board member from Des Moines. 'We need to stop fighting each other and fight the real oppressor.'

Mr. Carter added that he felt that 'Dr. Gibson is one of the finest civil rights fighters I have ever seen in my life.'

While tension ran high inside the annual meeting, the hall outside seethed with people twisting arms and arguing their case for and against Dr. Gibson. With a television monitor constantly replaying the '60 Minutes' segment, delegates and officials buttonholed board members, beseeching them for their votes.

Backers of Ms. Evers-Williams did everything they could to insure that her supporters showed up for the meeting. Two supporters of the change, Rabbi David Saperstein of Washington and Owen Bieber, head of the United Autoworkers, who seldom attend board meeting, were persuaded to come. The coaxing resulted in one of the best-attended board meetings in recent memory.

Indeed, Mr. Andrews said the number of people who attended exceeded the turnout for meetings in which the board officially voted to oppose Clarence Thomas's nomination for the Supreme Court in 1991 and to dismiss Mr. Chavis in August.

Caption:

Photo: Myrlie Evers-Williams, with glasses, arrived at news conference after being elected N.A.A.C.P. chairwoman. (Linda Rosier for The New York Times)

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Access No: 9300102135 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: PRESSURE RISES FOR N.A.A.C.P. TO OUST CHIEF
Authors: STEVEN A. HOLMES, Special to The New York Times
Source: The New York Times,
Late Edition - Final Correction Appended
Date: Friday Feb 17, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 1

Length: Long (1321 words)

Subjects: FINANCES; ETHICS; SUITS & LITIGATION; SEXUAL HARASSMENT;
WOMEN; BLACKS
Names: GIBSON, WILLIAM F; EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE; RONES,
STEPHANIE; HOOKS, BENJAMIN L JR
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Abstract: With critics of William F. Gibson claiming that nearly half the board members of the NAACP have turned against him, the group's former executive director, Benjamin L. Hooks, has added his voice to those who would like to see Gibson step down as chairman. Hooks termed Gibson an 'inept leader' who allowed the debt of the civil rights organization to soar. Gibson is being challenged in his re-election effort by Myrlie Evers-Williams.

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Correction:

February 18, 1995, Saturday

An article yesterday about efforts to replace William F. Gibson as chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People misstated the name of a television program formerly produced by Don Cornelius, whom Mr. Gibson signed up to produce an awards ceremony. The program was 'Soul Train,' not 'Show Train.'

Article Text:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 -- With critics of William F. Gibson claiming that nearly half the board members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have turned against him, the group's former executive director, Benjamin L. Hooks, has added his voice to those who would like to see Dr. Gibson step down as chairman.

Mr. Hooks termed Dr. Gibson an 'inept leader' who allowed the debt of the civil rights organization to soar. His comments, the first time he has publicly expressed dissatisfaction with Dr. Gibson's leadership, come at a time when the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization is \$ 4.5 million in debt, faces an audit of its top officers' spending and is being torn apart by internal bickering.

Dr. Gibson is up for re-election as chairman of the 64-member board when it meets on Saturday in New York. He is being challenged by Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of the slain civil rights figure Medgar Evers.

Today, with both sides stepping up the pressure in the re-election battle, the organization was hit by a new lawsuit, this one by a former female employee of the organization who accused six current or former N.A.A.C.P. officials, including Dr. Gibson, of sexual harassment and sexual discrimination.

Stephanie Rones, a former lawyer in the N.A.A.C.P.'s legal department, claimed in a \$ 2.8 million suit filed in District of Columbia Superior Court that she was passed over for promotions, that she was subjected to advances that ultimately led to sexual relations with an official in the organization and that she was unfairly dismissed.

Mr. Hooks, who retired as executive director in 1993, said Dr. Gibson allowed the debt of the civil rights organization to balloon during the 15-month tenure of Benjamin Chavis, Mr. Hook's successor.

Moreover, Mr. Hooks contended that Dr. Gibson presided over disastrous financial losses stemming from management of a Hollywood awards program sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P. The program, known as the Image Awards, was

run by some of Dr. Gibson's closest associates on the board.

As a result, Mr. Hooks said, Dr. Gibson should be replaced even if charges of financial impropriety that have been leveled against the chairman prove unfounded.

'As far as I am concerned, if a chairman gets hold of the Image Awards and loses that much money, hires a Chavis and gives him no supervision and we go into that much debt, and has allowed all this to fester, you don't have to say that he has a defect in his moral character,' Mr. Hooks said.

The lawsuit filed today is certain to add to the problems that have plagued the organization in recent months. No search has yet been started for a new executive director to replace Mr. Chavis, who was dismissed last August after being accused of financial mismanagement and sexual harassment.

Roger Wilkins, a history professor at George Mason University and the nephew of Roy Wilkins, a former executive director of the organization, said, 'My view is that if the board re-elects Gibson, then it is pretty close to sounding the death knell of the N.A.A.C.P.'

Dr. Gibson's position on as chairman was dealt another blow this evening when it was announced that two candidates who oppose him were elected to the board as a result of balloting by the N.A.A.C.P. branches. The two were Julian Bond, a former board member, and Jesse Turner Jr., the son of the group's former treasurer.

Also re-elected to the board was Hazel Dukes, the former head of New York Off Track Betting Corp., whose term on the board had expired.

Ms. Dukes also filed a lawsuit in State Supreme Court in New York today asking that the election for board chairman not take place until an accounting firm retained to audit the spending of top N.A.A.C.P. officials is allowed to present at least a preliminary report to the board. A judge has scheduled a hearing on the matter Friday morning.

In October, the board voted to have an outside company conduct the audit, but the work had been delayed until recently because of lack of funds to pay for the work and, Dr. Gibson's critics charge, because he sought to limit the audit's scope.

This week Dr. Gibson's supporters said that since the company had been at work for such a short period, it would be allowed only to present a status report to the board and not provide any details concerning spending by top officials, including Dr. Gibson.

Dr. Gibson has been under fire since last August, when the columnist Carl Rowan said the organization's chairman had charged nearly \$ 500,000 in airline tickets, hotels, car rentals, meals and other items on an American Express card provided by the N.A.A.C.P. since 1986.

In the same period Dr. Gibson also received nearly \$ 300,000 in expense checks, according to Mr. Rowan. Inspection of some of the canceled checks indicate they were for 'board travel and office expenses'

Mr. Hooks and other former N.A.A.C.P. officials said the checks to Dr. Gibson constituted a stipend that averaged about \$ 3,000 a month. Although paying a monthly stipend to the organization's chairman has been a common practice, former officials said previous chairmen received far less than Dr. Gibson, and provided detailed accounting of how the money was spent.

Dr. Gibson has fought back. Today he announced that the organization had signed an agreement with Don Cornelius, the television producer, to put on the Image Awards show. The contract with Mr. Cornelius, a former producer of the show 'Show Train,' is being cited by Dr. Gibson's supporters as an example of his ability to raise money.

The chairman also sent a letter to all board members denying the charges that have been leveled against him and urging the board to support him.

But Dr. Gibson's effort was strained again today when Ms. Rones named him in her lawsuit. She also named Mr. Chavis; Earl Shinhoster, the acting executive director; Fred Rasheed, the acting deputy; Dennis C. Hayes, the

group's general counsel, and Lewis Meyers, a former deputy director with whom Ms. Rones maintained that she had had a one-time sexual liaison.

In a telephone interview today, Mr. Myers said he knew nothing of the lawsuit but found the charges 'scurrilous and defamatory.' He denied having any sexual relationship with Ms. Rones and said he would be talking to a lawyer to explore the possibility of filing a countersuit charging her with libel.

The other officials named in the suit could not be reached for comment. But some current and former officials dismissed the accusations of Ms. Rones, saying that they thought her relationship with Mr. Myers was consensual and that she had expressed a desire last May to leave the organization to establish an institute on race and gender.

And the officials, including some who have been critical of the current leadership, questioned the timing of the lawsuit just days before the board meeting in New York.

Ms. Rones, a 37-year-old Georgetown Law School graduate who had worked for the Washington City Council before joining the N.A.A.C.P., charges that a pervasive atmosphere of intimidation existed in the organization's Baltimore headquarters. Inequalities there, her lawsuit contends, ranged from gross imbalances in pay between male and female employees to the creation of 'an atmosphere in the workplace where it was considered permissible to take sexual advantage of women employees.'

In an interview today, Ms. Rones said she had been considering leaving the organization at the time of her termination because she hoped to work on women's issues among blacks. 'I was thinking of starting a separate organization, and I had talked to a couple of people about that.'

Ms. Rones's lawsuit maintains that her job was terminated because of her outspokenness on women's issues and that at least one other staff member, Ann Taylor, of the N.A.A.C.P.'s economic development department, was also dismissed because of her views on women's rights.

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Access No: 3000099740 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: EVERS'S WIDOW PLANS TO RUN FOR TOP POST OF N.A.A.C.P.
Authors: CATHERINE S. MANEGOLD, Special to The New York Times
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Wednesday Feb 8, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 14
Length: Long (746 words) Type: BIOGRAPHY
Subjects: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Names: GIBSON, WILLIAM F; EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE; EVERS, MEDGAR
(1925-63)
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
Abstract: Myrlie Evers-Williams, the widow of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers, announced on Feb 7, 1995 that she intended to seek the post of chairwoman of the NAACP at the board's meeting in February.

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Article Text:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 -- In another sign of conflict within the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Myrlie Evers-Williams,

the widow of a slain civil rights leader, announced today that she intended to seek the post of chairwoman at the board's meeting this month.

Her decision, after almost a year of lobbying by friends and supporters, is certain to touch off a floor fight on Feb. 18 at the board meeting in New York. An increasingly divided board must determine whether to oust the chairman, Dr. William F. Gibson, after a decade at the helm.

Today, both sides said they expected an easy victory.

Dr. Gibson has been accused by some board members of blocking an independent financial audit of the group. Last month, his critics went to Federal District Court in Baltimore, where the associations has its headquarters, to ask a judge to order such an audit.

Critics have faulted Dr. Gibson as an incompetent and corrupt administrator who failed to set up a search committee for a successor to Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., who was dismissed as the group's executive director last summer. Mr. Chavis resigned under pressure last August in the aftermath of a scandal involving his use of \$332,400 in organization money to settle a legal dispute with a former employee who had accused him of with sexual harassment.

As the group's financial dealings came under increasing scrutiny and the organization fell under a debt that approached \$4 million, Dr. Gibson's record was also scrutinized. He is accused by his critics with the misuse of organization money, billing the organization twice for the same expenses and failing to notify the board of significant financial transactions. He has denied those accusations.

Dr. Gibson won re-election to his post without a challenge for most of his 10 years as chairman.

Until Ms. Evers-Williams decided to mount a challenge, board members said Dr. Gibson, a South Carolina dentist, had a core of about 39 votes, with only 33 needed to win.

Dr. Gibson did not answer calls to his home or office today, but one of his staunchest supporters, T. H. Poole, a retired educator in Florida, discounted the challenge as another in a series of coordinated attacks by a disgruntled minority. He spoke angrily of the group's efforts to paint Dr. Gibson as a reckless and corrupt administrator and said he believed that Dr. Gibson had broad support on the board.

'Everyone has the right to run,' Mr. Poole said. 'That's the proper way to mount a challenge, not all that other stuff that's been going on in terms of climbing up on the back of Dr. Gibson and trying to make him look like a total failure.'

Dr. Gibson will face not only a rare challenge but also a formidable adversary in Ms. Evers-Williams. As the widow of Medgar Evers, a civil rights leader assassinated in Mississippi in 1963, she has come to carry her own status as a soldier in the cause. She spent 30 years trying to bring her husband's murderer to justice. Last year she succeeded with the arrest and conviction of Byron de la Beckwith, a 73-year-old Mississippian.

'She is a great woman and she will be a great chairwoman who can restore the financial and moral integrity of the N.A.A.C.P.,' said C. Delores Tucker, a harsh critic of Dr. Gibson and a leader of the movement to end his tenure as board chairman. 'She's the one who can make sure that the Newt Gingriches of the world do not take back all the gains we have made.'

Nor does Dr. Tucker minimize the fact that Ms. Evers-Williams would be the first female chairman of an organization in which women comprise 65 percent. 'On the board, with 64 members, there are only 18 or 19 women,' she said. 'In 1909 we had a higher percentage of women than we do today.'

Chester Higgins Sr., another of Dr. Gibson's critics and a past spokesman for them, said he was celebrating Ms. Evers-Williams's decision to run. 'I think she has the courage, the integrity, the intelligence,' he said. 'She's outstanding.'

Ms. Evers-Williams, 62, served as commissioner of the Los Angeles Board

of Public Works, where she managed a \$1 billion budget and 7,000 employees. She has also been an executive at the Atlantic Richfield Company and at Seligman & Lapz, a New York advertising firm.

Remarried to a civil rights worker and former longshoreman, Walter Williams, she said last month that the main thing keeping her from a bid for Dr. Gibson's seat was her husband's illness. Mr. Williams is suffering from cancer.

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Access No: 9300093636 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: COURT IS ASKED TO ORDER AUDIT OF N.A.A.C.P.
Authors: CATHERINE S. MANEGOLD, Special to The New York Times
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Friday Jan 20, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 16
Length: Medium (358 words)
Subjects: FINANCES; FRAUDS & SWINDLING; EMBEZZLEMENT
Names: GIBSON, WILLIAM F
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Abstract: Officials with the NAACP have asked a federal court in Baltimore to order an independent audit of the group's financial records in a move intended to weaken the board chairman's hold on the troubled organization.

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Article Text:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 -- Officials with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have asked a Federal court in Baltimore to order an independent audit of the group's financial records in a move intended to weaken the board chairman's hold on the troubled organization.

The legal action was the latest in an array of problems and embarrassments within the country's oldest civil rights group. It was devised to explore accusations that Dr. William F. Gibson, the board chairman, misused N.A.A.C.P. money by double billing the group for expenses and taking money from the organization as a personal loan.

Five of the organization's 64 board members were among seven officials who signed the petition filed with the Federal District Court in Baltimore. The organization's headquarters are outside Baltimore.

Fred Rasheed, the N.A.A.C.P.'s interim administrator, said the legal action, which was taken on Wednesday, appeared to duplicate efforts already begun by the group. The board called for an audit at its last meeting, in October. Three auditing concerns have submitted proposals, Mr. Rasheed said, and the executive committee is expected to select one in the next several days.

Joseph Madison, one of the dissident board members, said he was deeply disturbed by reports that Dr. Gibson had been issued a \$10,000 check by the N.A.A.C.P. marked for travel expenses. He said Dr. Gibson had told the columnist Carl Rowan the money was actually a loan that had been repaid, but he said that explanation did not satisfy him.

'It appears to be extremely inappropriate on several levels,' Mr. Madison said. 'If it was a \$10,000 advance, that is exceptionally high. I don't know where the chairman of the board would go that would cost that

much.'

Calls to Dr. Gibson's office in South Carolina, where he is a dentist, were not returned.

In addition to Mr. Madison, the board members who signed the petition were Hazel N. Dukes, Marc Stepp, Enola McMillan and Menola Upshaw. The others were C. Delores Tucker, a member of the board's fund-raising arm, and Julian Bond, a former board member who is still affiliated with the organization.

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Access No: 9300090986 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: SCHOOL CASE DISPLAYS HIGH COURT DIVISIONS ON DESEGREGATION
Authors: LINDA GREENHOUSE, Special to The New York Times
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Thursday Jan 12, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 18
Length: Long (1109 words)
Subjects: EDUCATION & SCHOOLS; EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES;
DISCRIMINATION; KANSAS CITY (MO)
Companies: SUPREME COURT (US)

Abstract: The US Supreme Court on Jan 11, 1995 heard arguments on whether the state of Missouri had met its obligation to dismantle the legacy of segregation in the Kansas City school system. At issue was how to measure the success of a court-ordered program that has rebuilt much of the battered district. The school district, which wants the desegregation plan to continue, has joined black parents in opposing the state in court.

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Article Text:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 -- The Supreme Court's fault lines on the subject of desegregation remedies were starkly obvious today as the Justices heard arguments on whether the state of Missouri had met its obligation to dismantle the legacy of segregation in the Kansas City school system.

The central question before the Court was how to measure success in a court-ordered program that has rebuilt much of the battered district. The answer could affect the future of hundreds of school districts that are still under Federal court supervision.

In Kansas City, where the state was found in 1986 to be jointly liable with the school district for unconstitutional segregation, physical and educational repairs have cost the state more than \$800 million of the \$1.3 billion spent so far. The school district, which wants the desegregation plan to continue and has joined black parents in opposing the state in court, has spent the rest.

Student achievement has not improved substantially despite the large expenditures. But that fact should be considered irrelevant to an assessment of whether Missouri has discharged its constitutional duty, an assistant state attorney general, John R. Munich, told the Court.

Mr. Munich said that unlike attendance zones or other aspects of school management that can be changed with the stroke of a pen, it was 'beyond the capacity of the schools' to guarantee educational success. So all that

should count, he said, is whether the state has complied with court orders and done all it can to assure that student assignments are made and resources allocated on a nondiscriminatory basis.

The state lawyer's argument was met with incredulity from some Justices and sympathy from others.

'If it is appropriate to look at some point at the educational offerings,' Justice David H. Souter said in a reference to the magnet schools and other enrichment programs that are part of the desegregation plan, 'why is it irrelevant to see whether those offerings are having any effect?'

Justice Stephen G. Breyer asked Mr. Munich to imagine a district in which segregation had produced a student body that could not read. 'Are you honestly saying that you can't look to see if they can read now?' Justice Breyer asked.

Mr. Munich replied: 'We don't think that should be part of the Court's analysis. It is almost wholly nonprobative.'

Two lower Federal courts had refused to relieve the state of its continuing obligation to pay for the remedial and enrichment programs, in part because substantial increases in student achievement had not been made. Judge Russell G. Clark of Federal District Court in Kansas City said in 1993 that 'the court is not satisfied that the district has reached anywhere close to its maximum potential because the district is still at or below national norms at many grade levels.'

'National norms!' Justice Antonin G. Scalia said in an exasperated tone to Deputy Solicitor General Paul Bender, who was arguing for the Clinton Administration that the state had not shown that it had taken adequate steps to erase the legacy of segregation. 'Half the country is below national norms!'

Justice Scalia asked Theodore M. Shaw, a lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc., who was arguing for the school district and the black plaintiffs, why comparing Kansas City with other districts was 'relevant at all' when the issue was only whether there was still discrimination within the district.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy told Mr. Bender that while student achievement might make for a 'fascinating sociological inquiry,' it was not a 'practical measure of when a court should return control of a school system to the popularly elected democratic authorities.'

'The principal objective must be to return control to the civil authorities, not the judicial authorities,' Justice Kennedy told Mr. Shaw. Mr. Shaw said that while he agreed in principle, the constitutional violations had to be remedied first.

The debate over the relevance of student achievement illuminated the range of attitudes among the Justices, all of whom spoke, with the exception of Justice Clarence Thomas. Justices Souter and Scalia, for example, debated each other pointedly but indirectly by means of the questions they asked the lawyers.

Justice Souter asked the Missouri Assistant Attorney General whether years of segregation might not have 'an effect on attitudes and expectations that get passed on from one school generation -- indeed, one biological generation -- to another, and take time to change.'

'Do you deny that's a fact or a relevant consideration?' Justice Souter asked the state's lawyer.

Mr. Munich replied, 'We don't think it's an appropriate consideration.'

Justice Souter said, 'Then I take it you accept it as a fact.'

Mr. Munich said with evident reluctance, 'It may happen.'

Justice Souter persisted. 'If it's a fact,' he said, 'why should it be irrelevant?'

Mr. Munich replied, 'It's beyond the capacity of the schools to deal with.'

Justice Scalia followed Justice Souter's line of questioning by asking Mr. Shaw, the school district's lawyer, how the state should be expected to prove its lack of responsibility for 'something as remote and unproximate as attitudes going several generations back.'

Mr. Shaw replied that the judicial findings concerning the state's actions in creating a substandard school system were 'much more specific' and that the case did not pose the broad question Justice Scalia asked.

The debate over achievement was itself part of a broader debate about what issues this case, *Missouri v. Jenkins*, No. 93-1823, actually placed before the Court.

While the state's lawyer urged the Court to rule broadly that the lower courts had gone too far -- and several Justices appeared inclined to do just that -- there was considerable question about whether this case actually raised broad issues at all. While Judge Clark, the district judge, had referred in passing to test scores, neither his opinion nor that of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, in St. Louis, which upheld his ruling that Missouri could not be released from its remedial obligations, required any particular level of achievement or made test scores the essential feature of the legal analysis.

Several Justices appeared uncomfortable with the scope of Missouri's argument. Both Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg questioned whether Missouri's broad attack on the scope of the desegregation remedy was even properly before the Court, because five years ago the Court denied review of an earlier Missouri appeal that raised similar questions.

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Access No: 9300089845 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: NEW YORK'S FIGHT ON DEATH PENALTY SHIFTS TO COURTS
Authors: KEVIN SACK, Special to The New York Times
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Sunday Jan 8, 1995 Sec: 1 Metropolitan Desk p: 1
Length: Long (1393 words)
Subjects: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT; LAW & LEGISLATION; SUITS & CLAIMS
AGAINST GOVERNMENT; NEW YORK STATE
Names: PATAKI, GEORGE E (GOV)

Abstract: New York Gov George Pataki's election has virtually ensured the enactment of the death penalty in the state, so many opponents of capital punishment are now working to make New York's bill more fair. Previous legislation is being revised in order to help persuade the Court of Appeals that capital punishment does not violate the state constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

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Article Text:

ALBANY, Jan. 7 -- With the inauguration of Gov. George E. Pataki virtually insuring the enactment of the death penalty in New York, the focus of the debate over capital punishment has shifted to the mechanics of drafting a bill that will survive a challenge in the state courts.

Many of those who have led the battle against capital punishment over

the years, including the New York Civil Liberties Union and the Roman Catholic Church, refuse to give up the fight. Other opponents acknowledge that New York will become the 38th state to enact the death penalty and believe their energy is better spent trying to make New York's bill more fair.

Less than 24 hours after Mr. Pataki delivered his inaugural address, where his pledge to sign the death penalty drew the loudest cheers, one of his top aides convened a meeting with legislative officials to begin revising the state's death penalty bill.

That legislation has passed both the Democratic-majority Assembly and the Republican-majority Senate by comfortable margins every year since 1977, only to be vetoed by Democratic governors. The predictability of those vetoes insured that the legislation received more oratorical support than constitutional analysis over the years.

But the election of a Republican governor has led to closer scrutiny, starting with a move to specify lethal injection as the method of execution, rather than electrocution. That change from previous legislation, accepted in principle by the Governor and the leaders of both houses, is intended to help persuade New York's top court, the Court of Appeals, that capital punishment does not violate the state Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that the death penalty does not defy the Federal Constitution's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. But opponents of capital punishment in New York are hoping that the Court of Appeals, with all seven members appointed by former Gov. Mario M. Cuomo, will find that the state's Constitution affords greater protections. It has found as much in a number of recent cases involving due process, search and seizure, and freedom of speech, but it has produced few precedents on cruel and unusual punishment.

In other efforts to protect the death penalty against court challenges, administration and legislative aides are considering changes that would prohibit the execution of mentally retarded convicts, that would guarantee experienced legal representation for defendants in capital cases and that would minimize the influence of race on sentencing decisions, state officials said.

Decisions have yet to be made on all of those issues, according to participants in the three-hour meeting held on Monday in the office of Michael C. Finnegan, Mr. Pataki's counsel.

In the meantime, administration officials say they are close to action on another front: sending a New York inmate back to Oklahoma, where he faces execution for the killing of an elderly woman in Tulsa.

Neither Governor Pataki nor Attorney General Dennis C. Vacco has specified what mechanism will be used to hand over the inmate, Thomas Grasso, who is serving a sentence of 20 years to life for a Staten Island murder. Governor Cuomo had insisted that Mr. Grasso serve his New York sentence first. But some Pataki aides say the transfer could take place in the next two weeks.

As Mr. Finnegan and his legislative allies continue to discuss the language of the death penalty bill, opponents are divided over how best to attack it. While some death penalty opponents are plotting strategy about which legislators might waver in the face of heavy lobbying, others already are analyzing which of the seven Court of Appeals judges would be open to arguments about cruel and unusual punishment.

Last week, a group of prominent lawyers, including some who oppose capital punishment, wrote Mr. Pataki, urging him to adopt provisions that would offer greater protections against wrongful executions to minorities, the disabled and the poor.

At the same time, other death penalty opponents are mounting a full-scale lobbying campaign that will include rallies, sermons, and mass mailings aimed at lawmakers.

'Like the Alamo, it's a fight that has to be fought, but the odds certainly are tough,' said Laura J. Murray, legislative director of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

The lobbying campaign is being coordinated largely by Damaris W. McGuire, executive director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty. Her group is planning to bombard legislators with letters and telephone calls, making the case that the death penalty does not deter crime, that it can be tragically fallible, that it is hugely expensive, and that it is racially discriminatory.

Religious and civil rights organizations are also playing an active role. The New York State Catholic Conference, for example, plans to distribute anti-death penalty brochures to 50,000 parishioners and has compiled a packet of sample homilies and scriptural references for its priests. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. has asked black pastors to preach against the death penalty on Jan. 15, the day before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

And yet, legislative officials in both houses said they doubt that many members of either house will switch positions, if any. The bill passed the Assembly last year by a vote of 89 to 52, with 45 Republicans and 44 Democrats voting in favor, and 52 Democrats opposed. It passed the Senate by a vote of 40 to 20, with 34 Republicans and 6 Democrats voting in favor and 19 Democrats and 1 Republican opposed.

Some of those negotiating the legislation believe they can produce a consensus bill that is ready for a vote by the end of this month. Others think a vote is at least six weeks away. The Pataki administration has brought in Robert J. Giuffra, a New York City lawyer and a former clerk to Chief Justice William Rehnquist, to help craft a bill that will survive the scrutiny of the Court of Appeals.

Among the amendments being considered is a provision that would bar the execution of mentally retarded convicts. But Senator Dale M. Volker, the Erie County Republican who sponsors the bill, opposes that measure. 'A blanket exclusion that a mentally retarded person can't be executed risks giving a lot of calculated murderers a way out,' he said.

Another change would specify that lawyers appointed to represent indigent defendants in capital cases have significant training or experience in such cases. The bill currently requires only that indigent defendants be represented by a lawyer with five years at the bar and at least three years experience trying felony cases in New York.

The negotiators also are discussing measures to protect defendants against racial discrimination, given that studies show that the death penalty has been applied disproportionately in cases with black defendants and white victims. One possibility is that the judge would be required to instruct the jury to disregard race and that the jurors would have to state after the trial that race did not affect their verdicts. Some lawyers have called for sequestered pretrial questioning of individual jurors about their views on race.

Norman Siegel, the executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, is already discussing legal strategy for a constitutional challenge, projecting that a case could reach the Court of Appeals by late 1996 or early 1997. He said he believes that four, and possibly five, of the seven judges currently on the court could be persuaded to rule against the death penalty.

One of the judges, Joseph W. Bellacosa, who is considered one of the court's more conservative members, published a law review article last year raising strong concerns about the execution of innocents, the advantages that well-funded prosecutors have over the defense in capital cases, and the cruelty of execution, even by lethal injection.

And yet, Judge Bellacosa wrote in Pace Law Review that it is possible for states to fashion constitutional death penalty statutes. And he warned that he, like his colleagues, should not be misinterpreted. 'I recognize

that my strong words may lead some understandably to conclude that I am against the death penalty,' he wrote. 'But that would be a wrong impression and inference.'

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Access No: 9300093636 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: COURT IS ASKED TO ORDER AUDIT OF N.A.A.C.P.
Authors: CATHERINE S. MANEGOLD, Special to The New York Times
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Friday Jan 20, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 16
Length: Medium (358 words)
Subjects: FINANCES; FRAUDS & SWINDLING; EMBEZZLEMENT
Names: GIBSON, WILLIAM F
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
Abstract: Officials with the NAACP have asked a federal court in Baltimore to order an independent audit of the group's financial records in a move intended to weaken the board chairman's hold on the troubled organization.

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Article Text:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 -- Officials with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have asked a Federal court in Baltimore to order an independent audit of the group's financial records in a move intended to weaken the board chairman's hold on the troubled organization.

The legal action was the latest in an array of problems and embarrassments within the country's oldest civil rights group. It was devised to explore accusations that Dr. William F. Gibson, the board chairman, misused N.A.A.C.P. money by double billing the group for expenses and taking money from the organization as a personal loan.

Five of the organization's 64 board members were among seven officials who signed the petition filed with the Federal District Court in Baltimore. The organization's headquarters are outside Baltimore.

Fred Rasheed, the N.A.A.C.P.'s interim administrator, said the legal action, which was taken on Wednesday, appeared to duplicate efforts already begun by the group. The board called for an audit at its last meeting, in October. Three auditing concerns have submitted proposals, Mr. Rasheed said, and the executive committee is expected to select one in the next several days.

Joseph Madison, one of the dissident board members, said he was deeply disturbed by reports that Dr. Gibson had been issued a \$10,000 check by the N.A.A.C.P. marked for travel expenses. He said Dr. Gibson had told the columnist Carl Rowan the money was actually a loan that had been repaid, but he said that explanation did not satisfy him.

'It appears to be extremely inappropriate on several levels,' Mr. Madison said. 'If it was a \$10,000 advance, that is exceptionally high. I don't know where the chairman of the board would go that would cost that much.'

Calls to Dr. Gibson's office in South Carolina, where he is a dentist, were not returned.

In addition to Mr. Madison, the board members who signed the petition

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Access No: 9300119475 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: COURT HEARS CHALLENGES TO BLACK DISTRICTS
Authors: STEVEN A. HOLMES
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Thursday Apr 20, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 20
Length: Long (895 words) Illus: Photo
Subjects: ELECTIONS; DECISIONS & VERDICTS; BLACKS; REAPPORTIONMENT;
GEORGIA; LOUISIANA
Companies: SUPREME COURT (US); HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (US); SENATE
(US)

Access No: 9300103009 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: A NEW CHANCE FOR THE N.A.A.C.P.
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Tuesday Feb 21, 1995 Sec: A Editorial Desk p: 18
Length: Medium (354 words) Type: EDITORIAL
Subjects: EDITORIALS; BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Names: EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Access No: 3000103118 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: WOMAN IN THE NEWS: MYRLIE EVERS-WILLIAMS; TEMPERING
TROUBLED WATERS
Authors: CATHERINE S. MANEGOLD
Source: The New York Times,
Late Edition - Final Correction Appended
Date: Monday Feb 20, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 1
Length: Long (1301 words) Type: BIOGRAPHY Illus: Photo
Subjects: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION; BLACKS; WOMAN IN THE NEWS (TIMES
COLUMN)
Names: EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE; EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE
(BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH)
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Access No: 9300102846 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: FOR N.A.A.C.P., TIME TO PICK UP THE PIECES
Authors: STEVEN A. HOLMES
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Monday Feb 20, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 10
Length: Long (946 words)
Subjects: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION; SEXUAL HARASSMENT; FINANCES
Names: EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Access No: 3000102652 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: GIBSON IS OUSTED AS N.A.A.C.P. HEAD
Authors: STEVEN A. HOLMES
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Sunday Feb 19, 1995 Sec: 1 National Desk p: 1
Length: Long (1183 words) Type: BIOGRAPHY Illus: Photo
Subjects: ETHICS; BLACKS
Names: GIBSON, WILLIAM F (DR); EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Access No: 9300102135 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: PRESSURE RISES FOR N.A.A.C.P. TO OUST CHIEF
Authors: STEVEN A. HOLMES, Special to The New York Times
Source: The New York Times,
Late Edition - Final Correction Appended
Date: Friday Feb 17, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 1
Length: Long (1321 words)
Subjects: FINANCES; ETHICS; SUITS & LITIGATION; SEXUAL HARASSMENT;
WOMEN; BLACKS
Names: GIBSON, WILLIAM F; EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE; RONES,
STEPHANIE; HOOKS, BENJAMIN L JR
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Access No: 3000099740 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: EVERS'S WIDOW PLANS TO RUN FOR TOP POST OF N.A.A.C.P.
Authors: CATHERINE S. MANEGOLD, Special to The New York Times
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Wednesday Feb 8, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 14
Length: Long (746 words) Type: BIOGRAPHY
Subjects: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Names: GIBSON, WILLIAM F; EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE; EVERS, MEDGAR
(1925-63)
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Access No: 9300096677 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: NEW MOVE TO RESTORE N.A.A.C.P.
Authors: AP
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Sunday Jan 29, 1995 Sec: 1 National Desk p: 19
Length: Medium (591 words) Illus: Photo
Subjects: BLACKS (IN US)
Names: EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE; EVERS, MEDGAR (1925-63)
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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Access No: 9300119475 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: COURT HEARS CHALLENGES TO BLACK DISTRICTS
Authors: STEVEN A. HOLMES
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Thursday Apr 20, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 20
Length: Long (895 words) Illus: Photo
Subjects: ELECTIONS; DECISIONS & VERDICTS; BLACKS; REAPPORTIONMENT;
GEORGIA; LOUISIANA
Companies: SUPREME COURT (US); HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (US); SENATE
(US)

Abstract: The Supreme Court on Apr 19, 1995 took up perhaps the most
basic affirmative-action issue in a democracy: whether
election districts can be drawn according to the race of
the people who live in them. Lawyers for the plaintiffs

asserted that districts drawn to insure that black voters are a majority violated the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection clause. Civil rights groups argued that without such districts black representation would be miniscule.

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Article Text:

WASHINGTON, April 19 -- The Supreme Court today took up perhaps the most basic affirmative-action issue in a democracy: whether election districts can be drawn according to the race of the people who live in them.

At issue were two Congressional districts -- one in Louisiana and the other in Georgia -- specifically created to contain majorities of black voters, with the aim of helping to elect more blacks to Congress.

In arguments that at their philosophical base mirror the widespread debates over racial preferences in employment or college admissions, lawyers for the plaintiffs asserted that districts drawn to insure that black voters are a majority violated their clients' rights under the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection clause. They argued that the Government 'must treat citizens as individuals, not as simply components of a racial or sexual class.'

But civil rights groups, state officials from Louisiana and Georgia and the Clinton Administration argued that without such districts black representation would be minuscule, especially in the South. They have also asserted that the Supreme Court has in the past allowed the use of race as a factor in drawing electoral districts so long as it is not done for the sole purpose of segregating voters.

Since 1990, 14 states have adopted redistricting plans that doubled the number of districts with black and Hispanic majorities from 26 to 52.

Before states were compelled by the Voting Rights Act to construct such districts, no Southern state had sent a black to Congress since 1901.

Eric Schnapper, a law professor who was formerly a staff lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, said that if the court ruled that race could not be used in redistricting, the Congressional Black Caucus 'will be able to meet in the back of a taxi cab.'

The two cases argued today were the first to be brought to the Court since it ruled in 1993 that the constitutionality of such districts could be challenged. In a 5-to-4 ruling in that case, known as Shaw v. Reno, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote that a bizarrely drawn district in North Carolina was 'so irrational on its face that it can be understood only as an effort to segregate voters into separate voting districts.'

Basing their rulings on the Shaw decision, district courts in Georgia and Louisiana upheld challenges to the constitutionality of black-majority districts in their states.

In a two-hearing hearing today, the nine Justices peppered lawyers from both sides with questions, including whether race could ever be eliminated in the drawing of districts and to what extent the creation of black-majority districts contributes to racially polarized voting.

'Do you draw these districts in order to perpetuate that practice or in order to eliminate it?' Justice Anthony M. Kennedy asked.

Justice David H. Souter said, 'You can't draw districts without taking race into consideration.'

The arguments focused on a host of questions including the following:

*Did the challengers to the districts actually suffer harm from their creation?

*What role did the Justice Department play in fashioning the districts?

*Was the construction of black-majority districts any more insidious than creating districts with other ethnic majorities?

Much of the questioning by the Justices centered on this last point. Justices Stevens, Souter and Stephen G. Breyer all questioned whether black-majority districts were being singled out for Constitutional challenges. Justice Breyer asked whether it was all right to draw districts for 'Italians, Catholics or Protestants but not for blacks.'

If that is the case, Justice Stevens said, blacks would be the only group that would not get the benefit of having their 'group interest treated as a group interest.'

Drew S. Days 3d, the United States Solicitor General, said, 'If Louisiana decided to draw a district for Creoles, that would not trigger a constitutional challenge.' Mr. Days entered the case because the districts were created in response to the Federal Voting Rights Act.

Mr. Warren, the lawyer representing the original plaintiffs in the Louisiana case, argued that while the courts said race could help to define the boundaries of communities, 'the problem is when race takes over and the decisions are all based on racial stereotyping.' He added that the impetus to create black-majority districts stemmed from what he termed a stereotypic view that blacks will vote only for blacks and whites will vote only for whites.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Souter and O'Connor, the author of the Shaw decision, questioned the plaintiffs' lawyers about whether their clients had actually suffered harm because of black-majority districts and therefore had legal standing to sue.

In the Louisiana case, none of the four plaintiffs lived in the district they were challenging. Justices Souter and Ginsburg noted that if they were allowed legal standing, then anyone in a state where the legislature drew a district to contain a majority of racial or ethnic minorities could challenge that district.

Justice Ginsburg also noted that the four Louisiana voters who questioned the legality of the black-majority district included two whites, a black and an Asian-American. 'I don't see how you get racial discrimination by an exclusion that equally affects a black and a white,' she said.

Caption:

Photos: Representative Cleo Fields, left, Democrat of Louisiana, and Representative Cynthia A. McKinney, Democrat of Georgia, after a Supreme Court hearing on challenges to the way their districts were drawn. The two lawmakers were first elected to Congress in 1992 in districts created with black majorities. (Photographs by Associated Press)

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Access No: 9300103009 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: A NEW CHANCE FOR THE N.A.A.C.P.
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Tuesday Feb 21, 1995 Sec: A Editorial Desk p: 18
Length: Medium (354 words) Type: EDITORIAL
Subjects: EDITORIALS; BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
Names: EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Abstract: An editorial applauds the election of Myrlie Evers-Williams as chairman of the NAACP, saying she gives the NAACP 'a new

chance at what looked like the last minute.'

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Article Text:

For an organization with a central role in America's unfinished journey toward racial equality, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been frighteningly close to collapse. The election of Myrlie Evers-Williams as chairman vouches that the N.A.A.C.P. is ready for its own journey back from the brink.

Mrs. Evers-Williams's challenges are formidable, but she has several advantages. One is her deep personal tie to a civil rights group whose history is its most sacred asset. She is the widow of Medgar Evers, a truly heroic figure in the Southern civil rights movement. She worked at her husband's side in that lonely and dangerous outpost of justice, the Jackson, Miss., field office of the N.A.A.C.P. After Mr. Evers's murder in 1963, she never flagged in a 31-year crusade to put his killer in jail.

Perhaps only someone with those credentials could have ended the disastrous decade of mismanagement presided over by the defeated chairman, Dr. William F. Gibson. Mrs. Evers-Williams and the new treasurer, Francisco L. Borges, have promised an end to the spendthrift accounting that has alienated both dues-paying members and benefactors.

But Mrs. Evers-Williams's most important decision will be the selection of an executive director to replace the Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. Mr. Chavis's alliance with Louis Farrakhan eroded the N.A.A.C.P.'s biracial tradition and did particular damage to Jewish supporters. At the same time, women inside the organization were repelled by charges of sexual discrimination and harassment associated with Mr. Chavis's regime.

Mrs. Evers-Williams seems well suited to the task of reasserting the N.A.A.C.P.'s trademark blend of militance and inclusivity. Other civil rights groups need its anchoring presence as they confront the problems of economic discrimination, crime and family disintegration. Moreover, a revitalized N.A.A.C.P. has an important role to play in the impending debate over affirmative action.

Mrs. Evers-Williams has given the N.A.A.C.P. a new chance at what looked like the last minute. Much depends on her success.

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Access No: 9300102846 ProQuest - The New York Times (R) Ondisc
Title: FOR N.A.A.C.P., TIME TO PICK UP THE PIECES
Authors: STEVEN A. HOLMES
Source: The New York Times, Late Edition - Final
Date: Monday Feb 20, 1995 Sec: A National Desk p: 10
Length: Long (946 words)
Subjects: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION; SEXUAL HARASSMENT; FINANCES
Names: EVERS-WILLIAMS, MYRLIE
Companies: NATIONAL ASSN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Abstract: Having won a close fight for chairmanship of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams set out on Feb 19, 1995 on the far more difficult task of shifting the group's focus from uncivil bickering to civil rights. Evers said her first priority was to begin a search for a new executive director.

time in the NAACP's recent modern history. Executive Director Ben Chavis's alliance with Louis Farrakhan eroded the group's biracial tradition and did particular damage to Jewish support. At the same time, women inside the organization were repelled by charges of sexual discrimination and harassment associated with Mr. Chavis's regime.

Aside from strife on the executive board and other internal challenges, the chair must take on a Republican controlled Congress which seeks to roll back gains in affirmative action programs. A great deal depends on Mrs. Evers-Williams's success.

* A transcript of the keynote address delivered by Mrs. Evers Williams at the convention will be faxed within the hour.

9TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1996 Star Tribune
Star Tribune

January 25, 1996, Metro Edition

SECTION: Sports; Pg. 2C

LENGTH: 577 words

HEADLINE: Evil doers show that nothing is sacred;
First Reggie White's church is burned, now it's robbed

BODY:

Thousands of dollars have been raised. Support is coming in from all over. Yet the congregation of the firebombed Inner City Church still is suffering.

"After the loss of the church, it would be hard to believe anyone would go in there and steal from us," Rev. David Upton said in Knoxville, Tenn., after it was disclosed Tuesday that electronic equipment was looted from the church's annex.

"That just goes to show you the kind of society we live in."

The theft and a hate letter posted from Wisconsin, where associate pastor Reggie White is an All-Pro defensive end with the Green Bay Packers, defies the outpouring of public sympathy and support the church has received since the Jan. 8 arson.

Authorities are investigating the possibility the arson was racially motivated. Anti-black graffiti was found spray-painted inside the ruins of the church, which has an interracial congregation of 400.

Bank One officials in Green Bay said they have collected \$ 100,437 in donations for the church. Upton said local donations received directly by the church total \$ 57,224.

Upton estimates it will take at least \$ 900,000 to rebuild the sanctuary, and more to build a planned gymnasium that would be a haven for youths and adults.

Authorities are reporting no suspects or new clues despite a \$ 20,000 reward.

Not weighing on her

Being a few pounds overweight doesn't bother Monica Seles - not after seeing what a preoccupation with dieting did to one of her best friends, who suffers from bulimia.

"It's a constant struggle for her, and for somebody who cares so much about a person, it's hard to see that," Seles said Tuesday at the Australian Open, after being asked whether she was a few pounds overweight.

Star Tribune, January 25, 1996

"You eat and you throw up. I saw that firsthand. I promised myself, whatever pressures society puts on you, that's not worth it.

"Women in society have much tougher pressure to be thin, and I see that."

Poor old Michael

Can somebody making \$ 3.8 million a year be underpaid? If that somebody is Michael Jordan, the answer is yes.

"Indeed, considering such bloated annual salaries as Danny Ferry's \$ 4.6 million, Danny Manning's \$ 6.8 million, A.C. Green's \$ 6.4 million and Chris Webber's \$ 7 million, where to even start with a player of Jordan's caliber and reputation?" wrote Melissa Isaacson of the Chicago Tribune.

Jordan's contract expires this summer, so what is he really worth, say \$ 100 million over three years?

Said Jordan: "Nobody can really pay me what I'm worth."

Mad about him

Cleveland guard Terrell Brandon and New York Knicks guard Derek Harper got into a jawing match last week, with Harper at one point apparently cocking his arm. "There was no way I was going to fight him," Brandon said. "Harper is my hero. I still have his poster up on my wall at my mother's house."

The Mildcats

When the Arizona basketball team declined to fly to Philadelphia to play St. Joseph's on Jan. 13 because of bad weather on the East Coast, it got some adverse publicity. A sampling:

Gary Nuhn of the Dayton Daily News: "Suntan U. will next refuse to play at Oregon State or Washington State, insisting they will no longer schedule teams that don't have major airports."

- Phil Martelli, St. Joseph's coach: "They recruit McDonald's All-Americans. I recruit guys who eat at McDonald's, and they don't want to compete."

- Compiled by Jay Ewoldt

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 25, 1996

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The Washington Post

January 23, 1996, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 1334 words

HEADLINE: Church Fires Rekindle Pain; Specter of Racism Rises With the Smoke

BYLINE: Sue Anne Pressley, Washington Post Staff Writer

DATELINE: BOLIGEE, Ala.

BODY:

To Charlie Means and the other 40 members of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, there is no more heartbreaking sight than the crumbling brick shell, blackened with smoke, in a clearing in these lonesome woods.

The 100-year-old church burned to the ground on Dec. 22, apparently the work of arsonists, and that is painful enough. But on the night of Jan. 11, two other black churches in this isolated community of west Alabama also were destroyed by fire, and residents here, black and white, can no longer deny that race was the motivation.

"You hurt so bad when you see something like this," said Means, 31, a truck driver who has been a deacon in the church since he was 11, wiping his eyes as he looked at the ruins. "We had the best of times in this church."

The destruction of the three churches in Greene County, long recognized as one of the poorest counties in America, follows a series of attacks on black churches both in adjoining Sumter County and in nearby Tennessee. It raises anew the disturbing specter of a time when the civil rights movement was at its most heated, and black churches in Alabama and elsewhere in the South were targeted and burned.

And, even as Boligee church members hope investigators will find that the attacks were not racially motivated, they cannot ignore the fact that no white churches were harmed in this deeply religious area, where black sharecroppers and white plantation owners once lived side by side.

"We don't know who did this, or why they did it, but whoever could do this against God's house is mean-spirited and evil," said Spiver W. Gordon, 56, a leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who lives in the area.

The timing of the latest attacks, on Jan. 11, is particularly suspicious, occurring the same day local newspapers reported that two young white men had been sentenced to serve six months in jail and pay \$ 30,000 in restitution for their part in a drunken February 1994 rampage at three black churches in Sumter County. A juvenile involved in the case died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound before he could be sentenced.

The Washington Post, January 23, 1996

In those 1994 attacks, the men admitted they had broken into the churches, breaking windows, shattering pulpits, overturning pews, and, in one instance, crashing a glass chandelier through a portrait of Moses and the Ten Commandments. District Attorney Barrown Lankster, whose jurisdiction includes both counties, said he is convinced the men had no connection to the recent church burnings in Boligee, but he had not ruled out the possibility that the fires could have been set by someone who sympathized with their actions.

"The excuse they gave at sentencing was they were so drunk, they didn't recall what happened," said Lankster, who is black. "I found it interesting that they never did refer to these as 'churches,' but as 'buildings.' As far as saying they singled them out, they never did admit racial motivations. But looking at the evidence, the locations, they had to go to an extra effort to get to these black churches."

Combined with the recent Tennessee cases, the destruction of the west Alabama churches creates an alarming picture of violence against what has long been the center of life of the local black communities. On Jan. 8, police said a Molotov cocktail was lobbed into the Inner City Church in Knoxville, where professional football player Reggie White of the Green Bay Packers is an associate pastor. Racial slurs were spray-painted on the ruined walls. It was the fifth predominantly black church in Tennessee to be attacked in the last year, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and federal and state authorities are investigating possible connections between the cases in the two states. No arrests have been made in the Tennessee cases.

But church burnings in Alabama have a particularly dark historical resonance. In a pivotal tragedy in the civil rights movement, four black girls were killed during Sunday School on Sept. 15, 1963, when whites firebombed the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, about 100 miles east of Boligee.

Visitors to this remote part of Alabama, near the Mississippi line, often comment on the unchanged landscape and, in some cases, on the seemingly unchanged attitudes about race relations. Pastures and fields are dotted with modest homes, and for long, sometimes eerie, stretches, there is little but quiet pine and oak forests and shimmering ponds.

It is not uncommon to hear whites here referring to the blacks as "colored people," even while protesting that everyone gets along fine and there is no visible tension between the races. Blacks agree that the area has been spared the overt racial conflicts of other areas, and many said they hope the culprits will prove to be outsiders -- perhaps among the hundreds of turkey and deer hunters who prowl the dense woods this time of year. But others also admit the churches are so deeply tucked into the forests that only a local resident could know where to find them.

"I think it was young people trying to get something stirred up," said Deacon Means. "The way it is around here, the whites need the blacks and the blacks need the whites. That's the way it is, with this economy."

In Greene County -- which is 85 percent black and where the 1990 per capita income was \$ 6,300, far lower than many other Alabama counties -- the public schools have virtually no white students, said District Attorney Lankster. Most

The Washington Post, January 23, 1996

white children attend a private academy. Boligee has 300 residents, a post office, a general store, and a colorful mayor who also serves as the police chief, the fire chief, the town social worker and the dispatcher of most of the town's news.

Buddie Lavender, 67, who is white, said he is convinced the fires in his area, scattered within a rural six-mile radius, were racially motivated.

"I try to be fair. I try to look after everybody like my children," said Lavender, who is completing his fifth four-year term as the unpaid mayor and rules over a \$ 15,000 annual budget. "I want as much publicity as I can get. I want these dudes caught."

Lavender said he has asked Gov. Fob James Jr., (R) to offer a reward for information leading to the capture of suspects. The ATF and the state fire marshal's office are investigating.

"We don't know what the motivation is, but a lot of the questions are, could it be, is it possibly racially motivated, and certainly, we are looking into that," said Jim Cavanaugh, special agent in charge of the ATF office in Birmingham. He added that he doubts the Boligee fires were related to the Knoxville firebombing, but said there could be a connection with the west Tennessee cases, although the arsonists would have had to have traveled at least five hours over rough roads to reach the Alabama churches.

For the stricken church members in Boligee, there is nothing left but their faith. Hymnals are gone, pews dedicated to long-ago members reduced to ashes. At Little Zion Baptist Church, where the Rev. W.D. Lewis, 92, has shepherded his congregation for 46 years, the loss has an extra sting. For years, the 50 members had scrimped and saved to build a \$ 16,000 kitchen, completed not long ago; it, too, was swiftly destroyed. None of the congregations could afford insurance, and the losses are total.

But on Sunday, they gathered to worship -- one congregation in a home, another in a borrowed church, the Mount Zion congregation in the meeting room of the 68-unit public housing complex in Boligee.

"People want to help us, and we should thank God for that," the Rev. Levi Pickens told his members Sunday as they sat in folding chairs in the cramped room. "You'd be surprised at how many people are hurt by this."

"But brothers and sisters, I say to you, we have to keep our heads up," he said. "We have to keep our heads up and we have to keep going. Because we won't ever learn how to accept the sunshine if it never rains."

GRAPHIC: Photo, karim shamsi-basha for The Washington Post; Map, The Washington Post, The Rev. Levi Pickens at burned Mount Zion Baptist Church, Greene County, Ala. The uninsured Little Zion Baptist Church, one of three black churches that have burned in a month in Greene County, Ala., is total loss for its members.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

27TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1996 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

January 20, 1996, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 7; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 866 words

HEADLINE: Black Church Fires Are Under U.S. Review

BYLINE: By RONALD SMOTHERS

DATELINE: ATLANTA, Jan. 19

BODY:

The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is investigating a series of suspicious fires at four black churches in western Alabama in the last month to see whether any are connected to four similar arsons at black churches in western Tennessee a year ago.

A special agent, James Cavanaugh, who is in charge of the bureau's Alabama office, said that investigators were pursuing a connection among the incidents, all of which occurred in rural areas. Gov. Fob James Jr. of Alabama authorized a \$1,500 reward today for information that would lead to prosecutions in each of the Alabama incidents.

"We are looking at whether there is any organized and conspiratorial ring traveling from state to state," Mr. Cavanaugh said, noting that all the fires had been at black Baptist churches in rural areas and within several miles of each other. "We are looking at the possibility of a racial motive, and the key word for us is whether it is regional."

In all the earlier incidents, the fires were set late at night, and no one was hurt.

Mr. Cavanaugh, as well as Kathleen Kiernan, the assistant special agent in charge of the Bureau's Tennessee office, said that so far, investigators were wary about linking any of the incidents with a fire last week at an integrated church in Knoxville where Reggie White, a Green Bay Packers defensive lineman, is an assistant pastor.

That firebombing, on Jan. 8, destroyed the Inner City Church; racist graffiti had been spray-painted on walls and doors. Within days of the fire, a hate letter was circulating in the area linking the fire to a campaign in the "region" against integrated communities, schools and churches and interracial marriage, among other things.

Residents of west Alabama's Green and Sumter Counties, including the District Attorney, Barrown Langster, welcomed the Federal investigation into the incidents, saying that they definitely saw a pattern between the fires and several incidents of vandalism at black churches a year earlier.

The New York Times, January 20, 1996

The most recent incidents occurred on Jan. 11, when Little Zion Baptist Church and Mount Zoar Baptist Church, which are within six miles of each other in the tiny Greene County town of Boligee, burned to the ground on the same night.

Two weeks before that, another black church in the area, Mount Zion Baptist, burned to the ground, and nearby Jerusalem Baptist Church was the target of an attempted arson in which a fire that was set went out.

"Given the locations of all of these fires, they could not have been started accidentally," Mr. Langster said, noting that no gas lines or electrical wiring were in the areas where the fires began. "This may not be linked to any organized hate group, but we are concerned that it will continue if we don't have a thorough investigation."

Mr. Langster and others noted that the two most recent fires had come on the heels of the Jan. 4 sentencing of two white men convicted of vandalizing three black churches in adjacent Sumter County in February 1995. At the sentencing, one man called the action "stupid" and explained that he and his friends had got drunk before going to the churches and smashing pews, windows and kitchen equipment with a sledgehammer. A third man convicted in the case died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds just days before the sentencing.

"I don't think any of this was accidental," said John Zippert, publisher of the weekly newspaper, The Greene County Democrat, which serves both counties, where a majority of the residents are black and where most of the elected officials are black. "I think these particular churches were targeted. You have white churches in between all of them that were not touched."

Morris Dees, the head of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, a nonprofit agency that tracks hate groups and tries to promote racial harmony, noted that both Greene and Sumter Counties, which are 80 percent and 75 percent black respectively, are not areas where white supremacist groups would thrive. He suggested that the incidents might be more the result of casual racism rather than an organized effort.

"This is deer hunting season and you have a lot of hunting clubs up there, and a lot of drunk white boys who might be angry at not getting a deer," Mr. Dees said, suggesting that the fires could be linked in this way. "It's still bigoted, insensitive and intimidating, but it's not organized."

But Mr. Langster said that such speculation was still not very comforting to area residents.

In the Tennessee cases, Ms. Kiernan said, all the black churches were in rural areas and within a 45-minute drive of each other. The first incident was on Dec. 30, 1994, at Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Gibson County, followed by the burning on the night of Jan. 13, 1995, of Macedonia Missionary Baptist in Crockett County and Johnson Grove Baptist Church in Madison County. And on Jan. 31, a fire destroyed Mount Calvary Baptist Church in rural Hardeman County.

Ms. Kiernan said that in those cases, flammable materials had been used to set the fires; in the Knoxville fire, an incendiary device was used. She said

The New York Times, January 20, 1996

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were also investigating.

GRAPHIC: Photo: Investigators are trying to determine whether fires at four black churches in Alabama are connected to similar incidents in Tennessee. The Rev. W.D. Lewis stood outside the remains of Little Zion Church in Alabama.
(Associated Press)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 20, 1996

11TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1996 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

January 23, 1996, Tuesday, CONSTITUTION EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS

LENGTH: 801 words

HEADLINE: AROUND THE SOUTH;

Fires destroy black churches in tiny town;

Arson suspected: Federal agencies have joined the hunt for the cause of the
blazes that demolished houses of worship.

BYLINE: Anne Rochell; STAFF WRITER

DATELINE: Boligee, Ala.

BODY:

In this tiny community of catfish farmers, deer hunters, former landowners
and sharecroppers, black residents, who are in the vast majority, don't mingle
much with white residents.

It is an uneasy coexistence of strangers, but that doesn't imply open
hostility, blacks and whites agree. So when three black Baptist churches burned
- one on Dec. 22, two on Jan. 11 - everyone was shocked.

"Well, I was just sad and surprised," said the Rev. Arthur Coleman, pastor of
Mount Zoar Baptist Church, which burned Jan. 11. His congregation of 30 people
will worship at St. James, another church in town where Coleman is also pastor.
"I don't know why people would do that to the temple we worship in."

Greene County District Attorney Barrown Lankster said he is convinced the
fires were arson.

"We think this is racially motivated because a white church nearby was not
touched," he said. "Hopefully, if we give these the attention they deserve,
maybe this thing can be nipped in the bud."

But clues to how the fires were started and by whom are scarce, said James
Cavanaugh, special agent in charge at the Birmingham office of the U.S. Bureau
of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The churches are on isolated roads, so the
fires raged without anyone reporting them.

"When (a building) is burned down to the concrete slab," Cavanaugh said,
"there's not much evidence."

About eight investigators from the ATF, the FBI and the state fire marshal's
office were in Boligee on Monday, Cavanaugh said. Gov. Fob James has offered a \$
1,500 reward for information that would lead to prosecutions in each of the
fires.

The Atlanta Journal, January 23, 1996

Cavanaugh said there is no evidence that these fires are connected to a rash of church fires in Tennessee. On Jan. 8, arson destroyed the sanctuary of the racially integrated Inner City Church in Knoxville, where Reggie White, a Green Bay Packers defensive lineman, is an assistant pastor. Racist graffiti was found on outside walls of the church. And last year, four predominantly black churches were torched in west Tennessee.

Lankster and federal investigators are looking into a possible connection between the burning of the Boligee churches and vandalism at three churches in neighboring Sumter County last year. Two of the three men convicted of those crimes were sentenced Jan. 4, Lankster said. A third defendant died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound a few days before the sentencing hearing, he said. Those men are not suspects because they were in jail, but Lankster wonders if their friends could have been seeking vengeance.

A.L. "Buddy" Lavender, Boligee's mayor, volunteer fire chief and only police officer, said he is collecting donations to help the Boligee churches rebuild.

"I hope it wasn't local," said Lavender, who is white. "The races get along here, but it's strained relations. And we have some skinheads here, and Klan. They're low-key, but they're here."

In Boligee, whites and blacks do not worship together. Most of the white children of Boligee attend a private school in another community. White hunters sit shoulder to shoulder around the tables of the Boligee Cafe, their muddy boots scraping the linoleum. Blacks hang out at the only other business in town, a general store across the railroad tracks.

The black churches, home to congregations that have worshiped together for generations, are roofless brick shells now. Mount Zoar Baptist Church is a pile of dirty cinderblocks at the end of a skinny road that winds between catfish ponds and fallow farmland. Amid the charred yellow bricks of Mount Zion Baptist Church, the first church to burn, lie the twisted remains of the tin roof. And at Little Zion Baptist Church, atop a windy, scrubby hill, red bricks spill out from what's left of the entryway, as though blown from the building by an explosion.

Jonas Smothers, who lives across the road from Little Zion and serves as a deacon there, has grown increasingly disturbed by the fire.

"It's been rough," he said. "It looks like it could be a hate group, and I don't know what the next thing will be."

Smothers said he believes the hate that fueled these fires came from outside the community.

"We get along here like sisters and brothers," said the 82-year-old farmer.

Lavender agreed, with qualification.

"That's as good a friend as I've got, but we don't eat supper together, you know?" he said as he drove away from the house.

Mamie Owens fretted as she had her hair set by the mayor's sister, Mary

The Atlanta Journal, January 23, 1996

Russell, who operates a beauty parlor in her three-story Victorian home.

"I hope you've got some leads on this," she said to Lavender as Russell combed her downy white hair. "We have a church that's 150 years old. If they're burning other churches, they might start burning the white churches."

LOAD-DATE: January 24, 1996

But he understands that government service is not the only service that matters. He understands that the NAACP, and other grassroots organizations, are essential to building strong communities, neighborhoods, and families.

That's why my initial sense of disappointment in learning that he was leaving his House seat to assume the presidency of the NAACP did not last long.

Because, even though I will miss his support in the Congress, I know that he is the right man at the right time for this important job. And I know he will continue to offer me his wise counsel in his new role.

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- DRAFT

Page 3

Programme

Opening Remarks

M.C.

Invocation

Rev. Russell Lee Johnson
Brown Memorial Baptist Church

Welcome

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States

Selection

Morgan State University Choir

Prayer for the Nation

William Cardinal Kheeler
Title

Remarks

Mr. Roger Wilkins
Title

Remarks

Ms. Jaimie Smith
Title

*- 16 year old - Pres.
NAACP - Youth
in Baltimore
(dancer)
Miss Teen TND.*

Prayer for the NAACP

Rev. Vashti McKenzie
Title

*AYinde Jean-Baptiste
12*

Remarks

Mrs. Merle Evers-Williams
Chairperson
National Board of Directors
NAACP

Remarks

President William Jefferson Clinton

Oath of Office

Administered by
A. Leon Higginbotham
Chief Judge Emeritus
U.S. Court of Appeals (Third Circuit)

Response

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume

Selection

Morgan State University Choir

Benediction

Rabbi Elan Adler
(Congregation)

- Amanda Crumley -

Kimi Washington

FAX

Date 13 FEB 1996

Number of pages including cover sheet 2

TO: GABRIEL BUSHMAN

Phone

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CC:

REMARKS: ☒ Urgent ☐ For your review ☐ Reply ASAP ☐ Please Comment**URGENT!****DATED MATERIAL...PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY.**

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION AFRICAN AMERICAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- o President Clinton appointed a record number of African Americans to senior positions in the government. He appointed the most diverse cabinet of any President in history. There are more African Americans (45) serving in the White House than at any time in history.**
- o President Clinton Increased funding for Historical Black Colleges and instituted direct student loans to lower the cost of going to college.**
- o President Clinton hosted the first ever White House Conference on Africa. He not only hosted it but he and the Vice-President were active participants. Several Presidential Delegations have been sent to Africa the past two years...the most recent being the one led by Secretary Ron Brown to Senegal for the Africa-African American summit.**
- o The President increased funding for Head Start and Child immunization programs both of which are having a positive impact on African American children.**
- o The President signed Executive Order 12928 strengthening minority business programs by requiring oversight and coordination by OMB, Commerce and the SBA.**
- o President Clinton restored democracy to Haiti and he did it without losing American lives.**
- o The President led and won the fight to pass the Brady Bill and was successful in banning assault weapons that are plaguing the African American community.**
- o The President pushed for, and was successful in getting a crime bill passed with prevention measures aimed at drug treatment and stopping crime before it got started.**
- o The President brought empowerment zones to the inner-city to create jobs and help them rebuild. He also proposed increasing the minimum wage.**
- o The President pressed for and obtained a tax cut for the working poor through the Earned Income Tax Credit Legislation.**

In two years, the President has produced over 6 million new jobs and the black unemployment rate is in single digits for the first time since the Viet Nam war.

- o The President has hosted more African Americans at the White House for meetings, policy briefings and receptions than any other President in history.**

Mfume event
Xolanda Carraway
965-2810 ^{Group}

National President +
CEO
POTUS - 10¹⁵ minutes

CBC - Congress
NAACP - Changing,
politically astute

Ben Johnson

family - civil rights leaders -
Baltimore - professional
75 people total ^{Jernon Sims}
Dan Wilson in Kweisi's office
225-4741

CNN - is covering - CSPAN -

Programme

Opening Remarks	11:00 am	Mr. Jason Hines Student Morgan State University
Invocation	11:03 am	Rev. Russell Lee Johnson Pastor Brown's Memorial Baptist Church
Intro by MC	11:06 am	
Welcome	11:07 am	The Honorable Janet Reno Attorney General of the United States
Intro by MC	11:12 am	
Selection	11:13 am	Morgan State University Choir
Prayer for the Nation	11:18 am	William Cardinal Keeler Archbishop of Baltimore
Intro by MC	11:21 am	
Remarks	11:22 am	Mr. Roger Wilkins Robinson Professor George Mason University
Intro by MC	11:27 am	
Remarks	11:28 am	Ms. Jaimie Smith Student Baltimore School of the Arts
Intro by MC	11:34 am	
Prayer for the NAACP	11:35 am	Rev. Vashti McKenzie Pastor Payne Memorial AME Church
Intro by MC	11:38 am	
Remarks	11:39 am	Mr. Ayinde Jean-Baptiste Student Whitney Young Magnet High School
Intro by MC	11:44 am	
Remarks	11:45 am	Mrs. Myrlie Evers-Williams Chair NAACP National Board of Directors
Remarks	11:55 am	President William Jefferson Clinton
Intro by MC	12:05 pm	
Oath of Office	12:06 pm	Administered by: The Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Chief Judge Emeritus U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit (Retired)
Response	12:11 pm	The Honorable Kweisi Mfume President and CEO NAACP

Selection *12:26 pm*

Morgan State University Choir

Benediction *12:30 pm*

Rabbi Elan Adler
Beth Tfiloh Congregation

winner
of
Produce
Sing
Eric Herwin
576-7718
291-4373

draft 2/19/96 1:30 pm

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR THE HONORABLE KWEISI MFUME
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE NAACP
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, GREAT HALL
WASHINGTON, DC
FEBRUARY 20, 1996**

[Acknowledgements: Myrlie Evers-Williams, for introduction; Vice President Gore; Roger Wilkins; Cardinal Keeler; Rev. Johnson; Rev. McKenzie; Rabbi Adler; Attorney General Reno; Judge Higginbotham; students: Jason Hines of Morgan State University; Ms. Jaimie Smith of Baltimore School for the Arts; and Ayinde Jean-Baptiste of Whitney Young Magnet High School; and the Honorable Kweisi Mfume]

US Senior - from Warren, Political science Arkansas -

I am honored to be here today to share in this celebration of rebirth and renewal for both Kweisi Mfume and the NAACP. Before I go any further, let me say that the talent and energy in this room is truly amazing. When I heard that young Ayinde Jean-Baptiste was going to be here, I polished up on my oratory skills so I'd at least have a chance of measuring up to him.

It is also great to see so many accomplished women here today. Young Jaimie Smith appears to be well on her way to carrying on the legacy of many of the great African American women who came before her. In my proclamation marking the observance of African American History Month this year, I urged all Americans to recognize and honor the often unsung contributions of African American heroines -- leaders like Sojourner Truth, Mary McLeod Bethune, Rosa Parks, Barbara Jordan, Mary Frances Berry and Myrlie Evers-Williams. Throughout our history, these and countless other brave and eloquent women have challenged America to end its ignoble association with the twin evils of racism and sexism. And we are all better because of their sacrifices.

This is a day of great expectation -- both for the new President and CEO of the NAACP, and for all Americans who share our hope that under his dynamic leadership the nation's most important civil rights organization will emerge from a time of turmoil, stronger and more focused than at any time in its illustrious history.

As I said in the State of the Union, we live in an age of great possibility. We have the lowest combined rates of unemployment and inflation in 27 years. Unemployment in the African American community is in single digits for the first time since the Vietnam war. And for three years in a row, we have had a record number of new businesses started in our country -- nearly 100,000 of them by African Americans. ~~We are moving in the right direction.~~

Define & explain AOP. Then evidence

Our leadership in the world is also strong, bringing new hope for peace from the Middle East to Bosnia. And I am proud that last week we saw the first peaceful democratic